



National Pg 2 Poaching still rampant in Ruaha



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'Shelving of changes to Media Services Act sad'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) has expressed dismay over the government's decision to shelve the tabling of a bill relating to eagerly awaited amendments to the Media Services Act, 2016 in the ongoing meeting of the National Assembly.

The forum has gone on to plead for President Samia Suluhu Hassan's intervention in the matter.

TEF Chairman Deodatus Balile (pictured) said in a signed statement issued yesterday the forum had received with disappointment a statement by Chief Government Spokesperson Gerson Msigwa to the effect that the bill would not be tabled in the ongoing meeting of the Union legislative body because the House had just too many sectorial committee reports to discuss to accommodate MSA-2016.

Balile said that the government's explanation left much to be desired and made TEF doubt whether indeed there was any intention to make the amend the particular piece of legislation as expected.

"In all the several meetings that we have had with the government, we have seen the rigidity from some retired officers borrowed by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the office of the Attorney General (AG) and security agencies who have openly shown that they are not willing to see the law amended," the statement reads, in part.

TEF said that most of the meetings on ways to amend the law have ended without



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consensus on various sections, including the one on the powers of the Director of Information Services - namely, sections 9 and 10, which give the office powers to prosecute and judge - which runs against the principles of good governance.

"In other professions, this role falls under the professions' councils and boards but some officers in the government still argue that the powers should be in the hands of an individual," said the statement.

The stalemate continued right up to November 21, 2022 when it was that the respective minister (for Information, Communications and Information Technology), Nape Nnauye, decided to chair and the officers relented though not wholeheartedly.

"What surprises us is that some of the sections in the particular law have already been scrapped, including the one taking defamation as a criminal offence, which has already been expunged from the penal code," TEF said in the statement.

It said the forum has been in good communication with, among other senior

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Treasury assures US on tax assessment, digital systems

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi hosts talks with a World Bank delegation led by Nathan Belete (5th-L), the bank's Country Director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has assured a top official of the United States government that the government is working to improve tax assessment and tax collection digital systems.

The minister and his Investment, Industry and Trade counterpart, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, aired remarks on the issues here yesterday at a meeting with the US Under-Secretary for Commerce, Marisa Lago.

A Treasury statement noted that the minister explained that the government will increase its efforts in reducing face to face discussions in tax assessments as it leads to unrealistic tax assessments.

The government was looking forward to having in place better procurement procedures that conform to equity provisions to increase trade and investment in the country, it said.

The government expects enhanced trade and economic cooperation with the United States via the private sector as a result of talks at summit level between the two countries late last year in Washington, D.C., the minister noted.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan was in the US capital for the second US-Africa Summit where she met top government

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Embezzlement: Govt puts 20 districts to searchlight

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

OVER 20 district councils have been identified as persistently appearing in records on embezzlement of public funds, prompting the government to place them under special monitoring for the remaining months of the 2022/23 financial year.

Angela Kairuki, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office told parliamentarians on Tuesday evening that most districts councils in Tanga and Morogoro regions are under the monitoring exercise to find out if council members are breaching public service ethics.

This includes embezzlement of development funds and revenues they collect, she said, listing other district councils being monitored as Ilmela in Mwanza Region, Bunda in Mara Region and

Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam Region.

The minister was responding to MPs' contributions after the Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) tabled its report for the period ending January 2023.

The report said that civil servants serve the public in a climate of impunity as removing them from their jobs is a tedious process.

"In making sure that public funds are not misused and officials in district councils observe ethical guidelines, the ministry has decided to restructure regional secretariats," she said, noting that 22 secretariats have been modified and four are being put to that exercise.

The government has also decided to raise the annual budget extended to the secretariats to perform their duties and enhance efficiency, she said, elaborating

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Agro-sector innovation tops UDSM, JICA meet

By Correspondent James Kandoya

EXPERTS from the University of Dar es Salaam and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are meeting in Dar es Salaam for two days to map out innovation paths to uplift Tanzania's economic growth.

Yamamura Naofumi, the chief representative at the JICA country office, said at a press briefing yesterday that innovation can help Tanzania achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The forum brings together experts from various fields where innovation can yield

the highest advantage in the economy, by examining the Japanese experience and existing initiatives in the country.

JICA and UDSM decided to organize an innovation forum as part of the JICA programme for Japanese Studies that UDSM hosts, thus selecting the theme 'Innovation for National Growth and Sustainable Development,' he stated.

Dr Francis Michael, the Education, Science and Technology permanent secretary will officiate at the opening ceremony, where Japanese experts will provide a clear picture of the challenges,

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officials including President Joe Biden, the head of Treasury yesterday expressing gratitude to the US government for its targeted aid to Tanzania, especially for education, democracy, good governance and economic growth.

Dr Kijaji said there are 271 project investments by US businessmen valued at \$4.8m that are helping to boost the country's economic growth. Priority sectors in these investments include natural resources and tourism, she said.

A total of 68 projects are registered with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and 66 projects are agricultural projects engaged in adding value to farm crops, she stated.

"President Samia has been stressing that it is time for investors to come to invest in adding value to our farm crops and other resources that we have been exporting raw," she recalled.

Under Secretary Lago assured Tanzania that the US was ready to strengthen trade and investment

relations between the two countries as a step to support President Samia's efforts to boost the country's economic growth.

The US private sector was ready to invest in the country, she stated, airing the view that the government needs to further improve the trade and investment environment, especially in relation to tax and procurement systems, while placing various attractions to investors.

Showering praise on President Samia for far reaching efforts to improve the lives of the people, she pledged US support for the president to realise that objective.

Dr Nchemba said Tanzania has many areas with investment opportunities including industry, agriculture, mining, processing hides and skins, meat processing as well as in tourism, the blue economy and other fields.

"We have had good discussions especially in regard to investment flows," he said, noting that Tanzania pledged cooperation in linking the private sector in the two countries to enhance profitable trade and investment.

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that budget provisions have been increased from \$7.4bn/- last fiscal year to 79.9bn/- in the current financial year.

The ministry is working with the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in pursuing the issue of 672 officials and highest bidders in various district councils suspected to have colluded to enable public funds embezzlement and breaching public service ethics, that they are arraigned in courts of law, the minister intoned.

Of the 672 suspects, investigations on 79 suspects have been completed, 42 cases on highest bidders are ongoing in courts while 53 bidders are under investigation. The bulk of suspects is still under PCCB scrutiny, she elaborated.

Anatropia Theonest (Special Seats-Opposition) said that most public servants don't especially care

about the proper management of public funds as they know that for them to be sacked from their jobs is a long process that the government isn't inclined to pursue.

"If this is the case, let the legislature amend the Public Servants Act so that public officials are employed under term contracts and not on permanent terms as is habitually the case," she appealed, affirming that the change will cultivate ethical observation and discipline among public servants.

LAAC vice chairperson Stanislaus Mabula said earlier on Tuesday that the rate of public funds embezzlement in district councils is growing at a high rate as years passed by.

"The committee suggests that the ministry take bold measures to guarantee safety of public funds. However, region secretariats should be financially assisted to take up their duties more exhaustively," he added.

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opportunities and best ways to enhance innovation.

Discussion will focus on how Tanzania can apply innovation for sustainable development and key areas where Japan can contribute, where agro-based innovation is expected to take centre stage, he said.

Participants will have an opportunity to learn some secrets behind Japan's modernization, with lectures by Japanese researchers in various fields of innovation, backed up by some members of the JICA alumni, he explained, noting that a total of 300 participants including contributing experts, academicians and students will attend the forum.

Dr Salvatory Nyanto, office director for the UDSM vice-chancellor, said that innovation is

central in the current development agenda, so the event will help to shed light on the factors influencing innovation, and the challenges involved.

The UDSM Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship has been taking stock of the challenges between generating knowledge and research as relating to application of results in sizeable research output, he said.

UDSM collaboration with JICA is intended to strengthen an environment that fosters innovation for national growth and sustainable development, he stated.

The forum is expected to come out with clear answers to questions on what Tanzania should do to exploit available resources to boost innovation for national growth and development, he added.

Police commander loses gun after being abducted outside his gate

NAIROBI

Detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in Narok, Kenya are investigating an incident where a senior police officer lost his firearm after he was kidnapped by armed attackers on Tuesday night.

According to County Police Commander Kizito Mutoro, Frederick Shiundu, who is the Narok Central Sub-County Police Commander was kidnapped by two armed people who were driving a Toyota Wish vehicle whose registration numbers are not yet known.

Mutoro revealed that the kidnap happened on Tuesday night, at the gate of the officer's home, as he returned home.

"We received a call from Shiundu's wife that he had been kidnapped, but his vehicle was left behind. We responded swiftly to the incident," said Mutoro.

He said the search operation started immediately at 10pm when the incident happened and upon tracking his phone, the signal indicated that he was along Narok/Kisiriri Road.

AGENCIES



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson exchanges greetings with Amin Mohamed Kurji, the Aga Khan Development Network's resident representative in Tanzania, who called on her in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Shelving of changes to Media Services Act sad'

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officials, Minister Nnauye and Attorney General Dr Eliezer Feleshi, but some junior officers in the sector have continued to drag their feet on the matter.

TEF said media stakeholders were earlier promised that the proposed amendments to the respective piece of legislation would be tabled in the House in February 2022 but this was later pushed to April then November that year, "but, thus far, there is no implementation".

"This time hopes of implementation were especially

high because the minister (Nnauye) had publicly declared that he had already taken the stakeholders' views to the AG," it said.

The forum further noted that it was worried whether the amendments would be debated and passed what with the coming (Budget) marathon meeting of the National Assembly as usual expected to be preoccupied with an even bigger volume of more serious issues up for deliberation - including the government Budget itself.

"On June 28, 2021 President Samia Suluhu directed TEF and

other stakeholders to sit with the Information, Communications and Information ministry for deliberations on how to review and improve all media-related laws currently in use in the country, this including the Media Services Act, 2016," the TEF statement said.

It added: "In that President Samia wanted us to go back to her whenever we were stuck, we are appealing to her to allow us time to speak out as to who or what we believe is thwarting this important process."

It stated further that the forum and other media stakeholders

recognize the efforts made by President Samia towards strengthening democracy and media freedom in the country but a few officials have been intentionally out to thwart her efforts.

TEF appealed to the Head of State to intervene in the matter, as saying stakeholders were saddened by what they were witnessing.

It was emphatic that the eagerly awaited amendments to the law (MSA-2016) stood to step up media freedom, including enabling media practitioners to fulfill their professional mandate and thus contribute more fully to the



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) director of investment Ramadhani Mtindasi (3rd-R, gesturing) pictured on Tuesday updating a visiting delegation of the agency's board of directors led by its chairman, General (rt) Davis Mwamunyange (C, arms akimbo), on the availability of potable water in Kigamboni District. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

'Poaching still rampant in Ruaha National Park'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SOME residents remaining in villages lying within Ruaha National Park area in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region from which they were moved out are now reported to engage in poaching.

Recently the government made adjustments to the GN 28 of 2008

Ruaha National Park boundaries which has removed five out of the 39 villages from the Park area.

However, the residents were temporarily left in the villages to attend to their crops they planted, but are now claimed to engage in wildlife poaching.

This was revealed here yesterday by Mbeya regional commissioner,

Juma Homera, said Michael Mwambaja, resident of Mdundasi village in Luhanga Ward was arrested after he killed a giraffe for meat.

He said Mwambaja was in company of his associate who fled, adding that the government's lenient measures was now becoming a problem in the park

area. "I highly appeal to state organs to assist in dealing with the people, this one has killed a giraffe, we request that when taken to court, justice has to be meted out in accordance to the country's laws," said RC Homera.

He said apart from this incident, recently several other people were also arrested in possession of elephant tusks in Chunya and Kyela districts. He said in Chunya District 35 pieces of elephant tusks were seized while in Kyela 38 pieces, the situation shows that poaching was still rampant in various reserve areas in the country.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

'Government commits to improving health sector'

Umyy Mwalimu, minister for Health has reiterated the government commitment to improving the health sector by increasing health infrastructure as well as hiring adequate skilled workers, a situation that will yield positive results.

She noted that the government has continued to invest in other sectors, especially the agricultural sector, which contributes significantly to food security, income, health and well-being of the people in order to achieve the goal of 25 deaths of children under the age of 5 years as specified in the world sustainable

development goals by 2030.

Speaking on Tuesday here while officiating at the launch ceremony of the report of the results of research on maternal and child health and malaria indicators in the country, Minister Umyy said that the deaths of children under the age of five years have decreased from 67 deaths per 1000 live births in 2015/2016 to 43 deaths in 2022 but also infant mortality rate has decreased from 43 deaths in 2015 for every 1000 live births to 33 deaths in

2022.

"The government's efforts to ensure that the implementation of health insurance for all will help to achieve the World 2030 sustainable development goals, the result of the 2022 Population and Housing census only 6.2 percent of all Tanzanians have health insurance of any kind" she said.

She explained that in reproductive health, the results show that 9 out of 10 women get prenatal care from skilled

providers and 85 percent of women who gave birth in the two years before the research have received the tetanus vaccine and 85 percent of babies born were born under the skilled health experts care while 51 percent of women who gave birth during that period received care for two days after giving birth.

Minister Umyy mentioned the leading regions for women to attend service centers four or more times during pregnancy as Dar es Salaam with 90.2 percent, Mjini Magharibi 84.1 percent, and Mtwara 82.5 percent.

"Regions that have not been able to perform well in pregnant women attending in health service centers include Simiyu with 36.0 percent, Katavi 41.6 percent and Shinyanga 44.9 percent," she explained.

However, Minister Umyy said that a total number of 2.8 million children in the country equal to 30 percent of all 9.4 million children are facing the stunting problem. She said that despite the decrease in the rate of stunting among children in the country from 34 percent in the 2015/2016 study to 30 percent in the year 2022, the rate of 30 percent is still very high.

Minister Umyy mentioned the leading regions who have a high rate of children with stunting including Iringa region leading with 56.9 percent, followed by Njombe region with 50.4 percent and Rukwa region with 49.8 percent. "As the government will should do something, a lot of money has been allocated to these regions to ensure that the issue of nutrition is given priority, how these regions

have led once again to have a high level of stagnation, in the 2015/2016 research they were the ones in this position and they are the regions that produce adequate food in the country" she said.

"If you look at these statistics, 56 percent for Iringa is equal to 56 children out of 100, Njombe is 50 children out of 100 and Rukwa is 50 children also out of 100, this is a large number, we will should also have to measure the success of these children because lack of nutrition also affects the development of the mind," she added.

On his part the Statistician General from the National Bureau Statistical Office (NBS) Dr Albina Chuwa said that Tanzania is among the 93 countries in the world that conduct research on maternal and child health, and the results will explain the health of the mother and her child. "We have collected reproductive health information for mothers aged 15 to 49, as well as men aged 15 to 49, child deaths and maternal deaths, blood pressure, marital status, violence against fathers, mothers and children," she said

Dr Chuwa said that the Government to gather with obtaining information about the results, they have been succeeded in increasing workers performance and the use of modern technology in gathering information, as well as obtained vehicles that will continue to be used within the statistics Office of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of Zanzibar Revolution.



Exim Bank Tanzania CEO Jaffari Matundu (5th-L) pictured in Chemba District yesterday presenting to Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (R) 150 desks for use by Chemba Primary School. The school is short of the items. Third right is Chemba district commissioner Gerald Mongella. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt reviewing Environmental Act to overcome prolonged drought effects

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is reviewing the Environmental Management Act Cap 191 so as to facilitate establishment of the National Environmental Impact Trust Fund that will be mandated with mobilizing and disbursing funds for addressing issues arising from climate change.

The government's decision comes after the parliament had in 2021 approved minor amendments in the National Environment Policy 2021 that involved mitigation measures of climate change effects.

Deputy Minister of State, Vice President's Office, Union and Environment Khamis Hamza Khamis told the National Assembly yesterday that the government has reached such a decision after realising the 2021 and 2022 prolonged drought effects.

The drought had left people in many parts of the country suffering shortage of food and losing their livestock.

Khamis was responding to a question by Mohamed Soud, Donge legislator who

wanted to know strategies in place by the government in establishing the Trust Fund that among other issues it will help in extending funds for climate resilience projects in communities that are mostly affected by climate change effects.

"The government recognizes the essence of having in place reliable sources of funds for addressing hazards and natural disasters related to climate change such as drought, floods and storm," said Khamis.

In a supplementary question, Soud questioned the willingness and commitment of the government in establishing the Fund because the government had in 2014 established the Tanzania Climate Financing Mechanism which didn't deliver to the expectation due to lack of funds allocated for its functions.

"By my account, the government should adopt recommendations from available research results which were conducted since 2014 so that the designated Trust Fund doesn't collapse sometime in the future," said Soud.

In his response, Khamis said that the ministry is taking into consideration all previous research results and has been taking into consideration environmental stakeholders' opinions from the private sector in formulation of the Trust Fund.

According to him, this time around the government is keen at identifying the whole structure of the Trust Fund, its roles and economic opportunities that will come with the Fund.

He said the Fund will operate as an independent entity and apart from receiving annual budgets from the central government it will be responsible for seeking funds from global environmental agencies for climate change resilience projects.

Asha Abdallah Juma, Special Seats legislator urged the government to invest in public general knowledge on climate change issues since there are communities that need to be sensitised on regional and global climate issues.

"Communities need to be sensitised on the implications of clearing trees and farms. We must educate the people on the importance of sustaining water sources in their communities," said Asha.

Samia gives part of land belonging to King'ang'a Prison to Kiingale Ward

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN effort to end a three-decades long land dispute between residents and the prison, President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan has given residents of Kiingale Ward in Kondo District a part of land belonging to King'ang'a Prison.

King'ang'a Prison was established on February 25, 1975 as Prisons livestock farm after securing land from Chemchem village and its survey and demarcation started on June 25, 1978 and ended in October 1978.

The Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule said President Samia gave the residents 3,272.4 acres of land out of over 7,495 acres from King'ang'a Prison land bank.

She announced the decision of the Head of State at a meeting with government leaders and residents of the ward on Monday.

The RC explained that President Samia made the decision after the Minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Masau, visited Kiingale Ward and informed the president about the dispute. "President Samia said out of the disputed area of 7,495.74 acres, 3,272.4 acres should be left for the people for agriculture, livestock and other economic activities, while the remaining land will be used by the prison," Senyamule said.

The president also ordered that within a period of one month, surveyors from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement should visit the area to measure and demarcate the area by putting signs that will be visible to everyone.

The RC further urged the village government and Prison leaders to continue taking care of the borders.

Moreover, she called upon the citizens to cooperate with the Prison for development activities because the land dispute is over, adding that the infrastructures that will be built in the area will enable them to prosper economically.

Kondo Member of Parliament, Ally Makoa, said the residents were thankful because their request to the President regarding the demarcation of land has been accepted.

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Liquidator (s)	JOSEPH LYIMO
Liquidator's address	PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited, Pemba House, 369 Toure Drive Oyster Bay, P. O. Box 45, Dar es Salaam Tanzania
Date of appointment	1 November 2021
By whom appointed	MEMBERS

Signed..... Date: 30/01/2023

Name In Block Letters: JOSEPH LYIMO

Notice



PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) - clarification of Companies Act notice

Newspaper notices in the 7 February 2023 editions of The Guardian and Nipashe included a winding up notice in relation to PricewaterhouseCoopers Services Limited. This company is a dormant company which is now being put into liquidation as it is no longer operational.

This notice does not relate to either of our two active entities, PricewaterhouseCoopers (partnership) and PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited,

which operate as normal. Indeed, we continue to invest for the future, building on the legacy we have set in the country since 1947 (then Cooper Brothers and Company, later Coopers & Lybrand (in 1957), and now PricewaterhouseCoopers (since 1998)). For further information do visit www.pwc.co.tz, or contact us at info@pwc.co.tz

'Lack of investment in health, nutrition hampering global educational achievement'

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE investing in school health and nutrition has a significant positive effect on children's academic achievement, 1 in 3 schools in the world still lack access to drinking water and basic sanitation facilities.

A new report launched yesterday in Paris, France by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP).

Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO director-general said: "Students learn best in safe and healthy schools. Yet, too many educational institutions lack the means to assure good health and well-being, including essential drinking water and sanitation facilities. UNESCO and its partners are calling on the international community to support countries in their investments in health, nutrition and social protection at school - because children deserve an environment where they can reach their full potential."

The report, dubbed: 'Ready to learn and thrive: School health and nutrition around the world' shows that the provision of school health and nutrition incentivizes children to come to school, and to stay there. School meals alone increase enrolment and attendance rates by 9 percent and 8 per cent, respectively.

De-worming and micronutrient supplementation can result in pupils attending school for 2.5 additional years in places where anemia and worm infections are prevalent. The report also addresses other issues such as the promotion of eye care, mental health and well-being of children and the prevention of school violence.

The report underlines that all these measures represent a significant return on investment for countries, in addition to improving the daily lives and study conditions of children. For example, school feeding programmes deliver US\$9 in returns for every US\$1 invested, and school programmes that address mental health can potentially

provide a return on investment of US\$21.5 for every US\$1 invested.

If 9 out of 10 countries around the world invest in school health and nutrition programmes, these investments are unequal from one region to another and often insufficient compared to the needs. Stronger commitment from national governments and support from the international community are essential. Globally, only US\$2 billion is invested each year in addressing the health needs of school-age children and adolescents, whereas some US\$210 billion is spent on educating this age group in low and lower-middle-income countries.

Currently, almost 1 in 3 schools (31 per cent) do not have safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. This means that an estimated 584 million children have limited or no access to basic drinking water services at school; 2 in 5 of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa. And while almost all countries in the world provide school meals, an estimated 73 million of the most vulnerable children still do not benefit from these school feeding programs on the ground.

The UN agencies appealed to the international community, countries and partners to step up actions to protect and promote the physical and mental health, nutrition, well-being and development of all learners.

"All stakeholders are urged to focus on key interventions appropriate to local contexts and needs, including: the provision of school meals; vaccinations; deworming; psychosocial support; skill-based health education that enables learners to lead healthy lives; and safe and inclusive learning environments that promote health and well-being."

The report is launched by three publishing partners UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP, in collaboration with The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and World Health Organization (WHO), and with support from the Research Consortium for school health and nutrition, the World Bank and the UN-Nutrition Secretariat.



Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board officer Halima Faraji plants a tree in the Mabwepande (Dar es Salaam) section of the Mpiji River valley yesterday in continuation of greening activities also meant to ensure that the river withstands the impact of climate change. Photo: Frank Monyo

Court asks prosecution side to arrest last suspect in ivory trafficking case

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Principal Resident Magistrate of the Kisutu Court, Evodia Kyaruzi has directed the prosecution side to accelerate the arrest of one of the accused into a case facing seven people with nine charges including trafficking of 413 ivory tusks worth 4/- billion and two pieces of hippopotamus teeth worth more than 3.4/- million.

The accused are Hassan Likwena (39), Bushiri Likwena, Oliver Mchuwu (35), Haidary Sharifu (44), Joyce Thomas (33), Abdul Abdallah (35) and Salama Mshamu (21), all Dar es Salaam Residents.

This came after State Attorney, Monica Ndekidemi told the court that the case has failed to continue because one of the accused has not yet been arrested.

Kyaruzi told the court that the law is open and that the trial must

continue even if one of the accused has not been arrested.

"You don't tell the court openly about the arrest of one of the accused. These accused can continue with their trial and after arresting Bushiri, he can also proceed with his trial alone," Kyaruzi told the court.

Kyaruzi told the court that in the next hearing prosecution side must make efforts and issue arrest warrant so that Bushiri can be arrested and the case continue.

"What if the accused will never be arrested? Does this mean the case will stuck? In the next hearing whether the accused is arrested or not, the trial must continue," Kyaruzi insisted.

One of the accused, Hassan Shabana asked the court to help them to get their justice because the case has failed to continue for long time due to one of the accused who

is not yet arrested.

"We are asking for your help so that our case can move on. What if Bushiri is not arrested, does this mean that we shall rot in jail?" Shaban asked.

However, Ndekidemi told the court that the prosecution side will make sure that the accused will be arrested and brought before the court and continue with the trial.

The case was adjourned until 22 February this year.

In the first charge, it was alleged that on the trafficking of ivory and rhino tusks case facing one Hassan Shaban, between 01 January and 02 September 2017 within Mtwara region, the accused leading criminal gang planned to purchase and sell, own and traffic 413 ivory tusks illegally.

In the second charge, accused Bushiri and others between January

and 03 September 2019 within Dar es Salaam city, received, sold and trafficked ivory tusks illegally.

The third charge alleges that between 01 and 09 January 2017 all accused are alleged to be involved in trafficking two hippopotamus teeth illegally.

It was alleged that on the fourth and fifth charges, in 03 September 2019 accused Salehe Shaban and others while at Mbagala Saku were found with two rhino tusks.

Also, on the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth charges, it was alleged that between 01 and 03 September 2017, accused Hassan Likwena while at Kivule ward and Abdallah Hamis while at Mbagala Saku, obtained vehicles by false pretence scania with registration number T431 BKM, Toyota T197 ACG and Toyota mark II with registration number T681 DFM and T 847 DCJ illegally.

Airtel Tanzania to disburse 1.6 billion/- to customers

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania is set to disburse 1.6bn/- to Airtel Money customers and agents across the country.

The disbursement is interest derived from their use of Airtel Money services for the quarter ending September 2022 after an approval by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Announcing the disbursement in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Head of Airtel Money services, Daudi Ndovu said: "The Interest earned will be distributed to all Airtel Money Customers and Agents across the country who have used Airtel Money services for the last 3 months."

"Our aim is to continue to support the government agenda in promoting financial inclusion, today we are distributing TZS 1.6 billion accrued interest for the period of July to September 2022 quarters. We are happy with the growth pace of our Airtel Money services that allows more customers to use affordable secured, easily accessed products and services. We encourage more customers to use Airtel Money and get the benefit of receiving interest every quarter," said Ndovu.

Ndovu added: "Airtel is committed to improving and bringing Airtel Money services closer to our customers and addressing the gap of unbanked population across the country. In promoting financial inclusion, Airtel Money recently launched BilaTozo Promotion which is aimed at promoting businesses across the country by making payments easy and affordable ensuring customers are getting more for less.

Airtel Money BilaTozo is aimed to build an inclusive financial ecosystem as every Tanzanian will have access to affordable Airtel Money services that cater for their day-to-day transactions - be it payments, sending and receiving money," Ndovu said.

Interest disbursement is money given back to Airtel Money bills given to customers and agents on a quarterly basis based on the balance amount they have in their Airtel Money Wallets/accounts at the end of each day.

The amount earned by customers depends on how frequently they use the Airtel Money services and top up their account. The money earned as interest is sent to customers via Airtel Money wallet/ account. Airtel Money customers can choose to withdraw money from our robust AM Agent network, transfer to an Airtel Money savings account, pay for services through merchants or pay bills such as DAWASCO, LUKU or any other.

The firm's communications director, Beatrice Singano said that Airtel Tanzania continues to invest in expanding its Airtel Money distribution and payment infrastructure to provide the best mobile money services across Tanzania. We are proud to have deployed a robust merchant network and more than 3,500 Airtel Money exclusive shops across the country, to complement the existing Airtel Money Wakalas network of over 170,000 Airtel Money Wakala. "We will continue to deploy state-of-the-art services and ensure our customers enjoy accessible and affordable quality services wherever they are 24/7 at the comfort of their homes or businesses," added Singano.



Daudi Ndovu, head of Airtel Money services, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday announcing the disbursement 1.6bn/- to Airtel Money customers and agents across Tanzania. He said the amount was interest derived from the use of Airtel Money services for the quarter ending September 2022, as approved by the Bank of Tanzania. Right is Airtel Tanzania public relations manager Jackson Mmbando. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Teachers in Z'bar urged to prepare for new curriculum

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TEACHERS in Zanzibar have been asked to prepare themselves and adapt the new curriculum which is set to be introduced in the Isles this year aimed at improving the education sector.

Minister for Education and Vocational education in Zanzibar Muhamed Mussa made the call yesterday when opening a training session for primary school teachers on the use of the new curriculum.

The minister said the new

curriculum is also aimed at installing foundations for passing national examinations saying it has come as a result of complaints from stakeholders on making changes to the primary school curriculum.

He called upon the teachers who will be the custodian of the new document to ensure they understand the curriculum for improvement of the education sector.

"My message to you is to ensure that we understand the new curriculum which is built on

foundations to help a student pass national examinations but also have basics in solving challenges," he said.

Earlier, head of the Zanzibar Institute of Education Abdallah Mohammed Mussa said the new curriculum has worked on key issues raised by stakeholders including proposing average subjects for lower level classes.

"The new curriculum is in line with the current needs for primary school pupils which will help more students to pass to secondary

school," he said.

Director for primary school education in the ministry Fatma Maulid Ramadhan said the ministry expects to see changes especially from teachers including increasing pass rate to secondary schools.

An education inspector from the ministry Mauimuna Fadhil Abasi said teachers should understand that they have the role in promoting education in the isles including ensuring that the number of pupils joining secondary school increases.

BMH, Kuwait-based NGO sign MoU to provide open heart surgery to children

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kuwait-based non-governmental organisation called Children's Heart Charity Association to provide open heart surgery and cardiovascular services for children with heart conditions.

The three-year agreement signed on Tuesday will see the BMH serve children with cardiovascular diseases taking the advantage of Dodoma geographical position to save the lives of many children.

BMH Chief Executive Officer, Dr Alphonse Chandika identified three areas of focus under the memorandum as capacity building, medical supplies and humanitarian support.

At least 100 children with heart condition attained training during the free camp as the CHC in collaboration with BMH provide free diagnosis and treatment for children suffering from congenital heart and rheumatic heart disease.

"The diseases require cardiac intervention and open heart surgery which will be part of the services under the agreement, since the majority of children with heart conditions are from the Lake Zone regions, then it will be ideal to

many," said Dr Chandika.

He said the agreement will also focus on assuring medical and surgical equipment availability at the hospital to strengthen the cardiac medical treatment and services for children.

He mentioned another area as capacity building for the hospital surgical team so that when the Kuwait experts depart, then, the local experts can carry out the services on their own.

Dr Chandika said the Kuwait eyes to make BMH a centre of excellence for paediatrics cardiac in the country in the near future.

Children's Heart Charity Association expressed their commitment to collaborate with the BHM in cardiology services to children and save lives as well as making the hospital a medical hub when it comes to paediatrics cardiac services.

Tanzanian Ambassador to Kuwait, Said Mussa was impressed by the teamwork shown by the BMH during the joint cardiac team which started on February 4, this year.

"Healthy nation is key as it gives room for the public to participate in the economic activities uninterrupted, thus increasing productivity and social welfare," said Ambassador Mussa.



Daniel Pancras, acting director of the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry's Forest and Beekeeping Department, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing a two-day consultative meeting for beekeeping stakeholders facilitated by BEVAC - a beekeeping value chain support project. The project is chiefly meant to empower SMEs in the beekeeping value chain to increase domestic and export competitiveness as well as market integration, in part by raising the quality of bee products and sector productivity. The meeting specifically sought to brainstorm on effective ways of improving the quality of packaging and marketing bee products. Photo: Carlos Banda

'Media laws in Z'bar need to be reviewed to boost press freedom'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR media stakeholders have suggested the need to amend laws that conflict with access to information and press freedom to stimulate accountability and access to information with the aim of bringing development to the society.

They have explained that the issue of access to freedom of information is not an issue that aims to benefit writers and the media only, but is a cross-cutting issue that is beneficial for building accountability for leaders and society in general in access to services.

They were speaking here yesterday at a one-day media training organised by Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) in collaboration with Internews Tanzania. The training was meant to identify the gaps in the information laws and to discuss the strategy of making changes in those laws to create a friendly environment for the media in Zanzibar.

They said that if there are laws that provide opportunities for the media to carry out their duties freely without legal restrictions, it gives opportunities for journalists to help the community and the authorities to raise the challenges that exist in various areas and be resolved in time.

According to them, the laws governing the media in Zanzibar need to be amended due to some provisions of those laws suppressing freedom of information.

Among the key laws that have been found to have gaps that need to be amended is the Law on the Registration of News Agencies, Newspapers and Books No. 5 of 1988 amended by Law No. 8 of 1997, the law of the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission No. 7 of the year 1997 as amended by law number 1 of the year 2010 as well as the law of Internet offenses of the year 2015.

Also the law of the House of Representatives (immunities, powers and opportunities) no. 4 of 2007 and to enact a new law of the House of Representatives (immunities, powers and opportunities) in carrying out work and other related matters No. 6 of 2022, Law to repeal Election Law no. 11 of 1984 and enact the election law of 2017 and other issues related to it as well as the law to repeal the penal law no. 6 of 2004 and to enact a new penal law, to set better conditions and other related matters.

Presenting a review of the law on the Registration of News Agencies, Newspapers and Books No. 5 of 1988 amended by law no. 8 of 1997, Imane Duwe, a media trainer said Article 3 of the law has given the Minister the authority to appoint the Registrar of Books and Newspapers but is silent

on the qualifications and experience of the registrar.

He explained: "The position of the registrar should be announced and selected according to qualifications, for example whether he is a lawyer or a person with a career in information and public communication and the qualifications of the registrar should be specified in the law."

He also noted that regarding access to information, there is no article that talks about the journalist's right to obtain information from various authorities.

"This law has not established and taken into account the current need according to the democratic concept or that it is a basic right to create an environment in which the writer will be able to be given information and information when needed, so we recommend that there be a special article that will talk about the access to information and information and align the steps that will be taken to the Bailee to provide such information when he does not exercise that right," informed the trainer.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA, Zanzibar director called upon journalists to continue lobbying for changes to the limited laws in order to provide access to laws that provide a better environment for the media in Zanzibar to carry out its duties.

She pointed out: "Justice does not come to the table, we must argue, not be afraid of the law and not give up, let's keep writing because the laws are there for us as long as what we do is the right thing and we don't break the law. Let's go and write more because we are making decisions so that the people can get information that brings them progress."

Zanzibar-based senior journalist, Salim Said Salim said: "We journalists have a great responsibility to inform leaders and all citizens therefore when we talk about freedom of information, it is not only for the benefit of journalists and the media, but for the benefit of the whole community to get their important services."

Berema Suleiman Nassor, a journalist from Zenji FM said that the law does not establish the right of a journalist to get information from various authorities, it denies the right of journalists to get some information when needed.

He said: "You can go to the office to ask for some information but the leader surrounds you and completely denies you information because he knows that there is no law that compels him to give a tariff to the reporter, we ask that this article be included in the law because we face challenges when we need to get information from certain places."

Two Dar residents in court allegedly for obtaining over 550m/- unlawfully

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

TWO Dar es Salaam residents have appeared before the Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court allegedly for obtaining money worth \$237,800 (556m/-) illegally.

The accused are businessmen Murtaza Mawji (34) and Faustine Massawe (44) who owns clearing and forwarding agency.

Reading the charge before

the Kisumu Principal Resident Magistrate Ramadhani Rugemalila, State Attorney Mosie Kaima said that in November last year, the accused committed the crime by false pretence while at CRDB Bank Waterfront branch in Dar es Salaam.

Kaima told the court that the accused obtained the money by false pretence from Coherent Investment Limited Company owned by one Mohit Gupta, that

they will supply him with 20 containers of chickpeas something they knew was not true.

Kaima told the court that investigation is complete and the case was adjourned until 22 February this year for preliminary hearings.

However, the accused denied the charge.

Rugemalila told the court that the charge is bail able and the accused

must share costs.

He mentioned bail terms that each accused must deposit 138,500,000/- or present asset equivalent to the said amount also each accused must present two guarantors with introduction letters from local government authorities, National Identification cards and they are not allowed to travel outside Dar es salaam city without court approval.



Implementation of Phase III (Gerezani to Gongo la Mboto) of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit road construction project well under way, as captured yesterday at the Mtava section of Nyerere Road. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

Frequently examine students to protect them against sexual abuse, boarding schools urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

BOARDING secondary schools have been required to adopt a habit of frequently making investigations and inspections on students as a way to control acts of sexual abuse and sodomy that are claimed to take place secretly.

The call was issued yesterday by the Head of Gender Desk for Misungwi District, Mwanza Region Police Inspector Grace Nyoni when providing education on how to deal with sexual abuse issues.

The education was provided to

students of Idetemya Secondary School and organised by City Health Centre as part of the implementation of the directives from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups that every institution should have a strategic plan in the fight against these acts.

Insp Nyoni said the step will help in identifying students committing these acts among themselves in order to take measures against the culprits.

"Gender desks in our police stations are open at all times, report

these incidents and we will work on them," she said.

Director of the school, Zabibu Urassa called upon students to report on students committing acts of sexual abuse and sodomy in order to take steps against the culprits.

"These acts start with a child being touched on her private parts, whenever another person does so, refuse and report him or her to the concerned authorities at once," she said.

Idetemya Secondary School Headmaster Martha Bartholomeo

said they have never received any cases regarding acts of sexual abuse and sodomy at the school, but they are more close to community development officials as well as the police station gender desk in the district.

The education to students was accompanied by a charity walk against sexual abuse and provision of food at the Misungwi mental health correction centre.

It also included the handing over of sanitary pads to students of the school and other students' items.

**RE-ADVERTISED.**

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP METAL TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Service of Purchase and disposal of scrap metal and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01516 - 01	PROVISION FOR PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP METAL TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.20%
Company Code of Conduct	1.20%
Company Code of Ethics	1.20%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.20%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.20%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.20%
Current NSSF compliance clearance certificates (mandatory requirement)	5.00%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.20%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.20%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.20%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.20%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.20%
List of Directors	1.20%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.20%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01516 - 01)	60%
Possess valid permits to collect and transport all types of waste from the mine site (Scrap metals, Scrap plastic, Scrap rubber, Scrap wood, Scrap glass, Used batteries, electronic waste) - <i>mandatory</i>	25%
Owns disposal facility/facilities that possesses a permit(s) to use/treat the scrap materials OR evidence of an agreement to supply scrap materials to a disposal facility/facility that possesses a permit(s) to use/treat the scrap materials to be collected from the mine site - <i>mandatory</i>	15%
Relevant experience in similar work - evidence of successful provision of similar services to more than one client in mining industry, for more than one year, for all the waste types to be collected from the mine site - <i>mandatory</i>	15%
Presented approach (collection, transportation, and disposal) - in line with the scope of work as well as the waste management regulations - <i>mandatory</i>	5%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01516 - 01)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **8.30AM 20th FEBRUARY 2023 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

AG's office, ministries challenged to identify all unratified international contracts, agreements

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Attorney General's office has been urged to collaborate with all ministries in identifying international contracts, agreements and treaties that the government has signed so far but are yet to be ratified.

The Parliamentary Permanent Committee for Constitution and Legal Affairs has recommended in its report for the period covering between February 2022 and January 2023 that only the true picture of the international contract status will enable the parliament to advise the government on which contracts it should ratify.

Presenting the report in the National Assembly yesterday, the committee's chairperson Dr Joseph Mhagama said the committee further recommends to the government to ratify all already signed contracts that seem to be beneficial to the country.

According to the committee the government is supposed to sign and ratify international contracts that are beneficial to the country as per Article 63 (3) (e) of the 1977 United Republic of Tanzania Constitution edition.

"It is of public interest that all signed international contracts are identified and ratified if fits the country's requirement;

However, reasons behind the delay in ratifying the signed contracts should be identified for the National Assembly to offer appropriate advice to the government to meet the right decisions," said Mhagama.

On the other hand, the committee has recommended the application of Kiswahili in drafting new country's laws. The committee suggests that existing laws should be translated into Swahili.

"Though the committee has learnt that there is shortage of Kiswahili jargons to suit the

English legal terms, the translation should continue as new words are invented.

The committee has learnt that countries such as China has gone through the same challenges in translating its laws but have made it and become a good example," said Mhagama.

He said it is high time for the country to value the application of Kiswahili in legal affairs as it is in public offices as the language promises for a bright future of the country's socioeconomic developments.

Deodatus Mwanyika, Njombe legislator called for need to also translate documents carrying investment messages about investment opportunities at the region and country levels.

"We need to apply the two languages in lobbying for investors especially in regional blocs that Tanzania is already a member of," said Mwanyika.



This heavy-duty truck skidded off the road and fell on its side on Tuesday, rendering the Iwambi Hill section of the Tanzania-Zambia highway impassable for some two hours. The area is on the outskirts of Mbeya city. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

UN stresses combined efforts on environmental conservation, responsible waste management

By Getrude Mbagu

THE United Nations in Tanzania under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) has underscored the need to strengthen efforts in the environmental conservation and waste management so as to overcome climate change impacts which of late are causing great impacts.

Speaking during the clean-up exercise held at Coco Beach in Dar es Salaam yesterday, UNESCO Country Representative, Michael Toto said sustainable livelihoods and a clean environment go hand in hand.

Toto who represented the UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milisic said: "By promoting responsible waste management and preserving our natural resources, we are creating a brighter future for all. Let us join our efforts to ensure that the City Clean Tanzania

Campaign is successful."

He noted that the Beach Clean-up is a joint effort by City Clean Tanzania, UN staff, and youth to raise awareness on climate change and the role of communities in addressing the global issue.

He noted that climate change was affecting not only ecosystems but also socio-economic systems, something which needs coordinated efforts to protect the environment and fight pollution.

"This cleaning activity marks our contribution to demonstrating and sensitizing coastal communities and marine resources beneficiaries to be part of the solution because by protecting the oceans and shorelines we save lives and livelihoods.

He said that UNSDCF is working towards inclusive and gender-responsive management of natural resources, climate

change resilience and disaster risk reduction.

"Today's activity brings together partners who have the common goals of promoting cooperation and team building, while raising public awareness on climate change resilience and waste management," he said.

The expected results of the campaign include increased engagement and cooperation with youth, civil society, and partners on climate change, and heightened public awareness of the UN's contributions to national efforts towards a more sustainable future," he added.

Toto noted that in this UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), society depends on the Ocean more than ever before. Globally, over 500 million people depend on the ocean as a vital source of nourishment. In Tanzania, the ocean is the very basis of the blue economy and keeping it clean is key to sustaining livelihoods that depend on the ocean.

"Our oceans and water sources are vital to life on Earth, but they are under threat from plastic pollution and other forms of waste. By keeping them clean, we are protecting our planet and working towards a more sustainable future. Adaptation strategies and science-informed policy responses are urgently needed. Let us cooperate and increase investment to cover the funding gaps," he said.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalagerstakeholders to continue to prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation projects for Tanzania to support achieve its development goals.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF Catering Services	
REF ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-GE-0113	
<p>BESIX Ballast Nedam Limited, executing Early Services for the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites qualified suppliers to express their interest for:</p> <p>- Catering Services</p> <p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project. The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania incl. a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.</p> <p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare and deliver to BBN Limited office premises ready-to-serve lunch meals to staff everyday from Monday to Saturday. - Service Provider shall prepare meal plans and share with BBN on a weekly basis in order to have an agreed menu for the coming week. - The Contract Period shall be ONE YEAR from the date of the start of the supply of meals with an options for extension. - The Contractor shall at all times maintain the highest standards required in all aspects including, inter alia, food hygiene, delivery 	<p>schedules, and standards of transport methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Service Provider shall be responsible for maintenance and replacement in case of breakages of utensils used. <p>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This call for Expression of Interest (EOI) is intended to lead to the identification of suppliers that can demonstrate having sufficient capacity and experience to provide catering services in a manner that meets BBN Limited expectations. - Company profile with proof of sufficient financial and capable resources. - Company Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year 2022 - Provide evidence of compliance from relevant regulatory food handling bodies and licenses. - The profile of the organization clearly showing the years of experience in the business of catering services - ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 - Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. - Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended.
<p>Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to procurement@bbntd.co.tz (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 23rd February 2023, 18:00hrs Tanzania Time.</p> <p>Email subject should be: ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-GE-0113 (EOI-reference number mentioned in the header)</p> <p>Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.</p> <p>Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.</p>	



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NYAMULILIMA MOBILE TOILET TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED, TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Nyamulilima mobile toilet and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply and delivery of this equipment as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01593	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NYAMULILIMA MOBILE TOILET TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED.

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01593)	60%
Dealership Agreement with the manufacturer of Mobile toilets EnviroLAV-MINEARC-DUAL including supply of ETS10Jet 24 Pres Pumps and Envirozyme Toilet Chemicals	40%
CV for Technical Support team for providing after sales services to the client when required	10%
Proof of warranty not less than 1 year	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01593)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **8.30AM 20th FEBRUARY 2023. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHTING PLANTS MS6K-9 MODEL TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Lighting Plants MS6K-9 Model and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this service as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01525	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHTING PLANTS MS6K-9 MODEL TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01525)	60%
Proof of Allight Authorized Dealer	20%
Provide Aftersales Support	10%
Proof of Warranty not less than one year	10%
Lighting tower sales Proof (History)	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01525)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the **GGML** Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **8.30AM 17th February 2023 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Govt should merge economic empowerment schemes to monitor public funds

ONE emphatic theme over the past two decades in relation to uplifting the living conditions and economic opportunities of various groups of society has without doubt been the creation of various empowerment funds. This thematic motif of economic uplifting as a whole has been so intensive in its expression one could scarcely believe it would fail to reach its targets, or be converted into help group networks of those managing it. How else can 70 per cent of loans fail to be paid?

The parliamentary committee overseeing Public Accounts in general was saying in its current annual report, where the themes relate to CAG observations for a four year period. The report urges the government to urgently merge several economic empowerment schemes to ease the monitoring of public funds disbursed to those funds, implying that they have no direction or best practices code. Nor would that finding be surprising, as empowerment funding isn't a commercial attitude, clearly.

Scarcely did any of the major economic empowerment schemes operating in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam show signs of following best practices, and this not according to PAC but to a CAG report as the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) had conducted a special performance audit for 2017/18 to 2020/21. Rapidly, the audit found out that the Agriculture Input Trust Fund had non-performing loans amounting to 20.1bn/-, equal to 72 per cent of the disbursed loans pegged at 27.8bn/-; The Kilimo Kwanza Fund had dormant loans amounting to 27.6bn/- or 80 per cent of the total disbursed loans pegged at 34.2bn/-, the CAG had unearthed. It implies that a section of fearful borrowers repaid, not the rest.

Analytically it follows that those who paid knew they were on a loan

and payback scheme whose rules had to be observed, while the majority in the two cases and in others knew they had connections with loan administrators. For some reason they knew it was unlikely effective follow-up would be made, where farms, businesses and living houses could be sequestered. If this fear is removed, repayment is annulled.

As if it was doing the right thing, the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) in its smallholder credit guarantee scheme issued over 50bn/- as guaranteed loans to 71 smallholders farmers. It ignored the relevant terms and conditions which constitute the loan safeguards, but empowerment scheme militants would say this is 'bureaucracy.' The point to them is to release funds.

As it is often the case in the National Assembly, this particular committee is chaired by an opposition MP, though at the moment estranged from the party. The reason is perhaps that they will feel more at ease to castigate government or public agency payout methods without risking political support or loyalty, if the big loan beneficiaries include those who sent him or her to the legislature. Nor is the other side too sincere in criticism as they would do the same if they took reins of power.

The legislature is prone to trying to figure out who did what wrong instead of mapping out structures of empowerment credit which bring about a commercial nexus, where no cheating is possible. The point is that if empowerment funds of all sorts, even in the case of input subsidies, are disbursed as bank or SACCOS loans at fund administration interest rates as they would create even clients for bank operations in doing government work as agencies, the cash would be returned. If one creates a special fund it means conditionality is rolled back, and loans stagnate.

Deep sea fishing ought to uplift consumption

WITH blue economy modernisation being top of the agenda in Zanzibar, authorities here are taking a leaf to make initiatives to not just adopt those techniques but also lay out plans for overall uplift in average consumption of fish. Preliminary projections of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is that fish consumption per capita ought to rise from 8.5 kilograms to 10.5kg annually. How far the deep sea fishing plans, its procuring better fishing boats and commercial outlays in their use actually could attain a consumption uplift is just a promise.

The ministry's department of research, training and extension services was just launching the sale of bigger consignments of fish gathered in deep sea on the country's shores, and the idea to make this situation continuous. As with other ocean rim countries, there is a 200km territorial zone where vessels from Tanzania would not overly compete with those from outside as it is the case in the high seas. The issue that is unsettled is how far improving equipment makes the fish affordable.

For one thing, as it has been the case with grain, the presence of immediate markets outside the zone pulls up prices, the difference being that salty water fish species deteriorate rapidly after catching, so widening sales over a broader zone or by retaining stocks for usable periods presumes drying up or using some other conservation method. All value addition of this nature also pushes up prices and then widens the market reach even further, dampening the price effect once again.

So far ministerial projections on rising fish consumption levels are to say the least timid, as this involves

moving from 8.5kg per person that a ministry expert said was the world average level for 1961, but pointed out that Zanzibar consumption level has attained 22kg per person annually. So there is a need for a minimum of strategic effectiveness in mobilising equipment via a taxation and competition environment with net effect of greater local market reliance by lowering prices. Not quite easy.

The Zanzibar blue economy ministry and their fisheries counterparts here have a lot of things to exchange and link up in the exercise, but will definitely be facing distinctive marketing and even operational realities. Whether they will also be targeting the nearby countries - and which, as most have a coastline - is unstated, but drying the fish and looking into the interior is a helpful option.

This aspect could be of some significant welfare input than registering foreign ships which at times put the country on the spotlight for the most negative reasons, and usually in our utter ignorance of how they ventured into this or that hole in a far off land.

While Zanzibar is at ease with a 1.8m people economy that can improve its welfare with blue economy strategies, on the Mainland one needs to augment this with wider possible use of inland waters. Fish farming on river inlets or creating such ponds especially when there are limitless supplies of water for start could make a difference. Freshwater fish facilities can be built anywhere with revolving credit from banks stretching a certain time frame, so long as the projections are right so as to pay the loans. The ministry can't project easy purchasing of fish, fishermen could, if they have the right facilities and a measure of motivation in taxes, etc.

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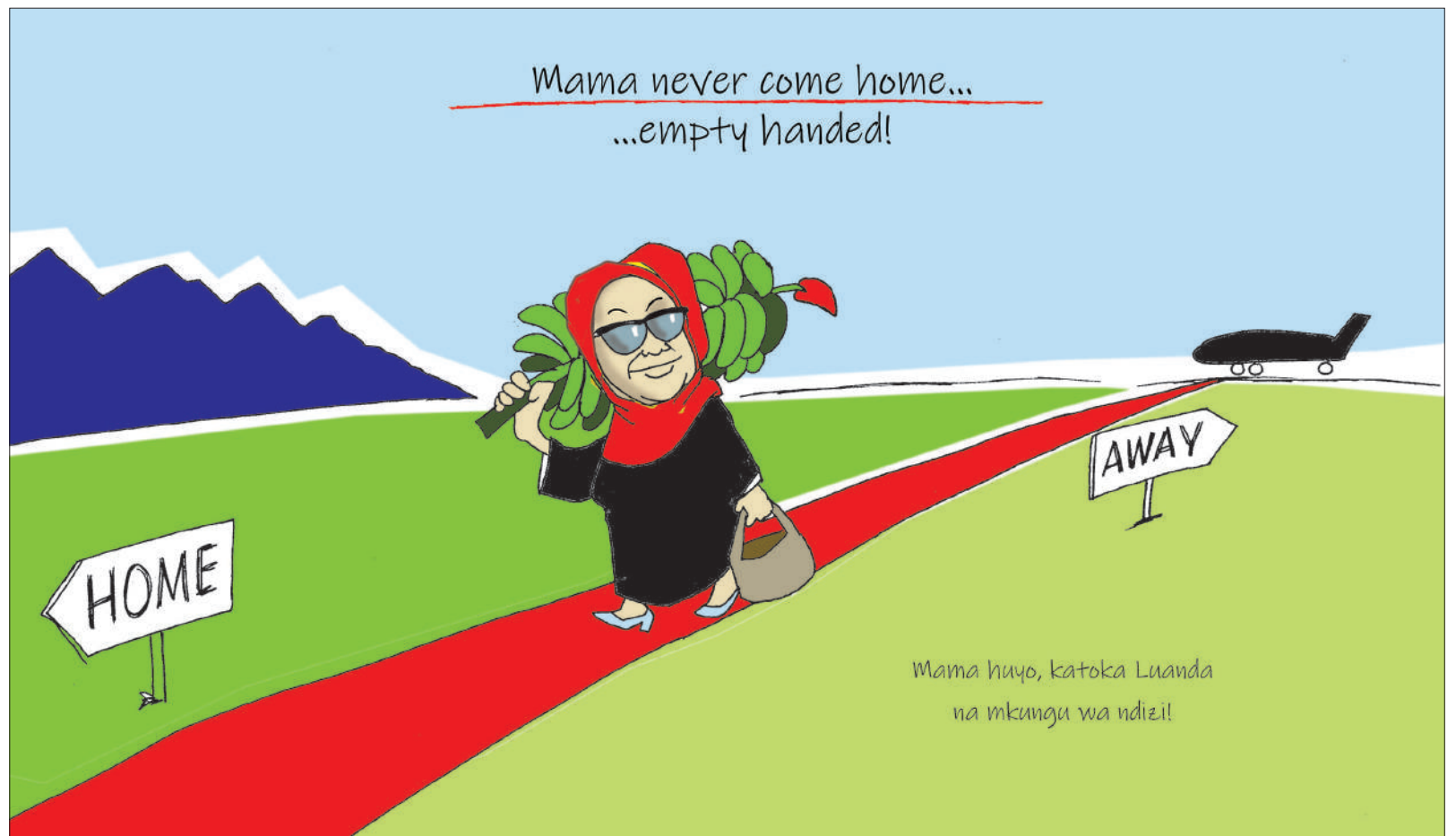
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By Special Correspondent

A lot of attention is given to corruption, and wiping this out, but this should not divert us from other crimes of theft and the need to stop these as well.

In yesterday's edition of The Herald there were stories on two thefts from state-owned entities. A group of three NetOne staff plus a bulk airtime dealer and one of his staff had managed to steal airtime worth \$565 999 964 and sell this, at a discount, to people wanting cheap airtime, and those numbers suggest a lot of people were ready to buy this cheap airtime.

This thieving has been going on since early last month that is for eight weeks and no one noticed with investigations only starting when a whistle-blower sounded the alarm, at both NetOne and the police.

Although it was obvious that there is an exploitable hole in the NetOne systems that allowed the theft in the first place, it is surprising that no one noticed this sort of theft, and \$566 million is a lot of money, until the whistle-blower acted.

The second story involved three staff of the GMB at Hwange who stole 190 bags of fertiliser, but the theft was discovered very quickly and the three were arrested and 180 of the bags promptly recovered, just 10 having disappeared.

It is clear that the GMB might have a hole in their systems that allows a theft to take place, but that the back-up systems were good enough to notice that theft promptly and minimise the damage.

The ingenuity of the dishonest is almost limitless, so no matter how good a system looks someone might well be able to get round any barriers and steal.

This is a perennial challenge for those in business, especially like NetOne in business that involves the thief finding holes in software, a computer programme and computer security.

The arrest of the two groups involved in the two thefts is only half the required reaction. Both GMB and especially NetOne need to check out their own internal systems, those on paper and those in the software.

GMB, which at least can notice thefts very fast, probably have the least to two while it sounds as though NetOne will have to have a detailed examination of their whole software systems to find out how to plug holes, and find out if there are any more holes.

The private sector probably has just as high a percentage of potentially dishonest staff as the public sectors, but has developed a lot of techniques to make it more difficult for anyone to move off the straight and narrow and then catch those that do exercise their

Systems must be water-tight against corporate theft



dishonesty as quickly as possible.

One major factor is audit, both internal and external, in much of the medium and large companies in the private sector.

This is very effective, the continual monitoring of transactions by the internal auditor checking out anything vaguely suspicious and the external audits looking at the systems as well as the transactions. This sort of checking would probably have uncovered the NetOne theft earlier.

The sort of blocks of airtime being moved around, one of \$203 million sent to a single number but many in the tens of millions, should have raised red flags early on.

We do not know how many transactions of this magnitude take place within the NetOne systems, but we doubt if there are that many considering the sums involved.

We suspect that in another company, someone in internal audit would be shown a list of very large transactions in real time and could investigate, and if there was something suspicious could then have action initiated to track down who was doing what. This is routine and is known to be a deterrent. A potential thief does not steal if there is a reasonable chance they will be caught.

What should be worrying the management of NetOne is that even

after the whistle blower raised the alarm, the easiest way for both the police and the NetOne investigators to move forward was to track down the phone being used to distribute the stolen airtime, which was in the hands of the receiver of the stolen airtime, and then work backwards.

From all the warnings we get from our banks, it appears that total trust in software is unwise and that sensible humans are needed to defeat smart but dishonest humans.

The global banking sector has developed a lot of techniques for preventing hacking or abuse of its systems and keeps these up to date, learning from every one of the now very few successful hacks, but also looking at the attempts to get into their systems.

Others in the software business can obviously learn from the banking sector how to close software holes that allow the dishonest to reach the money.

The NetOne theft also shows the value of whistle blowers. There is legislation going through the systems to protect whistle blowers, and to protect them even if they make a mistake so long as it is not proved that this was a deliberate spreading of fake information.

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission has made it clear that it regards this protective legislation as critical in its battle against

corruption, since whistle blowers are so crucial to some of its work.

We would hope the legislation also protects those in organisations who blow the whistle against other crimes, from fraud and theft to sexual harassment and the like. It is not just in the present NetOne case that we see the value of someone who suspects telling the authorities.

Almost daily we publish a police crime report where the police ask public-spirited people who know something to "contact any nearest police station".

This is important. The honest need to be active, and not just leave matters to ZACC or the police.

These groups are responsible for fighting crime, but often they need to know that a crime has taken place, and can usually speed up their investigations if someone who has seen something or heard something passes on the information. So it is right that they are then protected.

We also need to see all theft as theft, regardless of what precise charges are laid in court.

Corruption tends to be those thefts where someone with authority misuses that authority to steal, while theft from an employer is just stealing without being able to hide what is going on.

But in the end, regardless of whether it is the person at the top or the bottom, all stealing is theft.

We need more community initiatives to mitigate impact of climate change

By Telesphor Magobe

UNUSUAL sea level rise, warming ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, changes to rainfall and runoff as well as salinisation of water sources are some of the challenges facing coastal communities in Tanzania as well as elsewhere in the world.

Since these changes disturb known patterns of life, some coastal communities find it difficult to make ends meet because what worked then does not work now; meaning means of livelihood do not work anymore.

It is against this backdrop that institutions and individuals make various efforts towards restoration of degraded environment so as to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change.

Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), through its Centre for Social and Political Research (CSPR), in November last year hosted a public dialogue on climate change which was opened by its Principal, Prof Stephen Maluka, and was moderated by organising committee chairperson and public dialogue moderator, Dr Almas Mazigo.

Its theme was 'On Saving Lives and Livelihood Opportunities in Climate-Vulnerable Coastal Communities of the Indian Ocean Region.' The aim was to reflect critically on climate change and its interventions at community level.

The dialogue was attended by stakeholders from public and private sectors, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and individuals from Dar es Salaam, Coast and Lindi regions. It convened concomitantly with the closing of a United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on November 6-18, 2022. COP27 was a global event which needed local commitment and action to implement in the sense of think globally, act locally.

Public dialogue stakeholders acknowledged climate change effects were felt and seen in their areas. Those mentioned included sea level rise, drying up of water wells, flooding of ocean water and salination of coastal areas, invasive species and extreme weather conditions.

One of the climate change interventions that attracted stakehold-



Women members of Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group participate in a coral reef restoration activity on December 18, 2022. Photo/Telesphor Magobe

ers' attention was ecological restoration and protection at Somanga North Village in Kilwa District, Lindi Region.

Commenting on that, Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group Secretary Said Chande said climate change and dynamite fishing had detrimental effects on coral reefs and coastal areas.

He said sea level rise had caused a habitable island to disappear and its inhabitants had to relocate to elevated areas. Walking from the village towards Somanga North Village bay during low tide, one can view the scenery of sand and sparse mangroves but during high tide this low-lying area which formerly was habitable, floods with ocean water.

Besides, dynamite fishing has damaged coral reefs and affected fish production in some parts of the Indian Ocean ecosystem of Somanga North Village. Mangroves were not spared because some villagers would cut them down for various uses, including building materials. Others were affected by climate change.

Seeing what was happening, some Beach Management Unit (BMU) members (seven men and 13 women) formed what is now called Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group

to mitigate climate change and destructive human activities. They mobilised themselves, raised funds on their own, planned environmental conservation and protection training and held meetings after which they took initiative to transplant coral reefs in areas affected by climate change and dynamite fishing.

By January 14, 2023 a total of 6,918 pieces of coral reef attached to 2,306 small bricks had been transplanted in seven phases from May 12, 2022 when the first coral reef restoration activity took place in Mwamba Fisi ecosystem. The group's initiative has started producing results as fish species which were on the verge of extinction have started reappearing, according to Chande.

There is also another group involved in mangrove restoration and protection. This group too has so far transplanted at least 6,000 mangrove seedlings on the shores of the Indian Ocean in Somanga North Village as their own initiative.

Besides coral reef and mangrove restoration and protection, both groups engage in beekeeping as an alternative income generation activity alternative to fishing due to low fish catches. DUCE researchers collaborate with the Somanga North fishing community to ensure miti-

gation of climate change and environmental degradation is supported and sustained. The researchers also collaborate with schoolchildren on a beach cleaning project on Songo Songo Island as part of waste management and prevention of environmental pollution.

Some experts who attended the public dialogue shared their views on what can be done to further collaboration between DUCE, researchers and coastal communities and on coral reef and mangrove restoration and protection.

One of them was Prof Salome Misana, a former principal of DUCE. She hailed DUCE researchers for supporting Somanga North community to restore coral reefs and mangroves and called for continued support to make fishing activities sustainable. She said coral reef restoration needed proper tools such as boats, diving gear, submersible cameras and many more. She also said that fishing communities need education to build on and improve what they already know.

"I urge DUCE researchers to sit with the community to look into what they need most and help them move in the right direction," she said.

Dr Magdalena Ngaiza, a retired civil servant in education sector who is now

an independent consultant said farmers and fishing communities should be assisted to climb the ladder of development. She explained that collaboration between DUCE researchers and Somanga North community was an effective approach to climate change mitigation intervention.

"Listening to what people say is important for history carries with it the answers of the problems people have. It is good to trust and build on what people already know. People need to be supported without telling them what to do; all they need is empowerment," she said.

She said conducting participatory research, formulating questions and establishing priorities and choosing which one comes first and which one follows is extremely important.

"It is important too to build people's capacity and help them understand how to write project proposals and if there are mistakes, they should be helped to correct them. Development partners help when they see good results," she said.

Dr Ngaiza said that researchers need have a bigger picture of the problems facing communities and offer solutions that improve livelihoods.

"Researchers may not know everything but they should have deeper insights. They are the ones who should offer answers to problems facing ordinary people who may not reflect critically on complex things but need empowerment from researchers so that they may be able to solve problems," she said.

Although climate change is a global concern, it needs community interventions to mitigate. What Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group does is an example of how community members can organise themselves to restore and protect nature.

Of course, these community initiatives need government support to make ecological restoration and protection sustainable. Majority of climate scientists agree that climate change is real and is mainly driven by destructive human activities and its impacts can be reduced and this is what Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group does.

Improved pit latrines that enhance sanitation, hygiene in public facilities

By Getrude Mbago

USING pit latrines in public places such as schools has for long been a punishment of sorts given the stench and visible human waste with all manner of insects. In areas with thick vegetation, people choose open defecation instead of using such latrines.

Another challenge is that most pit latrines in public facilities are built where there is no running water. This makes it even harder for users, posing a host of health risks especially for the female.

It is this sanitation gap that informed the introduction of SafeToilets (SATO)—a toilet pan that mechanically and hydraulically seals pit latrines. It uses mechanical and water seals to close off pit latrines from open air. This reduces disease transmission from flying insects that come into contact with human waste.

In Tanzania, a number of schools and other public places have chosen this cost-effective technology to relieve users of the difficulties that comes with the traditional pit latrines.

At Kerezange and Jitihada primary schools in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region, the SaTo

latrines are currently benefiting over 3,000 pupils, enabling them to feel comfortable while using the facilities.

Speaking recently when officials from SATO Africa visited the schools to witness progress of the latrines, staff and pupils expressed their happiness as they no longer share one latrine nor use toilets of neighbouring homes.

Ismaia Laurence, a standard seven pupil at Kerezange primary school said: "Since the new toilets were constructed, we have been studying comfortably; we no longer endure foul smell as we used to with the previous latrines," she said.

According to her, prior to the upgrading of the latrines to the new technology, pupils suffered a lot to respond to the call of nature which some held for hours until they reached home.

Thabit Yusuph, also a pupil at Kerezange, said pupils at the school now focus solely on studies without worrying about rushing home or to the neighbouring houses to release themselves.

Emmanuel Taraya, deputy head teacher at Kerezange commended SATO Africa for supporting them with the modern toilets which have not only improved hygiene but also attend-



Using shared pit latrines in public places can be challenging given the odour and visibility of waste. A new technology that uses water and pit cap is changing that. Photo/Getrude Mbago

ance and attention of pupils in school.

"Previously, the situation was intense, we had few latrine for all pupils to share and they were not user-friendly which forced some pupils, especially girls, to neighbouring homes for toilet service," he said.

"They (pupils) were not com-

fortable to use the school latrines but after SATO came here three years ago, things have changed for the better; the toilets are good and the pupils use them comfortably."

He was echoed by Esther Gisunte, deputy head teacher at Jitihada primary school who said that the improved latrines are among the modern technologies which should be adopted by many schools.

"We need to ensure that this technology reaches more schools because hygiene situation in most public schools is not good and that is why we thank SATO Africa for bringing the technology to our school and the county at large," she said.

"After we witnessed how the improved latrines benefited pupils and teachers at our neighboring Kerezange, our school set aside a small budget which facilitated construction of the same here in 2020."

Gisunte said the advantage of the improved latrines is that they use little amount of water but for assured hygiene while leaving the room clean and attractive for others to use.

Yusra Abdul, a standard six pupil at Jitihada primary school said the improved latrines are clean and free of flies, cockroaches and bad smell which make them comfortable to use unlike the traditional ones.

Justin Mbowe, Lixil-SATO Africa country manager said: "We

work to make change at the heart of communities. Through our School Toilet Enhancement Programme (STEP), we impact not only pupils and teachers but also the broader community. In Kerezange and Jitihada primary schools, we installed the sanitation solutions which are now benefiting 3000 pupils and teachers who previously shared one toilet or sometimes used the toilets of neighbouring homes."

According to him, the toilets are comfortable as they do not allow odour to come out, making the surroundings good and attractive for pupils. Odour and visibility of waste are the disadvantage of the traditional pitlatrines.

Since the installation of the improved latrines, teachers and pupils in the two schools now focus on teaching and learning respectively to enable young learners to achieve their goals.

Cornelius Sindikila, sales supervisor at SATO said the company has supported over 200 primary and secondary schools in the country both in urban and rural areas, a work which has been done in close collaboration with the government and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

He said that SATO, part of Lixil, is an award winning social business which empowers communities to create better life and brighter future through improved sanitation and hygiene.

He noted that Satopans are cost effective toilets which feature automatically-closing trap door that blocks odours and insects.

In Tanzania, a national programme dubbed 'Nyumba ni Choo' (literally a house isn't complete without a toilet) has been crucial in tackling the issue of unsafe sanitation especially in rural vulnerable communities. The campaign has been a national behavioural change motivation in matters of sanitation and hygiene.

'Nyumba ni choo' programme reduced open defecation in bushes and public areas from 5.7 per cent to 1.4 per cent and increased the number of households with modern and safe toilets from 37.1 per cent to 72.1 per cent from 2017 through 2022. This is equal to 72 households with safe and modern toilets in every 100 households, according to the Ministry of Health 2022 report.

Reports show that 3.6 billion people globally still live with poor quality toilets that ruin their health and pollute their environment. Inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil hence contaminating water resources.

How COVID-19 proved an opportunity for youth in India's small-town

PUNE, INDIA

While a 2017 study by the Confederation of Indian Industry Jones Lang LaSalle India and WeWork noted the potential in India's co-working segment, it took COVID-19 for people to transition to co-working spaces close to home.

