



National Pg 3 TANROADS to install weighbridges in Kigoma



National Pg 4 Ministry lauds Statistical Master Plan



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Fewer rhinos fall as South Africa goes after poachers

JOHANNESBURG

THE number of rhinos killed for their horns in South Africa decreased in the first six months of the year as authorities increased efforts to tackle poaching of the endangered animals.

South Africa and neighbouring Namibia and Botswana have for decades struggled to control the poaching of rhinos whose horns are prized for jewellery and traditional medicine in most of East Asia.

Between Jan. 1 and June 30, a total of 231 rhinos were killed in South Africa for their horns, made primarily of keratin, a protein also found in human hair and fingernails.

South Africa's environment ministry said the figure was 28 fewer than the same period last year, citing joint efforts involving law enforcement agencies, customs officials and private security.



Increased surveillance and de-horning programmes in the famous Kruger National Park drove poachers last year to turn their focus to provincial parks and private reserves

The effort led to the conviction of poachers, but continued demand for the horns means the threat to the rhino population persists, it said, noting that rhino poaching often involves international criminal syndicates that hire local poachers.

"Increased surveillance and de-horning programmes in the famous Kruger National Park drove poachers last year to turn their focus to provincial parks and private reserves," it said.

That trend picked up this year, with 143 rhinos killed in the KwaZulu-Natal province and 46 in private reserves, it said, with the government setting up tactical centres to coordinate those efforts.

This was in addition to increasing services provided to rangers on healthcare, training and counselling to discourage them from colluding with criminal gangs, it affirmed.

South Africa is home to nearly half of the critically-endangered black rhino population on the African continent and to world's largest population of near-threatened white rhinos, it added.

East Africa has Africa's best near-term growth rate: AfDB

By Guardian Reporter

EAST Africa will register the highest regional economic performance on the continent in 2023 and 2024, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has declared.

The newly published 2023 East Africa Economic Outlook says that growth figures for the EA zone will average at over 5 per cent for the two years.

Launched on Thursday (July 27), it projects mid-term economic growth in the region to accelerate to 5.1 per cent this year and 5.8 per cent next year, largely driven by growth in Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and Tanzania.

East Africa's real GDP was propelled by services, accounting for nearly half of growth last year.

The sector contributed 2.0 percent points to GDP growth, from 2.5 percent on average for the 2015-2021 period, driven by tourism, creating demand for accommodation, food and entertainment.

The region faces downside risks relating to the global economic slowdown, rising oil prices, the Ukraine conflict, big power trade disputes and disengagement, tightening of global lending rates, exchange rate depreciation, and Covid-19 resurgence risks, it said.

Domestic risks include gaps in infrastructure, domestic conflicts and political instability, macroeconomic imbalances and adverse impacts of climate change, the report states.

The report themed "Mobilising Private Sector Financing for Climate Change and Green Growth" delves into the imperative of a green transition for Africa and the role of private sector financing, highlighting 'natural capital' as a key source of financing



This is due to the debt situation, global shocks and internal conflicts, despite that the inflation pressure is slowly easing

for climate-compatible growth in East Africa.

It urges East African countries to adapt green growth pathways by tapping into key sectors like renewable energy; sustainable agriculture and infrastructure; and forestry.

"In 2020, East Africa could only cover 11 per cent of its estimated annual climate financing needs of \$67.2bn, it said, elaborating that at least 50 per cent of climate financing will have to be sourced from the private sector."

This will require a mix of well-sequenced policy interventions, based on amplifying private sector participation to boost resource mobilization, the relevant departmental director noted.

Prof Kevin Chika Urama, the bank's chief economist and vice president, called for appropriate regulations, incentives and support for project preparation, as well as the development of strong capital markets that can ease entry and exits for domestic and global investors.

"It will require greater use of blended finance, deployment of de-risking facilities at scale, and the development of platforms that can allow the private sector to invest in a portfolio of green projects as opposed to individual projects to diversify and manage risks," he said.

Dr Marcellin Ndong Ntah, lead economist for the East Africa regional office, noted that the region is likely to post the highest inflation



A young innovator (2nd-R) briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango in Mbeya city yesterday on what he said was a 'special ambulance' he was collaborating with colleagues in assembling. The VP was gracing the launch of an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine at the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital. Photo: VPO

VP: RCs must liaise to stem livestock influx

By Guardian Correspondents, Mbeya

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday directed regional authorities in the Southern Highlands zone to team up in controlling the influx of livestock, fueling conflicts with farmers and harming the environment.

Inaugurating the international Nananane agricultural exhibition in Mbeya at the John Mwakangale grounds yesterday, he said the influx of livestock was causing deadly conflicts and putting pressure on wildlife.

Regional officials need to liaise and set up proper land use plans involving pastoralists and farmers to stop migratory herding of cattle, he said, pointing out



The zone expects to produce 600,000 tons of commercial crops, with some of the crops being specific to the zone

that elephants were being pushed to move from their natural habitats and thus destroy crops and trample on people they come across in farms.

Regional authorities also need to educate farmers on profitable livestock keeping so that numbers of animals match the land available.

He similarly appealed to farmers not to sell their produce to ensure domestic food security, with dignitaries present urging in their introductory remarks that a special fund be created for farmers to access loans at low interest rates

The VP asked the Agriculture ministry to identify areas for seed production, while Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe noted

TURN TO PAGE 2

National Service ready for higher compulsory intake

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Service Department (JKT), a wing of the defence forces, has budgeted 9.96bn/- for infrastructure improvement in its camps to enable youths completing advanced secondary education to join on compulsory basis.

The wide ranging improvement of infrastructure follows instructions by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the 60th



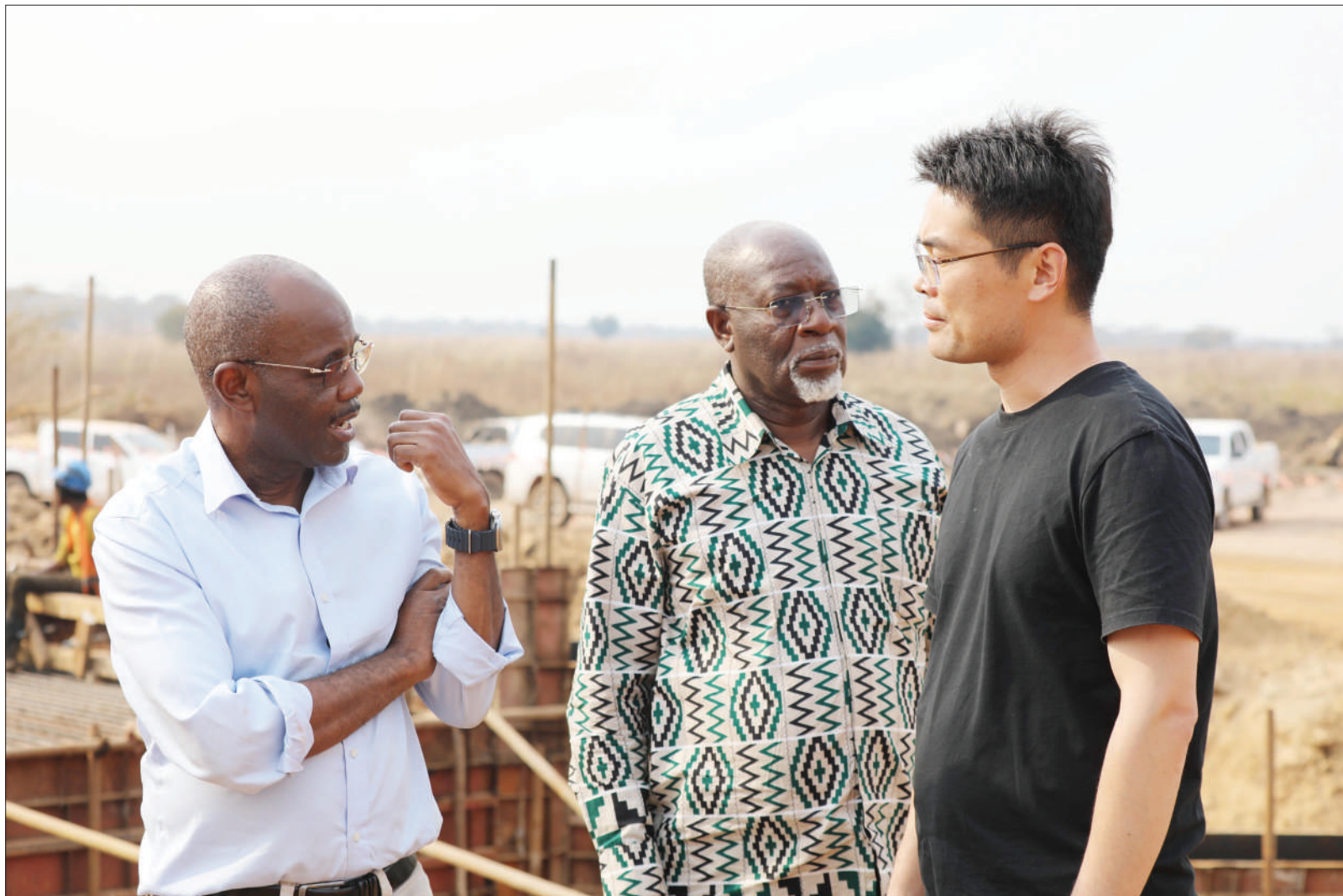
anniversary of national service training, asking for improvement of infrastructure to receive all eligible youths.

Major General Rajabu Mabele (pictured), the commander of National Service, said here yesterday that taking all those completing Form Six demands improving existing infrastructure and building new facilities.

Youths joining the force on compulsory

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Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (L) gives instructions yesterday to a STECOL Corporation Limited contractor (R) overseeing the ongoing construction of the 51.1-km Uvinza-Maragarasi road in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region. Looking on is Naarcis Choma, the Kigoma regional manager of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads). Photo courtesy of Works ministry

FROM PAGE 1

rates in Africa in the medium term. This is due to the debt situation, global shocks and internal conflicts, despite that the inflation pressure is slowly easing, he stated, underlining that debt vulnerabilities will remain elevated in East Africa.

Exchange rate depreciation and high primary deficits exacerbating sustainability risks will be persistent, he said, citing Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya

East Africa has Africa's best near-term growth rate: AfDB

and South Sudan in particular exposure for high debt risk.

Dr Edward Sennoga, a second lead economist with the East Africa regional office, said the region is

endowed with natural capital that is yet to be harnessed.

"The region is well placed to advance its pursuit of climate and green growth ambitions, given its

market size, youthful population that could double by 2050, green technology potential and significant natural resource endowments," he added.

VP: RCs must liaise to stem livestock influx

FROM PAGE 1

that the government increased the sector's budget from 290bn/- three years ago to more than 900bn/- at present.

"In this financial year, the ministry has started construction of 100 dams countrywide to improve irrigation agriculture," he said, affirming that the overall plan is to build 600 dams countrywide.

Juma Homera, the regional commissioner, said last year the Southern Highlands zone produced 11m tonnes of food crops, where household needs stood at two

million tonnes.

The zone expects to produce 600,000 tons of commercial crops, with some of the crops being specific to the zone, he said, urging the government to help farmers by purchasing food crops through the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and supplying them with inputs.

The farmers' exhibition is for the first time being attended by more than 30 countries, including India and members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), officials said.

National Service ready for higher compulsory intake

FROM PAGE 1

basis were 26,000 last year and pegged at 52,119 this year, doubling the previous intake, he stated.

During fiscal 2023/2024 the department expects to improve vocational training college camps for the volunteer group recruits to learn work skills and entrepreneurship, he said.

The skills are useful self-reliant upon completing training, he said, noting that a new camp, the VETA Kibondo-Kigoma College, is meant for the youth volunteering group lasting 24 months.

The first four months are devoted to basic military training and 20 months are meant to impart work skills, he said, emphasizing the need to improve the colleges to provide the skills efficiently.

The department will also improve the Chita JKT camp irrigation scheme to provide training to the youth and farm expansion to reduce recurrent costs in running the department, he elaborated, affirming that the government has allocated 4bn/- for the purpose.

Widening acreage shall enhance food security generally, he said, pointing out that in fiscal 2022/23,

JKT had 3,950 acres for rice cultivation, set to increase to 5,000 acres, yielding 6,750 tonnes of produce.

JKT farmed 6,626 acres of maize in the past fiscal year, geared for expansion to 8,500 acres producing 12,750 tonnes" he said.

During 2022/23 JKT farmed 2,115 acres of sunflower, this fiscal year expanding to 6,000 acres expected to produce 2,160 tonnes, with other crops such as beans and cassava to build food self-sufficiency by 2024/2025, he said.

JKT will, during fiscal 2023/2024, strengthen industries and other production activities conducted by SUMA JKT, an operating company with multiple business interests, contributing to economic growth, jobs, taxes and dividends for the government, he stated.

Defense and National Service fund managers had already allocated 3bn/- to develop the Mgeda plantation, also using internal revenue to strengthen factories like the Mgulani Garment Factory, leather factory at Malakuwa, the furniture factory at Chang'ombe and processing units adding value to food crops, he added.

European nations prepare to evacuate citizens after coup

NIAMEY

France and Italy prepared yesterday to fly out their citizens and other Europeans from Niger on Tuesday, six days after a coup that toppled one of the last pro-Western leaders in the jihadist-plagued Sahel and stoked anti-French demonstrations.

President Mohamed Bazoum was overthrown on July 26 by his own guard, in the region's third putsch in as many years following takeovers in neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso.

After hostile crowds gathered on Sunday outside the French embassy and Niger accused France of plotting to intervene militarily, Paris said Tuesday it would withdraw its citizens and offered to evacuate other Europeans as well.

"In the face of a deteriorating security situation in Niamey and taking advantage of the relative calm in Niamey, an operation of evacuation by air is being prepared," the embassy said in a message sent to French citizens. The evacuations "will take place very soon in a very limited span of time," it said.

A first plane later took off from Paris, said a source in France involved in the operation. Another source said France would be using unarmed military transporters, capable of taking more than 200 people.

The French foreign ministry said there were an estimated 600 French nationals in Niger but did not give details on how many wished to leave.

In Rome, the Italian government said it was putting on a "special flight for those (Italians) who want to leave the country," adding that this was "not an evacuation". Around 90 Italian nationals were in Niamey, out of nearly 500 across the country, it said.

The West African bloc ECOWAS on Sunday slapped sanctions on Niger and warned it may use force

as it gave the coup leaders a week to reinstate Bazoum.

The following day, the junta accused France of seeking to "intervene militarily", a charge which drew a French denial, while junta-ruled Mali and Burkina Faso warned any military intervention in Niger would be a "declaration of war" against them.

The events are unfolding in one of the poorest and most unstable countries in the world -- a vast semi-desert nation that had already experienced four coups since independence in 1960.

Bazoum was feted in 2021 after winning elections that ushered in Niger's first-ever peaceful transition of power.

But his tenure was already marked by two attempted coups before last week's dramatic events, in which he was detained at his official residence by members of his elite Presidential Guard.

Guards chief General Abdourahamane Tiani has declared himself leader -- but his claim has been rejected internationally, from ECOWAS, the African Union and the UN to France, the United States and the European Union.

Bazoum was seen in a photo on Sunday sitting alongside Chadian leader General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, another pro-Western leader, who was sent to Niamey by ECOWAS.

According to Bazoum's PND party, the junta has arrested the country's oil, mining, interior and transport ministers, the head of the PND's executive committee, and a former defence minister.

The coup has triggered alarm bells in Western countries struggling to contain a jihadist insurgency that flared in northern Mali in 2012, advanced into Niger and Burkina Faso three years later and now threatens the borders of fragile states on the Gulf of Guinea.

AGENCIES



Energy minister January Makamba and Egypt's Ambassador to Tanzania, Sherif Abdelhamid Ismail, toast at an Egyptian National Day event held in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AU condemns unconstitutional changes of government in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

CHAIRPERSON of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat has condemned recent waves of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

The AU Commission chief made the condemnation during an emergency meeting held about the situation in Niger by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the AU has said.

Condemning the latest coup in Niger, Faki said the situation goes far beyond the framework of Niger alone as it would have regional ramifications.

"The senseless nature of this coup, its flagrant violation of the principles of the AU, and the serious and real threats it poses to the stability of the states of the region mean that it must be resolutely fought," Faki said. "This coup, like all the unconstitutional changes by means of which the military installs itself in power, must completely cease."

Faki warned that failure to cease coups in Africa would be the best incentive for the multiplication of such harmful unconstitutional changes across the continent.

Before the AU Commission chief, Botswana also condemned the

coup in Niger.

"The government of Botswana, in line with the Malabo Declaration on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, joins other Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders and the rest of the world in strongly condemning the unconstitutional subversion of democracy in the Republic of Niger and calls for the immediate release of the constitutionally elected president of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum," said Botswana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a press release Saturday, urging all who are displeased with the situation to

engage in peaceful negotiations in order to restore constitutional order in Niger.

ECOWAS, which groups 15 countries, agreed to impose sanctions on Niger's military leaders involved in the recent coup.

The regional bloc said in a statement that the military junta in Niger must cede power in a week and immediately release and reinstate the country's elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, or the ECOWAS will take all necessary measures, including the use of force, to restore constitutional order in Niger.



A vendor prepares fruit salad beside Dar es Salaam's Lumumba Street yesterday ready for onward packaging and sale in various parts of the city. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

VP Mpango launches MRI machine at Mbeya referral regional hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has launched the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at Mbeya referral regional hospital, instructing the management to use it properly so that it lasts longer.

Magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, is a noninvasive medical imaging test that produces detailed images of almost every internal structure in the human body, including the organs, bones, muscles and blood vessels. MRI scanners create images of the body using a large magnet and radio waves.

Dr Mpango launched the machine yesterday as a continuation of his visit to inspect development projects in Mbeya Region. The new testing equipment has been installed at the hospital's radiology building.

He directed that maintenance of the equipment should be done professionally within scheduled time.

"The cost of this machine is 3bn/-, which is a lot of money. I ask all the hospital staff to take care of it so that it lasts longer. It should be repaired according to the recommended period," said Dr Mpango.

In another development, the VP ordered the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Ministry

of Industry and Trade to inspect the special ambulances designed by local experts at the regional hospital.

The vehicles have been designed by the hospital's experts to be used to carry patients within the hospital premises. The vehicles are expected to be an alternative to stretchers and wheel beds.

Dr Mpango noted that if the vehicles are proved to be of good quality, they should be certified to be used in all the hospitals across the country. He directed that the local experts should be trained further and their salaries reviewed as a way to motivate them.

He also instructed the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the hospital management to speed up processes for forming an institution and the board of directors to further improve services to the people in southern highlands regions and neighbouring countries within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel said that doctors at the hospital are innovative, something that has contributed to improvement of services in the southern highlands.

He said that apart from the innovative ambulances, the hospital's experts have also developed special systems

to identify a woman who has undergone surgery if she has developed complications such as bleeding.

Dr Mollel said that they have developed a special system to adjust temperature in the special room for premature babies. He said the machine turns off automatically when temperature increases.

He noted that due to competence of the hospital's service delivery, the experts are now receiving invitations to conduct capacity building to experts from various African countries, including Ethiopia and South Africa.

"The hospital has experts who are dedicated to work tirelessly; we aim at making this facility a centre for medical tourism," he added.

Director, Mbeya Referral Regional Hospital, Dr Godlove Mbwani said that before the MRI machine started to be used, citizens who required the test had to travel to Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam or Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma.

National Assembly Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson thanked the government for improvements in the country's health sector especially in Mbeya Region.

Dr Tulia said apart from purchasing testing equipment, the government has also constructed health centres and dispensaries.

TANROADS called on to install weighbridges in Kigoma region

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS and Transport Minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa has called on Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) to install weighbridges along the main roads to and from Kigoma town.

He said the pace for building modern roads in Kigoma Region should go simultaneously with the installation of weigh bridges in order to control vehicles weight along the roads.

"I commend you TANROADS for closely supervising road construction projects in this region, it is important that their completion should call for their protection against overweight trucks," said Prof Mbarawa.

The main Nyakanazi-Kigoma and

Tabora - Kigoma highways are in the last stages of completion at tarmac level which are expected to spur transport services and trade. The modern weighbridges will help

to protect them to last long.

In another development, Prof Mbarawa inspected the 25km Nduta Junction-Kibondo town -Kibondo road and the 51km Malagarasi-Ilude being constructed by STECOL Cooperation Limited and called on the contractor to increase the number of experts and equipment to enable construction pace to go in tandem with the government need to open up Kigoma Region all roads at tarmac level as early as possible.

For his part, Uvinza District Commissioner, Dinah Mathamani said the district will continue cooperating to the contractor to complete the project.

Prof Mbarawa completed his three-day inspection visit to Kigoma Region to inspect infrastructure projects and lake ports.



I commend you TANROADS for closely supervising road construction projects in this region, it is important that their completion should call for their protection against overweight trucks



TERMS OF REFERENCE:

CAMFED'S SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION APPROACH IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA DETAILED SCOPE: CONSULTANT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

CAMFED is a pan-African movement revolutionizing how girls' education is delivered. Through a gold-standard system of accountability to the young people and communities we serve, we have created a model that radically improves girls' prospects of becoming independent, influential women. Our impact increases exponentially through the Association of young women educated with CAMFED's support. Together, we multiply the number of girls in school, and accelerate their transition to livelihoods and leadership.

Purpose

CAMFED is implementing systems transformation strategy focused on the integration of its Learner Guide model into the education systems in Tanzania and Zambia. The learner guide model is a youth led life skills and mentorship program delivered in secondary schools. The model aims to address low levels of completion and learning for girls at secondary school whilst building a sustainable structure for their post-school opportunity, and a powerful pipeline of young women education leaders.

To approach this work, CAMFED will be building on its current strong partnerships with government and other key stakeholders as well as identifying and leveraging the most relevant and timely entry points to grow an effective coalition of actors to drive the systems transformation effort. In this context and as part of its capacity building and organization strengthening, CAMFED is looking to appoint a consultant/facilitator to advise and assist CAMFED to develop and strengthen its government relationships and engagement as well as technical support to consolidate its systems transformation strategy and implementation plan.

Required Skills

- Holder of masters and or PHD level in the sector of education, development studies, public health, social welfare, community development, policy, and planning
- Experience in working with the government in the sector of planning, Policy, or project design for a period not less than 10 years.
- Ability with experience in reviewing government policies, Budgets, Sector plans, regulations, and pronouncements to identify opportunities for CAMFED learner guide integration into national education.
- Experience of working with government decision makers and creating new networks, provide linkages and inspire interest to influence CAMFED agenda.
- Experience working with local or international organizations to influence the government on system transformation on the sector of education, youth development and social welfare.
- Experience developing organization's advocacy and communication strategy with the focus of influencing national system transformation using data.
- Ability to design strategies and measure success of the core mission working with stakeholders from multiple ministries.
- Ability to conduct due diligence in identifying potential partners and coalition members.

Key tasks

- To review CAMFED's system transformation strategy, help identify entry points and advise on positioning to support the government co-delivery of the Learner Guide program at scale.
- To review CAMFED's current relationship with government - identify and recommend opportunities for strengthening in ways that will advance the systems transformation strategy this includes strategies to address existing gaps and to further leverage on existing areas of strength.
- Develop a CAMFED advocacy and communication strategy with system transformation lens and identify context specific for pitching opportunities relevant to government.
- Identify strategic opportunities for integration of the LEARNER GUIDE model into national education systems through review of current Government policies, programs and pronouncements.
- Facilitate National Advisory Committee meetings to provide updates and facilitate inputs on potential integration opportunities and drive scaling strategy.
- Guide as appropriate, CAMFED's approach to scaling the LEARNER GUIDE model to new regions / district while ensuring that plans and strategies are co-delivered with the government.
- To identify coalition members and potential partners who share the CAMFED vision to enable girls thrive in school transition to secured and livelihood and leadership.

Deliverables

- Produce a report on the review of CAMFED System Transformation strategy with recommendations.
- Produce an advocacy and communication strategy with System Transformation lens.
- List and profile of possible CAMFED's Government relationships, prospective members of the winning coalition, and system entry points in relation to the strategy
- Connection to government opportunities for LEARNER GUIDE integration and other system level outcomes
- Facilitation guide for National Advisory Committee (NAC) in relation to System Transformation strategy and LEARNER GUIDE integration
- Recommendation on the CAMFED's result framework, work plan and documentation plan.
- To attend National technical working group meetings as invited and lead discussions that will inform our System Transformation strategy and the scale to new districts/regions.

Level of Effort and Timeframe

Up to 63 workdays between 1st October 2023 and 30th October 2024.

Remuneration

The consultant will be paid USD 150 per day for a period of 63 days.

Application Process

All applicants should send their Cover letter and CV with reference of their previous work they have done on advocacy and in the education sector. Send your application to kdiamian@camfed.org, copy camfedtzprocurement@camfed.org deadline for application is **14th August 2023**

WB grants Somalia \$75m in debt relief

MOGADISHU

THE World Bank (WB) has provided a 75-million-US-dollar grant to Somalia to help bring the country closer to debt relief.

The global lender said the grant is the second in a series of two grants that are helping the country make progress on its path to qualify for full and irrevocable debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

It said the government is implementing an ambitious reform program to build institutions, attract investments, and achieve inclusive economic growth and job creation, aligned with the ninth National Development Plan which outlines numerous priority areas for moving the

country forward, several of which are supported by this Development Policy Financing (DPF).

Kristina Svensson, World Bank country manager for Somalia, said in a statement that the DPF supports the government's aspirations to build the foundations of a modern economy with strengthened institutions. "It also signals the significant progress Somalia has made in terms of institution-building and economic development, paving the way for a more stable and sustainable future," Svensson added.

