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JK showers praise on Mwalimu Nyerere



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Govt buys 3 scanners for Tunduma border



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NEMC on environmental destruction




US envoy hails Samia for dialogue, media uplift

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE United States ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright (pictured), has hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for placing a premium on political dialogue and lifting restrictions on the media, among other changes.

He was speaking at the University of Dodoma at a US-sponsored day of reflection on 60 years of ties between the two countries, on "the future of Tanzania's development trajectory and relations with the US."

Ambassador Wright said that democracy and media freedom are pillars of US-Tanzania relations, "because standing above everything else is respect for the rule of law, democratic governance and human rights."

US-Tanzania relationship are based on enabling the youth to seize opportunities for the future, along with increasing trade and investment between the two countries.

Others key areas of interest include bolstering peace and security in the region, while strengthening democratic institutions so that all members of society can participate fully in the process of governance, he said.

"These are the pillars on which sustainable development rests. History shows that countries which uphold democratic values are more peaceful, stable and prosperous in the long term," he declared, arguing that

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Online fraud scheme leaves victims crying

● Treasury cautions, advises on investments

By Henry Mwangonde

WHAT seemed as the easiest way to make quick money online has left many Tanzanians, including professionals, crying after it turned out to be a scam.

The 'invest and reap, recruit others and get rich' app which started receiving deposits in March this year now no longer allows operating deposits, so investors can't withdraw their money, sending shivers down the spines of folks who poured millions into the scheme.

Those who have been hit hard deposited for the first time and withdrew easily with profits, then trusted the app and poured more money into the scheme which later curtailed access to those investments even if they were able to see what they have accumulated via phone screens.

The scheme by the name 'Idea Debater' offered a link for a potential investor to join, by opening an account where investment is to be done, and a possible gain.

The app provides room for one to move from one level to another depending on the deposits made, the level also determining the returns an investor withdraws, scheme participants explained.

James Lyimo, a participant who has lost more than 100,000/-, said he was in level one which was offering five-percent profit on investment, the first time he invested, so he decided to put up a 'reasonable' amount to yield more.

Those behind the screen operating the scheme were linking their investors with their colleagues on WhatsApp groups,

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured yesterday addressing residents of Bwanga ward in Chato District, Geita Region, where she made a stopover while heading for Kagera Region for a three-day tour. Photo: State House

Samia: Fuel subsidies will apply until prices stabilise

By Guardian Reporter, Bukoba

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has pledged to prolong the provision of fuel importation subsidies each month until global

prices stabilize.

Last month the government disbursed 100bn/- to cushion importation costs, enabling the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) to set out new retail prices

for petrol, diesel and kerosene in port towns and cities, with auxiliary casts where further transport costs are involved.

The president expressed this policy

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'Give extension officers motorcycles in five days'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday gave a five-day ultimatum to senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that motorcycles meant for extension officers countrywide are distributed immediately.

The premier, visiting the ministry's premises in the capital, expressed concern that the motorbikes have since April parked at the yard adjacent to the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) offices here.

The motorbikes should reach District Executive Directors within five days from that moment, he ordered, explicitly noting that they should receive them by Sunday evening. He said the situation was unacceptable as the motorcycles are working tools meant for extension officers, "but they have remained

parked at your yard for months."

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan handed over the motorbikes to the ministry for distribution to extension officers, but no efforts followed to have the DEDs collect them. The president's plan was to transform the agricultural sector whose growth is still minimal, he stated.

Prof Siza Tumbo, the permanent secretary for Agriculture, promised to work on the directives, to rapidly lift the 6,700 motorcycles onward for distribution to extension officers across the country.

The president had also tasked the ministry to look for local sources of funds in setting up an agriculture fund, with the President's Office ready to make a goodwill scan for partners to make the project a success.

Agriculture grew by 4.9 percent in 2020/2021, contributing 65 per cent of raw materials used by local industries, the president had stated, worried all the same that the data notwithstanding, growth in the sector is still minimal.

"We believe that if we invest more we can make the sector a working backbone of the economy," she stated, alluding to an increase in budget funds for extension services to

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects motorcycles at the Agriculture ministry offices in Dodoma city yesterday. He is with Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (L) and deputy permanent secretary Prof Siza Tumbo. President Samia Suluhu Hassan offered the motorcycles for use by extension officers across the country. Accordingly, the PM has directed the ministry to ensure that they are handed over to the officers by this Sunday - June 12. Photo: PMO





Dar es Salaam bus rapid transit (Dart) CEO Dr Edwin Mhede (2nd-L) and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade) director general Latifa Mohamed Hamis exchange documents in the city on Tuesday shortly after signing a collaboration MoU involving the two agencies. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Online fraud scheme leaves victims crying

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which cultivated an impression that the scheme had attracted a lot of people. Within a short period of time he had joined several WhatsApp groups where some participants kept posing questions to the scheme administrators.

Jackson Mushi, another participant, said the first time he was introduced to the scheme he knew it will one day collapse but he opted to join. Operators' actions raised questions at times which encouraged suspicions as to how far the scheme was genuine.

"When you seek to withdraw a large amount of money like 300,000/- it would take time to receive it, and upon inquiry you are asked questions on how many investors have you brought in, needing to satisfy them on that question," he stated.

"I knew one day it would collapse but was less certain how long it would last," he said, explaining that he was cautiously investing and withdrawing within a short period. "The maximum investment which I poured in was 200,000/-," he elaborated.

A confusing aspect issues about the operators was that they provided

pay numbers which investors used to deposit money into the App, while using registered telecom mobile money agents to disburse money to investors, he further asserted.

Mushi and Lyimo are among hundreds if not thousands of Tanzanians who lost money through the scheme whose operators are yet to be identified.

Ben Mwaipaja, a communications official with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, said the ministry was unaware of the scheme but warned the public against joining such schemes.

"It is unfortunate that these people

have been conned their money. This is a crime incident like any other," he stated, recalling that the government banned such financial arrangements and it is sad that they are still surfacing.

Those wishing to invest need to do so in legal platforms such as the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and the UTT asset management and investor services, he advised.

It is high time people understood that there is no easy way of earning money, as anything new which involves investing and making profits must be well investigated before one decides to invest, the official added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (3rd-R) poses for a photo with members of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies board of directors, who called on her in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Kandoya

'Male involvement key for Tanzania to have 50/50 gender parity by 2025'

TANZANIA needs to adopt and implement strategic measures including involvement of more men for the country to achieve its goal of attaining 50/50 gender parity in key leadership roles by 2025.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special groups said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a forum on Women in Leadership and Political life in Tanzania.

She said the aim of the forum was to address the unique challenges that deter more women from occupying leadership positions in various sectors.

It was part of Nordic week celebrations, to promote partnership between Tanzania and the Nordic embassies in Tanzania-Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland, and hosted by the Embassy of Finland in the country in partnership with Uongozi institute.

She said despite the progress made, there is still an under-representation of women in leadership and decision making positions in atmospheres

of politics and government-the percentage of elected women.

She said as a matter of fact, there was a need to involve men in all aspects to empower women economically and address the gender gap.

"As more focus is to empower women economically and access to information, it is therefore very important to involve men in all stages to change their mindset to achieve the goal," she said.

Dr Gwajima said President Samia Suluhu Hassan's decision to involve more women in the position, shows her government commitment in championing gender equality.

Currently, the percentage of elected women leaders is 11 percent in the Tanzania mainland parliament and 16 in the Zanzibar's House of Representatives and seven percent at local level.

She said apart from that, there was a need to implement strategic measures to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender

balance at all levels of elected positions.

The Chief Secretary of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government, engineer Zena Ahmed Saidi noted that men and women are not enemies therefore; men must fully be involved in the ongoing process.

She said the country's goal to achieve 50/50 in elected positions can be achieved within a shorter time once men are fully involved in the whole transformation process.

Uongozi Institute CEO, Kadari Singo highlighted some key challenges including differences in enrollments at all education levels between men and women (early years).

Others were school dropouts are higher among women (From primary to ordinary and advanced level) than for men counterparts and field choices (science and arts) made by men and women in the lower level of education have an impact on their leadership path.

The Uongozi Institute study (2019)

reveals that there was uneven representation of women at various levels - only 26 percent of women compared to 74 percent of men in leadership positions across the board.

Most countries in the world have not achieved gender balance, and few have set or met ambitious targets for gender parity (50-50).

She said evidence shows that women's leadership in political positions improves many aspects of life.

She said trends of women in leadership globally (2021), was 22 percent where only 11 women were serving as heads of state and 13 were heads of government.

Only 17 percent of government ministers were women, most of whom were overseeing social sectors and only 21 percent of government ministers were women.

According to the study, 14 countries have achieved 50 percent or more women in cabinets.

Samia: Fuel subsidies will apply until prices stabilise

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position yesterday at the Bwanga area in Chato District, Geita Region when heading to Kagera for a three day tour of the region, noting that most countries are experiencing surging oil prices following the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine.

"The situation has not been caused by the government," she emphasized, noting that the whole world is experiencing similar problems. "When big countries fight, the effects are felt by every nation," she stated, assuring the public that the government will continue to disburse funds to control import prices until global fuel prices stabilise.

Initial intervention saw the retail price of petrol in Dar es Salaam be reset lower by 306/- per litre, in Mtwara by 282/- and in Tanga by 152/- per litre.

Retail prices for diesel were decreased by 320/- for Dar es Salaam, 476/- for Tanga and 486/- for Mtwara entry points, thus petrol in Dar es Salaam has a 2,994/- per litre price cap from 3,301/- per litre, with and diesel capped at 3,131/- from 3,452/- per litre earlier.

For fuel unloaded at Tanga port, the new price cap will be 2,985/- from the previous 3,137/- cap for petrol, while diesel will be capped at 3,162/- from 3,639/- per litre earlier, he said.

Fuel docking at Mtwara port will be sold at a 2,979/- capped retail price per litre from 3,262/- earlier, while diesel will sell at 3,165/- from 3,652/- per litre.

The Chato district residents had earlier complained to the president on rising fuel prices, saying it was affecting their purchasing power, requesting effective measures on the matter, while the MP, Dr Medard Kalemani, applauded the president for providing funds for building a modern bus stand.

He outlined a number of development projects in the district, asking for assistance on the growing land demand in Bwanga area, with President Samia advising Bwanga residents to practice modern cattle

rearing methods and reduce the number of livestock to have enough land for agricultural activities. Land scarcity in the area stems from population growth, she said.

When in Biharamulo District, the president cautioned the local authorities on the supervision of funds allocated for development activities, underlining that hefty funds for development projects are directed to districts to improve the delivery of public services.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Yussuf Masauni told the residents that the government is working to end perennial challenges in obtaining national identification cards, affirming that the relevant agency, NIDA has contracted a firm to manufacture the cards, which will then be handed to all eligible members of the public.

Water minister Jumaa Aweso said the government is working to end water woes in the district, with 38 out of the proposed 78 water projects being implemented, out of a total of 1176 water projects across the country.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said at the meeting that the government has scrapped a number of levies to boost cotton production and facilitate availability of inputs, including seeds.

"We have reviewed prices," he declared, noting that a kilo of cotton will now fetch 1,560/- to 1,900/- per kilo, urging cotton farmers in Biharamulo District to sell their crop in Chato District for better prices, with coffee prices also stabilizing. At a recent auction in Ngara District, a kilo was sold at 3,720/-," he specified.

The regional commissioner, Maj. Gen. Charles Mbugue informed the president that the region was well prepared for the August 23rd census exercise, while the residential address postcode installation was progressing well, expected to be completed within the set time frame.

The region is also conducting polio vaccination for children under the age of five, he added.

'Give extension officers motorcycles in five days'

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51.5bn/- in the past national budget

as aimed at expanding the ability of farmers to increase production, by using modern methods.

US envoy hails Samia for dialogue, uplift of media

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for Tanzania to seize opportunities that the future holds, its people must be free.

They must be able to express their views and participate freely in the political life of the nation, Dr Wright emphasized.

The steps that President Samia has taken reiterate commitment to strengthen US-Tanzania relations as ties mark 60 years anniversary, thus it is vital that hearts and minds are brought together to ponder the future.

The 21st century will undoubtedly be the African century, he stated, on grounds that by 2050 one out of every four human beings on the planet will be African. "The greatest challenges the world will face will be on this continent," he projected, asserting that the solutions to those challenges will also be found here.

He cited remarks from Secretary of State Tony Blinken that Africa will shape the future - and not just the future of the African people but of the world.

The US is committed to ensuring that the youth are healthy, well-nourished, well-educated, and possess the right skills to seize opportunities the future brings, he stated, noting that the vast majority of US development support for Tanzania goes to programs supporting the health and education of young people.

Just last month the US announced the \$250m personal health drive through its international development agency (USAID), to provide support for maternal and child health, plus improved health care delivery especially in rural areas.

Dr Wright narrated being joined by Health minister Ummy Mwalimu to launch the Global Vax initiative,

a \$25m dollar effort to accelerate the vaccination campaign against COVID-19. "The past two years have taught us that none of us are completely protected unless all of us are protected."

In the education sector, the US is making critical investments to ensure Tanzania's youth receive a foundation of quality education from the earliest ages.

"In the past five years, we have contributed over \$65m to the primary education system with a reading, writing and arithmetic program for Standards 1-4," he said, insisting that healthy and well-educated youths will be able to seize opportunities the future brings.

Omar Kipanga, the deputy minister for Education, Science and Technology, said at the conference that the government must strengthen its ties with the US, for instance in research activities at higher learning institutions.

Expressing gratitude at US support in different fields such as education, health and investments aimed at improving the national economy, he said the government looks forward to improve on gains made in the 60 years of cooperation.

REPOA executive director Dr Donald Mmari said the conference was meant to reflect on achievements of the 60 years of cooperation and the years to come, where the US Embassy teamed up with REPOA to organize a series of conferences at key higher learning institutions.

Those holding discussions so far include the University of Dar es Salaam, the Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science & Technology, and St. Augustine University.



Temeke district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (in light-green & yellow) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving aids from I&M Bank's head of consumer banking, Lilian Mtali, a donation by the bank to the district's Mtoni Primary School. The bank also donated 100 desks to the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

Kikwete showers praise on Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere

FORMER Tanzanian President and University of Dar es Salaam Chancellor Dr Jakaya Kikwete yesterday showered praise on Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere for his charismatic leadership, saying that his leadership philosophy and qualities were rare.

Speaking during the opening of the three day 13th Mwalimu J.K Nyerere Centennial Intellectual Festival held at the UDSM Library auditorium under the theme, "Africans after Mwalimu J.K Nyerere Century 1922-2022: Reflections on the present and the future," Dr Kikwete said that the late Nyerere's philosophy helped to shape the country in terms of democracy, politics and social aspects during the country's 60 years of independence.

"Describing the late Mwalimu Nyerere's life in 45seconds is an understatement. It has taken various professors including Professor Issa Shivji years to pen down his autobiography. All I can say is he was a great leader, father, patriotic, liberator, Africanist and internationalist," he said.

He added, "It is rear to find all these unique qualities in one person. He is now dead but his spirit and philosophy has refused to die. We shall forever continue to cherish his vision and philosophical ideology,"

Kikwete noted that the late Mwalimu Nyerere who marked 23 years this year since his death was such a visionary leader who put national interests first rather than his personal interests.

"His desire to serve public interest was unmatched. He at one time quit his teaching job to pursue his political ambition of building his party. During this time, I remember he had just married with a one-year-old child but he finally had to choose between his job and his political ambition. He chose to sacrifice his job and this takes courage given the circumstances," he added.

Commenting on the late Mwalimu's leadership abilities and temperament, Dr Kikwete said he was not shy to confront young leaders and offer advice whenever they went wrong.

"This shaped our understanding and no doubt this helped to shape us to become better leaders. He would accommodate our naivety. At one time called UDSM students leadership to statehouse and warned us about our unbecoming behaviours arguing that children are not allowed at universities meaning we needed to behave like adults. He was very furious

but after the meeting we engaged in casual conversations as if nothing had happened," he said.

He noted Mwalimu Nyerere's liberation efforts did not only stop in Tanzania adding that he wanted to see a unified Africa adding that this was his long-term dream.

"He believes so much in pan-Africanism and African unity. He believed African nationalism would be meaningless without a unified Africa and believed the United States of Africa wasn't a matter of why but when" he added.

Dr Kikwete noted that the country's past leaders including Mwalimu Nyerere played their part in shaping the nation to where it is now adding that it is time for the young generation to play their part and contribute to the betterment of the country.

Earlier, the UDSM Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye noted that Mwalimu Nyerere played an instrumental role in ensuring unity of all Tanzanians and laying a foundation for all tribes to speak the same language Swahili. "He left a rich legacy. As a country, we couldn't have made strides without his ideologies," he said.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

President Samia pledges more investments in infrastructure

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said the government will continue investing in enabling infrastructures as one of its strategies to improve environment for conducting business and attract investors to the country.

"Enabling infrastructures facilitation will help to build up an inclusive economy and service provision. We have been able to remove unnecessary levies in order to spur the growth of business and investment," she said.

Addressing the 13th Tanzania National Business Council here yesterday, President Samia who is also TNBC chairperson said the government, in collaboration with the

private sector will continue to work jointly.

According to her, the government has continued taking various measures to ensure the growth of the business sector and investment and contribute to the national economic growth and GDP for Tanzanians' benefit.

"To be more beneficial, the improvement to the business environment should also go down to

the district and regional level. Tanzania is fortunate for being bestowed with numerous natural resources hence both the public and private sectors should work together to bring development to Tanzanians.

President Samia also thanked business people for contributing funds in the making of The Royal Tour documentary film that has helped a lot to advertise the country's various

opportunities including the tourism sector.

"Royal Tour is one of strategic efforts that focused in wooing tourists to the country," she said, and added that the documentary has already started to bring positive results in the tourism sector.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Paul Makanza, apart from

praising the government for implementing the resolutions of TNBC 12th Meeting, said during her brief leadership President Samia has accomplished a lot.

"The private sector has great confidence in her leadership because in the one year and few months of her presidency we have witnessed the growth in cooperation and trust in the public and private sectors," he said.

Earlier, welcoming President Samia, Chief Secretary, Ambassador Hussein Kattanga, said the economic growth plan must go in tandem with strengthening the relationship between the public and private sectors in order to attain intended goals.

"We prefer to have a disciplined and compliant private sector since the establishment of the "Blue Print" is among steps taken to strengthen the environment for conducting business," said Amb Kattanga.

He called on businessmen to mobilise themselves to receive huge wave of foreign tourists and investors due to the great achievements from the Royal Tour documentary.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Govt reiterates commitment to work with Equity Group Bank

THE government has assured Equity Group Bank that it is ready to work with the bank to implement a strategic plan of investing more than 13trn/- into various development programmes including agriculture in East African countries.

Lawrence Mafuru, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning said this in Dodoma, when he met with the bank delegation.

He said the bank was committed to investing in six areas including agriculture, mining, small and medium enterprise development, environment, good governance, industry and the business sector.

Mafuru said that these areas of strategic projects go hand in hand with the development of national plans including the agricultural sector so that the sector can be more productive by increasing crop production and adding value.

"Equity Bank Group wants to invest in the country in various areas including agriculture by increasing irrigation systems and strengthening the maintenance and prevention of crop losses during and after the harvest," Mafuru said.

He said that the bank also intends to increase the value of agricultural products by processing them here in the country before sending them for sale locally and abroad a step that will increase the value chain, product quality to compete in the market.

Mafuru clarified that the investment will affect various economic areas including job creation and enable industries located in the East African Community to access raw materials and a reliable market especially after the DRC Congo joins the community.

Bank's chief planning officer Brent Malay, CEO of Equity Bank Tanzania, Isabela Maganga, said that their bank wants to work with the government to boost the country's economy and empower the people economically.

He explained that the 13trn/- investment required by the bank in East African countries including Tanzania, will be for a period of five years where they will provide loans to 5 million people and create 50 million jobs.

Maganga explained that Equity Bank wants to increase its investment in the country to stimulate production in priority areas and ensure that more Tanzanians are reached with the plan to get rid of poverty.

TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO VEHICLE OWNERS/AGENTS WITH DAR ES SALAAM PORT
 RESTRICTIONS OF PORT ENTRY TO SUBSTANDARD VEHICLES
 WITH EFFECT FROM 13TH JUNE, 2022

There have been a series of Accidents caused by trucks operating in Dar Es Salaam Port and we observed, most of accidents are caused by vehicles with brake failures, engine inefficiency, lack of brake/indicator lights, unsecured clutch system, poor (torn and old) quality of vehicle and incompetence/negligence of drivers.

Vehicle owners/agents are hereby notified that with effect from **13th June, 2022** henceforth TPA in collaboration with State Police and other Law enforcement agencies will conduct a comprehensive roadworthiness inspection to all vehicles operating with Dar Es Salaam Port.

Vehicles with insufficiencies will be penalized according to Police standing orders and refuted Port entrance. However, any substandard truck in contravention found in the port its owner will be penalized in accordance to TPA regulations.

The Inspections will focus to the following defects: -

1. Torn and old vehicles (Not Road worthy)
2. Brake and Clutch system failures
3. Defective indicator/brake lights
4. Defective & worn-out tyres
5. Container twist locks
6. Engine efficiency
7. Defective electrical/ignition system
8. Drive wheel and dashboard panel system
9. Polluting levels
10. Door locks system
11. Allowed types of cargo
12. Reflectors and reflective triangles
13. Fire extinguishers

You are notified further that only accredited and licensed drivers will be permitted to drive into port premises and shall always wear appropriate **Personal protective gears (PPEs)**.

