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Minister: Quality wooden poles usable in local power projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

ENERGY minister January Makamba has assured forest stakeholders that all the required poles for electricity projects will be sourced internally, saying no poles will be imported.

Makamba said the government is only concerned with the quality of wooden poles; hence decisions to form a twelve-member committee to inspect the quality of locally manufactured poles so as to ensure secure markets abroad.

Addressing a forest stakeholders' conference bringing together pole producers in Iringa and Njombe regions, the minister affirmed that all the poles needed in local electricity distribution projects will be sourced locally. "We only want you to produce quality ones," he remarked.

Maharage Chande, managing

“We only want you to produce quality ones

director for the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) assured the minister that all power distribution projects will source their poles locally.

Queen Sendiga, the regional commissioner, lauded the decision, saying it is geared to empower local industries and create jobs, noting further that lawmakers from the region jointly worked to push the agenda, convincing the government to purchasing poles locally.

MPs have always been supporting local pole producers especially those from Iringa, she said, noting that Iringa and Njombe regions lead in poles production locally, supplying over 90 per cent of

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Samia rejects 1m/- minimum wage, hints at new level soon



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses workers during the climax of the International Labour Day national level ceremonies at Jamhuri Stadium in the capital yesterday. Photo: State House

By Francis Kajubi

REVIEWED minimum wage rates will be set out soon after the calculations are done, President Samia Suluhu Hassan declared yesterday.

Addressing the May Day rally in the capital, she said that the review will not be pegged to what the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) has proposed as a living wage (for an employee with a family) but has input from wage boards that canvassed workers' opinions across the country.

Henry Mkunda, the TUCTA secretary general had earlier pleaded for the lowest monthly wage rate of 1m/- for public servants, up from 300,000/- approved in 2015, which the president said lacked an analysis of worker productivity and how it justifies the minimum wage demand.

TUCTA said that in the private sector, the lowest py rate stands at 60,000/- to 115,000/- depending on the sector since 2015, meanwhile as sector based wage calculation boards to set out hourly, dai-



We also promoted 198,215 civil servants to different positions in line with their salary increment where the government spent 41bn/-,

ly, weekly and monthly pay rates have either not been formed, or not holding meetings if they had already been formed.

The president asked ministers to fol

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Three dead in Kyela floods, cattle, bridges swept away

RC consults with PMO disaster management unit

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THREE people are believed to have died and hundreds of families lack shelter following floods engulfing Kyela district in Mbeya Region on Saturday night.

Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said initial reports indicated

two people had walls of a house collapse on them, but a third person is also reported to have died, while 234 families lack shelter as their homes were destroyed by the flooding.



Ubungu district commissioner Heri James (3rd R), together with CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd R), Dar Chief Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum (4th R) and CRDB bank board member Dr. Fred Msemwa hand over part of the Ramadan offerings to Ashura Mohamed of the Safina Orphanage in Tuangoma, Temeke District, at an iftar by CRDB Bank for its customers and stakeholders over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB tapped for loans in SGR Burundi, DRC links

By Correspondent Benny Mwaipaja, Washington DC

TANZANIA, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo have applied for a soft loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to extend the standard gauge railway (SGR) from Uvinza to Msongati and to Gitega, a stretch of 939 km, estimated to cost \$900 million.

Finance ministers Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Nicolas Kazadi of the DRC and Dr Domitien Ndhokubwayo of Burundi conducted the talks on the sidelines of spring meetings of the World Bank

and International Monetary Fund (IMF) governing board here over the weekend.

While details of the plan weren't made clear, a related plan by Tanzania and Rwanda to extend the SGR line to Kigali and then to Rubavu on the border with the DRC, but plans dating late 2019 have it that the first phase of joint construction will extend from Kigoma to the Burundian capital of Gitega (located in central Burundi), total stretch of 240 km.

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Three dead in Kyela floods, cattle, bridges swept away

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Affected wards include Katumba Songwe, Mbabu, Mwaya, Kanjunjumele, Bujonde, Ndandalo, Mkuyu, Ikoilo and Ikama, along with Talatala, Njisi, Ipinda, Makwale, Ndobu and Matema wards. An estimated 10,616 hectares of paddy are likely to have been totally destroyed, he said.

Floods have caused cessation of classes in some primary schools for two days as many roads were not usable, after intense downpour in Rungwe and Ileje districts.

The rains resulted in Songwe River overflowing, eroding crops and soaking houses with water, drowning livestock and carrying off the carcasses among debris, damaging roads, washing away bridges and cutting off communications in various wards.

Homera said his office is consulting the disaster management unit at the Prime Minister's Office to see how the now homeless people can be assisted, while local authorities assess the damage on infrastructures and other properties.

Those affected have to remain patient as the government works to ensure they have access to basic needs including food, he stated, urging precautions for those wishing to go back to their houses.

Ezekiel Magehema, the district executive director and chairman of the disaster relief committee, led members of the regional defense and security committee to inspect the damage around the district and the scale of assistance needed for those affected, sheltered in a number of make shift camps.

Last week, 46 houses were destroyed by rains and gushing winds in Katumaini and Nyamalembu areas of Mtakuja ward in Geita town, with Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule visiting the area to inspect the damage and listen to affected people.

She donated 450,000/- to nine households, each obtaining 50,000/- for some urgent needs, noting that another 37 households had already moved from the temporary shelter area.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof. Joyce Ndalichako presents the award to the representative of the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) Naanjela Msangi during the culmination of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day celebration held at the national at Jakaya Kikwete Conference Centre grounds in Dodoma over the weekend. WCF received three awards: Best employer in insurance and social security in OSH compliance, Best exhibitor for employees with special needs and 2nd runner up in Public sector in OSHA compliance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB tapped for loans in SGR Burundi, DRC links

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It is expected that there will be further extensions to eastern DRC, meanwhile as separate negotiations for SGR extension to Rwanda (from Isaka to Kigali) were in the final stages at that time, on the basis of affirmation from the UK weekly, The Economist. Both countries were seeking financing for the project, with an estimated cost of \$2.5bn.,

with the project gaining impetus in the wake of DRC President Felix Tshisekedi making a visit to Dar es Salaam, after giving the green light for a feasibility study to be carried out to pave the way for the stretch to its eastern border. At that time extension of the SGR to Rubavu was expected to be constructed from Kigali, adding to the detailed design for extending the line from Isaka to Kigali, covering 575km. Now it appears that Burundi

may extend the line from Gitega to Bujumbura in the western part of the country, and onward to Uvira, a DRC resort town on the northern shores of Lake Tanganyika. By late 2019 Tanzania was expected to line up \$1.3bn and Rwanda find \$1.2bn to take the line to Kigali, and mount other expenses to cover the extended line to Rubavu, a resort town on the border with DRC. Speaking after the meeting in Washington, Dr Nchemba said

the railway would facilitate freight, passenger transport and promote trade and industrial development of those countries, underlining that it was a massive project so the participating countries were seeking loans from various sources, plus allocating budget funds to start construction work. Nnenna Nwabufu, the AfDB director general for East Africa said that the bank recognizes the importance of the

project, as it cements economic ties in the East African Community bloc, while enhancing prospects of political stability in these countries. She promised that her bank would actively participate in ensuring that the project is built for the benefit of the people of those countries as well as for the economic development of the participating countries in the construction of this important project. The Uvinza-Musongati-

Gitega stretch links the town of Uvinza in north-west Tanzania to the Burundian capital of Gitega, crossing from Msongati in Kigoma Region, to its namesake town across the border, a 242.5 km (151 miles) stretch from Uvinza. From that point the line is extended by 51 km (32 miles) to Gitega, an earlier design which did not include the projection to Bujumbura and Uvira nearby, as an easier connection to DRC, analysts noted.

Samia rejects 1m/- minimum wage, hints at new level soon

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low up on the matter to make sure that the boards are facilitated to make an evaluation of wages and update pay in the various sectors, expressing sympathy for the concern on inability of current wage rates to cater for workers and their families.

Explaining what the government has done to improve the quality of earnings for public sector workers in particular, she said that the government had reduced 'pay as you earn' rate (PAYE) from 18 percent in 2012 to eight percent starting July 2021, a relief on workers' net salaries, with those earning 270,000/- a month baseline not included in the cuts.

This had prevented the government from collecting 14.178bn/- which thus remained in the pockets of workers, she said, noting similarly that raising the age of health insurance beneficiaries in a family from 18 year olds to 21 years denied the government 3.7bn/- that parents were supposed to pay on their own.

During the past year, 65,353 additional offspring were registered in the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) as beneficiaries, she said, noting further that removing the six percent levy on higher education loans and scrapping 10 percent payment penalty removed 50bn/- in potential collections by the government, money left in the hands of benefiting individuals. Penalty arrears on higher education loans amounting to 1.1trn/- were also scrapped, she pointed out.

"We also promoted 198,215 civil servants to different positions in line with their salary increment where the government spent 41bn/-," she stated, pointing out that restructuring occurred in different departments involving 21,224 civil servants. They were paid 4.3bn/- for their new positions, while 75,007 public servants were paid salary and allowance arrears amounting to 124.3bn/-, she stated.

A total of 1.1bn/- was allocated for salary payments



Information, Communication and Information Technology ministry deputy Permanent Secretary Mohamed Hamisi (R) talks with employees during his visit to inspect residential Post Codes in Babati District, Manyara Region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jalliwason Jasson

to new employees, with retirement payments and transfer dues chalking up 2.17trn/- allocated for the erstwhile Public Servants Pension Fund (PSPF) and the former Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPF) to be paid to contributors. President Samia expressed concern about employers failing to prepare the retirement packages of employees early enough, despite being aware at least six months earlier that they will be retiring, urging the

respective ministers to make sure that this shortcoming is rectified.

Public servants with standard seven education who were expelled in the fake certificates saga will be paid their claims as per statutory requirements, she stated, noting that those who had two years remaining to retirement will be considered for benefits after their claims are fully processed.

The president rejected a demand for staying a change to

uniform repayment rates for higher education loans as some loanees borrowed at an interest rate of eight percent and others at 15 percent. Those repaying at eight percent wished to be considered to retain that rate, which the president rejected, affirming the uniform rate of 15 percento repayment interest rates.

TUCTA had also demanded in their address that the government change the 2014 regulation that retiring workers re-

ceive 25 per cent in lumpsum and obtain the 75 per cent on a monthly basis spread over 13 years, asking that the 25 percent be raised to 50 percent.

The president said that more negotiations were needed to reach an accord between the two parties, in similar manner as extending health insurance benefits to elders without such facility, so that any such benefits do not harm operational ability of the funds.

Minister: Quality wooden poles usable in local power projects

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poles used by the state-run utility. The poles are long lasting, of high quality and used for power projects for many years, she stated, urging TANESCO to provide specifications for manufacturers to ensure quality requirements are observed.

The minister's decision is beneficial to residents of Iringa and Njombe regions, she stated, similarly asking to also push for improvement of roads especially the Iringa-Ruaha section, essential to boost tourism at the Ruaha National Park.

Kilolo MP Justin Nyamoga praised the minister for his assurance on the issue, quick response on the matter, saying the response was a relief to pole manufacturers as importing the poles has an adverse impact on the industry.

Municipal councils of Iringa and Njombe noticeably rely on the poles business for revenue collections, he stated, while Makete MP Festo Sanga said forest stakeholders all over the country were concerned about the matter. The decisions to purchase wooden poles from local manufacturers will also benefit farmers, he stated.

In June 2020, former Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani said that replacing wooden poles with concrete ones will save 67bn/- spent by TANESCO annually on maintenance of replacing rotting poles often falling on the roadside unawares, especially heavy rains and wind.

He told stakeholders engaged in the production of concrete poles in Dar es Salaam that the government had resolved to shift from wooden poles to concrete in order to improve the reliability of power supply and eradicate periodic maintenance costs.

Already TANESCO has started using concrete poles in a number of areas, especially when replacing fallen wooden poles which are a constant safety hazard if such a situation occurs.

Online data shows that the reinforced cement concrete and plain cement concrete poles can be used up to 33 kilovolt lines, and upwards of 33 KV transmission towers must be used to widen the distance between two electric current lines.

At the start, there were arguments about the cost of wooden and cement or concrete poles, with environmentalists saying that manufacturing the concrete poles leaves a larger carbon imprint on the environment than planting and harvesting wood, or treating the wood to avert rotting and posing health hazards.



DR. REGINALD MENGI

29TH MAY, 1942 - 2ND MAY, 2019

His Legacy Lives On



Allocation of new teachers, civil servants will depend upon human resources - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government to follow the existing criteria in allocating new teachers and other civil servants following demand and availability of human resources, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), David Silinde told the lawmakers while the demand for teachers is almost all district councils in the country, there is no favoritism in new employments.

"The government follow the existing criteria of posting teachers in accordance to demand and availability" he stressed.

Silindewa responding to a supplementary question by the Iramba East MP, Francis Mtinga (CCM) who had wanted to know the number of teachers who would be posted to Mukalama, which got only 12 teachers compared other districts that got 40 teachers in the last posting.

"What are the strategies used by the government in distributing new workers to different district councils, especially teachers?" asked the lawmaker.

Silinde explained that employ workers including teachers in accordance with availability of funds budgeted in the financial year.

He said thereafter, the new recruits are distributed to different district councils depending on combinations, the directive that each school should not have less than eight teachers and pupil teacher ratio in primary schools

The deputy minister added that for secondary schools the criteria in distribution of teachers is to identify the number of students taking specific subjects in every class, identify streams per grade, whereby one stream has 40 students from form one to four and 35 students in form five and six.

Other criteria include the number of students to be taught every subject following the curriculum directives and the maximum number of lessons per teacher.

It is a maximum requirement of lessons per teacher 30 lessons and minimum of 28 lessons, all 40 minutes each. The government recently announced employments of 32,000 teachers and health workers this month.



Colourful NMB staff match in front of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in observance of the official Workers Day also known as International Labour Day at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma yesterday. The event attracted over 25,000 people.

Minister expresses worries over placing street signboards ahead of the Census

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

DEPUTY Minister for Information, Communication Technology, Mohamed Hamisi has expressed worries over placing of street signboards under the national postcode system for residential address is not properly done would affect the scheduled August 23 national Housing and Population Census.

He made the remarks over the weekend when speaking to leaders in Manyara Region during his tour to inspect the ongoing installation of street signboards. He said in most places, district directors have raised concerns over higher prices of the poles.

According to him, the current exercise is meant to collect information and placing of street signboards.

Presenting a report on implementation of the national postcode system for residential address in Manyara Region, Coordinator, Alphonse Malimbiche said they have so far registered a total of 372,455 postcodes in the national postcode system, equivalent to 103 per cent.

He said the target is to collect 362,987 postcodes. He said that Manyara received

885.4m/- from the central government which was distributed to all the seven districts. He said the region also disbursed some 240.07m/- to support implementation of the exercise, making a total of 1.125bn/-.

He said execution of the national postcode system for residential addresses have benefited 1,637 young Tanzania through temporary jobs as well as having all the roads and houses

provided with specific names. He said the exercise has been completed as scheduled.

Babati District Executive Director, Anna Mbogo said they have successfully identified 95,412, roads (4,070) and installed 30 poles.

Mbogo mentioned some of the challenges encountered during the exercise as higher prices of poles, noting the district requires a total of 120,000 poles to

complete the exercise.

Worth 28bn/- the system operates by following the name of the street and roads, house or building number and postcode—a special digital system that identifies the area to deliver postal services where in Tanzania it starts at the county, district, regional and regional levels.

In Tanzania, residential address project is being implemented by the Ministry of In-

formation, Communications and Information Technology, in collaboration with President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, with the aim of facilitating communication, delivery of government services to citizens and the implementation of social, economic and administrative activities.



Human rights activist and director of the TUSONGE CDO Community Development Organisation, Agnatha Rutazaa (L), speaks with various stakeholders in Kilimanjaro Region at a stakeholders forum on issues of sexual violence and sexual corruption. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

Govt, EU, FAO launch nationwide campaign for healthier diets and good nutritional practices

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Government of Tanzania through the European Union (EU) funded AGRI-CONNECT flagship program, have launched a national nutrition campaign to develop healthy eating habits in Tanzania based on locally available foods.

Launching the campaign over the weekend in Dar es salaam, director of National food security at the Ministry of agriculture Dr. Honest Kessy said reducing nutrition in Tanzania is the government first priority and this campaign comes at the right time as the world grapples to contain the COVID-19 Pandemic.

He said: "We have strengthened our nutrition leadership by encouraging more investment in agriculture, food production and nutrition education to increase the availability and accessibility of healthy diets through improved agricultural productivity and a better understanding of the importance of healthy diets to preventing nutritional disorders and improving body immune."

FAO representative in Tanzania Dr. Nyabenyi Tipu emphasized that as the global pandemic continues, the importance of healthy diets in mitigating its effects has never been more important, adding that a shift in societal practices regarding food production, consumption and market access would increase access to food, boost body immunity and provide small

holder farmers with an income.

Head of natural resources at the European delegation in Tanzania Lamine Diallo said "agriculture and nutrition are two sides of the same coin and we must improve our respective food systems to meet the nutrition needs of the world's rapidly growing population."

He added that Tanzania can address the high rate of malnutrition in several regions if takes full advantage of its significant agricultural potentials.

"We sincerely hope that this campaign combined with other AGRI-CONNECT activities, will mobilize all partners and contribute to the improvement of people's health and wealth" he said.

The FAO-led program titled: "Building resilience of Agri-food systems and better nutrition in the context of the global pandemic" is the fourth component of the AGRI-CONNECT supporting value chains for shared prosperity project which focuses mainly on nutrition and establishing systems to help absorb pandemic-like shocks to food and market accessibility.

With its Lishe bora ni Mtaji (Good nutrition is an investment) slogan, the national nutrition campaign will include activities such as cooking programs, daladala (minibus) nutrition education tours, trainings for female youth and the establishment of msosi asilia (traditional food sites) over the course of two years, it is expected to reach 32 million people via traditional and social media platforms.



We sincerely hope that this campaign combined with other AGRI-CONNECT activities, will mobilize all partners and contribute to the improvement of people's health and wealth

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to procure char production tools.

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo request vendors to submit their prices for the above services.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 02nd May, 2022 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: +255624 399 911 or through email josphat.mwangi@drc.ngo to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is 16th May, 2022 at 4:30 Pm.

The ITB will be opened on 18th May, 2022 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office by DRC Tender opening committee only because of pandemic disease vendors will not be allowed to participate, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee.

You can return your bid form through RFQ.TZA@drc.ngo OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

'Challenge of disconnection facing people of Swipese village expected to end soon'

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary (Union) in the Vice President's Office Abdallah Hassan Mitawi said the challenge of disconnection facing the people of Swipese village, Pemba is expected to end with the construction of a pedestrian crossing in the area.

The assessment showed that seawater had entered the rice paddies by the people of Mkungu Shehia in the village so the flooding of the water also caused the communication to be cut off from the other side by about 3.3 kilometers.

Speaking during the handover of the project to Dezo Civil Contractors Co. Limited on behalf of the Permanent Secretary Office of the Vice President Ms. Mary Maganga in Kwa Mgogo area in Mkoani District, Northern Region, Mitawi said the construction will cost shs. 1.2 billion.

He said the ferry, which will be built to a high standard and last for about 40 years without being repaired, will be a great help to the people by reducing the crossing hurdles they face where construction will be 18 months.

Mitawi said the implementation of the project is the result of visits by various national leaders who have made it to different times since 2019 and therefore urge the public to cooperate with the contractor so that the work can be done quickly and efficiently.

"Today we have come to hand over this area to the contractor for immediate construction and we hope he will complete it within the allotted time as he did in other areas, I ask the people to cooperate with the contractor when he needs the building site and also in accordance with the instructions of Mr. Vice Secondly, for small activities, priority should be given to the people here," said Mitawi.

For his part, the Permanent Secretary in the Second Vice President's Office Thabit Idarous Faina said that these environmental impacts have plagued the people of the area for so long that they are unable to cross from one side to the other in order to meet daily needs.

Faina noted that the United Republic of Tanzania Government has partnered with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through his Office and the First Vice President's Office responsible for environmental issues has taken steps to ensure that citizens are resolved.

900 orphans in Dar region attend special iftar event

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 900 orphans from primary and secondary schools in Dar es Salaam region came together at a special iftar programme organised by the Beta Charitable Trust Food drive-Tanzania and World Islamic propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS).

Speaking during the weekend, representative from WIPAHS, Amina Mbaraka said that the event was part of the organisation's duties to support orphans to get iftar which was part of Islamic faith.

Mbaraka said before breaking the fast, the students attended special seminars in arranged classrooms to get knowledge about education and religious manners.

"Through Ramadhan relief program, the organization shared the food spirits with different groups of people by providing food baskets to enable them to get iftar during the sundown to break the daily fast during Ramadan," she said.

Apart from that, the organization provided seminars to different groups of people including students, widows and orphans as well as supported them with food packages for iftar during sundown at homes

Mbaraka said WIPAHS' impact

can be seen by its vast number of projects which promote rural development through education, the access of water, economic sustainability and the enhancement of religious learning.

Having started its activities in early 1985/86, WIPAHS transforms individuals into an egalitarian and literate society through supporting and promoting community education to people irrespective of their ethnic linguistic, provincial or religious background.

For the past 23 years, WIPAHS has improved the living conditions of the indigenous community of Tanzania, which has been suffering from poverty, disease and illiteracy.

The organization provides humanitarian support across the country including drilling of water boreholes, services to orphanage centres and owning primary and secondary schools that are fully supported.

It was envisaged by a group of individuals, both working class and professionals who desired to respond to the call of the poor and needy, especially women who were the most vulnerable of the society.

These philanthropists dedicated their time in trying to improve the living conditions of the indigenous community who had been suffering severely from poverty, disease and illiteracy.



Bank of Africa (BOA) managing director and CEO, Adam Mihayo, leading customers to get iftar hosted by the bank for its customers at the Hyatt Hotel in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

One million SMEs to benefit from PASS financial guarantees

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

MORE than one million small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) have benefited from 1.210trn/- loans from various financial institutions that were guaranteed by Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS).

Addressing farming stakeholders here on Monday this week, PASS Business Director Adam Kamanda

said PASS operates as an independent institution as a link between livestock, farming and fishing sectors and the financial sector in the country.

