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EA cooperatives want regional law approved

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives (TFC) has joined forces with the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to seek parliamentary assent to the EAC Co-operative Societies Act, 2014 approved in 2015.

TFC executive secretary Florian Haule said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that if the law is passed it will bring relief to farmers in cooperatives to access the regional market and even secure loans from regional financial institutions.

He said that the use of the warehouse receipts system that is successful at the national level could be further extended to the regional level if the law was passed.

He made the remarks at a regional and international agriculture stakeholders' meeting, and appealed to EAC member states to adopt the law will boost trade in agricultural produce within the bloc.

Elizabeth Nsimadala, president of the



...Cooperative unions have established about 78 small processing industries countrywide so far

Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) expressed a wish for an audience with President Samia Suluhu Hassan to seek her support for the quest.

The prospective law is meant to facilitate regional integration by enabling joint ventures and mergers hence facilitating trade and enabling cooperative societies to take advantage of EAC, SADC and AfCFTA markets in a borderless manner.

Satu Santala, an IFAD vice president for external relations and governance, said adopting the law will open up opportunities for cooperatives to benefit from regional markets with good prices for various types of produce.

Sara Mbago-Bhutu, the IFAD regional director, said that cooperatives are a pillar in guaranteeing food security in the region and member states.

She said farmers should be empowered

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses members of East African Law Society during the opening session of its 27th annual meeting in Arusha yesterday. Photo: State House

Tanzania will rejoin African court: Samia

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed Tanzania's intention to rejoin the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights.

Gracing the opening of the 27th annual conference of the East African Law Society (EALS) in Arusha yesterday, she said that Tanzania withdrew from court due to various reasons and it will rejoin after the challenges are addressed by the court.

The president noted that Tanzania was the one with the highest number of cases filed by individuals and civic groups, with over 200 applications most of them focused on creating a bad image of the government.

She urged legal practitioners in the East African



With the entry of the natural resource-rich DRC into the EAC, it will also explore the risks relating to natural resources, especially conflict-related risks

Community (EAC) to uphold ethics when carrying out their duties, underlining that many people go to prison due to the decisions of some unethical legal professionals.

For a nation to achieve economic and social transformation, strengthening the rule of law and human rights must be at the forefront, she said, explaining that a major pillar of her leadership is to foster reconciliation and social resilience.

"Our aim is to build Tanzania that respects human rights, opinions of others and critics. The country's constitution emphasizes building a country that values democracy and human rights," she emphasized.

Professional associations in the EAC legal sphere need to join forces to work on big cases such as economic

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'ATR crash plane was already landing, then shook violently'

By Guardian Reporter

THE PRECISION Air plane was in a landing configuration with the landing gear down and flaps set to execute a final approach to the

airport runway before it suddenly shook violently and nosedived into the lake, a preliminary report has declared.

The report unveiled late yesterday by Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (pictured) said fishermen on the shores of Lake Victoria near Bukoba airport arrived at the Precision Air accident scene five minutes after it landed in the water and started to open the door.

This gave courage to air hostesses and passengers to unlock the door after realizing that there was help from outside, he said, in one of the highlights of the report prepared by the Air Accident Investigation

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Dar-Moro SGR trains now set for February

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

REGULAR train trips on the standard gauge railway from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro are expected to take off in earnest within three months.

Masanja Kadogosa, director general of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), made this affirmation yesterday when briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa upon an inspection tour of Makutupora station in Dodoma.

He said the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro section is mostly complete, with engineers conducting tests on its electrical systems, a stretch of 300 kilometers.

The corporation has started receiving train engines and wagons for trial runs set for January, in preparations meant to ensure that the electrical speed train is in full operation by February, he said.

The entire SGR section from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza is expected to be completed by 2026 at a cost of 16.67trn/-, he said, noting



Building the SGR is among the flagship development projects entailed in the third five-year plan for 2021/22 to 2025/26

that the corporation has signed a purchase agreement for 19 electric locomotives along with 10 train racks with 80 units.

A total of 89 ordinary passenger wagons will be purchased, 30 double-decked wagons, 1,430 cargo wagons and 26 repair sets, he said at an event where the premier expressed satisfaction with the progress of the SGR project.

He said the government will make sure the project is implemented to acceptable standards as per contract agreement. Construction was progressing well in all sections and the government will make sure the project does not get stuck, sorting out any breaches that could derail its implementation, he emphasized.

He asked Tanzanians participating in the SGR project to take care of its security and be on their guard so that it is completed as scheduled, asserting that in the sixth phase government was seeking to improve facilities in various sectors, including transportation.

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Dar-Moro SGR trains now set for February

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He tasked the Dodoma city director to design an investment strategy in areas exposed to opportunities arising from the speed train services, citing the need for a bus station near the SGR Dodoma station.

TRC board chairperson, Prof John Kondoro said implementation of the project was delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak two years ago,

while other delays had to do with relocating some structures such as schools and houses, tasks which belong to other institutions.

Building the SGR is among the flagship development projects entailed in the third five-year plan for 2021/22 to 2025/26, enabling the country to make optimal use of its strategic geographical location suitable for a regional trade and logistics hub, he added.

Tanzania will rejoin African court-Samia

FROM PAGE 1

sabotage, she told the gathering with the lawyers also appealing for an opportunity to take some roles in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

Themed: "Fostering East African unity and diversity in a globalised practice environment," the gathering brought together over 600 lawyers to discuss business, create networks and keep abreast with topical issues affecting the profession.

Bernard Oundo, the EALS president, said this year's theme has been carefully selected to discuss EAC expansion, opportunities for lawyers and leveraging diversity and strength in numbers to prosper in an increasingly globalised practice environment.

Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) president Prof Edward Hosea said the EAC region is a great market for legal professionals, asking legal practitioners to be at the forefront of advancing regional integration.

The four-day conference will examine how the legal profession has evolved over time in East Africa and the role of technology in accelerating this evolution.

It will also seek to explore the natural resource potential of the region, its potential for driving economic development and opportunities for lawyers in the natural resource extraction process.

With the entry of the natural resource-rich DRC into the EAC, it will also explore the risks relating to natural resources, especially conflict-related risks, he added.

EA cooperatives want regional law approved

FROM PAGE 1

by designing friendly agriculture policies that facilitate activities stretching the value chain.

Anthony Mavunde, the Agriculture deputy minister graced the opening session of the meeting that ends today, said that cooperative unions play a key role

in the growth of the agriculture sector.

"During 2021/22 the value of crops traded through cooperative unions was 1.6trn/- with five million tonnes of cash and food crops sold through the unions. Cooperative unions have established about 78 small processing industries countrywide so far, he added.

Food for alleviating acute shortage not for free - govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilimanjaro

THE government has said maize currently being provided to the people by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for alleviating acute food shortage and high food prices in the market is not assistance, but food to be sold at affordable prices.

On Tuesday Hai district agricultural officer in Kilimanjaro region, David Lekei gave the clarification following requests from some residents in district to reduce the maize price from the current 880/- per kilo to enable more people to buy the staple food. "The maize is not assistance to the people, but is sold at affordable price to enable many people in need to buy.

"The issue of reducing the price or that it is mere government's assistance to them is not correct.

"Hai district has received 100 tonnes of maize while 200 more tonnes will come after the request of Hai Member of Parliament, Saashisha Mafuwe for additional maize," Lekei said.

He added: "A kilo of maize is sold at 880/-, while in the market it is sold between 1,200/- and 1,300/- a kilo, meaning that a 100kg bag of maize is sold at 88,000/- in the market it costs nearly 150,000/-."

According to him, in order to make sure every person in need gets the commodity, Hai district authorities has announced to all wards and villages to register those wanting to buy the maize and submit names.

He said as for now NFRA's ability is to provide emergency supplies

for the period of three months totalling more than 500,000 tonnes, compared to 150,000 tonnes that was needed in 1992 when the agency was established.

Earlier, some of the district residents, including Ibrahim Munisi from Bondeni Ward and Zakayo Mosha from Muungano Ward said apart from their request for lowering the price of the maize, they also called for bringing closer to them distribution centres thereof as they incur great expenses to get the maize from far away distribution points.

In Hai district, the government has allocated only one maize distribution point, located at Maktaba ya Boman'gombe which has been the source of complaints, especially for people residing far away



A kilo of maize is sold at 880/-, while in the market it is sold between 1,200/- and 1,300/- a kilo, meaning that a 100kg bag of maize is sold at 88,000/- in the market it costs nearly 150,000/-



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents an affidavit to Ali Khamis Juma after swearing - in ceremony. He becomes Industries, Trade and Marketing permanent secretary. The event took place at the State House yesterday. Looking on is Chief Secretary Eng. Zena Ahmed Said. Photo: State House

FROM PAGE 1

Branch (AAIB).

The report took testimony from passengers on how the plane failed to land and nose-dived into the lake, as both pilots died in the macabre accident.

He said the government acknowledges the need to invest heavily in search and rescue operations so as to facilitate timely response to emergencies.

The government will take efforts to strengthen the capacity of our rescue units so as to respond to various emergencies and potential disasters while cooperating with stakeholders to optimize response

'ATR crash plane was already landing, then shook violently'

capacity, he said.

The government has received the AAIB report from an investigation conducted by local experts in collaboration with experts from the plane manufacturer in France, he said.

He cited the report as indicating that the weather at Bukoba was good up to 0520 GMT (0820 hours local time) when it abruptly changed and started raining with

thunderstorms and strong winds.

"We have a rescue boat in Lake Victoria but during the accident time, the boat was far away for patrol duties and when reached the area, the rescue operation was already completed," he stated.

He appealed to media organs and the public to avoid taking information issued by unauthorized sources, referring to an earlier version of the preliminary report

that was withdrawn late on Wednesday.

The report comes three weeks after the Precision Air plane crashed into Lake Victoria on November 6, killing 19 people and 26 survived where nearby fishermen were feted across the country for taking the lead in rushing to the scene to help the stranded and endangered passengers, with rudimentary pedals used on canoes.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects vegetables, spices and fruits at Bahi main market for small traders in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

AU suspends plans to reduce ATMIS forces

MOGADISHU

The African Union in its 1121st meeting on the 11th of November 2022, considered a request from Somalia to suspend a plan to reduce the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) forces.

The chairman of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki, then sent a letter to the Security Council (UNSC), to approve the reduction of 2,000 soldiers after December 2022.

"I am confirming the support of the DFS request to extend the ATMIS Phase 1 of the restructuring of the reduction of 2,000 ATMIS soldiers from 31 December 2022 to 30 June 2023, with a review of the operational time, reaffirming the commitment to maintain the withdrawal date of 31 December 2024," said the African Union chairman.

The African Union welcomed the

AU/UN collaboration in advocating for AU member states, with the aim of mobilizing the funds and other resources needed to support the mandate of ATMIS by strengthening operational capabilities.

The African Union also commended the accelerated efforts of the DFS in the fight against Al-Shabaab and encouraged the government to equally redouble its efforts to integrate forces to effectively take responsibility, complete security when the foreign forces leave.

It was in April of this year that the ATMIS mission came into effect, after the end of AMISOM's mandate. The government of Somalia and the African Union have agreed that the ATMIS operation will end in 2024.

Children are starving to death in Somalia where roughly half the population needs food urgently. The situation is being fueled by climate change and made much

worse by Islamist extremists.

Oxygen machines beep and people whisper at the intensive care unit of Banadir Hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital. Foil shields the windows from sunlight and lets in a blue glow.

The worst cases of child malnutrition are referred to this facility. The doctors say that many children die on the way here.

Amina Abdi is fighting for her life. The 4-year-old has been in a coma for days. "Now she weighs only 7 kilograms. Normally she should weigh around 16kg," says Dr. Aweis Olow Hassan, the head of the hospital's pediatric department.

"She came with severe acute malnutrition, in a critical condition. We just call it 'shock'. She's a terminal case." Amina's mother and aunt have lost three children between them this year. The United Nations says a severely malnourished child is admitted to hospital every minute

of every day on average.

The worst drought in 40 years is devastating Somalia. Fear that a fifth consecutive failed rainy season is upon the country is growing. More than 7 million people are in need of food assistance.

Amina's family used to be livestock farmers. "We had farms and we had livestock, but we lost all of it because of the drought and thirst. We've been facing the drought for three years now. When it got worse, we left and we came to the city," says her aunt, Arda Mohammed Osman.

Dr. Hassan explains that when a malnourished mother stops giving breastmilk, her infant can starve. The baby starts vomiting or having diarrhea and fever. Often the parents don't know it's starvation until it's too late. "Cases are coming in in a terminal state, so some of them they may die whatever you do". AGENCIES



Barrick North Mara Mine employees celebrate after the firm bagged the top award for this year's TRA Taxpayer Awards event. The event was held at the mine yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Agri-processing gets boost for resilient food systems in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AGRI-PROCESSING companies have been put at the forefront of building resilient and regenerative food systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Agribusiness in Africa Window - Round 2 (AAW-R2) - a Canadian dollar 20 million programme co-funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and implemented by Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) surfaced innovative business models best poised to address challenges faced by small and medium agribusinesses and agri-processors (SMEs) to access appropriate financing.

A statement released yesterday by AECF said these investments have enhanced productivity, decreased post-harvest losses, diversified product offerings and created jobs in critical agricultural value chains, resulting in improved livelihoods in rural and marginalized sub-Saharan Africa.

The AAW-R2 Programme availed funding to 19 SMEs across 11 countries which include: Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Burundi/DRC, with businesses working in a variety of agriculture value chains, including maize, legumes, palm oil, bananas, cashew, fruits, sweet potatoes, moringa, livestock production, and digital information services. The programme has impacted 2.9 million lives and 582,338 rural households, 60% of whom live on less than US\$ 2 per day.

Victoria Sabula, CEO of the AECF, said: "Building resilient food systems is a matter of urgency and value addition presents better possibilities for Africa's smallholder farmers. This programme has demonstrated the essence of investing in close-to-production downstream processing facilities that create

markets and reduce costs for rural, smallholder producers while increasing incomes, impacting lives, and providing opportunities for value addition."

Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA, said: "Businesses need to recognise growth opportunities and have the confidence, financing, and capabilities to serve farmers, trade produce, and process food profitably. Farmers need access to appropriate, affordable technologies for producing resilient, quality crops and a fair chance to benefit from the fruits of their labour. Everyone needs to participate in markets that not only enable the efficient flow of physical goods but also the right flow of information for buyers and sellers to find each other. These are the basic building blocks of any sustainable food system, yet in many countries, they are flawed or missing altogether."

Christopher Thornley, Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, said: "Canada is proud to partner with African institutions like AGRA and AECF. Their deep contextual knowledge facilitates the achievement and sustainability of results, including increased incomes and improved food security. I look forward to seeing AECF's growth as Canada and other partners continue to support small and medium enterprises on the continent, particularly those that are women-owned and women-led. I know the lessons we have learned from the Agribusiness in Africa project will undoubtedly lead to even stronger outcomes in the future."

The AAW-R2 programme has affirmed the importance of investing in rural agro-processing infrastructure at the farm gate which offers the potential to increase the volume and quality of production and create value-added for smallholder farmers further up the value chain.

Police holds three suspects allegedly in possession of nine pieces of ivory tusks

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya are holding three suspects for allegedly being found in illegal possession of nine pieces of ivory tusks and other government trophies worth 104m/- Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Benjamin Kuzaga said the suspects were arrested at Lubele village in Ikimba ward, Kyela district during patrols conducted at various places.

Kuzaga mentioned the suspect as David Mwashaya (40), a tailor and

resident of Tabata in Dar es Salaam, Ninde Bundala (78), a resident of Iheha in Mbarali district and Mathidi Mboje.

"The pieces of elephant teeth measuring 17.4 kilograms were kept in sulphate bag; they were hidden in one of the houses as the suspects were looking for get a customer," he said.

The RPC said the other trophies that were found in possession of the suspects are three antelope horns, a piece of antelope skin and a two bottles of oil which is believed to be

from a wild animal.

"The accused persons were also found with various traditional weapons, including 16 swords," he said, adding that one of the suspects was poacher conducting his activities in the regional forests.

In another development, the force arrested 10 youths over illegal possession of narcotic drugs including two bags loaded with marijuana.

They are Isaya Julius (28), Gisbert Mchilo (30), Jamson Furaha (25) Emmanuel Joseph (22), Bryton

Mkondya (24) Salum Masanja (29), Zawadi Mwampashi (26) and Emmanuel Frank (21), all residents of Chunya district.

RPC Kuzaga said the suspects will be taken to court as soon as investigation is completed.

He called upon the community to stop sabotaging state owned projects which are constructed for their benefits. He said force is determined to control all types of crimes including poaching, insisting stern legal measures will be taken against the culprits.

EU chief expected to grace international engineers conference

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEAD of the European Union delegation to Tanzania, Ambassador Manfredo Fanti is next week expected to grace the 13th international engineers conference which will take place in Arusha city.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam, Institution of Engineering Tanzania (IET) board's member, Eng Makulilo Kasseria said that the conference will kick off from December 1st to 3rd this year.

He said over 1200 local and foreign engineers will attend the conference to discuss climate changes and impacts as well as the way forward.

He said participants in the conference will come from Rwanda, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania, the host.

He said the conference will deliberate with a theme: 'Advancing UN sustainable development goals through engineering and technology in the framework of climate change adaptation approaches.'

It will be followed by the annual general meeting calling all members to attend the symposium and annual general meeting.

Kasseria said the European Union head of delegation in Tanzania will grace the international symposium that will attract ministries, the private sector, students and affiliated members.

Others will be engineers from Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA).

"This year's symposium is very important to discuss climate change, its impacts and the way forward to tame its effects. It is our hope that it will be fruitful," he said.

He said during the symposium, a total of 15 presentations will be discussed, adding that the engineering industry is very important to contribute to environment conservation.

He said IET has a total of 4,644 members out of which 30 per cent are corporate members, 50 per cent graduate members, 2 per cent are fellow members and 18 per cent are affiliated members.

According to him, female engineers are only 285, adding that the number is still low compared to the registered engineer which has reached 35,000.

IET is run by engineers for engineers with a mission to promote engineering excellence in the country since its inception.

When you join IET, you feel secure that your work, education, and rights are supported by an organisation that understands the challenges and unique landscape of the engineering profession.

CITI Bank pledges to finalise Tanzania credit rating assessment

By Guardian Reporter

CITI Bank has pledged to maintain cooperation with the government in the implementation of development projects, investment and in finalising the assessment of the country's credit rating.

The pledge was given on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam by the delegation from CITI Bank representing Africa - South of the Sahara Zone and the Middle East in talks held with the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr

Mwigulu Nchemba.

In the talks, Dr Nchemba represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan while CITI Group was represented by its managing director, David Livingstone.

Livingstone said CITI Bank is proud to work together with Tanzania to attain its agenda to bring economic and social development to its people.

Dr Nchemba said the two sides discussed how to finalise the country's credit rating at the world market during FY 2022/23 whereas the CITI group is the

main consultant.

He said the government continues with the discussions to make sure the implementation of other projects who directly involved the CIT Group in regard to sourcing of funds including Pemba Airport and others are completed.

"In our discussions, we have also agreed they should abide by the call made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to invite investors such as financial institutions, and the private

sector since they hold a wide network in various areas to come and invest by utilising the country's available opportunities, especially in the production of goods including edible oil whose prices have been rising," Dr Nchemba added.

CITI Group's managing director agreed to continue cooperation with the government in financing various development projects as well as finalising the country's credit rating within the agreed time.



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- Train staff and other stakeholders.

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'Joint efforts needed to fight non-communicable diseases'

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER she started feeling unwell, Agnes Kalegele walked into a private health facility where she learned that her blood sugar was high, something which contributed to her sickness. That was in 2011, as she had just lost her husband who left her with four children.

"They told me that stress raised the level of sugar in my blood sugar and I was supposed to start taking medications but at that time my financial situation wasn't good so I chose to tolerate it," says Agnes, a Mwanza city resident.

In November 2022, ten years ahead, her blood sugar is still high, and she is not on any medication. A combination of nausea, and pain behind her left shoulder extending to the left thigh concerned her.

Heeding the public-address announcement calling people to come for health screening, Agnes showed up at CCM Kirumba stadium in the city to benefit from free checkup service.

Tests confirmed her blood sugar was still high, at 19 and had clear symptoms of possible heart disease. The doctor prescribed some medicines and asked her to make sure she shows up at SekouToure hospital in two days.

Agnes is among hundreds of people that walked in for a test during the free screening camp and ended up with a referral.

According to Prof Paschal Ruggajo, Director of Curative Services of the Ministry of Health, some of the clients who turned up for tests needed urgent attention—in the medical definition of the term.

Agnes' experience proves a known but alarming statistic. One of every ten persons in Tanzania with elevated levels of blood sugar and blood pressure knows their condition. Agnes knew her blood sugar was high, but she was oblivious to possible heart problems.

She walked from the health check booths with two packs of medication, health information brochures and knowledge about her condition and more importantly, an appointment at a regional referral hospital.

Prof Ruggajo said a total of 1,428 clients were served as of November 11, 2022, in the medical screening camp. Issues found include symptoms of non-communicable diseases, accidents and mental health. Those who presented with urgent conditions were directly referred to the regional referral hospital for extended medical attention and follow-up.

The process of expanding access to non-communicable diseases services in primary health facilities is one of the key focuses of the Ministry of Health's strategy for the prevention and control of NCDs.

"The key pillar in preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases is a strong primary health system that provides early detection and timely referrals for NCDs services," Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, Balandya Elikana said when reading the Prime Minister's Speech at the closing ceremony.

The move conforms with

WHO's guidelines including the Global NCD Action Plan that urge Member States to implement and monitor cost-effective approaches for the early detection of cancers, diabetes, hypertension and other cardiovascular risk factors" and "establish standards of health care for common conditions like cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases integrating whenever feasible their management into Primary Health Care".

Likewise, the WHO HEARTS package provides guidance on how countries can prevent and ultimately reduce the number of heart attacks and strokes by controlling major risk factors through lifestyle interventions and drug treatment where necessary.

In 2020, WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom said: "We need a paradigm shift and build back better by including the prevention, screening, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of NCDs as part of PHC for UHC."

In Tanzania, the timing cannot be better. In recent months the burden of NCDs has attracted the spotlight, with the Minister of Health sounding the alarm that the national health insurance fund is overwhelmed with a huge bill, partly because of the ever-rising cost of non-communicable diseases.

Non-communicable diseases claim 40 percent of all admitted patients and nearly 40 percent of all deaths in hospitals in Tanzania. With more than 10,000 health facilities including primary health facilities, Tanzania has an opportunity to extend access to non-communicable diseases by utilizing equipment and skills at primary health facilities for early detection and support.

WHO advocates that the National UHC benefit package should guarantee equitable entitlement to services and be matched with sustainable financing mechanisms.

In addition to early detection, the theme of this year's non-communicable diseases week emphasized prevention, particularly through healthy eating and habitual physical exercises.

