



National Pg 3 EAC commends AfDB on Covid-19 funding



National Pg 4 Private sector and Africa's investments



National Pg 5 MPs decry shortage of ambulances



'ZSSF money not for commercial projects'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ALI Karume (pictured), a seasoned political stakeholder here, has appealed to the Zanzibar authorities to refrain from establishing commercial projects using money from the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF).

He convened a press conference ahead of the 59th Union anniversary, he said if the projects turn out to be unprofitable, the fund may fail to pay its members and cause serious problems in paying people retiring from the public service, which contravenes the law.

The law demands that authorities not take members' money and start potentially non-profitable business projects, as the fund may run out of money and the members need to be paid terminal benefits, he declared.

He was of the summary view that it is not appropriate for the government to borrow from social security funds, demanding that the Zanzibar government resume explorations of oil and gas.

Already the government and the United Arab Emirates firm, RAK Gas LLC have

Tanga Cement to close unless takeover is done



This is a view of Kigongo-Busisi Bridge in Mwanza Region, as captured at the weekend. According to Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Rogatus Mativila (inset), construction has reached 72 per cent. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporters

AT least 3,000 employees of Tanga Cement Co. Ltd (TCCL), listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, are living in endless fear of losing their jobs while an expected take over by an industry leader is stalled for competition concerns.

TCCL board chairman Patrick Rutabanzibwa issued a cautionary notice last month saying this situation is continuing to create fear and panic among employees.

They fear for the future of their employment as the company's performance is continuing to deteriorate financially at a time when the nearly 800bn/- takeover deal with Scancem International remains uncertain.

A protracted controversy broke out in regulatory organs and in the legislature over plans by Mauritius-based Scancem International AD, which also owns Dar es Salaam-based Twiga Cement, to take over the Tanga firm.

The Tanga firm has projected operating profit before interest and tax for 2022 to stand between 130 per cent and 170 per cent lower than the 2021 results, while expecting a loss per share for the year to hover at upwards of 250/- to 270/- in 2022.

It is a disappointment for thousands of shareholders who have invested in the firm

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There are people who are paid big salaries, but they don't produce, including ministers...

signed a production sharing agreement (PSA) ahead of exploring for natural gas.

Oil and gas exploration is vital to Zanzibar economy as it depends on services and tourism, owing to location and topography, he said.

As tax exemptions reached 46.06bn/- in fiscal 2021/2022, from 8.12bn/- the previous year, the former envoy said tax exemptions had to be carefully examined. The government needs to ensure that the benefits obtained through exempted projects are examined in relation to eligible payers and those obtaining tax exemptions, he stated.

Good economic plans are the only way that will help reduce inflation in Zanzibar Gross inflation standing at 5.1 percent in fiscal 2022 from 1.7 percent in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

"There are people who are paid big salaries, but they don't produce, including ministers," he asserted, noting that Zanzibar has the land and human resources but it fails to make good plans in setting the annual budget," he said.

He said the union has brought great benefits to the people of Zanzibar, including the opportunity to use land on the other side of the Union owing to Zanzibar having

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Union: Accord on Z'bar goods, sugar tax awaited

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

FORMING a joint finance commission, sugar importation regulations and charging goods into the Mainland market are key issues yet to be resolved in the list of contentious union issues, the legislature heard yesterday

Dr. Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister at the Vice President's Office, made this affirmation when tabling of the ministry's 2023/24 fiscal estimates, noting that government has put a line under 22 contentious union matters as of this month.

Four others are in the course of being resolved, where a notable issue is the distribution of revenues generated by shares of the Revolutionary Government

of Zanzibar (SMZ) in the East African Currency Board, he stated.

Profits generated by the Bank of Tanzania, as well as the registration of firearms, are among unresolved union matters, he elaborated, noting that the formulation of estimates being presented by the Minister of State, put at 54.1bn/-, was a contested point, he further noted.

Jafo, commending President Samia Suluhu Hassan for fast tracking the resolving of the union matters that have been a setback in socioeconomic issues since the union was formed in 1964.

Resolving disputes in the union matters gained pace in 2006, where two issues got resolved and by 2020 a few more issues had been resolved. That brings the total to

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Minister directs NIMR to study energy drinks risk

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCH is to be conducted on excessive uptake of energy drinks by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), following findings by the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) on the public health danger.

Health minister Umyy Mwalimu issued this directive in the wake of reports on a 24 year old male diagnosed with acute myocardial infarction after rapidly taking five bottles of energy drinks.

She said on her twitter page that if well conducted the study would enable informed decision making on what should be done on heart problems tied to energy

drinks.

The 28 year old who died while being treated for anterolateral myocardial infarction, impairment of blood vessels, had attended the outpatient department and shifted to the emergency department. Chest pains had started eight-hours earlier, medics said.

Lecturers at the centre who worked on the patient wrote a paper on the matter, presented to an audience at JKCI last week, which also provides a synopsis of the energy drinks problem around the world.

Since 1949, the popularity of such beverages has increased at an

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The Guardian Limited, publisher of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers, invites all development supporters to send congratulatory messages on celebrating the 59th Anniversary of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

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Tanga Cement to close unless takeover is done

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through the equity market, he said. "The contributing factors to this movement were the significant increase in fuel prices and logistics costs which led to an increase in raw material prices, the frequent electric power cuts and unstable electricity supply resulting in increased fuel consumption for own diesel generators and the resulting increased maintenance costs of equipment," the chairman said.

The takeover, which is expected to save the cement manufacturer from collapsing, is hanging in the balance chiefly following claims from some quarters that a merger between Tanga Cement and Twiga Cement could result in market dominance by the latter.

However, the firms say recent cases of interference by elements or powers yet to be established were needlessly trying to frustrate the merger for their own good.

The issue dates back to October 2021 when Scancem International DA, a subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement AG, which owns Twiga Cement, and AfriSam Mauritius Investment Holdings Limited, owner of Tanga Cement, issued a statement to the effect that they had finalised the terms upon which the former would acquire 68.33 per cent of shareholding in Tanga Cement.

The takeover, which went under the scrutiny of the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and the Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC), was later approved.

However, the approved merger was subsequently opposed by Chalinz Cement Company Limited, which is not yet in operation, and the Tanzania Consumer Advocacy Society (TCAS) after appealing to the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT) claiming that the process would create market dominance by the firms merged.

In September 2022, the FCT delivered a quasi-judicial verdict blocking the planned merger - in support of the appellants.

In December 2022, Scancem International petitioned the FCC for a second time in a bid to acquire the said Tanga Cement issued share capital.

Scancem said in a statement recently that this new application was submitted based on prevailing market conditions in 2022, and was approved unconditionally by the FCC in February 2023, as the combined market share was currently below the legal threshold (35 per cent) and affirmed no dominant position.

"This particular decision of the FCC has not been challenged by the FCT, and the FCT has not made any ruling based on this decision," Scancem said.

However, it was later reported that FCT issued injunctive orders, saying the merger between Scancem International DA and Tanga Cement Public Limited Company stood restrained, pending the hearing of the application between parties.

The tribunal restrained any other merger by other authorities pending the hearing of an application lodged by Peter Hellar, the appellant, against the protracted deal.

FCC board chairperson Dr Aggrey Mlimuka declared in a recent rejoinder that the tribunal rejected the first merger application, but a second application was thereafter submitted.

"If a merger was rejected last year, it does not mean that the rejection is indefinite. If metrics change then the decision might be different. We can't rely on what happened last year," Dr Mlimuka said.

He elaborated: "We will explain to the FCT that we believe that things have changed and the common standard is that a rejected merger application can be filed again under different circumstances. The decision by the tribunal was made after hearing one side. We were not heard at all. We have previously approved a merger which enabled a company to hold a 40 per cent market share but with conditions."

Hinting that there could be "invisible powers" behind those challenging the process in question,

Dr Mlimuka noted: "If you carefully investigate, some of these people who complain that they will be affected by the planned merger do not even have a cement factory. I'm wondering what kind of message we are sending to investors about our country."

People familiar with the matter say some individuals have already filed applications both in court and with the FCT, claiming that the regulator ignored the tribunal ruling.

Apparently, one of the applications is by Peter Hellar, who lodged application No. 8 of 2023 at the FCT in which the respondents were the FCC, Scancem International DA, Fayaz Bhojani, William Erio and Hakan Gurdal.

In the application, the applicant asked the tribunal to grant an ex-parte temporary injunction against the intended merger as advertised by the FCC on February 11, 2023.

He also pleaded with the tribunal that, in case the merger was granted or was about to be granted or will be granted in the course of the hearing of the application, then an ex-parte order be issued to restrain the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) from registering or otherwise executing any act or step that would follow the execution of the merger.

Scancem International argues that the cement sector in Tanzania has been characterised by production overcapacities since the arrival of Mtwaru-based Dangote Cement Plc and Tanga-based Huaxin Cement Co. Ltd.

It further argues that at least three other cement producers are adding around 15 per cent of additional cement capacity this year.

"After this transaction, there will be more than 12 players in the cement industry, which ensures a healthy competitive landscape, far above that in neighbouring countries," claims Scancem.

Meanwhile, another "cautionary notice to members" published in a section of the local media yesterday calls upon Tanga Cement Public Limited Company stakeholders to continue to exercise caution when dealing in the firm's securities.

Also signed by board chairman Patrick Rutabanzibwa, the notice says further announcements in relation to the matter "will be made in due course".

It makes reference to the October 22, 2021 share purchase agreement involving Scancem, AfriSam and AfriSam (South Africa) Proprietary Limited as well as the revised merger application Scancem and Tanga Cement filed with the Fair Competition Commission.

The notice adds: "It is important to note that material uncertainty exists on the final Acquisition Price, which remains subject to adjustment related to debt, working capital, other expenses and other potential adjustments post-closing. Shareholders of Tanga (Cement) are cautioned that there is no certainty that all the remaining conditions of the Acquisition will be fulfilled, or waived."



If you carefully investigate, some of these people who complain that they will be affected by the planned merger do not even have a cement factory. I'm wondering what kind of message we are sending to investors about our country



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presses a knob in Zanzibar yesterday to launch fast ferry 'Falcon of the Sea'. Right is Zanzibar first lady Mariam Mwinyi. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Minister directs NIMR to study energy drinks risk

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insurmountable pace around the world. Consumption stood at over 25bn liters in 2021, fetching earnings of \$86.35bn, the paper noted.

"The energy drinks market size is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 8.3 percent up to 2030, the report indicated.

Notwithstanding the growing evidence of the increasing burden of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), data describing trends of acute myocardial infarction are still scarce, senior medic Dr Pedro Pallangyo intoned.

There is a lower incidence of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) in older populations worldwide, with recent data showing a

staggering growing incidence of coronary events in younger individuals, below 45 years, he stated.

After several examinations, symptoms started four hours after consuming five cans (1250 cc) of an energy drink whose principal ingredients are caffeine, taurine, sugar and glucuronolactone.

"On admission, his blood pressure was stable despite obvious distress," he said, underlining the need for community's awareness regarding potentially lethal effects of energy drinks.

There is a notable connection between energy drinks and cardiovascular (CV) health as a common diagnosis particularly among young adults with chest pain, he added.

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a small area.

The union has helped strengthen defense and security, asking the people to strive to protect the foundations of the union.

He rejected calls that Zanzibar should have full decision making power, underlining that countries moving to unite, each side will lose their full power.

Zanzibar outside the union would not remain safe because there are people who have grown up wanting to restore the old rule under the Sultan, to disrupt the foundations of the 1964 revolution, he specified.

There are challenges in the union but they are not big compared to the benefits, including Zanzibaris being appointed envoys outside like he once served, he added.



Tanga city environment officer Kizito Mkwambi (R) pictured yesterday with Health minister Ummu Mwalimu (C), who is also Tanga Urban legislator, during an assessment tour of the impact of the weekend's floods in parts of the city. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

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22, with 18 matters resolved in the past two years.

Resolved union matters include lowering offloading costs for cargo from Zanzibar at the Dar es Salaam port, along with finding and exploration of oil and gas.

Other resolved matters are harmonization of electricity costs from TANESCO to ZECO, complaints of Zanzibar traders on double taxation, pay as you earn (PAYE) and withholding tax compliance, he explained.

Union: Accord on Z'bar goods, sugar tax awaited

Deliberate efforts are being made to make sure that the remaining matters are resolved, with the VPO seeking to strengthen coordination of resolving issues, he said.

The two parts have been working on the union matters and submit decisions made to the joint committee Secretariat for possible resolution.

However, the two parts have separate teams that work on the joint committee's directives

and provide advice for better approaches in resolving the matters.

In their contributions to the budget, legislators hailed the President for having a political will of addressing the union matters.

Mwanahamisi Kassim Said (Special Seats-Magomeni) said welfare and fraternity should be a priority in resolving the remaining matters.

"The union has grown into a blood relation by people from

the two sides marrying into one another. We should protect the union legacy left behind by the statesmen by all means necessary on top of resolving shortfalls that came with the union in 1964," she told the House.

Zahoro Mohamed Haji (Mwera) said that since the start of the sixth phase government even little issues have been harmonized, thus strengthening ties of Zanzibaris and people from the Mainland.

'Zanzibar to lure more investors to bring quality marine vehicles'

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has assured that his government will continue putting conducive environment to attract more investors to bring quality marine vehicles and thus boost marine transport sub-sector.

He also advised citizens to avoid using marine vehicles that do not adhere to safety rules as majority of them uses unregistered ports.

Speaking during the launch of a new passenger boat-Kilimanjaro VIII of Azam Marine at Maruhubi area in Unguja, President Mwinyi said the government is pioneering and will continue to open the doors of investment by putting in place the best strategies that will provide opportunities for investors and the private sector to run their projects smoothly.

"Azam Marine has shown an example of a patriotic company in the country by investing in Zanzibar, a move that has helped grow the economy and national income as well as employment," he said.

He asked other companies to use the government's opportunity that prioritizes working with the private sector in building Zanzibar's economy which include boosting water transport.

Dr Mwinyi further requested Azam Marine to commence speed boat trips in Pemba island so that citizens can benefit from the opportunity of fast services.

"Travellers to Pemba have been spending many hours to reach and sometimes do not make trips every day, this a big challenge and has negative impact to the economy, I am now requesting Azam Marine to see this and initiate fast ferry trips to Pemba because I am sure that there are enough ferries," Dr Mwinyi said.

However, he said the government is implementing strategies, including the construction of the Mangapwani multipurpose Port, a move that will increase efficiency and reduce congestion in the Malindi port in Unguja.

Minister of State, President's Office-Economy and Investment Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga said that the government will continue to make major reforms in the area of investment, including the establishment of an electronic system that has helped eliminate bureaucracy for investors.

He said the government has invested heavily in the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) Investors' One Stop Centre whose goal is to enable investors to get permits within 24 hours.

The e-system for serving investors is part of the implementation of the Zanzibar's Development Policy where its launch translates clearly how the Isles is keen to promote investment and create a conducive environment for trade and investments.

Soraga congratulated Said Salim Bahressa, for his investments which

are based on patriotism and thus has contributing to the national development.

He said that according to investment laws, an investor who reaches an investment tune of \$120 million is officially recognized as the most strategic investor.

Bahressa Group executive director, Abubakar Said Bahressa said they are happy with the investment environment in the transportation sector which is in line with the blue economy policy.

He hailed Zanzibar government for opening the doors of investment in the marine sector where the company has invested \$120 million providing employment to 400 citizens.

In addition, he said that since the Azam Marine started providing its services in Zanzibar in 2010, it has paid a total of 130bn/- in taxes to the government.

He said the ferry which has been constructed in Australia is larger than its predecessor, Kilimanjaro VII, and can transport up to 631 passengers at speeds of more than 30 knots.

Earlier, ZIPA director general, Sharif Ali Sharif said that in two years, the authority has managed to register a total of 232 projects with a total value of \$3.3 billion.



This is but only a small part of proof of how days of incessant heavy rains have rendered the road linking Mlimba and Ifakara in Morogoro Region impassable, as captured at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

2nd Vice President assures about environment for security agencies

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has assured that the two governments will continue to create a conducive environment for security agencies to facilitate safety of people and their properties.

He said the strategy goes together with embracing the views and beliefs of founding fathers Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Abeid Amani Karume.

Hemed made the remarks when opening a police post at Mahonda southern region, Unguja at Tanguu an event which was an event part of the celebrations to mark the 59 years of the Union of

Tanzania. He said the current union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar was founded on the grounds of mutual understanding and co-existence between people of the two sides.

Hemed said through union, the country has witnessed various development as well as the strengthening of security and co-existence in the country.

Hemed also said the two governments also recognizes the big roles which security agencies are doing saying the government was doing everything to provided them with necessary resources.

The VP said the government was impressed with the way

the police managed the construction exercise saying the role now was to protect the buildings at all costs.

He hailed the police in Zanzibar for overseeing discipline to its staff including overcoming all incidents which are against Police General Orders (PGO) which includes corruption, economic sabotage and bad customer care to clients.

Zanzibar Police Commissioner Hamad Khamis Hamad said for the last two years the police in the isles has received 5.79bn/- for completion of various projects including introducing new ones.

He said the construction of two offices to accommodate the police commanders for

Southern region Unguja, have cost 3.3bn/- and have taken up to nine months to complete.

EAC commends AfDB for its financial support on Covid-19 response in region

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community has commended the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the support extended to the region that facilitated the bloc's regional COVID-19 response efforts.