Kamanda said its main aim is to facilitate for the availability of financial and business development services entrepreneurs in the farming, livestock and fishing sectors in the entire value chain.

He also said since its establishment in 2000 Pass Trust has benefited 1,700,000 SMEs with loans totalling 1.219trn/- guaranteed by PASS.

He said a total of 532,798 businesses are involved in crops and agricultural services in all regions of the country, according to latest statistics. He further said these services have enabled the expansion of trade in commercial products in farming,

livestock and fishing sectors and created about two million 2.6 million jobs.

He said from all these achievements "I would like to thank our stakeholders, financial institutions and others for more understanding and for their continued to work together in assisting investment in farming through financial institutions." He said in order to go in tan-

dem with advances in technology to simplify the availability of services to farmers, PASS Trust has created a digital system for the provision of guarantee services - Digital Credit Guarantee.

He said this inclusive system, apart from simplifying our services, it has also, to a great extent been part of PASS Trust strategies in efforts to spur Inclusive Green Growth (IGG)

that aim to mobilise environmental preservation for sustainable agriculture and Circular Economy.

For his part, Acting Geita Region Administrative Secretary, Herman Matemu said; "since our region has big opportunities in the crops farming, fishing and livestock keeping sectors I am certain that this meeting will help to spur development for the people and alleviate poverty.



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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-22-04-04 – STEP UP TRANSFORMERS 2500KVA, FROM 400V TO 6.6KV (06 units)

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), 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 Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Transformer specifications:

- Efficient Step-up Transformers: 2500KVA, 400V to 6.6KVA 3 Phase
- Frequency 50 Hz
- Cu/Cu windings
- Tap-offs +/- 2.5 & 5%
- Delta star: Vector group Ynd 11
- With oil cooling ONAN
- With Conservator, (Linier oil level, SA100/2 Breather, 50mm Buchholtz, 1184 Thermometer, T80 PRV)
- Compliance: IEC 60076. SANS 780
- Specifications, dimensions and footprint to be provided, mounted on a skid base
- HV & LV Cable boxes, wired to a marshalling box
- Oil specification

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Drawings, data sheet and other relevant OEM documents to be provided.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

The reference "BUL-RFQ-22-04-04 – STEP UP TRANSFORMERS 2500KVA" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: **07th May 2022**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



JOB - ADVERTISEMENT

JOB TITLE: LAKE TANGANYIKA FISHERIES SPECIALIST

YOUR POSITION WITH TNC

The Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Specialist supports The Nature Conservancy's Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Director in advancing fisheries co-management and nearshore biodiversity conservation with a range of community, government, and non-governmental partners. This includes planning and implementation of TNC-led conservation work along the Tanzanian shoreline outside of the Tuungane Project area where TNC has been investing for the last decade. Reporting to the Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Director and working closely with Tuungane Fisheries Manager, Tuungane M&E officer, Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Director, Africa Freshwater Protection Strategy leadership, and Global Freshwater Community-based Conservation Team, the position will be based in the Rukwa Region of Tanzania and may involve significant domestic and international travels. No employment visas or assistance is being offered with this position except for the local labor employment requirements.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Lake Tanganyika Fisheries and Monitoring Specialist is responsible for leading implementation of the Lake Tanganyika fisheries strategy south of Tuungane program area in Tanzania. They will support implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Fisheries strategy in collaboration with Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), Tuungane program, local communities, District, Regional and National Government leadership including but not limited to government fisheries research and policy institutions in Tanzania on Lake Tanganyika such as Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF). The Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Specialist will also support development and implementation of fisheries co-management and conservation interventions as part of a lake-wide strategy implanted through partners. They manage sustainable fisheries and nearshore biodiversity conservation interventions along the Tanzanian shore, including fisheries reserve protection, collection, analysis and reporting of fisheries data, monitoring, and community relations. They collaborate with local and international partners along the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika to advance replication of Tuungane Project lessons and success models in fisheries conservation to the wider Lake Tanganyika fisheries strategy and ensure smooth and continuous learning exchange within Lake Tanganyika riparian countries. The Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Specialist will be responsible for supporting the protection of critical nearshore habitats through approaches such as fisheries reserves, sustainable fisheries financing, development of fisheries business enterprise, closure systems, fish stocks monitoring, electronic fish catch assessment surveys (e-CAS), and reporting of lessons learned. They will oversee and manage sustainable fisheries resources management and nearshore biodiversity conservation in Southern Tanzania including all aspects of protection, science, stewardship, and community relations south of the Tuungane Project area.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- BA/BS degree and 5 years' experience in inland fisheries management, aquaculture, or a related field; or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Experience in working with community in fisheries resources and collaborative/co-management approaches.
- Experience in fisheries data analysis and reporting.
- Fluent communicator at public and/or media both in writing and verbally in English and Kiswahili.
- Experience using applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Web Browsers.
- Certificate and Experience in diving/swimming.
- Experience in preparing and managing budget.
- Experience in writing winning requests for proposal (RFPs) for grant/contract funding for program.
- Ability to frequent travel domestically and/or internationally, evening and weekend hours.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS.

For a full Job profile and how to apply please visit <https://careers.nature.org/> and search for 51419.

Submit CV and cover letter separately using the upload buttons online. All applications must be submitted in the system before the end of day on May 15th, 2022.



Tigo's safety, health and environment manager, Nashon Mdalla receives 'Occupational Safety and Health Award' on behalf of Tigo from the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Employment and the Disabled, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako during the occupational safety and health day celebrations, organised by OSHA in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UNFPA partners with govt for quality midwifery services

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) has reiterated its commitment to collaborate with the government for quality midwifery services.

Dr David Ochan, officer-in-charge, UNFPA made the commitment at the media orientation session to journalists ahead of the 2022 International Day of Midwifery commemoration in Tanzania.

He said quality midwifery services will reduce deaths and help early detection by getting rid of risks.

"The new challenge now for countries around the globe particularly in low-resource settings is working towards achieving targets under the sustainable development goals (SDGs) including achieving MMR of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, and no country should have higher than 140 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030," he said.

He said most maternal deaths were preventable, particularly in presence of high-quality care from skilled, motivated, regulated and supported health professionals during pregnancy, and during and after childbirth.

Furthermore, access to skilled care from providers with required midwife-

ry skills has been correlated with better quality of maternal and new-born care and improved health outcomes.

Dr Ochan said UNFPA was working closely with the government in partnership with Tanzania Midwifery Association (TAMA) to build a competent, well-trained, and well-supported midwifery workforce.

He said reports reveal that if governments invested in midwives, 4.3 million lives could be saved every year by 2035, a number that includes maternal deaths, neonatal deaths, and stillbirths.

He said as such, their contributions to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of reducing maternal mortality and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and universal health coverage cannot be underestimated.

Midwives have been strengthening primary healthcare systems for decades and will play a vital role in the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents in the decades to come.

TAMA President Fed Mwanga called on the government to finalise the review of curriculum governing training to health personnel in order to have fully midwifery.

AGCCI launched in Dar to diminish gender digital gap

By Beatrice Philemon

SECOND phase of the 'African Girls Can Code Initiative' (AGCCI) was launched in the city over the weekend with the government saying it will help to reduce gender digital gap.

With funding from the Belgium government the initiative will empower and equip women and girls with digital literacy skills so that they become computer programmers, creators and designers.

It was launched by UN Women, African Union Commission (AUC) and International Tel-

ecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with other three partners including the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNESCO.

Speaking during the function, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima said that AGCCI will reduce the gender digital gap through digital skills capacity building, reducing device and connectivity costs and changing policies that keep women offline.

Research shows that 90 per cent of future jobs will require ICT skills while 2 million new jobs will be created in the computer, mathematical, architecture and engineering fields, she stated.

"We need to support women and girls in this career because they are still lagging behind in this field," said Dr Gwajima as she called upon development partners to join the initiative to scale up the programme and expand the number of girls that will benefit from it.

The minister noted that there are many girls in rural and

marginalized areas who need to benefit from the initiative. Representing the UN Women Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, UN Women Deputy Regional Director, Zebib Kuvuma said the second phase will be implemented in 11 countries that includes Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

"We will adopt continental level actions that aim to support the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in ICT and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

(STEM) policies and education curricula in AU member states to sustain the impact at national level through robust national ownership," she said.

Kuvuma said that supporting girls in science today means they will mentor more girls in future. She said they also look at the barriers that prevent girls from pursuing careers in STEM.

Belgium Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Van Acker added that gender equality; human rights for women and girls are long-standing priorities of Belgium in its internal and external policies.

He said the objectives of the initiative correspond to the strategic priorities of Belgian development cooperation to strengthen the education and empowerment of women and girls.

"Belgium would like to congratulate all partners for the results achieved during the first phase of the AGCCI and the participation of 2500 girls and young women from all over Africa in the coding camp," asserted Van Acker, adding, the Belgium government remains a reliable partner on which UN Women can rely and a strong

supporter of SDG 5.

He added: "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 is not only the business of UN Women, but the responsibility of all. All together can we overcome the obstacles and achieve gender equality."

The Ambassador said Belgium is convinced that this initiative will reduce technological divide by increasing women's access to modern technologies and on the other hand, strengthen empowerment through access to education and employment by mastering new technologies.



Exim Bank's chief financial officer, Shani Kinswaga giving a word of thanks on behalf of the bank's management to the guests who attended the iftar event organised by the bank for its customers in Dar es Salaam. The ceremony was held at Serena Hotel in the city over the weekend and it was attended by various stakeholders of the bank including customers and the bank's employees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WCF scoops three awards at World Occupational Safety and Health Day

THE Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) has received three awards at the culmination of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day celebrations where in Tanzania held at Jakaya Kikwete Conference Center grounds in Dodoma.

Speaking during the summit, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof Joyce Ndalichako has called on employers and employees to continue working together to create a safer and healthier work environment, including preventing hazards.

She explained that maintaining a safe environ-

ment reduces costs because when workers have an accident or illness due to work disrupts production plans for both parties.

"Employers and employees must be aware that the issue of occupational health and safety is a common strategy and is part of the implementation of the internationally recognized rights and responsibilities framework and the principle of risk prevention is given the highest priority," said Prof. Ndalichako.

Meanwhile, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has pledged to work with the Government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan through

the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) to increase efficiency in dealing with compensation issues for workers who are injured, sick or dying from work. ILO Representative, Getrude Sima said: "We will continue to work with WCF through our various strategies within the International Labor Organization here in Tanzania so I congratulate you very much and I am happy to see that you have also been able to participate and tell the people what you do."

The Tanzania Confederation of Trade Unions (TUCTA) secretary general Hery Mkunda commended WCF for winning the most awards and

called on the Fund to continue to be a role model in Africa.

WCF Director General Dr. John Mduma said the Fund has already paid compensation to various employees who had accidents at work and some of them have participated in the celebrations.

Regarding the services provided, he said WCF has involved its beneficiaries in providing compensation education to stakeholders who visited the celebrations. It has also been able to show the artificial limbs paid for by WCF for those in need of such organs, as well as the presence of

doctors with whom we cooperate in the provision of various medical services," he said.

At the same time, Deus Anthony and Hamisi Omari, the beneficiaries of the Fund have thanked the Government for establishing a WCF which has been able to reimburse them for medical expenses, purchase artificial limbs including artificial limbs as well as pay monthly pensions for services that will continue until the end of their lives.

"In addition to my monthly pension, WCF paid me a compensation that enabled me to buy a 'Bajaji' and self-employed as a driver. I am very grateful because I serve my family as I was before the accident," said Deus Anthony.

West African countries agree on climate strategy

By Special Correspondent

THE leaders of the Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have agreed on a regional strategy to deal with global warming over the next 10 years.

Members of the regional organisation, in agreement with the European Union, plan to spend \$294 billion (€278 billion) over the next 10 years to meet the challenges of climate change.

"Between 2020 and 2030, we estimate (the necessary expenditure) to be about \$294 billion," Sekou Sangare, the ECOWAS Commissioner for agriculture, environment, and water resources said at a press briefing in Accra on Friday.

According to him, the strategy also aims to raise awareness about adopting new lifestyles to help combat global warming.

The strategy calls for the cooperation of regional institutions, the fifteen member states of ECOWAS, their partners and civil society actors.

It also aims for a regional policy that is compatible with the Paris climate agreement.

The workshop is part of the last stages of the ECOWAS Commission's 1st Regional Climate Strategy formulation process.

The ECOWAS Commission led this procedure in 2020 through the European Commission-funded Global Climate Change Alliance Plus initiative GCCA+.

Coastal degradation and erosion are major challenges, particularly in West Africa, according to the annual State of the Climate Report 2019.

About 56% of the coasts of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo are affected by erosion, a phenomenon that is set to increase.



Mbinga District Commissioner in Ruvuma Region, Aziza Mangosongo (R) unveils a ribbon to inaugurate one of Kigonsera secondary school teachers' houses built with funds from parents and education stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Amon Mtega

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is fairly stable and peaceful, despite some isolated challenges, particularly the terrorist insurgency in Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique, said the Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi.

The terrorist insurgency in Cabo Delgado has killed many people and displaced more than 850 000 others.

He said that in view of the fact that there is trust bestowed on the SADC structures to restore peace and security, the SADC Region as a collective is on the right course to suppress, degrade and weaken its adversaries.

Magosi was speaking during a courtesy call by AlleDorhout, Africa Director

'SADC region fairly stable and peaceful'

of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Gaborone, Botswana, on the 21st April 2022.

Magosi said the cordial relationship between the Netherlands and SADC has come a long way, going back to the liberation struggles of member states, particularly Amsterdam's role in the abolition of apartheid in the South Africa.

He recognised the efforts made by the Netherlands government to the development of the SADC region through its support to various programmes at the national and regional level in areas of climate change, agriculture, women

and youth development, as well as humanitarian support and peace and security.

He applauded the Netherlands government for the support to the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) in the humanitarian appeal and reconstruction process of Cabo Delgado province.

The Executive Secretary appraised the Director on the roadmap by the SADC Region on its endeavour to achieve industrialisation through the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 which provides a clear strategic direc-

tion on SADC programmes, projects and activities towards the attainment of the SADC Vision 2050. He stated that it is a deliberate decision by the Region to focus on improving on new opportunities such as the value chains, pharmaceuticals and digital technology in diversifying the economic gains for the region.

Dorhout commended the Executive Secretary for his efforts in steering the regional bloc to new heights, especially at a time the world is faced with new challenges and economic hurdles as well as global inflation and crumbling markets.

The Director appreciated the efforts made by the SADC region in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the resilience in keeping the economy afloat and managing to achieve progress in the fight against many other challenges in the areas of peace and security, health and infrastructure development.

He emphasised the willingness to further expand collaboration and sharing of knowledge, in areas of cyber security, digitisation, trade, climate change particularly on green hydrogen expansion, as well as the development of a Memo-

randum of Understanding (MoU) to re-focus and increase engagement on many sectors.

Regarding the situation in Cabo Delgado province, the Director called for sustainable solutions and peace to enable the region to further bridge the gap through engagement with the civil society and canvas support from the international cooperating partners to reintegrate those affected back to normalcy.

The Director was accompanied by Hans Peters, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to South Africa and SADC, while the Executive Secretary was accompanied by Dr Them-binkosi Mhlongo, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, amongst other senior officials from both sides.



Ubungo constituency MP, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, (2nd L) with Kimara ward councillor Ismail Mvugi, (2nd R) visit Mavurunza suburb in Ubungo district, Dar es Salaam Region yesterday. The visit was aimed at inspecting implementation of road projects. Photo: Miraji Msala

AFDB puts Africa's infrastructure deficit at \$108bn

By Special Correspondent

THE President of the African Development Bank Group, Akinwumi Adesina, has said that Africa faces an infrastructure gap of between \$68bn and \$108bn annually.

According to him, the bank had committed over \$44bn to infrastructure across the continent in the last six years in areas of transport, energy, water, and sanitation. He disclosed this when the United States Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, hosted G-7 Ministers, and heads of multilateral development banks.

The event was to discuss the scaling up of infrastructure financing and was moderated by the US Assistant Secretary for International Trade and Development, Alexia Latortue.

In a statement obtained from the bank's website, Adesina said, "the AFDB, the premier financier of infrastructure in Africa, has committed more than \$44bn to infrastructure across the continent in the last six years alone, in

such critical areas as transport, energy, and water and sanitation.

"Despite collective efforts, Africa still faces an infrastructure financing gap of \$68 to \$108bn annually." At the event, Adesina proposed eight solutions to Africa's infrastructure finance gap. According to him, project preparation facilities were critical to developing bankable infrastructure projects since one of the major challenges of infrastructure projects was moving commercially viable projects to financial close.

He added that institutional investors including pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and insurance companies had enough resources to scale up infrastructure financing from billions to trillions of dollars. He said, "This pool of capital is so vast that what is needed is only 0.03 per cent or up to 0.04 per cent to bridge the infrastructure financing gap for Africa."

"Multilateral development banks should take early-stage investment risks in the project development phase."



Multilateral development banks should take early-stage investment risks in the project development phase

Conservation group urges tracking of Botswana's big tusk elephants

GABORONE

THE Botswana Wildlife Producers Association, a group that focuses on the conservation and management of the country's wildlife, says placing electronic tracking collars on big tusk elephants could help prevent indiscriminate hunts. The idea follows the recent killing of a so-called big tusker during a sanctioned hunt which sparked outrage among conservationists.

The association's chief executive, Isaac Theophilus, said while his organization is satisfied that the hunt of bull elephants is being handled properly, tracking some big tusk elephants could help.

An electronic elephant collar helps keep track of the animal so that unsanctioned

hunts of these animals for their tusks can be prevented.

"The hunt from the point of view of the association is that it was perfectly legal," Theophilus said. "We are happy with the size of the trophy that was harvested, and we are glad we still have such big tuskers."

Going forward, the association would like to work hand-in-hand with [the] government to ensure that we monitor elephant populations out there. Go out there and collar a few of the so-called big tuskers and follow them to ensure that they are not harvested or anything like [that]."

Theophilus contended the criticism of Botswana's decision to reintroduce hunting in 2019 is unjustified. The southern African country recently opened its annual hunting

season, which ends in September.

"The issue might have attracted criticism from certain quarters that do not value Botswana's conservation efforts," he said.

"This particular hunt is a very good tusker. We should as a country be very appreciative that our conservation efforts are bearing fruit. We still have big elephants in the conservation areas, particularly in the concession areas and in the parks, where no hunting is done."

Local professional hunter Randy Motsumi said hunters always target old bulls with big tusks, which is what their clients demand.

"Mostly the hunters are looking for big bulls, which are old and no longer breeding," Motsumi said.

"If natural death could have occurred, who would have benefited? No one would have

benefited. The animal was going to rot in the bush. Now hunters have shot a bull and it has fed more than 700 people. There is money in the government coffers and the community got employed. All these people have gained from only one big elephant that is no longer breeding."

Conservationist Map Ives said shooting big elephants is what drives the hunting industry.

"It is truly an impressive elephant, and the hunting of large tusks elephant is very much at the core of what the hunting industry is selling to its customer base in the United States in particular," Ives said.

"That is what the professional hunting industry is all about; is to find the biggest, largest animal because they have lists and books

of records, and everybody wants to be in that book of records and publish a story about him." Among critics of the decision to gun down a big tusk elephant is British Conservative Party Member of Parliament Roger Gale. He argued that tourists pay for photographic safaris to see the big tuskers, and he is opposed to Botswana's decision to reintroduce trophy hunting.

But Botswana government spokesperson William Sentsheben says Gale seeks to undermine Botswana's pragmatic and sustainable conservation policy.

While elephant populations are declining elsewhere on the continent, Botswana has seen its herd grow to more than 130,000, while the most it can support is estimated at 55,000.

World Press Freedom Day anchors international pursuit of democracy

JOURNALISTS and media activists were during the weekend readying preparations for marking World Press Freedom Day on May 3, Tuesday. Chroniclers indicate that African journalists contributed significantly for the creation of this memorial day by the United Nations General Assembly with an earlier effort in 1991, before the UN adopted the day in 1997. The day was created to raise awareness on the importance of the freedom of the press, to remind governments of their to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The online chronicler says the UN day was also marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek, in 1991.

The specific environment in which the Namibian capital became the hub for the momentous declaration was that the country was just emerging from decades of occupation by the South African apartheid state, which was defeated in a battle at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola. The Angolan armed forces backed by Cuban assistance battalions were taking on forces of the rebel UNITA movement that held the buffer zone against liberation forces seeking to eject South Africa from Namibia. As South Africa has also been isolated from a number of US financial market and federal credit facilities, it gave up after this defeat.

That was in 1988 and from then on the political landscape in South Africa was changing, with Nelson Mandela being freed February 10, 1990 upon which South Africa withdrew its occupation troops from Namibia and the nationalist organization, SWAPO, took over assisted by the United Nations and others. For a while Namibia was the focal point of activism from all over southern Africa and other parts of Africa and in this context the declaration was reached,

reflecting aspirations in other African states quite close to Namibia's borders. The Windhoek Declaration was a statement about the African condition first.

Since those days, commemorations of the UN day have shifted to troubling spots elsewhere, including cancelling a conference titled the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations in 2018, and one can see how this issue comes up in view of the media parameter of current conflicts. Despite that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are profound about individual rights and media freedom, as they are non-dissociable, sovereign nations often define rights in terms of food, shelter and medical care. The point about freedom is that it acts as a check on what is good - if it is good it can survive transparency and scrutiny, but when it has other motives freedom to talk about it is constrained.

For one thing, despite African journalists and political activists being vibrant and steadfast about freedom of expression at least since the late 1980s when the Berlin Wall collapsed and apartheid followed suit, Africa isn't tangibly democratic even at present, though considerable change has been registered. One reason is that democratic pressures in Africa are backed by activist movements in Western countries whose first order of concern is diminishing the reach and intensity of capitalism rather than extending democracy per se. As a result the liberating dimension of private organization of economy is understated or unknown, and activists battle for constitutional freedoms under a cloud of state dominated economies. In such situations a change from the ruling party to opposition is loss of bread and luxury for the top social stratum in a country, and they will use all resources they can muster to ensure it doesn't happen.

More projects may fail if bureaucrats simply drag their feet continuously

SINCE the government started the process of intense economic reforms in the early 1990s by offloading loss making parastatals, two concerns have characterized relations between regulatory agencies and the private sector, seeking for a share in erstwhile state dominated sub-sectors. It can be summed up as need on the one hand and mistrust on the other hand, while a 'most favoured nation' outlook prevails in many such projects such that they are eventually overtaken by events and more or less forgotten. At times the mistake isn't altogether of our own doing, as kindred governments in the region make similar errors too.