The member of the parliamentary committee on social services, Fatma Tawfique emphasized the need for developing roads that make walking and running safe.

"I believe that if our roads and streets have spaces that make running and walking safe for pedestrians we will be a step further in the prevention of NCDs in Tanzania," said Tawfique.

Similarly, she advocated for investing in developing a culture of physical exercise for our population from infancy. Pre-school and schooling curriculum must integrate physical exercise, that way we will be able to develop youths and adults that take physical activity, their behaviour and culture," she said.

In his keynote address at the NCD Scientific conference organised in the same week, Prof Francis Furia said the power to prevent and early detect non-communicable diseases should be inculcated among individuals and health care professionals, equally.

Nationwide electricity outage as Kenya power system fails

NAIROBI

Parts of the country have been hit with a blackout attributed to a system disturbance barely three weeks after a similar blackout left businesses counting losses.

"We have lost bulk power supply to various parts of the country due to a system disturbance and we are working to restore normalcy within the shortest time possible," said Kenya Power in a statement on yesterday.

The firm said it will issue an update on the restoration progress in due course.

The blackout follows the power outage that hit Nairobi, Mount Kenya and coastal regions early this month causing disruption to businesses.

Kenya Power also attributed the blackout to a system disturbance,

In December last year, parts of transmission network connecting Lake Turkana Wind Power (LTWP) to Suswa collapsed affecting evacuation of power from Marsabit.

LTWP is the second largest supplier of electricity to the national grid at peak demand, with the collapse of the transmission towers forcing Kenya Power to resort to costlier thermal power to plug the deficit.

The growing incidences of large-scale blackouts is a pain to businesses such as retailers, manufacturers, hospitals, schools and other entities who are forced to switch to costly temporary power sources such as generators.

Businesses that cannot afford these alternative sources of power are forced to wait for Kenya Power to restore supply even as they count losses. **AGENCIES**



Rorya district commissioner, Juma Chikoka 'Mchopanga' (R) being presented with a gift by TIB development bank's senior insurance officer James Manyama (L) when he visited the bank's pavilion for the National Financial Services Week exhibitions ongoing in Mwanza City yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Mpango urges for review of tree cutting licences issuance

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has instructed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to review the issuance of permits for tree cutting for charcoal to control the country's desertification.

Dr Mpango also directed District Commissioners countrywide to oversee the issue of cleanliness along the main highways saying for now the roads are littered with trash.

He made the remarks here yesterday at the Green Growth Platform (GGP) forum organised by the Leadership Institute for discussing the strict control of sea shores for the country's economic and social development.

He said as of now the situation is dismal due to the wanton issuance of permits for tree cutting and charcoal making that threatens forests' existence.

He warned that the use of chainsaws at water sources is more dangerous even than the use of firearms that kills human beings and animals.

Regarding the issue of environmental cleanliness, he instructed district commissioners countrywide to oversee it, especially along the main roads.

"As you travel along the roads you will see the trash alongside, we as leaders must manage the issue of environmental cleanliness," said Dr Mpango.

He also called for the review of

the issuance of permits for building on the sea and lake beaches.

He said there are hotels and residential houses built a few paces from the lake or sea and this contributes to the environmental destruction of beaches.

In regard to environmental preservation, the Vice President said if the community will not conserve it, it will be a great loss to the coming generations.

He said in the past there was a procedure of mobilising people for cleaning their areas but this died, and called for its revival to enable people to clean the areas around them.

In regard to Mwanza Region, Dr Mpango directed the cleaning of river Mirongo to remove the dirt.

He said the river is filled with dirt and with the ongoing rain the sewage flows to Lake Victoria.

He also directed all vehicles, both private and public to install receptacles for storing trash.

He said there are many people who throw trash along the road which contributes to many roads being littered with trash.

Speaking about the forum, deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja said the government will continue to protect the beaches to be used as areas for tourist attractions.

She said many people tour beaches in various areas and that the issue of their cleanliness must be fully adhered to.

Meanwhile, the Leadership Institute CEO Kadari Singo said the aim of the forum is to enhance the knowledge on the issues of the green economy and its contribution to the country's development.



Small business persons remove their merchandise at Kimara Mwisho in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at the restricted and prohibited areas. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

President Mwinyi delighted by NGOs support to Z'bar social services sectors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said his government is pleased to see non-governmental institutions assist in boosting social services including health and education.

President Mwinyi made the remarks at Zanzibar State House when he met and held talks with officials of 'Mwanamke Initiative Foundation' who paid him a visit for the introduction.

He said the government is pleased when an NGO supports the government's efforts on various issues, including boosting education and health services in recognition of the fact that the government has no ability to do everything.

He said the government was ready to work together with education stakeholders to achieve the government's intentions to boost the sector, and used the occasion by citing five priority areas.

He said the priority areas include the strengthening of infrastructures by building new schools, revamping old schools and classrooms and constructing laboratories and libraries.

He mentioned another priority as the boosting of human resources in the teaching cadre following small number of teachers of low education especially in science subjects.

He said another government priority is to boost the education sector by strengthening the ICT

cadre citing the importance of early teaching technological systems to students in accordance to global needs.

He said his government, through the Ministry of Education, is ready to meet and work together with Planet One institution to see how it can assist the sector, as well as the G. S. Group that deals with ICT issues.

He thanked 'Mwanamke Initiative Foundation' for the programme it has established in Unguja South region that aims to increase students' national examination pass levels, saying the positive results of which have started to be discerned.

Chairperson of 'Mwanamke Initiative Foundation,' Wanu Hafidh Ameir said the institution has been in great efforts to support the

government of Zanzibar in boosting the health, education and farming sectors.

Meanwhile, President Mwinyi met and held talks with the Ambassador of the Somali federation in Tanzania who visited him for an introduction.

He called upon investors and businessmen from Somalia to come to Zanzibar to invest in various sectors including the establishment of residential houses.

The Ambassador of the Somali Federation to Tanzania, Zahra Ali Hassan lauded the strong relations that exist between the people of the two countries, saying the people of Somalia are ready to develop the relations by coming to Zanzibar to conduct business and invest in various projects.



Jackline Byalugaba Air controller at Arusha airport explains the operations of the authority to Works and Transport deputy minister Atupele Mwakibete and his delegation when the delegation visited the offices on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

New project to empower petty traders with reproductive, mental health skills launched

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

A total of 70 petty traders (machingas) in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region are set to benefit from a new intervention aimed to empower them with the right reproductive and mental health skills enabling the group to make informed decisions regarding their lives.

Dubbed "Imarika", the project is implemented by Mulika Tanzania, in partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and it focuses on young people aged 15 to 35.

Speaking at the official launching of the project, Hussein Melele the executive director of Mulika Tanzania said that the intervention aims to provide young street vendors linkages for accessing sexual reproductive health services and information to make informed

choices about their reproductive health and beyond.

"It also aims to promote an enabling business environment for youth Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) known as Machingas to access the market and expand their economic activities to increase their livelihood through the integration of Sexual Reproductive Health," he said.

Melele said that the project focuses on increasing awareness and education of sexual reproductive health and rights to young street vendors Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) starting in the Temeke district in Dar es Salaam.

"More than 70 machingas will be reached with training and capacity building on SRHR and economic strengthening through this intervention in the first phase," he said.

He added: "The capacity building will focus on hands-on learning opportunities on financial and entrepreneurial skills, particularly for youth, with the skills and platforms for educational opportunities and financial services to generate income and increase their livelihood."

The Imarika intervention will also support the identification of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) based on their business. This will clarify how best to capacitate them and integrate information on SRHR based on their actual needs and nature.

The youth will also be capacitated with leadership life skills and GBV, training on entrepreneurship, including financial literacy.

Temeke District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Bupe Mwakibete said the intervention came at the right time and thanked UNFPA for

the youth support.

She called upon the participants to use their knowledge and skills for the future of their business management and health.

"I would like to thank UNFPA in collaboration with Mulika Tanzania for the new intervention in our district, we are proud to be the first to implement the intervention," she said.

Tausi Hassan, UNFPA Youth programme officer said that the project is implemented in Temeke district as a pilot to the knowledge to access correct information on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) through targeted training and platforms they need to make informed choices about their health and well-being.

Chairman of Machingas in Temeke, Hashim Joram said the training was one step ahead toward their success noting that it has come at the right time.

He said the intervention will help to expand their businesses and individual wellbeing including good morals and SRHR.

Three ministries organises AMR two-day symposium

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

The Ministries of Health, Livestock and Fisheries and Agriculture through the National Multi-Coordinating Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR-MCC) have organised a major AMR two-day symposium.

It has been organised in collaboration with the Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) Project, various universities and research institutions, under the umbrella of the One Health approach (OH).

It will take place during World Antimicrobial Week (WAAW), which takes place globally from 18 -24 November every year.

The 2022 WAAW-themed 'Preventing antimicrobial resistance together' calls for cross-sectoral collaboration to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics and seeks to increase awareness of the global crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) initiated WAAW to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers in order to overcome the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

The event will consist of three main events, namely: the launch of the AMR - National Action Plan (2023-2028), the Commemoration of World Antibiotic Week and the AMR Symposium.

AMR remains one of the major global public health threats which makes it harder to treat common infections thereby increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

Over the years, the use and misuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals and plants, poor prescribing practices and lack of patient adherence to medical prescriptions have accelerated the threat of AMR worldwide.

Consequently, an increased number of infectious diseases have become difficult and even impossible to manage, with dramatic health and economic impact.

The consequences of AMR on health and healthcare systems are extraordinary. It has been estimated that multidrug resistant infections cause approximately 700,000 deaths worldwide each year.

Unless action is taken, it is projected that the burden of deaths from AMR could reach 10 million each year globally by 2050.

In its efforts to combat AMR, the government established the National One Health approach structure called the National Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee (MCC) which coordinates all AMR activities in the country and is assisted by a number of Technical Working Groups.

Meanwhile, the government through MCC has completed the review of the NAP AMR 2017-2022 and has developed the new NAP AMR for 2023-2028, which is expected to be launched during the 2022 WAAW.

"You may wish to know that the first AMR symposium was initiated by the HPSS project in 2017 and turned out to be a great success. Now, five years later, we are so humbled to see that our initial idea has now been fully taken over by the government," said Dr Karin Wiedenmayer, Senior Pharmaceutical Public Health Expert at HPSS Project.

Wiedenmayer also praised the government and other stakeholders for their great efforts to address and mitigate AMR in Tanzania.

HPSS is a Swiss-Tanzania Cooperation project, funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

SADC convenes strategic retreat for panel of elders and mediation reference group

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat, in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), convened the strategic retreat and training for the Panel of Elders (PoE) and the Mediation Reference Group (MRG).

In line with the SADC mediation, conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy structure, the PoE and MRG were established with the mandate to foster political and security stability in the Southern African region through the prevention, management and resolution of significant inter-state and intra-state conflicts.

Delivering opening remarks,

Ambassador Joseph Andre Nourrice, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary of Corporate Affairs, emphasized the indispensable and invaluable role the PoE and the MRG will play in the quest for lasting peace and prosperity in the region, within the unprecedented context of escalating tensions and conflict situations in the SADC region.

Amongst the participants in this meeting was Dr. Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi and newly appointed member of the PoE.

This is the second group of inductees, having the first group being inducted and presented with letters of appointment by Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana on February 28th, 2022.

The purpose of the induction meeting was to enable a clear understanding of the members on the mandate and functions of the SADC mediation, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy framework, consider a Draft Three-Year (2022-2024) strategic plan and enhance the capacity of PoE and MRG members in mediation and conflict prevention.

The training also enabled the esteemed participants to acquire knowledge and expertise in conflict analysis, dialogue and peace building.

The PoE and MRG identified ways to strengthen the collaboration and harmonisation of efforts between their two structures for consolidated conflict prevention interventions in the region.



Acting permanent secretary in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Eng. Gilbert Mog speaks at the opening of a seminar on finance, good governance and accountability for local government authorities in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TRAFFIC

JOB VACANCY

PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER CONTRACT LENGTH: 12 MONTHS

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

TRAFFIC in East Africa is implementing activities under the USAID-funded Tuhifadhi Maliasili activity in Tanzania, focusing on assessments looking at marine and timber trade, building capacity of law enforcement personnel through training, providing support on creating tools to facilitate effective monitoring of trade in wild species, as well as implementing behaviour change initiatives.

With this background, TRAFFIC is recruiting a Project Support Officer to provide technical support on the implementation of a variety of activities.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Working with the EA Project Manager:

- Provide technical support to ensure successful implementation of the project;
- Ensure timely preparation and submission of project reports, and any other documents as required including review and quality control elements;
- Assist with project administration as needed, including meeting scheduling, writing minutes and agendas, and distributing reference material for meeting preparation.
- Attend training on technical matters as well as donor requirements, including keeping up to date on USAID's rules and regulations; and,
- Provide other technical and administrative support as may be required.

Skills, knowledge, and abilities

- A bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant science discipline such as biology, zoology, ecology, environmental studies, wildlife management, sociology, or communication is required.
- At least two years of experience working in wildlife conservation is required.
- The willingness and ability to travel extensively within the country and work under pressure.
- Project management and implementation expertise.
- Fluency in spoken and written English is essential.
- Working knowledge of common word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and database software, as well as electronic communication technology.
- Be legally permitted to work in Tanzania.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.

Applications must include a **cover letter**, along with a complete **CV** with full contact details of **three referees** and should be addressed to Operations Manager, TRAFFIC International East Africa Office, via email to: traffictz@traffic.org by **midnight Tanzania time, Friday, December 9th, 2022**. We thank all applicants for their interest in this position, but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The interviews will take place virtually or in person in Arusha.

Aga Khan Mzizima students establish micro-forest to conserve environment

By Getrude Mbago

THE Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) of Tanzania has joined hands with the Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania (AKF) and the Ismaili Civic's joint climate resilience initiative by supporting the establishment of a micro-forest in efforts aimed to reduce carbon footprint and conserve the environment.

The micro-forest which has been established at the Aga Khan Mzizima Secondary School's premises in Dar es Salaam attracted volunteer spirit from students, staff and parents.

Speaking during the occasion in Dar es Salaam, AKES chief executive officer, Shelina Walli said the volunteers planted over 100 tree saplings to establish the micro-forest containing over 35 different tree species.

Over 20 secondary students, known as "Green Champions", worked with the school staff and their parents as volunteers to establish an approximately 18-square-meter micro-forest in Upanga, Dar es Salaam.

She said AKES hopes to continue the collaboration with Ismaili Civic and AKF to bolster education on climate resilience among students. This activity will build the foundation of knowledge for international baccalaureate (IB) students to volunteer in support of environmental sustainability.

Through this unique interagency and community engagement between AKF, AKES and Ismaili Civic, the champions symbolise the leaders of today who are rendering voluntary service to improve the quality of life and make a difference through civic engagement.

She urged stakeholders to continue to prioritise climate change adaptation and mitigation projects for Tanzania to support and achieve its development goals.

Inaara Thawer from Ismaili Civic Tanzania said the activity is part of a

NBS, KOSTAT launch statistical training room

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Statistics Bureau (NBS) in collaboration with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) has launched the statistical training room aimed at improving activities of the bureau.

The joint project aimed at building capacity for the national statistic system is focusing on provision of in-house training to NBS staff.

The training room that has cost about 120mn/- will be of great help to NBS as it is equipped with computers installed with specialized programmes for statistical and various information analysis.

Speaking in Dodoma during the occasion held at NBS headquarters yesterday the Census Commissar Anne Makinda said that, the training room will help the data processing training which will enhance NBS's ability to produce timely, quality and official statistics that will help the nation to make various development plans.

"This training room opens a new page in the development of statistical infrastructure in our country in general and at NBS in particular because it has equipment to support statistical activities," said Makinda.

The Census Commissar also said that the training room will benefit the National Statistic System as NBS are about to embark on the data processing of the 2022 census.

"I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that these facilities will immensely impact the statistical process from data production to dissemination of the result within the National Statistic System," she said.

Along with the launch of training room NBS and KOSTAT were also celebrating the completion of a second year of the joint project between the two institutions.

During the second year of implementing the joint project NBS and KOSTAT has managed to conduct various statistical trainings such as agriculture and fisheries statistics course and managerial level statistics course held in Korea and employment statistics course and economic statistics course held in Tanzania respectively.

The coordinator of NBS and KOSTAT joint project Deogratius Malamsha said that the main activities of the second year of the

larger global initiative under which the Shia Ismaili Muslim community across the world has united around its centuries-old tradition of serving humanity by rendering voluntary service to improve the quality of life of the communities in which they live, regardless of faith, gender and background.

"This collaboration is part of the ongoing initiative in Tanzania by the Ismaili Muslim Community to collaborate with community partners to slow down the effects of climate change while reflecting the community's ethic of civic engagement and good citizenship," she said.

"These mini-forests are a hyperlocal response and solution to large-scale environmental challenges like climate change and global warming. The forests attract biodiversity, including insects and new plant species, and research shows that these small patches of nature can contribute to carbon sequestration (the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide) and help cities adapt to rising temperatures," she noted.

Shaibu Althuman, AKF National Coordinator - Education Programmes noted that this effort, is connected to global efforts to strengthen communities through environmental stewardship. "AKF and AKES believe in the transformative power of community engagement for climate resilience and environmental sustainability. This event is part of the Aga Khan Development Network's ongoing commitment to carbon-negative activities," he said.

Grayson Mndeme, one of the students said the micro forest consists of several trees including fruits as well as vegetables which are grown organically. Netsanet Abiyou said: "We led plot preparations on November 21 and 22, and had the opportunity to learn about AKF's micro-forest strategy in an education session prior to planting on November 23."

project has been timely completed as planned and they are now looking forward to implement the third year's project mission which focuses on strengthening the data base service system national wide.

Malamsha also mentioned the benefits of the joint project in the first year of implementation 2020-2021 that NBS received GIS equipment which were used to support the work of allocating areas for 2022 census and the sharing experience training on the implementation of Population and Housing Census between Tanzania and South Korea.

Speaking about the joint project, Dr Heryun Kim, Director of International Cooperation, Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) said the joint project 2020-2023 will strengthen the NBS's ability to process timely and quality data for national development plans.

Kim said that KOSTAT appreciates and commends the cooperation they got from NBS during the maintenance and installation of equipment in the data collection and processing training room which is now complete and has all the necessary equipment including tables, chairs, projectors and computers which he hope will last for the next 100 years and support the work done by NBS.

The statistician general, Dr. Albina Chuwa also said that along with other projects in 2016 Tanzania became one of the Republic of Korea's priority partner countries for official development assistance (ODA) and consequently NBS was the first national statistical office to receive ODA project in African Continent.

She said through the improvement of the NBS infrastructure system, Tanzania will successfully implement sustainable development goals of the 17th millennium and its objective whose report will be released in New York US next year.

"Through this training room and other improvements made at NBS, I am sure that Tanzania is now in a position to implement the millennium development goals and it will succeed because development plans and its implementation depends on the quality and accuracy of information obtained from population and housing census," she said.



Energy and Water Utility Regulatory Authority production and marketing manager Victor Labaa (L) and Rural Energy Agency general manager Hassan Saïdy talk to Mtanga villagers in Kigoma region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Adela Madyan

Magazine to inspire students venture into science subjects launched in Dar

By Correspondent Devota Mwchang'a

A NEW science magazine has been launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday to inspire children to venture into science subjects for the country to have enough scientists.

The first science magazine to be issued and published in Tanzania was launched by Baobab Shalom Company in partnership with the OYLA Africa Magazine.

Launching the magazine, OYLA Africa general manager, Godfrey Lugalambi said there are many problems facing children, reducing the effects of global warming, stopping future pandemics, gender inequality, moving forward to keep from falling behind.

"We want our children to be

prepared for the world that awaits them outside of school to be able to make observations, gather information and draw logical conclusions. We, the creators of OYLA Africa Magazine, dream that our children will learn to be independent thinkers," said Lugalambi.

He said the magazine is internationally published in print, so it does not require the internet or the use of devices, so it allows the readers to take in information without the annoyance of endless push notifications and adverts.

He said science subjects (Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry) are not just a collection of facts. They comprise a system of thinking, a way of better

understanding the world, and a path to improve the world around people.

Dar es Salaam Region Education Officer Alhaji Abdul Maulid said education is expensive, when the government says it provides free education it does not mean that it is free, it pays for books, and salaries, so parents should contribute to buy books for their children to read while in school and outside the school environment.

He praised the creators of the magazine for supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan efforts to ensure students access quality education, especially girls, to opt for learning science subjects, and endorsed over 100bn/- for the construction of science secondary

schools for girls countrywide.

This magazine is useful, it will help children build a culture of reading, but also has a research and scientific concept," he said.

OYLA Africa Director Yevgeniy Semikov said knowledge is the key to a successful life, the idea of the magazine is to motivate the youngest children to think critically and to inspire them to discover scientific things in the world. The magazine can be read by the whole family, given to friends or donated to the school library.

A representative from Tusiime Secondary School Jenipher Kaizilege said: "The magazine is well designed and simplified things through pictures, the theory is taken to actual practice. It will motivate a student to make good use of time by reading it rather than spending time searching for things on smartphones. This is a helpful teaching tool for teachers of science subjects like me."



Mbeya regional police commander Assistant Commissioner Benjamin Kuzaga shows pieces of the ivory tusks to journalists which had been seized during their operation conducted recently. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Kenya in Sh52 billion drought appeal

NAIROBI

DEPUTY President Rigathi Gachagua received a gift from Garissa Governor Nathif Jama at Maalimin Village, Modogashe sub-county in Garissa County, during the launch of the Drought Response Plan by the national government and the United Nations recently.

International development partners and the national government have launched a drought flash appeal that seeks to raise a total of Sh52.5 billion to enable the United Nations and Humanitarian partners in an effort to reach 3.8 million Kenyans affected by the ongoing drought.

The Kenya Drought Flash Appeal

that was launched in Garissa on Monday called for increased funding to increase their emergency response in the arid and semi-arid areas in the country.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua who attended the event indicated the government is evaluating long-term solutions that will solve the drought menace in the country.

"Every time I visit Garissa, I understand that this is where real Kenyans stay. I ask all the governors in the arid and semi-arid areas to work with our ministers so that we can identify areas where we can build dams to provide water for our people to alleviate this suffering," Gachagua said.

UN Resident Coordinator

Stephen Jackson in a roundtable meeting with government officials announced that the current rainy season being experienced in the country will end soon leaving several families in the ASAL counties vulnerable to drought.

"The launch here is significant because this is where most people are bearing the effects of drought. The current short rains will disappear soon leaving many families to endure the suffering. We do not want to see young children dropping out of school because of drought. I urge all development partners to join us in this initiative," he said.

The money raised will be used for cash transfers for the affected families as well as food assistance

as the development partners seek long-term solutions to the drought situation.

According to Inger Jackson, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Kenya needs to build resilience among communities to tackle climate change.

"We have just come from the COP27 in Egypt. The sad news is that drought and floods will not go away soon. It is the new normal and we must therefore learn how to cope with the effects of climate change. We need to mobilize resources to achieve this," she said.