The AfDB support was directed towards the setup of coordination systems for testing; test results verification; training of health workers and procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), test kits and laboratory consumables.

Speaking on behalf of the EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mutuku Mathuki during a workshop of Technical Working Group on Communicable and non-communicable diseases held in Moshi, Tanzania, EAC Director Social Sectors, Dr Irene Isaka acknowledged the contribution of the AfDB as a game changer in the implementation of the EAC COVID-19 regional recovery plan.

She disclosed that the COVID-19 pandemic hit the region hard, with an estimated output loss of between US\$37 and US\$79 billion. This led to reductions in household income and business disruption of supply chains for tradable goods and services especially in the aviation, tourism and hospitality industries, where entire sector value-chains were rendered dysfunctional, added Director.

Dr Isaka noted that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted several structural and health systems challenges which called for strengthening of the key pillars of region health systems. "Let me take this opportunity to urge the Partner States to draw lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic response to build resilient health systems in our region," he said.

She reiterated the EAC Secretariat's commitment to collaborate with Partner States and development partners to build better, stronger and healthy communities.

Principal Health Economist, Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD) from AfDB, Dr Elizabeth Owiti said the Bank recognises the centrality of health in improving quality of life for Africans and enabling them to achieve their potential.

"I call upon the EAC Partner States to come up with a plan to overcome gaps in national health infrastructure, which have been exposed by COVID-19 and other health crises," she said.

The African Development Fund (ADF) approved grants totaling US\$9.52 million to strengthen responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Africa and the Horn, and in the Comoros under the Project Multinational COVID-19 Response.

The EAC Secretariat received US\$8.79 million in tranches of US\$8.16 million and US\$629,582 while Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) received US\$729,581.

The 20th to 22nd April, 2023 Technical Working Group meeting was convened to facilitate a monitoring visit by the AfDB to assess the progress in the implementation of the COVID-19 project funded by the Bank.

The meeting was attended by experts from the EAC Partner States' Ministries responsible for Health and Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) staff and members of the advisory Board based in Nairobi, and a representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Also present were staff from the EAC Secretariat and the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC).

Notice of Arbitration in India

Uni-metals East Africa Limited, a Tanzanian Company having its offices at 21, Nyerere Road, Warehouse No. 3, Bora Industries Compound, P.O. Box-80480, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, and at 207, Kelvin House, Samora Avenue, P.O. Box -14301, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, is Respondent in Arbitration instituted by Jindal India Limited, India, following Order dated October 21, 2022 passed by the Chief Justice of India in Supreme Court proceedings being A.P. No. 25 of 2019. Justice Alope Chakrabarti (Retd.) is presiding as the Sole Arbitrator. The next date has been fixed on April 26, 2023, at 1600 Hrs. IST. If Uni-metals East Africa Limited and its Directors/Officers elect not to appear in the Arbitration final Award will be sought against them.

Venue: Chambers of M/s. Saha & Ray, #3A/1, Hastings Chamber, 7C, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, Kolkata-700 001.

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- b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email address: hr@tasaf.go.tz
- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
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Vegetable, fruit transporters ask govt to improve infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

VEGETABLE and fruit transporters in Njombe Region have urged the government to improve infrastructures including roads and storage facilities so as to facilitate smooth transportation of the products.

The traders made the call here during the meeting organized by the Tanzania Shipping Corporation (TASAC). Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS) and Tanzania Shippers' Council (TSC) to encourage transportation of the produce water and air transport.

Zekomo Masanje, one of the traders, told this paper on the sidelines of the meeting that they are struggling to meet their goals on the business due to poor infrastructures and various barriers on the road.

"A great challenge which we are facing here is transport barriers as well as special refrigerated containers to keep the vegetables and avocados, we are forced to take them from Nairobi and the expenses are high, we are calling on the government to work on this and put a good system which will facilitate availability of the containers within the country," he said.

Sallu Johnsons, TSC executive secretary said most of the harvests have been delayed to reach the port due to transport challenges from the farm.

Earlier, Njombe District Commissioner Kissa Kasongwa said that the dry port which is expected

to be constructed in Makambako town should also be capacitated with refrigerated containers so as to facilitate easy transportation of the veggies and fruits.

TASAC Ports, Shipping and Maritime Transport Control Director, Deogratius Mukasa said the major objective of the meeting was to receive challenges and recommendations from fruit and vegetable transporters so as to take needed measures to support the growth of the business.

"We want to enable the transporters in the Southern Highlands zone who use port services to transport goods abroad to understand well on the best way to carry out their transport duties in a way that they can protect their interests in using transport services," Mukasa said.

Robert Soko, a representative from the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) said the authority has conducted major improvements in its ports so as to attract more traders and stimulate economic growth.



...we are calling on the government to work on this and put a good system which will facilitate availability of the containers within the country



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega (L) has a quick work with National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson in the legislative body in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Committee urges govt to reduce environment budget dependency

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Permanent Committee for Water and Environment has urged the government to reduce dependency of environmental budget financing from donors by allocating enough local sourced funds especially in the wake of climate change where countries are independently struggling for resilience and adaptation.

The committee has learnt that in the 2023/24 budget the ministry has reduced budget dependency from donors only by 0.04 percent. However, the Vice President's Office 2023/24 budget, a custodian of environmental issues in the

country, has been cut down by 5.4 percent. Funds for development projects related to environment protection have been cut down by 2.49bn/-.

Addressing the National Assembly yesterday after the Minister of State, Vice President's Office, Union and Environment Dr Selemani Jafo had tabled the ministry's 2023/24 budget tuned at 54.1bn/-, the Committee's chairman Jackson Kiswaga said the government relies heavily on funds from donors in implementation of strategies and programmes related to environment protection.

"With gradual decrease in the budget allocated, the committee is convinced to believe that the environment ministry is not

a priority in relation to other ministries within the government," said Kiswaga.

He said the committee further learnt from the 2022/23 budget implementation that ignorance in environmental protection issues by the majority of citizens affects their participation in the implementation of laws and policies related to the environment.

"The government should urgently bring the National Environment Management Act Cap 191 2004 for review so that it aligns with the National Environment Policy 2021. It should also make sure that 1.5 million new trees are planted in all 184 district councils every year.

Environment conservation

should be a key agenda of every year's freedom torch race so that people are sensitized on protecting the environment," said Kiswaga.

According to him, the government should further collaborate with environment stakeholders in organising environment protection campaigns at all levels of public administration.

The committee also advises the government to transform the National Environment Management Council into a full regulatory body of environment issues. The transformation would help to play vital roles in the areas of administration, budgeting, service, and structural issues facing the council.

'Private sector key to overcoming Africa's critical investment gaps'

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Development Bank Group's governors will address three strategic challenges when they meet next month for the group's Annual meetings in Egypt, the group's Secretary General Vincent Nhemiele said.

Addressing a news conference last week, Nhemiele said: "The challenges confronting Africa in the coming year are: financing a low carbon development path that delivers growth and inclusivity and the continent's climate goals; placing climate adaptation at the heart

of economic policies; and unleashing Africa's potential to address food insecurity and feed itself."

He said the annual meetings are set to be conducted in Egypt, from May 23 to 26.

The Secretary General chaired the event, which took place in a hybrid format, and offered journalists opportunity to learn more about focus areas during the institution's most important annual event.

Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure And Industrialisation, Solomon Quaynor noted that African

governments currently have little fiscal room owing to "black swan" events that have occurred in the last 3 years. These include Covid-19 impacts and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both of which have had global impacts.

"The context is really limited fiscal space all around for our regional member countries," Quaynor said. "Given that we still have to address the impacts of climate change, we have to really look at alternatives to leverage limited fiscal space and also innovative ways to crowd in the private sector."

Quaynor addressed a growing emphasis on mobilizing resource from within African countries. As an example, he cited the bank's partnership with the African Sovereign Investor's Forum which it agreed last June. The pact represented an important step in terms of increasing the leverage of investments as well as reassuring global investors seeking to invest in Africa, he said. Assets managed by African sovereign wealth funds, African pension funds and African life insurance pools is estimated at over \$2 trillion equivalent, according to Quaynor.

Urama said the annual meetings would feature five knowledge events. One of these will focus on efforts to tap the private sector to close Africa's climate financing gaps, which aligns with the 2023 theme of the meetings: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa.

There would also be a presidential dialogue featuring African heads of state in dialogue with the president of the bank on the changing global financial architecture, Urama said. Discussions would center on the evolving role that multilateral development banks will play in galvanizing more robust funding for Africa's climate action goals.

As in past years, the annual meetings will feature the launch of the 2023 African Economic outlook report, Urama said. The report, the Bank's flagship, will address the same theme and also examine ways to harness Africa's abundant natural capital—including rivers, coastlines, and peatlands—to serve its development and economic growth.

Dunford pointed to recent bank efforts to bolster food security in Africa, which are being complicated not only by external shocks but also climate driven weather events such as cyclones, flooding and droughts.

"The context is really limited fiscal space all around for our regional member countries," Quaynor said. "Given that we still have to address the impacts of climate change, we have to really look at alternatives to leverage limited fiscal space and also innovative ways to crowd in the private sector."



Kilwa District Commissioner Christopher Ndubiagai (R) pictured at the weekend presenting a farmer with seaweed farm inputs Mwani Mariculture Ltd has donated to farmers in implementation of a drive aimed at promoting the blue economy and safeguarding the environment in Lindi Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tarime residents complain over presence of garbage piles in their residential areas

By Ambrose Wantigwa

RESIDENTS at Starehe Street in Tarime Mara region, Samwel Kiboye who also arrived at the area, said Tarime township council should put a good system to manage the collection and disposal of solid waste in the permitted areas to preserve the environment.

He said the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan emphasizes on environmental conservation so as to protect both animal and humans from diseases.

MP Kembaki said the leadership of the city council and the environment department have promised to remove the dirt within three days from Monday, thus asking the residents to be calm.

"We have explained to them (the environment department) the importance of speeding up the removal of the dump near people's residences in order to save them from the effects of environmental pollution that they experience every day," said Kembaki.

The Member of Parliament said that the town will benefit from the government's environmental conservation programme implemented in several councils and cities in the country, including the disposal of solid waste in the right manner.

strong smell," she said.

Former chairman of the ruling-CCM in Mara region, Samwel Kiboye who also arrived at the area, said Tarime township council should put a good system to manage the collection and disposal of solid waste in the permitted areas to preserve the environment.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICE & MATERIALS FOR MARINE/OFFSHORE OIL SPILL RESPONSE (TIER 2-10 M3)	
REF: ETJ-BB-HS-EI-GEN-GE-0001	
<p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.</p> <p>The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania incl. a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.</p> <p>BESIX Ballast Nedam (BBN) Limited, executing Early Services for the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing Service and Material for Marine/Offshore Oil Spill Response (Tier 2-Upto 10 M3). <p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil spill response material and equipment to cover a spill of level (Tier 2) -10,000 Litre on marine surface. Certified resources to handle Tier 2 marine oil spill. Training for project personnel on handling marine oil spill response. Maintenance of the spill response material/equipment. Transportation of equipment and material to Tanga port. Service team and personnel will be based in Tanga (project area). <p>Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to procurement@bbnld.co.tz (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 9th May 2023, 1800hrs Tanzania Time.</p> <p>Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.</p> <p>Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.</p>	<p>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company profile with proof of sufficient financial capabilities and sufficient and capable resources to undertake the Works. Company Tax clearance certificate for previous year 2022 Proof of business registration and business license for Tanzania Registration with the Tanzania Tax Revenue Authority Detailed list of Oil Spill Response Material & Equipment with capacity to handle marine oil spill of 10,000 litre. List of response personnel and their internationally recognized certification. Oil Spill Response methodology. Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended. <p>This call for Expression of Interest (EOI) is intended to lead to the identification of suppliers or Service Providers that can demonstrate having sufficient capacity and experience to Provide Service and Material for Marine/Offshore Oil Spill Response in a manner that meets BBN Limited expectations.</p>



Dr Ally Possi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Works and Transport ministry, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at five-day Research, Rescue and Search training jointly organised by the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation and the International Maritime Organisation. Photo: Correspondent Imami Nathaniel

Tanzania to host the 8th East Africa philanthropy conference in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

THE East Africa Philanthropy in collaboration with Legal Service Facility (LSF) and other members is organising the Annual conference in Zanzibar anchored on its theme, 'Systems Transformation: Catalyzing Collective Action' the 8th East Africa Philanthropy Conference to be hosted in Zanzibar.

The East Africa Philanthropy Conference is the annual signature event hosted by the East Africa Philanthropy Network and customarily comprises of 300+ philanthropic practitioners and organisations. Deemed creative and facilitative, the deliberately planned convening aids change makers in scheming out, networking, contemplating, and developing potent action based on the successes and hurdles experienced in the sector.

Network's Chief Executive Officer, Evans Okinyi said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that this could not be more befitting as the sector is gripping with systems transformation in an effort to co-develop responsive philanthropic practices.

"No matter which way we look at it, the sheer complexity and interconnectedness of the global crises require a complete overhaul of not only how we do things, but also how we understand them. In other words, they require a systems transformation approach that is very much about empowerment. By empowering especially those that seemingly have no say, we also look at how we can shift the mindset, so that something that seems impossible at a certain stage, all of a sudden becomes possible," he added.

Acknowledging that there is no single retort to complex hurdles, the board chair, Jacqueline Asimwe underscored that seeking systems change typically calls for solidarity with a diverse group of stakeholders that can harness each other's strengths and learn from each other to accelerate the desired transformation.

"Too often, the only thing that philanthropy is really interested in is the front line of change, which is where the symptoms of the crises that we're feeling are. But unless we collectively dig out and recode the boring bits, such as accountability, how we drive resources, how we build the innovation capacity of the system, and how we build trust, the system then doesn't really change, we just do front-end symptom resolutions," Jacqueline noted.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala, LSF's executive director said: "This year's conference is organized by a committee made up of EAPN members, partners and stakeholders and the LSF is pleased to be a co-local organizing partner. The conference provides a platform for sharing experiences, collective reflection, as well as the curation and development of philanthropic and social tools and investment practices for the continent's people and partners. I therefore call upon philanthropy organizations, private sector, government, civil society and all key stakeholders to register and take part."

Ng'wanakilala applauded the East Africa Philanthropy Network for their relentless efforts geared towards promoting a culture of giving in the region and for believing in Tanzania as the perfect host for this year's event.



No matter which way we look at it, the sheer complexity and interconnectedness of the global crises require a complete overhaul of not only how we do things, but also how we understand them



SWISSPORT TANZANIA PLC AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Commentary

The Board of Directors of Swissport Tanzania Plc, hereby publishes audited financial results for the year ended 31st December 2022. During the year, the flight frequencies increased by 53% and volume of cargo handled increased by 20%. As a result, total revenue increased by 25% from TShs 30,679 million to TShs 38,290 million, and total operating cost increased by 21% from TShs 28,032 million to TShs 33,817 million. Consequently, the Company reports a net profit of TShs 2,606 million compared to a net profit of TShs 2,146 million realised in year 2021. This performance is attributed to significant business recovery from the impact of COVID 19 and increased Air Tanzania operations.

Dividend to Shareholders

The Board is delighted to announce a final dividend of TShs 1,512 million or TShs 42.00 per issued and fully paid share. No interim dividend was declared and paid during the year. Pursuant to this declaration, the share register will be closed on 19th May 2023 and the last day of trading cum dividend shall be on 16th May 2023. The final dividend will be paid out on or about 21st June 2023.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS	2022	2021	% Change
For the year Ended 31 December	TZS M	TZS M	
Revenue	37,881	30,165	26%
Other operating income	409	514	-20%
Total revenue	38,290	30,679	25%
Total operating expenses	(33,817)	(28,032)	21%
Operating profit	4,473	2,647	69%
Finance costs	(511)	(595)	-14%
Profit before income tax	3,962	2,052	93%
Income tax (charge)/credit	(1,356)	94	-1543%
Profit for the period	2,606	2,146	21%
Other comprehensive income	(127)	25	-608%
	2,479	2,171	14%
Earnings per share	72.39	59.61	21%
Dividend per share	42.00	29.80	41%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2022	2021	% Change
As At 31 December	TZS M	TZS M	
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Intangible asset	10,900	12,625	(14%)
Property and equipment	14,827	15,502	(4%)
Right of use of assets	3,029	2,098	44%
Deferred tax assets	-	735	(100%)
Staff receivables	264	171	54%
	29,020	31,131	(7%)
Current assets			
Inventories	686	404	70%
Trade and other receivables	6,094	3,922	55%
Income tax recoverable	1,983	1,983	0%
Cash and cash equivalents	6,719	7,688	(13%)
	15,482	13,997	11%
Total assets	44,502	45,128	(1%)
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	360	360	0%
Retained earnings	30,828	29,422	5%
Total equity	31,188	29,782	5%
Non-current liabilities			
Retirement benefit obligations	1,914	1,666	15%
Lease liabilities (IFRS 16)	2,732	958	185%
Deferred tax Liability	567	-	(100%)
Related party Loan (Non-current portion)	-	371	(100%)
	5,213	2,995	74%
Current liabilities			
Related party loan (short term)	378	2,240	(83%)
Trade and other payables	7,290	8,937	(18%)
Lease liabilities (short term)	433	1,174	-63%
	8,101	12,351	(34%)
Total equity and liabilities	44,502	45,128	(1%)

MPs decry shortage of ambulances in rural health centres, dispensaries

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has so far procured 117 ambulances to be deployed in health centers and dispensaries across the country before July 1 this year.