One example is the Friendship Textile Mill which is fast becoming a shopping complex as the city centre is rapidly overtaken by new investments flowing in by the day, leaving only its land value in place - and that too is an achievement. But it is unlikely that land values will compensate for inability to develop anything tangible at the Mchuchuma-Liganga coal and iron ore field, assuming at least that the city-based Kinyerezi liquefied natural gas plant will finally move on. Activists are on the lookout if companies will commit funds to fossil fuel projects, demanding that multilateral or bilateral support be withdrawn there.

Recent reports that have so far been left at the speculative level have it that scores of banks and insurance firms which had signed commitments for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP) are pulling out of the project, or at least activists are assured that this is now the case. The project was discussed for more than a decade and nothing was agreed, while the fifth phase pushed it and the sixth phase more or less

tied up those negotiations. But unless the reports are cleared it can't do without the firms that activists declare that they are withdrawing their commitments, citing pollution fears evidently.

We don't for instance have to ask how much has been lost in revenue since the old Embassy Hotel was just padlocked and it is more than 20 years now since it closed its doors, for incomprehensible details that could have been ironed out at that time with a little more goodwill. It is that sort of pro-business outreach mentality that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been advocating with all the vigour she can muster, but the English seers were right, that old habits die hard, and showing suspicion is both acumen and wisdom.

These things are useful to recall as procrastination doesn't appear to be nearing its end as to the start of implementation of the Bagamoyo port project. It doesn't appear that the Treasury has settled out the range of acceptable propositions especially regarding revenue schedules as well as compensating any local people who will surrender their land. That kind of decision doesn't have to wait for 20 companies or so to show their interest in the project and then Works bureaucrats sit and decide at their own pace, even across five years. A year ago the cost of credit was much lower, so negotiations will now be tougher, but what Dr Dotto Biteko said in relation to minerals investments ought to be the model: to lessen our demands on investors so that they find it easy to take the project right away. Tanzania isn't the only country that needs port investments so we could lose the project if no firm timelines are given to finish negotiations, rapidly.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Prioritising maternal healthcare in the public sector

By Rosemary Bassey

ANNUALLY, 59,000 maternal fatalities occur in Nigeria. Women in Nigeria are 500 times more likely than women in advanced countries to experience issues during childbirth. Daily Trust on Sunday reports.

A large number of pregnant women in Nigeria do not have access to adequate healthcare. This is either due to lack of resources in their neighbourhood or because the women cannot afford healthcare. Also, many pregnant women in Nigeria avoid seeking medical help because they believe the services will be of poor quality.

Data from the United Nations (UN) shows that 303,000 women die every year during child delivery or due to pregnancy-related problems. This translates to approximately 830 women dying every day, or one every two minutes. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for almost two-thirds of all pregnancy-related deaths, leaving Nigeria and India to account for one-third of all deaths worldwide.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Nigeria accounts for one in every seven maternal deaths worldwide. In Nigeria, more than 50,000 women die each year. Approximately 95 per cent of deaths during delivery are avoidable.

Furthermore, the patriarchal society and female oppression in the country can prevent a pregnant woman from receiving proper care. In some regions, many pregnant women's healthcare decisions are influenced by cultural factors, lack of education and poverty.

A research by Beatrice Wuraola Ope which sought to address the challenges of maternal care in Nigeria noted that several women in south-western Nigeria believe that giving birth in a non-institutional setting is preferable than giving birth in a modern facility because traditional birth attendants are more concerned and compassionate than qualified birth attendants.

The research showed a clear distinction between actual and perceived quality of care provided, explaining that even if modern health facilities in that region have enough health experts with internationally recognized good practice, maternal deaths may still be on the rise because women's perceptions of 'quality' influence health service utilization.

Similarly, Puddah, which is female seclusion is also widespread in Northern Nigeria, where women are isolated and encouraged to give birth at home. Allowing an outsider to assist with delivery is seen as disrespectful by many in these contexts.

In an interview with some women who had patronised the public healthcare system during their pregnancies, it was concluded that one thing that made maternal care exhausting in the public sector was the poor state of facilities and also the lack of disregard for human life.

Mrs Joyce Egwu, a mother of three, stated that after what she had experienced in the public healthcare system after giving birth to her first child, she often advised other pregnant women to seek care in the private hospitals if they could afford it.

"Imagine being pregnant, a period everyone knows that a woman gets easily irritated or annoyed by everything and the hospital isn't clean. Most times, the nurses speak with an attitude like they are doing you a favour instead



of their jobs.

"I remember a time when the hospital pharmacy was out of a particular medication I needed and when I asked the lady pharmacist when I could come back for it, she said to me if I like I should not go and look for it in another pharmacy. So, how do you trust people who are constantly rude and display disregard of life to deliver your baby without complications? God forbid should something happen, they don't seem like the type of people who would be remorseful," she added.

After narrating her experience, Mrs Egwu noted that she was shocked by the attitude the pharmacist had displayed towards her. She vowed only to have communication with her obstetrician and be getting her supply of drugs outside.

Another lady Margaret Effa who spoke to Daily Trust on Sunday said that her concern wasn't with the doctors and nurses as she had a good relationship with the people who had attended to her during her pregnancy.

However, she complained about the poor state of facilities being used at the hospital. She described the hospital where she gave birth as unkept and disorganised. She recalled that often times they wouldn't be able to find her records but because she was a familiar face, they would still attend to her.

"Sometimes you can't blame the doctors and nurses for steering up an attitude when you speak them.

These are people who are underpaid and sometimes don't even get paid for a while, yet they have to attend to people in full capacity.

"The healthcare centre is located in the rural area so most times there's no electricity. You'd see ladies having their ante-natal classes outside or in rooms that are stuffy and uncomfortable. The pharmacy too isn't stocked with most drugs prescribed by the doctor," she added.

Mrs Margaret Effa, who is also a mother three, mentioned that it was only her last child that she had in a hospital. Her first two children were delivered by traditional birth attendants.

As she narrated her experience, she explained that; "the only reason why I even went to the hospital was because the lady who had assisted with the delivery of my two children had fallen ill and I didn't want to use any other person because it is better to do these things with people you trust."

She also explained that "With the traditional method, the women who surround you during the delivery process know how to console and massage the body in a way that the process is less painful. They are mothers and had once given birth so they just know what to do.

"I also believe that the herbs given to you after the delivery process work faster than the medication at the hospital because it's made up of natural ingredients that benefits the body in so many other ways.

Dr. Paul Adejo, who is an obstetrician and has worked both in the public and private sector noted that it would not be possible for healthcare professionals to give their best with the quality of services being provided in the public sector.

"I wouldn't want to go into details but they were so many times as a doctor at the healthcare centre I worked at, I had put in my personal finances just to make sure that my patients were comfortable."

Dr Adejo also explained that the perception of healthcare services is what will encourage other women who do not want to try proper institutional methods such as hospitals, fertility clinics etc.

"It's not as if the doctors and nurses don't know how to go about their jobs but it takes more than passion to keep going on this job. Maternal casualties can be avoided if the parties responsible are ready to prioritise healthcare and make sure that the standard quality of care is given to the women who visit the hospital.

"The only difference between the public and private sector is the state-of-the-art facilities being used to treat patients and also the fact that you have to see the value for the money you're paying. So, if the public sector can try to adopt the quality of service given at the private hospitals, pregnant women will be opportune to experience a safe and sound pregnancy period."

What would J.J. Roberts have to say about Liberia today?

By Michael A. McCarthy

WHAT Would George Washington Say about America's relations with Liberia after 200 years?

March 15 was Joseph Jenkins (JJ) Roberts' birthday in Liberia, a day celebrating the life and accomplishments of the nation's first president. The United States of America and the Republic

of Liberia have close consanguinity. Liberia was founded by freed slaves from the United States through its Embassy near Monrovia would make a statement commemorating this day for Roberts, who was born in Virginia in the USA.

As the day began, Liberians were awakened to a strongly worded Op-Ed piece by Michael A. McCarthy, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia. The diplomat bluntly confronted the Liberian people for what he considers serious lapses in governance, reflected in corruption, lack of basic drugs in clinics and hospitals bemoaned the mountain of garbage in the nation's capital and demanded to know why Liberians are incapable of removing dirt from the streets of the nation's capital. The Ambassador did not include a caveat in his Op-Ed that the evils he recounted were not new and were in fact challenges that had bedeviled previous administrations.

No one can deny that Liberia has historically faced challenges with corruption, lack of accountability and during the postwar period, waste management has shown to be a difficult task in the city of Monrovia due to the inorganic population growth from the 14 years of civil war.

Moreover, the government of Liberia is urged to take seriously the concerns of the American diplomat. But the public should be warned that the Ambassador took the liberty to rant and rave at a poor country, mostly dependent upon aid from the United States and other donors and conveniently omitted from his narrative that the country's existence has been characterized by neglect, exploitation and collusion of the international system with corrupt elites. Resultantly,

the neglect, exploitation and collusion led to a fratricidal conflict and a failed state, with all institutions mostly destroyed and human capacity substantially reduced, while the Americans stood by as the carnage engulfed the entire nation.

Not only did the US government stand by idly during the war, but Firestone Plantations Company of Akron, Ohio, the American rubber giant actively supported and gained financially by alliance with one of the factions, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president. Taylor is currently serving time for war crimes, including recruitment of child soldiers, gross human rights violations, amputation of limbs and sexual slavery. Had Firestone not supported the NPFL, the war would have ended sooner saving hundreds of thousands of lives and preserving Liberia's infrastructure that was almost completely destroyed during the senseless conflict. Firestone's role in the economic history of Liberia is also connected to slave wages, mistreatment of its workers and exploitation of the Liberian economy by transfer pricing and other commercial malpractices.

In contrast, there is La Cote d'Ivoire, next door to Liberia, a former French Colony, also a post-conflict nation, with fewer than 200 years association with that European nation, but a country that is an agricultural giant, with infrastructure that includes 94 percent electricity penetration and modern roads and amenities. The GDP of La Cote d'Ivoire was 60 billion dollars in 2021, with Na per capita GDP of 2300 USD. In contrast, the GDP of Liberia was 2.95 billion dollars, with a per capita GDP of only 743 USD.

The Ambassador made many statements that should not go unchecked. To the uninitiated, the diplomat's claims about the quantum of United States aid to Liberia, about 110 million dollars including 79 million dollars to the healthcare sector annually seems like direct support to the government of Liberia. This is far from the truth. US aid to Liberia is coordinated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and a multitude of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), known as implementing partners. In 2020, more than 8.5 billion dollars went to Sub-Saharan countries. The aid industry in the global South known as poverty reduction is larger than most sectors. A phalanx of so-called "experts" from the United States and donor nations administers more than 90 percent of aid monies coming to developing nations.

Distressingly, most aid procurement contracts are largely mechanisms used to fund support to commercial enterprises in the home countries. The United States Ambassador was inaccurate in the quantum of aid to Liberia. For the last year reported in 2020, the quantum of aid to Liberia, as updated by the USAID on February 21, 2022, was 120 million dollars. Liberia was only at 21st place in the amount of US Aid sent to Sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia received 1 billion dollars, at 1st place and the Gambia at 22nd.

The Ambassador was inaccurate in his characterization of the quantum, character and form of aid sent to Liberia in the last year reported. Moreover, the Ambassador did not indicate the level of aid effectiveness of the monies spent as required by the Busan Declaration. The Busan Partnership agreement "sets out principles, commitments and actions that offer a foundation for effective co-operation in support of international development. The Busan Partnership agreement is a consensus that a wide range of governments and organizations have expressed their support for." Simply put, aid must be effective with quantifiable outcome indicators and despite the nearly 5 billion dollars of US aid spent in the name of Liberia between 2006 and 2017, the United States government through its ambassador cannot state clearly how that aid benefitted Liberia and why poverty persists in such magnitude nearly 20 years in the country's postwar dispensation.

The United States Ambassador complained that health care facilities in Kolahun, Lofa County and Saniquellie, Nimba County make do without basic drugs. This was a



disingenuous attempt to place responsibility on the government of Liberia or officials for the diversion or theft of drugs from public healthcare centers to private ones. The act of diversion of drugs from public to private clinics is as old as the Republic of Liberia and is in fact not an uncommon occurrence in Africa.

The Ambassador also sought to make the diversion of drugs a new phenomenon, when in fact evidence abounds that over the 12 years of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Administration, frequent drug diversion and thefts were reported at the National Drug Service (NDS), a government agency responsible for distributing drugs to government hospitals and clinics, and even theft of funding by officials of the NDS.

In recounting the quantum of US aid to Liberia in the recent period, the Ambassador failed to indicate that overall official development aid (ODA) has been substantially reduced, from a high of 1.4 billion dollars in 2010 to only 597 million in the last year, 2019 when figures were reported.

Liberia received on average annually 776 million dollars in aid between 2010 and 2017. The drop in aid, reduced spending from operations of the UN in Liberia including aggregate demand of 200 million dollars annually has put a strain on the Liberian economy. The Ambassador mentioned Ebola, and interestingly did not mention the fact that 2021 was the first year of positive economic growth since the disease invaded Liberia in 2014. Moreover, since the departure of UN troops and security forces, Liberia must now pay for its own security, balance the national budget and provide basic services to the Liberian people. Reading the Ambassador's piece, one would get the mistaken impression that the sky is falling in Liberia. That is far from the truth. Growth prospects for the Liberian economy have been revised to indicate an uptick of 4 percent in the last year, with more positive growth projected

for 2022. The Ambassador did not indicate the progress but instead dwelled on the challenges that exist in most Sub-Saharan countries.

The Ambassador bemoaned the dirt in the city of Monrovia. Unquestionably, the city of Monrovia faces challenges in solid waste management. But the current system of waste management was developed by the World Bank and donors, and does not include an indigenized approach, with greater private sector participation. Municipalities around the globe are turning to the private sector to provide efficiencies in solid waste management, but the World Bank and donors created a system that is clearly inefficient. The World Bank, Cities Alliance, United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), European Union (EU).

Community-Based Enterprises (CBEs) including organized private collection firms, civil society, politicians and the public have sought to support improvements in solid waste management in the city, but frustrations persist. Indeed, the city of Monrovia must wean itself from donor funding, but the foundation for efficient solid waste management was sacrificed for a system that included a convoluted system of community involvement in a city with over 1 million people that does not exist anywhere on the planet.

Inefficiencies in the collection and disposal of solid waste management in Monrovia are the results of lack of planning, inadequate financial resources and inorganic growth of the city arising out of the 14-year conflict that increased the city's population to more than 1.2 million people from only 600,000 in the prewar years.

Moreover, mostly obstructing Monrovia's solid waste management is the lack of public support due to limited information and knowledge and a coordinated implementation plan with a model that galvanizes popular embrace, mobilizes resources and sets out clear objectives

and demonstrably

shows the long term positive impact of the city's strategic plan for solid waste management. The donor-led system has not worked, and so it is unreasonable for the city of Monrovia, without own-source

revenues, a veritable tax base and an independent city government to create and implement a solid waste management system without donor support in the immediate term. The meddlesome donor intervention, bringing in companies like Zoom Lion from Ghana did not allow Liberians to create domestic ownership of waste management. We did not ask foreigners to assist us with waste management in the entire history of Liberia. It was only in the postwar period when donor support was embedded in every activity for private gain, from both the donors to support their commercial enterprises and from government officials

beholden to the international system was when garbage collection became an international form of donor support. We did not ask for donor support. The donors inserted themselves in an activity best suited for the private sector and voila we have the mess they created. They must fix it. 4 UNDP 2018

The Ambassador writes about transparency in voting at the legislature and indicating that voting machines were installed in 2014 that would indicate how legislators vote. But this is outrage that was not directed at the government of Liberia, under the pop star presidency of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf between 2014 and 2017? Why now? Why this righteous indignation over the lack of transparency in the Liberia legislature? Where was the outrage when 66 out of 68 concession agreements were being passed fraudulently when American companies were the beneficiaries of the lack of transparency? Chevron. Exxon Mobil. Anadarko. Arcelor Mittal with a major presence in the United States. ProPublica narrates the difficulties of ridding Liberia of corruption in a story involving Chevron.

Now the United States Congress is contemplating imposing selective sanctions on Liberian officials for corruption. Why now? What is the motivation? Why was not sanction an option during the 12 years of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Administration, with clear and irrefutable evidence of corruption, nepotism and human rights violations?

Indeed, the motivation is patently political, instigated by the disheveled, unprepared and unconnected opposition political parties, supporters with deep pockets, who are entreating Congress by utilizing powerful lobbyists. They are attempting to tip the scales of the election in favor of the political elites in 2023. This is their playbook over the last 42 years. Since the ancient regime was overthrown in 1980, efforts by the political elites to retain power have been assisted by their allies in the United States. The war and consequences thereof were promulgated by these elites, using child soldiers, exploiting ethnic divisions and effectively ruined a once-promising country. Thus the question that must be asked is simple: What would George Washington say about the relations between Liberia and the United States that produced one of the world's poorest countries? With nearly 15 billion dollars in donor support over the postwar period, this is the Liberia we have, and the current government is fixing the mess created by the neglect, exploitation and collusion with the political elite. The Ambassador should do well to read the history of Liberia to understand how this country became what it is today.

Going further, despite the fallacies in the Ambassador's Op-Ed, the government of Liberia is urged to redouble its efforts to minimize corruption and remain steadfast in its drive to improve the lot of the Liberian people.

**Michael A. McCarthy is
U.S. ambassador to Liberia**



Peace devoid of politics means war: The 2018 liberal peace script between Ethiopia and Eritrea

By Zula Afework

THE infamous 2018 peace accord between Ethiopia and Eritrea was hailed by the international community for shattering the 20-year-old stalemate between the two countries. The rapprochement was presented as an embodiment of African solutions, an "anti-liberal" peace concocted by outward looking heads of state who internally settled the limitations of international mediation and peacebuilding.

I argue here that the international community's accolade amounted to the endorsement of a liberal text embedding the same monolithic peacebuilding formula of the 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement, which associates and perpetuates violence with political action. I further argue that peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea was never institutionalized, due to the technocratic approach of peacebuilding which sidelines everyday acts of peace and active grassroots peacebuilding exhibited by inhabitants straddled in the borderland region. Liberal scripts dilute political realities and normalize violence which is currently unfolding in the Ethio-Tigray war.

The signing and Peace and Friendship Agreement signaled a willingness to commence political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation. Most importantly, Ethiopia announced the unconditional acceptance of the Algiers agreement, a ceasefire deal which positioned the UN system firmly at the epicenter of the conflict management environment, and the complete implementation of the contested 2000 border ruling by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC). The ruling was the peace industry's primary tool to resolve the (1998-2000) deadly Ethiopia and Eritrea military engagement, through a formal court system and an arbitration decision by the EEBC for the delineation and demarcations of a previously porous border, using colonial maps and satellite imagery. A UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) peacekeeping missions was also established to monitor the implementation of the agreement, deploy forces to agreed upon positions and manage the 1000 km-long border and 25 km-wide Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). At the time, International arbitration and adjudications were regarded as a hermetic approach which dilute the underlying political intricacies of border disputes, but ensure political/legal cover if and when rulings are contested. The ruling contributed to silencing the guns, however, the end of war is not actual peace. Especially for the communities inhabiting the borderland, it meant the abstraction of their daily lives due to a cold war which lasted for more than 20 years.

Sociologist Redie Bereketeab lauded the "maturity of underpinning conditions" within Ethiopia as a breeding ground for peace. The 2018 popular uprising against the TPLF-EPRDF, which dominated the political economy of the country for over two decades, led to the reshuffling of the ruling party's leadership and provoked the appointment of the 42-year-old reformist leader Abiy Ahmed. Consequently, sweeping reforms were passed: the state of emergency was lifted, thousands of political prisoners were released, the terrorism act revoked, and amnesty was granted to political dissidents. The abstract neatness of the unfolding politics seemed founded on democratic values, good governance, and fundamental human rights of all individuals.

Most importantly, accepting to implement the UN-backed Algiers agreement is endorsing the monolith of international peacebuilding which entailed the establishment of external organs, a boundary commission and a claims commission, to investigate the inception of the conflict, delineate and demarcate a border purview of political settlement. Ultimately, the decisions of the claims and boundary commissions were never realized due to the award of the symbolic town of Badme to Eritrea, bitterly contested by Ethiopia who highlighted challenges that would confront its actual demarcation on the



ground. Additionally, the agreement did not grant opportunity for appeals against the final decision and mistakes provoked during the delimitation process through the use of colonial maps on identifying the confluence of key rivers to mark border, were never corrected.

In the eyes of the international community, peace was unequivocally linked with the flurry of diplomatic interventions which produced the Algiers agreement, preceded by the efforts of the OAU, which adopted a peace agreement supported by the UN, EU and US, that failed to prevent the escalation of hostilities or secure a ceasefire. Nevertheless, the concealed premise prevailed, the mirage of peace birthed by diplomatic interventions was halted when countries refused to implement the EEBC ruling and reinstated when politics matured enough to endorse the liberal process of peacebuilding. In fact, when peace deals miss the mark, fault is associated with fragile states at the brink of failure lacking state institutions ordained with the task of implementing peace. One-size-fits-all liberal peace processes, which aim to quantify peace and bestow them to warring parties, are extended to link neoliberal economic and political ambitions, amenable to the standards of capitalist economies of the global north. Conversely, the violence harbored by the 2018 Ethio-Eritrea peace deal echoed in the lives of those straddled in the borderland, whose lived realities were discounted from the peace process.

Furthermore, the existence of the Irob, an indigenous community inhabiting the Ethiopia-Eritrea borderland, who strictly identified as Ethiopians, would be endangered due to the EEBC's delineation of the border, which splits the tiny community between two sovereign states. Equally, the Irob and other communities in the borderlands would have everything to gain from the normalization of relations between the two countries and the re-opening of the border. They would be able to finally attend each other's weddings and funerals, although the associated split imperils their existence and compromises their livelihood. The community's lived experiences managing peace and conflict would be tampered by state led peace initiatives, which trample grassroots understanding of sustainable peace and everyday resistance.