The Kenya Drought Flash Appeal was first launched by former President Uhuru Kenyatta in September last year in Wajir after Kenyatta declared drought to be a national emergency.

Mbeya, Zurich cities embark on joint project to strengthen food systems

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

COLLABORATION between two cities—Mbeya and Switzerland's Zurich has started to benefit the community following the introduction of a joint project to strengthen food systems in response to malnutrition and stunting challenges.

The project was launched on Tuesday in Mbeya at a special meeting that involved executives from both cities, nutrition officers and officers from a non-governmental organisation—HELVETAS which facilitated the collaboration.

Inaugurating the project, Deputy Mayor of Mbeya City, Kefas Mwasote said the project aims to improve the welfare of citizens through access to good nutritional food. Residents will be assisted at all stages from production to consumption.

He said that the project aims to ensure that the citizens get the necessary combination of herbs to ensure that they get rid of the problems caused by poor nutrition. He said through the project, residents will be able to get nutritional food to fight diseases that are caused by poor diet.

He said that apart from the two cities cooperating on nutritional matters, they also cooperate in administration issues including the exchange of staff.

"We are grateful to our colleagues in Zurich for agreeing to cooperate with us on various issues; the launched project on nutrition matters will help us to reduce and ultimately eliminate malnutrition and stunting challenges among our people," said Mwasote.

Mwasote said they will make

Zimbabwe leather sector realises more business value by embracing intellectual property rights

HARARE

THE Bulawayo leather cluster in Zimbabwe expects to realise more business value from embracing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) following a capacity building training by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regional programme on Support to Industrialisation and the Productive Sectors (SIPS).

The intervention by SIPS to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the leather sector from across the SADC region sought to equip the SMEs with knowledge to harness the full value of Intellectual Property Rights including trademarks and patents, among others, arising from their innovations.

SIPS is a programme aimed at improving private sector participation in the regional leather, pharmaceutical and medical value chains in the SADC Region.

It is supported by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to facilitate development and expansion of regional value chains and promote dialogue between the private and public sectors.

Bulawayo Leather Cluster secretary-general, Fungai Zvinondiramba, said that while the SMEs have many innovations their IPRs have not been registered and are therefore not fully benefiting from their products.

He said the interventions by the SIPS programme will help to strengthen the value chains in the leather sector across the region. Most innovations in various sectors, including the leather industry, are not being protected through applicable intellectual property rights hence full benefits are not being realized.

Zvinondiramba was among representatives of SMEs in the leather industry from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, DR Congo, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe who participated in a SADC regional capacity building training workshop on strengthening regional and national IPR and Trade Related Intellectual Property Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliance.

The workshop was convened by the SADC Secretariat, in partnership with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) in

sure that the ongoing cooperation between the two cities continues to prevail for mutual benefits.

Coordinator of the project from HELVETAS organization, Agness Mahembe said the new project to cooperate in matters of nutrition dubbed—Inclusive Cities For Nutrition' (IC4N) is worth 2.9bn/-.

He said that various interventions will be implemented in Mbeya's urban areas because most of the residents reside in the city.

He said that the HELVETAS through its Empowering Women and Youth in Horticulture Production and Marketing (KIBOWAVI) project implements a number of projects that are geared to add value to agricultural crops.

"We have started this project to have a good continuation of the work we have been doing previously; we have built a processing plant for various crops. We will use it to add nutritional supplements to foods," said Agness.

Mbeya Regional Nutrition Officer, Benson Sanga said the project will help tackle nutritional problems in the city and change peoples' eating habits.

He said under the project, citizens will be trained on the correct ways of preparing food from the farm to the table.

Sanga said a study conducted in 2018 showed that the rate of unemployment for citizens in the region is 33.8 percent which requires efforts to resolve.

Acting Mbeya City Director, Dr Jonas Lulandala commended officials from the City of Zurich and HELVETA organisation for agreeing to cooperate with the regional authorities in improving the welfare of citizens.

"On the just-ended training, it was all about Intellectual Property Rights for SMEs. As you might know, most SMEs have not realised the full value of their intellectual property rights. These include trademarks and patents. SMEs have come up with a lot of innovations which they have not registered, there are also opportunities for developing Geographical Indications which create brands based on geographical origin. In other quarters, it is called geographic branding where we brand a whole region or province for its unique product," he said.

Zvinondiramba said after the training programme, there was a realisation that there are opportunities for collective branding of SMEs.

"Benefits include the realisation of the intangible value of the different names that we have built over the years, and of course the knowledge that we can protect our products and innovations in Zimbabwe and the Region, even internationally," he said.

Zvinondiramba said that through support from the SIPS and Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) initiatives, SMEs in the leather industry were being capacitated with machines through the clustering system in Bulawayo and Harare.

The leather industry in Zimbabwe is being revived as there is a lot of capacity building targeting SMEs, big companies and also training institutions with support from the EU through ALLPI, which is a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) initiative.

ALLPI was established in 1990 and rebranded in 2017 to enable it to support activities towards strengthening the leather value chain across the continent in a seamless and cost-effective manner.

At its prime in the 1990s, the leather sector in Zimbabwe was thriving, producing up to eight million pairs of shoes, but most established manufacturing firms later folded citing different reasons.

However, through the Zimbabwean government interventions that included the launch of the Zimbabwe Leather Sector Strategy 2021-2030 to anchor increased investment and maximising value-addition and beneficiation to promote export-led industrialisation, the sector is now on a recovery path.



The Principal of Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) Prof Esther Dungumaro (L) with the chairperson of the Council of the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Mwanaidi Maajari during the 14th Graduation of the University of Dar es Salaam, Mkwawa affiliated college of Education (MUCE) where a total of 1,578 students graduated yesterday. Among them were 707 males equal to 44.8 per cent and 871 females 52.5 per cent. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

TanTrade stresses need for collective efforts to transform agriculture sector

By Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) has stressed a need for collective efforts to transform the agriculture sector.

Speaking on Monday at the launch of the Agricultural Exhibition in East Africa (Agritech), a representative of TanTrade Mohamed Tajiri said that since agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy there is a need for collective efforts to take it to the next level.

The exhibition attracted more than 100 exhibitors drawn from related agriculture sectors.

He said TanTrade believes that the country will benefit a lot as the exhibition has attracted

participants from many countries. It was organized by WegVoraus and their partners Agro-food East Africa and Foodpack Tech Tanzania.

"As we all know that agriculture is the backbone of our country, currently the Ministry of Agriculture is promoting the sector so as to enable farmers to move from subsistence to commercial farming. The 'agriculture is business' slogan also helps to boost the sector," he said, adding that TanTrade has approved the exhibition to provide an opportunity for Tanzanians to learn, collaborate and strengthen cooperation between participating countries.

In his remarks, an official from WegVoraus, Thomas James

thanked the government and every individual who contributed to the success of the exhibition.

"Thank you for the growth of Tanzania's agricultural sector and the strength of the government in supporting farmers. We believe we will be able to achieve the celebration of the ministry of agriculture on 10/30, We thank the private sector and governmental organisations that have agreed to partner with us including Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT), Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), TANEXA, Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) and Tanzania Women Chamber of

Commerce (TWCC)," he said.

He added: "We are grateful for their contribution and understanding and believe through this festival many Tanzanians will benefit from learning."

The exhibition has brought together stakeholders and experts in the agricultural sector where they shared knowledge on ways to promote the sector in the country.

At the exhibition, participants showcased various equipment, machinery and materials which are needed for farmers in this country; there were seminars, discussions between entrepreneurs and investors on various investment opportunities in the agriculture sector, and one-on-one sessions between the exhibitors.



Dodoma city council workers collecting garbage at the dumping site located at Sabasa market without protecting gear which is a health risk. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Adopt ecological farming, use of organic fertiliser, farmers advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FARMERS in the country have been urged to adopt ecological farming practices including planting quality seeds and organic fertiliser as a measure to fight the effects of climate change.

The advice was given on Tuesday at Msanga Village, Chamwino District at a meeting for ecological farming stakeholders for a better life and sustainable development organised by Action Aid Tanzania.

Addressing fellow farmers, Margaret Malogo said in fighting the effects of climate change, their

group dubbed "Chamwino Youth Forum has invented the use of egg shells in expelling plant pests.

"You crush the egg shells using the traditional mortar and pestle and then you spread among your plants, its smell helps to keep away destructive plant pests," she said.

She advised local council authorities to improve demonstration farms and allocate budgets from their internal revenues for the purchase of soil testers to determine the needed soil condition.

Acting Chairman of Chamwino District Council, Samuel Kaweya

called on farmers to use fertilisers and traditional insecticides for farming.

For his part, Chamwino District Agricultural Officer, Living Kilawe, said the district is being faced with the effects of climate change through warm weather, lack of rains and persistent drought.

He said the district has met the cost for securing a title deed for the 8,000-acre farm in Membe Village as well as for the construction of a big water dam for arresting water for farming activities whose total cost is 11.96bn/-.

Information Communication

Technology (ICT) Coordinator from Action Aid Tanzania, Tema Hassan said the aim of the meeting is to remind residents of Chamwino District, farmers in particular of the importance of ecological farming for the 2022/23 farming season.

"Ecological farming is a farmers' tool that helps to fight the effects of climate change, as in Dodoma Region, in general, we have seen huge challenges contributed by the effects of climate change, and that is what pushed us to organise the meeting to educate farmers about ecological farming practices for sustainable development."

Africans ought to keep abreast of changing nature of our world

WILDLIFE traditionally refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all plants, fungi, and other organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans.

Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, forests, rain forests, plains, grasslands and other areas including the most developed urban areas, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities.

Humans have historically tended to separate civilisation from wildlife in a number of ways including the legal, social, and moral sense. Some animals, however, have adapted to suburban environments. This includes such animals as domesticated cats, dogs, mice, and gerbils. Some religions declare certain animals to be sacred, and in modern times concern for the natural environment has provoked activists to protest against the exploitation of wildlife for human benefit or entertainment.

The global wildlife population decreased by 52 per cent between 1970 and 2014, according to a report by the World Wildlife Fund.

Indeed the world is full of amazing creatures from every possible medium. From the birds of the air to the majestic whales of the sea, wildlife abounds in the most unusual and unexpected places. Wildlife benefits us in many ways, and has since time out of mind. World Wildlife Day is a day to remind us of our responsibilities to our world and the life forms we share it with.

On March 3rd, 1973 the United Nations General Assembly took a stand against to protect endangered species throughout the world. Whether plant

or animal, the importance of these species in every area of human life, from culinary to medical, could not be understated. At this time hundreds of endangered species were being threatened every year, and extinction was at a staggeringly high rate. CITES was put into place (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) to ensure that the world did not continue to hemorrhage species that would never be seen from again.

On December 20th, 2013 another step was taken to help spread awareness of the fragility of endangered species in the world.

The first thing that always comes to mind when we think about World Wildlife Day is heading out to our local zoo or botanical conservatory and reminding ourselves of the vast variety of life our world offers. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, an outdoor excursion with a book of local flora and fauna (That's plants and animals) can help make that connection come even closer to home.

Tanzania's natural beauty and sheer density of plant and wildlife species make it a top destination for eco-tourists. Almost a third of the country is protected, providing habitat for scores of species across 14 national parks.

A fifth of Africa's large mammals can be found within its borders, including lions, hippos, elephants, zebra, and wildebeest, whose mass migration through the Serengeti is a major draw for safaris.

As with other African nations, the majority of Tanzanians are forced to live off the land, which, in turn, compromises it. With trees often the only source for fuel, deforestation has led to soil erosion. That and overgrazing by livestock has led to desertification in some parts of the country. Subsistence farmers then venture closer to wildlife to find fertile land.

Strategies of coping with drought driven food insecurity is crucial

THE severe drought in Africa (1968-1973) claimed 2 million lives, hit 25 million people in 36 countries and forced over 10 million victims to flee home. China is also frequently hit by drought and three out of the world five major droughts in the 20th century happened in China.

Yet due to the shortage of water conservancy facilities, Tanzania is still faced with severe water shortage which acted as bottleneck for social and economic development and the improvement of people's livelihoods.

The population of Tanzania's central region, comprising Dodoma, Singida and Tabora, is exposed to a range of serious drought-related diseases, in addition to the nutritional impact of lack of rainfall. Prevalent illnesses include malnutrition, trachoma (a sight-threatening eye infection), dysentery, cholera and diarrhoea. New research shows that by 2030, even if the drought frequency and intensity remain stable, 5 per cent of the region's population will go hungry. In addition, 5 per cent of the population will suffer from trachoma and almost 200,000 children under five from diarrhoea. This under is accompanied by many serious cases of cholera and dysentery.

According to a study, Tanzania has witnessed six major droughts in the last 30 years. The latest numbers from the UN suggest that 24 million people are facing food insecurity in eastern Africa alone, not counting millions of people in the southern region.

The government should therefore urgently evaluate the impact of drought and make short, medium

and long-term interventions to save people's lives.

Looking back through the history of biological evolution and human civilisation, drought not only claimed lives of various creatures but also impeded the development of human civilisation.

Mycenae, one of the cultural centres of ancient Greece, which had been prosperous for centuries, finally became ruins due to the severe drought and the following famine 1200 BC. The Mycenaean civilization vanished along with the city as well. In modern times, damage caused by drought is more shocking.

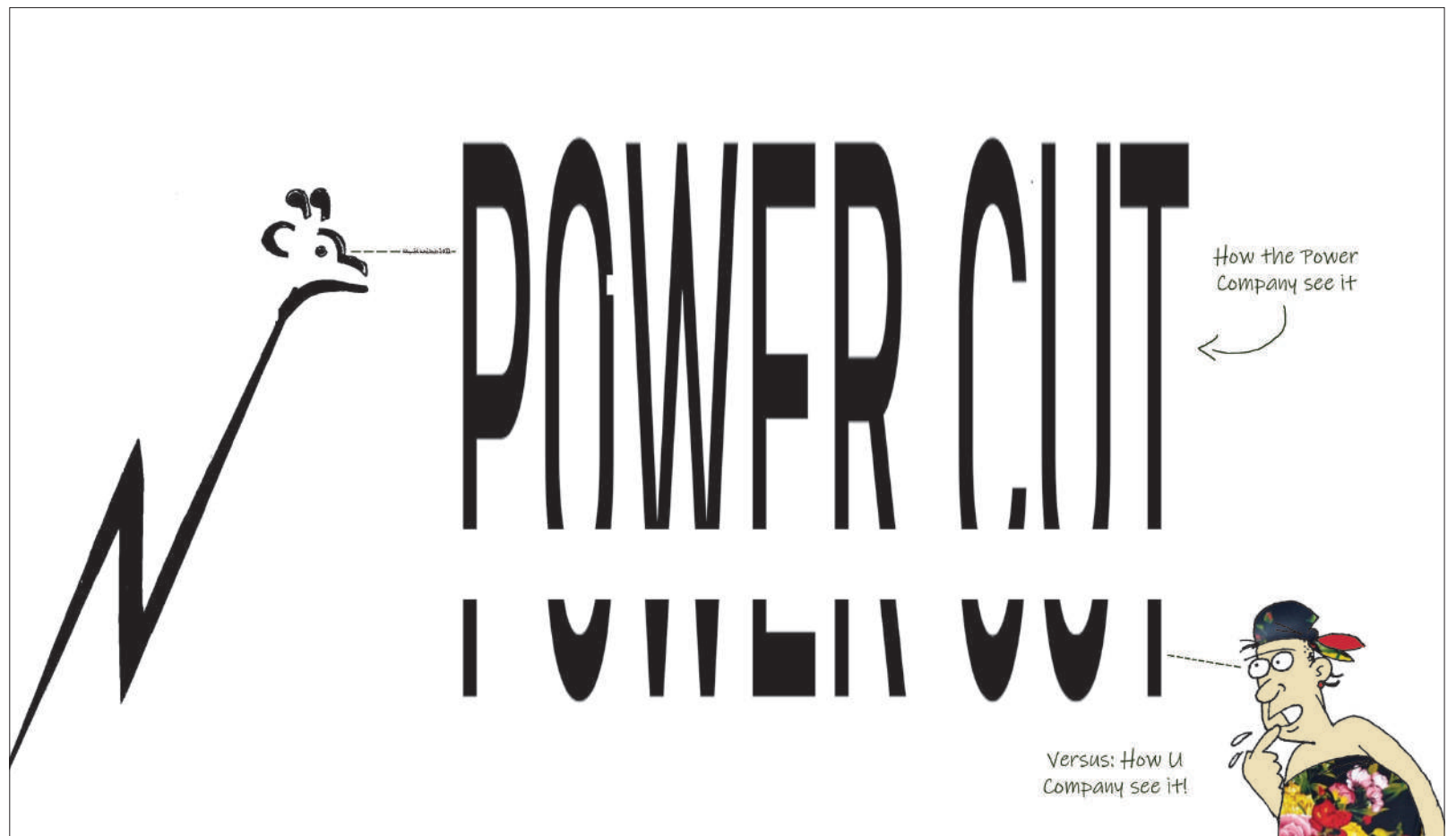
According to statistics, five of the world top ten major natural disasters happened in the 20th century are droughts; others are three earthquakes, one typhoon and one tsunami.

Such an evaluation would make it possible to determine whether there was a need to import cereals or ask the private sector not to export grain and sell it domestically instead.

As for medium and long-term interventions the government should promote irrigation farming as that would guarantee good harvests even during periods of adverse weather. It is time Tanzania made the best use of the over 29 million hectares that is suitable for irrigation farming. This land is currently grossly under-utilised.

We also feel that the government should release food from the national reserve to stabilise skyrocketing cereal prices. Fears of famine were heightened when the Tanzania Meteorological Agency announced that the country received below-average rainfall in November and December, last year.

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By Sunday Adelaja

IT is my prayer that our newly elected Nigerian government would heed to this voice of conscience and start a massive crusade and movement to establish truth, honesty and other virtues in our society.

The truth, therefore, is that nations become great not because of the amounts of wealth and natural resources they have. Nations become great due to their wealth of truth, honesty and other virtues. Wealth will always find a way of escaping from societies without established systems of truth and honesty, into societies that are well established in truth and honesty.

One of the greatest indicators of how much truth and honesty is in a country, is easily obvious in observing how people drive around the city. What are their attitudes to the rules of road safety? What are their attitudes to other commuters? Do they try to beat the system by all means? Do they try to get their ways by hook or by crook, or they follow the rules? That is also part of corruption!

Yet, most Nigerian drivers and commuters would not admit to the fact that they are part of the corruption in the country. They would fight against the idea that they are corrupt. In the real sense, they are corrupt because they don't live by the principles of honesty and truth.

On the other hand, let me show you a picture of another country. In Switzerland and generally all over Europe, there is nothing to celebrate when a man brings to the police a purse or a bag of money that does not belong to him, which he found in a restaurant, store or in a café. That is regarded as the normal duty of a normal citizen.

The difference? Simple! Honesty and truth is part of the fabric of the European society. In most European countries, if you are offered money, bags of food or things like that in exchange for your vote, that is regarded as corruption of the highest order. In which case, both the giver and the taker would end up in prison. The difference? The culture of honesty and truth that is prevalent in the society.

If we in Nigeria and Africa generally are to experience true transformation, we must purposefully begin campaigns for national and continental reorientation. There must be numerous movements championing the cause for truth and honesty in every aspect of our daily affairs.

"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey." - Isa. 59:14-15

A lot of our people like to talk

How to transform a nation through truth and honesty

about how Singapore went from the Third World to the First World. At the bottom of Singapore's miracle lays the principle of truth and honesty. Let's examine some examples of how the Singaporean government enforced the principles of truth and honesty in their society.

...it is not the amount of money or natural resources a nation has that determines how civilised it would be. Singapore, Switzerland, Austria, and many of the European countries that we all admire today don't have one tenth of the natural resources that African countries have. Yet, because of the principles of truth and honesty, they have been able to build some of the most civilised societies in the modern world.

For example, in Singapore there is punishment for all kinds of things:

- If you are caught chewing gum, you are penalised. You pay an amount of \$1,000 or stay a year in prison;
- If you cross the road in the wrong place, you are going to be penalised because you did not act by the truth. You will pay a fine of \$200;
- If you are found littering the public place by throwing bottles or paper on the ground, you are either imprisoned or heavily fined \$800;
- If you are caught spitting or defecating in public, you are heavily penalised by being sent to prison or paying a heavy fine;
- If you are caught throwing out a cigarette butt in public, you would be penalised through a similar punishment - a \$1,000 fine for a first offender and \$5,000 for a repeat offender;
- If you are caught with illegal drugs, you are sentenced to death;
- Eating in public transportation or smoking at an outdoor bus stop incurs fines ranging from \$500 - \$1,000;
- If you are caught vandalising public property, like making a graffiti, you are given a maximum of 24 strokes of cane on your bare buttocks;
- If you use the toilet and do not flush it thereafter, you will be caned;
- If you walk about undressed or nude, even in your own house, you would be heavily penalised. If you give a hug in public without permission, you would be penalised;
- If you criticise the religion of others, you would be sent to prison;
- If you tell lies; for example, introducing a stranger as your

friend, it is considered deception and you would be sent to jail;

- If you log into an internet connection that you have not paid for, it is considered hacking and you have to pay a fine of \$5,000 for this;
- If you are caught in an unlawful sexual relationship, you are sentenced to two years imprisonment;
- Mutiny, the discharge of firearm, treason and murder are punishable by death;
- Robbery is punishable by caning and imprisonment;
- Driving under the influence is punishable by hefty fines and a prison term;
- Piracy is punishable by a fine of \$1,000;
- Theft and shoplifting are punishable by heavy fines;
- Racism attracts heavy penalties.

From all these points above, we can clearly see that the Singapore government believes solidly in the principle of truth and honesty. They do not hold back, but go all the way in enforcing these in their society. I believe that without this kind of strict enforcement of penalties for any offence that violates the principles of truth and honesty, Nigeria and Africa will not be able to move from our present state of underdevelopment into civilisation.

Let me submit here that it is not the amount of money or natural resources a nation has that determines how civilised it would be. Singapore, Switzerland, Austria, and many of the European countries that we all admire today don't have one tenth of the natural resources that African countries have. Yet, because of the principles of truth and honesty, they have been able to build some of the most civilised societies in the modern world.

I hope that mine would not remain an unheeded voice of one crying in the wilderness. It is my prayer that our newly elected Nigerian government would heed to this voice of conscience and start a massive crusade and movement to establish truth, honesty and other virtues in our society.

Let's take Switzerland as an example. It is a country without much natural resources, but is well reputed for truth and integrity. As a result, it is now known as a country of banks. Why? Because, as I said earlier, if anybody loses his suitcase full of money anywhere in the country, everybody knows that the level of truth and honesty in the nation is so high that you would not lose your money. It would be returned unto you. That

reputation has gone before them for hundreds of years. As a result, even people who steal money from other countries wish to keep them in a safe place. Where? Switzerland!