Festo Dugange, deputy minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (Health) told the National Assembly yesterday that the government is dedicated to fixing within the 76 remaining days of the 2022/23 budget implementation.

According to him, the government has during the 2022/23 financial year allocated 31.1bn/- for the procurement of 316 ambulances to be supplied in different health centers and dispensaries countrywide.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by David Kihenzile, South Mufindi legislator who sought to know the government's plan in deploying ambulances at Mtwango and Mkololo health centers in Mufindi district.

Dr Dugange acknowledged that the demand for ambulances in health centers and dispensaries is at a high demand but the government has in the 2022/23 fiscal year made crucial observations to address the issue.

"Procurement procedures are ongoing and the government hopes that all health centers and dispensaries across the 184 district councils will be supplied with the ambulances;

Mufindi district council will allocate two ambulances for the two health centers," said Dr Dugange.

In a supplementary question, Ali Kasinge, South Kilwa legislator wanted to know plans by the government in deploying an ambulance at Nanjilnji health center.

Kisinge argued that Nanjilnji ward is located almost 100 kilometers from the Kinyonga district hospital thus an ambulance is urgently required.

Francis Ndulane, North Kilwa legislator also raised the same concern that the Kilwa district has many health centers and dispensaries that lack ambulances thus posing difficulties to pregnant women and mothers in accessing health services provided in remote areas.

In his response, the deputy minister said that ambulances are meant to be deployed the country over but the deployment will first benefit the most demanding health centers and dispensaries. In Kilwa, he said. Two ambulances will be deployed from the first phase of deployment.

In the same line, Eric Shigongo, Buchosa legislator argued that the province has over 400,000 residents most of whom are in islands of Lake Victoria but lacks ambulances in health centers.

"There are almost eight centers but only one ambulance has been deployed by the government since the last five years. I would like to urge the government to consider the shortage in relation to its plans in fixing it," said Shigongo.

Outlook

Both ground handling and cargo handling business segments have fully recovered from the impact of COVID 19. Airlines are operating at their normal capacity and have plans to increase frequencies. Planned growth of Air Tanzania (The National Carrier) is also expected to stir further growth of the aviation market. Cargo export volumes are increasing while import volumes are expected to remain constant and stable. Lounge business is envisaged to continue growing and contribute positively to the business. These developments coupled with the improved business environment over the past years are expected to increase flight frequencies and volume of cargo in 2023 and consequently, the financial performance of the company will improve.

Improving quality of services offered to airlines, maintaining operational and cost efficiencies, investments in human resources, technology, training, ground support equipment and cargo infrastructures, product innovation, retention of customers and winning new profitable business will remain key priorities to sustain and grow the business in 2023.

Appreciation

The Board would like to thank all esteemed customers, authorities and other stakeholders for their continued support and employees for their dedication and hard work in 2022.

Dirk Goovaerts
Board Chairman

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2022	2021
For Year Ended 31 December 2022	TZS M	TZS M
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit before income tax	3,962	2,052
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	2,438	2,408
Amortization of intangible assets	2,253	2,637
Depreciation of right of use assets	727	730
Provision for retirement benefit obligations	246	283
Gain on disposal/writeoff of equipment	(35)	(5)
Interest expense on lease liabilities	387	301
Interest expense on loan	124	294
Receivable write off	-	(2,346)
Rent concession	-	(204)
Adjustments for:		
Inventories	(282)	19
Trade and other receivables	(2,285)	2,104
Trade and other payables	180	(244)
Cash generated from operating activities	7,715	8,029
Retirement benefits paid	(179)	(1,225)
Interest paid on lease liability	(387)	(301)
Interest paid on loan	(124)	(294)
Net cash from operating activities	7,025	6,209
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	35	5
Acquisition of property and equipment and intangible asset	(2,291)	(2,317)
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,256)	(2,312)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of Loan	(2,233)	(2,018)
Dividends paid to the Company's shareholders	(2,880)	(1,403)
Payment of lease liabilities	(638)	(664)
Net cash (used in)/from financing activities	(5,751)	(4,085)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(922)	(188)
Movement in cash and cash equivalent		
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(922)	(188)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	7,688	7,735
Effect of movement in exchange rates on cash held	13	141
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	6,779	7,688



From landing to take-off, we care !

Dirk Goovaerts
Board Chairman

Mrsho Yassin
Chief Executive Officer

Joshua Jonas
Chief Financial Officer

Govt highlights need to adopt digital innovative technology to transform lives, economy

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has stressed on the need for all sectors to change traditional means and cope with the pace of new emerging digital innovative technology to transform lives and the economy.

Engineer Mathew Kundo, the Deputy Minister, Information, Communication and Information Technology said this yesterday when opening and later participated in a panel discussion at the 5th Innovation and Tech Forum that was held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the forum themed: "A forward- Looking and Integrated Approach to Policy Making in the Digital Age" brought together experts from private and public sector.

He said it was the right time to come up with a policy that can enable the country to reach its goal. "The forum is a right platform engaging public and private stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem to bring ideas, light and bring together support for the innovation," he said.

Kundo noted that the government needs the right information to make proper decision making that can help to make changes in different areas of economy and technology.

"We were about to launch our

satellite but unfortunately we cannot because we have no relevant innovation policy," he said.

He said: "It is the right time to come up with relevant policies that can speed up and take to an end and put into practice to reach the enrolled goal."

The government goal is to see all innovation incubator established projects are implemented.

He assured the participants in the forum that the government will work on all recommendations from the forum.

The government will act strongly to protect the ideas of young innovators to achieve their enrolled goals.

He said without involving the public, it will not be easy to solve various problems facing people.

"We need to put clearly, the problem of the policy, then how it can be solved, bring on board how innovation can be helpful," he noted.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative Christine Musisi said the digital economy was very important.

She said there is a need for innovators to look into policy making approaches and eventually come up with a digital blueprint.

According to her, when the whole

process is over, the stakeholders can sign a blueprint.

"It is time to start developing policies that are relevant and involve full participation of all stakeholders," she said.

According to her, UNDP needs to see stakeholders working together to come up with solutions to the community.

Commission for Science and Technology (COSTEC) director, Dr Amos Nungu said that the government's commitment is to lay down a conducive environment for innovation to take place.

"The forum is an important platform for the stakeholders to share ideas and eventually come up with recommendations that can enable the government to come up with good innovation policy," he said.

He said the forum goals resonate with government goals innovation for a competitive economy and involve stakeholders and development partners.

Media Convergence CEO, Asha Abinallah said: "We are proud to be part of the forum for the evaluation of the innovation ecosystem in the country."

She thanked UNDP, UKaid, COSTEC and other development partners for continued collaboration and support.



Airtel Tanzania staff attend to customers at the firm's pavilion at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Temeke records higher rate of malaria deaths compared to other Dar districts

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendaopole

TEMEKE District in Dar es Salaam Region is said to have a high rate of malaria deaths compared to others whereby in 2022 there were 17 deaths followed by Ilala District which had 13 deaths for that year.

Regional Malaria Coordinator for Dar es Salaam, Dr Ford Chisongela, revealed this during a training session for journalists in preparation to mark World Malaria Day which reached its climax today.

He said the next is Kinondoni District which had 12 deaths, followed by Ubungo District with two deaths while Kigamboni District had no deaths for that year making it the district with less malaria infection in the entire Dar es Salaam Region.

He said that in terms of infection rate, Ilala District leads with 1.7 percent of infection while Ubungo District has 0.7 percent, Kinondoni 0.7 percent, Temeke 0.6 percent and Kigamboni 0.5 percent.

He said that in Dar es Salaam Region, Malaria infection has continued to decrease and until last year the infection in the region

was less than 0.7 percent.

He said these figures were obtained after a study conducted in the Dar es Salaam Region by testing primary school students adding that for five years the number of outpatients being treated for malaria has been decreasing.

He said that for the year 2018-2022, the infection has decreased by 40 percent for out-patients while for those who are admitted, the disease has decreased by 25 percent.

He said death among patients who are admitted and those who attend treatment and leave in various hospitals in the region have decreased by 25 percent while statistics show that Temeke had more deaths.

He said that in order to deal with the disease, the region has been making various interventions such as ensuring that people who are infected with the disease get the right treatment to help reduce the infection of malaria.

"If a person is diagnosed with malaria and is treated and uses medicine as it is required, the parasites disappear and even if mosquitoes bite them, they cannot get the disease or infect someone and we also distribute mosquito

nets to all pregnant women," he said.

Dr Ford mentioned another strategy is to make sure every pregnant woman gets a mosquito net when she goes to the clinic for the first time.

"Here I would like to emphasize that when a pregnant woman goes to the hospital she has the right to be given a mosquito net and when children under one year go to get a measles vaccine should be given a mosquito net because it is their right," he said.

He also said another strategy is to distribute mosquito nets to primary school students where last year alone they managed to distribute 17,000 nets to students.

"Another strategy is to spray medicine on mosquito breeding areas in all 102 wards of the Dar es Salaam Region once every month adding that this strategy has helped a lot to reduce the spread of the disease in the city," he said.

He said they are also providing education to people about the steps to take to deal with the disease and insisting them to stop using medicine without testing because some people have the habit of taking medicine whenever they feel fever thinking it is malaria.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY

Invitation Date: 25th April 2023

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

TENDER NO.AE/053/2022/2023/C/10

PROJECT NAME: DAR ES SALAAM URBAN TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DUTP) , CREDIT NO.IDA-59570, 59580)

Assignment Title: THE PROVISION OF TRANSACTION ADVISOR SERVICES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MASTER DEVELOPER(S) OF TRANSIT- ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AT KIVUKONI AND GEREZANI DART'S TERMINALS, DAR ES SALAAM

Reference No. TZ-DART-345178-CS-QCBS

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (GoT) has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Dar es Salaam Urban Transport Improvement Project (DUTP). Part of the proceeds of this credit will be used to fund advisory support to guide the redevelopment of station areas along the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors.

2. The purpose of this document is to invite the submission of proposals to provide Transaction Advisory services to the Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART). The work to be undertaken by the advisors (Consultant) will be to assist the Client in attracting private sector investment and in developing transit oriented development (TOD) pilot projects based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement along BRT corridors at Kivukoni and Gerezani DART's terminals in Dar-es-Salaam. The work of the Consultant will be funded through the DUTP.

3. TOD is a high-value complement to mass transit development, with the dual benefits of;

- attracting a higher ridership base that enhances the economic and financial viability of the mass transit investment, reducing the need for subsidies; and
- maximizing the accessibility benefits of the mass transit system. The design components of TOD include densification of urban areas with good accessibility to public transit, high-quality and connected public transit networks and high-quality non-motorized transport, mixed-use development, creation of public and green spaces, and resilience. Ensuring that TOD projects are successful also requires careful consideration of infrastructure requirements needed to sustain increased densities.

4. Supported by a sound regulatory framework and adequate incentives to foster private investment, built environment and real estate transformations around key BRT stations have the potential to support vibrant and livable communities. High quality urban design TOD in highly accessible nodes also has the potential for land-based value capture (LVC) mechanisms to help finance transport and other public infrastructure by capturing the capitalization of accessibility and urban renewal benefits on land values brought by the transit infrastructure/TOD. This, in turn, creates an opportunity to include the private sector through PPPs in the joint development of not only transit infrastructure but also of other much needed investments such as housing, schools, pedestrian infrastructure, and public space

The goal of the assignment is for the Consulting Firm ("The Consultant") to successfully conclude negotiations with a competitively selected bidder for private sector investment in the proposed Transaction. Specifically, the Consultant will assist the DART in procuring a master developer or several developers to develop land according to TOD principles in pre-selected sites at the Kivukoni and Gerezani DART Terminals. This will be accomplished through the following tasks:

- Project Structuring:** Undertaking various studies and preparation of project documents in full compliance with the requirements of the PPP Act Number 103 of 2018 (as amended) and PPP regulations of 2020 (as amended) and International Best Practices for Integrated Transit Oriented Developments for BRT systems.
- Stakeholders Engagement:** Implementation of sound Community Engagement and Market Sounding of the selected ToD projects to collect and considers community input in the design and implementation of the ToD Projects and to assess the market appetite for the project as well as ensure that the PPP projects are likely to attract quality bids by responding to the market needs respectively.
- Project Competitive Tendering:** Facilitation of successful competitive tendering of the Master Developer(s) through preparation of bidding documents and PPP Agreements, provision of transaction support services during the bid process and through signing of the PPP Agreement (i.e. contract close). Delivery of RFQ final evaluation report- List of Pre-qualified bidders; RFP final evaluation report to help identify successful bidder(s); negotiations report (if any); final negotiated contract; and financial close report

In what follows, THEREFORE, Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART), the Government Agency established under The Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (DART) (Establishment Order), GN.No.120 of 25th May 2007, now invites eligible consulting firms ("the Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are **eligibility, experience in a similar assignment in the last ten (10) years, experience in similar conditions, and availability of appropriate skills among staff**. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers*, dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014 (Consultant Guidelines), setting forth the World Bank's policy in conflict of interest; available on www.worldbank.org/procure.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the "Quality and Cost Based (QCBS)" method set out in the Consultant Guidelines of the World Bank.

Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by- email) by 15th May 2023.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 08:30am to 15:30 pm:

The Secretary of the Tender Board,
Dar Rapid Transit Agency,
Ubungo Maji, Morogoro Road,
P.O Box 724,
DAR ES SALAAM.
Email: info@dart.go.tz

Dr. Edwin Mhede, Ph.D.,

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



ONLINE SUPPLIER PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS, WORKS AND SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 - 2025

- CRDB Bank Plc is an African Bank and Leading Financial Service Provider in Tanzania with current presence in Tanzania and Burundi and soon to open in DRC Congo. The Bank was established in 1996 and was listed in the Dar-es-salaam stock Exchange (DSE) in June 2019.
- CRDB Bank PLC is currently inviting online applications from all eligible, competent and experienced suppliers to apply for pre-qualification for supply of goods, works and services of different categories as tabulated in item 7 of this advertisement.
- Applications will be conducted according to CRDB Bank Plc Procurement Policies and Procedures. Only shortlisted suppliers will be eligible for invitation to quote under competitive procedures each time when needed.
- This is online supplier pre-qualification whereby suppliers shall submit their applications online through CRDB website: www.crdbbank.co.tz
- Overview of selection criteria shall be as follows: -

A. Legal Compliance

- Submission of all registration certificates from relevant authority
- Submission of valid business, Certificate of Incorporation or extract from registrar
- Submission of TIN & VAT (for registered)
- Submission of current Tax clearance certificate
- Current physical location with valid lease agreement or title deed
- Submission of certified litigation history certificate
- Submission of all other required information and attachments required during application

B. Company capabilities, competence and eligibility

- Show evidence of at least THREE (3) years' experience in the relevant field
- Submission of CV and copies of certificates for key personnel and technical staff
- Submit at least THREE (3) years of latest AUDITED financial statements
- Demonstrate capabilities in terms of equipment, skills and technology as per requirement in respective tender category
- Submission of Company profile

C. Sanction

- Submission of correct information of Directors and Shareholders and their scanned copies of Identity Cards (ID) e.g., Driving license, Voter ID, Traveling Passport, National ID
- And submission of all other required information and attachments required during application.

- Only eligible and qualified suppliers with demonstrative experience, compliance with the above application criteria and excellent track record in similar assignments will be considered for this pre-qualification. All existing suppliers and service providers currently operating with CRDB Bank are also required to apply.
- The list of pre-qualification services is here under, you may apply for single applications or more. Evaluations of supplier pre-qualification will be on an application basis.

