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'Send debt servicing plans to MPs sooner'

By Francis Kajubi

THE government needs to come up with well-defined strategies for servicing the national debt to be part of the 2023/24 budget estimates and present the strategies for discussion in the National Assembly in the pre-budget sitting next month, an opposition party has urged.

Emmanuel Mvula, the economy and finance spokesman for the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT Wazalendo) said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the party is worried by the tremendous growth of the public debt, recording an increase of 10trn/- in the past year.

The gradual increase in the domestic and external debt has touched off inflation, high interest rates and levies to service the debt thus affecting economic activities of various sectors of the population, he said.

"ACT wants the government to come up with clear strategies on how it will be servicing the debt without affecting the lives of the common people," he said, pointing out that the government owes large amounts of money to pension funds, insurers, banks and other private companies.

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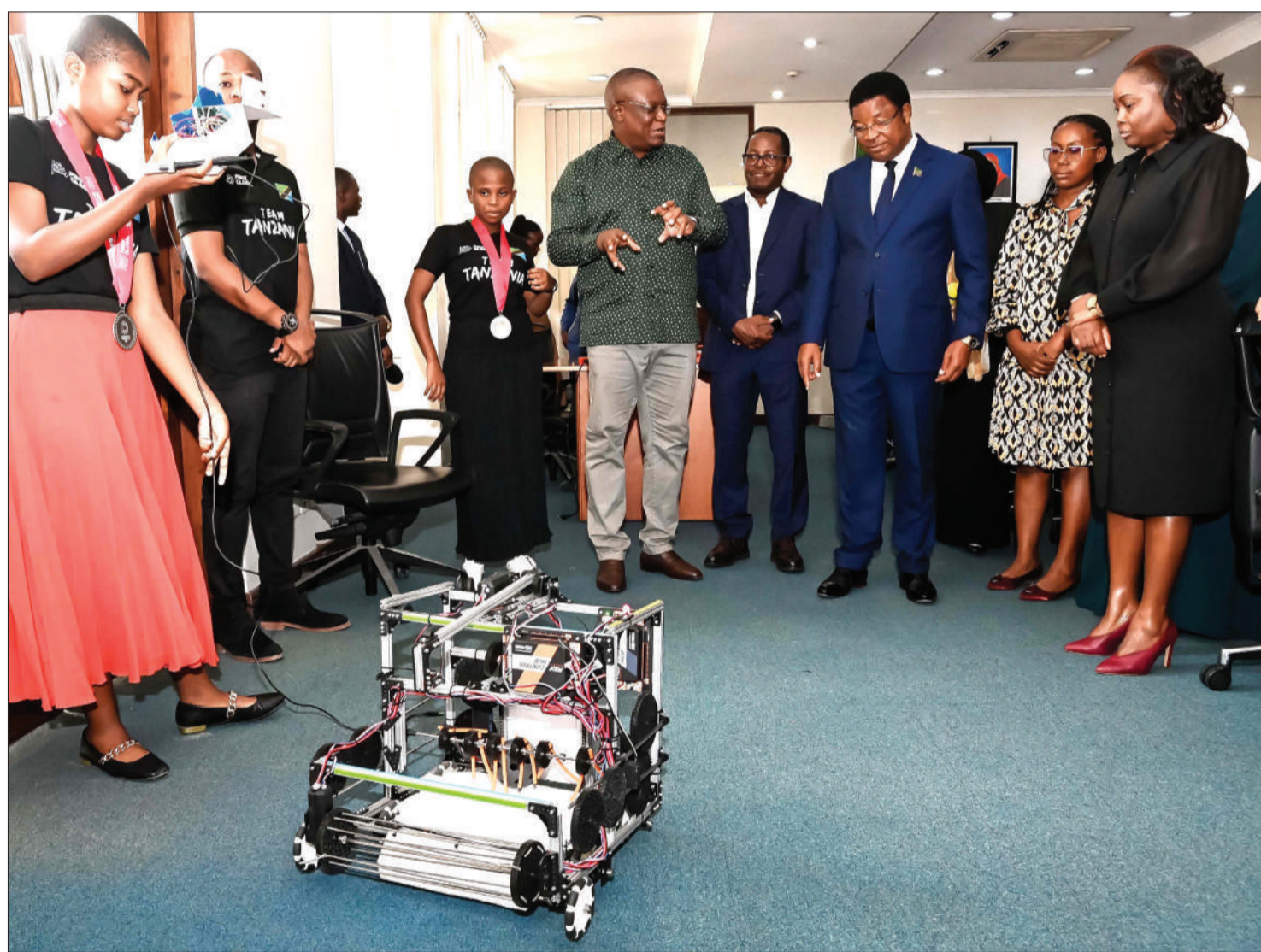
He said the domestic debt forms 30 percent of the total debt, whereas World Bank recommendations figure that it should not exceed 20 percent for lower middle income countries.

The government has been paying an average of 600bn/- a month in servicing the domestic debt and 300bn/- in servicing the country's external debt, he said, alluding to current data with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) showing that tax collections average 1.2trn/- a month.

The National Bureau of Statistics reports that headline inflation sustained an upward trend for eight months, before

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MoU ready for Zanzibar low-cost housing scheme



EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION: Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (C, gesturing) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on a robot invented thanks to collaboration by students from various secondary schools in Tanzania. The event was held in the PM's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The robot was one of the entries in the 'Global Robotic Challenge', a competition held in Geneva in mid-October 2022 and featuring more than 180 teams from all over the world. Tanzania's emerged among the top entries. Records show that the contest, launched in 2017 with backing from an American innovator, encourages young people from across the globe to put their technical and mechanical know-how to challenges representing symbolic solutions to global problems. In this particular edition, the theme was carbon capture - a nascent technology in which excess heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is sucked out of the skies and isolated, often underground, to help fight global warming. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PROGRESS is around the corner for the construction of low cost houses in Zanzibar following an agreement between the Union and Zanzibar ministries too cooperate in that sector.

Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji, the principal secretary in the Zanzibar Ministry of Lands, Construction and Housing said over the weekend at his Unguja offices that a memorandum of understanding has been prepared with the Union Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development to propel the building of modern houses but at affordable prices.

The agreement will accelerate the construction of low cost houses that can be purchased by people with average incomes, he said, describing proceedings of meetings between officials of the two ministries.

Ministerial experts have so far completed preparing drafts of the MoU to be presented for approval and signature by the responsible ministers, he said, noting that the drafts include one between the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and the Zanzibar Housing Corporation (ZHC).

The two institutions will cooperate at professional level, share experience and provide training to staff in various spheres, while Zanzibar has introduced an integrated land information system, reducing bureaucracy and

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DART fares rise by 100/-, Mloganzila now served

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FARES for trunk roads used by the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) bus project have risen by 100/- to 750/- while feeder routes fares rise concomitantly from 400/- to 500/-.

William Gatambi, the agency's public relations manager, said in a statement issued yesterday that the fares were last week approved by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

LATRA reviewed the fare in the wake of a rise by a similar margin of commuter buses approved by the regulator in the wake of fuel price pressures starting mid last year. As with commuter buses, fares for school children remain at 200/- per trip, it was indicated.

The trunk road routes are Kimara-Gerezani, Kimara-Morocco, Ubungo-Kivukoni, Ubungo-Gerezani, Morocco-Kivukoni, Morocco-Gerezani and Muhimbili-Gerezani, while the feeder route

is Kimara-Mbezi, and adjacent destinations of Kimara-Kibaha and Kimara-Mloganzila were ranked alongside trunk road services and will be charged 700/-.

Routine estimates by stakeholders assert that DART buses serve 180,000 people a day but available buses don't suffice the commuter demand, with excessive congestion on the Kimara route in most hours, and inability to get into buses or staying for hours to find space in a relevant

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Water sources: Human-wildlife encounters, deaths rise

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Bagamoyo

THE number of villagers killed by wild animals when drawing water surpasses that of livestock falling to attacking predators conservation expert has stated.

John Noronha, the monitoring and evaluation manager for the natural resources preservation project funded by

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had profiled a report on incidences of climate-driven human wildlife conflicts.

He says that such encounters were escalating in various parts of the country, with the eight-year period from 2012 inclusive of 2019 had a total of 1069 people killed by wild animals, while prying on livestock led to a loss of 792 animals.

Close encounters between humans and animals are particularly rife at water sources, with the report asserting that water is the main driver of human wildlife conflicts in Tanzania.

While such incidents are on the rise, chances that wild animals would attack and kill people if they meet say on the banks of a river are common with hippos and crocodiles, with the latter a carnivorous

species. Hippos and crocodiles attack people without regard for the level of water in an area as they don't cohabit in any way, but with diminishing water sources the frequency of such encounters has been on the rise, observers noted.

The USAID official was presenting a paper on human-wildlife conflicts at a

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Govt provides Moro Region with 267bn/- towards water projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has provided Morogoro Region with 267bn/- for implementing various water projects aimed at ending challenges for availability of safe and clean water for the residents.

Morogoro regional commissioner,

Fatma Mwasa made the remarks when thanking Water minister, Jumaa Aweso at a public meeting with Kituti villagers in Ruaha Ward, Ulanga district in the region.

Mwasa showered praise on the Minister and his ministry for being the first to make a visit of the villages in the Region to address complaints

regarding the availability of water, thereby transforming the ministry from being a ministry for complaints to ministry for action.

Aweso said from the funds provided, 185bn/- is earmarked for the expansion and improvement of the embankment at Mindu dam that is depended by 85 per cent of

Morogoro Municipal residents for their water.

"When the Mindu Dam Project is completed, it will help to solve water challenges for Morogoro residents for more than 50 coming years," said Mwasa.

He further said another 16bn/- from the fund is for the

implementation of the ongoing small water distribution projects many of which are 80 per cent complete.

She said in regard to the boosting of water supply services in villages, 65bn/- has been set aside for drilling deep water wells.

"The villages include Kituti Village

in Ulanga District whose project will cost 266m/- upon completion," said RC Mwasa.

Meanwhile, after inaugurating the project to serve 2,692 villagers Water minister Aweso called on the villagers, water consumers committees to supervise the projects to make sure they last long.



Capital Markets and Securities Authority CEO Nicodemus Mkama rings the bell at the weekend to signal the listing of Fursa Sukuk at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE). This is an Islamic bond issued by KCB Bank Tanzania Limited through its Islamic Banking Window known as KCB Sahl Banking. He is with (from-L) Sheikh Mohamed Issa from the Centre for Islamic Finance - Compliance and Advice (CIFCA), KCB Islamic Banking head Amour Muro, DSE acting CEO Mary Mniwasa and KCB Bank Tanzania Marketing and Corporate Affairs head Christine Manyenye. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MoU ready for Zanzibar low-cost housing scheme

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improving the provision of services. The Zanzibar Lands Commission is finalising processes for its installation, he specified.

Under the MoU a joint committee will be set up for conducting research on low cost houses, with an exhibition slated for later this year for the construction sector. Various technologies will be displayed, he stated.

The Zanzibar ministry faces challenges like insufficient experts for hydrographic surveying, with the two sides agreeing to work together for capacity building in that sphere, he said.

Dr Allan Kijazi, his Union government counterpart, said the government is

determined to ensure most of the public can own houses, along with facilitating land ownership processes. Every individual with a land parcel needs to have a title deed, he said.

ZHC director Mwanisha Ali Said noted that cooperation with NHC will see to it that many islanders access better houses at affordable prices.

Nehemiah Mchechu, the NHC director general, said the corporate entity is implementing projects for low cost houses in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam. The units will be constructed on a storey buildings framework, he added.

DART fares rise by 100/-, Mloganzila now served

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bus.

Dr Edwin Mhede, the agency's executive director, said in early October that the agency expects to procure 177 buses within six months, sign a purchase contract with the contractor and obtain the buses after six months. DART needs 305 buses and has 210 buses at its disposal, he stated.

DART ceased to serve the Muhimbili route and opted for Mloganzila as the national hospital has been transferring several referral services to its Mloganzila branch, with the public transport agency taking up the demand to introduce a direct service there.

Kibaha was now a major terminal in DART services as Coast Region increasingly

intertwines with the city in daily economic activity.

Last year DART aired a plan for passengers to use bank cards to buy tickets starting next month, seeing this innovation as an improvement to queuing for tickets.

Ng'wanashigi Gagaga, the DART information and communication technology (ICT) manager, said that purchasing tickets using a smart card will make it easier for users to catch transport.

Collecting fares through smart cards was developed by DART experts working with the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), the Treasury and the e-Government Agency, he added.

'Send debt servicing plans to MPs sooner'

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stabilizing at 4.9 percent in October and November, he said.

The domestic debt increased to 26.6trn/- in November 2022 from 18.6trn/- a year earlier, while in 2005 the domestic debt stood at 1.7trn/-, he remarked.

The external debt nearly two decades ago was around 17trn/-, and now the domestic debt jumped to 7.9trn/- and the external debt to 31trn/- by late 2015, he said.

The domestic debt jumped to 16.1trn/- in March 2021 and external debt reached \$24bn, meanwhile as the domestic debt topped 26.6trn/- as of November last year

with external debt liability standing at \$27.5bn, he elaborated.

"Of the current total domestic debt, 27 percent is owed to commercial banks, 28 percent to pension funds, 5.5 percent to insurers and 13 percent is owed to other private firms," he said.

The monthly economic review of the Bank of Tanzania for December 2022o said that the total public debt stood at \$39.5bn (92.32trn/-) end November, with a monthly increase of \$403.4m at the end of October.

The deficit in the balance of payments is due to heavily importing while exporting less, he said, noting that imports lead to

imported inflation and low levels foreign reserves, thus contributing to depreciation of the shilling against the dollar, he stated.

As of November last year imports stood at \$16.4bn while exports realised \$11.9bn earning, the review indicated, with the party spokesman saying ACT-Wazalendo encourages the government to make a bold decision to invest in Mchuchuma and Liganga iron ore fields as the global demand is promising;

"We also advise the government to invest in the cultivation of sesame, sunflower and find a market for cashew nuts if the value of exports is to be improved," he added.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (in scarf) pictured with some teachers and students of Masasi District's Lukuledi Special School during its launch yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Zanzibar to host East and Central Africa institutional investors forum next month

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR is set to host the East and Central Africa Institutional Investors Forum 2023 in February themed: "Rethinking Investment Returns in the New Normal, Investing for Impact."

Scheduled for February 22nd and 23rd, the two-day conference will bring together various stakeholders to engage one another on various issues pertaining to contributing to the sustainable economic development of East and Central Africa region, through the attraction of new investment and maximizing its impact on the economy.

Tanzania has been selected as the host country for this event as it is

an increasingly popular investment destination demonstrating high-growth and is a politically stable country that has put in place various incentives to promote investment.

According to the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), there are at least nine lucrative sectors that offer investment opportunities in the country—agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, economic infrastructure, mining, tourism, health & education, ICT and aquaculture development.

MNCapital Group, a South Africa-based, Africa-focused investment communications firm synonymous with convening high-impact investment conferences,

particularly for the large market actors, is the convener of this particular gathering.

The firm's Group Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ndinisa, noted: "In the post-pandemic world, local, provincial and national governments across the world are intensifying their economic recovery and development efforts in order to significantly reduce socio-economic challenges that may or may not have been caused by the recent global pandemic, but have been exacerbated as a result."

Ndinisa said: "this conference will present immense opportunities for institutional investors to uncover new investment opportunities and

not only achieve desired return on investment, but also generate social impact."

According to Ndinisa, it is evident that the work ahead will require collective efforts from both the public and the private sector, and this calls for policy amendments (where applicable) to ensure ease of doing business in an effort to attract private-sector involvement in economic recovery strategies. It is therefore very crucial, for the sake of achieving healthy public-private partnerships, for the two sectors of the economy to participate in stakeholder engagements so that they can engage one another on issues pertaining such partnerships.

Participants at this conference will have an opportunity to meet and engage key stakeholders and foster long-term partnerships, discover best practices presented by top industry thought-leaders. Those participating under the speaker category will present professional perspective on topics of their choice, in line with the conference theme. Participants will also network with senior decision-makers and key investment professionals and solidify existing business relations, and make new ones as well.

This conference will feature trustees' special workshops to improve investment decision making.

The East and Central Africa Institutional Investors Forum 2023 is one of a kind, and will attract guests, speakers, and sponsors from various industries across Africa.

"We call upon interested sponsors, delegates and industry players to work with us and make this a success," concludes Ndinisa.

The MNCapital Group is a top-tier provider of independent investment and market research, based in South Africa, with branches in Gaborone and London. With our institutional investor, fund, and asset managers' forums, we connect capital and ideas. We present a premier platform for leading investment meetings in Africa.



Mussa Jacob (2nd-L), who has been picked for enrolment as a Form One student at Idukilo Secondary School in Shinyanga Region, fixes his bicycle yesterday just before he rode to the school to report for classes. He confided to The Guardian that he did not make it on the official reporting day (last Monday, Jan 9) "as there were some requirements I had not fulfilled". Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

NEMC identifies illegal farmlands in Mbeya's Range Forest Reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SOME unknown people have invaded Mbeya Mountain Range Forest Reserve, cut down trees for establishing farmland, the situation that threatens the forest's existence and its water sources that feed various rivers.

This was revealed here at the weekend during the inspection visit to the area by officials from NEMC headquarters and those of Tanzania Forests Services Agency (TFS).

Whilst in the area the officials witnessed huge farms inside the forest reserve area planted with various crops.

In the circumstances, NEMC issue two weeks to TFS officials to liaise with the Mbeya District Commissioner's Office to remove the invaders in order to protect water sources.

NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said what he saw was saddening saying the destruction of the reserve area's environment was extensive and stressed for the removal of the invaders.

"You will discuss among yourselves on what to do with the crops, whether you will destroy

them, but within two weeks you must make sure all invaders from the area," said Dr Gwamaka.

