

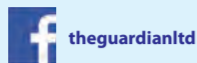


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UNION



11 UNION MATTERS RESOLVED SINCE LAST MARCH PAGE 3

ECONOMY



TRA HOLDS ITS FIRST EVER WORKERS' COUNCIL PAGE 4

WILDLIFE



FOUNDATION, NGOS SEEK WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES PAGE 5

EDUCATION



PUBLIC SCHOOLS SET FOR FREE INTERNET SERVICES PAGE 6

Page 13



Mbowe and three other accused set to begin defence in terrorism case today in Dar court

By Guardian Correspondent

OPPOSITION Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe and three other people facing terrorism charges are today expected to start defending themselves in a Dar es Salaam court.

The accused will start giving their defence at the High Court of Tanzania (Corruption and Economic Crimes Division) before Judge Joackim Tiganga.

This comes after the High Court ruled on February 18 that all the four accused had a case to answer in connection with the charges.

The accused in the case alongside Mbowe are Halfan Bwire, Adamu Kasekwa alias Adamoo and Mohammed Ling'wenya.

According to Jeremia Mtobesya, counsel for first accused Bwire, his client will defend himself under oath and is expected to call five witnesses and himself complete with exhibits.

Advocate John Mallya for second accused Kasekwa meanwhile said that his client is expected to bring in three witnesses and himself the fourth - also complete with exhibits.

Third accused Ling'wenya's counsel Frederick Chielo said that his client would defend himself under oath and would call six witnesses - as well as six exhibits.

Advocate Peter Kibatala similarly said that his client, Mbowe, would defend himself under oath and would bring in ten witnesses apart from himself and would tender 20 exhibits.

The accused stand charged with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism between May 1 and August 5, 2020 at in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro and Mwanza regions.

It is alleged that the accused, while at the Aishi Hotel in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, and also at various

TURN TO Page 2



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango exchanges greetings with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on the sidelines of the Fifth UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi yesterday. Photo: VPO

Tanzania saw highest temperature in recent memory last year, with climate striking - TMA

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA saw the highest temperatures in recorded history last year, the national weather agency attributing this to effects of climate change.

The report on the status of climate in the country for last year, as released by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) yesterday, shows that the average temperature was higher than the long-term average for all months.

"In 2021, there was above average temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, which is above the long-term mean temperatures recorded between 1981 and 2010," reads the report.

It notes that the year saw the country experience extreme weather events, mainly heavy



This extreme rainfall caused severe damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, human and livestock settlements, cropland, crops, and personal property

temperatures, which significantly threatened livelihoods.

"The country was generally dry over most of the bimodal areas, especially during the October-December 2021 rainy season, owing to insufficient rainfall observed over many parts of the country," it said.

November was the driest month in the year under review, being ranked the third driest such month since 1970.

After comparing the previous years' annual rainfall records, 2021 emerged the fourth driest on record since 1970 after 2003 (first driest), 2012 (second driest), and 2005 (third driest).

The report further shows that, on average, the November and

rainfall, floods, prolonged dry spells, strong winds and high

TURN TO Page 2

EAC calls for ceasefire, talks on Russia, Ukraine

By Guardian Reporter

WITH the Russia-Ukraine conflict entering the eighth day, the East African Community (EAC) has called upon the relevant parties to exhaust all diplomatic options in an effort to find a lasting solution, urging for restraint and an immediate ceasefire.

In a statement issued by its secretariat, the regional economic bloc has called for ceasefire to avoid further loss of life and damage to property.

"The EAC is deeply concerned by the ongoing conflict between Russia

and the Ukraine. All parties should seek an amicable settlement through the conflict resolution avenues available under the Charter of the United Nations," the statement reads, in part.

Meanwhile, the statement adds that the bloc shares the deep concern expressed by the African Union Commission on the reported discrimination of Africans seeking safe exit from the conflict zone in Ukraine.

The EAC called upon all parties and authorities concerned to accord equal treatment to all people affected by the conflict.



The minister explained that the government had directed Tanzanian embassy officials based in Sweden and Germany to set up border units

According to the statement, the EAC secretariat is working closely with all the EAC partner states' diplomatic missions in Eastern Europe towards facilitating and expediting the safe exit of all EAC partner states' nationals from the areas affected by the conflict.

The government said on Wednesday that most Tanzanian citizens studying in Ukraine had already crossed Ukrainian borders and made it to Poland, Romania and Hungary.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Lib-erata Mulamula has said that

38 students had entered Poland and were granted a 55-day visa for staying in that country "as they prepare to return home or go elsewhere".

A total of 71 Tanzanian students had meanwhile crossed to Hungary, with 11 of them already on their way back home.

One of the students had remained in Hungary after being diagnosed with Covid-19 while others left Hungary to seek shelter with relatives in various countries.

TURN TO Page 2



Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (2nd-L) updates Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi at Zanzibar State House yesterday on the services the bank offers. Left is TCB legal director Mystica Mapunda Ngongi. Photo: State House

Experts track largest black rhino species in Nyerere National Park

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

RESEARCHERS and conservationists are said to be busy tracking members of a larger species of black rhino, which are reported to be hiding deep inside the vast Nyerere National Park.

The park, formerly the northern part of Selous Game Re-

serve, is the largest national park in Tanzania and East Africa also one of the world's largest wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

The total area of the park is 30,893 km² and covers the big part of Liwale District in Lindi Region, Coast Region, Ruvuma Region and Morogoro

TURN TO Page 2



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Experts track largest black rhino species in Nyerere National Park

FROM PAGE 1

Region.

Added into the Selous eco-system, this tourist attraction becomes the largest reserve in Africa, boasting an area of more than 50,000 square kilometers.

The rather shy female south-central black rhinoceros (*Diceros Bicornis Minor*) usually appears unannounced in parts of the largest the park before disappearing again - with the first sighting recorded in 2017.

Wildlife experts say the ferocious ungulate could be the only one of its kind in Africa.

According to Dr Asantael Melita, technical advisor for wildlife and natural resources protection at the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the rare rhino also has a calf.

"Compared to other black rhino species found in Tanzania's northern areas such as Mkomazi, Serengeti and Ngorongoro, this one is larger in size and endemic to the Southern Zone," he said.

He explained that while the well-known black rhino species are zoologically known as *Diceros Bicornis Michael*, the rare species hiding in the Nyerere National Park within the Selous eco-system is of the *Diceros Bicornis Minor* sub-species.

Also known as south-central hook-lipped rhino, this subspecies of the black rhino is probably the only one of its kind recorded in East Africa. Researchers and conservators in Tanzania's Southern Circuit are busy trying to locate the rare rhino or its frequented habitat, believing that there could be even more of the kind where this particular one comes from. Nyerere National Park is amply endowed when it comes to free ranging area, with analysts noting that the sheer size of unspoiled reserve there means that if a rhino or any other wildlife species chooses to get lost in the vast woodland, it might take eternity to find it.

It is a mere three years since the park was annexed from the Selous Game Reserve, but it already attracts more than 100,000 foreign visitors a year on average and generates nearly 3.5 billion/- in revenues.

This is according to the park's acting Commissioner of Conservation, Dr Emilian Samuel Kihwele.

Many of the visitors enjoy networking their travel itineraries between beach tourism in Zanzibar's Unguja and Pemba islands on the one hand and wildlife spotting in Nyerere National Park on the other - most happening to be from Italy, Russia and Poland until recent days.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) has an audience with his Zanzibar counterpart, Simai Mohamed Said, in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the modalities of working together in reviewing education policies and curricula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC calls for ceasefire, talks on Russia, Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1

Two other students were said to have crossed to Romania, with one already on the journey back home, another was in Denmark and yet another was Slovakia.

The minister explained that the

government had directed Tanzanian embassy officials based in Sweden and Germany to set up border units to coordinate passage and assist Tanzanian students leaving Ukraine who have been crossing to Poland and Hungary. She has had talks with an ad hoc committee of parents whose fam-

ily members were studying at colleges and universities in Ukraine, briefing the parents on interventions the government had taken to ensure safe passage of Tanzanian students and other citizens living in Ukraine.

The minister added that the government had already raised the mat-

ter with the Russian Embassy in Dar es Salaam.

She said the Russian embassy had relayed information that the students could leave the country through the Russian border with Ukraine "as the route is safer compared to the other routes", urging the parents to talk

their sons or daughters into remaining calm "as the government works to ensure they return home safely".

The minister allayed fears that nearly 160 students studying at universities in Sumy, a town in north-eastern Ukraine near the Russian border were in danger.



Deogratius Ndejemi, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), pictured yesterday viewing architectural drawings on the Singida campus of the Public Service College while on a tour of Singida Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EU denies discrimination claims at Ukraine border

NAIROBI

The delegation of the European Union (EU) to Kenya has denied reports of discrimination against Africans levelled at member states bordering Ukraine.

The European Union says member states bordering warring Ukraine have given unrestricted welcome to all foreigners fleeing the war, rejecting claims of discrimination.

More than 200 Kenyans were stranded in Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, a press release from the bloc stated.

In the statement, the EU says it regrets the "incorrect and skewed media reporting on this issue that

has repeatedly appeared in various Kenyan outlets and social media, and calls for careful verification of the facts," the press release said.

"Given that in some cases deliberate disinformation is being spread, the EU Embassies present in Kenya are ready to provide accurate data," it continued.

Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania have granted unrestricted access to those fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine, including Kenyans, the delegation said.

"Contrary to some media reports, those Kenyans who have arrived at the borders have been assisted and allowed to enter safely into EU Member States," the statement continued

Mbowe and three other accused set to begin defence in terrorism case today in Dar court

FROM PAGE 1

places in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Arusha regions, conspired to blow up fuel stations, to blow up public gatherings and thus disrupt political stability, the country's constitutional order and the national economy.

It is alleged that they thus intended to bring the good name of the country into disrepute.

The accused are also alleged to have conspired to injure former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya and thus disrupt political stability.

Fourth accused Mbowe is al-

leged to have issued 6.9m/- to the other accused while in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, while knowing that the money would have facilitated the hiring of people to blow up filling stations in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam to hurt Tanzanians.

According to the fourth count, all the accused while at Aishi Hotel participated in a meeting related to the intended blowing up of filling stations and public gatherings. That would disrupt political stability, the constitutional order and the national economy, and thus bring the good name of the

country into disrepute.

In the fifth count, it is alleged that second accused Kasekwa was found in possession of a pistol (Ruger 5340) with three bullets while at Rau Madukani in August 2020 intending to blow up filling stations and public gatherings in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam and Arusha regions.

In the sixth count, it is alleged that first accused Bwire was on August 10, 2020 found in unlawful possession of Tanzania People's Defence Forces and National Service uniforms at Kilakala in Temeke District in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania saw highest temperature in recent memory last year, with climate striking - TMA

FROM PAGE 1

December were the warmest months of the year, with November breaking the record in historical observational perspective and December the third warmest on record since 1970.

"A large number of the highest daily maximum temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius occurred in November 2021 across different parts of the country," the report said.

On extreme weather events and impacts, TMA reported the prevalence of heavy rainfall associated with floods.

This was witnessed mainly in January and February 2021, the result being widespread flooding in some parts of the country, especially the southern and western regions - ending in massive destruction of infrastructure, settlements, and farms.

It is reported that January 12, 2021 experienced record-breaking 24-hour non-stop rain amounting to 369.7 mm observed at the Mtwarra meteorological station. It was the highest ever recorded such rain since the establishment of the station in 1951.

"This extreme rainfall caused severe damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, human and livestock settlements, cropland, crops, and personal property," the report says.

In addition, prolonged dry spells witnessed at the end of the year caused a range of social and economic impacts on pastoralist communities.

A large number of livestock starved to death owing to lack of water and pasture in some regions, especially Manyara, Morogoro, Coast, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro. According to a report by the Prime Minister's Office (Disaster Management Department), 306,358 livestock died, this being 157,695 head of cattle, 94,230 sheep, 48,290 goats, 6,135 donkeys and 8 camels.

Commenting on the report, TMA Director General Dr Agnes Kijazi called upon experts in various weather-sensitive sectors to make use of the analysis to contain climate change effects.

“A large number of the highest daily maximum temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius occurred in November 2021 across different parts ...



Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinyi (3rd-L), der and the CEO of the Zanzibar Maisha Bora Foundation (ZMBF), in a group picture with National Council of NGOs (NaCoNGO) chairperson Lilian Badi (3rd-R) shortly after talks in Zanzibar on Wednesday. They discussed potential opportunities in NGOs and efforts to promote the welfare of children, youths and women. Others are Pamoja Tuwalee gender advisor Dr Irene Mkini (L), Zanzibar NGOs registrar Ahmed Khalid Abdalla (2nd-L), ZMBF executive officer Mwanaidi Mohammed Ali (2nd-R) and World Education advisor Dr Charles Matiko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pinda tells clerics: It's time to fight killings even harder

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Mizeng Pinda has stressed on the need to increase engagement of religious leaders in the fight against the ongoing killings, if the country is to eliminate the vice.

Pinda who is the founder of the National Reconciliation Committee said this yesterday at the commemoration of the Reconciliation Day. Minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Yusuf Masauni was the guest of honour on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said one of the things that helped to tackle the killings of people with albinism in 2008 when he was serving as Prime Minister, was the great engagement of religious leaders.

He said apart from other measures, the government recognized the power of the leaders and decided to use them which also helped to reduce the killings.

"These people (killers) have not touched by the word of God, they have no fear of God, the best cure is using our religious

leaders, that time we called them and appealed for their support, I saw things starting to change, the leaders spent most of their time urging people to stop the killings and even the Kiteto massacre stopped," he said.

He noted that the situation made him much stronger and succeeded in reducing the killings and thus coming up with the idea of establishing the community in 2014.

Minister Masauni said the nation and the people have the responsibility to work together to resolve the problem.

"Recently in January to February, we have witnessed massacres in the country and if you trace the causes they are shocking and embarrassing. For example there are people taking the law into their own hands because they are vying for property and are members of the same family, others are committing these acts because of words from witch doctors," he said.

He noted that there are groups of people pretending to be traditional doctors who are involved in giving false information and inciting murder in the society.

Jafo: 11 Union matters resolved since last March

By Guardian Reporter

SELEMANI Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), has outlined achievements attained by his office in the past one year

Addressing reporters in Dodoma on Wednesday, the minister said that 11 out of 18 issues have been resolved and removed from the list of Union issues after talks at various levels.

Dr Jafo pointed that the issues that were resolved and removed from the

list of issues by the Union included the import of milk from Zanzibar, the management of the calculation and collection of Taxes on Telephone Services by the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRB).

He cited other issues as the loan agreement for the construction of the Chake Chake, Chake road to Wete - Pemba, the loan agreement for the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Rehabilitation Project, the loan agreement for the construction of Mpigaduri Port, Fisheries in the High Seas Economy Zone.

According to Minister Jafo employ-

ment of Zanzibar staff in Union Institutions; Distribution of Revenue from Foreign Aid, Revenue collected and Immigration on the Zanzibar side; Appointment of the Vice Chairman of the Tanzania Revenue Appeal Tribunal (TRAT) from Zanzibar; and Appointment of a Member of the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) from Zanzibar.

"The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar have continued to work together in various development projects and various pro-

jects and programs continue to be implemented," he said.

The Minister noted that among the projects and programs are: The Poor Household Relief Program Phase III launched in February, 2020 where a total of 112.9 billion shillings will be spent in Zanzibar.

"In strengthening cooperation within the twelve months of the Sixth (6) Phase Government 21 sessions have been held and the Sectors met are the Energy Sector, Water Sector, Mining Sector, Transport Sector, Service Sector and Admin-

istration. Coordination of Government activities, Industry and Trade Sector, Natural Resources and Tourism Sector, Health Sector, Agriculture Sector, Information Sector, Culture, Arts and Sports, Land Sector, Finance and Planning Sector and Regional Administration and Local Government.

In an environment he said the Government has completed the process of reviewing the National Environment Policy 1997 and prepared a new National Environmental Policy for 2021 which was launched on February 12, 2022 in

Dodoma by the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Philip Mpango.

He said this included environmental issues included in the 1997 Policy and new issues which include Electronic Waste Management, Chemical management and use, Pollution control in oil and gas exploration and extraction activities.

Minister Jafo mentioned other issues such as Climate Change, Management of safe use of modern biotechnology and Control of invasive species.



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At Tanzania Annual ICT Conference
On 20th October 2021

TRA holds Workers' Council, the first since its inauguration

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) expects to increase revenue collections by voluntary compliance and strengthen its public image upon completion of its sixth corporate plan to be implemented in the 2022/23 financial year.

TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata said here yesterday that the TRA five-year plan currently on the final stages will provide the strategic direction on the long term challenges facing the revenue agency.

The plan aims at intensifying revenue collections on the basis of national and international criteria, enhance voluntary compliance, improve efficiency, building a positive image on TRA duties and obtain trust from taxpayers, he stated.

He made the remarks when opening the two-day workers' council meeting ending yesterday, the first TRA workers' council since its establishment in 1995.

TRA projects to collect 1.85trn/- in average monthly in the current financial year, compared to the 42bn/- it collected monthly upon inauguration in the 1996/97 financial year.

In December last year the authority collected 2.5trn/-, being one of the highest collections, with collections in Zanzibar increasing following a number of measures aimed at

increasing efficiency, he stated.

From January 2021 to January 2022 TRA collected 12.937 trn/-, being 96.8 percent of the targeted 13.370 trn/-, with 97 percent of the funds being collected from the Mainland.

Zanzibar collections stood at 193.935.7bn/-, being 82.7 percent of the targeted 234.573.9bn/-, he stated, noting that success had been realised through changes in tax management. The CEO who is also chairman of Workers' Council said surpassing its revenue collection target arose from positive relations between TRA officials.

Harmony among employees strengthens revenue collections which kept increasing each year, enabling the government to implement different development projects, he stated.

Lawrence Mafuru, the Treasury deputy permanent secretary commended TRA for launching its first ever workers' council, underlining that it was a legal requirement in ensuring that workers' participation in planning and running of the institution was observed.

Standing in for deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande, he asked TRA to improve revenue collection in order to increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio.

Treasury welcomes policy ideas that can be adopted to boost the country's economy, he added.



IPP Media public relations manager Nancy Mwanyika (3rd-R, foreground) leads her EATV colleagues in a chant during the launch of 'Mwanamke Kinara' campaign at the TV station's studios in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

EATV launches 'Mwanamke Kinara' programme

By Getrude Mbago

EAST Africa Television (EATV) and Radio have launched a special programme dubbed "Mwanamke Kinara" which is aimed to recognise and award women who have not been recognised despite their significant contribution to society.

The one-month campaign to be held this month has been selected as part of the commemoration of the World Women

Day held annually.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign on Tuesday evening, which brought on board a number of women including MPs, councilors and heads of departments from private and public institutions, EATV's Chief Marketing Officer, Evelyne Ngalo, said the aim of the campaign was to identify what the women were doing and bringing positive changes in their lives and the society.

She said in the community there are women who have already been recognized and gained popularity in different fields for their good works and contribution but there is still a good number of women who are yet to be recognised and this is why the campaign needs to recognize them, its climax will be held on March 19, this year.

"We are going to award the women with special recogni-

tion certificates, there will also be a showcase event where women entrepreneurs will bring their products during the climax event," she said.

Janeth Mahawanga, Special Seats MP for Dar es Salaam Region commended EATV and EA Radio for coming up with the campaign assuring them that her foundation will support it fully to ensure its achievement.

Doreen Tumurebire, direc-

tor of marketing at the Tanzania Distillers Limited (TDL) who is among the sponsors of the campaign said the company has been implementing various strategies that promote women rights and equality especially in leadership positions.

She also said that the company also supports women farmers as most of the products it produces fetch raw materials from local farmers.



We are going to award the women with special recognition certificates, there will also be a showcase event where women entrepreneurs will bring their products during the climax event

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



TANGAZO KWA WADAIWA WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote wanaodaiwa viwanja katika maeneo ya Mtumba, Michese, Nzuguni, Kitelela, Kikombo, Iyumbu, Nzuguni Bus Stand, Nala Industrial Area, Njedengwa Investment Area, Nala, Chahwa, Iyumbu New Town Centre, Mahomanyika, Vikonje, Nala-Chigongwe, Ihumwa, Mapinduzi, Medeli, Nala-Lugala na Nala-Segu kuwa muda wao wa kulipia viwanja hivyo umeisha. Aidha, katika kuwawezesha kukamilisha malipo hayo, amewaongezea muda hadi tarehe 27.03.2022.

Baada ya kukamilika kwa muda huo, viwanja ambavyo vitakuwa bado vinadaiwa vitarudishwa sokoni ili wateja wengine wavinunue bila kutoa taarifa yeyote kwa mteja wa awali.

**Tangazo hili limetolewa na:
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji, DODOMA**

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AU assured of gender parity to empower women economically

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has assured African Union member countries of continued efforts in promoting gender equality to empower women economically in various sectors.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Gender, Women and special groups Mwanaidi Ali Khamis made the assurance upon return from Ethiopia where she attended the sixth African Union (AU) gender ministerial committee meeting which was held in Addis Ababa.

Mwanaidi said African countries have issued one stance of ensuring that they support gender initiatives

as well as women empowerment strategies through the climate change adaptation programme.

Speaking at the meeting, Mwanaidi listed down a number of interventions to contain Gender Based Violence by the government of Tanzania saying various women have been given the opportunity to showcase their leadership skills.

"Tanzania is ready to work with various countries in the AU in protecting and empowering women to access various opportunities available," she said.

She said among the resolutions at the meeting, was that African

countries must empower women but also increase funding on programmes aimed at empowering women.

Deputy Minister Mwanaidi said the aim of the meeting in Ethiopia was to ensure that the outcomes of the 66th meeting of the World Women Commission benefits African women in rural and urban place.

On the other hand, the meeting has agreed to establish the African Women Trust Fund which will assist women in African with loans to maximize their capital.

The Global Women commission meeting will be held on 14th March this year in New York in the United States of America.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups deputy minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis contributes to debate at the 6th Session of the African Union Special Ministerial Committee Meeting on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment at the AU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Raymond Ishengoma

'Agri-Connect teams must work together'

By Guardian Reporter

INSTITUTIONS implementing spices and horticultural farming projects under Agri-Connect umbrella have been called to increase cooperation in their work to find solutions to challenges facing farmers in both parts of the union.

EU representative Anna Constantine issued this appeal at a technical task force meeting in Iringa for institutions implementing Agri-Connect projects.

The task force involves experts from the Finance and Agriculture ministries from the Mainland and Zanzibar as well as those from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The EU official explained that

many challenges facing farmers in various areas are similar, hence "it is essential for the implementers to work together closely at every step when solving the challenges in order to obtain joint results."

Agri-Connect is being implemented by various institutions including the People's Development Forum (PDF) in collaboration with Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and the Tanzania Media Women Association Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar).

Other institutions include the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), along with Trias, Helevetas, Rikolto and Solidaridad, all under EU sponsorship, she stated.