SN	DESCRIPTION OF TENDER ITEM
A: SUPPLY OF GOODS	
1	Supply of Furniture, Fittings, Curtains and Vertical blinds
2	Supply of ICT consumables, Tonners and Cartridges
3	Supply, repair, servicing of fire extinguishers and Fire equipment
4	Supply of Security safe and strong room doors
5	Supply of Branded T-shirts
6	Supply of Motor Vehicles spare parts & Batteries
7	Supply of tires, tubes and Batteries for motor vehicles and motorcycles preferably importers, dealers and distributors.
8	Supply and installation of Generators and Generators Monitoring tools & spare parts
9	Supply of office equipment
10	Supply of ICT equipment, software and enterprises solution
11	Supply of Mobile Phones and Electronic equipment
12	Supply of ICT Equipment (Desktops, Laptops, Printers, Sorters, Counting Machines, etc.)
13	Supply of Computers accessories (Mouse, Power cables, HDD, RAM etc)
14	Supply of Empty branded Archive boxes
15	Supply of Air conditioners
16	Supply of drinking water for the dispensers
17	Supply and installation of CCTV Cameras and Alarm system

18	Supply of Cheque Leaf's and Cheque Personalization
19	Supply of various customized gift hampers.
20	Supply of general office stationery
21	Supply various Promotional Materials
22	Supply and installation of water pumps and spare parts
23	Supply of Households and Kitchen appliances
24	Supply of Fresh Tropical flowers
25	Supply of Motor Vehicles
26	Supply of News Papers
27	Supply of Sports items & Kits
28	Supply of Safety Materials & First Aid Kits
29	Supply of Power Inverters
30	Supply of ATMs & ATMs spare parts
31	Supply of Staff Uniforms
32	Supply of Rubber stamp
33	Supply of Food Items
34	Supply of Fire Extinguishers and Fire System equipment
35	Supply of Motorbikes, Bicycles & Bajaj
36	Supply of Branded Notebooks, Diaries and Calendars
37	Supply and refill of Generator fuels
38	Supply of Gift Hampers
39	Supply of Home & Office Appliances (TV, Microwaves, Fridges, etc.)
40	Supply of Customized branded Trophies and Plaques
41	Supply of steel Containers (20ft & 40ft)
B: SERVICES	
42	Provision of Printing Services for Bank forms and other stock items
43	Provision of Printing Services for Bank forms and other stock items
44	Provision of Fumigation and Pest control services
45	Provision of Services and Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers and systems
46	Provision of transport services specifically vehicle hire; saloon cars, pick-ups double cabin, station wagon, minibuses and trucks
47	Provision of Sanitary Services and Hygiene services
48	Provision of General Cleanliness and ground/garden maintenance
49	Provision of Security and Guarding services
50	Provision of Cash in Transit (CIT) services
51	Provision of Digital/Online Newspapers
52	Provision of Clearing and forwarding services
53	Provision of Marketing and advertising agency services
54	Provision of Auditing & Tax advisory services
55	Provision of PR services
56	Provision of Internet & Data Services
57	Provision of Event Management Services
58	Provision of Courier and Transport services
59	Provision of Auctioning and Debt collection services
60	Provision of Servicing and Maintenances of Air conditioners
61	Provision of Outsourced Drivers
66	Provision of Services and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles
63	Provision of Services and Maintenances of Elevators
64	Provision of Trade Marketing Agency Services
65	Provision of Insurance Services
66	Provision of Digital and Social Media Services
67	Provision of Media Services (Radio and TV).
68	Provision of Media Production services - still photography, videography, livestreaming music and documentary.
69	Provision of Training services for CRDB staff
70	Provision of Servicing and Maintenances of data cabling services
71	Provision of Branding and Signage activities
72	Provision of Hotel accommodation and conference services
73	Provision of Recruitment and HR services
74	Provision of Legal Services
75	Provision of Catering Services
76	Provision of Air, Marine tickets and other Travelling services
77	Provision of Ride hailing services

78	Provision of Media Monitoring, Photography and Video production.
79	Provision of Engineering Consultancy Services
80	Provision of Quantity surveyors' services
81	Provision of External Audit & Tax services
82	Provision of Architectural services
83	Provision of Road Billboards/Signage Hiring
84	Provision of Quality assurance services
85	Provision of Music & DJ services
86	Provision of Creatives, Innovation & Animation Services
87	Provision of Caller Tunes advertising
88	Provision of website content re-writing
89	Provision of Marketing Research & Insight
90	Provision of exhibition designing services
91	Provision of Bulk SMS services
92	Provision of Service and Maintenance of Network equipment
C: WORKS	
93	Building works Contractors (Minor & Major)
94	Specialized works- Electrical
95	Specialized works- Plumbing works
96	Specialized works- Data cabling
97	Specialized works- Intruder Alarm
98	Specialized works- CCTV Camera
99	Specialized works- Fire Alarm
100	Specialized works- Air Condition

- CRDB Bank Plc reserves the right to request submission of additional information from prospective applicants. Kindly note that all filled pre-qualification application documents should be clear, readable and uploaded in the online pre-qualification system.
- Pre-qualification forms not filled out completely and submitted in the prescribed manner will not be considered. All documents that form part of the pre-qualification must be attached accordingly.
- Supplier must declare any conflict of interest in relation to any member of CRDB Bank staff. CRDB Bank Plc will not procure goods or services from suppliers where the employees are conflicted and have not declared conflict of interest.
- The applicant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the online pre-qualification application and CRDB Bank Plc will not in any case be responsible and liable for the costs incurred.
- CRDB Bank Plc will not be enforceable to disclose reasons for disqualifying any supplier after publication and closure of the online pre-qualification exercise.
- All information given in writing to or shared online with the applicant in connection with this pre-qualification is to be treated as strictly confidential. The applicant shall not share or invoke such information to any third party without the prior written approval of CRDB Bank Plc. This obligation shall continue after the pre-qualification exercise has been completed whether or not the supplier is pre-qualified.
- Prospective applicants must have undertaken successful supply and delivery of goods/services to institutions of similar size and complexity. They must also demonstrate the willingness and commitment to meet the pre-qualification criteria.
- Completion of the pre-qualification documents includes forms and documents required of prospective suppliers/service providers to be considered for pre-qualification. Prospective suppliers must submit all the information herein requested and any applicant who does not meet all the relevant mandatory requirements will be automatically disqualified by the system.
- Interested and qualified applicants should send completed pre-qualification application and other required information as per system requirement before the communicated deadline.
- Whenever there is a need, CRDB Bank Plc will carry out a due diligence exercise for the shortlisted prequalified suppliers which will also include a site visit whenever required.
- Any clarity may be required from the application of the pre-qualification process should be directed to;
Email: info@crdbbank.co.tz
Copy to: procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz
Phone Numbers: 0222197700; 0800008000; 0714197700; 0755197700;
- All applications must be submitted online through CRDB website: www.crdbbank.co.tz**
- Deadline of submission of the application(s) is **Monday, 31st May 2023 at 1700 hours**. Thereafter, the application system will automatically close. Pre-qualification application shall be submitted only online through the CRDB website: **www.crdbbank.co.tz**.

The Managing Director
CRDB Headquarters,
Plot No.25 & 26 Ally Hassan Mwinzi Road &
Plot No.21 Barrack Obama Road
P.O. Box 268, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0) 22 211 7441 - 7
Fax: +255 (0) 22 211 6714
Email: info@crdbbank.co.tz
Website: <http://www.crdbbank.co.tz>

Seeking to make our media laws serve democracy better laudable

LEADING media freedom stakeholders, the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) are working to raise key issues with regard to the Media Services (Amendment) Bill, seeking audience with members of the relevant parliamentary committee, in particular. This much was agreed at a preliminary meeting of media stakeholders over government proposals in the bill. It is unclear how much time there is for such consultations and presentations to be made, as editors are still waiting for the schedule of parliamentary business for the full budget session of the House. Movers of the proposal think the bill may come up later.

Just a few provisions are being keenly disputed, and in the three provisions, bits of detail in an article covering one or other sphere of media practice, one being licensing. The forum and media owners plus practitioners want licensing to relate to the commercial character of an outlet, but top government bureaucrats want to license the content thereof. It means editors are always kept on their toes about what they publish, if it will still convince the Director of Information to issue, or cause to be issued, another license.

What media practitioners always insist but the message is deflected at upper levels of the information bureaucracy is that the licensing of content is incompatible with multiparty democracy. Licensing under this arguably totalitarian model, in bits and pieces as it were, is at odds with the spirit of reconciliation and reform that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is striving to foster as a key aspect of the civic spirit. Information wise men of the old school don't think so' they cherish government power to summon an editor and put him or

her on the right path; not answer any claims via state media or a political party, etc.

Editors pointed out that requiring media owners to get annual license from the Registrar of Newspapers infuses fear and anxiety as to exercising independence in newspaper work, and other outlets. The 'deep state' mentality is that of a one party state, that it should happen that at the media level, people can write anything they wish in ethical or political terms. There are other legal provisions being trimmed, like the arch-notorious Statistics Act, making it criminal to use data that isn't approved by a government agency.

The consensus that editor seek to push before the relevant parliamentary committee is that district and municipal licenses ought to be sufficient, while the office of the Registrar of Newspapers would have knowledge of the title of such publication, for purposes of regulation. No one should come up with a rival title, often with malicious intent, and then commit the title holder to a pointless court battle. It can be resolved at the level of authentication of title, similar to product brands, company names or in civic transition.

Media freedom, like other freedoms either in everyday life or in the public sphere specifically, isn't of necessity used positively because there is a big stick at the corner of one's eye. This 'Big Brother' view of media regulation is hyper-protective of the state either because it has no confidence in what it says the state is doing or it is misinformed about media as a whole. The core or what the media does is enhancing a certain view of dignity, so the media always strives to please large sections of society, not insult them.

Rise in human trafficking needs urgent solution

CHILD trafficking refers to the exploitation of girls and boys, primarily for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Children account for 27 per cent of all the human trafficking victims worldwide, and two out of every three child victims are girls. Sometimes sold by a family member or an acquaintance, sometimes lured by false promises of education and a better life – the reality is that these trafficked and exploited children are held in slave-like conditions without enough food, shelter or clothing, and are often severely abused and cut off from all contact with their families.

Children are often trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation or for labour, such as domestic servitude, agricultural work, factory work and mining, or they're forced to fight in conflicts. The most vulnerable children, particularly refugees and migrants, are often preyed upon and their hopes for an education, a better job or a better life in a new country.[ii]

Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, and as a result, children are forced to drop out of school, risk their lives and are deprived of what every child deserves – a future.

Child trafficking affects every country in the world, including the United States. Children make up 27 per cent of all human trafficking victims worldwide, and two out of every three identified child victims are girls.

Trafficking, according to the United Nations, involves three main elements: Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons. The means threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving

payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.

For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

There is much misinformation about what trafficking is, who is affected and what it means for a child to be trafficked. Traffickers target victims they don't know. A majority of the time, victims are trafficked by someone they know, such as a friend, family member or romantic partner.

Boys and men are just as likely to be victims of human trafficking as girls and women. However, they are less likely to be identified and reported. Girls and boys are often subject to different types of trafficking, for instance, girls may be trafficked for forced marriage and sexual exploitation, while boys may be trafficked for forced labor or recruitment into armed groups.

Hekima, the Bukoba-based Non-Governmental Organisation, has called for strong collaboration of action programmes between the government and stakeholders to fight against child trafficking.

The organisation's chief executive officer, Chui Majaliwa made the call recently during celebrations of International Day for Street Children, a special day to celebrate the lives of street children and highlight the efforts to have their rights respected and their needs met in a caring and respectful manner.

This year's theme focuses on what makes street-connected children feel safe or unsafe, and what governments and communities can do to ensure that street children are protected from harm.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

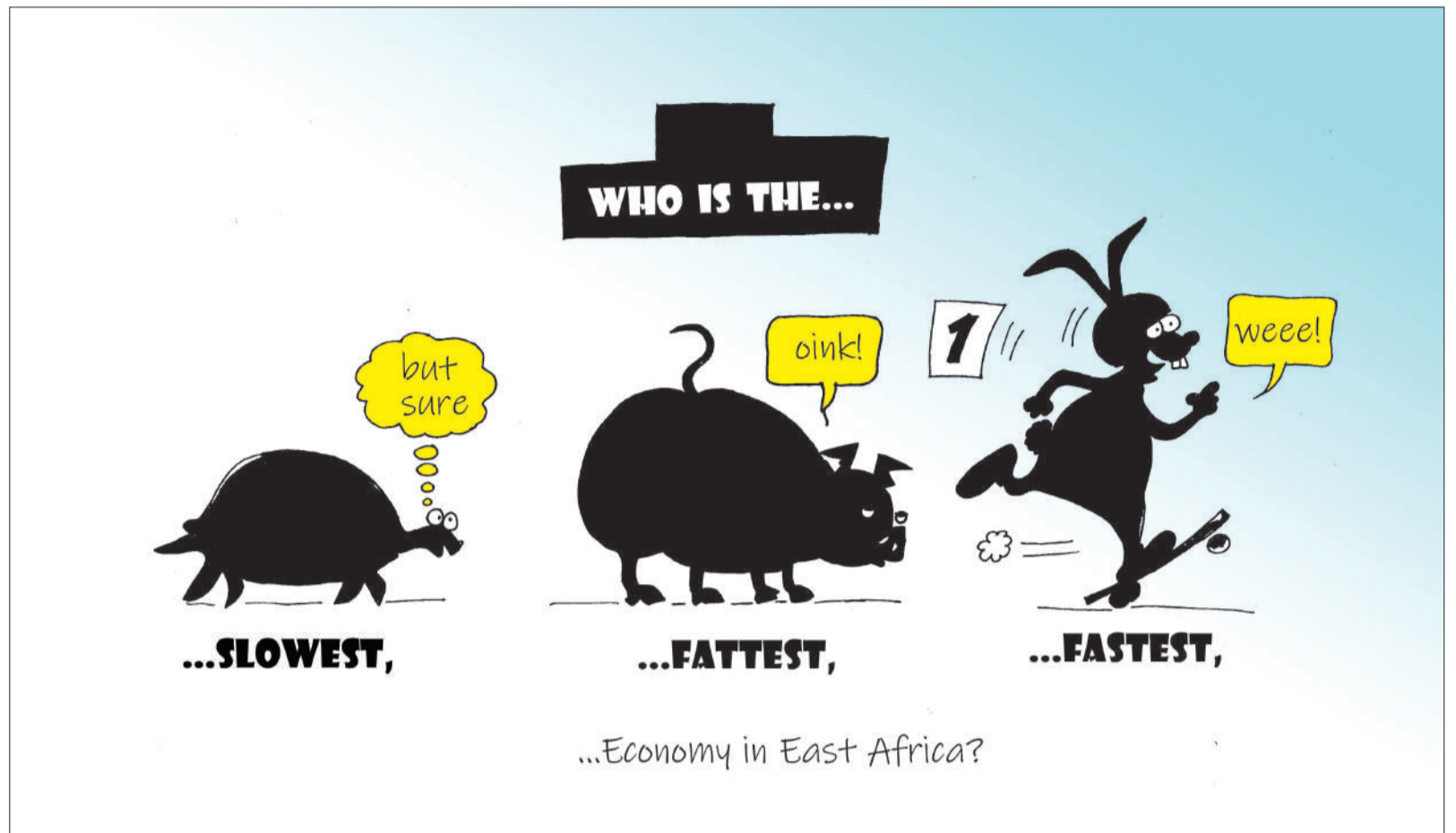
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Addressing the current digital divide in Liberia

By Willie Bee Tingba

STRATEGIES for bridging the gap in access to technology and internet service

One of the world's poorest nations, Liberia, is struggling with a significant digital divide that has an impact on both its educational system and its ability to thrive economically. The digital divide refers to the disparity between persons or groups who have access to modern technology and those who do not. Due to the high expenses of purchasing and maintaining technology, the digital gap is pervasive in many developing nations. Low literacy rates and poor infrastructure in Liberia further contribute to the country's digital divide. A thorough strategy that would boost access to technology, develop digital literacy, and offer technical support is needed to solve the digital gap in Liberia. The government of Liberia, in partnership with non-governmental organizations and private sector companies, can play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide.

Access to technology should be made more widely available as one of the first stages toward closing the digital divide. This can be achieved by giving remote libraries and schools access to computers, the internet, and software. Moreover, Wi-Fi hotspots and other community-based projects can increase mobile internet availability in rural areas. Funding for such an endeavor might be provided in a crucial way by donors and international organizations. Increasing digital literacy is a crucial first step in closing the digital gap. Technology education-focused training programs can be established by the government and non-governmental groups in rural areas. The training ought to address fundamental computer abilities, web usage, and online safety. By offering classes in regional tongues, training programs might be created to meet the demands of the local population.

The need to provide technical support to those with restricted access to technology is also necessary. This can be accomplished by establishing community technology centers that offer technical support and repair services. Local technicians who are able to help rural residents on the spot can work in these centers.

As a result, closing the digital divide in Liberia calls for a multidimensional strategy that emphasizes technical assistance, digital literacy training, and technological access. The government, non-governmental



groups, and private sector businesses must work together to close the gap. Through a comprehensive strategy, Liberia can create a trained workforce with the necessary tools to compete in the global market.

In the current digital era, having access to technology and internet services is essential for social and economic progress. Yet, there is a sizable digital divide in Liberia, just like in many other developing nations, with a sizable percentage of the population lacking access to technology and internet services. To ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to engage in the digital economy, the digital gap is a crucial issue that needs to be addressed. This article will go over ways to close the access gap in Liberia for technology and internet services.

Understanding the Digital Divide in Liberia

Liberia, a West African country with a current population of 5,377,025 as of Sunday, March 12, 2023, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Liberia's internet penetration rate stands at 22.0 percent of the total population at the start of 2022 according to datareportal.

Datareportal estimates that in 2022, just 22.0% of people had access to the internet. There are a number of reasons for this low rate of internet adoption, including the expensive nature of internet services, a lack of infrastructure, and low levels of digital literacy. The distance between those who have access to contemporary information and communication technologies (ICTs) and those who do not are known as the "digital divide." This gap affects people, homes, enterprises, and geographical areas. Due to poor internet access and low ICT adoption rates, the digital divide in Liberia continues to be a serious problem.

Liberia had one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world in 2022, according to datareportal, with only 22.0%. Only urban areas, where telecommunications infrastructure

literacy training programs for all age groups. The training programs should focus on basic computer skills, internet browsing, and online safety. Digital literacy training programs can be implemented in schools, libraries, and community centers.

- Reducing the Cost of Internet Services

High internet service costs are another barrier to internet access in Liberia. The government can work with internet service providers to reduce the cost of internet services. The government can also provide tax incentives to internet service providers to encourage them to expand their services to underserved areas. This will not only increase access to the internet but also promote competition among internet service providers, leading to lower prices.

- Implementing E-Government Services

The government can also promote the use of e-government services to improve access to public services. E-government services can be used to provide information and services to citizens through online platforms. This will reduce the need for physical visits to government offices, making it easier for citizens to access government services. E-government services can also promote transparency and accountability in government.

- Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be an effective way to bridge the digital divide in Liberia. PPPs can bring together the government, private sector, and civil society to work towards increasing access to technology and internet services. The government can provide incentives to the private sector to invest in infrastructure and provide internet services in underserved areas. PPPs can also be used to provide digital literacy training programs and support the implementation of e-government services.