Issued by:
 The Port Director
 P.O. Box 1130
 DAR ES SALAAM

216889807

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

JOB - ADVERTISEMENT

JOB TITLE: AQUACULTURE SPECIALIST

YOUR POSITION WITH TNC

The WIO Aquaculture Specialist supports the Africa Fisheries Strategy on planning and implementation of TNC-led sustainable aquaculture in the WIO. The priority is developing and supporting the growth of aquaculture in the target countries (Tanzania and Kenya) to support coastal communities, while reducing negative environmental impacts. The position will work closely with TNC's Africa Ocean Strategy Team, the Global Aquaculture Team, and other TNC staff as appropriate, and in partnership with fishers, local community, fishing industry, government, and non-government partners. Reporting to the Africa Fisheries Strategy Manager, the position will be based in Dar Es Salaam or Zanzibar (Tanzania) at TNC's partner office. No employment visas or assistance is being offered with this position except for the local labor employment requirements. This is an initial 2-year term limited position with an extension of tenure subject to performance and availability of funds.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The position supports the Africa Fisheries Strategy Manager in advancing TNC's Sustainable Aquaculture program in the WIO. They will apply a diversified knowledge of aquaculture-related scientific principles and practices to a broad variety of assignments, from research, analysis and writing, developing tools and frameworks, capacity building, strategy development, gender mainstreaming, project coordination and management to supporting and engagement with private sector seafood actors and traceability systems. They widely communicate solutions and best practices and engages support for WIO Aquaculture work within TNC and the conservation community as well as aquaculture groups. The Aquaculture Specialist establishes TNC as a major conservation partner in aquaculture, starting by upscaling the ongoing restorative seaweed aquaculture in Zanzibar Islands, mainland Tanzania and South Coast Kenya as well as crab farming initiative in Northern Coast of Kenya.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- BA/BS in natural sciences with 5 years' experience in conservation practice or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience in marine science and conservation
- Experience conducting or working on aquaculture-related interventions, scientific research, ecosystem interactions and coastal zone management.
- Experience in working on partnership development with non-profit partners, private sector, indigenous community groups and government agencies.
- Experience managing complex or multiple projects, including managing finances and coordinating the work of other professionals and partners.
- Fundraising experience, including identifying donor prospects and donor cultivation
- Communicating clearly via written, spoken, and graphical means in English and other relevant languages.
- Experience using applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Web Browsers.

For a full Job profile and how to apply please visit <https://careers.nature.org/> and search for 51655.

Submit CV and cover letter separately using the upload buttons online. All applications must be submitted in the system before the end of day on June 26, 2022.

216892101



ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND
P.O.BOX 2716
KILIMANI MNARA WA MBAO
ZANZIBAR



GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE (GPN)

PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR GOODS, WORKS, CONSULTANCY AND NON - CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

- Zanzibar Social Security Fund has set aside fund for the procurement of Goods, Works, Non-consultancy and Consultancy Services.
- Zanzibar Social Security Fund intends to apply part of the proceed of the fund for the payments of the above-mentioned activities to be procured during the financial year 2022/2023
- Zanzibar Social Security Fund now issuing a General Procurement Notice in accordance with the requirements of the Zanzibar Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Asset Act (Act No11 of 2016)
- Potential bidders desiring additional information on the procurement in question particularly on specific items should contact the Procuring Entity at the following address: Secretary ZSSF Tender Board, P.O. Box 2716, Kilimani Mnara wa Mba

Zanzibar, From 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Monday to Friday except Public Holidays. Further to this publication of the General Procurement Notice, subsequent announcement of Specific Procurement Notice will be advertised in the local newspaper

- Any bidders, contractors, suppliers or consultants who need information will be provided from 9.00 am to 15.30 hours also this publication will be available on the ZSSF website: zssf.or.tz

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND
P.O.BOX 2716
KILIMANI MNARA WA MBAO
ZANZIBAR.

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR GOODS, WORKS, CONSULTANCY AND NON CONSULTANCY SERVICES

NAME OF PROCURING AND DISPOSAL ENTITY: **ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND**
FINANCIAL YEARS: **2022/2023**

Description	Tender No.	Lot Number	Procurement Method	General procurement	PRE-QUALIFICATION			INVITATION AND AWARD OF BID			
					Invitation date	Closing/ opening date	Notification of Applicants	Bid Invitation Date	Bid Closing/ Opening	Approval of Evaluation Report	Award Notification Date
1	2	3	5	6	9	10	12	15	16	17	18
Supply of Ribbons and Films for ZSSF membership card	SMZ/F0308/G/NCB/2022-23/01	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Supply of office stationeries	SMZ/F0308/G/DR/2022-23/02	N/A	DR	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Supply of promotional materials	SMZ/F0308/G/DR/2022-23/03	N/A	DR	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Supply, installation and commission of computer hardware and accessories											
Develop Disaster Recovery Sites (DRS)	SMZ/F0308/G/ICB/2022-23/LOT 1-2/04	1	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/09/2022	21/09/2022	01/10/2022	28/10/2022
Supply, Installation and commissioning of Computer hardware and computer accessories		2									
Supply of Motor Vehicle	SMZ/F0308/G/NCB/2022-23/05	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Supply of ZSSF furnitures	SMZ/F0308/G/NCQ/2022-23/06	N/A	NCQ	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Supply of Mobile Airtime	SMZ/F0308/G/DP/2022-23/07	N/A	DP	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Supply of small Tents	SMZ/F0308/G/NCB/2022-23/08	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	15/10/2022	29/10/2022	11/11/2022	10/12/2022
Supply ,Installation and commissioning of equipment for electronic archive at Pemba Branch	SMZ/F0308/G/DR/2022-23/09	N/A	DR	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/09/2022	21/09/2022	01/10/2022	28/10/2022
Provision of Insurance Services for ZSSF Buildings and Motor Vehicles.	SMZ/F0308/NC/SS/2022-23/10	N/A	SS	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Provision of Internet and VPN	SMZ/F0308/NC/NCB/2022-23/11	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Security Services for ZSSF Head Office (Kilimani) and Pemba Office	SMZ/F0308/NC/SS/2022-23/12	N/A	SS	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	15/10/2022	29/10/2022	11/11/2022	10/12/2022
Motor Vehicles Maintenance	SMZ/F0308/NC/SS/2022-23/13	N/A	SS	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Provision of health Insurance Services for ZSSF Staffs.	SMZ/F0308/NC/NCB/2022-23/14	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/12/2022	31/12/2022	19/01/2023	09/02/2023
Generator Maintenance	SMZ/F0308/NC/MV/2022-23/15	N/A	MV	09/06/2022	NA	NA	NA	05/07/2022	19/07/2022	30/07/2022	30/08/2022
Provision of electrical repair and maintenance in Michenzani Mall and Kisonge	SMZ/F0308/NC/ICB/2022-23/16	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Extension of Mwanakwerekwe Shopping Center	SMZ/F0308/W/NCB/2022-23/17	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/09/2022	21/09/2022	01/10/2022	28/10/2022
Maintenance for ZSSF Buildings - Zanzibar, (Kilimani, Uhuru Park, Mwanakwerekwe,Mapinduzi Square, Mbweni and Umoja Park Tibirinzi Pemba)											
Mechanical and Civil Works for ZSSF Buildings -ZSSF Head Office Kilimani,Pemba office, Uhuru Amusement Park and Umoja Amusement Park Tibirinzi Chake Chake Pemba	SMZ/F0308/W/NCB/2022-23/LOT 1-2/18	1	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/12/2022	31/12/2022	19/01/2023	09/02/2023
Electrical and AC Works for ZSSF Buildings -ZSSF Head Office Kilimani,Pemba office, Uhuru Amusement Park and Umoja Amusement Park Tibirinzi Chake Chake Pemba		2									
New small bus stand	SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/19	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/12/2022	31/12/2022	19/01/2023	09/02/2023
Renovation of Fence covering for Advtise	SMZ/F0308/G/NCB/2022-23/20	N/A	NCB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	15/10/2022	29/10/2022	11/11/2022	10/12/2022
Proposed renovation of Mombasa Market	SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/21	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Proposed Construction of Low cost House Mombasa -Zanzibar	SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/22	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Proposed construction of Sports and Business facilities Mbweni and renovation of old Mbweni	SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/23	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Construction of Proposed New Bus Stand (Malindi and Kijangwani)	SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/24	N/A	ICB	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	08/07/2022	30/07/2022	18/08/2022	06/09/2022
Total											



Zuwena Senkondo (L), Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine's acting community relations and environmental manager, and her colleagues in jovial mood as they show off a certificate Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (2nd-R) presented to them yesterday in appreciation of the firm's support to the just-ended Shinyanga regional cultural festival. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

HEET project to start agriculture colleges in universities, MPs told

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project plans to construct agriculture colleges in some major universities in the country so as to start providing agricultural courses, the House heard yesterday.

The move will help produce enough experts to serve in the sector which include providing close support to farmers to boost yields and income.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology Omary Kipanga made the statement when responding to a question by Lindi Urban MP Hamida Mohamed who wanted to know the government's plans to construct an agriculture college at Ngongo area in Lindi Region.

The lawmaker said a total of 120 acres of land have been set aside for the construction of the college but the government was still mum on the commencement of the project.

Kipanga said the government through HEET which is implemented by the University of Dar es Salaam under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will construct a UDSM's-Lindi campus at Ngongo area so as to provide agricultural programmes.

The deputy minister said that through the project, the government will also improve infrastructure in higher learning institutions by building new campuses and universities in the country.

The five-year project through the World Bank support aimed at promoting higher education as a catalytic force in the new Tanzanian economy.

Through the project the government will construct a new public university in Butiama - Mwalimu Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences-Mloganzila campus and Sokoine University of Agriculture Mizengo Pinda campus in Katavi.

Others are Mbeya University of Science and Technology campus in Rukwa Region.

It will also facilitate construction of new campuses in marginal satellite cities including Kagera, Tanga, Kigoma, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, Ruvuma, Manyara and Singida.

HEET project is aimed to help strengthen the capacity and quality of the selected universities and institutes to prepare faculty, researchers and graduates, and build a strong and flexible, high-skilled workforce that can address Tanzania development challenges.

Govt purchases three scanners for Tunduma border

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government through support of the Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) has purchased three scanners in efforts to ease congestion at the Tunduma border in Songwe Region, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Finance and

Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande said the scanners include baggage scanner, body scanner and cargo scanner, adding that the baggage and body scanners were properly being used at the borders and that the cargo scanner is expected to be operational beginning July 2022.

Chande was responding to a

question posed by Momba MP, Condester Sichwale who wanted to know the government's plan to add another gate so as to ease congestion at the Tunduma border as the situation was affecting traders and the country's economy at large.

The deputy minister said apart from procuring scanners, the government

had equally established the One Stop Border Post (OSBP), which makes all government entities to work at one position.

He further said the government was taking several measures to reduce the challenge of congestion, whereas in January 2021 the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) entered into an

agreement with the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) which directed each country to take several measures.

According to him, the Zambia government was tasked to harmonise the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) with TRA and Zambia's automated system for customs data (ASYCUDA) world

in order to help Zambia's customs department to get prior information of cargo before they arrive at the border.

Chande added that the Zambia government in the agreement was also tasked to improve road infrastructures and the parking lot through the TMEA's financial support.

GENERAL PROCURMENT NOTES FOR CONSULTANCY - EXTERNAL USES

NAME OF PROCURING AND DISPOSAL ENTITY: ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND

FINANCIAL YEARS: 2022/2023

Description	Tender No.	BASIC DATA				General procurement notice	Request for Expression of Interest				Invitation of proposals and approval for award			
		Lot Number	Procurement Method	Selection Method	Contract Type		Invitation date	Closing/opening date	Submission of Evaluation Report	Invitation date	Submission/opening date	Submission of Evaluation Report (T)	Opening Financial Proposals	Contract signature
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15	16	17	19	20
Consultancy for maintenance and improvement Customers Web Portal and API	SMZ/F0308/C/DR/2022-2023/01	N/A	DR	LCS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/09/2022	14/09/2022	24/09/2022	30/09/2022	20/09/2022
Consultancy fees for valuer of ZSSF properties	SMZ/F0308/C/NCQ/2022-2023/02	N/A	NCQ	LCS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	02/01/2023	14/01/2023	28/01/2023	09/02/2023	15/03/2023
Consultancy for maintenance of Fund Management Information System (FUMIS).	SMZ/F0308/C/NCB/2022-2023/03	N/A	NCB	QCBS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	NA	NA	NA	02/01/2023	14/01/2023	28/01/2023	09/02/2023	15/03/2023
Consultancy services for maintaining and upgrading mobile app	SMZ/F0308/C/DR/2022-2023/04	N/A	DR	LCS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	NA	NA	NA	02/01/2023	14/01/2023	28/01/2023	09/02/2023	15/03/2023
Consultancy services for Establishment of WhatsApp Business Channel	SMZ/F0308/C/DR/2022-2023/05	N/A	DR	LCS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	NA	NA	NA	02/01/2023	14/01/2023	28/01/2023	09/02/2023	15/03/2023
Consultancy and maintenance for Financial Management Information Systems	SMZ/F0308/C/DR/2022-2023/06	N/A	DR	LCS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	NA	NA	NA	02/01/2023	14/01/2023	28/01/2023	09/02/2023	15/03/2023
Consultancy Services for Audit Software	SMZ/F0308/C/NCB/2022-2023/07	N/A	NCB	QCBS	Lump sum	09/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	01/09/2022	21/09/2022	24/09/2022	01/10/2022	20/11/2022

ABBREVIATION

- DR= Direct Procurement
- NCQ= National Competitive Quotation
- NCB= National Competitive Bidding
- ICB= International Competitive Bidding
- SS= Single Sources
- G=Goods
- W=Works
- C=Consultancy
- NC=Non-consultancy

By Guardian Reporter

PUPILS of Mtongani Primary School in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam will now be able to concentrate on their studies, thanks to I&M Bank for donating 100 desks and 50 hearing devices for disabled children worth over 12m/-.

The desk (3seaters) will accommodate 300 students, thus supporting the government efforts in ensuring pupils learn in an improved environment.

In addition to the donation, the bank's staff joined hands to support the pupils by providing various items such as pens and learning textbooks.

The donation, valued at 12.5m/- was received by Temeke District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo on behalf of the Mtongani primary school management.

Speaking at the handover event, I&M Bank Head of Consumer Banking Lilian Mtali said the extended support intends to create greater shared opportunity for the business and communities.

"Opportunity is more than just

Bank donates desks, hearing devices to Mtongani Primary School in Dar

money, it is about a better future for people and their communities everywhere in the world," said Mtali.

Mtali added: "I&M Bank's vision is to refresh and improve the lives of Tanzanians every day. We do business the right way for a better-shared future and this support will benefit pupils of Mtongani primary school and give them the best chance for a successful education". She said that partnerships between the private sector, government and non-government organisations were the most effective way to address common challenges and improve the lives of Tanzanians.

Temeke District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo said, the donation of desks by I&M Bank demonstrated the good relations between the government and the private sector, which benefit the community, and the desks will greatly help to alleviate the shortage they have had for many years.

"Today's support by I&M Bank to Mtongani primary school shows how

the government is working closely with the private sector in the country on improving the daily livelihood of our people. I call upon other organisations to emulate what I&M Bank have done for a better future of our students," added Mwegelo.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Mtongani primary school headteacher, Victor Kangahti applauded the bank for the donation saying it has come at the right time as the school has been having shortage of desks due to high number of pupils which the school has been registering after the government introduced free education.

"On behalf of the school management, I take this opportunity to congratulate I&M Bank for their donation and support to our school. As the head of this institution, I want to promise you that we will take care of this donation for the next generation which will be enrolled into this school," said Kangahti.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian (L) speaks at a dinner Exim Bank hosted in Tabora municipality earlier this week for its clients in the region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Make good use of Exim's services, Tabora RC appeals to businesses

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA regional commissioner Ambassador Dr Batilda Burian has urged businesses in the region to ensure that they make good use of the financial institutions in the region, including Exim Bank, so that they can access loans that can help them invest in various economic sectors to develop the region.

Speaking during a dinner hosted by Exim Bank for its customers over the weekend that aimed at discussing business opportunities and introducing the bank's new services, Ambassador Dr Burian said the presence of financial institutions in the region has not yet been used properly by the locals for their benefit and the region as a whole.

"We are one of the fastest growing regions in the country and we desperately need investors in various areas including agriculture, livestock and industries to accelerate our economic growth. We have the responsibility to develop our region and not to wait for people from other

regions to come and do it here. Exim Bank is here today to remind us of the fact, and what they want from us is our cooperation to embrace their services including loans," she said.

Meanwhile, Kaliua District Commissioner, Paul Chacha said through the Exim WAKALA product people in the region will be able to make more use of the bank's services as they initially failed to do so due to the fact that most of the customers live far from the bank's branch in the region.

"We are expecting to produce more than 10 million kilogrammes of tobacco this year so we expect good financial services as well. The introduction of Exim Wakala will be a savior for the locals who, despite being attracted to Exim services, have sometimes been unable to bank with the lender due to distance factor," he said.

Earlier speaking at the event, the bank's Head of Retail Service, Andrew Lyimo said the lender was currently prioritizing the region and that was why even its services were designed to align with the region's priorities

towards the expected economic revolution.

"We have noted that the region is currently experiencing major economic changes in various areas including trade and agriculture that require greater participation of financial institutions. Exim Bank is ready for greater cooperation in achieving that. The advent of our Exim Wakala service aims to make it even more so we strongly urge the people of Tabora to join us on this journey," said Lyimo.

The bank's customers said while the region is planning to build a strong and sustainable economy, efficiency in the financial system is one of the key requirements for them to participate in economic growth and development in general. Thus, the bank's new momentum has come at the right time. "That is why we are very grateful to see Exim Bank invite us here to confirm their readiness on the journey. We are very grateful for that and we are ready to work with you," said Said Kalunkumya, one of the SMEs in the region.

Mweka college trains 1,060 local tour guides

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Moshi-based College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM-MWEKA) has conducted special refresher courses to 1,060 tour guides at different key tourist's destinations within the country.

With at least 1.1bn/- support from the

central government through the covid-19 relief fund, the timely initiatives, among others, targets to sharpen service delivery among tour guides.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian, the college's principal public relations officer, Ernest Emmanuel said the training which was conducted between

January and April this year involved tour guides from five different national parks.

He named the national parks as Tarangire, Saadani, Ruaha, Serengeti and Ngorongoro. He said at Serengeti national park the training was conducted to female tour guides only.

"We decided to conduct the refresher training course to upscale the performance of tour guides with an eye of enabling them to dispense their routine key services more professionally," he said. He said beneficiaries were capacitated in various vital areas including customer care as well as on birds, animals and plants identification.

"The tourism sector in Tanzania is growing fast and impressively with the country keeping on receiving mushrooming of tourists from different countries, hence the need to ensure efficiency of our tour guides in service provision," he stated.

The College of African Wildlife Management is the leading institution in professional and technical training in Wildlife and Tourism Management.

It was established by the Tanzania Act of Parliament Number 8 of 1964. The College is registered and recognised as a centre of excellence by the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF CLEARING AND FORWARDING SERVICES TO SANDVIK MINING & CONSTRUCTION TANZANIA LTD

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited (THE COMPANY) is located in Mwanza, on the edge of Lake Victoria.

The purpose of this EOI is to explore the market for service providers that possess the requisite skills, knowledge and capacity to provide the required clearing and forwarding services to the Company.

Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. At least one active clearing and forwarding contract from a reputable organization with high volume of inbound and outbound consignment.
2. Compliant with Local Content Regulations.
3. Demonstrated or verifiable clearing references
4. Compliant with all required Permits, Certifications and Licenses
5. Insurance Cover
6. Financial stability to be able to pay duties & taxes on behalf of Sandvik on credit terms.

Scope of Work

The clearing Agent will be required to: -

1. Clear consignment without incurring storage charges and demurrage or penalties by customs. They will also facilitate re-exportation of consignment.
2. Monitor each consignment and submit report showing clearance position and any other information until the cargo is cleared and delivered.
3. Advise the organization on existing customs/TPA regulations and charges affecting clearance and handling of cargo.
4. Advise the organization promptly on payable duties and taxes.
5. Pay disbursements on behalf of the organization. Disbursement fees will be for mutually agreed payments by the clearing agents included but not limited to the Airport/ port charges, Import invoice charges and containers deposit, shipping line storage charges.
6. Timely refund of container deposits where applicable.
7. Transport consignment from port or as otherwise instructed by the organisation.
8. Load and Offload of consignments.
9. Preparation of all Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) documentation
10. Liaison with Tanzania Port Authority (TPA)
11. Available for 24hrs.

Expression of Interest

If your organization meets the above pre-qualification criteria, and you would like to be invited to tender, please submit your Expression of Interest, Company Profile and evidence of the above listed pre-qualifications tenders.tanzania@sandvik.com or **Submit your Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope to the Tender Box at the reception of Sandvik Mining & Construction Tanzania LTD located at Plot no. 3, Bohari Street, Mkuyuni industrial Area, Nyamagana Mwanza.**

The Reference "SMCT/CL01/2022" must be quoted in the subject of the email/ Envelope

Last Date for submission: **30th June 2022.**

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited

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Govt sets aside over 69bn/- to buy medicines, medical tools

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has set aside 69.95bn/- in the 2022/23 fiscal year for the procurement of medicines and medical tools for health centres and district hospitals in the country.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dr Festo Ndugange made the statement in the Parliament yesterday during the questions and answers session.

He was responding to a concern raised by Kilwa North MP Francis Ndulano over acute shortage of drugs and essential medical tools in Kilwa especially at a health centre in Somanga ward.

"Let me assure you that in the next fiscal year, all health centres will be equipped with enough medicines and tools to facilitate provision of smooth health services to people," he said.

In his supplementary question Ndulano said since it was constructed

some years ago, the centre has been grappling due to lack of essential tools to support provision of quality health services to the community.

The Deputy Minister said that in the next fiscal year two health centres in Kilwa South will be constructed in two wards out of the 15 wards that are yet to get the facilities.

In his basic question, Tunduru South MP Daimu Mpakate sought to know when will the government improve the Mtina Health Centre for it to start providing surgical services as well as equip the Mchoteka with enough medical equipment.

He claimed that the government has been promising that it will construct health centres in each ward and equip them with enough medical tools but the pace is still very slow.

Responding, Dr Ndugange said the government was preparing a special strategic plan to construct three health centres in each ward which will also include Tunduru South.