One among the challenges that need close collaboration is the is-

sue of markets for targeted crops as farmers still fail to get the right information on the subject, she observed, advising project teams to work together especially in conducting market research to assist farmers to access viable markets.

Upendo Mdembe, nutrition officer at the Ministry of Agriculture appealed to project implementers to work together and form a digital platform forum to help farmers get all data on farming on time.

As to the spices project in Zanzibar, implementer Amina Ussi said that in order to ensure farmers produce by adhering to modern farming practices, there are guidelines on climate, food security and nutrition, plus guidelines on home vegetable farming.



Lightness Zablon (C), an NMB Bank Plc card business officer, presses a laptop button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to get one of the 100 winners of the bank's ninth week "Mastabata" raffle winners. She is with NMB customer service officer Susan Manga (R) and Gaming Board of Tanzania representative Elibariki Sengasenga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tumaini varsity lecturer to receive prestigious Environmental Award

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TANZANIAN environmental scholar Dr Elifuraha Laltaika has been nominated for a prestigious global environmental rights award, becoming the first African scholar to receive the prize, thus raising the continent's profile high.

Dr Laltaika, a senior lecturer for human rights law and policy at Tumaini University, Makumira campus near northern Tanzania's safari capital of Arusha would be recognized for his outstanding impact in law, while painstakingly working to support local communities, particularly indigenous and marginalized groups.

The Svitlana Kravchenko environmental rights award is given to a scholar from anywhere in the world with "exquisite qualities of both head and heart, mixing academic rigor with spirited activism, and speaking truth to power, while exhibiting kindness towards all," a brochure explains.

It is named after the late Ukrainian law professor who became a citizen of America and the entire world, aiming at recognizing distinguished individuals who exemplify the ideals and works of Professor Kravchenko. He passed away in 2012.

She enormously impacted the world but left "unfinished work" that needs continuity. Through their work, award recipients demonstrate how environmental rights and human rights are indivisible, it stated.

The award winner is selected by the co-directors of Land, Air and Water research fields after nomination by and in consultation with the staff of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), and Professor John Bonine, the professional partner and husband to the late Prof Kravchenko.

The University of Oregon environmental and natural resources program's students award the prize during the annual public interest environmental law conference (PIELC), considered the largest environmental gathering in the world.

This year, the conference in its 40th annual session will be held virtually due to continuing Covid19 pandemic restrictions.

A conference program posted on the official website says that this year's awardee is Dr Laltaika. The award goes to a person who "makes broad impacts in the law, while working to support local communities."

So far there have been seven recipients since it was issued for the first time in 2012.

Dr Laltaika who has guest-lectured on the intersection of

human rights and the environment in several universities will receive the award during a public interest environmental law conference on March 3 to March 6 at Eugene university of the state Oregon in the United States.

A Fulbright grantee and a former Harvard law school visiting researcher, Dr Laltaika joins the ranks of such illustrious recipients as Prof. Oliver Houck (USA), Patrick McGinley (USA), Antonio Oposa (Philippines), William Rogers (USA), Raquel Najera (Mexico) and Svitlana Kravchenko (Ukraine/USA).

Learning of his nomination, the Tumaini University scholar said it was a profound honour to join highly distinguished past recipients who have made tremendous contributions to protecting the environment and community rights.

"More importantly, I feel humbled to be associated with Prof Kravchenko's work. Her academic contribution on the intersection of human rights and the environment is still so insightful," he remarked.

The significance of the award is to inspire young adults to reach for the stars, while keeping their feet firmly planted in the earth they want to protect, as Svitlana did, he remarked.

It aims to emphasize that environmental conservation should go hand in hand with respect for human rights.

It also stresses that local communities and indigenous peoples have rights to access and use their natural resources; hence it rewards exemplary individuals worldwide who typify that balance in their work.

Apart from being a senior lecturer, Dr. Laltaika is the director of research and consultancy at Tumaini University, Makumira.

He teaches natural resources law, human rights law, international law and jurisprudence/philosophy of law.

While at Harvard Law School, Dr Laltaika examined indigenous peoples and local communities' rights in extractive industries under various regimes of international law and comparative local legislation.

He has consistently combined activism with academic work. In 2016, the president of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations appointed him to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Prior to that, he worked as a senior fellow at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

At the local level, Dr Laltaika has been at the forefront as a defender of local community livelihoods. A public interest lawyer, he has trained high court judges, and practicing lawyers on local community's natural resources rights, and serves in boards of several non-profit organizations.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SITE WIDE INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT 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 Industrial Kitchen Equipment 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
GGME01055	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SITE WIDE INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT 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 (2019-2020)	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 (GGME01055)	60%
Proof of Dealership Agreements with industrial kitchen equipment manufacturers	15%
Proof of supply of Similar Industrial Kitchen Equipment's Supplied	15%
Proof of availability of Warranty and After Sale Services	15%
Proof of availability of Catalogue for Industrial Kitchen Equipment's	15%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01055)** 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 15TH March 2022** (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=

PCCB all out to cast the net wider in curbing corruption

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has launched a campaign to combat graft in various places including markets.

Speaking during a sextortion awareness campaign at Bonanza market here ahead of the International Women Day, a senior inspection officer from PCCB Faustine Malecha said the campaign is expected to reach out to 10 percent of the residents of Dodoma by 31 March this year.

He said women have no reason to offer sex to get places where they can conduct their businesses and instead they are just required to follow the necessary requirements.

The campaign dubbed 'Ulipo twaja' literally meaning 'where you are, we are coming' is aimed at reaching out to Bodaboda operators and other public gathering places.

"We are calling upon parents to assist us in providing sextortion education to girls as we believe this will help to combat the malpractice," he said.

Head of PCCB Dodoma Sosthenes Kibwengo said the role to combat corruption was for all adding that the campaign was part of the initiative to fight the vice.

Kibwengo said the campaign target special groups in their respective places of work which will also make it easy to bring them together at one time.

He said the campaign is also aimed at creating awareness to the public to ensure they report cases of graft whenever they come across them.

He added that the campaign will go a long way to make residents understand their rights and how to report when they are requested to give sex to receive a certain service.

According to Kibwengo, the bureau has decided to choose Bonanza market because most of its occupants are women hence the possibility to make the campaign viable.

"You have chosen the right place to offer the education because this market is mostly occupied by women who are strong family members," said Bonanza market chairman Marwa Mwita.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Ridhiwani Kikwete (in glasses) exchanges greetings with a resident of Masimbani village in Coast Region's Mion ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

SADC partners with NAHPA to raise awareness on NCDs

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) executive secretary Elias Magosi has underlined the need for the region to adopt healthy lifestyles to address health challenges of a non-communicable character.

He emphasised on the continued challenge on infectious diseases such as HIV/Aids, COVID-19 and malaria.

He made these remarks recently when delivering the keynote address during the SADC healthy lifestyle day commemoration hosted

by the National Coordinator for National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) in the Botswana capital of Gaborone.

The event was held under the theme; "Risk Factors of Today are Diseases of Tomorrow," aimed at raising awareness and threats posed by NCDs.

The occasion was also a stimulant to solicit participation in healthy lifestyles such as promotion of good health through regular physical activities, healthy eating, tobacco control as well as interventions against harmful use of alcohol and substance abuse.

Magosi underscored that in Southern Africa, as is in most parts of the world, lifestyle challenges and standards of living are presently altering the disease landscape resulting in NCDs such as heart and respiratory diseases, diabetes and cancers being on the rise, and likely to result in unwanted consequence of unhealthy and aging population.

He also outlined interventions that SADC has put in place in response to the fast rise in NCDs, including conducting research in order to understand the levels, patterns, and trends of these dis-

eases and continued coordination efforts to ensure that measures aimed at preventing and controlling these diseases are consistent across the Region.

He further appraised the facilitation role of the SADC Secretariat in providing regional guidance to SADC member states in the prevention and management of overweight and obesity, which he said was a growing concern in SADC.

In collaboration with cooperating partners, the secretariat has successfully developed several tools, including the food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) which

have been adopted by the SADC member states.

It was befitting for Botswana to assertively encourage and empower communities with knowledge about healthy lifestyles and nutritious foods through national policies and programmes which promote healthy eating habits, physical health, and well-being.

Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kgogwe, the deputy permanent secretary responsible for health services, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, underscored the severity of NCDs such

as cardiovascular conditions, cancer, diabetes, aside from chronic respiratory diseases.

World Health Organisation (WHO) country profile for Botswana during 2018 indicated that out of 16 000 deaths among adults, 46 per cent arose from NCDs.

She urged communities to steadfastly take heed of their well-being through leading healthy lifestyles, more especially during recent times where the COVID-19 pandemic also takes advantage of one's weak immune system. It puts those with underlying

health conditions at higher risk of devastating outcomes when infected by the coronavirus.

The way in which a person lives has a key role in shaping the life which one is likely to live and also plays an important factor in how healthy one becomes, she explained.

She issued a public appeal for the community to be more mindful of what they consume, keeping a high level of fitness through regular exercises, and reducing the consumption of harmful substances such as smoking, alcohol and intoxicating drugs.



Dr Geoffrey Chambua, coordinator of a pilot project on action against acts of violence in Dar es Salaam Region's Kinondoni District, introduce the project at a meeting held last week for residents of Makumbusho and Mwananyamala wards. The initiative is jointly implemented by the Legal and Human Rights Centre and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Mary Kadoke

THE government has announced a new task force which will among other things help in controlling the rising wave of street children mainly in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups made this observation in the city on Wednesday during a 'meet and greet' dinner on the matter.

Due to rising cases of violence against children, it's high time that the government and stakeholders team up with to build home centres that will

Govt to form task force on street children eyesore

accommodate vulnerable children.

"We have all witnessed the increasing incidents of child violence, so I hereby order a new task force formed and appoint the regional commissioner, Amos Makalla, SOS Children's Village (NGO) national director David Mulongo and the James Foundation who will coordinate with other stakeholders on building home centres to accommodate the children," she said.

The minister however warned on some parents' behaviour in upcountry regions sending their chil-

dren to work in the city to stop immediately as arrangements will be made to identify them.

RC Makalla hailed support from NGOs in identifying children's talents as they are recognized in many places and generate income in places like Germany. He promised to meet the various groups in a few days to come.

Lilian Chilo, the city council social welfare services coordinator for children living and working in the streets, said they have strategically stationed social welfare officers on major bus

terminals to take up a watchdog role on unaccompanied children hailing from upcountry buses.

"Children from other region are caught hiding under buses routing to Dar es Salaam, so the decision was taken for positioning social welfare officers on bus terminals such as the Magfuli Bus Terminal purposely to trace children who have no clue of where they're going after their arrival," she said.

It is high time that people do away with offer-

ing alms to beggars in the streets and instead advise them to seek help from local government offices. That way they will leave the streets eventually, she stated.

Another strategy is reunification and reintegration of children with their original families, a process that involves family tracing, media coverage and offering vocational training programs to those willing, she said.

"Tracing them is not the end point; what happens after is psychological treatment as in the process they become ready to give details of who they are and where they come from, hence details are used on family tracing through the media."

Public schools set for free internet services

By Getrude Mbago

LIQUID Intelligent Technologies will soon connect various public primary and secondary schools with free internet access as it aspires to address the digital divide in the education sector.

Denny Marandure, the country director, briefed journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how the firm moves from Raha Tanzania Ltd to Liquid Intelligent Technologies. This rebranding is part of extensive business transformation from a telecommunications service provider to a one stop-shop technology group for local businesses, he said.

In its vision to transform the continent through provision of high-quality digital and internet services, the firm shall work to take back to the community through supporting schools and other disadvantaged groups, he asserted.

The roll out of the new project starts in May, with the firm currently identifying the schools to benefit from the project, including those in the rural areas. "We will work closely with the government to ensure that we identify disadvantaged schools so as to connect them with the internet. This will stimulate teaching and learning and boost the country's development," he said. This echoes the government's efforts to ensure that every Tanzanian child has access to quality education at all times, thus made more effective through the latest technology, he stated.

Tackling inequalities in access to education is at the heart of bringing about development of the people - whereby this can be achieved through use of technological advances.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies is a Pan-African technology group present in more than 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The director says there is no better place to start than our schools that shape the minds of our children, thereby securing our future. "Through our expertise in the digital and telecom landscape, we will identify the schools and connect them, enabling the schools to learn in a modern way." As Microsoft Gold partner, Liquid Intelligent Technologies is redefining network, cloud and cyber security offerings through strategic partnerships with leading global players, bringing innovative business applications, intelligent cloud service and security to the African continent, he elaborated.

Chinese firm protects wildlife by building hotel in Serengeti

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AT a hotel in the Serengeti National Park, Zhang Cuishan, wearing a short-sleeved shirt, was checking the status of the project. Not far behind him, a herd of elephants was drinking leisurely at the edge of a pond, virtually oblivious to human activity.

This is the photo Zhang left when the hotel was just completed. The hotel, built by Zhang, has become a local celebrity, attracting tourists from all over the world every day.

"Building hotels in Africa has given me a deeper understanding of the relationship between humans and nature," Zhang told Xinhua before the World Wildlife Day that falls on March 3rd.

Zhang, 42, general manager of the Tanzania Branch of the China Railway Jianchang Engineering Co. (CRJE), has been in Africa for 15 years.

In 2012, due to his outstanding performance, he was appointed project

manager for a five-star hotel in the Serengeti As Tanzania's largest national park and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Serengeti is famous for the annual migration of vast numbers of wildebeests, zebras and other wildlife.

Since the project is located in the hinterland of the Serengeti, the requirements for ecological and environmental protection are extremely strict.

"Any construction waste and household waste generated during construction must be packed and taken away in time. After the construction, the working and living places of the construction personnel will be dismantled to restore the original ecological appearance," the manager affirmed. If wild animals enter the construction site, the construction should be suspended and notified to the forest police immediately. Only after the animals are driven away can the construction be resumed.

Wild plants are also protected at

high standards. In one case, the construction team found an acacia tree blocking the hotel during construction. In the end, Zhang chose to revise the design drawings and re-construct around the tree.

"It's not easy to grow a tree on the prairie, and we have to do everything we can to protect it," he stated.

Tanzania is rich in tourism resources and tourism is recovering from the global pandemic. Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, says the tourism industry received 923,000 foreign tourists in 2021, earning \$1.254bn in revenues, up 76 percent from the dark 2020 tourism season.

In the manager's view, with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation framework, China-Tanzania cooperation will seek out more opportunities.

"More tourists from all over the world will come to Tanzania in the future, and Tanzania's tourism industry has a promising future," he added.



Works and transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (in black mask) pictured yesterday inspecting a section of the Standard Gauge Railway link from the Dar es Salaam Port. Right is Tanzania Ports Authority deputy director general Karim Mattaka. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TARI Centre distributes 35,000 palm seedlings in Kyela district

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Uyolet centre has distributed 35,000 oil palm seedlings to farmers in Kyela District, Mbeya Region to boost productivity and enhance production of edible oil.

The oil palm seedlings grown by TARI at its Kyela nursery were handed over to Regional Commissioner Juma Homera.

TARI official Beatha Paul said the seedlings will be planted in 700 acres of the crop in the district, with improved oil palm seedlings boosting edible oil production.

A single acre can provide raw material for up to four tonnes of cooking oil, while the distributed seedlings are different from regular varieties producing one tonne of cooking oil per acre, she stated.

"The improved seedling starts bearing fruits much earlier compared to other seed varieties. Farmers are likely to start harvesting the fruits within three years while the traditional seedling could take five years to bear fruits," the researcher noted.

TARI Uyolet center director Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said oil palm trees are among crops produced at lower costs, but enable farmers to start generating a good profit within a rela-

tively short period.

He said that palm oil is healthier than other types of oil, with farmers given the seedlings to adhere to the best farming steps as directed by extension officers.

The seedlings have the potential to be harvested for more than 40 years from planting and thus the benefits to farmers are huge, he said, urging farmers to uproot the old seedlings.

"We conducted soil testing here and results showed that it is suitable for cultivating the crop. We advise farmers to continue engaging on the cultivation of oil palm trees and make sure they establish irrigation schemes to make the trees grow better and harvest more fruits," he said.

Kyela district council chairman Godfrey Kingamkono said the demand for the seedlings in Kyela is still high, appealing to TARI to continue providing farmers with improved oil palm seedlings. When farmers start harvesting the fruits, their livelihood will be improved, he stated.

Handing over the seedlings to farmers, the RC directed authorities to make sure they collect the five per cent revenues from selling oil palm fruits, as the cash will be directed to development of oil palm nurseries.

Ministry: Finish district water projects late June

By Guardian Correspondent, Busega

DEPUTY Water minister Maryprisca Mahundi has instructed rural water and sanitation authorities (RUWASA) countrywide to make sure all water projects being implemented from Covid-19 recovery funds are completed before the end of June.

Mahundi said there will be no room for explanations from any RUWASA manager failing to complete the project in the given time frame.

She gave these instructions here yesterday during an inspection visit in Simiyu Region, urging the Busega District RUWASA manager to finalise the two water projects funded by Covid-19 funds on time.

Even before completion, people in the areas will start getting piped water before the given time, the deputy minister said, noting that the government has provided funds earmarked for Covid-19 recovery efforts.

One way to do that is to ensure that circumstances for people to regularly wash their hands using clean, safe running water are handy, she said.

"In these projects, the ministry will have no room for excuse and will not extend the given time limit. We want water to flow out from the taps before end of June," she stressed.

RUWASA managers need to make sure they supervise their contractors in the projects to manage within the remaining time.

Earlier, in his report on water projects implementation in Busega District, the acting district manager Daniel Gagara said they received more than 450m/- from Covid-19 recovery loan funds for the two projects.

The projects are being implemented in Badugu and Kalemela villages, with construction work for both projects standing at around 25 per cent so far, he said.

After completion, the two projects will serve over 80,000 residents, and other projects are being built via the programme for results (P4R) system, totalling 900m/-.

For his part, District Commissioner Gabriel Zacharia said availability of safe and clean water to the people has attained 65 per cent, up from 39 per cent when RUWASA was established.

Simiyu Region RUWASA manager Mariam Majala said construction work on the water projects was being implemented rapidly in response to President Samia's call to relieve women the burden of carrying pails of water on their heads.



JOB VACANCY

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care and protection organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania seeks to recruit a suitably qualified candidate to fill the following vacant position.

Job Title : Program Manager (1 Post)

Duty station : Dar Es Salaam

Reporting to : National Director

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

Program Manager leads the overall development and implementation of SOS Children's Village Programme in response to needs in line with the vision, mission, strategy, policies, and standards of the organisation. This will be under the support of Programme Development department of National Office function staff. She/he represents the organisation towards governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the location. She/he coordinates the Children's Village Programmes activities and interventions and ensures quality and effectiveness of services. Also ensures the cost-efficiency on the implementation of the programmes in the location and optimal use of resources.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. Programme development and management

- Leads the development and implementation of the programmes in line with the SOS Children's Villages care promise and related international and national SOS policies, strategies, quality standards, and guidelines.
- Leads the implementation of the programme management cycle including strategic planning process as part of National Association strategic direction to ensure that interventions are relevant to the local context, respond to the needs of the target group, and contribute to the development of sustainable social support systems.
- Coordinates and ensures cooperation between all areas of work within the facilities.
- Ensures efficiency through best use and sharing of resources across the facilities.
- Regularly prepare and submit report on implementation and progress of activities towards targets to relevant National Office functions.
- Ensures that the Children's Village Policy is supportive to the brand of the SOS Children's Villages Organisation.

2. HR management and organisational development.

- Establishes appropriate staffing patterns and ensures full staffing to all programmes with support from National HR Department.
- Leads managing co-workers in the location
- Sets up and leads an effective management team
- Take lead on Performance Management system implementations.
- Recommends the performance of the staff to the National HR function for the National Director decision.

3. Financial and Administrative management

- Builds accountability in the programme by ensuring implementation of effective financial and administrative procedures, in accordance with defined policies, guidelines, and standards.
- Leads the budgeting process in the location(s).
- Monitors budget expenditures and conducts financial (in cooperation with the Senior Accountant and content controlling of the programme, in order to ensure that funds are properly used.
- Continually looks for ways to provide quality services in a cost-effective manner.
- Ensures that budgeting of maintenance costs (construction, repairs, renovation) for SOS property is carried out regularly.
- Ensures technical work like execution, supervision, and procurement are carried out by competent staff, and make sure that the procedures and policies are followed properly.
- The Program Manager is overall accountable for allocated resources/assets of the organization.

4. Quality management, monitoring and evaluation

- Responsible for quality management in the programme and ensures the implementation of national and international quality standards with support of Head of Programs.
- Monitors and implements the recommendations from national/international quality audits and evaluations.

5. Partnership building, advocacy and cooperation with external stakeholders

- Negotiates and can conclude agreements and contracts with partners/ suppliers/ state authorities by consulting and getting approval from the National Director.
- Leads and coordinates cooperation, partnership building, and networking efforts of the programmes with local and national authorities and other external stakeholders with support from the Institutional and Partnership Development Coordinator.
- Represents in support of relevant staff the organization at relevant local networks, forums, platforms, campaigns, working groups and advocates on behalf of the organisation for the promotion of child rights, especially related to children from the target group.

6. Fund development and public relations

- Promotes the organisation in the public and identifies potential income sources in cooperation with the Fundraising & Communications function in the National Office.
- Strives for the highest possible level of programme self-financing with a focus on fundraising targets agreed during the strategic planning process.
- Prepare and submit proposal for the projects in collaboration with National Office IPD Coordinator staff.
- Identifies potential income sources in cooperation with National Office Head of Fund Development and Communication

7. Child Safeguarding and Child Protection Responsibility

- Raising awareness of the principles of the SOS Child Protection Policy to all co-workers, stakeholders and SOS beneficiaries
- Preventing and mitigating all possible risks in the area of child protection and Safeguarding at your area.
- Reporting immediately on any issue related to Child abuse/ violence/ neglect/ mistreatment .
- Maintain high level of confidentiality while handling CS concerns.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Masters degree in one or combination of the following disciplines: Organizational Development, Child Development, Children and Youth Care programming, Sociology and Development studies.
- Working experiences not less than 7 years which should include: at least 4 - 5 years working at managerial levels within reputable NGOs working in Tanzania;
- Strong background on programming and projects management
- Robust experience in Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strong background in proposal development and donor negotiation skills with good track record of awarded proposals.
- Strong, leadership and interpersonal skills and group dynamics management skills
- Strong background in livelihoods and economic empowerment for most vulnerable groups;
- Ability to forge and manage partnership with Government and Civil Society Organizations;
- Ability to champion fundraising initiatives with experience in effective engagement of corporates;
- The candidate should possess the emotional stability to lead and guide the large community of children and staff, maintaining the required high standards.
- Ability to work under pressure

How to apply:

Interested candidate for the above position should submit his/her application letter by email describing how your experience, qualifications and competencies make you the right candidate for this position. Enclose ONLY detailed and updated CV with telephone contacts, email address and details of at least 3 referees. The candidate MUST clearly indicate the title of position applied for. Only contacted candidates for the interview will submit copies of academic, professional certificates and passport size photo. This advert can be obtained on our website <http://www.sos-childrensvillages-tanzania.or.tz>. Closing date is 17th March, 2022. To apply please send to:

The National Director SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Success in narrowing of gender gaps creditable; let's keep it up

THE government has once again won accolades for what it has been doing towards ensuring equality of opportunities in society for both women and men.