Mbeya District TFS Officer, Danson Bashiri said they identified the destruction last October when they visited the area in company of Mbeya District Commissioner, DR Rashid Chuachua and held a meeting with residents of villages around the area.

He said they had agreed to remove the invading farmers as early as possible before the start of the farming season but it could not be done following Mbeya DC explaining that the TFS personnel for the task had other pressing duties elsewhere.

He said as for now they plan to do so as soon as possible after the TFS personnel finishing other tasks assigned.

He said sometimes they are late in identifying the forest's destruction due to shortage of staff that hampers frequent patrol work.

NEMC Manager for Southern Highlands Zone, Glory Kombe said environmental destruction done by the people in the forest reserve area threatens their own lives as the practice destroys water sources that they themselves depend for survival.

JKCI urged to focus on Chato hospital for children's cardiovascular treatment

By Francis Kajubi

HEALTH Minister Umyi Mwalimu has directed the Jakaya Kikwele Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to invest in improving specialised cardiovascular services at Chato referral hospital as it is the only facility in the lake zone that people can rely upon for treatment.

Improvements are needed in the areas of emergency service delivery, time patients spent in treatment

and offering services at required standards.

Mwalimu issued the directives in Dar es Salaam on Saturday when she was accepting the handing over of Dar Group hospital to the ministry which formerly was under the custody of the ministry of Finance and Planning through Treasury.

The minister also directed JKCI to ensure that the newly adopted JKCI Dar Group hospital in Temeke District concentrates on extending cardiovascular services to children

under the age of 15 and all referrals from Temeke District hospital to JKCI headquarters should now be attended at Dar Group.

"JKCI should focus on strengthening specialised services at Chato referral hospital as it is the only hospital that the government relies on in treating cardiovascular diseases in the lake zone with almost six regions. The hospital also serves patients from neighboring countries," said Mwalimu.

The hospital which was placed

under the custodian of JKCI in November last year has a total of 182 health workers including doctors, nurses and cardiovascular specialists.

JKCI Executive Director Dr Peter Kisenge called upon the new staff at Dar Group to observe professionalism and ethics to safeguard the long existing JKCI reputation.

He said since the takeover of the hospital the number of patients has increased from 300 a day to

between 400 and 600.

"At JKCI we don't condone corruption. I call upon the whole staff to observe integrity at work. JKCI has allocated 2bn/- for new infrastructure at the hospital. Plans are underway to recruit more specialist doctors," said Dr Kisenge.

Chief Medical Officer Prof Tumaini Nagu called upon JKCI Dar Group to focus on sensitising the public on the causes of non-communicable diseases.

According to her, programs

on lifestyle and health are to be prioritized. The community could be saved from NCDs hence help the government from entering huge treatment costs.

Dar Group hospital was established in the late 1980s as a dedicated facility for factory workers in Dar es Salaam city. It was placed in the custody of workers' unions and later transformed to a public entity through treasury as of November last year.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CONSORTIUM (CWMAC)



ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS TO INVEST IN TOURIST HUNTING BLOCKS LOCATED IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs) FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCES JULY 2023

[Made under section 31 (7) of the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and Regulation 55 (2) of WMA Regulations of 2018 and its amendments]

The following Authorized Associations (AAs) invites applications from interested outfitter companies to conduct business in their Tourist hunting blocks for the period commences July 2023, MAGINGO, WAGA and UKUTU. The table below provides key information concerning the respective Hunting Blocks.

AA	DISTRICT	BLOCK	SIZE IN KM SQ	CATEGORY	APPLICATION FEE (USD)	ECOSYSTEM
MAGINGO	LIWALE	Hokororo	1097.59	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
		Naimba Plain	421.35	II	2000	
		Kiurumila	1004.76	II	2000	
WAGA	MUFINDI, MBARALI AND IRINGA RURAL	Waga	315.27	II	2000	Ruaha - Rungwa
UKUTU	MOROGORO RURAL	Gonabis-Kidunda	733	III	1000	Nyerere - Selous Mikumi

Both new hunting tourism companies and those which are already in the industry are invited. Criteria for evaluating hunting tourism companies are stipulated in Section 9(2) of Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and its amendments.

Application forms are available at the CWMAC office located at Igombe Street, Mikocheni B Area, Dar es Salaam and in respective Authorized Association Offices.

Applications (filled application forms, paid bank slips, and all other supporting documents) should be sent to the respective Authorized Association through the postal address indicated in the table below or to the CWMAC office in Dar es Salaam by the 6th of February 2023.

AA MAILING BOX	AA BANK ACCOUNT
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI NA MATUMIZI ENDELEU LIWALE - MAGINGO, S.L.P. 86, LIWALE	A/C NO. 7032300087 NMB LIWALE BRANCH
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI WAGA, S.L.P. 223, MAFINGA	A/C NO. 60210014878 NMB MAFINGA BRANCH
JUMUIYA YA KUHIFADHI NA MATUMIZI BORA YA MALIASILI UKUTU, S.L.P. 1880, MOROGORO.	A/C NO. 2212517337 NMB, WAMI MBIKI BRANCH

Terms and conditions articulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No.5 of 2009, Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015), WMA Regulations (2018) and their amendments shall apply. For more information, please call +255 658 676 340 or Email: info@cwmac.or.tz

NOTE: For companies that have already submitted their applications through the last advert issued on 10th November 2022, they do not need to send them again because the applications have been received and will be fully considered.

Prepared By
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1728301



Helping People and the Planet Thrive



Short-term consultancy: Conducting qualitative research on a sustainable and collective investment innovation for small-scale farmers and community-led conservation groups Expected timeframe: February to June 2023

I. Background

The CARE-WWF Alliance (hereafter, the Alliance) has been working in Tanzania since 2015 - first, near the Mtwara Corridor in the Nachingwea District, and now in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) since 2018. In its central Tanzanian project in the Ndembera sub-catchment of the Great Ruaha River (in SAGCOT's Iheri Cluster), the Alliance seeks to promote not only livelihood diversification and economic opportunity but also ecosystem service provision and biodiversity conservation. The Alliance's current project (2021-2023) was launched in 21 project villages of Iringa and Mufindi Districts between June and July 2021, with the objectives follow:

1. Extend informal savings groups and collective access to financial services to 5,000 farming families (22,500 individuals), especially women.
2. Increase sustainable investment and production to improve small-scale farmer income by 60% and food security by 20%.
3. Improve ecosystem resilience and functions in production landscapes in Ndembera sub-catchment of the Great Ruaha River.
4. Strengthen public and private partnerships to improve small-scale producer access to extension, inputs, markets, financial services and benefits from ecosystem services.

A key innovation to achieve these outcomes is a new sustainable and collective investment model. Small-scale farmers, particularly women, often have limited access to finance, information, and decision-making power necessary to make investments to improve the land/soil that they farm or to restore/sustain other ecosystems/services critical to their livelihoods, such as watersheds. The CARE-WWF Alliance proposes to pilot, research, and adapt based on learnings an innovative model for addressing this challenge. This savings and loan innovation seeks to accelerate the access of small-scale farmers, particularly women, to finance in ways that promote ecologically sustainable investments that sustain or improve ecosystems critical to their livelihoods and conservation.

II. Objective

The aim of this consultancy is to lead qualitative research as part of a mixed-methods evaluation of the sustainable and collective investment model that began to be rolled out in November 2022. A VSLA cycle is approximately one year long, so this research and analysis will happen mid-stream during implementation of the pilot's first cycle, with the work kicking off in February and the bulk of work falling between March and June 2023. The consultant's qualitative evaluation and analysis will support real-time adaptation of the model and recommended improvements to enable iteration, replication, and upscaling.

III. Scope

The work will be implemented in close collaboration with CARE and WWF staff in Tanzania and the United States. Kick-off of the consultancy in February 2023 and will be conducted within 21 villages of Iringa and Mufindi Districts.

IV. Expected deliverables

- i. Three qualitative research protocol(s) for semi-structured interviews (2) and focus group discussions (1) - co-developed with the CARE-WWF Alliance MEL team.
- ii. Draft and final analytical summary of qualitative results (10-20 pages), the latter incorporating feedback from the team.
- iii. Draft for submission of a peer-reviewed publication, co-authored with the WWF/CARE MEL team, which will include an introduction, background, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. The draft will be led by the consultant and reviewed (up to twice) by WWF/CARE staff in preparation for submission.
- iv. Annex with links to raw and analyzed data in the form of audio recordings, transcripts, research codes and any photos taken
- v. Essential (E) and desired qualifications (D)
(Please, visit our website for the detailed ToR)
- vi. Application instructions

To apply please send your soft copy detailed technical and financial proposal to procurement email @ procurement@wwftz.org by or before 10:00am, Tuesday, 31st January, 2023 with heading "research on a sustainable and collective investment innovation for small-scale farmers" addressed to:

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

The detailed TOR is available on request or through WWF website https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/ Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid. Only Shortlisted candidates shall be contacted. WWF has a principle of zero tolerance on fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report it by sending an email to fcici@wwftz.org

1728301

Mbeya RC bans LGAs' borrowing from banks

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AUTHORITIES in Mbeya Region have imposed a ban on all district authorities to borrow money from financial institutions for the implementation of development projects on reason that the loans are avenues for corruption.

Mbeya regional commissioner, Juma Homera (pictured) issued the ban at

the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) after Chunya District Council applied for permission to borrow 1bn/- for the construction of a bus stand.

RC Homera said all district councils are supposed to utilise their internal revenues to implement their projects instead of borrowing and reminded of corruption that took place after the Mbeya City Council borrowed money for the construction



of Mwanjelwa International Market.

He said the debt should act as lesson to other councils saying so far it has not been repaired despite various efforts by the government to repay including discussing with the bank that had extended the loan.

Homera noted that Chunya District Council has the ability to collect 100m/- revenue every month from the mining sector alone, hence it can

allocate some funds every year towards the cost of the bus project.

"It is expressly forbidden to borrow money from banks, unless I stop being RC for this region, as the practice is an avenue for corruption, officials closing themselves in a room to divide up the money, as it happened in this city," he said.

He said the money borrowed often necessitates many sittings, many of which

aim at creating rooms for fat allowances that are without any basis. For his part, Chunya District Commissioner, Mayeka Simon Mayeka said had they obtained the loan, they could have been able to repay 50m/- each month.

He said they decided to apply for the loan to complete the bus stand project as opposes to using internal revenues which, he said would take very long to finalise the project.



AB INITIO CABIN CREW COURSE.

ATCL Training Center is happy to announce another Intake of Cabin Crew Course which is Scheduled to Commence on 20th February 2023. Applicants are advised to submit their application to the Principal's Office, ATCL Administration Building, Julius Nyerere International Airport, Terminal One, adjacent to Airport Police Station, Submit your application before 27th January 2023.

Applicants Qualifications:

- Age; 18 years - 25 years
- He or She should be physically fit, sane mind and of height 5.4ft and above
- Has passed at least four subjects in Ordinary Level Education of which English and Geography is a Must
- Has ability to speak Kiswahili and English Language fluently; Applicants with more foreign language knowledge like Arabic, French and Chinese will have added advantage.
- He or She should be a Tanzanian National.

NB: Foreign Nationals are also welcome to apply after obtaining Immigration Visas to Live and Study in the country. You must also verify your Education Certificate at National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Application Letters to be Attached with;

- Copies of relevant Certificates
- Birth Certificate
- Two passport size pictures with a blue background, One full picture, size 6x8
- Curriculum Vitae -CV

Send your Application to;

Principal
ATCL Training Center
Box no 543
Dar es Salaam
Email , training@airtanzania.co.tz
Mob: +255735787212 , Landline: +255222842543
ATCL TRAINING CENTER

Welcomes you, to where you can Fly



Emmanuel Cherehani, legislator for Ushetu constituency in Shinyanga Region, addresses a rally at Butibu in Kinamapua ward yesterday. He was on an inspection tour of development projects. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Kirangi ward residents cry foul over 'dubious' survey

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

MORE than 4,000 residents of Kisangiro village in Kirangi ward, Ngorongoro District in Arusha Region, have opposed the surveying done by the district's Lands Division. They say that they ought to have been educated first and involved in the operation.

In the circumstances, they have appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene to make

sure they are assured of their right to remain with their 7,558.4 hectares of land for their farming activities.

The village government chairman, Michael Samawa said after the surveying exercise, their land will be shifted to Enguserosambu Village, hence hampering their ongoing farming activities.

"Kisangiro villagers are in deep grief, many of our youth have disappeared because of this land, because residents of the neighbouring village have been having cordial relations with some officials of Ngorongoro District who have formalised our lands to them without even involving us," said Samawa.

He added that former maps for the area clearly shows where the demarcation is, "but surprisingly officials have handed part of our land to Enguserosambu village the situation that clearly indicates corruption as our complaints have not been entertained."

He said April 23 2013, former lands Minister, Prof Anna Tibaijuka went to Ngorongoro District to solve land conflicts at Kisangiro and Enguserosambu villages and was satisfied with the demarcation lines which she said should remain intact, but surprisingly this has been violated by the Ngorongoro District

officials.

For his part, Kirangi Ward Councillor, Philipo Moloi said so far Kisangiro village community are not at peace due to having a large part of their land area transferred to the neighbouring village, saying the move was totally illegal.

Moloi appealed to President Samia to review the boundary between Kisangiro and Enguserosambu villages, as they believe this has not reached the President.

When contacted for comment, Ngorongoro District Commissioner, Raymond Mangwala said 36 villages had been surveyed, but admitted that there are certain villages complaints, which he will work on them.

"However, it should be borne in mind that the surveying exercise was inclusive, and worked on by the committees that deal with land planning, land tribunals as well as resolution committees," he pointed out.

"There are some people who are complaining about their land being taken away, all these complaints have come up because leaders from the affected areas have been discussing with the resolution committees without coming to consensus, and this has been going on endlessly," said DC Mangwala.



MANTRA
TANZANIA
ROSATOM

Mantra Tanzania Limited
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P.O Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF OIL MARKETING COMPANIES TO SUPPLY LOW SULPHUR GASOIL (LSGO) TO MANTRA MKUJU RIVER PROJECT SITE

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites eligible Oil marketing companies to express their Interest (EOI) to supply Low Sulphur Gasoil (LSGO) to its Mkuju River Project site.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following;

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - Brief scope of work
 - Value of work in USD
 - Contractual Duration
 - Clients name
 - Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).

- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on **23rd January 2023 at 16.00 hours.**

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd

Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki, P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255762700440 Dar es Salaam.

Pupils must get the 3Rs right - Kairuki

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

ANGELA Kairuki, Minister of State President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) has directed education officers at all levels and all school heads to make sure students at the pre-primary level, teachers ensure that all pupils learn basic skills (reading, writing and arithmetic) by the time they begin Standard One.

She also instructed primary education officers to allow the enrolment exercise for pupils in elementary schools whose completion was set for December 31 last year, to go on for this month as well.

The minister gave the instructions here at the weekend at a meeting to review the progress on the implementation regarding the improvement to the country's education sector.

At the meeting, the minister's speech was read on her behalf by Manyara regional commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere.

"there are still pupils finishing

Std One without understanding how to read, write and counting. From now on we want all pupils finishing Std One to go to Std Two should understand reading, writing and counting," she stressed, and added that every teacher should set own goals to make sure pupils attend schools as well as the availability of lunch.

Earlier, PO-RAG permanent secretary, Dr Charles Msonde, speaking at the meeting on poor



"In addition, from now on there should not be any education officer gluing themselves in their office chairs, go out to schools to listen to teacher and provide solutions to challenges they face."

understanding Abilities for Std one and elementary school pupils said it not acceptable for pupils at elementary level and Std One to finish a year without understanding anything.

Dr Msonde added: "When you regional education officer see your juniors are letting you down, just say so that we fire them."

"In addition, from now on there should not be any education officer gluing themselves in their office chairs, go out to schools to listen to teacher and provide solutions to challenges they face."

He said what surprises is in regard to pupils finishing Std One without knowing how to read, write and count, as this deficiency will accompany the student up to Std Four.

Manyara Region administrative secretary, Karoline Mthapula, submitting her report for the education sector in the region said only 503 primary schools provide midday meals at school out of 600 primary schools in the region.



Mkalama district commissioner Sophia Kizigo (L) pictured at the weekend presenting to district education officer Jamhuri Kidumu one of 706 tablets meant to help ward education officers and secondary school teachers work more efficiently. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Pemba urged to continue fighting for gender equality

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN efforts to make sure the community has the ability to understand the importance of fighting for their basic rights, peoples' committees from various 'shehias' (wards) from Micheweni, Wete, Mkoani and Chakechake districts in Pemba have been advised to continue involving the community to

discuss about challenges facing them in order to find solutions.

The advice was given here recently at a meeting attended by the people's committees from the said Pemba districts organised by Pemba environment, gender and advocacy organisation (PEGAO) in collaboration with Tanzania Women Media Association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) with the aim to

empower the committees to follow up complaints that hinder women rights.

Speaking at the meeting sponsored by the Norwegian embassy in Tanzania, TAMWA coordinating and assessing officer, Mohamed Khatib mobilised the committee to adopt the culture of meeting to discuss their complaints and to jointly find solutions thereof.

He said: "The committees should meet with the people to give room for the latter to air their complaints, as this will assist in having evidence in regard to challenges that need solutions."

He added that the Norwegian Embassy, in collaboration with PEGAO, TAMWA and ZAFELA aim to build a robust community with the ability to raise voices on challenges

that deny women of their basic rights in the society.

Earlier, the Director of the project from OPEGAO, Hafid Abdi said the community is supposed to identify challenges they face in order to build up a society that abide by the gender equality for everyone.

For his part, TAMWA-Zanzibar coordinator for Pemba, Fat-hia Musa said justice should not be waited

for, justice should be sought, hence it is necessary for the people to have adequate understanding in identifying their rights and how they should seek for them in the right way.