Anthropologist John Markakis argues that hegemonic understandings of state borders in Africa as products of external impositions ridden with conflict and contradictions, literal and ideological, has resulted in the academic focus in theorizing war for purposes of peace. As a result, peace in the borderland is understood in relation to war, devoid of the political and historical unraveling which shaped it and the inhabitants who strive to reconcile such intermingling. Elite bargains are sought out for peace to prevail, depoliticizing violence, using the same liberal blueprint, which fosters exclusionary politics that masks and perpetuate injustices to retain the status quo. Thus, the aftermath of the Ethio-Eritrea rapprochement was hailed for igniting a regional inertia of peace, engulfing Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia who reaffirmed their commitment to an inclusive regional peace and cooperation. The aim is to secure negative peace, the absence of armed

conflict which masks and perpetuates injustices to retain the status, while the active rebuilding of social systems to achieve wholesome human relations of equality and justice is the positive peace which is neglected.

Previous analysis of the Horn of Africa entails state borders splitting territorially bound communities and practices, commonly assumed to be contained geographically, is currently challenged by recent literature in anthropology and human geography which focus on social, cultural and moral boundaries of the borderlands in Africa. Critical anthropologists discredit the notion that all politically recognized state borders in Africa are postcolonial legacies, rather a consideration of human, political, economic, and natural landscapes. Commercial transactions in the borderland bolster informal economies and boost social interaction across state borders. And yet, when the boots of UN peacebuilders stomp the African ground, they trample all the realities carefully managed by people to create an alternative world which fits with the ordained peace. Although physically present within the realities of local inhabitants, they opt for the apolitical interpretations formulated by liberal scripts, which remain unchallenged but disrupt realities on the ground. The subtle but active peacebuilding efforts exhibited by borderland inhabitants such as the Irob, to reconcile the deep-rooted animosity created by the 1998-2000 "border war", neither gained recognition as a tool of peacebuilding nor garnered national support or international acclaim.

Borderland inhabitants were the primary recipients of violence induced by the Ethio-Eritrea war, and yet subtle efforts for people-to-people reconciliation transpired during the stalemate. Irob was turned into a garrison area when the hostilities erupted. There was widespread looting of sacred establishments and destruction of private and public property. After the cessation of hostilities, even with their active military involvement in the war, borderland communities underscored the failure of political leadership for having rendered historical, ideological, and economic differences irreconcilable. An act of reciprocity which shapes cross-border social relations is trade. There had been no formal economic trade activity between the two countries for years, and yet border communities shared strong genealogical and socio-economic ties. Consequently, small-scale trade movement (and contraband goods) were active during the two-decade long stalemate, across the Tigray-Eritrea and Afar-Eritrea militarized border. Furthermore, during the brief window in which the Ethiopia-Eritrea border crossing was open after the 2018 rapprochement, trade and commerce were bolstered in border territories, such as Zalambessa.

The opening of the shared borders following the peace deal led to a fourfold increase in daily influx of Eritreans into Ethiopia. In July 2018, more than 15,000 Eritreans, including women, children and youth, fled the county for a range of reasons, including compulsory National Service, political persecution and a restrictive economy which offers few opportunities. Nonetheless, Tigray-

ans in Northern Ethiopia warmly welcomed Eritrean refugees mainly due to an understanding of an untainted shared identity which laid the foundation for a socio-economic interdependence. An example is the flourishing of a peaceful and mutually benefitting relationship among refugees in Adi Harush (being active economic actors due to high remittances) and host communities in Mai Tsebrri as a result of proximity of the camp to the town, which boosted trade and economic engagement. Conversely, the relation between the Kunama community hosted in the former Shimelba camp, is based on labor exchange and agricultural activity, due to the different ethnic composition and language barrier among host and refugee population. Religious festivities played a pivotal role in strengthening the bond among refugees and host communities with religious institutions often practiced by both. Inter-marriage between host and refugee population was also prevalent.

Another grassroots peacebuilding effort is exhibited in Axum's St. Mary of Zion church, said to harbour the biblical Ark of the Covenant (Tabote Tsion). The annual celebration of St. Mariam Tsion is colourfully celebrated every year on Hidar 21 (November 30) by Orthodox Christian pilgrimages with prayer and worship. For several years, a number of Eritreans are said to have crossed the militarized border to partake in the sacred annual festival which attracts thousands of Orthodox pilgrims from all over the nation. After the peace accord, videos and pictures of Eritreans from Mendefera, who travelled over 100kms to Axum to partake at the annual festivity were shared widely.

To capture such plurality of peace and the absence of absolute peace, hybrid peace was identified to integrate various mechanisms of peacebuilding from local to transitional peacebuilding processes. Grassroot peacebuilders and local actors are either exoticized and precluded altogether from the peacebuilding process or associated with the implementation of the deal struck by technocrats. Although international processes might ensure accountability while dealing with cases of mass violence, empowered local actors constitute hybridity by deflecting the power embowed within omniscient external perspectives, to emanate the hybridity within the local and reclaim the power stripped by technocratic processes. Therefore, peacebuilding techniques must engage with local processes for politics and identity which transpires at a grassroots level. International Relations Séverine Autesserre examines the shortcomings of the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo, how international complex interventions create peace in a separate world, with its own political and economics space. Consequently, the gap between local and international actors expands, creating inequalities, exacerbating preexisting tensions and further fetishizing elites and the system which elevates technocratic approaches.

Nurturing and reproducing a liberal formulae through institutions and individuals supplied with uninterrupted flow of endorsement and investment has rendered peace an industry. Critical international relations scholar Como Siba Grovogui argues that "instead of treating the African condition as evidence that undermines the empirical thesis of a uniform international morality, theorists often construe deviations from the Western state model as a sign of the inability of African states to live up to the requirements of sovereignty".

The 1998-2000 peace deal was hailed for halting the bloodshed between Ethiopia and Eritrea, but also led to a no-war no-peace impasse which lasted for two decades. Instead of unpacking the shortcomings of hubristic international peace-making, which dilutes the complicated political and historical dynamics to fit the laden ambitions and intentions of political elites, the failure to implement the script of peace is condemned. The UN's apprehension over the escalation of death and destruction invokes a political modus operandi which besieges the script of peace rather than mould the scrip to fit the political. However, not only will atrocities keep unfolding while attempting to implement the process of peace, but also additional violence will emanate as the process has stripped the complexities of the crux of the conflict and carved a dent between politics and people. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Ethiopian leadership for the decisive initiative to resolve the conflict with Eritrea was a symbolic assertion which further contributes to discombobulate the algorithm of politics, for political gain. The politics deemed as conjuncture point to all individuals coming together to determine their faith in union no longer viable.

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 |
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| 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 UMJUAYVO 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

Strategising to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality in African region

By Special Correspondent

The African Region accounted for 66 per cent of the 303,000 maternal deaths recorded globally in 2017.

To address this situation, WHO in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF and partners supports member states to ensure that all women and girls have access to quality and timely health services, particularly during pregnancy, childbirth, and after delivery, leaving no one behind.

"Most maternal deaths in the region are attributable to five main causes: haemorrhage, pregnancy-related hypertensive disorders, unsafe abortion, infection, and obstructed labour. Of these, complications of haemorrhage and hypertension account for almost 50 per cent of deaths," said Dr. Owen Kaluwa, WHO Representative in South Africa.

Furthermore, unsafe abortion is responsible for 16 per cent of all maternal deaths, with variations across countries depending on the level of restrictions to abortion.

One of the main roles of WHO/AFRO is to produce, disseminate and monitor the implementation of global guidelines and standards that are adapted to the regional context.

In this context, WHO/AFRO is developing the Regional Accelerated Plan of Action to end all preventable maternal mortality due to Postpartum Haemorrhage and Pre-eclampsia/Eclampsia. In addition, WHO/AFRO is updating the 2012 regional Agenda for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), a strategic document aimed to ensure universal access to proven effective and quality SRHR services using the most effective and appropriate delivery systems.

"One thing we need to look at is the skills of our health workers. People need to know how to repair a simple episiotomy wound and many other lacerations. We need to ensure that we have skilled and conscious clinicians," said Dr Manala Makua, chief director of women's, maternal and reproductive health at the National Department of Health South Africa.

From April 27 to 29, 2022, a meeting was held in Johannesburg, where these three strategic documents were presented



and discussed with representatives of 15 Member States, UNFPA, UNICEF, SIDA and SRHR partners namely professional associations, Population Council, Members of the WHO/AFRO regional Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Technical Advisory Group (RMNCAH-TAG).

The purpose of the meeting was to build consensus on the SRHR Agenda and the RAPA and discuss

the effective implementation of the WHO Abortion Care guideline in countries in alignment with national law.

"It is my privilege to say that gradually we are seeing the global leaders' committing and join hands in responding to the agenda of SRHR. Make sure you utilize this opportunity to the maximum," said Dr. Manala Makua to the participants, insisting on

innovating and thinking about ways to accelerate and rethink actions for African populations' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Richard Delate, Programme Specialist SRH/HIV, United Nations Population Fund East, and Southern Africa Regional Office, also advised the participants.

"As we consider issues relating to sexual and reproductive

health and rights over the next few days, let us also take into consideration that the gains we make are not only dependent on the health system but require that we foreground the rights dimension of sexual and reproductive health," he said.

Dr Christina Sadia, member of the WHO/AFRO RMNCAH-TAG participated in the meeting.

"I think the structural barriers

are contributing to a lot of issues that we are seeing. And, the disparities and equities issues need to be addressed. As we talk about leaving no one behind, we need to have a general whole so that our universal coverage and pushing up our accelerated implementation plans can then make a reality and hopefully we can catch up to win the SDGs," she said.

Dr Lwazi Manzi, Head of Secretariat of the African Union (AU) Commission on Covid-19 was in attendance. She was really pleased to be part of the meeting.

"It is an immense privilege to participate in this timely conference that brings the issue of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services to the top of the regional agenda. Through his Covid-19 Championship, President Cyril Ramaphosa tabled a report to the AU on strategies to tackle the attrition of SRHR services during the Covid-19 pandemic. As secretariat we are excited that we are not only aligned with partners like the WHO, but that the Covid-19 commission is in a strategic position to keep the agenda alive at the highest level of the AU political structures. We look forward to continue fostering respectful partnerships as we are called upon by Africa's New Public Health Order," she stated.

The recommendations of the meeting will help to tackle maternal mortality in the African Region so that no women should die while giving birth and no violence against women and girls should be tolerated on the continent.

Why African countries consider China to be their trusted ally

By George Muntu

ALTHOUGH African countries have had good relations with China since and before the struggle for independence, however, there is still a great need for these countries to further strengthen relations with China so that it can lead them to achieve their AU Agenda 2063 goals as well as liberating them from poverty.

China has never colonized African countries apart from the fact that, the Chinese were the first to arrive in Africa. This is the first and fundamental reason that Africans should use in measuring their relations with China. Despite the fact that the Chinese being the first to arrive in Africa but they did not occupy its land as did colonizers. Besides, the Chinese did not claim to be the ones who discovered the continent. Unlike the whites, the Chinese did not take anything from Africa by force nor did they call some parts of Africa their names as the whites did. The thing that distinguishes

the Chinese from the whites is that, the Chinese valued and saw Africans as their fellow human beings and respected their nature and our colours. While the white's despised black people and called them the descendant of chimpanzees.

The liberation struggle for independence, China fought side by side with Africa countries until they were liberated and this becomes the second reason. In addition to that, China assisted African countries by providing them with military equipments, training as well as financial aid. Without China's help, many countries would have delayed in gaining independence. It is also important to note that, China has participated not only in liberating African countries from the clutches of colonialism, but also from the darkness and chains of bondage.

The third reason is that; after independence, China continued to support Africa nations by providing them with various assistances including financial aid and technical assistance which



has helped build major development projects like factories, railway, big farms etc. Some few examples are Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), URAFIKI Friendship factory, UFI Net Factory, Mbarali Farm, and Ruvu Farm. All these projects, in turn, helped to increase the production capacity of food crops, livestock, clothes and tax revenue. In a nutshell this becomes a third reason as why African countries consider China to be their trusted ally.

Apart from early aid, China has continued to support African

countries by building them with major development projects such as, schools, hospitals, football stadiums, conference halls, technical colleges, military training centres, agricultural demonstration centres, water wells etc. All this is to ensure that African countries have the necessary infrastructures that will bring development to the people. A few examples of the projects are AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium, University of Dar es Salaam's

Library and Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC).

China's loans to African countries are crucial for building critical and strategic developmental infrastructure. And this is why China is the closest African ally. These loans have helped in the construction of major infrastructures in Africa like that of transport, communications, energy, water supply, education and health. All these projects have helped to reduce the infrastructure shortage in Africa and increased access to social services. Before China's emerged as a major lender to African, African countries were unable to obtain loans from west due to strict conditions. Prior to obtaining a loan, countries were required to comply with the terms set by western countries. Unlike the West, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), China does not attach political terms or string conditions as a criterion for lending. Instead, it provides loans in accordance with

lending procedures.

The non-interference policy is fifth pillar of China-Africa relations as it offers an opportunity for all African countries to borrow and do business with China regardless their internal political matters. Due to this policy, African countries have the opportunity to get loans from China for the construction of critical infrastructure and strategic development projects. All infrastructures built by Chinese loans have helped reduce transportation problems, access to electricity, communications, health and water in Africa.

It is important to understand that, In order for Africa to achieve its AU agenda 2063 goals, it requires at least \$150-\$170 billion every year to reduce the infrastructure gap. This means, Africa cannot achieve these goals without borrowing and the only country that can provide unconditional loans is China. Thus, Africa needs to take advantage of every opportunity offered by China to boost the economies of their countries.

China is not a member of the G7 club, but a member and ally of the developing countries, something that make the giant Asian nation as the leader and advocate of all African countries. It represents African countries' interests in the UN Security Council.

Its position represents all developing countries including Africa. What makes China be important to Africa; is because of its past experiences. It was oppressed and occupied by western militaries similar to African countries. Through that experience, China is committed to guide, protect, defend and fully assist African countries in all international affairs and ensuring that their voices are heard. In that sense, African countries should not hesitate but should embrace China so that it can fully support them in achieving their AU Agenda 2063 goals.

George Muntu is the Dar es Salaam-based independent writer

CAMARTEC and CBT in new drive to improve cashew nut processing

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

THE Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC) in collaboration with the Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT) has unveiled plans to increase cashew nut processing based on value chain from the current 10 percent to 60 percent to increase youth employment, services and income.

CBT director general, Francis Mwakabumbe unveiled that 90 percent of raw cashew nuts are sold locally and abroad each year, a situation that leads to job losses through the youth value chain, but also its bark produces oil that is used to lubricate plants or kill pests such as ants.

He said this here recently when speaking during a special five-day training for youth groups, building their capacity to use eight cashew nut processing machines designed and provided by CAMARTEC, worth more than 5m/-.

Mwakabumbe congratulated CAMARTEC for the simple cashew nuts' processing machines they provided free of charge to young people and in the past they were using hands and feet (pedal cashew nut operator).

According to him, the current machine is worth 1.2m/- and that if young people can be in a group can afford to buy it.

"The board will support the increase in discrimination from 10 percent to 60 percent so that young people become self-employed through discrimination and the value chain increases," he said.

Mwakabumbe said CBT and CAMARTEC will ensure that the technology of simple machines is distributed to more young people and smallholder farmers in all areas where the crop is grown.

He said the products of the value chain are milk, cassava, oil, butter and wine derived from cashew nuts.

CAMARTEC's acting director of technologist Pastory Mrosso said the aim of designing and providing the tools is to increase employment for young people.

He said the center conducted a study in 2019 in Manyoni District and found that cashew nut processing is done using stone or stick, which is time consuming and cashew nuts break into smaller pieces and reduce the grade.

Mrosso said: "After deploying the machines in Manyoni and Itigi, we'll ensure that we manufacture and deploy more machines in Mtwara, Mkinga, Tanga and Pwani regions to ensure young people earn income through processing and also reduce the number of raw cashews exported."

One set of machines has the capacity to process 80 kilograms of cashew nuts per day. CAMARTEC hopes to set up a cashew nut processing and boiling factory



Beneficiaries of training on the best use of cashew nut processing machines, which has been designed by CAMARTEC in the Manyoni District Council, Singida Region. They all look on how the machines work.

in Manyoni District so that more young people have the opportunity to learn how to process and follow the value chain.

"We hope to bring in 10 more machines that will expand the scope of diversification work to reach more young people to get rid of poverty and build the economy of our country.

Center's Head of Training and Publicity Unit, Peter Mtoba said the

cashew nuts' training for the Oasis and Brotherhood groups will help in processing cashew nuts fruits into wine, which is sold at a higher price.

CBT acting manager of cashew nuts processing, Mangile Malegesi said the training aims to build the capacity of processors to produce cashew nuts that will compete with the local and foreign market.

CBT quality controller, Ray Mtan-

gi said this is the first time Manyoni District has harvested cashew nuts and they are all first class.

Mtangi said there are currently 22,000 hectares planted with cashew nuts by 1,177 farmers. The Board plans by 2023/24 to achieve the target of 35,000 hectares of land and harvest more than 21,000 tonnes.

He said Manyoni cashew plantations are in Block Farming, Manyoni District Council Direc-

tor Melkizedeck Humbe said his council will ensure that it allocates and allocates land to youth groups and other citizens so that the council can benefit from local revenue.

He cited some of the benefits of the joint ventures as being jointly to facilitate access to extension services by serving a large area at the same time, easy access to inputs, joint control of pests (diseases and pests), quality control, market certainty, the main source of raw materials for cashew processing and employment industries.

One of the training beneficiaries, Oscar Mnjengo from the Brotherhood group, who owns a five-hectare cashew farm, said the advent of cashew nuts' processing machines would help sustain employment and help other young people.

A member of Oasis group, Rehema Mtakwa said that in addition to owning cashew farms, they will provide grazing services from fellow farmers to supplement their income.

"We will involve more young people to join groups, be empowered to benefit from the cashew chain," she said.

Another Oasis member, Maria Pancras said they would see a difference in income following the introduction of the cashew nuts' processing machine as in the past they were using unfriendly tools and finally producing low quality cashew nuts and get low prices in the market.

A member of Brotherhood group Oscar Mnjengo said the machines they were given will help them earn an income that will increase the production of cashew nut blocks which if they sell they will earn money.

Manyoni District is one of the seven district councils in Singida Region. For a long time there was no permanent commercial crop and then TARI, did agricultural research and it was found that the land and climate of the area are suitable for cashew cultivation.

BUSINESS

CAG: Understated taxpayers' audit files tops 12.6billion/-

By Francis Kajubi

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has urged the central government to ensure that Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) is equipped with enough and skilled tax auditors to avoid understatement of taxes that amounted 12.63billion/- in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

The CAG also recommends enhancement of the capacity of tax auditors and assists in developing and acquiring an integrated tax system.

According to the CAG report on taxpayers' audit files for the financial year under review, understated Corporate and Personal income taxes amounted 5.27bn/-, withholding taxes amounted 2.93bn/-, stamp duty amounted 218.35million/- and Value Added Tax (VAT) amounted 3.80bn/-.

However, understated taxes for the Skills Development Levy amounted to 417.69million/-.

"I recommend that the government should ensure the Authority is equipped with enough and skilled tax auditors, enhance the capacity of tax auditors and assist in developing and acquiring an integrated tax system," states CAG Charles Kichere in the report.

The report asserts that understatement of corporate and personal income taxes has resulted from the overstatement of direct and indirect expenses by taxpayers such as unrealized exchange loss, overstatement of purchases, overstatement of finance costs, unjustified expenses on postage and courier.

Moreover, the other reasons are expenses not wholly and exclusively incurred for generation of taxable income and unjustified preoperative expenses. Similarly, the understatement of Skills Development Levy was caused by taxpayers understating



CAG Charles Kichere

employees' gross emoluments in the monthly payrolls filed to TRA.

Also, the understatement of Withholding taxes on service fees, royalties, rental, professional services and digital marketing were either due to not being charged or paid by taxpayers in the course of business.

Understatement of VAT was attributed to under declaration of sales in returns filed by taxpayers and non-charging of VAT on the realization of assets disposed, understatement of Stamp duty was due to non-charge of duty on contract agreements. The understatement of taxes might result into loss of government revenue.

On the other hand, CAG review of

block registers conducted in seven tax regions noted that, out of the sampled 11,744 taxpayers, 10,108 taxpayers (86.1 percent) in the blocks were not issued with assessments for the year under review.

Further, he found deficiencies in block management such as inadequate frequency of visiting blocks by tax officers, and non-preparation of physical performance reports for the blocks.

Kichere states that the shortfalls were caused by inadequate compliance with block management operational procedures and the inadequate number of staff in managing blocks.

He warns that inadequate monitoring and supervision of taxpayers in the

blocks could first limit business information of taxpayers to facilitate correct assessments.

Secondly, could limit regular updates of traders' information to facilitate categorization of traders to ensure correct taxes are timely paid and thirdly, expansion of the tax base and enhancement of Government revenue and to deter tax evasion.

"The central government should ensure that adequate assessments are issued to taxpayers to enhance the collection of government revenues as well as increase the number of staff to improve management of taxpayers in the blocks in order to increase revenue," states the CAG.



KADCO failed to remit receipts worth 18.63bn/- to TRA

By Francis Kajubi

AIRPORT departure charges valued 18.63bn/- collected by the Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) were not remitted to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Controller and Auditor General report 2020/21 has revealed.

According to the CAG's review of the collection of the airport departure charges at KADCO noted that the company collects departure charges from airline operators but does not remit the collected amount to the Commissioner General of TRA as required by the law.

"From July 2019 to June 2021 KADCO collected 2.37billion/- and US\$7.04 million as departure charges but not remitted to Commissioner General contrary to the law and GN of 2002," reads part of the report.

Section 7 of the Airport Service Charge Act, Cap 365 [R.E 2019] requires agents to collect and remit to the Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on or before the last working day of the month following the month in which the collection was done.

Also, government notice (GN) of Air-

port Charge, 2002 appointed Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company Limited (KADCO) as a collecting agent of the TRA from 1 July 2002. The Notice was drawn from Sect. 6 (2) of the Airport Service Charge Act, 1962.

The CAG asserts in the report that he was informed by KADCO that the Concession Agreement of 17 July 1998 with the government allows the Company to collect and spend.