It is a similar scenario to that with respect to the headway it has made in the rapid reduction of the frequency of childbirth complications, still a thorny problem despite substantial progress.

The World Bank has drawn a bright picture in relation to accessing full economic potential for women across Tanzania, saying the country's progress in that particular area is more pronounced than the average for African countries though the general level of poverty is cause for concern.

This situation is helping the country move millions of people out of poverty, as accessing economic freedom for women easily translates into enhanced welfare for several other people while the degree of impact is less noticeable when such welfare directly relates to men.

Still, what World Bank country director Mara Warwick has said in that respect, as to how this progress has contributed to the country's sustained economic growth, needs to be sharpened.

She said that greater opportunities for women had helped the country climb from low income status to lower middle income level by July 2020.

A quick interpretation of how the equal access factor and the shift in global income status are given in that formulation is that it was the crucial aspect, perhaps the most important contributing factor.

That may be an academic debate, the big achievements that led to a shift in global economic status having arisen from altering the central government budget from 74 per

cent recurrent expenditure and 26 per cent development expenditure to 61 per cent and 39 per cent respectively, within the first few months of Dr John Magufuli presidency.

In addition, greater probity in the use of government funds ensured that more was done with hefty amounts of development finance and some foreign loans, and hence the implementation of several major strategic projects.

There was also a fallout for equal access to opportunities in the way systematic renewal of infrastructure was conducted, especially for health and education, removing burdens from the shoulders of women.

Incessant school contributions were scrapped, this freeing up funds for women to engage in gainful economic activities and to make some savings.

In other words, even equal access has to do with good governance, though the role of specialised financial institutions and a series of NGOs was vital in that regard. We all gain from good governance.

While a wide base for women's gainful activities has been created, the World Bank report points to a high level of poverty among women, while women's control of land and agro-sector resources remains quite low.

In policy terms, there is now a different atmosphere of harmonising disciplined use of budgetary funds with higher accessibility of loan financing and creating property out of land, as they converge.

The report points to both achievements made and challenges the country still faces. That is only to be expected. Both provide crucial lessons it will pay for use to learn, with a view to faring better as we move ahead.

Plenty will have to be sorted out in DADP implementation

MORE responsibilities are being placed on district authorities, as for a long time districts are the focal points of implementation of development plans.

Regional secretariats meanwhile provide the liaison work, coordinating things that the districts have in common. The government has just launched district agricultural development plans, with local government authorities given major responsibilities.

These include promoting agricultural development within the districts, which isn't new as such as traditionally farm extension work is organised at the district level, but there are auxiliary aspects.

Top government officials have characterised the district-level plans as an extension of the wider Agricultural Sector Development Plan - which now focuses on each district for liaison, coordination and the sorting out of problems on the ground.

The focus arises from a diminution of nationwide crop development strategies or other agro-sector parameters to encourage private investment in the sector. This means that the central authorities have less to do after drawing up the wider policy framework and ensuring that supply chains are working. When it comes to investment take-off, infrastructure assurance, it is localised.

One feature about agro-sector policies which leads to some confusion is the presence of large tracts of land suitable for agriculture, and how seeking to put this 'bankable land' into investor use or access brings about intractable problems.

There are still reports of investment authorities sending surveyors to an area, marking it off and proceeding to make decisions concerning it, and people wake up in the morning to find beacons and other strange installations.

Often such incidents are tied up with corruption, bringing officials to quicken things, but they arise from law provisions on land holdings.

That is why there is an area which needs appropriate guidance, or at least making such guidance clear and unmistakable at the general level, as to what needs to be done for land to be accessible to investors.

What ought to be reviewed at least in implementing the policy, of localising most implementation issues of agro-sector development at district level, is that the powers that villages and in that regard, district councils have enjoyed in relation to land use decisions be curtailed.

This way of doing things generates or precipitates conflicts, whereas if any customary land is ceded to investors only by agreement with villagers directly, and compensating them adequately for current land use needs or future prospects, conflicts are minimised or eliminated.

At another level, the government has been doing plenty of work mapping out land-holding (often called 'ownership') in village areas, where customary land-holding has prominence over individual titles.

The trouble in observing this legislation is that district and village authorities often act as if the land was theirs, instead of coordinating procedures for investors to compensate villagers in a transparent and sufficient manner.

As there are plenty of orientation shifts in various levels of government right now, let us expect that respecting individual villagers' rights will be observed for smooth implementation of the respective policies. When investors have paid out villagers they know the project is sustainable for, otherwise, it isn't.

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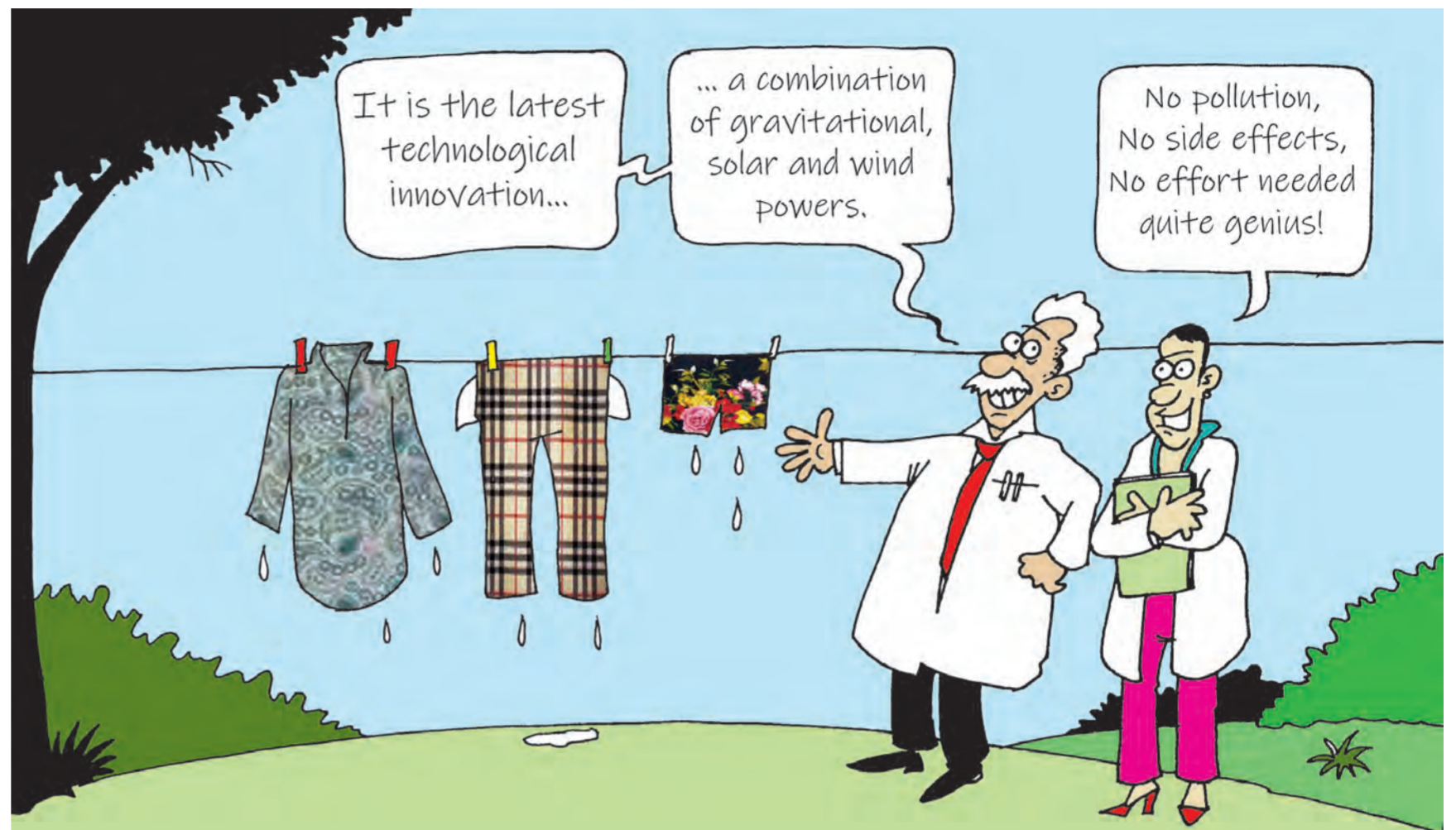
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How to win arguments with stupid, stubborn people...

By Sean Kernan

WINSTON Churchill was arguing with a woman at a dinner party. Now, this is none other than Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (November 30, 1874 - January 24, 1965), the British statesman who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 (during the Second World War), and again from 1951 to 1955.

And Churchill was a difficult man, with a strong personality and a willingness to stand behind his point.

The two went back and forth until she finally said: "If I were your wife, I would poison your coffee."

Churchill retorted, "If I were your husband, I would drink it."

I never think of those comebacks in the heat of the moment. It's always during my drive home that I realise that I could have totally owned this other person. The French have a saying for this, "Lesprit D'escalier" - or stairway wit.

The truth is that I hate arguing. I don't like conflict. But I've studied the hell out of argumentation because it's so important.

Making a good, strong argument is necessary for securing a raise, de-escalating a conflict, suffering fools, protecting friendships, and much more.

Snipe an argument like a champ

Rule 1: Don't come in too hot - and that doesn't just refer to emotions. For example, in courtrooms, it's proven that witnesses are more credible to juries when they express moderate, rather than low or high confidence. It has a direct impact on verdict outcomes and sentencing.

When you have low confidence, you seem unsure of yourself and what you're saying. When you have high confidence, you seem overbearing, insecure, or driven by ego ("I have to win!").

As fun and memorable as Churchill's example was, it wasn't the most efficient way to win someone over.

Scientist Paul Graham created a hierarchy of disagreement, ranking the best and worst strategies for debate. The lowest are personal attacks and name-calling.

The #1 way to argue is to stick with a strong central point. Don't repeat it over and over. Just build everything around it.

Staying focused is extremely important during relationship fights. One of the most common advice from marriage counsellors is, "Always stick to the thing you're arguing about."

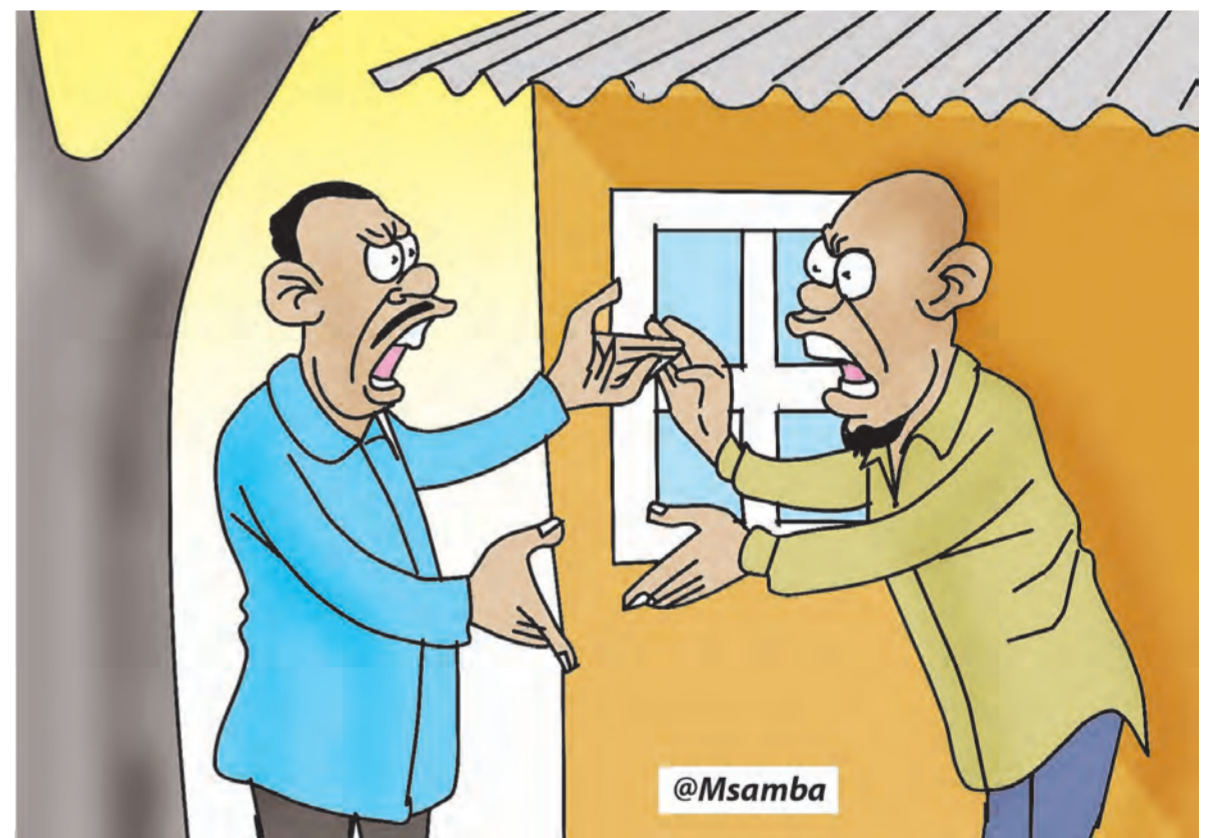
No pulling other skeletons and resentments out of the closet.

"You want to talk about sharing chores but you can't even pay your own bills."

"And you wonder why I hate your family."

You would be shocked by how many nice, polite people grow devil horns when fighting with their spouses. They turn a simple disagreement into a nuclear holocaust.

By the end of the argument, your head is spinning and on fire. You can't even remember what the original argument was about.



Arguing when you are certain you are correct

There's nothing better than knowing you can dunk on someone. You know you have the science. You have the logic. You have the standards for human decency.

Chill. When you come in guns blazing with all of your clear evidence, the other person will lock up. They'll feel bullied and incapable of hearing you out.

The best arguers are proven to use a small number of key points. They don't rapid-fire or clap in the person's face while they talk.

They ask questions. They know changing someone's mind is damn-near impossible. By asking questions, that person will change his or her own mind.

Great arguers stay calm, kind and empathetic - no matter how ignorant or stupid their target is.

They often open by acknowledging the things they agree on. Quite often, they compliment their opponent in the first minute.

Opening soft is disarming. It's unexpected. It highlights a desire for consensus rather than war and condescension.

I've spent the past five years writing on the internet - on platforms where anyone can comment. It's the worst.

In all of that name-calling and horrible language and aggression, I've never seen a single person stop and say: "You know what, you are

right. I'm wrong. We've all learned a lot today." Not once.

Persuasion starts with kindness, not fire. It's as Herbert George Wells (September 21, 1866 - August 13, 1946) wrote: "The first man to raise a fist is the man who's run out of ideas."

For the record: Wells was an English writer, journalist, sociologist, and historian best known for such science fiction novels. Prolific in many genres, he wrote dozens of novels, short stories as well as works of social commentary, history, satire, biography and autobiography. His work also included two books on recreational war games.

Dealing with real-life yelling and toxicity

I had been dating a woman for a few months. We had an otherwise good and healthy relationship that was loving and sweet.

There had been a disagreement we were discussing and - suddenly - she blew up and started screaming. She shouted at the top of her lungs for six or seven sentences in a row.

Prior to this, she had never raised her voice in the slightest. I was completely caught off guard and stunned.

I didn't say anything. There are only two healthy ways of handling this situation. One - you end the discussion.

Therapists frequently say that even responding validates that

person's verbal abuse (yes, shouting is considered verbal abuse - full stop).

Two, you sidestep. Forget the actual discussion. Have a discussion about the discussion. When someone is upset suddenly, express calm curiosity at his or her emotions and why they are upset.

Staying calm conveys your own strength while also validating that you care about other people's emotions. The worst possible thing you can do is shout back.

Takeaways to being a great arguer include staying calm and confident but without straying into the land of overconfidence; showing empathy and a goal of progress; and keeping the argument focused in one lane - that is, without letting it spiral out into six different arguments.

Also: starting by acknowledging things you agree on; sticking to a few strong points; resisting all temptations to overpower anyone you are arguing with and feel the need to dominate if you have the advantage.

The idea is for both of you to walk away feeling that you have evolved from the discussion. It's difficult to stay kind and understanding in the face of idiocy and aggression.

However, if you manage to do it - you will be the real champion. You will walk away proud of your actions rather than regretting them.

• **medium**

When your posh profession fails you, improvise and move on

TWO weeks ago, I met two old friends. One is a lawyer and the other an engineer. We all graduated the same year. Luckily, they were immediately hired by reputable companies based in the city. They wore fancy suits, had expensive phones and from Facebook images, they seemed to be doing very well. Naturally, I assumed they were swimming in money.

After the pleasantries, we had an honest conversation. I was shocked to learn that both were earning basic gross salary, psychologically abused by their bosses and overworked. How is that even possible?

When you graduate at the top of your class and get hired by a renowned company, everyone assumes you are making lots of money hence place high expectations on you, worst of all if you pursued a prestigious course.

What they don't know is that behind that fancy degree, nice suit and swanky office is a tortured soul battling depression while trying to reconcile perceived social standing and an empty bank account.

This reminded me of another friend and colleague of mine who pursued engineering and is now a renowned writer, blogger and content creator.

Here's his story

Every time he tells someone that he's a trained civil engineer they get shocked. They quickly do mental calculations on the time, sheer hard work and tuition spent on his education only for him to drop it for blogging and online content creation and then it makes absolutely no sense to them.

They check him out from head to toe for clues. When their eyes settle on his rugged hair, a knowing smile form on their lips then they think maybe he's on drugs.

The very first time he interacted with an engineer was during a career fair back in high school. He had a bushy beard, thick spectacles and an air of arrogance often associated with intellectuals back then. He was so taken by his brilliance as he explained the various disciplines and career options and at that very moment he knew what he wanted to do with his life—civil engineering.

Fueled by ambition, he camped at the library in a bid to understand the infamous salts and mole concept. Chemistry was his Achilles heel yet it was essential for the career he hoped to pursue. His entire family was ecstatic when he did well in NECTA exams and was admitted to the University to study engineering.

Walking on campus with a humongous book on engineering mathematics in one hand and a wooden T-square in the other was enough for him to forsee his bright future in the civil engineering industry.

After 3rd year he was required to go for field attachment. He spent two weeks visiting countless government offices and consultancy firms across the city. It was all the same story. "Drop your CV at the secretary's desk; we will call you as soon as a vacancy is available."

None of them ever called. He even suspected they tossed his papers into the trash can the moment he stepped out. Exhausted, he landed in an engineering corporation located in the city center. Unable to sway him their promises, they brought in an extra desk and a letter directing that he starts his internship the following Monday. Soon after, he got another internship spot at the council planning department.

Most engineering firms don't pay interns. Some actu-



ally demand that you pay them some amount for equipping you with hands-on skills. All in all, he was so happy that he could walk in town with the intern's badge hanging from his neck.

The two workplaces were completely different. His supervisor at the council offices was a shrewd chap. He would get to the office before official opening hours then leave at midday to check on his businesses. Since drawings for any infrastructural project must go through the department for approval before construction begins, there is rampant corruption as developers seek to hasten the process. He taught him how to survive in the industry and sometimes charge outrageous amounts for simple stuff.

The corporation had a more structured environment with all kinds of professionals ranging from accountants to architects. There were about ten engineers in his department. They were all brilliant and highly qualified. One time he chanced upon their pay slips. Boy, he was terribly

disappointed.

First, their salaries weren't competitive or anywhere close to what you imagine engineers make despite working for years. Secondly, although out there the society placed them on a pedestal, they were struggling to maintain that image on a tight budget. Car loans and mortgage took a substantial amount of their monthly earnings. To make it worse, all the biggest contracts had been taken by the foreign companies hence fewer projects available. They would spend most afternoons on social media or engage in endless political debates.

As an intern, his main duties involved rushing to the supermarket over lunchtime to get the freshest veggies, sausages and bread. He was also sent on all money-related errands

One day, he met one interesting plumber during a site visit. He would undertake at least five projects a month, each earning him ransom profit which is next to a cool half a million shillings for someone with little basic education yet an engineer

would have to work for almost three decades to make half of that. Something didn't feel right literally!

When he resumed studies at the university, professors were more truthful about what awaited them out there. One lecturer after another expressed their regrets for choosing the career path. A highly-acclaimed transportation professor revealed how he regretted having studied engineering to PhD level, which meant there were fewer job opportunities for him.

His peers who went into business after their first degree were minting millions and doing so much better than him in all other spheres of life while he was struggling to make ends meet. To add salt to the injury, the Bachelor of Arts guys he used to look down upon were now his bosses, earning more than he does and rubbing it in his face.

Certainly, this friend didn't want to spend the rest of his life lamenting about how unfair life was like the older engineers. He began exploring his writing talent and investing little

savings in potential business ideas.

Weeks before clearing university, he applied for management trainee positions in three multinational companies based in the region and as a volunteer at some business incubation programme.

Due to naivety, his young company ran out of business soon after campus. He was struggling to stay afloat and pick up the pieces. At the back of his mind, he had a fallback plan.

The following week he received rejection emails from all the firms he had applied to. His plan B went up in smoke. He was devastated.

Who the hell gets rejected by five establishments in round one of the interviews? He wasn't even good enough to become a volunteer? The writing on the wall was clear. He was a failure. No future. All he could see was darkness.

"I got a reprieve when I was invited to some water supply project in Singida that needed an engineer," My friend said. Finally, the gods were smiling down upon him. It was now his turn to excel. He imagined himself doing what he always dreamt of. Everything was falling into place. He was delighted. He went to meet the project manager with very high hopes.

Guess what he was offered. Some peanut amount of money a day to oversee the completion of a multi-million contract and had to work from Sunday to Sunday. No allowance, no medical cover or any other form of compensation. To make it worse, the main site was inaccessible by public transport so he would have to spend the entire amount on transport.

In retrospect, he learned not to take rejection personally, picked lessons from his failures and never to give up. If he was able to bounce back from rock bottom then no mountain was too big to summit.

Being in a third world country that places a high value on education, lots of parents push their kids to ostensibly esteemed careers thinking they will change family fortunes upon graduation.

Many other young people get into careers with unrealistic expectations on remuneration. This is intensified by the fact that those already in the field don't truthfully reveal to the young fellas what awaits them so as to protect the respect accorded to them by society.

That said, higher education is like modern football kit. It may give you a little advantage and enable you to play comfortably but it won't make you win trophies. Sacrifice, hard work, talent, creativity, a touch of luck, street smarts and self-drive is what makes you achieve massive success in life. Academic papers or lack thereof should never stop you from becoming great.

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The promotion and protection of human rights is a common cause of all countries

By He Yin

THE high-level segment of the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council kicked off on Feb. 28. When the world is still facing the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, deteriorating poverty and inequality, as well as challenges against the global human rights cause, all countries must make joint efforts to better promote and protect human rights.