"In the year 2022/23, the government

has allocated 250m/- for the construction of a surgery, mother and child building as well as laboratory at Mtina Health centre," he said.

He elaborated that the government has also allocated 47.70bn/- for the procurement of medical equipment for 159 newly constructed health centres including the Mchoteka Health Centre.

He further stated that the government has built many health centres in the last five years and now puts efforts into increasing the number of health staff.

The deputy minister explained that the government continues improving health infrastructures and building new ones in a bid to improve health service delivery in the country by continued allocation of budget for that purpose.

"This includes setting aside more funds for purchase of medical devices for health centres that have been built and repaired but did not get funds for buying medical devices," he said.



Tanzania Breweries Ltd environment and safety manager Revocatus Rutakwa (L) and environmental controller Coleta Momburi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday with a trophy and a certificate the Dar es Salaam City Council had just presented to them in recognition of the company's environmental conservation initiatives. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt mulls using academic certificates as collateral for loans to university graduates

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government will work on the possibility to start using academic certificates as collateral to issue loans and capital to university graduates so as to support them establish income generating projects.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omari Kipanga informed the House yesterday that the success of this will greatly help to address the employment crisis facing the majority of university graduates in the country.

He was responding to a supplementary question by Mlalo MP Rashid Shangazi, who said the government has more than 45 funds for loans aiming to fight poverty apart from the 10 percent loans provided by district council but still youth are still unable to access the funds due to tough conditions put in place.

The lawmaker sought to know the government's plans to support university graduates to access

capital so as to establish economic activities that will help them inject income and thus promote self-employment.

"We are going to see how we can support these graduates including using their academic certificates to get loans. It is true that the issue of unemployment is big and we will sit down and conduct an assessment to see if the plan can produce positive outcomes considering that this is a cross-cutting issue that needs joint efforts with other ministries," Kipanga elaborated.

In her basic question Latifa Juwakali (Special Seats, CCM), wanted to know the government's plan to establish a "Capital Board" for higher education graduates as it is in the Higher Education Students Loans' Board (HESLB) so as to enable the graduates to access funds and initiate economic projects.

Responding, the deputy minister said the government has been providing loans to youth through

district councils by allocating 10 percent of their internal revenues.

"With this, we have been advising the graduates to use the opportunity to raise capital and there are many who have benefited from the loans," he added.

In her supplementary question, Juwakali demanded for the government's statement so as to ensure that every university graduates get priority in accessing councils' loans for them to employ themselves and later repay the funds.

Responding, Kipanga said the government has reduced conditions in the issuance of the district council's loans where currently a group of five youth can apply and get the loans as long as they meet other conditions.

According to him, previously, the loans were provided to a group of 10 youth, something which was thwarting efforts of the group to get the loans due to the challenge of reaching the needed number.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

12 govt institutions team up to open single service window for investors

through Information Communication Technology (ICT) by preparing the joint system that will facilitate interfacing of services to investors.

He made the remarks after heads of the 12 institutions involved in issuing investment permits convened here, and added that the Tanzania Electronic Investment Window will enable investors to get various services from one point

The services include company registration, Tax Identification Number (TIN), residence permits and other services.

"As for now experts are finalizing the plan and it is expected to start June 15 this year," said Bunini.

Meanwhile, Single Window Project Manager, Robert Mtendamema said the institutions are creating the Single Window to enable an investor to get various permits on his/her investment at a go and as quickly as possible.

Also, the Commissioner General of Immigration, Anna Makakala said the system will assist in providing opportunities to visitors, tourists and investors wherever they will be able to get needed services from the single window.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director General, Dr Yusuf Ngenya said they will join the system in the Second Phase after investors start doing business and producing goods.



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Request for Proposals (RFP)

Consultancy: assessment of REDD+ project feasibility, including development steps and policy environment for the Ruvuma landscape

1. Background

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy, and Wildlife. WWF's global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

Within this context, WWF Tanzania is implementing a 'Beyond Tourism Project' (BeToP), looking at non-tourism-related enterprises that will ensure income diversification and continued benefits to the communities in and around key conservation areas. Specifically, this consultancy focuses on the potential of developing viable carbon credit initiatives through REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation plus the enhancement of carbon stocks), identified as a potential area of development during WWF's ongoing work in the Ruvuma transboundary landscape. The landscape encompasses selected Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFs) in and around the Selous - Nyerere ecosystem, including the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor that connects Tanzania and Mozambique. The landscape has unique conservation values, including expansive miombo woodlands, freshwater river systems and lakes, and iconic wildlife species.

The carbon asset within the Ruvuma landscape, coupled with investments in forest and high-carbon ecosystems, presents a dynamic opportunity to address the challenges of climate change and create new forms of natural resource-based income that incentivize the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. This consultancy will evaluate the landscape, acting as a feasibility study for developing a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) approach for the Ruvuma landscape, generating carbon credits and community benefits and promoting a sustainable ecological approach through payments and benefits received.

2. Scope / Project Development Areas

The project scope will cover 4 WWF Ruvuma landscape WMAs, namely the Ndonda WMA (Nachingwea and Nanyumbu District), Liwale (Magingo)WMA (Liwale District), Mungata and Juhiwangumwa WMAs (in Rufiji District). The scope will also cover Nywamwage and Tawi VLFs in Rufiji and Mchakama, Liwiti, and Nainokwe VLFs in Kiwa.

3. Specific Tasks and Responsibilities

The consultancy will cover the following areas of focus, with amendments and additions to this subject to discussion between WWF and the consultant during the contracting process:

- * **Assessment of the accuracy of carbon assessments:** assessments within the Ruvuma landscape WMAs and VLFs and recommendations on technical gaps and needed;
- * **Assessment of land cover change scenarios:** to be undertaken where the REDD+ mechanism will be implemented. This will also show how future land-use changes and strategies will impact carbon, biodiversity, and social issues across the landscape;
- * **Synthesis of spatial information on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and social metrics:** to support REDD+ planning and safeguard development in the Ruvuma landscape;
- * **Identification and analysis of REDD+ business opportunities and financial viability:** through scanning the WMAs and VLFs in the landscape for i) carbon finance potential, ii) market potential of sustainably developed enterprises, and iii) ecological sustainability;
- * **Assessment of enabling conditions:** a review of national, regional, and international policies, legislation, and regulations and synthesis of opportunities, gaps, and technical recommendations for REDD+ guidelines and legislation.
- * **Assessment of socio-economic context:** undertake an analysis of the socio-economic conditions as they pertain to the general acceptability and success rate of the proposed enterprises, such as the potential to create direct and indirect benefits to communities (income, jobs, food, etc.), as well as parameters of cultural values, religious importance, aesthetic values, etc. The consultant will assess and highlight opportunities for the direct engagement of communities in the proposed sustainable enterprises.
- * **Assessment of the general contribution of proposed REDD+ benefits to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services (forest, wildlife, and water resources in the targets areas):** assessment of the direct and indirect contribution of the proposed carbon credit/REDD+ enterprises to species and habitat conservation, ecosystem resilience, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- * **Environmental and social safeguards and risk assessment:** Identification of potential environmental and social safeguards issues related to the proposed business enterprises as well as project risks and be able to design mitigation measures in line with WWF Environmental Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) and risk screening and ranking accordingly and working in collaboration with WWF ESSF and Risk analysis teams. This includes human rights, social policies, gender and youth, indigenous people, and disadvantaged people.
- * **Development of business case:** Based on this analysis, the consultant will recommend at least REDD+ opportunities with the most significant benefits that meet conservation needs and opportunities for an integrated business project approach and develop an outline business plan for each of these.

4. DELIVERABLES

1. An inception report with detailed tools, methodology, team composition, and budget, to be completed by the consultant and discussed with the WWF team within the first two weeks following contract signing;
2. Draft report for discussion with the WWF team, and final report covering all specific tasks and responsibilities listed above;
3. Two briefing notes on the potential for REDD+ business development for 1) government stakeholders and 2) other project stakeholders, the exact content of which to be agreed upon at the time of the draft report submission and subsequent discussion with the WWF team;
4. Brochures for REDD+ awareness creation in English and Kiswahili

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE & SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to;

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikochoeni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;
website. www.wwf.or.tz

Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience in this consultancy. Submit a concise 2 - 4-page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition, and timings of the process. A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the time professional fees, and proposed implementation costs. A 2 - 3-page CV of the lead should also be attached.

All applications should reach us by or before 1600hrs Tanzania local time on **Monday, 20th June 2022.**

Communications are vital, but uplifting living standards helps check extremism

UNITED Nations agencies are becoming more and more active in laying out strategies to combat the spread of extremist activities and terror threats.

They are doing so in liaison with inter-governmental agencies in Africa including the African Union Commission, the Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD), the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

In their unity they are developing a regional crisis communication strategy for East Africa and the rest of the region, lately facing more numerous terror attacks, and this standing as an effort reflecting anxieties across the region. Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda sent representatives to four workshops stretched out in a week-long event split between Nairobi and Kampala.

The events sought to come up with a regional approach or effective communications to tackle misinformation and prevent terrorist attacks.

Phrased rather differently, the idea was to come up with effective tools of reaching targeted populations where terrorists harbour and seek loyalties.

The tool kit is primarily geared at improving communications between governments and the people at the grassroots level, especially to shield youths more particularly targeted by terrorist groups out to hoodwink them into recruitment.

What this communications task implies is that a youth base inclined to dissatisfaction and simplistic criticism of the government or authority can be pulled into buying the stances or philosophies of these groups.

The terror groups invariably need to draw the youths with language directly relating to their immediate lives and on the exercise of authority.

What then follows is that the gullible youths see it useful to leave everything and seek a future with these groups, in much the same way as they join militias

of all sorts in Africa's Great Lakes region. Possibly the only discernible difference between the two scenarios lies in animating ideologies, where in the Great Lakes what is seen is militarising minority dissatisfaction, creating a no-go zone for authorities.

The IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism held the workshops on strategic and crisis communications from this May 23 to June 1.

Participants laboured to create a common communications approach, on the basis of what experts term as 'counter narratives' to block the flow of extremist message, ideologies and justifying taking up arms against the state.

Nevertheless, the workshops had an air of realism particularly in that they stated the need for deepening understanding of the causes and sources of terror incidents or prolonged crises when a country fell into the grip of a terrorist movement.

It isn't very clear as yet if the methods used have been successful in one or other part of the region, but they are definitely helpful.

Terror groups thrive on examples, by expecting that their activities will be duplicated elsewhere time and time again. But this isn't always the case as conditions of despair in life - on which terrorism feeds - aren't identical in all countries targeted or hit.

Nor do the sponsors of terrorism have the same means or the same power of conviction with extremist narratives on reality - that is, on poverty and unemployment.

That is why, for instance, we need to intensify reform measures, with a view to attracting industries and investments in extractive industries to create jobs.

One idea would be that fewer youths would be impressed by those promising a future with guns and military uniforms.

With that, it would pay off quite handsomely appreciating the fact while communications are vital, the uplifting of the people's standard of living commonly does lots more in helping put extremism sustainably in check.

International Coral Triangle Day crucial in Blue Economy pursuit

CORAL Triangle Day is one of the lesser known and widely recognized international days.

True, the Day has not been the object of a formal resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, but it has the all-important backing of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

The Day was established on June 9, chiefly to celebrate and raise awareness of ocean conservation and protection, which is also the focus of World Oceans Day - along which it is patterned.

This auxiliary day is most notably devoted to the Coral Triangle, the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.

Most Tanzania know full well the ravages of blast fishing as carried out on coral reefs, the spectacular hideout where numerous fish breed, safe from large ocean-based predators.

An online chronicle says Coral Triangle Day was intended as an open-sourced event, commemorated by individuals, organisations and establishments concerned on the great coral triangle.

That basically meant vast Far East land masses plus continental expanses, covering Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines as well as central Africa's Congo Basin and the Amazon rainforest in South America.

There are particular ecological features in that zone and, as with forests, it takes international efforts to bring a measure of regulatory control at the national level not to harm or deplete such resources.

One chronicler says that there is a semblance of scientific consensus that the coral triangle region represents the global epicentre of marine life abundance and diversity.

This is said to hold up to 76 per cent

of all known coral species plus 37 per cent of all known coral reef fish species, 53 per cent of the world's coral reefs, and vast swathes of mangrove forests.

Tanzania belongs to the outside sphere where the rest of these species or resources are found, but the rules developed to protect ecosystems need to be global to work to satisfaction.

With our government now embarking on a more direct pursuit of a blue economy, the participation of other stakeholders especially development agencies will be pegged to observing rules regarding the preservation of coral reefs.

This means not just prohibiting blast fishing but also taking appropriate measures including in relation to the protection of mangrove forests.

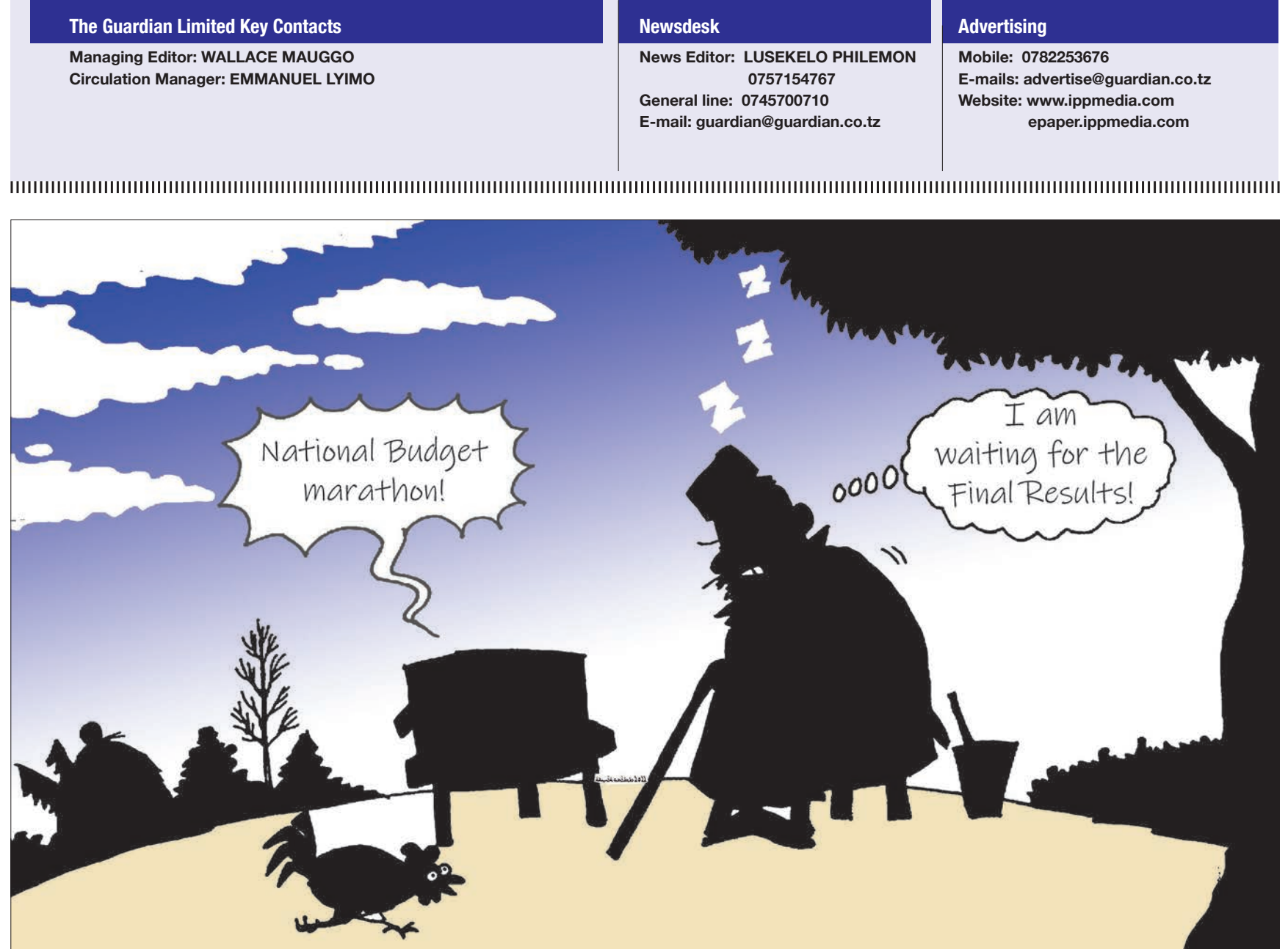
With seaweed farming developing rapidly in Zanzibar, the current budget plans of various ministries in our country point to the wish to make greater use of coral reefs to set up coastal fish farming units.

Marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle are under very real threat in the form of the increasingly warming, acidifying and rising seas.

Coral reefs have experienced what experts call mass bleaching, which is threatening to degrade the vital ecosystems.

This is happening while over half of the coral reefs are at high risk primarily from coastal economic activities, especially housing, construction of hotels building and overfishing.

That calls for modern techniques in fish farming or improved fishing boats using territorial waters more expansively, this meaning the 200-km stretch into the sea and not merely 'scratching' on edges of the rim.



ADDIS ABABA

SIX countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar and Niger - have reported instances of ritual infanticide.

Eleven countries - Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe - have reported ritual attacks against children with disabilities.

Five countries - Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali and Tanzania - have reported attacks on children with albinism.

Seven countries - Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania - have reported instances of violence against children accused of being witches.

Witchcraft accusations and ritual attacks against African children are hidden and ignored, but they are one of the most gruesome forms of violence against children.

New research from African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) shows that, every year, thousands of African children are accused of witchcraft and suffer ritual attacks, abuse, physical and psychological violence, yet most governments are turning a blind eye to these practices and trends.

"Africans have ignored this horrific violence for far too long," says ACPF Executive Director Dr Joan Nyanyuki.

She adds: "It is utterly unacceptable that witchcraft accusations and ritual

Report urges African govts to wipe out witchcraft accusations against children

attacks on children are still widespread across the continent."

Dr Nyanyuki goes on to appeal to governments "to uncover this hidden shame and address these crimes and extreme forms of violence which have life-threatening effects and often result in the death of innocent children".

The report uncovers the prevalence of witchcraft accusations and ritual attacks against children across the African continent.

It finds shocking gaps and failures by governments, even as most countries are signatories to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

"Many countries' laws do not explicitly prohibit accusations of witchcraft against a child, which in itself is an act of psychological violence," notes Dr Nyanyuki.

She adds: "Worse still, beyond their failure to prevent these accusations and violent attacks, governments have also failed to minimise the harm children suffered when they fall victims."

The ACPF chief elaborates: "African states must uphold their obligations to protect all children, especially those who are vulnerable, at risk of being accused of being witches and of facing ritual killings."

"Among those in need of greatest protection are children with albinism

who face most gruesome forms of ritual attacks resulting in extreme violence and death. Such accusations and attacks are crimes and must be treated as such - they must be outlawed and punished."

ACPF has expressed "great concern" seeing that, even with national child protection laws in place, witchcraft accusations and ritual attacks against children have been reported in some 20 African countries.

The report highlights the case of a 13-year-old girl from Benin who spent years in a child reception and protection centre after being accused of witchcraft, only to be ostracised by family and community upon her return home and eventually being forced back into care after only four days.

"The horror to which children accused of witchcraft are subjected is indescribable," said Dr Nyanyuki.

She notes further: "They suffer public humiliation, forced confessions, torture, violent beatings, are forced to ingest traditional 'cleansing' medicines, are expelled from their homes, ostracised from their communities, maimed and, in extreme cases, murdered. They carry the scars of isolation, neglect and victimisation on their mental health for their entire lives."

The report acknowledges progress in tackling the abduction, murder and mutilation of children with albinism for body parts to use in so-called 'magical

medicines'.

For examples, it showcases Malawi's new laws and dedicated government action which resulted in the number of attacks on people with albinism declining from 60 in 2016 to just four in 2021.

It concludes on a sombre note, though, highlighting the woefully inadequate human and financial resources needed to tackle witchcraft accusations and ritual attacks on children. What little support is available comes mostly from international donors.

"Witchcraft accusations and ritual attacks are rooted deep in our African beliefs, culture and tradition, and are often shrouded in secrecy," argued Dr Nyanyuki.

She added: "They remain one of the most elusive harmful practices challenging governments across the continent. Government authorities must focus on preventing witchcraft accusations if they are to succeed in uncovering this hidden shame."

ACPF is an independent, not-for-profit pan-African policy research and advocacy centre on the African child.

Based in the Ethiopian capital, it was established in 2003 out of concern about the situation of the African child and the need for the African people to recognise their responsibility of collectively ensuring the realisation of all rights to all children.

'Brown envelope' journalism in Africa and how to combat it

By Lungelo Ndhlovu

OFTEN going unreported, corruption in journalism is a major concern across Africa.

Commonly referred to as "brown envelope" journalism, as it typically involves monetary bribes enclosed in brown envelopes, it seeks to influence journalists to produce more positive reporting on an issue or to kill a negative story.

Italian journalist, researcher and activist Anna Meli believes that improving journalists' pay and working conditions as well as offering more training on reporting ethics could help proactively combat efforts to corrupt reporters.

"The International Federation of Journalists and the Trade Union of Journalists are all over the world trying to fight for equal payment and equal treatment from the economic point of view of the journalist, just to avoid this phenomenon of brown envelopes," said Meli.

She adds: "We know that in some situations of precarious work, this might be a problem and journalists can be more influenced. It is important that we are working together with all journalists to have this kind of treatment at their

economic level."

Joseph Asomah, an assistant professor at St. Thomas University in New Brunswick, Canada, meanwhile noted that this corruption can be challenging to address as it happens mostly in secret between the journalist and the one paying the bribe.

"However, efforts are being made by some non-governmental organisations to address the problem. For example, in Ghana, the Media Foundation for West Africa has established "The Fourth Estate" - an investigative reporting project specifically meant to promote accountability and make those in power answerable," said Asomah, who is from Ghana himself.

In Zimbabwe, many media watchdogs, experts and journalists agree that more training for journalists on reporting ethics is needed to combat the brown envelope journalism. Journalist Lulu Brenda Harris from the Centre of Innovation and Technology says that, to do away with brown envelopes, ethics must be ingrained in journalists.