Earlier, Mohamed Abdallah a member from the committees mobilised the community to utilise the media to raise their voices so that the challenges they face should reach those targeted in time.



HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

CAMBRIDGE A-LEVEL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AT HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers and school personnel.

Haven of Peace Academy is offering the opportunity for a small number of Tanzanian citizens to gain a merit scholarship worth up to 100% of the tuition fees for the school's AS and A level programme. Successful candidates will have genuine and proven financial need, as well as being outstanding academically and demonstrating great potential.

Applicants must be:

- Tanzanian Citizens
- At least 16 years of age and no older than 18 years of age by August 2023
- Through Form 4 or its equivalent

Applicants need to demonstrate outstanding academic success in one of the following ways:

- By achieving Division One (less than 10 points) in the O level National exams
- By achieving high academic results in Form 4 or the equivalent
- By achieving or being predicted to achieve top grades in International Examinations such as IGCSE

All applications and their attachments must be received by Haven of Peace Academy by **Tuesday 28th Feb 2023** in order to be considered for an interview.

HOPAC is a Christian school but applicants may be from any religious background.

The HOPAC AS and A Level programme offers a choice of rigorous courses leading to well-recognised international qualifications. Typically, students choose 4 subjects in Grade 11 and continue with 3 of them to full A Level in Grade 12. In addition, students take other non-examined courses in Bible, Service Learning and Life Skills. The school encourages Leadership, Service and Stewardship in all areas of life.

For further details of the Grade 11 Merit Scholarship and the application process, **please contact:** Haven of Peace Academy, P.O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam. HOPAC Phone: **0786 845 135** email: **admission@hopac.sc.tz**

All communication will be through email. Please be sure to clearly write a valid email address for students and parents/guardians on the application.

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HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

EXPERIENCED MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND LIBRARIAN NEEDED TO SERVE AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers and school personnel.

The following positions are open starting:

- School Counselor (January 2023)
- Middle School Principal (August 2023)
- Librarian (August 2023) JOB SUMMARY

The School Counselor role is a crucial one in terms of assessing students, families providing emotional and learning support, and advising school leadership on bigger picture issues relating to student emotional health and safety. The Counselor is responsible for actively engaging students, staff and the wider school community in promoting a positive learning environment within the school by providing mental health services that are in line with the school's Christian worldview. He/She is responsible for the delivery of comprehensive mental health services. He/She will also assist with Life Skills classes and be part of the child safety team. This position is not limited to just the hours of the school day. He/She reports to the Director.

The Middle School Principal is a member of the school management team and reports to the school's Director. The Middle School Principal oversees Grades 6-8. The Middle School Principal oversees a 9+ member teaching staff including administrative support from an Academic Counselor and Sports Coordinator. The Middle School Principal acts as the educational leader of the middle school, responsible for its day-to-day operation, and works closely with the Senior School Principal to deliver on the overall program of the school.

The Librarian is under the direct supervision and reports to the Middle School Principal. The librarian is in charge of collecting, organizing, and issuing library resources such as books and videos; cataloging materials; and maintaining the atmosphere and library environment.

The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, a team player, adaptable, and willing to learn with experience working in multicultural, international settings, and fluent in English.

HOPAC follows the Cambridge curriculum and is an ACS/MSA accredited school.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Committed Evangelical Christian
- Master's degree in sociology or counseling is an advantage
- Bachelor's degree in sociology or counseling
- Counseling license, qualification, or certification
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Minimum of three years of sociology or counseling experience, preferably in a multicultural setting

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

- Committed Evangelical Christian
- Master's degree in education is an advantage
- Bachelor's degree in education or subject-specific field with PGCE or other international teaching certification
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Minimum of eight years experience in education with three years experience in educational leadership preferred

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE FOR LIBRARIAN:

- Committed Evangelical Christian
- Experience in and passion for library services
- Bachelor degree in library or related field
- Experience working in a library
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your Application letter and CV only by email to **personnel@hopac.sc.tz** to arrive on or before **15th February 2023**, or physically addressed to **Personnel Department, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.**

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'HIV self-testing registered 96,000 public workers by December 2022'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

A human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) self-testing (JIPIME) initiated by the Ministry of Health targeting workers in public institutions had reached out 96,231 people.

Deputy Health minister, Dr Godwin Mollel said this when speaking before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS that the HIV self-testing service at workplaces aims to facilitate access to HIV testing for workers, especially men.

"The ministry has established an HIV self-testing (JIPIME) at the workplaces to facilitate access to HIV testing for employees at workplaces, especially men. Statistics show that by December 2022, about 96,231 people at workplaces had already benefited from the services," said Dr Mollel.

He further detailed that by December 2022, a total of 47,705

adolescents (20,329 boys and 27,376 girls) were reached in about 103 schools through a campaign dubbed 'Kipepeo'. The same campaign is expected to be conducted this year in the regions of Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Tanga and Geita.

He however, said that in 2022 the ministry in collaboration with Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) and the Ministry of Education has been able to provide gender education training to about 5,033 teachers in the country.

Dr Mollel added that up to December, 2022 there were five (5) centers for the provision of the HIV/AIDS services in the areas of Geita Gold Mine (Geita), North Mara Gold Mine (Mara), Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (Shinyanga), New Luika Gold Mine (Songwe) and Mererani (Manyara). He expounded that the HIV services provided in the mines include HIV testing, treatment and

care services including the provision of ARVs, circumcision services, self-examination services, preventive medicine services (PrEP) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Pertaining to the residents who resides in places that are not easily accessible, especially on the islands, he said the Ministry has been providing HIV and AIDS services through a special systems at the community level, and in some areas such as the islands, especially in Lake Victoria in the Mwanza Region, the service in question was being provided using special boat transport campaign, dubbed 'Get to the Boat'.

In addition, Dr Mollel said, for the period from January to December 2022, a total of 111,934,600 condoms were distributed in the country to help strengthen the fight against AIDS, while among them, 2,806,500 condoms were distributed in various ministries and institutions.



Lushoto district commissioner Kalist Lazaro (2nd-R) accompanied by Dule and Mwangoi ward officials when inspecting progress in the construction of Majulai-Mesa road, with the ongoing rains proving a clear obstruction. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Don't send away Std I, Form I students for lack of school items, says Mbeya DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA District authorities has urged all heads of both secondary and primary schools not to send away children enrolled to start Form I and Std I for lack of some school items.

Mbeya district commissioner Dr Rashid Chuachua issued the statement here at the weekend when handing out tablets to school heads and ward education officers from Mbeya City.

The tablets have been configured to help the officials prepare and store various records regarding the education sector.

Chuachua said all pupils enrolled to start classes this year are supposed to do so without any hindrances.

"They should not be sent home even if they wear beach sandals, they should be accepted while their parents still look for money to buy all school items for their children," he added.

He said as for now the government continues with its free education policy, hence teachers are supposed to abide by his instructions as well as abide by proper procedures for calling school monetary contributions of any kind.

Dr Chuachua also called for the use of the tablets provided for education activities only and for nothing else and warned those who will go against the instruction.

Some teachers who were handed the tablets thanked the government for the items saying that they will

help them to work digitally, as opposed to what they were doing in the past.

Mwasanga ward education officer Ambrose Ngajilio said sometimes they used to prepare and keep their reports using ordinary methods that has been hampering education provision to pupils.

Isyesye ward education officer, Gloria Nchelewa said the tablets will help them will help preparing their records whilst their own area including the enrolment of children in elementary schools, Std I and Form I.

For his part, Mbeya city Council statistician, Cosmas Kihovecho said they have distributed a total of 1,35 tablets for all officials in the city engaged in education issues.

Farm Africa, UN Women team up to equip farmers to produce quality sunflower seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

FARM Africa with support from UN Women is working to empower women and adolescent girls in Ikungi District, Singida Region to produce at least 15.6 tonnes of sunflower seeds, of record variety through the Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) system.

The QDS system is a seed-producer implemented system for production of seed that meets at least a minimum standard of quality but does not entail formal inspection by the official seed certification system. Hellen Jackson, Farm Africa gender inclusion and youth officer said the 12-month project titled: 'Realising Gender through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls' is being implemented from January 2021 and expected to end February 2023.

She said a total of 700 farmers under the Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOs) in the district have been capacitated in different areas, including training on additional value chain for sunflower production.

She said that the beneficiaries of the project are based on five different villages of the Ikungi District.

She added that: "We have decided to empower the beneficiary farmers to produce the QDS sunflower seeds that in order to help bridge the existing gap in timely access of sunflower seeds among most farmers across the district"

Hellen further noted that the core vision was to reach out to and empower a total of 500 women and adolescent girls, saying so far the initiative had directly managed to impact 54 per cent of intended groups, as well as men, making the number of beneficiaries to more than 700.

She disclosed the villages where the initiative is operating as Sepuka, Irisya, Kipumbuiko,

Dung'anyi and Munyu, and detailed that at least 26 hectares of QDS sunflower seeds are being cultivated with the farmers in the villages, expecting to produce 15.6 tonnes.

"The farmer's plantation has already been blessed by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSI) and the QDS seeds to be produced are expected to help the sunflower farmers in the next year's cropping season" she explained.

She informed the initiative was currently working to impart the women and adolescent girls with vital knowledge on how best to pool resources and undertake transportation, packaging, distribution and the marketing of sunflower products to buyers.

"We are also training them on how to produce soaps, glue, waxes and relevant others. Besides, the project's general focus incorporates a series of training towards the beneficiary sunflower farmers on how to access quality supplies and boost productivity to meet growing domestic demand for sunflower oil, increasing incomes for women working in the sector," she stated.

She observed that Tanzania is well positioned to grow its oilseed and horticulture sectors, but many women are currently being excluded from participating in and benefiting from the potential of the vital economic sector.

Tumaini Elibariki, Farm Africa-Tanzania programme manager said currently, women make up 68 per cent of Tanzania's sunflower sector but they only represent 17 per cent of members of the AMCOs.

Elibariki stated that Farm Africa was working to promote women's membership of and leadership roles within the cooperatives (AMCOs).

"We are working round the clock to support cooperative members, especially women, with training

on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) production and on climate-smart agricultural techniques, so that they can stand a chance to increase the quantity and quality of sunflowers they grow in Tanzania's extreme climates," he expounded.

He said, among others, the project constructed a warehouse in the village of Mng'ana in Ikungi district to assist cooperative members to enhance collective marketing and reduce post-harvest losses, the development which is providing women in the sunflower sector with the resources and skills to increase their incomes and expand their businesses.

Mary Batterman, Farm Africa country director said the organization was delighted to implement the project with UN Women to help unlock the potential of women working in Tanzania's sunflower sector.

"Female farmers in Tanzania are being held back by poor production practices and lack of access to markets. We are happy to work to help female farmers increase the quality, quantity and value of their produce," she insisted.

Farm Africa also works to link agricultural cooperatives with suppliers and viable markets, so they can access quality inputs such as seeds, organic fertilisers and pesticides to boost production and sell their produce to buyers for better prices.

The intent behind the QDS system is to provide farmers with the assurance of seed quality while reducing the burden on government agencies responsible for seed certification and the scheme is not designed to compete with the existing conventional quality control system, but rather complement it and ensure farmers have greater access to quality seed.



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

FLIR CCTV Camera changeout

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM001/2023	FLIR CCTV Camera changeout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants to submit company profile with proven experience in FLIR CCTV Camera changeout. All Dallmeier, Autec Babylon and Gallagher Material should be supplied from approved and authorized channel partner. Atleast one Technician must be certified by Dallmeier and Autec Babylon OEM. Applicant must have at least mining experience in providing FLIR CCTV Camera change out. Applicant must show ability to provide onsite control room technical and maintenance repair team. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the company has the full right to contact any of the references provided. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment, including proof of facilities equipment. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel. Local content compliance. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and regulations.

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMG

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI

20 January 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

XXXXXX

Organic farming lobby hails Bashe's move for rethink on GMO research

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) has hailed a recent statement issued by the Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe to allow agriculture experts to conduct further thorough research on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) seeds production technology.

TOAM chief executive officer Bakari Mongo said yesterday that allowing more research in the area will play an important role in giving the country a professional stance on whether to adopt the technology or not.

"GMO technology has garnered attention of the world with some of the countries adopting the system and others rejecting, and thus, for Tanzania conduction of the intended intensive researches would also help our side to decide the same, we congratulate Minister Bashe for his good intention," Mongo told The Guardian in an interview.

GMO are plants used in agriculture the DNA of which has been modified using genetic cases the aim is to introduce a new trait to the plant which does not occur naturally in the species.

In Tanzania, preliminary GMO researches was conducted in 2011 in maize and cassava, whereby, later on thereafter, the government decided to halt the maize research which was at the level of Confined Field Trials at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)- Makutupora Center in Dodoma) and for cassava at laboratory level in Dar es Salaam, for some technical reasons.

He said: "The minister said he will pick two special centers at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) for the deep conduction of GMO research, the wiser decision and plan that we at the country's agriculture corridor remain optimistic that will ultimately help to pacify the on-going uncertainty over use of the technology in Tanzania."

One of the agriculture experts who requested for anonymity said: "GMO research in Tanzania aligns with the government's plan to use science and technology (including biotechnology) as stipulated in National Biotechnology Policy

(2010), National Biosafety Regulations (2009), National Policy on Research and Development (2010) and National Agriculture Policy (2013)."

He further insisted that the country had even drafted the National Biosafety Framework and the National Biosafety Guidelines to ensure for effective monitoring of GMO researches, added there was also a special Laboratory Manual for Detection Genetically Modified Foods and Crops in Tanzania and A Protocol Manual for Safe Conduct of Confined Field Trials.

Tanzania has so far entered several relevant international agreements on GMO, which are Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2000, Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur, Codex Alimentarius- International Food Standard (FAO) and (WHO), to mention but a few.

Genetically modified (GM) foods were first approved for human consumption in the United States in 1994, and by 2014-15 about 90 percent of the corn, cotton, and soybeans planted in the United States were GM. By the end of 2014, GM crops covered nearly 1.8 million square kilometres (695,000 square miles) of land in more than two dozen countries worldwide. The majority of GM crops were grown in the Americas.

African countries face key challenges in the deployment of GM crops due to incongruities in the processes for effective and efficient commercial release while simultaneously ensuring food and environmental safety. Against the backdrop of the preceding scenario, and for the effective and efficient commercial release of GM crops for cultivation by farmers, while simultaneously ensuring food and environmental safety, there is a need for the close collaboration of and the interplay between the biosafety competent authorities and the variety release authorities.

The commercial release of genetically modified (GM) crops for cultivation requires the approval of Biosafety regulatory packages. The evaluation and approval of lead events fall under the jurisdiction of competent national authorities for Biosafety (which may be ministries, autonomous authorities, or agencies).



A Bagamoyo resident uses an improvised cooker running on natural gas in frying fish for sale, as found in the coastal town at the weekend. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

African students challenged to take part in 2023 MARS awards

By Beatrice Philemon

A F R I C A N Students have been challenged to take part at the 2023 Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit (MARS) Awards by submitting applications and abstracts related to Women Health, infertility and Reproductive Health.

In a statement, Dr Rasha Kelej, Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation said that abstracts are invited from

final year African PhD students and young investigators involved in research related to women health, infertility and reproductive health.

MARS Awards is meant to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, empower Women and Youth in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in Africa with special focus on scientific research in women health, infertility and reproductive health.

Dr Rasha also called on Tanzanian students and young investors in all areas where they are to use this opportunity, all abstracts will be peer reviewed, and research awards will be dedicated for two categories of Best African Women Researchers and Best Young Africa Researchers.

The applicants should be primarily based at African research institutes and universities and last date of submission is July 31st 2023.

Winners will be eligible for research training in prestigious research institute in India.

The 2033 MARS Awards

also will emphasise the collaboration between Merck Foundation and Internationale Federation of Fertility Societies -IFFS, Africa Reproductive Care Society - ARCS, Manipal University and African Union Scientific Technical Research Commission.

The Merck Foundation was established in 2017 and is the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany, aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people and advance their lives through science and technology.

"Our efforts are primarily focused on improving access to quality and equitable healthcare solutions in underserved communities, building healthcare and scientific research capacity and empowering people in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) with a special focus on women and youth," she said.

Highlighting on winners of Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit - MARS Awards 2022, she said seven researchers from seven African countries were announced and recognized to be

best African Women Researchers and Best Young African Researchers.

The researchers were recognized for their valuable research work and contribution to empowering women and youth in STEM in Africa with special focus on Scientific Research in Infectious Diseases and Cancer Research.

She named the best African Women Researchers winners are Ededia Firdawoke from Ethiopia, Gladys Kaba from Ghana, Amaya Jobin Habila from Nigeria, Shingirai Chiwambutsa from South Africa, while the best young African researcher award winners are Abu Bakar Kamara from Sierra Leone, Fongang Che Landis from Cameroon.

Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit - MARS 2022 Awards was conducted in partnership with African Union Scientific Technical Research Commission.

"I am extremely proud of MARS 7 winners who have been recognized under the two categories of 'Best African Women Researchers Awards'

and 'Best Young African Researcher Awards' for their valuable contribution in research, especially by African Female Researchers who are under presented in this field, as we all know," she said.

Through Merck Foundation African Research Summit - MARS Awards, we aim to empower African young researchers and encourage African women researchers through advancing their research capacity and promote their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit - MARS 2022 had a scientific support from African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), Infectious Diseases Institute, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Graduate School.

The winners of 'Best African Women Researchers Awards' and 'Best Young African Researcher Awards' will be enrolled into research training at a premier research institute in India.

According to her, Gladys Kaba from Ghana announced to be the best African woman researcher for a topic on Diversity of Cervicovaginal Human Papillomavirus Genotypes and Naturally Occurring E6/E7 DNA Sequence Polymorphism: A Study among Selected Women with Clinical Suspicion of Cancer of the Cervix or Diagnosed Cervix Cancer/Precancer Cases in Ghana.

Amaya Jobin Habila from Nigeria recognized for a topic on Evaluation of the Immunoprotective Potential Of Trypanosoma Brucei Glycerol Kinase In Mice.

Shingirai Chiwambutsa from South Africa, write research on effect of genetic polymorphism and co-medications on tamoxifen metabolising enzymes and plasma levels of endoxifen in black South African breast cancer patients.

While Ededia Firdawoke from Ethiopia write research on HPV in women with invasive cervical cancer lesion and cancer: the use of urine as an adjunct specimen.



RTI International (www.rti.org) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and multidisciplinary services.

USAID Tanzania Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity

RTI is currently implementing the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity that addresses dynamics that threaten habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania. This activity incorporates a series of interventions that support and strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation.

RTI is looking for a candidate to fill the Driver position under USAID/Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity. The position will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Purpose of the position:

The driver will drive, maintain, and manage the project vehicle for the Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Driving RTI vehicle as may be assigned by the Supervisor for the transport of authorized clients, visitors, goods, messages, mail, etc.
- Collect and deliver goods, mail, documents, and other items
- Take care of the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, check oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc.; perform minor repairs and arrange for other repairs and ensure that it is kept clean.
- Log official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc.
- Read and understand specific vehicle operating manual to ensure the safe and appropriate operations of the vehicle.
- Ensure that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident
- Produce weekly records of mileage traveled.
- Identify any apparent problems during field deliveries and report them to the appropriate personnel.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum required Education, Experience, Skills & Abilities:

- Secondary schooling desirable
- Proficiency in English (written/spoken) desirable
- 5 years of experience in driving a project vehicle, preferably for a USAID or other donor project
- Valid driver's license in good standing
- Defensive driving certificate will be a plus

How to apply

RTI is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates may apply directly on RTI's careers site at <https://www.rti.org/careers> or submit an updated CV and cover letter to tuhifadhi_hr@rti.org. Please reference the position title in subject line. The deadline for submitting application is 27th January 2023.

ONLY SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

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Supervising Std I literacy level viable starting point

CHECKING what happens in the earliest stages of learning is now starting to be tackled in earnest, with regional and district education officers countrywide being told to supervise education delivery at that stage. A deputy permanent secretary admonished key education officials for sitting in offices hearing personal staff problems while being unaware how effectively learning is being imparted. The ministry has decided to raise the bar, to ensure pupils can read, write and count.

Some confusion has been reigning in officialdom and among the public as to education can be restructured such that we can ensure that primary school pupils are competent in literacy and numeracy. While stakeholders and all sorts of experts are still pondering about the issue, the ministry decided to go one up, unless this reflects consultations at higher level that weren't quite visible to the public. The new instruction is to ensure standard one pupils are skilled when changing grade.

From what transpired in the Babati meeting of regional and district education officers at a working session to evaluate performance and implementation of the sector over the past year, it appears that the hurdle is not insurmountable. While remarks in a speech for the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister Angellah Kairuki sought to be specific as to the huge supervision work, a deputy permanent secretary who earlier headed the National Examinations Council (NECTA) was down to earth. To him it wasn't a matter of embarking on a massive supervision project on what teachers do in school but getting up and start working.

The regional and district officials examined various activities aimed at improving how early education is supervised. The point in the minister's remarks was that regional and district officials inspect to see to it that teachers make the necessary effort to ensure that children have those basic skills early on. Given the widespread neglect of this need in education as a whole, even the belief that it can be done largely appears to have evaporated. Those who are nearer the cooking pot aren't so sure and are persuaded that if top officials inspect progress the work will be done.

At the moment we are still at what appears to be a theory that pupils, en masse, can learn basic reading, writing and math skills in the first grade. This isn't a new vision or objective as it is really the intention of education, and attaining a different grade means something has been learned. There is no change in the definition of schooling but a resolve to follow it up, and remove cobwebs of lethargy, disaster.

Checking what teachers do in Standard I to brush it up is the point of departure to improve education delivery as a whole. Inspection will show the extent of failure to impart basic skills at Standard I and how the bottlenecks can be resolved. The difference this time is that key officials are tasked with a clear goal, not just visiting, listening and writing a report. This way the principal issues aren't quite addressed and the rot is reproduced year after year - so that pupils attend tuition. It is partially this lacuna that positively encourages underperformance, to seek other remedies. These auxiliary solutions are symbiotic with indifference in classrooms.

Unsteady health insurance affecting acceptance of referrals for patients

WITH disputes reaching a high decibel level, patient referrals from regional hospitals to other referral hospitals are becoming problematic, since the Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel has had to make an effort to help rectify the situation. How far that intervention shall work is a different matter. The trouble perhaps what that intervention is that it was given in a public meeting when viewing progress in wide ranging renovation and expansion of the Miremba National Mental Health Hospital. Hence the way in which he expressed displeasure with refusing transfers of patients to big referral hospitals wasn't formal enough.

Indeed, many of the hospital administrators to whom the comment was directed could arguably agree with him without much dissent that refusal of patients' referrals was unprofessional. The foot ulcer is how far they will be prepared to authorise avoidable expenses where referrals are entirely discretionary on the part of a doctor charged with treatment, and the patient or his/her relatives, employers, etc.

The question is how much hospital expenses are available for 'someone else's patient' whose referral presumably adds nothing to hospital coffers draining them.

In that case, calls to heads of major public health facilities to stop preventing patients being referred there from other centers, may go unheard or unheeded. This is doubly so as the call was an appeal directed at administrators' consciences, not a formal instruction, signed by the minister or above that level. As it involves quite some discretion which puts lives at risk, and hospital coffers at bay, it is daunting.

That is why it is hard to believe without further effort, that hospital heads will really not be bothered that

such referrals contain elements of cost exemptions. Even without training in hospital administration, it is apparent that cost waivers in patient care, where it is neither covered by medical insurance or private payment, even if it is whittled down to 'cost sharing' for poor families, makes such referrals an exercise in charity. Indeed it could also be a game where a hospital decides to shift the patient elsewhere, supposedly for better expertise but actually for costs.

In that case there is something of 'easier said than done' complex in the deputy minister's appeal, or in a sense it is an instruction, where the stakeholders ought not to sit with satisfaction of having heard that declaration about unprofessional habits of refusing hospital referrals. They say in a local language adage that 'misery has no manners,' so a hospital administrator knows fully well that it is unethical to refuse patients' referrals but if it is beneficial to the facility as a cost accounting unit, he will definitely do it. He will explain it as in the public interest that resources are not squandered on cases whose costs are being met by no one.

This situation may also to an extent explain the manner that the cabinet official took up the issue, with an appeal rather than obtaining a written directive circulated to hospital administrators. At the same time they would demand to see the portions of resources they can use for such cases, such that, as in the budgetary issue of higher learning students' loans, the government actually set to work to find the money. The various universities weren't asked to be charitable, nor will hospitals, and in that regard the deputy minister has actually moved to make issue clear in the eyes of the public. The sentiments expressed were noble, to be sure, but will have to be met with the relevant disbursements, to be effective.

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CHANGING OF GUARD



Education proposals in President Ruto's manifesto to cost Sh630bn

By Special Correspondent

The first full school year under President William Ruto's administration begins this month, with a focus on the implementation of ambitious reforms that experts estimate will cost at least Sh630 billion over five years.

During the launch of the Kenya Kwanza manifesto ahead of the 2022 elections, President Ruto acknowledged education is a key driver for socio-economic development and made a raft of pledges to improve the sector.

An immediate task is the recruitment of extra teachers for secondary and primary schools for which the government has committed to bridging the 116,000 shortfall. This is estimated to cost at least Sh238 billion over the next five years, according to the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO).

Due to the huge financial undertaking in the construction of learning facilities, the new government has recommended that junior secondary be hosted in primary schools, but still finds itself in a fix over lack of laboratories as Grade 7, 8 and 9 learners need them.

Recently the President said junior high learners who have no laboratories in their schools will be allowed to access the same in the neighbouring schools.

But what poses a major challenge is the revelation by PBO in its audit of the Kenya Kwanza education manifesto that 50 per cent of boarding secondary schools and 70 per cent of day secondary schools

lack laboratories. This leaves the government no choice but to build them - a long-term venture that may take years to complete and which raises questions about the preparedness to roll out junior secondary.

In the short term, the government is under pressure to raise Sh28.84 billion to improve the capacity of day schools and guarantee access to quality education as congestion in the learning institutions worsens.

"The bottom-up economic transformation agenda is conscious of education as the ultimate means of ensuring an equitable society.

It ensures that every child has a chance to fulfil their potential and rise to the highest level of accomplishment irrespective of social background," the Kenya Kwanza manifesto reads.

While the previous administration was cagey about the cost of implementing the Competency-Based Curriculum, the proposals to reform the education sector spelt out in the Kenya Kwanza manifesto offer a glimpse into the huge financial outlay.

The acid test for President Ruto's administration, however, is to ensure a 100 per cent transition of the 1,287,597 pioneer Grade Six learners, who sat their Kenya Primary School Education Assessment last year, into junior high. Their results are due later this month.

Parents and guardians buy books for their children at Savani's Book Centre Limited in Nairobi County on January 3, 2023, ahead of schools reopening after the December festivities.

Dennis Onsongo | Nation Media Group

There are also 1,244,188 pupils who sat their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam in November last year whose results were released in December and are waiting to join Form One this year.

This piles more pressure on the government to provide the required resources to expand both the primary and secondary education infrastructure, including the construction of classes, equipping libraries and laboratories and hiring teachers, among others.

Already, MPs have been told to channel more of the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) cash towards the improvement of schools' infrastructure.

Towards the end of last year, President Ruto explained why he wanted the NG-CDF protected and made a constitutional fund.

Speaking on December 11, 2022, during a Church service at Wanjohi Primary School in Kipipiri, Nyandarua County, the President said NG-CDF is meant to secure the development of education.

"NG-CDF has facilitated the construction of many schools and offered bursaries for tens of thousands of learners in primary and secondary schools in the country," the President said.

The PBO estimates that a total of 70,000 in-service teachers will be trained on an annual basis at a cost of Sh6,000 per teacher.

An estimated annual recruitment of 20,000 primary school teachers and 38,000 secondary school

teachers will be undertaken, with an average annual cost of maintaining a primary school teacher at Sh300,000 and that of a secondary school teacher at Sh480,000.

The government also plans to spend Sh800,000 to build two classrooms and Sh4.5 million to construct an omnibus laboratory in each school.

It will cost Sh40 million to construct 52 teachers training institutions within two years, with the school feeding programme requiring an additional Sh1.9 billion to double the number of beneficiaries from two million to four million.

Also to eat into the government's expenditure on education is the plan to increase the number of Early Childhood Development Education learners by 0.5 per cent, with learners provided with meals at Sh25 per day.

The Kenya Kwanza administration has also made additional commitments to promote equitable education, establishing a special tariff service for all learning institutions for basic utilities such as water, electricity and internet connection.

There is also a plan to review the current exam-based system of academic progression by implementing alternative entry criteria and setting up a national open university to increase access and reduce the cost of university education while making a 100 per cent transition to higher education a reality.

However, the plan does not indicate any financial commitment to the interventions notwithstanding that they have budgetary implications.

Standardising private universities

By Special Correspondent

For a nation of more than 200 million people, 111 private universities cannot be considered too many, especially given that there are only 105 public universities belonging to the federal government and the 36 states. And if the access gap to university education and its attendant enrollment of students persists, according to Education Minister, Adamu Adamu, government will continue to welcome proposals for the establishment of private universities by credible groups and organisations. While it is difficult to fault such a policy, the proliferation of private universities has also raised several pertinent questions about standards.

The main worry stems from the

fact that the sheer incompetence in tackling the problems in the existing public universities is being waived by this recourse to all manner of private universities. Lecturers who can't hold their own as senior lecturers in respectable universities are being hired as professors and even vice chancellors in some of these universities. The same thing that happened with the banks when we had close to a hundred of them before the 2004 Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) consolidation exercise is now happening with universities. And it bodes ill for the quality of education in the country.

We appreciate the critical roles being played by many of these private universities. What we abhor is the current cynical approach to education in Nigeria and that

explains why we have been calling for a total overhaul of the sector. The development of a sound educational system, according to Afe Babalola, SAN, proprietor of a respected private university, requires enormous resources for research, infrastructural development, and the employment of quality academic and non-academic staff. That is precisely the point we are making.

The Committee on Needs Assessment of Nigerian Public Universities once identified a common problem among Nigerian universities, irrespective of region and ownership: they are all battling with the challenge of poorly equipped laboratories and workshops, outdated equipment, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated structures, etc. These inadequacies and many

other irregularities in the Nigerian education system have contributed to the declining quality that has continued to elicit concern from stakeholders.

It is therefore little surprise that graduates of Nigerian universities are said to be unemployable, as they lack sufficient knowledge, skills and possibly other attributes that will enable them to serve themselves, their employers, and the society. Yet this problem can easily be traced to the neglect that the sector has suffered over the years in the hands of successive governments in the country. Unfortunately, this has led to a situation in which the future of many innocent education-seeking young Nigerians is now practically compromised.

BUSINESS

Bolt longest cumulative ride by a customer at 7,000km, according to data insights

By Guardian Reporter

THE longest cumulative ride by a customer in Tanzania was over 7,000 kilometers, while the average distance was seven kilometers, according to Bolt Tanzania 2022 data insights released recently.

According to insights, the most popular destinations in Tanzania included the Mlimani City Mall in Dar es Salaam, the Gran Meliá in Arusha, Rock City Mall in Mwanza, and the Royal Village Hotel in Dodoma.

The end-of-year data insights and key highlights aimed at showcasing the company's performance in terms of services offered and milestones achieved.

Despite 2022 being a challenging year for the ride-hailing industry in Tanzania, the data reveals the customers with the most rides taken on the platform, the drivers with the best ratings, and the most common destinations on the app.

Recently, the Tanzania Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) gazetted new regulations under notice number 7284 introducing favourable price and commission rate caps for the ride-hailing services.

These new tariffs offer an opportunity for Bolt to continue offering full scale operations that will allow hundreds of thousands of Tanzanians to enjoy affordable, safe and sustainable services.

This also provides drivers operating on the platform with access to viable earning opportunities.

Bolt's Regional Manager for Eastern Africa, Kenneth Micah, said that Tanzania remains an integral market for the business and that with the positive progress on the regula-

tory front, he is hopeful for accelerated growth in the ride-hailing industry.

"Bolt is delighted that there were significant milestones achieved in 2022 despite the challenges experienced. The business has continued to experience significant growth and Bolt continues to be the most preferred means of mobility across urban locations in Tanzania," said Micah.

With the recent positive changes in the regulations, Micah said Bolt remain committed to investing further in the market and will continue to work with LATRA and other government and private sector stakeholders to ensure that the ride-hailing industry grows to its full potential.

Bolt continues redefining the mobility sector in Tanzania with innovative and unique offerings such as in-app payment options and discounts for riders, access to early cash-outs for drivers, and flexible earning opportunities for drivers.

In addition, the company's commitment to providing high-quality and reliable services for riders and drivers has helped it maintain its position as the leading ride-hailing platform in the region.

Bolt is the European super-app on a mission to make urban mobility more affordable, safe, and sustainable. Bolt has 100 million customers in 45 countries and over 400 cities across Europe and Africa.

The company seeks to accelerate the transition from owned cars to shared mobility, offering better alternatives for every use case, including ride-hailing, shared cars and scooters, and food and grocery delivery.

Apple CEO Tim Cook's pay decreases by half

LOS ANGELES

APPLE Chief Executive Officer, Tim Cook, will receive \$49 million in 2023, a bit less than half his compensation from the previous year.

The sector was wiped out on the stock market last year as fears about the health of the economy intensified and the covid-19 pandemic took off again in China. That's where the factories of many tech groups are located.

In response to the economic worries, the tech groups slashed their costs, including waves of job cuts. Meta Platforms (META) - Get Free Report, for example, cut 11,000 jobs, a first since the social-networking giant started up in 2004. E-commerce giant Amazon (AMZN) - Get Free Report said it would eliminate more than 18,000 jobs.

In addition to the job cuts, projects have been abandoned and the pace of recruitment has been greatly slowed. That's particularly acute at Apple (AAPL) - Get Free Report, which has had logistical problems with the latest version of the iPhone, the 14. The world's largest company lost \$846.34 billion in market value last year.

Given this context, tech's leaders needed to show that they were also ready to make personal efforts. Apple CEO Tim Cook just acted on this: He'll see his remuneration reduced by 40% for 2023, Apple announced in a regulatory document.

Cook is expected to receive total compensation of \$49 million this year. It will consist of a base salary of \$3 million, an incentive bonus of \$6 million, and \$40 million of shares.

This pay should decline 50.7% from 2022. Last year, the Apple CEO had received pay amounting

to \$99.4 million, including \$83 million in stock awards, \$12 million in incentives, and \$3 million in salary. The pay also included contributions to a pension plan, security costs, air travel and more than \$46,000 in paid vacation.

Last year was a slight increase from 2021, the year in which Cook received \$98.7 million. But 2022 was a large increase compared with the previous two years: Apple's boss received \$14.8 million in 2020 and \$11.6 million in 2019.

The \$49 million he should receive this year is still more than triple his 2020 compensation.

The decision to cut Cook's pay in 2023 from 2022 comes after criticism from some investors. Last year holders of less than two-thirds (64%) of Apple shares approved the CEO's compensation, compared with 95% the previous year.

Perhaps fearing an even tighter vote this year, Cook may have moved to avoid what would have been a further disapproving vote from holders.

The prominent investor-advisory firm Institutional Shareholder Services recommended that shareholders vote against the compensation package awarded to Cook at the last annual meeting.

ISS also said that Cook, who succeeded Co-Founder Steve Jobs in 2011, was paid 1,447 times more than the average Apple employee.