The World Bank said Somalia has approved new laws that establish the institutional environment in key sectors such as fisheries and electricity to develop high-potential sectors for economic growth.

IN THE DISTRICT LAND AND HOUSING TRIBUNAL FOR KINONDONI DISTRICT AT MWANANYAMALA APPLICATION NO 151 OF 2023 SOPHIA PLAZA LIMITED.....APPLICANT VERSUS BIG STEP CONSULTANCY LIMITED.....RESPONDENT

SUMMONS/NOTICE

TO: BIG STEP CONSULTANCY LIMITED

Take notice that the above matter is coming for mention on 17th day of August, 2023 before the Hon. R.L. Chanya- chairman of the tribunal. You are hereby commanded to appear at 9:00 o'clock when the case will be mentioned.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal this 25th day of July, 2023

CHAIRMAN

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EU says no uranium 'supply risk' after overthrow in Niger

BRUSSELS

THE military coup in major uranium producer Niger does not pose a problem for supplies of nuclear fuel for the European Union, an EU spokesman said yesterday.

"There is no supply risk as such when it comes to the EU," European Commission spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said.

"EU utilities have sufficient inventories of natural uranium to mitigate any short-term supply risks and for the medium and long term there are enough deposits on the world market to cover the EU needs."

Former French colony Niger has some of the world's biggest deposits of uranium, a key ingredient in the nuclear industry.

French firm Orano, previously Areva, has been a major player in the West African nation for decades and operates a major uranium mine in the country.

Niger was the EU's second-largest supplier of natural uranium in 2022, with a share of 25 per cent, after Kazakhstan, the bloc's EURATOM agency said.

In total, Kazakhstan, Niger and Canada supplied 74 per cent of the total delivered to the EU. Overall, Niger's share of global production was under five percent in 2021, the EU says. Niger President Mohamed Bazoum, a western ally whose election just over two years ago marked his country's first peaceful transition of power since independence, was toppled on July 26 by the elite Presidential Guard.

WASH campaign improving safe handwashing practices in Kagera

By Beatrice Philemon

CAMPAIGN to create public awareness on the importance of improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) has helped people to build better toilets and improved safe hand washing practices and eventually ending Malburg disease, which erupted early this year in Kagera region.

Marburg virus disease response project was implemented by the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), Prime Minister's Disaster Management Department, Medicine San Frontiers (MSF), World Vision Tanzania and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Africa) among others entailed training volunteers to oversee its viability.

Other stakeholders include Management and Development for Health (MDH), World Health

Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Health, Amref and Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

In a telephone interview, Niwemugizi Bushaija, a resident of Byazi village in Kanyigo Ward said: "We're now building and using better toilets to improve sanitation, prevent contamination, take precautions about the virus and other epidemic diseases."

He thanked to the WHO, Ministry of Health, Tanzania Red Cross Society and other partners who were involved in the exercise.

Bushaija called on more stakeholders to support more training on how to control the epidemic once it erupts.

Kheri Issa, Tanzania Red Cross Society-Kagera Region, Marburg Response project coordinator said the project was executed in five councils-Bukoba municipality, Bukoba, Misenyi, Muleba and

Kyelwa with funding from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

TRCS also donated assorted medical items to 3,286,661 students from 279 primary and secondary schools in the five districts. Apart from donating the medical facilities, the beneficiaries were trained on Marburg including its symptoms, and how it spread.

They were also encouraged on WASH and how to deal with the disease.

Forty-six volunteers from Kyamyorwa, Kihanga and Kyaka villages were also trained on a number of health-related issues about the disease.

Isessanda Kaniki, Kagera regional medical officer noted that the outbreak came with a sense of fear and panic in the country, stressing: "Marburg is over! The feeling is indescribable. We are beyond excited for this great feat of beating Marburg."



Ismail Jussa, a delegate to the ACT-Wazalendo general meeting, addresses a rally convened by the opposition party at Chwaka grounds in South Unguja on Monday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Govt allocates 384bn/- for irrigation in year 2023/24

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

IN the current Financial year, the Ministry of Agriculture has allocated 384bn/- for irrigation, with some of the money expected to be channeled to Ruvuma Region to establish irrigation farming.

Anthony Mavunde, Deputy minister for Agriculture made the remarks at different times as he spoke to residents of Mbamba Bay and Liuli in Nyasa District, and added that the government will channel the money to the Ruhuhu River Basin in the district of 3,700 hectares to start irrigation

farming.

"At the end of this month, we shall announce a project consultant for making feasibility studies and in-depth survey in the basin area that will let farmers to engage in irrigation farming," he said.

However, he added, in the current FY budget, the ministry plans to build 100 dams countrywide one of which will be built in Nyasa District at Lundo village for irrigation farming.

Mavunde further said that the government, in the current FY has set aside funds for constructing

three irrigation schemes in Nyasa District, at Chiulu with 7,000 hectares, Lundo (600 hectares) and Kimpange (400 hectares).

He stressed that the government vows to invest in irrigation farming in Ruvuma Region since the region is the nation's food warehouse.

For his part, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Col. Laban Thomas said the region is self-sufficient in food with a surplus food produced in 2022/23 season expected to be consumed up to 2023/24 season.

He said a total of 1,598,163 tonnes was produced out of which maize totaled 1,043,324 tonnes.

Finance ministry lauds Statistical Master Plan

By Guardian Reporter

DR Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, Finance Ministry's Permanent Secretary, has said that the National Statistics System that performs well, low cost and capable to provide better and reliable statistics will help the country's development plans including assessment of the Nation's Five Year Development Plan 2020-2025 and the groundwork for the 2025-2030 development Plan.

Dr Mwamba made the observation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the first meeting of the Joint Committee of the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II (TSMP II).

The Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II is in the large sponsored by part of the World Bank (WB) soft loan totaling USD 82 million under the East African Zone Statistical Plan implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda.

She said that in addressing the increased needs for statistics and

challenges facing access thereto, the government has been taking deliberate steps to boost the production of statistics in the country including the Statistical Master Plan Phase II to be implemented for five years from 2022/23 to 2026/27.

"This plan is intended to maintain and develop achievements of Tanzania Statistical Master Plan Phase I (TSMP I) in three main categories - coordination, quality data distribution and institutional infrastructure systems," said Dr Mwamba.

She added that the government recognizes the big contribution and cooperation from development partners, the private sector, professionals, CSOs and other stakeholders in boosting the national Statistical Master Plan through their financial and technical assistance.

Speaking on behalf of the Joint Committee's co-chairman, who is Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar's President's Office

(finance and Planning), Dr Juma Malik, the permanent secretary in the Second Vice President's Office, Islam Seif Salum said the plan to boost statistics will help Zanzibar to attain its statistic collection goals that will assist to make development plans for the country.

He said in TSMP I, Zanzibar benefitted in the construction of two buildings as part in boosting infrastructures and in TSMP II his country will have three other buildings constructed.

Earlier in their presentations, Tanzania Government Chief statistician Dr Albina Chuwa and her Zanzibar counterpart, Salum Kassim Ali said Tanzania has been performing well and displayed high level in the collection of statistics, and that Tanzania is among 54 world countries to benefit by the Plan which they pledged to supervise well.

For her part, Preeti Arora, World Bank representative whose institution provided USD 82 million in soft loans for implementing the Plan, said that the Plan aims to empower Tanzania to produce high quality statistics and their timely distribution for better development planning.

Aweso orders for establishment of water authority in Songwe District

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

JUMAA Aweso, the Minister for Water, has instructed the Director of Rural Water Supply, Joyce Msiru, to collaborate with other ministry officials to start the process in forming the Mkwajuni Water and Sanitation Authority to ease the task of supplying water to the people.

He gave the instructions on Monday this week in the first day of his two-day visit in Songwe Region soon after receiving reports on water supply situation in Songwe District.

The report said Mkwajuni and Saza wards with over 40,000 need extra push in regard to water availability.

In the circumstances, Aweso said to begin with the ministry

will provide 500m/- to start establishing the water authority and for other expenses

He said the Director of Rural Water Supply, Joyce Msiru and other Regional RUWASA officials should remain in Songwe Region to kick start the establishment of the water authority for Mkwajuni and Saza town.

"This is my second visit to Songwe District and I have seen great changes, the town is bursting with business and other activities, the situation that now calls for the need to have its own water authority," said Aweso.

He also said his ministry has done a great job to install water infrastructures in Songwe District, and added that out of its 43 villages, 42 have already have the infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Aweso directed Songwe Region RUWASA manager, Eng. Charles Pande to spend 500m/- from the operation Fund to purchase three vehicles, one of which is to be sent to Songwe District.

Earlier, reading his report, Songwe District Commissioner, Solomon Itunda said the district has allocated more than 52q6m/-, hence it has a deficit of 1.5bn/- needed to boost water supply services in Mkwajuni and Saza wards.

For his part, Songwe Member of Parliament, Philip Mlugo told minister Aweso that his performance has assisted his constituency to get many water projects which had helped to reduce people's inconveniences in accessing water services.



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

10 Ton Overhead Crane Survey, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, and Training at Gokona HME Workshop – North Mara Gold Mine

Qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|--|--|
| 1 | NM025/2023 | <p>Supply a 10 ton Double Girder Overhead Crane (double rail crab fitted with electric wire rope hoist travelling on the rails of both girders) with below specifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preferred Make - Morris or Demag - Working Temperatures from -10°C to +50°C - Speed (Approximately) - Main Hoisting Speed 5.0 m/min; 8.90 kW; 40% CDF - Creep Hoisting Speed 0.8 m/min; 1.40 kW; 20% CDF - Cross Travel Speed 6.0/24.0 m/min; 0.20/0.80 kW; 40/40% CDF - Long Travel Speed 10.0/40.0 m/min; 2x0.13/0.50 kW; 40/40% CDF <p>Control - festoon system with independent mobile pendant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote Controlled - Manual Controlled - Conductor System - crab supply by flat cable festoon system <p>Crane Electrics (conventional contactor control)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current - Three Phase Current - Operating Voltage - 415 V - Frequency - 50 Hz - Control Voltage - 110 V <p>Other Design Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Overload Device - Type MGS electromechanical unit protect hoist from overload. *Cross travel Limit Switch - Two Stage limit to prevent crab colliding with the end stops. *Thermal Motor Protection - Protect against over temperature by means of integrated microsensor. *Long Travel Limit Switch - Two Stage cut-off to avoid fast and slow speed collision with the crane with end-stops. *Pendant Control Cable - with 2 integrated strain relief cables. *Finish Color - Followed by Top Coat, paint Thickness 60µm. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Experience in design, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied, and commissioned double girder overhead cranes minimum lifting capacity of 10 tons and travelling span more than 30meters. ii. Should have supplied overhead travelling crane meeting above requirements within last 10 years from closing date of EOI and should be in successful operation for a period not less than 3 years as on the date of closing of RFP. iii. Motor Make - WEG efficiency IE3 (415V, 50 Hz) iv. Preferred Make - DEMAG / MORRIS / or equivalent v. Capable to supply, install, commissioning critical spares & regular maintenance spares. vi. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified as per Manufacturer. vii. Operation Support and assistance on a minimum period of 6months viii. Lead time of delivery, defined TAT ix. Local Content Compliance |

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

Queries should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

Key Dates

- Last Date to Submit Proposals

08 August 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

By Guardian Reporter

Govt to ensure girl students' safe menstruation in schools

THE government has said it will collaborate with various stakeholders in helping girl students to get items for safe menstruation so as to enable them to continue with their education without affecting their attendance at school.

The remarks were made in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Minister of

State (PO-RALG), Angellah Kairuki as she participated in the 'Run for Binti Marathon 2023' organised

by Legal Services Facility (LSF) in collaboration with Smile for Community (S4C) aimed at raising

funds for girl students to get menstruation items.

"The government supports all efforts by LSF and S4C through the 'Run for Binti Marathon 2023' and pledges to put in place a friendly environment for the availability and production of menstruation products in order to boost the health sector as well as the education sector," she said.

She said the government through PO-RALG has been at the forefront in collaborating with various stakeholders in both the health and education sector at all levels of the government.

She further said the marathon is an effort to economically empower women as it will help to get funds that will empower women and girls

through their groups to produce sanitary pads that can be used more than once and to be sold at affordable prices in the community.

Kairuki said the regions to benefit by the marathon include Lindi and Mtwara and are expected to benefit



...the money to be raised will assist girls to enable them continue with education and fully participate in community activities

more than 15,000 students as well as one women group in every region which will be empowered to produce sanitary pads.

For her part, LSF managing director, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said they have been concentrating in the access to right to all, particularly women and girls, maternal health, participation in economic issues, the right to participate in education and child abuse.

Hence, she said, the marathon will help to make sure they recuse girls from such environment to enable them fully participate in education and become leaders in future.

Ng'wanakilala added that the money to be raised will assist girls to enable them continue with education and fully participate in community activities.

For her part, S4C director, Flora Njelekela said the marathon aims to improve schools' infrastructure especially in regard to the construction of girls-friendly toilets for better environment for school girls' safe menstruation.



NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (L) makes remarks at a seminar held in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the launch of collaboration between the bank and the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) in the operation of insurance firms' trust accounts across the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

GGML pledges to offer more help to Tanesco endeavours

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) is set to support all endeavors made by Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) in ensuring that Tanzanians get reliable power as part of the efforts by the country to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target by 2030.

Simon Shayo, Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti-GGML, responsible for sustainable projects in Ghana and Tanzania made the pledge in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

To start with, Shayo said that the mining firm will connect to the national grid once the power plant and electricity distribution project for the company's mines are completed.

He expressed the company's willingness to work with the power utility firm in all activities according to the company is in line with SDGs' number seven, which is to provide accessible, affordable, sustainable and modern energy to the people.

He commended TANESCO and the Ministry of Energy for their ten-year strategic plan, which is aimed at establishing sustainable sources of energy, noting: "If the ten-year strategic plan is successfully implemented, Tanzania will be the first sub-Saharan country to achieve the SDGs."

He pointed out that many mining companies have relied on self-generated electricity since the 2000s. The government is now making a conscious effort to integrate the energy sector with larger manufacturing sectors by ensuring adequate power supply for large investors.

Shayo cited GGML as an example, which currently generates 29 megawatts of electricity from diesel, stressing: "Once TANESCO's electricity project is completed, the mine will be able to rely on the national grid, resulting in a 50percent reduction in electricity costs, which translates into annual savings of \$19 million."

By stopping captive power generation and connecting to

TANESCO's national grid, GGML also aims to reduce carbon emissions by 81 kilotonnes by 2030.

TANESCO is currently constructing a 220-kilovolt line from Bulyanhulu to Geita, followed by a six-kilometre 33-kilovolt line to the GGML mine. At the same time, the company is developing a power plant to reduce the output to 11 kilovolts. The estimated cost is USD 24.4 million.

Speaking at the launch of TANESCO's strategic plan, Energy Minister January Makamba urged the public to be patient as the company restructures its operations.

He stressed that the government is actively seeking funding to provide TANESCO with the necessary capital to implement its plans to improve services to citizens and the African continent as a whole.

Maharage Chande, TANESCO's managing director reiterated the company's commitment to improving services to customers through various projects.

They include the generation of electricity from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), which is scheduled to come on stream in June 2024.

Beverages firm empowers more young entrepreneurs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Hassan Zungu, has challenged young entrepreneurs who benefited from the Coca Cola Kwanza led empowerment initiative to seize the opportunities presented to them and continue striving for success.

"With the support and resources provided, I believe they have the potential to achieve even greater heights and contribute to the development of our nation," said Zungu as he graced an event for expansion of program to empower young entrepreneurs in the food vending business. The program has successfully concluded its second season.

The event held in Dar es Salaam was attended by over 800 people including beneficiaries from Coast Region. The initiative has been instrumental in providing support and opportunities to young men and women involved in the thriving food vending business.

The programme - Chipsika Kiajira na Coke has also contributed to the growth and development of the local economy.

The Deputy Speaker expressed his delight at the success of the initiative that has gone on to impact thousands of young Tanzanians

since its launch last year.

Speaking at the event, Coca-Cola Kwanza's managing director, Unguu Sulay said: "We are extremely proud of the successful collaboration between Coca-Cola Kwanza, Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd, and esteemed government institutes such as the Institute of Social Work and the Tanzania Police Force."

He said the public-private sector partnership has been instrumental in driving positive change and empowering the youth involved in the food vending business through different flagship initiatives.

He said by combining resources, expertise, and networks, the company has been able to provide comprehensive support to young entrepreneurs, enabling them to thrive and contribute to the growth of the society.

"This collaboration exemplifies the power of collective action and demonstrates our commitment to nurturing and empowering the youth in Tanzania," he said.

Coca-Cola Kwanza's public affairs and communications director, Salum Nassor, highlighted the range of essential tools of trade, including special gas stoves, 15kgs LPG-filled Oryx Gas cylinders, food cabinets, Coca-Cola beverage capital, and kitchen clothing, which were distributed to the young

entrepreneurs involved in the Chipsi Business.



The Director emphasized the importance of the comprehensive training sessions conducted in collaboration with government institutes. The training sessions covered topics such as capital growth, bookkeeping, stress management, customer care, and community safety.

The head of network sales coastal from Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd, Shaban Mohamed emphasised the importance of using clean gas as a fuel source for the young entrepreneurs involved in the Chipsi Business.

He highlighted that clean gas not only ensures a healthier cooking environment but also reduces carbon emissions, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Shaban encouraged the beneficiaries to embrace the use of clean gas, as it aligns with their commitment to providing quality food and caring for the environment. He emphasized that by choosing clean gas, they are not only improving their own health and safety but also making a positive impact on their communities and the planet as a whole.

Coca-Cola Kwanza, together with its partners, remains committed to nurturing and empowering young entrepreneurs across Tanzania. The success of Chipsika Kiajira na Coke is a testament to their dedication and the transformative power of public-private sector partnerships.

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Supply of Fire Suppression and Fire Detection System

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

Qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Qualification Criteria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--|---|-------------|------|-----|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|----|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 | NM022/2023 | <p>Supply of Fire suppression and fire detection system</p> <p>Specifications:</p> <p>i. All fire detection equipment must be EN54, FM/UL approved.</p> <p>ii. Fire pump and tank as per FM / UL approved.</p> | <p>i. Applicant to submit company profile with experience in design, engineering, supply of Fire suppression system.</p> <p>ii. Should have supplied similar fire detection and suppression systems within last 3 years from the closing date of proposal, provide proof of Pos / certificate of completions.</p> <p>iii. To be able to supply complete fire suppression and fire pump and tank complete as per following:</p> <p>FIRE PUMP & TANK: 40FT containerized NFPA 20 pump station complete FM/UL Approved equipment - Qty 1 complete system</p> <p>i. Horizontal Split Case Fire Pump Assembly (1 motor, 1 diesel engine, 1 jockey pump) 200-150-250G-1500usgpm @8BAR.</p> <p>ii. Motor assembly: F-TDC444TS200U2B 380V/200HP/3PH/50HZ UL approved.</p> <p>iii. Jockey pump: CDL8-9 40usgpm@110psi 2900rpm/4kw</p> <p>iv. Diesel engine assembly: 152KW/1760rpm UL/FM Approved 4 Cycle; In-line; water cooled; 6 Cylinder.</p> <p>v. 500KL Galvanised (split) divided Panel tank with all required connections.</p> <p>vi. With complete galvanised steel connections for the system.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Unit</th> <th>Qty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Conveyor protector Extinguishing panel PLC 10" LCD touch screen programmed to EN54 Standard</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAVILI ML-2710.MR Extinguishant Manual Release Button EN54 Approved</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAVILI ML-2710.ES Extinguishant Emergency Stop Button EN54 Approved</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waterproof IP65 enclosure FOR MCP CE Approved</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conventional IP65 Fire Bell EN54 Approved</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conventional Siren beacon IP 65 EN54 Approved</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steel IP 65 Electrical enclosure clear window</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pressure transmitter 0-20 BAR CE Approved 4-20 MA P65</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REZONTEC RFD-3000X is a Triple IR (IR3) Flame Detector with sun canopy and bracket EX II 2G Ex db. IIB FM Approved 4-20mA</td> <td>Nos</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Description | Unit | Qty | Conveyor protector Extinguishing panel PLC 10" LCD touch screen programmed to EN54 Standard | Nos | 6 | MAVILI ML-2710.MR Extinguishant Manual Release Button EN54 Approved | Nos | 6 | MAVILI ML-2710.ES Extinguishant Emergency Stop Button EN54 Approved | Nos | 6 | Waterproof IP65 enclosure FOR MCP CE Approved | Nos | 10 | Conventional IP65 Fire Bell EN54 Approved | Nos | 4 | Conventional Siren beacon IP 65 EN54 Approved | Nos | 8 | Steel IP 65 Electrical enclosure clear window | Nos | 4 | Pressure transmitter 0-20 BAR CE Approved 4-20 MA P65 | Nos | 4 | REZONTEC RFD-3000X is a Triple IR (IR3) Flame Detector with sun canopy and bracket EX II 2G Ex db. IIB FM Approved 4-20mA | Nos | 6 |
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| | | | <p>iv. Lead time of delivery</p> <p>v. Complete commercial proposal</p> <p>vi. Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation certificates</p> <p>vii. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified.</p> <p>viii. Installation and commissioning support and assistance.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

Queries and request for tender packages should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com by **04 August 2023**

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

Key Dates

- Last Date to Submit Proposals **08 August 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Ministry underscores the need for women and youth to become consulting engineers

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport Eng Aisha Amour has underscored the need for women and youth to actively take part in consulting engineering to contribute to the government's development agenda.

She made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the 37th annual general meeting of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Tanzania (ACET).

The PS noted that data shows that there are few women and youth in the consultancy engineering sub-sector, hence the need for them to show up in big numbers thus supporting the government agenda of equality.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has always been insisting on gender equality at work. We want to see more women in the consulting engineering market. We need to know the challenges they face so that they are empowered to engage in the sector," said Eng Aisha.

Eng Aisha said that women consulting engineers are registered but they are not seen at work sites during implementation of projects. She said youth should be encouraged to work with small consulting engineering firms to gain experience.

She urged ACET and other key stakeholders in engineering to involve women to further build their capacity and skills.

Eng Aisha said the government through the Ministry of Works and Transport plans to review some of the laws which are hindering development of the sector. She said plans are also underway to make sure women and youth win tenders for local projects or take part in large projects implemented by foreign companies.

"We also encourage individual registered consultants to work with big companies since they can hardly win tenders," she said, insisting on the engineers to adhere to their professional

ethics and make sure projects are properly managed.

She said the government recognizes the contribution of local consultant engineers especially during the outbreak of COVID-19 whereas some foreign companies stopped working, but local companies continued to execute construction projects.

ACET President Eng. Chedi Masambaji mentioned some of the challenges facing local consultant engineering companies as failure to compete with foreign firms over lack of capital.

"There is also poor project management, lack of policy to protect local engineers in government tenders. Some of the challenges have contributed to some companies closing their offices," said Eng Masambaji, stressing the need to have laws that will protect local consulting engineers especially when it comes to local tenders.

He said that one of the aims of the general meeting was to get an opportunity for ACET members, government and key stakeholders to discuss and exchange ideas as well as decide on key important issues affecting performance of the sector.

Theme for this year's general meeting was 'The Pulse of Engineering Consultancy in Tanzania-Taking the Sector to the Next Level'.

Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Executive Officer Eliakim Maswi said the government has invested in technology by setting a new procurement system which is user-friendly and will eradicate corruption and ensure transparency in procurement procedures.

Maswi said that some companies have started using the system, adding that it is convenient and will enable local engineers to be part of the procurement process.

"We need Tanzanians to be part of procurement in both small and big consultancy tenders. The system is expected to reduce corruption," said Maswi.



Bank of Africa-Tanzania managing director Adam Mihayo (2nd-R) makes a money transaction with an agent in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the 'Bank of Africa WAKALA' service. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Agency banking services introduced to improve proximity to customers

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa, Tanzania (BoA) has introduced an agency banking service dubbed 'Bank of Africa Wakala' with an aim to improve proximity to customers and increase presence across the country.

In partnership with Selcom, the model allows Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to contract Selcom Huduma agents across the country to serve as banking agents offering financial services on its behalf.

Speaking during the launch, Adam Mihayo, BoA managing director and CEO said it was a momentous achievement for the bank, as it continues its journey

towards digitization of products and services, creating convenience for customers on how, when, and where to access the bank service beyond traditional branches.

"As we launch the new service channel today we roll out a total of 100 agents across the country in the initial phase, and an additional 200 agents in the second phase," he said.

He said this was a significant achievement towards taking banking services to the people of Tanzania, adding that the bank remains committed to the development of the country's economic agenda through the various investments.

Jesse Jackson, bank's chief

digital officer explained that the development is in response to a quest to penetrate the local market and improve access to financial services.

"Our focus is based on financial inclusion and the need to drive digital platforms enabling our customers to access financial services right within their neighborhood, BoA Wakala brings convenience to our customers by offering Cash in, Cash out services for a start" she said.

By rolling out the Agents model, the bank is also increasing the number of players in the financial system value chain consequently creating jobs and economic opportunities as it offers good

commission rates to its Wakala.

The intent is to cater to all the needs of our customer segments, support financial inclusion and provide a platform for all to have access to banking services.

Touching on Selcom's participation, Selcom's Executive Director, Sameer Hirji noted that Selcom will continue to take charge in the financial technology sector leadership.

"This partnership with BoA bank is one step further as we all move towards our goals. For about 20 years now, Selcom has been a leader in financial technology and payment services including agency banking and cashless payment services," she said.