However, his review of the concession agreement noted absence of a clause that allows the Company to collect and spend the collected amount. Further, he noted clause 13 of the concession agreement that allows the company for five years from the date of initial operation to set the rate of airport charges but this was made before GN of 2002 came into effect.

"Following this inconsistency and the fact that KADCO is owned 100 percent by the Government, I recommend to the government to review the government Notice of airport charge, 2002 and Concession Agreement, 1998 to align with the requirement of the Airport Service Charge Act, Cap 365 [R.E 2019]," says CAG Charles Kichere in the report.

Mbarali District dishes 130m/- as interest-free loan to PWDs

By Guardian Reporter, Mbarali

MBARALI District Council in Mbeya Region has issued an interest-free loan of more than 130m/- for the people with disabilities so that they can develop their entrepreneurial activities and economic growth.

The loan is in compliance with the laws of the country which require each council across the country to set aside 10% of its domestic revenue for lending to groups of women, youth and people with disabilities to sustain their activities.

The loans have been issued to 17 groups of people with disabilities over a period of two years which are the financial year 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

Mbarali District Community Development Officer, Roman Kessy said this over the weekend in an interview with this paper about the status of the loans and its benefits to the eligible people.

Kessy said that the strategies they have put in place as a district are to ensure that all groups of people with disabilities get loans and repay on time as well as monitor the changes caused by such loans.

According to Kessy, in order to ensure that the money was returned they decided to put in place a mechanism to provide small amounts of money to such groups to assess the perpetrators if they could be honest.

"In these loans, we've a special team that is monitoring these groups and

making sure they repay these loans on time and we've succeeded," Kessy said, noting that the criteria they're looking into when issuing loans are capabilities of the loaner and he/she must performing any productive activity including business.

Kessy said that in ensuring people with disabilities do their businesses well once they get loans, education on entrepreneurship is being provided to the beneficiaries including identifying markets for their products.

Some people with disabilities who have benefited from the loans said they thanked the government for introducing the loan system, saying it had helped them recover economically.

One of the beneficiaries, Maria Daudi, said that after getting the loan

from their group, she decided to do rice business at the Igurusi stand and that as a result of the business has been good, including earning money to support herself and her family as well as servicing the loan every month.

"This loan has really helped me and my family. And I'm able to pay school fees for my child," she said.

Mbarali District Council Chairman, Twalib Lubandamo said that the council after providing the loans to groups of people with disabilities continues to monitor closely.

"Although some of these groups tend to harass us after receiving loans thinking they have been given as a gift, we advise them to return on time and not wait for monitoring or closure of their businesses," said Lubandamo.

Grumeti lodges shines on African continent

NAIROBI

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

TWO lodges owned by Grumeti Reserves have been rated high and placed on the list of ten best hotels on the African continent.

In the latest report, "The Wealth Africa" named the safari lodges as Sabora Tented Camp and River Mara Tented Camp both of which are located in Mara Region.

The luxurious lodges operated by Grumeti Reserves also include Sasakwa which had also been named the world's best hotel very often.

Grumeti Reserves is an eco-tourism company which has invested heavily in tourism and conservation in Tanzania, a move that had also created multiple economic benefits including

jobs creation for large number of Tanzanians.

The company is also seen as role model investor in supporting local development and conservation activities in Western Serengeti.

Another hotel in Tanzania which has been rated in the top ten hotel category in Africa is Beyond Klein's Camp.

Elsewhere in East Africa, the report mentioned Cottar's 1920 and Beyond Bateleur Camp of Kenya and Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp of Uganda in the same class.

To complete the list of ten best safari lodges in Africa are hotels in Botswana and South Africa.

The Wealth Africa 2022 rating of hotels was based on reputation, quality and service, location, view and scenery, biodiversity, authentic bush feel, birdlife and wildlife experience.



Part of the Mara River Tented Camp view, one of the luxurious lodges operated by Grumeti Reserves in Mara Region.

Halotel to invest more efforts in scaling-up network quality

By Beatrice Philemon

AFTER emerging the leaders in fast median download speed in the country, Halotel Tanzania has pledged to put more efforts in improving network infrastructure quality, through massive investment in 4G facilities.

In an exclusive interview, Halotel's Business Centre Director Abdallah Salum said that in a bid to ensure that its customers get assured of using the Halotel communication services in all areas where they are, the company has extended network coverage in almost all over the country, reaching 95 percent of Tanzanians.

"In the next two years, we'll invest more on infrastructure to ensure effective communication services in terms of upgrading, increasing service quality," he said, unveiling other plans as expanding the coverage and the focus is to invest more on fourth generation network to meet the growing demand from the Tanzanian public.

"The company is continuing to roll out 4G towers in different areas across the country, where such services have never existed before. The target is having more custom-



ers upgraded their 3G number to 4G," he said.

"We help our customers to use a high-speed internet service which is very convenient in accordance with their needs and demand."

Halotel, a subsidiary of Viet-

nam's Viettel International has been contracted by the government to extend communication infrastructure to rural parts of the country where leading mobile telecommunication companies failed to invest because of poor market.

He said the telcoms contracted by the government to extend communication services to marginalized rural areas of the country in 2015, target to increase its subscribers from the current seven million to 10 million by 2023.

So far, the telecommunication has deployed 800 fourth generation communication towers in the past six years to spread digital communication countrywide.

The 4G towers have also been deployed in all regions of Zanzibar

with the bulk of them stationed in remote areas.

"As Halotel we are very glad for this performance, we will continue to improve our network speed to allow our customers enjoy internet connection services in all areas where they are and other services," he said.

According to the Speedtest Global Index Market Analyses from US-based company Ookla that is the global leader in network intelligence and connectivity Insights reveals that Halotel was the fastest mobile operator among top providers in Tanzania in first quarter of 2022 with a median download speed of 17.84 Megabytes per second (Mbps).

Halotel followed by Vodacom with 12.09 Mbps, Airtel 10.60 Mbps, TTCL 10.42 Mbps, Tigo 5.99 Mbps and Zantel 4.31 Mbps.

Highlighting on city speeds it indicate that Mwanza showed the fastest median mobile download speed among Tanzania's most populous cities during first quarter of 2022 with a

median download speed of 13.76 Mbps and median upload 10.54 Megabytes per second (Mbps).

While, in Arusha 12.47 Mbps, Dar es Salaam 11.79 Mbps, Mbeya 11.65 Mbps and Dodoma 9.44 Megabytes per second.

Elaborating on Consistency score, it indicates that in measuring the consistency of each operator's performance, we found that there was no statistical winner for Consistency Score in Tanzania during first quarter of 2022.

According to the analysis, Halotel had the highest Consistency score in Tanzania during first quarter of 2022, with 80.1 percent, followed by Vodacom 72.1 percent, TTCL 67.5 percent, Airtel 67.2 percent, Tigo 48.9 percent and Zantel 37.4 percent.

In calculating median latency for top mobile providers in Tanzania during first quarter of 2022, Vodacom had the lowest latency at 23 ms, followed by Zantel (27ms), Tigo (28ms), Airtel (29ms), Halotel (31ms).

GGML wins Occupational Health and Safety exhibition

By Guardian Reporter

THE Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) emerged the overall winner of the Occupational Health and Safety exhibition in Dodoma.

The exhibition is coordinated by the country's Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) in Dodoma in the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, which is observed around the world on 28th April every year.

The OSHA also gave GGML the award for the best company that assists the community in health and safety education in their area.

Speaking at the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Dodoma, the Minister of State for Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Professor Joyce Ndalichako, commended GGML for prioritizing the health and safety of workers.

Also called on other companies in the country to invest in improving the health and safety environment of their employees.

"Many employers in the country have been reluctant to put too much emphasis on health and safety issues for fear of the cost. But when accidents and fatalities occur, the costs are much higher and affect the employers themselves, the company, the workers, society, the nation and the economy as a whole.

"Let us continue to work together to create a better culture of occupational health and safety, as the theme of this year's World Day for Safety and Health



GGML senior manager for health, safety, environment and training Dr. Kiva Mvungi receives the award for Overall Health and Safety Winner from the Minister of State (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Prof Joyce Ndalichako (C) in Dodoma. On the right is the OSHA board of Trustees Chairperson, Dr. Adelhem Meru.

at Work states," added Professor Ndalichako.

Dr. Kiva Mvungi, Senior Manager for Health, Safety, Environment and Training at GGML, said the secret to the company's long standing excellent health and safety record lies in a better culture of involving employees and contractors in adhering to the values of health and

safety in the workplace.

"Workplace accidents and fatalities are a problem that affects many workers around the world and their families. We have worked very hard to prevent fatalities and accidents at the mine and as a result there has not been an accident that has resulted in the death of a worker for over 10 years.

"The last time a person was injured to the extent that they could not continue working was in 2018, while in 2017 there was only one incident where a person suffered a minor injury that prevented them from continuing to work.

"This is a good record for us compared to other mines and we will continue to educate our employ-

ees to remain vigilant and follow all safety procedures while at work to ensure that we maintain our record as the leading mine in terms of safety ahead of all other mines in the world," said Dr. Kiva Mvungi.

He added that Geita Gold Mining Limited continues to be the top performer in occupational health and safety among all AngloGold Ashanti operations globally.

He further stated that Geita Gold Mining Limited values the lives of its employees and contractors and has therefore made safety a priority in its operations.

"Each year we work with the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) to educate the communities and institutions participating in this exhibition about systems and technologies to improve workplace safety and health. The aim is to remind the community that life and survival are more important than the economy or the profits a company can make," said Dr. Kiva Mvungi.

At last year's Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) Exhibition, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) emerged as the second runner up and overall winner.

This year, for the second year running, GGML was named the overall winner for the best performance in the Tanzanian mining industry for the 2020/2021 financial years, in the areas of corporate social responsibility, environment, safety, best taxpayer and local content.

Airtel Kenya pays Sh1.1bn for licence

NAIROBI

AIRTEL Kenya has paid the government Sh1.13 billion (\$10 million) in fees for a network licence to cater for the increased demand for its mobile data services.

Industry regulator Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) disclosed that Airtel paid the money last month, paving the way for use of the new spectrum for 10 years.

Airtel had temporarily acquired the licence for two years to February 2022 to support increased demand for its data services when businesses opted to work from home to contain the spread of the Covid-19 disease from 2020.

The Sh1.13 billion payment will be followed by a \$20 million (Sh2.2 billion) fee for the current licence that Airtel has been using since 2015 and which the telco agreed to settle over the next three years.

The payments are the outcome of an out-of-court settlement with the government.

The telco signed the agreements with the CA in February, allowing Airtel to start negotiations meant to exempt the firm from a rule that requires local shareholders to own at least a 30 percent stake in telecom companies by March 2024.

"On 16th March 2022, the Authority issued Airtel Networks Kenya Ltd with a frequency license for a non-contiguous 2x10 MHz block of spectrum in the 2100 MHz band at an initial spectrum license fee of USD\$ 10 Million valid for 10 years," says the CA in disclosures.

The spectrum allows a mobile service operator to offer their customers large data bundles without necessarily increasing the monthly cost to users.

Demand for mobile and fiber-backed Internet peaked in March 2020 when the government ordered businesses and public offices to work remotely, banned social gatherings, and restricted movement in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The closure of learning institutions for more than a year due to the restrictions also increased demand for mobile internet service during the period.

Airtel and other internet service providers (both mobile and fixed) ramped up investments by acquiring new spectrum licences and building more towers to provide reliable internet services in the wake of the increased demand.

Acquisition of the spectrum licence boosted Airtel's efforts to capitalise on the peak in demand for Internet services at the height of the coronavirus restrictions in a bid to reduce the dominance of Safaricom ticker:SCOM.

Sh1.5bn transformers tender frozen on bias claim at Kenya Power entity

NAIROBI

KENYA Power has been dealt a blow after the procurement regulator froze a Sh1.5 billion tender for transformers following protest from local manufacturers fretful of being locked out of the deal.

Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (PPRB) suspended the tender, which was announced in March, pending the determination of an appeal filed by five local companies.

The companies argue that the tender requirements are skewed, unfair, and meant to shut out local manufacturers from the multibillion-dollar deal in favour of foreign firms.

The tenders demanded firms with 10 years

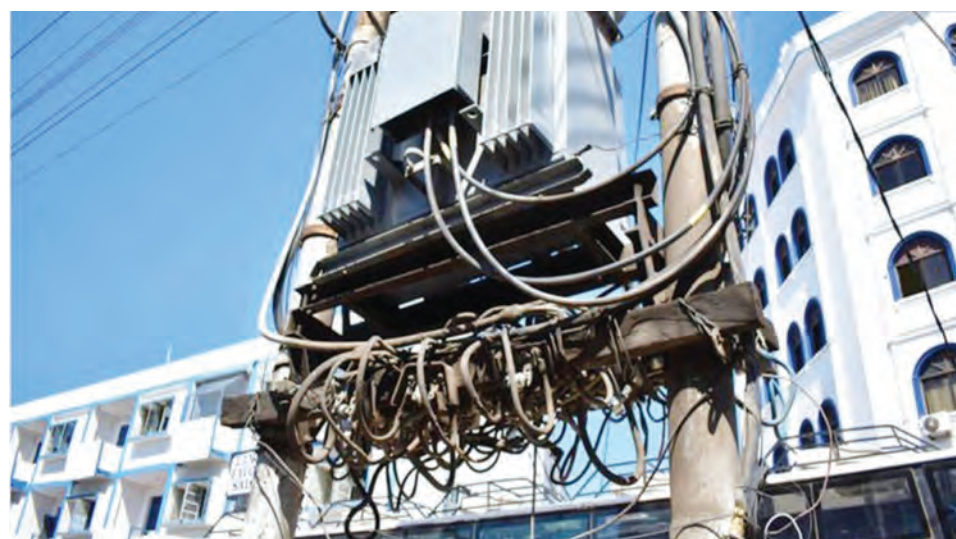
manufacturing experience, but local firms say they are in breach because they were set up in 2015.

"The procurement proceedings are hereby suspended and no contract shall be signed between the procuring entity and the tenderer awarded the contract unless the appeal has been finalised," the board said in a short ruling.

Kenya Power has been seeking to increase the supply of transformer equipment to match increased connectivity, especially in rural areas.

Kenya also suffers regular power failure owing to a dilapidated transmission network hinged on ageing transmission lines and transformers.

Business leaders have



blamed the power outages for stunting economic growth.

The freeze on the transformer deal comes days after manufacturers of meters moved to the board

and stopped a Sh2 billion tender for the supply of single-phase, three-phase postpaid and prepaid meters, arguing that locking them out in preference of foreign companies is

discriminatory.

The meter manufacturers said the utility firm invited bids for the supply of the meters and placed conditions, which will only allow an international

procurement model for the power distribution products.

Yesterday, five companies including Pan Africa Transformers & Switchgears, Nairobi Transformers, and Empower Transformers, said the utility firm had also locked them of the tender by placing restrictions that only favours foreign manufacturers.

The tender for the supply of transformers was uploaded on Kenya Power's website on March 11, 2022. The tender documents were amended three times and each time, introduced conditions that local manufacturers said are hard to meet.

Local contractors

Through H&K Law advocates, the local manufacturers said the apparent favouritism was a violation of the principle of legality, which dictates that there must be a rational connection between the decision taken and the purpose.

The local firms argue that the public procurement regulations require a procuring to encourage participation by local contractors to promote the local industry.

Developing a sustainable small scale fishing insurance scheme in Tanzania

GENERALLY, small-scale fishers (SSF) have limited access to financial services such as Bank accounts, Savings to facilitate implementation of sustainable insurance schemes. Our Correspondent GERALD KITABU caught up with head of Consulting, Dar es Salaam Merchant Group Dr. Kassim Mussa Mhina on how small-scale fishers can develop a sustainable small scale fishing insurance scheme in Tanzania. Excerpts.



Head of Consulting, Dar es Salaam Merchant Group Dr. Kassim Mussa Mhina. Photo by Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Q: What hinders small-scale fishers from developing a sustainable small scale fishing insurance scheme?

A: There are several reasons. They include seasonality of income from fishing and high poverty rates among small-scale fishers, limited knowledge of fishing operations among most insurers also hinders implementation of the insurance schemes, large diversity of fisheries practices and fishers' needs is a big challenge to designing sustainable insurance schemes.

Q: How do you help them?

A: An insurer-agent-fisher model can be adopted as an alternative model to small-scale fishers. However, improvement of vessels and gears, establishing cold and processing facilities and more importantly market access must be considered to strengthen this model. The general insurance theory stipulates a risk-transfer mechanism to ensure financial compensation for losses or damages caused by events beyond the insured's control. Small-scale fishing must not be excluded if the country is to ensure food security, employment, and a living for the more than 4,000,000 people involved in the sector. Small-scale fishers could be insured against natural disasters, loss or damage to fishing assets, crew injury and death, and, most importantly, increased access to credit for vessel upgrades.

Q: Have you conducted any research to determine percentage of the vessels along the Indian ocean that are equipped with outboard or inboard engines to enable them get big catch and so qualify for insurance?

A: According to the annual statistics survey conducted by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, there are approximately 9,248 vessels in the Indian Ocean. More than 70 percent of the vessels are 2.5-5 meters long and fish within 12 nautical miles of the shore. Surprisingly, only 18.2 percent of the vessels are equipped with outboard or inboard engines. In addition to the low-tech vessels, the fishers have insufficient or no cold storage facilities at the landing sites, making it difficult for them to bargain their produce in

the market. Despite these challenges, small-holder fishers provide the majority of income and food security, accounting for 1.74 percent of GDP. The subsector accounts for 98 percent of total fish catch (365,000 Tons), directly supporting nearly 238,053 smallholder fishers.

Q: Despite Tanzania having the best marine insurance policy, income for small-scale fishermen can be unpredictable and irregular depending on the success of a particular fishing.

This makes it difficult for private companies to jump on the bandwagon of small-fishers insurance. Again what is your views on this?

A: Regardless of the situation, Britam Insurance and NMB recently signed a contract to help fishing communities secure income and bring greater social and economic stability to Tanzania's small scale fishers. Because of the nature of the sector, there is more to add to develop a sustainable insurance scheme that will work better.

To begin, the Tanzanian government should devise a strategy to provide small-scale fishers with access to such insurance schemes, which, in most cases, would need to be subsidized at this early stage, in order to provide them with a comprehensive safety plan for attracting investment.

The government can begin to reinsure the private sector by establishing an insurance facility or guarantee fund to provide additional assistance in the event of sector-wide claims resulting from large-scale natural disasters.

Q: It is said that in general, small-scale insurance is an important tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the fisheries sector when combined with other strategies. What is your comment?

A: It is very true. Such strategies include measures to protect ecosystems. For example, insurance coverage for all types of vessels could be made mandatory, which could be a good strategy to reduce illegal fishing and thus protect the coral reefs, which are the foundation of most marine ecosystems.

Aside from insuring fisheries assets, health and life insurance can be included as part of a

package in social security schemes.

To develop a sustainable small-scale fishing insurance scheme, it is necessary to address the issue of why the majority of small-scale fishers are uninsured.

Examining the nature of the fishery sector, the question can be attempted by taking into account the perspectives of fishermen, insurers, and the government. In the case of small scale fishers, accurate information must be available.

Insurance companies can allow for flexibility in case earnings during a specific fishing season are lower than expected in order to create a more sustainable insurance scheme.

Furthermore, the common perception is that insurance is expensive and coverage is frequently regarded as inadequate, necessitating the fishing communities to develop saving behavior through savings and deposit services.

Q: Now what are you advising the government?

A: In the case of the government, insurance coverage for certain types of vessels must be mandatory. The government can make it easier for insurers to invest in perceived high-risk, low-return sectors by facilitating the establishment of guarantee funds or facilities. On the insurance provider's side, must be available on their landing sites.

If a sustainable small scale fishing insurance scheme is in place, the small scale fishing sector can attract investments.

Analysis of market demand for insurance services related to fishing vessels, landing

site infrastructure, and natural and man-made hazards that have caused losses in the past.

Because of this perception, most insurance companies are hesitant to enter the fishery industry. As a result, educating and empowering small-scale fishermen about insurance services is critical. The government should provide assistance in the form of guarantees and connections to existing safety net programs. Furthermore, policies for partnerships (insurer, private company, fisher representatives, government) that meet the needs and requirements of small-scale fishers are more important.

Q: By the way which insurance model is best for small-scale fishermen?