China will continue to steadfastly pursue a human rights development path that meets the trend of times and suits its national conditions. While achieving historic progress in the cause of human rights at home, the country has taken an active part in global human rights governance, making Chinese contributions and providing Chinese schemes.

Respecting and protecting human rights is an unremitting pursuit of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The 100-year history of the CPC is a history of the Party uniting and leading the Chinese people to strive for, respect, safeguard and develop human rights. China's tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong is a process when the country has continuously ensured the Chinese people's right to life, right to development and other basic human rights.

Having built a moderately prosperous society in all respects, China has brought about a historic resolution to the problem of extreme poverty, providing a solid material foundation for protecting and developing human rights.

When responding to COVID-19, China has put people's interests first, with a belief that nothing is more precious than people's lives. It has protected the lives and health of the Chinese people to the maximum extent possible.

China is the only major country in the world that has formulated and implemented action plans on human rights for four consecutive terms. There is increasing awareness in the international community that China is acting as true champions of human rights.

Human rights are historical, concrete and



Two girls play in an agricultural park in Chengjiang township, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, Feb. 12, 2022. (People's Daily Online/Qin Tingfu)

realistic, and cannot be detached from the context of countries' different social and political conditions, history and cultural traditions.

China has made historic achievements in human rights, because it adheres to the leadership of the CPC and the principal status of the people, proceeds from reality, takes the rights to subsistence and development as its primary and basic human rights, protects human rights ac-

ording to law, and actively participates in global human rights governance. These are major characteristics of China's human rights development, and also valuable experiences gained by the country.

Since June 2017, the resolution proposed by China entitled "The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights" has been adopted by the UN Human Rights Council for three times, which fully indicates the wide in-

ternational recognition received by China for its experiences in human rights development.

Without development, there would be no human rights to speak of, nor could the rights enjoyed by the people be sustainable. The right to development is an inalienable human right, which is affirmed by the UN Declaration on the Right to Development.

On promoting global human rights gov-

ernance, China acts as a positive contributor to common development. It believes that long-term world development cannot be sustained if some countries get wealthier at the expense of others that are kept poor and backward. Only common development of countries makes a more prosperous world.

China has proposed and implemented the jointly building of the Belt and Road to enhance international development cooperation and share development results with other countries. It also actively pursues South-South Cooperation, offering assistance for other developing countries within its capability with no political strings attached and helping other developing countries, especially the least developed ones, eliminate poverty. Besides, the country has proposed the Global Development Initiative to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is constantly contributing its wisdom and schemes to the development of the international human rights cause.

In judging whether human rights are upheld in a country, one cannot use other countries' standards, still less apply double standards or use human rights as a political tool to interfere in the affairs of other countries. On promoting global human rights governance, China acts as a firm defender of equity and justice. It steadfastly promotes greater democracy and rule of law in international relations, follows true multilateralism, and steers global human rights governance toward greater fairness, equity and inclusiveness.

China is ready to engage in human rights exchanges and cooperation with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect, nevertheless, it does not accept self-styled "lecturers" on human rights and rejects stoking bloc confrontation in the name of human rights.

Making voices of justice at the UN Human Rights Council together with other developing countries, China firmly opposes the U.S. and the West interfering in other countries' domestic affairs in the name of the so-called "human rights," which is of significant importance for the healthy development of the international human rights cause.

The realization of human rights is a common pursuit of mankind, and the promotion and protection of human rights a common cause of all countries. China is willing to work with all relevant parties to promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, promote the healthy development of the international human rights cause, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

International community has to deal with Taliban in Afghanistan - UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

THE international community has no choice but to deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan, said Deborah Lyons, the top UN envoy for the war-torn country, on Wednesday.

"Let me make clear that we do not believe that we can truly assist the Afghan people without working with the de facto authorities (of the Taliban)," she told the Security Council in a briefing. "This must be difficult for some to accept."

But it is essential. "There remains an enduring distrust between the Taliban and much of the international community, and even the regional countries and neighbors, said Lyons, the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)."

The Taliban feel misunderstood and complain to us that our reports do not reflect the reality as they see it. They tell me that we underestimate their achievements and that we exaggerate the problems -- bridge the gap which they acknowledge and which they claim they are trying to solve," she said.

Above all, the Taliban believe that they should receive greater acknowledgment for the security that prevails in Afghanistan. In the six months since the Taliban takeover on Aug. 15, 2021, there has been a 78 percent decline in civilian casualties as a result of the reduction of the conflict.

They also note that their amnesty declaration has been honored for the most part and that violations are not sanctioned and that those violators will be punished, she said.

The Taliban also highlight progress on the economic front, including strong revenues despite decreased economic activity, reduced government corruption, and a budget that does not require donor resources.

They also point to public universities being reopened and their desire to see Afghans, all boys and all girls, educated to a high international standard, she said.

On Tuesday, on the anniversary of the signing of the Doha Agreement between the Taliban and the United States, the Taliban reiterated their declared commitment to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a threat to any country, and their desire for good relations with all states and international organizations, she noted.

"This complements another important point made to me recently by the de facto foreign minister, namely that their diplomatic policy is to ensure that Afghanistan also does not become an arena of competition between other powers or countries," said Lyons.



Afghan men wait for work in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, Feb 12, 2022. File photo

Most importantly, they complain that these positive achievements are being undermined by an undeclared economic war against them by the international community that has greatly affected and resulted in choking of the economy and they know also exacerbating the suffering of the population, she said. "This clash of perspectives forms the basis of a serious gap, gulf and distrust that must be addressed."

And that is what UNAMA has been doing these past six months and what we hope you will be giving us the mandate to continue to do in the year ahead -- to bridge this gulf for the betterment of all Afghans," she said, referring to the planned renewal of UNAMA's mandate later this month.

In response to the complaints, UNAMA has articulated to the Taliban the concerns of the international community and most notably, the instructions from the Security Council,

said Lyons.

As UNAMA, we must continue to report on what we see, even as we continue to build an understanding and the working relationship with the de facto authorities.

We are concerned by restrictions on women and girls' fundamental rights, on extrajudicial killings, on enforced disappearances, on arbitrary detention, on respect for minorities, and on freedoms of assembly and expression," she said.

UNAMA's advocacy and collaboration with the Taliban have produced results, citing the release of the disappeared women protesters and their family members.

Afghanistan presents a complicated situation, with positive and negative trends occurring simultaneously.

UNAMA has so far been able to address many issues through constructive engagement and cooperation with the Taliban, both

on the humanitarian delivery as well as on some of the sensitive issues, said Lyons.

"We believe, as a political mission, that we can do much more to work with the de facto authorities on the main issues facing Afghan society."

UNAMA's purpose is ultimately to see Afghanistan, one of the original members of the United Nations, rejoin the organization as a member in good standing, benefit from the resources of the international community, and contribute to the global discussion on issues of common concern, she said.

"Naturally, working with the de facto authorities in no way means condoning everything that it does. But this will give us the opportunity, on behalf of all of you and the rest of the international community, to help shape a future for the people of Afghanistan, free of conflict and where they can peacefully pursue their quest for prosperity, participation, and respect for their rights," she said.

The Security Council is scheduled to vote on the renewal of UNAMA's mandate on March 17. Lyons called on the council to design a proper mandate to fit the purpose of UNAMA.

"The mandate you adopt for UNAMA will send a signal from the international community to the Afghan people that they have not been forgotten, and to the Taliban de facto authorities that the world does not desire future conflict in Afghanistan but that they will need to recognize basic standards of global citizenship in order to be accepted by the international community," she said.

If UNAMA is appropriately equipped and empowered by the Security Council, a busy but worthwhile agenda awaits the UN mission: ad-

ressing the economic crisis; working with the Taliban to ensure education for all girls and boys to help the country move forward; promoting human rights; engaging in a discussion about political inclusion to ensure the concerns of all Afghans are reflected in decision-making; supporting a structured policy dialogue with the Taliban that supports the process of securing domestic legitimacy and addresses the key international concerns of narcotics, terrorism and regional security, she said.

These elements combined will allow UNAMA to work with the Taliban and other Afghans and the Security Council to establish a pathway for the Afghan state to rejoin the larger international community, said Lyons.

"Your deliberations and decisions on the mandate in the coming weeks have immense consequences. They will resonate across the region and the world, but more importantly, they will be felt in every village in Afghanistan."

"I would be remiss if I did not remind you that you are about to approach a critical moment in your relationship with Afghanistan."

You have the opportunity in the next two weeks to develop and design a much-needed, relevant and solid political mission that will help to build back the country, that will help to build the capacity, that will help to attract back the all-important development dollars and will avoid the constant collapse of Afghanistan into a humanitarian crisis," said Lyons. "I implore you to give us a strong, solid mandate that will be required. Without it, I fear for the future."

Agencies

'Ecological bank' in China increases people's income while promoting better development of forest resources

By Yan Ke, Liu Xiaoyu

SINCE 2018, Nanping city, east China's Fujian province, has piloted a project in Shunchang county in the city to explore "ecological bank", an innovative model that integrates scattered and fragmented forest resources and puts them under the control of state-owned forest farm for better utilization and development through specialized operations.

Under the model, forest farmers are free to choose the ways in which they entitle the state-owned forest farm to the rights to manage, use, and develop their tree plots. They can become shareholders of the state-owned forest farm, rent their forest resources out to the farm, entrust the farm with the management and development of their resources, or simply transfer the ownership right of their trees and the contract and management rights of forest land to the farm.

Shunchang county is rich in forest resources, with 2.5 million mu (166,667 hectares) of forest land and a forest cover of



Farmers pick bamboo fungi in a forest in Shunchang county, Nanping city, east China's Fujian province. File photo

80.34 percent.

The "ecological bank" enables local forest farmers to deposit forest resources just like putting money into a bank account, and then earn guaranteed returns as well as dividends during the forest harvesting period, said Zhao

Gangyuan, an executive with the state-owned forest farm in Shunchang.

Xiao Shuchang, a resident in Jixia village, Shunchang county, became a shareholder of the forest farm last year. "I 'deposited' 26 mu of forests in the 'eco-

logical bank' last year. During the contractual period, I can get 1,800 yuan (\$285) of dividends per mu of forest in advance and 80 percent of the profits from the forest lands with a production capacity of more than 10 cubic meters of wood per mu

during the harvesting period, which means an increase of over one hundred thousand yuan in my income," he said.

Since he "deposited" the 26 mu of forests in the special bank, Xiao has raised several hundred chickens in his forests, and his

wife has also found odd jobs at a nearby industrial park, which brought the family a combined income of over 30,000 yuan by February this year. "I'm full of hopes of a better life," Xiao said.

Starting from 2020, the first batch of contracts and management rights of forest land transferred by villagers in Jixia to the state-owned forest farm gradually expired. With the consent of farmers, the village "deposited" its 2,636 mu of collective forests in the "ecological bank", allowing shareholders to enjoy guaranteed returns as well as dividends during the logging season.

As of the end of 2021, a total of 81,500 mu of forest land in Shunchang county had been incorporated into the state-owned forest farm, benefiting 2,510 farmer households and increasing the income of farmers by 594 million yuan.

Meanwhile, centered around its state-owned forest farm, Shunchang established a government-funded forest tenure guarantee company to provide financing guarantee services for forest-related enterprises, village collective ventures and individual forest farmers.

The forest tenure guarantee company has guaranteed 305 million yuan of loans, saving more than 15 million yuan in financing costs for forest farmers, according to Zhou Cuixia, an executive with the company.

In the future, the county will integrate more scattered ecological resources and establish a natural resource asset operation and management platform to promote the diversified development of the forestry industry.

The idea and operational mode of the "ecological bank", while building a platform for farmers to turn forest resources into assets, can solve a multitude of problems, including the lack of rural labor force, idle forest resources, low forest management efficiency, and single forest management mode.

Through the integration of scattered resources and platform-based operations, the innovative model ensures the effective exploitation of forest resources, laying an underpinning for realizing ecological industrialization and promoting the high-quality development of forestry industry.

People's Daily

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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

World Vision gives primary school maize 50 tonnes beans, cooking oil

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

THOUSANDS of primary and secondary school students in Ruvo-remmit division in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region are in need of relief food following drought that hit the area and killed livestock, the mainstay of the economy.

The challenge has led many of them being unable to attend classes for the past five months as their schools had no breakfast or lunch arrangements, with parents unable to provide food.

The affected pupils are from Ngage, Ndeves, Loiborsoit B, Mazinde Gunge, Olerumo primary schools, as well as Ruvo-remmit and Loiborsoit secondary schools.

This donation was made on Tuesday with World Vision handing over relief food to Ruvo-remmit primary school as part of its Ruvo-remmit development project. The handed over relief food include 50.7 tonnes of maize flour, 27.6 tonnes of beans and 2,220 litres of cooking oil.

Witness John, a pupil at the school, said: "When you wake up in the morning there is no breakfast at home, and when you go to school the parent is unable to donate money or food. It becomes difficult for pupils to be attentive in classrooms."

Constantine Daniel of Ndeves primary school said that as a result of this problem, sometimes a class of 45 pupils is reduced to 20 at noon or throughout the day.

Jeremiah John of Loiborsoit secondary school said sometimes hunger overwhelmed some students to the point of collapse and the situation compelled teachers to make porridge to wake them up. Ngage primary school head teacher, Evans Mtalio confirmed the situation, saying out of 574 pupils at the school, just about 160 gets lunch, and more than a third of them miss classes.

The assessment shows attendance will increase to more than 90 percent with meals received during lessons, he said.

Rachel John, a parent, said they planned to donate food together to support efforts of the missionary NGO. Children need to have enough food for the rest of the year and students being ensured access to education as indispensable for their lives.

WVT acting Ruvo-remmit project coordinator, Aizack Mwajande said the donation was provided after the agency in collaboration with district officials noticed the effects of prolonged drought.

It had caused livestock deaths due to



Ruvo-remmit primary school pupils receive relief food from World Vision Tanzania on Tuesday.

lack of grazing and thus the people in those areas lacked the ability to care for children and their families in general.

The aid will directly help 3,696 pupils for the period March to June, he said.

District Commissioner Dr Suleiman

Serera, receiving the donation, urged parents to venture into growing short maturity and drought resistant crops.

This should provide a lasting nutritional solution for children at home and school, he added.

UN panel doubts on global ability to contain the perils of climate change

By A Special Correspondent

CLIMATE change is endangering the health of the planet, humanity, and the species and ecosystems that anchor life on earth, according to a report released late last month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

UN Secretary General António Guterres said the stakes for the planet have never been higher. He told a press conference that the report is "... a dire warning about the consequences of inaction that shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our well-being and a healthy planet."

The IPCC is the key experts' body in the United Nations system on climate change. This report is the second of three that will form the IPCC's sixth assessment since its founding in 1988, which should be published in the second half of 2022. The report's 270 authors drew from the science found in some 34,000 studies to detail

the ways in which people and ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change as well as how they are adapting to the changes it causes.

The first part of the IPCC's sixth assessment was published in August 2021. Focused on the physical climate science, authors described the link between human activity and climate change as "unequivocal," and said that global temperatures have risen by 1.1° Celsius (2° Fahrenheit) since the 19th century.

In this new publication looking at impacts, adaptation and vulnerability around climate change, the leaders of the IPCC say that cutting the flow of climate-warming greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere is critical to maintaining human and ecosystem health. But finding ways to adapt and boost the resilience of both, particularly of those people who are bearing the greatest costs of climate change, is just

as important, the report says. The authors note that 90% of climate-related financing is going to mitigation, not adaptation efforts.

At the 2021 U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, world leaders committed to pursuing a pathway that would keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels. But with the current rate of emissions, some scientists say we're close to a track that will lead to a 3°C (5.4°F) rise by the end of the century. That would lead to a tenfold extinction risk for biodiversity, and it could eliminate many of the adaptation possibilities that today are still open to humanity.

"Limits to adaptation are already being reached, which disproportionately impacts communities in already vulnerable situations who are also the least responsible for the crisis," Kaisa Kosonen, a climate expert with Greenpeace Nordic, said in a statement. Greenpeace is an official IPCC observer.

More than any previous report, the text aims to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, as well as address the inherent injustices of how climate change often disproportionately burdens the world's poor. That will improve the actions taken to adapt to climate change, Edward Carr, a geographer, anthropologist and professor at Clark University in Massachusetts said.

"If we're not bringing in the widest set of people, one of the things I think we've come to realize is we have not necessarily done that very well," said Carr, one of the lead authors of Chapter 18 of the report on climate-resilient development pathways. "We are finally pulling Indigenous knowledge into the report ... Therefore, Indigenous concerns are showing up."

In addition to spurring the uptick in extreme weather and larger wildfire, heat itself causes stress, leading to illness and death around the world.

But humanity faces a number of other problems threatening health and survival, particularly among the world's most vulnerable. As glaciers melt, even on Earth's highest mountains, referred to as "the world's water towers," water shortages are becoming more common. Food security is affected by that lack of water and by the droughts exacerbated by climate change. And the melting of the world's ice caps is driving sea level rise, threatening coastal communities.

"We can't keep taking these hits and treating the wounds," Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, said at the virtual press conference. "Soon those wounds would be too deep, too catastrophic to heal. We need to soften and slow the blows by cutting greenhouse gas emissions but we also need to cushion the blows by picking up our efforts to adapt to climate change, which have been too weak for too long."

"There is no silver bullet by which we're going to solve this problem, only silver buckshot," said Smith, who is the author of the book Pandora's Toolbox: The Hopes and Hazards of Climate Intervention.

The IPCC report covers a range of different efforts, from agroforestry that allows the production of food along with the restoration of ecosystems that support biodiversity, to finding ways to build green cities to stave off the heat that faces the billions of the world's people living in urban environments. But the authors also note that "maladaptation" could be counterproductive. For example, seawalls may protect communities against rising tides. But if their construction comes at the expense of mangroves or reefs, which are natural buffers to storm surges, not to mention critical wildlife and fishery habitats, such measures may be counterproductive.

The authors also emphasize the urgency of taking steps to

ward climate change mitigation and adaptation now.

"Climate impacts are already being felt around the world. To avoid the worst, we need urgent emission cuts and climate justice," Greenpeace Nordic's Kosonen said. "We need investments in adaptation, building equity, compensating for and insuring against losses and damages and fostering resilient development pathways where everyone can participate. None of this will happen unless high-emitters curb their emissions in line with the science."

Despite the grim forecast, Carr and other authors say that, at this moment, they are hopeful about the prospects that humanity can both cut emissions to halt climate change and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

"The simple fact is human beings have always been able to transform how they live in the world," Carr said. "We can do this."

TARI seeks to remain competitive in high nutrients improved seeds field

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

A KEY objective of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) is to improve resilience, livelihoods and food security of farmers, rural communities particularly youth and women, through scientific research and timely technology dissemination.

In an interview with the Guardian recently, TARI Ilonga acting centre director Meshack Makenge said TARI wants to remain competitive as it researches and produces improved crop varieties for improved crop productivity, production and profitability for enhanced food security and livelihoods in Tanzania and beyond.

The strategic objectives of attaining this mission is through development of demand led crop innovations and technologies, produce, maintain and promote wide use of high quality seeds of prioritized crops, to strengthen potential public private Partnership (PPP) for development and delivery of current agricultural technologies. According to Makenge, another strategic objective is to integrate research agenda that is responsive to cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, youth employment, climate smart, utilization and nutrition security, and agro-processing.

The research institute underscored the need to advance research and technologies of improved seeds, meeting demands of farmers, investors and international market outlets. Producing higher quality seeds with adequate nutritive content levels will assist to control hidden hunger. At times, the hidden hunger is seen in undernutrition for intake and absorption of vitamins and minerals (such as zinc, iodine, and iron), when they are too low to sustain good health and development.

The director said malnutrition caused by hidden hunger, particularly protein deficiency, is predominant in many parts of Tanzania as animal protein is too costly for most of the population. Leguminous crops deliver some protein but soybean is the only available crop that offers an inexpensive and high quality source of protein comparable to meat, poultry and eggs.

Currently, the total estimated area under soybean cultivation in the country is 28,743.2 hectares but production is still low due to poor supply of improved seeds, extension services and knowledge on agronomic practices of the soybean crop. TARI's intention is to develop new soybean varieties and increase production of the early generation soybean seed from 1,149,728 to 3,000 tonnes, with these amounts of improved seed used by the seed agency and private firms to produce other seed classes. These will be distributed to farmers and other stakeholders in the agriculture value chain, as goal expected to be achieved by 2026 with strong collaboration by potential institutional partners. Regions noted for soybeans are Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Morogoro, with other areas that grow maize capable of taking up soybean as well as the crop thrives in such areas.

"Through current plans and strategies, TARI want to come up with new improved seed varieties which have high protein and edible oil content and are imperative for the domestics and at international market," he said.

At the international market, there is demand for improved soybean seeds with 40 per cent protein and 20 per cent edible oil nutrients content levels he said.

TARI currently research is screening more than 40 soybean germplasm from the World Vegetable Centre gene bank located at Tengeru in Arusha. Upon completion of this research farmers will be facilitated to increase productivity from 1.5 tons per hectare to 3.0 tons, with edible oil output rising. The livelihoods of small scale farmers will be improved and food security secured.

Currently there is high demand of soybean as raw materials for livestock feed, food processing rich in protein and vegetable edible oil production to reduce costs of its importation.

Commenting on other mandate crops at TARI Ilonga, the director explained that sorghum and millet (pearl and finger millet) varieties of 'Macia' and 'Tege-meo' used for brewing are applicable in dryland needs



TARI Ilonga acting director Meshack Makenge explains what the centre is doing on the strategic sunflower crop where it has yielded research results recently. Photo by Correspondent Gerald Kitabu as they are drought resilient.

Maize

"When you talk of the main strategic crops and when you talk of food security crops, there is no doubt that usually maize comes first.

"Maize is a very important crop used as staple food all over the country." There are 24 improved varieties divided into open pollinated (OPV) and hybrids, all suitable for increased productivity and food security.

Sunflower

"Sunflower is very important for raw materials of industries, contributes more edible oil, livestock feeds from sunflower seed cake, also is used as cash crop and ensures jobs in sunflower value chain. Grain legumes have more commodities such as chickpea, pigeon pea, cowpea, mungbean, bambaranut and soybean. They

contribute a lot in soil health by biological nitrogen fixation. Integrated soil fertility management is vital to replenish lost nutrients in the soil.

Post-harvest technology management research

This is a system of handling, storing, and transporting agricultural commodities after harvest to ensure increase of shelf life of food. However, one underlying factor that seems to be often forgotten is the effect of post-harvest losses on exacerbating food insecurity and income loss especially among small-scale farmers. Mismanagement during the post-harvest season can have serious effects. Post-harvest losses occur in large-scale, with almost a third of the world's food going to loss or waste.

At the same time, post-harvest loss greatly affects farmers' incomes. Losing a ration of their yield and the

degrading value of their produces turns to a loss of their income. This further heightens the underprivileged status of these small-holder farmers, creating difficulties in funding their livelihood as well as in providing for their families' daily needs. Another ill-effect of mismanagement during this stage in the agri-process is that commodities may get adulterated by debris, insects, and even mold. Such impurities can endanger those who consume commodities, especially when substances such as aflatoxin become present. TARI Ilonga is conducting research on identifying contaminants and training stakeholders the way of handling and storing food materials in proper ways before being used by consumers.

Technology dissemination is part and parcel of all technologies developed; media are vehicle used to transfer technology from researchers to end user. Agricultural show at Nane Nane ground all over the country with component of Agriculture Technology Hub (ATH) and in Morogoro at Mwalimu Nyerere ground has already started preparations of planting, annual, perennial and horticultural crops.

Demonstration plots have been established in different locations of countries depending on the crop and ecology. At Kilosa district in Dumila area, Magole village, TARI Ilonga in collaboration with Seed companies and other stakeholders are continuing preparing Agriculture Business Expo which will be conducted in Mid June 2022.

Makenge recommends that infrastructures should be improved in order to increase seed development and production for availability and affordable for small scale farmers.

Irrigation system should also be constructed in research Institutes, seed agency and companies, farm machineries and farm implements are required for bush clearing, leveling of land, fencing of all fields to protect crops and seeds from livestock invasion.

Women bear the brunt of post-COVID employment woes in Latin America

LIMA

THE COVID-19 pandemic did not hit everyone equally and employment has shown a clear gender-differentiated impact. Two years after the start of the pandemic, it is more difficult for women than men to recover their jobs, and this is clearly reflected in Latin America.

The 2021 Labour Overview, Latin America and the Caribbean, published by the regional office of the International Labor Organization (ILO), highlights the differences in this regard.

While 25.5 million jobs lost by men between the fourth quarter of 2019 and the months following the onset of the pandemic have been recovered, women have yet to recuperate four million of the 23.6 million jobs they lost in the same period.

"This is so because we entered the pandemic without having resolved structural problems of the sexual division of labor; women and men are in different positions in the formal labor market as a result of the patriarchal order," Peruvian feminist sociologist Karim Flores, a specialist in gender and employment, told IPS.

She explained that although in recent decades there has been an accelerated increase in the number of women in the formal labor market, gender gaps persist in terms of wages, access to decision-making positions, precarious conditions within the formal labor market and feminized positions.

"Not only that, other serious asymmetries such as the unemployment rate, which is higher among women

than men, had not been overcome. In addition, the family-work relationship, which is a serious structural problem, had not been resolved," she said.

The expert said that this set of factors led to women entering the pandemic at a disadvantage, which now makes the process of recovering their jobs more difficult and slower.

Activities such as manufacturing, commerce, tourism, catering and hospitality, characterized by a larger female labor force, were among the hardest hit by the crisis. They suffered a contraction and even came to a standstill at the onset of the pandemic.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported that 56.9 percent of the female population in Latin America and 54.3 percent in the Caribbean worked in the sectors that were most impacted by the crisis.

According to the ILO, as of the second quarter of 2020, the female economic participation rate in the region was 43.5 percent. This is partly due to the fact that women who lost their jobs did not remain inactive or idle but turned to a number of other activities.

Survival instinct

Aracelli Alava is one illustration of this phenomenon. The 40-year-old Peruvian used to depend totally on tourism for a living. A qualified English translator, she helped moved tourists to different parts of the country with her company that provided services to travel agencies.

"I traveled four times a month on a routine basis, when suddenly the



Negotiators at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi. African countries have been encouraged to adopt circular plastic policies which will lower greenhouse emissions.

borders were closed and flights were brought to a halt. It was a terrible sensation; when they take away something that you are passionate about, that is your motor and motivation, it depresses you. That's when my survival instinct kicked in," she said.

She saw that her colleagues started selling different products, or tried to start businesses. She made her degree count and began doing various translations online to support herself, often overcoming the feeling of not wanting to get out of bed.

"Thank God I don't have dependent family!" she told IPS in a telephone interview from the historic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, in Cuzco, where she is once again accompanying a group of tourists.

She said that tourism activity has begun to recover, albeit very slowly. "My income has not rebounded yet, the gap is big, I am still doing translations but I am confident that by mid-year things will be a little better," she remarked.

Despite a greater recovery of women's jobs in 2021 due to the re-activation of sectors of the economy, driven by the mass vaccination drive, it has not been enough to reach 2019 levels.

The unemployment rate is 12.4 percent according to the ILO report, several points higher than the pre-pandemic 9.7 percent.

This situation is compounded by the impact on working conditions and income levels in those jobs that were not lost or were recovered.

Before the pandemic, Yolanda Castro, 45, worked eight hours a day at a private school in the Peruvian capital, and after work she devoted herself to her family.

The Mar. 16, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency in the country and the new restrictions completely changed her routine as head of tutoring at a primary level.

"Shifting the dynamic of work to home was an odyssey, although I learned the monster of on-line work," she said. "The hardest thing has been that it affects my family, that I had to take over their space, tell them to keep quiet, and work more than eight hours a day under those conditions for half my salary."

To cover part of her monthly budget deficit, she used her culinary skills and on weekends she cooked food to sell. She was thus left without a break because she worked seven days a week.

Castro said that in the first few months of the pandemic, during the lockdown when the military patrolled the streets, she would go out on the street with a white flag to drop off orders of stuffed potatoes, chicken broth, 'sopa seca' or potato pie at neighboring houses.

But the extra income was not enough to allow her to continue her specialization studies, which she had to suspend due to a lack of time and budget.

She has not yet returned to her pre-pandemic salary and although the government has announced that this year schools will go back to on-site classes, Peruvian educational institutions are still evaluating whether they will do so fully or in part, and contracts and pay will depend on what happens in that regard.

Decent and equal employment

Flores the sociologist remarked that talk of pre-pandemic levels should not render invisible the gender inequality gaps in employment that need to be corrected in a post-pandemic scenario.

She raised the need to establish post-pandemic employment pacts to achieve a policy promoting decent work in Latin America and the Caribbean,

the most unequal region in the world, also in terms of labor.

"According to the ILO, decent work respects rights, does not discriminate on the basis of gender or any other cause, respects unionization and collective bargaining, and guarantees a fair income and unemployment insurance," she said.

She included in the proposal attention to mental health, affected by the high levels of anxiety and stress caused by uncertainty and shortages during the pandemic, and the gender digital divide.

"That gap already existed, it was linked to access and training; during the pandemic these two factors have excluded many women from teleworking," she said.

Both the public and private sectors would be involved in the initiative of the pacts, which should include the central goal of advancing towards gender equality in employment.

The case of young women

Flores also referred to youth unemployment, which according to the ILO report stands at 21.4 percent for the region. Although that is lower than the 23 percent of 2020, it remains more than two points above the pre-pandemic rate of 18 percent.

She highlighted the barriers faced by female university graduates or young women who are trying to gain access to more highly qualified positions.

"Gender stereotypes persist in the management of human potential, from the processes of selection and evaluation to hiring, which end up marginalizing women," she said.

In addition to all this, the idea prevails that because they are young, they should be willing to accept exploitative conditions.

That is what happened to Mariana Navarro, a 24-year-old with a university degree in administration, who for most of 2021 worked at a private medical center.

"I have seen countless application forms and I have noticed that they have raised the requirements, they ask for experience in the public and private sector, program management, specializations...My resume is not strong enough for the recruiters, how could I meet those expectations if I am just starting out, what options do we have?" she complained.

Being economically dependent on her parents affects her self-esteem and budget, and also limits her options, but she is not willing to be employed under exploitative conditions or in any activity outside her profession.

"I am persevering, fighting for a possibility of a decent job," Navarro said.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 237 00--

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

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: ART, APE, RID
 4 LETTERS: MOOT, DIET, SURE, OVEN, NETA, WAGE, PAID
 5 LETTERS: AROMA, TEASE, DAILY, ASANA, EVADE
 6 LETTERS: ASMARA, ASCEND, KARATE, DENTAL, TYRIAN
 7 LETTERS: FARANGA,
 8 LETTERS: AGRARIAN
 10 LETTERS: MADAGASCAR

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- Selling of black Africans
- one of the two branches of Islam
- a thick cord made of twisted fibres
- to give as a gift to charity
- an expanse of land
- molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell
- Chief city of Sri Lanka
- soft, delicate
- to go or come in
- to adhere, to be attached
- short for amplifier
- fuss or difficulty

Down:

- neither very good nor very bad
- sharp-tasting or sour
- a thick cord made of twisted fibres
- to give as a gift to charity
- an expanse of land
- molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell
- Chief city of Sri Lanka
- soft, delicate
- to go or come in
- to adhere, to be attached
- short for amplifier
- fuss or difficulty

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT

BOUNDARIES, AGAIN, CABODET, AOHSEE, PLUNGE, SOON ELECT, WDA, LEGALESE, IDEMSE, ITABOOS

CROSSWORD

SOUTHERNER, CROWPANDA, KNEPALUK, CHORAEAK, SAM, SNAPAGREE, GEREA, GESTURES, UESTERBES, NWONDERL

By Magezi: 0755429240 fehnagezi@gmail.com

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 AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAWKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

STUDY REVEALS CONSUMER PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC SERVANTS' HOUSING PROJECTS

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC servants housing developers should change the way they execute their projects, after an academic study uncovered a mismatch between what they do against the wishes of buyers and tenants.

This is in accordance with the dissertation paper titled "Users involvement in housing solutions for public servants in Tanzania: A case study of Watumishi Housing Corporation" submitted by Abdon Kanuti in partial fulfillment of the Degree of Masters of Business Administration in Human Resources management of the College of Business Education, Dares Salaam 2021.

According to study findings, buyers and tenants interviewed raised three concerns including pricing, location and financing options as barriers, saying were mismatch with their expectations.

It is therefore recommended that policy makers should focus on attaining the real needs of the public servants in housing solutions.

Hence, the government agencies should consider providing the houses to lower income earners, of which the houses can be sold at less than 40mn/- (VAT Inclusive).

This should be taken with concern, and whenever possible the government might reduce or remove taxes on building materials used for constructing houses for government employees to subsidise the housing costs.

In November last year, the government explained the reasons behind a rise in the prices of construction materials, while listed measures to contain further escalation.

Reports have it that construction costs have increased by 80 percent, and evaluation was conducted in nine regions including Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mwanza, Coast, Shinyanga and Ruvuma.

Fair Competition Commission (FCC) was therefore directed to closely monitor the pricing processes, and to take appropriate



legal action against traders who violate competition laws.

It is further recommended by the study that, the government should consider reviewing the mortgage policy to reduce the interest rates charged by the lending financial institutions.

The collected data reveal the concern to house users on the importance of incorporating their requirements from the process of designing houses to implementation of housing projects.

The findings reveal that about 80 percent of all the house buyers/tenants earned not more than 2 million per month which had financial impact on their ability to buy housing units.

On the other hand, 72 percent of the house buyers/tenants were no satisfied with the amount of money they paid for leasing or buying the houses from the WHC.

According to the study, prices for the houses owned by the WHC in Dar es Salaam were on the higher side, whereby at the Bunju Housing Estates the landed houses were being sold at between 68mn/- and 91mn/- (VAT Inclusive).

At Gezaulole Housing Estate, the landed houses were sold at a price between 68mn/- and 106mn/- (VAT Inclusive), according to the academic paper.

Seven out of ten respondents were not involved in selecting the potential location for constructing the housing unit.

This means that the WHC did not con-

sult its customers on selecting the locations for constructing the houses.

"Some of the clients complained to have faced challenging experiences due to the absence of social services at locations where the projects were implemented," it says.

It was noted with concern that choosing location for constructing the houses should consider the availability of other social services like electricity, waters, health services, transport, and education services.

The majority of the customers who are equivalent to 74.6 percent argued to have not been involved in deciding the purchasing/renting price formula.

The customers were not sure whether the set prices were due to construction costs or the intention to raise high investment returns to the house developers.

On the other hand, seven out of ten the respondents were not consulted on deciding the mortgage alternatives and payable interest rates.

The complaints were noticed from the majority respondents on the intolerable conditions of the mortgage loans offered by the banks in the real estate market in Tanzania.

"The WHC and its financial partners in their discussions before entering agreements did not involve the customers who were the main beneficiaries and payers of the proposed mortgage

interest charges," the research reveals.

Following these findings, the results reveal that many house users ranked the house prices unaffordable and the interest rates charged by the financial institutions were on the higher side.

"The government agencies like the WHC should put in place the user involvement policy to attract views and comments from their prospective customers for better implementation of their housing projects," it says.

The main objective of the study intended to assess user involvement in housing solutions for public servants in Tanzania by using housing projects owned by the WHC in Dar es Salaam as a case study.

The specific objectives were to examine the involvement of public servants in determining the price for housing units, to assess the involvement of public servants in determine mortgage alternatives for housing solutions.

Another objective was to determine user involvement on choosing locations for building housing units for the public servants.

Both qualitative and quantita-

tive data were collected through distributing copies of questionnaires to 114 house buyers/tenants and housing construction experts residing in Dar es Salaam.

The customers/tenants were contacted at residential projects at the Bunju Housing Estate, the Watumishi Magomeni Apartments, and the Gezaulole Kigamboni Housing Estate.

The qualitative data were assembled through conducting interview with real estate development experts (land surveyor, quantity surveyors, estate managers, engineers, and architects) and the top managers at the WHC who were directly involved in designing, implementing, and managing the housing projects.

Author say the study used the Maslow's Hierarchy Theory of Motivation with a motive to identify those parameters in real estate business that motivates buyers and tenants to accept the housing projects.

They include, among others, the house designs, availability social services, affordable prices, potential locations of the projects and lower interests on mortgage loans.

Global luxury home markets soared in 2021, as sale prices see steep rise

By Ayse Kelce

DUBAI saw the biggest gain in luxury-home prices of any major global city in 2021, as values around the world saw record increases, according to a new report.

The increase in demand and rise in prices across 100 major hubs for luxury real estate were fueled by many factors including low mortgage rates, shifts in lifestyle choices due to the pandemic and more flexible working patterns.

Dubai led the list with a 44.4 percent increase in high-end sale prices from December 2020 to December 2021, according to the annual Knight Frank Wealth Report, released on Tuesday.

"The U.A.E.'s handling of the pandemic, strong take-up of the vaccine, the delivery of high-end turnkey projects as well as innovative new visa initiatives and economic reforms, have together boosted Dubai's profile in the eyes of international buyers," said Kate Everett-Allen, head of international residential research at London-based Knight Frank.

In the Middle Eastern city, sales above \$10 million have historically accounted for 2 percent of all transactions but in 2021, they equated to 7 percent, according to Ms. Everett-Allen.

Moscow was in second place with a 42.4 percent annual change, mainly due to Russia's mortgage subsidy program and tight supply, the report noted.

The next three spots were filled by US cities: San Diego, California, with 28.3 percent, Miami with 28.2 percent and New York's Hamptons with 21.3 percent increase in luxury home prices.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, buyers have been seeking more space, making these coastal cities popular among luxury home buyers looking for a second home. Warmer areas around the world also saw the highest increase at 10.2 percent, followed by cities with 8.4% and ski towns with 7.2%, according to the report.

Seoul (21 percent), Toronto (20.3 percent) and Taipei (18.9 percent) were next on the list, respectively. San Francisco was ninth pace with a 18.6 percent increase, followed by Los Angeles with 18.5 percent.

Five real estate trends to watch out for in March

By Aly Yale

THINKING of buying, selling, or investing in real estate this month? These trends should be on your radar.

We're only a few months in, and 2022 has already been a whirlwind year for the real estate world.

Mortgage rates have neared highs not seen since pre-pandemic, but despite this, buyer demand has surged.

In fact, according to real estate brokerage Redfin, nearly three in four buyers now face a bidding war.

But that's only a snippet of all that's happening in the red-hot world of real estate.

Are you gearing up to buy, sell, or invest in real estate soon? If so, here's a peek at some of the other real estate trends you should have on your radar.

1. Declining affordability
 Thanks to rising mortgage rates and skyrocketing home prices, overall housing affordability is declining. When you throw in inflation and the continued rate and

price hikes experts predict, that's not likely to improve anytime soon.

The same goes for rents, which are also on a tear lately. While this doesn't bode well for renters, buyers and investors could benefit from this trend.

It may even help solve the supply problem for many. (Instead of focusing on single-family homes, you could buy a multifamily property and rent out the extra units at a premium.)

2. A clamor for virtual real estate

If you haven't heard, metaverse real estate is the next big thing. While you can't move in or rent it out to the family down the street, there are ways to monetize your investment -- and sooner than you think.

As Fool.com contributor Kristi Waterworth puts it: "Rather than buy and hold your virtual real estate and wait for a buyer, choosing to rent it can start bringing in income now."

There are plenty of businesses out there already looking for a way to get a foot



in the door in their favorite metaverse platform but may not be ready to fully invest in property."

3. The rise of crypto mortgages
 I reported this week that a new company called Milo is offering the first crypto-backed mortgage product, which allows buyers to leverage their crypto (just Bitcoin at this time) to buy a home and then repay that debt over

30 years.

The loans require no credit check, down payment, or tax returns.

Other companies have similar products in the works too. Ledn, for exam-

ple, just raised \$70 million for its Bitcoin-backed mortgage program.

4. Increased interest in cash-offer solutions

Competition is stiff for today's limited supply of houses, and cash offers? Those are often the key to winning out. In fact, according to Redfin, cash offers accounted for almost a full third of all home sales last year.

Since the typical homebuyer won't have access to \$350,000 in cash (the current median home price), cash-offer solutions will likely pick up steam.

These offerings essentially make cash offers on the buyer's behalf, fronting the money for the offer and then renting the home back to the buyer while they apply for financing. In some cases, they also act as the lender.

Companies offering these sorts of solutions include Ribbon, Accept, Inc., Orchard, and Opendoor Technologies.

5. Pivots in new construction

New construction has, thankfully, started to make gains in recent months, but what's most notable? That'd be the size and type of homes being constructed.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, new homes are getting bigger. Average square footage actually dropped in the early days of the pandemic, but now it has started to move upward.

The average square footage for new homes is now 2,561 square feet -- up about 6 percent in just the last year.

Custom home and town-home starts are also on the upswing, each notching an 11 percent gain year over year in the final quarter of 2021.

It's never a dull day in real estate, and as inflation, the Ukraine invasion, and other world happenings rear their economic heads, we can expect even more volatility in the months to come.

If you plan to make any new real estate purchases, make sure to have plenty in cash reserves just in case. Not only will it help you win out in today's competitive landscape, but it can also safeguard you if the market takes a turn.

Our team of real estate experts and analysts at The Motley Fool just revealed what they believe are the top 5 best REITs under \$50 for individual investors right now... and they're giving the report away for free.

TANZANIA NEEDS TO CONCEIVE PEOPLE-CENTRIC URBAN CITIES, SAYS WB STUDY

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nngai

As the world continues to urbanize, most people are poised to move to mid-size cities rather than huge metropolises; yet the specific needs of secondary cities are often overlooked, when it comes to transport and investment policies.

Tanzania has in recent years embarked on an ambitious urban transport development strategy, but a new World Bank Report identified a need to cater more for pedestrians and public transport users in urban centres.

The report dubbed, "Shifting the Mobility Paradigm of Intermediate Cities in Tanzania: Urban Transport for People" aims to bridge the gap with some new evidence from Tanzania.

The World Bank research showed that most transport investment in Tanzania's secondary cities is currently skewed toward private cars, while the majority of residents rely primarily on walking or public transport.

The focus on automobility has contributed to rapid motorization and urban sprawl, which threaten to put these cities on an unsustainable path.

According to the report, in city centers, road space is allocated mostly to motor vehicles over more sustainable and widely used modes of transport, compromising the efficient use of public space and safety of commuters.

"On average, 88 percent of the road space is allocated to motor-

lanes and parking, though less than 10 percent of the population uses private cars," it said.

It added that existing pedestrian paths in city centers do not provide sufficient safety or network completeness and while road space is built for cars, pedestrians have no alternative but to use stretches of unprotected, unmarked road.

"On average, 0.3 percent of every 10,000 people in intermediate cities die in traffic collisions and another 0.1 percent are severely injured. Some cities, such as Mwanza, Mbeya, and Njombe, have a higher rate of fatalities. Motorcycle deaths are also on the rise, currently representing about 20 percent of road traffic accidents in various cities and as many as 30 percent to 35 percent in Tanga and Mbeya," according to the report.

It noted that the cycle of automobile dependence becomes increasingly difficult to break as a city grows; therefore, enhancing sustainable urban mobility at an early stage is a key to take advantage of the benefits of urbanization.

The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 calls for national development that is "people-centered, based on sustainable and shared growth.

Sustainable urban mobility-urban mobility systems aimed at maximizing accessibility for urban residents,



especially by non-motorized transit and public transport—will be increasingly necessary to manage Tanzania's high rate of population growth, connect people to jobs and services for improved productivity and livelihoods, and prepare cities for the next level of Tanzania's development.

The high rates of urban population growth in the country are an opportunity to reap the benefits of agglomeration economies and contribute to economic growth and shared prosperity, but they also represent a challenge: to deliver urban services to a rapidly growing population in a timely and sustainable manner.

Mobility is key to bringing people and businesses closer

to each other and spurring growth.

Relying on private, motorized modes of transport (i.e., cars and motorcycles) comes with large economic, social, and environmental costs.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is witnessing the high costs of investing in sustainable mobility as urban areas have already expanded.

"One-way trips can take more than 2.5 hours in both private and public transport, leaving little time for leisure, reducing productivity, and hindering the full potential of agglomeration economies," the report said.

Presently, Tanzania's 17 intermediate cities will have populations between 250,000 and 2 million by

2030, including Mwanza, Dodoma, and Arusha have a desirable modal split, dominated by non-motorized modes, and public transport provides adequate access to jobs and city amenities.

However, trends suggest these cities will soon be trapped in the cycle of automobile dependence if prompt action is not taken.

"The Demand for motorized modes is growing fast and cities are expanding at low population densities, fueling a vicious cycle and impeding the development of sustainable mobility systems. Many Tanzanians will be left behind, unable to afford public transport and living far from opportunities," the report added.

The report said 60% of people in intermediate cities commute by foot, but many not by choice and commuting public commuters popularly known as 'daladala instead of walking would require the poorest households to nearly double their average monthly expenditure on transport.

"Only a very small number of people can afford motorcycles and cars, which together comprise less than 10% of trips. Cycling, as a low-cost, high-efficiency mode of medium-distance transport, has enormous unrealized potential in most cities, but is used for fewer than 10% of trips," it added.

It noted that out of four urban groups studied, the two with the largest areas, Moshi and Arusha, already have much lower accessibility by public transport (9% and 34%, respectively) than Mwanza (57%) and Dodoma (67%).

Furthermore, accessibility is much lower for those who cannot afford public transport and can opt to only walk and if walking was the only mode available, an average resident in most of these cities would have access to fewer than half of the jobs in a 60-minute commute.

By attempting to achieve sustainable urban mobility, Tanzania will join countries in Africa and around the world in pursuing mobility policies focused on people instead of cars. Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Mozambique are all actively pursuing national reforms on sustainable urban mobility.