New partnership unveiled to boost insurance services across Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) have signed a new partnership to facilitate operationalisation of the Trust Accounts for insurance companies in the country.

The move aims to strengthen the management of the insurance sector in line with legal requirements and regulations set by TIRA.

The collaboration was officially announced yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a brief ceremony that went in line with a seminar for various stakeholders in the insurance sector, including senior officials from TIRA, NBC Bank, and representatives from insurance companies, including directors and finance officers.

Insurance Commissioner, Dr Baghayo Saqware, who is also the CEO of TIRA, commended NBC Bank for establishing the account, noting that it will help the sector overcome several challenges.

"Previously, one of the challenges was that many insurance companies were using reserve funds for other expenses without TIRA's approval, leading to liquidity issues and sometimes inability to compensate clients due to funds being invested elsewhere," he explained.

He further noted that the decision to open Insurance Trust Accounts at commercial banks is a solution to the challenge, as TIRA will now be able to directly supervise these reserve funds, which will not only improve management but also enhance the development of the insurance sector in the country.

Theobald Sabi, NBC Bank's managing director thanked TIRA for giving NBC Bank the opportunity to participate in the establishment of the Insurance Trust Account. He emphasized that the decision to create the account will promote transparency and accountability in the insurance sector.

Sabi applauded the establishment of the account and highlighted its significant contribution to increasing transparency and accountability in the insurance sector, as well as building trust among stakeholders.

"NBC Bank is well-equipped to provide investment advisory services through our Treasury and Capital Markets Department," said Sabi, urging insurance companies in the country to utilize the Trust Account to comply with legal requirements and regulations set by TIRA.

Abubakar Ndwata, TIRA director of supervision stated that the genesis of the Insurance Trust Account is the Insurance Regulations of 2009, which require insurance companies to deposit security funds amounting to at least 50% of the minimum required capital.

Ndwata explained that in collaboration with the Association of Tanzanian Insurance Companies (ATI) and TIRA developed an Investment Liquidity Management Guideline that directed the establishment of the Trust Account through commercial banks. The move was done to address capital challenges and ensure timely compensation of policyholder claims.



Dr Faustine Ndugulile, legislator for Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni constituency, speaks in the city at yesterday's launch of Civil Societies Organisation Week activities. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

SAGCOT pavilion attracts crowds at Nanenane fair in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AGRICULTURAL training package aimed at bolstering the agriculture and livestock products value chain provided by the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) at this year's Nanenane Exhibition in Mbeya's John Mwakangale Grounds has attracted many farmers and visitors.

Speaking at the first day of eight days of the annual event which officially was opened by the Vice President, Dr Philip Isdory Mpango here yesterday, SAGCOT pavilion manager who doubles as the Manager for Mbarali, Tullah Mloge

said training package for farmers was a priority of the centre in 2023 Nanenane Festival.

"The training package has components on insurance, commercial farming, environment, business development and farm inputs. Our pavilion has over 30 stakeholders drawn from different value chains in both agriculture and livestock sectors," Mloge explained.

According to the manager, the value chains were from poultry, milk, soya beans, avocado, sunflower, maize, rice, potatoes, tomato and several others.

"In the SAGCOT Square we also have our partners including AGRA,

USAID, Briten just to mention a few and there Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) and Lusitu Agribusiness," she said, calling for farmers and others to go and get training.

Mloge said white at the exhibition, SAGCOT uses the platform to promote the importance of its stakeholders in agriculture and livestock stakeholders to register their participation for Africa's Food Systems Forum (AGRF 2023) planned for next month in Dar es Salaam.

"AGRF 2023 is an international event that will be held in Tanzania for the first time and will attract over

3,000 delegates among them will be top leaders, thinkers, stakeholders in food systems, value chains and implementers in African food agriculture," she.

Mloge said SAGCOT was working very hard to ensure that Tanzania's economic growth initiatives particularly 'Building a Better Tomorrow' (BBT) meant to empowering millions of young Tanzanians participate in agribusiness, livestock keeping and fishery succeed. SAGCOT facilities to deliver an all-inclusive, sustainable and commercial agricultural value chain, ensuring equitable opportunities for all partners.



Save the Children group members pictured yesterday at a vegetable garden run as a project of Kipunguni Community Voice Centre. They were in the Dar es Salaam suburb essentially to learn about entrepreneurship as practised by the community-based organisation. Photo: Guardian Photographer

NEMC reminds investors to obtain EIA certificate

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has reminded investors to ensure they obtain an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate before investing in various projects.

NEMC's public education officer Suzan Chawe issued the reminder in Mbeya during the ongoing Nanenane exhibition at the John Mwakangale grounds.

She said the certificates are a legal document to protect the environment, adding that whoever fails to have it violates the law, adding that NEMC has simplified the process to obtain an environmental assessment certificate in which investors can now obtain them through an electronic system.

She said services are available at various council offices throughout

Tanzania, advising people who want to start projects to make sure they get it before starting projects.

"We also invite those who have the qualifications to be environmental consultants to register and obtain a certificate of performance in order to assess the impact of the environment and conduct an environmental audit in general," she said.

Josia Msomi, NEMC southern highlands regional manager mentioned the services provided at the NEMC booth as the registration of environmental experts and the registration of projects for the environmental impact assessment certificate.

He mentioned the other activities offered as education on care and conservation of the environment and receiving complaints and comments from citizens about

environmental issues and addressing them.

He said there are steps to follow in order to obtain an environmental impact assessment certificate for the project, which is the registration of the relevant project by filling out a special application form for registration to (NEMC).

Msomi said that another step is the application form filled in together with the project summary submitted to NEMC, to be analyzed to find out if there is a need for an environmental impact assessment or not.

He mentioned another step that is a preliminary assessment whose goal is to identify important issues that will be worked on during the environmental impact assessment that is presented to NEMC before being given permission to conduct an assessment on the project.

PPRA urges institutions to mentor officials on e-procurement system

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has called on all public institutions in the country to make sure its officials are provided with training in the use of the new National e-Procurement system of Tanzania (NeST).

The call was made here recently by PPRA chief executive officer, Eliakim Maswi at the Training of Trainers (ToT) seminar on the use of NeST.

Maswi said in finalising the government plan to get the value of its money from public procurement all public institutions are required to ensure all its officials

in the procurement chain are given training on NeST.

"I call upon council directors and heads of other public institutions to bring their officials to the training," he stressed.

The PPRA further explained that legal steps will be taken against institutions that will evade using NeST in their procurement processes, including a fine of not less than 10m/-.

The training seminar, to run for five days, involved a total of 160 participants from 26 Regions and participating local councils dispatched 6 participants each to enable them to teach other officials when they go back to their work

stations.

For his part the training seminar official guest, Adolf Ndunguru, the Permanent Secretary in PO-RALG stressed that public institutions are required to call upon their tenderers to register in the NeST system as without doing so the goals for the training seminar will not be attained.

The training seminar on the use of the NeST system are initial preparations for empowering users of the system - who are made of all public institutions - so that by September 30 this year there will be no institution that will be allowed to float tender outside the NeST system.

COSTECH urged to adopt system for coordinating all researchers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PROF Carolyn Nombo, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, has urged the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) to have a system that coordinates all researches that have been conducted by other institutions.

Prof Carolyn made the call here yesterday when speaking at a working session for research and development issues in the country, at which she said that in order to implement this with great achievements, the ministry will

form a mini inclusive committee that will go through views of the task force and to look into various laws on other institutions regarding research issues and give its recommendations.

"Research is essential for development, hence it should be well coordinated in order to reduce streams of requirements needed to get permits for doing research," she said.

The PS further said that it is important for various institutions to concentrate in doing joint research to obtain the needed benefits, but also to make sure funds are allocated for research work.

For his part, the Director of

the Department of Technology and Innovations, Prof Maulilo Kipanyulu said that the task force is taking place because the Ministry of education, science and Technology has the responsibility in formulating and supervising the implementation of national laws and guidelines on National Guidelines on Science and Research.

Prof Lughano Kusiluka, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dodoma (UDOM) who participated in the meeting commended the Ministry for the meeting and called for it to take place frequently to discuss matters of priorities, implementing and getting research results for development.

Chadema calls on govt to rescind decision barring farmers from selling coffee outside

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

THE government has been called to re-think over the decision to prohibit coffee traders and farmers in Kagera Region from selling the crop outside the country.

Freeman Mbowe, the national chairman of the opposition-CHADEMA made the call yesterday during a public rally held at Izigo village, Kagera Region.

According to him, before the imposed ban, farmers in the region were selling their coffee to neighbouring countries including Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda.

Mbowe said data shows that coffee is sold at 9,000 per kilo in Uganda compared to 2,000/- per kilo in Tanzania.

He stated that the ongoing restriction hurts coffee farmers who solely depend on the crop

to generate income, noting that forcing farmers to sell coffee locally hinders their efforts in fighting against poverty because production costs are higher.

"This situation puts a lot of pressure on the farmers, taking into consideration the high expenses they bear to acquire agricultural inputs," he said, stressing that




There are reportedly over 5,000 non-tariff barriers along road networks across the country; with half of them being in Kagera Region

statistics indicate that Kagera is among the poorest regions in the country mainly due to decline in coffee production.


He also questioned why the government was restricting coffee farmers from selling their produce in Uganda, where such trade could contribute to the economic growth of both Kagera and the nation through taxes. He said coffee farmers are also complaining over excessive taxes.

"There are reportedly over 5,000 non-tariff barriers along road networks across the country; with half of them being in Kagera Region," he said.

During the rallies in the region, Mbowe shared the party's strategies to address challenges faced by the people in Kagera Region, urging them to vote wisely in coming elections.



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Qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| 1 | NM026/2023 | Manufacture/Supply of 2MVA, 6.6KV/1KV Transformer Skid Mounted Substations for Underground. | <p>i. Rated Power –(2MVA) 6.6KV/1KV, Rated Voltage – 12KV, HV Current – 174.95A, LV Current – 1155A, Cooling – KNAN, Bil (Impulse/PF) KV – 60/22, Imped Voltage % – 6.24, Tank Type – Sealed, Fluid Type-FR3, Fluid – Ltrs 1390, No of Taps-6, Wiring- Dyn11 and Insulant – 1.46.</p> <p>ii. Short circuit peak making Current----- 50KA.</p> <p>iii. Short circuit Breaking Current----- 20KA.</p> <p>iv. Earth Switch Peak making Current----- 50KA.</p> <p>v. Impulse withstand & Voltage----- 95KV.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">NOTE. The Primary Side of Transformer has 2 Terminal boxes of 6.6kv. 1. Incoming 6.6KV and the other Outgoing 6.6KV to the Next Level if Required.</p> <p>vi. This Substation is a combination of Transformer 6.6KV/1KV Coupled together to a Low Voltage Board Through a LV Cable from the Secondary Side to the Main Breaker on LV Board (ABB Make ACB) of 1250A Feeding 6 Cubicles through a Busbar with the following Breakers Current Rating: 630A----- X4 with Lockable Isolators 250A----- X2 with Lockable Isolators The Other 2 cubicles, 1. Housing Control TXs of Output 110VDC, 24VDC and 240VAC, Second Cubicle Consist of Control Circuit for Protection and this has Indication Lamp of 1. Power ON 2. TX Over Temp 3. Emergency Shut Down Button 4. HV Earth Leakage Test Button 5. LV Voltage and LV Current Display Units</p> <p>vii. Should have supplied at least 5 no's Transformers meeting above requirement within last 3 years from the closing date of Proposal and out of which at least one should have been in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of the Proposal.</p> <p>viii. Completion certificates of previous projects with a reference list of Clients that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</p> <p>ix. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares.</p> <p>x. Applicant to submit technical data sheets for the Transformer Skid Mounted Substation.</p> <p>xi. Lead time of delivery.</p> <p>xii. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified as per Manufacturer.</p> <p>xiii. Local Content Compliance</p> |

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Key Dates

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North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Mother's milk remains vital lifeline for infants

THE importance of mother's milk to infants is imperative that all babies be breastfed exclusively for the first six months. They must be breastfed on demand not less than 12 times a day. It is an open secret that babies who are breastfed fully experience fewer illnesses and are, invariably, better nourished.

As fewer Tanzanian mothers follow WHO guidance for six months of exclusive breastfeeding, newborns are at risk of infections, stunted growth and malnutrition.

Cultural beliefs and practices, and the demands of employment, are some of the reasons many mothers don't follow the recommendations. The demands of full-time employment also make exclusive breastfeeding difficult for many women.

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is an annual celebration which is held every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 120 countries. According to the 26 August data of WBW website, 540 events have been held worldwide by more than 79 countries with 488 organisations and 406,620 participants for the World Breastfeeding Week 2010.

Organised by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNICEF, WBW came up with the goal to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life which yields many health benefits, providing critical nutrients, protection from deadly diseases such as pneumonia and fostering growth and development for the first time in 1991.

World Breastfeeding Week was first celebrated in 1992 by WABA and is now observed in over 120 countries by UNICEF, WHO and their partners including individuals,

organisations, and governments. WABA itself have been formed on 14 February 1991 with the goal to re-establish a global breastfeeding culture and provide support for breastfeeding everywhere.

WHO and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) emphasise the value of breastfeeding for mothers as well as children. Both recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and then supplemented breastfeeding for at least one year and up to two years or more. WBW commemorates the Innocenti Declaration made by WHO and UNICEF in August 1990 to protect and support breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding promotion is a movement that came about in the twentieth century in response to high rates of bottle-feeding among mothers, and in recognition of the many health benefits to both mothers and children that breastfeeding offers.

While infant formula had been introduced in developed countries in the 1920s as a healthy way to feed one's children, the emergence of research on health benefits of breastfeeding precipitated the beginning of the breastfeeding promotion movement in the United States.

Each year, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention release a Breastfeeding Report Card, detailing breastfeeding rates and promotion programmes.

Effective support techniques for breastfeeding include support given by nurses, physicians, and midwives during and after pregnancy, regular scheduled visits, and support that is directed towards specific groups of people. Support has been shown to be effective when offered by both professional or peers, or a combination.

Diasporas gradually becoming part of investment expectations

REMARKS by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to members of the Tanzanian in Russia and especially within the vicinity of St Petersburg, the ancient capital of that country at the weekend were chiefly directed at the need for the Diaspora to follow host countries' laws and what is generally expected of them. Still there was a substantive appraisal of changing expectations at the local level, chiefly in relation to expectations. The budget speech this year elevated it to next level.

It isn't clear how much of this is already seeping into the minds of those who live outside, and indeed how far they appreciated the measures in the first place, as they fell short of the coveted dual citizenship. It is evident that a preliminary requirement of any enhanced status locally being used fruitfully is first to work hard and observe laws of the countries where they live. As the premier noted, this is vital as it will avoid smearing the country's good name, inimical to trade.

Within this microcosm investment nurturing exchange with Diaspora members was the serious matter of enhancing Africa-Russia ties in the wake of this or that devastating crisis, in the world and in Africa. The meeting was a pursuit of opportunities in the midst of crisis, as there is something Russian believes it can do in Africa, and things Africa is failing to get from the West. Whether indeed the summit provided workable answers to the crisis is one thing, but they tried.

The trouble is that the West wants partnership with Africa that starts with a working multiparty democracy, whereas African countries aren't always in a position of assuring that this is the case. The plurality of issues at times

calls for a plurality of partners, and increasingly Africa wants foreign military units that can halt terrorism waves across regions, not forming camps near capital cities or government compounds. It isn't an ideal situation definitely but dire aspirations.

It is unclear if Russia has a sizeable community of Tanzanian Diaspora with whom the government can explore investment possibilities, for instance to form a joint venture with Russian farming enterprises to do the same here. Russia has promised to seek to cover some gaps in supply of grain to African countries, while Ukraine seeks other ports, for instance via Croatia, to transport grain. There is an increasing use of countries' currencies in the BRICS movement to facilitate investment by currency swaps, which can be used in grain projects.

When top government officials talk of trade opportunities, often it is a clash of markets for goods originating from different countries. Africa has a vast supply of cheap consumer goods in household durables category, like electronics of various sorts. It is in the vast food shortage issue that sparks crises it needs help.

A top Foreign Ministry official with the premier briefed the Diaspora on 2001 policy review to take up Diaspora issues, create digital system enabling correct statistics for coordination. It means the data can be used to actually create vital projects. Africa will not feed itself by input subsidies alone as labour intensive produce demands higher prices, while exporting peasant grain leads to local market price spiral. World Bank economists would agree we need targeted grain investment projects to flood the market, easing tensions everywhere.

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'Zimbabwe has joined growing ranks of the world's electoral autocracies'

By Robert Rotberg

ELECTORAL autocracy has replaced democracy's standard free and fair election method in much of the troubled world.

In Cambodia, an "election" took place last Sunday in which many opposition parties were dissolved or barred from competing against Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party; in Guatemala, the government suspended one of the two parties standing in August's second-round presidential runoff; in Senegal, President Macky Sall's main opponent was sentenced to jail last month.

China, Russia and Iran are autocracies in barely-there disguise, and it is increasingly clear that Egypt, Tunisia and El Salvador are sham democracies, too.

Zimbabwe, too, is compromised, with a general election set for Aug. 23. President Emmerson Mnangagwa's heavy-handed authoritarian government has controlled the destinies of Zimbabwe's 12 million people since the 2017 bloodless coup that ended dictator Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule.

But Mr. Mnangagwa had been Mr. Mugabe's long-serving adjutant and the orchestrator of the massive corruption that has engulfed the country and benefited the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriot Front (ZANU-PF).

Now, Mr. Mnangagwa and his vice-president, military commandant Constantino Chiwenga, are firmly in charge. Their seeming functionaries in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission have faced criticism about the legitimacy and accuracy of its voters' roll, and its gerrymandering has devalued urban parliamentary seats (where half of the population resides) while doubling the number of rural seats. (Whereas about 25,000 voters fill each "rural" constituency, about 50,000 people are crammed into each urban seat.)

The military, obedient to Mr. Chiwenga, has made sure in previous elections that rural chiefs and headmen marshal their followers to cast ballots for ZANU-PF candidates. That method will this time once more reduce opposition turnout and votes - though it should be said that there has not been a fully free and fair election in Zimbabwe since a constitutional referendum in 2000. Cheating, in other words, is expected, as well as outright rigging of the results, which occurred blatantly in 2008.

This year, the government has cracked down on criticism of Mr. Mnangagwa's rule. By passing the draconian Patriotic Bill into law earlier this month, Zimbabwe broadly outlawed any speech or commentary that could be deemed "unpatriotic," without specifying what that meant. It appears that anyone speaking against government rule or in favour of Western sanctions can be arrested. Even lunch and dinner gatherings

to which I was privy in Zimbabwe's capital of Harare last week were chilled by the looseness of the law.

To make opposition operations even more untenable, the ZANU-PF-dominated parliament recently approved a plan to increase the fees to run for political office by 20 times: to US\$1,000 to stand as a candidate for parliament, and US\$20,000 to appear on the presidential ballot. These are huge sums in an impoverished country like Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, amid reports of gold-smuggling and profit-skimming by people associated with the ruling party as well as alleged corruption involving diamond-mining revenue, Zimbabwe's inflation was running at more than 175 per cent this month. The local dollar has weakened by more than 80 per cent against the U.S. dollar since the start of the year as the country's central bank prints its own scrip feverishly.

Zimbabwe also exports tobacco, ferrochrome, platinum and coal, and is exploiting a large lithium deposit. China, Russia and Belarus are big players in the economy, with large shares in resource profiteering going to Mr. Mnangagwa, Mr. Chiwenga and a range of their associates and family members. Some experts have told me that corruption is even more blatant and brazen than under the rightly lamented rule of Mr. Mugabe and his enablers.

Under Nelson Chamisa, who came in second place in the 2018 elections, the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) is campaigning against the ZANU-PF juggernaut, but with existing weights around its ankles while being handicapped financially. There is a sense of fatalism about the likely outcome - a likely farce. ZANU-PF holds too many of the cards to expect a fair vote, and police have even been breaking up CCC political events.

With the government's hands firmly on Zimbabwe's electoral scales, expert observers said that they would be surprised if the CCC won more than 43 of the 210 parliamentary seats being contested next month. Mr. Mnangagwa is not likely to forfeit his presidency either, no matter what the real vote count is. And the light of democracy worldwide will continue to dim.

Meanwhile, Stanley L. Kambonde reports that traditional authorities in Namibia which approve mineral prospecting and mining applications in their areas have been criticised for issuing 'consent letters' for "hamburgers, chairs, N\$20 000 or sitting allowances" without benefits accruing to their communities.

However, can they really be blamed if the line ministry responsible for issuing such licences, the Ministry of Mine and Energy (MME), doesn't take a stance beyond an administrative role to ensure safety nets are in place to mitigate conflicts between mining/exploration companies and communities?

To answer the above, let's highlight key provisions governing traditional

authorities issuing 'consent letters' and the MME's role in requesting them for issuing licences.

Section 30 (1) of the Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002 deals with conditions under which prospecting or mining operations may be carried out on communal land.

It merely states that an applicant should notify the chief or traditional authority (TA) or board of their intention to apply for a mineral or mining licence.

Although applications are made before such prior notice, the mining commissioner usually attaches preconditions for issuance of a "preparedness to grant" a licence before approving an application.

That triggers section 30 (2), which requires a chief, traditional authority or board to provide a "recommendation" on applications.

The key word here is recommendation rather than "consent".

If the "recommendation" of the chief/TA or board is that the licence or mining claim should not be granted, section 30 (3) gives the minister of mines or mining commissioner the discretion to disregard such recommendation if he/she believes it is unreasonable.

Section 30 (3) therefore aims to ensure that recommendations do not go beyond the scope of the mining powers granted to chiefs or traditional authorities, so as not to prejudice an applicant's right to have their submission considered.

DISARRAY

Of late, however, claims of chiefs or traditional authorities running consultancies for mining land use, "selling" consent letters for hamburgers or chiefs being paid sitting allowances, is throwing the industry into disarray.

If the MME requires a 'consent letter' from a chief or traditional authority, it begs the question: Who "holds" the authority on whether to grant a licence or mining claim application?

More so, which "community" is represented and how do they benefit and what input or participation does it have in the recommendation process?

Also, what training or advice do chiefs or traditional authority leaders receive from the MME or other stakeholders to hold meetings aimed at shared community benefit agendas in alignment with national mining policies?

The answer: Likely none.

Rather, we have a system lacking synergy in terms of administrative and customary law (among others), which negatively affects the mining sector.

Loopholes are being utilised by international and local parties to create a monopoly aimed at benefiting a few locals through applicants buying themselves into the mining industry through 'consent letters'.

Worse still, mining officials claim that traditional authorities or chiefs are not prohibited from deciding what remuneration or benefit they should

receive for issuing 'consent letters'.

This happens when section 30 clearly not only restricts such participation in recommendations but allows the minister or mining commissioner to disregard them if they're not soundly based.

In the absence of section 30 being interpreted and applied (for whatever reason), traditional authorities (in alliance with the MME) should be encouraged to conduct an extensive stakeholder identification and engagement process with a holistic community-based benefit at heart.

This would ensure that the objectives of the TA or chief issuing 'consent letters', more so their custodianship on behalf of all inhabitants under their jurisdiction, are met beyond the scope of socio-economic benefits.

To that end, there should be a drive to develop community development plans (CDPs) to assist traditional authorities.

A CDP is largely a project-based approach aimed at creating a road map for improving the livelihoods of a community and affected stakeholders if commercial mineral deposits are discovered.

The milestones for benefits to be reaped depend on progress made by exploration companies in obtaining the required permits, and attracting the right technical and financial partners to the licence area.

CDPs will help identified stakeholders to understand the different stages within the mining value chain, and create realistic goals and expectations in line with the progress.

Only then will we see the creation of a situation not centred around a particular individual or cartels but where disadvantaged communities can benefit from natural resources in their area.

Further, in line with a section of the Local Authorities Act dealing with 'Assets and Trust Funds of Traditional Authorities', traditional authorities can set up Community Trust Funds as a central vehicle for community development.

The MME should therefore step in to ensure that traditional authorities and chiefs are well equipped to negotiate on behalf of their communities.

They should create a database (e.g. through the governor's office) for mining proponents to clearly identify which marginalised communities fall within their application areas.

If not, the mining sector will reap nothing but a "hand-to-mouth" culture, where 'consent letters' may be bought for a bottle of Tassenburg (without coke).

Stanley L. Kambonde is a mining professional with an LLM in Oil, Gas and Mining Law. Robert Rotberg is the founding director of the Harvard Kennedy School's program on intrastate conflict and president emeritus of the World Peace Foundation. His latest book is *Overcoming the Oppressors*.

New drive seeks to achieve 100 pct birth registration in Kagera

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

BIRTH certificate which is a legal proof of a person's identity is not given the seriousness it deserves by some parents and communities but the presence of this document can make a life and its absence can break a life, making it the most valuable possession a child can have.

According to UNICEF, birth certificate can help protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. This is because without a birth certificate, children are unable to prove their age, which puts them at a much higher risk of being forced into early marriage or the labour market, or recruited into armed forces.

As of last month, the UN agency for children reported that one out of four children under the age of five had not been registered globally, meaning that they are there but do not exist, officially.

"Society first acknowledges a child's existence and identity through birth registration. The right to be recognized as a person before the law is a critical step in ensuring lifelong protection and is a prerequisite for exercising all other rights. Yet the births of one fourth of children under age 5 worldwide have never been officially recorded," writes the UN agency.

Tanzania is one of the countries that have embarked on birth registration efforts not only for domestic development planning but to achieve goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals which aims to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030.