Nigeria is a good testimony in that regard. A country with an abundance of wealth, but because of the lack of truth and integrity, the wealth is stolen. But the paradox of the whole thing is that this stolen wealth always finds its way to nations with no apparent natural wealth, but with high degrees of truth and honesty. The conclusion, therefore, is that wealth will always find their way out of societies where truth and honesty are not established.

Almost on a weekly basis, we hear about Sani Abacha's looted funds that are continuously discovered either in Switzerland or Belgium or some other Western country. There are constant reports of foreign bank accounts of our politicians having stolen money in foreign countries. The story of Umaru Diko has become a reference point in our nation's history.

Singapore is like an oasis in the desert of South East Asia. It is without apparent natural resources, but a huge deposit of wealth in form of truth and honesty. The result is that most of the wealth in the neighbouring rich countries always end up in Singapore. Why? Because wealth will always find its way out of rich societies where there is no truth and honesty, into societies with high degrees of truth and honesty.

The truth, therefore, is that nations become great not because of the amounts of wealth and natural resources they have. Nations become great due to their wealth of truth, honesty and other virtues. Wealth will always find a way of escaping from societies without established systems of truth and honesty, into societies that are well established in truth and honesty.

I hope that mine would not remain an unheeded voice of one crying in the wilderness. It is my prayer that our newly elected Nigerian government would heed to this voice of conscience and start a massive crusade and movement to establish truth, honesty and other virtues in our society.

I also pray that other nations in the African continent and in other developing parts of the world would hear this cry and give their people gifts of development and civilisation through the establishment of principles of truth and honesty.

Sunday Adelaja is a Nigerian born leader, transformation strategist, pastor and innovator. He was based in Kiev, Ukraine.

We stand to lose geniuses if we don't help students with learning disorders

By Thomas Lyimo

LEARNING is a gradual process and not a quick and instant event. Thinkers in education hold that people can learn from themselves or from others and all that needs time and patience.

Due to differences in learning patterns of individuals, it becomes a challenge for teachers to decide how to make every pupil successful in the learning process considering the fact that learning is quantified in terms of years. Some teachers think of using corporal punishment but others rely on exhorting as a way of getting the best out of a pupil.

When there is failure of corporal punishment and reprimand in effecting change in learning is when psychological approach is considered as it is not right to punish physically or psychologically someone eager to excel but unable due to challenges which go beyond their control.

In the teaching and learning process there are challenges which not all teachers or parents are familiar with. The pressure on teachers to finish syllabuses on time makes it hard to allow every pupil display his or her hobby or style of learning. Instead, they may face criticism from teachers if they fail to conform to standards.

Parents who can help are busy chasing school fees and other contribu-



tions which are high especially in private schools, leaving pupils stranded in the struggle to excel academically and in life after school.

One may propose extension of school years but the limitation is justifiable due to the fact that some pupils manage very early and register success, meaning the challenge is on how to help those who struggle and take

a little bit more time to excel.

Struggling pupils tend to have challenges such as Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and anxiety. All of these psychological challenges cause a difficulty in concentration in class, something which hinders effective learning. The challenge is intensified when poor concentration is

misconceived as laziness.

Learning is a behavioural practice and if the behaviour of the learner which can result from a disorder or orientation is not well studied, challenges in learning must persist. Failure to distinguish between a disorder and a normal behaviour by either a teacher or a parent can impede the learning process in several ways.

One of the ways is by dis-

couraging pupils. A teacher may mistakenly condemn a pupil for being lazy while the case is different whereby they might be suffering from, let's say, attention deficit hyperactive disorder. A pupil with ADHD may seem active but cannot finish class work on time due to concentration issues. If a teacher is unaware of the challenge, they might label the pupil as a lazy one while

it is not so. A pupil called lazy is likely to be discouraged.

Also, there is a big risk of wasting great potentials if teachers keep on confusing disorders and behaviours. Research has shown that people with psychological disorders such as bipolar are likely to become great people with rare talents in many areas including writing and science. People with psychological challenges can succeed but only when they overcome their challenges.

If the society is not aware of learning challenges that pupils face in their schooling, the achievement we desire in education may be limited. Disorders should not be taken as a shame. What can be condemned are bad behaviours such as theft and abusive language. People with psychological challenges should be valued and given opportunity to excel.

If disorders that affect learning are not recognized, there is a danger of parents wasting a lot of money trying to educate their children through private tuition classes but with little impact. The loss incurred in educating someone who cannot be effective due to disorders discourages other parents from financing education for their children.

It is rightly said that a known problem is already half solved. By understanding the presence of challenges that pupils face in the teaching and learning process, some

steps can be taken to arrest the situation.

Teachers need to get frequent trainings so that they can be able to identify challenges that pupils may be going through and how they can help. This will increase competence and suitability of teachers as some thinkers hold that teachers build a destiny for any nation.

Emphasis should be put on how teachers are trained. There is a need to make sure that tutors and lecturers who prepare teachers are competent and they really understand significance of the job they do. Tutors and lecturers need to make student teachers love teaching and be ready to encounter any challenge in their profession.

To be a good teacher, one must be able to discover challenges facing learners and solving them with the help of a parent or guardian. A teacher should always be in a constant battle against ignorance and should always work hard to improve teaching and learning process.

Also, the role of mass media in making society aware of some challenges affecting teaching and learning processes should be promoted. Journalists and media houses should not forget that they are also teachers based in newsrooms as opposed to classrooms.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

BY Ndongo Samba Sylla, DAKAR and KUALA

LUMPUR

Open veins of Africa bleeding heavily

The ongoing plunder of Africa's natural resources drained by capital flight is holding it back yet again. More African nations face protracted recessions amid mounting debt distress, rubbing salt into deep wounds from the past.

With much less foreign exchange, tax revenue, and policy space to face external shocks, many African governments believe they have little choice but to spend less, or borrow more in foreign currencies.

Most Africans are struggling to cope with food and energy crises, inflation, higher interest rates, adverse climate events, less health and social provisioning. Unrest is mounting due to deteriorating conditions despite some commodity price increases.

After 'lost decades' from the late 1970s, Africa became one of the world's fastest growing regions early in the 21st century. Debt relief, a commodity boom and other factors seemed to support the deceptive 'Africa rising' narrative.

But instead of long overdue economic transformation, Africa has seen jobless growth, rising economic inequalities and more resource transfers abroad. Capital flight - in-



Ndongo Samba Sylla

volving looted resources laundered via foreign banks - has been bleeding the continent.

According to the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, the continent was losing over \$50 billion annually. This was mainly due to 'trade mis-invoicing' - under-invoicing exports and over-invoicing imports - and fraudulent commercial arrangements.

Transnational corporations (TNCs) and criminal networks account for much of this African economic surplus drain. Resource-rich countries are more vulnerable to plunder, especially where capital accounts have been liberalized.

Externally imposed structural adjustment programs (SAPs), after the early 1980s' sovereign debt crises, have forced African economies to be even more open - at great economic cost. SAPs have made them more (food) import-dependent while increasing their vulnerability to commodity price shocks and global liquidity flows.

Leonce Ndikumana and his colleagues estimate over 55% of capital flight - defined as illegally acquired or transferred assets - from Africa is from oil-rich nations, with Nigeria alone losing \$467 billion during 1970-2018.

Over the same period, Angola lost \$103 billion. Its poverty rate rose from 34% to 52% over the past decade, as the poor more than doubled from 7.5 to 16 million.

Oil proceeds have been embezzled by TNCs and Angola's elite. Abusing

her influence, the former president's daughter, Isabel dos Santos acquired massive wealth. A report found over 400 companies in her business empire, including many in tax havens.

From 1970 to 2018, Côte d'Ivoire lost \$55 billion to capital flight. Growing 40% of the world's cocoa, it gets only 5-7% of global cocoa profits, with farmers getting little. Most cocoa income goes to TNCs, politicians and their collaborators.

Mining giant South Africa (SA) has lost \$329 billion to capital flight over the last five decades. Mis-invoicing, other modes of embezzling public resources, and tax evasion augment private wealth hidden in offshore financial centres and tax havens.

Fiscal austerity has slowed job growth and poverty reduction in 'the most unequal country in the world'. In SA, the richest 10% own over half the nation's wealth, while the poorest 10% have under 1%!

With this pattern of plunder, resource-rich African countries - that could have accelerated development during the commodity boom - now face debt distress, depreciating currencies and imported inflation, as interest rates are pushed up.

Zambia's default on its foreign debt obligations in late 2020 has made headlines. But foreign capture of most Zambian copper export proceeds is not acknowledged.

During 2000-2020, total foreign direct investment

income from Zambia was twice total debt servicing for external government and government-guaranteed loans. In 2021, the deficit in the 'primary income' account (mainly returns to capital) of Zambia's balance of payments was 12.5% of GDP.

As interest payments on public external debt came to 'only' 3.5% of GDP, most of this deficit (9% of GDP) was due to profit and dividend remittances, as well as interest payments on private external debt.

For the IMF, World Bank and 'creditor nations', debt 'restructuring' is conditional on continuing such plunder! African countries' worsening foreign indebtedness is partly due to lack of control over export earnings controlled by TNCs, with African elite support.

Resource pillage, involving capital flight, inevitably leads to external debt distress. Invariably, the IMF demands government austerity and opening African economies to TNC interests. Thus, we come full circle, and indeed, it is vicious!

Africa's wealth plunder dates back to colonial times, and even before, with the Atlantic trade of enslaved Africans. Now, this is enabled by transnational interests crafting international rules, loopholes and all.

Such enablers include various bankers, accountants, lawyers, investment managers, auditors and other wheeler-dealers. Thus, the origins of the wealth of 'high net-worth

individuals', corporations and politicians are disguised, and its transfer abroad 'laundered'.

What can be done? Capital flight is not mainly due to 'normal' portfolio choices by African investors. Hence, raising returns to investment, e.g., with higher interest rates, is unlikely to stem it. Worse, such policy measures discourage needed domestic investments.

Besides enforcing efficient capital controls, strengthening the capabilities of specialized national agencies - such as customs, financial supervision and anti-corruption bodies - is important.

African governments need stronger rules, legal frameworks and institutions to curb corruption and ensure more effective natural resource management, e.g., by revising bilateral investment treaties and investment codes, besides renegotiating oil, gas, mining and infrastructure contracts.

Records of all investments in extractive industries, tax payments by all involved, and public prosecution should be open, transparent and accountable. Punishment of economic crimes should be strictly enforced with deterrent penalties.

The broader public - especially civil society organizations, local authorities and impacted communities - must also know who and what are involved in extractive industries. Only an informed public who knows how much is extracted and exported, by whom, what

revenue governments get, and their social and environmental effects, can keep corporations and governments in check.

Improving international trade and finance transparency is essential. This requires ending banking secrecy and better regulation of TNCs to curb trade mis-invoicing and transfer pricing, still enabling resource theft and pillage.

OECD rhetoric has long blamed capital flight on offshore tax havens on remote tropical islands. But those in rich countries - such as the UK, US, Switzerland, Netherlands, Singapore and others - are the biggest culprits.

Stopping haemorrhage of African resource plunder by denying refuge for illicit transfers should be a rich country obligation. Automatic exchange of tax-related information should become truly universal to stop trade mis-invoicing, transfer pricing abuses and hiding stolen wealth abroad.

Unitary taxation of transnational corporations can help end tax abuses, including evasion and avoidance. But the OECD's Inclusive Framework proposals favour their own governments and corporate interests.

Africa is not inherently 'poor'. Rather, it has been impoverished by fraud and pillage leading to resource transfers abroad. An earnest effort to end this requires recognizing all responsibilities and culpabilities, national and international.

For this Caribbean Island, ozone protection is a year-round mission

DOMINICA

For countries across the globe, September 16th is a day to reflect on progress in protecting the ozone layer. The United Nations designated day for the preservation of the ozone layer is marked by speeches, and educational and social media campaigns.

For the Caribbean Island of Saint Lucia, one day is not sufficient to highlight the gains made or to celebrate the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, a landmark, universally ratified treaty.

For that country, Ozone 'day' caps a month-long observance, and ozone protection is a year-round effort.

"The National Ozone Unit was established in 1997 and is responsible for coordinating our activities and programmes to ensure that we meet our targets under the Montreal Protocol," Sustainable Development and Environment Officer in Saint Lucia's Department of Sustainable Development Kasha Jn Baptiste told IPS.

"Our main obligation is reporting on our progress with the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances and coordinating relevant projects. Other duties include education and awareness, technician training, implementation and enforcement of legislation, and coordinating partners to ensure that we meet our obligations under the convention. This is a year-round job."

Following summer activities with youth aged 15-18, the Department of Sustainable Development held a month-long observance in September. Events included media appearances and updates on Saint Lucia's progress toward achieving the model protocol. The Department has held awareness events at all school levels, with more activities scheduled for October.

It is part of a year-round effort to educate the public and put youth at the center of ozone protection.

"One of the most important ways to continue to highlight the ozone layer is through increased awareness. We started with ozone day and usually concentrated on education activities around that day, but we realised that we must have activities year-round. We are also encouraging the teaching of ozone issues as part of our science curriculum," said Jn Baptiste, who is the Focal Point for the Montreal Protocol in Saint Lucia.



Discarded refrigerators. Scientists continue to stress the need for proper disposal of old fridges as some emit ozone-destroying chemicals. Credit: Alison Kentish/IPS

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector

A major component of maintaining compliance with the Montreal Protocol involves stringent monitoring of the refrigeration and air conditioning sector. This includes refrigerants such as chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, a group of ozone-depleting chemicals that have been banned but remain in older fridge and air condition models.

In Saint Lucia, the Sustainable Development Department conducts year-round training for technicians.

"The refrigeration air conditioning sector is where we use the bulk of those products and technicians are the ones servicing these items. We want them to be aware of what is happening, how the sector is transitioning, and what new alternatives are available," Jn Baptiste told IPS.

In a 2016 amendment to the Montreal Protocol, nations agreed to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which were being used as substitutes to CFCs. Known as the Kigali Amendment,

its signatories agreed that these HFCs represent powerful greenhouse gases (hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon) and contribute to climate change.

"What is really important now is that countries like Saint Lucia have targets on the Montreal Protocol. We have been saying 'HFC-free by 2030,' so in October, Saint Lucia will launch phase two of our HPMP, the HFC Phase Out Management Plan. That will include activities needed to help us achieve that 2030 target. We will expand

on what has been done in the past and include activities for training of technicians."

Legislative changes

Officials are currently reviewing the country's legislation to ensure compliance with Kigali Amendment targets.

"Our legislation needs to be updated to expand our licensing and quota system to include HFCs so that we can target these gases and control them under the Montreal Protocol," Jn. Baptiste said.

"What is interesting is that the HFC phase-down can contribute to prevention of 0.4 degrees of warming by the end of the century. That's important. 0.4 degrees is small, but we know that the Paris Agreement targets a 1.5 degree. The Kigali Amendment, if countries implement it, will be doing some of the work of the climate agreement. The Montreal Protocol started off with the goal of preserving the ozone layer, but it has evolved to address climate change issues - global warming issues."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Tanzanian, Kenyan and Egyptian founders win Africa's Business Heroes competition

By A Special Correspondent

FOUNDERS from Tanzania, Kenya and Egypt have been named winners of the Africa's Business Heroes (ABH) competition, a flagship philanthropic programme established by the Jack Ma Foundation to spotlight and support African entrepreneurs.

The Africa's Business Heroes prize competition is aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of African entrepreneurs across all sectors who are building a more sustainable and inclusive economy for the future of the continent.

Over a 10-year period, ABH will recognise 100 African entrepreneurs and commit to allocating grant funding, training programmes, and support for the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem. Each year, the ABH prize competition and show features 10 finalists as they pitch their business to win a share of US\$1.5 million in grant money.

This year, the competition received more than 21,000 applications and saw applicants from across all 54 African countries. These applicants were eventually whittled down to 10 finalists, who then pitched at a hybrid



Grand Finale held in Johannesburg, South Africa last week.

The overall winners were Elia Timotheo of

Tanzanian agri-tech startup East Africa Fruits, who won \$300,000, Tesh Mbaabu of Kenyan retail-tech startup MarketForce,

who won \$250,000; and Nadia Gamal El Din of Egyptian motherhood support platform Rahet Bally, who won \$150,000.

The finalists other than the top three will each receive \$100,000 in prize funding, and an additional \$10,000 will be al-

located to each of the top 10 finalists for immersive training programmes and community gathering activities.

"I'd like to thank the ABH team for working with us along the journey, and my fellow Heroes for being there for me. I especially want to bring this victory back to my team as I would not have been where I am now without them. More significantly, the award is meant to demonstrate to my fellow Tanzanians that entrepreneurship is the way forward and that food sustainability is attainable for all young Africans if we have the courage to make things happen," said

Timotheo.

"The winners of the 2022 Africa's Business Heroes competition embody the incredible entrepreneurial spirit in the region. The judges recognised them for their leadership, passion, and ability to drive positive impact across Africa through their businesses. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the past two years, these entrepreneurs have inspired us all with their resilience and unwavering commitment to their businesses and communities," said Jason Pau, executive director of international programmes at the Jack Ma Foundation.

TRA calls upon more tax compliance, return filing of non-profit organisations

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has stressed the need for increased taxation knowledge among non-profit organisations to avoid penalties related to delays in tax return filing and compliance.

Michael Muhoja, the TRA deputy commissioner for domestic tax department said during the annual tax workshop for non-profit organisations organised by RSK, an accounting, and tax consulting firm based in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the opening, the deputy commissioner said the workshop was important for non-profit organisations to know their rights and obligations as far as tax obligations are concerned as well as what tax matters are contained in the Finance Act of 2022.

"The government is happy to see taxpayers and businesses not only grow, but also complying," he said. "In order to increase tax compliance there is a need for improved knowledge."

He said even in this world, out of 8 billion existing population, only 20 percent have taxation knowledge, noting that without tax knowledge, chasing and using coercive measures are applied for compliance.

The deputy commissioner commended RSK firm for hosting the event because it will enable non-profit to be conversant with criteria to obtain charitable certificates granted by TRA commissioner, knowing their obligations as non-governmental organisations.

He said charitable tax certificates issued to NGOs are not 100 per cent exempt, because there are other tax obligations they need to com-

ply with.

He explained that some NGOs are claimed to be charitable organizations but on the ground they are not doing activities related to charities, that is why TRA is so selective in issuing charitable certificates to those with genuine reasons.

"Some non-profit are requesting for the certificates to secure working permits, but there is no correlation between charitable certificates and working permits," he said.

Ezekiel Temu, RSK partner, tax and legal services said there have been shortcomings on tax knowledge among NGOs, which led to paying penalties, resulting in unintended spending of donor funds.

Temu said this has also caused some of the applications of some NGOs to be rejected by TRA from proving that they are conducting charitable activities related to social causes such as poverty, education, health, equality, water and other social sectors.

"If they are not approved by TRA as a charitable organization, the means of tax compliance is as it is to other activities," he said.

Through a one day workshop, participants from non-profit organizations are equipped with knowledge on tax laws including income tax act, Value Added Tax (VAT) act, finance act 2022 and tax compliance to avoid penalties due to delays in file of tax returns.

RSK chief executive officer and founder Raymond Kahumba said low tax knowledge is a common pitfall that is causing many NGOs to fail to obtain charitable status.

He said the workshop intended to improve efficiency of NGOs on their budget to ensure that money



Tanzania Revenue Authority deputy commissioner for Domestic Revenue Department, Michael Muhoja (right with RSK consulting CEO, Raymond Kahumba shortly after the TRA chief officiated at the RSK's workshop on pitfalls in tax compliance for non-profit organisations opening ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

obtained from donors and well-wishers go to intended purposes rather than paying penalties to tax authorities of which they have no budget for.

"This is the first annual workshop

for non-profit but going forward, we will do sectoral workshops," he said.

Kahumba said next year RSK will collaborate with TRA and other regulators to conduct tax aware-

ness seminars to the business community, mainly startups to enable them to enhance tax compliance to avoid penalties that distort their cash flows.

Africa-EU campaign launched in Zimbabwe to promote relationship

HARARE

EUROPEAN Union (EU) ambassador to Zimbabwe, Jobst von Kirchmann yesterday officially launched a campaign that seeks to promote constructive relationship on common interest between the country and the Union.

The campaign focuses on two shared priorities in the areas of greener and climate smart agriculture and gender equality and women's empowerment.

Five African countries namely Cameroon, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are part of the 2022 campaign.

"The motto of the campaign we launch today is Zimbabwe and the European Union, together, tomorrow, today. Through this campaign, the European Union would like to reiterate its ambition and commitment for a constructive relationship with Zimbabwe based on areas of common interest," he stated.

Ambassador Kirchmann added: "This campaign is part of the EU-Africa Campaign aiming at celebrating the positive impact of the unique partnership between Africa and the European Union. The long standing partnership between the two continents and our continuous interaction has inspired much meaningful and impactful collaboration."

Information and Broadcasting Services Minister, Monica Mutsvanguwa expressed gratitude at the initiative saying it was evidence that relations between the bloc and Zimbabwe were improving.

"Such a noble initiative is a clear testimony of the continuous and sustainable improvement of relations between Zimbabwe and the EU. Indeed, we are excited to see Zimbabwe and EU making strides in ensuring that positive relations are restored back to normalcy through diplomacy, dialogue and initiatives of common interest to support our communities," said Minister Mutsvanguwa.

According to the European Union the campaign is aiming at celebrating the positive impact of the unique partnership between Africa and the European Union.

Celebrated musicians Jah Prayzah and Ammara Brown are part of the team championing cooperation between the European Union and Zimbabwe through the Greener and Climate-smart Agriculture and Gender equality and women's empowerment.

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Pandemic aggravated violence against women in Latin America

LIMA

Violence against women has failed to decline in the Latin American region after the sharp rise recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic, while preventing the causes of such violence remains a major challenge.

This is what representatives of the United Nations, feminist organizations and women's movements told IPS on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Nov. 25.

This date, established in 1999 by the United Nations, was adopted in 1981 at the first Latin American and Caribbean feminist meeting held in Colombia to promote the struggle against violence against women in a region where it continues to be exacerbated by high levels of 'machismo' or sexism.

The day was chosen to pay tribute to Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal, three sisters from the Dominican Republic who were political activists and were killed on Nov. 25, 1960 by the repressive forces of the regime of dictator Rafael Trujillo.

The date launches 16 days of activism against gender violence, culminating on Dec. 10, Human Rights Day, because male violence against women and girls is the most widespread violation of human rights worldwide.

"It is not possible to confirm a decrease in gender violence in the region at this post-pandemic moment," said Venezuelan lawyer Moni Pizani, one of the region's leading experts on women's rights. "I could say, from the information I have gathered and empirically, that the level has remained



"Not one woman less, respect our lives" writes a Peruvian woman on the effigy of a woman in a park in front of the courthouse, before a demonstration in Lima over the lack of enforcement of laws against femicides and other forms of violence against women. CREDIT: Mariela Jara/IPS

steadily after the significant increase registered in the last two years."

Pizani, who retired from the United Nations, currently supports the UN Women office in Guatemala after a fruitful career advocating for women's rights. She was twice representative in Ecuador for UN Women and its predecessor Unifem, then worked for East and Southeast Asia and later opened the UN Women Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City as regional director.

"Before the pandemic

we used to talk about three out of 10 women having suffered violence, today we say four out of 10. The other alarming fact is that the impact is throughout the entire life cycle of women, including the elderly," she told IPS in a conversation in Tegucigalpa, Honduras during a Central American colloquium on the situation of women.

UN Women last year measured the "shadow pandemic" in 13 countries in all regions, a term used to describe violence against women during lockdowns due to COVID.

Seven out of 10 women were found to have experienced violence at some time during the pandemic, one in four felt unsafe at home due to increased family conflict, and seven out of 10 perceived partner abuse to be more frequent.

The study also revealed that four out of 10 women feel less safe in public spaces.

Pizani said the study showed that this violation of women's human rights occurs in different age groups: 48 percent of those between 18 and 49 years old are affected, 42

percent of those between 50 and 59, and 34 percent of women aged 60 and over.

According to the same study, unemployed women are the most vulnerable: 52 percent of them experienced violence during the pandemic.

And with regard to mothers: one out of every two women with children also experienced a violation of their rights.

The expert highlighted the effort made by many countries to adopt measures during the pandemic with the expansion of services, telephone hotlines, use of new means of reporting through mobile applications, among others. But she regretted that the efforts fell short.

This year, the region is home to 662 million inhabitants, or eight percent of the world's population, slightly more than half of whom are girls and women.

The level of violence against women is so severe that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) cites it as one of the structural factors of gender inequality, together with gaps in employment, the concentration of care work and inequitable representation

in public spaces.

Governments neither prevent nor address violence. Peru is an example of similar situations of gender violence in the region.

It was one of the countries with the strictest lockdowns, paralyzing government action against gender violence, which was gradually resumed in the second half of 2020 and which made it possible, for example, to receive complaints in the country's provincial public prosecutors' offices.

The Public Prosecutor's Office Crime Observatory reported 1,081,851 complaints in 2021 - an average of 117 per hour. The frequency of complaints returned to pre-pandemic levels, which in 2020 stood at around 700,000, because women under lockdown found it harder to report cases due to the confinement and the fact that they were cooped up with the perpetrators.

Cynthia Silva, a Peruvian lawyer and director of the non-governmental feminist group Study for the Defense of Women's Rights-Demus, told IPS that the government has failed to reactivate the different services and that the specialized national justice system needs to be fully implemented to protect victims and punish perpetrators.

She stressed the importance of allocating resources both for addressing cases of violence and for prevention. "These are two strategies that should go hand in hand and we see that the State is not doing enough in relation to the latter," she said.

Silva urged the government to take action in measures aimed at the populace to contribute to rethinking socio-cultural patterns and 'machista' habits that discriminate against women.

Based on an experience they are carrying out with girls and adolescents in the district of Carabayllo, in the extreme north of Lima, she said it's a question of supporting "deconstruction processes" so that egalitarian relations between women and men are fostered from childhood.

On Nov. 26 they will march with various feminist movements and collectives against machista violence so that "the right to a life free of violence against women is guar-

anteed and so that not a single step backwards is taken with respect to the progress made, particularly in sexual and reproductive rights, which are threatened by conservative groups in Congress."

An equally serious scenario

Argentina is another example of gender violence - including femicides - in Latin America, the region with the highest levels of aggression against women in the world, the result of extremely sexist societies.

This is in contrast to the fact that it is one of the regions with the best protection against such violence in national and even regional legislation, because since 1994 it has had the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

The problem is that these laws are seriously flawed in their implementation, especially in the interior of the countries, agree UN Women, regional organizations and national women's rights groups.

Rosaura Andiañach, an Argentine university professor and head of community processes at the Ecumenical Regional Center for Counseling and Service (CREAS), said it is worrying that in her country there are still high rates of femicide, despite the progress made in terms of legislation.

Between January and October 2022, there were 212 femicides and 181 attempted gender-based homicides in the country of 46 million people, according to the civil society observatory "Ahora que sí nos ven" (Now that they do see us).

She said the government still owes a debt to women in this post-pandemic context, as it fails to guarantee women's rights by not adequately addressing their complaints.

"We do not want the same thing to happen as with a recent case: Noelia Sosa, 30 years old, lived in Tucumán and reported her partner in a police station for gender violence. They ignored her and she committed suicide that afternoon because she did not know what else to do. We are very concerned because the outlook is still as serious as ever in terms of violence against women," Andiañach said.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 388 00--

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

WATUMISHI HOUSING INVESTMENT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT IN KAWE

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzanian wishing to own houses along Kawe suburb in Dar es Salaam will have to stay alert, after Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI), fund manager and real estate developer announced a plan to construct 800 affordable houses project.

WHI says has acquired 10 acre of land at Kawe suburb to build affordable housing apartments to be sold to employees, members of pension funds, diaspora and general public.

Buyers of the WHI apartments, which will have sea view and be spacious, are expected to enjoy the breeze of Indian Ocean from the prospective satellite city of Kawe, also to be developed by National Housing Corporation.

Pre-sale for the project, which its apartments will be built in different phases, has already started and prices will start from 40mn/- upward.

This will be the first ever project in Dar es Salaam to have the minimum house price of 40mn/-, as currently many developers are selling similar units by more than 70mn/-.

This project is part of WHI mission to enable Tanzanians to create wealth and own affordable quality homes through sound property development and fund management principles.

"Different apartments will be built from Studio Apartments, 2 bedroom apartments and 3 bedroom apartments of different sizes to cater for different group of people with different income status," said Maryjane Makawia, WHI public relations and sales officer.

Speaking with Property Watch yesterday, Makawia unveiled that different payment modes will offered from Progressive Payment (Payments made within construction period with no interest), High purchase and mortgages.



Architectural design of proposed Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI) units at Kawe Photo by Guardian photographer

She said WHI is in partnership with different banks that customers can apply for mortgages financing.

As of 30 June 2022, according to Bank of Tanzania, 33 different banking institutions were offering mortgage loans.

The mortgage market was dominated

by five top lenders, who commanded 65 percent of the market.

CRDB Bank Plc was a market leader commanding 38.02% of the mortgage market share, followed by Stanbic Bank (8.11%), Azania Bank (7.13%), NMB Bank Plc. (6.82%) and NCBA Bank (4.63%).

A key element in the growth of the mortgage market in Tanzania continues to be the provision of long-term funding both in the forms of refinancing and pre-financing by the Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company to facilitate PMLs matching their assets (mortgage) and liabilities (funding).

As of 30 June 2022, TMRC had extended loans worth 145.20bn/- (US\$ 62.70 million) to sixteen (16) primary mortgage lenders through Refinancing and pre-financing mortgage loans and outstanding mortgage debt amounting 509.99bn/-.

BoT says the mortgage market in Tanzania has not fully catered the country's population from accessing housing finance to improve their housing opportunities, microfinance segment being under-privileged due to lower level of income, lack of access to formal financial system and informal housing.

"Building of the project that

will be built near the main road will have commercial units that will be leased and applications for commercial space with specific designs are currently welcomed," she said.

The first phase of the project construction is expected to commence in January, 2023 and will be done within 2 years and other phases will follow then after.

"Employees especially public servant can benefit a lot out of the project by applying early and using the progressive payment plan which doesn't include interest," she noted.

The Tanzanian housing demand (which is estimated at 200,000 houses annually and a total housing shortage of 3 million houses as per the NHC report) has been boosted by easy access to mortgages, with the number of mortgage lenders in the market increasing while the average mortgage interest rate falling from 22 per cent in 2009 to 15 per cent in 2021.

Burundian central bank lauds CRDB Bank for a decade of quality services

By Guardian Correspondent, Bujumbura

The Burundi Reserve Bank (BRB) has lauded CRDB Bank Burundi for great achievements it has recorded for the last ten year since launched its services here.

The congratulatory message was issued by the first deputy governor of BRB Desire Musharitse to CRDB Bank delegate led by the CRDB Group managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela, board members and officials of CRDB Burundi during their tour at the central bank premises as part of commemorating ten years anniversary of the Burundi subsidiary.

Speaking in reception of the group delegation, the deputy governor said the central bank is impressed by CRDB Bank existence in Burundi because has been part of empowerment in the implementation of economic projects and has contributed to empowering the

country's business community.

"We had problems which led into challenges in obtaining foreign exchange in 2015, but we obtain a support from CRDB bank and this has proved the slogan that the true friend is the one whom help you during challenges," Mushatse said.

He said since the bank established its subsidiary in Burundi ten years ago, it has been performing well in the market and became top third among 13 banks offering banking services in Burundi, whereby four branches have been opened and the fifth is expected early next year.

"Following great achievements of CRDB Bank Burundi, we expect the opening of more branches outside Bujumbura, but helping in increased access to loans through digital channels as what other services are offered," he added.



CRDB Group Chairman Dr Ally Laay (3rd from R) hand over special award as part of 10 years thanks giving by CRDB Burundi to Burundi Reserve Bank's (BRB) first deputy governor Desire Musharitse (C) and second deputy governor Marie-Goreth Ndayishimiye (3rd L). Others in the photo are CRDB Burundi board chairman Hosea Kishimba (2nd R), CRDB Group managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd L), CRDB Burundi managing director Fredrick Siwale (L) and CRDB Burundi deputy managing director Menard Bucumi (R) Photo by Guardian Correspondent

CRDB Group managing director and Chief Executive Officer Abdulmajid Nsekela thanked the central bank of Burundi (BRB) for its cooperation to CRDB Burundi which has led into recording great achievement within a short period of ten years.

Apart from BRB cooperation, Nsekela also thanks the government of Burundi, under President Everiste Ndayishimiye for offering CRDB Burundi a piece of land to the country's capital of Gitega to construct the new bank branch.

"Our Presidents wish to see cooperation of private sector between Tanzania and Burundi, but also they spoke about strategic projects including Standard Gauge Railways (SGR) and we are ready to support through our holding company to participate in this

project on Burundi side as what we do in Tanzania," he said.

He said CRDB is expected to enter in DRC recently, which is expected also to stimulate business movement between Burundi and DRC as well as connecting this with Tanzania and other East African Community (EAC) member states.

"Our intention in the markets we serve is not only to offering quality services, but also to contribute to support growth of economies and improve people lives and we will strive to work with the BRB to bring revolution to the economy of Burundi," he said.

CRDB Burundi board chairman Hosea Kishimba also thanked the BRB for its cooperation which has led the bank into recording achievements in the last one decade since it launched

its subsidiary in Burundian market.

"We see good direction of the country and we believe in a short period to come, we may become the leading bank in Burundi, so what we are requesting is cooperation to enable CRDB Burundi achieving its objectives because without cooperation, our bank will not achieve such objectives," Kishimba who is also director general of Public Services Social Security Fund (PSSF) said.

The 10 anniversary also goes hand in hand with community thank giving for enabling CRDB Burundi to achieve successes including corporate social responsibilities activities to people with special needs, organizing a basketball tournament for youths and supporting Bujumbura city cleanliness project.

Zitto suggests 'Land for Equity' compensation scheme on LNG project

By Guardian Reporter

ACT Wazalendo party Leader Zitto Kabwe has called on the government to put into consideration having in place a new compensation policy, 'Land for Equity' for residents who have to relocate to pave way for huge projects. The party leader was speaking in reference to the LNG project in Lindi where he paid a visit during his official party tour to Southern regions last week.

Giving a summary report of his findings during the tour where he visited Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma, the party leader said there is a need for the government to review the compensation policy and start using the Land for Equity scheme with immediate effect in projects where wananchi's land is used as an investment hence giving local governments of those respective areas ownerships of those projects.

He said the residents should be relocated to a newly built residential area with all the necessary amenities in place and be given alternative economic activities such as fish farming, poultry and vegetable farming.

"With regards to LNG project in Lindi, most complaints came from the people who were supposed to be compensated by the Lindi municipality. TPDC has already paid the compensation to the municipality but the latter has not made payments to the residents in 8 years now. We recommend that Lindi municipality look for partnerships from private private sector to be part owner of the area and pay the residents accordingly," said Kabwe.

He added that, 'there is a challenge of not involving locals fully to participate and benefit from this massive investment, to ensure that this project benefits Tanzanians we propose that in the ongoing talks between TPDC, the government and investors of the LNG project in Lindi, it is important to consider to give Lindi municipality is at least 2.5% ownership of the entire project, and municipality's contribution in this investment will be the land.'

German financiers under strain but property correction not seen

FRANKFURT

Risks in the German financial system are building as the economy heads for a recession and struggles with rising interest rates and sky-high energy prices, but a correction in the housing market is not imminent, the Bundesbank said on Thursday.

Europe's largest economy has been among the top losers of Russia's war in Ukraine because

of its excessive reliance on Russian gas and the economy is now set to suffer a significant downturn starting in the fourth quarter of 2022.

"The macro-financial environment has deteriorated substantially," the Bundesbank said in a Financial Stability Review. "Major downside risks remain."

Rising costs, partly a function of higher European Central Bank rates, are limiting the

financial leeway of households and enterprises, and this increases future credit risk.

Still, the Bundesbank did not expect a significant correction in house prices, which were in the past seen 15% to 40% overvalued.

"On balance, house prices are still rising, albeit at a slower pace," Bundesbank Vice President Claudia Buch said. "That said, there are no signs of a se-

vere slump in real estate prices or of overvaluations receding."

Despite the downturn, the Bundesbank argued that it was not yet time for the country's financial regulator to release a so-called countercyclical capital buffer - extra capital, built up during better times, to be used up during a slump.

"A worsening energy crisis, a sharp economic slump and abruptly rising market interest

rates could put the German financial system under considerable pressure," the bank added.

Extreme volatility in energy prices sharply increased the collateral requirements of central counterparties in derivatives trading but government measures cushioned the liquidity shortage and the overall supply of credit "has worked well", it said.

CHINA'S STATE BANKS SEEK TO BOOST PROPERTY SECTOR

BEIJING

Bank of Communications, China's sixth-largest bank by assets, was the first to announce support, agreeing a Rmb100bn credit line for Chinese developer Vanke and Rmb20bn for Midea Real Estate, in a clear sign of greater government support for stronger players in the real estate sector.

BoCom said the loans would support the developers' needs in "project developments, mortgages, merger and acquisition deals, bond investment, letter of guarantee and supply chain financing".

Bank of China, the fourth-biggest bank in China, later announced it would offer another Rmb100bn credit line to Vanke, while the Agricultural Bank of China, the country's third-largest lender, said it would also offer credit lines to five developers – Vanke, China Overseas Land and Investment, China Resources Land, Longfor and Gemdale – but did not reveal any figures.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's biggest bank, is also considering a credit line package in the dozens of billions to developers, including Longfor and Country Garden, according to domestic media reports. ICBC did not immediately comment.

More state bank credit offerings to developers would be announced in the coming days, said one person familiar with the situation, who said the moves were aimed at showing strong state support for easing the liquidity crunch being experienced by developers.

The state banks' loans are the first significant offering to developers after regulators decided on a support package last week that was widely interpreted as a turning point for the sector. The 16-point



Vanke sign is seen above workers working at the construction site of a residential building in Dalian

property relief measures were officially published on Wednesday.

The industry has been plagued by construction delays for more than a year after liquidity issues at Evergrande, the world's most indebted real estate company, spread across a sector that contributes more than a quarter of the country's economic activity.

Support for Vanke, one of China's largest developers and one of the few to

retain an investment-grade rating, indicates the opportunities for survivors in a market where sales are still sinking and projects remain incomplete.

Vanke's fate contrasts with that of Evergrande, which defaulted last year along with a host of its peers including Kaisa and Fantasia and struggled to obtain any new financing. The company, which has liabilities of around \$300bn, is in the middle of a drawn-out restructur-

ing process and has not provided a clear plan to investors.

Authorities have hinted that the market is divided between strong and weak players. On Monday, the head of the country's securities regulator, Yi Hui-man, said China needed to implement plans to improve the balance sheets of "good-quality" property developers and "pay close attention to the difficulties and challenges facing the property in-

dustry".

Along with its Rmb100bn loan to Shenzhen-based Vanke, BoCom offered up to Rmb20bn to Midea Real Estate, a real estate arm of Chinese home appliances giant Midea Group, and another player that has avoided the serious liquidity issues seen elsewhere in the market.

Midea Real Estate said in a statement that the loan agreement showed "recognition and trust from mainstream banks and authorities".

Shares of Vanke added as much as 2 per cent in Hong Kong, while those of Midea Real Estate gained as much as 3 per cent on Wednesday.

The support package from the People's Bank of China and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission had urged banks to roll over their loans to the property sector and provide builders with more time to complete unfinished projects.

The regulators also extended banks' deadlines for capping property sector loans and asked them to differentiate the credit risks between individual projects and developers. Analysts viewed this as guidance that allowed more credit offerings, not only for unfinished housing projects but for developers reeling from a cash crunch.

S&P, the rating agency, said this week that the government was "taking bolder steps to restore confidence in the sector".

Previously, the support measures were all "aimed at keeping developers alive long enough to complete millions of pre-sold homes", analysts wrote. "Now the focus is on allowing these developers to become a going concern – to buy land, build, grow and prosper in the future."



SBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti

SBL launches Moshi brewery to capture northern market

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) has launched the Serengeti Brewery, Moshi branch in a move to capture the northern Tanzania's market.

Exaud Kigahe, Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade stated that the expansion of this facility is significant because it shows the level of investment SBL continues to make in the country to increase its productivity, and accelerate economic growth by providing employment opportunities for local farmers to get market for their produce.

Addressing the media during the inauguration of the facility Kigahe in Moshi, commended SBL for the state-of-the-art machinery and equipment that are operated with modern technology.

"The government is very happy with the investment Serengeti Breweries has made in the industry. The government is working to reduce bureaucracy in investment and provide great incentives for investors to come to Tanzania because it is the right country with attractive policies and a wide range of investment opportunities. When more companies like SBL continue to invest our people get employment opportunities and farmers which is a big economic driver in Tan-

zania are able to get market for their produce" he said.

"The SBL company has made a significant contribution to the country's economy by creating many jobs and paying taxes that support our country's budget; again, your contribution in uplifting farmers by purchasing their produce is exemplary; and your participation in various social activities in this country is commendable at all times," he added.

The expansion of the Serengeti Brewery facility in Moshi is part of SBL's three-year investment in expanding the business, which has cost approximately 185bn/- in capital expenditure. Between 2019 and 2020, 31bn/- were invested in the Dar es Salaam brewery; 13.4bn/- in the construction of the spirits production facility; and 124bn/- in the expansion of the beer production facility in Moshi, which will take place between 2021 and 2022. Last year, we spent another 15.7bn/- to expand our Mwanza brewery.

SBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti commented on the investment, saying: "this level of investment is certainly a strong indicator of the faith that Diageo, our principal shareholder, and indeed we, Serengeti Breweries, have in the government leadership to create a stable environment in which businesses can thrive."

He continued by saying that by committing to this level of investment, SBL is not only acting as a dependable investment partner in the economic journey that we are all embarking on, but also as a worthy ambassador of the country to other investors who, like us, will be looking for investment opportunities.

More than half of SBL beer brands are brewed with 100 percent local raw materials (including maize, barley, and sorghum), which are sourced from a network of farmers across the country who receive technical and financial assistance from the company in their farming activities.

The farmers collectively supply SBL with over 20,000 tones of grains per year, accounting for more than 80% of our raw material requirements.

SBL manufactures a variety of alcoholic beverages, including beer and spirits. Our key beer brands include Serengeti Premium Lager, Serengeti Lite, Guinness Stout, Guinness Smooth, and Pilsner Lager.

"All of these brands have received numerous quality awards, both locally and internationally. SBL completed a state-of-the-art spirits production facility last year, allowing the company to begin producing spirits locally," he said

Melbourne's post-election sees housing market falling, experts

MELBOURNE

The Melbourne property market could continue to free fall for another 12 months, as the state prepares to usher in a new cycle of government.

The startling predictions come days out from the state's election, as both major parties brandish ambitious property pledges to help sway voters.

Daniel Andrews' Labor government is promising an extended trial of the Victorian Homebuyer Fund, which will pay up to a quarter of the price of house purchases in return for a share in the value of the house.

Budding Victorian homebuyers could have hundreds of thousands of dollars shaved off what they need for a property deposit under the scheme.

This would result in eligible participants needing to have just 5 per cent of the purchase price upfront while the state government foots up to 25 per cent.

The funds would come from a \$1.1bn shared equity pile that would be repaid at market value over time or when the property was sold.

To be eligible for the scheme, Victorians must earn less than \$128,000 as a single or \$204,800 combined.

Homes they're aiming to buy must be valued below \$950,000 in Melbourne and Geelong and \$600,000 in regional Victoria.

The Opposition's election promises include unlocking 150,000 extra lots of land across Melbourne and regional Victoria without introducing any new taxes.

This follows another plan to slash stamp duty for first home buyers, saving Victorians up to \$55,000 on the purchase of their first home.

According to figures from the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, house prices in regional Victoria grew at the fastest rate in 20 years since 2020, with the median price increasing by \$120,000.

A new planning flying squad

would also be established with the aim of speeding up and simplifying the planning approvals process in regional Victoria.

However, Director Economic Research at PropTrack, Cameron Kusher, said neither parties' plan looks far enough for alternate solutions to combat housing supply issues.

"Longer-term, increasing the supply of housing will help to minimise the escalation in prices for both renting and buying," Mr Kuher said.

"Given this, both Liberal and Labor are proposing policies which will increase the supply of housing. While neither address approval processes or look for alternate solutions such as upzoning properties to allow greater development potential, an increase in supply is an important step."

Mr Kusher went on to say the promises would add some relieve to buyers regardless of who forms government.

"Both sides are proposing to add to housing demand, with the Liberal opposition offering stamp duty waivers for first home buyers and the Labor government proposing to extend its shared equity scheme which would help buyers enter the market sooner," he said.

Mr Kusher also acknowledged property prices have fallen five per cent from their peak due to interest rate increases while bor-

rowing capacities have reduced by more than 20 per cent.

Domain research and economics chief Nicola Powell said the market's fastest quarterly decline during the past few months on record coincided with higher interest rates.

"What we've got now are buyers that are much more mindful about what they can commit to in terms of a home loan and not overextending themselves," she said.

"They're also pricing in future rate hikes once you factor in mortgage repayments but also what you pay for a home."

The downturn began in December 2021 and put an end to skyrocketing property price growth since the Covid pandemic began.

"While house prices have fallen by around \$66,000, they are still significantly higher than what they were before the pandemic property boom," Dr Powell said.

"So they're sitting roughly \$147,000 higher than what they were before 2020 and they'd need to fall a further 14.3 per cent to erase that growth."

"History tells us we normally don't see prices pull back to what they were pre a boom. You tend to find any downturn is not deeper than a preceding upswing."