"We have a duty to our audiences to adhere to ethics and be responsible not only in our reporting but also in the way we also source for stories," she said, adding: "Audiences trust us to tell them the truth. As journalists, we are in the

influence business, and if that trust is broken the media will crumble."

Tapfuma Machakaire, a long-serving journalist serving as ethics chairman at the Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe, also denounced the corruption and acknowledged the pervasive issue of poor wages in the country's media industry as a factor behind the perpetration of the unethical practice. "Brown envelopes are not part of journalism. They don't fit anywhere in the transaction of getting a story published," he said.

He elaborated: "We have been aware that the brown envelope syndrome has been with us for some time now and this is a result of the poorly performing economy of this country. Journalists are not well paid, and working conditions are very poor. As a result, they are tempted to accept something that can improve their living standards."

In Zimbabwe, the issue of bribery of journalists was reignited after one journalist wrote about how she turned down a US\$2,000 bribe offered by tobacco company representatives while reporting a story about how tobacco farmers are getting a raw deal from contractors in the country.

Pretty Nxumalo, a research and advocacy officer at Transparency

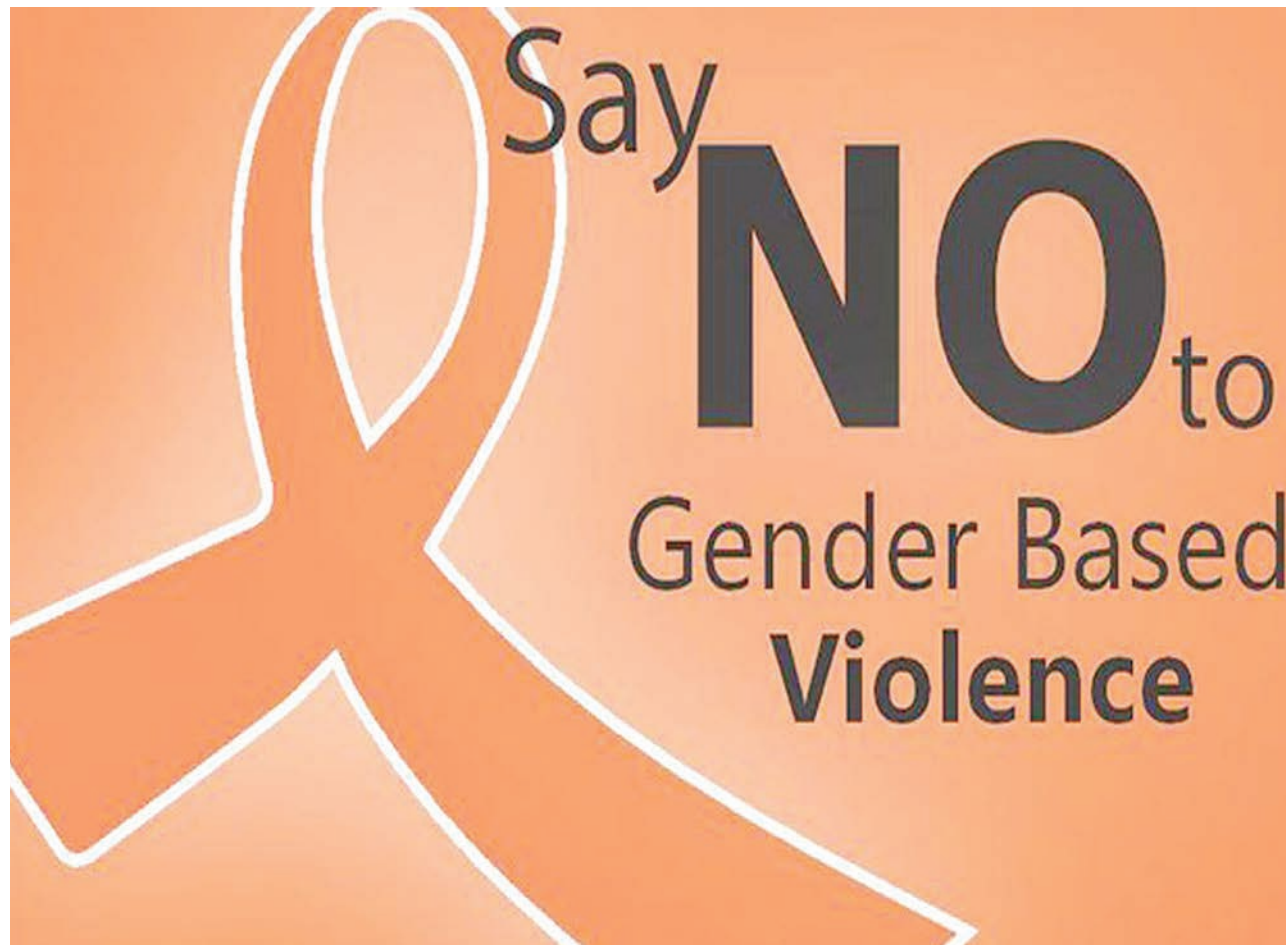
International Zimbabwe, says there have been reports in recent years of brown envelope journalism in Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

"Some journalists have called out government officials, and the editors would accept bribery to kill a story. Some have written stories and later retracted them," she said.

Nxumalo agreed that poor pay contributes to why some journalists accept bribes, but was emphatic that media workers ought to hold themselves to a higher ethical standard.

"Corruption cannot be fought using corruption. Without clear-headed and responsible journalists who can hold government agencies accountable, we are in trouble. We cannot win the fight against corruption," she warned.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Lungelo Ndhlovu is a multiple-award winning international journalist based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He specializes in news writing, photography and video production, covering major news, features and local events for various media organisations.



Let's do something to stop spiraling killings of women

By Guardian Correspondent

THE dramatic increase in incidents of gender killings in Tanzania has taken a new dimension which requires immediate action to reverse the situation and make our country safe for all.

As a result, there have been a number of incidents involving killings of intimate partners, married women, female parents and elderly for jealousy or materialism.

A report by an advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defender in Tanzania (CWHRD)'s Coordinator, Hilda Dadu asks questions as to what is causing the fastest growing tide in our country.

The situation indicates the violation of human rights of innocent women and extreme violence against women, lack of safety, peace and security for vulnerable women.

Our country is among those that have ratified various international conventions to protect the dignity of the individual and to protect the right to life. Examples of some of these treaties include International Convention on Human Rights (1948), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (1979) and many more to protect women and girls against violence and bullying.

Our government has gone a step further by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1945) and incorporating these values into the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

We have the Penal Code Act Chapter 16 and multi-country policies that prioritize protection and security for women and girls as well as other groups against gender-based violence.

The government has done well by setting up gender desks in various government departments to deal with issues of gender-based violence including police stations and departments of government institutions within ministries.

Also commendable is putting in place the National Plan of Action to Reduce Violence against Women and Children (NPA VAWC) which ends this year in 2022.

Despite all this, the issue of killings of women by their partners or their biological children is growing and taking on a whole new dimension.

Since January this year, media outlets have been reporting incidents of gender killings and gender based violence from various regions in our country with some leading to deaths and permanent disabilities for women. Some have been linked to superstitious beliefs, materialistic desires, carnal desires, jealousy, hate, stress as well as all aspects of patriarchy that have also been perpetrated by men as well as women.

For a long time, women have lost their lives and some lost their body parts simply because they are women. It should be noted that the right to life is a fundamental constitutional right that every human being has.

In Tanzania, this right is protected by the constitution under Article 14. Thus violating this right is a violation of the constitution as well as various

international treaties which Tanzania has ratified.

The various international and regional human rights treaties which Tanzania ratified place significant emphasis on the right to life, such as the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Among major factors in the assassination of partners has been identified as jealousy or hate of love. The people who commit this atrocity against women are their spouses or partners.

In 2020, according to a report released by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in 2021, there were 23 homicides compared to 12 incidents in 2019. The number attacks in the one month of January 2022 alone could be higher than those in the 2019 and 2020 reports.

These incidents violate the right to life of women. Regions highlighted previously as hotspots for these killings include Mara, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Arusha and Ruvuma. But now even the regions that were considered safe like Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Rukwa are reporting their own cases.

These killings are violence against women and they violate their freedom from violence, as well as the right to life which is protected in accordance with the constitution.

What is the situation in the community about these gender killings by intimate partners or relatives? Society has found itself in a time of crisis, with many wondering if anyone else has been attacked today and who else will follow.

Extreme anxiety could be spreading amongst women who have been going through a difficult time with their partners. Many have been subjected to severe beatings and have been silent without reporting to the relevant authorities.

Many women in relationships live anxious, insecure and stigmatized lives. Does this happen to men as well? Do these women have a place to defend themselves if they see signs of murder in their homes? Do they make noise in their homes or is it a taboo for them to speak while they are inside?

Is an empowered woman really a threat to a relationship? How do state agencies and lawmakers view this issue? What are our spiritual leaders doing about it? Where are our social workers?

Where did we bury our patriotism as members of the same family? Has non-interference in the relationships of others been a factor in women being brutally attacked and even killed? Where is the value and dignity of the woman in the family, the community and the nation as a whole?

We should not let killings of women continue making news. Let's do something to stop this.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF GRINDING MILLS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring a service for inspection and maintenance of grinding mills and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME1454	PROVISION OF INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF GRINDING MILLS TO GGML

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01454)	
60%	
Proof of mill maintenance services certified by GGM designer and mill manufacturers / OEM (Metso: Outotec Oyj (pty) Ltd)	15%
Evidence of certified employees for mill inspections, maintenance and certifications as per GGM mill designer and manufacturers / OEM (Metso: Outotec Oyj (pty) Ltd) recommendations	15%
Evidence of mill maintenance critical equipments or instruments required for mill inspections, maintenance and certifications work certified by GGM mill designer and manufacturers / OEM (Metso: Outotec Oyj (pty) Ltd)	15%
Provide warrant assurance of mill inspections, maintenance and certifications work from GGM mill designer and manufacturers / OEM (Metso: Outotec Oyj (pty) Ltd)	15%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01454) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 20th June 2022 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

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Public Notice

ASSA ABLOY is committed to providing the highest quality of products to consumers in Tanzania. A customer buying an **ASSA ABLOY** product does so with the confidence and quality guarantee that comes with it.

Over the past few weeks, **ASSA ABLOY** has been working with the Fair Competition Commission of Tanzania (**FCC**) to clamp down on counterfeit products that illegally bear the **ASSA ABLOY** trademarks.

To ensure that consumers remain protected, **ASSA ABLOY** will periodically continue to conduct these investigations. **ASSA ABLOY** brands such as **UNION** and **YALE** are leading and trusted brands in the commercial and residential space in Tanzania.

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By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

Bank pledges to stimulate economic growth in the northern zone regions

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has expressed its commitment to stimulate economic growth in the Northern Zone regions by supporting government efforts in promoting tourism, agriculture, live-stock and trade sectors.

In proving the commitment, senior officials of the bank including representatives of the board of directors, directors and heads of various departments of the bank over the weekend visited Manyara, Arusha and Karatu regions to discuss business opportunities, growth plans and new services offered by the bank.

NBC's head of retail banking, Elibariki Masuke said the move enabled them to meet their customers, introduce their new services and products as well as receive feedback on the needs of their customers especially at the time when the regions are in the process of further improving the tourism industry.

"Our president and the



National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Board Chairperson, Dr Kassim Hussein speaks to invited guests during a dinner hosted by the bank for its customers in Manyara Region recently to discuss business opportunities and the bank's new services and products. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

government as a whole have made great strides in boosting the tourism industry and so we as key stakeholders have seen fit to support her in achieving her ambition. Through our NBC Business Club product we have been able to meet our target audience and we have been able to discuss and present our new products that are in line with our core mission of promoting tourism. One of our services includes car loans for tourism activities with the guarantee being the respective vehicles" he mentioned.

He cited other products that include agricultural equipment loan services including tractors with collateral being the vehicle itself, unsecured loans for distributors as well as 'NBC

Kua Nasi' a special loan for growing businesses.

NBC's Director for Business Development, Elvis Ndunguru said through the commitment, the bank hopes to further improve its POS payment service to increase efficiency in revenue collection including foreign exchange.

"The tourism industry contributes more than 25 percent of foreign exchange. Therefore the improvement of the revenue collection system is very important so by the end of this month we hope to launch our most improved POS service for US Dollar and Tanzanian Shillings payments," he said.

Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella said it was timely as through the efforts of President Samia Suluhu

Hassan to improve the tourism industry in the country, the region expects to receive more tourists this year, so further improvements in financial services are important.

"For example in Arusha, our economy depends on tourism sector by 80 percent. The President has already made many efforts to achieve the growth of the tourism industry so all that remains is for us leaders and other stakeholders to support her. We believe through this kind of efforts, apart from the tourism industry we will see significant changes in the agricultural, trade and livestock sectors too...we are very grateful to NBC," he said.

Arusha-based businessman, Eng. Matoleo Ouden said through the visit of the senior officials from the bank they have been able to get the opportunity to present their suggestions and needs to the officials for further proper services from the lender.

Human rights stakeholders lash out at ongoing killings

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

STAKEHOLDERS in defence of human rights and opponents of all acts of violence in the country have lashed out at the reported incidents regarding killings, rape and sodomy in the country's various areas saying the incidents are painful.

The Director of WOCWELES - the organisation that assists women and children in the country, Mary Mushi has said children and women are great victims of these acts.

She said in order to fight these acts, village leaders, streets and wards are called on to continue educating on the effects from these vile acts including those regarding gender based violence and child abuse.

She added that in addition to

educating the public, there should also be experts in psychology in Ward offices who will have the responsibility in counselling victims of these acts to avoid the possibility of taking the law in their hands.

Regarding children, Mary said gender desks and community development officers should visit various areas to talk to children, especially those in schools to know their problems while at home or school to guard them against acts of rape and sodomy.

"Conflicts in married couples have been a big contributor of the acts of violence including reported deaths countrywide, we need psychologists to help us to save adults and children - there is a problem in children upbringing by parents and guardians as many of them are not close to them," she added.

NEMC spells strategies against environmental destruction

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE national environmental Management Council (NEMC) Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka has spelled out the Council's strategies against environmental destruction in the country's various areas.

Speaking here recently at the ongoing Environment Week celebrations, Dr Gwamaka said the situation regarding the environment was not good, hence they have come up with strategies to educate the public, enforcing laws and regulations including stiff penalties to those destroying the environment.

"Education to the public aims to make sure people abide by the laws and regulations in their own accord, for instance if one cuts a tree, he/she should plant another one as replacement," he said.

Dr Gwamaka said reasons of environmental destruction includes the growing population, invasion of forest reserves and water sources by people engaged in economic activities including farming, grazing and mining

"Water sources areas have been invaded, 60-metre areas from river banks are not being fully protected against human activities.

"If you go to Kigoma, Katavi and Mtwara you will find big human activities going on, the situation is not good at all in regard to our forest resources.

"There has been an increase of soil erosions, hence our rivers are filled up with sediment and on mountains, large areas have been invaded - Mbeya, Uluguru, and even Usambara areas have been invaded. When it rains, water does not stay, it moves causing floods," he said. Dr Gwamaka cited steps that have been taken including fining those who violate environment laws in various parts of the country.



Education to the public aims to make sure people abide by the laws and regulations in their own accord, for instance if one cuts a tree, he/she should plant another one as replacement



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE TRA INTERNET NETWORK MAINTANANCE

Dar es Salaam, 08 Juni, 2022:

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) would like to inform its Stakeholders and the General Public that; there will be a scheduled Internet Network Maintenance from **Sunday 12th June 2022 at 00:00 a.m to 06:00 a.m.**

This scheduled maintenance will impact availability of all TRA public systems (i.e **TRA Website, TANCIS, e-Filing, EFDMS, TIN, Payment Gateway (RGS)**) to its external stakeholders as during this period TRA public services will not be available.

After this maintenance **Site to Site Virtual Private Network** connections to TRA network might be affected. In case this occurs, please call our ICT Service Desk number **+255-786-899 900** for assistance and resolution.

Any inconveniences caused by this exercise is highly regrated as it intends to improve Quality of Services being offered.

For more information, please contact us through our WhatsApp number **+255-744-233333** or call us **0800-750075/0800-78 0078/0800-110016**, E-mail: **service@tra.go.tz** or **huduma@tra.go.tz**.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by;

DIRECTOR FOR TAXPAYER SERVICES AND EDUCATION

African solutions to African problems: Reframing science innovation

DURBAN, South Africa.

Africa is plagued by many epidemics – from tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to malaria and wild polio – but the continent has also worked for decades to fight these threats. The key to beating these deadly diseases is turning inward to existing expertise and finding locally driven solutions.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has placed public health back in the global spotlight and has also served as a reminder that science is not undertaken in an ivory tower. Science shapes humanity because it takes place among us. COVID-19 has also showcased that no epidemic takes place in isolation. Through collaboration we can build on the foundations of our knowledge to bring forward innovative ways to address health challenges that benefit all of humanity.

This is not a new idea. In fact, it is something that we became all too familiar with during the AIDS pandemic.

Despair, pain, and loss

were rampant during the 1980s and early 1990s, at the beginning of South Africa's HIV epidemic. Every weekend, white funeral tents in rural KwaZulu-Natal seemed to mushroom up and multiply, signifying the growing toll the virus was taking on the country.

Witnessing this helped catalyse me to undertake one of the earliest population-based studies that looked closely at this emerging health issue in South Africa. HIV prevalence was low at the time, with less than 1% of the population having been infected.

But lurking within the data was a shocking revelation: young women (15-24 years old) were six times more likely to be infected compared to their male counterparts.

We knew something had to be done. That meant understanding what had led to this striking disparity in risk. So, we began speaking to women from all parts of society to try and get a better sense of what they were experiencing.

Here's what we learned:



Through collaboration we can build on the foundations of our knowledge to bring forward innovative ways to address health challenges that benefit all of humanity. Credit: WHO

power dynamics of relationships and sex were disrupting disease prevention. Women didn't have the ability to protect themselves because of the limited options available to them – options like condoms, that placed the responsibility of reducing risk in the hands of men.

Meanwhile, cases continued to surge in South Africa at an alarming rate, doubling

annually in the general population.

Existing methods to prevent HIV infection weren't going to cut it. Approaches designed in the global North were never going to be able to fully account for the needs of women in Africa. That's why new solutions had to be brought forward instead.

One way that we sought to empower

women was through a gel that contained Tenofovir, an antiretroviral (ARV) medication. This innovative approach, shown in the CAPRISA 004 trial, enabled HIV-negative women to protect themselves from the virus. CAPRISA's research on PrEP was recently recognised by the VinFuture Prize as a lifesaving innovation from the global South.

Today, Tenofovir is taken daily as a pill for HIV prevention, a solution also known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). It has been adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a key prevention option for both women and men.

And it hasn't stopped there – a range of new anti-retroviral drugs and long-acting formulations, delivered as injections and implants, are currently being evaluated to expand prevention choices.

AIDS is no longer a fatal condition, instead it is chronic yet manageable. But we still see too many deaths and new HIV infections, particularly in marginalized populations. Two-thirds of all people living with HIV/AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa and the region accounts for 60% of all new infections. As we turn our focus towards other pandemics, such as COVID-19, we cannot afford to lose the gains made in HIV. It is a trap we fell into before – when early HIV work overshadowed TB efforts – and it is not one we can afford to be caught in again.

Even now, COVID-19 con-

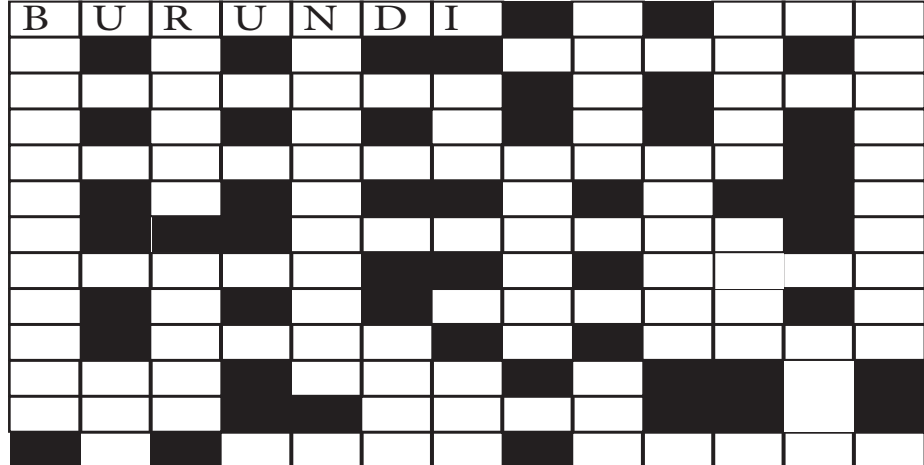
tinues to draw on lessons from the decades of work that have been poured into our HIV/AIDS response. This includes leveraging existing testing tools to detect COVID, utilising clinical trial infrastructure to expedite vaccine development, calling on community engagement processes to educate the public, and relying on scientific expertise to guide governments in their response.

The AIDS pandemic has taught us that scientists, policy-makers, and civil societies cannot work in a vacuum. There must be a unity of purpose that galvanises the steadfast support of global leaders in governments and funding agencies across the world.