For, data show that in Tanzania, only 11.5 percent of newborns have their births registered and less than 13 percent of children under the age of five have a birth certificate.

The Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) recently held a meeting to sensitize people on its plan to implement full registration of children under the age of five in the Kagera Region and provision of birth certificates.

This ambitious goal is set to be achieved through health facilities, local government offices and door-to-door visits to identify children in that age bracket who are alive and kicking but do not exist officially.

This is part of the National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM - ECDP) spanning 2021/22 to 2025/26 which seeks to accelerate early childhood development gains by enhancing multi-sectoral approach to young children's care.

Mariam Nkubwa, under-five registration coordinator from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that the registration is to be implemented by making follow-up of each



child at home, adding that only 14 percent of under-five children in Kagera Region have been issued with birth certificates.

RITA officials said there are several reasons for these low rates, including the cost of getting the document since parents have to pay 3,500/- to register a birth as well as the cost of travel to the registration office.

This means that many individuals, particularly those living in rural areas, must travel long distances to register a birth. But it is important to note many parents are unaware of the importance or benefits of birth registration.

Inequalities also play a role because vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, particularly women and girls, often struggle to access civil registration services due to social, cultural, economic and legal obstacles.

It should be remembered that in 2016, RITA launched an initiative in partnership with UNICEF and a telecommunications company to lower some of the barriers to birth registration in the country.

The initiative was implemented in Iringa and Njombe regions whereby more than 220,000 children were regis-

tered in four weeks as a direct result, increasing the regions birth registration rates from 10.3 percent to more than 95 percent, according to RITA statistics.

The drive reduced financial obstacles by waiving registration fees and giving parents birth certificates for free. It also addressed the issue of distance by declaring health facilities and ward offices across the two regions as registration points. Parents were able to register their children's birth at one of 700 centres compared to the previous 11.

Mobile technology has played a big role in making this decentralized system possible. Health workers are able to send birth registration details to a central database via a mobile phone. This success story is an example of how technology and inter-sector efforts can change things for the better.

For this new drive to succeed, Kagera Regional Administrative Secretary Toba Nguvula directed local leaders in the region to give maximum cooperation to RITA officials so that the goal of full registration is achieved and all under-five children given birth certificates.

"I don't expect any leader at any level to let me down

in this exercise. We should ensure that each and every child is accorded but I also call upon RITA officials to be wary of illegal immigrants who can use this opportunity to unduly register their children as Tanzanians," he said.

Brenda Kileo, National Identification Authority (NIDA) official said their office will work alongside RITA to ensure success of the exercise, explaining further that the targeted under five children will have parents given a special form from RITA which will be filled in before it is taken to immigration offices for further verification and before issuance of their children's birth certificates.

"RITA and NIDA are set to implement this exercise according to the directives given by relevant authorities but that depends on good cooperation from local authorities which we hope we will get," she said.

National Immigration statistics show that between September 6, 2013, and April 3, 2021, a total of 4,243 people from various countries were deported after 10 days of a sweeping operation targeting illegal immigrants in Kagera, Geita, and Kigoma regions.

The deported illegal immigrants were part of the 6,809 aliens arrested during the same period. Out of the number, 2,170 were still being closely interrogated to establish their immigration status.

In April 2021, the then spokesman of the expulsion operation Simon Sirro told a press conference in Bukoba that a total of 1,866 illegal immigrants departed voluntarily along with 2,377 others who were forcefully deported under a court order.

He said further that since 396 people were released after they produced documentary evidence regarding their immigration status, adding that it was clear that the expulsion was in adherence to human rights laws and other existing regulations.

Should military leaders be barred from addressing the UN?

By Thalif Deen

ARASH of military coups in African countries – including Burkina Faso, Sudan, Guinea, Mali, and most recently Niger – has raised a legitimate question: What should be the response of the United Nations, a world body that swears by multi-party democracy, on army take-overs?

Condemnation? Yes.

Last week, the strong denunciations of the coup in Niger came not only from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk – but also from all 15 members of the Security Council in a rare unanimity on a seemingly politically divisive issue.

But what if these military leaders seek to exercise their right to address the upcoming General Assembly sessions, come September?

As the New York Times pointed out July 30, Africa's coup belt stretches the continent from coast-to-coast that has become "the longest corridor of military rule on Earth"

In a bygone era, the UN provided a platform to at least four such leaders, including Fidel Castro of Cuba, Col Muammar el-Qaddafi of Libya, Amadou Toure of Mali (who assumed power following a coup in 1991 but later served as a democratically elected President), and Jerry Rawlings of Ghana (who seized power in 1979, executed former political leaders but later served as a civilian president voted into power in democratic elections).

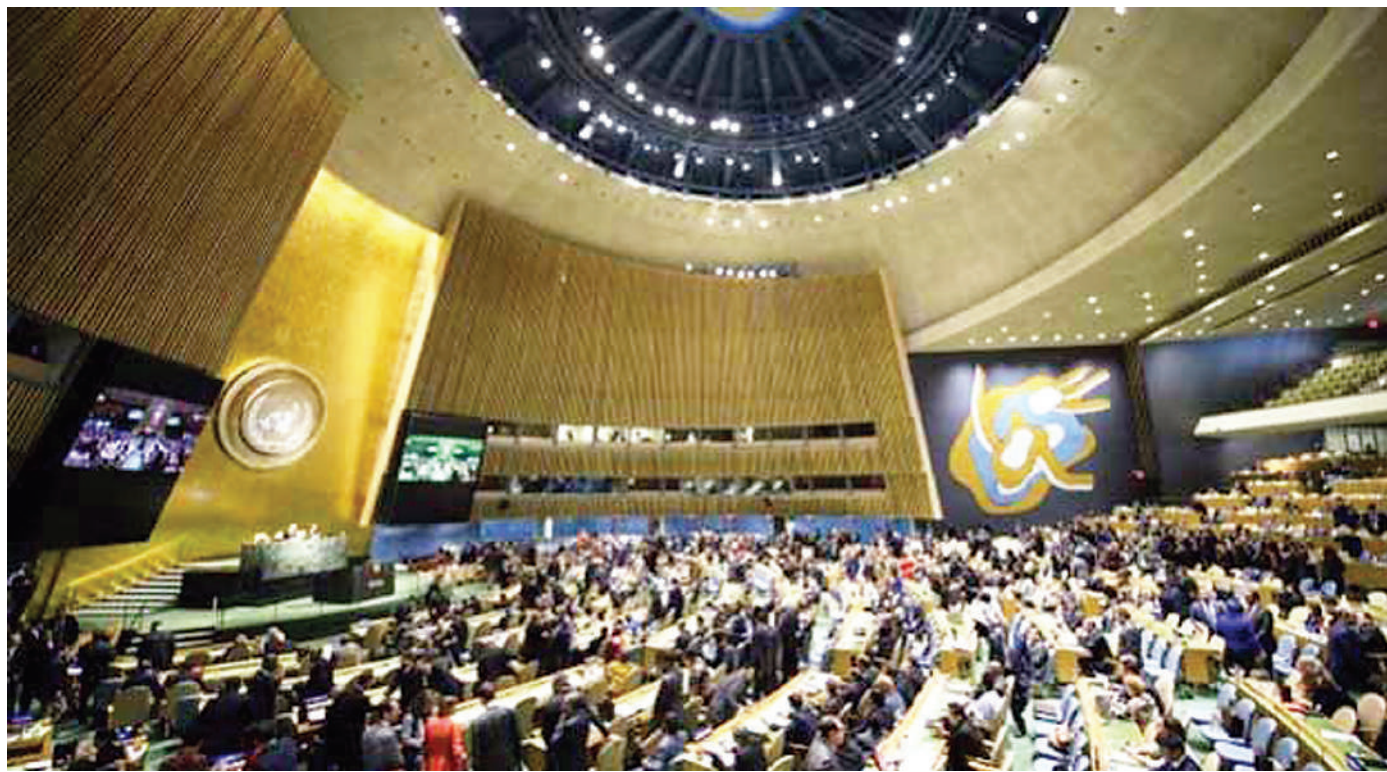
But ironically, there was at least one instance of a Prime Minister from Thailand – a country where military coups once arrived with clockwork frequency – being ousted from power when he was addressing the UN General Assembly rendering him homeless and sending him into political exile in a Middle Eastern country.

The 2006 Thai coup d'état took place on 19 September 2006, when the Royal Thai Army engineered a military take-over against the elected caretaker government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

As a result, there was an unsolicited piece of advice to world leaders visiting New York: If you are heading a politically unstable government, make sure to bring all your military leaders – army, navy and air force chiefs – as members of your delegation to prevent a coup back home during your absence from the country.

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN (1996-2001) and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2002-2007), told IPS any group of a few well-meaning countries at the UN, having respect for participatory democracy, should come together proposing a resolution of the General Assembly disbaring leaders of military coups, who overthrew democratically elected governments, from addressing any of the major organs of the UN system, particularly the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

"I believe such a resolution would pass with a big ma-



Dineo Gobatlwe, founder of Dinny Leather Works, operates a leather processing machine she bought from China in Palapye, Botswana, on July 20, 2023. (Photo by Tshekiso Tebalo/Xinhua)

jority. We need only a few Member States, believing in democracy, to take that much-needed courageous, resolute, and forward-looking first step. I would look forward to welcoming such a history-making decision by the General Assembly," he said.

"I would also add that the military leaders should know that the UN would not allow their countries to join any of its peace operations and/or to hold any high office in the UN system. There should be a price that those leaders should pay for their anti-democratic actions," said Ambassador Chowdhury, President of the UN Security Council (2000 and 2001) and Chairman of the UN's Budgetary and Administrative Committee (1997-1998).

"In many of my public speeches on multilateralism and effectiveness of the United Nations, which is its most universal manifestation", he said, "I have repeatedly alerted that "... I have seen time and again the centrality of the culture of peace and women's equality in our lives. This realization has now become more pertinent amid the ever-increasing militarism, militarization and weaponization that is destroying both our planet and our people."

"I believe wholeheartedly that only participatory democracy can effectively and appropriately reflect the true spirit of the

UN Charter which begins with the words, "We the peoples ...". Yes, understandably the democratic system has its deficiencies".

"But is there anything more effective and have more legitimacy in representing the opinion of the peoples of various Member States in this deliberative global parliament?" he asked.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco, told IPS the United Nations was originally founded by the victorious allies in the war against fascism.

While having a democratic government was never a prerequisite for UN membership, the principle that there should be a rule-based international order implied that such principles should also apply to those of member states, he pointed out.

Similarly, the human rights provisions adopted by the United Nations also imply the necessity of democratic governance.

An important first step in living up to its democratic underpinnings would be for the United Nations to bar leaders of military regimes from speaking before the United Nations, said Dr Zunes who has written extensively on the politics of the UN and the Security Council.

"Unfortunately, powerful autocratic governments – like permanent UN Secu-

riety Council members Russia and China – would likely oppose such a rule", he said. And the United States, despite its pro-democracy rhetoric, could very well have objections, as well.

"The Biden administration is the world's biggest supporter of autocratic regimes, providing arms to 57% of the world's dictatorships. Indeed, Egypt's General Sisi is the second largest recipient of U.S. military aid, with U.S. taxpayers spending over one billion dollars annually to prop up his military regime which seized power in a bloody military coup in 2013," declared Dr Zunes.

Meanwhile, in 2004, when the then Organization for African Unity (later African Union) barred coup leaders from participating in African summits, Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana went one step further and said he was hopeful that one day the UN General Assembly would follow in the footsteps of the OAU, and bar leaders of military governments from addressing the General Assembly.

Annan's proposal was a historic first. But it never came to pass in an institution where member states, not the Secretary-General, rule the Organization. However, any such move could also come back

to haunt member states if, one day, they find themselves representing a country headed by a military leader.

The outspoken Annan, a national of Ghana, also said that "billions of dollars of public funds continue to be stashed away by some African leaders – even while roads are crumbling, health systems are failing, school children have neither books nor desks nor teachers, and phones do not work."

Needless to say, the UN does not make any distinctions between "benevolent dictators" and "ruthless dictators." But as an international institution preaching multiparty democracy and free elections, it still condones military leaders by offering them a platform to speak – while wining and dining them during the annual General Assembly sessions.

Asked whether the UN General Assembly should set a new standard, Ambassador Chowdhury said: "yes, of course!"

"This should have been done long ago when our much-loved, much-respected Secretary-General Kofi Annan suggested it at the outset of the new millennium"

That was the appropriate time for such a landmark decision as the African Group, the biggest regional group of UN Member States, would have championed it not only because the African Union's predecessor OAU had decided in 2004 to bar coup leaders from African summits, but also because the proposal came from a Secretary-General who was a son of Africa, he said.

"We missed that opportunity when a visionary leader of the UN had the courage to suggest that the UN General Assembly should follow Africa's lead. Two decades have gone by. I cannot envisage any other Secretary-General would have the guts to suggest that publicly," declared Ambassador Chowdhury.

This article contains excerpts from the recently-released book on the United Nations titled "No Comment - and Don't Quote Me on That." Thalif Deen, who authored the book, is Senior Editor at IPS, an ex-UN staffer and a former member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly sessions.

Sri Lanka: When the right turn is hampered by wrong move

By Neville de Silva

WHEN this Indian Ocean island gained independence from Britain in 1948 after some 450 years of colonial rule under three western powers, it was simply named the "Dominion of Ceylon."

This country which was granted universal franchise nearly two decades before independence was seen as one of Asia's first democracies-if not the first.

Sadly, that reputation has fast faded.

Today, that right to vote is being denied with even elections to local bodies being halted for dubious reasons including the lack of state funds. The Supreme Court issued an interim order asking that funds be made available for the election. ruling.

That order was simply ignored. Instead, the ruling Sri Lanka People's Front (SLFP) MPs threatened to summon the judges to parliament for allegedly violating their privileges.

The most recent is a desperate move by one government MP to move a private member's motion to have parliament vote to let the expired bodies continue in the absence of elections.

Fortunately, the Attorney-General informed the Speaker that such a move was unconstitutional and so would require a two-third majority vote and perhaps a referendum. That shut the door on this piece of frippery.

The government's concern is understandable. It is led by a stand-in president of one party propped up in parliament by a majority from a one-time political enemy the SLFP, now living a symbiotic political existence.

Neither of them wants an election even at the lowest levels of governance for fear of what the results might signify. Negative results would sound alarm bells ahead of the presidential elections next year and parliamentary elections the year after, though the president could call parliamentary elections earlier.

Those who would look back at Sri Lankan political history since 1977 might well wonder whether current president Ranil Wickremesinghe, filling in until November next year for predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa who resigned after fleeing public wrath, has taken a page out of his uncle Junius Richard Jayewardene's book of political Machiavellianism.

But if "Yankee Dicky", as Jayewardene was called from his early days for his pro-American foreign policy views and his capitalist economic outlook, took a turn to the right when he came to power in 1977, his nephew has taken a sharper turn in that direction, his neoliberal views meshing with the IMF rescue programme intended to pull the country out of the economic mess that Gotabaya Rajapaksa created during his short presidency.

Yet Wickremesinghe's path to economic resuscitation is strewn with political and working-class casualties against whom some of the most abrasive laws in the country's statute books have been employed, such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

International conventions such as the ICCPR have been stood on its head to detain dissidents and clamped down on public protests and other rights guaranteed under the constitution that his uncle imposed on the country.

If the IMF agreement calls for the government to sell the family silver, as Wickremesinghe's offer of even profit-making state-owned enterprises and other state assets to foreign and local investors suggest, this is bound to adversely affect employment adding to the amounting joblessness in recent years following the Covid pandemic and President Rajapaksa's misguided economic policies.

Besides this, a new Labour law that would repeal some 28 existing laws granting workers' rights won over the years through hard struggles by leftist trade unions and political parties, would be replaced by stringent new laws heavily weighted in favour of employers.



The tea-pluckers with their wet-weather gear at Blue Field tea estate in Ramboda, Sri Lanka. Credit: UN News/Daniel Johnson

The proposed labour laws now been waved about by an over-enthusiastic Labour Minister hoping to please the president and the business community will, if not challenged before the Supreme Court, will jettison many long existing workers' rights to create a comfortable environment for prospective foreign investors and the government's business cronies.

A new anti-terrorism law, more abhorrent than the PTA, has drawn heavy flak both at home and internationally. An anti-corruption law has just been passed, more to satisfy the IMF than to catch the crooks, particularly politicians who fattened themselves over the years. Though Sri Lanka already has stringent laws not even a fistful of politicians have been prosecuted and convicted for bribery and corruption.

Meanwhile the country is facing a huge brain drain. Since 2022 some 700 or so doctors, specialists and medical staff have left for employment abroad. So have other professionals including engineers, IT specialists, airline pilots and technicians.

Education Minister Susil Premajayantha admitted in parliament the other day that 255 university academics and some 150-odd non-academic staff have vacated posts since last year.

Furthermore, UN reports have pinpointed the rise of poverty in the country with families and school children skipping meals because people cannot afford the high prices for domestic essentials like electricity.

The Agriculture Minister was warning the other day about the possibility of poor harvests in the coming season which, if sadly it does happen, could lead to food shortages.

The seeming political stability with no queues and no demonstrators, should not be misconceived. While Wickremesinghe's governing alliance in which fissures have been more conspicuous recently, prepares the ground to welcome foreign and local capitalist entrepreneurs, the same ground is being cut under the feet of the vast majority who survived all these years on their meagre earnings and now are struggling to survive.

In 1972, the then coalition government led by the world's first woman prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike which came to power two years earlier, made the final constitutional break with Britain, dropping the British monarch as its head of state and declaring the country as the "Republic of Sri Lanka". It maintained the Westminster-style parliamentary system it was accustomed to.

That government was roundly defeated at the 1977 general election. The right-wing United National Party (UNP) under its new leader Jayewardene, popularly called "JR", won an unprecedented five-sixth majority in parliament driving Mrs Bandaranaike's SLFP to a single digit presence.

Jayewardene decided the country needed a new constitution. But it was drafted without any public consultation whereas the 1972 constitution was drafted by parliament meeting separately as a constituent assembly.

Jayewardene named himself president and was sworn-in on 4th February 1978 under a new executive presidential system. The name of the country was changed into an ostentatious "Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka".

Armed with enormous powers and a party with a five-sixth majority in parliament Jayewardene said the only thing he could not do was to change a man into a woman and vice versa.

The new name for Sri Lanka was a tragic misnomer. It did not take long for Jayewardene to show that he was neither democratic nor socialist. He set up a presidential commission which hauled up former prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, her closest minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike and others before it for alleged corruption and abuse of power. They were stripped of their civic rights, eliminated from political activity for seven years.

The president was more concerned about preserving his huge majority in parliament fearing that a general election would see a resurrected opposition returning in larger numbers.

In a move unheard of in democratic governance, President Jayewardene obtained signed letters of resignation from parliament from all his 140 MPs. The one thing missing was the date which the president would fill in if required. That was Jayewardene's Damocles-ean Sword suspended over his own MPs.

The biggest blot on Jayewardene's escutcheon is the bloody events of July 1983 when minority Tamils in Colombo and around the country were physically attacked and some 3000, according to reports were killed, their houses burnt and the businesses destroyed and looted. Thousands were made refugees in their own country or abroad.

The immediate cause for this horrendous and tragic happening 40 years ago was said to be the killing of 13

soldiers by Tamil insurgents in the north.

But when the attacks on Tamils and their homes really unfolded on July 25, as I witnessed that day and later, there were clear signs of government involvement. The fact that neither the president nor any minister appeared on TV calling a halt to this ethnic convulsion spoke volumes.

When the government did finally speak about four days later, it claimed the attacks were the "spontaneous outburst of Sinhala wrath" at the killing of the soldiers.

But with international community critical at the government's inaction to stop the carnage, Jayewardene swiftly changed tack. The government claimed there was a "Naxalite" conspiracy to assassinate government figures and overthrow the government. A foreign hand-unnamed-was involved, it said.

Jayewardene evoked the Public Security Act to round up opposition politicians he feared were growing in popularity and throw them in jail and sealed the Communist Party newspaper. I remember my friend John Elliot of the "Financial Times" calling it "a crude cover up" while other foreign journalists simply dismissed the story.

What does matter now is that right through these events of the Jayewardene years, Sri Lanka's current President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Jayewardene's nephew, was a faithful member of his uncle's cabinet and possibly privy to what went on inside.

In fact, if I remember correctly, he made a speech in parliament on the so-called "Naxalite" plot.

There is one essential difference. JR served two terms as president. His nephew lost two presidential elections and years to be elected president at least once.

Next March he will be 75. Would he then be at the door step of the Last Chance Saloon? If so how far would he go to make sure he becomes and elected president like his uncle before retires from politics.

The United National Party (UNP) that his uncle represented and he does now, was called the Uncle Nephew Party from its early days. We shall see before long, won't we.

Neville de Silva is a veteran Sri Lankan journalist who held senior roles in Hong Kong at The Standard and worked in London for Gemini News Service. He has been a correspondent for the foreign media.

IPS UN Bureau

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

Chinese doctor's 'safe, warm' hands help farmer in Botswana walk again

GABORONE

LIVING in Matsitama village in eastern Botswana, 78-year-old Ketsetletse Mosi staggered on the road after he undertook surgery 20 days ago. He said it was a Chinese doctor who helped him walk again.

Mosi was rounding up goats on a chilly evening early this month when he fell on the ground and broke his hip. "Little did I know that the injury was serious because I struggled to wake up the following morning," he said.

He was later sent to Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital in Francistown, Botswana's second largest city, where a group of Chinese doctors work. After arriving at the hospital, Mosi said he was received by Lyu Peimin, a Chinese doctor, whose hands are "safe and warm."

Lyu is a member of the 16th Chinese medical team to Botswana. Over the past four decades, a total of 16 batches of more than 500 Chinese medical members have come to the country, delivering medical services to local people. They have performed more than 130,000 sur-

geries and treated more than 2.8 million patients since 1980s, winning praise from the government and the people.

Lyu referred Mosi to a computerized tomography scan and tried to comfort him by saying that the pain he was feeling would disappear. "He then studied the scan and took me to an operating theatre to perform an implant of the broken hip bone," said Mosi.

Since then, Lyu started teaching Mosi to walk, and the old man made excellent progress with the Chinese doctor's help. Mosi said many people could not believe that he was able to walk again.

"This Chinese doctor is very important. I wish he will remain working here in Botswana forever," Mosi said. Kobamelo Motshidisi, clinical manager at Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, said the contribution of the Chinese doctors has been affirmed by the local people. "In the past, patients at this hospital with similar injuries would spend months and months in the health facility," he said, adding that "some of the patients with similar injuries would never walk again."



Some people chose to seek treatment in neighboring South Africa, however, at a heavy cost, as Botswana does not have sufficient medical staff, he said.

After the Chinese doctors came to the country,

"we could perform complex surgeries at Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital," said Motshidisi.

Modiri Jojo Lucas, deputy mayor of the Francistown City Council, hailed mutual respect between Botswana and China, saying that the world's sec-

ond largest economy has been helping the southern African country in many areas.

"Having them in the city brings hope to our people. We ought to say thank you to China," Lucas said.

Russia's trade with Africa grows by 35 percent in the first half of 2023

ST. PETERSBURG

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said the trade turnover between Russia and African countries had increased by almost 35 per cent in the first half of 2023 despite international sanctions and the fallout from the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a trilateral meeting with the chairperson of the African Union, President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, Putin said "despite the difficulties related

to the coronavirus pandemic and the imposition of illegal sanctions against Russia, it was possible to ensure the growth in the pace of trade and economic ties" with African countries.

Putin added last year, "the volume of mutual trade amounted to about 18 billion

dollars."

"In the first half of this year, the trade turnover increased by almost 35 per cent," Putin noted.

"Russia continues to be a reliable supplier of food to Africa," he added, saying that in 2022, Russian exports of this group of goods had

amounted to 4.7 billion dollars."

Some African leaders arrived in Russia for a summit with Putin as he seeks allies amid the military operation in Ukraine, while the Kremlin accused Western powers of "outrageous" efforts to pressure other African heads

of state not to attend.

Putin has billed the two-day summit that opens Thursday in St. Petersburg as a major event that would help bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.

But Azali Assoumani told

Putin during the meeting that they were "not going to close our eyes to the issue between Russia and Ukraine, because these are two countries with which we have partnerships, and we can see the negative consequences around the world, specifically in Africa."

Zanzibar fishermen get modern fishing gear to save environment

By Guardian Reporter

FISHERMEN in Unguja's North 'A' District, Zanzibar have a reason to smile following implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience in Tanzania (EBARR).

The project capacitated them with prerequisite skills on modern fishing gear.

Through the project, fishermen in the Indian archipelago were given modern fishing boats that facilitated them go into deep fishing, thus getting more fish, food and increased their income.

EBARR Project Coordinator in Kaskazini 'A' District, Alawi Hija said the procured modern boats enables fishermen to get into deep sea for fishing thus simplifying their activities compared to the previous time when they were used to hand-made canoes.

"Besides supporting them with modern boats, the project beneficiaries including women engaging in fishing activities have also been empowered with alternative activities to increase their income," he explains.

Hija said that women groups from the villages of Matemwe Kijini, Matemwe Mbuyutende and Matemwe Jugakuu, have been trained and given equipment to make soap and other hygiene products.

"Such activities enable them to earn income and contribute economically to their households. This also improves their ability to withstand the impacts of climate change in their communities," he added.