Conclusion

The digital divide in Liberia is a critical issue that needs to be addressed to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities to participate in the digital economy. Improving infrastructure, increasing digital literacy, reducing the cost of internet services, implementing e-government services, and promoting public-private partnerships are strategies that can be used to bridge the gap in access to technology and internet services in Liberia. The government, private sector, and civil society need to work together to implement these strategies and ensure that everyone in Liberia has access to technology and internet services.

The last mile to malaria elimination: Confronting gender inequalities & power dynamics

World Malaria Day, April 25, is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control. It was instituted by WHO Member States during the World Health Assembly of 2007.



Young girls chat while sitting under a mosquito net in Bienything, South Sudan. Credit: UNICEF/Mark Naftalin

UALA LUMPUR, Malaysia.

For centuries, malaria has remained one of the deadliest diseases, inflicting great suffering on families and perpetuating the cycle of poverty in many communities and nations. The African region currently accounts for 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths globally, with women and girls disproportionately affected by the disease.

Women are at higher risk of malaria due to biological, social, economic, and gender factors. They have limited access to healthcare, less decision-making power and control over household resources, which increases their susceptibility.

Gender-based economic disparities further worsen the situation by limiting women's access to malaria prevention and treatment.

While significant progress has been made in the past decades in combatting malaria through the development of life-saving treatment regimens and the implementation of cutting-edge technologies to accelerate the discovery and development of new malaria vaccines, deaths due to malaria remain high.

In 2021 alone, an estimated 619,000 deaths were caused by malaria, highlighting the need for continued efforts to combat this disease.

In addition, COVID-related disruptions in the delivery of malaria curative and preventive services during the two peak years of the pandemic (2020-2021), led to approximately 13 million more cases of malaria and an additional 63,000 deaths caused by the disease compared to the pre-COVID-19 year of 2019.

To date, malaria cases and deaths have primarily been reduced through disease-focused approaches that tend to be reactive rather than proactive often initiated in response to malaria outbreaks.

This narrow focus on treating individual cases of malaria overlooks broader social, economic, environmental risk factors including gender-based inequalities.

As Member States work towards ambitious goals set during the 2015 World Health Assembly of reducing the global malaria burden by 90% by 2030, efforts need to prioritise the underlying factors that drive transmission through a multi-faceted approach, particularly recognising the social determinants like gender inequalities.

The concept of people-centred health care is based on fundamental principles that prioritize human rights, dignity, participation, equity, and partnerships.

This approach aims to create a health care system where individuals, families, and communities receive humane and holistic care, while also having the opportunity to actively engage with the health care system.

As we work towards leaving no one behind and achieving the last mile, developing and adopting more people-centred approaches, that address gender and intersectionality concerns through an analysis of power dynamics, will be critical to make significant strides towards eradicating malaria for good.

This can involve engaging with communities and stakeholders to identify their needs and develop evidence-based malaria control strategies that promote equity and inclusion.

Additionally, promoting participation of marginalized groups in decision-making and ensuring malaria interventions respect human rights and promote social justice.

Not only will this help advance Sustainable Development Goals towards gender equality but importantly will also contribute to decolonising global health and empowering communities that remain most

impacted by the disease.

Unpacking the Gendered Dimensions

A people-centred approach to malaria prevention aims to prioritize the well-being of individuals and communities by establishing reliable health systems. However, power dynamics must be taken into account to prevent the perpetuation of power imbalances, hierarchies, and inequalities. This means engaging with communities and other stakeholders to identify their needs and priorities and working together to develop evidence-based malaria control strategies.

The Community Directed Intervention (CDI) approach exemplifies the importance of extensive community engagement to identify local needs and priorities for malaria control. This includes community meetings, involving leaders and women groups, and conducting surveys on malaria burden and risk factors.

Developing evidence-based strategies through community engagement results in increased community ownership and participation, leading to higher uptake of interventions and reducing malaria transmission.

Addressing the power dynamics associated with malaria prevention requires acknowledging and tackling gendered dimensions linked with malaria prevention.

Women in some communities may lack access to education, employment, and decision-making power, which can limit their ability to protect themselves from malaria.

Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices may contribute to the unequal distribution of resources for malaria prevention and control, with men accessing more resources than women.

This underscores the importance of addressing gender roles in malaria control initiatives and empowering women to take an active role in protecting themselves and their families.

Intersectionality also has important implications for malaria control

as gender intersects with other social categories to create specific vulnerabilities and challenges. For instance, women from lowest income groups are least likely to get access to healthcare.

To address these challenges, it is important for more malaria control programs to conduct systematic social and gender analysis, hearing from those affected, to better understand the subtle nuances of gendered and intersectional dimensions of power both within households and communities.

This approach can then help to identify the specific barriers and opportunities for women's participation in malaria control initiatives. By unpacking the gendered dimensions in communities, public health officials can design targeted interventions that promote women's empowerment, address gender inequalities, and increase women's involvement in malaria control programs.

Confronting not Reinforcing Power Dynamics

A people-centred approach to malaria control can empower individuals by providing education and training on malaria prevention and control. It can emphasize inclusivity and centre the experiences and knowledge of those who have been historically excluded or marginalized due to factors such as racism, sexism, classism, and other systems of power.

To avoid reinforcing power dynamics in malaria control, it is crucial to involve and empower marginalized groups in decision-making. This involves consulting communities to identify their needs and priorities, promoting participation of women and marginalized groups, and designing interventions that promote equity and inclusion.

The foundation for improving community dialogue and community-led actions towards malaria elimination has been established over the years.

A case in point is the successful elimination of malaria in Cambodia's

last mile, which relied on communities in high-risk areas agreeing to increased testing, regular fever screening, and in some cases, taking preventive antimalarial medication.

A people-centred approach recognizes the significance of communities in designing and implementing malaria control programs, considering their unique social, cultural, and environmental contexts that can impact malaria transmission and control.

One illustration is the use of local languages and cultural practices to

build trust and improve communication on malaria prevention and control measures through empowerment of community health workers who understand and can tailor interventions to their specific contexts.

On the other hand, a people-centred approach, which does not consider power dynamics, can unintentionally reinforce social hierarchies and exclude vulnerable populations from accessing preventative and curative treatment for malaria.

For instance, a malaria control

program that only involves male community leaders and village chiefs in decision-making when distributing bed nets reinforces patriarchal power and favour wealthier households, while excluding marginalized groups such as women and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

In conclusion, achieving malaria elimination through people-centred approaches requires a holistic approach that actively considers issues of gender, intersectionality, and balance of power. It is crucial to ensure that these approaches do not perpetuate existing inequalities, but instead centre the experiences and knowledge of marginalized groups.

By acknowledging and addressing the ways in which different forms of oppression intersect and compound to create experiences of marginalization and exclusion, we can make meaningful strides towards malaria elimination.

To achieve this, sustaining a commitment to inclusivity, equity, and social justice is imperative in all efforts aimed at eradicating malaria and improving the health and well-being of communities affected by this disease.

This includes actively involving marginalized groups in decision-making processes, addressing social determinants of health, tailoring interventions to specific cultural and contextual factors, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

By taking a proactive and inclusive approach, we can ensure that malaria control efforts are effective, equitable, and sustainable, leading to more just and healthier communities.

Arthur Ng'etich Kipkemoi Saitabu is Post-Doctoral Fellow of the United Nations University - International Institute for Global Health.

DIAMOND TRUST BANK

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGES TO OUR TARIFF GUIDE

We would like to inform our Customers and the general public that our changes to the listed services will change effectively from 25th May 2023.

All Other Charges not shown below will remain the same.

The Bank assures customers its commitment to provide high class services at affordable costs.

S/N	SERVICE NAME	NEW CHARGES																				
1	Foreign Currency Cash Deposit (USD/EUR/GBP) above 10,000	0.50% of the amount																				
2	Mobile Banking – Bank to Customer (B2C) Transfer	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <th style="width: 70%;">Transfer Amount - TZS</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Fee - TZS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1,000 – 10,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10,001 – 20,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">20,001 – 50,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">50,001 – 100,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">100,001 – 200,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">200,001 – 300,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">300,001 – 400,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">400,001 – 500,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">500,001 – 1,000,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Transfer Amount - TZS	Fee - TZS	1,000 – 10,000	1,000	10,001 – 20,000	1,500	20,001 – 50,000	2,000	50,001 – 100,000	3,500	100,001 – 200,000	4,500	200,001 – 300,000	5,000	300,001 – 400,000	6,500	400,001 – 500,000	7,000	500,001 – 1,000,000	8,500
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Not one parent should ever be in the position we find ourselves, say mothers of LGBTQ+ people in Uganda

KAMPALA

The mothers of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda have taken a stand against Bill passed by the Ugandan Parliament proposing the death penalty for aggravated homosexuality, life imprisonment for the "offense of homosexuality," and up to 20 years in jail for promoting homosexuality.

This stance is considered rare for Uganda and Africa, where Human Rights Watch says 33 countries still criminalize homosexuality. And there is concern that because of the success of the Ugandan Bill, other African countries could be encouraged to intensify targeting the anti-LGBTQ+ community.

Mawethu Nkosana Nkolomba, the Crisis Response Fund Lead/ LGBTI Advocacy Lead at CIVICUS, told IPS that the passing of the Bill in Uganda was not an isolated incident. "There is a threat of LGBTI civil society groups being targeted soon in Kenya, and because of what just happened in Uganda, there are fears of the LGBTI bill coming back in full force. Niger - has a similar bill being tabled."

"So is Tanzania - the targeting of LGBTI and feminist groups are under target (anal testing), Ghana - has a similar bill as Uganda, Burundi - (is experiencing) a new wave of arrests of LGBTI groups, the situation of LGBTI groups in Tunisia and Algeria is worsening, in Egypt, police are using queer apps to target the LGBTI community - so definitely there is a trend," Nkolomba says in an interview with IPS.

Activist Eric Ndaula says the issue is that homophobia is a pervasive mindset - with politicians, religious leaders, and even family taking a stance against it. "They tell us that homosexuality is wrong; it's an abomination."

When the Ugandan Parliament passed the Bill on March 21, 2023, without asking for anonymity, Jane Nasimbwa, Sylvia Nassuna, Janet Ndagire, Patricia Naava, Jackie Nabbosa Mpungu, Florence Matovu Kansanze, Josephine Amonyatta, and Shamim Nakamate openly identified themselves as mothers of LG-

BTTQ+ individuals.

Their "Open Letter to President Museveni from Mothers of LGBTQ+ Individuals," - republished by the Monitor, surprised many.

"As parents of LGBTQ+ individuals, we are not 'promoters' of any agenda; we are Ugandan mothers, who have had to overcome many of our own biases to fully understand, accept, and love our children," reads the letter.

The women expressed fear that their children were likely to be targets of mob violence, which they noted was a direct consequence of living in a country whose legislators are "recklessly" legalizing homophobia and transphobia with the Anti-Homosexuality law. "We, too, did not choose to be parents of LGBTQ+ children, but we have chosen to love our children for who they are. As parents, we all desire and work to ensure that our children are healthy, well-educated, successful, and fulfilled in both their professional and personal lives."

The letter was shared on Twitter by Dr Catherine Kyobutungi, a feminist and The Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center, sparking an online debate.

They requested President Yoweri Museveni not to assent to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, saying they could no longer stand on the sidelines and watch as their children continued to be bashed and threatened in such a dangerous and deliberate manner.

Will President Museveni Listen?

There are doubts about whether Museveni, who previously signed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill into law in 2014, will heed the mothers' call - even though he has sent the Bill back to parliament for amendment.

In a press statement released on April 20, 2023, which quoted him as saying: "Be ready to sacrifice to fight homosexuals," he also noted: "It is good that you rejected the pressure from the imperialists. Those imperialists have been messing up the world for 600 years, causing so much damage."

The Bill is to be returned not because of a change in sentiment but



Activists from Freedom and Roam Uganda launch LGBTQ+ campaigns. My Body is Not a Battlefield and Break the Chains, Stop Violence campaigns. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

because Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka said the Bill in its current form criminalizes even those who voluntarily come out to having "practiced homosexuality" and need to be helped.

He proposed a provision for amnesty for this group. Museveni has been quoted several times that those behind the criticism of the Bill were associated with Europeans - and he has expressed anti-homosexuality sentiments in several other addresses since then.

"There is some issue with these Europeans. They don't listen; we have been telling them that this problem of homosexuality is not something that we should normalize and celebrate," Museveni said. "I told them that there were some few homosexuals before Europeans came here ... But now the Europeans want to turn the abnormal into normal and force it on others."

After the Bill was enacted, Museveni addressed a meeting of members of Parliament from 22 African countries and the UK. He repeated that homosexuality was a deviation, adding that it was more dangerous than drugs.

In February 2014, President Museveni appointed a committee of scientists to determine whether there was a scientific or genetic basis for homosexuality and whether it could be learned and unlearned.

While the committee recommended a further study, it observed that homosexuality existed throughout history.

'Blatant Violation of Rights'

Dr Zahara Nampewo, a lecturer at the Makerere University's School of Law and Director of the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURPEAC), speaking at a debate a day after the Bill was passed, said there were far-

reaching implications of the law.

"We have raised our voices of concern over issues such as the blatant violation of rights such as the presumption of innocence, the right to a non-derogable right to a fair trial," Nampewo says. "We have been calling for laws to protect children against child abuse; we have been calling for the marriage bill. Why now, in a period of a month, has (this) law been passed?"

The mover of the Bill, Asuman Basalirwa, told IPS that they had planned to table the Bill since August 2022, but it was only in late February that the Speaker granted them space on the order paper.

"The issue of recruitment, promotion, and financing of homosexuality. You don't provoke a community like that. If those people were doing their things quietly, nobody would be bothered, but you see, you are going into our schools, you are attacking our children. And you want us to look on?"

Asked why a particular stance to criminalize LGBTQ+ persons, Basalirwa told IPS that the criminalization of homosexuality is not a new phenomenon. "It is the colonialists who first brought here a law on homosexuality section 145 of the penal code. This is intended to be a penal law. So you want a penal law that doesn't criminalize it," he asked.

Timing of Passing the Bill

Some critics have argued that the Bill was rushed by Speaker of Parliament Anita Among and her deputy Thomas Tayebwa because those behind it wanted it to be passed before an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on family values under the theme "Protecting African Culture and Family Values."

The two-day conference was held on the shores of

Lake Victoria from March 31 to April 1, 2023. It was attended by leaders of Family Watch International (FWI) officials. FWI is a US Christian organization described by civil rights activists as a "hate group, which opposes comprehensive sexuality education." Delegates from FWI included Sharon Slater, who told the conference that: "We are on fire, and we must stop this culture of imperialism that is destroying our children." Slater and her team, which included Henk Jan van Schothorst, the Executive Director at Christian Council International, and Gregg Scot, a US attorney, met Museveni and his wife, Janet Museveni, at State House Entebbe.

'Victimless Offense'

But Dr Adrian Jjuuko, Executive Director at Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum - Uganda (HRAPF), disagrees with Basalirwa about the timing of the enactment of the Bill.

"This is a campaign that has been going on for years. And it is not just a Ugandan campaign. This is an international campaign," said Jjuuko, whose organization provides legal aid to LGBTQ+ persons.

Jjuuko, whose organization has allegedly been listed by Uganda's NGO Bureau among Civil Society groups likely to be closed, told IPS that the offenses suggested in the laws are victimless because the relationships were consensual. "If you have a victimless offense, why do you have to criminalize a victimless offense? Nobody is complaining; there's no harm. Harm to who? To Hon Basalirwa?"

The Bill limits the offense of homosexuality to sexual acts between persons of the same sex. The offense is punishable by life imprisonment, up to ten years. It also provides for the offense of aggravated homosexuality.

"If you look at the provision on the promotion of homosexuality. It essentially bans what we do as lawyers. So as a lawyer, you cannot represent an LGBTQ+ person because that will be seen as a promotion of homosexuality," Jjuuko says.

The law suggests several punishments, including the death penalty for being a repeat offender and life imprisonment.

"Repeat offender means if you are convicted of being gay twice, you die for that. Having consensual sex when you are HIV-positive, you die for that; if you have sex with a person of the advanced age of 75 years, you die for that regardless of whether it is consensual."

Jjuuko observes, "If you wanted to fight pedophilia, sexual orientation is not what you go for. What you go for is the crime that you are interested in fighting."

NGOs suspected of promoting homosexuality risk a fine of one billion shillings (over \$264,000) or face twenty years in prison.

Restrictions, threats, and the vilification of sexual minorities in Uganda preceded the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. In August 2022, the civil society organization Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) was banned by the Ugandan National Bureau (the NGO Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations) because it was not registered. In 2012 the NGO Bureau rejected an application by SMUG to have it registered because the organization was "undesirable and un-registrable."

Asuman Basalirwa, the mover of the Bill, and fellow Parliamentarians argued that the country needs the law to protect children from promoters of homosexuality. But Jjuuko, in an interview with IPS, said that it was a misplaced sentiment.

"If you talk about children, the biggest threat to our children is not homosexuality. The biggest threat to children is heterosexuality. Because if you look at the annual police crimes report, over ten thousand cases of defilement of girls by men. And there were only 83 cases of unnatural carnal knowledge (as the offense is described in the bill) against the order of nature."

The Bill is Retrogressive

Many have observed that the Bill is retrogressive and will worsen the HIV situation in Uganda as it would deny LGBTQ+ persons, who are key populations, access to HIV services.

The Bill came after PEPPER Uganda, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Uganda, the Uganda AIDS Commission, conducted a legal and environmental assessment of HIV/AIDS and key populations. The evaluation had recommendations to ensure an enabling environment to move the course toward epidemic control.

PEPFAR Uganda Country Coordinator, Mary Borgman, told IPS, "We need to ensure that the human rights of all key populations are respected regardless of who we are. And this is our primary objective to ensure that we provide services to all people. That is stigma and discrimination-free."

While South Africa's Constitution is hailed for being the first in the world to prohibit unfair discrimination based on sexual orientation, LGBTQ+ people still experience violence. Human Rights Watch noted that in 2021 at least 24 people were murdered due to their sexual orientation.

More concerning is the decision of an independent expert body within the African Union (AU), the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, to reject the three NGOs' observer status to three NGOs.

Frans Viljoen, Director and Professor of International Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, argues in the Conversation that the rejection of Alternative Côte d'Ivoire, Human Rights First Rwanda and Synergia "casts a shadow over the commission's commitment to advancing the rights of all Africans. It also seriously erodes its independence from AU states ... The denial of observer status means the NGOs will not have a voice before the African Commission. They will not be able to draw its attention to the human rights violations of LGBTQ+ people in Africa."

IPS UN Bureau Report

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a time programme with specific radio shows and their durations.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

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Big Oil's cash 'golden age' puts deal-making back on agenda

NEW YORK

Big Oil used last year's unexpected windfall from surging energy prices to shower investors with rewards and pay down debt.

As the cash continues to flow in 2023, the question is whether they will find more adventurous uses for their money.

While lower oil and gas prices mean the record profits seen in 2022 are unlikely to be repeated when the majors begin announcing first-quarter earnings later this week, underlying cash flows are still far above historical norms.

Having used buybacks to trim the amount of outstanding shares by as much as 8 percent in aggregate and paying down debt by \$87 billion last year, this could be the moment for the oil majors to pursue growth through big deals.

That's especially true if the rift between Russia and the West over the invasion of Ukraine has created a new normal where fossil fuel prices stay high in the long term.

"Consolidation will be a potential solution for companies to deliver volume growth in order to take advantage of the supercycle," said Christyan Malek, global head of energy strategy at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Combined, the biggest western oil companies are forecast to have made adjusted net income of \$36.5 billion in the first quarter of 2023, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

While that's down more than 40 percent from the peak in the second quarter of 2022, it would still mark the seventh-highest level recorded since the mega-mergers of the 2000s created the companies in their current form.

"They're still generating an extraordinary amount of free cash flow," said Lydia Rainforth, an analyst at Barclays Plc. It's evidence of a normalization of earnings at a higher level, she said.

The total includes estimates for Exxon Mobil Corp, Chevron Corp, Shell Plc, BP Plc and TotalEnergies SE, which kicks off earnings season on



Exxon hiked its repurchase rate multiple times last year

April 27. The two US oil giants report the following day, with BP and Shell announcing their results next week.

The super-majors are consistently spending tens of billions of dollars every year on exploration and development of new resources. That's significantly less than they were investing a decade ago and generally serves to sustain, or slow the decline of, their current production levels.

The surge in energy prices

has created a surplus of cash that could allow companies to invest greater amounts in larger and more ambitious projects, but the industry has a patchy record of generating good returns from such ventures. Instead, Big Oil has prioritized giving cash back to shareholders.

Chevron increased its buyback 17 percent to \$17.5 billion already this year while Exxon hiked its repurchase rate multiple times last year to about

the same level as its smaller US rival.

Shell and BP both announced further dividend and buyback increases earlier this year when reporting fourth-quarter earnings.

But with so much cash on hand and relatively high stock valuations, this could be an opportune moment to buy smaller competitors. Acquisitions would add production and reserves at a time when the Organization of Petroleum

Exporting Countries and its allies appear to be putting a floor under the oil price with their surprise production cut earlier this month.

Exxon, which has expressed interest in Permian Basin acquisitions, held early-stage talks with Pioneer Natural Resources Co., the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month. Buying Pioneer would make Exxon far and away the basin's biggest producer and expand its runway of top-tier drilling locations from about 12 years to more than 40 years, according to Rystad Energy.

That wouldn't come cheap, given Pioneer's enterprise value of about \$60 billion, and Exxon may have reason to be cautious.

"It's only been three years since Exxon had to lean heavily on its balance sheet to sustain the dividend" during the pandemic price slump, Morgan Stanley analysts led by Devin McDermott said in a note. "We would be surprised if management uses its excess capacity for a large acquisition at a relatively high point in the price cycle."

So far, the European majors have signaled reluctance to chase acquisitions. BP Chief Executive Officer Bernard Looney said he could consider "smart M&A" to add to its current production portfolio.

Shell's boss told analysts earlier this year that it won't pursue big deals, instead prioritizing shareholder payouts. Any strategic changes for Shell may come later this year when new CEO Wael Sawan gives his first big presentation to investors in June in New York.

Both companies are focused closing the valuation gap that's opened up between them and their US rivals by further improving shareholder returns.

Even if discipline is the watchword today, attitudes could change as the profits continue to pour in this year.

"Leverage targets have now been achieved, paving the way for surplus free cash capacity likely opening a window for M&A, either in energy-transition or oil & gas," said Will Hares, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Energy majors are in a golden age of free cash flow."

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Mkwawa University praised for promoting innovation, research

Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) in Iringa region is praised for regularly allocates funds every year to cover research and innovative activities for its employees.

This was confirmed by the Assistant Director of Higher Education Dr. Evaristo Mtitu on behalf of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof. Carolyn Ignatius Nombo during the eighth (8) celebrations of the Research and Innovation Week of the University of Dar es Salaam, held at the University College recently.

He said that this is a step to achieve the research goals of any institution defined in its strategic plan, while praising the college management for seeing the importance of allocating the budget for research and innovation.

"University research can be very expensive, especially in lab-intensive fields. Often the responsibility for the costs of doing research is the researcher's own..." Dr. Mtitu explained.

He added that university scholars have no reason to complain about the lack of funds for conducting research because there is funding for research that can answer difficult questions and solve the challenges of the people.

Dr. Mtitu asked scholars to focus on research aimed at bringing solutions to society's challenges and improving people's lives.

"The major responsibility of research is to bring solutions to the challenges, so that there is a better life..." said Dr. Mtitu.

In addition to securing projects, Dr. Mtitu has mentioned another advantage of research that is to increase the vitality of universities and academics



Senior Lecturer of Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE), Dr. Lewis Mtshobya showing bioethanol fuel derived from transforming ripe brewing banana ripe bananas during the eighth celebration of research and innovation week of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) at the MUCE College level recently. (Photo by Friday Simbaya)

themselves, to give motivation to emerging scholars to focus on the area at the same time as improving the lives of the community.

Earlier, Principal of MUCE, Professor Esther Dungumaro said it is an undeniable fact that the development of any country in the world depends on research especially aimed at

knowing the needs of the community and bringing solutions to their lives.

"There are countries that have been able to promote industrial development quickly like Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan because they invested in research. We at Muce have decided to focus on doing research," said

Professor Dungumaro.

The 8th gala of the week of research and innovation aims to show the value and results of various studies carried out by the academics of the University of Dar es Salaam and its colleges in pushing forward the wheel of national development.

This year's slogan for the celebration says: "Impactful

research and innovation for socioeconomic well-being in Tanzania."

Research involves the use of many resources, including financial resources and people.

Also, research needs a lot of money so that they can be done in such a way that the results will not bring any kind of doubts.

Professor Dungumaro explained that the College has been allocating internal funds (its own source) to help develop and improve research and innovation.

However, she said the college alone cannot meet all the needs to finance research at the college, and requested the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to continue working together to find funds to improve research.

Doing so will enable academics and students to conduct productive research to solve challenges and problems in Tanzanian society.

On their part, some researchers admitted that the lack of funds for research is the biggest challenge facing scholars.



Gold price soars to the record level in India

NEW DELHI

Gold prices in India have soared to the highest ever, damping the outlook for demand in the world's second-biggest consumer.

That was especially apparent during the day of Akshaya Tritiya at the weekend, which is considered one of the most auspicious times of the year to buy gold by the nation's majority Hindu population.

"Purchases were obviously improved" at the weekend compared with the past couple of months, said Chirag Sheth, principal consultant at Metals Focus Ltd. But while sales were likely higher in value than at the same time last year, they would be lower in volume, Sheth said. Akshaya Tritiya fell on April 22 this year and extended into the morning of the following day.

Global gold prices have surged this year as turmoil in the banking industry spurred demand for a haven, helping send futures in India to a record in April. The country accounts for more than a fifth of world demand for jewelry, bars and coins, and imports almost all of that, mainly from Switzerland and the UAE.

Unless domestic prices drop by 5-10 percent, demand from April to June will be weak and overall sales this year will be flat to negative compared with 2022, Sheth said. "You already have a washed-out January-March quarter and the current quarter is also weighed down by high prices," he said. Consumption was 774 tons last year, according to World Gold Council data.

Heat waves are also hurting demand. While the months of April and May will be busy for sales because of the extended wedding season, extreme heat is a worry "because people generally don't venture out of the house and only visit the stores in the evening," according to Ashish Pethe, a jeweler and former chairman of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council. India is bracing for what might be a hotter summer than usual this year.

Tanga city sets aside 7.7bn/- for modern market

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Tanga

TANGA city council is set to spend about 7.7bn/- for construction of permanent state-of-art market facility to accommodate petty traders 'Machingas' who are conducting their business activities at Tangamano grounds open market.

Tanga city director, Sipora

Liana said this before Tanga district commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa who toured the proposed construction area at Kange, by pointing out that the funds for project implementation will come from central government and the municipal's own revenues.

For his side DC Mgandilwa said that the completion of the project will help traders who have no places for doing their business activities in all weather

and every day.

"According to available data, about 900 Machingas who doing business activities every Tuesday and Saturday at Tangamano grounds do not have official places, and the proposed market will be their permanent place doing their business activities daily," he said.

Tangamano ground was selected by city council to accommodate petty traders "Machinga" coming from different

places in Tanga region.

Moreover, the place is one the city numerous revenue and levies collection sources, also set to host government as well as social activities and sometimes, social or government occasions are conducted with trading activities, which creates inconveniences for traders.

According to report on local government authorities revenue collection of the fiscal year between June 2021 to

July 2022 presented before journalists for the then Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Innocent Bashungwa, Tanga city council topped other cities in revenue collection with 113bn/- annually.

It followed by Dar es salaam with 108bn/-, Arusha 104bn/-, Dodoma 103bn/-, Mwanza 100bn/- and Mbeya 92bn/-.

DIGITAL MARKETING: The influence of excessive or tight campaign budgets

By Alley Mtatya

In today's digital age, marketing has evolved beyond traditional methods such as print, radio, and television. The rise of social media has transformed the way businesses interact with their customers, and digital marketing has become an essential part of any successful marketing strategy. However, with the increasing cost of social media advertising, businesses are finding it challenging to maximize their reach with tight social media budgets.

Digital marketing is a vast umbrella term that encompasses a range of techniques and strategies, including search engine optimization (SEO), content marketing, email marketing, and social media marketing. The rise of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok has significantly impacted the way businesses approach digital marketing. Social media platforms provide businesses with a unique opportunity to engage with their audience, build brand awareness, and generate leads.

However, social media advertising can be expensive, and businesses with tight budgets may struggle to compete with larger, well-established companies. To maximize their social media marketing efforts, businesses need to develop a strategic plan that focuses on their target audience, objectives, and budget constraints (Segmenting and Direct and Targeting).

One way to make the most of a tight social media budget is to invest in content marketing. By creating valuable and informative content that resonates with their target audience, businesses can establish themselves as thought leaders in their

industry, and generate organic traffic to their website. Content marketing can also be used to create shareable social media posts that help to increase brand awareness and engagement.

Another effective digital marketing strategy for businesses with tight budgets is to focus on email marketing. Email marketing can be highly targeted, cost-effective and has a high return on investment (ROI). By creating personalized email campaigns that speak directly to their target audience, businesses can build trust and nurture their relationships with customers.

Social media advertising is an essential part of any successful digital marketing strategy, but businesses with tight budgets may find it challenging to compete with larger companies. To make the most of their social media advertising efforts, businesses need to be strategic in their approach. Targeted advertising, audience segmentation, and retargeting can help businesses to maximize their advertising budget and reach their target audience.

Social media campaigns are a crucial part of any digital marketing strategy. However, the success of a social media campaign is not solely determined by the amount of money spent on it. It is essential to understand the difference between excessive and tight budgets for social media campaigns.

An excessive social media campaign budget is one where a business spends more money than is necessary to achieve its objectives. This can happen when a business tries to reach a larger audience than is necessary or when they invest in expensive social media tools that are not necessary for their campaign. Excessive budgets can also occur



Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam

when a business fails to monitor their spending or does not have clear objectives for their social media campaign.

On the other hand, a tight social media campaign budget is one where a business spends the minimum amount of money necessary to achieve its objectives. Tight budgets are often necessary when a business has limited financial resources or is just starting out. In this case, businesses need to be strategic in their spending to ensure they get the most value from their social media campaign.

The main difference between excessive and tight budgets is the level of spending. An excessive budget can be wasteful and may not produce the desired results. In contrast, a tight budget requires businesses to be more strategic in their spending, which can lead to more efficient and effective campaigns.

Businesses with a tight social media campaign budget must focus on creating high-quality content that resonates with their target audience. This can involve creating engaging social media posts that spark conversations, shareable content that goes viral, or targeted advertising campaigns that reach the right people.

In conclusion, the difference between excessive and tight budgets for social media campaigns is the level of spending. While an excessive budget can be wasteful, a tight budget requires businesses to think more of entrepreneur mindset. Which can lead to more efficient and effective campaigns. Ultimately, the success of a social media campaign is determined by the quality of the content and how well it resonates with the target audience, not just the amount of money spent.

Equity buys extra 6.6 pct stake in DRC bank

NAIROBI

Equity Group acquired an extra 6.6 percent stake in its subsidiary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for Sh9.24 billion, underlining the lender's quest to increase the share of profits outside Kenya.

The Kenyan bank disclosed in its annual report last week that it acquired a 2.3 percent stake from minority owners of Equity BCDC in August last year for Sh740 million.

Equity also bought an additional 452,659 shares in the DR Congo unit for Sh8.5 billion through a rights issue, giving the bank a 4.3 percent stake.

DR Congo is one of the biggest countries on the continent by land mass and has more than 90 million people, making it appealing to ambitious banks in the neighbouring states looking for growth.

Kenyan commercial banks, including KCB Group, are looking beyond their borders for acquisitions, seeking to tap growing opportunities in the wider East Africa region, driven by rapid economic growth and trade integration.

Equity also operates in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Uganda, has a representative office in Ethiopia and is diversifying into a regional bank.

"The new shares acquired through a rights issue, in addition to shares acquired from minority, resulted in an increase in Equity Group Holdings shareholding in Equity BCDC to 84.1 percent from 77.5 percent," says Equity.

This transaction values the DRC Congo unit at Sh140 billion, making it the most valuable Equity subsidiary.

Equity Group's banking business in Kenya, where it is the biggest bank by customers, provides the bulk of profits but subsidiaries outside the country are growing in importance.

The share of profits from the subsidiaries grew from 15 percent in 2018 to 27.6 percent at the end of last year.

The subsidiaries also accounted for 44 percent of the group's Sh1.45 trillion assets, reflecting the significance of business outside Kenya in reducing the lender's sovereign risk.

Equity is betting on subsidiaries, in particular the DR Congo unit, in powering its growth given the cutthroat competition in the Kenyan market.

Equity BCDC's profit after tax grew 45 percent to hit Sh5.8 billion, extending

its lead as the most profitable subsidiary followed by the Rwandan unit with Sh2.8 billion.

Net profit from South Sudan stood at Sh2.3 billion while Uganda and Tanzania closed the year with Sh2 billion and Sh400 million net profit respectively.

Kenya contributed Sh33.39 billion or 72.4 percent of the total Sh46.1 billion after-tax profit. Equity has put more focus on the DRC unit, with group CEO James Mwangi tipping it to be the first foreign business to beat the Kenyan unit on profitability.

The group in April last year said over 26 Kenyan companies have committed to trade investments worth \$1.6 billion (Sh216 billion) in DR Congo.

Mwangi said the capital boost in BCDC will help it to fund development projects and large mining and manufacturing companies in the DR Congo.

The DR Congo unit is mainly focused on serving big companies with operations there, making it necessary to have a big balance sheet to be able to compete and grow.

Equity has been positioning itself to reap from increased business in DR Congo following the admission of the mineral-rich central African nation to the East African Community in July last year.

Equity began operations in the country through Equity Bank Congo SA, which it established by acquiring an 86.6 percent stake in a German bank ProCredit between 2015 and 2017.

In 2019, Equity Bank increased its shareholding in EBC SA to 94.3 percent by acquiring an additional 77 percent of the shares held by the German state-owned development bank KfW.

The remaining 5.7 percent shareholding in EBC SA is held by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

In August 2020, Equity Group acquired 66.53 percent shareholding in BCDC from the George Arthur Forrest family for a consideration of \$95 million (Sh12.7 billion) and later merged it with EBC to form a new bank, Equity BCDC.

After the merger Equity Group held a majority 77.5 percent stake in the new entity, with the balance being held by IFC, the government of DR Congo and minority shareholders.

BCDC was majority-owned by the Forrest family (66.53 percent), the government of the DR Congo (25.53), and minority shareholders (7.94).

CURRENT NEWS



Equity Group Executive Director Mary Wamae, Group Board Chairman Isaac Macharia, Group MD and CEO, James Mwangi and Group Chief Operating Officer, Samuel Kirubi during the full year 2022 investor briefing. FILE PHOTO BY NMG

Alliance One donates 222m/- to Morogoro schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Morogoro regional Commissioner Fatma Mwasa has commended Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) for donating school facilities worth 222.7m/- to two Morogoro based primary schools namely Kingolwira and Bungo primary schools.

Speaking at the event, the RC said was proud of the Morogoro based tobacco buying company's generosity and urged other companies to emulate Alliance One in alleviating social needs in collaboration with the sixth phase government led by Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"We all know that the company buys tobacco from across the country and mostly Tabora region, but we in Morogoro are probably luckier than the rest because the assistance we have received today are bigger than those extended to Tabora and other tobacco growing regions," she noted.

The RC promised on behalf of the schools to take a good care of all the donated facilities by making sure that they would remain in good shape for many generations to come.

She congratulated the teachers and students alike from both recipient schools for

performing excellently in their academics, even though the number of pupils outweighed the number of teachers against the required standard.

She attributed the same to students improved learning environments, thanks to donations such as that from Alliance One. She said Bungo primary school had a total of 1600 pupils whereas Kingolwira had 2000 pupils, but both were excelling well academically.

Speaking on behalf of the managing director, Ephraim Mapoore, Director of Finance of AOTL Festo Mwalongo said his company would continue extending support to Morogoro and other tobacco growing areas in line with its corporate social responsibility and environmental social governance policies.

"Alliance One will continue giving back to the community as long the company lives and we normally set aside 400mn/- every year for this noble course of giving back to the community around our areas of operations" he said, calling for teachers and pupils to look after the donated items for their benefit and for those who will join the schools in the future.

Giving details of the donations at the



Morogoro Regional Commissioner Fatma Mwasa (3rd R) cuts a ribbon to officially receive classrooms and other donations from Alliance One to Kingolwira primary school valued at 222m/-. Others in the photograph are Alliance One Director of Finance Festo Mwalongo (3rd L), company Spokesperson Advocate John Magoti (2nd L) and the school's head teacher John Fulana (L). Photo by Guardian Correspondent

handing over event held at Kingolwira primary school, the company Chief Spokesperson Advocate John Magoti said the company had constructed toilets for disabled pupils at

Bungo primary school valued at the cost of 10.4mn/-.

As for Kingolwira primary school, he stated that the donated facilities include

construction of classroom for kindergarten at the cost of 21.2mn/- and also rehabilitated five classrooms at the cost of 48.3mn/-.

He said the other facilities donated to Kingolwira primary school include construction of school kitchen complete with the necessary amenities at the cost of 45.7m/- as well as buying and connecting solar power worth 13.7mn/- to a 162 meters borehole which was previously donated by the same company.

"The company has also donated toilets for teachers, pupils, as well as sick bays for girls with special needs worth 48.3mn/-," he said, adding that the company had also donated a large scale water purifying system worth 35.3mn/-.

On his part, the Head Teacher for Kingolwira primary school John Fulana said the pupils were no longer seating on the floor as it was the case in the past.

"We are also optimistic that water borne diseases which were rampant among our pupils here will now be the thing of the past," he said, adding that the solar power will greatly reduce the electricity bills at the school.

Why investors expect US dollar to keep sliding

By Simon Flint

Professional investors see the dollar sliding even further from last year's two-decade highs, as the market has underpriced the Federal Reserve's oncoming easing cycle.

Some 87 percent of 331 survey respondents expect the Fed to cut interest rates to 3 percent or below – some significantly so – in a loosening that 40 percent believe will start this year, according to the latest MLIV Pulse survey. That stands in contrast to market pricing that puts the implied policy rate around 3.05 percent in two years.

Correspondingly, professional investors are negative on the dollar, with a 17 percentage-point gap between bears and bulls. Many explicitly state that they are bearish because the yield path as priced is too

high.

Interestingly, the second most popular response is that banking sector stresses will largely be confined to the US, which further implies that the Fed will be forced to be more dovish than global peers.

Strange as it may appear at first glance, there's indeed historical precedent for the Fed cutting sharply without other central banks following suit.

During the tech bust in the early 2000s and the year leading up to the collapse of Lehman Brothers, US monetary policy diverged radically from global peers.

In the case of the latter, the Fed cut by 325 basis points between August 2007 and April 2008, while the European Central Bank infamously hiked by 25 basis points in July 2008 – and the dollar was very weak during this pre-Lehman period.



But dollar pessimism is not purely a product of US problems. A surprisingly large cohort of investors believe that either yen or yuan appreciation will be the primary cause of dollar decline.

Why surprising

First, new Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda has so far done his best to be as boring as possible, offering little

hope to those betting on an end to the super-loose policy that has driven yen weakness. That said, Ueda has a convenient window to scrap yield curve control while there is minimal pressure on local rates markets.

If he chooses to act, this would likely lead to substantial yen appreciation – there is evidence that even small BOJ

policy changes can have an out-sized impact on the currency.

Second, the Citigroup's Economic Surprise Index for China rose close to the highest since 2006 this month and yet the yuan is up only about 1 percent against its trade-weighted basket so far in 2023.

The yuan should rise, but it's worrying that the currency

has been almost impervious to good news, as it's hard to imagine what more the nation can do to impress. Aside from ongoing geopolitical risk, it may simply be that investors need time to get used to the idea that the China trade is back.

The risk of a more generalized pivot away from the greenback is something that investors are giving serious consideration. A majority of respondents see the dollar making up less than half of global reserves within a decade.

On the other hand, there remain dollar bulls, particularly among the retail community.

A clear majority of those greenback lovers believe that the Fed rate path is actually underpriced, confirming that getting the currency direction correct will ultimately boil down to nailing the policy call. Interestingly, the risk

of a debt-ceiling debacle passes almost unmentioned. However, few would dispute that today's political environment is extremely acrimonious and risks are as high as they have been for many years.

The showdown of 2011 is the best template to judge the likely market response to a serious mishap. Back then, yields fell significantly, yet the dollar rallied during this period as risk aversion dominated investors' thoughts.

MLIV Pulse is a weekly survey of Bloomberg News readers, conducted by Bloomberg's Markets Live team, which also runs a 24/7 MLIV Blog on the terminal.

This week, the MLIV Pulse survey focuses on Warren Buffett and asks if now is a good time to buy tech, growth or defensive stocks. Click here to share your views.

Commodities to watch in global markets this week

NEW YORK

The world's largest oil producers kick off their earnings this week, with profits forecast to slow from last year's record highs as oil prices slumped in the first quarter.

Elsewhere, the BNEF Summit gets underway in New York, while deal watchers will be focused on a Teck Resources Ltd. shareholder vote on splitting up the company – with the outcome dictating the future of Glencore Plc's \$23 billion takeover bid. Here are five notable charts to consider in global commodity markets as the week gets underway.

Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and TotalEnergies SE all report earnings this week, followed by Shell Plc and BP Plc in early May. Even though all five posted blowout profits in 2022, adjusted net income is set to cool in the first quarter thanks to softening oil and gas prices.

Combined, the biggest western oil companies are forecast to have made \$36.5 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. While that's down more than 40 percent from the peak in the second quarter of 2022, it would still mark the seventh-highest level recorded since the mega-mergers of the 2000s created the companies in their current form.

Jet Fuel

Keep an eye on China air travel. After punishing Covid restrictions, the country is returning to the skies and the pace is expected to accelerate heading into the Golden Week holiday next month. Jet fuel demand reached nearly 75 percent of its pre-pandemic levels in the week ended April 15, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co., while international flights to and from the country continue to climb.

The likelihood of increased air travel in the coming weeks explains why jet fuel consumption in China is widely seen as the single biggest driver of world oil demand growth this year, ana-



Jet fuel demand reached nearly 75 percent of its pre-pandemic levels in the week ended April 15

lysts from the bank said. Meanwhile, fuel consumption in the rest of the world is also picking up, BloombergNEF data show.

Shipping

Sticking with China, let's take a look at its ports where container boxes of imported goods are stacking up despite improved economic data. While the economy grew at the fastest pace in a year in the first quarter, ports like the world's largest in Shanghai are handling more incoming boxes than exports, according to data from Container xChange.

That's because of a slump in demand from major export destinations such as the US and Europe, where economic uncertainty is still weighing on consumer appetite. In Shanghai, inbound containers are consistently making up about 64 percent of the total number of containers at the port. That's a far cry from Janu-

ary 2021, when exports accounted for the bulk of activity.

The backlog of imports, coupled with empty container boxes not used to carry Chinese exports back across the ocean, may find themselves stuck until global consumption accelerates.

Mining M&A

Glencore is racing to convince Teck investors ahead of a Wednesday vote to reject the company's plans to separate its metals and coal businesses, a prerequisite for the Swiss commodities giant's \$23 billion takeover bid to move forward. If Glencore prevails and can convince Teck shareholders to accept the proposal on its current terms, the deal would rank in the top 10 biggest among metals producers ever. At Friday's close, Teck's B shares were trading below the value of Glencore's offer, implying the market isn't convinced the proposed

takeover will happen.

Renewable Energy

Executives from leading utilities, oil producers and natural gas companies will convene at a BloombergNEF summit in New York starting Monday as the world navigates the transition to net zero. Adoption of renewable power is set to continue expanding, with global wind and solar capacity seen roughly doubling by 2026 from current levels to almost 4.2 terawatts, according to BNEF data.

In the US, the two sources are expected to be the backbone of power supply by 2050, thanks to generous funding provided by the landmark Inflation Reduction Act. Other topics of discussion at the two-day event include safeguarding critical-mineral supply chains, energy storage, battery technology and clean-energy finance.

Kenyan start-ups get Sh91bn from VC funds

NAIROBI

Kenyan start-ups got Sh91.4 billion from venture capital (VC) funds last year, defying a global decline in such funding and the closure of tech companies.

A new report by African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (AVCA) titled Venture Capital in Africa shows Kenya received \$676 million (Sh91.4 billion at current exchange rates), representing 13 percent of the total \$5.2 billion raised in venture capital in the continent over the year.

The country also accounted for 102 deals out of the 786 in Africa.

Kenya ranked third in value of funding after US-headquartered and Nigeria start-ups which received \$884 million and \$780 million respectively, and ahead of Egypt (\$676 million), South Africa (\$520 million), Ghana (\$208 million) and Algeria (\$156 million). The report shows that financials, industrials, information technology and consumer discretionary sectors in Africa accounted for the top value in the VC deals, with investor interest still inclined to start-ups with a multi-region geographic footprint.

"Multi-region deals not only comprised the largest share of venture debt deal value, but they also received the largest share by volume. East (25 percent) and West Africa (21 percent) were particular hubs for venture debt deal activity in 2022," said Avca.

"This was driven by startups headquartered in Kenya and Uganda in the East, while startups headquartered in Nigeria, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire led the charge of venture debt deal activity in the West."

Solar home system provider, d.light, received the largest amount in VC funding at \$238 million (Sh32.1 billion) from VC firms while Bboxx – a cleantech company that designs, manufactures, and distributes solar systems across sub-Saharan Africa – received Sh1.6 billion (\$15 million) in local currency debt from SBM Bank in February 2022 to finance affordable solar home systems for nearly half a million Kenyans.

Other Kenyan start-ups that attracted early-stage investment include an e-logistics startup for trucks, Amtruck which got \$4.8 million seed round funding; Kukua, a Kenyan educational entertainment company that received \$6 million Series A funding and Wasoko also received \$125 million series B funding.

Others include Pezesh which received pre-series A funding of \$11 million; Lami, which received seed funding of \$5.5 million and Powered by People which received seed funding of \$5 million.

The VC financing deals came amid closures of start-ups and tech-related job cuts in 2022 due to a number of threats, including lack of additional financing, post-pandemic woes and a tough economic environment.

At least six Kenya-based start-ups closed shop or made partial exits in 2022, including electric vehicle (EV) taxi brand Nopea, Kune Foods, Notify Logistics, Sky Garden and We Farm, despite their rosy start and promising outlook.

Hedge funds confident with US economic outlook

WASHINGTON

Hedge funds seem to be as confident as the Federal Reserve that the US economy can avoid a recession despite the burden of higher interest rates.

Leveraged investors boosted their net shorts on 10-year Treasury futures to a record 1.29 million contracts as of April 18, data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission show. It was the fifth straight week that net shorts had increased.

"Hedge funds may be thinking that inflation will be stickier than many in the market are currently expecting," said Damien McColough, head of fixed-income research at Westpac Banking Corp. in Sydney. "On the face of it, this big short doesn't reflect the view that there will be a near-term recession." Treasury yields have been



whipsawed in recent weeks as traders engage in a tug-of-war with the Fed amid a growing debate about when policymakers will start cutting rates. Hedge funds will be vindicated if the US central bank prevails in its view that borrowing costs need to keep marching higher. The group has a checkered track

record in Treasuries. Yields declined in 2019 after the previous record short. When leveraged longs hit a multi-year high in 2021, yields did move modestly lower soon after before surging as the Fed headed toward rate hikes.

The 10-year Treasury yield has advanced nine basis points this month to 3.56%, unwinding some of March's

45-basis-point drop. The benchmark yield remains in a deep discount to two-year rates, suggesting that a downturn is on the cards.

There may be another explanation for the moves. Short positions could be exaggerated by a revival of so-called basis trades, when hedge funds buy cash Treasuries and short the underlying futures, according to James Wilson, a senior portfolio manager at Jamieson Coote Bonds in Melbourne.

The trades involve buying bonds that have become cheap relative to the underlying futures and then selling the futures to pocket the difference. The profit is usually small, hence the tendency to use leverage.

"In a world of huge deficits and no more QE, leveraged funds have a lot more opportunities to reap profits by buying cash bonds and selling the underlying futures where arbitrage opportunities arise," Wilson said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Sudan evacuations speed up during fighting lull

KHARTOUM

EUROPEAN nations, China and others from around the world raced to extract thousands of their citizens from Khartoum yesterday during an apparent lull in fierce fighting between the army and a paramilitary force.

The sudden eruption of violence between the military and the well-armed Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group on April 15 has triggered a humanitarian crisis and killed 420 people.

Along with millions of Sudanese without access to basic services and trapped in their homes, thousands of foreign diplomats, aid workers, students and their families found themselves stuck in a war zone last week.

Fighter jets have bombed the capital, the main airport has been at the centre of fighting and artillery barrages have made movement unsafe in and out of one of Africa's largest cities. Diplomats have been targeted in attacks, and at least five aid workers killed.

Despite sustained pressure from countries concerned by the conflict's wider repercussions as well as the safety of their nationals, the two sides have not abided by a temporary truce.

However fighting calmed enough over the weekend for the United States to get embassy staff out by military helicopter, triggering a rush of evacuations by other countries.

At least two convoys involved in the evacuations came under attack, including one carrying Qatari embassy staff, and another carrying French citizens, one of whom was injured.

France and Germany on Monday said they had evacuated around 700 people, without giving a breakdown of their nationalities. A German air force plane carrying evacuees landed in Berlin early on Monday.

Several countries sent military planes from Djibouti to fly people out from the capital, while other operations took people by convoy to Port Sudan on the Red Sea, which is about 800 km by road from Khartoum. From there some have



In this image from video provided by the Italian Defense Ministry, military personnel prepare to evacuate people from the airport in Khartoum, Sudan, on Sunday. (PHOTO / ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY VIA AP)

boarded ships to Saudi Arabia. Indonesia said so far more than 500 of its citizens had been evacuated to the port, and were awaiting transport to Jeddah, across the Red Sea.

China, Denmark, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden also said they had got nationals out, while Japan said it was preparing to send an evacuation team from Djibouti. A convoy of about 65 vehicles carrying some 700 international United Nations, NGO and embassy staff and their dependents drove from Khartoum to Port Sudan on Sunday as part of the evacuations, a diplomatic source said.

The evacuation of international staff from Darfur, the western region where fighting has also escalated, is also under way, with some heading to Chad and others to South Sudan, the source said.

The fighting in Sudan has closed

most hospitals and curtailed water and electricity supplies. The killing of aid workers, including three from the World Food Programme, has led the UN agency to pause its operations in the country, which relies on food aid for about a quarter of its people.

The army and RSF jointly staged a coup in 2021 but fell out during negotiations to integrate the two groups and form a civilian government four years after long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir was toppled.

Their rivalry has raised the risk of a wider conflict that could draw in outside powers.

Beyond the capital, people are reported to have fled clashes in several regions including Darfur's three states, Blue Nile State on the border with Ethiopia and South Sudan, and North Kordofan State southwest of Khartoum, according to a UN update yesterday. **Agencies**

S. Korea's Yoon to meet Biden as doubts grow over nuke umbrella

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol set off yesterday for the United States and a summit with President Joe Biden at a time of rare questioning in South Korea of an alliance that has guaranteed its security for decades.

Yoon's April 24-29 trip is the first state visit to the US by a South Korean leader in 12 years and will mark the 70th anniversary of a partnership that has helped anchor US strategy in Asia and provided a foundation for South Korea's emergence as an economic powerhouse.