Dr Powell said it remained to be seen how Victorians' property endeavours would be impacted by a Labor or Liberal government.



CONSTRUCTION

ORECORP WORKING ON NYANZAGA FINANCING

PERTH

Gold developer OreCorp has received indicative debt funding proposals for the development and construction of its Nyanzaga gold project, in Tanzania.

The ASX-listed company on Thursday said that discussions with major European, African and Tanzanian banks have delivered non-binding expressions of interest to provide debt finance of more than \$400-million for the project, well in excess of the \$300-million debt target set by OreCorp in consultation with its financing advisers Auramet Inter-

national.

The company is continuing discussions with several other financial institutions, including global export credit agencies, as it moves to secure syndicated debt funding for Nyanzaga.

OreCorp on Thursday said that recent positive legislative changes in Tanzania have seen the royalty rate of 6% being reduced to 4% in certain circumstances. The company is now considering how it may take advantage of the reduced royalty rate to implement other arrangements that may complement, enhance or partially replace the debt financing. Initial discussions with credit

funds, and royalty and streaming providers have indicated strong interest in the project.

"We are pleased with the strong interest we have received to date from banks with respect to financing the project. The expressions of interest received give us further confidence in our ability to deliver on a comprehensive financing package for the project which meets our objectives of prudently managing leverage and minimising dilution to the company's existing shareholders," said chairperson Matthew Yates.

"We intend to further advance discussions with banks and other

capital providers to ensure we have maximum flexibility to secure financing for the project in the prevailing market conditions."

A definitive feasibility study for Nyanzaga estimated that the combined openpit and underground mine would produce 295 000 oz/y of gold at peak, averaging 250 000 oz/y for the first eight years of the mine life, and 242 000 oz/y for the first ten years.

Life-of-mine average gold production is estimated at 234 000 oz/y over the nearly eleven-year mine life. The study estimated a capital cost of \$474-million.



What COP27 means for architecture and the construction industry

By Maria-Cristina Florian

The 2022 United Nations Conference of the Parties, more commonly referred to as COP27, was held between November 6 and November 18, 2022, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The conference included more than 90 heads of state and an estimated 35,000 representatives, or delegates, from 190 countries. These conferences are aimed at encouraging and guiding countries to take effective action against climate change. While the conferences address a larger set of issues, the built environment is recognized as playing a major role in ensuring that sustainability targets are achieved.

The Building to COP27, a group of sustainability-focused built environment NGOs and organizations, is working to position the built environment as a critical sector to achieve the needed transition to a resilient and zero emissions future at COP conferences. The group aims to raise awareness of the impact that the building sector can have while pointing out that more drastic measures need to be taken, as most countries do not include full building decarbonization targets, and certain areas, such as building materials are under-addressed.

COP27 restated the importance of reducing carbon emissions across the board, as the window of opportunity for keeping global temperatures below a 1.5°C increase narrows. As the carbon sector is responsible for more than 23% of global GHG emissions and consumes more than 30% of global resources, this subject has important consequences for the building industry. During this year's conference, the Clean Construction Accelerator was announced, an act that hopes to support the built environment sector in halving emissions by 2030 for all new buildings and infrastructure pro-



jects.

A number of private practices have announced their support for this goal. The percentage of construction companies, by revenue, that have joined the Race to Zero has doubled since COP26. Coinciding with the start of COP27, Arup has announced its commitment to undertaking whole lifecycle carbon assessments for all its building projects, new and retrofit, starting next year. Arup estimates that less than 1% of buildings projects are currently evaluated in a way that quantifies the scale and source of carbon emissions generated during their lifespans, a step that is essential if the most effective decarbonization actions are to be identified.

A report by Arup and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development suggests that 50% of the whole-life emissions from buildings come

from embodied carbon, the carbon generated from the manufacturing and transportation of building materials and the construction process itself. This aspect is often overlooked by other carbon assessment measurements. Despite the focus on operational CO2 emissions from the building sector, this category registered a peak in 2021, 2% higher than in 2019 and 5% higher than in 2020. The whole lifecycle carbon assessment promised by Arup incorporates both embodied and operational carbon. One of the key topics at COP27 was the necessity of building climate resilience in the countries in the Global South, a subject underlined by the fact that this was the first Conference of the Parties to be held outside of Europe since the COP22 in Marrakech in 2016. Campaigns were launched to address the lack of access to safe and decent houses for the most vulnerable com-

munities. The Roof Over Our Heads campaign aims to improve the lives of 2 billion climate-vulnerable people living in informal settlements by 2050. The WorldGBC Guide to Climate Resilience and Adaptation in the Built Environment was also launched ahead of COP27 to provide actionable principles for implementing climate resilience and actionable strategies across the built environment value chain.

At an urban level, signatories to the Cities Race to Resilience have more than doubled since 2021, an initiative that strives to ensure that climate resilience goals are treated with the same urgency as the global race to halve emissions by 2030. Similarly, the Summary for Urban Policy Makers was launched, with actionable policy guides for city and urban policymakers to decarbonize and build the resilience of urban environments.

Construction costs of greenfield projects climb

NEW DELHI

Mumbai saw the highest range of overall greenfield construction costs across residential, office space and warehousing sectors in the third quarter (Q3) of 2022.

In Q3 2022, the construction costs of ongoing greenfield projects increased by 5-7 percent, a report titled Project Management 2.0 - Driving Value in the New Normal Real Estate Services (CBRE), said.

"Owing to a sustained recovery in contact-intensive sectors, gross value added (GVA) at basic prices for construction services expanded by 16.8 percent year-on-year (YoY) in Q1 2022-23 and was 1.2 percent above the pre-pandemic level," the report added.

While labour costs increased by 8-10 percent, reinforcement steel prices climbed by about 20 percent YoY during Q3 2022,

the report added. Further, the report added that greenfield costs are expected to go up by 4-5 percent in 2023.

CBRE forecasts a marginal rise in the overall construction costs during 2023 across cities, with Mumbai likely to witness the sharpest rise.

Gurjot Bhatia, Managing Director, Project Management, India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said at the conference the construction sector contributes 8 percent to India's GDP and there has been a constant rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) in real estate and construction.

Amid ongoing geopolitical complexities, CBRE anticipates that material prices may moderate in 2023, with expectation of longer-than-usual lead times for material delivery and short-term labour scarcity. "The outlook for construction costs remains stable but cautious, as market volatility is likely to per-



sist in 2023 along with monetary tightening, continued high inflation, possibility of a recession in developed economies and geopolitical turmoil-related challenges, going forward," the report added.

"During the pandemic, we surveyed the impact of health and wellness initiatives on overall construction costs. This includes direct costs, restric-

tions imposed during Covid time and the costs it incurred, which we calculated was somewhere between 4 percent and 5 percent of the construction cost in 2020-21. Today, after a fresh survey it came down to 1.5 percent to 2 percent, in a new normal," Bhatia added.

Strong pipeline across assets Bhatia said the office sector will have a strong supply

pipeline exceeding 100 billion square feet (bsf) over the next two years. For the residential sector, it will be nearly 261 million sq feet (msf) of project launches in 2022, and 222 msf has been completed. In retail, 12 msf of investor-friendly came into the market. Additionally, 50 msf of space is to enter the warehousing sector over the next two years.

Ram Chandnani, Managing Director, Advisory & Transactions, CBRE India, added that today Tier II and Tier III cities continue to see increasing demand for real estate and construction.

Dr Muthukumar, former chairman of CII Karnataka & Managing Director of Bhorukha Power, said at the conference, "Digital technology will play a key role in infrastructure building and construction project management. Sustainability and wellness have taken centre-stage in green real estate."

Vietnam seeks ways to cool real-estate credit crunch

HANOI

Vietnam is seeking to expand the nation's corporate bond market as it grapples with a credit crunch for a real-estate sector hurt by a handful of highly-leveraged companies, according to Finance Minister Ho Duc Phoc.

The government does not see a wider impact beyond the select firms that have engaged in bad or illegal practices, he told Bloomberg News in Hanoi on Tuesday. It's working to ease access to capital for property developers given the market rout and enable easier access to funding for years to come.

"Those companies in financial trouble are the ones that expanded too much and beyond their capacity, such as building dozens of projects at the same time and exceeding their financial abilities," he said. "Now as the central bank tightens credit limits to fight inflation, these companies are facing liquidity problems and hurting their investors' confidence."

By 2030, Vietnam is aiming to grow corporate bond volumes to 25% of gross domestic product from about 11% currently, he added. The outstanding corporate bonds market is worth about 1,200 trillion dong (\$48.3 billion).

The statements come amid the government's sweeping regulatory probe on corruption in the corporate bond market that's landed heavily on Vietnam's real estate developers. Property firms are now faced with a funding crunch, along with higher rates and warnings by the central bank against risky real estate loans, sending investors fleeing.

The broad anti-corruption crackdown may also have large implications for one of Southeast Asia's fastest growing economies, home to some of the largest suppliers of conglomerates like Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co.

Vietnam's corporate bond sales and volumes tumbled this year, with sales through private placements falling by 51% to 240.76 trillion dong through October, according to the Vietnam Bond Market Association. That represents 96% of the total corporate bond sales, it added, citing exchange and securities data. The benchmark VN Index has slid 36%, driven by property and bank firms, to become the world's worst-performing major gauge.

Concerns are now growing that the real estate market is at risk of a severe downturn that could be a drag on the broader economy. In response, the government appointed a team of ministerial-level officials to address the property sector's credit crunch.

A turnaround may be coming. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has said he wants to make it easier for property companies to access funds, issue bonds and obtain permits to sell projects, which in the process will restore confidence, said Phoc.

WORLD

High inflation contributes to Americans' decreasing Christmas spending

WASHINGTON

AS Inflation is soaring in the US, American households, retailers and charities nationwide have cut back on spending plans for gifts, charitable contributions and holiday events, according to an article published on The Wall Street Journal website on Sunday.

The University of Michigan estimated household sentiment in the past six months is comparable to late 2008 and the beginning of 2009, when the financial system was on the verge of economic disaster and the unemployment rate soared. The inflation rate is similar to the alert level in the 1970s when that rose to double digits.

Deloitte's 37th annual holiday shopping survey of 5,000 respondents in September found people plan to buy an average of nine gifts this year, down from 16 last year. People in the survey said they also planned to spend less time shopping.

"I'm not canceling Christmas. I'm not the Grinch," said Richard House, chief executive of FlexShopper Inc., a Boca Raton, Fla.-based online retailer serving consumers with low credit ratings. "But we're cautious regarding the amount of volume that may be there."

According to a Census Bureau survey of households in early October, around 95 million people, 41 percent of Americans, said they were unable to pay for necessary household expenses, while the number was 29 percent last year.



The US Capitol Christmas tree is unloaded on the grounds of the Capitol in Washington, US, Nov 18, 2022. AP

"American consumer spending has been on a downward trend for months. After jumping by more than 8 percent last year, adjusted for inflation, consumer spending grew less than 2 percent during the first nine months of this year," the authors added.

Consumer prices this year have exceeded that of wages, and high inflation has lasted longer than many policymakers had expected, they said. "The high cost of living has unnerved consumers, despite a strong job market, a cushion of household savings built up during the Covid-19 pandemic and a few signs inflation is slowing," *Agencies*

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Russian diplomat calls West main enemy of market economy

VIENNA

THE West is the main enemy of the market economy, Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said in yesterday, commenting on the European Union's plans to impose a price cap on oil.



"The West is the main enemy of the market economy. They want to establish price cap on import of Russian oil and gas. Totalitarianism is expanded to economic sphere by the West. Fruitless efforts. Moscow has already said that it would not export oil and gas on this condition," he wrote on his Twitter account.

Bloomberg reported earlier citing its sources that the European Union in coordination with the Group of Seven is looking at a price cap on Russian oil at a level of 65-70 US dollars per barrel.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on October 13 that Moscow would not export oil to countries who would impose a price cap on Russian oil. "The price should be formed by market means, based on the balance of demand and supply," he said at the Russian Energy Week forum.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on October 12 that Moscow was not going to pay for somebody else's prosperity and export its energy resources to those who impose price caps on them.

He called the practice of price caps "cardsharp tricks" and "flagrant blackmail." Apart from that, in his speech at the Russian Energy Week, the president warned that price capping oil is fraught with the risks of setting price caps in other sectors, which is harmful for the global market economy and the wellbeing of billions of people.

World Bank backs Kenya's efforts to spur growth

NAIROBI

THE World Bank Group's (WBG) board of executive directors has expressed support for the WBG's latest six-year strategy to support Kenya in its ongoing efforts toward green, resilient and inclusive development.

The Kenya Country Partnership Framework (CPF) seeks to drive faster and more equitable labor productivity and income growth, greater equity in development outcomes across the country, and help sustain Kenya's natural capital for greater climate resilience, the World Bank said in a statement issued on Tuesday evening.

World Bank Country Director for Kenya Keith Hansen said tackling the drivers of inequality now will help to ensure that Kenya can achieve and maintain more equitable development in the long run.

"The people of Kenya are in a position to reap even greater dividends from the country's robust economic growth in terms of more durable poverty reduction," Hansen said.

The CPF, set to be officially launched in December, is a joint strategy between the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and the Kenyan government to promote shared prosperity and reduce poverty for the people of Kenya.

The CPF, which is informed by extensive stakeholder consultations, has programmed investments to reduce water insecurity and to mobilize more climate finance for both public and private investments, said the World Bank.

IFC Regional Director for Kenya Jumoke Jagun-Dokunmu said the country's private sector is poised to drive faster job creation and seize new opportunities from global and regional integration.

"This will require a more level playing field for competition and innovation for large and small firms and between public and private enterprises," Jagun-Dokunmu said.

The CPF also aims to help raise the productivity of small firms, small producers, and women entrepreneurs, improve the investment climate across the country, and stimulate more private participation in public service delivery.

According to the World Bank, Kenya's economy has, over the decade, outpaced its low- and middle-income country peers, with the growing number of better-educated and healthier Kenyans in the labor force contributing more than any other factor to rising gross domestic product.

It, however, said the pace of poverty reduction and then the COVID-19 pandemic have recently revealed how vulnerable many households are when faced with shocks.

This will require a more level playing field for competition and innovation for large and small firms and between public



Xinhua

Nigerian president launches re-designed local banknotes

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday launched the re-designed local banknotes to control the supply of the Nigerian naira, the local currency of the most populous African country.

Speaking during the unveiling of the locally-produced currencies in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, Buhari explained in detail the basis for his approval to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to redesign the 200, 500, and 1,000 naira banknotes, saying they have been fortified with security features that make them difficult to counterfeit.

"There was an urgent need to take control of currency in circulation and to address the hoarding of naira banknotes outside the banking system, the shortage of clean and fit banknotes in circulation, and the increase in counterfeiting of high-denomination naira banknotes.

It is on this basis that I gave my approval for the redesign of the 200, 500, and 1,000 naira banknotes," the Nigerian leader said, noting the CBN had approached him earlier in the year to seek his permission to embark on the currency redesign project.

The re-designing of the

naira notes had been long overdue to wear a new look, Buhari said, considering that international best practice requires central banks and national authorities to issue new or redesigned currency notes every five to eight years. He also noted it is now almost 20 years since the last major redesign of Nigeria's local currency was done.

"A cycle of banknote redesign is generally aimed at achieving specific objectives, including but not limited to: improving the security of banknotes, mitigating counterfeiting, preserving the collective national heritage, controlling currency in circulation, and reducing the overall cost of currency management," he explained.

Godwin Emezie, governor of the CBN, said at the unveiling ceremony that the re-designed banknotes would help in the fight against corruption, control rising inflation, make policies more effective, and ensure financial inclusion.

About a month ago, the CBN said the move to redesign the naira notes became necessary as currency management in the country had recently faced several daunting challenges which continued to grow in scale and sophistication with unintended consequences.



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari (R) and Godwin Emezie, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, present the re-designed banknotes of Nigerian naira in Abuja, Nigeria, on Wednesday. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday launched the re-designed local banknotes to control the supply of the Nigerian naira, the local currency of the most populous African country. Xinhua

At least 80 percent of the local currency in circulation is outside the vaults of commercial banks, the CBN noted,

saying this was due to significant hoarding of banknotes by members of the public.

Following the unveiling of the new banknotes Wednesday,

the existing notes would be regarded as legal tender by Jan. 31, 2023, according to the CBN.

Xinhua

WFP warns drought leading to food insecurity, acute malnutrition in Horn of Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE impact of drought in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia has led to food insecurity and a high level of acute malnutrition, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has warned.

The WFP, in its latest drought response situation report released Tuesday, said some 22 million people are food insecure due to drought

across the affected countries. It further warned that the loss of livestock and reduced productivity has eroded the livelihoods of the affected pastoral communities. In 2022 alone, at least 9.2 million livestock deaths occurred in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, according to figures from the WFP.

The WFP, citing the latest IPC Famine Review Committee projections, further warned that famine is likely to

occur in three areas in the Bay region in Somalia between October to December. It said the drought condition is further deteriorating the already dire humanitarian condition across the region.

"The food insecurity situation in Eastern Africa continues to deteriorate owing to extreme weather conditions, conflict, and macroeconomic challenges (inflation, currency devaluation)," the WFP said. It said

the region has recorded a significant increase in the price of local food baskets with Somalia recording the most expensive food basket in the region.

Amid the worsening impacts of the ongoing drought, the WFP said it has scaled up response across the Horn of Africa to respond to severe food shortages by providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to affected communities.

Xinhua

SMEs build 'cloud plants' to advance digital transformation

IT was quiet at the plant of the Xiantao Zhongxing Electronic Materials Co., Ltd., a high-tech enterprise in central China's Hubei province, though it was during the peak hours of production.

As trucks carrying raw materials neared the gate of the plant, gate arms went up automatically, allowing the vehicles to enter an unloading area where their weight was automatically measured. Besides, the freight charge was also automatically paid to truck drivers there.

On a big screen in a control room, real-time data about workshops in the plant were shown, from which

the operating staff could see clearly whether the tubes of production equipment were plugged and check the consumption of water, electricity and steam.

The plant's digital transformation has not only improved its logistics efficiency but also optimized its production, management, and quality inspection. After adopting digital approaches, the capacity of the enterprise has been lifted from 7,000 tons to 11,000 tons per month, while the operational cost per ton has been reduced by 700 yuan (\$97.96).

It is an epitome of the efforts made by Beijing United Information

Technology Co., Ltd. to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) build "cloud plants."

In recent years, the Beijing-based company has actively assisted traditional industries and SMEs in their digital transformation by utilizing industrial internet platforms.

"To assist the digital transformation of traditional industries is a priority for us," said Qian Xiaojun, general manager of Beijing United Information Technology Co., Ltd.

To tackle the problems encountered by SMEs during digital transformation, the company has developed a model that combines digital

plant with industrial internet to digitalize factory production, management, quality inspection, energy consumption and logistics.

The company has a digital platform that shows real-time data about industrial chain transaction ranking and volume, as well as the distribution of orders. On the logistics interface of the platform, information of trucks that carry freights for factories is shown, such as what freight they carry, the weight of the freight and the vehicle locations.

It is reported that some SMEs in the titanium industry have improved their production efficiency

by 15 percent to 30 percent after being connected to the platform. Besides, their networking rate of key equipment has surged 50 percent to 70 percent, while the labor cost is now 20 percent to 40 percent lower. Orders are delivered 40 percent to 60 percent faster than before.

Over the past years, Beijing United Information Technology Co., Ltd. has launched multiple e-commerce platforms for industry verticals covering paint materials, chemical engineering, glass manufacturing, sanitation supplies, papermaking, fertilizer, and food.

For instance, the company pro-

vides digital supply chain and digital plant solutions for over 10 enterprises in the titanium industry, so as to realize higher-efficiency collaboration among companies along the industrial chain. This model has played a vital role in stabilizing the industrial and supply chains.

The company has launched a plan to build 100 "cloud plants" in three years, and will expand the size of "cloud plants" for some industries, so as to help SMEs stabilize the supply chain, improve production efficiency, and achieve high-quality development.

People's Daily

China-funded technical skill contest fetes African students

NAIROBI

CHINESE company, AVIC International's initiated and sponsored Africa Technology Challenge (ATC) Season 7 has awarded African students who emerged winners of the contest.

The seventh season of ATC which began in July drew 259 young people in 65 teams from six African nations who were trained and certified in the reading and drafting of construction drawings.

Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education said Kenya supports the ATC because it is a vehicle for raising awareness and enlightening students about the multiplicity of opportunities that may arise from improving skills development.

"The ATC affirms Kenya's belief that instilling technological skills in our youth is the key to spurring our country to progress and prosperity," Machogu said on Tuesday evening in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya during an event co-organized by AVIC International and the ministry of education.

The ATC which is a corporate social responsibility (CSR) youth empowerment project by the AVIC International was launched in June 2014 and ran six seasons up until the year 2019 when it was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Machogu said that Kenya is keen to collaborate with the AVIC to broaden the ATC competition to add other disciplines because the economy requires more skilled workers.

"The ATC is an important tool to all of us because it raises the profile and acceptance of technical skills," he observed.

The Kenyan official noted that Kenya will continue to work with the AVIC International to seek solutions that can address the country's priority targets, including food security, universal health care, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

He said that initiatives like ATC are a great opportunity for businesses, manufacturers, and the private sector to enhance their opportunities for prosperity because they create a significant solution for enterprises in the face of a highly competitive business environment.

Machogu noted that China and Kenya have enjoyed cordial relations for many years now and almost every sector of Kenya's economy has been positively influenced by the Asian nation.

Xu Fei, Vice-President of AVIC International Project Engineering Company said that AVIC has so far trained 960 students from ten countries, and as a result, nine institutions were awarded production orders amounting to 500,000 U.S. dollars.

Xu reaffirmed that the ATC will run for several additional seasons.

He observed that due to the current need for large-scale investments in technical skills in Africa, the AVIC is committed to supporting skills development and capacity building through various development and cooperation programs.

Xu revealed that the AVIC has implemented numerous Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) projects in many countries all over the world, especially in the African continent.

He noted that the experience gained by AVIC places it in a very unique position to collaborate with African governments to build TVET capacity through the construction or the upgrading of the colleges as well as the capacity building of their staff.

Zhou Meifen, Cultural Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya said that ATC is based on skills training and practical knowledge transfer and aims to improve the youth's technical skills through training and competition as a way of reducing unemployment in Kenya and the rest of Africa.

Zhou said that China will continue to support such kinds of training and competitions in Africa for the betterment of the young people in Africa and future cooperation between China and Africa.

Diana Busingye of Uganda took first place in the individual category and told Xinhua that ATC was a rewarding contest because it built her skills in the drafting of drawings for use in the construction sector.

The 24-year-old Busingye, who is pursuing a civil engineering degree at the Luyanzi Institute of Technology of Uganda and was awarded a scholarship to study in China said that her secret of success was extensive reading as well as listening to her instructors.

Sean Brown who emerged third overall in the individual category attributed his excellent performance to hard work and constituency.

The 18-year-old diploma student at the Northern Technical College of Zambia who was also awarded a scholarship to study in China noted that during the contest he learned how to use Chinese software for technical drawing which is very simple and friendly even for inexperienced students. *Xinhua*

Lawmaker says Kiev seeks to evade responsibility by accusing Russian servicemen

MOSCOW

DANIIL Bessarabov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for State Building and Legislation, on Tuesday said the accusations of perfidy and breaking the laws of warfighting that Ukrainian prosecutors made against Russian servicemen were a pathetic attempt to evade the responsibility for killing the prisoners of war in Makeyevka.

"It's a pathetic attempt by the stupefied government in Kiev to dodge responsibility. The world was shaken by that news. Not just Russia, but also the world community. A cold-blooded murder of captured servicemen by shots at the back of the head. [The Ukrainian government] is trying to dodge responsibility by coming up with counteraccusations," the lawmaker told TASS.

Bessarabov (pictured) said that attempt to avoid responsibility is primitive. He said the State Duma on Tuesday adopted an appeal to parliaments of all countries of the world, "to all sensible people not to let this fact be downplayed, not to let the guilty escape responsibility, but to identify them and make sure they stand a fair trial." "Impunity breeds more impunity, more horrific crimes. This must be understood by the world community," he said. "I fully support the efforts of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation to establish all the facts, the whole picture of the crime in order to collect evidence and present it to an international tribunal, where the leaders of this Kiev regime, not just the perpetrators, will go on trial."

The Russian Investigative Committee earlier started an investigation into the shooting of captive Russian soldiers by Ukrainian forces. The committee said on Friday that the investigation was started based on a "video where representatives of Ukrainian armed formations shoot at least 11 unarmed Russian servicemen that they took prisoner on the territory of the Lugansk People's Republic."

The office of Ukraine's prosecutor general on Tuesday said Russian soldiers that were shot dead after surrendering to Ukrainian forces in the village of Makeyevka of the LPR were accused of perfidy and an investigation was started into the incident as a breach of the laws of warfighting.



Divisions jeopardize G20's 'recover together' efforts

By Sawidji Widodo

AS AN annual forum of the world's 20 largest economies, the Group of 20 Summit usually raises expectations and hopes. However, the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Nov 15 and 16 caught special attention as the most difficult ever.

The group's 2022 Indonesian presidency, led by President Joko Widodo, had tried hard for the Bali summit to deliver great results on urgent issues including shoring up the world economy, tackling food insecurity and preventing global hunger, as 345 million people in 82 countries face the risk of starvation.

Yet divisions on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict pose a serious challenge. Evidence of this was visible throughout the year.

A meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in April, for instance, saw representatives of the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom stage a walkout, in protest of a decision to allow Russian officials to participate. And in July, Russia's top diplomat walked out of a G20 foreign ministers meeting while denouncing the West's "frenzied criticism of Moscow."

From the ceremonial aspect, the Bali G20 meeting was a success, as is best represented by a joint communique – the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration – that contains 52 points. These successes should be appreciated, considering that many lower-level meetings had failed to reach agreements.

Indeed, the tagline "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" had not been created randomly in the face of divisions between G20 members. Holding the G20 presidency, Indonesia was obliged to make the theme a reality. To do so, President Widodo engaged intense diplomacy.

Widodo succeeded in leading the G20 Bali Summit to deliver on sustainable development, particularly on the Bali Energy Transition Roadmap, food supply chains, biodiversity loss, carbon neutrality, vaccine technology transfer, sharing of the digital economy, tourism, cross-border payments, financial stability, multilateral trade, infrastructure building, care for migrants,



This photo taken on Nov 12, 2022 shows an interior view of the media center for the 17th Group of 20 (G20)

anti-money laundering and empowerment of women. The G20 Action for Strong and Inclusive Recovery, which includes China's proposals, points to concrete economic betterment.

However, the G20's move to include, in its joint declaration, veiled but strong wording against Russia for the conflict in Ukraine might undermine global efforts for economic cooperation. How can G20 nations "Recover Together" if one member-Russia – does not join them?

And if recovering together is impossible, there will surely be no recovering stronger. One member being left behind will reduce the group's strength. Rather than finger-pointing, efforts must be made to resolve the conflict by promoting dialogue between the relevant parties, including through bilateral channels.

We can say that the world economic conditions are yet to improve, at least in the short term. The International Monetary Fund has predicted that global economic growth will slow further next year to 2.7 percent, or 0.2 percentage points lower than the level forecast in June.

The IMF estimates that 2023 will be a year of recession. Also, the stagflation problem will persist, though on a reduced scale. The IMF's calculations indicate that global inflation will be 6.5 percent next year.

So when will people's suffering across the world end? Signals of Ukraine-Russia peace talks were released at the Bali summit but faintly, as some of the 10 conditions listed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the meeting will prove impossible for Russia to accept.

The Group of Seven bloc led by the United States is giving full support to Ukraine in terms of weapons and other assistance, prolonging the conflict.

G7 leaders even held an emergency meeting on the tragic missile incident in Poland, at which US President Joe Biden rushed to voice doubt of Russian involvement soon after the meeting.

Actually, another matter could give G20 summits more significant influence and greater strength in the future, and it relates to the group's existence and its relationship with the G7.

A study in 2020 found that G7 positions affect the power of the G20. Among them, the G7 may reject the strength and exclusivity of the G20 while recognizing the continuity and contribution of it.

Worse still, the G7 could rather position the G20 as a supporting variable for the efforts made by the G7 and similar groups, like the World Bank, the IMF and others, to shape international economic cooperation.

However, as is said by the G20 Joint Declaration, "We designated the G20 the premier forum for global economic cooperation, and today we reaffirm our commitment to cooperate as we, once again, address serious global economic challenges."

With emerging economies like China, India and Indonesia, the G20 as a broader and more representative group than the G7 gathers more strength and carries more hopes for the world to come together, especially as the role of the G7 in global economic management slowly recedes.

Agencies

China provides solution for building secure, stable

By Seymour Mammadov

Azerbaijan is one of the earliest countries to show support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The initiative promotes the synergy between the development strategies of China and participating countries, promotes the economic development of participating countries and the region as a whole, and promotes global connectivity and international trade.

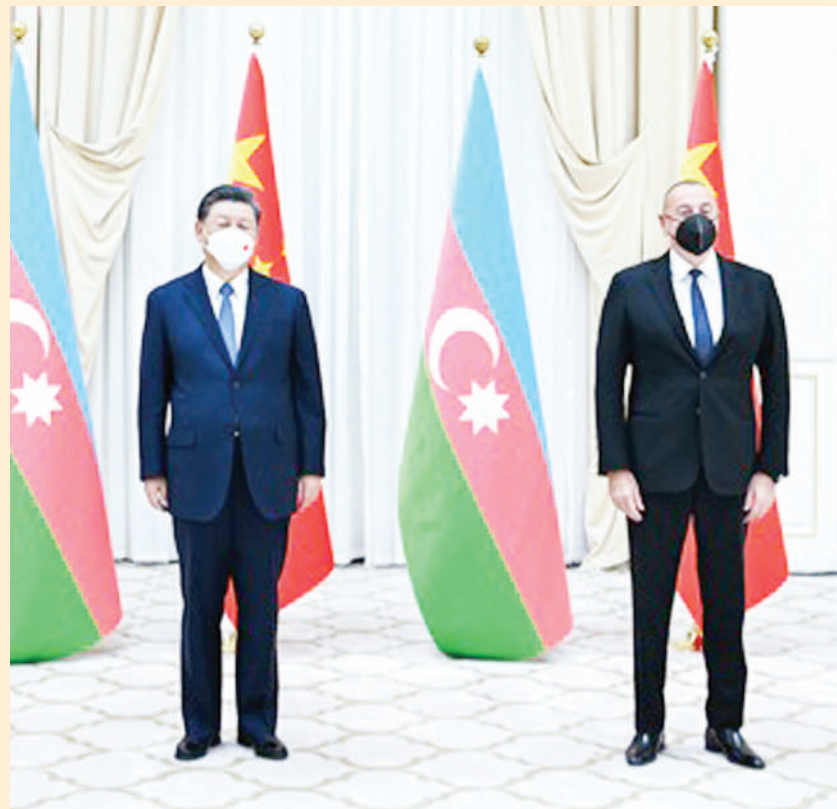
It has improved and will continue improving the livelihood of the people in the countries along its route, marking an important contribution made by the Communist Party of China (CPC) to world peace and development.

The global economic recovery remains sluggish due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. China, responding to COVID-19 and pursuing economic and social development in a well-coordinated way, has provided meaningful experience for other countries.

I agree with what Chinese President Xi Jinping said that to understand China today, one must learn to understand the CPC. China has set a successful example in the development of socialism, and the leadership of the CPC is the key to China's achievements.

The CPC is dedicated to the people and forever puts their interests first. Meeting the people's expectation for a better life is its goal. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has succeeded in eradicating absolute poverty, meeting the target set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule.

The Chinese civilization val-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev at Forum for Majmusa Complex in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Sept. 15, 2022. (Photo by Zhai Jianlan/Xinhua)

ues a holistic concept and systematic thinking, and champions mutual learning and exchanges. Drawing wisdom from the fine traditional Chinese culture, the CPC has chosen a development path that best suits China's national conditions and always marched in the correct direction.

The country has achieved unprecedented success since the reform and opening up. It is always committed to safeguarding world peace and promoting common development in foreign exchanges.

I have read through the book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China", which comprehensively demonstrates the new governance philosophy and strategy of the CPC and helps foreign readers to get a full picture of China's development path

and governance model.

President Xi said in a speech he delivered at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting that "As all of us human beings live on the same planet, no country should maintain its own security at the cost of others' security. A threat to another country may turn out to be a challenge of your own." This left a deep impression on me.

President Xi proposed the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. He advocates coping with global challenges based on peace and solidarity and creating a security environment featuring fairness, justice, joint participation and shared benefits.

His ideas transcend the concepts of confrontation and Cold War mentality, providing Chinese solutions for building a secure and stable world.

The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind has been written into multiple bilateral and multilateral documents including UN resolutions, gradually becoming a consensus recognized by the international community.

At present, the world is facing severe challenges, such as food security, climate change, geopolitical conflicts and financial risks. None of these can be solved by one or a few countries. They call for collaboration from all countries.

The international community needs peace and stability more than ever before. China, by upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and pursuing mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, will constantly maintain the stability of the international situation.

(Seymour Mammadov is the director of the international expert club EurAsiaAz and editor-in-chief of Azerbaijan news agency Baku Tribune.)

Simba SC ready to hold election for board of directors' representatives

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC is ready to hold an election involving leaders of the outfit's members who will decide their representatives on the Board of Directors of the club.

Simba SC is currently led by Chairman Murtaza Mangungu who was elected to fill the vacant post left by Swedi Nkwabi who decided to resign one year after being elected by the members.

Mwina Kaduguda, Simba SC Board of Directors member, had confirmed that the outfit's election process is ready and will soon be announced publicly by the Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzales.

He is one of the club's leaders obtained through the election that is held every four years.

Kaduguda made the election campaign known earlier this week while saying that there will be no malice in it.

The official noted: "The election of Simba SC board representatives is going to be very fair, the date of the election has been set and the Chief Executive Officer Barbara will come public to announce it."

"I am not the spokesperson in this matter, but know that the election is on and will be announced."

The official noted: "Barbara is currently in Qatar attending the 2022 World Cup finals, she has gone there to learn various issues to make Simba SC one of the greatest clubs in Africa and the world."

"The good aspect is that Simba SC fans and members have no problem with their election," Kaduguda stated.

Since Simba SC entered into transformation, it has opted for a leadership system that has an investor owning 49% of the outfit and the remaining part is under the outfit members' ownership to create a Board of Directors that makes developmental decisions for the club.

Kaduguda was once elected as the interim chairman of the outfit's Board of Directors in 2019 following the resignation of Nkwabi.

The outspoken Kaduguda is famously remembered for vowing that he would be willing to sacrifice himself if such a move is needed to have the Msimbazi Street outfit clinch the CAF Confederation Cup showpiece's title.

The leader stated so in April this year when his club faced Orlando Pirates of South Africa in the 2021/22 continental showpiece's quarterfinals and lost on penalties.

Heritier Makambo has become an afterthought for Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NEVER go back! that is what they say - whether that is in a career, business, or one's private life.

Yet over the years, several Young Africans SC (Yanga) players have had the chance to return to the club after a period away, DR Congo attacker Heritier Makambo is one player who grabbed the chance to return to the Jangwani Street outfit.

On Tuesday, as Yanga extended their unbeaten league run to 48 games with a victory over hosts Dodoma Jiji FC, there was no Makambo's name on the lineup.

Instead, Makambo was replaced on the bench by Yusuph Athuman who is yet to make an appearance this season.

Makambo was on the bench against Singida Big Stars but remained an unused substitute while Clement Mzize who is the new kid on the block at the Jangwani Street outfit got another cameo appearance at the expense of the DR Congo striker.

Mzize, who was promoted from the Jangwani Street outfit's U-20 squad at the start of the season, has now featured in the last three games. He got his full debut against Kagera Sugar confirming the new pecking order.

It is now obvious to all that Makambo has dropped down the pecking order as the second-choice striker's spot has been taken by Mzize.

The saddest thing, perhaps, is that nobody seems surprised by Makambo's absence from Yanga's match-day squad these days.

Nobody mentions it at all and, if one thinks about that properly, what does it say about a player who was re-signed from Guinea's Horoya AC to lead Yanga's frontline?

While Mzize is ascending the



Heritier Makambo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

staircase and Athuman looks like he is about to compete for a place on the bench, Makambo, on the other hand, counts as little more than an afterthought these days.

With the season approaching the halfway mark, Makambo has only made five appearances with only 237 minutes under his belt.

He is yet to find the back of the net. Last season he managed 22 appearances and scored two goals.

This is the player, lest it is forgotten, who scored 17 goals and set up three others in 34 league games for Yanga in the 2018/19 campaign.

Makambo almost single-handedly dragged Yanga to a second-place finish with his clinical goalscoring as the side was under the tutelage of

Congolese Mwinyi Zahera in that campaign.

In a challenging campaign mired by off-field issues in the club management, he provided an oasis of hope, and Yanga fans rallied behind his trademark celebration style.

He was only sold to Horoya AC to relieve the Jangwani Street squad's piling debts.

It is no wonder when he returned to Jangwani Street club, Makambo featured more prominently in fans' thoughts than the newly recruited Fiston Mayele. The level of expectation was very high.

Nobody questions his absence because, in the bluntest terms, he has stopped being the player Yanga wanted, and expected him to be when they brought him back from Horoya at the start of the 2021/22 season.

The difficult part is to understand how this happened. What has held him back? Why has his second spell at Yanga been so dismal to the extent he has become the forgotten man?

Makambo's diminished status can be pinned on the arrival of his compatriot Fiston Mayele. While Mayele arrived from DR Congo's AS Vita with little pomp he has become arguably the best Yanga striker in the last five years.

The towering forward's task for regular minutes has been made even more difficult with head coach Nasreddine Nabi preferring to use one striker.

Everything seems to have

changed in his second spell. Nabi has altered the style of football at Yanga, opting for a much more technical and less direct approach.

He is not adept at leading the line on his own. Unlike Mayele, Makambo struggles in tight spaces where he is expected to play quick football in triangles.

Nabi hardly needs an attacker standing motionless in the penalty box. This is the reason Mayele is considered irreplaceable.

In his first spell, Makambo won the hearts of the Green and Yellow faithful by carrying the team on his shoulders.

However these days, he looks like a man short of confidence when he either misses a chance or receives a clumsy pass with his back to the goal.

And with the emergence of Mzize who is highly rated by coach Nabi, very few can consider backing Makambo to shake this disappointment out of his system.

Nobody feels strongly enough to challenge Nabi to offer Makambo another chance.

With barely six months left on his contract, Makambo needs to use that time to analyze what has gone wrong and, just as importantly, understand what needs to be done about it otherwise his second spell at Jangwani Street squad would be regarded as a cautionary tale of never going back.

Morogoro a supreme capital of Super Middleweight boxing in Tanzania

By Correspondent Ernest Mwanjwa,

Morogoro

IT is common for cities around the world to distinguish themselves from others by what offers them a distinctive advantage against the rest.

Well, Morogoro has throughout its history been known as 'Mji Kasoro Bahari', an adage to imply that it has all it takes to equal the mighty Dar es Salaam only that it lacks a shoreline.

However, if there is one thing that Morogoro would hardly prefer to be compared to but rather surpass everyone else in Tanzania then it is the Super Middleweight boxing division.

It may not be the first time boxing fanatics hear of the term boxing capital. The world has seen several cities promoting themselves as capitals of boxing.

Well, if it is for the sheer number of mega fights it hosts, then USA's Las Vegas with its supreme MGM grand arena, is indeed the world's boxing capital.

When Morogoro is measured for the same criterion as the boxing facility it certainly does not come any close to supremacy status, even at a national scale.

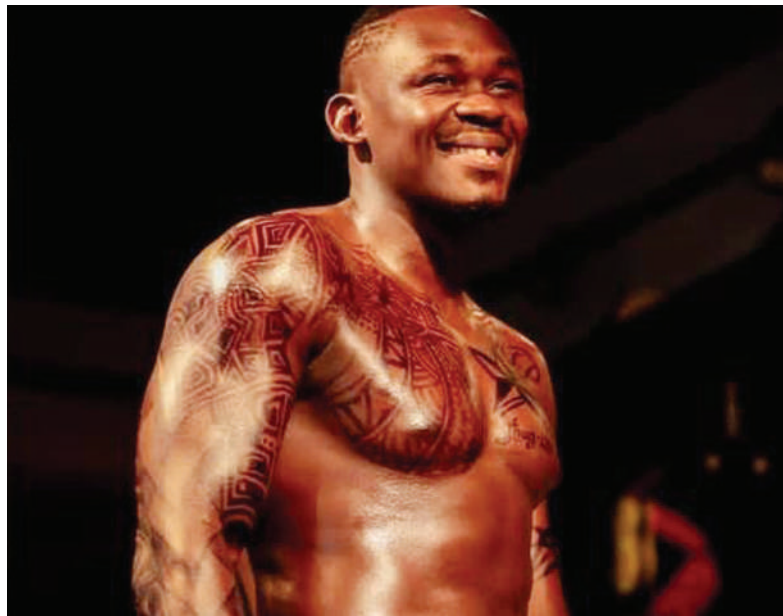
Instead, the region's prowess in boxing is rather earned by the outstanding performance of its pugilists.

Boxers from other regions in Tanzania indeed dominate in most other divisions, but when it comes to the hard-hitting Super Middleweight category, then Morogoro has an ultimate statement to make.

Boxing enthusiasts in Tanzania remember the decade when the prime Francis Cheka stood as an unconquerable preposition to almost all boxers in the Super Middleweight division.

It is only when Cheka began to slide out of his prime that the son of Dar es Salaam Abdallah Pazi, alias 'Dulla Mbabe', became a dominant force in the division.

But as if this was destined for the region, it did not take long before Morogoro produced Cheka's perfect replacement in the name



Morogoro's professional pugilist, Twaha Kassim.

of Twaha Kassim Rubaha, alias 'Twaha Kiduku'.

Kassim is an uncompromising boxing phenomenon that has successfully led Morogoro in its campaign to regain its lost glory in the division domestically.

The campaign would not have been sweeter if it had not come reassuringly through his trilogy fights with 'Dulla Mbabe'.

Outside the Super Middleweight division, Morogoro is also home to many competent boxers in all other weight ranks.

The supremacy of Morogoro's boxers in the Super Middleweight division is evident not only in the number of national and international rounds in the ring but also in the number of titles the region's pugilists have collected.

Out of only 49 appearances Cheka, on the one hand, has five world championships, four African championships, and two domestic titles in his collection.

If Kassim, on the other hand, goes on to win his match this Friday against Victor Hugo Exner of Argentina then it will be the former's third title to have been won this year.

The pugilist lifted a Universal Boxing Organization (UBO) title in March following his win over DR Congo's Alex Kabangu in Morogoro.

As if this was only a starter, he went on to win two more titles in Mtwara in September- UBO African title and a UBO Inter-Continental title, having come up against Abdo Khaled from Egypt. If anything, this is indeed the Morogoro boxer's performance that commands respect.

At the top of the list of boxers from Morogoro is Tanzania's most recognizable and talked-about boxer today, namely, Karim Said alias 'Mandongwa Mtu Kazi'.

Said is a self-made boxing icon, who has done the unthinkable in bringing boxing back to the hearts of the masses.

And for this achievement, a proposal from Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, made in September this year has it all.

In his tweet, Bashe said 'Mandongwa' should be specially honoured for his contribution to bringing boxing back to its glory days.

It is only after 'Mandongwa' came to light that the minister's interest in the sport has revived. And this is probably a testimony that is shared by millions of his fellow Tanzanians.

Boxing continues to pull young people into their hundreds in Morogoro thanks to the positive role played by prominent boxers in the region.

The youths in Morogoro love their boxing icons unconditionally. Whenever the pugilists are scheduled for a fight, it does not matter who they are up against or what it costs to attend the bouts, the enthusiasts will flood stadiums to whole-heartedly support their pugilists.

But there are also many of those who take it to the gym in a dream that one day they will compete at a professional level.

This has, as a result, quickly increased the demand for boxing training facilities in the region.

But what gives Morogoro such an edge in Tanzania's boxing? Answers to this question are the ones that prompted the writer to hold discussions with key stakeholders regarding the development of boxing in the region.

From the interview with Grace Njau, Head of the Sports Department in Morogoro it was clear that boxing is at the top of the sports development agenda in the region and the Regional Commissioner, Fatma Mwassa, is a major force behind this success.

Among other issues, her office coordinates the exercise of scouting and developing the talents of the youths.

In doing so the Sports Department collaborates with a range of other actors to organize amateur boxing tournaments for the region.

In collaboration with the Regional Commissioner, Members of Parliament in the region led by Abdulaziz Mohamed Abood (Morogoro Urban), Ahmed Mabukhut Shabiby (Gairo), and Hamisi Taletale (South Eastern) are at the forefront of the campaign.

The politicians have, over the years, offered immeasurable support to individual athletes and the sports sector.

This same level of commitment is also shown by councilors, business operators, local media houses, and Morogoro residents.

Higher learning institutions in the region are also making a commendable effort in the

development of the sport.

In a recent interview John Thomas Mgonja, Head of the Tourism and Recreation Department at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, said that sports and recreation are key areas of professional interest that his department pursues.

He revealed that the department is now engaging key stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive proposal for promoting sports in the region.

This is a proposal that shall capture the interests of all actors on the ground, and given the momentum, it has already created, boxing shall certainly be a top priority.

Mgonja further disclosed that once the proposed plan is finalized, it will be shared with all strategic stakeholders for engagement, support, and implementation.

Apart from outstanding performance showcased by the region's pugilists, there are reasons to justify why Morogoro now needs to be considered as a special destination for the development of boxing in the country.