Kicked off in the 2018/2019 fiscal year and expected to end in 2024, the initiative which is under the Vice President's Office is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and is being executed in North 'A' District of Zanzibar and four other five districts in Tanzania mainland—Kishapu in Shinyanga

Region, Mvomero (Morogoro), Mpwawa (Dodoma) and Simanjiro in Manyara Region.

EBARR National Project Coordinator, Dr James Nyarobi said the project is benefiting rural communities by supporting them to initiate income generating activities and has greatly helped to restore natural vegetation in the specific areas.

Dr Nyarobi said the project has helped fisherfolk in Kaskazini A Unguja with six fibre boats equipped with powerful engines and freezers for storing fish. He said the project has also provided fishermen with other equipment such as fish finders and the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Dr Nyarobi added: "These technologies are useful to fisherfolk during their fishing activities. They help them to navigate easily using GPS, to determine the direction of their vessels and to return safely to the coast."

He explained that the project provided freezers to the fishermen for storing their fish to ensure they remain of good quality upon reaching the market.

In Kishapu and Simanjiro districts, the project has established small-scale facilities for manufacturing leather products.

These products are made using locally sourced leather, which helps to boost the income of households involved in the leather industry projects, he said.

In other areas, groups engaging in beekeeping, poultry farming, soap making, mushroom and vegetable farming were all empowered to earn income. These activities help the communities to strengthen their resilience to the effects of climate change.

In terms of empowering pastoral communities in Simanjiro District, the EBARR project has enabled women groups in chicken husbandry, and Isiolo goat keeping. Isiolo goats are large breeds



One of the fishing boats given to fishermen who are the beneficiaries of EBARR project. File Photo

in nature, as compared to the local/indigenous breeds.

Dr Nyarobi said: "These goats will help improve the quality of local goats through crossbreeding. To ensure sustainability, the groups have established a system that when the goats reproduce and increase, they are given to someone who didn't have one, with that logic, members of the group benefit from the project and immediately improve the quality of their local goats."

EBARR Project Coordinator in Simanjiro Dis-

trict, Dr Swalehe Masaza said the groups have been empowered by building modern chicken sheds. He said villagers and the surrounding community can learn how to build a better chicken shed and improve productivity.

He said that so far, the groups have been supported with more than 850 chicks and professional training to conduct their activities professionally.

To ensure sustainability of the project even after the funding period ends, Dr Masaza said: "Authorities have been involved from incep-

tion of the project and we rely on these district councils to continue managing the activities that have been implemented in their respective areas, even after the project comes to an end."

He said all the initiatives that are implanted under the project were recommended by beneficiaries themselves.

Dr Masaza clarified that the EBARR project's major objective is to increase climate resilience among rural communities by strengthening ecosystem resilience and diversifying livelihoods.

Humanitarian aid efforts continue in Niger despite military coup

By Abigail Van Neel

NICOLE Kouassi, the UNDP resident representative in Niger, is constantly faced with the challenge of coordinating aid delivery to 4.3 million people in need. On Wednesday, Kouassi woke up and learned this must happen in a country where the president had just been overthrown. She said she did not see warning signs of a coup.

Kouassi told journalists that UN humanitarian, development, and peace programs continue in Niger because their support is still desperately needed. According to the World Bank, over 40% of Niger's population was living in extreme poverty in 2021. Before the present political crisis, 3.3 million people were acutely food insecure, mostly women and children. However, the \$583 million dollar appeal for aid has only been 32% funded.

"The humanitarian response continues on the ground and has never stopped," Jean Noel Gentile, the World Food Bank representative, said.

Nevertheless, the military coup in Niger affects the flow of humanitarian aid to other neighboring countries while Niger airspace and borders are closed.

While aid programs are individual to a country, closed borders can interfere with supply chain logistics. Gentile explained that there is a crucial route through Niger that allows for the transport of aid from a logistics hub in Yemen to Mali and Burkina Faso. Aid deliveries for Niger to Chad for Sudanese refugees have also been temporarily suspended.

Gentile said it is unclear exactly how many people will be affected. He noted that there may be alternative aid routes through Cameroon and Nigeria.

When borders are open, migrants from Mali and Burkina Faso also travel to Niger. According to Emmanuel Gignac, UNHCR chief of mission, no movement has been detected across Niger's borders since their



Humanitarian efforts in Niger are continuing despite the military coup. In Niger, Only 56% of the population has access to a source of drinking water, according to UNICEF. Photo credit: EU/ECHO/Jean de Lestrang

closure.

Kouassi has not been in contact with the military leaders in power and does not yet have plans to discuss humanitarian aid delivery with them. She noted that her office does not have a political UN mandate but echoed concerns expressed by Secretary-General

António Guterres.

Guterres has strongly condemned the "unconstitutional change of government in Niger."

"Stop obstructing the democratic governance of the country and respect the rule of law," Guterres said in a statement to those detaining the president.

Kouassi said that all UN staff were accounted for and that Niamey, the capital, seemed calm as civilians respected their new curfew.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Aimable Twahirwa

Afghan girls and women deprived of education find hope in Africa

WHEN providing education to her small group of Afghan girls, who had been studying at a boarding school back home, became tenuous, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, relocated them to Rwanda.

She had set up a pioneering school under the project SOLA, the Afghan word for peace, and a short form for School of Leadership Afghanistan. But as the Taliban swept to power in August 2021, she closed the doors of the school, destroyed any school records which could help identify the girls, and on August 25, relocated 250 members of the SOLA community, including the student body and graduates from the programme, totally more than 100 girls, to Rwanda.

Basij-Rasikh, co-founder and SOLA's President said a major challenge had been the lack of resources and capacity to teach Afghan girls after the return of the Taliban deprived right to education of girls in secondary schools and above.

As the Taliban swept back into power in Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, the founder of the nation's only all-girls boarding school, initially ran the school out of a former principal's living room. But that soon became untenable.

Speaking on the sidelines of The Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023), which took place in Kigali from 17-20 July 2023, Basij-

Rasikh, who completed her undergraduate studies in the United States, explained that when Kabul fell under the control of the Taliban, she managed within a short time to evacuate the entire school community to Rwanda.

"Although we managed to move the school to a safe country, it is still embarrassing and shameful for me since Afghanistan is the only country in the world where women and girls' access to education has been suspended," she said.

Initially, SOLA started as a scholarship program where Afghan youth would be identified and could access quality education abroad and, later on, go back to their home country as highly-skilled Afghans in whichever profession they chose.

"When the US announced that they were to withdraw their troops in Afghanistan, it created a lot of anxiety among young Afghans who were in the West hoping to return to the country."

Basij-Rasikh regrets that some of her former students, who were able to leave Afghanistan after the Taliban's return, are still struggling to continue their education overseas.

"We wish to see many Afghan girls return to schools," she said, explaining that the migration status of the students in many coun-



Shabana Basij-Rasikh, co-founder and President of SOLA, speaks at the Women Deliver conference in Rwanda. Credit: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS

tries restricted their access to education.

Since the school opened last year's admissions season, Shabana Basij-Rasikh and her team have been inviting Afghan girls worldwide to apply and join the rest in Rwanda. Last year they enrolled 27 girls in their first intake.

"The major challenge is that there are several hundreds of thousands of girls who want to join our campus, but space is limited, and so places are being granted on merit and need," Shabana told IPS.

Shabana argues investing in girls' education is a smart investment; she is convinced that the current situation in Afghanistan must and should not be accepted or supported by any country around the world.

On September 18, 2021, a month after taking over the country, the Taliban ordered the reopening of only boys' secondary schools. A few months later, in March 2022, according to human rights organizations, the Taliban again pledged to reopen all schools, but they officially closed girls' secondary schools. "These girls deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential, and the international community has an important role to play," Shabana said.

UNESCO's latest figures show that 2.5 million or 80 percent of

school-aged Afghan girls and women are out of school. The order suspending university education for women, announced in December last year, affects more than 100,000 students attending government and private institutions, according to the UN agency.

On the sidelines of the Women Deliver Conference 2023, Senegalese President Macky Sall pledged that his government would offer 100 scholarships for women who have seen their right to education decimated under Taliban rule in Afghanistan to pursue their university degrees in Senegal.

Rwanda is one of several African countries that agreed to temporarily host evacuated Afghans.

Sall, who was reacting to the concerns raised by Basij-Rasikh, said his Government was ready to give chance to Afghan girls to pursue their studies.

So far, SOLA school has received 2,000 applications across 20 countries where some Afghans are living. In 2022, it received 180 applications from Afghans living in 10 countries, but only 27 girls were admitted.

"That explains how families in Afghanistan are ready to support the girls in moving abroad to pursue their education," Shabana said.

"Boarding schools that allow Afghan girls to study and live together are the best way to promote their education."

IPS UN Bureau Report



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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BUSINESS

SADC ministers call for acceleration of industrialisation

By Guardian Reporter

THE South African Development Community (SADC) ministers have called for accelerated implementation of the industrialisation agenda to spur economic growth and poverty eradication in the region.

In a statement issued after the 23rd Ministerial Task Force (MTF) on Regional Economic Integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting held last week, Julien Paluku Kahongya, minister of industry of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the MTF, highlighted the need for the SADC region to redouble its efforts in industrialising the regional economy in order to

limit importation of finished products and reduce the export of raw materials.

Kahongya emphasised the importance of collective action and regional cooperation in driving the region's industrialisation agenda in pursuit of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 which seeks to promote industrialisation, enhance competitiveness, and deepen regional integration through structural transformation, leading to increased manufactured goods and exports.

He further called for the development of regional value chains, taking advantage of the region's abundant minerals and natural resources which offer opportunities for trade, investment, and industrial development in the SADC region.



Julien Kahongya, Industry minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the MTF.

On her part, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Angele Makombo N'Tumba commended Member States for their commitment to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. She highlighted the significance of the decisions made during the 23rd MTF in advancing the region's industrialization goals.

Makombo N'Tumba encouraged continued cooperation among Member States and stakeholders to implement the

agreed actions successfully.

The Deputy Executive Secretary said the region needs to implement high impact projects to change tide for industrialising regional economies.

She highlighted that, as part of the on-going process of prioritised projects on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, the region has prioritised the development of the Agro-processing, Minerals and Pharmaceutical value chains with a special fo-

cus on scaling up participation in the higher segments of the value chains to maximise benefits for SADC citizens.

During the meeting, Ministers reviewed the progress made in implementing the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap since its inception in 2015, focusing on progress made since the previous meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi in July 2022, in the areas of Value chains and infrastructure development as well as policy harmonisation, amongst others.

Among the outcomes of the deliberations were key decisions taken to support industrialisation and regional integration.

In terms of policy harmonisation in support of industrial development, the Ministers urged Member States to expedite the ratification of the Protocol on Industry by June 2024.

The Protocol on Industry is a critical instrument designed to enhance industrial development and create a conducive environment for investment and regional value chains within the SADC region.

The Ministers directed the Secretariat to undertake a revision of the Protocol on Mining in consultation with stakeholders, with the aim of aligning the Protocol to current trends and best practices in the mining sector and to also buttress the implementation of the Regional Mining Vision.

The mining sector, and mineral

beneficiation in particular, is key to the region's industrialization drive and development and one of the growth paths identified in the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, alongside agro-processing.

In pursuit of the need for diversification of industrial production and exports through sinking substantial investments in identified investment opportunities and projects, the Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat, working with Member States and the private sector, to mobilise resources and convene a regional investment forum.

The Forum shall, among others, aim to promote the projects to potential investors but, more importantly, seek partnerships and cooperation in developing projects among Member States.

In furtherance of the advocacy and communication Strategy for Industrialisation, the Ministers reiterated the importance of the Annual SADC Industrialisation Week (SIW) and directed the Secretariat to work closely with partners such as private sector to propose the best modality for organizing the SIW with the aim of making this annual event more inclusive, interactive, and tailored to address the specific needs of Member States.

The SIW is a public-private engagement platform that helps to foster new opportunities for intra-African trade and investment in the SADC region.

NEW DELHI

GOLD purchases in India this year are forecast to drop to the lowest since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the second-biggest consuming nation in 2020, with high domestic prices deterring buyers.

Indians are expected buy between 650 and 750 tons of the precious metal in 2023, said P.R.

Gold demand in India decline to 3-year lowest

Somasundaram, the regional chief executive officer for India at the World Gold Council.

The range is lower than the 774 tons bought last year and the least since the 446 tons purchased in 2020, according to the London-based group's data.

"Looking ahead for rest of the year, we remain cautious about gold demand as it faces uncertainties due to elevated local prices and a slowdown in discretionary spending," he said.

Gold is historically a popular investment in India, especially

in rural areas where it can be difficult to access banking services. Consumers typically buy ornaments for marriage celebrations, and coins and bars

for investment surge during a series of celebrations that culminates with Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, which this year falls in November.

"The success of the monsoon season could bolster sentiment ahead of Diwali season and throw positive surprises," Somasundaram said.

India's weakening gold con-

sumption comes as buying by central banks around also slows. That's contributed to bullion falling about 5 percent from this year's peak in early May, although prices have rallied this month on signs the Federal Reserve's tightening cy-

cle may be nearing an end.

Benchmark gold futures in India surged to a record high in May and are up about 16 percent over the past year. Some investors have opted to book profits from these historic levels, boosting gold recycling by 61 percent on year during April-June to 37.6 tons, Somasundaram said.

Absa Bank (T) secures 20bn/- lending guarantee from AGF

By Francis Kajubi

ABSA Bank Tanzania and African Guarantee Fund (AGF) have signed a five-year loan guarantee agreement worth 20bn/- to be offered to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the agriculture value chain and raising start-ups.

The agreement comes after the three years guarantee agreement worth 5bn/- signed between the bank and AGF in 2020. With the first agreement, five MSMEs were reached.

The new agreement is expected to reach up to 100 beneficiaries, as already 30 businesses have shown interest in borrowing.

Obedi Laiser, Absa Tanzania CEO and managing director told the press yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the signing ceremony that the loan guarantee shall enable the bank to support its customers with existing businesses and start-ups.

The priority will be given to businesses owned by women, youth and MSMEs primarily en-

gaged in agriculture value chain.

The guarantee facility will also be used by the bank to support climate-focused businesses involved in energy efficiency, renewable energy, resource management and climate insurance.

"When fully utilized, this facility will catalyze loans roughly worth 100bn/- for MSMEs in the next five years. This initiative is driven by our desire to better align our business with the government's commitment to achieve economic diversification by ensuring MSMEs provide the next engine of growth and employment opportunities," said Laiser.

He asserted that the agreement presents a significant opportunity for MSMEs and creates a platform from which the bank can contribute to the growth of its customers' businesses proposition with a view to empower the country's gross domestic product growth.

Melvin Saprapasen, head of business banking Absa Bank Tanzania said lack of access to cost-effective financing, is stifling the growth of MSMEs in the country, specifically those owned by wom-

en and youths.

But through the agreement, he said, the bank is looking to bridge the financing gap and accelerate their growth. "In essence, AGF mitigates the inability of MSMEs to provide acceptable collateral by sharing the risks anticipated by Absa. AGF's commitment under this agreement is to assume up to 75 percent of every underlying transaction which is 75 percent for women owned businesses and green financing and up to 50 percent for the rest of the businesses, while Absa bears the remaining risk," said Saprapasen.

He defined the micro enterprises as those with annual turnover of between 100m/- and 3bn/- while the small and medium annual turnover businesses ranges between 3bn/- and 7bn/-.

Jules Ngankam, AGF's group chief executive officer reiterated that AGF is steadfast in mitigating the financing gaps in Africa's SMEs sector.

He argued that a strong and vibrant SME sector provides a strong foundation to enhance the standards of living and to re-



Absa Bank Tanzania managing director Obedi Laiser (front R) exchanges the 20bn/- guarantee contract document with African Guarantee Fund Group CEO Jules Ngankam (front L) to enable the bank to extend SME financing in Tanzania. Others are Absa and AGF senior officials.

duce poverty.

He affirmed that small and medium-sized enterprises are a key contributing sector in Tanzania's achievement of her development vision as a middle-income economy.

While Tanzania's SME sector contributes to a third of the overall GDP, he said, access to finance remains a key

constraint to the sector and to this end the partnership with Absa will be addressed.

He said AGF has also commenced deliberations with Absa for the provision of capacity development to support the bank's SME businesses through technical assistance.

"AGF seeks partnerships with institu-

tions that continue to respond to SMEs' specific needs and trends. Through the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) guarantee for growth, we will boost Absa's women SME portfolio whereas through our green guarantee facility, the bank will lend more to green SMEs," said Ngankam.

LONDON

EUROPEAN stocks followed China lower yesterday as fresh economic data pointed to weak factory activity across Asia and the eurozone, raising investor concerns about a global slowdown in demand for goods.

The region-wide Stoxx Europe 600 index fell 0.7 per cent, extending early morning losses, while Germany's Dax lost 0.9 per cent and London's FTSE 100 gave up 0.5 per cent. The consumer goods sector led declines, down 1.2 per cent.

France's Cac 40 was the biggest faller in the region, down 1 per cent, with shares of luxury groups LVMH and Hermes International both down about 2 per cent.

The moves came as fresh data pointed to a continued slowdown in manufacturing activity across the eurozone, in a sign that the region's high borrowing costs and inflation weighed on demand.

HCOB's final eurozone manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell to 42.7 in July from 43.4 in the previous month, hitting its lowest level since May 2020 when the re-

European stocks fall as China, Eurozone factory activity slows



gion's economy was hit by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The index measuring factory activity in Germany, the eurozone's largest economy, fell to 38.8 from 40.6 in the previous month. A reading below 50 means the majority of respondents reported a contraction in activity.

The declines echoed markets in China, where the CSI 300 index of Shanghai- and Shenzhen-listed stocks fell 0.4 per cent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.3 per cent, as investors worried about the country's stalled post-pandemic recovery.

The Caixin manufacturing purchasing managers' index, a private sector survey tracking monthly changes in factory activity, slipped to 49.2 in July from 50.5 in June, undershooting analysts' forecasts of 50.3.

The politburo, China's top decision-making body, had earlier vowed to extend further support to prop up the world's second-largest

economy but offered few details, testing investors' nerves.

"This limited policy support means that China's recovery probably will continue to be 'tortuous, uneven and drawn out,'" said Duncan Wrigley, chief China economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Topix index was up 0.6 per cent, and South Korea's benchmark Kospi rose 1.3 per cent.

Meanwhile, slowing inflation prompted Australia's central bank to keep its key interest rate unchanged for the second consecutive meeting, at 4.1 per cent, defying market forecasts of a 0.25 percentage point increase. The S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 per cent.

The meeting came a week after central banks in the US and Europe raised rates but refrained from their usual hawkish guidance in a sign that the global tightening cycle could soon draw to a close.

In the US, contracts tracking Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 fell 0.2 per cent, while those tracking the tech-focused Nasdaq 100 slipped 0.3 per cent ahead of the New York open.

China extends lending for businesses to spur economy

BEIJING

CHINA has pledged to boost credit to private companies and extend other funding measures to small firms as policymakers seek ways to shore up confidence and support the recovery.

The nation will expand a bond credit enhancement tool that is backed by financial institutions to all qualified private companies, the National Development and Reform Commission said in a notice posted Tuesday on its website. In the past the policy has mainly been used to help cash-strapped property developers raise funds from the bond market.

The notice included 28 points aimed at broadening market access, enhancing fi-

ancial support and promising to meet demand among firms for land, strengthening legal protections, and cracking down on negative commentary about the private sector.

"The measures are based on the needs of private firms and focused on resolving the outstanding problems faced by the sector," said NDRC official Wang Shancheng at a briefing Tuesday. "We expect them to be pragmatic and want effects to kick in in the near term."

The measures from the NDRC, China's top economic planning agency, flesh out promises top leaders including President Xi Jinping have made to promote the growth of the private sector as the nation's recovery searches for a



stronger footing.

Policymakers are focusing on how to rebuild confidence among private firms after the sector was battered by pandemic-related restrictions, as well as regulatory crackdowns on the tech and property sectors. Companies are

now holding back from investing or hiring, weighing on an economy that is also dealing with challenges from a property slump, falling exports and soaring youth unemployment.

The slew of policy sweeteners have contributed to a rally in China's financial

markets, where investors are betting that regulators will act swiftly on the Politburo's promises of support after weeks of disappointment over a lack of execution.

A gauge of Chinese shares traded in Hong Kong was unchanged as of

the mid-day break on Tuesday. Still, it has jumped about 10 percent since the Politburo meeting.

The mainland's benchmark CSI 300 Index has gained around 5 percent during the same period, although it booked a marginal loss Tuesday morning.

"The measures enhance the strength and expand the scope of previous funding support for the sector, addressing the short-term needs of private firms," said Bruce Pang, head of research and chief economist for greater China at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.

For the long term, lifting the barriers to market entry would be key, Pang said, adding that he expected private investment to return to positive year-on-year growth in the fourth quarter.

Year-to-date growth in fixed asset investment by private firms has been negative since May, official data showed.

The NDRC also reiterated support for the healthy development of internet platform companies and vowed to unveil more investment projects by such companies. A pro-growth pledge singling out those

types of firms was included last week in a readout of a meeting by the Politburo, the ruling Communist Party's top decision-making body.

The agency said the size of credit loans for private firms would be expanded. In addition, they promised to push government agencies and state-owned enterprises to pay receivables owed to private companies – a measure that could bring meaningful help "if a deadline and enforcement mechanism is introduced," said Ding Shuang, chief economist for greater China and North Asia at Standard Chartered Plc.

"China's government is making good on its pledge to support the economy with a raft of new policies to boost consumption and buoy the property market.

The moves increase the chances of a more robust recovery in 2H, but the balance of risks is still pointed downward.

We think more is probably required to counteract the drag from the slumping housing market and weak sentiment among businesses and consumers," said Chang Shu, economist

Diageo shares up as distiller passes along higher costs

LONDON

DIAGEO Plc shares rose after the world's largest distiller said consumers remain resilient and it's been able to pass along most price increases to customers.

The maker of Johnnie Walker whisky and Smirnoff vodka reported a 6.5 percent sales increase on an organic basis for the past year, just ahead of analysts' estimates. It reiterated its guidance for the coming year.

Diageo shares rose as much as 3.3 percent in London.

"We can consistently deliver resilient performance in a difficult macro environment," said Chief Executive Debra Crew in an interview on Bloomberg Television. Crew said Diageo had been able to pass along the price hikes it needed to so far, and didn't rule out further increases.

Inflation has started to ease and big consumer goods companies are looking to improve their margins

and claw back volumes. Premium spirits have been resilient – seen as an affordable and occasional luxury for the middle classes in richer countries – and benefiting from a shift away from beer and wine consumption.

While Diageo's volumes fell in the second half, particularly in the US, there are signs of improvement in North America and other regions remained strong.

"The company states that demand is normalizing and that inventory levels at distributors are now back to normal levels there," said Alicia Forry, an analyst at Investec Securities.

"All other regions delivered solid growth over the full year, and Europe even accelerated sales growth in the second half."

Organic volumes fell 5 percent in North America because of a tough comparison with last year, when sales rebounded following supply chain issues and glass shortages. Sales of tequilas including Don Julio



and Casamigos grew 15 percent in the US in the past year even as spirits declined.

"There are certain segments of the consumer group that are finding it harder with inflation," Chief Finan-

cial Officer Lavanya Chandrashekar said of the US. The most premium segment, with bottles costing more than \$100, isn't growing as quickly as before, she said.

In Europe, organic sales grew 11

percent, with double-digit growth across most markets, showing the resilience of premium spirits as inflation peaks and consumers cut down on other branded products. Still, the operating margin in the region

shrank.

Greater China sales fell 4 percent because of lockdowns on big banqueting events which drive sales in local baijiu liquor. "We're seeing China come back. It's a little bit slower than we expected," Crew said.

Crew took over as CEO at the distiller in June after the death of Ivan Menezes accelerated her ascension to the top job.

Menezes joined Diageo when it was created in 1997 and transformed it into the world's biggest premium drinks company.

The company maintained its organic sales guidance of between 5 percent and 7 percent and operating profit growth in the range of 6 percent and 9 percent.

The company also said it was switching its reporting currency to the US dollar from July 1. North America represents 39 percent of Diageo sales.

LONDON

BP increased its dividend and announced more share buybacks even as earnings slumped 70 percent from the record levels set last year.

The group's underlying profits for the second quarter were \$2.6bn, down almost 70 percent from the \$8.5bn it recorded in the same period last year and missing analysts' expectations of \$3.5bn by almost \$1bn.

BP blamed lower refining margins and planned maintenance work for

BP raises dividend despite earnings drop

the drop in performance as the upheaval in energy markets that had supercharged earnings for the previous five quarters receded.

The UK-listed energy major was the last of the large western oil and gas companies to report their half-year results.

Each company suffered a similar decline in profits as oil and gas prices fell over the quarter. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, averaged \$78 a barrel between April and June compared with \$114 a barrel in the same period last year.

Profits at ExxonMobil and Shell were both down 56 percent on last year, while TotalEnergies earnings shrank by 49 percent.

Despite the decline in profits, chief executive Bernard Looney said BP was "delivering for shareholders" as he increased the dividend by 10 percent to \$0.70 per share and committed to \$1.5bn in share repurchases this quarter. That follows \$4.5bn in share buybacks already announced and completed this year.

"Our underlying performance was resilient

with good cash delivery – during a period of significant turnaround activity and weaker margins in our refining business," Looney said.

Chief financial officer Murray Auchincloss said BP would continue to return 60 percent of 2023 surplus cash flow through share buybacks. The company has already reduced its share count by more than 9 percent between April 2022 and March 2023, it said. Repurchases have left fewer in circulation, boosting earnings per share.