"The compensation committee balanced shareholder feedback, Apple's exceptional performance, and a recommendation from Mr. Cook to adjust his compensation in light of the feedback received," the company explained in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

It is rare to see a CEO himself recommending a reduction in his compensation.



Minister of State in the Office of the President (Public Services Management and Good Governance) Jenista Mhagama (C), cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to launch Faida Fund. The others include Constitution and Legal Affairs Minister, Damas Ndumbaro (5th L), Deputy Minister in the Office of the President, Deogratius Ndejemi (4th L), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Natu Mwamba (5th R), CRDB Bank Plc CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela (L). Photo by Guardian photographer

Minister wants Tanzanians to now invest in Faida Fund

By Guardian Reporter

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Government has urged institutions involved in development of youths, women and special groups to start sensitizing these groups to invest in the recently launched Faida Fund managed by Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI).

Speaking during the fund's launch in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, minister Mhagama said the government would like to see Tanzanians are not left behind in investments and capital growth.

The minister congratulated WHI for creating the fund because will not only create opportunity for Tanzanians to invest for good profit, but will help it to raise capital for implementing its development project.

"This fund is part of the gov-

ernment intentions to empower Tanzanians economically and it is the implementation of the economic empowerment policy," she said.

WHI Chief Executive Officer Dr Fred Msemwa said the introduction of Faida Fund resulted from views from investors who wanted to invest in short term assets.

Dr Msemwa said apart from great achievement of the first fund in housing (Watumishi Housing Corporation-REIT) launched in 2014 and raised 59bn/-, some of the investors, especially retail, requested for the establishment of this fund, which give opportunity for many investors.

"Because this is a patriotic corporation, we decided to work on views of our investors. Today, we are proud of launching Faida Fund, the collective investment scheme. This fund does not discriminate any amount of investment the investor has and it gives an opportu-

nity for any Tanzanian to join," he said.

WHI CEO also thanked CRDB Bank Plc, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed, for being the custodian of the bank, the office of Controller Auditor General, Abenry Advocates and Solomon Securities Limited for their cooperation in establishing the fund.

On his part, the CRDB Bank Plc Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela thanked WHI for choosing the bank to become the custodian bank of the established fund, noting that they are positioned to ensure that it reaches more Tanzanians to invest in the fund.

Explaining on the benefits of investing in the fund, Nsekela said it is part of promoting financial inclusion which consider all Tanzanians of all ages and is the cheapest as it requires any person to invest at an initial investment amount of 10,000/-, which is part and parcel of the

bank's policy in improving efficiency.

Nsekela also said, Faida Fund is the seventh fund to be managed by CRDB Bank Plc as custodian and investment advisor and promising that the bank is positioned in managing the fund to ensure that the interests of investors are realized.

The bank's CEO told the minister that the bank proud of being the leading in offering best services in investments in capital markets by hosting more than 70 percent of all investors in capital markets and securities.

In 2022, CRDB Bank was awarded by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) to recognize its leading participation in offering banking services to capital markets.

CRDB Bank Plc is the only in Tanzania offering capital markets' selling and buying services through its 255 branches and 25,000 agents network across Tanzania.

TCCIA to start issuing certificates of origin electronically

By Guardian Reporter

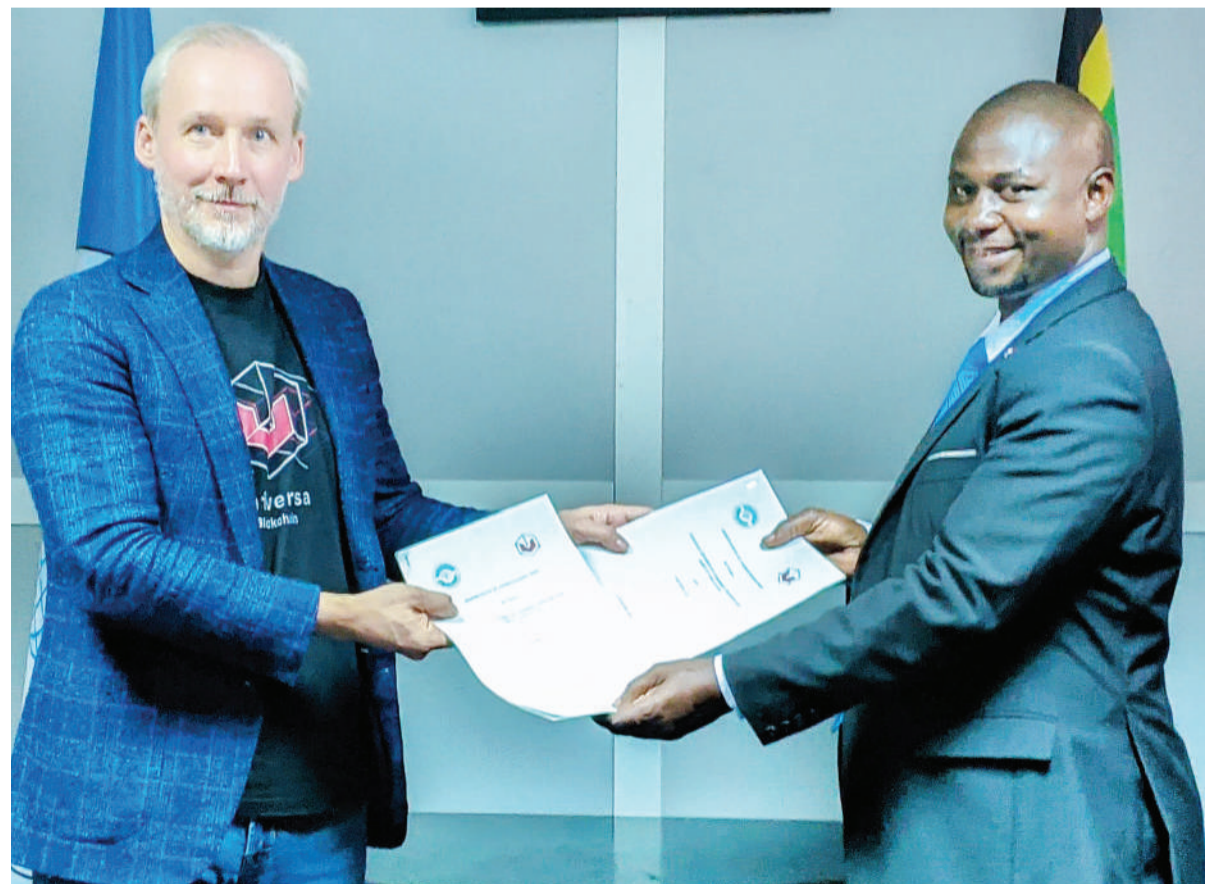
THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's Universa Blockchain to start issuing Certificate of Origin of goods for its members electronically.

Speaking shortly after the signing of the historical agreement meant to transform the chamber's performance in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, TCCIA Executive Director, Nebart Mwapwele said issuance of a certificate of origin online would improve services and increase the credibility of the chamber for members and business community in general.

"Under the agreement through the new system, members will not need to incur costs of traveling all their way to the Chamber's Headquarters in Dar es Salaam and reduce paperwork instead everything will be done electronically," Mwapwele explained.

He said the technology would smoothen the entire process of issuing the certificates of origin and yet stimulate business growth and development for the betterment of members and the business community at large.

"We thank the Universa Blockchain for signing



Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture executive director Nebart Mwapwele (R) exchanges documents with Universa Blockchain managing director Alexander Borodish shortly after signing MoU in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the issuance of certificates of origin on goods for its members electronically. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

this agreement with us (TCCIA) since we are optimistic that our services will greatly be improved and benefit our members," he said, calling for more transformations.

Universa Blockchain managing director, Alexander Borodish said the new system would increase confidence of customers, since they would know exactly the origin where the goods

come from and not wise. "The presence of this system at TCCIA will benefit Tanzania as among the first countries to use this system that will minimize the usage of papers since the system is secured, transparent and reliable, Borodish said, noting that his company was proud of working with TCCIA taking into account that it has the

largest network of members who would benefit a lot from the system and increase their businesses globally.

TCCIA Vice President (Industry) Clement Bococo said through the system the chamber would meet the expectations of its members.

"We hope this system will help in ensuring the safety of members" information plus increas-

ing work efficiency," he said.

TCCIA board member, Dr Saidi Mtemi Kingu commended the agreement, saying it was timely signed as the board promised members.

"It is optimism that the system will improve the issuance of a certificate of origin and other services offered by the chamber," Dr. Kingu said.

Amendments to mining legislation stimulate local content, says TMC

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE amendment of the mining laws resulted into a series of successive developments in the sector, including local content such as an increase in employment in the mines and domestic purchases, it has been unveiled.

The Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC) Executive Secretary, Engineer Yahya Samamba said over the weekend in Dodoma Capital City that the improvements have increased the sector contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 7.3 percent.

Eng. Samamba unveiled the achievements in the country's extraction sector when giving a special interview to the Tanzania Information Services Department (Habari Maelezo), being part of the preparation of a special session aimed at looking at the contribution of the mining sector in empowering Tanzanians economically.

In 2017, the National Parliament, through impetus from the former president, the late John Magufuli enacted amendments for certain written laws in the extractive industry and financial laws with a view to enhancing control and compliance, ensuring maximum collection of revenues and securing national interest.

"Before the amendments, many mining companies were employing a number of foreign nationals even in jobs that could easily be manned by Tanzanians," he briefed.

According to him, the



The Tanzania Mining Commission executive secretary, Yahya Samamba stress a point during special interview in Dodoma Capital City. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

amendment has provided opportunities to many Tanzanians to participate in the mining economy through employment, provision of services such as food, distributing mining equipment and screening of minerals in the mining sites.

It has also triggered an impressive increase in domestic purchases, up to 92 percent, unlike before whereby domestic purchases were less than 50 percent while most of the products were being imported from abroad re-

gardless they were available in the country.

"Currently, many of the mining companies are buying products and services from within the country and for products that are not available in the country, the companies often request permission from the Mining Commission before importing the relevant products," informed Eng. Samamba.

He further revealed that, ever before, currently many Tanzanians were holding high positions in the management of differ-

ent mining companies, the vital stage that has been attained through the commission's effective management and monitoring of implementation of the set principles to ensure many indigenous are taking part in the mining sector.

Dwelling on further achievements, Eng. Samamba said that the great works being accomplished by the TMC in creating awareness towards mining stakeholders in the country have ultimately fetched useful end-results

as until now approximately six million people have been employed in mining activities.

"We have also witnessed a lot of success in the improvement of community services through mineral mines, and this is due to careful attention by TMC over management of the improvement of community services carried out by mining companies, for example, significant changes have been achieved in many regions including infrastructure improvements of roads, water, construction of schools and health centers," he expounded.

Previously, he said the mining companies were designing projects without involving the citizens, but after the change in the relevant laws, the mining companies are now involving the government through councils and the citizens in the classification of projects.

He also tasked the mining companies to continue strengthening mutual relations with the community surrounding and the citizens to cooperate with the company so that their investment would be of great benefit to both sides.

"I would like to invite investors from inside and outside the country to extend their investment footholds in the country's mining industry because the government has created a good environment to ensure all investors are benefiting accordingly while the government also benefits through various taxes.

Bitcoin surges above \$21,000 amid inflation

LONDON

BITCOIN surged over \$21,000 on Saturday amid optimism that it may have bottomed and inflation has peaked.

The largest cryptocurrency rose as much as 7.5% to \$21,299, before paring gains as the day progressed. It hadn't been above \$20,000 since Nov. 8, and Saturday was the 11th straight day of advances.

Second-largest token Ether surged as much as 9.7%, and others such as Cardano and Dogecoin also notched gains. Solana soared as much as 35%.

The overall market cap of the crypto universe rose above \$1 trillion for the first time since early November, according to data from CoinGecko.

"There has been a steady grind higher since the start of the year," said Cici Lu, chief executive officer of Venn Link Partners Pte. "It feels like we hit a supply 'air pocket' and breaking through \$20,000 resistance took out some stops. Optically, \$20,000 for many is a key level."

US short-term inflation expectations fell in early January to the lowest in nearly two years, providing a bigger-than-expected boost to consumer sentiment, according to the University of Michigan's preliminary survey reading. A separate report showed consumer prices rising 6.5% in the 12 months through December, marking the slowest inflation rate in more than a year.

The Federal Reserve is on track to downshift to smaller interest-rate increases following the further cooling in prices, though it's likely to keep hiking until pressures show more definitive signs of slowing. That's helped boost risk assets like the Nasdaq 100 stock index, which has gained for six straight days.

"Cryptoassets performed well following the soft CPI print, suggesting that crypto's correlation to macro is not going away anytime soon," said Sean Farrell, head of digital asset strategy at Fundstrat. "This week's follow-through in price action is certainly encouraging," and barring any forced liquidations from troubled crypto company DCG, "there is a high probability that the absolute bottom is in for crypto prices."

The price of Bitcoin was stuck in a narrow range around \$16,000 to \$17,000 for weeks before the latest breakout. The upward moves have caught shorts by surprise – crypto short liquidations have topped \$100 million in five of the past six days, according to data from Coinglass. Saturday's total was the highest, topping \$449 million.

Katie Stockton, co-founder of Fairlead Strategies, offered a caution about the rally, which has taken Bitcoin above its 200-day moving average for the first time in a year.

"Deeply overbought short-term readings challenge positive momentum, so we would not chase the rally at these levels," she said in a note Friday. She sees resistance near \$21,500, where there's a 61% Fibonacci retracement level.

Still, the upward trajectory could inject even further optimism into a market that's been struggling to find good news in recent months.



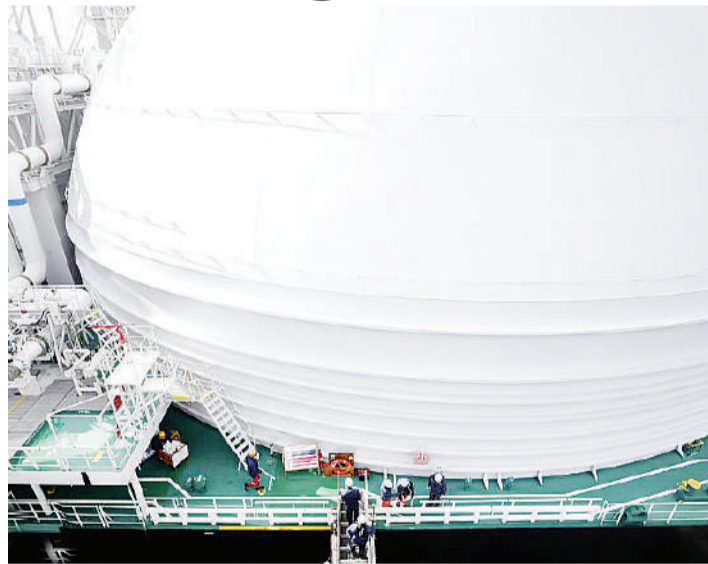
Qatar says natural gas markets will remain volatile

DOHA

NATURAL gas markets could whipsaw for the next several years because there's still too little supply to meet rising demand, according to the energy minister of Qatar.

"It's going to be a volatile situation for some time to come," Saad al-Kaabi said at an Atlantic Council conference in Abu Dhabi. "We're bringing a lot of gas to the market, but it's not enough."

Next winter may be tough for gas consumers in the northern hemisphere, he said, as they will probably struggle to replenish their stockpiles before then in the absence of flows from Russia.



Gas prices soared after Russia invaded Ukraine last February and Moscow cut piped supplies to Europe. Prices

have slumped since the middle of 2022 as economies slowed and thanks to Europe ramping up imports of liquefied natural gas, including from Qatar. A warmer-than-normal winter in Europe has also helped.

But prices remain far above historical averages and could jump again if China's economic re-opening leads it to increase purchases of gas. Europe may also have to fill up its reserves over the summer with barely any flows from Russia, easily its biggest supplier before the Ukraine war.

High prices are hurting consumers, al-Kaabi said.

"The biggest challenge we face as producers is demand

destruction and there is demand destruction for both gas and oil," he said.

Qatar, which vies with the US as the world's top exporter of LNG, is investing around \$45 billion to increase its production by almost 60%. But that project won't be finished until 2027.

Al-Kaabi said Qatar will sign more deals this year with consumers for the new gas. In November, it made multi-year agreements to supply some of it to Germany and China.

Qatar will also sign so-called off-take deals for its LNG assets in the US in 2023, he said. The Persian Gulf country owns 70% of the Golden Pass export terminal in Sabine Pass, Texas.

University professor emphasizes science as vital for children

By Enock Charles

IN a bid to promote economic and technology advancement in Tanzania, there is a need of passing scientific knowledge in practical basis to children, to understand the nature of science and be provided with opportunities to develop and practice many different skills and attributes.

This was stated last Saturday by the Vice Chancellor of the United African University of Tanzania (UAUT), Professor Ho Chan Hwang, during a scientific competition organized by the University for primary schools in Kigamboni District.

During the Science Class Contest with the slogan 'do it by yourself (DIY)', students competed in four projects



including making solar fans and mobile phone batteries using given instructions and

instruments.

Professor Hwang said that in order to achieve econom-

ic, technological and commercial development in the nation, science is necessary

and people should learn it during their childhood to follow the technical routes

which it gives them practical skills and attitudes that will be valuable in their future careers.

"No nation in the world can achieve economic and technological development if it does not involve science, so we have seen the importance and that is why we have started this competition," said Professor Hwang.

He said they decided to start the programme to build scientific capacity to juniors due to the fact that many students in Tanzania learn science just theoretically and hence they lack practical knowledge.

There were nine schools participated to Junior Doctor DIY science class contest with 53 students including, Grace primary school,

Solomon primary school, Kisiwani primary school, Ufukoni primary school, Darajani primary school and Vijibweni primary school.