A: An insurance company works with a local agent, such as a fishers cooperative or a microfinance institution, to provide insurance services to small-scale fishermen. The benefit of this model is that microfinance institutions frequently have a good network of offices in fishing communities, reducing information gaps for risk management. Furthermore, the model reduces transaction costs, easing the burden on small-scale fishermen. To ensure the model's smooth operation, the agent's staff must be trained to handle these challenges, and, of course, technological infrastructure may need to be improved.

| ITV | 21:35 | 15:00 | 18:15 | 20:00 |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| MONDAY 2 May | Kipindi Maalum: NSSF | Meza Huru | Korean: Jumong | Series: Itohan |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 21:50 Chetu ni chetu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 19:00 Jungu Kuu | 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love |
| 6:00 HABARI | 22:20 Soap: Love to Death | 17:00 The Base | 19:30 Shika Bamba | 21:30 Capital Prime |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 23:00 The Base | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 20:00 Habari | 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt |
| 7:30 HABARI | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 18:15 Mapishi | 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka | 22:00 EcoAfrica |
| 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 02:00 DWTV | 18:30 Jagina | 21:15 Igizo: Rebeca | 23:00 Al Jazeera |
| 8:55 Habari za saa | WEDNESDAY 4 May | 19:00 Usafiri wako | 21:40 Art and Lifestyle | Wed 04 May |
| 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 22:10 ITV TOP 10 | 06:00 Al Jazeera |
| 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 6:00 HABARI | 20:00 Habari | 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 9:55 Habari za saa | 6:40 Kumekucha | 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja | 23:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) |
| 10:00 Watoto wetu | 7:30 HABARI | 23:00 The Base | 01:15 DWTV | 12:00 Our Earth Rpt |
| 10:55 Habari za saa | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 00:30 Al Jazeera | SUNDAY 8 May | 12:30 Innovation Rpt |
| 11:00 ITV Top Ten | 8:55 Habari za saa | 02:00 DWTV | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 13:00 Telenovela rpt Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 11:55 Habari za saa | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | FRIDAY 6 May | 6:00 HABARI | 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan |
| 12:00 Al Jazeera | 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 6:40 Kumekucha | 16:30 Culinary delight rpt |
| 12:30 Usafiri wako rp | 9:55 Habari za saa | 6:00 HABARI | 7:00 Habari | 17:00 Innovation rpt |
| 12:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 6:40 Kumekucha | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 13:00 Mjue Zaidi | 10:25 Uchumi wetu | 7:30 HABARI | 09:00 Watoto Wetu | 19:00 Sports Gazette |
| 13:55 Habari za saa | 10:55 Habari za saa | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 19:30 Chetu ni chetu |
| 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | 8:55 Habari za saa | 11:35 Bongo Movie | 20:00 Series: Itohan |
| 13:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 Habari za saa | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo | 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love |
| 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 9:55 Habari za saa | 15:30 Mwangaza | 21:30 Capital Prime News |
| 14:15 Soap: Love to Death | 12:30 Jarida la wanawake | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 16:30 ITV Top 10 | 22:00 Dakika 45: |
| 14:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | 10:30 Usafiri wako | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 22:45 The Décor |
| 15:00 Meza Huru | 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt | 10:55 Habari za saa | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 23:15 Al Jazeera |
| 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 13:45 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF | 11:00 The Base rpt | 18:15 Mapishi | Thurs 05 May |
| 17:00 The Base | 13:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 Habari za saa | 18:30 Matukio ya wiki | 06:00 Al Jazeera |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 14:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 18:10 Aibu yako rpt | 14:15 Soap: Love to Death | 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco | 20:00 Habari | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) |
| 18:15 Mapishi | 14:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love |
| 18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo | 15:00 Meza huru | 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt | 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 19:00 Aya ya Jamii | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt | 21:15 Mizengwe | 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan |
| 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 17:00 The Base | 14:00 Habari za saa | 21:30 Mjue Zaidi | 16:30 Culinary delight rpt |
| 20:00 Habari | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 14:55 Habari za saa | 22:15 Bongo Movie: | 17:00 Innovation rpt |
| 21:05 Dakika 45 | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | 15:00 Meza Huru | 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW | 18:30 Ijue Sheria | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 02:05 Al Jazeera | 19:00 Turning the spotlight |
| 22:15 Soap: Love to Death | 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA | 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) | CAPITAL | 19:30 Tanzania yetu |
| 23:00 The Base | 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 17:30 Kisiam | Mon 02 May | 20:00 Series: Itohan |
| 00:00 Al Jazeera | 20:00 Habari | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News |
| 02:00 DWTV | 21:05 Aibu Yako | 18:15 Korean: Jumong rpt | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 22:00 Capchat rpt |
| TUESDAY 3 May | 21:40 Ripoti Maalum | 19:00 Shamba lulu | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) | 23:00 Al Jazeera |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 22:15 Soap: Love to Death | 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | Frid 06 May |
| 6:00 HABARI | 23:00 The Base | 20:00 Habari | 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan | 06:00 Al Jazeera |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 21:05 Kipima Joto | 16:30 EcoAfrica | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 7:30 HABARI | 02:00 DWTV | 23:00 Habari | 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) |
| 8:00 Al Jazeera | THURSDAY 5 May | 23:30 The Base | 17:30 Meza huru | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love |
| 9:00 DWTV Journal | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 19:00 The Décor rpt | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 6:00 HABARI | 02:00 DWTV | 19:30 Shamba lulu | 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan |
| 10:00 Watoto wetu | 6:40 Kumekucha | SATURDAY 7 May | 20:00 Habari | 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt |
| 10:25 Jagina rpt | 7:30 HABARI | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 21:05 Kipima Joto | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 11:00 The Base rpt | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 6:00 HABARI | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:00 Rev |
| 12:00 Al Jazeera | 8:55 Habari za saa | 6:40 Kumekucha | Tues 03 May | 19:30 EcoAfrica |
| 12:30 Aya ya jamii | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 7:00 Habari | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition |
| 13:00 DWTV: Kesho Leo rpt | 9:55 Habari za saa | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 20:45 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News |
| 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) | 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt |
| 14:00 Soap: Love to Death | 10:30 Shamba lulu | 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | 00:00 Al Jazeera |
| 14:45 Bongo Movie: | 10:55 Habari za saa | 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt | 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan | Sat 07 May |
| 16:30 Watoto wetu | 11:00 The base | 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt | 16:30 Capchat rpt | 08:00 Al Jazeera |
| 17:00 The Base | 11:55 Habari za saa | 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 17:30 Meza huru | 09:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Innovation | 10:00 Culinary delight rpt |
| 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt | 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt | 16:15 Igizo: Rebeca | 19:30 Our Earth | |
| 18:30 Uchumi na biashara | 12:55 Habari za saa | 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani | | |
| 19:00 Jarida la wanawake | 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA | 18:00 Jiji Letu | | |
| 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 13:30 Igizo: Rebeca | | | |
| 20:00 Habari | 13:55 Habari za saa | | | |
| 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba | 14:00 Soap: Love to Death | | | |

Studio business is about giving clients reasons to return again

KAMPALA

FOCUS Images Studio saw the light of day in March 2010. A brainchild of Patrick Balwana, aged 21 at the time, as a fresh Information Technology graduate from Makerere University, Balwana worked in his father's photo studio under the Star Photo Laboratory and Star United franchise during holidays from Senior One to Six.

When Balwana was not in class at university, he was always working at the father's studios. His father's business had branches across western Uganda in Mbarara, Fort Portal, Kabale and Rukungiri, among other busy districts.

The dream

As a child, Balwana recalls seeing his father who had been in the studio business since the 1980s travel to Kenya in mid and late 1990s to print big photo consignments. And during holidays and secondary school vacations, he equally visited his father's different regional branches to see how services were being offered.

It is how he acquired the business acumen that he later used to start Focus Images Studios.

"From the trips I made to my father's

studios, I noticed that a lot of the studio work is technical and computerised. I used the opportunity to learn a few things such as using cameras to get the right image focus and photo editing where it's required without compromising the quality.

I focused at every detail and used the knowledge to start something of my own," Balwana explains.

Balwana derived his business name from the term, focus, which he defines as, 'Follow One Course Until Successful'. He also argues that photography should not be under looked as work for the non-educated, but a career anyone can embrace provided they understand how it works first.

As he worked at Star Photo Laboratory and Star United studios, Balwana says he was paid a monthly wage of Shs600,000 like any other employee even when he was still staying in his father's home.

"I decided to save every coin I earned before I faced personal responsibilities such as family. After school, my total savings from working during holidays and at university were Shs30m. I used the money to secure working space for my first branch at Bukoto and paid months ahead of time and bought my first camera, a Nikon 60X, branding of the premises and acquiring a computer,"

WORLD

Blast kills more than 50 at Kabul mosque

KABUL

A powerful explosion killed more than 50 worshippers after Friday prayers at a Kabul mosque, its leader said, the latest in a series of attacks on civilian targets in Afghanistan during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The blast hit the Khalifa Sahib Mosque in the west of the capital in the early afternoon, said Besmullah Habib, deputy spokesman for the interior ministry, who said the official confirmed death toll was 10.

The attack came as worshippers at the Sunni mosque gathered after Friday prayers for a congregation known as Zikr – an act of religious remembrance practiced by some Muslims but seen as heretical by some hardline Sunni groups.

Sayed Fazil Agha, the head of the mosque, said someone they believed was a suicide bomber joined them in the ceremony and detonated explosives.

"Black smoke rose and spread everywhere, dead bodies were everywhere," he told Reuters, adding that his nephews were among the dead. "I

myself survived, but lost my beloved ones."

Resident Mohammad Sabir said he had seen wounded people being loaded into ambulances.

"The blast was very loud, I thought my eardrums were cracked," he said.

A health source said hospitals had received 66 dead bodies and 78 wounded people so far.

The United States and the United Nations' mission to Afghanistan condemned the attack, with the latter saying it was part of an uptick in violence in recent weeks targeting minorities and adding that at least two UN staff members and their families were in the mosque at the time of the attack.

A spokesman for the ruling Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, released a statement condemning the blast and saying the perpetrators would be found and punished.

"No words are strong enough to condemn this despicable act," said Mette Knudsen, the UN secretary general's deputy special representative for Afghanistan.

Emergency Hospital in downtown Kabul said it was treating 21 patients and two were dead on



People leave the site of an explosion as a Taliban fighter stands guard in Kabul, Afghanistan on Saturday. AP

arrival. A worker at another hospital treating attack patients said it had received 49 patients and around five bodies. Ten of the patients were in critical condition, the source added, and almost 20 had been admitted to the burns unit.

A spokesman for the ruling Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, released a statement condemning the blast and saying the perpetrators would be found and punished.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible.

Scores of Afghan civilians have been killed in recent weeks in blasts, some of which have been claimed by Islamic State.

Emergency Hospital said it had treated more than 100 patients wounded in attacks in Kabul in April

alone. The latest attack came on the last Friday in the month of Ramadan in which most Muslims fast, and before the religious holiday of Eid next week.

The Taliban say they have secured the country since taking power in August and largely eliminated Islamic State's local offshoot, but international officials and analysts say the risk of a resurgence in militancy remains.

Many of the attacks have targeted the Shi'ite minority, however Sunni mosques have also been attacked.

Bombs exploded aboard two passenger vans carrying Shi'ite Muslims in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif on Thursday, killing at least nine people. Last Friday, a blast tore through a Sunni mosque during Friday prayers in the city of Kunduz, killing 33.

Analysts divided on US economic prospect

WASHINGTON

FRIDAY marked the end of a super volatile U.S. trading week. Some experts and analysts maintain that topsy-turvy markets are a sign of bad economic times ahead, while others believe the future is bright.

MARKET FLUCTUATION

The Dow Jones Industrial Average tanked by more than 800 points by the end of trading Tuesday, then surged more than 600 points Thursday before taking another nosedive more than 900 points by end of trading Friday.

Thursday's rally came unexpectedly – ironically on news that U.S. gross domestic product declined at an annualized 1.4 percent in the first quarter. Some analysts chalked up the market's reaction to the possibility that the news could cause the U.S. Federal Reserve to hike interest rates less aggressively, in its efforts to control the highest inflation in 40 years.

Paul Reilly, CEO of Raymond James Financial, chalked up the negative first quarter report to supply chain bottlenecks impacting U.S. sales, imports being up and exports being down. "If those were more normalized, we would have had positive GDP," he said, as quoted in Yahoo Finance.

Noting that interest rates are important to go up to fight inflation, Reilly said, "The problem is we should have started sooner and we'll have to do it quicker, which is going to create some disruption."

MOOD OF PESSIMISM

Desmond Lachman, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, told Xinhua the stock market's 12 percent decline since the start of the year has been a reflection of the Fed's shift to a more hawkish monetary policy stance.

Markets are beginning to anticipate that the stock market will decline as the Fed starts an interest rate hiking cycle, and also starting to fear that the Fed will not succeed in squeezing inflation out of the economy without triggering a recession, Lachman said.

Gary Hufbauer, nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua that there's no historical experience that suggests with such high inflation, the Federal Reserve is able to bring inflation down to its 2-percent goal without a recession. "We're gonna have a recession," said Hufbauer, a former U.S. Treasury official. "And the only question is when the recession really starts."

"Now we had this result for this quarter, most people are saying that next quarter will be positive, so you won't have two (negative) quarters in a row," Hufbauer said. "But I think by the end of this year, say in the fourth quarter of 2022 in the first quarter of 2023, a recession is very likely."

OPTIMISTIC NARRATIVES

However, other economists expect different trends. Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at The Economic Outlook Group, told Xinhua, "I'm not at all concerned about the U.S. having a recession this point."

The negative GDP quarter was due to factors including net imports being more than exports, which caused a rise in the U.S. trade deficit and subtracted from U.S. growth, said Baumohl. In his view, Americans are spending the collective trillions of U.S. dollars they saved during the pandemic, as travel is surging back and people have returned to shopping malls, bars and restaurants. That spending has contributed to a U.S. trade deficit.

"The underlying fact is this – Americans are spending, businesses are investing," although companies are not able to invest in inventories as much due in part to lingering supply chain issues, Baumohl said.

"Don't freak out about the GDP report, the underlying inertial components were strong," Jason Furman, former chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, tweeted on Thursday.

"The headline was -1.4 pct growth at an annual rate. BUT, inventories subtracted 0.8pp (percentage point) and net exports subtracted 3.2pp. Consumption, fixed investment, and key domestic demand components strong," he said.

As for the Fed, the institution must navigate a complex road ahead. "It's a hellishly complicated matter for the Fed. They want to bring inflation down, but they also realize that we had negative GDP growth."

Therefore, they're likely going to be a little bit more cautious in their decision as to when and how much to raise short-term rates," Baumohl said. "You don't want to hit the brakes too hard when the car's already slowing down," he said.



Don't freak out about the GDP report, the underlying inertial components were strong

Xinhua

Somalia wraps up parliament leadership elections as focus turns to presidential vote

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA wrapped up leadership elections for the two chambers of Parliament on Thursday after more than a year of delays due to political differences and increased insecurity posed by al-Shabab terrorists.

The lawmakers on Tuesday elected Abdi Hashi Abdullahi as Speaker of the 54-member Senate or the Upper House and his two deputies while the 275-member Lower House elected Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur as the speaker on Thursday.

In his victory, Abdullahi who lauded the senators for participating in the election reminded them of the duty to effectively draft laws to address national challenges. "There are challenges our country faces, such as the prevailing drought situation."

I am certain we will address these challenges since we have established the House leadership," he said. The senators were also elected.

In his victory speech, the Speaker

of the House of the People, Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur noted the security and political challenges facing Somalia and pledged to promote inclusive politics.

"We are committed to leading the country towards reforms, restoring order and ending the suffering of the Somali people," he said on Thursday.

Somalia's international partners on Thursday welcomed the successful elections for leadership positions in the Upper House and the House of the People.

"We congratulate the newly elected speakers and deputy speakers as they assume their important responsibilities at this critical moment for Somalia," the partners including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations among other Western nations said in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

They said the election of the parliamentary leadership is a major achievement after the protracted delays and obstacles in choosing the members of parliament. The



Speaker Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur

partners, who have been pushing for the conclusion of the electoral process amid power struggle fears by Somali leaders, appreciated the efforts of all Somalis who contributed to completion of these parliamentary votes.

"We urge that the election of the President now be completed promptly, peacefully, and credibly, so that Somalia's elected leaders can address national priorities for the benefit of all its citizens," they

said. Focus now turns to the elections of the president in which the current incumbent Mohamed Farmajo is expected to seek his re-election for the second term in office. Two former presidents and ex-prime minister including Puntland president Said Deni are expected to contest for the presidency.

Somalia on December 1, 2020 missed a deadline to hold its parliamentary elections which were

due to begin as agreed by the government and six regional states in September 2020.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were to be held between December 2020 and February 2021, respectively but were delayed due to disputes over composition of the electoral commissions and increased insecurity.

Farmajo, whose term in office officially ended on February 8, 2021, has been under pressure after the election date passed without resolution of issues related to how the vote would have been conducted in Somalia.

The 54-member Senate and the 275 members of parliament from the Lower House are expected to jointly elect a new president in an indirect vote in Mogadishu in May but no date has been set so far. Somalia last held one-person, one-vote elections in March 1969 when the government was overthrown in a military coup.

Parliamentary and presidential elections took place in late 2016 and early 2017 through a system of indirect suffrage. Xinhua

Euro nearing five-year low stoking recession fears

ROME

THE euro has continued to weaken against the U.S. dollar, approaching its lowest level in five years, due mainly to the crisis in Ukraine and the sluggish economic growth in Europe.

At the close of trading on Friday, the euro dropped to as low as 1.0455 U.S. dollars, its weakest since May 2017, when one euro was worth 1.0338 U.S. dollars, according to the currency exchange site xe.com.

On March 31, one euro was worth 1.1162 U.S. dollars, and a year ago the respective figure was 1.2141 U.S. dollars, more than 16 percent higher than Friday's close.

"The euro is within reach of five-year lows and it seems increasingly likely it will break through that barrier and approach dollar-euro parity," Lee Hardman, a currency economist with MUFG Bank in London, told Xinhua.

Parity between the two currencies is unusual. Currency markets have not valued the U.S. dollar equal to or more than the euro since 2002. "When it comes to currency markets these psychological barriers can be significant," Viraj Patel, a foreign exchange and macro strategist with London's Vanda Research, told Xinhua.

"From a pure economic standpoint, the difference between 1.001 U.S. dollar per euro and 0.999 dol-

lars per euro is small. But psychologically, it's very important."

Hardman, Patel and other analysts attribute the euro's weakness to ripple effects from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which is impacting Europe more than other parts of the world.

The conflict is causing rising energy prices and trade disruptions, and is a significant drag on countries' post-pandemic economic recovery. Economists see a growing risk of recession – back-to-back quarters of negative economic growth – in Europe later this year. Some European economies already reported negative growth in the first quarter of this year after strong positive growth

in 2021.

Hardman said a near-term recovery for the euro was unlikely, especially if the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues, though he said he thought that over a two-to-three-year span the euro would probably remain stronger than the dollar.

"Right now, we are seeing a greater divergence between the impacts (of the conflict) on the United States and Europe," he said.

"The conflict has been a greater shock in Europe and currency markets are pricing that into their calculations."

According to Patel, the weaker currency would erode the Eu-

ropean Union's normal positive trade balance by making exports less valuable and increasing the price of imported goods sold in dollars or other currencies, sparking inflation and reducing consumer confidence. Rising energy prices are a major factor in those calculations.

That already happened in February, according to European Union data released last week.

Countries that use the euro recorded a trade deficit of 7.60 billion euros (7.95 billion U.S. dollars) in February, compared to a surplus of 23.50 billion euros a year earlier. The euro is used in 19 of the 27 European Union member states.

Business people from Taiwan play active part in development of Hainan province

MORE and more business people from China's Taiwan are seen in Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) in south China's Hainan province as they have been attracted by favorable policies in the free trade port and come to the southern island province to seek opportunities and expand business.

Data showed that business people from Taiwan have registered 302 companies and actually invested more than \$300 million in Hainan province since 2018; between 2019 and 2021, volume of trade in goods between Hainan and Taiwan grew by more than 50 percent a year; last year, trade between Hainan and Taiwan surged 81 percent year on year to 1.9 billion yuan (about \$292 mil-

lion).

"Hainan is endowed with abundant natural resources and advantageous geographical location; and the Hainan FTP enjoys full and high-standard opening-up as well as favorable policies that are not available elsewhere," said Fu Zhiguan, vice president of the All China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots (ACFTC) and president of the Hainan province federation of Taiwan compatriots.

Featuring zero tariffs, low tax rates, and a simple taxation system, policies in the Hainan FTP significantly lower operating costs of companies and provide opportunities for Taiwan compatriots in many aspects, including ex-

panding into global markets, achieving mutual complementarity with related industries, pursuing development of high technologies, as well as introduction of high-end management talents, according to Fu.

"Our international medical center in the Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone can enjoy franchises including using in bulk drugs and medical equipment that have been launched in the U.S., the European Union, Japan, or other countries and regions but yet to be released onto the market in the Chinese mainland, which is a privilege of Hainan province," Ling Kaijun, president of Enhance Biomedical Holding Company, told People's

Daily.

In addition to favorable policies for the development of industries, senior management personnel and professionals in the company can also enjoy preferential personal income tax rate, the businesswoman from Taiwan added.

In an effort to promote the construction of the Hainan FTP, Hainan province has also rolled out favorable policies in the agricultural sector. The province has relaxed market access in the seed industry by taking concrete measures including canceling requirements on the area of office space, inspection room, processing plant, storage facility, etc. as well as rigid re-

quirements on inspection room and instrument of seed companies.

Taiwan residents and Taiwan-funded enterprises are allowed to set up or join various forms of farmers' cooperatives, including farmers' specialized cooperatives in Hainan. Besides, Taiwan-funded agricultural companies and local ones in Hainan enjoy the same farm machinery subsidies and other preferential policies for farmers.

These measures and policies all help business people from Taiwan participate in agricultural projects and try growing and promoting new varieties of agricultural products in Hainan.

"Taiwan compatriots who have come to invest or start their own businesses

in Hainan have not only brought capital but also advanced technologies and managerial experience to the province. In particular, their investments in the agricultural sector have contributed significantly to the fight against poverty and rural vitalization in Hainan," said an official with the Taiwan affairs office of Hainan province.

Since the beginning of the construction of the Hainan FTP, business people from Taiwan have invested in more and more fields in Hainan; and modern services industry and high-tech industry are becoming key fields for investment from Taiwan, according to the official.

People's Daily

UK lawmaker resigns after watching porn in parliament

LONDON

A British lawmaker who had been suspended from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party said on Saturday he had resigned after admitting he twice viewed pornography on his phone in the House of Commons "in a moment of madness."

The Conservatives suspended Neil Parish on Friday after he reported himself to parliament's standards commissioner.

Parish (pictured) resigned on Saturday, having previously said he would continue as a member of parliament while an investigation was carried out.

"In the end I could see that the furore and the damage I was causing my family and my constituency association, it just wasn't worth carrying on," a tearful Parish told the BBC in an interview on Saturday.

Parish, a farmer, said the first time he had viewed the explicit material he had stumbled across it by accident when looking for tractors on a website with a similar name, and had then "watched it for a bit which I shouldn't have done".

"But my crime, most biggest crime is that on another occasion I went in a second time and that was deliberate. That was sitting waiting to vote on the side of the chamber."

Asked what had been going through his mind, he described it as "a moment of madness".

Earlier this week British media had



reported that a female minister said she had seen a male colleague viewing pornographic material while sitting beside her in the Commons chamber and the same lawmaker watching pornography during a committee hearing.

"I was not proud of what I was doing," Parish said, adding that he had not intended those around him would see it.

"I am not going to defend what I did. What I did was absolutely, totally wrong... I think I must have taken complete leave of my senses."

In an interview with The Times newspaper published before his resignation, Parish's wife said she was not aware of her husband having done anything similar before and that her husband was "a lovely person".

"It was all very embarrassing," the newspaper quoted Sue Parish as saying. "My breath was taken away, frankly."

Agencies

India: Temperatures break records as heat wave scorches region

MUMBAI

PARTS of India recorded their highest average temperatures on record in April, and the scorching weather is expected to stretch into May, authorities said on Saturday.

India and neighboring Pakistan have been suffering from extreme heat waves this year, melting pavements, forcing school closures and triggering health and fire alerts.