BP's net cash flow was negative for the quar-

ter at \$269mn, meaning it had to borrow to meet its spending obligations. Net debt rose to \$23.7bn, compared with \$21.2bn the previous quarter.

Biraj Borkhataria, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets, said he would have preferred the company reduce net debt and delay the dividend increase to later in the year.

Unlike Shell, which trimmed its capital expenditure plans this quarter, BP left its 2023 spending guidance unchanged at \$14bn-\$18bn.

RIYADH

A key gauge of borrowing costs in Saudi Arabia has risen to a record, potentially hitting the government's spending on economic diversification projects that have become the main driver of growth amid oil production cuts.

The cost of money as measured by the three-month Saudi Interbank Offered Rate, or Saibor, has climbed above 6 percent, even higher than it was during the 2008 global financial crisis and after oil prices collapsed in 2020.

The rate was below 1 percent only 18 months ago. Its rise has come as the US Federal Reserve has hiked interest rates to lower inflation, with its latest move of 25 basis points coming last week.

The riyal is pegged to the dollar and the kingdom's central bank has to follow the Fed's decisions closely, even though Saudi inflation has been well below that of the US in the past two years.

Saudi Arabia is spending hundreds of billions of dollars on a diversification drive championed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and dubbed Vision 2030.

"Rising oil prices mitigate some pain but a prolonged period of higher rates is clearly negative," said Tarek Fadlallah, head of Nomura Holdings Inc.'s asset management arm in the Middle East.

This year's surge in Saibor is un-

Saudi Arabia borrowing costs hit record



likely a result of tight liquidity. That's in contrast to 2022, when it spiked as a rise in bank lending wasn't matched by deposit inflows.

Still, elevated interest rates "put pressure on the debt-burden ratio for Saudi consumers, limiting their capacity to borrow more," said Edmond Christou, senior Bloomberg Intelligence analyst. "Demand on Saudi subsidized mortgages has slowed this year but demand on non-subsidized mortgages, which have become the new focus of banks, will likely be dampened."

Saudi officials have repeatedly played down concerns about tight liquidity, saying the central bank has all the necessary levers needed to support lending. SAMA, as the monetary authority is known, has resorted at times to open market operations – transactions that provide short-term liquidity to lenders. It's kept the spread of Saibor over SOFR, a US interbank lending rate, at between around 60 and 70 basis points.

A series of oil production cuts and lower prices may lead the kingdom's economy to contract this year. Last week, the International Monetary Fund gave Saudi Arabia the steepest growth downgrade among major economies for this year. The non-oil sector continues to expand rapidly, with growth in the second quarter of 5.5 percent.

The supply cuts have started to boost crude prices, with Brent rising above \$85 a barrel from around \$72 in mid-June. Still, concerns remain that higher interest rates could stifle economic activity in the US and Europe, and Brent remains well below levels from last year, when it averaged \$100 as Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended energy markets.

Stakeholder spots loopholes in Civics subject failure trends

By Francis Kajubi

THE fact that Civics is not incorporated into advanced level secondary school combinations has contributed to the growing trend in failure of the subject among ordinary level secondary school students, an education affairs expert has recommended.

HakiElimu's Education Technical Advisor, Dr Wilberforce Meena said in an exclusive interview on Monday that the current poor performance in Civics by the majority of ordinary secondary school students is due to the fact that they don't see the essence of the subject in their future higher education studies.

He said the subject is not part of both arts and science combinations pursued by students at the A level's secondary education.

"Students don't see the relevance of the subject. They don't see the reason why they should dedicate their learning efforts into passing the subject's examinations with higher grades like in other subjects while they will not pursue it in higher levels," said Dr Meena.

Dr Meena's second argument is that students' assessment methods are lacking in the Civics curriculum as recommended in the National Strategy for Civic Education 2011.

He defended that the secondary school's Civics curriculum doesn't entail comprehensive assessment methods that would point out areas of strengths and weaknesses for students' learning and which would make teachers better equipped with effective required planning skills in teaching.

According to him, assessments are conducted in various modes such as summative assessment which is about evaluating performed at the end of a unit that allows a teacher to measure a student's understanding, typically against standardized criteria;

Formative assessment that is about to monitor student's learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning ability; and alternative assessment that involves different forms of grading where students are enabled to provide their own responses or work by progressive demonstration of material learned over a given period.

Dr Meena said the absence of these modes of assessment in the curriculum makes it easy for each teacher to adopt their method of assessment depending on personal preferences, background and circumstances.

He asserted that in the Civics curriculum, teachers are strongly advised to use only participatory and learner-centered strategies to enhance teaching and learning. They include Q & A sessions, group discussions, presentations and role-plays.

He pointed out that the other shortcoming that contributes to the failure by students is the allocation of few teaching sessions for Civics.

"The curriculum assigns only two hours for learning Civics per week. Our recent study findings show that



HakiElimu's education technical advisor, Dr Wilberforce Meena

Civics is usually allocated to teachers who do not specialize in it as a teaching subject;

The study results show that 42 percent of interviewed secondary students said the subject is taught once a week," said Dr Meena.

According to him, 30 percent of students said the subject is taught twice a week and 28 percent said it is taught more than two times a week.

Dr Meena explained that Civics teaching hours' allocation is the same as hours allocated for optical subjects such as Music, Bible

Knowledge and Fine Arts. Science subjects on the other hand are allocated up to six hours of teaching a week.

In his point of view, he said, the overall goal of civic education is to promote civic engagement and support democratic and participatory governance. To him, civic education is not limited to participation in politics alone.

In secondary schools, he said, students are expected to learn to contribute to public processes and discussions of real issues such as corruption, civic apathy, the rule of law, human rights, domestic violence and drug abuse.

He argued that according to the curriculum, after successful completion of a civics course, a secondary school student in Tanzania is expected to have the ability to demonstrate knowledge of and respect for the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic country.

HakiElimu had in August 2022 released a report from a study on Youth Engagement in Learning and Democratic Processes in Tanzania dubbed 'The Role of Civic Education in Secondary Schools' that among other issues states a few Civics secondary school topics link with democracy which could enable students to adhere to democratic competencies.

The study measured secondary school students' civic education competence in terms of what they considered to be the meaning of civic education.

Conducted in Mkuranga district in Pwani region with a sample of 169 ordinary level secondary school students, shows most of the students who responded understand civic education as the right to vote, instilling values, development of behavior and issues to deal with citizenship.

90.86 percent of the students understand the component of civic education while 9.14 percent did not have any idea about civic education.

The study results show that none of the students was able to link civic education with the study of democracy.

Toyota profit beats estimates, sending shares to all-time high

TOYO

TOYOTA Motor Corp.'s quarterly profit exceeded estimates as improvements in supply of semiconductors and a weak yen helped it capitalize on a global rebound in demand for vehicles. The stock closed at a record high.

Operating profit for the three months through June was a record ¥1.1 trillion (\$7.7 billion), the world's No. 1 carmaker said in a statement Tuesday. That compared with ¥880 billion projected by analysts. Toyota kept its outlook for operating income for the fiscal year at ¥3 trillion.

Demand for automobiles is robust following the pandemic downturn, prompting carmakers to boost production and raise prices. Toyota made and sold a record number of vehicles in June. It is also on track to increase production between August and October, according to recent reports.

"When considering exchange rates, production and the market environment, Toyota keeping its outlook was a bit of a surprise," Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Tatsuo Yoshida said.

Net sales for the fiscal first quarter rose 24 percent to ¥10.6 trillion, topping the prediction for ¥9.8 trillion. For the full year, Toyota kept the revenue outlook at ¥38 trillion.

The company's shares rose 2.5 percent in Tokyo, building on Monday's 3.3 percent gain to reach ¥2,445.5 – a record based on data compiled by Bloomberg going back to 1974. The share price reflects a five-for-one stock split in October 2021.

Toyota said it was able to command higher prices for vehicles, helping to "reduce the impact of the sharp rise in materials prices."

Japanese carmakers' sales in 2023 could rise 19 percent domestically and 18 percent in the US, but fall 4 percent in China, according to Yoshida.

"Toyota's declining business in China is a point of concern," Yoshida said. "The impact is industrywide but concerning for a company like Toyota."

Toyota on Monday announced plans to strengthen its competitiveness in China by, among other things, accelerating the development of an electric powertrain with its two biggest suppliers, Denso Corp. and Aisin Corp.

As pressure builds on manufacturers to phase out fossil fuels and embrace the shift to electric vehicles, Toyota has promised to expand EV production while continuing to offer a broad selection of hybrid and gasoline cars.

Soon after former Lexus head Koji Sato became chief executive officer, the company pledged to sell 1.5 million battery EVs annually by 2026. Further out, it has promised to sell 3.5 million by 2030, halve its carbon dioxide emissions by 2035 and become carbon neutral by 2050.

| ITV PGM SCHEDULE | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| WEDNESDAY 2 August | | | |
| 5:00 | Soap rpt: Uzalo | 13:00 | Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT |
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 13:30 | Kipindi maalum: Brela |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 13:45 | Shamsham za pwanji rpt |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 13:55 | Habari za saa |
| 7:30 | HABARI | 14:00 | Shamsham za pwanji rpt |
| 8:00 | Kumekucha Michezo | 14:55 | Habari za saa |
| 8:55 | Habari za saa | 15:00 | Meza huru |
| 9:00 | Kumekucha Kishindo | 16:30 | Watoto wetu |
| 9:30 | Soap: In Love with Ramon | 17:00 | The Base |
| 9:55 | Habari za saa | 18:00 | Jiji Letu |
| 10:00 | Watoto wetu | 18:15 | Majapiti |
| 10:25 | Jungu kuu rpt | 18:30 | Jajina |
| 10:55 | Habari za saa | 19:00 | Usafiri Wako |
| 11:00 | Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 19:30 | Soap: In Love with Ramon |
| 11:55 | Habari za saa | 20:00 | Habari |
| 12:00 | Al Jazeera | 21:05 | Malumbano ya hoja |
| 12:30 | DWTV Afriamax rpt | 23:00 | Habari |
| 12:55 | Habari za saa | 23:30 | Music: The Base |
| 13:00 | Dakika 45 rpt | 00:30 | Al Jazeera |
| 13:55 | Habari za saa | FRIDAY 4 August | |
| 14:00 | Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt | 5:00 | Soap rpt: Uzalo |
| 14:15 | Chetu ni chetu rpt | 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 14:55 | Habari za saa | 6:00 | HABARI |
| 15:00 | Meza huru | 6:40 | Kumekucha |
| 16:30 | Watoto Wetu | 7:30 | HABARI |
| 17:00 | Music: The Base | 8:00 | Kumekucha Michezo |
| 18:00 | Jiji Letu | 9:00 | Kumekucha Kishindo |
| 18:15 | Mizengwe | 9:30 | Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon |
| 18:30 | Jarida la wanawake | 10:00 | Watoto wetu |
| 19:00 | Kipindi maalum: BOT | 10:30 | Usafiri Wako |
| 19:30 | Soap: In Love with Ramon | 11:00 | Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing rpt |
| 20:00 | Habari | 11:20 | Jungu kuu |
| 21:05 | Abu Yako | 12:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 21:10 | Kipindi maalum: Watumishi Housing | 12:30 | Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanasco |
| 21:20 | Kipindi maalum: Tanasco | 13:00 | Kipindi Maalum: Malaria ni Nyumba rpt |
| 21:50 | Ripoti maalum | 13:30 | Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama |
| 22:30 | Soap: Uzalo | 14:30 | DW: Afriamax rpt |
| 23:00 | Habari | 15:00 | Meza huru |
| 23:30 | Music: The Base | 16:30 | Watoto Wetu |
| 00:30 | Al Jazeera | 17:00 | The Base (DJ Show) |
| THURSDAY 3 August | | | |
| 5:00 | Soap rpt: Uzalo | 17:30 | Kisiam |
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 18:00 | Jiji Letu |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 18:15 | Our Earth |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 18:45 | Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet |
| 7:30 | HABARI | 19:00 | Shamba lulu |
| 8:00 | Kumekucha Michezo | 19:30 | Soap: In Love with Ramon |
| 8:55 | Habari za saa | 20:00 | Habari |
| 9:00 | Kumekucha Kishindo | 21:05 | Kipima Joto |
| 9:30 | Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon | 23:00 | Habari |
| 9:55 | Habari za saa | 23:30 | The Base |
| 10:00 | Watoto wetu | 00:30 | Al Jazeera |
| 10:30 | Shamba lulu | SATURDAY 5 August | |
| 10:55 | Habari za saa | 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 11:00 | Ripoti maalum rpt | 6:00 | HABARI |
| 11:55 | Habari za saa | 6:40 | Kumekucha |
| 12:00 | Al Jazeera | 7:00 | Habari |
| 12:30 | Jarida la wanawake rpt | 8:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 12:55 | Habari za saa | 9:00 | Watoto wetu |
| SUNDAY 6 August | | | |
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 10:00 | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 11:50 | Bongo Movie rpt |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 14:00 | Tamasha la Michezo |
| 7:00 | Habari | 15:30 | Mwanga |
| 8:00 | Al Jazeera | 16:30 | ITV Top 10 rpt |
| 8:30 | Al Jazeera | 17:20 | Kipindi cha kikirito |
| 9:00 | Al Jazeera | 18:00 | Jiji Letu |
| 9:30 | Al Jazeera | 18:15 | Majapiti |
| 10:00 | Al Jazeera | 18:30 | Makubiko ya wiki |
| 10:30 | Al Jazeera | 19:30 | Igizo: Slay Queen |
| 11:00 | Al Jazeera | 20:00 | Habari |
| 11:30 | Al Jazeera | 21:05 | Kipindi maalum: Biko |
| 12:00 | Al Jazeera | 21:10 | Igizo: Mizengwe |
| 12:30 | Al Jazeera | 21:35 | Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot |
| 13:00 | Al Jazeera | 21:45 | Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 13:30 | Al Jazeera | 22:20 | Bongo movie |
| 14:00 | Al Jazeera | 23:30 | Soap: Uzalo rpt |
| 14:30 | Al Jazeera | 00:20 | Al Jazeera |
| CAPITAL | | | |
| Wed 02 Aug | | | |
| 06:00 | Al Jazeera | 17:00 | Innovation rpt |
| 07:00 | Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 17:30 | Meza huru |
| 08:00 | Dw | 18:00 | Sports Gazette |
| 09:00 | Al Jazeera | 19:00 | Chetu ni chetu |
| 10:00 | Al Jazeera | 20:00 | Monday Agenda Rpt |
| 11:30 | Tomorrow Today rpt | 20:45 | Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana |
| 12:00 | Dw News Africa rpt | 21:30 | Capital Prime News |
| 12:30 | Our Earth | 22:45 | Dakika 45 |
| 13:00 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana | 23:15 | Al Jazeera |
| 13:30 | Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | THURS 03 Aug | |
| 14:00 | Tomorrow Today | 06:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 14:30 | Business edition rpt | 07:00 | Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 15:00 | In good shape | 09:00 | Dw |
| 15:30 | Meza huru | 11:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 16:00 | Out & About Rpt | 11:30 | Al Jazeera |
| 16:30 | EcoAfrica | 12:30 | Capchat |
| 17:00 | Our Earth Rpt | 13:00 | Decor |
| 17:30 | Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana | 13:30 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana |
| 18:00 | Capital Prime News | 14:00 | Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 18:30 | Capchat rpt | 14:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 19:00 | Al Jazeera | 15:00 | Business edition rpt |
| Frid 04 Aug | | | |
| 06:00 | Al Jazeera | 16:30 | In good shape |
| 07:00 | Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 17:30 | Meza huru |
| 09:00 | Dw | 18:00 | Out & About Rpt |
| 11:00 | Al Jazeera | 19:30 | EcoAfrica |
| 11:30 | Al Jazeera | 20:00 | Our Earth Rpt |
| 12:30 | Capchat | 20:45 | Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana |
| 13:00 | Decor | 21:30 | Capital Prime News |
| 13:30 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana | 22:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 14:00 | Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | 23:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 14:30 | Tomorrow Today | Sat 05 Aug | |
| 15:00 | Business edition rpt | 06:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 15:30 | In good shape | 07:00 | Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 16:00 | Meza huru | 09:00 | Dw |
| 16:30 | Out & About Rpt | 11:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 17:00 | EcoAfrica | 11:30 | Al Jazeera |
| 17:30 | Our Earth Rpt | 12:30 | Capchat |
| 18:00 | Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana | 13:00 | Decor |
| 18:30 | Capital Prime News | 13:30 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana |
| 19:00 | Capchat rpt | 14:00 | Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 19:30 | Al Jazeera | 14:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 20:00 | Al Jazeera | 15:00 | Business edition rpt |
| 20:15 | Local Pgm: Business Edition | 15:30 | In good shape |
| 20:45 | Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana | 16:00 | Meza huru |
| 21:30 | Capital Prime News | 16:30 | Out & About Rpt |
| 22:00 | Malumbano ya hoja rpt | 17:00 | EcoAfrica |
| 00:00 | Al Jazeera | 19:30 | Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights |
| Sun 06 Aug | | | |
| 08:00 | Al Jazeera | 20:00 | Jajina |
| 09:00 | Spots gazette | 20:30 | Out & About rpt |
| 09:30 | In good shape | 21:00 | Dw News Africa |
| 10:00 | Capchat rpt | 21:30 | Capchat live |
| 10:30 | Sports Gazette rpt | 22:15 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana |
| 11:00 | Dw | 00:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 11:30 | Jajina rpt | | |
| 12:00 | Bundesliga Kick Off rpt | | |
| 12:30 | In good shape rpt | | |
| 13:00 | Dw | | |
| 13:30 | Abu yako | | |
| 14:00 | Rev rpt | | |
| 14:30 | Dakika 45 rpt | | |
| 15:00 | Mizengwe rpt | | |
| 15:30 | The Decor rpt | | |
| 16:00 | Meza huru | | |
| 16:30 | EcoAfrica | | |
| 17:00 | Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights | | |
| 17:30 | Jajina | | |
| 18:00 | Out & About rpt | | |
| 18:30 | Dw News Africa | | |
| 19:00 | Capchat live | | |
| 19:30 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana | | |
| 20:00 | Al Jazeera | | |

WORLD

Niger arrests politicians after coup, other juntas voice support

NIAMEY

THE junta that seized power in Niger last week detained senior politicians on Monday, their party said, defying international calls to restore democratic rule, while fellow military rulers in West Africa expressed their support.

The overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum has sent shockwaves across West Africa.

The African Union, the UN, the European Union and other powers have condemned the overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum - the seventh military takeover in less than three years in West and Central Africa that has undermined democratic progress in one of the world's poorest regions.

Regional bloc ECOWAS has imposed sanctions, including a halt in all financial transactions and a national assets freeze, and said it could authorise force to reinstate Bazoum, who is still locked in his palace.

But the juntas of neighboring Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea all voiced their

support for the coup's leaders on Monday.

"Mali and Burkina Faso warn that any military intervention in Niger will be considered as a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali," said a joint statement read on both countries' national broadcasters.

Niger's junta on Monday arrested the ousted government's mines minister, the head of the ruling party and the oil minister, among others.

Meanwhile, a United States official on Monday said the coup had not been fully successful and that there was still an opportunity to reinstate Bazoum. France and Germany echoed those comments.

Russian flags

Last Wednesday's coup has raised fears for the security of the Sahel region. Niger is the world's seventh-biggest producer of uranium, the radioactive metal widely used for nuclear energy and treating cancer.

The United States, former colonial



Nigerien policemen are seen as supporters rally in support of Niger's junta in Niamey on Sunday. Thousands of people demonstrated in front of the French embassy in Niamey, before being dispersed by tear gas, during a rally in support of the military putschists who overthrew the elected president Mohamed Bazoum in Niger. AFP

power France and other Western states have troops in Niger and had been working with the government to overcome an Islamist insurgency by groups linked to Islamic State and al Qaeda.

But attacks on civilians and soldiers persist, fomenting discontent and straining relations with Western powers.

There have been four takeovers in neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso during the last two years, all of which have come amid frustrations about growing insecurity.

The coup leaders, who have named General Abdourahmane Tiani, the former presidential guard chief, as head of state, said they overthrew Bazoum over poor governance and discontent with the way he handled the Islamist threat.

On Sunday, supporters of the junta burned French flags and attacked the French embassy in Niger's capital, Niamey, prompting police to fire volleys of tear gas in response.

Economic pinch

ECOWAS appears to have taken a tougher stance towards Niger than its junta-led neighbors, which have been sanctioned but never threatened with force.

Both the EU and France have backed the bloc's response suspended their own financial support, while the US has threatened to do so. "The EU and Niger share deep ties developed over decades. The unacceptable attack on the democratically elected government puts these ties in jeopardy," European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

After days of turmoil, the International Monetary Fund said it was closely monitoring developments in Niger. But the IMF has not yet taken any specific actions in response to the coup.

It has yet to disburse a \$131.5 million loan to Niger that was approved on July 5, it added.

The regional central bank has meanwhile cancelled Niger's planned 30 billion CFA (\$51 million) bond issuance, scheduled for Monday in the West African regional debt market, following sanctions, sources said. **Agencies**

Violence erupts in Senegal after opposition leader Sonko detained, internet restricted

DAKAR

THE Government of Senegal has temporarily shut off internet access on Monday after it dissolved the political party of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko for rallying supporters into stoking unrest during violent protests last month, according to RT.

Sonko, a prominent member of the opposition, was detained on Friday and is charged with seven offences including criminal conspiracy and preparing an uprising, the decision to shut off the internet services was made.

Supporters of the PASTEF party, which Sonko will represent as a candidate in the February 2024 presidential elections, are outraged that his conviction could prevent him from running, RT reported.

Violence erupted in Senegal's capital, Dakar, and elsewhere in the country last month after Sonko, 49, was sentenced to two years in prison on a separate charge of "corrupting the youth." Despite the sentence, however, Sonko had not yet been transferred to jail.

Nine people were killed in the ensuing unrest, prompting authorities to impose a blanket ban on the use of several social media platforms, RT reported.

Interior Minister Antoine Felix Abdoulaye Diome announced at the time that sites such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter had been suspended because demonstrators were using them to incite violence.

Full access to mobile internet across the country was restored after a two-day blackout, RT reported.

In a statement on Monday, Senegal's Communications Ministry explained that the move is in response to the "dissemination of hateful and subversive messages relayed on social networks."

Communications Minister Moussa Bocar Thiam directed mobile network operators on Monday to comply with the orders. **ANI**

Rights groups call for investigation against war crimes

KHARTOUM

BOTH sides in the Sudanese conflict have been charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, according to a collection of Sudanese rights and professional organisations.

The group has demanded an inquiry by the International Criminal Court in a letter sent to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, according to Voice of America (VOA). Both the Sudan Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are charged with violating human rights against civilians in Sudan's Darfur area and elsewhere more than 30 rights organisations and professional bodies in the country.

In a joint statement issued Saturday, the rights groups demanded an immediate investigation into the alleged violations and for the referral of the matter to the International Criminal Court through the United Nations Security Council, VOA reported.

Nafisa Hajar, the deputy chairman of the Darfur Bar Association, told VOA that her organisation has evidence of a number of attacks and breaches, including mass executions, ethnic cleansing, and forced evictions, which she claimed would constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

She said, given that the judicial system of Sudan is now paralyzed due to the ongoing war, the international community should take action to bring the perpetrators to a court of law, VOA reported.

Hajar said right now there are continued airstrikes on civilian buildings, civilians are forcefully displaced from their homes, and women are being systematically raped. All these atrocities, she said, should be counted as war crimes.

On July 13, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, announced the opening of a new investigation regarding allegations of war crimes in the context of the war in Sudan, especially in the city of El Geneina in West Darfur state.

Hajar said the motive behind the filed petition is to help the victims and to prevent the continued impunity of the alleged perpetrators, VOA reported.

She said both the army and the RSF deserve to be investigated.

Hajar said at the moment there are serious violations of all treaties and agreements that call for the protection of civilians. She said the rights of Sudanese civilians are now being violated by both warring parties.

Sudanese lawyer Abdul Basit Al Haj criticized the Sudan Armed Forces for failing to protect civilians in El Geneina during RSF attacks in the city and elsewhere in Sudan, VOA reported.

Speaking to VOA, Al Haj said the RSF has been attacking hospitals, occupying them, targeting doctors in Khartoum, and committing genocide and ethnic cleansing of non-Arab groups, specifically the Masalit ethnic group in West Darfur state. **ANI**

PM Modi flags off metro trains, inaugurates various projects in Pune

PUNE

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi as part of his day-long visit to Maharashtra's Pune, yesterday flagged off metro trains marking the inauguration of services on completed sections of two corridors of Pune Metro Phase-I.

These sections are from Phuge-wadi station to Civil Court station and Garware College station to Ruby Hall Clinic station. The Foundation Stone of the project was also laid by the Prime Minister in 2016.

The new sections will connect important places of Pune city like Shivaji Nagar, Civil Court, Pune Municipal Corporation office, Pune RTO and Pune Railway Station. PM Modi (pictured) also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects at Shivaji Nagar Police headquarters in Pune.

He laid the foundation stones for various development projects worth Rs 15,000 crores after receiving Lokmanya Tilak National Award at an event in Maharashtra's Pune.

Addressing a gathering at Shivaji Nagar Police headquarters here in Pune after the inauguration ceremony, PM Modi said that his government is working towards improving the quality of life of the people.

"Foundation stone has been laid for around Rs 15000 crore projects here, thousands of families received proper house...Our govt is very serious about the quality of life of the middle class and professionals in the city... when the quality of life of the people improves, the development of the city also happens fast..." he said.

"Our government is working towards improving the quality of



life of the people," Modi added.