But there are growing questions in South Korea about the relying on "extended deterrence", in essence the American nuclear umbrella, and calls, even from some senior members of Yoon's party, for South Korea to develop its own nuclear weapons.

A recent poll by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies showed that more than 54 percent of respondents believed the US would not risk its safety to protect its Asian ally.

More than 64 percent supported South Korea developing its own nuclear weapons, with about 33 percent opposed.

Yoon has been pushing to boost South Korea's say in operating the US extended deterrence but exactly what that might entail has not been spelt out.

Yoon's deputy national security adviser said both sides had been working on measures to operate the extended deterrence in a more concrete manner, hopefully with progress to be revealed in a joint statement after the summit.

"What I can tell you now is that people's interest in and expectations for extended deterrence have been great, and there are several things that have been carried out over the past year in terms of information sharing, planning and execution," the adviser, Kim Tae-hyo, told reporters.

"We need to take steps to organize these things so that it can be easily understood to anyone in one big picture, how this is implemented and developed."

Help for Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine, which some in South Korea feel is distracting the United States from dangers in Asia, has also led to some rare friction between Seoul and Washington.

Leaked US military documents recently highlighted South Korean difficulties in dealing with pressure from its ally to help with the supply of military aid to Ukraine.

South Korea, a major producer of artillery shells, says it has not provided lethal weapons to Ukraine, citing its relations with Russia. It has limited its support to humanitarian aid.

South Korea tries to avoid antagonizing Russia, due chiefly to business interests.

Suggestions reported in media that the United States had been spying on South Korean deliberations about its support to Ukraine have raised hackles in South Korea, though both sides have played the down the issue.

Yoon, in an interview with Reuters last week, signaled for the first time a softening in his position on arming Ukraine, saying his government might not "insist only on humanitarian or financial support" if Ukraine comes under "a situation the international community cannot condone".

A South Korean official said the government's position against arms support for Ukraine "raised eyebrows" in some countries at a time when South Korean defense firms have won big deals in Europe, including a \$5.8 billion contract to supply howitzers and tanks to Poland.

Another South Korean official said the government had been "treading a fine line" as it tried to maintain ties with Russia but Yoon's remarks could give South Korea greater flexibility.

Yoon is due to meet Biden for their summit on Wednesday. He will address the US Congress on Thursday.

Yoon is bringing business leaders to boost partnerships on supply chains and high-tech areas including chips and batteries. He will also discuss space cooperation at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.



In this file photo dated May 21, 2022, US President Joe Biden (right) and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol arrive at the National Museum of Korea for the state dinner, in Seoul, South Korea. (PHOTO / AP)

Chinese job market held steady in first quarter, ministry says

BEIJING

CHINA'S job market showed signs of stability in the first quarter of this year thanks to the nation's optimized COVID-19 control policies and a recovering economy, said the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

According to a release published by the ministry yesterday morning, about 2.97 million people successfully landed jobs in urban areas from January to March, about 120,000 more than during the same period last year.

Furthermore, the surveyed unemployment rate was about 5.3 percent, a decrease

of 0.5 of a percentage point year-on-year. The rate is calculated based on the number of unemployed people who participated in the employment survey in urban areas, including migrant workers in cities.

According to the ministry, recruitment demand increased during the three-month period, with about 58,000 job fairs organized nationwide featuring 380 million vacancies.

"Both the recovering economy and sound employment-first policy have strongly supported our efforts to realize the year's employment target, while the changing international landscape and uncer-



Students look for jobs at a career fair for graduates at Southeast University in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on April 16, 2023. (LIU LI / FOR CHINA DAILY)

tainties in economic development still pose difficulties to job hunters, especially college graduates," said Chen Yongjia,

vice-director of the ministry's employment promotion department at a news conference in Beijing yesterday.

China aims to help 12 million people land jobs in urban areas this year and cap the surveyed unemployment rate at around 5.5 percent.

He said that the ministry will continue to take measures to promote employment, including encouraging companies to create more vacancies by giving them financial incentives and offering low-interest loans to entrepreneurs to support their businesses.

"We will also improve the protection of workers' rights for those who are flexibly employed and give more support and guidance to key groups—for example, college graduates—to help them land jobs," he said. **Xinhua**

West intends to undermine Russian presidential election in 2024 – CEC head

KHABAROVSK

WESTERN countries are interested in undermining Russia's presidential election slated for March 2024 and have already begun working on it, Head of Russia's Central Election Commission Ella Pamfilova (pictured) said at a meeting with the students of the Pacific National University (PNU) in Khabarovsk.

"People are interested, they see what really is going on. And they understand that the upcoming presidential election in March 2024 is not simply yet another election of Russia's president.

This is not just an issue of worldview, I would say, but this is also an issue of a global epoch change

We understand what is important and we understand that there is work already underway to simply dismantle the Russian presidential election.

Enormous funds have been earmarked by Western countries, above all, by the US," Pamfilova noted.

That said, according to the CEC chief, the turnout at the presidential election will be high due to its particular importance both for the Russian people and the entire world. "It is necessary to give credit to all our parliamentary parties who put on the back burner their political, ideological preferences and differences and as a united force proved themselves the patriots of their country.

They are united now, they support our guys at the frontline so that they understand that they are not shedding their blood and giving their lives in vain, that we are not failing them here.

And everyone here on their own frontline tries to help - and this means a lot. This is precisely what drives the West crazy," she added.

Agencies

CHINA'S foreign trade, after experiencing a 7 percent year-on-year drop in January this year, went up 8 percent and 15.5 percent in the following two months, respectively. It manifests the country's confidence in ensuring steady and high-quality foreign trade growth against a complicated background.

Recently, Chinese enterprises just wrapped up their exhibition at The World Smart Energy Week 2023 running from March 15 to 17 at the Tokyo International Exhibition Center features top-notch energy technologies and products in various categories. Many of them engaged in the new energy sector have signed major deals and met with new and old partners.

Japan is an important market for Chinese new energy products. Many Japanese companies have cooperated with their Chinese suppliers for over a

China's foreign trade sector strives for steady, high-quality growth

decade.

"Chinese enterprises rushed to visit their Japanese clients at the earliest time possible immediately after China optimized its COVID-19 response last December," said Meng Jing, general manager of the business department of Grand International Exhibition Co., Ltd., the company that led the Chinese enterprise delegation to Japan this time.

A high passion for joining overseas exhibitions has been observed among Chinese enterprises. The total exhibition area of Chinese enterprises at The World Smart Energy Week was expanded to 7000 square meters from 2,000 square meters last year.

According to Meng, Chinese enterprises shone through at The World Smart Energy Week, thanks to their deli-

cately decorated booths, well-prepared exhibits and sales strategy. Compared with that at the event held before COVID-19, the number of visitors this year rose 10 percent. Chinese new energy enterprises just received high attention.

Market expansion and order seeking have remained keywords for the Chinese foreign trade sector this year. Some regions have sent business delegations overseas for business negotiation and exhibitions, and some hosted brick-and-mortar economic forums, trying to gain an initiative as external demand weakens.

Expanding the foreign trade market is important for relevant enterprises. According to statistics, 457,000 foreign trade enterprises in China registered import and export performance in the

first quarter, up 5.9 percent from a year ago.

In the first three months, China's trade with ASEAN, its largest trading partner, stood at 1.56 trillion yuan (\$226.15 billion), up 16.1 percent year-on-year, 11.3 percentage points higher than the country's overall trade growth rate. It accounted for 15.8 percent of China's total foreign trade in the same period.

China's trade with the EU, the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea reached 1.34 trillion yuan, 1.11 trillion yuan, 546.41 billion yuan and 528.46 billion yuan, respectively, during the three-month period, accounting for 35.6 percent of the country's foreign trade.

From January to March, China's

imports and exports with economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative surged 16.8 percent year-on-year to account for 34.6 percent of its foreign trade, while trade with other participating countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership rose 7.3 percent from the first quarter of 2022. The country's total imports and exports with emerging markets in Latin America and Africa grew 11.7 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively.

Bai Ming, a senior researcher with a Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) think tank, believes that developing countries and ASEAN make a huge market, and foreign enterprises should take the opportunities of the China-ASEAN free trade area and the RCEP to work for win-win results.

As the Philippines ratified the RCEP agreement, the trade pact has taken effect for all 15 member countries, which significantly widens market access for Chinese enterprises. Wang Shouwen, vice commerce minister and China international trade representative at the MOFCOM, noted that relevant departments are still negotiating over and signing new deals of free trade, to create a better external environment for China's foreign trade.

As a barometer of China's foreign trade, the China Import and Export Fair, also dubbed as the Canton Fair, is currently being hosted in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province. The event has resumed physical exhibition and is joined by hundreds of thousands of exhibitors from more than 220 countries and regions.

People's Daily

SPORT

Man Utd beat Brighton on penalties to set up FA Cup final against Man City

PAGE 18

Yanga seized their moment in CAF Confederation Cup's quarterfinal tie



Tanzania's Yanga attacker, Fiston Mayele (R), negotiates his way past Nigeria's Rivers United defender, Anthony Ohaegbu, when the clubs took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal duel that took place at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday. Yanga walloped Rivers United 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

tions but the numbers speak for themselves. Yanga has conceded the fewest goals in CAF Confederation Cup, boasting the best goal difference in the Group Stage.

In a nation that is deeply into Simba SC and Yanga rivalry, it would not be a surprise if the other part of the divide feels Yanga has been lucky to land a weak opponent in Rivers United.

It was such a comfortable afternoon for Yanga, with this Rivers United team being so far from the top CAF Confederation Cup competitive level that one could not say the former played that well for their 2-0 win.

It is true Rivers United might be one of the weakest opponents remaining in this season's CAF Confederation Cup but soccer supporters have to give Yanga due credit for seizing their moments.

Soccer followers also have to agree with the views of Tanzanian football observer, Salim Masoud, stating: "Rivers United weren't very good but you maximize your chances of getting an opponent like this by winning your group as Yanga did."

Most may not fancy Yanga winning this season's CAF Confederation Cup top honour but, at this stage, very few can bet against the outfit.

This is a team that has seized their moments after slipping against Sudan's Al Hilal in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Second Preliminary Round.

Yanga came through the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage in style, beating a North African team on the road for the first time and going on to top their group at the expense of another Tunisian team.



Francis John

AT mourns former president Francis John

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has described the death of its former president, Francis John, as a big loss to the nation.

John, also an experienced athletics coach, died in the early hours of Sunday at KCMC hospital in Kilimanjaro after sustaining injuries in a road accident.

There were neither family nor police comments on the passing on of the former AT president.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT acting secretary-general, and the body's information officer Luiza John, though, confirmed the death of the coach who was also one of the local qualified athletics agents.

"It's very difficult for us considering that we have just buried our former president, John Bayo, who died days ago and now our other former president, Francis John, has passed on, it's very painful," Luiza noted.

Ndaweka said the passing of John is a big blow to athletics in the country and extended AT's heartfelt condolences to the coach's family.

He said until his death, John was the Race Director of the NBC Dodoma Marathon.

Ndaweka said the late John will also be fondly remembered for training a prominent domestic athlete, Alphonse Simbu, and will moreover be remembered for his contributions to the game.

"It's a big blow to the athletics fraternity in the country, he was a great and experienced coach, he devoted almost all of his life to athletics in the country," the AT official noted.

"He was with us whereby he offered us his advice on many issues, until his death he was a coach for top local athlete Simbu," Ndaweka added.

Former AT secretary-general Wilhem Gidabuday described John as a complete package that local athletics need.

He said John had some attributes and qualities like a qualified coach, good race director, and successful AT president, qualities lacking in several other officials.

"Sadly, he has passed away, to me, he was a good advisor, I remember when I was AT secretary-general he accompanied me to Uganda for championships and London, he was a great guy and the country has lost a very important person in athletics," he said.

Athletics legend, Suleiman Nyambui, remembered John as one of the race organizers who had strong connections and links with international race organizers.

Nyambui, former AT secretary-general, pointed out John was nurturing and training many young and upcoming athletes to the extent that he was offering shelter to some.

The former AT official also remembered the departed coach as someone that worked tirelessly with him to transform athletics in the country from amateur to professional.

He disclosed: "He was AT president and I was secretary-general, that was from 2006 to 2012, we worked closely together, and we did a lot of things for the benefit of athletics and athletes in the country."

"During that period AT was formed from Tanzania Amateur Athletics Association (TAAA)... during that time there were also many local athletics championships and events which were taking place," he said.

Apart from serving as the national athletics team's coach, John was Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) athletics team's head coach and held many local and international athletics positions.

News of John having been involved in a car accident was first broken by national junior athletics teams' head coach Alfredo Shahanga who said the accident occurred at around 3 am in Arusha and the victims were rushed to Patandi Hospital, Arusha for treatment.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal first leg played in Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday, Tanzania's Yanga coach, Nasreddine Nabi, insisted the outfit did not make the long trip to Nigeria for revenge against Rivers United.

Before the game, though, that was all that was talked about by the fans, management, and even Nabi's assistant, Cedric Kaze.

Nabi pointed out: "We didn't come to Nigeria for revenge but to qualify, we lost here two years ago because Yanga wasn't ready but still there is no revenge in football, you either have a victory or a loss, not revenge."

Two second-half goals scored by Congolese forward, Fiston Mayele, put the Tanzanian representatives in a commanding position to qualify for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-finals for the first time in their history.

For many fans, it was sweet revenge though Nabi politely disagreed. Yanga seemed to be well on top and with a real chance of effectively killing the tie but appeared to give their hosts too much respect in the first half.

Though it was likely a prag-

matic approach by Nabi to wait for their opportunity to finish off Rivers United and they ultimately did it in the second half.

Nabi set up his team in a more defensive 3-5-2 system before making three substitutes that changed the outcome of the game.

He replaced Lomalisa Mutambala, Farid Mussa, and Djuma Shaban with Tuisila Kisinda, Kibwana Shomari, and Jesus Moloko at the restart of the second half.

The changes worked quite well. Mayele broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute when he was picked out by a brilliant through ball from captain Bakari Mwachya.

The Congolese import ran to the pass before hitting a right-footed shot from the center of the box

to the center of the goal beating the on-rushing Rivers United goalkeeper, Sochima Victor.

It was top-class attacking play initiated by midfielder Mudathir's back pass to Mwachya in the midfield, and a further example of how Yanga has the knack of seizing the crucial moments in ties.

The duo combined again for the second goal nine minutes from stoppage time, this time Mwachya cutting back to Mayele after a brutal counter-attack initiated by winger, Moloko.

Throughout the 90 minutes in Uyo, Yanga put in the same away performance as they did versus Club Africain in Rades, Tunisia to qualify for the Group Stage and also DR Congo's TP Mazembe in Lubumbashi to top their

group.

They were composed defensively, never in a hurry to push forward and lose possession, dominant in midfield, and dangerous every time they went forward to attack Rivers United's final third.

It is the type of performance that an outfit needs on the road to go deep in CAF inter-club competitions.

This was Yanga's third away win in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup this campaign. Once is maybe lucky, twice may have been acceptable as fortune, but three is a pattern.

An individual could make a convincing argument that Yanga has been one of the best sides in the CAF Confederation Cup this season.

It may feel like raw emo-

Nasreddine Nabi insists Yanga vs Rivers Utd tie not over

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Yanga head coach Nasreddine Nabi believes their CAF Confederation Cup's quarterfinal tie against Nigeria's Rivers United 'is not finished', despite coming out as 2-0 winners in the first leg played at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo on Sunday.

A second-half brace from Fiston Mayele earned Yanga the massive victory and the squad will now have all the advantage heading into next weekend's home tie in Dar es Salaam, where the side will be staring at a first-ever continental semi-final appearance.

Mayele broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute when he was picked out by a brilliant through ball from captain Bakari Mwachya.

The pair combined again for the second goal nine min-



Yanga's head coach Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

utes from stoppage time, this time Mwachya cutting back to Mayele after a counter-attack initiated by winger Jesus Moloko.

The results leave Yanga in a commanding position heading into the second leg but,

despite that, Nabi said they must remain 'completely alert' to the threat posed by Rivers United's big-hearted Nigerian players.

Speaking after the match, Nabi said his side had to battle deep to gain the win and

believes everything is still at stake in the second leg.

The tactician noted: "I am delighted to win because it is not easy to come to Nigeria and win. We played well and took our chances but the game is far from over, we still have the second leg and we need to do even better to ensure we qualify."

"We scouted Rivers United, Nigeria is a big football nation, it is very difficult to win here. It is a very good result. I have confidence in my players but didn't know we could win 2-0 here, that's the reality," the gaffer revealed.

Nabi noted: "I pushed my players to score away from Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, we didn't come here for revenge but to qualify. We lost here two years ago because Yanga wasn't ready but still, there is no revenge in football. You either have a victory or a loss,

not revenge."

"Yanga came here ready to sacrifice and qualify. That was our only focus but we have big respect for Rivers United players. And the tie is not finished, we are in Africa! We quickly become happy and quickly go down," the gaffer added.

Nabi disclosed: "It is not finished, we have seven days. I know Nigerian players, they have big hearts. This is what I told my players in the first meeting, the tie is not over."

Yanga will book a historic place in the last four if they avoid defeat in the second-leg clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The winner of the tie will face the aggregate winner of another quarterfinal tie between South Africa's Marumo Gallants and Egypt's Pyramids FC in the semi-finals.

Flexibles

by David Chikoko

MAMA NT, WILL I STILL PAY FOR FOOD ONCE I AM MARRIED TO YOU?