Concerning areas with realized and strong potential for the development of boxing, Morogoro is an epicenter.

Such areas include Dar es Salaam, Coast Region's district namely Bagamoyo and Kibaha, as well as Dodoma.

Morogoro also continues to attract a large number of businesses and institutions which are responsible for improving infrastructure, income, and population growth.

So, it will certainly be in the best interest of the government through responsible ministry as well as its technical institutions such as Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC), National Sports Council (NSC), and others to invite business operators, development partners, and boxing promotion companies to take interest in setting up modern facilities for boxing tournaments in the region.

But more support in increasing the supply of technical personnel, boxing officials, and training facilities for the youth should be present in the region.

The region also wishes to see that there is an increased number of qualified companies dedicated to organizing local and international boxing matches.

So, the boxing tournament organized by Mo Green International slated to take place this Friday in Morogoro is a highly anticipated boxing event.

On top of a dozen explosive encounters, Tanzania's Super Middleweight king Kassim (20W, 8L, and 1D) will be facing Victor Hugo Exner alias 'El Elstalista' (9W, 11L, and 1D) of Argentina for a World Boxing Federation (WBF) International title fight.

Alongside the main fight, 'Dulla Mbabe' will have only one issue in mind against Congolese Mbiya Kanku alias 'The Tiger'.

Will it be revenge for Tanzania or a repeat of DR Congo's dominance? The two well-equipped boxers have the answer for boxing followers on Friday night.

Morogoro's Jamhuri Stadium will certainly explode in elation when the people's boxing love, 'Mandongwa Mtu Kazi', will take the ring for his highly hyped bout against Said Mbelwa of Dar es Salaam.

'Mandongwa' has already warned Mbelwa to prepare for his worst nightmare. He said this time he comes with his latest punch nicknamed 'Ndoige'.

It was as captivating as it could get watching 'Mandongwa' demonstrate his punch at a press conference back in October.

In his unmistakable tone, he demonstrates it by saying: "This is 'Ndoige', once unleashed it doesn't miss, and it comes like this, you go left it comes left, you go right it comes right...there is no escape!"

What a night this is, it looks like it is almost a crime to miss! We wish our Tanzanian boxers all the best.

After 36 years, Canada has to wait longer for World Cup win

AL RAYYAN, Qatar

O Canada, the wait remains.

Alphonso Davies had the chance to score his nation's first-ever World Cup goal, to grab a quick lead on Belgium. As Davies readied for the spot kick in the 11th minute after a hand ball, red-clad Canadian fans at the other end of Ahmed bin Ali Stadium buzzed in anticipation for a moment decades in the making.

"You're carrying the weight of a nation: 36 years of waiting – longer than 36 for our first goal," coach John Herdman said.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois guessed correctly to dive right and batted Davis' attempt with his forearm. The ball bounced away, and the Canadians never got any closer to scoring.

Despite dominating the world's second-ranked team in Canada's first World Cup match since 1986, the Canadians fell to Belgium 1-0 Wednesday night as Michy Batshuayi scored on a quick counter in the 44th minute.

Davies did not speak with media after the game.

"He's our star player. He's one of the best players in the world. He'll move on and he'll have another chance and he'll bury it," midfielder Jonathan Osorio said. "There was also the best goalkeeper in the world in net he had to put it past."

Courtois had studied video of Davies.

"He shot twice that side, so that's why I decided to go that way," Courtois said.

A large part of the crowd of 40,432 in the Arabian desert stadium supported Canada.

Many waved the Maple Leaf and they proudly sang "O Canada" before the match.

"Goosebumps," Osorio said. "Times are changing in this country for this sport. I was little bit surprised. It's not a close trip from Canada to get here. It shows you how much support we have, how much the fans love football, how much people love football in Canada. This is a change in the history of this sport in this country. It felt like a home game. And I think Belgium felt like an away game."

Players brought along the sword they carried around Central America and the Caribbean during qualifying, which is inscribed "Nihil timendum est (Fear nothing)."

Retired Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield spoke with the team before the match.

Atiba Hutchinson, at 39, became the oldest non-goalscorer to start a World Cup match.

AP

Mexico goalkeeper Ochoa wants more in his 5th World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

WITH a post-game hug, Robert Lewandowski paid respect where it was due. Guillermo Ochoa had done it again at the World Cup.

Mexico's stalwart goalkeeper stopped Lewandowski, one of the game's best strikers, on a second-half penalty kick that preserved a scoreless draw between El Tri and Poland.

A loss in the match would have dealt a blow to Mexico's bid for an eighth straight trip to the World Cup's knockout rounds. Ochoa, 37, is making his fifth consecutive appearance in soccer's biggest tournament, joining an exclusive club that includes Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

But it wasn't the first time the seemingly ageless goalkeeper with unruly hair had come up big in the World Cup.

Back in 2014, the player widely known by his nickname Memo, made six saves in the scoreless draw with Brazil, which was among the favorites as the tournament's host.

He denied Brazilian stars Neymar and Thiago Silva on close-in headers and afterward called it the "game of a lifetime."

In Russia four years ago, he had nine saves in Mexico's 1-0 victory over defending champion Germany in the group opener.

"When we need Memo, he always shows up," defender Jorge Sanchez said.

Qatar could be Ochoa's final World Cup and he desperately wants to advance past the round of 16 and play in an elusive "quinto partido" – a fifth game. It's something that has eluded El Tri since Mexico hosted the 1986 tournament.

"There have been great players in history who never had a chance to play at a World Cup, so for me to have the chance to play five is wonderful, amazing," Ochoa said. "But, of course, I want this World Cup to be very different and to be the best of all time for Mexico." Within moments after Tuesday's draw, memes spread on social media depicting Ochoa as a brick wall, Superman, Neo in the Matrix movies and even Jesus.

But Ochoa, who plays for Club América in Mexico's Liga MX, pointed afterward to preparation, not heroics.

"We work on that these two weeks, or maybe a month, with goalkeeper coach Gustavo Pinero. But it's always difficult when you watch the video of Lewandowski's penalties, it's complicated because you watch more than 15 to 20 penalties, so you never know which side to choose," Ochoa said. "At the end I'm happy to save the penalty. He's a great striker."

AP

Embolo scores, Switzerland beat Cameroon 1-0 at World Cup

AL WAKRAH, Qatar

BREEL Embolo's goal lifted Switzerland to a 1-0 win over Cameroon at the World Cup yesterday and he kept his promise not to celebrate scoring against the country where he was born.

The Swiss forward from Yaounde struck with a right-foot shot in the 48th minute, standing all alone eight meters (yards) out in the middle of the goalmouth to take Xherdan Shaqiri's low pass.

Embolo then pursed his lips in a wry smile and held his arms out wide, before raising his hands in a gesture of apology as teammates rushed to him near the penalty spot.

He pointed toward Swiss fans behind the goal where he had scored then to Cameroon fans at the opposite corner of Al Janoub stadium.

The 25-year-old forward left Cameroon with his family when he was five. They spent time in France before settling in Switzerland, the country he is now representing at a second World Cup.

Though an African-born player scored, teams from Africa are now scoreless through the four games they have played at this World Cup. All have played higher-ranked teams, and Morocco and Tunisia earned 0-0 draws, respectively against Croatia and Denmark.

Cameroon's streak of losses at World Cup finals tournaments extended to eight games dating back to 2002.

Brazil and Serbia are also in Group G and they meet later Thursday.



Switzerland's Brael Embolo (7) scores his side's opening goal during the World Cup group G soccer match between Switzerland and Cameroon, at the Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah, Qatar, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022. (AP Photo)

In the move for Embolo to score, it was too easy for the Swiss to pass the ball quickly through the Cameroon defensive lines from left flank to right.

The fast Swiss start to the second half contrasted with a lack of first-half urgency that could hardly be explained by the 1 p.m. kickoff – one of only seven games in Qatar being played entirely in daylight. The heat peaked at 29 Celsius (84 Fahrenheit), humidity was low and most of the playing area was shaded.

Cameroon wasted a clear scoring chance to take control in the 10th minute. A long, straight pass past Switzerland's central defenders led to Karl Toko Ekambi firing a half-volley shot high over the bar from just 10 meters (yards).

Cameroon exerted little pressure trying to level the game. Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa's header in the 66th was aimed directly at goalkeeper Yann Sommer who saved easily.

In the next play, a Swiss move down the right flank almost repeated

the goal but goalkeeper Andre Onana saved from Ruben Vargas.

MILLA TIME
Cameroon great Roger Milla was paraded on the field before the game. Fans were shown a video montage of his goals at the 1990 World Cup where Cameroon became the first African team ever to advance to the quarterfinals.

Milla was joined by Samuel Eto'o, Cameroon's greatest player who now heads its soccer federation. Eto'o scored the only goal when Cameroon last won at the World Cup – 1-0 against Saudi Arabia in 2002.

REFEREE'S QUIET DAY

Referee Facundo Tello had a quieter day than when he sent off 10 players in Argentina just before coming to Qatar. He showed red cards to seven Boca Juniors players and three from Racing Club after an extra-time brawl. Here, Tello showed three yellow cards and no red cards. This was the 13th game at the World Cup and no player has yet been sent off.

UP NEXT

Switzerland next plays Group H favorite Brazil on Monday evening in Doha. Earlier the same day Cameroon faces Serbia.

Meanwhile, there's a good chance the World Cup will go from bad to worse for the Qatar team if the players don't conquer their nerves when they face African champion Senegal in their second group match.

"We usually say that you learn from mistakes," Qatar's Spanish coach Felix Sanchez said on Thursday. "Let's hope that we've freed ourselves from all this pressure or tension that was there on the first day."

The Qataris are already the first hosts to lose the opening game of a World Cup after they were overwhelmed by their nation's biggest sporting occasion in a 2-0 Group A defeat to Ecuador on Sunday.

That puts them in danger of also being only the second host after South Africa in 2010 to be eliminated in the group stage.

But what about losing every game? Or the dis-

mal prospect of failing to score a goal at their home World Cup?

That would likely pile even more criticism on FIFA's decision to award the World Cup to the small but very wealthy Gulf emirate that had never qualified for the game's biggest tournament before winning the right to host it 12 years ago.

Qatar's next chance to show it deserves a place on a World Cup field comes Friday against Senegal, a team still boasting an array of players from the top leagues in England, Spain, Italy and France even if it is missing injured forward Sadio Mane.

"Let us compete at our highest level and show that we can compete much more than we did the other day, regardless of the result," Sanchez said. Qatar might be the 2019 Asian champion, but every squad member plays for a local club at home in an indicator maybe of the gap between them and the standard required at a World Cup.

Sanchez suggested the World Cup was part of a longer-term project to develop soccer in the Gulf country.

"We are a small country with a very small population. I don't know if there is any other country that has organized a World Cup like Qatar," Sanchez said. "I am convinced that after the World Cup, Qatar will continue to work so that the level of its soccer continues to improve within the possibilities and limitations we have."

Qatar's struggles also stand out after other teams from Arab countries have made themselves more at home at

the first World Cup in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia's colossal upset defeat of Argentina was followed by impressive performances from Tunisia and Morocco in the tournament's first week.

Senegal also slipped to an opening loss at the World Cup but troubled a strong Netherlands team before second-half injuries to midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate and defender Abdou Diallo interrupted the West Africans' rhythm and the Dutch took advantage to score two late goals.

"Senegal was not bad. We stood up to one of the best teams in the world, with world-class players," Senegal coach Aliou Cisse said. "I'm very happy with my players, very proud of my players."

Cisse said Diallo resumed training Wednesday and "it went very well, I hope he'll be on the training field today and we'll see how it goes." Kouyate remains doubtful to play against Qatar.

Cisse said the focus for his team is up front, where he has high expectations for a new forward line combination of Ismaila Sarr, Boulaye Dia and Krepin Diatta.

"Scoring is a state of mind. You need a certain aggression to put the ball in the back of the net. Our forwards are capable of scoring. They've shown this already in the past," Cisse said. "I'm certain they'll show it again tomorrow."

They didn't quite get it right in their first game together after Mane was ruled out, but if they do against Qatar as Cisse expects it could be another long day at the World Cup for the hosts.

AP

Israeli-Palestinian conflict catches up with Qatar World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

IT was uncharted territory for the Israeli journalist. Wandering through the rustic outdoor marketplace in Doha before the start of the World Cup, he zeroed in on a Qatari man in his traditional head-dress and white flowing robe and asked for an interview.

"Which channel?" the Qatari asked. The journalist replied he was from Kan, Israel's public broadcaster.

The Qatari was stunned. "Where?"

"Israel," the journalist repeated. A split-second later, the interview was over.

The exchange ricocheted around social media, reflecting the latest political flash point at the first World Cup in the Arab world – never mind that neither Israeli nor Palestinian national teams are competing in the tournament.

Controversy has followed Israelis and Palestinians pouring into Doha, revealing just how entrenched and emotive the their violent century-old conflict remains, including Israel's open-ended occupation of lands Palestinians want for a future state.

Palestinians shared footage of the Doha en-

counter between the Qatari man and the Israeli journalist, along with other clips of Palestinians and Qataris angrily confronting Israeli reporters live on TV. They viewed it as proof that although Qatar has permitted Israelis to fly directly to Doha and receive consular support for the first time in history, the conservative Muslim emirate has no intention of cozying up to Israel.

Israel's Channel 13 sports reporter, Tal Shorrer, said he has been shoved, insulted and accosted by Palestinians and other Arab fans during his live reports from the tournament.

"You are killing babies!" a few Arab fans yelled as they rammed into him during a broadcast this week.

Qatari media meanwhile has published some such videos with the caption: "No to normalization." Officials in Qatar, with their history of public support to Palestinians, have insisted the temporary opening to Israelis was purely to comply with FIFA hosting requirements – not a step to normalizing ties like neighboring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates did in 2020. Qatar has warned a spike in violence in the

occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip would derail the arrangement.

Nonetheless, thousands of Israeli soccer fans are expected to descend on Doha for the World Cup, diplomats say, including some on 10 direct flights planned over the next month.

Many Israeli fans marvel over the intriguing novelty of being in a country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Security-minded citizens remark how safe they feel.

"My friends and family thought it could be dangerous but it's fine," said Eli Agami, an aviation executive who lives near Tel Aviv. "I don't go around telling

people but I think no one cares if you're Israeli or you're Jewish. Everyone just cares about the game."

Six Israeli diplomats have set up shop at a travel agency office in Doha, ready to respond to crises large and small. To limit potential problems, the Foreign Ministry has launched a campaign urging Israelis to lie low.

"We want to avoid any friction with other fans and local authorities," said Alon Lavie, a member of the delegation, citing legions of fans from Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries either hostile or frosty toward Israel now flooding Qatar. "We want to remind (Israelis) ... you don't

need to shove your fingers in other people's eyes."

Israelis have made themselves at home among Doha's glittering skyscrapers. Qatar's first kosher kitchen set up near the airport, supplying hotels and fan zones with the classic egg Jewish challah bread and olive and hummus sandwiches. They plan to cook other food for the Jewish Sabbath that starts Friday at sundown, with all ingredients conforming to kosher dietary laws.

"We have received many, many questions and requests," said Rabbi Mendy Chitrik, who oversees the effort.

Israel's main channels have been allowed to

broadcast from Doha, providing Israeli viewers with continuous coverage of the matches. But unlike other major foreign networks centrally located in downtown Doha, the Israelis roam around without a formal studio.

Shorrer said that while interactions with Qatari officials had been perfectly pleasant, the streets were a different story. He said he advises Israeli fans to hide their Jewish kippas and ditch their Stars of David so as not to provoke hostility.

When a cellphone salesman noticed his friend's settings in Hebrew, he exploded with anger, screaming at the Israeli to get out of Doha.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Embolo scores, Switzerland beat Cameroon 1-0 at World Cup

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5 EATV FRIDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

Friday Night Live is where EATV and EA Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV. Whatever happens on TV, stays on TV.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 NIRVANA (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zafe Kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 SKONGA
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Dar wheelchair tennis coach salutes Ghana workshop

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN wheelchair tennis coach Riziki Salum has described the ongoing workshop for the sport's coaches taking place in Ghana as an eye-opener and a tool to develop the sport in his country.

Salum is among 16 wheelchair tennis coaches from across the continent who are attending the four-day workshop in Accra.

Speaking from Ghana, the coach said the chief instructor of the workshop Holger Losch has urged them to embrace the innovations and prove to the world that they have what it takes to make wheelchair tennis exciting.

"This workshop is an eye-opener, it will help to take wheelchair tennis to another level, the coaches have been challenged to raise the standard of coaching as the profession is one of the key areas making the game exist," he said.

He said the workshop which is sponsored by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) will also help the coaches learn skills and other essentials ahead of the 2023 Africa Paralympic Games to be hosted by Ghana.

The coaches attending the workshop come from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, South Africa, Egypt, Tanzania, and the host Ghana.

Tanzania has many talented wheelchair tennis players who have won the country's fame by performing well in international tournaments.

However, as is the case with many African countries, Tanzania's wheelchair tennis players face a lot of challenges such as a lack of modern wheelchairs and other essentials.

Due to the lack of modern wheelchairs, many performers based in Dar es Salaam also face mobility problems as they cannot move from their respective homes to their training base at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

Those who manage to reach the DGC also spend more time staying idle as Riziki Salum is the only coach for them and, to make matters worse, there are very few wheelchair tennis tournaments held at the domestic level.

Mgunda bemoans Simba SC defensive errors in Mbeya City FC draw



Simba SC goal-getter Moses Phiri (L) speeds past Mbeya City FC center-back as the sides locked horns in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HEAD coach Juma Mgunda has rued a sloppy defensive display from Simba SC as the side let a lead slip against hosts Mbeya City FC to settle for a frustrating 1-1 draw in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel that took place at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Wednesday.

Everything looked like it was going according to plan for Mgunda's free-scoring Msimbazi Reds when

midfielder Mzamiru Yassin grabbed an early goal in the opening 20 minutes as they bossed the game.

However, Simba SC failed to turn their dominance into more goals and Mbeya City FC came storming back into the clash in the second half.

The tie's hosts were rewarded with an equalizer 10 minutes to normal stoppage time when a low shot unleashed by former Young Africans

SC (Yanga) striker Tariq Seif Kiakala went past Simba SC keeper Aishi Manula.

Mgunda was left to rue mistakes in defense as Simba SC threw away two points from a winning position and are now staring at a potentially seven-point gap behind defending champions, Yanga who have two games in hand.

The coach revealed: "That's football

results, I said from the beginning that we have a tough game against Mbeya City FC with home advantage, so it's something we were expecting to have a competitive match. It's a competitive match, we battled."

"Football is a game of mistakes, if you make a mistake you are punished, we got an early goal and until the first half, we were in the lead. In the second half, I admit, our mistakes in the defensive line allowed them to equalize. That's part of football."

Mgunda revealed: "I can't blame my players, no player wants to hurt his team but mistakes do happen in the game, you make a mistake, and you are punished and we made that mistake and they equalized."

The gaffer noted: "A draw is not a sin, then mind you we were playing Mbeya City FC, they are not Ruvi Shooting. They are two different matches, so if you compare, you will not get the right conclusions."

Mgunda said: "Today we were up against Mbeya City FC and it is different from Ruvi Shooting. It was a difficult game, a competitive game."

"I congratulate Mbeya City FC for the discipline they showed against us. The competition is getting tougher but we will keep competing, it's not over until it's over."



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park junior soccer players in action at training that took place at the centre's ground in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Geita Gold FC plots Ihefu SC downfall in Premier League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

GEITA Gold FC has said it is ready for the 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter against Ihefu SC to be played at Nyan-kumbu Girls Secondary School's Stadium in Geita this afternoon.

Both sides have what it takes to collect maximum points and hosts through information officer Hemed Kivuyo said they are well-prepared for the game.

He said all of his outfit's players, except last season's NBC Premier League top goal scorer George Mpole and midfielder Raymond Mwasote, are ready for the clash.

Kivuyo explained that despite joining camp last Tuesday, Mpole has not been included in the final

squad which is preparing for today's game.

"All players are ready and I'm confident of garnering good results, so far Mpole and Mwasote are the ones who are not with the team due to unsolved issues with the club and injuries but all are ready and I'm sure of collecting maximum points," he said.

The information officer said he derives his confidence from the fact that his charges will be at home where they have proved to be a hard nut to crack as in two clashes the side has taken part in at the venue the club managed to collect four points.

"We will be in our backyard where we are yet to lose and in the two games against Namungo and KMC FC we managed to

collect four points from possible six, I'm sure with the support from our fans we will emerge victorious on Friday," he said.

In all fairness, Geita Gold FC has a dedicated and courageous squad and its technical director Lucas Mulingwa admitted in an interview on Wednesday, whilst being calm and composed, noting his side is ready for the game.

"We are just coming from Mbeya where we managed to collect the four points from our two duels but now the players' focus is on the Friday game we are playing at home and as usual teams perform well in their backyard," he said.

In the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, Geita Gold FC is positioned seventh having battled

it out in 13 fixtures and amassed 18 points while Ihefu SC is anchoring the league standings with eight points from 12 games.

Although the Mbeya squad is anchoring the ongoing NBC Premier League standing, Ihefu SC boasts skillful players with what it takes to crush any side in the domestic league.

The Mbeya club's head coach Juma Mwambusi who in the previous interview admitted his squad had inconsistency, said he has prepared his players mentally and physically.

"It is not looking good, but there are many positives, all that is needed is to push hard so that we can collect maximum points, we need to do more," the coach stated.

Morogoro boxer set for non-title fight

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SEVERAL Tanzanian professional boxers including the renowned Karim Said alias 'Mandong'a', are all set to show their mettle in fights that take place in Morogoro later today.

The other local pugilist to take the ring is Morogoro-based Twaha Kassim 'Kiduku' coming up against Damian Bonell from Argentina in a Super Middleweight fight.

Kessa Mwambeleko, Public Relations Officer of Mo Geen International Company, which has organized the bouts, disclosed in Dar es Salaam that the bouts will take place at Morogoro's Jamhuri Stadium.

"Some of the undercard bouts will witness 'Mandong'a' trading punches with Said Mbelwa, Abdallah Pazi 'Dulla Mbabe' taking on Mbiya Kanku from DR Congo and several others who have confirmed their presence," Mwambeleko noted.

Mwambeleko explained that Kassim has a history of winning various high-profile fights, adding that his opponent Bonell arrived in the country on Tuesday and is already in Morogoro.

"We invite boxing lovers to come and witness good entertainment from various boxers who will be in the ring, there will also be entertainment to be staged by dance music troupes," he said.

He said dance music entertainment will be staged by two bands Waluguru Original and the newly formed Town Classic, which had its inaugural show in Dar es Salaam last month.

"This band is owned by the Mo Green Company, we are determined to provide people with various types of entertainment, that's why we have organized the fights, we have a band to provide entertainment for dance music lovers," he said.

He said the management of the company, in addition to dealing with agricultural issues, will continue to focus on promoting entertainment to give young Tanzanians a chance to show their talents.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