PM Modi on Tuesday said it was a memorable moment for him to be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award.

He was addressing an event in Pune where he shared the stage with Nationalist Congress Party

(NCP) stalwart Sharad Pawar.

"This is a memorable moment for me," he said, adding, "While I am very happy to be here, I am also feeling emotional. Lokmanya Tilak is the tilak of our freedom struggle."

"The role of Lokmanya Tilak in India's independence, his contribution cannot be summed up in a few words or by illustrating a few incidents," PM Modi said, invoking the freedom fighter, adding, "I pay homage to him and all our freedom fighters. I am honoured to be on Maharashtra soil. This is the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Jyotirba Phule."

Prime Minister Modi added that he has decided to donate the prize money from the award to the Namami Gange project.

"I have decided to donate the prize money to the Namami Gange project. I want to dedicate this award to 140 crore people of

the country," he said.

The Award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983, to honour the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.

With this award, PM Modi became the 41st recipient of the award.

The former recipients include luminaries such as Shankar Dayal Sharma, Pranab Mukherjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, NR Narayana Murthy, and E Sreedharan, among others.

Earlier on Tuesday, PM Modi reached Pune as part of a day-long visit.

PM Modi was received by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputies Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar.

PM Modi also offered prayers at Shreeamant Dagdusheth Halwai Mandir. **ANI**

'Nuances exist' among BRICS members regarding group's potential expansion - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE topic of expanding BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) is "near the top of the agenda" and will be discussed at the upcoming BRICS summit, although nuances exist among the group's member states regarding its expansion prospects, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Indeed, the topic of BRICS' expansion is near the top of the agenda, including the agenda of the upcoming summit.

This is a very important topic because we see that increasingly more countries are making statements

about their intention to join this group. Indeed, within the framework of BRICS certain nuances exist among members on the subject of expansion, and all these nuances certainly will be discussed during the upcoming summit," he said, commenting on a report by Bloomberg, citing sources, that India and Brazil are reportedly resisting China's calls for a rapid expansion of BRICS.

The Kremlin official added that BRICS expansion-related issues will be determined during the summit, as "the heads of state will talk about their position." "Overall, such a [high level of] interest in the BRICS



Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov

group is indicative of the association's great potential and growing authority, and, most importantly, of the hands-on nature of the group," he concluded.

It is expected that the BRICS summit slated to

be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 22-24 will review official applications submitted by a number of candidate countries to join the group.



We are building 10 special museums to immortalise the contribution of our tribal community in the freedom struggle initiative in the whole world

PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE dangers for journalists in Haiti have escalated in recent months, with killings, abductions, and attacks among the most pressing threats, Voice of America (VOA) reported.

In the latest incident, the independent broadcaster Radio Antarctique was burned down in an apparent gang attack. According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), some 50 men attacked the village of Liancourt, located about 110 kilometres from the capital, Port-au-Prince, in the early hours of July 23 and set fire to the station and dozens of homes.

"They smashed everything and then

Journalists at risk from arson, kidnapping, attack

set fire to it. It was reduced to ashes," the broadcaster's founder, Roderson Elias, told CPJ.

Elias founded Radio Antarctique a year ago and ran it with around a dozen staff. None of them was injured in the attack, but four residents from Liancourt were killed and several others abducted, according to reports.

VOA reached out to the station but did not immediately get a response. In media interviews after the attack, however, Elias said he believes that gang members had targeted the station because of its reporting and that he had received

threats earlier in the year.

The station regularly reported on violence and other issues affecting the community. The head of a local gang reportedly accused Elias of inciting the community against his organisation, and the media foundation cautioned that conditions for journalists in Haiti "remain untenable," according to Voice of America (VOA).

"Local authorities must restore order so that all citizens, including journalists, can live without fear from armed gangs," Cristina Zahar, CPJ's Latin America and the Caribbean program coordinator said

in a statement. "Journalists should not face violent retaliation simply for doing their jobs." The deteriorating state of media parallels broader insecurity since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, Voice of America (VOA) reported.

On July 7, 2021, a squad of gunmen assassinated the president at his home in the capital, Port-au-Prince throwing the country into a deeper crisis amid growing chaos and gang violence.

Since then, for journalists, one of the biggest risks is kidnapping. On July 21, unidentified people kidnapped radio host Blondine Tanis near her Port-au-Prince

home, demanding a ransom for her return. On Monday, CPJ reported that Tanis had been released.

"The decline in her health while in gang custody is deeply concerning," CPJ's Zahar said in a statement announcing the reporter's release.

"It is unacceptable that gangs have repeatedly kidnapped members of the press and held them for ransom," he added. Earlier this week, an American nurse and her child were kidnapped in Haiti, according to El Roi Haiti, the Christian humanitarian aid organisation she works for, CNN reported.

Alix Dorsainvil, wife of El Roi Haiti director Sandro Dorsainvil, and their child were reportedly abducted on Thursday morning, according to a statement on El Roi Haiti's website.

The post read that the two were taken while serving in their community ministry on El Roi Haiti's campus, near the capital Port-au-Prince, as per CNN.

The statement said, "Alix is a deeply compassionate and loving person who considers Haiti her home and the Haitian people her friends and family. Alix has worked tirelessly as our school and community nurse to bring relief to those who are suffering as she loves and serves the people of Haiti in the name of Jesus." **ANI**

Russian diplomat compares Ukrainian attacks on Moscow office towers to 9/11 attack

MOSCOW

THE terrorist methods that the Kiev regime used to target the Moscow City financial district on July 30 bring to mind the September 11, 2001, attack on New York, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Soloviev Live TV channel.

"Let's take a look at another example: the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers. It caused an enormous number of casualties but the methods were the same.

The Moscow City district is a civilian site, which only hosts offices and a business center, along with living quarters - a great number of residential apartments - as well as civilian administrative buildings that have nothing to do with the military," Zakharova pointed out.

"We are seeing the same picture now, as if it is repeating itself," the diplomat noted.

Earlier, Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said that several unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) had been downed on their way to attack the capital city.

One drone still managed to elude air defenses to reach the Moscow City district, damaging the facade of one of its towers at the 21st floor level. Glazing was damaged over an area of 150 square meters; no one was hurt.

The Russian Defense Ministry clarified that two Ukrainian drones had been destroyed over the Odintsovo and Naro-Fominsk districts of the adjacent Moscow Region, while the third UAV was jammed, lost control and crashed inside a non-residential high-rise office complex in the Moscow City financial district. **Agencies**

Zimbabwe elections campaigning now on homestretch with just three weeks to go

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean political landscape is hotting up with just over three weeks before the country holds crucial harmonized elections to determine who will lead government and local authorities for the coming five years.



President Emmerson Mnangagwa (pictured) has been on a whirlwind campaign trail that has seen him traverse most of the country as he drums up support for his ruling ZANU-PF party, whose major challenge appears to be from the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) led by Nelson Chamisa.

Mnangagwa and Chamisa will contest the presidential election together with nine other candidates whose chances of landing the top post appear to be remote. Mnangagwa's party has already made a head start in the elections, winning some seats in both parliament and local authorities where other parties failed to field candidates.

Various surveys have put both Mnangagwa and his party ahead of Chamisa and the CCC. Mnangagwa's ZANU-PF party did not publish a manifesto for the elections, saying that the work it has done during the past five years is testimony of its ability to continue in power.

Independent economist and political commentator Paul Musodza predicted that ZANU-PF would win the elections by a bigger margin than the previous election in 2018.

"The elections are contested mainly in opposition-controlled constituencies - towns. The rural areas are quiet and safely ZANU-PF, and now there are more rural constituencies than urban ones," he said, adding that ZANU-PF is now "a well-oiled machine" while the CCC "has internal squabbles."

He said the major hurdle the ZANU-PF party faces is the economy, which appears to be benefiting those in rural areas more than those in urban areas. "Unemployment levels are too high. That can only be wished away but it's reality in towns.

The youths want jobs and government has not performed well in towns because of central bank monetary weaknesses. However, half of the youngsters don't vote so it won't even benefit CCC," Musodza said.

Rejoice Ngwenya, another political analyst, however, sees things differently and believes that the CCC can pull it in a free and fair election. "The only reason ZANU-PF can 'win' is if the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission compromises its independence. Although ZANU-PF controls all state institutions, the strength of CCC will not allow ZANU-PF a two-thirds majority," he said.

Among the biggest challenges facing the ZANU-PF party is the volatility of the local currency, which has seen inflation rise as prices of basic commodities shoot up.

Measures by fiscal and monetary authorities, however, have stabilized the local currency and led to a downward movement of prices of certain commodities in Zimbabwe dollar terms, even though they remain high in U.S. dollar terms in major retail stores. **Xinhua**

Ghana vows to sustain fiscal discipline to achieve economic recovery

ACCRA

GHANA would work hard to sustain fiscal discipline by continuing with measures introduced under the 2023 budget and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-supported program to achieve economic recovery, Finance Minister Kenneth Ofori-Atta said on Monday.

In the mid-year budget review to the parliament, Ofori-Atta said Ghana has started making progress in dealing with the recent economic challenges due to the measures taken by the government.

"We have turned the corner, and more importantly, we are determined to continue down that path," said the minister, adding that Ghana has made significant progress in restoring macroeconomic stability, with the economy showing signs of recovery within a stabilizing exchange rate, softening inflation, and declining interest rates. **Xinhua**

UNESCO recommends adding Venice to heritage 'in danger' list

UNESCO experts have recommended that Venice and its lagoon be added to its list of World Heritage in Danger as Italy is not doing enough to protect the city from the impact of climate change and mass tourism.

UNESCO World Heritage Centre experts regularly review the state of the UN cultural agency's 1,157 World Heritage sites, and at a meeting in Riyadh in September, a committee of 21 UNESCO member states will review more than 200 sites and decide which to add to the danger list.

For nearly 10 of these sites, the experts recommend that member states put them on the danger list, among which already are the historic center of Odessa, Ukraine, the town of Timbuktu in Mali, and several sites in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Other sites recommended to be put on the danger list this year are the cities of Kyiv and Lviv in Ukraine.

"Resolution of long-standing but urgent issues is hindered by a lack of overall joint strategic vision for the long-term preservation of the property and low effectiveness of integrated coordinated management at all stakeholder levels," UNESCO said.

UNESCO said corrective measures proposed by the Italian state are "currently insufficient and not detailed enough." It added that Italy "has not been communicating in a sustained and substantive manner since its last Committee session in 2021, when UNESCO had already threatened to blacklist Venice.

The agency said it hoped that "such inscription will result



A photo taken on July 31, 2023 shows tourists taking a Gondola ride across the Grand Canal in Venice. **AFP**

in greater dedication and mobilization" of local and national stakeholders to address long-standing issues.

A spokesperson for the Venice municipality told Reuters the city "will carefully read the proposed decision published today by the Center for UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and will discuss it with the government".

Venice, known for its canals and cultural sites, has been struggling with mass tourism for years. On a single day during the 2019 Carnival, some 193,000 people squeezed into the historic center. Venice has been preparing to introduce a fee for day-trippers to control visitor numbers, but has been delayed by objections. **Agencies**

Chinese company makes positive contributions to Iraq's economic, livelihood development

HALFAYA oil field is one of the seven giant oil fields in Iraq. Located in southern Iraq province of Maysan, it boasts an annual production capacity of 20 million tons. It is the largest project that PetroChina, or China National Petroleum Corporation undertakes overseas in its capacity as operator, and plays a crucial role in ensuring Iraq's energy exports.

Haider al-Rubaie, chairman of the Iraqi-Chinese Friendship Association noted that Iraq-China energy cooperation constitutes an important part of the co-construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and projects undertaken by Chinese enterprises have made positive contributions to Iraq's economic recovery and livelihood development.

The oil field was discovered in 1976. However, it was not exploited by the Iraqi government due to complex geological conditions and other reasons until PetroChina, in association with several international and local energy companies, won the bidding for the Halfaya project in the second petroleum bidding round organized by the Iraqi side after the Iraq war in 2009.

Fang Jiazhong, head of PetroChina Halfaya Oil Field, said Halfaya oil field consists of multiple giant carbonate reservoirs carrying different features and having different rocks and fluids.

Multiple Chinese research institutions and enterprises launched joint researches

to make innovations in both theory and practice to ensure the success of the extraction.

Fang said the tight spread of multiple oil wells within a short distance in Halfaya oil field is a good example of such innovations. He explained that oil wells extend thousands of meters underground, which are horizontal, vertical or both, so efforts must be made to ensure that these oil wells are free from mutual interference and complement each other in exploitation.

Such a tridimensional well pattern demonstrates the outstanding technological and management capability of the Chinese side, Fang added.

"Iraq is in urgent need of investment in the oil and gas industry, and China has boosted local development in the construction of the Halfaya oil field. Iraq-China energy cooperation enjoys broad prospects," said Anwer al Bhadly, an official from the Ministry of Trade of Iraq. He stressed that Belt and Road projects bring tangible benefits to host countries and regions, and Iraq should board the train of China's rapid development to better cope with the challenges it faces.

A natural gas processing plant at Halfaya oil field is expected to be mechanically completed this September and put into use before the end of the year. So far, 90 percent of the construction has been completed, includ-



Local employees work at Halfaya oil field in Iraq. (People's Daily/Guan Kejiang)

ing cooling towers, scrubber towers and storage tanks.

Massive natural gas would be generated during the exploitation of crude oil. However, in Iraq, such natural gas is mostly burned at sites of oil exploration because natural gas processing calls for huge investment, takes a long time and is technically challenging. It not only is a waste of resources, but also creates severe pollution when burning the gas. Therefore, the construction of the natural gas processing plant at Halfaya oil field draws wide attention in Iraq.

The plant will be the first major associated gas project in Iraq after being put into operation. It is expected to

reduce nearly 30,000 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions, and the liquefied petroleum gas it produces each year can generate 5 billion kWh of electricity, which meets the demand for 4 million local households.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister Hayan Abdul Ghani hailed PetroChina for making significant contributions to solving local livelihood problems, saying the company has worked actively to tackle challenges and steadily promoted the construction of the natural gas processing plant at Halfaya oil field.

"It is hoped that the project can be completed soon and alleviate local energy

shortage as early as possible," he added.

PetroChina Halfaya Oil Field has launched a series of training programs for local university students to promote local employment and improve Iraq's talent training. It is learned that many trainees have become department heads or project leaders.

"When I just joined the company, it was still a wasteland here. Now, it's covered by trees and neatly built constructions.

There's even a small airport here. Employees of the company come from dozens of countries, and the company just provides us a place where we get better through

mutual learning," said Ali Nasir Waheed AL-Lami, Section Head of Recruitment, Human Resources Department, PetroChina Halfaya Oil Field.

He told People's Daily that the company has over 1,600 Iraqi employees, account for over 80 percent of the company's total workforce.

The Hawizeh Marshes in Halfaya oil field is the only wetland in Iraq protected by the Ramsar Convention. Its ecological environment is highly sensitive.

Halfaya oil field strictly follows environmental protection standards, so as to reduce pollutions from human activities and build a virtuous ecological cycle for the wetland, which has effectively protected the habitat of migratory birds.

Besides, PetroChina is also actively joining local public welfare. It offers food for local communities, helps them repair roads, build bridges, tunnels, high-voltage power transmission lines, ditches and other infrastructure projects. It has also donated activity rooms, school buses and stationery to local schools, as well as home appliances and furniture to local residents.

Ali Dawai Lazem, Governor of Maysan Province, noted that the Chinese company has made huge contributions to improving Iraq's public welfare, employment and livelihood, and strengthened the traditional friendship and pragmatic cooperation between Iraq and China. **People's Daily**

Progress in gender equality advances growth, stability in Rwanda

KIGALI

RWANDA has made remarkable development strides in the past three decades with a strong focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, which has stimulated economic growth and boosted private and public sector performance, a senior official has said.

"The key driver behind Rwanda's progress has been the unwavering political will and commitment to championing gender equality and empowering women," said Silas Ngayaboshya, director general of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment at the Rwandan Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion.

Highlighting the nation's efforts in promoting gender equality, Ngayaboshya told Xinhua in a recent interview that the country's constitution specifically mandates that at least 30 percent of seats in various government institutions be occupied by women, which makes it one of the countries in the world with the highest representation of women in state agencies.

"To ensure the effective implementation of these provisions,



Rwanda has enacted laws aligned with the constitution's guidelines and established grassroots structures that facilitate women's participation in national development," he said.

Several institutions in Rwanda have been created to support gender equality efforts, including the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Women's Council, the Gender Monitoring

Office and the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum.

Gender considerations have also been integrated into various policies initiated by different ministries, ensuring that sectors like agriculture, farming and education address gender-specific needs and challenges.

Nevertheless, Rwanda faces challenges in addressing deeply entrenched negative social norms

related to gender, which require substantial efforts and investments for transformative change, Ngayaboshya said. "Women's economic empowerment remains a priority, as it can lead to greater gender equality and overall socioeconomic development," he said. He stated that gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant obstacle, and Rwanda has taken a comprehensive approach

to address this issue through prevention and response measures. "Community-based structures and forums are utilized to build a safe and resilient family environment. The country has also established Isange One Stop Centers in hospitals, offering holistic support to GBV survivors," Ngayaboshya said.

According to him, despite the progress made, there is still much to do in creating a more inclusive society regarding gender equality in Rwanda.

He explained that the continuous focus and dedication displayed by Rwanda are essential to sustain and build upon the achievements already made, making gender equality and women's empowerment central to the nation's progress and development.

"Rwanda's awareness-raising efforts have yielded positive results, as both men and women recognize that gender equality benefits the entire society.

While proud of the current position, Rwanda remains committed to further accelerating progress and fostering a society that accommodates everyone without perpetuating inequalities," Ngayaboshya said. **Xinhua**

SPORT



Gerezani Primary School's pupils take part in football at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tabora United eyes top-four finish in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE NBC Premier League debutant, Tabora United, has said it aims for a top-four finish in the forthcoming top-flight season.

Tabora United's information officer, Pendo Lema, said her team is geared for the league and, with the new signings the club has had, she is confident of witnessing the team garnering top four finish.

She said Tabora United which was

previously known as Kitayosce FC has assembled the best players that will cause an upset in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season.

"We have signed 12 top foreign players, they will cause an upset to many teams especially when playing in our backyard (Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium)," Pendo noted.

"We also have the best local players, we aim to emerge champions of the coming season but, if that fails, we want to finish in the top four," she said.

Pendo on Sunday disclosed that they will announce foreign players signed by the club but had, as we went to press, yet to present the list. The information officer also said the coming of former Simba SC coach, Goran Kopunovic, at Tabora United has boosted the club's technical panel as the Serbian gaffer has experience in the local league.

"We have one of the experienced football coaches, he knows the Tanzanian football and his coming as our head coach is a big boost to our team," she said.

Kopunovic (aged 56) had before joining Simba SC coached Police FC of Rwanda, BFC Siófok Katı, and Salavan of Russia and, before joining Tabora United, he was coaching in Zambia.

Tennis fans in DC are warned that Ukraine's Svitolina and Belarus' Azarenka won't shake hands

WASHINGTON

SPECTATORS at the DC Open were told before Ukraine's Elina Svitolina defeated Belarus' Victoria Azarenka 7-6 (2), 6-4 on Monday night that the players would not shake hands when their first-round match ended.

During the war in Ukraine, Svitolina – like several other players from her country – has declined to participate in the usual meeting at the net with opponents from Russia or Belarus. Russia invaded Ukraine with the help of Belarus in February 2022 and fighting continues.

When Svitolina wrapped up her victory Monday, both she and Azarenka walked straight toward the sideline to acknowledge the chair umpire. Folks in the stands applauded; a few waved blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags.

At other recent tournaments, some fans – seemingly unaware of the background – booed Ukrainian players for not participating in the customary handshake. After losing to Svitolina at Wimbledon, it was Azarenka who was jeered loudly for not going up to the net herself – even though she did so because she knew Svitolina would not want to shake hands.

Svitolina, who made it to the Wimbledon semifinals just three months after returning from maternity leave, said at the time that she thought it would make sense for tournaments to start informing fans about the situation; the All England Club said it would not do that.

But Svitolina said she was assured by WTA Chairman and CEO Steve Simon that there would be a message delivered to the crowd in Washington before her match against Azarenka – and there was.

"It's the right thing," Svitolina said. "I asked for the WTA to respect the decision of Ukrainians. And they did."

The scoreboards read: "At the conclusion of the match, there will be no handshake between the players. We appreciate your respect for both athletes during and following the match, and for your understanding during these difficult circumstances."

The message was shown after the first set, too. "I don't care. I mean, how long are we going

to talk about that, really? Is that a big story? Is this interesting for people to keep writing the same thing over and over again?" said Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion and former No. 1-ranked player.

Azarenka added that she thought that sort of explanation for fans arrived "about – how many? – 18 months too late."

The WTA has not yet decided whether to tell all tournaments to post a similar message before any match involving a player from Ukraine against one from Russia or Belarus.

In earlier action on Day 1 at the first combined ATP-WTA 500 event, defending champion Liudmila Samsonova stretched her winning streak in Washington to six matches by beating 2022 Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins 6-1, 6-3.

The eighth-seeded Samsonova saved both break points she faced while winning four of Collins' service games. Collins hurt herself by double-faulting eight times.

Samsonova is a 24-year-old from Russia who is currently ranked 18th. Her trophy on the hard courts of the U.S. Open tune-up tournament a year ago was one of four singles titles she's won. In other women's matches, Lauren Davis eliminated 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens 7-6 (8), 3-6, 6-1, sixth-seeded Belinda Bencic advanced when Anastasia Potapova retired in the first set with an injured left ankle, and Marta Kostyuk beat 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Sofia Kenin, the Australian Open champion and French Open runner-up in 2019, withdrew from the DC Open because of an injured left thigh and was replaced in the field by Peyton Stearns, who lost in qualifying.

In men's action, Mackenzie McDonald eliminated Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, Aslan Karatsev beat Kiranpal Pannu 7-6 (3), 6-1, Alexander Shevchenko defeated Maxime Cressy 6-3, 7-6 (8), Michael Mmoh beat Bradley Klahn 6-3, 6-3, and Yosuke Watanuki moved into the second round when Wu Yibing stopped playing because of illness.

AP

SPORTS

Tanzania U-19's cricketer holds sway in 2023 ICC U-19 WC Africa Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

EVEN though efforts by Tanzania's U-19 cricket squad to make it to the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup have ended in vain, the team had the most memorable performance in its last match of the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers that climaxed in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

In one of the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers final day duels, Tanzania U-19 cricketers, on the one hand, beat the Sierra Leone U-19 team by 142 runs to garner the only win in their participation in the junior continental showpiece.

The encounter held at the University of Dar es Salaam ground witnessed Tanzania U-19 cricketers winning the toss, electing to take the crease first and registering 259/9 in the allotted 50 overs.

In response, the Sierra Leone U-19 cricket team found the going tough in the chase, ending with 117/10 in 24.1 overs to suffer the loss.

Having recorded the highest margin victory in the tournament and the highest score of the tournament, the tournament hosts will certainly be proud of managing to wind up their campaign impressively.

The highlight of the tie was, on the other hand, a scintillating showing with the bat that was showcased by the tie's eventual winners' cricketer, Shaikh Basha, given the performer notched 115 runs not out which included five fours and a six.

Having stepped on the crease after the quick dismissal of another top-order cricketer Baraka Robert, Basha mercilessly cracked balls all over the pitch and set up a last-wicket partnership with Issa Safari (seven runs not out).

The two batsmen significantly pushed Tanzania U-19's score and helped the squad end its innings with an imposing figure.

It was in the end the best batting performance to have been displayed in the week-long ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers and was moreover the only century of the tournament.

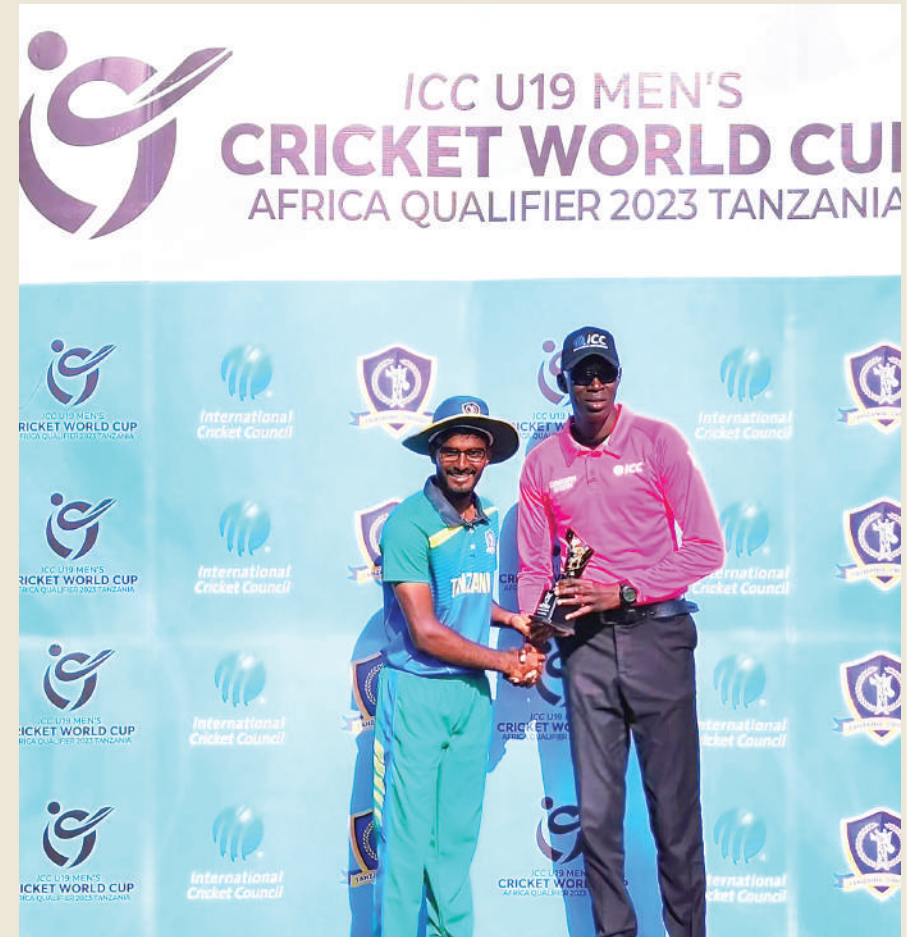
The Tanzanian batsman ended at the top 10 list of individual players rankings as generated by the automated point system on the tournament application based on the match statistics of the individual performances.