The teacher from Ufukoni primary school, Hawa Kambi said that the DIY science contest was very important to them due to the fact many Tanzania school lack science equipment and laboratory that allows students to actually perform experiments rather than just read about them and hence it's the golden chance for Tanzania students especially from Kigamboni district to have such science competition.

"Science has to be real that means you can touch, you can see, you can feel not only in the black board and school notes from the teacher" said teacher Hawa.

WORLD

Probe shows US officials hid civilian deaths in Kabul strike

WASHINGTON

A MILITARY investigation recently disclosed by US media revealed that US officials knew shortly after a US-launched drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021 in which civilians were killed, but top military officers tried to conceal the facts by making misleading statements in the ensuing weeks.

Intentional lies

According to part of a partially redacted investigation report, which the New York Times said in a Jan 6 report it gained through a lawsuit against the US Central Command, top US commanders in Afghanistan were notified within hours after the Aug 29, 2021 drone strike near the Kabul International Airport that at least three children were killed.

Possible civilian casualties were reported within 20 minutes following the strike by US military analysts, who assessed that at least three children were killed about two to three hours after the attack, the Times reported, citing the investigation.

In their sworn statements for the probe, six of the nine witnesses said they learned immediately after the strike that the missile hit an area where

there were civilians who might have been killed as a result.

In the ensuing weeks, however, top military officials repeatedly refused to confirm the civilian deaths, with the commander of the Central Command, Kenneth McKenzie, saying on the day of the attack that while the “possibilities” of civilian casualties were being assessed, there were “no indications at this time.”

Three days after, Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, defended the operation as “righteous.”

It was not until Sept 17 that McKenzie finally acknowledged that 10 civilians, including seven children, were killed in that botched strike the United States carried out under extreme pressure.

Concealed truth

The ill-advised operation was a preemptive move foiling what intelligence personnel claimed to be a plan by the Islamic State's Afghan branch, ISIS-K, to bomb US troops conducting a hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan at the time.

Since the attack, multiple outside investigations have found out that the target, Zemari Ahmadi, was not an ISIS member. Quite on the contrary, he was a longtime Afghan contractor working



Aimal (right), brother of Zamarai Ahmadi, stands next to the wreckage of a vehicle that was damaged in a US drone strike in the Kwaja Burga neighborhood of Kabul on Sept 18, 2021. AFP

for a California-based aid group. Others killed in the incident were Ahmadi's family members.

On that day, Ahmadi was driving his white Toyota Carolla, which US intelligence officers mistakenly believed were loaded with explosives to be used to bomb US troops, to take colleagues to and from work. What were perceived as explosives in the trunk turned out to be jugs of water Ahmadi brought home for the family to drink.

“We now assess that it is unlikely that the vehicle and those who died were associated with ISIS-K or were a direct threat to US forces,” McKenzie said at the Sept 17, 2021, press briefing at the Pentagon. “It was a mistake.”

A subsequent review led by the Air Force inspector general, Sami Said, remains classified, the New York Times reported. But Said acknowledged that confirmation bias was an important factor in how Ahmadi became a target, which is a tendency to look for, analyze or remember information in a way that supports an existing belief.

Difficult justice claim

“When confirmation bias was so deadly in this case, you have to ask how many other people targeted by the military over the years were also unjustly killed,” Hina Shamsi, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing families of victims, was quoted by the Times as saying.

She said the investigation gained by the Times “makes clear that military personnel saw what they wanted to see and not reality, which was an Afghan aid worker going about his daily life.”

Emal Ahmadi, Zemari's brother whose toddler Malika was also killed in the strike, told Xinhua in an interview days after the tragedy that the United States launching airstrikes that killed innocent civilians, including children, was heinous war crimes, and that those responsible must be held to account.

The Defense Department has said it would not punish those carrying out the strike. It has promised to compensate Zemari's surviving relatives with condolence payments, but none of them have received the monetary assistance so far.

Xinhua

How rural china copes with spring festival rush amid covid surge

FOR village doctor Li Jun, the first wave of COVID-19 infections in his village is almost over, and he is bracing for a possible second during the coming Spring Festival.

A time for family, Spring Festival in China marks the biggest human migration in the world which happens once a year. Hundreds of millions of people travel back to their homes, with many returning from big cities to rural villages or townships. Experts predict the trend in following weeks may lead to more COVID-19 infections, challenging limited medical resources in rural China.

“Over 60 percent of our villagers have been infected by the virus in December,” said the 53-year-old, who has been working as a village doctor for almost 30 years.

Li's village is about 15 kilometers from downtown Handan, north China's Hebei Province. As soon as China eased its restrictions on the virus, the contagious Omicron variant quickly spread across the city and its suburban areas, as many villagers commute to the city.

“We experienced the shortage of fever and cough medicines when the cases peaked in mid December, so I've stocked more medicines for the coming Spring Festival,” said Li. “Actually, most villagers have already prepared

medicines, masks and sanitizers at home.”

Li's team of three in the village clinic cover 1,800 villagers, among which more than 300 are over 65 years old. Doctors know their patients well since they live in the neighborhood.

In Li's village, locals observe the tradition of greeting all elder relatives on the first day of the lunar new year going door-to-door. Along with other gatherings, the celebrations could expose elderly to a higher risk of getting infected.

Li said he would keep a close eye on those who have underlying health conditions. Having three comprehensive hospitals to turn to, he could transfer his patients there for treatment if severe symptoms are spotted.

Plans differ among groups

Most people who already got COVID-19 are planning to return to their hometowns to celebrate the Spring Festival during the week-long vacation, though some are worried about getting infected again with new variants.

But for some elderly people, they are inclined to take a conservative approach. Villager Wang Hui's parents are over 90 years old, and both of them have underlying health conditions.

Coupled with the risk of contracting COVID-19, Wang



The medicine cupboard in Li Jun's clinic, Xisunzhuang Village, Beizhangzhuang Town, Hanshan District, Handan, Hebei Province, China, January 4, 2023. /courtesy of Li Jun

has been thinking about canceling the annual celebrations. She told her daughter who works in Beijing not to come back to the village during the festival rush as all of them have escaped the virus' previous attacks.

“Let's stay negative as long as we can and see how the situation develops. Perhaps meeting in spring is a better choice for us,” the 58-year-old said.

Preparations beforehand

Anticipating possible pressure on the rural healthcare system, the Chinese government issued three national guidelines in December to prepare rural regions for possible waves of infection.

In these guidelines, the Joint Control and Prevention Mechanism of the State Council urged local governments to increase staffing in rural

clinics and hospitals, facilitate vaccination and boost the supply of medicines for fever, cough and common underlying diseases.

All hospitals in townships are required to set up fever clinics that remain open 24 hours a day. They need to train village doctors as well to improve their skills in treating COVID-19 related symptoms, from using rapid antigen test kits to identifying severe cases. Jiao Yuhui, director of the medical administration bureau, National Health Commission (NHC), said there are two key aspects to help support the rural medical system to deal with the mounting pressure.

One is the supply of medicines, and the other is the timely transfer of severe cases to better hospitals, Jiao said in an interview with China Media Group last week.

Based on the tiered diagnosis and treatment model, the mechanism of setting up green channels for transferring serious patients from grassroots clinics to larger hospitals has been promoted since 2015.

On top of more vehicles and green channels to secure timely transfers, experts said online medical consultations can also be used to seek medical support.

As an important area of poverty alleviation, China has been making efforts to build a stronger rural medical care system.

From 2012 to 2020, the central government allocated a total of 1.4 trillion yuan (roughly \$202 billion) to support the development of health programs in 25 provinces, data from the NHC shows. More than 170 billion yuan (\$24.7 billion) has been spent to support the construction of 150,000 medical and health institutions in underdeveloped regions.

Currently, China has 23,000 county-level medical and health institutions, 35,000 township-level health centers, and 599,000 village clinics at the end of 2021, according to NHC. Over 6.3 million personnel work in these institutions and clinics, and they have remained devoted to China's fight against COVID-19.

CGTN

WHO chief speaks highly of China's COVID response efforts

BEIJING

THE chief of the World Health Organization spoke highly of the Chinese government's efforts to cope with the COVID-19 epidemic in his phone conversation with a senior Chinese health official.

According to the National Health Commission, its director Ma Xiaowei exchanged views on China's current COVID response with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Saturday.

Ma said China has been sharing COVID information with the WHO and other countries since the onset of the epidemic. China was the first to identify the pathogen and publicize key information including the genome sequencing of the virus. China also set up a technical exchange mechanism with the WHO.

Since China optimized its COVID response, the two sides have conducted many technical exchanges. China will continue to support the role of the WHO in pooling international efforts to fight the virus, Ma said.

The WHO chief expressed appreciation of China's efforts to maintain long-term technical exchanges and share epidemic information and data with the WHO.

The two sides agreed to continue to strengthen technical exchanges and cooperation on epidemic prevention and control, and jointly maintain global health security.



Beninese president meets Chinese foreign minister

COTONOU

BENINESE President Patrice Talon on Friday met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Cotonou, the largest city of Benin.

Talon asked Qin to convey his sincere greetings and best wishes to Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying the visit of the new Chinese foreign minister to Benin during his first official African tour, which came shortly after the 50th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and Benin, has demonstrated the friendly and close ties between the two countries.

Benin cherishes China's long-term support and assistance, Talon said, adding that Benin, though small in size, stands on the side of truth, equality and justice, and will continue to be a steadfast and reliable friend of China.

China has found the right development path and made achievements that impressed the whole world, achievements that have deeply inspired all the developing countries, the president said.

He said Benin looks forward to learning from China's experience, deepening and expanding practical cooperation with China, and accelerating national development and revitalization.

Qin, for his part, conveyed President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to Talon, noting that over the past half a century, China and Benin have always respected each other and treated each other as equals.

China appreciates Benin's understanding and support on issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns, and stands ready to continue as a sincere partner of Benin with mutual political trust and forge ahead together in development, Qin said.

He said China is looking forward to jointly implementing the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and the outcomes of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, so as to continuously push China-Benin relations to new levels.

Beijing encourages more capable and reputable Chinese companies to invest in Benin, and hopes that Benin will safeguard the safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese institutions and personnel, Qin said.

He said that China has always adhered to the leadership of the Communist Party of China in its reforms and development, stayed committed to independence, and never simply copied the models of any other countries.

China is willing to strengthen experience-sharing on state governance with Benin, and support its pursuit of a development path suited to Benin's national realities, Qin said.

He said China will continue to work in solidarity with African countries, including Benin, to achieve common development based on the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation and in line with the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and a commitment to the greater good and shared interests.

During the visit, Qin also held talks with his Beninese counterpart, Aurelien Agbenonci, and signed documents on cooperation in such fields as people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

Xinhua

FOREIGN-FUNDED companies have remained upbeat about the development prospects in China, continuously expanding their presence in the country since the beginning of this year.

Recently, a set of new-generation digital power quality equipment rolled off the production line at a factory of Schneider Electric in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian province. A new flexible production line also started operation at the factory.

China has become Schneider Electric's second-largest market in the world, as well as an important supply chain base and one of the four major research and development (R&D) bases of the company.

In Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, European aircraft manufacturer Airbus has been order-

China ramps up efforts to attract, utilise foreign investment

ly promoting its first aircraft lifecycle service project outside Europe.

In 2023, an important task for China is to make greater efforts to attract and utilize foreign investment. By properly shortening the negative list for foreign investment access, continuing to build a first-class business environment, providing better services for foreign-funded enterprises and facilitating business cooperation and exchanges, China has constantly promoted high-level opening up and improved the quality and level of trade and investment cooperation.

On the first day of 2023, the 2022 edition of the Catalogue of Encouraged Industries for Foreign Investment went into effect. This version contains 1,474 items, with 239 newly-

added items and 167 revised ones compared with the 2020 version.

Foreign companies investing in the included industries can enjoy favorable policies such as tax reduction and exemption, as well as priority in land supply.

More encouraged industries for foreign investment and a less negative list for its access have indicated China's ongoing efforts to attract foreign investment.

In recent years, China has continuously lowered the threshold for foreign investment. Items on the negative lists nationwide and for pilot free trade zones (FTZs) have been cut to 31 and 27, respectively. Opening up has been basically achieved in the manufacturing sector and steadily

promoted in the agricultural and service industries.

Nowadays, the service industry has become a major sector that attracts foreign investment to China.

The State Council recently released a circular, approving the launch of a pilot project to expand opening up the service sector in six cities, including Shenyang, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Chengdu.

The pilot project had previously been carried out in five places including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Hainan and Chongqing. Nearly 70 innovative policies have been rolled out in Beijing in areas including R&D of the sci-tech sector and financial services for the real economy, and 151 differentiated pilot measures have been

launched in four places including Tianjin, accelerating the opening up of the service sector.

Thanks to the pilot project launched in Chongqing and other projects such as the Chongqing and the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity, ICHAM Pte. Ltd., a Singaporean company, obtained a license for conducting Qualified Domestic Limited Partner (QDLP) business in Chongqing and set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in the city.

“By obtaining the license, we can carry out financing activities in China and invest in Singapore and other overseas markets. In 2023, we'll actively conduct business and build a two-way cross-border channel for

financing and investment between China and the international market,” said Chen Peiliang, president of the subsidiary.

The annual Central Economic Work Conference recently proposed to grant foreign-funded enterprises national treatment, guarantee equal participation of foreign-funded enterprises in government procurement, bidding, and standard setting in accordance with the law, and increase the protection of intellectual property rights and the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors.

The foreign investment law, which came into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, is China's fundamental law in the area of foreign investment. It sets out unified requirements for the access, promotion, protection and management of foreign investment. *People's Daily*

Japanese PM betrayed memory of victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Medvedev

MOSCOW

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida acted as a US' attendant and betrayed the memory of hundreds of thousands of victims of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday.

Medvedev (pictured) called the joint statement made by Kishida and US President Joe Biden that any potential use of nuclear weapons by Russia in Ukraine will be an irredeemable hostile act against humanity a "horrible shame." Medvedev underscored that he will not "even comment on the paranoia regarding our state's nuclear plans."

"Just think about it. The head of the Japanese government, in his humiliating submissive ecstasy speaks hogwash about Russia, betraying the memory of hundreds of thousands of Japanese nationals, who burned in the nuclear fire of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And Kishida could not care less that the US was the only state who used nuclear weapons. And Kishida's own homeland was the only victim," the official said on his Telegram channel.

According to Medvedev, the Japanese Prime Minister should have "reminded the US President about that and demand repentance that has not been expressed by the US authorities for this act of war."

"But no. Kishida is only a service staff for the Americans. And servants cannot have courage. The Japanese can only be pitied," Medvedev said. He described a method, which the Japanese Prime Minister could have used to "wash off" this shame, but stated his certainty that "the concept of honor is not characteristic for this generation of Japanese vassals."

On Friday, Biden and Kishida held a meeting in Washington, issuing a joint statement afterwards. In particular, the statement mentions further sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine, and states that Russia's potential use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine would be unacceptable.

Japan's contentious plan to dump Fukushima radioactive water into sea to start in spring or summer

TOKYO

THE Japanese government on Friday said a controversial plan to release radioactive wastewater from a crippled nuclear plant in Japan's northeast into the Pacific Ocean will start in the spring or summer.

The schedule of the contentious plan to start releasing toxic water from the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture, into the ocean, was confirmed at a meeting of cabinet ministers at the prime minister's office on Friday.

During the meeting of relevant cabinet ministers, financial support for fishing communities which will suffer reputational damage when the radioactive water is dumped into seas where they fish, was endorsed, as stipulated by a revised policy on the disposal of the treated water. Japan's fishing industry has vociferously made clear its ardent opposition to the plan, as it will almost certainly cause further damage to the industry's reputation in the already maligned region.

The government believes a new 50-billion-yen (388.84-million-U.S. dollar) fund under the revised policy will somehow help the fishing communities, whose stock following the release of the toxic water in their fishing areas, will almost certainly be considered tainted, regardless of to what degree the toxic water is treated.

Under the plan, the water, which contains hard-to-remove radioactive tritium as a result of being used to cool down melted nuclear fuel at the stricken plant, will be discharged through an underwater tunnel into the Pacific Ocean after being treated.

The plant had its key cooling functions knocked out after being battered by a massive earthquake-triggered tsunami in 2011, resulting in the worst global nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

The tainted water being stored in tanks at the plant is expected to soon reach capacity and the lengthy process of then dumping the radioactive water into the ocean is projected to take several decades. Previously, the government had considered a number of alternatives to simply releasing the radioactive water into the Pacific.

These included discharging the water into the soil, using electrolysis to hydrogenate the tritium, as well as the possibility of encasing the contaminated water and burying it deep underground.

Those attending Friday's meeting of cabinet ministers said that efforts will continue to gain the understanding of local residents, business operators and the broader public, as opposition to the planned dumping has been strong.

Besides staunch opposition to the plan from within Japan, some of the country's closest neighbors and the wider international community have also voiced their concerns about and opposition to the plan to dump the radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean.

Xinhua

UN nuclear watchdog to increase presence in Ukraine

VIENNA

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Friday that it would step up its presence in Ukraine to help prevent a nuclear accident during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said in a statement that he would travel to Ukraine next week to "establish a continuous presence of nuclear safety and security experts" at all of Ukraine's nuclear power facilities. "This is an important step in our work to help Ukraine during these immensely difficult and challenging times," Grossi said.

"Our nuclear safety and security experts will monitor the situation at the plants, assess their equipment and other needs, provide technical support and advice, and report their findings to IAEA headquarters."

The UN nuclear watchdog has previously established a permanent presence of up to four experts at the embattled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP), Ukraine's largest such facility, according to the statement. Ukraine and Russia have traded accusations of strikes on the Zaporizhzhia NPP, which has been controlled by Russian forces since last March.

Grossi also said in the statement that he would meet senior Ukrainian government officials in Kiev next week to discuss setting up a nuclear safety zone around the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

"I remain determined to make the much-needed protection zone a reality as soon as possible.