The study, Future of Work - The Co-working Revolution, which saw the potential market size of the co-working segment standing at 12-16 million, anticipated 400 million USD in investments by 2018, triggering a 40-50 percent growth in 2017 itself.

This was to be driven by India's emerging start-ups (given that India is currently the world's largest start-up hub) and India's freelance workforce (with India having the 2nd largest freelancer workforce in the world, more than 15 million professionals).

In 2020, India was hit by the pandemic. Owing to a forced lockdown in operations, many companies faced heavy losses. On resumption, they had to operate at 50 percent capacity (as per government directives), which meant curtailment in operations. Layoffs and salary cuts were invoked to survive. Barring manufacturing operations, the attendance of many employees was deemed unnecessary in the office. This ushered in the work-from-home culture.

Salary cuts, and work-from-home options, saw many employees move out of expensive metropolitan centres and return home to smaller towns and cities. Some who faced layoffs and salary cuts opted to launch start-ups. This gave further impetus to the demand for commercial spaces in small towns and Tier-2 or Tier-3 cities for co-working spaces.

Over the last few decades, small-town India has seen professional education pick up in a big way, with several reputed engineering and management institutions nurturing brilliant students. However, conservative values continue to rule here, unlike cosmopolitan metropolitan centres. Since many youngsters are first-generation professionals and belong to rural families of modest means, moving to a metropolitan city can be a big financial strain for a fresher. Internships, too, are difficult to come by for a student straight out of college.

As a result, many remain confined to low-paid jobs in their towns and end up frustrated in the long run.

This is where the pandemic has helped.

Take the case of the pilgrim city of Tirunelveli in the state of Tamil Nadu at the southern tip of the Indian peninsula. Adjoining the port town of Tuticorin, it has many engineering, management and science colleges. Tirunelveli is close to Nagercoil town in Kanyakumari district, which is the southernmost district of the Indian mainland and boasts a high rate of literacy. Yet, students from these parts have always had to move to either Chennai or Bangalore for a suitable job or internship.

Ronaldsen Solomon of Virudhunagar, though, has been lucky. A final-year student of Engineering studying at Francis Xavier College in Tirunelveli, he has landed an internship with an IT infrastructure company with local offices in a co-working space.

"I am acquiring hands-on experience, even



Young people from small towns are now able to work close to home thanks to co-working spaces that opened up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Credit: Rina Mukherji/IPS

as I attend college lectures for my degree," he tells me of his job at 3i Infotech.

For Jenima Hyrun of Chermahadevi town in Tirunelveli district, landing a job was an uphill task, despite her Computer Science degree, owing to opposition from her conservative Muslim family.

"I had a job offer from Chennai. But although my father has always encouraged me, my aunts and others would not allow it. Being part of a joint family, living alone in a metropolitan city was unthinkable for me."

When 3i Infotech acquired dedicated premises under Mikro Grafeio, Hyrun's prayers for a suitable opening were answered. She easily traverses the short distance to work from her home using public transport.

When Vijay Roshan acquired his Bachelor of Computer Applications degree from MDT Hindu College in Tirunelveli, his faltering English made him unsure of himself. As a farmer's son, he felt uncertain about moving to a metropolitan city either. However, when the same IT

infrastructure company launched its office through a dedicated space, Roshan was immediately recruited as a promising fresher.

For those who would rather not travel a long distance to work, low-cost rentals are not too difficult to come by in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Take the case of college-mates Vignesh M and Ashwin S.C from Thiruvananthapuram in the adjoining state of Kerala, who completed their degrees at the Nurul Islam Institute of Higher Education. Taking up lodgings in Tirunelveli is far cheaper than if they had moved to metropolitan centres like Bangalore or Chennai.

"We pay Rs 1500 per head, sharing a room among three colleagues in a nearby home. The place is only a 15-minute walk from our workplace, saving commuting time and money," Ashwin says.

The same is true of Shiny Evangeline and Abarnadevi from the neighbouring district of Nagercoil (in Tamil Nadu), Tamilselvi of Thenkasi, and Sahanya Wilson of Kanyakumari. This ensures a better

take-home salary for these freshers, who would have needed to spend upwards of Rs 10,000 for a co-living space in a metropolitan city. Shared rentals also nurture better camaraderie among colleagues, which is essential for better project teamwork.

When blue chip companies move into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, it can mean a lot for specially-abled persons like V Saumya, who has battled many odds to emerge as a Human Resources Head today. Victim of an accident as an infant, Saumya had to fall back on help from her parents all through her school and college years, fighting despite her physical disability to complete her Master's in Business Administration. Proximity to her workplace in Tirunelveli has helped her secure a job, and she too works for 3i Infotech and is appreciative of the facilities at Mikro Grafeio. "For the first time, I was greeted by a disabled-friendly toilet that I could use."

The world has opened up for Saumya, who now looks forward to travelling far and wide, even as she travels up and down to work on her

motorised wheelchair.

Although Mikro Grafeio intends to develop co-working spaces for individual use in small towns eventually, it currently confines itself to operating dedicated areas for companies. Chief Growth Officer Sundar Rajan tells IPS, "We are still exploring the market; in small towns, the concept is yet to catch up. However, Mikro Grafeio operates co-working spaces within cafes and breweries in cities like Coimbatore, Pondicherry and Bangalore and has Memoranda of Understanding in place with Café Coffee Day in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka."

It has several clients, 3i Infotech, CIT Services, Sotheby's International Realty, and others that are slated to follow suit.

Indique has followed a similar pattern by handing over dedicated spaces and co-working offices. According to Indique Co-Founder Rishi Das, 85 percent of their clientele have dedicated spaces, while 15 percent belong to the co-working segment.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Tanzania embarks on campaign to promote local wine

Recently our correspondent had face to face interview with Archad Kato, managing director of Alko Vintages, a wine producing company in Dodoma city. Among other matters Kato explained on the need to learn from successful businesses in order to develop our countries companies. Excerpts.



QUESTION: Two years ago the government announced that grape farming and wine making were strategic undertakings to be revived. How has your company exploited this opportunity?

ANSWER: I must say that the announcement came at a time when our company was taking measures to become one of the leading producers of wine in the country. We were also set to capture the international market. We thus support the government's intention and we challenge individuals to make good use of available opportunities in the wine value chain and in the actual production of wine.

As part of these efforts we have been in contact with Bacchus Africa, a company that distributes small, medium and big winery equipment so that even small farmers can produce wine if they so wish, now that the machines are available within the country.

In fact there are some individuals who have acquired the tools and have begun producing wine. We are ready to buy bulk wine products from some of the producers for use in our winery so that farmers don't run into losses simply because their grapes rot in their farms due to lack of buyers.

In order to meet our goals we have also invest-

ed in modern technology that has improved the production process and raised the quality of our products. Our products now meet the required local and international standards.

Alongside the infrastructure investment, we frequently train our employees so as to keep them abreast with new technology in the wine industry. They get training in South Africa and Italy, among other countries.

Alko Vintages has also moved closer to farmers so as to provide them with services they require. We have a winery at Matumbulu on the Dodoma - Iringa Road and we are working closely with TAWICO which is located in Hombolo.

We aim to expand our business beyond Tanzania's borders to include Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya where there is good market for wine and raw grape products. We also plan to sell our products to Zambia and China and will soon gauge the market in USA.

Q: How does Alko Vintages fair in corporate social responsibility to local communities?

A: We provide assistance to primary and secondary schools in Dodoma. We have installed electricity in one primary school teachers' houses. We have also provided

one school with computers and photocopy machine. We have also extended our assistance in orphanage centres and elderly homes, and this is not to mention the numerous individuals who come to our office to ask for personal assistance. In total, we provided assistance worth 45m/- last year (2022).

We have also employed people in various categories; those on permanent terms, on temporary basis and we also have casual workers. Their number has been increasing over the years. During peak production season we have about 100 casual workers. It is at this time that there is an increase of activity in all sections of the production chain.

On the other hand, we also provide internship stints to students from various institutions of higher learning in the country, particularly, those specializing in food science and technology, industrial engineering, environmental science, laboratory technology and human resources.

In the past three years we have received 43 interns from various institutions. We also help

small-scale producers to produce quality wine and our laboratories are open for them to ascertain high standards of their products.

Q: Recently, TRA recognised Alko Vintages as one of the best taxpayers in the Dodoma Region. Can you explain briefly how you attained this status?

A: Let us look back ten years ago when nobody knew us as a taxpayer in Dodoma region. But over the years we have moved up the ladder in terms of production and subsequently we pay substantial taxes as we strive to contribute significantly to Gross National Product.

I commend the government for putting in place a friendly investment environment that enables businesses and industrial producers to raise production.

Subsequently our contribution is not limited to the taxes we pay in Dodoma city but we also pay customs duties and excise when we import raw materials and equipment that account for 75 percent of our production costs.

I am glad to inform you that TRA in Dodoma Region has awarded Alko Vintages three trophies: Winner (Tax Compliance in Large Tax Payers Category) in year 2021/22; Overall Winner (Tax Compliance year 2021/22); Large Tax Contributor year 2021/22.

We are proud of the contribution we have made not only to Dodoma Region's economy but also to the country as a whole. We sincerely hope that the government will continue to improve the country's business environment so that more people can invest in various sectors of the economy. Looking further ahead, the next three to five years could see businesses multiply and increase significantly to become large tax payers.

The awards we have won are a catalyst for us to increase production and, as such, raise our contribution to the country's economy. The fact that our contribution is recognized regionally and nationally is a big inspiration for us.

Q: Alko Vintages has grown from scratch, seen tough times, but you have been unwaver-

ing in commitment to achieve your goals. Possibly, different players have had a hand in your success, one of them the Government. If you were to advise the Government, what would you want changed or improved?

A: The role of the government is to build the environment that enables industries and businesses to grow. Times had changed and now it is not just a matter of improving and increasing production but we must be competitive locally and beyond our borders.

Government has to put in place conditions that enable local producers to exploit opportunities in the international market. The wine industry, for example, is very competitive. Look at our wine stores, super markets and other places and you will find that most of the wine they sell comes from South Africa.

Competition is healthy. If you want to succeed you have to look at what your competitor is doing and how he has recorded success. If you don't do that, if you don't borrow a leaf from successful

businesses then you cannot break the ceiling.

I must admit that the success Alko Vintages has recorded so far is a result of learning from wine industries in Italy and South Africa. We looked at the technology they use, we also studied the professionalism employed in the production process and here we are now!

But I think government has a role to play so that we maintain what we have achieved. It must protect local producers without compromising the quality of the goods they produce. Agro producers have to be protected from cheap foreign products.

As I said earlier, competition is healthy but this must be on a level playing ground. Currently foreign and local products are not competing on a level playground irrespective of our high quality products that respond to international standards.

The unfair competition not only kills up and coming producers but also stalls poverty alleviation efforts among Tanzanians whose agricultural products find no market in the country and abroad.

I am giving this opinion because Alko Vintages is a company that has wide experience in grape farming and wine production in Dodoma. I am a former employee of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute-TARI- Makutupora where I worked since 1986 and I played a significant role in introducing grape farming in 93 villages in Dodoma Region. DOWICO was then the major buyer of grapes from farmers.

So I would wish for government to widen services of TARI Makutupora, cater for employees study tours, short and long courses in countries like Italy, South Africa and France to study modern grape farming methods and new technology in wine production all in a bid to raise production and quality of local products.

Government could also look into the possibility of abolishing tax and import duty on bottles used for packaging wine. We commend the government for abolishing excise duty but it could do more. The ultimate aim is to reduce production costs as currently the price of locally produced wine is almost similar to that of imported brands.

On a different note, government should plan to register and recognize grape farmers and wine producers in order to ensure that wine produced in Tanzania meets international standards. Along the same line, it is now time for creation of Wine Makers Association which aims to unite grape farmers and wine producers so as to chart out the development of the wine industry in the country.

Alko Vintages also plans to train grape farmers in modern methods using experts from South Africa and those from TARI Makutupora. Farmers will also be taught about wine production.

There are also plans to boost local wine market and in East Africa as well as Zambia, China, USA, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi have potential for bulk wine.

Climate change to take centre stage at Africa health agenda international conference (AHAIC) in March 2023 -AMREF

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Stakeholders in health and development from all over the world will, from 5-8 March, assemble in Kigali, Rwanda, for the fifth edition of the Africa health agenda international conference (AHAIC) 2023, whose theme is "Resilient Health Systems for Africa: Re-envisioning the Future Now".

Jointly convened by Amref Health Africa, Ministry of Health Rwanda, African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the biennial conference will bring together the continent's top thought leaders, political figures, innovators, researchers, policy makers and civil society for dialogue and action aimed at mainstreaming climate discourse into health policy conversations and vice versa.

Dr Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO, Amref Health Africa said: "This will be the first time that a global health conference in Africa focuses on climate change as a key determinant of health. We know

that climate change and health are intrinsically intertwined, yet they have for decades now been treated as two separate issues."

He said: "At AHAIC 2023, we will be exploring themes at the nexus of climate change and health including a rapidly warming planet, pandemic preparedness, food security and nutrition, innovation, research and development, gender, and conflict."

AHAIC 2023 comes against the backdrop of renewed calls by African leaders for more urgent action against climate change as its impacts continue to be acutely felt on the continent. At the heart of the conference will be sessions curated to find sustainable and inclusive solutions to Africa's most pressing climate change and health challenges.

"African nations remain particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We are already feeling the effects of deteriorating global health through extreme weather events and food insecurity, limited access to clean water, and

frequent epidemics. Yet these issues remain on the periphery of climate conversations despite the existence of scientific evidence that climate change threatens our well-being," said Dr Sabin Nsanzimana, Minister of Health, Rwanda.

As the world inches closer to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, African leaders at the conference will be urging the global community to renew its commitments to end poverty and improve health and wellbeing while at the same time protecting the planet.

With a youthful population of 1.2 billion people likely to bear the brunt of climate change, participants at the conference will also be advocating for more resources to be allocated to resolving the global health and climate crises as the world slowly emerges from the three-year grip of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While we remain cautiously optimistic about the world's ability to prevent and withstand the next global pandemic, we must also be cognisant that we cannot

survive what we do not prepare for. It is, therefore, imperative that we come together to find solutions to today's and tomorrow's challenges while we still have the opportunity. Together with Member States and partners such as Amref, the Africa CDC will continue to implement the New Public Health Order to drive Africa's health security," said Dr Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, Acting Director General, Africa CDC.

AHAIC 2023 aims to shape a joint African position on climate and health ahead of critical conversations that will take place at the World Health Assembly.

The conference will kick off with the AHAIC 2023 Wogging event on 5th March to coincide with the Kigali Car Free Day, which takes place every first and third Sunday of the month as part of efforts to make Kigali a green city and to fight non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This will be followed by three days of plenaries, high level meetings, workshops and networking sessions that will take place from 6th to 8th March.



TENDER NOTICE

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Church World Service invites applications from qualified, competent, eligible and interested firms for the supply of goods as stated below: -

Item No	Tender Number	Description	Closing Date
	CWS/RSC/TZ/KSL/003/FY23	Supply of Motor Vehicle	February 09 th , 2023

Tender documents detailing the requirements of the above tenders are available through the link below: -

<https://cwsafrica.org/tenders/>

Completed tender documents should be submitted through **Tenders@cwsafrica.org** clearly indicating the tender number and description being applied for.

Late submissions will not be accepted

Church World Service reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids/proposals and is not bound to give any reasons for its decision.

As Russia's Wagner mercenaries expand over Africa, the continental air smells of Cold War

By Phillip van Niekerk

WAGNER, in the words of the renowned French historian Gerard Prunier, is eating the carcass of Francafrrique, France's declining neo-colonial empire. Just last week, French troops were ordered out of another former stronghold, Burkina Faso.

The United States is growing edgy as it sees Wagner potentially morphing into a genuine geopolitical threat – a swathe of anti-Western regimes under military rule bisecting Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.

The US Department of the Treasury on January 27 designated Wagner a “transnational criminal organisation”, arguing that it has been operating “a systematic network of summary executions, rape, torture and other physical violence” in Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR).

The US is trying to get Wagner expelled from Libya, where it fought on the side of rebel General Khalifa Haftar, and Sudan, where it has allied with the number two in the junta, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as “Hemeti”, in mining operations and cross-border warfare.

There is a growing realisation in Washington that Wagner is more than just a pack of adventurers fighting jihadis and exploiting minerals. It is Russia – as exemplified by Lavrov's second African safari this year (although Lavrov's Africa travel schedule also reflects the fact he is no longer welcome in the global capitals he used to frequent).

Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin is now a warlord on three continents (if you add Syria), a once small crook has now been propelled to great heights of power and celebrity by his brutal willingness to take the fight to the enemy by feeding tens of thousands of convicts into the Ukrainian meat grinder. Some believe he could even become the big boss in the Kremlin, or at least the kingmaker should Vladimir Putin meet a nasty end.

Pope Francis has just concluded a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, two countries afflicted by endemic conflict. What a turnout he got – more than a million people gathered in Kinshasa to hear his message of peace. Pilgrims walked for eight days to receive the blessing of the Holy Father in Juba. These are societies where the Catholic Church remains the only organisation with credibility, national reach and a message of hope – together with the Anglicans in South Sudan.

The Pope won the hearts of the people, but as the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin quipped when he was urged by Winston Churchill to seek the Vatican's input on the Allied carve-up of post-war Europe: “How many divisions does the Pope of Rome have?”

Which might be the point. Wagner is winning because it brings guns and helicopters and military manpower to parts of Africa where civil order is collapsing and old colonial borders are defunct, leaving a void that is being filled by jihadis and bandits.

‘Kill the French zombies’

Wagner's attack on the French in Africa is accompanied by a propaganda and social media campaign fanning hatred against the former colonial power by depicting the French as predatory invaders out to steal Africa's riches and enslave its people.

One video widely circulating on social media and Russian telegram shows a giant snake wearing the French tricolour announcing it wants to conquer all of Africa while creepy



A handout picture made available by Russian Foreign ministry press service shows Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (left) shaking hands with Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diopand during a press conference in Bamako, Mali on 7 February, 2023. (Photo: EPA-EFE/Russian Foreign Ministry Press service)

skeletons declare themselves to be demons sent by French president Emmanuel Macron. Wagner's valiant combatants come to rescue African soldiers from this terrible fate.

Alongside his “private” army and his legendary St Petersburg dining hangout for mobsters and oligarchs that earned him the sobriquet ‘Putin's chef’, Prigozhin is the proprietor of the Internet Research Agency (IRA) a troll farm that has been responsible for sending fake news and divisive bullshit into more than a dozen African countries. He was indicted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller for gaslighting the 2016 US election on behalf of Donald Trump.

The propaganda offensive is proving effective, especially amongst the youth in West Africa, because it is not without foundation. It dredges up atrocities committed by the French decades ago but not forgotten in Africa.

Speak to any French-speaking West African intellectual these days and you will soon hear about the murder of former Burkinabe president Thomas Sankara in October 1987, allegedly with French complicity, or the 1968 coup in Mali that toppled the socialist Modibo Keita, who died in prison.

Even the comically awful “Emperor” Jean-Bedel Bokassa of the CAR witnessed his father being beaten to death for opposing French forced labour in the forests and his mother starving herself to death as a result.

In recent years bitterness has resurfaced over the fate of the tirail-

leurs, African troops who fought in the trenches for France in the First World War but were largely forgotten when the war ended. The French CFA monetary zone is commonly condemned as a vestige of imperialism.

But Russia's information warfare while preying on this history is also pumping out conspiracy theories that have created a widespread belief that Islamist terrorists in West Africa are being sponsored by France and the US.

It is rich that an organisation like Wagner, which styles itself on the most primitive features of colonial exploitation and has committed well-documented atrocities against African villagers, can claim the moral high ground. This is a group that filmed, and released on social media, one of its own members being executed with a sledgehammer.

What it does mean, however, is that France is on the retreat. The troops evacuated from Mali were given sanctuary by president Mohamed Bazum of Niger, who is himself under pressure, and unwilling to accommodate fresh refugees from Burkina.

Wagner's propaganda seems to indicate that its next target is Cote d'Ivoire, the economic powerhouse of French-speaking Africa, where president Alassane Ouattara will be term-limited out in 2025. Wagner is also courting Denis Sassou Nguesso in Congo Brazzaville. A step into either place would move Wagner from the Sahel down to the Atlantic coast, closer to the oil riches of the Gulf of Guinea.

France's scramble to keep pace with this onslaught has led to a search for new allies, including president Paul Kagame of Rwanda, an old enemy who accused France of enabling the 1994 genocide. President Macron is going to Kigali in the next few weeks.

Rwanda can offer a disciplined African force that has had success in combating jihadi terrorism – and would thus negate Wagner's biggest selling point. Can Kagame be persuaded to take the gap in Burkina to keep Wagner out after the French depart?

As one astute African academic observed: “Prigozhin is badass. But there is one bigger badass in Africa.”

Sudan at the crossroads

As a prize, Sudan is a step up from the embattled countries of the Sahel: an Arab nation at the crossroads between Central Africa, the Horn and the Middle East, and a critical partner of Egypt.

In October 2021, the civilians who were moving the country towards democracy were kicked out by a military junta which is now divided between its leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who leans towards Egypt and the US, and its deputy leader Hemeti, who is allied with Wagner and the United Arab Emirates.

Hemeti is a former camel trader who commands a militia known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), an offshoot of the Janjaweed militias from Darfur. He has been in the thick of recent fighting over access to diamond mines in the Central

African Republic.

The RSF is a bit like Wagner: alongside its fighters, it does business and makes a lot of money. RSF have crossed the CAR border with Wagner forces and are now seen to be threatening Chad, which is undergoing a rocky transition since the killing of its leader Idriss Déby in 2021.

All of this has led to an intense round of diplomatic wrangling.

The leaders of Chad, CAR and Sudan met last week to discuss the deteriorating situation on the tri-border area where Western Sudan (Darfur), Chad and the CAR meet. Item number one on the agenda was whether to involve Wagner.

Sudan's Military Intelligence Chief Mohamed Subir, a supporter of Burhan, was in Washington in January, meeting with members of Joe Biden's team to deliver a warning about Hemeti and Wagner. This was followed by the US demand that Sudan should expel Wagner.

Egypt's president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi travelled to Khartoum on 21 January. Even the Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen was there last week, though he did meet with a token protest.

Now comes Sergei Lavrov to Khartoum, looking to open a naval base.

You can bet that none of these discussions were about human rights or restoring democracy.

It really does start to smell like the Cold War again. DM

Van Niekerk is editor of the new weekly DM newsletter, Africa Unscrambled.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Thursday 9 February 2023

Rules for banks, financial institutions to invest abroad tightened

By Guardian Reporter

Conditions for banks and financial institutions to establish a branch or subsidiary outside the countries have been expanded, than previous one of not less than 150bn/- capital.

This follows the amendment of the Banking and Financial Institutions (licensing) regulations 2014, which published through the government notice number 13 on January 20, 2023 by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) governor.