"This more holistic approach to urban transport is focused on better serving the majority of urban residents who commute by foot or public transport, rather than the very small minority with access to private cars," the report said.

Ghana's housing deficit decreases, states statistician

ACCRA

GHANA'S housing deficit has for the first time decreased, the Government Statistician, Professor Samuel Kobina Annim has disclosed.

Prof Annim said the country had recorded a decrease in the national housing deficit which has dropped by 33 percentage points (over 1.8 million units).

Presenting the 2021 Population and Housing Census on Thursday [February 24, 2022] in Accra, Prof Annim said the decrease could be attributed to interventions in the housing sector by the government and private developers.

However, he said the findings by the Ghana Statistical Service did not consider the quality and affordability implications of the decrease.

"One area that has attracted a lot of policy concern is housing deficit. Since our independence in 1960, we have seen an upward trend in the housing deficit inching up over the last 50 year period from 1960 to 2010 from a figure 1 million to 2.8 million.

"For the first time, we've seen a reversal in the housing deficit by 33 percentage points, this points to possibly some of the interventions that are happening both from the governmental point of view and the private sector point of view.

"We are happy that some interventions are happening but we are short of the fact that this analysis does not provide us the quality implications and the affordability implications of these housing units".

Presenting other highlights of the Census Report on housing, Prof Annim said residential structures had increased in the last decade by 72.8 per cent (from 3,392,745 in 2010 to 5,862,890 in 2021) with variations by type of locality and region.

He said the number of dwelling units increased nearly three-fold to 10,006,420 units since the first Population and Housing Census in 2000.

The report also stated that vacant dwelling units constitute 12.7 per cent of all dwelling units, and is more prevalent in rural (14.9%) than urban (11.1%) areas.

"The proportion of vacant dwelling units is highest in Western North Region (16.3%), followed closely by Volta Region (14.8%) and Greater Accra Region (14.6%)," Prof Annim said.

Reacting to the findings contained in the report, the Minister for Works and Housing, Mr Francis Aseeso-Boakye lauded the Ghana Statistical Service for gathering data that would serve as the basis for planning, monitoring, and evaluating housing conditions within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Premier promises the UK's property register to expose kleptocrat money

FRANKFURT

AS the government acts to squeeze Russian oligarchs in the wake of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Boris Johnson has promised to rush forward plans for a new public register, revealing the ultimate owners of properties across the UK.

The government had previously failed to act, despite the vast offshore leak known as the Pandora Papers revealing last year the details of 1,500 UK properties owned through secretive offshore companies, some of them connected to senior Russian figures.

The data showed that the family of Russian oli-

garch Mikhail Gutseriev - who was placed under sanctions by the UK, EU and US last year - owned more than £50m of property in the City and West End of London (though representatives of his family insisted he had no interest in the assets).

In total, it has been estimated that £170bn-worth of UK property is held overseas, much of it anonymously: whether to avoid publicity, tax, or worse. Many of these anonymously held properties are concentrated in London - in particular in Westminster and Kensington.

Making their ultimate owners public is aimed at helping law enforcement



agencies track what Johnson called "dirty money" - but will also increase transparency for civil society groups and journalists.

The new register will apply retrospectively to property bought up to 20 years ago in England and Wales, and from 2014 in Scotland. Entities that do not declare the beneficial owner will face restrictions on selling the property, and people who break the rules could face up to five years in prison.

It is far from a new idea: the UK has had a publicly available register of beneficial ownership for companies - the People with Significant Control register - since 2016.

The same approach is gradu-

ally being extended to British overseas territories, after intensive campaigning by a cross-party alliance of backbenchers, including the Conservative former development secretary Andrew Mitchell and former Labour minister Margaret Hodge.

The long-awaited property register is unfinished business from a crackdown begun almost a decade ago.

When the UK chaired the G8 in 2013, David Cameron told the global elite at Davos, the annual Swiss shindig for business leaders and politicians, that governments should be "shining a light on company ownership, land ownership and where money flows from and to".

He talked about wanting to tackle the "travelling caravan of lawyers, accountants and financial gurus" who support the hiding of vast sums of wealth.

Three years later, in 2016, Cameron hosted an anti-corruption summit in London, at which he announced his intention of introducing a property register.

"The new register for foreign companies will mean corrupt individuals and countries will no longer be able to move, launder and hide illicit funds through London's property market, and will not benefit from our public funds," a government press release said at the time.

At the time Cameron was be-

ing questioned on if there was a conflict of interest between his policy to crack down on aggressive tax avoidance and a Panama-based investment trust his father had set up which did not have to pay UK tax on its profits. Cameron had once owned shares in the trust but had sold them in 2010 because he said he "didn't want anyone to say you have other agendas or vested interests".

Since then, however, successive administrations have dragged their feet, and the measure has never been enacted - despite Theresa May's government getting as far as including it in a draft bill in 2018.

Robert Barrington, professor of anti-corruption practice at the University of Sussex, says there are two possible explanations. "One is that the government have not accorded it the priority, because of Brexit and so on. The other is that it has been blocked, because of interests."

Over the six years since the plan was first mooted, he says he has increasingly come around to the second of these. "I don't know whether it's the Treasury, the City, oligarchs making donations to political parties; but there is a block in the system."

Oil driller invests in carbon-capture pipeline for Midwest



BISMARCK

NORTH Dakota's biggest oil driller said Wednesday it will commit \$250 million to help fund a proposed pipeline that would gather carbon dioxide produced by ethanol plants across the Midwest and pump it thousands of feet underground for permanent storage.

Continental Resources, headed by billionaire oil tycoon Harold Hamm, discussed the investment into Summit Carbon

Solutions' \$4.5 billion pipeline at an ethanol plant in Casselton, in eastern North Dakota.

The plant is one of 31 ethanol facilities across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and the Dakotas, where emissions would be captured and piped to western North Dakota and buried deep underground.

The Summit project is one of at least two major CO2 pipelines planned for the Midwest. Navigator CO2 Ventures is planning a pipeline that will stretch over

1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) through Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois.

Similar CO2 pipeline plans are being considered elsewhere after the federal government increased tax credits, by 2026, to \$50 for every metric ton of carbon dioxide a company sequesters. Ethanol producers are aiming to make the fuel more marketable along the West Coast and especially California which requires distributors in that state buy only ethanol with a low car-

bon emissions impact; companies that produce such ethanol can get a higher price.

The Summit pipeline system would extend 2,000 miles (3,219 kilometers) and could move up to 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, said Wade Boeshans, executive vice president of the Iowa-based pipeline developer. That's equal to removing the annual carbon emissions of 2.6 million cars, he said.

Boeshans said the involvement of Hamm likely will help raise

capital and boost the project's profile. Hamm's company helped lead a renaissance in the U.S. oil industry through the use of horizontal drilling to free oil trapped in shale rock. Continental is the biggest producer and largest leaseholder in the Bakken shale formation, with more than 1 million acres (404,686 hectares) in North Dakota and Montana.

Hamm told The Associated Press that his company is looking at the pipeline project as more than an investment.

CONSTRUCTION

DECENTRALISED MICROGRIDS A SOLUTION TO AFRICA'S MOBILITY CRISIS

By Darren Parker

THE development of decentralised microgrids that run on renewables should be encouraged and enabled throughout Africa to allow for the adoption of electric vehicles (EV) in remote areas, which would contribute significantly towards resolving mobility challenges across the continent.

The proposed solution was supported by several panelists during an African Energy Indaba webinar dealing with energy for transport in Africa on March 2.

"Africa has a huge deficit in energy generation and a transport and mobility crisis. If we look at both urban and rural Africa, the cost and the time that most people spend on access and transport is ridiculous," said renewable energy and transport company Mobility for Africa founder and director Shantha Bloemen.

She commented that there was "no excuse" anymore not to electrify the continent given that the cost of renewable energy had decreased significantly in recent years.



Bloemen noted that advancements in battery technology, the digital revolution underpinning renewable technologies, as well as access to fi-

nancing would all serve to derisk rural populations to make the rollout of electrified transportation viable.

She noted that, with 70 percent

of the continent comprised of rural areas, it would be unhelpful to only focus on urban areas when it came to providing adequate electrified trans-

port infrastructure.

"I think we should be much more ambitious than that," she said.

Energy company Hamster Energy CEO Idris Rufai noted that Africa lacked the electricity infrastructure and capacity to support electric mobility solutions - especially in rural areas - but that the solution lay in decentralising energy supply away from State-owned grids and allowing the private sector to enter the fray, building renewable energy-based microgrids to service remote areas.

He said this would allow for healthy competition that would lead to better service and lower prices. This would, however, require policy makers to enable large amounts of small-scale investment into the establishment of microgrids across the continent.

This could also deter corruption and mismanagement of large-scale investments into massive power infrastructure projects, such as that which occurred during the building of South African State-owned utility Eskom's Medupi and Kusile power plants.

Conversely, energy consulting

firm THEnergy CEO Dr Thomas Hillig said a full-system approach, as opposed to a decentralised microgrid approach, would be required for Africa's electrified transport system to become fully competitive.

He argued that EVs would need to have access to charging facilities outside of the microgrid areas, which would require centralised and interconnected networks.

The general consensus of the panelists, however, was that the EV revolution would be beneficial to Africa because it would force increased electrification across the continent. If this were to be achieved through the rollout of microgrid-based renewable energy infrastructure, the cost of electricity would also decrease significantly while also contributing to the decarbonisation of Africa's energy and transport sectors.

EV adoption campaign Electric Drive Africa founder Dr Remmedzai Kuhudzai concluded that the electrification of Africa's transport industry would democratise transport and make it more inclusive for all.

SBL's local sourcing enhancing farmers' productivity

By Guardian Reporter

The ingredients for making alcohol, more often than not, differ, but the techniques of brewing are basically the same.

Beers comprise of water, grains, hops and yeast. The sources of these ingredients are therefore extracted from the soil, so to speak.

Cereals such as maize, millet and sorghum have been used to substitute grain requirements, and are formidable ingredients in beer brewing process. Fortunately, they can be grown locally and in large quantities unlike barley that is widely used worldwide.

What this means is that in essence, as said earlier, beer comes from the soil - through the growing and harvesting of these crops so that they can be brewed into beer. And if they can be produced locally, it will always be prudent for beer-makers to support their production.

Serengeti Breweries Limited has over the last five years embarked on local sourcing program which also empower the local farmers to produce quality cereals not only to enable the brewer to get the necessary ingredients but to also boost the farmers' economic wellbeing.

The Company is currently sourcing its beer making raw materials from a network of 400 farmers located in various part of the country under its agri-business program.

The program also supports



West Kilimanjaro farmers who supply Serengeti Breweries cereals used in producing beer inspect their barley shortly after harvesting it.

farmers by providing them with high-quality seedlings free of charge. It also links them to financial institutions to acquire capital needed for large scale farming and supplies them with fertilizers and other farming implements.

According to SBL Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha, the beer-maker's ambitious project facilitates farmers growing maize, sorghum and millet in various parts of the country, ena-

bling the company to increase its locally-sourced raw materials it uses in beer production. SBL has three breweries located in Dar es Salaam, Moshi and Mwanza respectively.

"To date, this project has benefited more than 400 core farmers across various regions including Arusha, Manyara, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, Singida, Morogoro, Shinyanga and Dodoma who collectively cultivate around 20,000 acres," Wanyancha said.

The main objective of this grand initiative is to work with Tanzanian farmers to help them create self-sustaining businesses and secure the local production of raw materials.

Agribusiness partnership with farmers is geared towards proping up financial fortunes of the local farmers by including them into the SBL supply chain while extending and improving Tanzanian's long term and short-term farming goals as a whole.

Said Msua, a large-scale farmer from Kilimanjaro region is one of the beneficiaries of the support provided by SBL.

He says, "SBL's agri-business project has been helpful to me because the company has consistently provided me with fertilizer, seedlings and insecticide. Through this support, I have been able to get improved yields than the past when I didn't have SBL's support".

Another farmer, Mwinyi Makame from Manyara region, a large-scale farmer whose farm is over 500 acres, says: "I am very grateful to SBL because they have provided with seedlings and other farming implements without fail. Without the company's support, I would have incurred a lot of expenses buying all the requirements for such a large field."

Elaborating on the advantages of the local sourcing, Wanyancha says it also reduces the quantity of raw materials that SBL needs to import in order to produce beer and promotes food security while saving the much-needed foreign currency.

"SBL has contributed in many ways to the socioeconomic development of the country in the form of company as taxes, engages in comprehensive corporate social responsibility and creates direct employment to many Tanzanians", Wanyancha adds.

According to him, SBL has increased its locally-sourced raw materials to 10,000 tons within the past five years, which is equivalent to 70 per cent of the total raw materials that the company uses in beer production annually.

Denmark set to construct gas pipeline from Norway to Poland

DENMARK has authorised the construction of a new pipeline between Norway and Poland to reduce Warsaw's dependence on Russian gas.

The "Baltic Pipe" project aims to ensure that Poland receives supplies of Norwegian gas through the Baltic Sea. The pipeline is expected to have an annual transport capacity of 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

The Danish energy infrastructure manager Energinet confirmed on Tuesday that a new environmental permit had been granted.

An original permit for the undersea gas pipeline was rejected by authorities last year due to environmental concerns.

"Energinet can start construction work on the parts of the project in East Jutland and on West Funen that have been on hiatus since May 2021," Energinet said in a statement.

Concerns had been raised about the impact of the 210-kilometre Danish pipeline on protected animal species.

"We are very busy taking into account nature and wildlife in connection with the construction of the Baltic Pipe," said the main project manager, Soren Juul Larsen.

"I am glad that we have received an environmental permit that thoroughly describes the considerations we will take into account, among other things, the protected animal species in the areas we pass through."

Energinet expects the pipeline to be partially commissioned from October, and fully operational by 1 January 2023.

The EU has provided €215 million in funding for the Baltic Pipe Project, which will also allow Poland to supply gas to the Danish market.

Poland had announced in 2019 that it would not extend its contract with Russian giant Gazprom beyond 2022, which covered two-thirds of its gas consumption.

Russian invasion may impact mortgage rates

Mortgage rates in the US have risen this year and are expected to continue doing so, but the conflict between Russia and Ukraine could throw a wild card into those projections.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage climbed by 37 basis points over the first two full weeks of February, according to Freddie Mac.

But last week, as Russia invaded Ukraine, rates dropped to 3.89 percent for the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

"When global investors' sense increased uncertainty, there is a 'flight to safety' in the US Treasury bonds, which causes their prices to go up, and their yield to go down," says Odeta Kushi, deputy chief economist at First American.

"Consequently, amidst heightened uncertainty due to the worsening events in Ukraine, there is a possibility that investors flock to US Treasury bonds, which may result in a temporary, short-term decline

in mortgage rates."

The Federal Reserve has announced it would be raising its funds rate multiple times this year and says it will address this more at its next meeting, March 15 and 16.

But how aggressive the Fed is with rates could change, predicts The Mortgage Reports. The Fed's key rate does not directly affect mortgage rates but can influence them.



WORLD

UN rights council picks ex-ICC prosecutor to lead Ethiopia probe

ADDIS ABABA

THE UN Human Rights Council has picked the former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to lead a panel investigating violations of human rights in the conflict in northern Ethiopia, the council said on Wednesday.

Ethiopian federal troops went to war with rebellious Tigrayan forces in November 2020. Since the war erupted, Reuters has reported atrocities by all sides, which the parties to the fighting have denied.

The council voted in December to establish an independent investigative commission, to look into alleged violations by all sides and to identify perpe-

trators with a view to accountability.

Fatou Bensouda, a Gambian national who was chief prosecutor at the ICC between 2012 and 2021, will lead the panel of three, the council said in a statement.

The panel will "establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations and abuses, collect and preserve evidence, to identify those responsible, where possible," the council said.

It will also "make such information accessible and usable in support of ongoing and future accountability efforts."

The team will brief the council during its mid-year session and present a written report towards the end of the



Fatou Bensouda

year.

Gedion Timothewos, the Ethiopia's minister of justice, said they will cooperate with any investigation "focused on the genuine promotion and protection of human rights."

"There is light at the end of the tunnel and the Ethiopian people in their collective wisdom will opt for peace and reconciliation," he told the council in Geneva.

Thousands of civilians have died and millions

have fled in the conflict between the federal government and rebellious forces including fighters loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which dominated Ethiopia's ruling coalition for nearly 30 years.

The TPLF welcomed the council's move to investigate atrocities in December, when the body passed a resolution to create it.

Xinhua

US panel: Trump may have engaged in 'criminal conspiracy'

WASHINGTON

THE congressional committee investigating the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol on Wednesday said former president Donald Trump may have engaged in criminal conduct in his bid to overturn his election defeat.

In a court filing – one of the US House of Representatives' Select Committee's most detailed releases of findings yet – the panel said Trump potentially engaged in conspiracy to defraud the United States and may have obstructed an official proceeding.

The Select Committee's members have previously said they will consider passing along evidence of criminal conduct by Trump to the US Justice Department. Such a move, known as a criminal referral, would be largely symbolic but would increase political pressure on Attorney General Merrick Garland to charge the former president and would thrust his department into a political firestorm.

"Evidence and information available to the Committee establishes a good-faith belief that Mr. Trump and others may have engaged in criminal and/or fraudulent acts," the committee said in a court filing.

"The Select Committee also has a good-faith basis for concluding that the President and members of his Campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States," the filing said.

The court document was filed in federal court in Los Angeles as part of the Select Committee's dispute with John Eastman, a lawyer who advised Trump on a plan to invalidate election results in key battleground states.

Eastman sued the committee in December, seeking to block a congressional subpoena requesting that he turn over thousands of emails.

Charles Burnham, a lawyer for Eastman, said in a statement on Wednesday that Eastman is abiding by his ethical duty to protect client confidences.

"The Select Committee has responded to Dr Eastman's efforts to discharge this responsibility by accusing him of criminal conduct," Burnham said. "Because this is a civil matter, Dr Eastman will not have the benefit of the Constitutional protections normally afforded to those accused by their government of criminal conduct. Nonetheless, we look forward to responding in due course."

Representatives of Eastman and Trump did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Trump has repeatedly called the Select Committee's inquiry a politically motivated investigation.

The court filing included emails obtained by the Select Committee from the day of the Jan 6 attack, including one where a lawyer for then-Vice President Mike Pence said no judges would endorse Eastman's legal strategy for overturning Trump's election defeat.

"Thanks to your bullshit, we are now under siege," the Pence lawyer, Greg Jacob, wrote to Eastman.

"The 'siege' is because YOU and your boss did not do what was necessary to allow this to be aired in a public way so the American people can see for themselves what happened," Eastman replied.

The committee's leaders said in a statement that "Eastman's emails may show that he helped Donald Trump advance a corrupt scheme to obstruct the counting of electoral college ballots and a conspiracy to impede the transfer of power."

Attorney regulators in California said Tuesday they have been investigating Eastman and whether he acted unethically in his work for Trump. The investigation could lead to disciplinary action against Eastman, such as suspension of his law license.



WHO warns of COVID-induced anxiety, depression worldwide

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Wednesday of a sharp increase in the prevalence of anxiety and depression related to the COVID-19 pandemic, caused largely by social isolation. Young people and women are the worst hit.

According to a scientific brief released by the WHO, in the first year of the pandemic, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25 percent.

Ninety percent of the countries surveyed included mental health and psychosocial support in their COVID-19 response plans, but major gaps and concerns remain. Unprecedented stress has been caused by the social isolation resulting from the pandemic, the WHO said.

This constrained people's ability to work, seek support from loved ones and engage in their communities. Exhaustion has been a major trigger for suicidal thinking among health workers.

"The information we have now about the impact of COVID-19 on the world's mental health is just the tip of the iceberg," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"This is a wake-up call to all countries to pay more attention to mental health and do a better job of supporting their populations' mental health." The WHO brief said that young people, whose mental health

has been affected by COVID-19, are disproportionately at risk of suicidal and self-harming behaviors. Women have been more severely impacted than men, and people with pre-existing physical health conditions, such as asthma, cancer or heart disease, are more likely to develop symptoms of mental disorders when infected with COVID-19.

The pandemic has severely disrupted mental health services worldwide, leaving huge gaps in care for those who need it most.

Though the situation had somewhat improved by the end of 2021, too many people today remain unable to get the care and support they need for both pre-existing and newly developed mental health conditions.

According to a recent WHO survey, 90 percent of countries are working to provide mental health and psychosocial support to COVID-19 patients and responders alike, but a chronic global shortage of mental health resources still continues today.

The WHO's most recent



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"Mental Health Atlas" showed that in 2020, governments worldwide spent on average just over two percent of their health budgets on mental health, and many low-income countries reported

having fewer than one mental health worker per 100,000 people. COVID-19 has "revealed historical under-investment in mental health services. Countries must act urgently to ensure that

mental health support is available to all," said Devora Kestel, director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use at the WHO.

South Sudan's ceasefire risks unraveling due to violence: monitors

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's permanent ceasefire is increasingly at risk of unraveling following the recent intensified fighting in the oil-rich states of Upper Nile and Unity states, the country's ceasefire monitors said on Wednesday.

Asrat Denero Amad, the new chairperson for the Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), the body monitoring the December 2017 Cessation of Hostilities

(COH) Agreement, warned it risked unraveling due to intermittent violence.

"Pertaining to the very critical issues of permanent ceasefire, there is concern that the ceasefire is under pressure and it could be fracturing, there are areas where it is apparently being undermined," Amad told members of the ceasefire body in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan on Feb. 26 appealed to national and local leaders, and armed groups to immediately stop

the violence in Unity state.

It was responding to the fighting that began in Mirmir Payam, Unity State between the Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO) and armed youths that spread to several villages in Koch, Mayiandit and Leer.

In January, fighting erupted in Upper Nile state between SPLA-IO under First Vice President Riek Machar and soldiers led by Ochan Puot who defected late last year from the latter joining the South Sudan army (SSPDF).

Amad disclosed that similar fighting occurred in Toroche, Upper Nile state between the SPLA-IO Kitguang faction led by Machar's former Chief of Staff Simon Gatwech Dual and SPLA-IO forces. He urged international partners to continue supporting CTSAMVM in order to salvage the now fragile ceasefire at this critical phase of the peace process.

Teshome Gemechu Aderie, the outgoing CTSAMVM chairperson, expressed worries over the

delay in implementation of the critical pending tasks such as the security arrangements.

"The dynamic of the security environment and the spectrum of tasks in the remaining phase of the peace implementation are going to make our operation far more complex compared with the previous one," said Aderie.

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013 following a political dispute between President Salva Kiir and his then deputy Riek Machar lead-

ing soldiers loyal to the respective leaders to fight. The conflict killed tens of thousands and displaced millions more both internally and externally.

The 2015 peace agreement signed to end the conflict collapsed following renewed violence in July 2016.

The 2018 revitalized peace deal signed under international pressure eventually saw the former warring parties form the transitional unity government in 2020.

Xinhua

Houthi-fired missiles kill 10 Sudanese soldiers in Hajjah

ADEN

YEMEN'S Houthi group fired ballistic missiles against a military base of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in the country's northwestern province of Hajjah on Wednesday, killing 10 Sudanese soldiers, a military official told Xinhua.