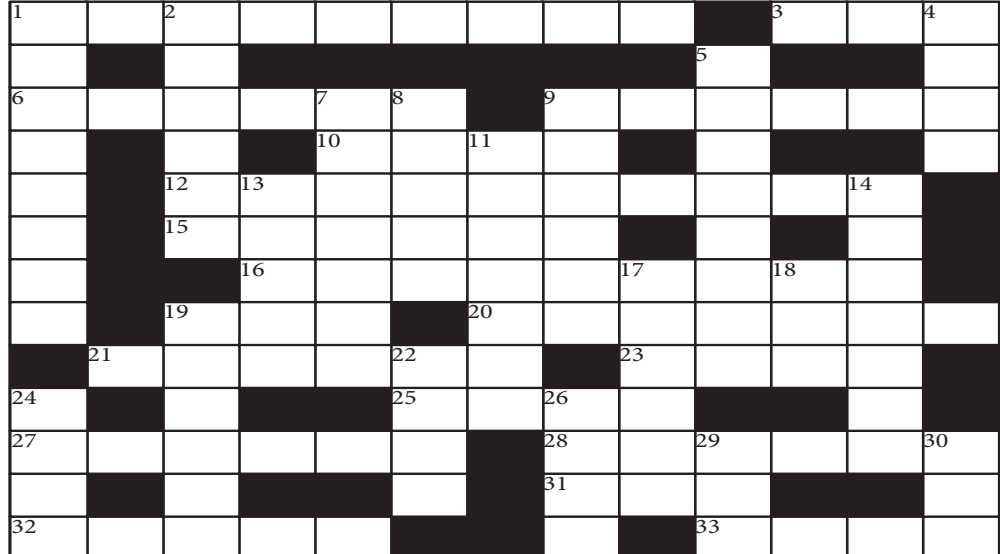
Africa has the scientific leadership and intellectual capital to develop new technologies and interventions. This is something we have shown time and time again. If there is a problem, then local research is surely the best path toward finding a solution.

Pursuing this path of innovation requires funding that will support and promote the growth and expertise of Africa's scientists. Our interdependency and shared vulnerability underscores the importance of collaboration and resource-sharing both globally and regionally that must be used for the benefit of humanity. There is no time for complacency. We must ensure that solutions are tailored by local research to best benefit those in need.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 301 00--



- 3 letters TOP, YEN, EAC, SAR, TEA, OWN, KEG, NEG, SLY
- 4 letters UTAH, AGAL, NETO, ULNA, KADU, USSE, VOTE CLAN, ASST,
- 5 letters INDIA, DAKAR, POLLS, SPOTS, KENYA, BONGO
- 6 letters RUSSIA, GRUMPY, MOBUTU,
- 7 letters BURUNDI, LESOTHO, LUMUMBA,
- 10 letters GEORGE WEAH 12-: BILL OF RIGHTS
- 11 letters OLIVER NGOMA, NETHERLANDS



- CLUES: Across**
- at the same time
 - famous country in the World
 - Lake Victoria in Kenya
 - Rocky city in Africa
 - a person's buttocks
 - rare Igneous rock found in Siberia and South Africa
 - extensive limestone caves in East Africa
 - perpetual
 - red hat worn by Muslim men
 - a goatskin drum in India
 - national football league in Spain
 - bring up a child
 - downwards
 - Paris is her mother city
 - Boss 31.the iris
 - dishonest man
 - Garden where Adam lived
- Down:**
- Capital of Liberia
 - Largest state in USA
 - First Man
 - Oceanic
 - fourth-longest river in Africa
 - sheep with long and fine wool
 - African country with lake Retba
 - force to do something
 - to make larger
 - has a land border with Russia
 - Syrian cloth of goat's hair
 - Foreigner among Thais
 - a Gaelic-speaking person
 - at or to a distance
 - augury
 - to observe
 - to flee

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

By Magezi: felxmagazi@gmail.com

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Islamic finance will sustain double-digit growth, says S & P

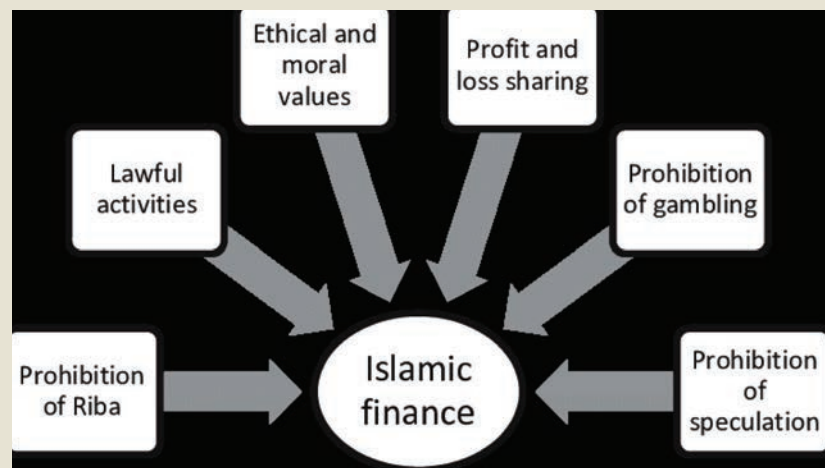
DUBAI

S & P Global Ratings has projected that the global Islamic finance industry will see double-digit expansion again between this and next year after 10.2 per cent growth in total assets in last year.

In an executive summary by Senior Director, Financial Institutions Ratings, S & P Global Ratings, Dr. Mohamed Damak, S & P Global Ratings stated that Islamic finance growth last year was supported by Islamic banking assets in some Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Malaysia, sukuk issuances exceeding maturities, and the solid performance of the Islamic funds industry.

"This year, we think higher commodities prices will underpin a stronger recovery in many core Islamic finance markets," S & P Global Ratings stated.

The report however noted that the Islamic finance industry is still held back by structural weaknesses, namely the complexity inherent to transactions and the correlation of



performance with oil prices given concentration in commodities-exporting countries.

The report pointed out that sustainability and digitalisation could unlock growth opportunities provided some prerequisites are fulfilled.

S & P Global Ratings had in a previous review stated that the latest auditing standard set out by AAOIFI would help to strengthen governance and growth of the Islamic finance market.

In a review of the new standard, S

& P Global ratings stated that external auditing of Sharia compliance will likely strengthen governance in Islamic finance.

According to the global rating agency, the new standard sets out criteria for external auditing of a financial institution's Sharia compliance and provides some guidance on the key considerations, when performing this exercise.

Damak had noted that while there were no unified Sharia rules that all

Islamic financial institutions must follow, the new standard by AAOIFI addresses this gap by creating a hierarchy of the existing standards and regulations.

"In our view, enforcing the new auditing standard should enhance Sharia governance and market discipline in Islamic financial institutions," Damak stated.

He pointed out that while AAOIFI does not specify if the standard would apply to market instruments issued by entities that are not subject to internal Sharia audit, such as corporate or sovereign sukuk issuers, extending the practice of external audits to these instruments could also help strengthen their credibility.

Global Islamic finance assets had been projected to rise to \$3.69 trillion by 2024 as latest data showed a major surge in Islamic finance activities.

The 2020 Islamic Finance Development Report had projected that global Islamic finance assets might rise to \$3.69 trillion by 2024 after posting its recent highest growth of 14 per cent to close 2019 \$2.88 trillion.

The 2020 Islamic Finance Development Report was a collaborative effort of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and Refinitiv, one of the world's largest providers of financial markets data and infrastructure. ICD is the private sector development arm of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

The report noted that Islamic finance assets increased 14 per cent to \$2.88 trillion in 2019, the highest recorded growth for the industry since the global financial crisis.

According to the report, global Islamic finance assets increased by 14 per cent yearly totalling \$2.88 trillion in 2019. Islamic Finance assets of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reached \$1.2 trillion in 2019, followed by Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at \$755 billion, excluding the GCC, and Southeast Asia at \$685 billion.

The Islamic banking sector contributes the bulk of the global Islamic finance assets. The sector grew 14 per cent in 2019, equating to \$1.99 trillion in global assets. This compares with just one per cent growth in 2018 and an average annual growth of five per

cent over the period from 2015 to 2018.

The report indicated that the top five developed countries in Islamic finance were Malaysia, Indonesia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. Indonesia recorded one of the most notable improvements in the Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI), moving into second place for the first time due to its high knowledge and awareness ranking.

The report covered 135 countries and was based on five key metrics comprising of quantitative development, knowledge, governance, awareness, and corporate and social responsibility (CSR).

According to the report, green and socially responsible investments (SRI) increased in the UAE and Southeast Asia in 2020.

The pandemic was a game changer as several Islamic banks reported losses and reduced profits throughout the year. The pandemic has also led to growth in some areas of the industry as some regulators turned to Islamic finance to mitigate the economic impact.

Interest-based banking should be replaced by Shariah-compliant system, says Mufti Taqi

KARACHI

RENOWNED Muslim Scholar Mufti Taqi Usmani (pictured) has urged the Islamic banking professionals and other stakeholders of financial institutions to replace interest-based banking with a Shariah-compliant system.

He was addressing a two-day forum organized by the Institute of Business Administration last week, which was attended by a number of experts from other countries besides delegates from Islamic Banks and financial institutions.

The scholar urged professionals in the Islamic banking industry to come up with workable recommendations to achieve the total elimination of Riba, and make Pakistan an example for the rest of the world to follow.

"It is high time to ponder over the matter and develop a roadmap to achieve this goal, as ordered by the Federal Shariat Court (FSC). It is imperative for all of us, and persons involved in Islamic finance, that we make the roadmap to ensure an interest-free financial system," said Usmani.

The abolition of Riba from the financial system is not just the need of an Islamic system, rather it is the need of humanity and the world at large. Because of this interest-based financial system,

the economies of the world very frequently have had shocks, and due to these shocks, the whole economy gets shattered, as it happened in the crisis of 2008, the scholar said.

Riba, or interest, has been prohibited in all divine books like the Bible and finally the Holy Quran. Jews, Christians, and Muslims all agree that usury was prohibited by Allah. But, unfortunately, this has been the vilest practice in commercial transactions, he added.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Deputy Governor Sima Kamil highlighted six strategic pillars of the Islamic Banking Industry under the Third Strategic Plan 2021-25.

She said the plan included strengthening the local landscape, enhancing the conducive-ness of the regulatory framework, reinforcing the comprehensive Shariah governance framework, improving the liquidity management framework, expanding outreach and market development, and bolstering human capital.

The deputy governor said the banking regulator has taken some key steps for the promotion of Islamic banking in the country, including the establishment of three centers of excellence, regular issuance of five-year strategic plans to guide the industry, and Shariah-

compliant standing ceiling facility and open market operations.

In her detailed presentation, she informed the participants about issues and challenges faced by the Islamic Banking Industry. She said that perception and capacity-building issues, lack of regular supply of sovereign Sukuk, lower penetration in strategic sectors like SMEs and agriculture, lack of research and development of innovative products and services, and adoption of technology and digital transformations are some challenges that need to be addressed.

Seema Kamil said that we had a goal of ending poverty through Islamic Banking and it was an achievable goal.

The forum was also addressed by the Former Chairman of the Reut e Hilal Committee and renowned scholar Mufti Munir Rehman, Former governor of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and Chairman of IBA CEIF Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Director of IBA's Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance Ahmed Ali Siddiqi, IBA Executive Director Syed Akber Zaidi, President and CEO of Meezan Bank Irfan Siddiqui, Amir Khan - Chairman Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Rizwan Hussain - MD Salam Takaful, Yousuf Hussain - CEO Faysal Bank and others.



NMB Plc donates various items in Ubungo District

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

NMB Bank yesterday donated an assortment of medical equipment and scholastic materials worth 27m/- as part of its commitment to support sustainable development in Ubungo.

The donated items included five maternity beds and mattresses, 10 pressure gauges, ward separating curtains that were handed over to Ubungo District Hospital.

The bank also donated 35 teachers' tables and chairs to Kwembe Primary School and 110 students' tables and chairs for Urafiki Primary School both located in Ubungo District as part of its efforts to create a conducive learning environment.

Speaking during the handover event held at the Ubungo District Hospital, the NMBDar es Salaam Zonal Manager, Donatus Richard said the donated items re-affirms the bank's commitment to support sustainable development in areas where the bank operates.

He said the bank's efforts complement Government's development efforts adding that the bank will continue working hand in hand with various development partners across the country to enhance sustainable development.

"Education and Health are key priorities when it comes to Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy. As partners, we are glad to continue supporting various Government development initiatives across the country and we believe the medical equipment donated today will help to improve Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services in Ubungo District," Richard said.

Stanbic to pay dividends after BoU lifts suspension

KAMPALA

STANBIC Bank has said it has been authorised by Bank of Uganda to pay Shs100b declared as dividends.

In a post annual general meeting notice shared yesterday, Stanbic said the AGM had authorised the board to take necessary steps to effect payment of Shs100b in final and interim dividends 2021 and 2022.

The payment, the bank said, would be split into two portions with at least Shs50b going to payment of final dividends for 2021 while Shs50b would pay interim dividends for 2022.



The shareholders were informed that the bank [subsidiary] received approval from Bank of Uganda on June 1 to pay dividends to a total of Shs100b ... On the basis

of the said regulatory approval and authorisation by the board, the company will undertake all necessary steps required to declare and effect all payment of

dividend in line with the USE listing rules 2021," the notice said.

However, the notice was silent on the Shs10b that Stanbic had declared as dividend payment

for the period ended December 2020. In notes published together with its 2021 financial results, Stanbic had indicated it was still consulting the Central Bank to guide on how it would proceed on the already declared dividends but not paid and that of December 2021.

This had come after Mr Hanington Wasswa, the Bank of Uganda director commercial banking, had in March said that the Central Bank was still instituting requirements that had asked commercial banks to continue suspending discretionary payments to retain capital for different risks that had continued to be

experienced.

Some of the risks, he said, included liquidity, market, and operational, consistency risks, which had threatened capital stocks at a time when the economy was still facing headwinds.

However, the Central Bank last week announced the suspension on dividend payments had been lifted after liquidity measure under which it had been instituted expired on May 31.

Bank of Uganda had in June 2020 directed all supervised financial institutions to suspend all discretionary payments due to the need to keep capital for the real economy.

Citigroup to hire 3,000 in Asia institutional banking business

WASHINGTON

CITIGROUP Inc (C.N) intends to hire 3,000 new employees for its Asia institutional banking business in the coming years, focusing on a fast-growing region where it has departed consumer banking in most regions, according to Citi's top executive.

The previously unreported staff expansion plans underline Citi's ambition to make institutional banking and wealth management engines of growth, seeking to bolster revenue in a region that has become a battleground for global banks looking to tap its vast economies and growing wealth.

Citi's institutional business includes investment banking, and corporate and commercial banking units that provide trade finance, cash management, payments, and custody services, among others. "We're talking about real meat on the bones on growing our business across Asia," Asia-Pacific CEO Peter Babej told Reuters in an interview.

Babej took on the role in 2019 and previously worked as global head of the bank's financial institutions group. Citi has around \$200 billion in wealth assets in Asia, and the bank



was "on track" to grow client assets by \$150 billion by 2025, a spokesman said, despite global economic and markets uncertainties.

The bank's expansion of Asian institutional business comes on top of plans announced last year to hire about 2,300 people by 2025 for its wealth management unit.

Citi said last year that \$7 billion in capital released from divestment of consumer banking businesses in 13 markets, 10 of which were in Asia, would be either returned to shareholders or invested in lucrative institutional banking and wealth management units.

The bank's main regional institutional business are in Hong Kong and Singapore, and Babej said that these two hubs would be a key focus of the 3,000 additional headcount for the unit. It does not disclose the existing headcount for the business. "That gives you a

sense that the magnitude of the set of investment we're talking about both from a people perspective, and from a capital perspective, it is very significant," Babej said.

Last year, Citi created a single wealth management business, to deliver services to clients from the affluent segment as well as ultra-high net worth individuals. The Asia wealth business is also centered in Singapore and Hong Kong, hubs where the bank still retains its consumer banking units.

"IMPORTANCE OF CHINA" Wealth managers at the big global banks are tempering their expectations for Asia, after China's regulatory crackdown and COVID-driven slowdown helped to push clients to the sidelines, bankers and analysts told Reuters last month.

As global growth slows down, Asia slows down as well, but the relative growth is still higher than

most other places in the world," said Babej. "And that growth, which translates into portfolio wealth, is one that we're incredibly excited about, and the global solutions that we can provide for that wealth are increasingly relevant for our Asian clients."

"Babej believes the wealth that's been accumulated, and continues to grow, in China is "very significant", despite macroeconomic headwinds, uncertainties around Beijing's so-called 'common prosperity' drive, and challenges from COVID control measures."

Even at a lower GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate, it's something that actually grows faster than it does in the rest of the world," Babej said, noting the common prosperity drive's impact on clients' international investing was hard to predict.

Even as China's economy was

expected to slow sharply this year due to pandemic-induced challenges, among other things, the Citi Asia head said volatility and uncertainty related to China's economic and geopolitical challenges would continue in the short term but would not change the bank's strategy."

"We're in China for the long term," he said. "There are question marks in light of the geopolitical situation and macroeconomic situation but longer-term we are big believers in the importance of China."

"Citi has been expanding in China - in 2020 the bank received Beijing's approval to conduct custodian business and it applied for brokerage licence in December last year, which would allow it to offer investment banking services to clients locally."

Babej, however, admitted that not being able to travel to China due to mandatory weeks-long quarantine for inbound travellers as part of the country's zero-COVID approach, was a challenge for both clients and bankers of Citi. "Our clients are much more willing to work over Zoom but at the end of the day, especially from a private bank view, not being able to travel is a challenge."

Could branch banks be fast becoming thing of the past?

By Bruce Frassinelli

As some Slatington bank customers are absorbing the news of loss of two major branch banks in their community by year's end, others have already gone through these withdrawal pains, and, according to banking experts, more is yet to come.

In as little as five years, banks will no longer use branches as part of their customer service channels, according to two-thirds of bankers polled for a recent survey.

The double whammy in Slatington affects customers of Wells Fargo, whose branch at 541 Main St. is scheduled to close on Aug. 3, and KeyBank's branch at 502 Main St., which is scheduled to be consolidated with its Whitehall branch at 271 MacArthur Road on Dec. 2. These are just two of a multitude of closings that have impacted local customers during the past decade, and the trend is sure to continue.

Of course, representatives for the banks offer their sincere apologies for customers who will be inconvenienced by these closings. Wells Fargo's Elise Corbett's statement is typical of these expressions of regret.

"We apologize for any inconvenience, and customers can continue to bank with us at other nearby locations, including the Schnecksville branch," which is about 5 miles away, Corbett said.

The trend that had already begun prior to the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated during the last 2½ years, according to banking executives nationwide. According to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit for financial services software firm Temenos, the future of branch banking is as bleak as it gets, with 65% of bank executives surveyed believing that the concept is already on life support.

Elimination of branch banks began in earnest with the financial crisis that started in 2008 and had progressed slowly until 2020 when COVID-19 forced lobby closings and other restrictions, requiring customers to use digital banking and other online services.

But not all customers have been able to adapt to the technological advances in banking in the internet era. Older customers, especially, are being left in the dust. They must rely on family members or bank personnel to walk them through the maze of prompts and clicks necessary

to function in this new world of banking. And they don't like it.

Although the latest technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the cloud and application programming interfaces are driving this transformation, to many older customers these terms are akin to a foreign language.

For example, more than a year ago, HSBC, one of the world's major banks, announced that it was closing 82 branch banks motivated, it said, by rethinking its reliance on branches to serve customers.

Unlike the motivation in 2008, when branches were closing as cost-cutting measures, banks are investing heavily on technology to improve customer service through digital means and financial products (fintech). The ECU report indicates that many banks are partnering with fintechs to offer "attractive auxiliary products and often superior customer service."

The majority of us no longer want to take the time to visit a branch and wait in line when a few clicks on our smartphone, desktop or laptop will do the job in a fraction of the time.

But let's not write the epitaph of branch banking just yet.

There are still sufficient numbers of customers who value branch banking. On the rare occasions when I do use lobby services of my branch bank, it is comforting to see familiar faces and be able to address them on a first-name basis while they do the same with me.

During the past five years, foot traffic in banks has declined by about one-third. During the past year, nearly 4,000 branch offices have been closed nationally.

The Slatington closures are just the latest. KeyBank's Kresgeville Branch at 543 Interchange Road closed on April 1, requiring customers to travel 14 miles to the Leighton branch. BB&T Bank closed its branch office at 330 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, last July 20 and was consolidated into the BB&T Walnutport branch. PNC Bank at 1279 Blakeslee Blvd. Drive E., Leighton, closed last June 11. Among other branch closings are the former Mid Penn branch near Orwigsburg, and Santander Bank at 408 E. Broad St., Tamaqua.

In 2019, SunTrust and BB&T merged to become Truist Bank, resulting in about 800 branch closures. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Truist

is the sixth-largest commercial bank in the U.S.

Karen Crane, Key Bank's senior corporate communications manager, said that KeyBank realizes that the way clients interact with its branches is changing, "and we have seen a steady increase in client preference for digital banking," she said. "KeyBank is continually looking into how we can better serve our clients and allow them to bank how they want and when they want," she added.



BANKING & FINANCE

KanaCash and SmartCard in joint venture on intellectual rights in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

SMARTCARD, Joint Venture Partnership, KanaCash, Digital FinTech, Intellectual Property Portfolio, Digital Wallet, Digital Payments, Remittance, Mobile Money, Mobile Money Transaction, Cross Border Payments, AfricaSmartCard recently announced a joint venture partnership with KanaCash, a digital FinTech organisation in Africa.

The partnership aims at providing KanaCash SmartCard's proprietary Intellectual Property Portfolio offering to enable a marketplace linked with a digital wallet for the merchant and customers based in Africa - offering them a unique solution in digital payments.

The JV enables KanaCash to reach their goal and aims at capitalising and implementing the tech suite in the untapped market.

More than two million sub-Saharan African immigrants living in the US transfer money to families regularly. More individuals have a mobile money account than a traditional bank account in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Access to mobile money agents is more widespread than bank branches, particularly in rural areas. As a result, mobile money is quickly becoming the preferred method to receive remittances. However, it is still not widely available by the key players in the market.

KanaCash will start sending remittances from the US to 11 African markets. Remittance inflows to Sub-Saharan Africa soared 14.1% to \$49 billion in 2021.

The business opportunity for a cutting-edge platform coupled with deep knowledge of the African diaspora and local (Africa) markets positions KanaCash to quickly capture market share, compete, and scale.

In addition, mobile money transaction is becoming the preferred payment method in Africa. Yet, about 60% of the African population (around 100 million people) remain without a traditional banking account.

The unbanked population has a high penetration of smartphones posing a unique opportunity for a FinTech company like KanaCash.