My consultations with Ukraine and Russia are making progress, albeit not as fast as they should," Grossi said, adding that he remains hopeful about reaching an agreement on the issue soon.

Africa welcomes timely completion of China-aided landmark project on disease control

ADDISABABA

THE timely completion of the China-aided Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) headquarters project has ignited optimism across Africa as the continent is equipped with a stronger public health agency able to advance health initiatives and deal with public health calamities.

Senior officials from the African Union (AU) Commission and the Africa CDC, representatives of African countries, Chinese officials as well as diplomats from the Chinese mission to the AU and high-level dignitaries witnessed the historic moment Wednesday marking the completion of the Africa CDC headquarters project on the southern suburb of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Many believe the timely completion of the state-of-the-art headquarters would enable the Africa CDC to better play its role of coordination, mobilization and emergency management in public health across the continent.

NEW CHAPTER OF EVER-GROWING CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS

While addressing the completion ceremony, Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat said the Africa CDC headquarters "is only the visible face of a health cooperation that has its roots in the depths of Sino-African relations." The AU Commission chief described the state-of-the-art facility as the result of China-Africa cooperation, symbolizing the common desire of Africa and China to develop a partnership that can be seen in concrete works at the service of the wellbeing of their



Photo taken on Aug. 16, 2022, shows the construction site of the Headquarters Building Phase I Project of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. File photo

populations. He said the Chinese-aided "futuristic" facility will help the AU's specialized healthcare agency to maintain the course of excellence by continuing to show the professionalism and commitment that have characterized the agency thus far.

According to the AU, the new Africa CDC headquarters is expected to become one of the best-equipped centers for disease control in Africa, allowing Africa CDC to play its role as the technical institution coordinating disease prevention, surveillance and control in the continent in partnership with the national public health institutes and ministries of health of AU member states.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who visited Ethiopia from Tuesday to Wednesday, said the Africa CDC headquarters project, which is a flagship project for cooperation with Africa an-

nounced at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), is another landmark project for China-Africa cooperation after the AU Conference Center.

He said the timely delivery of the Africa CDC headquarters in the hands of African friends reflects the high standard and high level of China-Africa cooperation, which demonstrates the Chinese style of keeping promises, efficiency and pragmatism.

Qin expressed his confidence that with the joint efforts of China and Africa, the Africa CDC will make greater contributions to the health cause and well-being of the African people and write a new chapter in the history of China-Africa relations. The sentiment has also been echoed by ordinary Africans, as they underscored the Chinese-aided new Africa CDC headquarters' important role in

boosting African capabilities in dealing with public health threats. "We often suffer from disease outbreaks and, once functional, this (the Africa CDC headquarters and its facilities) would enable us to find solutions to our health-care challenges by our own selves," said Belete Gubsa, a retired teacher in Ethiopia.

Walqirra Totofa, a public servant, said the facility will help Africa to quickly respond to current and potential future public health calamities. "With the help of this facility, we can undertake research at the early stages of any disease outbreak just like the rest of the world and, eventually, solve the biggest challenges facing the people of Ethiopia and the entire Africa," Totofa said.

In the words of the AU Commission chairperson, the China-Africa cooperation in the health sector is "old and exemplary." According to Faki, the exemplary China-Africa cooperation in the health sector has been witnessed in their joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, in which the Chinese government and people were at the forefront of supporting Africa's anti-pandemic efforts.

Xinhua

Shipbuilding orders demonstrate great strength of Chinese manufacturing



A liquefied natural gas-powered ro-ro passenger ship named Peter Pan, which was built by a Chinese company for a German company, is officially launched, Dec. 7, 2022. Loaded with nearly 600 units and pieces of vehicles, engineering machinery and accessories, the ship sailed from Yantai Port in east China's Shandong province to Europe on the first day of its operations. (Photo by Tang Ke/People's Daily Online)

NOT long ago, an ultra large container vessel with a total length of 399.99 meters and a deck area equivalent to the combined size of nearly four standard soccer fields undocked at the Changxing Shipbuilding Base in east China's Shanghai.

The ship, with a capacity of 24,116 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units), is by far the largest container ship in the world. It has fully demonstrated the strength of China's shipbuilding industry.

The busy Changxing Shipbuilding Base, where great ships are arrayed in an orderly manner and many ships are being built at the same time, epitomizes the booming shipbuilding industry of China.

In China, about 95 percent of the goods in foreign trade are transported by sea. The country's strong shipbuilding capacity, therefore, is of great significance for the development of its foreign trade.

Last year, Chinese shipbuilding companies enjoyed sound development momentum, with orders flooding in from all over the world and new ships being constantly delivered to global customers.

As of November 2022, the shipbuilding orders received and completed by Chinese companies accounted for 53.1 percent and 45.5 percent respectively of the world's total,

continuing to rank first in the world.

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the achievement did by no means come easily. Shipbuilding companies in China have made great efforts to coordinate COVID-19 prevention and control with production and continuously remove bottlenecks and obstacles in industrial and supply chains.

Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co., Ltd. headquartered in Dalian city, northeast China's Liaoning province, has effectively improved its production efficiency by moving negotiations, contract signing, and delivery of ships online.

Jiangnan Shipyard (Group) Co., Ltd. based in Shanghai has rescheduled construction projects, conducted risk assessments, and taken measures to cope with risks.

By withstanding one tough test after another, such shipbuilding companies have boosted global confidence in China's shipbuilding industry.

Shipbuilding industry plays a crucial role in industrial development and manifests the comprehensive industrial strength of a country.

The construction of China's first large cruise liner, which has 136 systems, 25 million parts, and 4,200 kilometers of cables, was a complex project. Such a project couldn't have been completed in China in the past, when the country's shipbuilding industry was weak in technology and had many vacuums in high technology and the building of special purpose ships.

In the past 10 years, China's shipbuilding industry has continuously

improved its innovation capacity, speeded up transformation and upgrading, and achieved many breakthroughs in fields including ultra-large container ship, liquefied natural gas (LNG)-powered ship, high-end marine engineering equipment, and core supporting equipment for ships.

More importantly, the industry has formed a highly collaborative, open, and inclusive innovation system, and its innovation capacity improves with each passing day.

The accelerated evolution of the new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation has brought opportunities while posing challenges to high-end equipment manufacturing.

Boasting the world's most complete ship product categories and final assembly supporting system, the ability to build the world's largest ships, as well as other advantages including strong research capacity and rich human resources, China is striving to keep abreast of technology iteration and intensifying efforts to achieve great self-reliance and strength in science and technology.

The significance of the ultra-large container vessel with a capacity of 24,116 TEUs lies not only in how difficult the project was but also in the fact that a Chinese company holds complete independent intellectual property rights of the ship and has achieved innovations in its building.

The project has become the first of its kind to adopt bubble drag reduction system, which helps it

reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 6,000 tonnes a year. It was also the first of its kind to effectively cut fuel consumption by using shaft generator system.

In the new round of international competition, China's shipbuilding industry is taking the initiative to seek transformation and upgrading and gradually increasing the share of ships involving high technologies and have high added value in the orders it receives.

So far, a good number of shipbuilding bases located in areas around China's Bohai Bay, Yangtze River estuary, and Pearl River estuary have taken shape.

From China's deep-sea manned submersible's diving to a depth of 10,909 meters in the ocean to the delivery of the country's polar research icebreaker and the launch of the country's homemade aircraft carrier, China's shipbuilding industry is marching toward farther and deeper places in the ocean, continuously forging ahead with the endeavor to build China into a strong maritime country and global shipbuilding powerhouse.

People's Daily

Mandongga floors Wanyonyi in non-title bout

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S professional Super Middleweight boxer Karim Said 'Mandongga' beat Kenya's Daniel Wanyonyi via a Technical knockout (TKO) in the sixth round of a 10-round non-title Super Middleweight fight which was held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) Ballroom in Nairobi on Sunday morning.

The outspoken 'Mandongga' clearly dominated the fight, forcing Wanyonyi's coaches to throw in the towel in the sixth round of the fight.

After the fight, 'Mandongga' said he had fulfilled his promise of giving his country a win he had promised when departing.

The pugilist noted: "I fought this fight for my country, this is a win for Tanzania, I am happy I have lived up to my promise."

The Tanzanian boxer, whose hype for the match had Kenyans talking, said he would be back in the country for yet another match.

The charismatic boxer promised to come back with a different punch, which will be more devastating than his recent punch nicknamed 'Sugunyo' that was unleashed on Wanyonyi.

"I will come back to Nairobi in April to 'bury someone', but first, where is his grave? Put him there! I will come with another punch, not 'Sugunyo'," 'Mandongga' said.

In another fight, Kenya's Rayton Okwiri beat Tanzania's Ally Ndaro to make things equal for the two East African nations.

Okwiri beat Ndaro following a unanimous decision by the judges, in which two of the judges scored 80-72 and 79-73 in the Kenyan pugilist's favour.

Besides the two fights, Kenyans who attended the event were treated to eight other bouts pitting boxers from across the continent.

In the women's Featherweight title bout, Parseides Anyango beat June Kavulani.

The organizers of the event vowed to support grassroots talent through similar events in a bid to change sportsmanship in Kenya.

The bouts were attended by Nairobi Senator, Johnson Sakaja, and Lang'ata Member of Parliament Phelix Odiwour, alias 'Jalang'o'.

Besides the lawmakers, celebrities including radio presenter Gidi Ogi-di, Bien, Bensoul, Jackson Ngechu 'Prezzo', and KRG The Don turned up to watch the fights.



Tanzania's professional Super Middleweight boxer Karim Said, alias 'Mandongga'.

Why Mapinduzi Cup attains its goals better when it remains largely modest



Singida Big Stars FC's winger Enock Attah (L) seeks to get the better of a Mlandege FC player during the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup tournament final that took place in the Isles last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ZANZINEWS

By Correspondent John Kimbute

IT is all over for this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament, with results that are more in keeping with the tournament intentions than with its potential, at the local and international levels.

In the past, the tourney attracted a host of excellent Premier League sides from East African states and their immediate neighbourhood, as far away as Zambia and Malawi but, in recent years, it has solidly remained a local affair.

This has led to a decrease in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League interest or ambitions.

In that case, the leading sides, and each part of the Union takes for teams into the tourney, fielded largely under-strength sides in the feeling that the tourney was a passing moment best used to see how alternative players can cope with pressure.

That means their ability to withstand strain under certain conditions, like a middle-ranking tournament, is competitive enough without being overly strategic for the club to put all it has into it. That way, the top Mainland Tanzania clubs were a bit lackluster.

For one thing, Mapinduzi Cup as a concept implies that those

who are present are involved in celebrating that event, in which case for it to remain an all-Tanzanian affair is not a bad idea, but potentially it was a regional event.

Especially in the wake of the collapse of the East African Club Championship, otherwise known as Kagame Cup, raising the banner of the Mapinduzi Cup to a new pedestal was not a bad idea.

The trouble is that soccer authorities there have not sought a sponsor, or there is no sporting, or investment climate where such a sponsor can be located.

Were such sponsorship possible, where the teams that reach the knockout phase (semi-finals and the final) are assured of amounts of money where they can even sign a player, if not two, that would make sense.

But looking at what clubs are worth or can dispose of for players in Zanzibar, it would take a bit of a revolution to make that event competitive as a risk environment where an ambitious side risks its best players.

With current levels of sponsorship, it looks like it will be the second fiddle within the region while as a non-CAF event, it has no continental slot to fill.

That could be one reason no sponsor is found because no continental TV appearance is likely, given that Zanzibar picks its continental sides the way Mainland Tanzania does, and the all-Union event is a side affair.

Raising its profile ought to arise from the imagination of soccer administrators, but this is only likely to be the case if the island state has ambitions in that direction. That is only marginally so.

Looking at the strategic profile of Zanzibar, especially in its blue economy focus and investment attractions, when carried into the sporting field, suggests heightening ties with neighbours - near or far - that are potential clients for adverts on Zanzibar.

These would either be Gulf countries with big projects in Zanzibar or island countries whose cultural mix and type of economy mirror the mix for Zanzibar, like the Comoros and Seychelles, and even the Maldives at a greater scope.

Creating informal sporting unions or competitive events is fine, if well sponsored.

For this year's run all the same, it can be said the tournament achieved a fairly nice result in the fact that the local side, Mlandege FC, grabbed the

title, facing a good side from the Mainland Tanzania, Singida Big Stars.

The latter side as well as city outfit Azam FC came in for a proper tournament since they do not have much hope in the more coveted Premier League title, and the Azam Sports Federation Cup tournament is tricky.

They did what they could, while city archrivals Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, chose not to expose too many players to injury in a tourney they do not rate highly.

Some commentators, seeing that the city rivals fielded under-strength sides, aired the undoubted crispation of the fans, as they wished to see another edgy encounter between the traditional rivals.

Still, nothing was surprising about having fielded the teams they did, as neither side wished to expose itself excessively to another city derby where there was little really to contend about.

Some fans rather than pundits tried to shift the matter to politics, that Mainland Tanzania teams should be 'sensitized' to take the Isles event seriously.

But that was beside the point as it is sporting strategy that is at issue, where the tourney fits into the club calendar, etc.

Veteran footballers still hold sway in NBC League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

BURUNDIAN attacker Said Ntibazonkiza is said to have been born in May 1987. If an individual will do the math, he/she will realize that the footballer is 35 years old, but who cares if he can still score a hat trick?

Except for Zambian midfielder Clatous Chota Chama, Ntibazonkiza might be the second most creative player in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League. These are just free opinions that a soccer fan is allowed to argue against.

Prominent soccer players are those who respect local football, the league is hardly English Premier League, La Liga, or Bundesliga. The effects of being old in football are more visible in the elite leagues.

It is an aspect that is visible in leagues with running full-backs and much intensity.

Mainland Tanzania still has a league that witnesses footballers turning into better players when they are close to 30 years or above.

Players become more mature when they are over 30 years old, in Tanzania players mature very late.

Footballers like Dennis Nkane, Aboutwalib Mshery, Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', and Crispin Ngushi should by now have been popular footballers in the Premier League.



Simba SC attacker Said Ntibazonkiza (R) celebrates a goal he registered in his outfit's 7-1 win over Tanzania Prisons when the clubs locked horns in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League match held in Dar es Salaam last year.

They are however not yet mature, although Suleiman is starting to establish himself at Azam FC.

Young players in Premier League are maturing very late. A football fan should look at Peter Banda at Simba SC, he seems to be a very talented young player but he matures slowly.

Chama is said to have been born on June 18, 1991. If one will do the math, he/she will find out that the

footballer is 31 years old, but he is not young.

None of the players of this generation live up to their potential. Few players develop early but are not the kings of the Premier League.

Simba SC striker John Bocco is reported to have been born on August 5, 1989, he will be 33 years old, but a soccer follower hardly sees a young domestic striker reach Bocco's peak. That is local

football, that is its standard.

A great player who fails to live up to expectations in Tanzania will hardly end in such a situation because of age.

A soccer supporter will be very lost if he/she prioritizes age to predict the quality of the player.

Ntibazonkiza is a top-level player in Premier League, he will still play a lot as the top flight does not have the intensity which will be too much for him.

He plays with youthful footballers and is way better than them. If a football follower thinks Ntibazonkiza is old, then it is up to him/her.

Ntibazonkiza was left by Yanga whilst being number two when it came to scoring goals, trailing DR Cong striker Fiston Mayele. Ntibazonkiza defeated young players at Yanga.

Ntibazonkiza has left Geita Gold FC as the number two player in the contribution of goals and has surpassed the youngsters on the team. Local football needs more old players like Ntibazonkiza. Promising local soccer players still have a long way to go, they are very slow in terms of growth.

They are very late in maturing. The likes of Thabani Kamosoko, and Meddie Kagere have all been kings in Mainland Tanzania Premier League, local football needs more senior players than young players.

Ntibazonkiza has never been a regular player in Premier League, he will play for Simba SC for one and a half seasons and can either return to Yanga or go to Azam FC and play.

He is still there and local football followers will sing his name a lot.

Simba SC was at some point poor in creativity after missing Chama but, with the arrival of Ntibazonkiza, I see the outfit be-

come more stable.

Simba SC has found another top player to strengthen the attacking department, he has great scoring ability, and he has a great ability to create scoring opportunities.

Even when Moses Phiri returns, he can start from where he left off, as another top player with creativity has arrived.

Old players have been the stars in Premier League for many years, Mayele is said to have been born on June 24, 1994. He is 28 years old and is the top scorer at the moment. Is anyone having a problem with the attacker's age?

Premier League is made competitive by veteran players, young players are left far behind in terms of quality.

Ntibazonkiza has enough experience with popular clubs, the striker already knows the politics of local football.

It would not take him long to become a familiar footballer at the Msimbazi Street squad, in the next few days, he will be seen as a footballer that was nurtured there.

Age is the last criterion in registering players to come and play in NBC Premier League.

I see Ntibazonkiza reborn at Simba SC, I see the forward relieving the problem of creativity which haunts the club when Chama is not around. I see the club being stronger in the attacking department.

Pep Guardiola now fumes after VAR controversy sparks Man United victory

MANCHESTER, England

PEP Guardiola was left fuming by the controversial VAR decision to allow a Bruno Fernandes goal that sparked Manchester United's thrilling fightback in their 2-1 win over Manchester City on Saturday.

City were leading through Jack Grealish's second-half header at Old Trafford when United snatched their dubious 78th-minute equaliser.

Marcus Rashford was clearly offside when he ran onto a through ball but Fernandes ran past him to fire home.

Although the goal was initially disallowed, it was eventually allowed to stand after a VAR check because Rashford didn't touch the ball before Fernandes scored.

With Guardiola and his players furious that VAR ignored Rashford's presence as a clear distraction to keeper Ederson, United took advantage of the champions' loss of focus to grab a late winner through Rashford's close-range finish.