"The missiles struck the units of Sudanese troops, who are part of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition troops, in Hajjah province near the border with Saudi Arabia," the local military source said on condition of anonymity.

"A total of 10 Sudanese soldiers were killed and more than 25 others injured in Hajjah's district of Midi," the local military source said.

The Sudanese troops were backing the Yemeni government forces in the ongoing military operations taking place against the Houthis in the northern regions of the war-ravaged Arab country, according to the official.

Ethiopians mark Victory Day amid call for replicating past triumph toward development

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIANS on Wednesday celebrated the 126th anniversary of Ethiopia's victory of Adwa, which marked the East African country's victory against a colonial power some 126 years ago.

While marking the Victory Day Wednesday, Ethiopians from all walks of life called for replicating similar victory against what they referred to as "unwanted foreign interference."

The Battle of Adwa on March 2, 1896, which is also referred to as the first Ethiopian-Italian war, marks the first black victory against the invading

colonial forces of Italy in the African continent.

The war, which was largely fought in the Adwa mountains some 977 km north of Addis Ababa, the capital, is believed to have initiated other freedom fighters across the African continent to struggle toward independence and freedom against colonialism.

This year's Adwa Victory celebration came as the East African country faced internal conflict between the government and rebel forces in the northern parts of Ethiopia.

The conflict resulted in strong foreign interference. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, in his congrat-

ulatory message, said the Victory of Adwa is a bright monument that has taught the harsh consequences of trying to pose threats on Ethiopia.

"We are fortunate to be able to celebrate the Victory of Adwa where our brave mothers and fathers have registered great triumph by rejecting colonialism and slavery as well as inferiority and humiliation," Ahmed said.

"The Victory of Adwa had laid a solid foundation for peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America to break the yoke of slavery, the burden of colonialism and inferiority policy."

This year's Victory Day was celebrated across Ethiopia, Africa's sec-

ond-most-populous nation.

In Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, a high-level event marked the 126th anniversary with the presence of senior Ethiopian government officials, elders, diplomats and representatives of foreign countries, among others.

While addressing a commemorative event held in the capital, Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde called on Ethiopians to stand together and strive for national peace and development. "We must learn from the victory of Adwa that nothing will stop us if we stand together," she said. "We have shown that nothing can stop us from

working together to make Ethiopia a better place. Once again, on this day, I call upon all the people in Ethiopia to repeat the victory we gained in Adwa to defeat backwardness and misery in the country."

Henok Alene, 57, was one of the tens of thousands of Ethiopians attending the commemorative event held at Emperor Menelik II Square in Addis Ababa. Alene called on the current generation to draw inspiration from the forefathers toward replicating a similar momentous victory against the surge of foreign interference in Ethiopia. "The past year witnessed incessant foreign interference and pres-

sure on our country. We, as sons and daughters of our forefathers, should maintain unrelenting gesture to those who have a destructive agenda against our country," Alene told Xinhua.

Smrawit Solomon, 25, echoed a similar sentiment as she emphasized that Ethiopia, as the only not colonized African country, should keep its aspirations high against all odds. "Unlike any other country, we Ethiopians celebrate Victory Day not an independence day; and now we should remain strong enough to bring our country into a development path that suits our aspiration," she said.

Xinhua

Russian forces disable reserve radio, television center in Kiev

MOSCOW/KYIV/ BRUSSELS/GENEVA/WASHINGTON

RUSSIAN forces with high-precision weapons disabled a reserve radio and television center in Kiev, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said yesterday.

He said the center had been used by the Security Service of Ukraine for psychological operations.

The Russian Armed Forces have destroyed 1,612 Ukrainian military infrastructure objects since the start of the military operation in Ukraine, said Konashenkov.

More than 2,000 Ukrainian civilians, not counting the country's "defenders," have been killed in the conflict, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency quoted the State Emergency Service of Ukraine as saying on Thursday, adding that hundreds of transport infrastructure facilities, residential buildings, hospitals and kindergartens were destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Russian delegation has arrived at the site where the second round of talks between Russia and Ukraine are expected to take place, Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, head of the Russian delegation, said Wednesday.

The two sides are expected to meet in Belovezhskaya Pushcha on the Belarus-Poland border, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency reported, citing the official.

According to the Ukrainian government-run Ukrinform news agency, the Ukrainian delegation on Wednesday departed for the second round of talks with Russia and is expected to arrive Thursday morning.

Medinsky said Russia and Ukraine agreed upon the location for the second round of talks together, adding that Russia's military has established a safe corridor to allow the Ukrainian delegation to move through Ukrainian territory.

The possibility of a ceasefire would be discussed during the talks, among other things, according to Medinsky.

Russia and Ukraine concluded their first round of negotiations in Belarus on Monday with no clear breakthrough.

Ukraine, US discuss new sanctions against Russia

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed new sanctions against Russia in a phone conversation, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday in a statement on Facebook.

Kuleba and Blinken also talked over the new supplies of defensive weapons for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian minister Ukraine is committed to finding diplomatic ways for settling the conflict with Russia, but Kiev's allies must show unity in increasing pressure on Russia "until Moscow demonstrates its readiness for constructive negotiations".

EU imposes more restrictions on Belarus

The Council of the European Union on Wednesday imposed sanctions on an additional 22 individuals and further restrictions on trade against Belarus over its role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The council said in a statement that it decided to impose "targeted restrictive measures" over "actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine."

The sanctions were issued against 22 high-ranked members of Belarusian military personnel "in view of their role in the decision making and strategic planning processes that led to the Belarusian involvement in the Russian aggression against Ukraine."

The EU Council had already listed 20 members of Belarusian military personnel in the same context in February.

"With these measures, we are targeting those in Belarus who collaborate with these attacks against Ukraine and restricting trade in a number of key sectors," said Josep Borrell, high representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy.

The council also introduced more restrictions in the trade of goods used for the production or manufacturing of tobacco products, mineral fuels, bituminous substances and gaseous hydrocarbon products, potassium chloride products, wood products, cement products, iron and steel products and rubber products, said the statement.

Further restrictions were also imposed on exports of dual-use goods and technology, and certain advanced goods and technology which might contribute to Belarus' military, technological, defense and security development, together with restrictions on the provision of related services, it said.

WTO urges quick resolution to Ukrainian crisis

Saying that she is deeply saddened by the continued suffering and loss of life in Ukraine, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on Wednesday called for a peaceful and quick resolution.

The WTO is also concerned about the trade implications of the conflict, especially trade in agriculture and food products and the rise in energy prices and their effects on the impacted populations, Iweala said in a statement.

"At the WTO, we have watched this tragedy in Ukraine unfold with disbelief and the hope that it would have been peacefully resolved. However, this is now the 7th day and we are deeply saddened by the continued suffering and loss of life," she said.

Fear of COVID-19 spread

The World Health Organization warned on Wednesday that the Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to drive COVID-19 transmission ever higher and in turn increase the risk of large numbers of people developing severe disease.

"WHO is deeply concerned about the unfolding humanitarian emergency in Ukraine," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a press briefing.

Britain: Russian column inches towards Kyiv, Ukrainian refugees top 1 million

RUSSIA'S advance on Kyiv has made scant progress and Ukrainian forces still held Kharkiv and several other cities under attack, British military intelligence said yesterday, a day after Moscow claimed to have captured the Black Sea port of Kherson.

Russian forces have yet to overthrow the government in Kyiv but thousands are reported to have died or been injured and more than a million people have fled Ukraine in the week since President Vladimir Putin ordered the biggest attack on a European state since 1945.

"The main body of the large Russian column advancing on Kyiv remains over 30 km (19 miles) from the centre of the city having been delayed by staunch Ukrainian resistance, mechanical breakdown and congestion," Britain's defence ministry said in an intelligence update.

"The column has made little discernible progress in over three days," it said. "Despite heavy Russian shelling, the cities of Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Mariupol remain in Ukrainian hands."

At Borodyanka, a town 58 km (36 miles) northwest of Kyiv, a resident gave a breathless account of their encounter with the enemy, as Reuters Television footage showed shell damaged buildings, fires burning in the streets and destroyed military vehicles.

"They (Russian military) started shooting from their BMP (military vehicle), towards the park in front



A view shows a residential building destroyed by recent shelling, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in the city of Irpin in the Kyiv region, Ukraine on Wednesday. REUTERS

of the post office in the centre of Borodyanka," said a Ukrainian man, who did not give his name.

"Then those bastards started the tank and started shooting into the Fora (supermarket) which was already burned. It caught fire again."

BARRAGE OF SANCTIONS

Russia's attack has led to a barrage of international sanctions that threaten the global economic recovery from the COVID pandemic, and stoked fears of wider conflict as Western countries send arms to help the Ukrainian military.

The capture of Kherson, strategically located at the mouth of the Dnipro River, would be the first significant urban centre to fall since Moscow launched its invasion on Feb. 24.

Kherson's Mayor Igor Kolykhayev

said late on Wednesday that Russian troops were in the streets and had entered the council building.

"I didn't make any promises to them... I just asked them not to shoot people," he said in a statement.

The U.S. State Department called on Putin and the Russian government to "immediately cease this bloodshed" and withdraw forces from Ukraine. It also accused Moscow of launching a "full war on media freedom and the truth" by blocking independent news outlets and social media to prevent Russians from hearing news of the invasion of Ukraine.

A second round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials on a ceasefire was expected after initial talks on Monday ended without agreement.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a

"special operation" that is not designed to occupy territory but to destroy its neighbour's military capabilities and capture what it regards as dangerous nationalists.

It denies targeting civilians although there have been widespread reports of civilian casualties and the shelling of residential areas.

Bombing in Kharkiv, a city of 1.5 million people, has left its centre a wasteland of ruined buildings and debris.

Russian forces have captured the town of Balakliya near the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, the Interfax news agency quoted Russia's defence ministry as saying on Thursday.

It also reported a strike on a radio and television centre in Kyiv, where Russian missiles hit a TV tower earlier this week.

Russian shelling killed six adults and two children in the city of Izyum, about 120 km (75 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's parliament said. Reuters was unable to verify either sides' claims.

The U.N. Human Rights Office has confirmed the deaths of 227 civilians and 525 injuries during the conflict as of midnight on March 1, cautioning that the real toll would be much higher due to reporting delays.

An explosion also rocked the Kyiv railway station where thousands of women and children were being evacuated. The blast was caused by wreckage from a downed Russian cruise missile, a Ukrainian interior ministry adviser said, and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

An investigation into possible war crimes will immediately be opened by the International Criminal Court, following requests by 39 of the court's

member states, an unprecedented number.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

A U.N. resolution reprimanding Moscow was supported by 141 of the assembly's 193 members, a symbolic victory for Ukraine that increases Moscow's international isolation.

"More is at stake even than the conflict in Ukraine itself. This is a threat to the security of Europe and the entire rules-based order," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow still sought Ukraine's "demilitarisation" and that there should be a list of specified weapons that could never be deployed on Ukrainian territory. Moscow opposes Kyiv's bid to join NATO.

Oil and commodity prices spiralled ever higher on Thursday in a grim omen for global inflation.

Japanese automakers including Toyota were forced to halt production in Russia as sanctions scrambled logistics and cut off supply chains.

Russia's central bank, itself under sanctions, has doubled interest rates to 20% and Fitch and Moody's rating agencies downgraded Russia's sovereign credit rating to 'junk' status.

At least five superyachts owned by billionaires were anchored or cruising in Maldives, an Indian Ocean island nation that does not have an extradition treaty with the United States, data showed.

Russian businessman Roman Abramovich said he would sell London's Chelsea Football Club and donate money to help victims of the war in Ukraine.

Russia prepared for dialogue with West on security guarantees – senior diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is prepared for dialogue with the West on security guarantees and strategic stability issues, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told RBC yesterday.

"We are prepared for dialogue on these issues (security guarantees - TASS), as well as on issues related to strategic stability. We regret that our colleagues in Washington made a decision - and announced it several days ago - to suspend these contacts," he pointed out, adding that the US was fully to blame for suspending dialogue.

"We keep working calmly and confidently, we have specific goals to achieve. No one is cutting off dialogue with the US but the channels for dialogue are a separate issue that depends on the goals that we are facing," he stressed.

According to Ryabkov, Russia and the US currently maintain dialogue mostly through embassies. "We don't have a reason to believe that this algorithm will change in the near future," he noted.

On December 17, 2021, the Russian Foreign Ministry released draft agreements on the security guarantees that Moscow expects to receive from Washington and NATO.

The documents particularly oblige



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov

NATO to cease its eastward expansion and return its military infrastructure to the 1997 borders. The United States and NATO handed their written responses to Russia's security proposals over to Moscow on January 26, 2022.

The West failed to make crucial concessions, Russia said in its own response in February.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation based on a request from the heads of the Donbass republics.

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans to occupy Ukrainian territories and the goal was to demilitarize and denazify the country.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported later that the Russian Armed Forces were not delivering strikes against Ukrainian cities.

The ministry emphasized that the Ukrainian military infrastructure was being destroyed by precision weapons and there was no threat to civilians.

Agencies

Biden says alternative to sanctions against Russia would be Third World War

NEW YORK

US President Joe Biden said an alternative to tough sanctions that Washington has slapped on Russia would be the Third World War.

"You have two options. Start a Third World War, go to war with Russia, physically. Or two, make sure that the country that acts so contrary to international law ends up paying a price for having done it," Biden said in an interview with blogger Brian Tyler Cohen. The video was posted on his YouTube page on Saturday.

The US president noted that no sanctions are immediate. "But I think these sanctions, I know these sanctions are the broadest sanctions in history, and economic sanctions and political sanctions," Biden said.

"Russia will pay a serious price for this short term and long term, particularly long term," the US



leader stressed.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in order to protect peo-

ple "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years." The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories. Its objective is demilitarization and denazification of the country.

When clarifying the unfolding developments, the Russian Defense Ministry reassured that Russian troops are not targeting Ukrainian cities, but are limited to surgically striking and incapacitating Ukrainian military infrastructure. There are no threats whatsoever to the civilian population.

A number of countries, including the US, have declared tough sanctions against Russia. The US Department of Treasury has announced sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov.

U.S. oil soars to highest since 2011 amid OPEC+ decision, Ukraine conflict

NEW YORK

OIL prices surged again on Wednesday after major oil producers decided to stick to modest output increase despite supply fears amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for April delivery added 7.19 U.S. dollars, or 7 percent, to settle at 110.60 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest finish since 2011.

Brent crude for May delivery increased 7.96 dollars, or 7.6 percent, to close at 112.93 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange, the highest level since 2014.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, announced on Wednesday that it would stick to existing plans for a modest oil output increase of 400,000 barrels per day in April.

The oil alliance noted in a statement after the 26th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting that the current volatility in the oil market is caused by geopolitical developments rather than changes in market fundamentals. Meanwhile, prices garnered some support after data showed a drop in U.S. fuel stockpiles.

U.S. commercial crude oil inventories decreased by 2.6 million barrels during the week ending Feb. 25, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported on Wednesday.

According to the EIA, total motor gasoline inventories decreased by 0.5 million barrels last week, while distillate fuel inventories decreased by 0.6 million barrels.

Oil prices have jumped to multi-year highs in recent days as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and

the far-reaching Western sanctions against Moscow prompted fears about energy supply disruptions from key exporter Russia.

The International Energy Agency announced Tuesday that its member countries had agreed to release 60 million barrels of oil from their emergency reserves to ease any supply shortfall caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

However, the announcement failed to calm markets, with the WTI and Brent surging 8 percent and nearly 7.2 percent, respectively, on Tuesday.

"This is because the quantity to be released would cover a mere two weeks of Russian oil shipments," Carsten Fritsch, energy analyst at Commerzbank Research, said Wednesday in a note.

According to the Interfax news agency, Russia exported 4.6 million barrels per day on average in January and February. "If the lion's share of this falls away, it will probably prove difficult to find sufficient alternative suppliers," said Fritsch, adding "the market appears to be increasingly pricing in an outage of Russian oil shipments."

"Experts said that energy prices will be a key factor to watch as events unfold, warning of potential adverse impact on economic growth from higher commodity prices, at a time when the world is still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Against a backdrop of heightened uncertainty, we think now is a time for investors to be more selective, consider portfolio hedging, and seek longer-term opportunity," said Mark Haeefe, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Russia offensive in Ukraine continues as new round of talks awaited

MOSCOW/KIEV

A new round of talks between Russia and Ukraine was expected to take place yesterday morning in Belovezhskaya Pushcha on the Belarus-Poland border, as military activity continues in Ukraine.

Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky said the Russian delegation headed by him arrived at the negotiating site Wednesday evening.

The Ukrainian side is expected to arrive on Thursday morning, Medinsky said, adding that Russia and Ukraine agreed upon the location for the new round of talks. Russia's military has established a safe cor-

ridor to allow the Ukrainian delegation to move through Ukrainian territory, he said.

The possibility of a ceasefire, among other things, would be discussed during the talks, according to the official. However, David Arakhamia, parliamentary faction leader of the Party of Servant of the People in Ukraine, said on Facebook that "information that the talks will be held in Belovezhskaya Pushcha is not true."

Indeed, the talks will take place, but in another venue. All details will be provided later," the Interfax news agency reported yesterday.

Xinhua

The Guardian

SPORT



SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors' Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, speaks to journalists at the company's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, as he announced prize money totalling 985,669,400/- for winners of his firm's betting game, 'Jackpot'. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SportPesa Tz announces 985m/- jackpot prize

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, has disclosed a cash prize for the firm's sustainable betting game, known as 'Jackpot', which has reached 985,669,400/-.

SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors' Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, revealed: "We would like to take this opportunity to inform all media outlets in the country that currently no other company has a bigger prize money than ours and announce the winner of such a big 'Jackpot' like this."

"This is so far the third time for a sustainable 'Jackpot' prize to rise to half a billion, after starting with 200m/-."

"If there is no winner for this prize money this weekend, then the next bet will set a precedent of being the first betting prize money to reach one billion."

"We would like to urge all Tanzanians to bet as often as possible to get the chance to win this big Jackpot which started in April, last year, after the seventh Jackpot winner, Abdulaziz Ngámilo, was found."

"The good news for the participants is that even if they do not win this bet directly they will have another chance to win through the 'Jackpot bonus' for the winners who placed right bets for 10, 11, and 12 matches," Abbas revealed.

Yanga's head coach hails club's leading goal scorer

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's striker Fiston Mayele, who has netted nine goals in the NBC Premier League, has received approval from the outfit's head coach Nasreddine Nabi.

The coach evaluated the forward's career, saying he has until now showcased 60 percent of his performance.

Coach Nabi said so far Mayele has done 60 percent of his work, despite the side's fans becoming more obsessed with his goals and his cheerful goal celebration style.

Nabi said Mayele can still achieve 40 percent of his performance, but there are aspects he will continue to improve gradually.

The coach disclosed: "I was the one who brought Mayele when I saw him and I knew he was someone who would do great not only for Yanga but also for the league as I was here last season and knew what kind of striker would work best here."

"So far I can say he has worked only 60 percent, although there is still a chance to reach 100 percent there are aspects he needs to improve further," Nabi noted.

"He ought to put himself in a scoring position and he often receives the ball while either on a hold-up play style or not facing the goal directly, an aspect

that has to be improved the most."

Nabi said Mayele should now improve in receiving more balls as he looks at the opponents' goal then he will score many goals easily.

He added that the only aspect left was his outfit's right and left fullbacks to have the quality to make Mayele a good forward by executing pinpoint crosses.

"We have a challenge for the midfielders who still do not know what kind of balls to give Mayele, look at the cross Said Ntibazonkiza whipped in when we played against Mtibwa Sugar, there should be more low and high crosses."

Nabi added Mayele has still been facing two challenges outside Yanga's technical prowess, one of which is he is regularly fouled by defenders, and some of the goals he scored were disallowed.

The tactician pointed out: "The prominent players are protected. Everyone looks forward to watching Mayele celebrate, even our opponents, but his prominence makes the defenders foul him, referees do not see that."

Nabi stated: "Europe's biggest players are protected, look at Messi and even Ronaldo are in a protected position."

He disclosed: "There are also some of Mayele best goals that are being disallowed. At the moment he would have had 11 goals that would have given him more power to score more goals."

Middle age syndrome as pundits, fans assess Simba SC performance against RS Berkane

By Correspondent John Kimbute

LOSING 2-0 to Moroccan Premier League side, RS Berkane, was a massive disappointment for Tanzania's Simba SC rank and file, having trusted in returning to winning ways following an earlier 3-1 drubbing of Ivorian top club ASEC Mimosas.

The club was raising its spirits after a poor run on the NBC Premier League, showing an average of a goal in each match, while their next street rivals, Yanga, were having an average of either two to three-goal wins in their outings.

At a certain point some pundits-cum-stakeholders started to discount Simba SC as a normal side, Ruvi Shooting, then sank in their pride with 7-0 pulverization to clear all doubts. That feeling is lingering on as Mathias Lule, head coach of Mbeya City FC has lately maintained that there are no Premier League clubs in an upper category as they are all the same.

The chronicle shows that his outfit put up a 0-0 outcome with pacesetters Young Africans SC, popularly known as 'Yanga', on February 5 and then registered a good result against Simba SC that dispirited the fan base and a portion of the leadership, to the extent of beginning to admit that the title chase is tidying up already.

When thus Simba SC tore apart the visiting Ivorian side, the fan base could see the light at the end of a long tunnel, 2-0 against RS Berkane was thus a painful twist.

While this display of confidence and nerves continued, the more instructive parameter was what occurred at the continental level, where ASEC Mimosas had earlier routed RS Berkane 3-1, and when the local champions thrashed the Ivorian giants by the same margin, their heads must have flown sky high.

It would have taken the technical bench a lot of effort to either forestall or dispel a sentiment of overconfidence building up, an atmosphere of underrating the Moroccan side on account of the two results.

The final score at the late hour away match set things right, that these teams are similar, thus the results were repeated in a different order of things and not based on Msimbazi Street club's arithmetic up to that point.

So all the three clubs are



Simba SC midfielder, Bernard Morrison (C), beats RS Berkane midfielders, Tuisila Kisinda (L), and Ismail Mokadem when the two clubs locked horns in a 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup's Group D encounter, which took place in Berkane last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

now back on the drawing board, all having tasted either a two-nil or three one defeat in different matches, in which case they are good sides and are all prone to the same mistake, judging by the sequence of scores and its preceding setting.

Still, this is not the picture that is dominating talk among the club rank and file, despite that as usual each fan or pundit has a point of view encompassing those results that he would privilege and stick to it as sufficient.

Such a mood is only tested by the next match, as a rule, where depending on the results club sentiments will again be realigned, or measures demanded, etc.

Instead of focusing on this unavoidable weakness of overconfidence after an important outing, especially due to the earlier

state of despair that was just dispelled by the ASEC Mimosas outing, the earlier state of relative depression was climbing back again.