KanaCash has offered a 15% stake in their company to SmartCard Marketing Systems Inc. at a valuation of \$4 million as part of this initiative in exchange for licensing.

CEO & Co-Founder McSwain Forkoh stated, "We are excited about the Joint Venture with SmartCard. With this JV, KanaCash is positioned to drive seamless customer experience and interoperability in remittance and payments across Africa."

Big South African banks set to further boost profits in 2022

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's largest banks are set for higher profits in 2022, even after significant increases in 2021, S&P Global Market Intelligence data shows.

The S&P Capital IQ mean estimates for full-year 2022 normalized EPS at Standard Bank Group Ltd. and FirstRand Ltd. were 19.02 rand and 6.07 rand, respectively, as of May 27, against 15.65 rand and 5.57 rand for full year 2021.

The normalized EPS mean estimates for Absa Group Ltd. and Nedbank Group Ltd. for

2022 were also higher than for 2021.

All the banks posted strong results for 2021 on the back of a rebound in economic activity, with net profits increasing between 95% and 224% on a yearly basis. Another large South African lender, Capitec Bank, registered a 91% profit increase for the year ended Feb. 28.

South African banks' performance was connected to the broader, more supportive, economic context, consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers wrote in a March report. Some macro-related uncertainty



exists over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, PwC said. The South African banking sector is in a recovery phase, and earnings are expected to recover to pre-pandemic levels

in 2022, S&P Global Ratings said in a May 25 report. Lower impairment charges and higher interest rates will support net interest margins, bolstering profits, it said.

Nedbank expects its 2022 return on equity to be higher than in 2021, a spokesperson told Market Intelligence. The key risk for Nedbank is a potential deterioration in the macroeconomic environment beyond its forecasts, while inflation is likely to impact growth. Export volumes will be hit, but higher export prices will somewhat mitigate the effect, the spokesperson said.

Absa expects high single-digit revenue growth for 2022, partly driven by lower COVID-19-related insurance claims, a spokesperson said. Its ROE is

expected to be similar to that of 2021. Standard Bank, FirstRand and Capitec did not respond to requests for comment.

The banks' counterparts in Kenya also reported year-over-year increases in their full-year 2021 earnings. Net profits at Equity Group Holdings PLC and KCB Group PLC rose 98% and 73.9%, respectively. NCBA Group PLC's net profit increased 122.1%. Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd.'s rose 20.4% and I&M Holdings PLC grew 0.7%.

Net profits at Nigeria's Access Holdings PLC and Fidelity

Bank PLC rose 51.2% and 33.5%, respectively, while Zenith Bank PLC and United Bank for Africa PLC posted 6.1% and 9.4% upticks in their results. Guaranty Trust Holding Co. PLC was the lone bank in the sample that posted a net profit decline.

Loan loss provisions at the largest South African banks fell on a yearly basis. Standard Bank booked \$669.2 million of loan loss provisions for full year 2021, down from \$1.25 billion a year ago. FirstRand's provisions dropped to \$560.3 million from \$1.70 billion.

President Kenyatta opens new Trade and Development Bank tower

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday opened the new permanent premises of the Trade and Development Bank.

The magnificent 20-floor tower, located in Nairobi's Kilimani area, will serve as the bank's Eastern Africa regional headquarters as well as the regional operations hub.

Speaking during the occasion, President Kenyatta said the expansion of the operational base of the Trade and Development Bank in Nairobi affirmed Kenya's capability and credentials to host an expanding family of regional and international institutions.

"Indeed, the sustained expansion of Kenya's economy boosted by strong investor confidence and a resilient banking and financial services sector, validates our claim as a destination of choice for investment in Africa," President Kenyatta said.

The Head of State also noted that the new building symbolized the exponential growth of the Trade and Development Bank since its inception some 40 years ago.

As one of the shareholders and founding members of the bank, President Kenyatta said Kenya was proud that the bank now boasts of an asset base of US\$8 billion.

He congratulated the bank for being recognised as the sustainable bank of the year and also the best development finance institution of the year in Africa during the African Development Bank annual meetings two weeks ago.



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta opens the curtain to officially inaugurate the magnificent 20-floor Trade and Development Bank tower in Nairobi PHOTO/TDB

"This coming close on the heels of other awards by international financial rating agencies confirms that this African bank is growing not just in terms of its capital base but also in terms of the quality of its services," President Kenyatta said. He thanked the Trade and Development Bank for its fi-

nanial as well as policy and programmatic support to the public and private sector enterprises, particularly in mitigating the disruptive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We, in Kenya, appreciate the bank's support to Kenya Airways for the expansion of its fleet and the support to

the Kenya Ports Authority for the port modernisation programme. This support has been crucial in enabling us to expand logistics support to the neighbouring countries, in particular, those that do not have access to the sea," he said.

As the African continent gear up to take full advantage

of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the President said the Capacity Building Academy and the Captive Insurance

Company recently established by the bank will provide businesses with the needed capacity for preferential lending, deepening of trade links in the

region and managing risks. President Kenyatta also took the opportunity, in his capacity as Chair of the East African Community, to make a special appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the newest member of the EAC.

"I urge the bank to work alongside other East African countries to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) not just in the DR Congo but throughout East Africa to enable them to establish themselves across our region," the President said.

He announced that Kenya will increase its shareholding in the bank as other countries including Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana are also set to increase their investment in the bank as part of their growing confidence in its capacity.

In his remarks, Eastern and Southern Africa Trade and Development Bank President Emeritus and Group Managing Director

Admau Tadesse applauded Kenya's role as one of the early champions that nurtured and supported the bank in its growth into an award-winning regional financial institution that it is today.

"We are very proud that over the years we have accompanied the Government of Kenya and its private sector in the development of various key economic sectors in the country through our project corporate and trade financing windows.

"This is in line with Kenya's development aspirations and plans, and certainly the Big 4 Agenda, and very much in line with Vision 2030," Mr. Tadesse said.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani also spoke at the event that was also attended by former Seychelles President Danny Faure, former Sudan Prime Minister Dr. Abdalla Hankok as well as former African Development Bank President Dr. Donald Kaberuka

Afreximbank pays \$300m to intra-African investment finance facility

LAGOS

AFRIMEX BANK (Afreximbank) has announced the disbursement of a \$300 million Intra-African Investment Financing Facility to Titan Trust Bank (TTB) to support the latter's acquisition of a majority stake in Union Bank Plc, Nigeria (UBN).

A statement from the multilateral institution explained that the deal would enhance the competitive dynamics of the Nigerian banking sector, while maintaining confidence in the country's financial services and broader financial stability.

It stated that the recently disbursed financing would complement the funds required for the proposed acquisition.

"Afreximbank's financial support enables TTB to secure the acquisition of a well-capitalised bank with an extensive network, enabling the entity to better serve vital economic activities of the public sector, companies, and small and medium-sized enterprises," it added.

A member of the Tropical General Investment (TGI) Group - a pan-African group with diversified investments across seven African countries in various industries and a large network of origination, distribution, and supply chain hubs, "TTB will leverage the acquisition of UBN to enhance its capacity to capitalize on the unparalleled opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)."

"Afreximbank will continue to support the new merged entity in trade finance to



promote intra- and extra-African trade through its broad range of programmes and initiatives, including the Afreximbank Trade Facilitation Programmes (AFTRAF) and APAY, the Bank's international payment services.

"The development impact of the acquisition is immense as TTB will leverage the merged entity to provide financing of about \$3

billion over the medium term of which over \$600 million will directly support intra-regional trade finance," it added.

Commenting on the transaction, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, Prof. Benedict Oramah emphasised the Bank's commitment to strengthening the position of indigenous financial

institutions, thereby increasing Africa's control over its own financial markets and creating greater economic resilience for the continent.

"As international capital retreats from Africa, we must redouble our efforts to build an effective and resilient financial services sector on the continent, committed to intra-African trade

and investments and the development of regional value chains.

"Afreximbank is confident that the transaction will engender confidence in the Nigerian financial system, attract additional capital investments and support the financial inclusion of small-scale enterprises, women-led enterprises and start-ups who are critical to the successful implementation of the AfCFTA," he added.

Managing Director/CEO of Titan Trust Bank, Mr. Mudassir Amray, thanked Afreximbank for the exceptional support throughout the transaction.

He further commended the Afreximbank team for its professionalism and dedication which led to the successful completion of this landmark transaction in a record time.

He added that, "Afreximbank is one of a handful of organisations that remain bullish in Africa in this period of global uncertainty. The new merged entity will continue to work with Afreximbank to support businesses to promote intra-African trade."

Credit Suisse weighs new round of job cuts after loss warning

ZURICH

CREDIT Suisse Group AG is weighing a fresh round of job cuts, part of a renewed push to slash costs after warning of a second-quarter loss, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Swiss bank is considering headcount reductions across divisions including investment banking and wealth management in different regions, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the matter is private.

The dismissals are likely to come as the bank prepares to update investors on risk, compliance, technology and wealth management on June 28, said the people. Final numbers are still to be decided, they said. A Credit Suisse spokeswoman declined to comment, pointing to the lender's statement on Wednesday.

The bank warned on Wednesday it expects a loss at the group-wide level and at its investment bank in the second quarter. Market conditions have remained challenging after the invasion of Ukraine and monetary tightening by central banks across the world, leading to weak customer flows and ongoing client deleveraging. "Given the economic and market environment, we are accelerating our cost initiatives across the Group with the aim of maximizing savings from 2023 onwards," Credit Suisse said, without providing more details.

Chief Executive Officer Thomas Gottstein's two years in charge have seen the \$5.5 billion hit from Archegos, the collapse of partner Greensill Capital and a string of profit warnings that eroded investor confidence, weakened key businesses and prompted an exodus of talent. The lender has said that 2022 will be a year of transition as it seeks to reduce risk at the investment bank while shifting resources to wealth management.

The Swiss lender employed more than 50,000 employees as of the end of 2021, according to its website. It recently overhauled top management after five profit warnings in the past six quarters, saying that its chief financial officer, legal counsel and head of Asia would all be either stepping down or leaving the company. It also named former Bank of Ireland Group Plc Francesca McDonagh as head of the Europe, Middle East and Africa region.

BANKING&FINANCE

Mastercard debuts open banking feature 'Pay By Link'

LONDON

MASTERCARD debuted its Pay by Link payments feature at Money 20/20 Europe, leaning on European open banking platform Aiiia to allow businesses to send their customers a link so they can pay instantly from anywhere, according to a recent company press release.

The new payments feature "ties directly into Mastercard's open banking vision of ushering in a new era of choice, simplicity and personalization in a safe and secure manner," the press release said.

Based on open banking payments, Mastercard's Pay by Link feature offers users dealing with accounting, insurance and telecom companies, as well as social commerce, payment service providers and utility firms.

"We're in the process of transforming the way people pay bills," said Rune Mai, co-founder and CEO of Aiiia, a Mastercard company. "With a simple link, we make

it easy and secure to pay a bill on the go with a bank account without having to enter or remember payment details.

Pay by Link is being rolled out in the Nordics and is expected to be available across Europe by the end of the year. Aiiia's new feature is live with Nordic accounting software provider Dinero, streamlining invoice payments for more than 77,000 small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

In other banking news, open banking platform Tink and FinTech app Revolut are teaming up on a strategic plan to expand open banking technology to more people across Europe, with Tink's payment initiation services (PIS) technology allowing Revolut users across Europe to move money into their Revolut accounts.

Tink's PIS technology gives users the ability to authorize transfers from any bank account without leaving the Revolut app.



WORLD

ROK, US, Japan condemn DPRK missile tests, urge talks

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea's recent missile tests were "serious, unlawful" provocations, senior officials from the Republic of Korea, the United States and Japan said on Wednesday, urging Pyongyang to return to dialogue.

The ROK Vice-Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Takeo Mori made the comments as they gathered in Seoul, days after the DPRK conducted the latest in a series of missile tests and signs of preparations for what would be its first nuclear test since 2017.

The three-way meeting of the countries' No 2 diplomats is the first such gathering since November and the first

since the ROK's President Yoon Suk-yeol took office in May.

Mori's visit also marked such trip by the Japanese vice-foreign minister since late 2017 amid strained bilateral ties over issues including Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula and war-time labor.

The trio urged Pyongyang to abide by international sanctions and immediately cease actions that "escalate tensions or destabilize the region," a joint statement read.

They also pledged to ramp up trilateral security cooperation to curb the North's threats, with Sherman reaffirming the US defense commitments, including extended deterrence.

"They stressed that a path to serious and sustained dialogue remains open and urged the DPRK to return to nego-



(From left) US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, the ROK's Vice-Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong and Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Takeo Mori attend a joint press conference after their meeting at the foreign ministry in Seoul yesterday. AFP

tiations, while also expressing their hope that the DPRK will respond positively to international offers of assistance to fight against COVID-19," the statement read.

The DPRK has carried out at least 18 rounds of weapons tests this year, underscoring its evolving nuclear and missile arsenals.

In its latest test, the DPRK fired eight short-range ballistic missiles, likely its largest single launch, a day after the ROK and the United States ended joint military drills involving an American aircraft carrier.

The allies launched eight surface-to-surface missiles on Monday in their own show of force responding to the North's test.

The ROK's President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office in May, and US President Joe Biden vowed at their recent summit to deploy more US strategic military assets as part of efforts to bolster the extended deterrence.

Yoon expressed serious concerns and vowed to sternly respond to the North's actions but said he would leave the door open for dialogue, his office said yesterday.

Temporary gun violence memorial unveiled in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON

A temporary memorial dedicated to gun violence victims across the United States was unveiled at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday.

Rows of white and orange flowers representing the number of victims of gun violence in the United States each year were placed on the lawn near the Washington Monument.

"Now is the time to come together," former U.S. Congresswoman Gabby Giffords from Arizona said. "Be responsible: Democrats, Republicans -- everyone." Giffords, a survivor of gun violence, was joined by a group of incumbent U.S. lawmakers and gun safety activists, as the nation is still reeling from an elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, which left 19 children and two teachers dead last month.

"What we are calling for is gun safety. When we called for airline safety, when we called for motor vehicle safety ... everyone came on board," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. "Why can't we have safety when it comes to guns? Why can't people's lives be more important?" Weingarten asked.

Senators from both sides of the aisle have engaged in gun legislation talks but it's unclear if their negotiations will bear fruit given the political and ideological divides on Capitol Hill. U.S. actor Matthew McConaughey made an emotional plea at the White House briefing room on Tuesday for "real change" on gun violence. **Xinhua**

Russians get key ports ready for grain exports

LONDON/MOSCOW/TOKYO

RUSSIAN Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said on Tuesday that the Ukrainian ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol on the Sea of Azov, seized by Russian forces, have been demined and are ready to resume grain shipments.

"The demining of Mariupol's port has been completed. It is functioning normally, and has received its first cargo ships," Shoigu told a Defense Ministry meeting in televised remarks.

Agricultural exports from southern Ukraine have been blocked since Russia started its "special military operation" in late February, driving grain prices higher.

Moscow says it was forced to engage in the conflict in Ukraine because of NATO's expansion. It says Western sanctions are to blame for the situation, which has threatened to trigger a global food crisis.

But the Kremlin said on Tuesday that Ukraine needed to demine the approaches to its ports in order for ships to be cleared by the Russian military before they could export grain.

Ukraine is the world's fourth-largest grains exporter. Global wheat prices hit record highs in March and the surge in food prices has triggered protests, as well as contributing to an acceleration in headline inflation rates throughout the world.

Ukraine's grain, oilseed and vegetable oil exports rose 80 percent in May month-on-month to 1.74 million metric tons, but the volumes are still significantly below the exports in May 2021, the Agriculture Ministry said on Tuesday.

The United Nations is working on plans with Kyiv and Moscow for how to restart grain exports from Ukrainian ports, with Turkey possibly set to provide naval escorts to ensure safe passage out of the Black Sea, Reuters reported.

Ukraine is receiving weapons and ammunition from the West. That assistance has become a target for Russian artillery and warplanes. Russia claimed on Tuesday that its forces took out two artillery systems given by the United States and a howitzer supplied by Norway.

Shoigu also said on Tuesday that Russian troops had been in full control of the residential areas of Severodonetsk, a key city in Ukraine's east.

Severodonetsk the largest city still in Ukrainian hands in the Lugansk region of eastern Ukraine has been the focal point of fighting in recent weeks.

Japan, NATO step up ties

In Asia, Japanese and NATO officials agreed on Tuesday to step up military cooperation and joint exercises as they said Russia's military operation of Ukraine is causing a deterioration of the security environment in Europe and Asia.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said after meeting with NATO Military Committee chief Rob Bauer that Japan hopes to strengthen its ties with European countries and welcomes NATO's expanded involvement in the "Indo-Pacific" region.

Bauer's visit to Tokyo came as Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force participates in NATO naval exercises in the Mediterranean Sea.

Japan has been increasing its military capabilities and cooperation with Europe, in addition to its alliance with the US and partnerships with other countries in the "Indo-Pacific" region and beyond. **Agencies**

Ryanair forces S. Africans to prove identity with Afrikaans test

DUBLIN/JOHANNESBURG

RYANAIR is requiring South African passengers to prove their nationality before traveling by completing a test in Afrikaans, a language used by just 12 percent of the population that has long been identified with apartheid and the white minority.

Europe's largest airline by passenger numbers, which does not operate flights to and from South Africa, said it required any UK-bound passengers from the country to fill in the "simple questionnaire" due to what it described as a high prevalence of fraudulent South African passports.

"If they are unable to complete this questionnaire, they will be refused travel and issued with a full refund," a spokesman for the Irish airline said.

South Africa's Home Affairs department, which has warned of syndicates selling fake passports, said it would issue a statement on the Ryanair test.

The UK High Commission in

South Africa said on Twitter that the Ryanair test was not a British government requirement to enter the United Kingdom. The Irish High Commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The low cost carrier said the test would apply to any South African passport holder flying to Britain from another part of Europe on the carrier. The airline did not immediately respond to a query about why it would apply to those routes, given Britain says it is not a requirement.

Zinhe Novazi, a South African attorney, faced the test when traveling by Ryanair from Ibiza, Spain, to London on May 29.

Some of the questions include naming the highest mountain in South Africa, its largest city and one national holiday.

"I was able to answer the questions," said Novazi, who learnt Afrikaans in school but is not a native speaker of the language. She was then allowed to board the plane.



A Ryanair Boeing 737-8AS taxis past another aircraft on the apron at Frankfurt Airport in Frankfurt, Germany on Jan 7, 2022. (ARNE DEBERT / DPA VIA AP)

Novazi wrote to South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation on June 1 but has not received a response.

The department did not respond to a request for comment.

The test triggered a backlash from South Africans in Johannesburg.

"It's very discriminatory to a whole host of South Africans who don't speak Afrikaans," Siphwe Gwala told Reuters.

"They're using this (test) in a manner that is utterly absurd," Conrad Steenkamp, the chief executive officer of the Afrikaans Language Council, said.

Afrikaans is the third most spoken of 11 official languages in South Africa, used by 12 percent of the 58 million people in the country. It has long been identified with the ideology of apartheid and was considered the official language until the end of apartheid in 1994. **Agencies**

Turkey says Ukraine grain-export plan reasonable

ANKARA

TURKEY'S foreign minister said yesterday a United Nations plan to restart Ukrainian grain exports along a sea corridor was "reasonable" and requires more talks with Moscow and Kyiv to ensure ships would be safe.

Speaking alongside Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Turkey's Mevlut Cavusoglu said their meeting in Ankara was fruitful, including a perceived will to return to negotiations between the two sides for a possible ceasefire.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict that started in February halted Kyiv's Black Sea grain exports, threatening a global food crisis. The UN appealed to the two sides, as well as maritime neighbor and NATO member Turkey, to agree a corridor.

Any deal could involve a Turkish naval escort for tankers leaving Odesa and other Ukrainian ports - which are cur-



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (left) speaks with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu (right) as they meet in Ankara, yesterday. AFP

rently blockaded by Russia's navy - and onward to Turkey's straits and global markets.

"Various ideas have been put out for the export of Ukrainian grains to the market and most recently is the UN plan

(including) a mechanism that can be created between the UN, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey," Cavusoglu said.

"We see it as reasonable," he added. "Of course both Ukraine and Russia must accept it."

Lavrov said Ukraine needs to let merchant vessels leave its ports safely in order to reach an agreement on the commodities corridor.

Turkey, which has good relations with both Kyiv and Moscow, had previously said it is ready to take on a role within an "observation mechanism" if a deal is reached.

The Russian and Turkish defense ministers discussed the potential grain exports corridor on Tuesday, and a senior Turkish official had said Ankara expected progress at the Lavrov meeting. After the crisis began, Turkey had been working to mediate a ceasefire but talks have faded. **Agencies**

IN a pocket park in Shinan district, Qingdao, east China's Shandong province, the grounds are painted to resemble piano keys, and over 30 types of flowers and shrubs are flourishing. Piano melodies are always resounding through the park.

"I never thought that the pocket park would be so snazzy, and now it has become a 'back garden' for the residents," said a woman surnamed Zhang that lives in the neighborhood, who's delighted every time when seeing the colorful paintings and flowers in the park.

In Baoding, north China's Hebei province, there's a displaced plant-turned pocket park called Yinxing Park. According to local official Zhang Qingfei, the park was built the last year and the transformation only took two months.

China sees prospering development of pocket parks

There are currently 41 types of plants in the park, so that it always looks green throughout the year.

Pocket parks are often constructed in fragmented urban spaces for sports, leisure, and entertainment uses. In recent years, their prevalence in Chinese cities has increased. Built on brownfields, on irregular pieces of land, and around residential buildings, they offer extra green spaces for urban dwellers.

As one of the most accessible types of park, pocket parks present beautiful natural scenery for residents. Besides, they also come with smart equipment and related supporting facilities that help meet residents' demand for leisure, entertain-

ment, sports and social interaction.

Every morning, Hao Xinhua, a senior citizen living in Hedong district, north China's Tianjin municipality, does physical exercise in a nearby pocket park. She told People's Daily that what attracts her there is not only its proximity to her home, but also the 11 pieces of fitness equipment that were newly introduced to the park last year.