Northwest and central India recorded average maximum temperatures of 35.9 and 37.78 degrees Celsius respectively in April, the Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department told reporters.

Those were the highest since it began keeping records 122 years ago, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra added.

More than a billion people are at risk of heat-related impacts in the region, scientists have warned, linking the early onset of an intense summer to climate change.

For the first time in decades, Pakistan went from winter to summer without the spring season, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman said.

Glaciers in the Himalaya, Hindu Kush and Karkoram mountain ranges have melted rapidly, creating thousands of glacial lakes in northern Pakistan, around 30 of which were at risk of sudden hazardous flooding, the climate change ministry said, adding around 7 million people were vulnerable.

A senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department said on Friday heat conditions would persist for at least the next three days, but that temperatures would fall after the arrival of monsoons, expected in some parts by May.

Bigger Worry Than COVID

The health problems triggered by the heatwave were posing a bigger worry than the expected fourth wave of COVID-19, doctors in India said.

"We are getting many patients who have suffered heatstroke or other heat-related problems," said Mona Desai, former president of Ahmedabad Medical Association in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

She said that 60-70 percent of the patients were school-aged complaining of vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal colic, weakness and other symptoms.

Roads were deserted in Bhubaneswar, in India's eastern state of Odisha, where schools have been shut, while neighbouring West Bengal advanced the school summer break by a few days.

The increased demand for power from rising temperatures combined with fuel shortages and infrastructure issues put pressure on Pakistan's electricity system, leading to regular power cuts, known as load shedding.

Residents of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said that at times the power was out for between 10 and 14 hours a day, leaving few options to cool down.

Power Crisis

Amid the heatwave, India canceled passenger trains to free up rail track to move coal as the government scrambles to overcome its worst power crisis in years.

Federal government-run Indian Railways has canceled 753 passenger train services, the government said. Coal inventories are at the lowest pre-summer levels in at least nine years and electricity demand is seen rising at the fastest pace in nearly four decades.

"The government has decided to cancel ... passenger trains in order to prioritize the movement of coal rakes (trains) across the country to deal with an unprecedented shortage of the vital input at thermal power plants," the government said.

It did not say how long the train service would be canceled for or how commuters would manage without it. The cancellations will primarily impact passengers traveling from key coal-producing states, including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Power cuts have been reported in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Punjab, Haryana and Indian-controlled Kashmir at a time when mercury continues to rise.

Agencies



The government has decided to cancel ... passenger trains in order to prioritize the movement of coal rakes (trains) across the country to deal with an unprecedented shortage of the vital input at thermal power plants

Uncovering secrets of NATO: A remnant from Cold War days

BEIJING

AS the Russia-Ukraine conflict rages on, tensions between NATO and Russia have verged on downright hostilities.

The gloomy reality on the ground brings up a question as to why, more than 30 years after the end of the Cold War, the world appears to have regressed to where it ever was.

Thanks to their intentionally neglected nuance in depicting the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Western media have framed Russia as the lone villain. Close scrutiny of regional geopolitics, however, makes clear that NATO, a remnant from Cold War days, bears responsibility for precipitating the current crisis, not least for its relentless expansion at the expense of Russia's security concerns.

Toxic obsession with expansion

Both history and military alliance theory seem to predict that once the Cold War had ended, NATO would have disintegrated. Unfortunately this has not been the case. Far from being fully disbanded, NATO has been bent on expansion.

"From the Russian point of view, NATO's expansion into eastern Europe is a breach of a promise" made in the 1990s, Michele Geraci, former undersecretary of state at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, told Xinhua.

What Geraci referred to was then US Secretary of State James Baker's famous "not one inch eastward" assurance about NATO expansion in his meeting with then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990.

Since 1999, NATO has expanded eastward five times, advancing more than 1,000 kilometers all the way to the Russian border, gradually pushing Russia into a corner.

Analysts say NATO's disregard of Russia's legitimate concerns on security issues and its continuous expansion is the root cause of the outbreak and escalation of this conflict. If it continues to slim down the small buffer zone left between Russia and



Libyans gather to express support to the country's unity government in Tripoli's Martyrs' Square on Sep 24, 2021. File photo

itself, the situation will undoubtedly go worse.

The culpability of the United States and its NATO allies is "sizable," wrote Ted Galen Carpenter, a senior fellow for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, after the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out.

"Moving an alliance that one great power dominated to the border of another major power is inherently destabilizing and provocative," Carpenter observed.

US hegemony at play

The relationship between the United States and its European allies within NATO is fundamentally unequal. In order to counter the Soviet Union, Washington persuaded some European countries to form NATO in 1949 under the banner of "common defense." Since then, Washington has kept a tight grip on NATO's leadership.

As David Calleo, a political scientist based at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, has pointed out, an American general is NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, and Europe's defense "depends upon the willingness of the United States to initiate a nuclear war rather than see Europe overrun, even by conventional forces."

"Militarily, NATO is a hegemonic

American protectorate," Calleo commented.

In return, NATO contributes to the United States' hegemonic position in Western Europe by allowing US military bases and troops to be stationed in the region. It also tragically panders to Washington's obsession with NATO expansion by ignoring Russia's security concerns.

As it grew, NATO became a vehicle to address new global issues that worried US leaders, commented the US news and opinion website VOX.

"Enlarging NATO becomes the gift that keeps on giving," VOX quoted Joshua Shiffrin, an international relations scholar at Boston University, as saying.

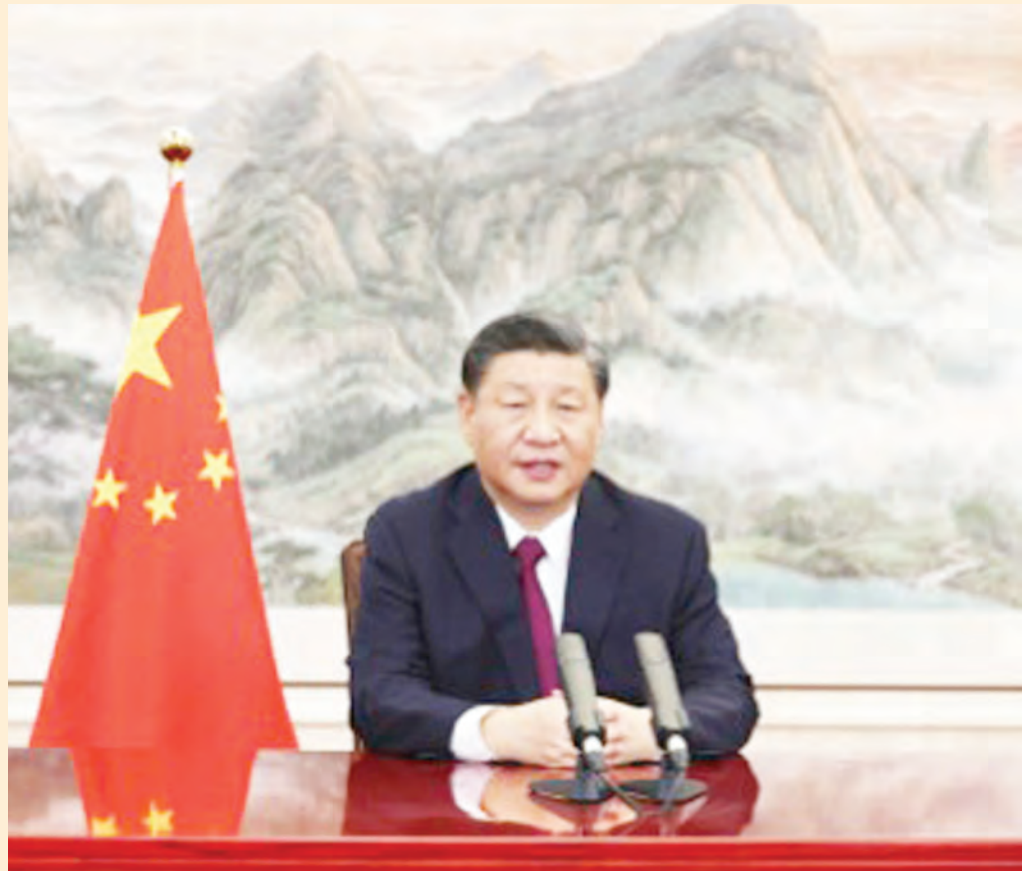
"It was a way of incentivizing liberalization in countries that had been in the Communist bloc, showing that the United States still has a mission in Europe, and a way of the United States projecting power and checking alternative systems like the European Union," Shiffrin said.

To justify Washington's leadership, to present a unitary front in NATO, and to justify big increases in western (especially German) military budgets, "Russia must be presented as the common enemy," Robert Wade, professor of Global Political Economy at the London School of Economics, wrote in March.

Global peace disruptor

Russia has long been accused by the US-led NATO of violating basic international rules and norms and stoking global instability. Ironically, it is precisely what people in many parts of the world believe Washington and NATO have been doing.

China contributes solutions to security challenges facing mankind at 2022 BFA annual conference



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022, on April 21, 2022.

ON April 21, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022 in Boao, south China's Hainan province.

In his speech, Xi profoundly analyzed the security challenges confronting today's world and solemnly proposed the Global Security Initiative out of a strong sense of responsibility for the future of humanity.

The initiative is another important global public good offered by China following the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Development Initiative (GDI). It represents vivid practice of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind in the security field, and contributes China's solutions to problems haunting global security governance.

"It has been proven time and again that the Cold War mentality would only wreck the global peace framework, that hegemonism and power politics would only endanger world peace, and that bloc confrontation would only exacerbate security challenges in the 21st century," Xi said in his keynote speech.

Building a world that enjoys universal security is a shared aspiration of people in all countries. Humanity is living in an indivisible security community, and countries must explore a path that ensures security for all, by all and for all.

In order to maintain peace and stability in the world, countries must adhere to the correct security vision. The Global Security Initiative proposed by Xi stressed that it is important that all

countries stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and work together to maintain world peace and security.

The security vision, which has rich connotations, lays emphasis on respecting and ensuring the security of each and every country, upholding security in both traditional and non-traditional fields, promoting the security of both individual countries and broader regions through dialogue and cooperation, and focusing on development and security so that security would be durable. It represents the core concept and laid a basic foundation for building a world that enjoys universal security.

Countries must abandon the outdated Cold War

mentality if they want to maintain world peace and stability. Quite a number of the security issues today have been caused by certain countries' pursuit of hegemonism and power politics.

The Global Security Initiative proposed by Xi calls on countries to stay committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, uphold non-interference in internal affairs, and respect the independent choices of development paths and social systems made by people in different countries; stay committed to abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, reject the Cold War mentality, oppose unilateralism, and say no to group politics and bloc confrontation; and stay committed to taking the legitimate

security concerns of all countries seriously, uphold the principle of indivisible security, build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture, and oppose the pursuit of one's own security at the cost of others' security.

Conforming to the historical trend toward economic globalization, multi-polarity in the world and democracy in international relations, the Global Security Initiative emphasizes that security is universal, equal, inclusive, and should be based on mutual respect between countries and the premise that all countries jointly uphold the international system with the UN at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, which sets forth specific principles at bilater-

Speaking in March at a ceremony marking the Remembrance Day of victims of the 1999 NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, President of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic condemned the NATO attack as "brutal, horrible, criminal, (and) inhuman."

Though that small country "hardly did anything wrong to anyone... that small country and great people just wanted to be on their own, to guard their hearths, and nothing more," Vucic said, "some others, 19 big ones, wanted to show all their courage, arrogance and brutality on a small unconquered people like the Serbs."

NATO forces launched 78 days of bombardment against Yugoslavia in 1999, killing or injuring over 8,000 civilians and displacing approximately 1 million people.

Other countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, have also fallen victim to the US-led NATO's belligerence and violations of human rights.

In the two-decade-long Afghanistan war fought nominally to protect civilians, NATO's airstrikes have killed thousands of civilians.

Din Mohammad, a 73-year-old Afghan man from the hamlet of Lakani in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar province in south Afghanistan, still remembered the night ten years ago when the US military unleashed airstrikes on his hometown, killing 63 civilians and injuring dozens more.

Xinhua

al and multilateral levels for building a world that enjoys universal security.

Responsible actions must be taken so as to maintain peace and stability in the world. In today's world, security means much more than before and its implications go well beyond a single region or time frame. All sorts of factors could have a bearing on a country's security.

The ways countries resolve differences and disputes and respond to various security threats determine the direction in which the international security situation develops.

The Global Security Initiative encourages countries to stay committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between them through dialogue and consultation, support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises, reject double standards, and oppose the wanton use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction; and stay committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains, and work together on regional disputes and global challenges such as terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity and biosecurity.

By stressing the importance of promoting security through dialogue and cooperation, taking a multi-pronged and holistic approach, and basing actions on the present situation while adopting a long-term perspective, the initiative offers feasible ideas for achieving long-term peace, stability and security in the world.

People's Daily



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2021/22 Premier League, and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC). PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC targets top-three finish in top-flight

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC head coach Abdihamid Moallin has said that despite his team losing hope of lifting the NBC Premier League title, it will ensure it finishes in one of the top three places in the top flight.

The tactician revealed that getting a chance to participate in the continental tournaments due to Tanzania fielding four teams in the competitions is pushing them to challenge for a top-three finish.

The trainer noted: "Our number one goal was to win the league but things have gone wrong, otherwise we find ourselves overwhelmed now we are in third place determined to fight so that we can at least finish the league in either second or third place to be one of the four teams that will play in continental competitions."

The coach said apart from wanting to do well in the league they have focused on the Federation Cup, they are currently in the semi-finals of the showdown and will play Coastal Union.

Azam FC is positioned fourth in the Premier League standings with 28 points and was on April 29 taking on Geita Gold FC in the 20th round tie at Nyankumbi Stadium.

In another development, Ruvo Shooting skipper Abdulrahman Mussa has said that his squad is ready to take on

the responsibility of being the first team to beat Yanga this season.

Ruvo Shooting will host Yanga at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma on May 5.

Mussa said he knows Yanga is a good team this season but he believes hosting the tie in Kigoma will be one of the reasons Ruvo Shooting will bring Yanga's unbeaten spell to an end.

"Lake Tanganyika Stadium is not as good as Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, which Yanga are used to, and we will use that criterion to defeat them although the game will be competitive because the latter has a good team this season and is determined to win," Mussa revealed.

The striker, who has scored two goals for his team since the start of the season, said he is looking forward to frustrating Yanga's unbeaten record.

The attacker noted seeking to put themselves in a good position in the league will as well motivate them to win the game.

He said the position that Ruvo Shooting is lately holding is not safe so the side needs to fight to stay in the league next season.

Ruvo Shooting, currently sitting 19th on the log, is one of the oldest teams in the league although the past two seasons have seen the squad face a steady decline and find itself surviving the final stages of relegation.

Tennis players in action in East and Central Africa U-12 tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIX national junior tennis squad players were set to play on Wednesday in this year's East and Central Africa U-12 Under tournament which is hosted by Rwanda.

National junior tennis side's head coach Salum Mwamvita said the six arrived in Rwanda a day back and are ready for the competition.

The team, which is sponsored by International Tennis Federation (ITF), is made up of three boys and three girls. He mentioned the boys as Mohamed Hassan, Fred Ongige, and Hamna Kashimba while the girls are Happy Michael, Nasma Jumanne, and Faith Njamakuya. The players are coached by Majuto Majaliwa.

"Our six players have arrived in Rwanda, ready for the East and Central Africa Under-12 competition, the coach Majaliwa has communicated to us that all players are ready for the event," he said.

In the previous interview, Mwamvita said TTA believes that with great invest-

ment in the juniors in terms of development, the youngsters stand to perform well.

According to the tactician, by the time they finish Under-12, they could be competing with the world and rated amongst the top players.

He pointed out: "If we had more tournaments, it would give our players enough game time. Players from other countries are exposed to many tournaments and they do not have stage fright compared to ours."

"Other countries' players are well prepared and know what it takes to win. The most important thing we need is to have more tournaments," he said.

He said there is also a need for TTA to invest in coaches and increase the number of tournaments the body hosts.

Mwamvita moreover pointed out the body must monitor players, especially those who are based outside the country that must be allowed to go into training camps in developed countries in Europe.

Simba SC fan base more realistic as to club side potential after quarterfinals ending

By Correspondent John Kimbute

FANS of Tanzania's continental competitions acknowledged representatives, Simba SC, appear to be less restive on the team's performance in the wake of being bundled out of the CAF Confederation Cup by spot-kicks at the quarterfinals stage.

Not only was there no one to blame for the results except perhaps Chris Mugalu who weakened the side with a red card in the final third of the match, but then his sending off didn't have visible damage on the side.

Their opponents just got better with accurate passes, not more.

What was also the credit of the side in the way it handled the match was that it didn't rely on single players, as two of their most reliable players weren't on the lineup, before being cut to 10 men on the pitch.

Clatous Chama had already been fielded elsewhere for the tournament and Bernard Morrison would be risky after dramas in the earlier encounter, and when the red card is added, a betting novice could have ticked a substantial loss for the side but it wasn't the case.

It follows that the team is more resilient and not disposed to lose at the quarterfinal level automatically, despite that they weren't the event favourites.

Chroniclers have underlined that this is the third time the team has reached the quarterfinal stage, exiting at that point, but there is less excitement this time about what sort of 'plans' are needed so that the team not just attains quarterfinals next season but the semis or beyond.

The 3-1 home defeat against Botswana hard hitters Jwaneng Galaxy and exit from the CAF Champions League raised the level of realism by the pain it inflicted on club expectations and pride.

Several pundits pointed



Some Simba SC supporters cheer at players during the 'Simba Day', an event hosted by the club to open the 2021/22 season, which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. Simba SC locked horns with Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s TP Mazembe in a friendly tie which took place later in the day, with TP Mazembe winning 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

out that on a one to one basis, the South African side was superior to the visitors in most departments, and to be honest the ability of the local champions to survive up to that stage and obtain a respectable result in its exit may have been due to the keeper, Aishi Manula.

It is also likely that the coaching has had an effect as the old-time goal range has been cut down, though the 3-1 results against the Botswana champions is a reminder that much remains to be done.

Yet the question of what the side can do to strengthen the squad is wide open if they have a limitless budget for instance. For once, it can be said that there is a need for greater competition in sponsorships firstly so that we have more capable sides in the local premier league that can also deliver in international competitions.

So far only the Msimbazi Street outfit has demon-

strated the ability to stand on their own against the best sides in the CAF kaleidoscope, not even against Egyptian giants Al Ahly, admittedly the most decorated side the continent has up to now.

It implies that Msimbazi Street has a squad that can tune itself to play against any side in Africa and obtain good results, barring exceptional adrenalin moments, its ability is limited.

The past half-decade wasn't the best moment for sponsorship, as all show of fiduciary liquidity was a signal to certain levels among regulatory agencies to collect reasonable amounts of revenue from that area.

Tidying up misdeeds in various quarters which otherwise have a commercial character disrupted the flow of resources to soccer and other areas. But now the pendulum has swung back, and they could act.

Earlier, older Premier

League sponsor Vodacom (T) Ltd left the pitch and NBC took over, a bank that has a wealth of clients and potential takers of its products and needs admirers of its agents in innumerable corners of the country.

The presence of industrialist Mohammed Dewji is the basic explanation for Simba SC's successes, and instead of its remaining an exception or their city archrivals continuing to depend on speculators and merchants, a more solid source of investment in the club is required.

Jangwani Street club has already cleared the desk to adopt a company format, and could perhaps ask Axial Communications, the new Tigo-Zantel operator, to land in the market with a bang.

A long-term relationship with the needy city giants would be a welcome break, pushing Azam Media Group to do more about their side, plus Geita Gold, etc.

Dar youths hail basketball clinic

By Guardian Correspondent

DESPITE the rain, a basketball training camp for youngsters, which was taking place at Ukonga in Dar es Salaam, concluded smoothly.

The training which brought together performers aged between five and 15 was dubbed 'Swahili Mini Basketball Clinic' and was conducted by Ukonga Sports Academy.

Siaba Juma a 15-year-old pupil at Ukonga Primary School, expressed regards to the organizers of the clinic for the training the latter provided.

"We are very grateful for the good preparations they made for us in a situation that made us learn new skills that we have not been getting," Juma noted.

Speaking about the training, he said one of the knowledge they received was how to use tactics to get past the opponent quickly and score a point.

"Other lessons we have learned are how to hold the ball, dribble, and defense," Juma pointed out.

Juma moreover revealed that the training had made him more interested in basketball.

Another player, Aloyce, noted he is thrilled to have learned the basics of basketball for the first time.

Herieth Mfalambili said she asked for such clinics to be held regularly and requested parents to allow girls to participate in basketball games.

Denis Lipiki, one of the clinic's coordinators, said the response to the basketball training for the youths was overwhelming although there was heavy rain.

Commenting on the training they



Youngsters that took part in a basketball training, known as 'Swahili Mini Basketball Clinic', pose for a group picture after the conclusion of the clinic in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

were holding, the official said they provided basketball basics and life skills.

Lipiki, who coaches Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League's Ukonga Queens outfit, advised the youngsters to have a continuation of the practice after the training.

Concerning the training, he said the training was the second to be held under the 'Swahili Basketball Fundamentals Project'.

"This year we have finished with great success, especially after the

emergence of many young people who graduated in wet conditions," Lipiki disclosed.

Commenting on the potential of the youths he saw during the training, he said all the young people who participated claimed that they have great talent that needs to be developed.

"The Ukonga Sports Academy leaders and I assure you we will not stop here... we will continue to set up basketball training clinics from time to time," Lipiki revealed.

Lipiki moreover pointed out

their goal was to ensure that more national representatives in various sports come from the Ukonga Sports Academy.

"Ukonga Sports Academy has included netball, basketball, soccer, and rugby, we also plan to introduce swimming and athletics," Lipiki disclosed.

Benjamin Ngogo, the other coach, disclosed the training was very good, maintaining the children were happy because it is a rule of mini basketball to have fun.

Mission accomplished for Ancelotti as Real Madrid reunion pays off

MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti might have thought his days of winning Europe's biggest leagues were a thing of the past but on Saturday he added La Liga to his glittering list of honours.

Madrid's triumph, sealed with a 4-0 win against Espanyol, ensured Ancelotti becomes the only coach to have clinched all five major European league titles.

He also won the Premier League with Chelsea, Serie A with AC Milan, Ligue 1 with Paris Saint-Germain and the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich.

And while Ancelotti's Chelsea pipped Alex Ferguson's Manchester United to the league by a single point in 2010 the others have all been won at a canter, with Real's latest success another emphatic and long-expected title win for Ancelotti to add to his CV.

Madrid's victory, and particularly the margin of victory - they sat 17 points clear of Sevilla on Saturday with four games left to play - is in part due to the fallibility of their rivals.

This was Barcelona's first season without Lionel Messi and while the shell-shocked Catalans improved after Xavi Hernandez was appointed coach in November, they remain a club in the midst of financial recovery and a team in the early stages of transition.

Atletico Madrid, meanwhile, never looked as comfortable as reigning champions as they did as challengers.

They spent the first half of the campaign wrestling with an identity crisis that again put the spotlight on Diego Simeone and ensured their title defence was over before it began.

Sevilla were Madrid's closest rivals for the majority of the season but more in terms of points than pressure. Every time an opening appeared for Julien Lopetegui's team to step forward, they blinked.

- Skilful management -

Yet Ancelotti deserves credit too, not least because the gap Real Madrid have enjoyed is testament to their own consistency, focus and individual quality, that no other side could match. Even a better Barcelona or a more assured Atletico would have surely struggled to keep up.

At the top of Ancelotti's successes this season has been the transformation of Vinicius Junior from an exciting but erratic young forward to one of the world's most clinical strikers.

Benzema, meanwhile, has hit a new, stratospheric level under Ancelotti, continuing his upward trajectory since the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo in 2018.

If the Frenchman wins the Ballon d'Or later this year, which seems entirely possible, Ancelotti might feel justified in claiming some of the credit.

Luka Modric has been outstanding again, the 36-year-old Croatian the most resounding riposte to early concerns about Ancelotti's lack of rotation. And the Italian shored up the defence with little fuss. The departures of Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane broke up a long-established partnership but the performances of Eder Militao and David Alaba have ensured neither have been missed.

Most of all, though, Ancelotti has done what the club hired him to do: He stabilised a team that might easily have been reeling from the losses of an iconic captain in Ramos and an historic coach in Zinedine Zidane. He has maintained order and calm, while settling promising youngsters and sustaining seasoned veterans.

- Grateful for chance -

When Florentino Perez agreed to bring Ancelotti back for a second spell last year, many wondered if the appointment was overly-cautious, a backwards step among the cluster of super-clubs with younger and more progressive coaches at the helm.

But Ancelotti's gratitude for a return to a level he thought no longer possible in the twilight years of his career has reverberated at Real Madrid, his carefree attitude creating a sense of a club protected from pressure and unaffected by outside noise.

"The president called me when nobody expected it. I'm happy here, and we're going to continue to take the club forward," said Ancelotti.

Eden Hazard and Gareth Bale were relegated to the sidelines with respect and without retribution.

A 4-0 defeat by Barcelona at home, for which Ancelotti was at least partially responsible, could have undermined everything but instead it became a blip, the team responding and Ancelotti recovering. "We didn't lose our heads," he said.

Whether Ancelotti is the coach for the future remains to be seen. Xavi's Barca are likely to offer a much sterner challenge next season while in the Champions League, against the very best opponents, there is evidence to suggest Madrid need a more modern approach.

The fact they have been so far ahead in Spain while also a little behind in Europe brings its own questions about the current state of Spanish football, financial advantage and the ongoing pursuit of a European Super League.

In La Liga, Real Madrid were unquestionably superior.

AFP

Real Madrid champions of LaLiga for record 35th time

MADRID

REAL Madrid won the LaLiga title on Saturday after a 4-0 win over Espanyol gave them an insurmountable lead over Barcelona at the top of the table with four games to play.

Rodrygo's first-half double set the champions elect on their way to the title at the Santiago Bernabeu before Marco Asensio made it 3-0 soon after the break. Karim Benzema grabbed a fourth after coming on as a substitute amid jubilant scenes at the Bernabeu.

About 150,000 Real Madrid fans flocked to the city's central Cibeles fountain on Saturday to join the players for a celebration of their record-extending 35th LaLiga after the team rode busses to the traditional gathering spot.

The league title is Madrid's second trophy of the 2021-22 season after winning the Spanish Supercopa in January. They will look to keep hopes of more silverware alive on Wednesday in their Champions League semifinal second leg with Manchester City, trailing 4-3.

Manager Carlo Ancelotti - who returned to the club last summer for his second spell in charge - becomes the first coach to win the title in Europe's "top five" leagues: Italy's Serie A, England's Premier League, France's Ligue 1, Germany's



Real Madrid's Captain Marcelo celebrates on top of the Cibeles goddess statue after Real Madrid won the Spanish La Liga title after defeating Espanyol in Madrid, Spain, Saturday, April 30, 2022. (AP Photo)

Bundesliga and now Spain's LaLiga.

Ancelotti said: "It's emotional. It's an achievement. The season we've had in the league has been spectacular, with a lot of consistency. It's thanks to the work of the players, and their commitment. Today we have to celebrate, I want to celebrate.

"It fills me with pride. I like what I do, and the five leagues [I've won] mean I've done quite well. I'm proud to be here and to win trophies for Real Madrid and I want to carry on winning trophies for Real Madrid."

Madrid have now won LaLiga a total of 35 times, the most of any Spanish club, ahead of Barcelona with 26. Four of those titles have come since 2010 - in 2012, 2017, 2020 and now 2022, a period in

which the club has also won four Champions League titles.

Ancelotti was appointed last June - after predecessor Zinedine Zidane resigned - and tasked with deposing last year's champions and local rivals Atletico Madrid.

The squad was strengthened by the signings of defender David Alaba on a free transfer from Bayern Munich and midfielder Eduardo Camavinga in a deadline-day deal with Rennes, while there were two significant departures, Raphael Varane joining Manchester United and captain Sergio Ramos moving to Paris Saint-Germain.

The team started the season strongly, propelled by the performances of strike duo Karim

Benzema - who has gone on to score 42 goals in all competitions, 26 of them in LaLiga - and Vinicius Junior. As rivals Atletico and Barca struggled to find consistency, Madrid built up an imposing lead, and they have topped the table since November.

Madrid have rarely looked like being caught since, and have lost just three times in LaLiga: beaten at Espanyol in October and Getafe in January, as well as a 4-0 home defeat to Barcelona in March.

When they have come under pressure, Thibaut Courtois has starred in goal, keeping 14 clean sheets and conceding 29 goals, the second-lowest tally in the division behind Sevilla.

Madrid have managed to balance domestic duties with a Champions League run that has seen them eliminate PSG and Chelsea in the round of 16 and quarterfinals, respectively. They will host City on Wednesday looking to book their fifth Champions League final place in the past decade.

President Florentino Perez was full of praise for Ancelotti, saying: "Maybe he didn't expect it, but when we called he said he'd come running. He's trained a lot of teams, he always says the difference here at Madrid is that the players are Madridistas, that's a plus.

"He has a lot of experience of managing squads and I think he's done very well. He identifies with Real Madrid, its values, and what it represents, that's important."

Meanwhile, Gareth Bale was absent from Real Madrid's LaLiga title celebrations on Saturday, blaming a "bad back spasm" for his failure to attend their decisive 4-0 win over Espanyol at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Rodrygo scored twice, Marco Asensio grabbed a third and

substitute Karim Benzema added his 26th league goal of the season in a victory which confirmed Madrid as champions for the 2021-22 season.

Bale, whose Real Madrid contract expires in June, was left out of the matchday squad. Unlike other first-team players who were not involved - such as the injured David Alaba, Eden Hazard and Luka Jovic and the suspended Eder Militao and Nacho Fernandez - the Wales forward did not attend the game.

He was not present as club captains Marcelo and Benzema were handed the LaLiga trophy, before celebrating with the squad and coaching staff on the Bernabeu pitch. The team then took an open-top bus to the Cibeles fountain in the centre of the city where Madrid traditionally celebrate trophy wins.

"So disappointed that I'm not able to be part of the celebrations this evening due to a bad back spasm but really proud of the team for winning the title! Enjoy tonight boys!" Bale, 32, tweeted later on Saturday evening, when the festivities were drawing to a close.

Bale - who joined Real Madrid in 2013 and has now won three league titles, as well as four Champions Leagues, in his time in Spain - has made just five LaLiga appearances in an injury disrupted season.

He last featured for the team in a 2-0 win over Getafe on April 9, when he was whistled by home fans at the Bernabeu when he came on as a second-half substitute.

Bale pulled out of the squad for the league game previous to Saturday's title winner, away at Osasuna, on the day of the match, with sources telling ESPN he had suffered a minor injury.

(Agencies)

Superagent Mino Raiola's death leaves iconic legacy and void in modern soccer

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

A FEW months ago, Mino Raiola, the superagent who passed away Saturday, was being bombarded by a litany of complaints from representatives of various clubs against the work of agents and intermediaries: they're greedy, they suck money out of the game, they're manipulative.

"Fine, we're all that, we're the bad guys," Raiola said. "But who is it that you call in the middle of the night when you want to sign a player or, even more so, when you need to shift a player? It's me...and people like me. You say we're the problem and then you come to us, again and again and again."

Even now, I can picture Raiola in his snug T-shirt (he rarely wore suits) and sunglasses reminding clubs that, to paraphrase the Jack Nicholson character in "A Few Good Men," Raiola's existence, while grotesque and incomprehensible to some, keeps the game ticking over. They don't want the truth because deep down, in a place they don't want to talk about at parties, they want him on that call. They NEED him on that call.

Over three decades, Raiola represented the best players Europe: from Dennis Bergkamp and Pavel Nedved, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Mario Balotelli, from Mathijs De Ligt to Paul Pogba, to Erling Haaland and Ryan Gravenberch. He claimed he never signed contracts with his clients; they were free to leave whenever they wanted, but because they were family, they never did. Some have ques-



FILE - Mino Raiola arrives at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on Aug. 26, 2010. Superstar agent Mino Raiola has died after a long illness. He was 54. Raiola had been undergoing treatment at Milan's San Raffaele hospital, where he was visited by Zlatan Ibrahimovic this week. (AP Photo)

tioned that, but the fact that so few did leave him - and that so many coming through the ranks (Haaland is a prime example) specifically chose him - suggest there's more than a kernel of truth in it.

Raiola had a reputation as somebody who went to battle for his clients, carving out the best possible deal for them, and not caring about whatever threats clubs threw in his direction. In fact, while some of his super-agent peers are closely identified for their business with certain clubs, Raiola always talked about how he was fiercely independent and only cared for his client.

Raiola often spoke with the bluntness and certainty of a self-made man, the outsider who crashes the party and soon realises that so much of high society is a facade, a lie, an old boys' club. Maybe it was his upbringing.

Born near Naples, his family immigrated to the Netherlands and opened a series of successful restaurants, where young Raiola worked throughout school, always networking, always hungry for the next big thing. He did his first big deal aged 24, tak-

That set him on his way and he never looked back. When Pogba moved from Juventus to Manchester United for a fee of around \$100m and signed a five-year contract, it later emerged that every party in the deal paid him: the selling club (Juventus), the buying club (United) and Pogba himself. Not just that, they paid him extremely well: close to \$50m between them, according to the Football Leaks dossier. Raiola was criticised for his greed. He replied the way he always did, noting that nobody was forced to pay him, everybody did it willingly and everyone could have walked away at any time.

In recent years, he became an advocate for his vision of the game, one that he said was centered on players, not FIFA (though he did say he would run for FIFA president so he could then disband it), not leagues and not clubs.

As he saw it, players generate money. They're what fans pay for, and yet they're subject to rules, whims, regulations and re-

strictions, and often have very little voice. That's why he railed against salary caps, agent regulation and any kind of oversight that wasn't an unfettered free market. He saw himself as football's Ayn Rand, fighting hypocrisy and corruption while getting rich - insanely rich, his critics would point out - along the way.

As Raiola said, "You don't like me? You don't like what I do and how I work? Don't deal with me. Nobody is forcing you to." That could have been his mantra. And if somebody countered that they had no choice, because their players chose to be represented by Raiola, he had an easy riposte: "Nobody forces my players to choose me. Nobody forces them to stay with me."

Indeed, the loyalty he engendered in his clients is something many of his colleagues envied. Early on, his critics chalked up to age, because he became influential so young that often his clients were his contemporaries. Later,

they cited some sort of cultural affinity (Ibrahimovic was also the son of immigrants, also larger-than-life and in-your-face). These explanations fell by the wayside when he started to represent stars like Pogba, De Ligt and Haaland (what does a fifty-something Dutch-Italian former waiter have in common with a Norwegian man-child who practices yoga and meditation?). The simplest answer is that his clients were fiercely loyal to him because that loyalty was mutual. And he generally delivered what they wanted.

Agents - whether representing players directly or, more often, acting as intermediaries - have become a staple of the game over the past thirty years. But nobody was a protagonist over three decades the way Raiola was. Odds are, as football agencies merge with each other and consolidate, the Raiola prototype - a dealmaker with a phone, plenty of chutzpah and no fear - will disappear and we won't see another like him.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Real Madrid champions of LaLiga for record 35th time

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Tennis team jets off to Rwanda for ITF East Africa tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TWELVE junior tennis players are today expected to depart for Rwanda, where they will play in this year's East and Central Africa junior tournament.

Salum Mvita, the national tennis team's head coach, said all players are ready and fit for the showdown bringing together players aged below 15 years.

He mentioned the players as Ally Hamis, Japhet Pancras, Hillary Ndosu, Alice Kazomba, Irene Munishi, and Racheal Ben.

Nashe Singo, Ramadhan Waliwali, Rashid Ramadhan, Hassan Mfaume, Naitoti Singo, and Aurelia Mushi also make the list.

The tournament is expected to start on Wednesday and end on Sunday this week.

He said the team is sponsored by International Tennis Federation (ITF).

"Our junior players will today depart for Rwanda where they will compete at the East and Central Africa 14 & 15 and Under tennis tournament, they are all ready for the event and I'm hopeful they will perform well," he said.

Mvita said Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) believes that with great investment in the juniors in terms of development, by the time they finish the 14 and 15 & Under events, they could be taking on the best competitors in the world and rated amongst the top players.

The tactician added: "If we had more tournaments, it would give our players enough game time. Players from other countries are exposed to many tournaments and they do not have stage fright compared to ours."

"They are well prepared and know what it takes to win. The most important thing we need is to have more tournaments," he said.

He said there is also a need to invest in coaches, increase the number of tournaments that TTA hosts, and monitor players, especially those who are based outside the country.

The tactician maintained that such performers must be allowed to go into training camps in developed countries in Europe.

“

They are well prepared and know what it takes to win. The most important thing we need is to have more tournaments

Pablo admits Simba SC must change to win big games



Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco Martin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco has admitted that his squad needs change to win in big games against big teams next season.

This came about after Saturday's goalless draw against Yanga in an NBC Premier League clash that took place in Dar es Salaam.

The draw leaves the title race almost over as Yanga remains 13 points ahead of Simba SC with nine matches left to play.

It was the second time this season the two teams have treated local fans to a goalless draw.

Speaking in a post-match interview, Franco indicated that Simba SC has struggled against

big teams, especially in scoring goals, and will have to bring in more quality players for that to change.

The coach revealed: "The

game was very balanced. To be honest there were moments when they dominated a little bit more, moments when we dominated a little bit more, with not

too much difference. Also to be honest in clear opportunities maybe they had one more."

Franco said: "The results were of course good for them, they are now closer to the title, one less game. We tried with the energy we have."

The tactician noted: "It is always difficult to play these games during the season against an opponent with an advantage in the schedule, to have fewer days to prepare for the game. You can see the difference in energy levels as I said yesterday."

"With a different schedule and similar conditions, I haven't seen Yanga play against us, and being better in the two games we have played against them, probably sometimes we were even better than them. This is something that I want to make clear today."

Franco said: "It is also true that to beat these big teams, especially next season, I think we need something else. If you analyze a little bit, when we were playing against the big teams, twice we couldn't score against Yanga."

"When we played away

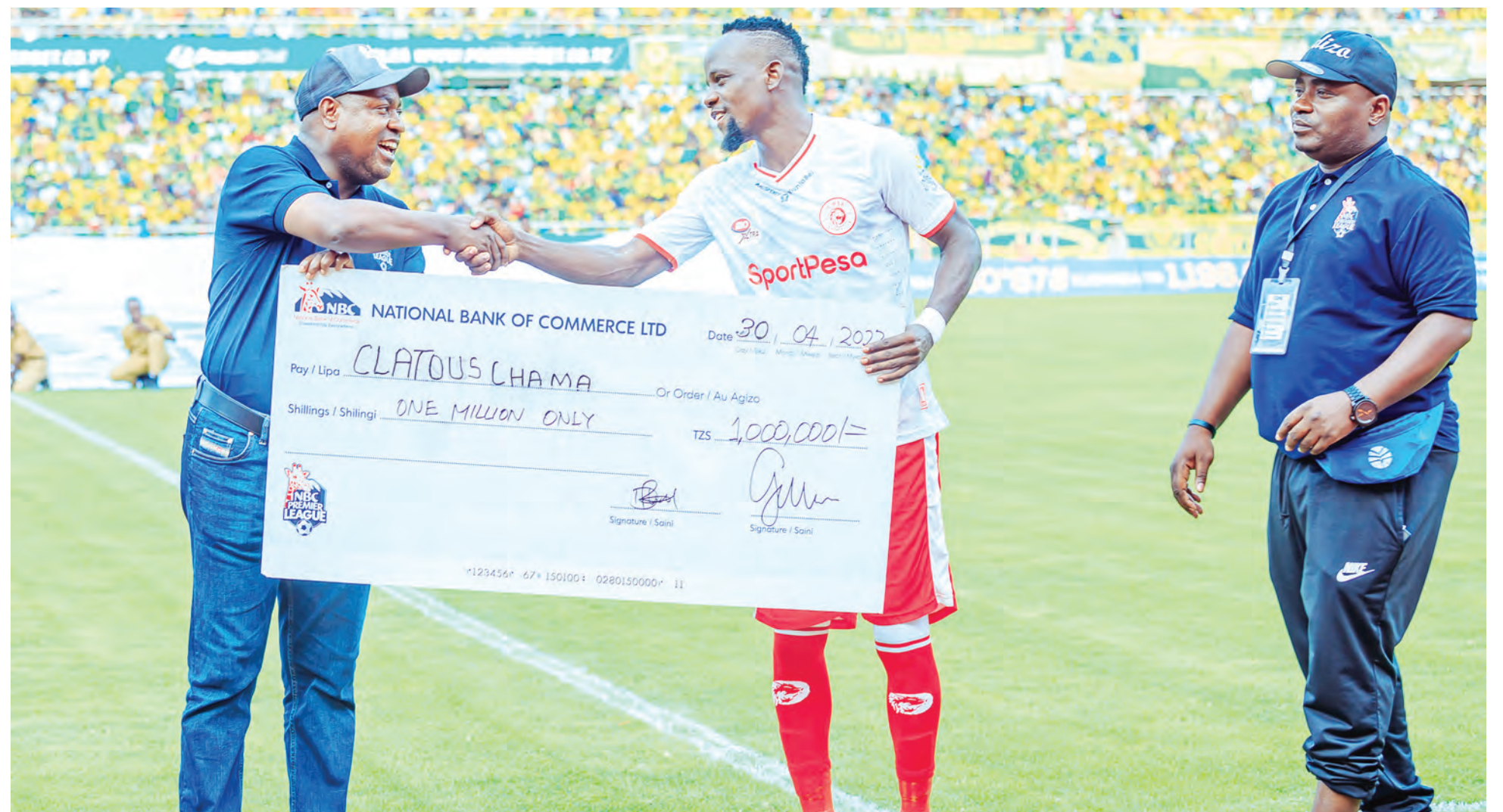
to RS Berkane we couldn't score and here we scored only one goal against Orlando Pirates here and couldn't score away, so when we are playing against big teams we struggle. We know our weaknesses and know what to work on to improve next season."

He also explained the reasons behind the substitutions of midfielders Clatous Chama and Ousmane Sakho. Chama was substituted during the halftime break while Sakho was withdrawn past the hour mark.

Franco revealed: "I talked to these players, I told them that I needed players to give 200%. For these kinds of games, even if you have the talent, in these games when you are closer to your opponents' level, you need to be fit 200%. Chama had some knee problems and also missed some training sessions."

"We played them because we knew but we took the risk because they are players who can make a difference and when I saw they were not making a difference and we were suffering we tried different players."

NBC Premier League sponsor graces Dar derby



The Managing Director of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League, known as NBC Premier League, Theobald Sabi (L), hands over a check worth 1m/- to Simba SC player Clatous Chama that was announced as the league's best player for March during the match between Simba SC and Yanga held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. The teams settled for a 0-0 draw. Looking on (R) is the bank's Public Relations Manager, Godwin Semuny.

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League, known as NBC Premier

League, last Saturday graced the top-flight tie bringing together age-old rivals, Yanga and Simba SC, by organizing several events for sports fans and the bank's customers.

The activities included handing over prizes to the top-flight best player and best coach for March.

All the activities were led by senior officials of the bank led by the Managing

Director, Theobald Sabi.

Sabi had the opportunity to present a prize and cash totaling 1m/- to Simba SC midfielder Clatous Chama that was declared the league's best player in

March. Simba SC's head coach Pablo Franco, who was also announced as the league's best coach for the month, was awarded a prize along with cash amounting to 1m/- from the sponsor.

The event, which was witnessed by thousands of fans who turned out to watch the match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, was preceded by many other events.

The events included the reception of the bank's customers from various regions in the country who were lucky winners of a draw, known as 'Jaza Kibubu na NBC'.

The winners had the opportunity to watch the match, with the bank having paid all of their expenses including travel, accommodation, and VIP tickets to watch the match which ended in a 0-0 draw.

Along with the winners, the bank also issued an official invitation for its prominent customers including senior officials from various organizations and institutions as well as other bank members.

The invitees had the opportunity to have lunch with NBC bank officials and then headed to the stadium in a special convoy.

Various fans who came to watch the match further had the opportunity to receive various financial services from NBC bank through its various officials who were providing the services on the outskirts of the stadium.

Such a move provided an opportunity for hundreds of fans to join the bank's services including opening various accounts as well as conducting financial transactions in those areas.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