"Marcus Rashford is offside, Bruno Fernandes is not. Rashford distracted our keeper and centre defenders," Guardiola said.

"It is what it is. We know where we play. It is difficult for the referees in these stadiums."

Even United manager Erik ten Hag conceded he could understand Guardiola's frustration with such a debatable decision.

"I can see that from the other side as well of course it's a confusing moment but when you follow the rules he didn't touch the ball, he was not interfering and it's a goal," Ten Hag said.

Third-placed United are now just one point behind City after extending their winning streak to nine games in all competitions.

"We were happy at half-time but after half-time it changed, we were not proactive any more and just before I wanted to change it, they score," he said.

"But then the spirit in the team is so huge, the belief is there that this game is 90 minutes, and we can fight back, and they believed they could turn it around."

Second-placed City could be eight points behind leaders Arsenal if the Gunners win at Tottenham on Sunday. With spluttering City losing their momentum in the title race, Guardiola added: "It was a fantastic game. We were close and we have to improve when we concede the goal, be more stable, the gap between the first and second goal is too close."

"In general I have no regrets. I don't care if we don't win the Carabao Cup or the Premier League, we'll try. I don't care when a team performs how we play. It was quite similar to the many, many years we've been here."

AFP

Man United flying high after City win and Liverpool loss



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023. (AP Photo/Old Tra

MANCHESTER, England

IT was a very good day for Manchester United, whose revival under Erik ten Hag is really taking shape.

As if victory against Manchester City in the 189th Manchester derby wasn't enough for fans rejoicing at Old Trafford on Saturday, there was bonus news a few hours later when Liverpool was stunned by Brighton 3-0 in the English Premier League.

Beating City 2-1 strengthened the rising belief that Ten Hag is turning the fortunes around for the 20-time English champion. It might be too soon for the Dutchman to mount a genuine league title

challenge this season, but the improvement at United to record nine straight wins in all competitions is evident.

United is up to third on the table – a point behind City and six off leader Arsenal, which plays Tottenham on Sunday.

"We improved, that's obvious," Ten Hag said. "Still a long way to go... a lot of aspects in our game we have to improve, but we're progressing."

City took the lead in the second half through substitute Jack Grealish, but Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford secured a come-from-behind win for the home team.

United was 10 points clear of its fiercest rival Liverpool, which suffered a sixth league loss at Brighton, and first there

since 1961.

Solly March scored twice and substitute Danny Welbeck added a third for Brighton.

Jurgen Klopp's team faces a fight just to qualify for the Champions League after this latest blow, which left Liverpool seven points off fourth-placed Newcastle.

"Everything went wrong from the start to the end. Brighton were better than us in all departments. It's a real low point as a team," Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson said. "It's a tough moment but we need to get together, stay together, and try to change things quickly. We have to try to learn and show a reaction."

At the bottom of the table, Southampton followed up its

win against City in the League Cup in midweek by beating Everton 2-1 at Goodison Park.

Nottingham Forest boosted its chances of survival by beating Leicester 2-0, and Wolverhampton Wanderers topped West Ham 1-0 to move out of the relegation zone.

RASHFORD TOUGHENS UP

Marcus Rashford scored his 16th goal of the season and his eighth in his last seven games, but Ten Hag preferred to praise his physical durability over his finishing after the win against City.

"He knows that in football you have to suffer and sacrifice and have painful moments, especially a player like he is," Ten Hag said. "He is unstoppable,

and opponents will go tough against him but he keeps going and he got rewarded and the team got a reward."

DE ZERBI PRAISE

Two-goal Solly March credited Brighton manager Roberto de Zerbi for his performance in the brilliant result against Liverpool.

"I love playing for Roberto de Zerbi. He's great. He puts his arm around you and tells you you're a good player and maybe that's what I needed," March said.

EVERTON TROUBLES GROW

On a day when Everton's board of directors was instructed not to attend its home match with Southampton because of a "real and credible threat to their safety and security," the team's hopes of league survival took another blow after a 2-1 loss.

"We have to take responsibility, myself first. We have to do better," Everton manager Frank Lampard said.

FOREST IS FLYING

Nottingham Forest has lost just one of its last six league games and is five points clear of the relegation zone after dispatching Leicester.

"It's a big win. It is a local derby and you always want to do well for the supporters," Forest manager Steve Cooper said.

WEST HAM SINKING

West Ham dropped into the bottom three after losing at fellow relegation struggler Wolverhampton 1-0.

"What we've found this year is that we can't finish the chances when we get them," West Ham manager David Moyes said.

TONY STRIKES AGAIN

Ivan Toney scored his 14th goal of the season in Brentford's 2-0 win against Bournemouth. The striker converted a first half-penalty, which continued his perfect record from the spot for the Bees, with 21 scored from 21 attempts.

AFP

'Unstoppable' Rashford the catalyst for Man Utd's Ten Hag turnaround



Bullet header : Marcus Rashford with the only goal of the match. Photograph: Jon Super/AP

MANCHESTER, England

MARCUS Rashford was Manchester United's hero once more in a dramatic 2-1 win over Manchester City on Saturday to maintain a remarkable revival in Erik ten Hag's first season in charge.

Rashford's winner secured a ninth consecutive win for the Red Devils since Cristiano Ronaldo's last game for the club in November.

Ronaldo's acrimonious departure threatened to derail the progress being made under Ten Hag.

But shorn of the melodrama surrounding the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, United are thriving with Rashford taking centre stage. The England international now has 16 goals for United this season and has scored in nine straight games at Old Trafford.

Rashford looked like he might be forced off with an injury during the first half against City, but battled on to net the decisive goal eight minutes from time.

"He's unstoppable," said Ten Hag. "Opponents will go tough against him to stop him.

He keeps going, keeps focusing for his chances and in the end he got his reward."

Victory was all the more sweet for United as it came just over three months on from a humiliating 6-3 defeat in Ten Hag's first taste of the Manchester derby.

- 'Proper team' -

United have lost just once in 19 games since to climb up to third in the Premier League and remain in the hunt to end six years without a trophy in the Europa League, FA Cup and League Cup.

Few could have seen that coming after Ten Hag's reign got off to a disastrous start with embarrassing defeats to Brighton and Brentford.

But the Dutchman is quickly making his mark in restoring old standards to United both on and off the field.

Even amid his scoring streak, Rashford was dropped for a 1-0 win at Wolves last month after turning up late to a team meeting.

Crucially Ten Hag's demand for discipline has buy in from his players.

"We look like a team

now," Bruno Fernandes told BT. "Some months ago, you could see sometimes a team, sometimes each one of us looking for ourselves but now you see a proper team that works hard for each other."

United could easily have crumbled after City took control of the game after half-time and got their reward when Jack Grealish headed in Kevin De Bruyne's cross on the hour mark.

Ten Hag's men got the slice of fortune they needed when Fernandes' controversial equaliser

was allowed to stand despite Rashford being clearly in an offside position as they both ran onto Casemiro's through ball.

With City still rocking, Rashford took full advantage with a predatory finish from Alejandro Garnacho's pass in scenes reminiscent of United's glory days under Alex Ferguson.

In the 10 years since Ferguson's farewell, United have never finished above City in the Premier League.

Just one point now separates the Manches-

ter giants and league leaders Arsenal are now in United's sights ahead of their trip to the Emirates next weekend.

"One of the main jobs for a manager, coaching staff, is to work on the mentality of the team," added Ten Hag. "That has a lot of elements and one of them is resilience."

"This team is progressing a lot in dealing with setbacks, suffering, dealing with painful moments, like a goal against. We have players on the pitch who have the experience that in one moment things can change."

Ten Hag has already made sweeping changes in his first six months in charge.

But his most telling impact has been on restoring the confidence of a player that has been at the club his whole career. Rashford scored just five goals last season as his fitness and form deserted him after the arrivals of Ronaldo and Jadon Sancho pushed him down the pecking order.

Now he's rising to the occasion as United's main man.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United flying high after City win and Liverpool loss

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Samia lauds youths' win in Global Robotics Challenge

By Guardian Correspondent

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has congratulated two young Tanzanians who won a silver medal in the first Global Robotics Challenge held in Geneva, Switzerland involving more than 190 countries.

The President stated she has been relieved to hear that the robot created by the duo under the content of harnessing carbon dioxide can help clean the air and reduce the increase in temperature.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presented Samia's message at a ceremony held to congratulate the youths, which took place at the Prime Minister's Office's hall at Magogoni in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

In Samia's message, she said that this is a great achievement and all Tanzanians should be proud of the two youths.

She stated: "Let me use this opportunity to promise you that the government through the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology will continue to monitor your progress and see how to develop your talents."

Majaliwa asked the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology to prepare a plan to have creative centers in the country to promote the talents of young people.

He said that the ministry should strengthen the process of identifying and developing various creatives to motivate them and promote employment in the country.

Prime Minister noted the ministry should collaborate with the relevant authorities to prepare a procedure to help various creatives and connect them with institutions and companies to develop their creative work according to needs.

Majaliwa further instructed the ministry and the relevant authorities to plan to invest in protecting the information security of users of various IT systems alongside providing education about the proper security of equipment and the safe use of computer systems.

Aruti Aces tightens grip on top spot in Gymkhana Shield tournament

By Guardian Reporter

ARUTI Aces Club has tightened its grip on the top spot in Group B of this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament following the side's comprehensive four-wicket victory over Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in a tie that was played last weekend.

The Group B leaders have as a result all but made it to the tournament's knockouts.

The DCC amassed 95/6 in the allotted 20 overs once the side batted first in the duel played at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club venue, with three players chipping in with meaningful contributions.

Assad Aziz, deployed at number four, was the batsman with the most runs having posted 29 runs.

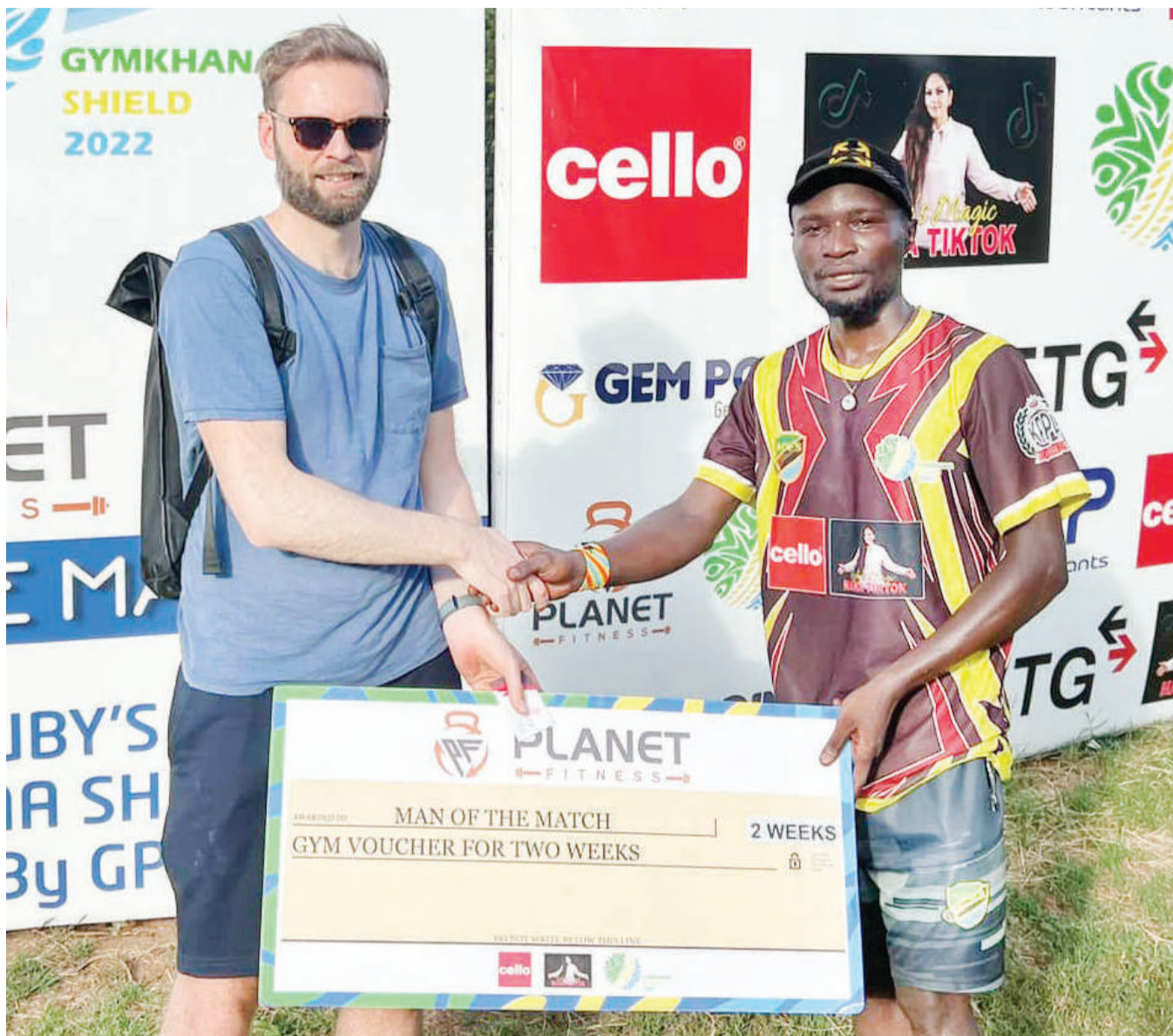
He had stepped up following the dismissal of Sajad Ratansi, which had left DCC with paltry 34 runs after 10.1 overs, and pushed the total to 94 runs with two balls remaining when he was sent back to the pavilion.

Captain Adil Kassam was also a performer with significant showing, notching 28 runs not out and winding up the innings with Junaid Usman that also made his way back with the bat in hand.

The DCC's plan to set up a bigger target for Aruti Aces had suffered a setback early on, as opener Sufian Usman faced an early exit with two runs to his name.

His fellow opening batsman Dharmin Parmar held his own for a few more overs, making his way back with 13 runs which included two boundaries.

Dharmin's exit had left DCC reeling at 19 runs in four



Aruti Aces' cricketer Jaffary Kanyita (R) gets a Man of the Match award from a cricket stakeholder after the former's outfit had confronted Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament tie that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

overs and the side endured another setback in Meet Jetha's early dismissal, as the latter could only manage to post three runs.

Jetha was caught by Aruti Aces' Kibwana Salum from skipper Mohammad Ali's delivery, leaving DCC with mere 20 runs after 6.5 overs.

Ali led Aruti Aces' bowling attack, completing his bowling spell with two wickets whilst conceding 12 runs in four overs.

Aruti Aces, thereafter, chased the 96-run target with ease, posting 100/6 in 11.1 overs.

After a wobbly start which had opener Ejaz Aziz facing an early exit, Aruti Aces calmed their nerves to get down to the chase half-

way through the innings.

Youthful Jaffary Kanyita led the batting attack and made his way back with 31 runs which included four boundaries and a six. The youngster was eventually handed the best Player of the Match award.

Salum, Jumble and Ali were equally in good form at the crease, as Jumble notched 24 runs not out and Ali made his way back with 18 runs. Ally Mpeka posted 11 runs for the side.

Aruti Aces leads the rest in Group B having posted a 1.6450 net run rate from a win in four outings and a loss in one tie.

Bottom-placed DCC has a -1.8767 net run rate given the outfit has not won in four duels it has taken part

in.

The outfits battling it out in this season's showpiece have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B.

The ongoing edition is sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi. Cello/Ruby's Magic and

Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This season's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on November 6 last year.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

Arusha announces athletes for National Cross-Country showdown

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA has unveiled 12 athletes who will represent the region in the coming National Cross-Country Championships slated for the end of this month in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

The 12 runners were selected in the regional championships which were held at Ilboru Secondary School's venue on Saturday.

Arusha Regional Athletics Committee secretary-general Rogath John said the 12 runners are the ones who excelled in the championships which also attracted athletes from Manyara, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, and Dar es Salaam.

He said the 12 runners enter camp at Ilboru Secondary School today but stopped short of mentioning the team's coach.

John mentioned male runners as Inyasi Sulle who clocked 34.22.11, Fabian Sulle who used 35.11.66, Mathayo Sombi who clocked 35.56.36,

Herman Sulle who posted 36.04.54, Josephat Gisemo who posted 37.22.43, and Deta Foci who clocked 37.44.83.

Female runners selected for the side are Magdalena Shauri who recorded 39.43.66, Marcelina Mbuha who clocked 40.13.64, Valentina Michael who posted 41.56.77, Aisha Lubuna who clocked 44.34.32, Agnes Protas who posted 42.36.76, and Fatuma Malenga who clocked 43.14.45.

John pointed out: "The 12, six men and six women, enter camp tomorrow (today) at Ilboru Secondary School to prepare for the coming National Cross-Country Championships which will be held in Moshi on January 28."

"If the National Cross-Country Championships will not take place as planned, then our athletes will use the camp to prepare for World Cross-Country Championships which will be held on February 18 in Bathurst, Australia," he said.

Meanwhile, John said



Tanzania's athletes take part in a past National Cross-Country race held in Arusha.

Arusha City Mayor Maximilian Irange has assured the committee of full support to improve athletics in the region.

He said Irange said his office is committed to seeing that Arusha continues producing top athletes who can represent the country in international events.

The mayor said so when he graced the opening of the Arusha Regional Cross-Country

Championships.

"We are happy that the mayor has assured us that his office is ready to support us and he has assured us that he will support the team's camp to prepare for the coming National Cross-Country Championships and preparations for the World Cross-Country Championships," John said.

Recently John said the region has lined up several athletics activities

for this year, starting from juniors to seniors.

"This year, we have lined up several athletics activities which include events for juniors, coaching clinics, and senior events to see the region is active in athletics," he said.

Arusha is regarded as the hub of athletics in the country given it has produced top athletes who have performed well both locally and internationally.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