According to Wang Ruigang, an official with Hedong district's sports bureau, the 11 sets of fitness equipment include a leg massager, an upper body pulley system exerciser, etc. Every equipment comes with a screen and can be connected to the phones of the residents. After the

residents input their personal information, the smart equipment can generate individualized and professional fitness plans.

"Compared with traditional equipment, these are smarter, more tech-ish, and more interactive," said a resident named Li Wenming. According to Li, the park is also a place where his neighbors meet.

The construction of these parks is not the finish line, but the starting point of maintenance, which is very important for benefiting surrounding residents in a sustained manner.

A pocket park in Hanjiang district, Wuhan, central China's Hubei province,

has invited local residents to help with its management, hoping they could discover and solve the common problems faced by pocket parks.

Resident Lyu Jun, who currently serves as a "director" of the park, said he would go for a walk at the park every afternoon for inspection, from which he has learned many new plant species.

China is striving to make its cities more beautiful, greener and more habitable. According to a 2021 national bulletin on land greening status released by the Office of the National Greening Committee, China has built over 20,000 pocket parks and more than 80,000 kilometers of green lanes. The per capita

area of parks and green spaces for urban residents stood at 15 square meters.

An official with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development introduced that China will keep building a well-balanced park system and strive to make it possible for its residents to "see greenbelts every 300 meters and parks every 500 meters." The country will also improve the leisure, sports, and emergency shelter functions of urban parks and green spaces, the official said.

Besides, China will enhance its management of urban gardens and strengthen oversight over relevant matters when they are being handled and after they have been handled, so as to promote the high-quality development of urban landscaping. **People's Daily**

CSTO should become balancing factor in Euro-Atlantic region, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) should be a balancing factor in the Euro-Atlantic region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview for a documentary, headlined 'CSTO Allies - 30 Years on Guard of Collective Security.'

"A heated debate is now under way regarding how to implement CSTO summit decisions on ensuring indivisible security. This is one of the fundamental issues that we are bringing up for the discussion," he said.

"We are asking those questions to our interlocutors, because, apart from the commitment to refrain from boosting anyone's security at the expense of others, everyone has undertaken the commitment to prevent any organization - in this case, NATO - from claiming an exceptional role in security-related events and processes in the Euro-Atlantic region," the Russian top diplomat continued.

"We will press for those answers. One cannot simply promise something, sign something and do whatever he wants, it does not work this way. That is why CSTO should become a factor that ensures balance in the Euro-Atlantic region," the minister said.

The development of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is not to the liking of NATO countries, Lavrov said.

"CSTO will develop depending on needs that do arise in practical life. Not everyone likes the organization's development, including our NATO colleagues," he said.

The minister went on to say that starting from mid-2000s, CSTO has been inviting NATO to create mechanisms for consultations, information exchange and cooperation in various spheres of the Euro-Atlantic security, primarily within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). "NATO members, who continue to treat other states and organizations with arrogance, ignored those requests. A heated debate is now under way regarding ways to implement CSTO summit decisions on ensuring indivisible security."

This is one of the fundamental issues that we are bringing up for the discussion," the Russian top diplomat continued.

"The formula of indivisible security, signed by presidents and heads of governments of all NATO countries, envisages, among other things, that every nation, group of nations or organization abstains from attempts to claim the dominant role in the Euro-Atlantic region."

Lavrov stressed that all NATO actions are exactly what its members once undertook to avoid.

"We are asking those questions to our interlocutors, because, apart from the commitment to refrain from boosting anyone's security at the expense of others, everyone has undertaken the commitment to prevent any organization - in this case, NATO - from claiming an exceptional role in security-related events and processes in the Euro-Atlantic region," the Russian top diplomat continued.

"We will press for those answers. One cannot simply promise something, sign something and do whatever he wants, it does not work this way. That is why the CSTO should become a factor that ensures balance in the Euro-Atlantic region," the minister said. **Agencies**

Rwanda unveils conservation campus to promote biodiversity of endangered mountain gorillas

KIGALI

RWANDA on Tuesday inaugurated the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund on the outskirts of Volcanoes National Park in Kinigi sector, Musanze district in the northern province.

The construction of the multimillion-dollar facility that sits on a 12-acre (about 4.9 hectares) land was funded by the celebrated American television host Ellen DeGeneres and her spouse Portia de Rossi.

"Today is such an important milestone in conservation of our mountain gorillas, which remains at the heart of our priorities," said Rwandan Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente at the inauguration event in Kinigi, Musanze district.

"Conservation requires partnerships, we are pleased to embark on the expansion project of the Volcanoes National Park and this will benefit the entire ecotourism industry. Let the world come here and be inspired."

Speaking at the event, Clare Akamanzi, chief executive officer of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), said that the campus is a perfect example of sharing knowledge and support for ecotourism policy. "We commit to see this campus prosper. You took Rwanda to the world and now this campus is bringing the world to Rwanda," she told DeGeneres.

According to Akamanzi, the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund is expected to boost mountain gorilla conservation efforts and promote Rwanda's tourism sector.

"I have looked up to Dian Fossey since I was 12 years old, and this past week in Rwanda, I was able to tour the Ellen DeGeneres Campus. It has been so emotional and so incredible to see the impact it has already had," said DeGeneres at the event.

"I can't say enough about Rwanda, there is so much to do and I will keep talking about Rwanda. I've always dreamt of being here. Dian Fossey taught us that we should look at different things differently rather than fighting them."

"She's been my hero." DeGeneres said that the campus was named the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to recognize the legacy of the late Dian Fossey in service of mountain gorillas. "We want to produce the next generation of conservationists here in Rwanda."

This campus also contributes to Rwanda ecosystem development," said Tara Stoinski, president of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. She said that the campus will focus on creating a space to engage the many stakeholders in conservation -- students, scientists, tourists, conservation partners, and community members -- to advance a collective goal of saving gorillas and, more broadly, the planet. **Xinhua**

WTO chief: COVID-19 vaccine rights waiver within reach

KAMPALA / GABORONE / LOS ANGELES / GENEVA

AN international agreement on waiving intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines is within reach ahead of a global trade meeting next week, the head of the World Trade Organization said yesterday.

In a telephone interview, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also said an agreement could be reached on fishing subsidies in time for the meeting, when 120 trade ministers from around the world gather at the body's Geneva headquarters.

"If we get one or two deliverables that will be good," Okonjo-Iweala told Reuters in a telephone interview. "I think we are within shouting distance of that."

Days before the meeting starts, none of the agreements in the three major negotiating areas of agriculture, fish subsidies or intellectual property rights for vaccines have been finalized for ministers to rubber-stamp, trade sources say.

Instead, Okonjo-Iweala described a "hectic" atmosphere in Geneva where negotiators had been working late nights and weekends in order to try to resolve outstanding differences.

Since she was appointed more than a year ago, Okonjo-Iweala, a former Nigerian minister and chair of the GAVI vaccine alliance board, has prioritized a long-sought deal on a waiver for intellectual property rights for COVID-19 shots.

Botswana

Botswana is likely to enter its fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, health authorities warned Monday, as the numbers of the cases have been on the rise.

Pamela Smith-Lawrence, health services director in Botswana's Ministry of Health, re-



Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala attends a session at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on May 25, 2022. AFP

vealed this when appearing before the southern African country's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana.

"The country was seemingly entering a fifth wave," Smith-Lawrence stated to the PAC, the body made up of Botswana's legislators, as a measure to ensure public financial accountability.

Grace Muzila, the permanent secretary in Botswana's Ministry of Health, also told the PAC that health authorities were seriously concerned about the numbers of cases and admissions in recent weeks.

According to the Ministry of Health, 635 new cases were reported during May 22 to May 25 with 2 deaths. As of May 31, Botswana has reported 30,126 cases.

Chile

Chile will face another peak of COVID-19 infections in the next two weeks, a local epidemics monitoring group predicted on Tuesday.

Chile has been experiencing a fifth wave of COVID-19 cases for several weeks and "we could be approaching the peak in two or three weeks," Felipe Elorrieta, head of the Mathematical Epidemiological Group for the Surveillance of Epidemics and Pandemics at the University of Santiago, Chile, said in a press release.

The team of specialists analyzed data from the Chilean Ministry of Health, which indi-

China launches Shenzhou-14 crewed mission to complete space station construction

CHINA launched the Shenzhou-14 crewed spaceship at 10:44 a.m. on June 5, 2022, Beijing Time, sending three astronauts to its space station Tiangong.

After entering its designated orbit, the spaceship conducted a fast rendezvous and docking with the space station combination. At 8:50 p.m., astronauts Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe entered the Tianhe core module of the space station and began their six-month stay in orbit.

This is the 23rd spaceflight mission since the approval and launch of China's manned space program and the third crewed mission for China's space station project.

During the Shenzhou-14 crewed mission, the three astronauts are expected to complete the construction of the country's space station, which mainly consists of the Tianhe core module and two lab modules named Mengtian and Wentian, and finally establish the country's national space laboratory.

In the following six months during their stay in the space station, the Shenzhou-14 crew will witness the Wentian and Mengtian lab modules, Tianzhou-5 cargo craft, and Shenzhou-15 manned spaceship dock with the Tianhe core module.

During their stay in orbit, the crew members will carry out in-orbit verification of small and big mechanical arms, verification of the role of an airlock cabin in the Wentian lab module in supporting extravehicular activities, installation of extravehicular payloads and other space station-construction related work.

Meanwhile, the crew will continue public benefit activities including the "Tiangong Class" live science lecture, and conduct in-orbit health monitoring and examination, protective exercises, in-orbit training and drills, as well as a lot of other activities such as station platform inspections and tests, equipment maintenance and verification, and station and material management.

Following the launch of the Shenzhou-14 crewed mission, China will launch the Wentian and Mengtian lab modules to create a larger platform for scientific experiments and tests in space.

As China's national space laboratory, the Tiangong space station will be able to accommodate 25 experiment cabinets



Chinese astronauts Chen Dong (C), Liu Yang (R) and Cai Xuzhe of the Shenzhou-14 spaceflight mission. File photo

for scientific exploration, according to Lin Xiqiang, spokesperson for China's manned space program and deputy director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

Each of the 25 experiment cabinets will be able to function as a small-sized lab where space science experiments for a single subject or interdisciplinary research can be carried out, with their overall capacity reaching an advanced international level, Lin said.

The Wentian lab module will mainly be used for space life sciences research. It will be equipped with experiment cabinets for experiments on life and ecology, biotechnology, and varying-gravity science research, as well as experiments and research in closed ecosystem. It will also support research into the response mechanisms of various kinds of plants, animals, microorganisms, etc. during growth, development, heredity, and senescence in space.

The Mengtian lab module is designed to serve microgravity research. Equipped with experiment cabinets for the study of physics of fluids, material science, combustion science, fundamental physics, space technology experiments and other disciplines, the lab module will be able to support research into the essential laws of relevant matter and frontier research including those in ultracold atomic physics.

China will establish the world's first cold atomic clocks in space consisting of a hydrogen clock, a rubidium clock and an optical clock in its space station on the basis of the cold atomic clock that once worked on board China's "retired" Tiangong-2 space lab.

The cold atomic clocks will form the most precise time and frequency system in space, which will serve frontier scientific research including gravitational redshift research and measurement of fine structure constants.

The country will also launch the Xuntian space telescope into the orbit of the space station to carry out wide-area survey observations.

Upon the completion of the space station, China's manned space program will enter a stage of application and development that will span more than 10 years.

According to China's initial plan for the new stage, the country will launch two manned spaceships and two cargo spacecraft every year, and astronauts will stay in orbit for a long term to carry out space scientific and technological experiments and maintain the space station.

The country also plans to develop reusable new-generation manned carrier rockets and spacecraft that can carry seven astronauts.

People's Daily

Senior diplomat says relations with Japan at important juncture

MOSCOW

CHINA-JAPAN relations involve a number of old and new problems, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Tuesday, adding that the difficulties and challenges faced by bilateral ties should not be ignored.

Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made the remark in a phone conversation with Takeo Akiba, secretary-general of Japan's National Security Secretariat.

Noting that China-Japan relations have reached an important point in history, with this year marking the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Yang said China and Japan must stay on the right track, adhere to win-win cooperation, take a long-term perspective and enhance mutual trust on security.

Stable ties

He called on Tokyo to work with Beijing to ensure stable, healthy and resilient China-Japan relations over the next 50 years and jointly safeguard regional peace and prosperity.

According to a statement on the Foreign Ministry's website, Akiba told Wang that Japan stands ready to deepen cooperation with China, and appropriately handle differences and strengthen communications on sensitive bilateral issues and international hot spot issues in order to jointly build a constructive and stable Japan-China relationship.

Yang also elaborated on China's principled positions on the Taiwan question and issues related to Hong Kong and the Diaoyu Islands, among others, during the meeting.

Experts said that the meeting came at a time when Japan has been closely following the United States' "Indo-Pacific" strategy and is actively engaged in containing

ated a 58-percent increase in COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days.

Novavax

Advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to recommend that the agency authorize Novavax Inc's COVID-19 vaccine for use in adults, which the drugmaker hopes can become the shot of choice among some American vaccine skeptics.

The panel of outside vaccine experts voted 21-0 with one abstention in favor of the vaccine for those 18 and older after discussing whether the shot's benefits outweigh risks, including rare occurrences of heart inflammation that may be associated with the vaccine.

If the FDA follows the recommendation and authorizes the shot, it will be the fourth COVID-19 vaccine available for use in adults in the United States. The FDA has approved previous COVID-19 shots within days of panel votes, with distribution quickly following.

The timeline for Novavax is not clear.

Novavax Chief Commercial Officer John Trizzino said the agency is still reviewing documents detailing its manufacturing processes submitted last week.

"We hopefully expect to have product in the US in our warehouse by the end of June," he said in an interview, adding that the company plans to ship millions of doses made by its partner, the Serum Institute of India, soon after authorization.

Novavax's shot, which is already available in over 40 countries, is a more traditional type of vaccine employing technology that has been used for decades to combat diseases like influenza.

Maryland-based Novavax is hoping to gain a foothold within the roughly 27 million US adults who are yet to be vaccinated, particularly those who do not want to receive a vaccine like the Pfizer / BioNTech or Moderna Inc shots based on groundbreaking messenger RNA technology.

Uganda

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday urged the public to adhere to the COVID-19 prevention measures, saying the country has started registering an increase in the number of COVID-19 infection cases.

Museveni in his State of Nation Address to the parliament said the country registers an average of two deaths per week due to COVID-19.

"We (are) now, again, getting two deaths per week from Corona. Be alert, again, please," the president said.

He said he has observed some huge public gatherings where prevention measures are not adhered to.

Museveni's warning comes days after the ministry of health warned that it is experiencing an increase in the daily number of COVID-19 cases compared to the stable trends it observed since January 2022.

Minister of Health Ruth Aceng in a tweet Sunday said the increase is similar to the rise the country faced in June 2021 when the Delta variant was prevalent.

China and stirring up confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region.

By doing so, Tokyo is also attempting to regain its status in Asia. However, such a practice is not conducive to regional peace, stability and the healthy development of China-Japan relations, and Japan will inevitably have to pay the price for this, they added.

Last month, as US President Joe Biden made his first trip to Asia, Tokyo hosted the leaders' meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, an anti-China grouping consisting of the US, Japan, India and Australia. Japan also endorsed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework launched by Biden in Tokyo.

Irresponsible remarks

During Biden's visit, Japan and the US made irresponsible remarks and groundless accusations on a series of issues related to China's domestic affairs, including on the Taiwan question.

Wang Junsheng, a researcher of East Asian studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that Japan is joining with the US to counter China as Tokyo is Washington's close ally, and also because it misjudges China's development.

"Japan is unwilling to see a rising China because it mistakenly assumes that China's development will harm its own interests," Wang said. "However, the fact is that as close neighbors, both China and Japan will benefit from their good relationship in various areas including trade and the economy, regional cooperation and tackling climate change."

Xiang Haoyu, a distinguished research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, said in an article in Global Times that hyping up or creating so-called external threats for specific political purposes will not make Japan great again or bring it absolute security.

Instead, it will only get Japan into greater security dilemmas, Xiang said.

Agencies

Morrison, Simba SC parting of ways was especially sentimental, not technical

By Correspondent John Kimbute

USUALLY, players finish their contracted time in a club, often either one or two years, and either leave or are handed another contract, and, rarely, a player is more or less dismissed from the side, towards the very end of the season.

Yet this is what has happened to Simba SC's Bernard Morrison, arguably one of the more inspiring players on the lineup, while not being the most acclaimed player in the side.

As with several other gifted players, there is sometimes a streak of irregular behaviour that administrators find galling.

At the same time there has been so much bad blood between the city archrivals that arose from the moment the Ghanaian professional arrived, definitely brought in by Young Africans SC 'Yanga' and then catapulted in mid-air to their next street rivals.

This led to a contract definition and consummation dispute lasting the better part of two years, and it is likely to serve as a reference manual on player contracting and obligations of two parties, tripartite affinities where it arises, as players are often tussled upon by rival clubs.

Few such instances had occurred earlier, Ugandan forward Emmanuel Okwi's case was fees, not status.

In other words, Morrison left Simba SC as he entered, in a hail of controversy, and apparently, the center of the dispute with the player was visible or imagined ties with his 'maiden' club at least within the country.

Going by what happened at Msimbazi Street squad in the past two seasons, sympathy with the Jangwani Street outfit is next to treason, and one can



Bernard Morrison

be sent packing the moment such a situation is sniffed by the club leadership or administration.

The trouble is that such a situation can also be planted by the other side, or if the player starts believing he is not on top of the pecking order as earlier, he indulges in loyalty fancies.

For one thing, what players think of themselves is not necessarily attuned with the picture visible to the wider public, in the manner in which Liverpool striker Mohammed Salah issued frenzied statements that he was the best forward in the world, which is manifestly inaccurate.

He mostly plays as a winger, and in that area, he cannot claim to be

better than Kylian Mbappe, and with the inside position, or the center, there are equally imposing claimants to the title, with a respected international observatory lately ranking Paris Saint-Germain striker Mbappe on top, valued at £176m, followed by Real Madrid sensation Vinicius Jnr (£159m) and Erling Haaland (£130m). And it does not mean that Salah is the next top striker.

Ordinarily what we think about ourselves is something that ought to be kept by the inside, and what we speak is our claims on third issues, and at times it concerns the next person.

One has no reason to bother profiling either himself or herself, as the summary profile he or she gives

on another is mostly adequate as a reflection of his personality, a picture that everyone forms in the mind, and it does not have to be checked with anyone else for accuracy.

If this is tried, it is another wicked cycle of profiling.

With the sort of antics he has demonstrated over the past two seasons, Morrison has what it takes to bring up tangible, even acute passions in one direction or another, as on the pitch has moments of brilliance that reminds one of the best moments of Clatous Chama, not many others despite their excellent moments.

But dropping the player is part of a wider reflection on building a winning team at the continental level, and like Chris Muga, John Bocco, or others, no one can be said to be perfectly safe.

That way, a minor disturbance but touching on a raw nerve can easily tilt the balance to other priorities.

There is a dismissive formulation after a disappointing epic, for example with Queen Elizabeth II, for whom passions were generated around the world of late in the wake of captivating pageantry before the Buckingham Palace where the frail monarch briefly appeared.

She once said in New Year vows of her wish to forget the year that had just ended, saying in Latin that it was 'annus horribilis.'

The past season was not as bad as that at Msimbazi Street club, but yes, it is a year many fans there prefer to forget.

The situation is largely the opposite for the Jangwani Street squad, the year they ostensibly regained the Premier League title after close to half a decade in the wilderness.

There may be not a few skeletons in the cupboard as to how the title was brought back, but the club crossed the line, with its sponsorship ability strengthening somewhat, improving its company operating format, etc.

Yet its burden of psychological modernization is even more daunting than with Simba SC, in axing coach Pablo Franco and the same comes up with Morrison.

The two issues are different but the temperament appears to be the same.



Simba SC Board of Directors Chairman, Salim Abdallah.

Simba has to review leadership system

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOME issues are very strange, they can be compared to a dispute that is going on in Simba SC's leadership right now.

Soccer enthusiasts started to hear there was a fuss at Simba SC, and news leaked but now all issues are public. The fuss is real, again very big.

I was shocked to hear statements issued by one of the club's leaders, Kassim Dewji, earlier last week.

Dewji said many things that, in his position, an individual would not have expected that he would say in public.

Firstly, Dewji is a very influential leader at Simba SC, he had at times served as secretary-general.

He later became the secretary of the club's Registration Committee and then he became a member of the Board of Directors, let alone his brotherhood to the outfit's investor, Mohammed Dewji.

He is a man that has worked for Simba SC for many years, he knows right from wrong, and he knows exactly how to talk.

He is also not someone to talk too much about the club's matters in the media but last week he came out in public and did.

Dewji claimed that many employees at Simba SC are not qualified.

The irony is that despite this, the outfit's Board of Directors still has no authority to hold the employees accountable.

Secondly, Dewji has claimed that the club's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, behaves as if she is on top of the board in terms of decision-making.

The bottom line is that the Chief Executive Officer can decide issues without involving the board, it is very strange.

This is the new Simba SC soccer fanatics were told, a change within the outfit. I do not think so! Simba SC is still the same.

How can one blame the club that has gone through a process of change if it still employs unqualified personnel?

How can an individual say publicly that Simba SC is being modernized if the Chief Executive Officer wields more influence than the board?

Note that the Simba SC Board of Directors is made up of two parties, it has investor representatives and members' representatives, who is the Chief Executive Officer representing?

Everyone knows where the Chief Executive Officer came out, she was working in one of the investor's offices, this is probably a reason for the outfit's poor showing.

Where is the power of the members' side? It is just like the shadow part, the Board of Directors is the only place where members can have a say.

Soccer enthusiasts have though been told that the members have no power over the Chief Executive Officer, which is very thoughtful.

If an individual dig deeper into Simba SC, he/she will be told how matters are not implemented according to the protocols.

Everything depends on the compulsion of the investor, there is no good operating system, and the team depends more on the investor.

It can be likened to a saying that the day the investor is happy the employees get paid on time, the day he is not happy, the latter will have to wait for their payment for a long time."

The players' allowance system is still controversial, there is still no good plan for what players get when they win matches and where the money comes from. The team relies heavily on people's pocket money.

The investor indeed uses more of his money to run the team but that is the investment.

The investor should be aware that when handing over money it is not that he is being asked for or doing charity but that it is the business he has decided to do with the side.

It is his responsibility to hand over money, he has to do so every time.

Even though the investor has left Salim Abdallah, alias 'Try Again', to serve as Simba SC Board of Directors' Chairman, the former still makes a lot of personal decisions.

He probably does not trust Abdallah's management, if he does not have faith in the leadership why did he appoint him?

Abdallah is a very careful man in his work, he manages Simba SC well but why is it that Chief Executive Officer currently has more power at the club as we heard from Dewji? I think it is a bad system set up by an investor.

Perhaps Simba SC's transformation process is somewhere stuck, they have to go back and look at it again and have a proper start.

Dar Hip Hop musician all out to fight fraudsters

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

POPULAR Tanzanian Hip Hop artist, Witness Mwajjaga, has warned people who strive to exploit her to opt-out of the evil.

Witness, popularly known as 'Kibonge Mwepec', maintained that an individual's efforts cannot be easily exploited.

The artist said in an interview on Tuesday some people have put her songs on the music streaming market and thus benefit from the sales of the works.

"I remind them that a person's efforts cannot be exploited, they should take my songs out immediately," Witness stressed.

She mentioned some of the songs as 'Jirani', 'Sharifa', and 'Buku Jero' which she claimed had been posted on the internet websites and blogs.

"Whenever I tried to upload my songs, it seemed the tracks have already been put there, this is hooliganism, let people know that a person's efforts are hardly exploited," Witness said.

The artist noted she was not ready to see the hooliganism continue, adding that everyone should live within his/her means, not end up exploiting other people.

"Music has been infiltrated by hooligans, and I am not ready to tolerate any kind of hooliganism in my work, I will not allow this sabotage to continue," she said.

In another development, Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMUDATA) Chairperson Luiza Mbutu has said she will, in her three-year tenure, make sure she unites all musicians in the country.

Luiza moreover said she

would strive for the association to have an office, as well as see to it that every musician has the association's membership card.

The musician that is also the Director of the Twanga Pepeta troupe said the membership card is important.

The vocalist was adamant that without a musician having the card he/she would not be recognized by the Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA).

"These are some of my strategies for the time I will be in leadership, there is no unity among musicians in the country," Luiza noted.

The vocalist pointed out the association is a major link for musicians in the country and that it is unfortunate that they are not united.

"I will work with my colleagues to ensure that the goals we set for ourselves are met for the benefit of all musicians," Luiza said.

Luiza added that currently, they continue to organize various committees for achieving what they intend to do for the benefit of CHAMUDATA.

The musician said the association had lost its status and made it look irrelevant to the musicians.

She stressed she and her fellow leaders must restore the association's status.

"Music stakeholders ought to pray for us in these roles so that we can achieve the goals of uplifting dance music in the country and ensure it restores its former glory, the genre now faces many challenges," Luiza said.



Witness Mwajjaga

Kane penalty earns England draw against Germany; Italy wins

MUNICH

HARRY Kane's late penalty earned England a 1-1 draw in Germany in their Nations League game on Tuesday, when Italy and Turkey registered wins.

Kane slotted the equalizer from the spot in the 88th minute, though there was controversy over referee Carlos del Cerro Grande's decision to award it after a VAR check as Kane looked to be offside before going down in a tangle with Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck.

It had looked like Jonas Hofmann's 51st-minute goal would give Germany a measure of consolation for losing to England at the European Championship last year and condemn Gareth Southgate's team to its second consecutive loss after its 1-0 defeat to Hungary on Saturday.

But Kane, who missed several good chances, stayed cool to convert the best chance late on.

Germany coach Hansi Flick made seven changes to the team that drew in Italy 1-1 on Saturday, while Southgate made four to the side that lost in Hungary.

Both teams' players knelt on one knee before kickoff in a stand against racism. The Munich stadium was also illuminated in rainbow colors as a sign against homophobia.

Germany made the better start, forcing two corners early on. Kyle Walker made a potentially goal-saving clearance off the line for England.

England midfielder Kalvin Phillips had to go off early after a clash with Schlotterbeck. Schlotterbeck's 18-year-old Borussia Dortmund teammate Jude Bellingham came on for his 14th appearance in Phillips' place.

Hofmann had a goal ruled for offside after a lengthy VAR check, then Kane fired over an empty goal from close range after a corner at the other end.

The 18-year-old Jamal Musiala, who was playing an outstanding game, fired a good opportunity at goalkeeper Jordan Pickford toward the end of the first half. There was still time before the break for Bukayo Saka to test Manuel Neuer, then shoot another chance just wide.

Germany failed to make more of further chances after Hofmann made the breakthrough.

ITALY WINS

Lorenzo Pellegrini continued his impressive scoring form to help Italy beat Hungary 2-1 in Cesena.

Pellegrini finished off a well-worked team move on the stroke of halftime when Matteo Politano cut into the right side of the area and put in a low cross for the Roma midfielder to slot in at the far post.

It was Pellegrini's second goal in as many matches for Italy, having also scored against Germany. Pellegrini scored nine times for Roma in Serie A last season and five times in the Europa Conference League to help his team win the trophy.

AP

Pogba on Man United exit: 'I need to enjoy what I do'

PARIS

PAUL Pogba has spoken publicly for the first time since his departure from Manchester United and said he is looking forward to "enjoying" himself at his next club.

Last week, United announced that Pogba would leave the club for a second time on a free transfer after his contract expires at the end of June.

Sources have told ESPN that the midfielder is set to return to Juventus and Pogba said he wants to enjoy his football again in the future.

"I just want the best for me," he told *Uninterrupted* on Tuesday. "I'm thinking, putting everything together, taking my time, and I'm just looking for the best, I want to play football, be myself always, and enjoy what I do."

"I need to enjoy what I do because otherwise I cannot perform well. I don't want to be thinking negatively. We can be losing games, trophies but you have to be happy and enjoy yourself -- that's what I'm looking for."

Pogba won three trophies during his second stint at Old Trafford but struggled to perform on a consistent basis and endured a difficult relationship with United supporters, who booed him against Norwich City and Liverpool last season.

The France international hinted that this treatment had a negative impact on him and his performances for the club.

"Everybody wants to feel loved, everyone needs that in your soul to feel appreciated," he added. "Everything you do even when you grow up, when you do a good thing you like to hear: 'Well done, nice.'"

"It's always been like that, even adults need that. It's always good to feel the work you do is appreciated that you're doing well that people are happy with yourself."

"I think people around make a huge difference because they cheer you up or they can bring you down -- it can be both -- so you need them to bring you up."

"Sometimes you just don't feel yourself, that can happen, just someone saying: 'It's alright, it's okay,' even the people that were on the bench they give you a push and it's important, important to feel it from your teammates because you can bring it up also."

"I like to talk to the people and be a leader but even a leader sometimes needs his teammates to be encouraged, they need to bring him up."

"Being a leader it's helping your teammates to be the biggest potential, we can fight but it has to be for the good of the player, the good of the team and he brings the level up, brings the positive energy, people trust him, he trusts the people."

(Agencies)

The more Gavi stars for Spain, the more expensive it gets for Barcelona

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

IT was September 2020 when Ansu Fati, aged 17 years and 311 days, curled a sensational right-footed shot past Ukraine's Andriy Pyatov to become the youngest-ever goal scorer for Spain's national team. It was a record which had stood proudly untouched for 95 years -- since Real Union's Juan Errazquin, a few days off his 19th birthday, hit the net in a 3-0 friendly win over Switzerland in 1925.

It's normally a good indicator of any record's significance if it has stood for a long time -- just think of Bob Beamon's incredible long jump mark of 8.90 meters which has endured since 1968. So Ansu -- also Barcelona's youngest scorer (16 years and 304 days) in LaLiga and the youngest ever to hit the net in the Champions League (17 years, 40 days) -- is pretty special.

Yet Ansu's newly established record for Spain lasted for just 637 days, until his Barca teammate, Pablo Martin Paez Gavira -- whom you'll know as Gavi (aged 17 years and 304 days) -- snatched it away from him with a lovely left-footed finish in Prague to equalise against Czech Republic last Sunday.

It's the second time in a matter of months that this feisty, uber-talented kid has ripped up the national-team record books. Last November, while starring in a 2-1 victory over European champions Italy at San Siro, Gavi (at 17 years and 62 days) broke an 85-year-old landmark for footballing precocity by playing for Spain 222 days younger than the previous record-holder Angel Zubietta in April 1936.

Enough of the stats, for the moment at least, because what's much more exciting about this young lad is his talent, energy, technique and ferocious will to win. Precisely the standout abilities which, combined, have made him the star player over Spain's last 180 competitive minutes: draws with Portugal and the Czechs which put Spain in a precarious position in Nations League Group A2. In fact, Gavi played more minutes for La Roja across the two matches than anyone except goalkeeper Unai Simon.

If you didn't manage to watch Luis Enrique's injury-hit, tiring Spain side these last few days I'm going to do you a wee favour. Find La Roja's goal against Portugal, but play it from the origins of the 25th-minute move.

It starts with a loose ball about 20 metres outside the Spain penalty area and a sprint. Gavi the Kid shouldn't get there first, but he leaves Portugal's Bruno Fernandes in a despairing heap on the ground. Then he strides about 50 metres, the ball tied to his foot, before slide-ruling a pass to right winger Pablo Sarabia, who is left to provide the simplest assist for Alvaro Morata to score.

Nevertheless, he started and excelled, and post-match the Spain coach said: "It's not normal that someone performs like this at 17. Gavi has personality, enviable physique and athleticism and he plays

our style of football. When you watch him it's as if he's at school or in his garden. What a pleasure to have a guy with that quality and character with us. Gavi is the national team's present, not merely our future."



Gavi has become a sensation for both club and country in recent years. (Agencies)

My favours to you continue: Now seek out Spain's match in the Czech capital. That historic goal I was on about is a little gem. With Spain losing, under pressure generally and getting physically and athletically bullied by a clever counter-attacking side, it's Gavi the Kid to the rescue.

A dart towards the ball to fool a marker, a right-foot reception of Rodri's three-metre pass, a tilt of his still-diminutive frame and an inch-perfect left-footed finish which curves round Tomas Vaclik's full-length dive and in off the post. In both matches, Barcelona's midfield prodigy demonstrated a wide range of the things which drew Luis Enrique's attention last November. I was in the news conference the day before Spain played their rematch against Italy in a Nations League semi-final, having lost to them a couple of months previous in a Euro 2020 semifinal at Wembley.

Some journalists, especially those based in Madrid, aren't partial to Luis Enrique. They think him contrary, provocative, antagonistic (some of them actually think he's a little anti-Real Madrid.) And, so, when the match previews were published, quite a few mocked the idea that Gavi, then only a handful of matches into his Barcelona career and having barely even featured for the Camp Nou B side, merited a place on the plane to Italy.

However, in football, as in life, every silver lining has a cloud. This time

weight as Gavi. De La Pena made his debut for Barca just turned 19 -- a debut celebrated with a goal -- and was initially worshipped by a needy club and needy Camp Nou crowd.

For various reasons, not required to be detailed here, things didn't reach their natural peak for De La Pena -- known as the Little Buddha. He spent just two full, and fully fulfilling, seasons with the Blaugrana, during which he won six trophies. But then he ricocheted back and forth like a pinball between Lazio, Marseille and Barcelona before, latterly, taking revenge by starring for Catalan enemies Espanyol.

Today, the Little Buddha is wise enough to know several things.

Firstly: That however huge the fanfare for his client Gavi right now, there is no guarantee, zero, that it will automatically lead to seven or eight glorious Iniesta-style years at Barcelona.

Secondly: That there is a huge market for the kid right now. A handful of leading Champions League clubs would snap him up (for the price of his €50m release clause) tomorrow if given the slightest encouragement by player or

agent.

Thirdly: That Barcelona's current contract offer, which they'll attempt to push on Gavi and his entourage again this week, is lowball -- based on the horrific financial position into which Barcelona have allowed themselves to drift.

Fourthly: While this hasn't by any means been what's driven Gavi during these last two excellent performances for Spain, this is already a week which has sent his transfer value and contractual worth soaring up, up and up!

De La Pena will, unquestionably, be pointing Gavi to conclusions based on what's happening around him. That while there will be reinforcements coming to Camp Nou this summer, they will nevertheless fall short of the extent of excellence and experience with which the squad needs to be infused. Barcelona simply cannot afford that.

That, while this is a club which trusts and promotes youth, Pedri was played until his young frame said "no mas" and is missing from the Spain squad so that he can recuperate. That Ansu is with Spain but not playing because he's still recovering from several months out with a meniscus problem. That Nico Gonzalez, who broke through for Barcelona as a Gavi contemporary, has been increasingly sidelined and may now need to go on loan to get more game time.

Life is sweet right now, but Gavi will be warned: "It ain't always this way -- and we need to fight our corner before deciding on the future."

De La Pena will be telling the 17-year-old that they are in the power seat and won't be renewing on disadvantageous terms out of emotion, or naivety; that time is on their side as other clubs hover -- waiting to discover whether Barcelona finally accept the fact that they have to stomp up or lose a generational talent brutally early.

What a bittersweet dilemma for Xavi, Barcelona's coach. He's in charge of a talent which can fortify his quest for trophies, a player whose position and skills he's uniquely placed to guide and develop and a kid who is both precocious and prodigious. Someone who can innately produce Xavi's own idea of football.

But the more Gavi stars for the Spain national team, the bigger the price his cash-strapped bosses at Camp Nou will need to fork out to keep him. An unpleasant truth they'd better recognise and address immediately.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



The more Gavi stars for Spain, the more expensive it gets for Barcelona

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Youngsters shine in 2022 Dar Youth Cup tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS year's edition of a youth soccer competition, known as Dar Youth Cup, had its first finals being held in Dar es Salaam last weekend, with the showdown bringing together boys battling it out in the U-9 event, and girls featuring in the U-12 event.

Fina Mango, the tournament's founder and coordinator, stated the Bulls team emerged victorious in the boys' U-9 group whereas Almadrassa's team triumphed in the girls' U-12 event.

Bulls outfit cruised to victory over Oysterbay Primary School's side in the U-9 final, Almadrassa's squad garnered a win over Bulls' squad in the U-12 showdown's final.

The FK's team finished third in the U-9 showdown, and the third place in the U-12 event was won by the Gilgal team.

Fina revealed this weekend will see the tournament's second finals being held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club ground starting at 3 pm.

According to her, the finals will see girls in U-11, U-13, and U-14 groups take the pitch.

The boys' U-9 event's defending champion, Bulls, and the U-13 event's winner, Marobo FC, will again battle for the top honours.

The main sponsors of the Dar Youth Cup tournament are Mr. Sugar and Shop. direct. Others are FK International School, Well Water, Hugo Domingo, and Auky.

The tournament, organized by One Plus Sports Agency, provides high-quality youth football as well as unforgettable fun both on and off the field of play.

The tournament has been endorsed by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

Fina recently stated the Dar Youth Cup brings friends and families together to support their children to do what they enjoy the most, namely playing football.

The tournament also affords the kids an opportunity to compete on a bigger stage, in an organized event with high visibility.

The approach, therefore, allows the junior footballers to test the fruits of their efforts in training and display both their collective and individual talents.

The official revealed the competition also exposes the players to opportunities for recognition by the wider football community, thus creating new friendships and potential partnerships for all involved.

She noted the tournament was inaugurated at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club football ground in November 2019 and has already become the most anticipated youth football event in Tanzania.

According to Fina, due to the COVID U-19 pandemic that Tanzania experienced in 2020, the founder could not host the tournament in the year.

Last year, though, the showdown took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club ground on June 5 and soccer lovers turned up at the venue to witness the good football experience.

According to Fina, her 10-year-old son inspired her to organize the tournament.

"He was the first person I shared the idea of organizing a youth football tournament with, and his level of excitement told me that I must do this!" Fina disclosed.

She pointed out: "I noticed that he and his teammates who love the game of football and train and play at their school and their football club had a great hunger for more organized competitive football matches and tournaments."

She stated the aim was to fill the gap and provide a platform for junior football players with the same love and insatiable appetite for the game to play in a safe, friendly, fun yet competitive environment.

Fina said: "I also received further encouragement from TFF so I proceeded to assemble a team of hard-working, committed, and passionate persons that, with either little or no money, became ready to support work and implement the idea."

She revealed: "I was fortunate that these people were experts with vast and extensive experience in communications, events, as well as the sports management industry."

"These people had the same vision, which is to fulfill the wishes and dreams of what I came to find out was not only of my son and his teammates but also hundreds of other children in Dar es Salaam."

Portsmouth FC defender calls on footballers of Tanzania descent to return home



Tanzania's senior national football team's fullback Hajji Mnoga, who also turns out for England's Portsmouth FC.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ENGLAND-based Tanzanian right-back Hajji Mnoga has called on players of Tanzanian descent to consider returning home and serving the country's senior national team 'Taifa Stars'.

Mnoga that as well turns out for England's Portsmouth FC made the call to Tanzanians playing football abroad.

The fullback is now playing for Taifa Stars, which is eyeing qualification for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations showpiece that is scheduled to take place in the Ivory Coast.

The 'Pompey' defender was substituted 34 minutes into the

Taifa Stars' 1-1 draw with Niger in the 2023 AFCON qualifiers' Group F tie which was held in Benin last Saturday.

Mnoga, in the process, secured his latest opportunity to feature in the Tanzanian side's starting lineup.

The defender, who started for the Taifa Stars squad against

Niger, said he was proud to serve the senior national team which needs the help of experienced players to achieve the goal of becoming the best team in Africa and the world.

Alongside competing with some of Africa's best, Mnoga is also hoping to inspire the next generation of Tanzanian players this summer.

He explained how several players across the globe could represent the East African national team.

His impressive form for England's National League South outfit, Weymouth FC, during March saw him become the latest player to be called up to Poulsen's Taifa Stars squad, making three appearances in Tanzanian colours.

Mnoga had earlier featured for Taifa Stars in two international friendly matches against the Central African Republic and Sudan held in March.

The youngster revealed he has been excited by the challenges of the international stage now and in the future.

He said: "There are so many players that play in different countries, who can play for their mother countries' national teams, but are all at different levels."

Mnoga added: "It's just another challenge of international football and certainly something to look forward to and be excited about."

He said it was not easy for him to decide to return home to Tanzania but, in doing so, he knew its importance.

Today he has become part of the senior national team's players seeking the 2023 AFCON showpiece's ticket.

The footballer disclosed: "It was a difficult decision because I was born in England but, for me, I felt more proud to play for Tanzania." "It is possible to make Tanzania one of the most dangerous nations in African football."

"I hope my decision to play for Tanzania will add motivation to other players and see that they have every reason to decide to serve their country and that is patriotism," Mnoga disclosed.

Mnoga made his debut for Tanzania back in March, featuring in international friendlies against the Central African Republic and Sudan.

The 'Pompey' academy graduate had made 15 senior appearances for the club, finishing last season on loan at National League South outfit, Weymouth

Simba SC set to sign Malian midfielder

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S Simba SC is linked with a move for Malian midfielder Alassane Diarra that also turns out for Zambia's Red Arrows FC.

The signing is part of Simba SC's strategy to improve its squad for the 2022/23 Premier League and CAF Champions League.

In the 2021/22 season,

Simba SC lost the Mainland Tanzania Premier League's silverware and the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) title, as well as failed to reach the goal of making it to the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final.

Simba SC is said to be on the verge of garnering Diarra's signature, following its satisfaction with his footballing

pro prowess.

Diarra has already played against the Msimbazi Street giants in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Additional Second Preliminary Round in Dar es Salaam and Lusaka in 2021 and later this year.

The signing is said to be part of a recommendation left by coach Pablo Franco Martin that had earlier last

week parted ways with the side.

The gaffer's contract was terminated on the grounds of failing to meet the goals set by Simba SC's management.

Martin recommended the registration of a midfielder, and one foreign striker, in his report that he submitted to officials before leaving the country. It has been reported

that Diarra's name has been approved by Simba SC officials, following the process of reviewing the names of four other attacking midfielders that were proposed for registration at the club.

Other players that were discussed by a panel of Simba SC leaders are Victorien Adebayor who is linked with a move to the 2021/22 CAF Confederation

Cup champion, RS Berkane of Morocco, Morlaye Sylla, and Stephane Aziz Ki, who is also linked with Yanga.

Diarra, who was born on January 8, 1997, has impressed Simba SC with his ability to hold on to the ball in the middle of the park, launch attacks, and execute pre-assists.

The midfielder can as well score goals and harass opposing teams' defenders through his set skills of plays.

Simba SC is planning to sign one attacking midfielder due to dissatisfaction with Zambian Clatous Chama's showing.

Zambian midfielder Rally Bwalya whose contract with Simba SC is expiring this month is also on the verge of joining South Africa's Premier Soccer League outfit, Amazulu.

The midfielder's stint at Simba SC could come to an end if he does not meet the standard that the outfit's other stars in the position have.

In another development, Simba SC will have the opportunity to add foreign players after leaving Ghanaian winger, Benard Morrison, as a free agent.

The club's other footballers, Pascal Wawa, Meddie Kagere, and Taddeo Lwanga, are also set to be released at the end of the season.



KCB Bank Tanzania's Head of Marketing & Corporate Affairs, Christina Manyenye (3rd L), participates in a charity walk with the institution's staff in Dar es Salaam early this week. The event, sponsored by the bank, was held to celebrate the National Cancer Survivors' day held at the Ocean Road Institute of Cancer. Christina stated KCB Bank joins hands with Shujaa Cancer Foundation and other stakeholders in creating awareness and supporting various efforts of fighting cancer for a healthier nation. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