The amendment of the regulations, which are now read as the Banking and Financial Institutions (Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 led to deletion of regulation 40 of the 2014 edition.

Before the amendment, regulation 40 of 2014 edition said that banks with a core capital of not less than 150bn/- may be authorized by the BoT to establish a branch or a subsidiary abroad.

Through the amended regulations, a banks or financial institution shall now not be allowed to establish a foreign branch or subsidiary without obtaining prior approval from the BoT.

In considering the application for approval under sub-regulation, the BoT is now required to satisfy itself whether the bank or financial institution meets minimum capital and liquid-



Bank of Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam

ity requirements on a solo and consolidated basis, and has a satisfactory performance record.

In addition, the regulation requires the bank or financial institution to satisfy whether is able to inject additional capital, as and when required, and has the ability to manage risks arising from the established branch or subsidiary.

Currently, only two banks including CRDB Bank Plc and Exim Bank are oper-

ating their subsidiaries outside the country, which according to the statements are performing well.

Exim Bank has a subsidiary bank in Comoros Islands, while CRDB has a subsidiary in Burundi and has extended its footprints into Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

NMB Bank also announced an intention to cross the border, in countries which are yet to be mentioned, but its managing di-

rector Ruth Zaipuna noted recently that they will do so "with cautious".

The amendments have also revisited capital adequacy regulations of 2014, as amended in 2015, by coming up with Banking and Financial Institutions (Capital Adequacy) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

The amendment has resulted into deleting the previous definitions of term core capital or Tier 1 capital, supplementary capital or Tier 2 capital and total capital by substituting with new definitions.

Under new definition, the core capital or Tier 1 capital means permanent shareholders' equity in the form of issued and fully paid ordinary shares, and perpetual non-cumulative preference shares, capital grants and disclosed reserves less year-to-date losses, goodwill organization, pre-operating expenses, prepaid expenses, deferred charges, leasehold rights and any other intangible assets.

According to the amendments, supplementary capital" or "Tier 2 capital" is now defined as general provisions which are held against future, presently unidentified losses and are freely available to meet losses which subsequently materialize, subordinated debts, cumulative and redeemable preferred stocks, and

any other form of capital as may be determined and announced from time to time by the Bank.

Also, the definition of total capital is now the sum of core capital and supplementary capital.

According to Banking and financial institutions (capital adequacy) (amendment) Regulations, minimum core capital of commercial bank and cooperative banks (national wide network) was set at 15bn/-.

Other categories include 5bn/- for microfinance banks, 2bn/- for community banks, 5bn/- for regional cooperative banks, 50bn/- for development finance institutions, 25bn/- for merchant banks, 15bn/- for Islamic banks and 6bn/- for mortgage refinance company.

In its recently meeting held last month, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted in a statement that the banking sector was adequately capitalized, liquid, profitable, and remained resilient to shocks.

Assets and deposits of banks continued to increase, supported by improving business environment, as well as response to leveraging technology in business and financial services delivery, including agent banking model, MPC statement said.

NAIROBI

From sunshine to rare minerals to a youthful population, Africa has the raw ingredients to make the green transition. Now it needs the finance.

Take power. Exceptionally strong sun and vast swathes of desert mean Africa is the region with the highest solar generation potential over the long term, according to calculations by the World Bank.

It's now cheaper to build and operate new large-scale wind and solar farms in many parts of the world than to keep running coal or gas-fired power plants.

With more than half of people in Sub-Saharan Africa living without electricity, expanding solar should be a no-brainer.

Yet investment in renewable energy in Africa fell to an 11-year low in 2021, comprising just 0.6% of the global total, according to a report by BloombergNEF.

Financing options are insufficient and expensive because lenders worry about the risks of taking on new projects in often politically or economically

unstable countries with broken supply chains – though the opportunities can be unrivaled.

"African cities and economies are growing faster than anywhere in the world, so it's ripe for transformation. The question is why we are not seeing the uptick in investment we should expect," said Wanjira Mathai, regional director for Africa at the World Resources Institute. "The biggest challenge right now is the cost of capital. To unlock that would be absolutely catalytic."

The world's least developed continent, Africa produces just 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions but is already suffering some of the worst consequences of a changing climate.

Rich nations have never met a 2009 pledge to funnel \$100-billion a year to help developing countries shift toward cleaner energy sources and bolster their infrastructure against extreme weather.

At the UN-sponsored COP27 climate talks in Egypt last year, delegates agreed to create a new

What Africa needs to go green is finance

fund for countries battered by climate disasters, though the details have yet to be hammered out.

And private sector lenders are calling for multilateral development banks to play a bigger role in financing clean energy projects in poorer nations. It's an issue that looms large over this year's climate conference, which is taking place in Dubai.

Africa needs investments worth \$2.3 trillion to meet the needs of its population, plus an additional \$1 trillion to bolster its infrastructure against climate disasters, according to estimates from the Africa Finance Corp.

Financing for climate-related projects around the world reached an estimated \$632-billion in 2019 and 2020, according to the Global Climate Initiative. Only \$19-billion of that came to Africa, including just \$2-billion from the

private sector. Even the continent's buzzing startup scene lags behind the rest of the world.

Africa was on the receiving end of just over 1% of the \$415-billion in venture capital that went into the startup sector globally in 2022, according to research firm Briter Bridges. Of that, 15%, or around \$800-million went into "clean tech" or "climate tech."

Faced with limited resources and immediate challenges, governments are making stark – and divergent – choices.

"Two days ago, we went to distribute food relief to 4.3-million affected Kenyans in an emergency program that has forced us to re-allocate funds budgeted for education and health," Kenya's newly-elected president, William Ruto, told COP27 leaders in November. "The tradeoffs we are forced to make between indispensable public goods

is evidence that climate change is directly threatening our people's life, health and future."

Ruto called for Africa to leapfrog fossil fuels and embrace clean power as the foundation of its future development. Lacking the oil, gas and coal deposits abundant in some parts of the continent, Kenya has embraced renewables instead.

Over 90% of its power comes from sources including solar, wind and geothermal. It also beat the European Union by four years in banning single-use plastic bags and is now considering forcing drivers to pay a congestion charge to curb pollution, a measure that only London has enacted, and that New York is debating.

But Kenya's an exception. Countries like Nigeria, Senegal and Mozambique are planning to increase oil and gas production, taking



Africa needs investments worth \$2.3 trillion to meet the needs of its population

advantage of prices buoyed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine almost a year ago.

If the industrialized countries, which prospered for two centuries at the expense of the planet, want them to curb those plans – or avoid drilling in pristine rainforests – they will have to pay.

"They ban coal, and we follow, they say firewood is not for fetching, they say we need to plant more trees," Bola Tinubu, a leading candidate in this month's Nigerian presidential elections, said in October. "If you don't guarantee our finances and work with us to stop this, we are not going to comply with your

climate change."

The Just Energy Transition Partnerships are an effort to respond. The first was signed in 2021 between South Africa and the US, the UK, the European Union, Germany and France.

The \$8.5-billion financing package was designed to help South Africa transition away from coal and provide a blueprint for new agreements between developed countries and middle-income nations that depend on dirtier fossil fuels.

The details of the deal weren't agreed until a few months ago though, with South Africa and its partners disagreeing about

how the money should be spent. In the meantime, South Africans have faced daily power rationing as the loss-making state utility Eskom struggles to manage its ageing coal-fired plants.

The African Hydrogen Partnership, a grouping of private sector organizations, is pushing to develop green hydrogen as an alternative for everything from public transport to clean cooking fuel.

"Our focus is on the domestic market," said its co-founder and vice-chairman Siegfried Huegemann. "It's where we see great potential, fantastic potential for developing new industries."

Fitch affirms Bank of Africa at 'BB'; outlook stable

LONDON

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Bank of Africa's (BOA) Long-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB' with Stable Outlooks.

Fitch has also affirmed BOA's Viability Rating (VR) at 'bb-' and National Long-Term Rating at 'AA-(mar)' with a Stable Outlook.

BOA's IDRs are driven by potential support from the Moroccan authorities, if required, as reflected by the bank's Government Support Rating (GSR) of 'bb'. The Stable Outlook mirrors that on the sovereign rating, according to a statement issued by Fitch Ratings.

"BOA's VR considers its solid franchise in Morocco and pan-African presence, which brings diversification benefits to the business model, but also its exposure to less-developed markets and more volatile operating conditions," it says.

"BOA's stable performance and fairly strong funding and liquidity are balanced by a weak capital position and asset quality pressures."

According to the statement, BOA's National Ratings are in line with its direct local peers but below the subsidiaries of large French banking groups as these benefit from potential support from their foreign shareholders.

BOA's 'bb' GSR considers the bank's systemic importance as the third-largest Moroccan bank, but also the



limitations of the sovereign's financial flexibility.

Fitch views BOA as a domestic systemically important bank (D-SIB) in Morocco based on its 13 percent market share of loans and deposits.

Morocco's real GDP is forecast to grow 2.8% in 2023 and 3.2% in 2024.

Recession in the eurozone, Morocco's main trading

partner, drought and high inflation will weigh on business activity.

Banks are likely to remain resilient having come out of the pandemic in reasonable shape.

BOA's operating environment score of 'bb-' is one notch lower than the standard score for domestic Moroccan banks due to its exposure to weaker and more

volatile regional markets.

BOA has a strong franchise and D-SIB status in its home market (which accounted for 70% of total assets at end-1H22), but its 13% market share is below that of the other two D-SIBs, Attijariwafa Bank (BB/Stable) and Groupe Banque Centrale Populaire (unrated).

BOA operates across 32 countries, with net income from operations outside Morocco representing 51% of net income in 1H22, well above D-SIB domestic peers.

BOA's Stage 3 loans ratio (end-1H22: 10.2%) is higher than at other major Moroccan banks, which is partially driven by higher impairments at its African subsidiaries.

Stage 2 loans are high at 8.7% of gross loans, although in line with the peer average of 9%. The reserve coverage of Stage 3 loans by total allowances (85%) is reasonable.

BOA's operating profit/risk-weighted assets ratio further improved to 1.8% in 1H22 (annualised) from 1.5% in 2021 (primarily owing to lower loan impairment charges) and is broadly in line with the sector.

BOA's cost controls have been strengthened but remain weaker than peers, primarily due to the foreign operations.

BOA's common equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 8.4% at end-1H22 was lower than the sector average (10%) and is managed tightly against the minimum regulatory requirement (8% at end-2022).

OPINION

CENTRAL BANKS ARE FIGHTING THE WRONG WAR

By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

Monetary tightening is like pulling a brick across a rough table with a piece of elastic. Central banks tug and tug; nothing happens. They tug again: the brick leaps off the surface into their faces.

Or as Nobel economist Paul Kugman puts it, the task is like trying to operate complex machinery in a dark room wearing thick mittens, blunt tools, and bad data all make it nigh impossible to execute a beautiful soft-landing.

We know today that the US economy went into recession in November 2007, much earlier than originally supposed and almost a year before the collapse of Lehman Brothers. But the Federal Reserve did not know that at the time.

The initial snapshot data was wildly inaccurate, as it often is at inflexion points in the business cycle. The Fed's "dynamic-factor markov-switching model" was showing an 8pc risk of recession. (Today it is under 5pc). It never catches recessions and is beyond useless.

Fed officials later grumbled that they would not have taken such a hawkish line on inflation in 2008 - and therefore would not have set off the chain reaction that brought the global financial edifice crashing down on our heads - had the data told them what was really happening.

One might retort that had central banks paid more attention, or any attention, to the drastic monetary slowdown underway in early-to-mid 2008, they would have known what was going to hit them.

So where are we today as the Fed, the European Central Bank, and the Bank of England raise interest rates at the fastest pace and in the most aggressive fashion in forty years, with quantitative tightening (QT) thrown in for good measure?

Monetarists are again crying apocalypse. They are accusing central banks of unforgivable back-to-back errors: first unleashing the Great Inflation of the ear-

ly 2020s with an explosive monetary expansion, and then swinging to the other extreme of monetary contraction, on both occasions with a total disregard for the standard quantity theory of money.

"The Fed has made two of its most dramatic monetary mistakes since its establishment in 1913," said professor Steve Hanke from Johns Hopkins University. The growth rate of broad M2 money has turned negative - a very rare event - and the indicator has contracted at an alarming pace of 5.4pc over the last three months.

It is not just the monetarists who are fretting, though they are the most emphatic. To my knowledge, three former chief economists of different stripes from the International Monetary Fund have raised cautionary flags: Ken Rogoff, Maury Obstfeld, and Raghuram Rajan.

The New Keynesian establishment is itself split. Professor Krugman warns that the Fed is relying on backward-looking measures of inflation - or worse, "imputed" measures (shelter, and core services) - that paint a false picture and raise the danger of over-tightening.

Adam Slater from Oxford Economics said central banks are moving into over-kill territory. "Policy may already be too tight. The full impact of the monetary tightening has yet to be felt, given that transmission lags from policy changes can be two years or more," he said.

Mr Slater said the combined tightening shock of rate rises together with the switch from QE to QT - the so-called Wu Xia "shadow rate" - amounts to 660 basis points in the US, 900 points in the eurozone, and a hair-raising 1300 points in the UK. It is somewhat less under the alternative LJK shadow rate.

He said the overhang of excess money created by central banks during the pandemic has largely evaporated, and the growth rate of new money is collapsing at the fastest rate ever recorded.

What should we make of last week's blockbuster jobs report in the US, a net addition of 517,000 in the single month of January, which contradicts the recessionary signal from falling retail sales



and industrial output?

The jobs data is erratic, often heavily revised, and almost always misleads when the cycle turns. In this case a fifth of the gain was the end of a strike by academics in California.

"Employment didn't peak until eight months after the start of the severe 1973-1975 recession," said Lakshman Achuthan, founder of the Economic Cycle Research Institute in the US. "Don't be fooled, a recession really is coming."

Is the Fed's Jay Powell right to fear a repeat of the 1970s when inflation seemed to fall back only to take off again - with yet worse consequences - because the Fed relaxed policy too soon the first time?

Yes, perhaps, but the money supply never crashed in this way when the Fed made its historic mistake in the mid-1970s. Critics say he is putting too much weight on the wrong risk.

It is an open question whether the Fed, the ECB, or the Bank of England will screw up most. For now the focus is on the US because it is furthest along in the cycle.

All measures of the US yield curve are flagging a massive and sustained inversion, which would normally tell the Fed to stop tightening immediately. The Fed's preferred measure, the 10-year/3-month spread, dropped to minus 1.32 in January, the most negative ever recorded.

"Inflation and growth are slowing more dramatically than many believe," said Larry Goodman, head of the Center for Financial Stability in New York, which

tracks 'divisia' measures of money.

Broad divisia M4 is in outright contraction. He said the fall now dwarfs the largest declines seen during Paul Volcker's scorched-earth policy against inflation in the late 1970s.

The eurozone is following with a lag. This threatens to set off a North-South split and again expose the underlying incoherence of monetary union.

Simon Ward from Janus Henderson says his key measure - non-financial MI - has fallen in outright terms for the last four months. The three-month rate of contraction has accelerated to 6.6pc, the steepest dive since the data series began in 1970. The equivalent headline MI rate is contracting at a rate of 11.7pc.

These are startling numbers and threaten to overwhelm the windfall relief from tumbling energy costs. The sharpest contraction is now in Italy, replicating the pattern seen during the eurozone debt crisis. Eurozone bank lending has begun to contract too in what looks like the onset of a credit crunch.

This did not stop the ECB raising rates by 50 basis points last week and pre-committing to another 50, as well as pledging to launch QT in March.

Mr Ward says the Bank risks a repeat of its epic blunders in 2008 and 2011. "They have ditched their monetary pillar and are ignoring clear signals that money is much too restrictive," he said.

It is just as bad in the UK, if not worse. Mr Ward says the picture is eerily similar to events in mid-2008 when the consensus thought the economy would muddle through with a light downturn and no need for a big change in policy.

They were unaware that the growth rate of real narrow MI money (six-month annualised) was by then plummeting at an annual rate of around 12pc.

That is almost exactly what it is doing right now. Yet the Bank of England is still raising rates and withdrawing liquidity via QT. I hope they know what they are doing at Threadneedle Street.

And no, the apparent strength of the UK jobs market does not mean that all is well. The employment count kept ris-

ing in the third quarter of 2008, after the recession had begun. It is a mechanical lagging indicator.

One can argue that the economic convulsions of Covid have been so weird that normal measures no longer have much meaning in any of the major developed economies. The whole nature of employment has changed.

Firms are holding onto workers for dear life, which could prevent the normal recessionary metastasis from unfolding. But labour-hoarding cuts two ways: it could lead to sudden lay-offs on a big scale if the recession does happen, accelerating a destructive feedback loop. In the meantime, it eats into profit margins and should give pause for thought on stretched equity prices.

Personally, I am more Keynesian than monetarist, but the monetarists were right in warning of an unstable asset boom in the mid-Noughties, they were right in warning about the pre-Lehman contraction of money that followed, they were right about pandemic inflation, and I fear that they about right the monetary crunch developing in front of our eyes.

We are told that almost "nobody" saw the global financial crisis coming in September 2008. So at the risk of journalistic indecency, let me recall the news piece that we ran in The Telegraph in July 2008. It cites several leading monetarists.

"The money supply data from the US, Britain, and now Europe, has begun to flash warning signals of a potential crunch. Monetarists are increasingly worried that the entire economic system of the North Atlantic could tip into debt deflation over the next two years if the authorities misjudge the risk," it began.

That was two months before the sky fell. The monetarists most assuredly saw it coming. So tread carefully.

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard (pictured) is World Economy Editor of The Daily Telegraph. He has covered world politics and economics for 30 years.

Smart monitoring needed in making groundwater sustainable - Davis & Shirtliff

By Guardian reporter

Davis & Shirtliff has called for strengthening of infrastructure and increased investment in groundwater monitoring to meet rising demand for clean and sustainable access to water.

The leading supplier of water and energy related equipment in the East and Southern Africa region said Tanzania and other countries across Africa are experiencing a rise in ground water abstraction due to rising population pressure on receding levels of freshwater resources on im-

pact of climate change.

Davis & Shirtliff Tanzania Managing Director Benjamin Munyao said African countries need cutting edge groundwater monitoring infrastructure to efficiently manage and protect these critical water resources.

"Improving groundwater monitoring in Africa will require a combination of regulatory frameworks, investment in infrastructure and capacity building, and partnerships with key stakeholders," said Munyao.

Countries like Tanzania will for instance need

to set standards for the quality and quantity of groundwater and put up frameworks allowing for regular testing and reporting of groundwater conditions.

Similarly, more investment in wells, sensors, and other technology that can be used to monitor groundwater resources are key in obtaining and compiling important data for better predictions of the future especially on how the systems will respond to changing land use and climate change.

"Groundwater monitoring is critical in helping

to assess the availability and quality of groundwater resources, which can be important for planning and managing the use of these resources," Munyao added.

For continuous and remote monitoring, local institutions and communities must be roped in for capacity building and training on effective use of monitoring tools and managing groundwater resources.

However, the most critical element according to Mr. Munyao would be to make groundwater monitoring tools more acces-



Tapping of underground water is very crucial for human development

sible by making them affordable. "By regularly monitoring groundwater resources, it is possible to identify areas where extraction is unsustainable and could lead to deple-

tion of the resource.

This information can be used to develop strategies to reduce extraction and protect the resource," he explained.

Already, Davis &

Shirtliff has established a water quality monitoring laboratory that provides affordable water analysis services that can assist in ground water monitoring.

In addition, the iDayliff IOT service developed by Davis & Shirtliff enables individuals and institutions to collect and analyze water quality data from multiple sites.

Putin's officials push central bank for more upbeat outlook

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin's government is pressuring the Bank of Russia to be more upbeat about the outlook for the economy and signal it's ready to loosen monetary policy as his invasion of Ukraine heads for its second year.

Coming ahead of the central bank's first board meeting of the year on Friday, officials want it to send a clearer hint that interest rates may come down later this year, according to people familiar with internal deliberations.

Governor Elvira Nabiullina and her colleagues so

far are unwilling to suggest any imminent easing because of risks of higher inflation, they said, and instead are likely to indicate that rates have little room to fall.

But they are open to improving forecasts, with the government content if the central bank delivers a message that puts it on a track toward looser policy in the months ahead, the people said, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the unusual conflict within the economic team.

At stake in the dispute is the direction of policy at a time when plunging oil revenue and increas-



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaking with central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina

es in defense spending strain the budget. The economy is heading for its first consecutive years of contraction this century.

Under its most recent outlook last October, the central bank anticipated its benchmark will average 6.5%-8.5% this year, meaning both hikes and cuts are possible. Economists unanimously predict that on Friday the key rate will stay at 7.5% for the third time in a row.

Official borrowing costs haven't changed since the central bank paused its steep monetary easing cycle that more than reversed an emergency

hike after the invasion.

The central bank didn't respond because of a communication blackout before rate meetings. The government's press service didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

In a later comment to Russian media including the Kommersant newspaper, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's spokesman denied that government is putting any pressure on the central bank and said the cabinet is in constant contact with the monetary authority, "acting within their powers and functions" to support the

economy in the face of sanctions.

"If federal spending moves higher in line with guidance and the government continues its FX sales, the central bank could resume cutting the policy rate in the first half of this year," says Alexander Isakov, Russia economist.

With Nabiullina in charge since 2013, the central bank still operates with a high degree of independence. The governor is a key architect of wartime policies that held the Russian economy together in the face of sanctions from the US and its allies.

Stanbic graduate program: Fostering graduates employability in Tanzania

By Janet Mushi

MULTIPLE evidence suggests that the lack of practical skills among graduates in Tanzania is causing a lot of our fresh graduates' employability quotient to be so low. Against this backdrop and with over 900,000 new graduates entering the employment market each year, businesses have taken to Graduate Trainee programs to address the challenge as they seek to attract and nurture high calibre, ambitious young professionals.

Unlike many other graduate

programs, Stanbic Bank Tanzania places young talented Tanzanians at the heart of the business. The bank has been running a Graduate Trainee Program officially since 2017, the 18-month program offers a structured route for participants who are fresh from university with futuristic skills into the working world. Through this program, the bank has equipped more than 20 young graduates with practical knowledge and an opportunity to build professional networks that provided them with a competitive advantage in the employment

market.

Our program also aims to support the government in creating a society that is engaged in sustainable employment. Through a vigorous recruitment process, the bank selects a diverse group of participants who reflect the skills and capabilities that suit the business needs of the bank and that of the market, in general, to ensure that they can fully exploit the opportunities offered through the program.

What makes the programme unique is the bank's spirit of It Can

Be which is reinforced by the programme mentors and coaches who are devoted to empowering the participants and encouraging them to push for greater heights. Candidates are given the opportunity to explore and experience several different areas of business allowing them to identify the area that best suits their skill set.

The programme has seen great success with 29 individuals gaining employment within the bank. "When I joined Stanbic Graduate Program in 2019, it was a year of transformation, I had the opportu-

nity to be guided by mentors who are Heads of Departments and Directors, and we were trained to master an array of new skills that were consolidated with assigned projects that offer exposure as well as practical experience," said one of the GT alumni, Fatma Mushi, now a Stanbic Data scientist.

Such testimonies encourage us as a bank to continue building the talent pipeline in our team, the benefits of this have been from welcoming graduate trainees, who bring fresh perspectives, to providing them with first-hand market knowl-

edge that's indispensable.

This year we employed 12 Graduate Trainees from different universities who were part of a recruitment process done last. We aim to continue being Tanzania's employer of choice, with a commitment to harness the skills of young graduates and create a skilled workforce that will contribute to the country's development. We call upon young graduates to be in charge of their career paths.

Janet Mushi is the bank's acting head of people and culture

India raises cost of borrowing to 6.5pc to tame inflation

MUMBAI

India's central bank slowed the pace of interest-rate increases while keeping the door open for further policy tightening to curb core inflation, an approach that aligns with the thinking of peers in the US and Australia.

The Reserve Bank of India's six-member Monetary Policy Committee voted 4-2 to raise the benchmark repurchase rate by a widely expected quarter-point to 6.50%, slowing from the 35 basis-point hike in December. The panel also retained its stance of withdrawing accommodation that it adopted early last year.

"We need to see a decisive moderation in inflation," Governor Shaktikanta Das said after the decision that showed growing dissent to monetary tightening. The decision to keep the stance, also off a 4-2 voting, is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored and break the persistence of core inflation, he said.

Bonds fell, with the yield on benchmark 10-year bonds rising by as much as four basis points to 7.36%, as the policy belied expectations of a dovish pivot. The rupee rose against the dollar before trading flat, and stocks held gains.

"With the stance continuing to focus on withdrawal of accommodation, the window remains open for further rate hikes if inflation exceeds the MPC's projections," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ltd.



"We expect the MPC to remain vigilant and data dependent in FY2024."

While headline consumer prices have returned to the central bank's 2%-6% target band, core inflation, the measure that strips out volatile food and fuel costs, has stayed above 6% for the past 15 months. The downshift to a quarter-point move allows the RBI room to study the impact of past increases, and raise when necessary, in line with the approach followed by peers.

Federal Reserve Chair Je-

rome Powell reiterated his message on the need for higher interest rates, even as a resurgent inflation may keep central banks in Asia from pausing rate hikes just yet. The Reserve Bank of Australia this week raised by 25 basis points and said further tightening is needed to rein in core inflation. The Philippines saw consumer prices accelerate to a fresh 14-year high, while Thailand warned that inflationary risks have increased.

"RBI's commentary is quite similar to US Fed com-

mentary - sticky inflation and growth," Sandeep Yadav, head of fixed income at DSP Mutual Fund. "Like the US Fed, RBI too is not signaling any pause. We believe that another rate hike is a strong possibility - and domestic policy is still intertwined with the global central banks' policies."

With India set to grow at the quickest pace among major economies in the year beginning April, and the government resolute on fiscal consolidation, the RBI can afford to stay focused

on its primary mandate of price stability.

The central bank forecast inflation to average 5.3% in the year beginning April, from a revised 6.5% in the current fiscal year. It sees economic growth at 6.4% in the same period, against 6.8% seen in current year ending March.

The reduction in the size of the rate hike provides an opportunity to evaluate the effects of the actions taken so far on the inflation outlook and on the economy at large, Das said, adding that the "global economic outlook does not look as grim now as it was a while ago," with inflation remaining a worry for some major economies, and also for India.

"It is imperative to remain alert on inflation so as to ensure that it remains within the tolerance band and progressively aligns with the target," RBI said in the statement.

Still, economists expect the central bank is closer to the end of its tightening cycle, given inflation-adjusted real interest rates are already in positive territory.

"As inflation begins to moderate, we expect real rates to reach near pre-pandemic level soon, said Upasna Bhardwaj of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. "The need for incremental rate hikes remain limited," she said, while penciling in a prolonged pause on rates with a likely shift in stance in April.

Kenya sets to launch climate finance bank

NAIROBI

Kenya is planning to set up an investment bank to increase commercial lending to environmentally friendly projects by absorbing part of the risks associated with such ventures.

Treasury says in the draft National Green Fiscal Incentives Policy Framework, that the planned bank is part of efforts to steer Kenya's economy onto a low-carbon climate-resilient green development pathway.

The green bank-to-be referred to as Kenya Green Investment Bank (KeGIB) -will incentivise private sector investments in green projects.

"The government will develop a green investment bank that will provide a range of funding instruments and associated incentives to support the public and private sector in overcoming barriers to making green investments at scale," says Treasury.

The operations of the bank will mirror that of Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company, which was started in 2019 to offer long-term funds to mortgage financiers so as to bring down the cost of mortgages.

The green bank is expected to provide a range of financial instruments including credit guarantees, risk-reduction facilities, debt and equity.

The bank could also offer support and expertise and provide incentives to develop innovative financial instruments such as green bonds, blue bonds, resilience bonds and transactions using carbon credits, according to the Treasury.

It says government will consult on the design of the bank including consideration about which sectors to focus on and the extent to which it might provide concessional-priced capital.

Green financing is currently concentrated in areas such as lending to renewable energy projects and providing credit lines for energy efficiency projects such as solar installations and wastewater management projects in the hospitality industry.

Many investors and financiers have a low appetite for green projects due to the mismatch between risks and return.

The Treasury hopes the green bank will arouse the interest of domestic institutions and attract private sector participation in green investments.

"The institution will particularly focus on addressing the perception and/or reality that the capital costs and risks of green investments are too high, and the returns too low," says the Treasury.

Kenya's banking sector in 2018 channelled Sh27 billion in climate finance against the total loan book of Sh2.49 trillion, highlighting the sector's risk averseness towards green projects.

The Treasury says the government will set up the green investment register - a database of key national green investments portfolio - to direct investment to products and projects that have a positive environmental impact.

The database will inform the private sector of existing green investment opportunities in the country.

Kenyan pension funds and other domestic institutional investors have been hesitant to invest in green products such as the debut green bond that attracted interest from foreign institutional investors.

Nigerian digital bank Umba launches operations in Kenya

NAIROBI

Umba, a digital bank for emerging markets until now operating only in Nigeria, has launched operations in Kenya as it begins to expand across the continent.

Umba is a digital bank built for Africa, aiming to open up banking services for Africa's vast, underserved market. The startup aims to make it easier for consumers and SMEs to interact with banks and mobile money networks, providing a transparent, low-fee service that allows users to take control of their financial lives.

Users get a no-fee current account, low-cost payments, billpay and loans. Umba also uses the proprietary data generated by customers to offer credit products and generate revenue where customers can receive and repay credit products through their mobile phones.

After acquiring a majority shareholding in Daraja Microfinance Bank, Umba can now offer full banking services in Kenya, including current accounts insured by the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation (KDIC), interest-bearing savings accounts, fixed deposit accounts, lending, and payments.

"It's a fantastic opportunity we have been given to bring Umba to the Kenyan market. It's been an extremely challenging and lengthy process to make this acquisition but the ability to stand on our own two feet and grow the bank into a serious player in the market is absolutely worth it," said Umba CEO Tiernan Kennedy.

"We're very thankful to the Central Bank, the shareholders at Daraja and our market expansion team at Umba for making this hap-



Umba officials

pen. Kenya needs a great digital bank to offer the services that customers want, without the massive fees they have been paying to the legacy players. The winners here will be who provides the best services and we're confident in our team's ability to deliver."

Umba has strong backing from leading fintech investors, including Costanoa Ven-

tures, which led the startup's Series A, as well as Lachy Groom, Lux Capital, Palm Drive Capital and strategic angels such as Monzo founder Tom Blomfield and executives from NuBank. Chandaria Capital is also a backer, and strongly supported the Kenya launch. "We're delighted to see Umba launch in Kenya. We invested with the knowledge

that they had a unique entry point into the Kenyan market, as well as a strong business in Nigeria. We believe that Umba brings a really strong offering to consumers and businesses. The team has been shipping value to their customers month over month and the result is an excellent product. Going from one country to two can be a big challenge, but the opportunity is huge when executed well. We're excited to continue supporting this team and this market opportunity," said Mark Selcow of Costanoa Ventures.

Umba has recently strengthened its leadership team through the additions of Peter O'Toole and Dan Watts. Peter is an experienced CFO and financial services expert, with over

30 years experience in leadership positions.

He was previously Group CFO of Interswitch and CFO of Remoney. Watts, meanwhile, has spent the past 10 years building innovative and sustainable lending programmes with banks and fintechs across Africa in his role of chief credit risk officer at both Remoney and Carbon.

WORLD

State of the Union: Joe Biden pledges to work with Republicans

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden called US democracy “unbowed” and pledged to work with the opposition party on Tuesday in a State of the Union speech that served as an olive branch to skeptical Republicans and a blueprint for his 2024 re-election bid.

In his first address to a joint session of Congress since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in January, Biden cited progress in a post-pandemic economy and stressed that a bitterly divided Congress could overcome its differences.

“We’re often told that Democrats and Republicans can’t work together. But over the past two years, we proved the cynics and the naysayers wrong,” said Biden, a Democrat. “To my Republican friends, if we could work together in the last Congress, there is no reason we can’t work together and find consensus on important things in this Congress as well.”

Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, sat behind Biden for the address for the first time.

“Mr. Speaker, I don’t want to ruin your reputation, but I look forward to working with you,” Biden said, drawing laughs.

One test of that challenge will be the White House push to raise the \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, which must be lifted in the coming months to avoid a default. The White House has said Biden will not negotiate over that necessity; Repub-

licans want spending cuts in exchange for their support.

Seeking to project optimism ahead of a 2024 presidential campaign, Biden said the economy was benefiting from 12 million new jobs, COVID-19 no longer controls American lives, and US democracy remains intact despite the facing its biggest threat since the Civil War.

“Today, though bruised, our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken,” he said.

Since his inauguration in 2021, shortly after the Jan 6 attack on the US Capitol, Biden has said he wants to unify the country. And he stuck to that theme, highlighting a massive infrastructure bill that many Republican lawmakers had opposed.

“I sincerely thank my Republican friends who voted for the law,” Biden said.

“And to my Republican friends who voted against it but still ask to fund projects in their districts, don’t worry. I promised to be the president for all Americans. We’ll fund your projects. And I’ll see you at the ground-breaking,” he added, drawing laughter and applause. Despite his efforts, Biden remains unpopular.

His public approval rating edged one percentage point higher to 41 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll that closed on Sunday. That is close to the lowest level of his presidency, with 65 percent of Americans saying they believe the country is on the wrong track, compared to 58 percent a year earlier.



US Vice-President Kamala Harris (back left) and US Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy listen as US President Joe Biden (front) delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber of the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. (PHOTO / AFP)

Similarly, in the autumn of 2020, when Donald Trump was president, 65 percent of registered voters believed the country was on the wrong track, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who once served as press secretary for Trump, rejected Biden’s upbeat vision of the country in her Republican response.

“In the radical left’s America, Washington taxes you and lights your hard-earned money on fire. But you get crushed with high gas prices, empty grocery shelves, and our children are taught to hate one another on account of their race,” Sanders said in excerpts released ahead of her televised remarks.

Biden aides see the speech, which will draw millions of viewers and perhaps the president’s largest television audience of the year, as a milestone ahead of the second presidential campaign he is expected to launch in coming weeks.

Biden turned 80 in November and, if re-elected, would be 82 at the start of a second term, a fact that concerns many Democratic voters, recent polls show.

Divided Republicans

Biden faced a splintered gathering

Agencies

of Republican lawmakers, eager to put their conservative mark on US policy following four years of Democratic control of the House.

But before Biden’s arrival, McCarthy and Vice-President Kamala Harris smiled and chatted from the dais.

McCarthy said earlier on Tuesday that he would not rip up Biden’s speech, referencing the actions of former Speaker Nancy Pelosi after Trump’s 2020 State of the Union address.

“I respect the other side,” McCarthy said in a video. “I can disagree on policy. But I want to make sure this country is stronger, economically sound, energy independent, secure and accountable.” He said he urged Biden not to use the phrase “extreme MAGA Republicans” in his speech, a reference to Trump’s “Make America Great Again” slogan.

Some House Republican lawmakers have questioned Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential race against Trump, vowing to investigate his Cabinet and family. But with a razor-thin majority and intraparty divisions, Republicans had a difficult time electing a speaker and are expected to continue to struggle to unite their far-right and more moderate members.

Western crimes committed during invasion of Iraq left unpunished – Russia’s UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

CRIMES committed by a number of countries during their invasion of Iraq were left unpunished, and any expectations of eventually bringing those responsible to justice would be unrealistic, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya has told reporters.



“There are many things in this world left uninvestigated,” he told a media conference on Tuesday. “And of course, the Iraqi hoax was never properly investigated. Nobody paid real responsibility for the crimes committed in Iraq.”

And I shall not today be explaining to you why. To think that there will be something like a tribunal on the Iraqi war would be a little bit unrealistic.

People are busy with other things these days. But the questions remain. There are so many crimes committed which are pretended to be nonexistent at all, as if nothing had happened.”

“This is the hypocrisy of the policies of some of our partners, including here in the Security Council,” the Russian diplomat added.

At the UN Security Council meeting on February 5, 2003, then-US Secretary of State Colin Powell displayed a test tube containing some white powder, claiming that it was a sample of chemical weapons developed in Iraq, which, in Washington’s view, explained the need to launch a military operation against Baghdad.

Russia did not consider the test tube to be sufficient evidence proving the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

As a result, voting on a resolution stipulating the use of military force against Baghdad did not take place. Nevertheless, the United States and Great Britain launched a military operation without the global community’s consent. Eventually, no trace of chemical weapons was found in Iraq, and the purported evidence proved to be a fake.

Protests continue in France against government pension reform plans

PARIS

AN estimated 757,000 people took to the streets across France on Tuesday to demand the government to drop its proposed pension reforms, the ministry of interior said on Tuesday.

However, the CGT, France’s largest union, said that the turnout exceeded two million during the third day of the general mobilization against the pension reform that would raise the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Turnout at the previous nationwide demonstration on Jan. 31 was estimated by the ministry at 1.2 million and by the CGT at 2.8 million.

In Paris, where the ministry counted 57,000 demonstrators, police forces used tear gas to disperse the crowds that sparked clashes. By 6 p.m. local time, 17 people had been arrested.

Similarly to the previous two general mobilizations, workers from several public sectors went on strike on Tuesday. However, there were fewer strikers among teachers and in the public services than in Jan. 31.

Rail traffic was severely disrupted on Tuesday, and two unions representing employees of the French national railway company SNCF said that the strike was to continue on Wednesday. A third of high-speed TGV trains as well as half of regional and intercity trains are to be canceled.

The French multinational electricity company EDF said that more than 30 percent of its employees were on strike at midday on Tuesday, which had greatly affected electricity production by late Tuesday morning.

The mobilization remained strong in TotalEnergies where, according to the CGT, the strike rate varied between 75 percent and 100 percent. Although deliveries of petrol products from TotalEnergies sites were interrupted, the company’s management said that there was “no lack of fuel” in the group’s service stations.

In a joint press release, eight unions called on “the entire population to demonstrate even more massively on Saturday, Feb. 11, throughout the territory to say no to this reform.” Also on Tuesday, the French National Assembly kicked off a debate on the planned pension reform.

In Jan. 10, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne laid out details of the plan, which would progressively raise the legal retirement age by three months a year from 62 to 64 by 2030, and introduce a guaranteed minimum pension. Starting in 2027, the plan would also require at least 43 years of work to be eligible for a full pension.

West should immediately stop interfering in political manipulation of HK’s judicial proceedings, says Chinese FM commissioner

The Commissioner’s Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) expressed strongly disapproval and firm rejection on Tuesday to the irresponsible remarks made by some groups and members of the US Congress concerning HKSAR courts’ trial of the Hong Kong 47 case. They slandered the situation of human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong, and interfered in its judicial proceedings.

The Chinese side urged the US politicians to stop their twisted political show immediately, as they flagrantly denigrated the human rights and rule of law in Hong Kong and interfering in its normal judicial system, a spokesperson of the office said in a statement.

A National Security Law trial of 47 opposition figures began on Monday in Hong Kong, drawing widespread attention both locally and overseas. The ultimate intention of these suspects was to take power in HKSAR by using loopholes in the city’s electoral system and to seek independence by colluding with external forces,

according to media reports.

Prosecutors on Monday began explaining their basis for accusing the 47 suspects of conspiracy to commit subversion, in the high-profile case.

Representatives from the UK, the US, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, European Union and France were also among those queuing up outside the court on Monday, according to the Guardian.

Laurence Vandewalle from the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macau, said the EU had been observing trials across the world “as a sign of commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law”, the report noted.

The Commissioner’s Office spokesperson pointed out that before the nomination of candidates for the Seventh Legislative Council of the HKSAR (LegCo) in 2020, those anti-China elements in Hong Kong had conspired to organize a “primary election” and fabricate public opinions in an attempt to seize control of the LegCo.



Photo taken on June 29, 2020 shows a billboard on the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in Central area in Hong Kong, south China. Photo: Xinhua

In so doing, they sought to paralyze the SAR Government and pressure both the Central and the SAR governments, said the spokesperson, adding that such a despicable plot not only jeopardized the democratic electoral system stipulated in the Basic Law of the HKSAR, but is also suspected of committing the crime of subversion under the National Security Law for the HKSAR.

Enforcing laws and holding lawbreakers accountable is the core tenet of the rule of law. No one has the privilege to be above the law, and no rights and freedoms should

cross the bottom line of national security. This is not only an explicit provision of relevant international conventions, but also a legal practice among all countries.

However, some politicians from a few countries insist on hypocrisy and double standards, repeatedly interfere in the judiciary of the HKSAR, and put political manipulation above the law. Without caring about democratic chaos in their own countries, they vilified the National Security Law for the HKSAR, sugarcoated anti-China forces in Hong Kong as “fighters for

freedom,” and meddled with the judiciary of the SAR, the spokesperson noted.

The spokesperson stressed that the rule of law is a cornerstone of Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability, and “one country, two systems” has always been upheld based on the rule of law. Since the implementation of the National Security Law, public order in Hong Kong has been restored, the legal principles upheld, development back on track and the rights and freedoms of local residents better protected.

The spokesperson said that in the face of the historical trend of Hong Kong moving from chaos to stability and prosperity, Western politicians can never get their way in disrupting the city by interfering in the judiciary of the SAR. No external forces can dampen the legal foundation in Hong Kong or the confidence of the international community in Hong Kong’s rule of law, nor can they impact our strong determination to safeguard “one country, two systems” and national security. **Global Times**

THE United States has a long-standing practice of exerting frequent long-arm jurisdiction over other countries. In recent years, the practice has kept expanding in scope, with U.S. “arms” stretching longer and longer.

The U.S. abuses long-arm jurisdiction and takes it as a tool to plunder geopolitical and economic interests and maintain its hegemony. The practice not only disregards other countries’ sovereignty, blatantly meddles in others’ internal affairs, seriously damages the legitimate interests of other countries, but also severely erodes the multilateral international order with the United Nations (UN) at its core.

In essence, long-arm jurisdiction is an arbitrary judicial practice,

US should renounce long-arm jurisdiction measures as soon as possible

wielded by the U.S. government on the strength of its national power and financial hegemony, to enforce extraterritorial jurisdiction over entities and individuals of other countries on the ground of its domestic law.

The U.S. has gradually developed a massive, mutually reinforcing and interlocking legal system for long-arm jurisdiction, and continued to lower the threshold and expand its discretionary power, thus shaping long-arm jurisdiction into a tool for the U.S. to advance hegemonic diplomacy and pursue economic interests.

The United States is the only sanctions superpower in the world. Statistics show that the previous

U.S. administration had imposed over 3,900 sanction measures, which means it wielded its “big stick” three times a day on average. By fiscal year 2021, the number of active U.S. sanctions designations had increased to more than 9,400.

U.S. long-arm jurisdiction strains relations between countries and undermines the international order. The country has extended its punitive legislation to the whole world since the mid-1990s, said French author Ali Laidi in his book.

The U.S. introduced the Helms-Burton Act to impose economic sanctions through long-arm jurisdiction on individuals and entities worldwide conducting transactions with Cuba, rolled out the

D’Amato Act which forbids foreign companies from investing in the energy sector of Iran and Libya, and implemented the “Trading with the Enemy Act” to expand sanctions on Russia, DPRK and Iran.

The U.S. always forces its own wills and standards on others, replacing widely-accepted international laws and rules with its domestic laws.

Out of the strong dissatisfaction with U.S. long-arm jurisdiction, the European Union put forward a series of proposals and initiatives at the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the World Trade Organization and other international bodies, calling on the international

community to pay attention to the harmful effects of U.S. long-arm jurisdiction, and even resorted to the WTO dispute settlement procedures. U.S. long-arm jurisdiction undermines the purposes and functions of various international governance mechanisms.

The U.S. has frequently imposed unilateral sanctions outside the UN framework. As a result, the sanctioning function of the Security Council is undercut, seriously affecting its normal function of maintaining international peace and security.

Despite the ruling of the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO that its Section 301 procedures are a violation of international law, the

United States continues to launch various unilateral Section 301 investigations on imports from China and other countries, and keeps all existing Section 301 tariffs unchanged. It has blatantly trampled on the purposes and spirit of the multilateral trading system, and eroded the cornerstone of the system’s operation.

The U.S., wielding the stick of long-arm jurisdiction, has become an expert of unilateralism and bullying, a saboteur of the multilateral trading system, and a manipulator applying double standards in industrial policies.

U.S. long-arm jurisdiction suppresses business competitors and undermines the interests of companies in other countries.

People’s Daily

Lavrov pledges further support from Russia to increase Mali's combat effectiveness

BAMAKO

RUSSIA will render further assistance to Mali to enhance the combat capability of the republic's armed forces, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following talks with his Malian counterpart Abdoulaye Diop on Tuesday.

"We will continue to provide the necessary bilateral assistance to our friends not only in the spheres of the economy, trade development, and humanitarian aid, but also in increasing the Malian Armed Forces' combat effectiveness and training servicemen and law enforcement officers," Russia's top diplomat said, adding that the Malians' "specific requests are being met on a systematic basis."

According to Lavrov, Moscow and Bamako agree that security provision is a key challenge for the Malians at this point. "It is by addressing these issues that we should be able to establish a solid foundation for holding future events, including regular elections. We will support Mali in every possible way in the implementation of the set goals and we will do so while discussing relevant issues at the United Nations Security Council."

"As you know, a UN assistance mission is currently active in Mali, and the [UN] Security Council reviews its mandate from time to time, and certainly, this should be done exclusively with full consideration for the wishes being put forward by the host country of the mission, in this case Mali," the Russian foreign minister concluded.



GERES

Fury boils over persistent US sanctions on war-torn, now quake-hit Syria

DAMASCUS

SYRIA on Tuesday lambasted the United States for blocking humanitarian relief work in Syria, a day after massive earthquakes rocked the northern part of the country and vast swathes of its neighbour Türkiye.

In a statement, the Syrian Foreign Ministry said that Syrians, while dealing with the earthquake catastrophe, are digging among rubbles with bare hands or using the simplest tools, as the equipment for removing the rubbles has been banned by the United States.

Sanctions have been a main U.S. tactic toward Syria ever since the latter was listed as a state sponsor of terrorism in 1979. Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, the United States and its Western allies have imposed a number of economic sanctions and restrictions that denied Syrians the means to pursue growth as well as access to daily necessities. U.S. sanctions intensified with the passing of the Caesar Act in 2019.

CALL FOR END OF U.S. SANCTIONS

Monday's strong earthquakes drained the already limited resources of Syria, where at least 2,470 were killed and 4,650 injured, according to data released by authorities and rescuers.

The city of Aleppo in northern Syria was among the hardest hit in the quake, with debris still constantly falling in the aftermath of Monday's earthquakes.

And for lack of tools, some rescuers dug through the rubble with bare hands in search of survivors in the snow and rain. Xinhua reporters witnessed.

Local residents are railing against the United States for retaining the economic sanctions when Syria desperately needs help from the international community.

Aisha al-Hilu, a school teacher, fled home with the kids after the earthquakes. All of their belongings were buried under the rubble. She blasted the U.S. sanctions, which have cut off Syria's economic and financial ties with the rest of the world and impeded the country's access to quake



People search for survivors among the rubble of a building destroyed in a powerful earthquake in the al-Masharqa neighborhood of Aleppo city, northern Syria, on Feb. 6. Xinhua

relief supplies. "These sanctions 'punished' us, but we didn't do anything. Shame on them ... They must remove these sanctions," she said.

Prior to the quakes, Syria was already hurt by a new round of U.S. sanctions.

On Jan. 16, the Syrian Foreign Ministry condemned in a statement the United States for imposing new sanctions that hinder Syria's import of medical equipment and spare parts through "inhuman measures."

At a press conference held Tuesday in the Syrian capital Damascus, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) President Khaled Hboubati called for lifting the U.S. and Western sanctions on Syria to facilitate much-needed relief efforts.

In an interview with the semi-official Mehr news agency on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani called on countries to pressure the United States into lifting the sanctions on Syria and the siege of the country to enable the delivery of international aid.

"The people of northern Syria are really suffering. Sanctions are stifling international relief and medical supplies. Thousands of deaths in Syria are preventable; earthquake relief should pause sanctions," tweeted Khaled Beydoun, associate professor of law at U.S.-based Wayne State University.

"Western countries don't need to send anything. Just remove lethal sanctions on Syria," tweeted Sharmin Narwani, a commentator and analyst of Middle East geopolitics and former senior associate at St. Antony's College, Oxford University.

OTHER U.S. WRONGDOINGS

After Monday's earthquakes, Washington has ruled out the possibility of dealing directly with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in quake relief efforts. U.S. State Department Spokesman Ned Price on Monday told reporters that the United States will send aid to Syria through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) without engaging with the Syrian government, which it does not recognize as legitimate.

The accusation that Syria is a sponsor of terrorism is "an old-school pretext" that the United States often uses to justify its intervention in other countries, said Maher Ihsan, a journalist and political expert.

"Look at the situation now, the United States is controlling key gas and oil fields in oil-rich areas in Syria as well as key agricultural areas ... the United States didn't come here to help, but to take advantage of the situation and impose their own will," Ihsan told Xinhua in a previous interview.

After its direct military interven-

tions in Syria in 2014, the United States has sent troops to oil-rich regions of Syria, including the northeastern province of Hasakah and the eastern province of Deir al-Zour.

Damascus has long blamed U.S. forces for stealing Syrian oil and other resources. Video footage showing U.S. troops using tankers to transport Syrian oil to U.S. military bases in Iraq have been widely circulated online.

In August last year, the Syrian oil ministry accused the United States of stealing 83 percent of Syria's oil output in the first half of 2022.

The average daily output of Syrian oil in the first half of 2022 was 80,300 barrels, while the U.S. forces and their "mercenaries" were stealing an average of 66,000 barrels a day, a ministry statement showed.

By plundering a significant percentage of Syria's oil supply, the United States has not only robbed Syria of its valuable resources direly needed for economic recovery and social construction, but also deprived average Syrians of crucial daily necessities in winter.

Syrians have to endure inadequate heating and lengthy power outages during the chilly winter. "The U.S. role in Syria has been destructive, to say the least," said Osama Danura, a Syrian political expert and former member of the Syrian government delegation to the Syria peace talks in Geneva.

"The economic circle in Syria has been damaged by such unilateral measures."

Xinhua

Lack of jobs drives violent extremism in sub-Saharan Africa, says UNDP

UNITED NATIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT is the leading factor driving people in sub-Saharan Africa to join violent extremist groups, according to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report released on Tuesday.

The report, entitled Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement, underscores the importance of economic factors as drivers of recruitment.

Lack of income, job opportunities and livelihoods means that "desperation is essentially pushing people to take up opportunities, with whoever offers that," said Achim Steiner, administrator of UNDP, speaking at the report launch. Approximately 25 percent of all recruits cited a lack of job opportunities as their primary reason, while 40 percent stated that they were "in urgent need of livelihoods at the time of recruitment," he said.

With almost half of global terrorism deaths in 2021 occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, it has become the new epicenter of violent extremism.

Almost 2,200 people were interviewed in eight countries, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Chad.

The interviewees include more than 1,000 former members of violent extremist groups, both voluntary and forced. Unemployment was named as the main factor by a quarter of those who volunteered, an increase of 92 percent from the last UNDP study in 2017. Forty-eight percent of voluntary recruits said "a triggering event" led them to sign up.

Of that figure, some "71 percent cited human rights abuses they had suffered, such as government action," said Nirina Kiplagat, main author of the report and UNDP Preventing Violent Extremism technical lead in Africa. Among the triggers cited were seeing a father arrested, or seeing a brother taken away by national military forces.

Peer pressure from family or friends, including following their spouses into extremist groups, is cited as the second most common driver of recruitment. Around 17 percent of interviewees cited religious ideology as the third most common reason for joining. This presents a 57 percent decrease from the 2017 findings.

This is the third report in a series that examines how to prevent violent extremism. It highlights the urgent need to move away from security-driven responses to development-based approaches focused on prevention, said UNDP. A greater investment is recommended in basic services such as child welfare and education, as well as rehabilitation and community-based reintegration. Steiner said a "toxic mix" was being created of poverty, destitution, and lack of opportunity, with so many citing the "urgent need to find livelihoods." It is tantamount to a society "no longer having a rule of law, turning to some of these violent extremists' groups to provide security."

Security-driven counter-terrorism responses are often costly and minimally effective, said the UNDP administrator, and investments in preventive approaches to violent extremism are inadequate. In the Sahel, terrorist cells such as ISIS, Boko Haram, and al-Qaeda emerge as a result of local conditions, but then amass weapons and secure financing.

"The geopolitical dimension should not surprise anyone," said Steiner, where states are no longer able to provide the rule of law or meaningful national security, "then the opportunity for other actors to become part of this drama grows exponentially, we have seen it in Mali, we have seen it in Libya, we have seen it at the Horn of Africa." Additionally, the report identified factors that cause recruits to leave armed groups, such as unmet financial expectations or a lack of trust in the group's leadership.

London policeman jailed for 32 years for 'monstrous' rape

LONDON

A FORMER London police officer was jailed on Tuesday for more than 30 years for an "unrestrained campaign of rape and abuse of women" over nearly two decades in the latest scandal to hit Britain's biggest police force.

David Carrick, who worked in the Metropolitan Police's parliamentary and diplomatic protection service, used his position to intimidate victims, saying no one would believe their word against a serving officer, prosecutors said.

One victim told the court that Carrick had threatened her with his baton and also sent him a photograph of his police-issued firearm saying: "Remember, I am the boss." "I was too frightened to go to the police to lodge a complaint as (Carrick) had drilled it into me that 'he was the police, he was the law and he owned me'. I was convinced the police would not believe me," she said in a written statement.

The 48-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to 49 charges relating to 12 victims between 2003 and 2020, making him one of Britain's most prolific sex offenders.

Carrick's offences, which included 24 counts of rape, were all committed while in the Met, which is already reeling from other revelations of wrongdoing in recent years.

He appeared at London's Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday as Judge Bobbie Cheema-Grubb imposed 36 life sentences, with a minimum term of 32 years minus the time he has already served.

"Behind a public appearance of propriety and trustworthiness, you took monstrous advantage of women drawn into intimate relationships with you," Cheema-Grubb told Carrick who sat impassively in the dock.

"You brazenly raped and sexually assaulted many women ... and you behaved as if you were untouchable. You were bold and, at times, relentless, trusting that no victim would overcome her shame and fear to report you."

New application scenarios for digital yuan keep emerging

MOBILE payment now can still work when cellphone batteries is out-of-juice.

Earlier this year, the application of China's digital fiat currency, or the e-CNY app, launched a new tap-and-go payment service enabling users to pay without limitations of phone batteries and internet connection.

Over the recent years, technological innovation, particularly in the sector of digital economy, has become an important force driving new development impetus.

The expanding influence of digital economy is constantly optimizing the ecosystem and diversifying application scenarios for digital yuan.

According to a white paper issued by the People's Bank of China, China's central bank, the rapid development of the electronic payment, especially the mobile payment in China, while assisting the digital economy, has made digital payment a habit of the public and expanded people's demand for technological and service innovations.

The development and application of digital yuan are conducive to meeting people's demand for legal tender in the era of digital economy, and help improve the convenience, safety, and anti-counterfeiting performance of retail payments, thus promoting the development of China's digital economy, said Pan Helin, co-director of the Digital Economy and Financial Innovation Research Center at Zhejiang University's International Business School.

During the just-ended Chinese New Year holiday, digital yuan brought consumers not only convenience, but also benefits.



An employee of the Postal Savings Bank of China instructs a citizen to get red packets on the application of China's digital fiat currency in southwest China's Chongqing municipality. (Photo by Li Hongbo/People's Daily Online)

Many local governments in cities where digital yuan programs are piloted issued digital yuan vouchers during the holiday, which further expanded the application of the digital currency.

According to statistics released by Meituan, a Chinese shopping platform for locally found consumer products and retail services, during the Chinese New Year holiday, the number of digital yuan transactions on the platform increased nearly fourfold from a year ago, and the number of digital yuan users expanded five times. The total digital yuan transaction volume surged 6.2 times year on year.

Local authorities issued digital yuan vouchers because of the smart contract function of digital yuan. This function uses a computer program to write contracts and automatically fulfills the contractual obligations by making digital yuan payments according to the agreed-upon conditions. This function could help with the targeted issuance of financial subsidies.

Zhou Maohua, an analyst with the China Everbright Bank, told People's Daily that the combination of digital yuan and such scenarios as vouchers

and e-commerce platforms could better promote the digital currency and boost the recovery of the consumption market.

So far, the People's Bank of China has piloted digital yuan programs in 17 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities across the country. According to incomplete statistics, local governments in those places have launched nearly 50 digital yuan promotion activities since 2022, forcefully boosting consumption recovery and releasing consumption potential.

As of the end of 2022, the amount of digital yuan in circulation reached 13.61 billion yuan (\$2.01 billion). Experts believe that as a public good provided by the People's Bank of China to the domestic retail payment market, digital yuan will further lower the access to financial services and make these services more inclusive.

Via the wallet in the e-CNY app, digital yuan can bring convenient financial services to residents in rural and remote areas who have no bank account, which is conducive to the development of inclusive finance, said Dong Ximiao, chief researcher with Merchants Union Consumer Finance Company Limited, adding that

foreign tourists without any Chinese bank account can also finish small-value transfers via the wallet.

Digital yuan is a quasi-account-based payment instrument with loosely coupled account linkage, which means users can open digital yuan wallets and pay with digital currency with their mobile phone numbers or other sole identities, even if they don't have a bank account, Dong said.

"The goal of digital yuan development and pilot programs is to serve the real economy and facilitate people's life," Dong told People's Daily, adding that the digital currency will play a bigger role in improving payment efficiency and expanding the inclusiveness of financial services as it is further promoted and used.

People's Daily

Government to meet part of special athletes' expenses for Special Olympics Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's government says it is committed to seeing that people with intellectual challenges are fully involved in sporting activities.

National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary-General Neema Msitha said so in Dar es Salaam early this week when she met the Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) officials.

The NSC official assured them that the government will sponsor half of the country's national Special Olympics team delegates trip to Germany to participate in Special Olympics Summer Games slated for June.

She said her office had, last year, received a letter from SOT asking for financial support, and, after discussions, the NSC thought it wise to help the SOT.

Neema noted: "We are committed to seeing that people with disabilities and those with intellectual challenges are fully involved in sporting activities."

The NSC official pointed out: "Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) leaders have informed us that the body plans to send 31 people to the Summer Games."

"We, as a government that is committed to inclusive sports, will take care of flight tickets for half of the contingent, we appeal to stakeholders and others to help SOT so that it can send all 31 delegates," she said.



National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary-General, Neema Msitha.

SOT Director, Charles Rays, said the country's national team is expected to depart on June 12 with a delegation of 31 people to the Special Olympics Summer Games that have been slated for June 17-26.

Rays said SOT needs 190m/- for the body to successfully send athletes, officials, and leaders.

Athletes making the national side will compete in athletics and mixed unified volleyball.

He thanked the government for supporting them and asked sports lovers and stakeholders to help SOT financially so that the body can send the team to Germany for the Games.

Rays said the team is made up of 22 athletes who were selected from SOT subprograms/regions which took part in the National Championships which were held in Mwanza last year.

The athletes will be accompanied by four coaches, three officials, and two team physicians.

"We thank the government for coming to our rescue, sponsoring half of the delegates it's a very welcome move, But we still need more support as the government offer is only for air tickets."

"We are short of flight tickets for the remaining people, accommodation, camp, and other necessities, we are appealing to stakeholders to help us so that we can successfully compete in the Games," he said.

Initially, SOT planned to start preparations for the Games in May but Rays could not say if the camp will take place as planned, noting the information will be released soon.

This will be the first time that Germany is hosting the World Special Olympics and more than 700 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 170 countries will compete in the showpiece.

The Special Olympics World Summer Games are held every four years and are the world's largest inclusive sports event.

Tanzania has been doing well in Special Olympics Games. Last year's Pan African Special Olympics Games in Egypt saw Tanzania collect 11 medals.

Tunisia fly out: Adding Bernard Morrison unease to Feisal Salum at Jangwani Street

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

SOME of us thought that Young Africans SC's head coach Nasreddine Nabi was exaggerating when asserting that he faces difficulties setting up his side without the presence of estranged midfielder Feisal Salum.

At that time, he already had attacker Kennedy Musonda on the squad, popularly known as Yanga, but was yet to receive Jean Baleke of Simba SC, who is proving to be just as effective.

The trouble is that instead of this situation removing the soul searching on Feisal Salum it merely appears to have stabilized it, from panicking to waiting and seeing.

And as if punishment lay ahead, they are now unsure of a key player.

Pundits agree unanimously that Ghanaian winger Bernard Morrison is one of the most effective players in the side, and perhaps the most effective at the wing position, helping to create several vital scores, especially with more recent international engagements.

That is where the worry stands at present, as to how far the usually controversial winger fits into the picture as the club side readies for a vital away encounter in the Tunisian capital of Tunis.

Pundits are trying to see how the new frontline package of Kisinda, Musonda, and Mayele may square up things.

The trouble with managing the situation is that the wayward winger doesn't fit in with orthodox team management of 'one size fits all' when it comes to training schedules and discipline as a whole.

Yet it is cardinal for any team that players attend sessions in the same manner and do nearly the same amount of work to ensure the same match fitness for everyone, otherwise, there



Bernard Morrison. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

are evident gaps.

What sentiment there is in club leadership is unclear, but pundits seem to be giving up.

Using the short window registration to rope in Mudathir Yahya and Kennedy Musonda has helped with the situation, partly because inwardly, the leadership knows that Feisal is not coming back anytime soon, and whatever the case he will have to be released.

Whether the other registration was due to fear of injuries on dependable strikers or midfielders is one thing, but it has the quality of a stitch in time.

Pundits have been mapping out tactics for the Tunis encounter without mentioning BM.

Yet the head coach may still be able to fit in the errand forward as the club had to bend over backward to accommodate him.

After a bit of malaise, it is even possible players will understand, as well as team officials or handlers, the wide

final preliminary encounter by a virtual miracle is likely to reproduce such miracles at the group stage.

It would by account suggest that its place isn't the most assured, but as it is a parachuted side from the upper-level tournament that is a minimal point of reassurance as it implies it meets sides similar to itself, not 'the best of the best'.

Yet their entrance into the group stage was more laborious than their city archrivals, looking generally comfortable so far.

To an extent this isn't quite surprising because a tournament takes place during a whole season, which isn't a minor portion of the playing lifetime of anyone, thus vast changes can be noticed in squad capacity or individual players during such a time lag.

This is hardly just in the physical fitness but also in the psychological mould as each player, coach, and even club leader undergoes a cycle of temperament in a year or in a career with a specific club, which is altered bit by bit with each passing year.

So the head coach might be the same, the countryside they are playing is the same, and the squad is largely the same, but a lot of water has passed under the bridge.

The issue hence is whether in psychological terms the head coach has a better or the same squad compared to his earlier visit, where a few pieces of data content.

The players have greater experience in playing Tunisian top sides and that way they stand to resist the crowd pressure more effectively while the weather is more biting than it was earlier.

Still, there is a way in which Tunisian sides can claw back on this experience, assuming they learned something from the Yanga twin side's fall the last time the Nabi side visited the country.

They had temptations to sack the coach after the defeat to Yanga but seemingly resisted the wish, for some reason.

Simba SC favourite for quarterfinal spot in 2022/23 CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFRICA inter-club soccer competitions keep getting better as the 2022/23 CAF Champions League has of late reached the Group Stage.

The dates are set, the clubs are ready, and it is time to preview the situation.

With only 16 clubs remaining in the battle, four groups of four teams each were made public in Cairo, Egypt on December 12, 2022.

The top two clubs from each group will progress to the quarterfinal, a knockout stage, and I admit that I hardly expect many surprises to happen.

Participating outfits in this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage are in four groups.

Group A is made up of defending champions Wydad Athletic Club (Morocco), Petro de Luanda (Angola), JS Kabylie (Algeria), and AS Vita Club (DR Congo).

Group B competitors include previous season showdown finalists Al Ahly (Egypt), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Al Hilal (Sudan), and Coton Sport (Cameroon).

Group C is made up of Raja Athletic Club (Morocco), Horoya AC (Guinea), Simba SC (Tanzania), and Vipers SC (Uganda).

Esperance (Tunisia), Zamalek (Egypt), CR Belouizdad (Algeria), and Al Merreikh (Sudan) make Group D.

CAF Champions League Matchday Schedule:

Matchday 1: February 10-11, 2023, Matchday 2: February 17-18, 2023, Matchday 3: February 24-25, 2023, Matchday 4: March 7, 2023, Matchday 5: March 17-18, 2023, Matchday 6: March 31- April 1, 2023.

Now that the draw and schedule are out, let us talk about this season's edition of the CAF Champions League.

In this season's CAF Champions League's Group C, Raja Athletic Club and Horoya Athletic Club were paired together last season as well, as the former took the top spot and the latter bowed out of the event, having finished last in Group B.

Horoya Athletic Club has been eliminated in the last two years at the group stage, and this time around they needed to take the pitch in round 1 while advancing to round 2.

Gambia's The Hawks were unable to reach the financial requirements to compete in this year's event.

Horoya Athletic Club got an early gift and a walkover result to send them to round 2 but the Freedom Fighters barely escaped their tie with ASEC Mimosas, cruising to a 2-1 victory on aggregate.

I believe that Simba SC will progress out of Group C alongside Raja Athletic Club, and that will take us to the knockout stage of the event.

Simba SC has been strong for the past five years in CAF inter-club competitions, reaching the quarterfinals in each of their group stages, they are getting stronger and more ambitious and keep getting



Simba SC's players jubilate shortly after they had notched a goal against Al Merreikh of Sudan in a 2020/21 CAF Champions League's Group Stage tie which took place in Dar es Salaam in March. Simba SC won 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

higher every day.

Esperance headlines Group D. I fully expect them to be one of the top two clubs to move on to the next stage of the event.

Tunisia's Ligue 1 and Morocco's Botola Pro have, for over 10 years now, been on the rise which started after the World Cup finals that took place in Africa back in 2010.

Esperance and Zamalek will advance past CR Belouizdad and Al Merreikh, although if any surprises do happen, I think Belouizdad has the best chance of doing it.

Belouizdad flew through the first round with a 3-0 aggregate win over Bo Rangers out of Sudan.

After going down 2-1 in the first leg of their second-round tie with Djoliba at home, Great Chabab won the second leg meeting, 2-0, in Mali to reach the CAF Champions League group stage.

It will be interesting to see how Group D shapes up, and I will certainly have my eyes on it all the way through.

Esperance also went down 2-1 in the second round, but since CAF still recognizes the away goal ruling, their 2-2 aggregate draw against Plateau United was enough to see them advance to the group stage.

Back to Group A, and to be honest, the way you see them listed above is the exact order I

expect them to finish.

Wydad Athletic Club and Petro De Luanda should have enough to earn the top two spots from the group.

AS Vita Club did not even score a goal in their second-round affair against Rail Club du Kadiogo and needed a penalty shootout to earn their spot in the pots.

AS Vita Club was drawn into Pot 4 with three weak clubs that had to scratch and claw to get to this stage of the CAF Champions League.

I however expect either of the four to be a threat in the group stage. (Coton Sport, Al Merreikh, and Vipers SC were also drawn into Pot 4).

Coton Sport features in Group B, and I hardly think anyone expects Al Ahly to fall short in this group.

The Egyptian side has reached the last three finals, having won the first two before falling to Wydad Athletic Club in the finals a year ago, losing 2-0.

Al Ahly and Mamelodi Sundowns were paired in last year's edition of the CAF Champions League, as the South Africans took the top spot in the quarterfinals by Petro De Luanda, while Ahly advanced to the finals again.

The two should easily get past Al Hilal and Coton Sport in Group B play. I will make predictions again when some of the participating sides reach the quarterfinal stage with a new article for that portion of the CAF Champions League.

Man City hire lawyer who earns as much as Erling Haaland for Premier League battle

By SAM WALLACE

THE biggest legal case in Premier League history - with huge consequences for Manchester City and for English football - will be fought out by the two sides' respective legal counsels and at least one KC who can command hourly rates comparable with the best-paid footballers.

Not quite the glamour or the theatre of Pep Guardiola v Jurgen Klopp or Erling Haaland v Virgil Van Dijk but Kevin Plumb v Simon Cliff, with some big-name KCs involved on both sides, is shaping up to be the clash that could define the Premier League's future, as well as its past.

Plumb is the Premier League's general counsel and has been at the head of the legal operation that worked intensively for almost four years before announcing its 115 charges against City on Monday. Cliff advised Sheikh Mansour's Abu Dhabi United Group on its acquisition of City in 2008 and has fought other financial fair play legal cases involving the club since then.

At stake is the integrity of the Premier League's rules on how much owner wealth clubs can spend, the sanctity of sponsorship contracts and compliance by clubs with rules of disclosure when it is suspected that those laws have been broken. For City, who deny any wrongdoing, it is the battle to preserve their Premier League status and possibly the six titles they have won since 2012.

Plumb, who has been at the Premier League since Sept 2015, has been served more than one legal crisis since the investigation into City began. First there was the unprecedented Premier League shutdown over Covid during 2020 which meant the negotiation of rebates for broadcasters and amending the profit and sustainability rules for clubs. In April 2021, the Premier League faced the breakaway of six of its members, including City, with the European Super League.

In that time, the City investigation has come under scrutiny from the Premier League's board. It began when Claudia Arney was the interim chair of the Premier League, through Gary Hoffman's tenure and now into the early months of new chair Alison Brittain. The progress of the investigation has been discussed among the directors for its duration. The 19 clubs other than City in the league in any one season have been told that any lobbying on their part is unwelcome.

The case against City was built by Plumb and the Premier League's external legal firm Bird & Bird, for whom they are long-term clients. The battle the Premier League has been through to gain full disclosure was reflected in the 115 charges brought by Plumb's legal team against City.

The Premier League has charged City under the current handbook's B.15 rule which obliges all clubs to act "with the utmost good faith". The Premier League rules state that, by way of example, that breaking that can mean for a club to "act dishonestly towards the league or another club" or "engage in conduct that is intended to circumvent these rules or obstruct the board's investigation of compliance with them."

Plumb, originally from Cumbria, has already had to fight Cliff and City's legal team in court in July 2021 to get the case to this point. That was when City tried to challenge the jurisdiction of the Premier League rules themselves.

Cliff himself featured prominently in the allegations made by the German magazine Der Spiegel in its original revelations about City's finances in November 2018 that prompted the Premier League investigation. It was alleged that in seeking to find ways that City could keep pumping Sheikh Mansour's wealth into the club without attracting sanctions from Uefa under its financial fair play regulations, Cliff invoked the Battle of Agincourt.

The Uefa FFP revolution had been driven by the former France international and then Uefa president Michel Platini, prompting Cliff to call City's attempts to circumvent it "Project Longbow", Der Spiegel alleged. In an internal email Cliff said it was appropriate because the longbow was "the weapon the English used to beat the French at Crecy and Agincourt."

Cliff and Plumb have, in the tradition of English football's current transfer frenzy, recruited some very expensive team-mates. The Lawyer magazine has reported that Lord Pannick KC will represent City. Pannick can earn up to £80,000 a day, which would be equal - pro rata - to Haaland's City deal, believed to make him the highest-earning player at the club. City will hope that Pannick will not have to be contracted for a similar five-year deal.

Pannick, The Lawyer reports, will face Blackstone Chambers colleague for the Premier League, Adam Lewis KC. Blackstone's Andrew Hunter KC and Jason Pobjoy will appear alongside Lewis. On Pannick's side for City will be Monckton Chambers' Paul Harris KC.

Cliff and the City legal team rolled back the Uefa sanctions that originally flowed from the Der Spiegel revelations. Uefa banned City from its competitions for two years and fined the club €30 million for alleged FFP breaches. In 2020 the Court of Arbitration for Sport annulled the ban and reduced the fine to €10 million for not cooperating with Uefa's investigation. For City that represented a major victory, and they will go into battle once again this time - with even more at stake.

THE TELEGRAPH

Scoring King: James passes Abdul-Jabbar for NBA points mark

By TIM REYNOLDS

LEBRON James got the first official statistic of his NBA career on a rebound. His next entry on the stat sheet was an assist.

Even then, points weren't the priority. They never were.

Somehow, he became the most prolific scorer in NBA history anyway. It finally happened Tuesday night, the kid from Akron, Ohio, connecting on a stepback jumper to push his career total to 38,388 points and break the record that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar held for nearly 39 years.

James outstretched his arms after his 36th point of the night for the Los Angeles Lakers, threw both hands in the air, then smiled. Abdul-Jabbar rose from his seat and clapped. The game was stopped as members of James' family, including his mother, his wife and their three children, took the floor for a ceremony recognizing the moment.

"It's never gotten my juices flowing," James told The Associated Press, when asked what the scoring record means to him. "I'm there now because I never, ever thought about it. The only thing I ever thought about was winning championships, maybe a couple MVPs, maybe defensive player of the year. But scoring



championships and records, I'm telling you, that was never on my mind."

Abdul-Jabbar - a long-time Laker and one of many celebrities and sports stars who made sure they were there to see history - became the league's all-time leading scorer on April 5, 1984 and wound up retiring in 1989 with 38,387 points. It was a record that some thought would last forever, with very few even coming close. Karl Malone retired 1,459 points behind Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant was 4,744 points shy, and Michael Jordan was 6,095 points away.

James passed them all, then caught Abdul-Jabbar, too. The 38-year-old - who finished with 38 points in the Lakers' 133-130 loss - did it in his 20th season. Abdul-Jabbar also played 20 NBA seasons.

"You've got to give him credit for just the way that he planned to last and to dominate," Ab-

dul-Jabbar told TNT.

And now, King James - a moniker he's had since high school, when he was just a kid from Akron - is the NBA's scoring king, with 38,390 points and counting.

"A record that has stood for nearly 40 years, which many people thought would never be broken," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

Abdul-Jabbar held the ball aloft, then handed it to James, the ceremonial passing of the torch. They posed for photos with Silver, then with one another. James wiped away tears from his eyes, then addressed the crowd.

"I just want to say, thank you to the Laker faithful. You guys are one of a kind," James said. "To be able to be in the presence of such a legend as great as Kareem, it's very humbling. Please give a standing ovation to the Captain, please."

James then thanked

his family and those who have supported him, including Silver and the late NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"I thank you guys so much for allowing me to be a part of something I've always dreamed about," James said.

At least 16 different players have, technically, been the all-time leading scorer in league history - most of those coming in the opening month of the league's existence in 1946, when everybody was starting from zero and nine different players were atop the scoring list in the first 16 days.

But only six have ended a season officially as the all-time leader: Joe Fulks, George Mikan, Dolph Schayes, Bob Pettit, Wilt Chamberlain and Abdul-Jabbar.

James will be the seventh name on that list, and he's likely to stay there for a long time. No active player is within 10,000 points of James, who is under contract for two more years

and is on pace to become the league's first 40,000-point scorer sometime next season.

"Nobody will ever, ever touch it," said Cleveland forward Kevin Love, a teammate of James on the 2016 title team. "The scoring record now will never be eclipsed. I don't care. It will never, ever be touched. It will never happen again."

James could have had the scoring record long ago, if so inclined. But he always preferred passing. James is behind only John Stockton, Jason Kidd and Chris Paul on the all-time assists list. None of them were, or are, close to the scorer that James is. Of that group, Paul comes closest, ranking 38th in NBA history.

And Paul is 17,000 points behind the new scoring king.

"I hadn't thought of it that way, but that is very true," Silver told AP in advance of the record-setting night. "I think it even adds - right? - to this this accomplishment for a guy who became a scorer because he determined that's what was necessary to win. And you're right, he probably doesn't get enough credit for his selfless play, because there's so much focus and attention on him. ... I think it makes it that much more special, that he'd rather be known for his assists than his baskets."

James is the only member of the NBA's triple-quintuple club: at least 10,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 10,000 assists. There are 44 players to reach five digits in two of those categories.

He'll almost certainly be the NBA's all-time leader in earnings whenever he retires; when adding in the \$97 million he'll make over the next two seasons, he'll be past \$500 million in on-court salary alone. He's a 19-time All-Star selection, tying an Abdul-Jabbar record. If he plays in the game on Feb. 19 in Salt Lake City, he'll set a record for appearances.

Others, maybe, have been this good. That's always a debate. But no one has ever been this good, for this long. James - a two-time champion in Miami, a champion in Cleveland in 2016 and a champion with the Lakers in 2020 - is averaging 30 points per game in his 20th season; only three other players have averaged more than 10 points per game this deep into their careers, none of those averaging more than Bryant's 17.6 in his 20th and final season.

"I never did the, 'OK, if I play this amount of time and I average this' thing," James said. "I've never done that with anything in my career. I always said, 'If it happens, it happens.'"

It happened. AP

Man City case could join list of soccer's biggest scandals

LONDON

MANCHESTER City is not the first high-profile soccer club to be caught up in a scandal.

The Premier League has accused City of breaching a host of financial regulations, and the club could face a range of punishments including a fine or a deduction of points.

As City mounts its defense, The Associated Press takes a look at scandals that hit Europe's leading leagues.

FRANCE

Marseille was the dominant club in France and a rising force in Europe under flamboyant club president Bernard Tapie.

Marseille was playing Valenciennes in the league just six days before facing AC Milan in the European Cup final, and three Valenciennes were approached with bribes to throw the game. Tapie was convicted of rigging the match and later jailed.

On May 20, 1993, defender Jacques Glassmann, forward Christophe Robert and winger Jorge Burruchaga were asked via middleman Jean-Jacques Eydelie - a former midfielder - to go easy.

Robert, who went off early in the game, and Burruchaga, a World Cup winner with Argentina in 1986, accepted the money.

Glassmann refused and then blew the whistle on the plot. He was awarded the 1995 FIFA Fair Play Award.

Marseille beat Valenciennes and downed giant

Milan 1-0 with a header from defender Basile Boli. Marseille remains the only French team to win the competition.

Prosecutors charged Eydelie, who confessed to arranging the phone conversation between Marseille general manager Jean-Pierre Bernès and the three players.

Robert's wife, meanwhile, was charged with conspiracy after an envelope containing 250,000 francs (then about \$43,000) was dug up from a back garden.

Marseille kept its Champions League title but wasn't allowed to defend it. Marseille was stripped of its French league title, having won the previous four in a dominant era, and demoted to the second division.

Tapie, who died in 2021, was ordered to stand down and in 1997 he started an eight-month prison term.

Eydelie, Burruchaga, Robert were also sentenced to jail terms in a corruption scandal that sent shockwaves through French soccer. The club did not win the league again until 2010.

*By Jerome Pugmire

UEFA

European soccer's governing body has a hit-and-miss record punishing clubs suspected of cheating.

Clubs alleged to have fixed games for betting scams in the Champions League qualifying rounds and the Europa League have been banned from UEFA competitions for up to 10 seasons.

In higher-profile cases, Anderlecht and Man-

chester City won at the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn European bans of one and two seasons, respectively. City's case was regarding "Financial Fair Play" rules.

Anderlecht advanced to the 1984 UEFA Cup final by beating Nottingham Forest 3-0 after a two-goal loss in the first leg. In Brussels, a penalty awarded to Anderlecht and a disallowed stoppage-time goal for Forest raised suspicions.

In 1997, Belgian media and legal cases revealed Anderlecht's president admitted paying the Spanish referee - who had since died in a car crash - 13 years earlier.

UEFA's executive committee imposed a one-season ban from European competitions. Anderlecht won its appeal in 1998 when CAS ruled UEFA did not follow its proper judicial process.

In 2020, Man City overturned a two-year ban imposed by a UEFA-appointed club finance panel. CAS judges decided the allegations

of inflating sponsorship deals and breaching "Financial Fair Play" rules were not proven or the evidence was time-barred.

UEFA has been on more solid ground in match-fixing cases. CAS upheld a 10-season ban for Skenderbeu from Albania, imposed in 2018, and an eight-season ban in 2009 for Pobeda of North Macedonia.

*By Graham Dunbar

ITALY

Juventus again finds itself mired in scandal 17 years after one of the club's darkest moments.

The storied Italian club was hit last month with a 15-point penalty deduction for false accounting, while several of its former directors were handed bans from soccer activities. Former president Andrea Agnelli was banned for two years.

Agnelli and the entire board of directors had resigned in November following an investigation by Turin prosecutors.

At the start of the pan-

dem, Juventus said 23 players agreed to reduce their salary for four months to help the club through the crisis. But prosecutors claim the players gave up only one month's salary.

Juventus is appealing the Italian soccer federation's decision, and a preliminary hearing for the investigation by Turin prosecutors is scheduled for March.

The move comes 17 years after the "Calcio-poli" refereeing scandal that saw Juventus, a record 36-time Italian champion, demoted to Serie B and stripped of two Serie A titles. There were also points penalties for other clubs, including AC Milan and Lazio.

That shook Italian soccer but the Italy team restored some joy when it won the World Cup that year, just as it had done 24 years earlier following another scandal.

Italy great Paolo Rossi was banned for two years for his involvement in the 1980 betting scandal known as "Totonero" while he was

at Perugia. Rossi, who always professed his innocence, was bought by Juventus in 1981 and returned from his suspension at the end of the 1981-82 season - just in time for the World Cup.

There he scored a hat trick against Brazil, two against Poland in the semifinal and the opening goal against West Germany to help Italy win the final.

Rossi was named player of the tournament and he also went on to win the Ballon d'Or that year.

*By Daniella Matar

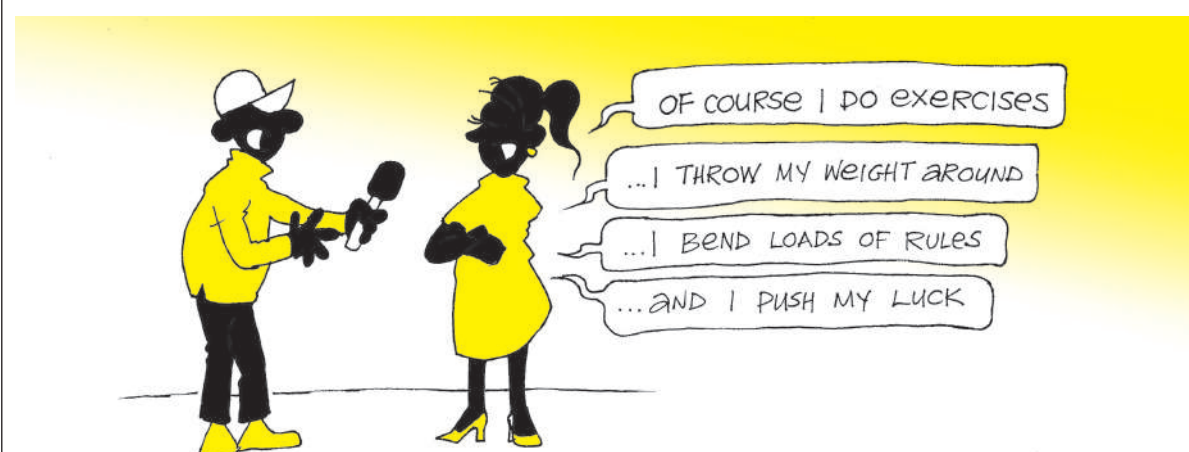
SPAIN

In 2019, more than 40 people were accused of fixing the Spanish league game between Levante and Zaragoza at the end of the 2010-11 season. Among those acquitted was former Mexico coach Javier Aguirre, who now is with Mallorca. Two former Zaragoza officials were convicted of fraud and given a 15-month prison sentence.

*By Tales Azzoni

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Scoring King: James passes Abdul-Jabbar for NBA points mark

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5 EATV THURSDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

NIRVANA

NIRVANA is hip and edgy. It explores the latest trends in fashion, art, style and recreational activities. NIRVANA speaks to the trend makers, shapers and observers. It's a one stop shop for everything trendy.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)
13:30 Kall za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
14:30 Ujenzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 NIRVANA
21:30 TOP 10
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1

eastafrica RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Wheelchair tennis players ready for BNP Paribas World Cup Qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national wheelchair tennis players, Lucy Shirima, and Rehema Suleiman will be in action today against Morocco as the 2023 BNP Paribas World Team Cup Africa Qualifiers get underway at the Tennis Centre, Moshoo Abiola National Stadium, Abuja in Nigeria.

Riziki Suleiman, the national wheelchair tennis squad's head coach said the team is in Group A alongside Morocco while Group B has Nigeria, Egypt, and Ghana. Suleiman noted he is confident that his players will do well in today's encounter.

"Our players Rehema and Lucy will be in action today, I'm sure we will do well, of course, Morocco is one of the best teams on the continent but we are ready for them," he said.

Before today's event, Lucy competed in the Vemp ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour which took place at MKO Tennis Center in Abuja.

Tanzania's national wheelchair tennis team has competed in many BNP Paribas World Team Cup tournaments and performed well.

This season's tournament is used as a qualification showpiece for BNP Paribas World Team Cup which will take place in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Seven countries are participating in BNP Paribas World Team Cup Africa Qualifiers, they are Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup will be held from May 2-8 and 28 teams have earned a direct entry for the showpiece.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is often referred to as the wheelchair tennis version of the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup.

The initial event took place in California in 1985 involving six men's teams. The women's competition began the following year, with quad and junior events introduced in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

Over 100 teams from around 50 countries take part in the competition each year, with regional qualifying held for the men's, women's, and quad events.

BNP Paribas has been the event's title sponsor since 2012, while UNIQLO, the title sponsor of the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour, is an official partner of the BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

Polisi Tanzania wastes chance to ease relegation fears



Polisi Tanzania's defender Chilo Mkama (L) keeps Geita Gold FC's attacker Daniel Lyanga in check during this season's NBC Premier League duel which took place in Arusha in January, last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A handful of die-hard fans turned up at Ushirika Stadium as hosts Polisi Tanzania met Kagera Sugar in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash on Monday afternoon.

It was the only NBC Premier League fixture of the day but coverage of the match was minimal as media outlets focused on anticipated continental group-stage campaigns for Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

However, for Polisi Tanzania, this was a huge match. They had seen fellow strugglers, Ruvu Shooting, pick up a vital win against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC a day before to move above them.

With Kagera Sugar struggling recently, this was a game for Polisi Tanzania to win and move above Ruvu Shooting once again.

Ahead of the match, Polisi Tanzania had recorded just three league wins all season and were now firmly bottom

of the 16-team table.

The match ended 0-0, a result that sees Polisi Tanzania remain bottom of the table with 16 points.

Polisi Tanzania made a promising start to the match but was guilty of giving away possession cheaply at times, under no real pressure from Kagera Sugar and, in the end, only their defense was the winner with a third clean sheet in the last five games.

The result means Polisi Tanzania are unbeaten in the last five matches, however, they have registered four draws and only one

win in the process.

That is not good enough and Polisi Tanzania faces a big fight to stay in the NBC Premier League this season.

Polisi Tanzania fans should be worried. Teams with the worst defensive record usually always go down, so the outlook is not good.

They have eight League fixtures remaining and four of those games are at home.

However, form in their backyard has been poor and Polisi Tanzania has recorded only one win in the

Premier League since the start of the 2022/23 season.

So unless there is a significant change, Polisi Tanzania cannot rely on their home form to get them out of trouble.

In the four games, they will face Tanzania Prisons, Ihefu SC, Mtibwa Sugar, and Mbeya City FC.

Two of these teams are likely to be caught up in a relegation war making it even harder for Polisi Tanzania.

Three of their next four matches are against 'catchable' opponents, in Tanzania Prisons, Mbeya City FC,

and Dodoma Jiji FC.

If they are to stay up, picking up points against teams in and around them will be crucial.

They have to learn how to turn the draws into victories or it could prove fatal.

If Polisi Tanzania loses against these direct rivals the consequences will be severe.

Fresh back-to-back Premier League home victories can ensure survival for Polisi Tanzania.

Coach Mwyni Zahera's experience gives Polisi Tanzania fans hope in a dark moment.

The former Yanga coach will have to inspire some improvement from his side, with his next two games against teams also in the relegation dogfight.

He will need to ensure his team plays with considerably more energy in the weeks ahead.

Further scrutiny of Polisi Tanzania's remaining fixtures reveals that they will face the three top four teams on the road.

They will make challenging trips to Singida Big Stars, Azam FC, and Simba SC. These are almost unwinnable games even without taking into account Polisi Tanzania's record on the road.

Zahera who has worked miracles before will have to repeat his feat to keep Polisi Tanzania in the NBC Premier League.

If Polisi Tanzania goes down, you fear it may be some time before we see them back in the NBC Premier League.

Yanga Princess SC goes top as Nigerian striker shines

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NIGERIAN striker Blessing Nkor revitalized Yanga Princess SC's title charge by sending her team to the top of the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League with a hat-trick in a 5-0 thumping of Tigers Queens.

Yanga Princess SC was, before yesterday's duels, level with second-placed JKT Queens on 17 points but has a superior goal difference, and was sitting one point above Simba Queens, having played one game more.

The visiting Arusha side began more brightly but it took just 23 minutes for Yanga Princess SC to quash hopes of an upset.

Yanga Princess SC midfielder, Amina Ally, deep in her half, lofted the ball towards Blessing and the dynamic Nigerian forward shrugged off the challenge of The Tiger Queens' two defenders and beat the onrushing goalkeeper Salama before firing coolly into the empty net for his first goal.

Yanga Princess SC's second goal came from a set-piece delivery by fullback Wincate Kaari that was finished by another Nigerian striker, Chioma Wogu Success, six minutes before the half-time break.



Yanga Princess SC's attacker, Blessing Nkor (L), shoots past The Tiger Queens' footballers when the clubs took on each other in a 2022/23 Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) duel that took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Yanga Princess SC cruised to a 5-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS SC

Blessing turned provider for the third goal when his cross was tapped home by Benin midfielder Nadege Atanhloueto in the 55th minute.

Less than 10 minutes later, the home team had a fourth with the Nigerian duo of Chioma and Blessing combining well to finish off a move started by the

brilliant Amina.

Blessing completed her hat trick five minutes before stoppage time to become the first player to score a hat trick this season.

Yanga Princess SC's head coach, Sebastian Nkoma, said: "I'm glad we played well because today's match was

important to get three points. After all, it's a tight race at the top."

Nkoma noted: "The teams at the top are on equal points, you might find us sitting at the top for only today, tomorrow we might go down again. The league is good, it is competitive and we are chasing each other."

He added: "I am still building chemistry because creating a team is like building a house, today you will start with the foundation, tomorrow you will come up with a wall and the day after tomorrow you will build a roof."

Nkoma pointed out: "We are lacking cohesion, we create many chances without fully utilizing them. The good thing is that we are improving bit by bit daily."

The Tigers Queens head coach Fredrick Masombola rued his side's defensive mistakes that cost them the game as they remain in the bottom three after playing seven games.

Masombola noted: "We lost the game. We prepared well, we tried to play well and my players tried to block out Yanga Princess but unfortunately, they made mistakes in defense."

The tactician revealed: "In the first half we conceded two goals and we went to rectify the situation at halftime but we came back again in the second half and allowed two quick goals in two minutes which disrupted us even more."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