Yet it was not intense as the two outstanding results remain in clear memory, against Ruvi Shooting in the Premier League run and ASEC Mimosas in the continental contention in which case the fan base won't be dispirited too soon.

The two results have demonstrated that the club has a capable side, while endemic interrogation continues on ousters and signings in June.

That is where plenty of attention in the club is likely to be directed over the next two months, as the feeling of triumph which characterized the club even one season ago is in dire straits, being ejected

from the CAF Champions League has been a salutary experience.

Despite that the CAF Confederation Cup run is chiefly made up of exited teams from the top rung of competition, there is little prestige in there and hence the local champions have to figure out how to restore resilience in the face of arduous competition from the best sides in the region and the continent as a whole.

The current side shows cracks, deficiencies in several areas, not necessarily by acute analysis but concerning continental and league-run outcomes.

The soul searching is on, and it will tax the leadership to find the resources to meet the bill.

It can thus be said that the steady run of unsatisfactory results, being ejected out of the CAF Champions League and not being quite imposing in abilities generally save for sparkling moments like either the Ruvi Shooting nightmare or ASEC Mimosas chastising moment, the club mood has never really climbed out of unease.

With the country's best sponsorship and arguably in the eastern and central Africa region, it can be said that the fans base deserves better, in which case aging players on either their second or third tours of duty may have to think of calmer places.

No personal friendships stand in the way of club renewal.



EMINA product's ambassador, Jacqueline Wolper (L), speaks to reporters in Dares Salaam yesterday in an event that introduced her as the ambassador for Bingwa Laboratories' products. Others are Bingwa Laboratories' Directors, Emmanuel Mwambete (C), and Hussein Janowalla. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Dar Paralympic athlete to compete in South Africa

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's Paralympic athlete, Sauda Njopeka, will mid this month camp in South Africa to prepare for the 2022 Commonwealth Games scheduled for July to August in Birmingham, England.

Bahati Mgunda, Sauda's coach, disclosed the camp will be held alongside a competition and they are slated for March 18-22.

He, however, stopped short of disclosing more details of the camp and the competition.

Mgunda said: "I and Sauda will go to South Africa, there is a camp and competition which will be held from March 18-22, the two events will be used to prepare Paralympic athletes ahead of the coming Commonwealth Games."

"For now, I cannot issue more details on the dates for the trip and the place where the two events will be held," he said.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Chairman, Tuma Dandi, on

Tuesday, said Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) is better placed to issue information on the South Africa events as the committee organizes domestic athletes' preparations for Commonwealth Games.

Yesterday, TOC officials could not be reached for their comments on the South Africa events and trip.

Recently, TOC through the committee's vice-president Henry Tandau said the country will be represented by two Paralympic athletes from Para Powerlifting and Para Athletics in the Games.

He said the two are under the support of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) through its arm, GAPS.

The GAPS targets to support the development of inclusive sports pathways, removing barriers to participation for people with a disability and women & girls to become actively involved in sport.

Tandau said under the GAPS support the two athletes and two coaches will attend high-perfor-

mance courses, competition, and classification at Birmingham University and another South African university.

He described the high-performance courses as of benefit to Tanzania.

The leader revealed: "We managed to secure the funding from GAPS which is the arm of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), they will benefit a lot from it."

"The country will as well benefit from it as the knowledge the two will get will help the country, it will have a multiplier effect to Paralympic sports in the country," he disclosed.

He said the first course is expected to start this month in the UK while the dates for the South Africa course will be announced soon.

The TOC official mentioned the two coaches as Mgunda and Nemes Chawalala.

In the previous interview, Mgunda confirmed the development and said Sauda and Yohana Mwila will

represent the country in shot put and Para powerlifting respectively.

He said he had a zoom meeting with GAPS officials.

He revealed: "The development of coaches is fundamental, but so is tackling many of barriers and constraints that prevent participation."

"The program involves multi-stakeholder partnerships and the building of long-term collaborations with universities, sports organizations, and government agencies," the tactician noted.

He further said through partnerships people are now shifting their mindsets and starting to have a positive influence on communities to believe that it is a fundamental human right for women, girls, and people with disabilities to be included in their sports pathways.

Mgunda pointed out GAPS is a sport for development and peace program that supports the development of inclusive sport pathways throughout the Commonwealth.

Abramovich's money the difference for Chelsea

LUTON, England

APPROPRIATELY enough, Chelsea's money made the difference in the end. Confirmation that Roman Abramovich will sell the Blues came around an hour before the start of a Wednesday match in which Luton Town threatened to show them just how far they could fall without their owner's financial clout.

Twice the Championship side led, first through Reece Burke's second-minute header and then again after Saul Niguez's equaliser as Harry Cornick raced clear to slot a cool finish past Kepa Arrizabalaga. The game swung in Chelsea's favour in the second half, though, aided by substitutes Christian Pulisic, Harvey Vale and Reece James as first Timo Werner scored before turning provider for Romelu Lukaku to slide home the winner 12 minutes from time to secure a 3-2 victory.

Werner and Lukaku cost more than £150 million combined in transfer fees, the latter signed last summer in a club-record deal that will now rank as the final act in the lavish spending under Abramovich that has totalled more than £2 billion since he bought the west London outfit in 2003.

Chelsea's wealth has made them largely impervious to FA Cup shocks. During Abramovich's 19-year tenure, only twice have they lost to lower-league opposition in this competition: a 4-2 defeat to League One Bradford City in 2015 and a 2008 reverse to Championship side Barnsley.

Against the backdrop of uncertainty over their future ownership, rarely has Chelsea felt as vulnerable as this, and the majority of the 10,140 fans inside Kenilworth Road were not going to let them forget it. "You're getting sold in the morning," chanted Luton's gleeful fans to an away end that had already erected a banner proclaiming that part of the ground the "Champions of the World section" in recognition of last month's Club World Cup triumph.

Abramovich's ownership brought into sharper focus the blurring of sport and politics.

Although he has repeatedly denied any links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the timing and haste of his decision to sell comes amid widespread condemnation of the Kremlin and anyone associated as their invasion of Ukraine expands. All four corner flags were changed to the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag while bigger versions were dotted around the crowd and every chant of "Roman Abramovich" from the defiant away support was greeted with boos or worse.

"You dirty Russian bastard," sang the Luton fans. "We've won it all," replied the Chelsea end. "You've bought it all," came the retort.

The good news for coach Thomas Tuchel is this would historically be the sort of underwhelming performance that would raise questions about a head coach's long-term future given Abramovich's readiness to dispense with managers in the past. Instead, he faced another postmatch inquisition centering on his employer's future.

"It's a bit too early for me to speak," Tuchel said. "It's big news but I can only think about Chelsea with Roman Abramovich. It's very hard for me, it did not sink in yet; this is a massive change."

"We focused in our preparation only on sports but maybe some players are more affected than others and in the end we managed to focus more and grow into the game before finding the key to win it."

(Agencies)

Man Utd eye Ancelotti as back-up plan - sources

LONDON

REAL Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti has emerged as a surprise short-term option as Manchester United explore contingency plans in their pursuit of a new manager, sources have told ESPN.

Ancelotti has a close personal relationship with Sir Alex Ferguson, someone new United CEO Richard Arnold has sought advice from since taking over from Ed Woodward earlier this year.

United are hopeful of making a long-term appointment ahead of next season after drawing up a five-man shortlist which includes Mauricio Pochettino and Erik ten Hag.

Sources have told ESPN that Ferguson is an admirer of Pochettino but has recommended that the club consider Ancelotti if the former Tottenham Hotspur boss rules himself out of the running.

Ancelotti, in charge at Real Madrid, is seen as the type of coach who could be successful during a short stint because of his extensive experience in the Premier League and Champions League while also having a track record of managing squads full of high-profile players.

Ralf Rangnick, who was placed in charge temporarily following Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's dismissal in November, has also said he could recommend to the board that he stays in the role for another year.

"We are now conducting a thorough process for the appointment of a new permanent manager who will take charge this summer, with the objective to get us back to challenging for those domestic and European titles," football director John Murtough said at a fans' forum held last week.

United would prefer to have a long-term manager in place before the start of next season but there are complications with a number of their top targets.

(Agencies)

Joy and flair return under Xavi as Barcelona renaissance continues

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

THERE were times on Sunday night when Barcelona's football in the 4-0 win against Athletic Club was rapturously good. You know the feeling: when something happens on the pitch that's so outrageously joyous that the senses take over, completely, from the rational mind -- when football transcends your daily woes and your club allegiances. When the beautiful game isn't just pleasant to look at it, but seduces you and promises to love you forever.

You can take your pick of the examples.

The moment when Ousmane Dembele scores, having once again been booed and whistled onto the pitch by his own fans as a second-half substitute, via one of the most sensational, powerful top corner finishes you'll see? How about the 'now-you-see-me-now-you-don't' moment on the right hand touchline (a moment Pedri later admitted he'd been "s---ing myself in case I lost the ball") when the divinely talented 19-year-old takes a pass from Frenkie de Jong, turns his back to protect possession from Mikel Balenziaga, sorts out his feet and then stamps on top of the ball with the studs of his right boot so that it nutmegs the Athletic Club defender while Pedri's back was still turned? He then runs off the pitch, around the side of his opponent, and returns service to De Jong down the line.

All of which allows us to return the theme of pure, unadulterated joy. Dozens of people in the seats about 15 to 20 feet away from the piece of magic -- which was straight out of any Pele, Diego Maradona or Lionel Messi playbook -- involuntarily leapt to their feet, clapping their hands to their heads in disbelief and roaring in overwhelming ecstasy.

These are the moments, equal to any trophy-lift or winning goal, which sear football's majesty in our consciousness forever. The moments which have always and will always, make football the greatest sport humankind has invented.

There were more, too. How about Dembele again, with four seconds left on the clock, producing an amazing assist for 4-0? He renders his marker, Balenziaga, useless by crossing before the Basque can approach him. But when the Frenchman, so reviled and abused by the Camp Nou fans in recent matches despite Xavi begging them to cease their venom, crosses, he can't even see his teammate, Memphis Depay. He literally can't see Depay because he's being so closely marked by Inigo Lekue and Dani Vivian just outside the six-yard box. There's the narrowest of channels between that group and Athletic keeper Unai Simon, so Barcelona's redemption man uses it to somehow curve his cross right onto Depay's boot for a sublime goal.

Depay went to celebrate by seeking out Dembele, pointing to him in a gesture suggesting "the credit's all yours." In fact, given that Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was awarded a hat trick last week for a Pedri shot that took a micro-deflection off the striker's back, this could be considered 99% Dembele's goal, without argument. The assist was that good.

But we should take the Xavi position on the moment of all-consuming Camp Nou satisfaction. Pedri featured there, too, and it was glorious: pure footballing manna.

Nico nicks the ball off Unai Vencedor's toes, just as Athletic are about to break forward with a three vs. three opportunity. Frenkie de Jong has to dive to keep the ball in play so when Pedri receives possession, it's pressurised and threatening. Unless you are a little genius like this kid. With his controlling touch, back turned to the onrushing Vencedor, he kills the momentum of the ball dead using his thigh and, with a double-shuffle, sends the Athletic player one way while going the other with the ball.



Xavi Hernandez

Rivals queue up to knock Pedri over from there. A dip of the shoulder and now Inaki Williams is sold yet another dummy. The crowd is in paroxysms of happiness by this point. A flick of the ball to Luuk de Jong, whose one touch pass to Frenkie de Jong leaves space for an inside pass to Pedri, and suddenly, not only are Barcelona in oodles of space, but the 19-year-old -- whom Xavi reckons is already the best in the world in that position -- takes about 1.5 seconds to spot and pick out Dembele, 50-plus metres away, with a brilliant shift of play that completely splits Athletic's defence.

"Far beyond the nutmeg he produced on Balenziaga, what stands out to me is how Pedri understands football," Xavi confirmed later. "He finds space between the lines, he gets behind the back of his markers... I'd go so far as to say he reminds me of Andres Iniesta! I've seen very few with his talent in my career. Right now, you might argue that [Kevin] De Bruyne and [Luka] Modric

have other characteristics but Pedri, in terms of pure talent, is the best footballer anywhere in the world."

It bears emphasising that when Pedri made the crowd swoon that second time, his pass to Dembele allowed the Frenchman to cross for Luuk de Jong and Barcelona to seal the win by imposing a three-goal margin.

"Just like the move when we got our third goal," continued Xavi, "Pedri's control of spaces and time on the pitch is perfection: He wriggles out of pressure situations when he's surrounded by two or three opponents simply thanks to his immense talent. As a coach, on the sidelines, you see a way to produce a move, but before you've thought of it, Pedri's already produced something better on the pitch. Priceless, literally."

Well, not wholly priceless: Thanks to the club's recent renegotiation of Pedri's contract, the release clause if you want to sign him will be €1 billion. If you had the cash, and you were smart, you'd spend it. Not that this phenomenal kid

was producing such chilling football all on his own.

Barcelona are now on a run of having beaten major rivals Atletico Madrid, Valencia, Athletic Club and Napoli -- against whom they've mostly recorded draws and defeats earlier this season -- 4-2, 4-1, 4-0 and 4-2 in their last five matches. This only happens if the vast majority of a club's players are fit, sharp, happy, well-coached and unified in both purpose and determination.

Training, under Xavi and his brother Oscar, has been a revelation for weeks now. Recently, the 42-year-old put forth the idea that his first 100 days in charge of the club "have felt like 100 years."

The evidence suggests otherwise: at their Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper training ground, Barcelona's players, almost without knowing it, have been re-educated. Instead of long lectures and four-letter words screamed harshly at them, without dropping and humiliating "culprits" to try and encourage the whole squad, Xavi has taught his squad

how to compete again without much fuss.

Daily work at the Barcelona training ground is filled with what looks like the kind of fun you see during school sports. Players are constantly split up into little teams of five, six or even 11 (if the squad is split in two) during contests that may feature a football, but which appear to have very little to do with that sport itself. There are tasks, there's chasing, there's coordination, there's speed of thought, there's teamwork -- but every single "game," and every single task, has been aimed to draw out competitiveness, unity, sharpness.

There's a lot of laughter, there are protests about who really won, there's a lot of leg-pulling and promises of revenge in the next day's contests, but it's an egalitarian, intense and energetic environment. And unlike in several recent seasons, it's the coaching team -- not the senior superstars -- that's wholly in control. Wholly.

It turns out that the prizes are enjoyment, match fitness, team spirit and,

in due course, cosmically good football. And big-match wins. And by now, the zip, wit, inventiveness, "all for one, one for all" spirit this coach has engendered in training is in plain evidence every time Xavi's Barcelona play a match.

Dani Alves is a good witness to all of this. "The objective has been to regain team spirit, to re-establish the FC Barcelona 'house' style so that our fans can enjoy themselves again," he said. "We've been working at it really hard, everyone is delivering; we're achieving our objectives."

Xavi's view is: "I've been expecting these types of results: we are training really, really well."

Barcelona aren't perfect -- far from it. This team remains a work in progress. They may not even win a trophy this season: LaLiga isn't quite out of sight, but it would be a Herculean test to catch and overhaul Real Madrid (even Sevilla). Winning the Europa League (at Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in May) isn't a ludicrous idea, but it's seven testing matches away.

However, trophy or no trophy, this squad is currently in an evangelical state of re-discovery. Flaws, stupidity, laziness, personality deficits, crises of confidence -- all of those negatives are being eroded, bit by bit. There's an "X factor" again. Partly it's Xavi, and partly the exuberant brand of football that, frankly, you can enjoy whether your loyalty is forever with Madrid, Manchester City, Milan or Marseille.

It leaves Barcelona president Joan Laporta to look both extremely short-sighted and visionary. Should things continue on this trajectory, it's he who'll be rewarded by history when it's written: "Laporta, having instituted a Johan Cruyff brand of football twice previously, via Frank Rijkaard and Pep Guardiola, did it again with Xavi." He'll be recalled as a visionary.

More immediately, though, there's no escaping his short-sightedness. How, for example, would this season have gone for Barcelona if, as anyone with half a brain could see, the moves to remove Ronald Koeman, install Xavi and replenish the squad had happened last May instead of doing so once things were already ruinously positioned domestically and in the Champions League?

It's something Laporta refused to consider, stating that he feared Xavi wasn't ready. That he believed Koeman deserved to stay on. We'll never know. And what a mistake.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Joy and flair return under Xavi as Barcelona renaissance continues

PAGE 19

Netball coaching, umpiring course ends in Coast Region

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE netball coaching and umpiring course which is taking place at Filbert Bayi Schools in Kibaha, Coast Region, ends today.

The 10-day course attracted 53 attendants, 25 in coaching and 28 in umpiring, from more than 15 regions of Tanzania, with Malawians Mary Waya and Rebecca Dulanya operating as the course's instructors.

Mary is a former Malawi national netball team player and Filbert Bayi Schools netball team's head coach.

Course organizer, Shukuru Kiwenge, said they expect National Sports Council (NSC) Acting Secretary-General Neema Msitha to be the guest of honour at the event's conclusion.

He said the course is in line with the advice which President Samia Suluhu Hassan issued to Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) that for the sport to regain its lost glory in the country, they should start developing the sport from the bottom by training coaches and umpires.

Kiwenge said the course is recognized by the International Netball Federation (INF) and, depending on results scored by participants, those who will perform well will get Gold (Africa Level A) Silver, and Bronze certificates.

The official said those with a Gold certificate can coach the national team in Tanzania and elsewhere, whereas those with a Silver certificate are eligible to coach local clubs.

Bronze certificate owners are qualified for coaching primary schools, secondary schools, and higher learning institutions.

Kiwenge said: "The 10-day course for umpires and coaches ends today at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha, Coast Region, it is a good course, it attracted mainly primary and secondary school teachers."

"It will help to develop netball in the country, we thank the instructors of the course and the Filbert Bayi Schools' management, they have good and modern indoor courts which are good for netball," he said.

Chaneta Chairperson, Devotha Marwa, said the course gears towards having many qualified coaches and umpires to develop netball in the country.

"The course aims to see that netball is growing and developing in the country, we want qualified coaches who can identify and nurture talents, the qualified umpires are vital, we want netball matches to be officiated by qualified people," she said.

She recently pointed out Chaneta is geared towards seeing to it that the game is growing in the country.

"We have lined up several programs that will see the game grow in the country. Next year (this year) we will start implementing those programs," she said.

After many years of absence from international events, last year Tanzania netball team "Taifa Queens" competed at the Africa Netball Championship which took place in Namibia, the team did not perform well in the showpiece.

In the recent INF ranking, "Taifa Queens" is sitting 40th. Devotha attributed the squad's poor performance to a lack of experience and exposure.

She said for the country to perform well at the two international events, which will be held in South Africa (2022 and 2023), there is a need to start the transition and the national team must play many international friendly matches.

She said currently Chaneta plans to organize several training camps where selected youthful players will be playing against the senior team to learn the ropes.

Chaneta also plans to organize many youth tournaments which will be used to identify new talents as many Taifa Queens players are in the twilight of their careers.

"Now the time has come for a broader-based talent identification process that includes, but is not limited to, participation in all youth tournaments from regional, continental and world stage and when the players are identified, the technical panel should be given sufficient time to assess them," the Chaneta leader stated.

"Many nations are using young players who are energetic, young players are good as they have both stamina and speed which are vital in the game," she revealed.

TPLB official hails clubs' competence in 2021/22 top-flight's second phase



Azam FC left fullback, Bruce Kangwa (L), dribbles past Biashara United's winger, Ambrose Awio, in this season's NBC Premier League match that took place in Mwanza last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Tanga

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has said it has been satisfied with the level of competition showcased by clubs in this season's NBC Premier League's second phase.

The board disclosed each of the 16-team top-flight's competitors has shown a desire to occupy a good position in the league table.

The TPLB has moreover issued a stern warning to all referees and assistant referees who

purposely put less impressive showing in fixtures, insisting it will not have any tolerance on them.

According to the TPLB, the referees needed to, instead, be penalized according to their mistakes.

The second phase matches of the top-flight began late in February this year, with 14 clubs out of 16 taking part in fixtures.

Simba SC, which hosts Biashara United in Dar es Salaam today, was inactive in the top-flight given the squad had been participating in CAF Confederation Cup fixtures.

Some of the top-flight's 16th round fixtures ended in a 1-1 draw, whereas the duel between Azam FC and Coastal Union ended in a stalemate.

The six teams which participated in matches that ended

in 1-1 draw include Geita Gold FC, Namungo FC, Ruvu Shooting, Dodoma Jiji FC, Tanzania Prisons, and Mbeya City FC.

The league games which ended in a victory, include Mtibwa Sugar's fixture against Mbeya Kwanza FC held in Mbeya, as the former notched a 2-1 victory over the latter.

In the round's other duel, Yanga trounced Kagera Sugar 3-0 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadi-

um in Dar es Salaam.

The Kinondoni Municipal Council FC commanded a similar victory, walloping Polisi Tanzania 3-0.

Steven Mnguto, TPLB Chairman, made the revelation in an exclusive interview with The Guardian, saying since the league resumed in February, some teams which were languishing in the relegation zone have improved.

The official stated the performance showcased by the outfits proves they have stepped up.

He pointed out the second phase promises to be competitive compared to the first phase.

The TPLB leader disclosed: "The first week of the second phase of NBC Premier League has been very competitive, it is hoped that the level of the competition shall get even higher and the games will become even more competitive because every team is seeking to record three points."

"I want to issue an alert to all referees and assistant referees who will do mistakes purposely, legal measures would be taken against them including being struck off the list of referees officiating Premier League games," Mnguto insisted.

Coastal Union FC plots KMC FC downfall in Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari Tanga

COASTAL Union FC has revealed it is now preparing to face Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in the NBC Premier League's 17th round match that will be played in Dar es Salaam next week.

Tanga-based Coastal Union posted a 0-0 draw with Azam FC in the 16th round fixture of the top-flight, which took place at Azam Complex in the city on Tuesday.

The next week's match, to be played at Azam Complex, will be Coastal Union's second away fixture.

The KMC FC beat Polisi Tanzania 3-0 in the previous league duel that took place at the venue.

Coastal Union's information officer, Miraji Wandu, said the squad returned home after its fixture against Azam FC.

He said instead of remaining in Dar es Salaam waiting for the match against KMC FC, the squad opted for preparation in Tanga.

According to him, Coastal Union settled for the move as it has various advantageous aspects.

He further explained that giving newly-appointed head coach, Joseph Lazaro, the opportunity to assess the team's weaknesses and address them was one of the important factors that forced them to make their way back.

Lazaro has taken over Coastal Union's technical bench given head coach, Melis Medo, has parted ways with the club.

Furthermore, Wandu pointed out the new head coach's training plans will be smoothly implemented in Tanga.

"KMC FC is one of the competitive outfits in the NBC Premier League, due to the club's status, we are taking it as a tough game."

"Head coach Lazaro will have ample time to spot the team's weaknesses and work on them," he said.



Coastal Union FC's players appreciate the side's fans after the completion of its 2021/22 NBC Premier League duel against Simba SC which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION



Tanga Cement PLC's Commercial Head, Peet Brits (L), hands over drinking water to some runners that participated in 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon held in Moshi recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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