Basha chalked up 1043 points, Raymond Coker of Sierra Leone took second place with 853 points and Namibia's Jack Thomas Brassell settled for number three having notched 828 points.

Joseph Baguma of the Uganda U-19 squad took fourth place having scored 826 points, whereas Joshua Asia of Nigeria U-19 came fifth after amassing 755 points.

Another Namibia U-19 cricketer, Peter-Daniel Bignon, settled for sixth place with 746 points, followed by Victor Samuel of Nigeria U-19 taking seventh place having ended with 694 points.

Sierra Leone U-19's performer, George



Tanzania U-19 cricket squad's Shaikh Basha (L) gets the Player of the Match prize from an umpire once the squad locked horns with Sierra Leone U-19 in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Sesay (692 points), Uganda U-19's Fahad Mutagana (617 points), and Namibia U-19's Gerhard Johannes Janse Van Rensburg (609 points) took eighth, ninth, and 10th spots respectively.

In an interview with Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s information officer Atif Salim shortly after the Tanzania U-19 vs Sierra Leone U-19 clash, a delighted Basha revealed: "I feel very happy for this match, I wanted to play well, I wanted to finish the 50 overs."

The performer admitted to having had a wobbly start to his innings, pointing out: "The team was struggling and I got very frustrated, I and my (batting) partner (Safari) sought to play straight batting and we had a very good partnership."

The cricket noted: "I was focusing on being aggressive, I wanted to see the ball, I and my batting partner just played straight balls and he was a good partner today."

Six teams namely Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda took part in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers which got underway on July 23.

Sixteen teams will be competing at the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka over 41 matches and 11 teams automatically qualified for the event as the best-placed Full Member nations from the previous event played in 2022.

The remaining five spots have been determined through regional qualification pathways, with one team from each region securing a place at the global event.

Americas and East Asia Pacific have hosted one qualifying event in 2023, with the winner of the showdowns sealing a spot at the 2024 U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup. The African, Asia, and Europe regions have each gone through a two-step qualification structure.

These regions hosted Division 2 Qualifiers in 2022 to determine the teams that will compete in the second and final qualifying event, the Regional Qualifier, with events taking place in 2023.

The winner of the African event will join regional qualifiers from Asia (Nepal), East Asia Pacific (New Zealand), Europe, and America's representatives, as well as the 11 Full Member cricket nations that automatically qualified for the 15th edition that will be played in Sri Lanka.

The Full Member competitors are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka will be hosting a third U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup after riveting events in 2000 and 2006.

Dar pugilists open quest for glory in 2023 African Men's and Women's Boxing Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's boxers Yusuf Chagalawe and Zulfa Macho were yesterday set to open their campaign in the 2023 African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) African Men's and Women's Boxing Championships taking place at the Yaounde Sports Complex in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) secretary-general, Makore Mashaga disclosed that female boxer Zulfa, fighting in the 52kg category, was set to begin representing Tanzania in the showpiece, trading jabs with Cameroonian boxer Laure Reine Ngoune.

Mashaga (pictured) noted that according to yesterday's schedule, Zulfa was set to take the ring in the afternoon.

The BFT leader revealed male boxer Chagalawe, fighting in the 86kg category, was scheduled to confront Emmanuel Antalika (Mauritius) at 6 pm.

The official noted that both boxers had, yesterday morning, passed the health and weight tests administered by experts and doctors approved by International Boxing Association (IBA).

According to him, the boxers are motivated and have promised to do well so that they can progress to the latter stages of the continental showpiece and finally lay their hands on medals.

A total of 206 boxers- 142 men and 64 women- from 26 African countries are in Yaounde for the premier African boxing



tournament that got underway last Sunday.

The men's Featherweight and Lightweight divisions have attracted the highest number of participants each with 16 boxers.

DR Congo's Marcelat Sakobi, Burundi's Ornella Havyarimana, and Algeria's Fatma Abdelkader, all of whom were silver medalists in last year's Africa Championships in Maputo, are among the high-profile female boxers to be featured in the seven quarterfinals.

Marcelat was scheduled to confront Senegal's Dieynabou Diallo in the Featherweight category, Bantamweight boxer Havyarimana battled Benilde Macaringue of Mozambique while Fatma had a date with Ugandan rookie Nadia Najjemba.

With defending champion Keamogetse Kenosi of Botswana, South Africa's Phiwokuhle Mnguni, and Zambia's Juliana Kasonka missing in action, Marcelat is hotly favoured to win a gold medal in the Featherweight division.

She has twice lost to Kenosi, first in the finals of the 2019 African Games in Rabat, Morocco, and last year's Africa Championships in Maputo.

The two men's Super Heavyweight quarterfinal bouts will feature Nigeria's London-based Adedeji Adegbola vs Cameroon's Mvogo Serge Zacharie with Kenya's Fred Ramogi meeting Algeria's silver medalist in Maputo Mourad Kadi.

Defending champions, Featherweight boxer Armando Sigauque of Mozambique and DR Congo's Light Heavyweight Pita Kabeji Peter are also in the mix.

The Mozambican boxer was set to take on Uganda's debutant but promising boxer, Khassim Mulungi, who can cause significant upset because he is a boxer on a mission. Kabeji will clash with Burundi's Ebenezer Zoungrana.

The gold medalists will get prize money amounting to \$15,000, silver medalists are to rake in \$10,000 each, and bronze medal winners will garner \$5,000 each.

The battle for supremacy is between hosts Cameroon, Morocco, and defending champions Algeria who upstaged Mozambique last year, finishing tops with 41 points followed by Mozambique, Zambia, and Morocco in fourth position.

Cameroon and DR Congo tied for fifth place with two gold medals, three silver medals, and four bronze medals apiece.

USA survive Portugal scare to reach World Cup last 16

AUCKLAND

HOLDERS the United States survived a huge scare to reach the last 16 of the Women's World Cup yesterday after a 0-0 draw against Portugal, who were unlucky not to claim a sensational win at Eden Park that would have taken them through instead.

The USA struggled to impose themselves against opponents ranked 21st in the world and appearing at their first World Cup, and Portugal almost won the game in injury time when substitute Ana Capeta hit the post.

Holding on for the draw means Vlatko Andonovski's side finish in second place in Group E.

The Netherlands go through as group winners after a 7-0 demolition of a Vietnam side who were beaten just 3-0 by the Americans in their first match at the tournament.

That means pre-tournament favourites the USA will move to Australia to play a last-16 tie on Sunday against the winners of Group G, in all likelihood Olympic silver medallists Sweden.

Nothing about their performance here in front of almost 41,000 in Auckland, or in their two previous matches at the tournament, suggests the United States will find it easy going against a side who finished third at the last World Cup.

It is just the second time in Women's World Cup history that the USA have failed to top their group, although on the last occasion, in 2011, they reached the final before losing on penalties to Japan.

They had never before won just one group game, and the regression from four years ago in France is striking.

That time they won all three matches in the first phase, rattling in 18 goals without reply.

Andonovski has insisted a youthful new team will need time to find its feet, but an urgent step-up will

be required if they are not to be eliminated early in the knockout phase.

The US have never before failed to reach the semi-finals in the eight prior editions of the World Cup.

Lavelle handed start - Andonovski made two changes from the 1-1 draw with the Netherlands, with Rose Lavelle rewarded for her game-changing role off the bench in that game with a first start at the tournament.

Savannah DeMelo made way for her, while Lynn Williams was brought in on the right wing as Trinity Rodman dropped out.

Portugal had to win to go through but played as if there was no pressure on them at all, with Andreia Norton shooting over early on and the lively Jessica Silva dragging a shot wide from a good position soon after.

They had more of the possession, and the much-fancied Americans struggled to match the intensity or aggression of a Portugal team who had beaten Vietnam 2-0 in their last match.

Starting a World Cup match for the first time, Williams found the going tough but did have her team's best chances in the opening half, including a snap-shot in stoppage time that was saved by goalkeeper Ines Pereira.

The US started better in the second half but Andonovski was alarmed enough to call for Megan Rapinoe, the veteran replacing Sophia Smith just after the hour mark.

Yet clear chances remained at a minimum and there were some nervy moments at the other end, like when Naomi Girma was booked for a panicked pull on Silva late on.

There was more panic in the US defence in the first minute of injury time when Capeta, who had just come on, smashed a shot off the upright as the holders grimly held on.

AFP

US women's team refuse to sing national anthem

By Jack de Menezes

THE United States women's team continued their 'silent' protest of the national anthem before their Women's World Cup match against Portugal as at least seven players refused to sing.

It was the third match in succession where some players had elected against singing the Star-Spangled Banner, though it remains unclear why a significant proportion of them are choosing to stay silent.

Several players did not sing before the games against Vietnam and the Netherlands (see below), which has become one of the biggest talking points at this year's World Cup, and it drew harsh criticism from the US and accusations of "embarrassing" and "disrespectful".

Yet despite being targeted for not singing, eight of the starting XI stayed tight-lipped on Tuesday morning, with only three players choosing to sing the national anthem.

Captain Lindsey Horan and forward Alex Morgan were both seen singing the anthem, while goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher placed her hand across her chest as is customary during the American national anthem.

But the majority of the starting line up elected to stay silent once more, which is likely to trigger further criticism of their actions in New Zealand.

The players have elected not to ex-

plain why they have decided not to sing the anthem before match. Defender Naomi Girma had brushed off the criticism in the build-up to their second group game but declined to say what the players were protesting. "I think when we're out there we're preparing for the game, and that isn't the focus," Girma said last week. "So ultimately, every player has the choice."

Protests by players around the anthem date back to 2016, when outspoken player Megan Rapinoe was inspired to take a knee after American football player Colin Kaepernick did the same to highlight racial inequality and police brutality in the US.

The following year, US Soccer introduced a policy that players could not kneel during the anthem but this was repealed in February 2021 before the match later that year against Australia at the Olympics where all but one player took a knee.

Rapinoe said before the last World Cup in France in 2019: "I'll probably never put my hand over my heart. I'll probably never sing the national anthem again. I feel like it's kind of defiance in and of itself to just be who I am and wear the jersey, and represent it."

The women's team were in a long-running dispute with US Soccer until February last year, when their equal pay lawsuit against the federation was settled for \$24 million (£19 million).

THE TELEGRAPH

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Captain Lindsey Horan and forward Alex Morgan were both seen singing the anthem, while goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher placed her hand across her chest as is customary during the American national anthem

Marta in tears as Brazil World Cup hopes hang in the balance

MELBOURNE

FOOTBALL legend Marta was moved to tears yesterday as the Brazilian reflected on her career and legacy on the eve of what could be her final Women's World Cup appearance.

Brazil face Jamaica in Melbourne in their final group match today knowing they must win to guarantee they stay in the tournament in Australia and New Zealand.

The 37-year-old Marta - nicknamed "Pele in a skirt" by the late football great - has already said this will be her last World Cup.

She is the all-time leading goalscorer in World Cups, men's or women's, and if she adds to her tally of 17 she will be the first footballer in history to score at six World Cups.

"You know what's good? When I started there were no idols in women's football," she told reporters on the eve of the match with Jamaica, tears filling her eyes.

"How could there be if you didn't show women's football? How could I understand that I would reach the national team and become a reference point?"

"Now I go out on the street and people stop me, parents say to me, 'My daughter adores you, she wants to be just like you.'"

Marta has spent a lifetime overcoming obstacles, from a childhood of poverty to sexism and, more recently, the worst injury of her career.

"It is logical that I am happy to see all this because 20 years ago, in 2003, nobody knew Marta," she added, looking back at how far women's football has come.

It is unclear if the attacker, who has never won the World Cup despite all her achievements, will start against Jamaica. But she could be called off the bench by coach Pia Sundhage if Brazil are chasing the win they so desperately need to stay in the competition.

- 'Lethal weapon' -

Jamaica are second behind Group F leaders France going into the last round of games, and won their first Women's World Cup game in history when they defeated Panama 1-0 last time out.

They were missing the prolific striker Khadija Shaw in the Panama win after she was sent off for a



Brazil's Marta was tearful at the pre-match press conference. Agencies

second yellow card in their opening 0-0 draw with France.

The 26-year-old Shaw, who scored 31 goals in 30 games for Manchester City last season, will be back to face Brazil and could have a major say in proceedings.

"She's a lethal weapon, she scores goals and is the leading goal-scorer in Jamaica," coach Lorne Donaldson said. "She's a very good leader and an outstanding footballer."

Donaldson, whose side is ranked 43 in the world to Brazil's eight, said his team were the underdogs despite being in a better position to make it out of the group.

But he called his players "resilient", adding: "We know Brazil are going to come after us with everything they've got, but we have to be ready. We want to stay a little longer."

In Hamilton, Sweden are already into the knockout phase of the Women's World Cup but are eager to maintain their winning momentum in Wednesday's final group game against Argentina, captain Magdalena Eriksson declared.

Sweden secured their last-16 spot with a 5-0 destruction of Italy on Saturday, following a comeback to beat South Africa 2-1 in their opening game.

Those results mean they have almost certainly sewn up top spot in Group G, with their superior goal difference meaning that even a defeat against Argentina is unlikely to knock them off the summit.

But Eriksson, one of three captains in the Swedish squad, said her team would not relax against the Ar-

gentines in Hamilton.

"It's very important. The match on Saturday was not perfect. We can do a lot better, we have a lot to learn," said Eriksson, whose central defensive partner Amanda Ilestedt has scored three goals in the two games so far.

She said Colombia's stunning win over Germany serves as a warning of what to expect from South American opposition, especially with Argentina having to win to stand a chance of advancing.

"We are confident, but also very humble. Tomorrow will be a tricky task, as we saw with Colombia beating Germany."

Swedish coach Peter Gerhardsen has named the same starting line-up in both previous games at this World Cup but hinted he might make changes with a last-16 tie looming on Sunday.

"You should never assume when you have won that you have the perfect starting XI," he said. "We are focused on the last 16 because that is the match we need to win to progress, and so that means we need to see how to get the players in optimum condition for it."

Having been in New Zealand for the group phase, top spot would see Sweden head to Australia for a last-16 tie in Melbourne against the runners-up from Group E.

"It has been very convenient for the last three weeks, staying in the same place," said Eriksson, who recently joined Bayern Munich from Chelsea along with her partner, the Danish international Pernille Harder.

Missed chance? Majority of games behind paywall in World Cup hosts

SYDNEY

IT was France versus Brazil and one of the biggest matches so far at the Women's World Cup, but unless you paid, you could not watch it on prime-time television in host nation Australia.

The rugby union clash between Australia and New Zealand's All Blacks, Ashes cricket, Australian Rules and swimming were all free to watch on Saturday evening.

But if you wanted to catch the heavyweight World Cup group match in Brisbane - which France won 2-1 with a late goal - you had to subscribe to a streaming sports channel.

The majority of World Cup games in co-hosts Australia and New Zealand are behind a paywall.

Experts warn this could hurt efforts to grow football in two countries where the sport lags in the popularity stakes compared to the likes of cricket and rugby.

"Live viewing of sport helps encourage participation and provide a spark for youngsters," Clare Hanlon, of Women in Sport at Victoria University, said.

"Being on television is also an opportunity to attract sponsors which helps grow the game," added Hanlon, whose role includes advancing women in sport.

- 'Disappointing' -

Of the 64 matches at the month-long tournament, 15 are free to air on Australian broadcaster Seven Network.

As part of government anti-siphoning laws, all of Australia's matches and the final are required to be part of the free-to-air slate.

But a paid subscription with main broadcaster Optus Sport is the only way to watch the entire tournament in Australia, costing AU\$24.99 (US\$17) a month or \$6.99 for existing customers.

It is a similar situation in New Zealand. There, all 64 matches can be viewed on subscription service Sky Television. There is free-to-air coverage of 26 games, including all three of New Zealand's group games and both of the semi-finals and the final.

The home team were knocked out of the tournament in the group phase on Sunday.

Football fan Christine Jones is refusing to pay for another subscription.

"There are only so many subscriptions you can have these days," she said ahead of attending the Canada versus Ireland game in Perth. "It can be hard to follow the tournament properly when you're only watching the odd game."

Chris Reilly has been criss-crossing Australia having travelled from Ireland to support his team, whose debut tournament ended on Monday in the group phase.

When not in attendance, Reilly has resorted to pubs and bars to watch the tournament.

"I was shocked it's not on free to air here because all the games are on in

Ireland," he said. "Everything else has been great about the tournament, but that has been disappointing."

- Legacy? -

All the matches are free to air in France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and Italy - all already established football countries - after governing body FIFA struck a last-minute deal with broadcasters there.

At the previous Women's World Cup, in France in 2019, all the matches were shown on the paying service Canal Plus.

Broadcaster TF1 showed for free all the home team's matches, six of the eight last-16 ties and all games from the quarter-finals onwards.

FIFA, the sport's governing body, declined to comment on what the repercussions were for selling football in Australia and New Zealand.

But the local governing body, Football Australia, said the money FIFA brought in from selling broadcast rights went back into the game everywhere.

"As FIFA has stated, broadcast rights form an important revenue stream to support increased player payments

"It is now that the championship starts in earnest and it is part of the tournament, not being able to unpack your bag before you have to move on again. We have to stay flexible and take things as they come and make the best of it."

Meanwhile, France coach Herve Renard plans to make changes for their clash against Panama at the Women's World Cup today with a draw enough to make the last 16.

The French kickstarted their campaign with a 2-1 victory over Brazil last weekend after struggling to a goalless draw against Jamaica in their opener.

It put them in a commanding position to reach the knockout phase for the fourth consecutive World Cup, with a point enough in Sydney on Wednesday.

They could even progress if they lose, provided Jamaica beat Brazil in the other Group F encounter. With an eye on the knockout round, Renard said Tuesday some players would be rested, without revealing who.

"Yes, there will be changes to the starting XI. I will wait till tomorrow to make my final decisions," he said. "But we are determined to get victory." Skipper Wendie Renard, who picked up a calf injury last week but played against Brazil, heading the late winner, could be among those given time off.

The coach - no relation to his captain - said he would speak with her and see how she felt.

"In terms of Wendie, I will speak to her because sometimes some players would rather play than be on the bench to be ready," he said, referring to the last 16. "Sometimes it's good for them to rest, sometimes it isn't. It depends on the player."

World number five France head into the game heavy favourites against a Panama team that is already eliminated, leaking five goals so far and scoring none.

Despite this Renard remains wary and said they would not underestimate a team playing for pride.

"We know it will be tough, it is not a friendly," he said. "We must still focus. It is an opponent who will want to win for their country, their pride. We must take it seriously. The players will give 100 percent in order to top the group."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Marta in tears as Brazil World Cup hopes hang in the balance

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Former Fountain Gate FC head coach, Egyptian Yousef Mostafa Soliman, reported the outfit to FIFA seeking to get the squad honour outstanding dues to the gaffer.

Fountain Gate FC's temporary transfer ban lifted by FIFA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE world football governing body, FIFA has lifted the transfer ban on Fountain Gate FC after the Championship League side completed payments owed to its former coach.

Early last month, FIFA sent the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) a letter in which the body announced a transfer ban on newly promoted NBC Premier League side, Tabora United, and Championship League club Fountain Gate FC due to outstanding dues to Egyptian coach, Yousef Mostafa Soliman.

The federation did not specify the number of transfer windows that each club will be banned from but only clarified that it is due to failing to pay Soliman as instructed by FIFA. Soliman, who coached the teams at different times, filed a lawsuit at FIFA for breach of contract.

After Soliman won the case, the two clubs were supposed to have paid him within 45 days since the decision was issued, but they did not adhere to the judgment.

The duo was banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amount is paid.

According to multiple sources close to Fountain Gate FC, the club owes coach Soliman \$6000 for his service in the Championship League last season. Fountain Gate FC finished seventh, three places outside the promotion playoff spots.

The matter though has now been resolved with FIFA informing TFF that all files at its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland have been closed.

In the announcement made on August 1, 2023, Fountain Gate FC can now sign new players.

Tabora United was the first to settle the owed amount to coach Soliman and is already active in the transfer market.

The club has registered a new player – John Noble Bariyima. The former Enyimba FC and Nigeria national team's goalkeeper was announced as a new signing on July 31.

The 2023/24 main transfer window opened on July 1 and will close on August 31. Last season, Geita Gold FC and Biashara United were slapped with transfer bans after they failed to settle payments owed to foreigners.

However, Geita Gold FC settled the outfit's financial obligations to Burundian coach Etienne Ndayiragije and was permitted to register new players before the closure of the transfer window.

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The federation did not specify the number of transfer windows that each club will be banned from but only clarified that it is due to failing to pay Soliman as instructed by FIFA. Soliman, who coached the teams at different times, filed a lawsuit at FIFA for breach of contract

TPLB set to announce 2023/24 NBC Premier League fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has explained the reason for the delay in releasing the schedule for fixtures for the 2023/2024 season which is expected to get underway next week.

The TPLB Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo, noted the delay of preliminary stages fixtures for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League as well as the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup as well as fixtures for the African Football League which will start in Tanzania has led to the delay in the Premier League schedule.

Tanzania's soccer big gun, Simba SC, is the country's representative in the inaugural continental showpiece.

Kasongo (pictured) stated the CAF club show-downs are part of the domestic competitions' schedules, therefore, they would not like to start canceling fixtures in the early stages once the league starts to accommodate clubs participating in continental tiers.

The official disclosed TPLB will have a meeting this week to discuss various rules of the Premier League to improve the national top-tier competition for the 2023/24 season.

In that session, TPLB will review various rules including new ones and, if they are approved, they will be sent to the main competition committee so they can be coordinated and put into effect.

So far, Kasongo noted there is still no change in the number of foreign players scheduled to start for an outfit in a particular match in domestic competitions' matches.

The rule says that the team can start all 11 foreign players in one match, the rule was used in the 2022/23 season, and in the 2021/22 season, it was stipulated that only eight foreign players should start at once in the domestic competitions.

Kasongo also noted towards the next season, especially during the major registration window, it is good for clubs to follow the rules used in the previous season up to the window's closure until the new rules are approved by the executive committee.

As the Tanzania football fraternity is waiting for next season league's fixtures, the newly launched Community Shield mini-tournament will kick off on August 9.

In the Community Shield, Premier League holders, Yanga, will face Azam FC at Mkwakwani Stadium before Simba SC locks horns with Singida Fountain Gate at the same venue a day later.

Winners of the semi-finals will progress to the final to secure the new Community Shield champions for the 2023/24 season.

Kagera Sugar adds Mbeya City FC winger to signing spree



Newly signed Kagera Sugar midfielder, Gasper Mwaipasi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBEYA CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KAGERA Sugar has continued to bolster the squad for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season with the signing of Mbeya City FC left winger Gasper Mwaipasi.

Mwaipasi joins the sugar millers after Mbeya City FC was relegated to the Championship League last season.

Mbeya City FC had a terrible campaign last season which saw the club finish the Premier League whilst holding on to 14th place.

The team led by Ugandan coach Abdallah Mubiru had a chance to save the top-flight status during the promotion/relegation playoffs.

However, the squad failed as the then Championship League outfit Mashujaa FC managed to win the playoffs against the former and got

promoted to the top tier instead.

Mwaipasi becomes the second player from Mbeya City FC to join Kagera Sugar in the ongoing transfer window.

He was preceded by winger Richardson Ng'ondya. The winger made six appearances for Mbeya City FC, contributing two assists.

Kagera Sugar is one of the busiest teams in the ongoing transfer window, having also announced the signing of Obrey Chirwa from Ihefu SC, Ally Ngh'anzi as a free agent, and midfielder Cleophae Mkandala from Azam FC.

They also raided Mashujaa FC and signed highly-rated striker Abiud Mtumbuka who was pivotal in pushing the Kigoma-based side to first ever top-flight promotion. Ugandan defender Dickson Gideon is another addition to the Kagera-based squad.

Kagera Sugar under head coach Mecky Mexime has undergone a major squad clear-out following another disappointing

season. Seven players including former Simba SC winger Yusuph Muhilu have been deemed surplus to requirement at the club. Others are center-back Laurent Alfred, and midfielders Yusuph Dunia, Meshack Abraham, Jackson Kibirige, Eric Mwijage, and Abeid Athumani.

Mwijage, a speedy, skilful midfielder, has gone on to put pen to paper for Armenian club, FC West Armenia, which has as well roped in Tanzanian forward, Yusuph Athuman, on loan from Yanga.

FC West Armenia was, in the just-ended season, promoted to the 2023/24 Armenian Premier League.

Kagera Sugar which finished 11th last season having collected 35 points in 30 matches, is in the final stages of the club's pre-season training.

The Kagera club is today expected to play against Uganda Premier League champions, Vipers SC, in an international club-friendly tie in Kampala, Uganda.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika 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 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM