



National Pg 3 IMF to offer more support to Tanzania



National Pg 4 Dar, Algiers to strengthen ties



National Pg 6 'Finalise Kasulu-Manyovu roadworks'



Unit Trust's assets triple in four years

By Henry Mwangonde

Unit Trust Tanzania (UTT) Asset Management and Investor Services (UTT-AMIS) net asset value has increased from 496bn/- to 1.52trn/- in the last four years. Simon Migangala (pictured), the managing director, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the fund's achievements recorded for the past four years that this achievement benefited from the use of digital tools in the unit's operations.

The fund recorded positive results with its average annual growth standing at 50-percent, with the Covid-19 pandemic pushing people to invest in UTT-AMIS instead of their savings staying idle.

Last year, the fund raised its asset value to 996bn/- from 619bn/- the previous year, with good investment policies explaining this surge, he stated.

Returns to investors exceeded the



He estimated public awareness on UTT-AMIS services to have grown to 20 percent of the urbano population

fund's performance benchmarks while growing in size, he said, noting that during the four years, the fund attracted new investors tied to growing public confidence.

People are now more aware of the benefits of investing in collective investment schemes, he affirmed, citing greater public awareness on the benefits of the fund, good performance in financial markets, good investment decisions and support of various stakeholders.

In the past the fund managed 500 accounts but now there are upwards of 2000 units, due to improved fund management systems, a senior official elaborated. Investors can use mobile money platforms to invest in the unit, not having to visit the fund's premises as it was in the past.

"UTT AMIS has turned around and with appropriate support, success is destined and it will eventually become the most trusted and accessible investment partner as stipulated in its mission," he said.

He estimated public awareness on UTT-AMIS services to have grown to 20 percent of the urbano population. This is notably perceived in the increase of investments, he added.



As often happens these days, people arriving in Dar es Salaam from Zanzibar by boat have to queue for quite some time waiting for security checks said to take long owing to problems including shortage of scanners at the Forodhani wharf. This scene was captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM: Diaspora need to follow host countries' laws, demands

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged Tanzanians in the Diaspora to work hard and observe the laws of the countries where they live, to avoid smearing the country's good name.

He was speaking to Tanzanians living in Russia's city of St. Petersburg, on the sidelines of the Second Russia-Africa summit, which scores of African Heads of State and government attended.

Those seeking opportunities and those who went there to study must respect the laws of Russia and protect the respect accorded to Tanzania, to generate value for investment and trade opportunities available at home, he stated.

The Diaspora needs to diligently promote Kiswahili, to attract many to learn the language as it creates employment opportunities and strengthens bilateral ties, he said, reminding them of efforts by

President Samia Suluhu Hassan to boost the economy and social services, citing heavy investments in education, water, tourism, agriculture, health and infrastructure.

Ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister, said enhancing ties with foreign countries is a key preoccupation, as well as enabling members of the Diaspora to make individual investments at home in a protected legal environment.

A review of the foreign policy strategy set out in 2001 incorporates key issues of the Diaspora, now capable of accessing a digital system which the country needs to have correct statistics for coordination, he stated.

He said the government recognizes the Diaspora contribution in the country's economy, thus seeks to facilitate access to essential services like banking links, travel documents (passports), national

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt reboots TANESCO, 2.4trn/- debt now equity

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) of corporate stability and subsidies, as the state-owned firm unveiled its ten-year corporate strategic plan to be rolled out starting next July.

Energy minister January Makamba gave this assurance at the launching of the plan in Dar es Salaam yesterday, underlining that TANESCO will have sufficient funding to conduct the breadth of its obligations in electricity supply locally and in the neighbourhood.

The government is working to ensure that TANESCO has



specifying that the firm seeks to expand its power pool transmission systems to reach neighbouring countries, tapping export markets for electricity

sufficient working capital to implement its investment strategy, first converting 2.4trn/- debt into equity.

This will improve the corporate balance sheet, ameliorate its cash flow prospects and enhance its borrowing capacity, he said, pointing at the country's geographical advantage and energy sources, with potential to become a leading energy provider in Africa.

Noting that energy needs huge investments, he praised the firm for achievements attained since 2021, saying the new board and top leadership had instituted systemic and attitude changes in the firm.

Managing director Maharage Chande said the ten year corporate strategic plan was drawn up by the new team, first instituting an interim strategic plan in 2021, to solve immediate challenges facing the company.

The new corporate strategy will focus on customer engagement, human resources plus investment in infrastructure and innovations, he said, outlining technological changes in managing customer needs with

TURN TO PAGE 2

CRDB Bank Plc's profit at 265bn/- January to June

By Mnaku Mbani

CRDB Bank Plc has recorded a pre-tax profit of 265bn/- in its January-June operations this year, a six percent increase from 250bn/- for the same period in 2022.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, the bank group's CEO, said in a statement yesterday that the bank's unaudited financial statement for the half year ending June shows that the bank registered a slight growth in profit levels.

These results reflect the successful implementation of the bank's new five-year strategy (2023-2027), where the tightened profit margins stem from a rise in funding costs necessary to meet the growing demands of the business.

He cited substantial investments in its CRDB Bank DRC and CRDB Insurance Ltd, which offers general insurance, as a contributing factor, underlining their



CRDB Bank Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela



9 770856 542009 >

TURN TO PAGE 2

PM: Diaspora need to follow host countries' laws, demands

FROM PAGE 1

identity cards and official Diaspora identification of special residential status.

Rolling out this system has enabled the government to learn of Tanzanian Diaspora communities in countries like Vanuatu, Albania, Antigua and Barbados, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and American Samoa, places where embassy services must be sought in third countries, he stated.

Pascal Gura, chairman of the Tanzanian Diaspora in Russia and its periphery of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) said the union has over 200 members.

He said those in the Diaspora face

challenges like transacting with institutions outside their countries of residence in the wake of the Russian Federation being removed from the business identifier codes (SWIFT) that banks and other financial institutions need to effect money transfer actions using visa and master cards.

The Union Pay card facility is still available in Russia, he said, urging that Tanzanian banks need to expand services by issuing cards with Union Pay access to strengthen trade with Russian firms.

The Russian Diaspora also handed an award to recognize the president's outstanding efforts in fostering development.

Govt reboots TANESCO, 2.4trn/- debt now equity

FROM PAGE 1
focus and efficiency.

Intensifying digital transformation, building strong cash flow, enhancing workplace training and changing corporate culture are key elements in the strategy, he said.

The new corporate blueprint brings TANESCO to embrace environmental sustainability and governance principles by focusing on green energy, specifically the use of hydrogen in power generation, he said, specifying that the firm seeks to expand its power pool transmission systems to reach neighbouring countries, tapping export markets for electricity.

Board chairman Omari Issa said the company has over the past two years experienced notable organizational changes, all focused on seeing to it that the strategic plan is implemented.

The company has dispatched

dozens of employees to universities and energy companies across the world to learn new skills, as part of a long term succession plan in its various departments, he said.

Treasury registrar Nehemia Mchechu asserted that organizational change in parastatals is a key element in government intentions at the moment, emphasizing that each entity becomes transparent in presenting financial performances to the public.

Altering the role of boards and managements in decision making and optimal use of enabling resources was pivotal to increasing profitability and paying dividends to the government. Otherwise the gains are reinvested to reduce fiscal dependency on the government, as from September, the board of directors will have full autonomy on company operations, to be measured by performance indices.

CRDB Bank's profit at 265bn/- January - June

FROM PAGE 1

potential to positively impact the group's performance in future. CRDB Bank DRC opened its doors to the public in Lubumbashi late on July 10.

The bank's profit growth in the second quarter reflected its impressive revenue surge, with a nine percent year-on-year increase in the half year, he said, highlighting that interest income was in sharp rise at 26 percent, reaching 192bn/- compared to 175bn/- in the corresponding period last year.

Non-interest income attained seven percent growth, rising to 106bn/- from 103bn/- in first half of 2022, he said, citing a substantial expansion of the balance sheet, as total assets surged by 22 percent from 10.2trn/- in first half year 2022 to 12.5trn/- this year.

A remarkable 29 percent year-on-year increase in loans and advances, from 5.9trn/- to 7.6trn/- propelled the growth in the balance sheet, he said.

Even with higher loan issues, non-performing loans ratio to total loan portfolio saw a decline from 2.8 percent recorded in the last quarter to 2.7 percent, indicating effective risk management for a healthy loan portfolio amid rapid expansion, he said.

Customer deposits showed a 23 percent increase, from 7.1trn/- in the

first half 2022 to 8.7trn/-, bolstering the bank's capacity to provide loans across various sectors of the economy, he stated.

Substantial loans were issued to micro, small and medium companies (MSMEs), recognizing the immense potential of this segment to drive economic growth and employment, he asserted.

The bank was expanding its service delivery channels, ensuring greater accessibility to services for customers, he said, pointing at relentless expansion of the branch network.

During the half year, the bank launched branches in Kaliua and Igunga in Tabora region, Bukombe in Geita region, and Kilwa in Lindi region, enhancing customer convenience and financial inclusion.

The CEO was optimistic about the future, anchored in the solid financial results, a proactive enhancement of its revenue streams by leveraging technology, network expansion and new subsidiaries. This would unlock fresh avenues of income and reinforce its competitive edge, he elaborated.

Fredrick Nshekanabo, the chief financial officer, said digital transactions propelled the bank's revenues, as campaigns for mobile phone and agency banking gathered speed.

NIAMEY

NIGER'S junta said the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) could stage an imminent military intervention in the capital Niamey as the regional bloc was expected to hold an "extraordinary summit" on Sunday over the coup in the Sahel state.

Niger's elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, has been held by the military for four days, and General Abdourahmane Tiani, the chief of the powerful presidential guard, has declared himself leader.

Former colonial ruler France

Niger coup: 'Military intervention' by ECOWAS imminent

and the European Union have suspended security cooperation and financial aid to Niger following the coup, the latest to hit the turbulent Sahel region.

ECOWAS was scheduled to meet in Nigeria's capital Abuja for the summit on Niger, with sanctions a possibility.

In a statement read out on national television on Saturday evening, Niger junta member Amadou Abdramane said the summit's aim was to "approve a plan of aggression against Niger, in

the form of an imminent military intervention in Niamey".

The action would be "in cooperation with African countries who are not members of the regional body and certain Western nations", he added.

Thousands of pro-junta protesters gathered outside the French embassy in Niamey on Sunday, with some trying to enter the building, an AFP journalist saw.

Some demonstrators ripped off and stamped on a plaque bearing the words "Embassy of France in

Niger", replacing it with Niger and Russian flags, while others shouted "long live Russia", "long live Putin" and "down with France".

ECOWAS has the power to impose sanctions on Niger, which is one of its 15 members.

Last year, its leaders agreed to create a regional security force to intervene against jihadists and prevent military coups.

Details on how that force would work and its funding are still unclear, with Ecowas defence ministers expected to make decisions later

this year.

Bola Tinubu, president of Nigeria and Ecowas chairman, said on Friday the West African bloc and the international community "would do everything to defend democracy and ensure democratic governance continues to take firm root in the region".

Ahead of Sunday's gathering, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Tinubu to convey his "deep concern" over the situation in Niger, and "underscored his support for President Tinubu's continued

efforts to restore constitutional order" there.

Chadian leader Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, whose country is not an ECOWAS member but borders Niger, has been invited to the summit and arrived in Abuja on Sunday.

Niger's neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso have both experienced military coups since 2020, fuelled by anger at a failure to quash long-running insurgencies by jihadists linked to the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda.

AGENCIES



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has an audience at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday with an International Monetary Fund delegation led by the UN financial agency's deputy managing director, Bo Li. Photo: VPO

Ministry directed to begin the process for formulation of Mkwajuni water authority

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

WATER minister Jumaa Aweso has directed his ministry to begin the process for the formulation of the Mkwajuni Water and Sanitation Authority to facilitate delivery of services in Songwe region.

The minister instructed the director of rural water supply, Joyce Msiru, to work with other stakeholders to start the process so that people access the services easily.

Speaking when addressing residents during the first day of

his two-day tour in the region, Aweso said the decision was made after receiving a report of water availability in the area which was not satisfactory.

The report showed that there was poor availability of water in wards of Saza and Mkwajuni which have the largest population of 40,000 hence the need for water.

Due to the situation, the minister said his ministry will disburse 500m/- to establish the authority but also facilitate the beginning of other services.

"It is time for the ministry to

oversee this which will help in the process of the new agency which will serve the people of Saza," he said.

Other leaders who were supposed to remain there for establishment of the authority was Mengo Ndele, who is the head of technical services for the Rural Water Supply Agency (RUWASA) headquarters in collaboration with other stakeholders.

"This is my second time to come to Songwe. I can see that things are changing and the centre is becoming active and I can see that

there is a need for establishment of a water authority," he said. He said his ministry has done a tremendous job to set up water infrastructure in which out of 43 villages in the district 41 are already set up.

Aweso also called on the RUWASA manager for Songwe, Charles Pande, to use internal revenue to purchase three vehicles in which one will be sent to Songwe district.

District commissioner Solomon Itunda said the district has set aside over 526m/- "which is not enough compared to the needed budget of 1.5bn/-".



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Saint Petersburg at the weekend receiving a trophy the association of Tanzanians living in the Russian city gifted President Samia Suluhu Hassan as a token of its members' appreciation of her leadership style. Presenting the souvenir is the association's treasurer, Latifa Ismail. Photo: PMO



Energy minister January Makamba speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the 2021/2022 report of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd (Tanesco). It was at a think-tank forum on the state-run agency. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Media have big potential to protect the country and resolve conflicts in society'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye, said yesterday that the media have great potential to protect the country and resolve conflicts in society.

He was speaking at the opening of the 15th five-day training course for news editors with the theme: 'The role of the media in strengthening security and promoting national unity' organised by the National Defence College (NDC).

He said the theme is an opportunity for the media to strengthen and promote equality and unity. He said the media has so far played a big role in building the nation and strengthening unity.

"This is why we continued to remain safe, there are countries that are now experiencing chaos only because the media was not responsible enough. Here in Tanzania things are different because journalists are doing a good job, we can do much better," he said.

Nape said that Tanzania is a mixture of different cultures since there are more than 120

ethnic groups with different tribal languages but the country has remained united.

"There are countries with a few tribes and cultures but they have failed to stay united. It is our responsibility to continue protecting our nation and make sure we remain united," said the minister.

Nape said the training will help news editors in finding strategies to further enhance protection of the nation. He said Tanzania has been built on strong foundations of laws and constitution that facilitates smooth operations.

He said it is the responsibility of the media to make sure the country continues to be safe with no violations of democracy and misuse of the country's resources.

Nape added that journalists can help in promoting peace through publication of articles that promotes unity and togetherness.

He said educative articles are important to make sure people respect each other despite their differences in religion, culture and political ideologies.

NDC head Major General Ibrahim Mhona said the training was sure to bring about positive change, thus enhancing national security.

IMF pledges more cooperation with govt in strategy to enhance revenue collection

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it will continue working together with Tanzania in making sure its experts help in instilling economic, policy and administrative improvements.

IMF Deputy Managing Director,

Bo Li gave the pledge yesterday when he met and held discussions with Tanzania Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango at State House.

Bo said that they will cooperate with Tanzania in strategies to enhance revenue collection as well as making sure the collection and expenditure ratio is adhered to.

He said that IMF will support improvements in the strengthening of business environment, investment, the private sector and the fight against corruption, and added that these issues are important in reducing poverty, boost up employment opportunities and attract investors.

He said that his institution will also support Tanzania in its investment in human resources including the education, health, community protection in order to instill in inclusive development.


During the discussions, the Vice president, Dr Mpango said Tanzania values the existing cooperation

with the IMF that has immensely contributed to the national development. He added that IMF has continued supporting Tanzania, especially during the Covid-19 period, effects of climate change and other challenges.

VP Mpango also welcomed IMF to continue cooperating with Tanzania

in making sure economic stability and supervision of the currency.

He said due to climate change that has brought adverse effects to Tanzania including little rains, Tanzania and IMF are supposed to work together to confront the situation via IMF Environment Fund.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF FUEL SERVICES FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ALONG THE PIPELINE ROUTE FOR THE EACOP PROJECT IN TANZANIA. REFERENCE NO. 0000315

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in the provision of fuel services for light vehicles and other equipment along the pipeline route to the EACOP project in Tanzania.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 296km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:
EACOP Ltd, has several Vehicles/machines which performs various assignments on areas of EACOP operations and therefore vehicles are distributed across Tanzania. All these vehicles and machines will need to be fueled in various points across the areas of operation and outside the areas of operations. Therefore, EACOP Ltd requires various service providers to express their interest in providing fuel services to the Company including supply of:

- Petrol and Diesel fuel.
- Other related products for light vehicles and machineries including car wash facilities in those pumping stations, and/or including being able to supply oil, grease, and simple non mechanical services.
- Currently the project passes through the following regions Bukoba, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga and specifically the following districts Muheza, Handeni, Kilindi DC, Kibirashi, Kiteto (Kibaya), Hanang, Chemba, Igunga, Kagongwa, Bukombe (Ushirobobo), Chato, Muleba, Misenyi (Mutukula), Kyaka and therefore the service provider must have Filling Stations in these areas and generally across Tanzania.
- Magnetic stripe fuel cards, or keypad access codes and a secret PIN or security number is highly recommended.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of registration as a Petroleum dealer/Filling station/Company as required under Tanzanian Law
- Relevant Authorities registration including OSHA, EWURA, TBS etc.
- Proven experience working on major projects with high demand for fuel supply including a list of top five (5) current or client you have rendered services to.
- Business License.
- Certificate of Incorporation and BRELA search (attach copy).
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017, and Local Company definition.
- Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project including personal certifications as necessary and level of qualifications, experience, and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance, and Human Rights policies.

Companies that have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together the documents stated in the above section through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on or before 15th August 2023. Email object shall be: **0000315-Provision of fuel Services for the EACOP Project**. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expressions of Interest should be submitted in the English Language.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for the tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.



Hakiki Stempu!



Linda Afya yako.
Hakiki stempu
kwenye kinywaji
chako mwenyewe!



'Seven out of ten people protected by at least one tobacco control measure'

By Guardian Reporter

A New World Health Organisation (WHO) report highlighted that 5.6 billion people - 71-per cent of the world's population - are now protected with at least one best practice policy to help save lives from deadly tobacco - five times more than in 2007.

In the last 15 years since WHO's MPOWER tobacco control measures were introduced globally, smoking rates have fallen. Without this decline there would be an estimated 300 million more smokers in the world today.

The WHO Report on the global tobacco epidemic, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, is focused on protecting the public from second-hand smoke, highlighting that almost 40 percent of countries now have completely smoke-free indoor public places.

The report rates country progress in tobacco control and shows that two more countries, Mauritius and the Netherlands, have achieved best-practice level in all MPOWER measures, a feat that only Brazil and Türkiye had accomplished until now.

"These data show that slowly but surely, more and more people are being protected from the harms of tobacco by WHO's evidence-based best-practice policies," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

He added "I congratulate Mauritius on becoming the first country in Africa, and the Netherlands on becoming the first in the European Union to implement the full package of WHO tobacco control policies at the highest level. WHO stands ready to support all countries to follow their example and protect their people from this deadly scourge."

Maarten van Ooijen, State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sports for the Netherlands said, "Civil society organisations, health experts and medical professionals are strong driving forces behind everything that we are achieving with regard to tobacco control in

the Netherlands."

He said smoke-free public spaces is just one policy in the set of effective tobacco control measures, MPOWER, to help countries implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and curb the tobacco epidemic.

"Smoke-free environments help people breathe clean air, shield the public from deadly second-hand smoke, motivate people to quit, denormalize smoking and help prevent young people from ever starting to smoke or use e-cigarettes," he added.

Michael Bloomberg, WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries and founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies said while smoking rates have been going down, tobacco is still the leading cause of preventable death in the world - largely due to relentless marketing campaigns by the tobacco industry.

"As this report shows, our work is making a big difference, but much more remains to be done. By helping more countries implement smart policies, backed by public opinion and science, we'll be able to improve public health and save millions of more lives." He added.

Eight countries are just one MPOWER policy away from joining the leaders in tobacco control: Ethiopia, Iran, Ireland, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, and Spain

"WHO urges all countries to put in place all of the MPOWER measures at best-practice level to fight the tobacco epidemic, which kills 8.7 million people globally, and push back against the tobacco and nicotine industries, who lobby against these public health measures," said Dr Ruediger Krech, WHO, Director for Health Promotion.

Around 1.3 million people die from second-hand smoke every year. All of these deaths are entirely preventable. People exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke are at risk of dying from heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases, type 2 diabetes and cancers.

UN: Children caught up in war suffer, tagged collateral damage

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

At least 435 children have been killed and more than 2,000 injured, as the fighting in Sudan spiralled on more than 100 days, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said.

UNICEF said the situation was dire as there have been over 2,500 severe violations of children's rights "amounting to an average of more than one violation per hour, in a country where approximately 14 million youngsters need aid relief."

UNICEF spokesperson, Joe English, warned that the conflict has had devastating consequences on children and families. And their future could as well be wiped out if war goes on.

The problem is complex: Children have either been killed, wounded, separated from families or now face a possibility of living as orphans. In fact, curtailed humanitarian supplies now mean their needed nutrition is in jeopardy.

"As we reach more than 100 days since the conflict in Sudan escalated, we know that it is taking an absolutely horrific toll on children and on families," underscoring the urgent need for immediate action. In addition to the escalating violence, health concerns are exacerbating an already dire situation.

The UN refugee agency reported that 300 displaced children have succumbed to measles and malnutrition in White Nile State alone.

Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees, pleaded with all parties involved in the war to bring it to an end promptly. His plea comes amidst mounting apprehension for over 740,000 refugees who have fled Sudan seeking refuge in

neighbouring countries.

Conditions facing those seeking shelter in neighbouring nations are described as "harrowing". Displacement camps are overcrowded while relocation efforts and aid deliveries become even more challenging due to the current heavy rainfall.

Distressingly, many children arrive at their destinations without their parents accompanying them - a concerning trend observed primarily among those arriving in Egypt according to UNHCR reports.

"For every child killed or injured we know that many more have been displaced from their homes, lacking access to essential services," UNICEF said in a statement, which underscored the need for safe, unimpeded access to children and families so that they can receive the support they need.

Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts by various organizations and entities such as the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States, and the UN, clashes between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia persist across multiple fronts.

According to the World Health Organisation collapse of healthcare services within Sudan has reached a "gravely serious" level, with 67 percent of hospitals now out of service due to increasing reports of attacks on medical facilities and personnel.

There have been 51 verified attacks on healthcare resulting in ten dead and 24 injured.

"As the rainy season begins in Sudan, outbreaks are likely to claim more lives unless urgent action is taken to reinstate essential public health measures," warns the WHO.



Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (L, foreground) accompanied by officials from the Agriculture ministry and the Mbeya regional commissioner's office yesterday when viewing machines and equipment displayed at one of the pavilions at the annual Nanenane (Farmers) Exhibition now in progress in Mbeya city. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Dar, Algiers to strengthen ties in development fields

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Algeria have agreed to strengthen cooperation in various development fields including promotion of economic diplomacy.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Samwel Shelukindo made the revelation in Algiers, Algeria at the opening ceremony of the fifth meeting of the Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between the two countries at the level of senior officials.

The meeting of senior officials will be followed by the Permanent Secretaries' conference to be held on August 31st, 2023. The Tanzania delegation is led by Ambassador

Shelukindo while the Algerian side is led by the Director of Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Ambassador Selma Haddadi Malika.

Ambassador Shelukindo explained that cooperation between Tanzania and Algeria is historical, built on solid foundations by the founders of the two nations, the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere of Tanzania and the late Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria.

He said Tanzania is now focusing on reforms, especially in the agricultural, tourism and financial institutions sectors to enable the private sector to develop the economy.

He said the government also continues with construction of infrastructures to facilitate

communication through road, railways, water and air transport.

"The government under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan emphasizes on strengthening production sectors and setting management plans to facilitate business, investment and industrial economy," said the Ambassador.

Director of the Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Ambassador Selma Haddadi Malika said the fifth meeting of senior officials is an indication of the countries' readiness to promote productive cooperation for mutual benefits.

"The government of Algeria will continue to strengthen cooperation with Tanzania especially economic diplomacy, trade, capacity-building

training and research and funding in higher education. We will also add new areas of cooperation whenever necessary," said Ambassador Malika.

In another development, Ambassador Shelukindo has conveyed condolences to the Algerian government following a fire disaster that occurred in the regions of Bejaia, Jijel, Bouira, Media, Skikda and Tiziouza that was caused by the increase in heat.

Tanzania and Algeria have been cooperating in the sectors of business, industry, agriculture, infrastructure, energy, mining, tourism, art and culture, education, science and technology, defence and security, politics and diplomacy, communication, fishing, investment and community development.



An official with China's Synohydro Corporation Limited (L, gesturing), contractors for Kigoma Region's Kanyani-Mvungwe road project, has a word with Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (R) at the site of the project yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African leaders attend Russia Navy Day occasion in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG

AFRICAN leaders accompanied Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday for the annual Navy Day event in St. Petersburg.

The presidents of the Republic of Congo, Mali, Eritrea and Burkina Faso were in St. Petersburg for the Russia-Africa Summit which took

place last week, on July 27 and 28.

During his speech before the military parade, Putin paid tribute to the "courageous crews of Russian ships and submarines", who are playing a role in the offensive in Ukraine, particularly the Black Sea fleet, which regularly takes part in bombardments.

"In the name of Russia, our

sailors are giving their all, showing true heroism and fighting valiantly, just like our great ancestors", Putin said. He made no reference to the conflict in Ukraine in his speech.

Forty-five surface ships and submarines and around 3,000 sailors took part in the parade in the former imperial capital to

mark Russian Navy Day, which is widely celebrated across the country.

The African leaders took a boat trip with Putin after the event to the port city of Kronstadt, where the Russian leader vowed to "implement" agreements which had been made with the visiting African leaders in recent days.

'Lack of strong systems bad for women, youths, PWDs' development in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

CIVIL society organisations in Zanzibar have cited lack of strong systems as an obstacle to development of women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs).

They have advised the government to put in place strong systems that will enable women, youth and special groups to access various social, political and economic opportunities.

Presenting the findings of the report on the study conducted recently aimed to look at various national issues related to the welfare of young people, the role of women in decision-making bodies, corruption and accountability; vice chairman of the CSO group, Almas Mohammed said they have discovered a number of issues that hold back the development of the specific groups.

He mentioned the challenges that hinder women development such as low participation at decision-making levels, unemployment and issues of gender based violence against women, children and PWDs.

The study also revealed other challenges facing the groups which make them unable to reach their development goals. This study reached 30 local and international NGOs working on issues related to youth, women and PWDs in Unguja and Pemba.

Director, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar), Dr Mzuri Issa said statistics show that women and children are victims of various types of abuse, hence the need to join efforts to eliminate all forms of GBV.

2022 Data from the General Statistics Office in Zanzibar indicates that a total of 1,361 cases of humiliation were reported, among them, 185 cases (13.6 per cent) were women, 889 (65.3 per cent) were girls, 284 (20.9 per cent) were boys and three (0.2 per cent) men.

She said despite the existence of laws and policies, deliberate efforts are needed in setting strategies to ensure the groups participate in the country's development and have access to economic opportunities. She said women participation in decision making posts is still low, noting women in the islands of Zanzibar have been left behind for many years due to the patriarchal

system that promotes gender discrimination in various fields.

Dr Mzuri gave an example of the Shehia level, which is the initial level of administration in Zanzibar, saying women accounts for 16 percent of the leaders of the Shehia. She said that in the House of Representatives there are 31 female members out of 84.

The study revealed that people with disabilities encounter several challenges including lack of employment and they are subjected to acts of humiliation.

Absence of reliable data on people with disabilities and the absence of good systems to enable them generate income continues to affect their welfare. PWDs account for between 4 and 6 per cent of the Zanzibar population with most of them living below the poverty line of \$1 per day.

According to the research, young people lack confidence, unemployment, low representation in decision-making bodies, inappropriate and timely access to important information on available opportunities and limited knowledge on digital opportunities.

The Integrated Labour Force Survey (2020/2021) conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar showed that youth unemployment has increased from 21.3 per cent in 2014/2015 to 27.4 percent in 2020/2021.

Chairperson of the CSOs group, Salma Saadat said the study was also conducted to evaluate the progress of CSOs, where participants from various institutions said that it is good for government institutions and civil society organizations to cooperate to ensure sustainable development.

Director of Gender, Women and Children from the Ministry of Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Zanzibar, Siti Abasi urge young people to properly use social networks to avoid cyberbullying.

The event was organized and coordinated by TAMWA ZNZ in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)

The CSOs group including JUWAUZA, CHAVIZA, UWZ, ZANAB, ZAPDD, JMZ, PNYD, JUVIEKA, YOPA, JUKAVIKE, TUJIPE, JUMAKU, ZAFELA., FAWA and TAMWA Zanzibar.

AfDB and UN environment body partner to drive the execution of MGBF in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank is joining forces with the United Nations Environment Programme to advance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in Africa (KMGBF). The framework sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

The African Development Bank and UNEP will partner to establish an Expert Group on Biodiversity Finance, which will provide African countries with knowledge and technical assistance to mobilize greater biodiversity finance for implementation of the framework. It will also offer policy makers and development partners in Africa a platform to connect, share knowledge, approaches, opportunities, and solutions to mobilize biodiversity finance for, nature-positive development pathways in Africa.

The partnership was announced following the Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions Multilateral Environmental Agreements Programme Phase III Sub-Regional Workshop hosted by UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis-Ababa, from 25 - 28 July 2023, is the result of an intensive and rigorous consultation process led by the African Development Bank and UNEP to develop the forthcoming Africa Biodiversity Coordination Platform, which will be jointly hosted by both.

The focus will be on achieving Goal D of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

which focuses on ensuring adequate financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the framework. Goal D also targets closing an annual gap in biodiversity finance of \$700 billion and to align financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

Dr Vanessa Ushie, Acting Director of the African Development Bank's African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre welcomed the partnership with UNEP. She said: "The African Development Bank recognizes the importance of biodiversity finance in complementing existing development assistance and climate finance to African countries. The magnitude and far-reaching impacts of biodiversity loss in Africa requires innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships that can rapidly scale resource mobilization by public, private and multilateral institutions."

"It is heartening to note the leadership role Africa played in finalizing the KMGBF and decisions related to financing and implementation of the same," said Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Head of UNEP Environment Policy Unit, UNEP's Law Division. "It is now time for action and action that needs to be led from the front by countries in the region. The proposed collaboration between UNEP and the African Development Bank is a great step forward to capacitate the region in becoming self-reliant on issues of financing," Pisupati added.



Small traders captured yesterday going about their routine activities beside Dar es Salaam's Kimara Mwisho bus stand, one of the scores of locations in the city and its environs long declared out of bounds for them. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Govt to build 699m/- bridge in Songea District - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE government has dished out 699m/- for the construction of the 20 metre Njoka River Bridge to be passable throughout the year that will help to open the Muhukuru-Kizuka road that is expected to spur economic activities for the people in the area.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the PM Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), made the remarks during her visit to inspect development projects in

Songea District.

"This is a vital road, it is the road that will boost economic activities and security, and we are thankful to the government for providing the funds for the construction of the bridge," Mhagama, who is also Peramiho Member of Parliament, said.

She explained that the government has allocated funds for the bridge from its FY 2023/24 budget so that all large bridges become passable throughout the year.

In addition, she said the construction of four other small bridges have been completed by TARURA and what remains is the road.

Chairman of Songea District Council, Menas Komba said the construction of the bridge will help the government boost revenue collection from both food and cash crops.

"The road is going to rescue farmers in Songea District and ease transport challenges and we are thankful to President Samia Suluhu

Hassan for her implementing the CCM Election Manifesto appropriately," he said.

Thomas Musolwa, CCM chairman for Songea Rural District also praised President Samia for solving challenges facing the people and in particular for providing funds towards Njoka Bridge.

Earlier, in his performance report, TARURA manager Johnson Kweka said the contractor - HERA Construction Limited has already completed initial work at the bridge site.

He said the construction of the 20-metre long bridge will cost 699m/- and will take eight months to complete beginning December 15 last year.

He explained that the project is now 40 per cent complete



Offals on retail sale yesterday just outside Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti abattoir. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

West African bloc imposes sanctions on Niger military leaders after coup

ABUJA

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional group of 15 countries, agreed to impose sanctions on Niger's military leaders involved in a recent coup at an emergency meeting held here on Sunday.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, also chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS, denounced the coup, saying the regional bloc "rejects coup and interruption to constitutional order."

"As African leaders, it is our responsibility to foster stability and progress," Tinubu said, noting that the ECOWAS advocates collaborative efforts to ward off coup on the African continent.

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

ECOWAS leaders agreed to impose financial and travel sanctions on Niger's military leaders involved in the coup, and also a no-fly zone over the country. They also decided to freeze Niger's assets in the central and commercial banks of the ECOWAS countries.

Niger's Defense and Security Forces said late Wednesday that soldiers in the country had overthrown Bazoum, hours after the president was allegedly held hostage.

Two days later, General Abdourahmane Tchiani, former

leader of Niger's presidential guard, was named "president of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland" and signed an order to suspend the Constitution and dissolved the government, empowering the council to exercise all legislative and executive authority.

The United Nations Security Council on Friday strongly condemned the military coup, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the president, and underscored the need to protect him, his family and members of his government.

The African Union Peace and Security Council on Saturday demanded the Nigerien military restore constitutional authority within 15 days.

'Iringa regional hospital needs blood to save mothers' and children's lives'

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

OVER 70 per cent of safe blood at Iringa regional hospital is donated for pregnant mothers and infants, according to hospital officials.

Regional medical officer, Dr Mohamed Mang'una made the remarks over the weekend during a blood donation event organised by Simba Sports Club, Iringa branch in collaboration with the offices of the RMO and Iringa municipality.

He said that blood is important in serving lives, calling on members of the community to donate blood during the weeklong event that is part of activities to mark Simba Day week celebrations.

Dr Mang'una said that a large percentage of safe blood is given to pregnant mothers and children urging the public to come out in big numbers to save the lives of people who need blood.

He said the region's blood demand is more than 200 bottles,

attributing the increase in demand with increased interaction of people from different regions.

Iringa municipality Mayor, Ibrahim Ngwada has congratulated Simba Sports Club fans in Iringa Region for donating blood.

He said that Iringa receives a good number of people connecting their transport routes to various regions. He also added that since more public and private vehicles pass through the region, there are many accidents that occur with persons in need of blood donations.

Ngwada added that blood cannot be bought at any shop hence the need for people to volunteer donating to save lives.

Chairman of the Simba SC branch Iringa, Haruna Kihongole called upon Simba fans to continue volunteering in other community services. The blood donation event was supported by CRDB and NMB banks whereas new Simba fans were registered through the digital system.



Mwanga district commissioner Abdallah Mwaipaya pictured yesterday speaking at a meeting at a Mwanga primary school for children with impaired hearing also attended by Umyy Nderiananga (L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chatanda lauds Dr Ndumbo for representing well his constituents

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

MARY Chatanda, National Chairperson of CCM Women Wing (UWT) and Member of the party's National Executive Committee (CCM-NEC) has commended the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Dr Damas Ndumbo who is also Songea Urban Member of Parliament for continuing representing well his constituents when in Parliament to ensure their socio-economic development.

Chatanda cited Der Ndumbo as a hardworking person for his implementation in deeds the party's 2020 Election Manifesto, hence she warned all those vying for his seat, saying CCM still holds him in high trust.

The UWT Chairperson said the party is guided by its Manifesto and added that she is pleased by the implementation of the Songea District hospital at Sanangula.

She also explained that she is pleased by the provision of funds from the government towards

various development projects in Ruvuma Region, hence, she added, through her visit to inspect development projects and party activities, she particularly praised the Songea District hospital project that is yet to be completed.

Chatanda also thanked women in Ruvuma Region for being part of those who elected her to the UWT chair, saying she will not let them down.

She also instructed all officials in areas with ongoing development projects to make sure they regularly inspect them, but also commended residents of Tanga Ward School for giving up land for the construction of the district hospital.

In regard to education, Chatanda reminded parents and guardians to closely monitor their children by encouraging them to go to school instead of allowing them to work in farms.

She also rebuked the plummeting of moral ethics and called on the people not to tolerate acts of child abuse.

ACT-Wazalendo faults Zanzibar's revocation of investor's title deed

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo party has said the move of the Zanzibar government to revoke the land title deed of Pennyroyal Resort will have adverse effects to the economy and the development of Zanzibar tourism sector in general.

Ismail Jussa, member of the party's Central Committee made the observation at the weekend at a public rally in Unguja South Region.

He said the firm, through its Blue Amber project was set to build a five-star hotel, but all of a sudden the government revoked the title deed issued in 2022.

He added that the firm has now decided to file a case in the international court seeking 2.5trn/- compensation, equivalent to the Zanzibar government annual budget.

"Today you are going to face 2.5trn/- compensation, but in fact the case is against the United Republic of Tanzania, and since the time this has been reported there have been complaints from the Mainland, saying issues of land and investment are not Union issues," he said.

Jussa added that Pennyroyal, the UK firm came up to invest in Zanzibar at Mbutu Tende area in Unguja North region and bought 411 hectares of land and was provided the title deed by the government and began construction the hotel and residential houses for its staff before the title deed was revoked.

However, he alleged that in 2022 one government official wanted 80 hectares from the land plot to be given to two investment firms from the UAE.

"The hotel project was set to open

doors to the Zanzibar's tourism sector internationally, boost job opportunities and spur economic growth, but now people have lost their jobs and we should prepare ourselves to carry the 2.5trn debt burden for a poor country like Zanzibar," Jussa said.

He said the case at the international court has started to be heard in the UK against the government of the United Republic of Tanzania since it is the one that is concerned with issues of foreign affairs since the Union in 1964.

He said in case the Union government will refuse the debt there is a danger for the Zanzibar government property to be confiscated, and called on the Zanzibar government to learn about rule of law especially in issues of investment agreements with foreign firms.



The hotel project was set to open doors to the Zanzibar's tourism sector internationally, boost job opportunities and spur economic growth, but now people have lost their jobs and we should prepare ourselves to carry the 2.5trn debt burden for a poor country like Zanzibar

Govt calls on contractor to finalise Kasulu-Manyovu road by October

By Guardian Reporter

PROF Makame Mbarawa, the Works and Transport minister, has called on Kigoma Region's TANROADS manager to make sure the 56km Kasulu-Buhigwe-Manyovu is completed at tarmac level by October, this year.

The road, which is part of the 260km Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road is expected to connect Kigoma and Kagera regions at tarmac level in order to spur farming, businesses and investment activities in the country's western zone.

"Make sure you inspect these projects from time to time in order

to know the challenges facing contractors and find solutions before the rainy season starts," said Prof Mbarawa.

He also expressed his satisfaction on the road's construction pace in regard to the 56km Kasulu-Manyovu stretch, the 59.3km Mvugwe-Nduta junction and the 62.5km Nduta junction-Kabingo. However, he warned the contractor building the 70.5km Kanyani junction-Mvugwe of sluggish work.

"The government intends to open up Kigoma region infrastructure in order to boost businesses and farming activities as well as security, saying we will

not tolerate contractors who are sluggish in their work or build roads of poor quality," he said.

Prof Mbarawa also called residents of Kigoma region and those along Lake Tanganyika coastal areas to grab investment opportunities provided by the new road infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Prof Mbarawa inspected the Chankere-Mwamgongo road in Kigoma North constituency that traverses steep mountainous area whose residents cultivate cash crops and called on them to abide by road traffic signs and not to build settlements in the road reserves.

For his part, Kigoma Region

TANROADS manager, Eng. Narcis Choma said they are mobilised to make sure all contractors building the 260km Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road are closely supervised.

Col. Isaac Mwakisu, Kasulu District Commissioner thanked the government via the Works and Transport ministry for supervising road construction projects in Kigoma Region and pledged full collaboration to contractors to enable them perform their responsibilities.

Prof Mbarawa is on a three-day visit to Kigoma Region to inspect road infrastructure, railways, ports and airports.



Members of Daraja Salama group donate blood at Dar es Salaam's Temeke Regional Referral Hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Halfan Chusi

UN system launches special 'coffee book'

By Getrude Mbagu

THE United Nations system in Tanzania has launched a special 'coffee book' which comprises a collection of impactful stories told by various beneficiaries of its projects to further inspire renewed commitment to goals and collective actions.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Zlatan Milisic, resident coordinator for the UN system in Tanzania said that the stories documented in the book not only show the results of the fruitful collaborative between the UN, partners and the government in action, but also serve as a testament to the resilience and inherent goodwill of the Tanzanian communities.

"We are delighted to present this coffee book, a snapshot of the collective journey we have embarked on over the years with our partners and a testament to the tangible results of our collaborative efforts in Tanzania in support of the country's national development priorities and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)," he said.

He said that in its mission to create sustainable change, the UN Tanzania consistently strives to amplify the scope of its work, scaling solutions to reach as many Tanzanians.

Nafisa Didi, national information officer at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)-Dar es Salaam said that apart from being uploaded online and in the UN's social media accounts, stories in the book will also be shared in media stations including newspapers, radio and televisions.

"The book has already been translated into Kiswahili so as to make it easy for Tanzanians to read and understand the message well and learn what the UN is doing to bring positive impact to communities," she said.

Usia Ledema, communications officer at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the book airs voices of beneficiaries of various projects implemented by UN agencies so as to ensure that the education reaches more people inside and outside the country.

She noted that the UN system in Tanzania comprises a number of UN agencies, who work closely with the government and other stakeholders to support the achievement of national development priorities and of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Under the coordination and leadership of the UN resident coordinator, UN agencies work in close collaboration to enhance the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the UN's impact in Tanzania with an emphasis on leaving no one behind.

The UN in Tanzania has been exploring and developing new ways of working together with the Government to achieve greater impact by being more results oriented, reducing duplication of efforts and improving coherence and efficiency.



The book has already been translated into Kiswahili so as to make it easy for Tanzanians to read and understand the message well and learn what the UN is doing to bring positive impact to communities

TEF, stakeholders want newspaper registration licence to last 15 years

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) in collaboration with media stakeholders has called upon the government to extend the newspaper registration licence to 15 years from the current one year.

Deodatus Balile, TEF chairperson made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during a two-day training session on Media Services Act.

Balile said that it is important to set rules that will not discourage media owners and take into consideration issues concerning registration of newspapers, education levels for journalists and the period of a newspaper licence.

"We are going to consult the government on possibilities of reviewing some regulations to see if newspaper registration can last for five of ten years because community radios, television and other radios are given a five-year licence," he said, adding that telephone companies are given a 25-year licence.

Balile said that the stakeholders will request the government extension of the press cards validation period because journalists are currently required to apply for the IDs every year.

"Passports are valid for 10 years, press cards can be valid for a longer period," he added.

He said the media stakeholders are happy with the amendment of the Section 50 (i) of the law by removing the concept of defamation as a crime.

Balile said stakeholders are also happy that Section 53 of the law has barred the court from confiscating machines that were alleged to publish certain offences, although Section (IV) gives power

to the Director of the Information Department to issue licences, revoke them and even refuse to issue the document.

Dr Darius Mukiza, lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Journalism (SJMC) said journalism is a profession like any other, insisting that only those with required expertise can practice it.

"The endorsed law requires a journalist to have a diploma. This makes the profession respectable," said Dr Mukiza calling upon journalists to continue educating themselves because learning is an ongoing process.

He said it is good for a journalist to have multiple skills in the communication sector such as photographing, use of drones and social media. He said such skills are useful in producing good content that attracts more readers.



We are going to consult the government on possibilities of reviewing some regulations to see if newspaper registration can last for five of ten years because community radios, television and other radios are given a five-year licence



A resident of Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti suburb clears mud from a clogged sewage system yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

Insurance stakeholders devise emerging distribution channels

By Henry Mwangonde

STAKEHOLDERS in the insurance sector are devising new ways to tap into new emerging distribution channels to complement the traditional channels in a bid to widen insurance coverage in the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TIBA president Okoth Oloo said insurance products have traditionally been sold through brokers and agents though other emerging channels such as call

centers, bancassurance, internet, and mobile have been rapidly gaining momentum.

This is among the main topics to take center stage at this year's annual general conference of the Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association (TIBA) scheduled to take place in Dodoma next week. Vice President Dr Philip Mpango is expected to grace the event.

According to Oloo, the conference will discuss issues related to the inclusive insurance market and the regulatory landscape in Tanzania.

"The insurance sector in

Tanzania is growing but it is not growing at the same pace with the rate of insurance cover and usage in the country, we need to develop ways to make this match," he said.

Oloo noted that the participants will be taken through different topics including how to leverage on new technologies, regulatory landscape, customer experience in terms of products they offer, traditional and emerging distribution channels.

"We need to see how these channels complement each other," he said.

Association's vice president Elinipa Elias, assured that the conference will be different from previous ones in terms of organisation and content.

Chairperson of the organising committee, Anna Lema stated that so far, the response was as many people were registering for participation.

Commenting, NIC insurance director of marketing, Karimu Meshack, said they were pleased to be the main sponsor of the forthcoming i-conference.

He said through the partnership the NIC Insurance managed to emerge competitive in the insurance industry.

Among successes in the previous year, the NIC Insurance made a profit of 63bn/-.



Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (R) receives a progress report on the construction of classrooms at Muheza Secondary School from the school's head teacher, Boniface Kinyemi, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Mbowe asks govt to continue reforming economic policies

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

THE government has been urged to continue reforming economic policies to enhance cross trade with East African partner states.

Freeman Mbowe, Chadema national chairman, made the remarks over the weekend during rallies in Kagera Region.

Mbowe said once the party comes to power, it will revise the tax systems, levies, and tariffs, and remove barriers that hinder cross-border trade, noting that the aim is to provide citizens with broader opportunities to generate income while increasing government revenues.

He has an example of the Mutukula border between Tanzania and Uganda, saying it has great potential to benefit both citizens and the government. He highlighted the need to reduce taxes, levies, and tariffs that make products like cooking oil, sugar, and soap expensive compared to Uganda.

The party promised to improve healthcare and water services in Kanyigo, Bunazi, Rwambizi, Nyaishozi, and Kayanga areas following complaints from the residents over poor healthcare services.

On access to safe and clean drinking water, he said the party

will make sure people access water service in their nearby vicinity.

Speaking at the tally, Alphonse Bankika, 66, one of the villagers in Kanyigo ward said water shortage has forced the majority of the villagers to use untreated water from unreliable water sources.

"There was a water project implemented by the government back in 1969 which was supplying safe drinking water to various Wards of Missenyi District. But unfortunately, in the 1980s the project collapsed and since then we have been forced to use unsafe water from natural springs," said the villager.

Responding, Mbowe assured the

villagers of his party's commitment to addressing the social and economic challenges in rural areas including the water shortage, in particular.

Mbowe, who was accompanied by other party leaders from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar including Tundu Lissu, John Mnyika, and John Heche said the party will take water from Lake Victoria to ensure reliable services in regions surrounding the lake.

On Friday the opposition party inaugurated its countrywide operations at Uhuru Stadium, in Bukoba. The event was attended by thousands upon thousands of Bukoba residents.

IMF growth data: Sub-Saharan Africa needs anchor in growth

MAKING sense out of growth projections by the International Monetary Fund for sub-Saharan Africa can be a bit confusing. It now projects Sub-Saharan Africa's economic growth at 3.5 per cent for 2023 in the latest revision, down from 3.9 per cent last year. The mid-year review of growth prospects around the world was conducted four months from the previous and shows wild swings of expectations, and equally doubtful projections for the near future. If this year's growth on average will not exceed 3.1 per cent, is it not to push future positive factors to wishful thinking, to then project a rebound to 4.1 per cent level 2024?

On the look of it, factors for poor growth seem to be intensifying, as poor growth prospects characterise more developed economies, and more so, for the commodity guzzler, China. With general opprobrium against fossil fuels, investments in oil and gas may crawl rather than widen, as governments cushion renewable energy with large funds. Gas is tolerated at most, unlike petrol, coal, in which case chances of finding wider markets are limited, hinge on necessity.

What comes up in digesting the sequence of projections on Africa's gross domestic product growth prospects for this and the following year is that the factors that determine outcomes aren't anchored in Africa. Those outcomes are definitely influenced by what we do or shall do on a day to day basis, but at a collective level, it is the winds and perils of Western lending rates volatility that determine prospects here. For two years, the US post-pandemic economy has been booming, with a result that capital flows there in

massive quantities. Consequently there is inflationary pressure that is tamed by raising central bank lending to commercial banks, which thus skim borrowing, and those they lend to have less capital to invest in Africa or expand their businesses. That would not be a massive problem if Africa was more effective in attracting capital, as often there are higher returns owing to cheaper labour. But without rights of ownership tied up with dual citizenship, the risk is seen as too high.

When an analyst of the IMF projection says the 3.5 per cent growth projection as well as projection for next year "is a 100-basis points downgrade projection for both years," it has a familiar ring. Africa is hurt with each credit tightening lever in US monetary circuit, in which case Africa's growth is excessively tied up with cheap credit, what used to be called 'quantitative easing.' It has become a familiar way of doing business with Africa, and when it is tightened, Africa returns to the scenario after the bank sector crisis in 2007-8 in the US. The crisis arose from massive capital flowing into the US economy since the rest of the world is unprofitable (stagnant, declining populations) or inhospitable (Africa).

Africa needs to shift to become equally hospitable to capital like developed market economies. Africa has to open the doors for capital to flow here, using weaknesses of stagnant populations in Europe and Asia to attract capital wishing to expand business. They create industries and jobs, making agriculture mechanized and grain, etc far cheaper. Otherwise we shall have more hunger, coups, civil wars and generalized chaos, with cycles of calm soon collapsing.

Dar trade ties with Rabat can enable bread-basket solutions

PLENTY of interesting things were heard when top government officials joined Moroccan diplomats in marking a special day for the North African country, as July 23 was 23 years of accession to the throne for King Mohammed VI. Morocco has a Western oriented and modernising monarchy doing all it can to resist the winds of radicalism that have swept North Africa and the Middle East, and most of South Asia, since World War II. The result is its becoming a bridge between ideological 'time zones,' once hosting an Israel-Palestine peace conference.

At the same time Morocco, like Egypt, Turkey and a few other countries in the Mediterranean zone, has industrial technology for ordinary use that compares with Western firms. It has developed these links for decades, and this ability enables it to solve problems that bedevil other countries, especially the grain supply crisis. This is of some interest to us as we are nearly self-sufficient in grain needs, but readily aspire to become a leading grain exporter in the region.

We are doing that already, but then it doesn't take much observation too notice that when markets are unfettered grain exports become a burden on the local consumer, the low income majority for that matter. We thus need clear export oriented grain production at fairly large scale level, by forging synergies with countries having such experience. We only need to allocate some reserve lands to avoid clashes with local farmers, and they supply machinery, plus fertiliser.

The point here is that while it is true that market forces are

working well in how Tanzania-Morocco trade is improving, with 24.9bn/- exports there last year and 260.2bn/- imports, plenty can be done by strategic design. The theme actually came up in a recent meeting between African leaders and the Russian leadership at St Petersburg, where a food supply initiative was enunciated. It was a promise of free supplies to a number of countries for three months, and we thus can use that respite to see how grain supply is localized, with synergies.

This initiative isn't as strange as it may seem to some, as it is patterned on the standard gauge railway financing arrangement, with Turkey and Egypt being in the lead to supply both the loans and the technology. Big lenders including the Chinese, the World Bank and Standard Chartered Bank came much later. It is a model that can be taken up for a 'great leap forward' in exportable grain supply.

The knack about this kind of investment is to make sure the costing structure of large grain exporters or those familiar with markets in various parts of the world. A private sector anchor is vital to shift the risks to investors, aware that public sector supervision is often wanting. Cost and price sensitivity is the key.

Remarks by Moroccan ambassador Zakaria El Goumri indicated that the mission is close enough to a reliable financier like the Bank of Africa (BOA) and OCP Africa Group, a global phosphate fertiliser supplier with roots in that country. Just what sort of partnership it can strike locally isn't hard to figure out, when it is taken up by stakeholders. The hardware is in place but the software, of taking up such interest and striking the right partnerships, is another issue.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



BY Jerome Utomi

Nigeria concludes plans to make digital transfer to over 12m low-income earners

GOING by media reports, the Federal Government of Nigeria has concluded plans to make a digital transfer of N8000 to over 12 million low-income earners in Nigeria to help cushion the effect of subsidy removal which has seen prices of commodities triple in recent weeks. It was gathered that when completed, the exercise would have a multiplier effect on about 60 million individuals.

Essentially, the purpose of this piece is not to illogically criticise the policy but to objectively understand the basic reason(s) that informed the policy and what made it seem attractive to the Federal Government, and possibly challenge those 'fundamental' assumptions. Without doubt, the decision looks good peripherally - particularly with Mr. President's claim that for credibility, the money will be transferred to the households digitally.

Beyond this pedestrian attribute, there is everything wrong with the current move by the current administration in the country. Aside from the fact that Nigerians with development mindset had in the past expressed concern that it is not right for state and federal governments of Nigeria to create agencies or come up with policies that 'dole' out money of any kind or sum to Nigerians with the aim of eradicating poverty, as such huge resources do not have economic value. The current move by the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led Federal Government to distribute N8000 to poor Nigerians, perfectly aligns with the time honoured adage of 'robbing Peter to Pay Paul'.

For reasons that will be explained in subsequent paragraphs, the present decision more than anything else

By othello b. garblah

BY all accounts, Liberians are expected to head to the polls on October 10 to vote in a crucial election that may see either incumbent President George M. Weah being re-elected for another six years term or be replaced by one of his numerous contenders.

Although the National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to announce names of qualified candidates on August 5, there are about 20 or more individuals aspiring to unseat President Weah in the upcoming polls.

Among the laundry list of candidates seeking to unseat him are former vice president Joseph N. Boakai of Unity Party (UP), former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawon S. Gongloe of Liberian People Party (LPP).

Unlike Cllr. Gongloe and few others that will be contesting the presidency for the first time in this year's elections, President Weah, Amb. Boakai and Cummings were among dozen other

people. supports the belief that as a nation, we are poor not because of our geographical location or as a result of lack of mineral resources but predominantly because our leaders make policies that engender poverty and promote helplessness among its citizens.

The facts are there and speak for themselves. Why is the Nigerian government notorious for borrowing to fund consumption that is neither productive nor sustainable? Are we unmindful as a nation that no society, state or country becomes great by living on borrowed funds? Is the Federal Government ignorant that 'killing the strong cannot make the weak strong? Instead of borrowing to fund the poor, why not search and discover the major flaw in the nation's economy and other fundamental challenges that keep Nigerians poor and have such challenges solved?

Who are these 12 million low-income Nigerians? Where are they addresses? How were they selected? Who generated or stored their personal data/information? The truth is that today, if there is anything that Nigerians wish the Federal Government to accomplish quickly, it is not disbursement of paltry N8000 that cannot pay house rent for the urban poor or school fees for the children of the poor fishermen in the riverine communities in the Niger Delta region. Rather, what Nigeria and Nigerians currently need is for the Federal Government to restart the economy, get the refineries functioning optimally as well as make the NNPC more accountable to the

Why VP pick in Liberia's 2023 elections matter

candidates that participated in 2017 elections which brought Weah to power following a run-off with Amb. Boakai of UP.

However, the stakes in this year's elections are high, even higher than in 2017 amidst a fragmented opposition divided by sheer greed and moles. Under such prevailing political atmosphere, the Vice Presidential pick is very crucial for the numbers.

There are arguably six vote rich counties in Liberia - they are Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties. The rest of the nine counties account for a mere 20 to 25 per cent of total votes.

Thus, the expectation that a vice presidential candidate coming from any of these counties would boost a party's ticket is high-albeit and assuming that such candidate does not come with excess baggage that could play to the advantage of the incumbent or other contenders.

The Case of UP
The Unity Party's choice of vice running mate in the person of Sen.

poor and vulnerable Nigerians?

As an incentive to this demand, President Tinubu could recall and attest to the fact that one of the popular demands during the fuel subsidy removal protest in January 2012, under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's administration, was that the Federal Government should take measures to strengthen corporate governance in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, as well as in the oil and gas sector as a whole. This is because of the belief that weak structures made it possible for the endemic corruption in the management of both the downstream and upstream sectors of the oil and gas industry.

Eleven years after such a demand was made and Jonathan gone, the three government-owned refineries in the country have not been able to function at full capacity as promised by the present administration for a myriad of reasons that revolve around corruption. In fact, it is so bad currently that if the failures recorded by NNPC, under President Jonathan were a challenge, what is going on now is a crisis.

Again, considering the slow growing economy and the attendant scary unemployment levels in the country, instead of paying the paltry N8000 to the poor for a very short period of six months, the Federal Government should have been better appreciated by Nigerians if such an amount is invested in the agriculture sector or used in building industries and factories of production to create employment opportunity for these

people. As an incentive to this demand, President Tinubu could recall and attest to the fact that one of the popular demands during the fuel subsidy removal protest in January 2012, under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's administration, was that the Federal Government should take measures to strengthen corporate governance in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, as well as in the oil and gas sector as a whole. This is because of the belief that weak structures made it possible for the endemic corruption in the management of both the downstream and upstream sectors of the oil and gas industry.

Indeed, I am of the opinion that the Federal Government must abandon this unclear process of empowering her people and in its place, come up with more people-focused policies that connect the poor with good means of livelihood - food, job and security. The masses will also appreciate the President and his handlers developing/implementing plans and policies that will lead to price stability, high employment, effective regulation, trade and availability of finance for business. This is the only possible explanation to what Nigerians currently need.

Thus, if the process/policy is allowed, it will, in my view, translate to a palliative that cures the effect of a sickness while leaving the root cause to thrive. God bless Nigeria!

Utomi is a Programme Coordinator (Media and Policy) at Social and Economic Justice Advocacy, SEJA

Jeremiah Koung comes with a bag full of mixed reactions. Koung is a senator from vote rich Nimba County and political leader of Prince Johnson's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR).

He is expected to pull the numbers for the UP from his native Nimba to the disadvantage of other parties including incumbent President Weah who has a herculean task defending his policies over the last six years.

However, the Prince Johnson factor could ruin the party's chances of attracting votes from other regions. Sen. Johnson, a designee of the United States association with the Boakai-Koung ticket could cause him (Boakai) a serious problem and could take away from his chances.

Though UPists will argue otherwise, Prince Johnson's alignment with Amb. Boakai at this stage would have a negative impact on his chances.

However, it remains to be seen how huge such an impact will be on UP's attempt to wrestle power from CDC.

The case of CPP
The Collaborating Political Parties

Is the current administration unaware that it will be difficult accelerating the economic life cycle of the nation until they contemplate industrialisation, or productive collaboration with private organisations that have surplus capital to create employment?

I believe that in many ways, the present administration may have a sincere desire to move poor Nigerians out of the harsh socioeconomic basement, a critical analysis of the present action by the Federal Government regrettably postures it as a plan embarked on without adequate feasibility study.

Indeed, I am of the opinion that the Federal Government must abandon this unclear process of empowering her people and in its place, come up with more people-focused policies that connect the poor with good means of livelihood - food, job and security. The masses will also appreciate the President and his handlers developing/implementing plans and policies that will lead to price stability, high employment, effective regulation, trade and availability of finance for business. This is the only possible explanation to what Nigerians currently need.

Thus, if the process/policy is allowed, it will, in my view, translate to a palliative that cures the effect of a sickness while leaving the root cause to thrive. God bless Nigeria!

Utomi is a Programme Coordinator (Media and Policy) at Social and Economic Justice Advocacy, SEJA

Though conspirators pointed fingers at ALP's Benoni Urey and embattled LP Charmian Musa Bility as being moles of the ruling CDC in helping to split the CPP, a recent pronouncement by Mr. Urey referring to President Weah as his junior brother whom he can call at any time render more credence to such conspiracy theory than sound to the naked ears. And with Bility's recent podcast, something just doesn't add up.

However, the CPP's choice of Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine, daughter of the founding father of LP appears to have brought some light to the CPP campaign. Nonetheless, the political novelty of Cllr. Brumskine and her criticism of not being in touch with the Bassa people could hurt the CPP to the advantage of its opponents. But this is politics, anything can happen.

Zimbabwe plans export of 'surplus' maize as many locals struggle to put food on table

By Frank Chikwore

ZIMBABWE'S food security situation has improved, but many citizens might still face hunger if authorities go ahead with plans to export grain after the country's agricultural sector posted two successive record harvests before proper stock assessments to feed citizens are made.

This comes as the governing Zanu-PF party and its opponents are using all tactics to win the hearts and minds of voters ahead of general elections expected on 23 August.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration is set to begin maize exports - after a surplus - for the first time in more than two decades. But humanitarian organisations warn that millions of Zimbabwean citizens could need food aid.

The maize harvest boom comes against the backdrop of Zimbabwe also reporting record tobacco sales of nearly 300 million kilograms since the tobacco selling season opened in March. The previous record was 259 million kilograms in 2019.

The country's economy nosedived when the late president Robert Mugabe, who was forced to resign in November 2017 after a military coup, embarked on chaotic land grabs in the early 2000s, displacing close to 4,500 white commercial farmers and leaving thousands of farm workers destitute.

Driven into poverty

Mismanagement and rampant corruption have also been blamed for the country's poor economic performance, which has driven many Zimbabweans into poverty and led to the country importing food from neighbouring Malawi, South Africa and Zambia.

Violent agrarian reforms and misgovernance pushed the agro-based economy into an abyss, according to economists, resulting in rising food prices and other problems such as power cuts and poor access to health services.

New farmers, such as Morton Dzimbahete of Chikomba district in Mashonaland East Province, say inadequate resources affected productivity on the seized farms.

"When we settled on these farms we were not given access to proper financing models as banks are not accepting our 99-year leases issued by government, and this has resulted in us failing to use the land productively. But some who have enough resources are doing very well," Dzimbahete said.

Agriculture Minister Anxious Masuka said the country could start to export maize because of the bumper harvests of the past two seasons. In 2020-21, Zimbabwe recorded a maize harvest of 2.8 million tonnes, and the 2021-22 figure was 2.2 million tonnes.

"We have received a request from the Democratic Republic of Congo for exports of maize and, cumulatively, we have received requests for 350,000 metric tonnes," said Masuka.

But communal farmers like Mcedisi Ndlovu of Hwange district in Matabeleland North Province told Daily Maverick that, despite national grain silos being full, most families did not harvest enough maize to feed their families.

"We are perennially a dry region and for the government to suggest that it wants to export maize without providing us with enough grain is very mischievous," said Ndlovu. "We do not have enough maize stocks to feed our children until the next harvesting season in April next year."



While Zimbabwe's grain harvest has improved, aid organisations are concerned that urban population growth has disrupted supply chains, meaning grain may still have to be imported. (Photo: EPA-EFE/Aaron Ufumeli)

Zimbabwe last exported maize to countries such as Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia more than two decades ago. Since then, it has had to import the grain.

The maize exports come at a time when estimates show that about 1.5 million people living in urban areas are food insecure. Aid agencies such as the UN World Food Programme (WFP) say urban population growth in Zimbabwe's cities is affecting food supply chains. Some agencies say millions might need food aid before the next harvest.

The WFP says it has distributed several tonnes of food to vulnerable communities countrywide. The agency reached a peak of more than 700,000 beneficiaries between February and March, across vulnerable rural districts such as Buhera, Hwedza, Bikita, Mudzi, Chivi, Mangwe, Mount Darwin and Nkayi, providing food, in-kind goods and cash transfers.

Since independence from Britain in 1980, Zimbabwe has received aid from the West to improve food provision and other services. The US has invested \$4.5-billion in the country through initiatives to enhance food security, improve health outcomes, support economic resilience and promote democratic governance.

A former chief economist in Zimbabwe's finance ministry, Masimba John Manyanya, says careful planning is necessary if Zimbabwe is to avoid food deficits.

"Production has to be improved across all productive sectors of the economy and that has to be coupled with value addition. Farmers should get adequate inputs."

While Mnangagwa celebrates agricultural success this year, his party accuses rivals, particularly the main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), of planning to return the country's land to whites.

Mnangagwa told supporters at a campaign rally in Magunje in Mashonaland West Province that sanctions imposed on him and others by the West would not force his government to reverse land reforms. "Let's use the land we took from oppressors... Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo [a country is built by its own people]."

'Land for everyone'

Mnangagwa's main rival, Nelson Chamisa of the CCC, told a rally in Matabeleland South that land ownership should not be partisan and the country's economy should be inclusive. He asserts that land reform has benefitted mostly Zanu-PF members, and top party officials allegedly own multiple farms.

"We want an economy that accommodates everyone; jobs for everyone, health for everyone, food for everyone and land for everyone. People should have title deeds so that they have proof of ownership of their land. It is a lie that we intend to

return land to the whites; we do not want a situation where if one political party is removed from power and another one gets into power you then lose your land," Chamisa said.

Mnangagwa has promised to issue title deeds to people illegally settled on peri-urban farms.

Political analyst Urayayi Zembe said the land question was central to the country's governance problems. "Former white commercial farmers are still to be paid \$3.5-billion compensation triggered by the land resettlement programme."

Zembe said new land disputes in Chilonga, Chipinge and Mutoko communal settlements, where the government has displaced people, had emerged. The land question will be a big electoral campaign issue in Zimbabwe's politics for a long time.

DM

Small leather business thrives in Botswana despite tough market conditions

GABORONE

IN the vast landscapes of Botswana, where the cattle population is estimated to be at 2.1 million, the country has an abundance of raw hides and skins locally, one small business owner has discovered a niche in the market in producing finished leather products.

Based in Palapye, about 270 km from Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, Dineo Gobatilwe, a 34-year-old mother of two, operates a leather works company named Dinny Leather Works that produces goods such as school shoes, sandals, belts, hats, and leather frames.

In 2014, the company was created with government financial support of 98,000 Botswana pula (7,504 U.S. dollars). She bought equipment from China and has deployed the machinery for manufacturing since the company's inception.

In an interview with Xinhua, Gobatilwe explained that she chose to pursue leather works due to a lack of employment opportunities, saying she noticed a gap in the leather industry while everyone else focused on fashion design.

"I wanted to be unique because only Pilane leathers and the Basarwa tribe were involved in making traditional leather products, so I decided to combine Pilane and Basarwa skills to make modern products," she said.

To make better products, Gobatilwe uses vegetable-tanned leather, which is known for its natural feel, sweet scent, patina over time, and toughness.

When making her products, she picks the right leather without cracks, "That's why my products look quality and last longer," explained the degree holder in fashion design from Limkokwing University, a private university that has a presence across Africa, Europe, and Asia.

The company is able to sustain itself through a partnership with Palapye District Council, where she provides more than 500 pairs of shoes to orphans and less privileged students in the Palapye region and surrounding areas. She further stated



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

that other customers are from local traditional groups and the public. Currently, the company has three workers.

As for her secret to survive in a rather difficult industry, she said passion and focus are important whether you have money or not. Her advice to others in the industry is to have a long-term plan and be patient.

While the local market is promising, Gobatilwe already has her sights set on the international market. "I've had the opportunity to go to Dubai to exhibit my products; I also work with the Botswana Investment and Trade Center and participated in their workshop," she said.

Gobatilwe has since received sup-

port from the Visual Arts Office with the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports, and Culture. Her company also attended the US-Africa business forum in Botswana earlier this month. She, however, said that running a leather company in Botswana is not without difficulties. Even though the country produces about 300,000 hides each

year, it still does not have the means to process its hides into fine leather. The country sells 50 percent of its raw hides and 100 percent of its raw skins, with half of the hides treated to wet-blue (moist chrome-tanned leather), according to the Botswana Meat Commission. Despite the difficulties, Gobatilwe has effectively capitalized on the tremendous opportunity given by the local cattle and leather industries and helped to contribute to the expansion of Botswana's economy by seizing the potential in both local and export markets.

Gobatilwe serves as an example for other small business owners trying to discover unexplored markets and enhance their chances of success. Botswana's government has put in place steps to help small enterprises in this industry. Various government measures, such as financial assistance, training programs, and market access assistance, have benefited business owners. The entrepreneurs received advice on industry best practices, marketing techniques, and export laws by collaborating with government organizations, according to the Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry. Botswana intends to establish a thriving leather cluster, beginning with the construction of a leather park in Lobatse, a town 72 km southeast of Gaborone, the ministry said.

Xinhua

Julius Malema and his extraordinary, fanatical followers - one decade later

By Stephen Grootes

THERE can be no doubt that our politics has been formidably changed by the Economic Freedom Fighters.

While it may be hard to remember in these tumultuous days, in the years before Malema formed his party in 2013, Parliament was a much quieter place. The National Executive Committee of the ANC was the real political centre of gravity. It was their meetings that really mattered, and Esselen Park seemed to be a more potent geographic political symbol than Parliament.

Within months of the EFF's arrival in Parliament that changed.

In February 2015, soon after the 2014 elections, the State of the Nation Address saw all of the EFF MPs physically thrown out of Parliament.

This event, and many others that followed, transformed Parliament into a gladiator arena of ever-increasing importance.

While some may have welcomed this, on the grounds that Parliament should indeed be the focus of political attention, it also ushered in the politics of – mostly ugly – spectacle.

This has now reached the point where many parents might prefer their children not to watch parliamentary proceedings live.

Salty language

It has also led to the most incredible language becoming commonplace.

Several months ago, after the party's attempt at a "national shutdown", Malema said in the National Assembly: "I'm in charge, I've got you by the scrotum. There is nothing you can do, nothing, all of you combined. You can scream anyhow you want, once more I demonstrated to you; black opposition, white opposition with the ruling party combined, I'm in charge and I want that to sink [in]."

Ultimately, the "shutdown" turned out to be a damp squib, regardless of Malema's oddly sexualised fantasy.

Other politicians have followed with salty language. Even President Cyril Ramaphosa told Parliament in response to Malema that "I fear fokkol".

Worse than the words used in Parliament is the violence. It has become so commonplace that events where the President is due to speak are interrupted by default, almost solely due to Malema and the EFF's expected performance.

The impact of these little and big eruptions of verbal abuse is felt far outside Parliament.

Before the formation of the EFF, it was unusual for politicians to refer to the gender or ethnic identity of other politicians or journalists. Now it is normal. And comments like, "It is not time to slaughter whites... yet" or, "We are cutting the throat of whiteness" are commonplace.

This is only bad for our politics, it prevents proper political discussions and makes it difficult to move beyond name-calling.

A toxic masculinity of violence

Perhaps the best way to sum up this part of the impact of the EFF is that it has brought a toxic masculinity of violence to our politics. It has made our politics more about ego, anger and brute violence. This has been accompanied by physical and verbal violence against women.

The other negative impact on our politics has been the almost normalisation of corruption.

Two years before Malema launched the EFF it was becoming clear he was using his apparent control of tender processes in Limpopo to make money. Despite being criminally charged at one point for this, Malema has never faced a proper legal process.

Then there is the VBS bank scandal and the overwhelming evidence that money went from VBS to pay for Malema's lifestyle, and to the brother of EFF deputy leader Floyd Shivambu, Brian Shivambu, who eventually paid it back after admitting he received the money for no valid reason.

Amid this, the EFF's opponents suspect that the National Prosecuting Authority and other authorities are not investigating Malema in the way they would ordinary law-abiding citizens who do not have the benefit of enjoying the support of more than a million fanatical followers. That he is above the law. It is other-



Economic Freedom Fighters leader Julius Malema

wise difficult to understand the paralysis to prosecute when the evidence unearthed against him by investigative journalists is clear and exceptionally damning.

The attendance of the deputy head of SAPS Crime Intelligence, Major-General Feroz Khan, at the EFF's gala dinner last week suggests some kind of relationship between the party and high-level police officials.

And the fact that the self-confessed cigarette smuggler Adriano Mazzotti was also there (and paid the EFF's first elections deposit) cements the claim that Malema is involved with criminals and possibly criminality.

However, Malema does not see it that way.

He told the EFF's birthday rally at the FNB Stadium on Saturday that the SA Revenue Service (SARS) was hounding him, and as City Press reported, said, "Just three weeks ago, SARS officials visited my aunt's home because her son's associated with me and they wanted to inflict pain on me, but they couldn't find anything."

He clearly believes authorities are investigating him with a political motive.

EFF interventions in local government While the EFF had a dramatic and quick impact in Parliament, perhaps its interventions in local government have been more important.

In 2016, Malema was able to hold the balance of power in Joburg and Tshwane. Without the EFF, it is unlikely that the DA would ever have been able to govern those cities through coalitions.

Because of its size, often as the third-biggest party in a council, the EFF ended up being in this position fairly often, claiming it was the "kingmaker" of our politics.

This has resulted in the party holding several important mayoral committee positions in big metros, which is perhaps the first time the party has had important political power in government.

However, despite agreements with the ANC in some places, it has still not been able to hold the position of mayor in a metro, which makes it difficult to assess how it would actually govern.

Certainly, there is some evidence it has been a very difficult coalition partner for the ANC, which may make the governing party look for better options after next year's national elections.

EFF's share of the vote

Of course, perhaps the most important way to examine the EFF is to see how its share of the vote has changed since it was formed.

In national elections, in 2014, it won 6.35% of the vote; five years later, it won 10.8%.

In local elections (not a direct comparison), in 2016 it won 8.19%; in 2021 that figure rose to 10.31%.

While the party's share of the vote has risen, it didn't shoot the lights out. Still, the EFF's importance may be much greater than that.

Perhaps one of the biggest impacts the party had during the period leading up to December 2017 was that it deracialised opposition to the then president, Jacob Zuma.

Zuma often used race to try to delegitimise his opponents, and even in his final resignation address to the nation he claimed to be the political victim of white privilege.

If there had been no EFF, and no political leader with the sheer nous and strength of Malema, Zuma would have tried to pit the battle as solely between himself and white people, despite where the truth lay.

Malema's siding with Zuma's opposition stopped this from happening.

And the sight of him, along with other political leaders with very different constituencies, linking arms to oppose Zuma together was incredibly powerful. Without it, Zuma may have been much stronger.

Also, there can be no doubt that the tactics of the EFF, driven as they are by spectacle and the threat of violence, have led to more accountability.

It is likely that many corporates making decisions have thought more carefully about their actions, and worked harder to ensure they are not racist (or seen as racist) for fear of the possible actions of the EFF. Even the timeshare industry may have reason to behave better.

The biggest question

Of course, the biggest question is: What will happen in next year's elections? Will the EFF grow in votes and power, or has it lost momentum?

This is difficult to judge; certainly, the conditions on the ground, with incredibly high youth unemployment and the persistence of racialised inequality, suggest the party can still grow.

However, several people in the ANC have suggested that it has lost momentum. At the same time, the DA is using the EFF and its spectre of an "ANC-EFF doomsday coalition" to inspire more votes from their constituency.

If it is the case that Malema believes the EFF will not grow its share of the vote, then the negotiations around coalitions will be key to the party's future success. If he is able to stay in coalitions with the ANC, he will continue to have great political power.

However, it is also possible that, as some in the ANC would prefer, these coalition agreements come to an end. Malema may find himself entirely cut off from power. If he loses votes at the same time, he may well be over the peak of his political career.

For the EFF to really take power one day, it has to be able to build a durable organisation that can survive changes of leadership. It also has to encourage people to work for the party, to make it greater than themselves.

Here the party and Malema himself are almost certainly failing.

There has never been a hint of a possibility of someone else leading the party. And Malema himself said at the EFF gala dinner, "The problem starts when you start organising against me and I hear it in the corners. I am very ruthless."

This suggests that he will not tolerate anyone ever campaigning against him for the position of leader.

In his own view, Malema equals EFF and EFF equals Malema.

But no political party can survive in the longer term in this way. It needs many more people who are dedicated to its ideals and believe it will improve their lives.

One-way loyalty

Here Malema's treatment of party members may be sowing the seeds of its own destruction.

Last week, he published the names of people he said had failed to provide transport for fellow members to the party's rally.

Four of those names were EFF MPs.

While the leaders of political parties must often be disappointed in the behaviour of those below them, there is a reason they do not publish this: It will only end up damaging their party.

Malema has sent a signal to all EFF members that he will not back them in public should they commit mistakes.

It suggests that, while demanding absolute loyalty from them, he will not give loyalty in return. Those who have the potential to make a significant contribution to the party may well decide to either leave it or not join it in the first place.

The fact that four of those named and shamed are MPs shines another spotlight on how difficult Malema has found it to manage the EFF's caucus. Even in the party's first five years in Parliament, it changed more than half of its MPs. Malema may now do the same thing again.

This suggests that the EFF will never have the full benefit of people rising through the ranks to provide leadership of their own – it will remain a Julius and Floyd shop with 1-million fans.

In the end, while this private autocracy provided a great boost to the then nascent party, its lack of coherent succession planning could turn out to be the party's biggest limitation. **DM**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALLI 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

Agency to involve mobile phone operators in the distribution of subsidised fertiliser

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has come up with a strategy involving mobile phone operators in the implementation of the subsidised fertiliser programme in the country for the 2023/24 farming season.

Dr Stephan Ngailo, TFRA executive director disclosed at the weekend in an interview with this paper and added that the Authority's plan is to make sure the farm input reaches farmers in time.

Dr Ngailo named the mobile phone firm to be involved in the plan including Vodacom and Airtel.

He said the two firms will have the responsibility to register new farmers to the subsidised fertiliser system.

He noted that in order to make sure subsidised fertiliser reaches farmers, importers and manufacturers thereof are also required to register in order to participate in the system to which they should incorporate their 2022/2023 registration details.

According to Dr Ngailo, fertiliser importers and manufacturers are required to identify agents they will work with in the distribution of the farm input as well as submitting lists of not less than seven minor distribution centres in every region.

"Fertiliser importers and producers will also be required to enter into agreements with traders and agents to purchase and distribute the ferti-

liser on their behalf and copies of the agreements should be submitted to TFRA," said Dr Ngailo.

He said fertiliser importers and producers will also be required to make sure the subsidised fertiliser is packed in 25 and 50 kg bags and labelled 'Subsidised fertiliser' and stamped with a QR Code to be supplied by TFRA.

He also said the subsidised fertiliser can also be packed in 5 or 10 kg bags according to farmers' needs.

"Fertiliser importers and distributors should supervise their agents to make sure they sell it to farmers, and later submit financial claims of the subsidy to TFRA for payment after the input is sold to farmers," he added.

In making sure TFRA is closer to farmers, Dr Ngailo said: "This year we shall fully participate in the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition in all zones countrywide.

"Our aim is to make sure farmers are educated about subsidised fertiliser and how to get it easily," the official said.

"We're also encouraging fertiliser manufacturers to ensure that they meet the standards governing the sub-sector, which plays a critical role to boost crop production," said Thobias Mwesiga, the TFRA's board of director.

He said that in order for fertiliser to be allowed to be sold locally, it must have not only quality certificate by the Tanzania Institute of Standards (TBS), but also all the permits from the authorities in charge



A fertiliser distribution point in Tanzania. File Photo

of the industry.

In addition, it has to meet the requirements of the TFRA, the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), Chief Government Chemist and other authorities.

Hadija Jabir, TFRA's board member also asked the investors to see how they can help farmers identify the health of the soil before using their products in order to use products that are compatible with the type of nutrients needed for the plant in their areas.

She also asked the investors not to hesitate to explain the challenges they encounter in their

production activities, so that they can be advised on the best way to develop and solve their challenges.

Joseph Charos, TFRA's director for domestic manufacturing and bulk procurement said the government spent 700bn/- to import fertiliser to meet the needs of farmers across the east African nation.

According to TFRA recent notice, the government has been working with stakeholders in regions bordering neighbouring countries to prevent smuggling of fertiliser

So far, the Tanzanian government launched

the distribution of the inputs for the 2023/24 farming season.

The distribution started in the 2022/23 farming season with the purpose of increasing productivity, food sufficiency and raw materials availability for domestic industries and it has approved 150bn/- for subsidised fertiliser.

However, higher demand has pushed the government to spend 345.647bn/- on subsidies by April 2023, the amount which is 195.65 bn/- was higher than the 150bn/- was used to procure 342.73 million tonnes of fertiliser, which benefited 782,553 farmers across the country.

Dr Mwinyi keen to establish digital hub in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WHEN the Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, wanted to appear unannounced at the African Regeneration Cities and Futures summit, the element of surprise was lost in that presidents never travel alone, they have an advance team.

But all was not lost.

In less than half an hour, Dr Mwinyi pledged his government's commitment to establishing a digital free zone in the Isles, a concept championed by the event organizers, the Threefold Foundation. Displaying unassuming demeanor and excellent deportment, Dr Mwinyi laid out the necessary supporting policies and infrastructure investments needed to bring this vision to life.

"We are on track to provide the required infrastructure for this digital haven, including sea internet cables, fiber networks, and extensive connectivity across the island. We are also ready to implement tax incentives for strategic investors to support this digital transformation," Dr Mwinyi announced.

This groundbreaking initiative, dubbed Our World Digital Free Zone, promises to redefine the realm of digital businesses. Among other things, President Mwinyi stated his government's readiness to revisit policies and legislation to support the establishment of the free zone, intending to establish it as a regional digital hub.

The initiative is specifically designed to cater to digital nomads and SMEs, anticipated to act as a potent catalyst for digital ecosystems, providing a decentralized, automated platform for smooth, robust legal and financial operations.

Expressing his gratitude for the commitment and hard work of the OurWorld Zanzibar team led by the Threefold Foundation, the Zanzibar president said, "Our vision is to foster a digital ecosystem that harmoniously blends the tranquility of Zanzibar with the awe-inspiring power of



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi addressing investors and other attendees to African Regeneration Cities and Futures summit held at Jungle Paradise (Mweni Ruins) when made a surprise visit.

the digital age. I am deeply appreciative of the dedication of the OurWorld Zanzibar team in turning this vision into a reality."

Echoing Dr Mwinyi's vision, Kristof De Spiegeleer, Founder of the Threefold Foundation, added, "Our collaboration with the Government of Zanzibar goes beyond creating a unique special economic zone. We're offering digital nomads and SMEs an innovative platform to structure their digital businesses. We aim to revolutionize digital operations and bring unparalleled value to every inhabitant of the island."

OurWorld Digital FreeZone is a leader in digital innovation, offering a regulated free zone guided by a comprehensive legal framework. This framework is built using the advanced ThreeFold Digital Twin Technology, an innovative digital tool designed to bolster growth and innovation across various digital sectors. Digital natives, nomads, and SMEs will be able to register their e-businesses and manage their legal and financial operations in Zanzibar, benefiting from a business-friendly regulatory framework and attractive tax incentives.

By leveraging cutting-edge

technology, OurWorld embarks on a transformative journey destined to unlock the immense potential of digital nomads and SMEs, thus providing a vital impetus to Africa's burgeoning digital economy.

De Spiegeleer emphasized that Zanzibar offers not only an appealing investment opportunity but also an ideal environment for catalyzing transformative change. "The internet is everything for now, being used for learning, communicating, and various innovations. The special economic zone is one area that offers everything in a digital way.

You cannot bring more than one million people physically to Zanzibar for shopping, but through digitalization, you can reach them and improve the economy. Threefold is here to stay."

The establishment of the OurWorld Digital FreeZone in Zanzibar holds vast economic potential for the island and beyond. As the world becomes increasingly digitized, digital free zones like OurWorld could attract a diverse range of digital businesses and nomads looking for a favorable environment to grow. This influx will create new job opportunities, stimulate

economic growth, and diversify the local economy.

Moreover, this initiative aligns with Zanzibar's ambitious goal of fostering a digital transformation within its economy. By providing necessary infrastructure and tax incentives for strategic investors, Zanzibar is paving the way for a thriving digital economy. It signals a clear intent from the government to establish Zanzibar as a global hotspot for digital businesses, nomads, and innovators.

Carefully planned and featuring a suite of regulated components, OurWorld aims to stimulate growth across a

wide array of digital sectors. With a comprehensive feasibility study conducted and a Head of Terms agreement established with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, the project is well-positioned for success.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, through the Zanzibar ICT Infrastructure Agency (ZICTIA), under the direction of Executive Director Shukuru Hawadh Suleiman, plans to allocate 3,000 hectares of land where a hub will be constructed for renowned companies to invest in.

Recognising the African Union as a G20 member would add legitimacy to global governance

By Carlos Lopes

First advocated for the African Union membership of the G7 and G20 in 2010. It was clear given the economic and trade patterns noticeable then that it was difficult to exclude a sizeable continent such as Africa from a meaningful role in global governance. Those arguments still hold true and have since become more obvious.

Africa is home to a significant portion of the world's population and possesses abundant natural resources, its economy has been growing steadily, and has the potential to become a major economic powerhouse. Its G20 membership seems necessary, as it would enable the G20 to benefit from a more comprehensive representation of global economic dynamics, allowing for a more accurate assessment of the global economic landscape.

Likewise, if the members of the G7 wanted to evolve from inviting Africa for the breakfast of each of their Summit gatherings into seducing the continent to be closer to their positions, all they needed was to argue that a block of \$1.3-trillion combined GDP (in 2010) should become a full member.

Africa plays a crucial role in regional stability and development. A role that can be positive or negative. Many of the challenges faced by the continent, such as conflicts, poverty, or lack of structural economic transformation, have ripple effects beyond its borders. By giving Africa a seat at the G20, the group can gain valuable insights into addressing these challenges and develop more effective mechanisms to deal with the urgent climate action requirements the planet needs.

African countries face specific challenges, but also present immense opportunities to help the world move faster on energy transition and access to the essential strategic minerals required by the new technological developments. With its growing consumer market, emerging industries, and untapped resources, Africa offers long-term prospects for economic growth, trade expansion and investment returns.

The G20 gained particular importance as a mechanism to respond to the 2008-09 sub-prime-induced shock waves in the international financial system. In the name of stability and predictability, it quickly expanded its portfolio and self-mandated reach. Today, the G20 process includes no less than 200 meetings of ministers, government officials and civil society members across 32 different workstreams.

While the G20 currently includes 19 countries and one regional representative, the European Union, representing 80% of global GDP and trade, it is essential to acknowledge the African Union (AU) and its potential contribution.

The AU consists of 55 member states, which, when combined, form today's eighth-largest economy globally, a fact particularly relevant at the dawn of the



Shaktikanta Das, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, right, and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Group of 20 finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting in Gandhinagar, India, on Tuesday, 18 July 2023. File photo

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The African region remains one of the most exposed to international financial and economic rules and norms, including those related to sovereign debt management, without having adequate representation or influence in shaping these policies.

South Africa currently stands as the only permanent member of the G20 from the African continent. If the major criteria of membership were considered at least Nigeria should have been invited for membership some time back, given that its economy is significantly larger than South Africa's economy.

The paradox remains that in any of the areas of critical focus, the continent that suffers the most from exogenous shocks - such as climate change, access to liquidity, illicit financial flows, access to protective equipment and vaccines during the pandemic or food supplies and higher

prices - is the one mostly absent from the table.

During his rotating Presidency of the AU in 2022, Senegalese President Macky Sall emphasised the importance of rectifying the "injustice" by admitting the AU as a member of the G20. Furthermore, Sall advocated for a further redistribution of Special Drawing Rights, international reserve assets, from wealthier nations to support the development and resilience of poorer states in the face of climate change.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his capacity as current Chair of the G20, has responded favourably. He has sent a letter to all G20 members, dated 17 June 2023, asking them to endorse the AU full membership in the forthcoming Summit of the group, scheduled to take place in September 2023. He said it will be a "right step towards a just, fair, more inclusive and representative global archi-

ecture and governance".

I can only rejoice that a claim I first made 13 years ago seems to be approaching a decision point.

Arguments of Africa's detractors

Detractors of the AU's membership in the G20 often raise concerns about the credibility of the AU as an organisation, citing funding shortfalls and bureaucratic inefficiencies. However, an increasing portion of the AU's budget is self-funded by member states, with operational expenses fully covered by such contributions. While international partners continue to be the largest contributors to the peace support budget and major projects, this does not necessarily undermine the effectiveness of a new member.

Moreover, the AU's inclusion could incentivise member states to invest more in the organisation, recognising the growing international standing and potential posi-

tive economic returns.

Another concern expressed by detractors is that admitting the AU could lead to further expansions and dilute the coherence of the G20. The AU membership process has, so far, rather set a higher bar for new entrants, requiring individual persuasion of most of the members. If anything, the long walk is proof of difficulties and exclusivity rather than dilution.

We must admit though, that since the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia/Ukraine war the incoherence of the G20 has become palpable. It is a major indication that the group is facing inner struggles. Members currently cannot agree on a communique - Chairs summaries have had to be issued instead.

It is against this background that the AU will likely offer useful perspectives to support consensus building.

We need only to look at the previous trip made by the AU Chair and AU Commission to Russia - which paved the way for the unlocking of trade routes from which Europe and other regions then primarily benefited - to understand the potential benefits of African perspectives on global stability, financial or otherwise.

Geopolitical tensions often stem from global challenges that require collective action. Climate change, migration, terrorism and pandemics are just a few examples. Recognising the African Union as a full member of the G20 would be a significant step towards addressing geopolitical tensions.

It would acknowledge Africa's importance, provide a platform for African interests, promote economic development, strengthen conflict resolution efforts and address global challenges through a more inclusive and representative global governance structure.

By doing so, the G20 can contribute to a more stable and prosperous world for all.

DM

MOGADISHU

The education journey for Najma Abdullahi Qarey, a 24-year-old Somali woman, is intriguing and inspiring at the same time.

Abdullahi got married at a younger age by her parents who live in a community that believes that the only way to safeguard the dignity of their daughters is to marry them off while young.

However, Abdullahi refused to allow marriage to become an obstacle to her passion for education and overcame many hurdles that have denied education to the majority of her peers.

"My childhood dream was to pursue education to the highest level possible despite my community's disregard for girl-child education.

My parents were overprotective and did not want me to stay unmarried beyond my puberty stage," she told Xinhua during a recent interview in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. "And since I didn't want to be rude to my parents, I accepted to marry my childhood lover, who turned

Somali woman defies cultural hurdles to pursue higher education

out to be extremely supportive of my education journey," Abdullahi said.

Zakaria Abdullahi, Abdullahi's husband who works in the Ministry of Education in Somalia's Galmudug state, refused to succumb to mounting pressure from male friends who ridiculed him for looking after the children when his wife was pursuing a degree in public administration.

Zakaria said that he felt that it was in the interest of his family to support and sacrifice for his wife's education since she will be a role model to their children. "I am proud of my wife's resilience."

Zakaria said, adding that mothers are the ones who spend more time with children and educating them will have a positive impact on their offspring. In February this year, Abdullahi was among 44 students who finished their undergraduate degrees in the Horn of Africa University, one of the best



Najma Abdullahi Qarey, a 24-year-old Somali woman, poses during her graduation from a university in Galmudug State of Somalia in February 2023. In February this year, Najma Abdullahi Qarey, graduated from the Horn of Africa University, one of the best institutions of higher learning in Somalia, and was awarded with various honors during the ceremony. (Photo by Hassan Bashi/Xinhua)

institutions of higher learning in Somalia registered with the Ministry of Higher Education, and was awarded with various honors during the graduation ceremony.

According to the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS-2022), which is the first such credible national survey since 1985, nearly two-thirds of the country's population has no formal education.

Only 4.6 percent of the population report to have completed secondary education and 4 percent attained higher education. Young citizens are the most educated and over half of this demographic or 53.7 percent is literate.

For people in the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups, higher education attainment rates are at 14.2 percent and 12.2 percent respectively, according to the survey.

Among nomads, the overwhelming majority, or 92.5 percent, reported no formal education, while two-thirds, or 68.6 percent of rural respondents have no formal educa-

tion. Only 3 percent of rural residents have completed secondary schooling, and 1.7 percent have acquired higher education.

The survey states that the literacy rate is higher among males than females, at 63.6 percent and 45.3 percent respectively with a substantial difference in literacy rates between age groups, with younger age categories showing the highest literacy rates and the oldest members having the lowest literacy rates.

Abdullahi said that juggling between education and family responsibilities has not been a walk in the park, but she credited her supportive husband for enabling her to realize her academic dreams.

The mother of three children said she intends to pursue a post-graduate degree in public administration and become a role model for young girls who are keen to attain high levels of formal education.

Local leaders like Galmudug Senator Siciid Siyad Shirwac have encouraged communities to prioritize educating girls in a bid to realize socio-economic transformation at the grassroots.

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 HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:25 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 02:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 03:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 04:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 05:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One



Twitter's blue bird changes to "X"

Page 14



Seeds estates to be installed with irrigation schemes

Page 14



Understanding product's value chain, customers crucial in business

Page 15

ESG reporting fraud among latest in EA

NAIROBI

MORE than half of East Africans reported to have experienced economic crimes including sustainability fraud in the last two years, a new report shows.

The 2022 PwC's Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey for Eastern Africa shows that six in 10 respondents (63 percent) have experienced economic crimes such as fraud against four in 10 (46 percent) globally.

"We have seen economic crime continuing to be an issue to a disproportionate extent in Eastern Africa," the report reads adding, "A concerning 63 percent of our Eastern Africa respondents reported having experienced fraud compared to 46 percent globally."

In the last 24 months, East Africans lost on average between \$50,000 and \$1 million to fraudsters.

For less prevalent crimes such as human resources fraud, tax fraud, government relief fraud and ESG reporting fraud, respondents in Eastern Africa generally reported a lower incidence rate than their global counterparts.

Some of the economic crimes people in the region suffered are in areas of the supply chain, disinformation and misinformation, environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting, anti-money

laundering, and government relief.

"For illustration purposes, we look at procurement fraud in Kenya and Uganda. The respective procurement authorities undertake quarterly market surveys and publish average prices of commonly procured items to guide public procurements," the report read.

"This has, however, not stopped public sector entities from procuring items at multiple times, sometimes more than tenfold, the average market price."

One of the newest economic crimes highlighted is ESG fraud which relates to misrepresentation of its factors and implementation.

Examples of internally influenced ESG fraud are reporting of achievements to meet the expectations of investors, regulators, customers or to meet individuals' performance goals also known as greenwashing which happens when money and favours change hands for weaker safety inspections.

"Another form of internal ESG fraud is the manipulation of data to earn ESG credits."

However, between 2018 and 2022, reported cybercrime incidence has reduced by 4 percent despite the number of respondents having reported it as the most disruptive economic crime almost doubling.

This might suggest that cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated



and perpetrating fewer but more lucrative cyberattacks.

John Kamau, forensic leader, PwC Kenya further said: "When it comes to actual experiences of fraud and corruption, we continue to see a widening gap between respondents from Eastern Africa and the rest of the world. We trust that our in-depth analy-

sis of the survey results, which is informed by our experience of working with clients in both fraud and corruption prevention and response, will provide value to local organisations when it comes to managing their fraud and corruption risks."

A significant 70 percent of global respondents experienced new types of economic crime which

can be attributed to Covid-19.

The new types of crime experienced are largely related to cybercrime and conduct risk.

Conduct risk stems from individual actions and includes customer fraud and supply chain fraud among others. In Eastern Africa, only 30 percent of respondents indicated that they had suffered new forms of economic crime attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These reports appear congruent with the World Health Organization (WHO) global Covid-19 prevalence reports, where Africa is reported to have experienced far less infection incidents than the rest of the world, which would ostensibly translate to less business disruption.

Fraud and corruption risk evolves with the evolution of the business environment, in response to emerging areas such as the current focus on ESG and increased digitisation of supply chains, and in reaction to internal control measures.

Oil inventory drops set stage for higher prices

LONDON/HOUSTON/SINGAPORE

OIL inventories are beginning to fall in some regions as demand outpaces supply constrained by deep production cuts from OPEC leader Saudi Arabia, providing support for prices which are expected to rise in coming months.

JP Morgan analysts said this month that oil inventories - which include crude and fuel products - now play a bigger role in determining oil prices than the U.S. dollar because Western sanctions on Russia have accelerated oil trading in other currencies.

"We expect stocks to draw relatively aggressively in July, and by the end of August, we should be through the stock builds that we saw in the first half of the year," said Christopher Haines, an analyst at Energy Aspects.

"We are on the cusp of supply tightness. Saudi cuts are essentially accelerating the timeline."

Both the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) expect oil demand to outpace supply this year, leading to overall inventory draws to the tune of 400,000 to 500,000 barrels per day (bpd), mostly accounted for by the second half of the year.

Although global oil inventories increased in May to their highest since September 2021, according to the IEA, driven by a substantial rise in non-OECD countries, analysts say signs of tightness are appearing, in the United States in particular.

Stock declines have been geographically uneven so far, with inventory falls in the United States and Europe offset by increases in China and Japan.

The declines have also been skewed more towards fuel than crude, although the supply of sour crude, typically priced lower than sweet crude, has tightened because of the cuts introduced by OPEC and its allies.

"It appears that the voluntary cuts announced by eight OPEC+ countries in April plus the additional 1 million bpd of unilateral Saudi cut that just started in July are having the desired effect, with sour barrels becoming more scarce," the JP Morgan analysts said.

Refineries running harder to meet rising summer demand as people drive and fly more partly explains the fall in inventories, the bank said, along with a drop in Russian oil exports this month.

The bank expects benchmark Brent prices, which traded around a three-month high of \$84 a barrel this week, to rise to \$86 a barrel by the end of the third quarter, before easing in the fourth quarter as inventories start to build again.

UBS said it expected a rise to \$85-\$90 a barrel over coming months.

Crude stocks at the Cushing storage hub in Oklahoma fell by 2.9 million barrels in the week to July 14, the steepest draw in more than a year and a half according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), and shed a further 2.6 million barrels the following week, leaving them well below their five-year average.

For fuel, data from consultancy FGE Energy on key hubs in the United States, northern Europe, Japan, Singapore and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, shows that overall stocks have been drawing aggressively so far this month, both onshore and at sea.

Weekly stocks of diesel, jet fuel and fuel oil in the five regions are also currently below their five-year averages.

US gasoline stocks of 217.6 million barrels are at their lowest level for the time of year since 2015, according to EIA data, and 5 million barrels, or 5 percent, lower than the prior 10-year seasonal average.

BIG CRUDE BUILDS IN ASIA

Big crude builds in China and Japan have so far offset a drop in the Mideast Gulf, meaning there is no sign yet of an overall global onshore crude inventory drawdown, according to satellite analytics firm Kayrros.

In fact, data from the firm shows that crude inventories in the week to July 20 reached a two-year high, with the world adding 200 million barrels into storage since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

This amounts to roughly 400,000 bpd over

that time period, the daily oil consumption of Portugal.

China accounts for the lion's share of the gains, adding 700,000 bpd since mid-April, which Kayrros co-founder Antoine Half noted was commercial rather than strategic.

He attributed the build to weak Chinese industrial activity and the import of discounted crude from Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

Crude inventories in Japan have added 25 million barrels, or 8%, since April to stand at their highest in nearly two years, according to Kayrros.

China's diesel inventories also rose sharply over Nov. 2022-Feb. 2023 and have remained at elevated levels since.

MIDEAST GULF DRAWS

Crude stocks in the Mideast Gulf and North Africa region have declined by 5 million barrels overall so far this year, according to estimates by Macquarie, although OPEC members in the region have drawn 10 million barrels.

"I think Iranian barrels, both floating and onshore, had been making their way through different parts of Asia...and then ending up in China," said Macquarie analyst Vikas Dwivedi about what could be driving the draw.

Like JP Morgan, Dwivedi believes inventories will fall in coming weeks before starting to build again in the fourth quarter as refineries slow throughput and higher oil prices drive some OPEC+ members to exceed their production quota to maximise revenue.

"We're bullish right now. This is the first time we've been bullish for a long, long time. Over about 18 months we've been bearish," he said.



Toyota all determined to boost EV development, technology in China

TOKYO

TOYOTA will strengthen development of electric vehicle technology in China, the automaker said on Monday, as it looks to catch up with increasingly tough domestic competition in the world's largest auto market.

The move is the latest from the world's top-selling carmaker to show a sharper pivot to electric vehicles. It recently detailed an ambitious new EV strategy that includes an overhaul of its supply chain and the development of long-range batteries.

China was once regarded by foreign automakers as an opportunity for almost boundless growth. Now they worry about diminishing market share thanks to the fast rise of local competitors and cut-throat prices.

Toyota is to accelerate powertrain development with suppliers Denso and Aisin as well as local design and development of "smart cockpits" that meet the needs of the Chinese market, it said in a statement.

It said it would strengthen development of its full suite of electrified cars, not just battery-powered ones. Unlike some other automakers, Toyota is betting that hybrids and plug-in hybrids will continue to see robust demand. It is also investing in the development of hydrogen fuel-cell cars.

It sees this "multi-pathway" approach

of different kinds of electrified cars as a better fit for markets that aren't ready for only battery electrics.

The automaker will also have engineers from three joint ventures - with FAW Group, Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC) and BYD - work together on a project basis at its biggest research and development facility in China.

It did not say how many engineers that would involve, although a spokesperson said their focus would be on electrification and intelligence.

Toyota, which has seen its China sales including of its luxury Lexus brand slip 2.8% to about 879,000 units in the first half of the year, said it would aim to significantly reduce manufacturing costs, including through developing a local supplier base, to become more competitive.

Toyota has also slowed production at a joint-venture plant that makes its bZ4X EV and laid off 1,000 contract workers earlier this month.

The move to step up electric technology development comes after some of the leading global automakers recently tweaked the way they are developing cars in China.

German luxury brand BMW earlier this month boosted investment in product development in China with a new R&D hub in Shanghai that will develop EVs to be sold globally.

DIGITAL MARKETING

Twitter's blue bird changes to "X"

By Alley Mtatya

IT all started with this tweet from Elon Musk, "And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually all the birds".

The world's No.1 billionaire Elon Musk on Sunday posted that changes were coming to the Twitter logo. Musk ran a poll for his millions of followers whether they would favor changing the site's color scheme from blue to black. He also posted a picture of a stylized X against a black outer space-themed background.

Twitter's new CEO, Linda Yaccarino also went on to tweet, "It's an exceptionally rare thing in life or in business that you get a second chance to make another big impression." Twitter made one massive impression and changed the way we communicate. Now, X will go further by transforming the world."

Let us look back and see Twitter's business model under Jack Dorsey the previous CEO before Musk's takeover. Twitter's business strategy focused on several key areas. An Ad-based Revenue Model:



whereby their primary source of revenue came from advertising. The platform provided various advertising options to businesses, allowing them to promote their products and services to Twitter's user base. Data Licensing, helped earn revenue by licensing its data to other companies, giving them access to real-time and historical tweet data for research and analysis purposes.

Partnerships and Integration; increase partnerships and integrate its content and data with other platforms, allowing tweets and Twitter content to be displayed and shared on third-party websites and applications.

Live Video Streaming, this strategy aimed to attract more users and advertisers by providing real-time engagement opportunities. Monetization of Features, for instance, they introduced features like Twitter Blue, a subscription service that offered additional features to subscribers for a monthly fee.

What does this change mean for now "X"?

Musk's new vision but under Linda's management, the company as of now operates under the new name, X Holdings Corp, reflecting the billionaire's hind sight. To create a "Super App", like China's WeChat. X is meant to reflect his vision of creating "X" the everything app, by performing social media and payment functions.

Could this mean a "PayPal" type integrated application? PayPal was also started by Elon but sold to eBay in 2002. Elon's background before this wealth was amassed was through this popular payment system - PayPal. I personally feel that this is what will be pushed forward as this is what made him since his Stanford University days. This will also take a hit at VISA, MasterCard, eBay, Amazon, Instagram, Facebook etc. This raises a question about, "The Threads App from Mark Zuckerberg!"

In 1999, Musk created X.com which he hoped would be an all-in-one financial platform which then eventually became PayPal. Just by reading between the lines I see Musk relieving his 1999 dreams which is being applied by WeChat. Apart from pushing for this, his vision is much more than what WeChat is providing.

"X-ing" the Blue Bird

Linda also confirmed Musk's vision under the new brand. She stated, "X is the future state of unlimited interactivity centered in audio, video, messaging, payments/banking creating a global marketplace for ideas, goods, services, and opportunities." Twitter's name made plenty sense by just typing in a 140 character message, then replies back and forth like birds tweeting. However, now you can post almost anything.

Musk's obsession with the letter X dates back many years right up to this present day. We saw this in the year 1999 with "X.com" to now Tesla's Model X, Space X to mention a few. Personally he admitted that he has an obsession with the letter itself. X-ing out the bird is basically advancing communication comprehensively and the ability to conduct your entire financial world on the "X".

If you're still behind or are still on the blue bird. Go to your Playstore or iStore and update the app. You will see "X" click update and get with the X movement.

Alley Mtatya (pictured), founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics, is based in Dar es Salaam

Investor seeking tax relief on imported raw materials

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

AN investor in Mafinga in Mufindi district, Iringa Region say is satisfied with the business environment in the country, while asking the government to reduce the taxes on the import of raw materials to reduce costs of production.

Lin Xin Zong, a senior manager with YI SEN International Investment Company Limited, said in a recent interview with The Guardian that the improved business climate has also motivated further investments.

"Our request is one for the government and the relevant authorities to look at how they can reduce taxes, specifically customs duty and freight fees on imported raw materials used to produce stickers, chemicals, fertilizers," he said.

Lin Xin Zong, through one of the interpreters, Joachim Waswa, who facilitates communication between the investors, workers and other authorities, has asked the government to look at the investors who have invested in forest products with a sympathetic eye in order to reduce costs of production.

The YI SEN factory is located in Wambi Ward, Luganga area in Mafinga, Mufindi district, Iringa Region, it was established in 2020, but in 2022 it started the production of marine boards.

He explained that the factory covers an area of 5,000 square kilometers,

including factory buildings, residential housing and has employed 800 people.

"The factory has employed more than 300 casual workers, of which we have 15 Chinese workers. The main work is to produce building materials including marine boards and block boards," Lin Xin Zong noted.

He said that their markets are Tanzania and major foreign markets include Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia and Congo DRC.

"Currently the challenge is very big because products like marine boards have started to be produced in neighboring countries in East Africa; and in order to become competitive in our exports markets, we ask the government and the relevant authorities to look at how to reduce the cost of importing raw materials," he said.

Also, all employed workers are registered directly with social security funds, such as the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) for their security, added Lin Xin Zong through his interpreter.

The raw materials include the trunks of eucalyptus trees and other things are sourced from small farmers and other raw materials come from Sao Hill plantations.

But they also participate in social support through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in communities surrounding the factory by donating educational facilities.

But in order to protect the safety of the workers, the YI SEN has provided the support of 4 patrol motorcycles to the police force in Iringa Region.

In terms of the workplace safety unit (OSHA), whose goal is to manage the safety of workers, every year at least 50 workers go to attend training and when they come back they exchange experience with their colleagues.

Also, the company conducts regular training to teach employees how to be careful of the effects

of chemicals, said Lin Xin Zong. YI SEN International Investment Co. Ltd produces marine boards more than one million (1,000,000) marine boards per year.

"When we arrived here in Tanzania from China, the challenge we faced was the language issue, but now many young people have started to learn the Chinese language..." concluded Lin Xin Zong.

Human Resources Officer (HR) Gloria Amlike Lutindi said that most of the workers who come to work in the factory are casual workers, as long as they are 18 years old and above.

She said that the biggest challenge is the language since they work with investors who are from China, who sometimes use their language and many do not know English.

Lutindi explained that the factory has many employees, but there is only one interpreter, and the factory has a total of 787 employees, of which 325 are women while 462 are men.

"My call to the government is to encourage many young people to join various colleges in the country to study Chinese in order to find more interpreters because there are many investors from China..." said Lutindi.

Haruni Chesco Nyangile is a resident of Mgololo in Idete Village, Mufindi district, he said he entered the factory there in 2020.

He said the presence of the factory to process forest products has reduced the problem of employment for young people.



Lin Xin Zong, a senior manager with YI SEN International Investment Company Limited, speaks to The Guardian recently. Photo by Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Stocks waver as traders seek rate cues; Yen slumps

LONDON

GLOBAL equity markets struggled for direction as traders parsed the latest commentary from central bankers for clues on the path for interest rates.

At the start of another busy week of earnings, Heineken NV slumped as much as 6.4 percent after the Dutch brewer reduced its earnings forecast, with consumption waning as consumers react to price increases.

Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. are among companies reporting in the coming days.

European stocks and US equity futures were steady following a rally Friday that pushed the Nasdaq 100 nearly 2 percent higher amid optimism that a soft landing for the world's biggest economy is within reach.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde told Le Figaro newspaper the ECB could hike again, even if it pauses at its next meeting. In the US, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari described the inflation outlook as "quite positive," despite the likelihood of job losses and slower growth. Yields on German bonds and US Treasuries climbed.

"The narrative that markets will be focused on is if it's going to be a soft landing or not," said Vivek Paul, senior portfolio strategist at BlackRock Investment Institute. "We'll learn more about that once the upcoming data indicate if rapidly cooling inflation is indeed the start of a broader trend or it continues to be volatile."

The yen dropped against the dollar after the Bank of Japan announced unscheduled bond-purchase operations to buy debt. The BOJ was seeking to contain a selloff after it said Friday it will allow yields to rise above a 0.5 percent cap.

This year's advance on Wall Street suggests that US equities are tracking the same path they did in 2019, which was one of the best years for the S&P 500 over the past decade, according to Morgan Stanley strategist Michael Wilson. The benchmark is set to close out a fifth month of gains, the longest such winning streak since August 2021.

"The data we have today suggests to us that we are in a policy-driven, late-cycle rally," Wilson, a staunch equities bear, wrote in a note. The latest example of such a period occurred in 2019 when the Federal Reserve paused and then cut rates and its balance sheet expanded toward the end of the year. "These developments fostered a robust rally in equities that was driven almost exclusively by multiple and not earnings, as has been the case this year."

Meanwhile, investors aren't rushing to buy shares of companies that beat second-quarter profit estimates. These firms are still underperforming the S&P 500 Index by the most in 18 years on the day after results, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. strategists led by David Kostin.

"Investors have not rewarded stocks posting positive surprises," Kostin wrote in a note.

In other individual stock moves, Johnson & Johnson slipped in premarket trading after a federal judge ruled it cannot use a unit's bankruptcy case to press cancer victims to drop lawsuits and accept an \$8.9 billion settlement. Ford Motor Co. dropped after a downgrade at Jefferies.

MetLife Inc. gained after Bloomberg News reported that Singapore insurer Great Eastern Holdings Ltd. is in talks to buy the company's Malaysian venture. Carvana Co. fluctuated after analysts at Jefferies turned bearish on the online used-car dealer.

Japan remains a focus for traders. On Friday, BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda said the central bank would allow 10-year bond yields to rise above a ceiling it now calls a point of reference. That potentially paves the way for a future normalization of policy that has implications for a wide range of global assets heavily exposed to Japanese money.

"We had the BOJ today making sure yields remained capped," said Jane Foley, head of currency strategy at Rabobank. "They clearly don't want yields rising too much, so today's action drove home the point it was perhaps more of a technical adjustment than a change in policy."



Farmers urged to intensify the use of lime in farming

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

PRODUCERS of Lime Products have advised the government to provide education to farmers on the use of lime products in farming, to improve production.

They have also asked the government to increase lime product testing laboratories, to check the quality of the product before entering the market.

This was said last week by the director of Dodoma Cement Lime Production Plant, Charles Numbi during the visit of the Fertilizer Control Authority (TFRA) board and management, visiting fertilizer and lime producers in Dodoma.

He said that, many farmers do not know the importance of lime products in agriculture, so the extension officers have a great responsibility of providing education to farmers to realize its importance in soil.

"We are asking the ministry of agriculture through the extension and agriculture officers to help us provide education to farmers on the use of lime, because most of the farmers know that lime is only for construction," said Numbi.

He said that if they get education about the benefits of lime in farming, it will help them to improve their understanding on the use of lime during the crops growing season.

Speaking about the laboratory for testing the product before entering the market, he said the government should increase the number of laboratories to enable them to easily send easy for them to send it to test to know the quality of the product before entering the market.

Speaking during the visit, the TFRA board vice Dr. Catherine Senkoro, on behalf of her Chairman, said that they have received the challenges producers are facing and promised to work on them.

She praised the production carried out by the factory, while asking them to increase production.

"Consider the quality of standards in the production of the product lime Mazao you are doing to ensure that you capture the market Lime Mazao in this country," said Dr. Senkoro.

Also Director of TFRA Dr. Stephan Ngilo said it is time for local investors to use various opportunities to enter the competitive exports markets.

Forget China, the hot money in mining is suddenly Saudi

LONDON

A \$2.6 billion deal announced last week has set the stage for a potentially landmark shift in the metal and mining investment landscape: the arrival of Saudi Arabia as a pivotal player.

The agreement with Vale SA gives the kingdom a 10 percent slice in one of the world's crucial suppliers of nickel and copper – essential metals needed to decarbonize.

It's also held other talks, including with Barrick Gold Corp. about investing in a big Pakistan copper mine, according to people familiar with the matter. Speaking privately, executives at top miners said the value of Thursday's deal made clear that the Saudis are ready to splash cash around.

The move comes as the question of who controls the commodities needed to both sustain and decarbonize the world's economies has turned into a global flashpoint, jumping to the top of agendas in the US and Europe.

China has for years been the dominant buyer and a key source of funding, as it sought to secure supply for its rapid industrialization. But as tensions with the West have mounted, the mining industry is now facing increased pressure to look elsewhere.

Saudi Arabia is seeking to take minority stakes in global mining assets that will over time help provide access to supplies of strategic minerals. The country also is looking to build a metals-processing industry that could in turn make it more attractive for international miners to exploit its mineral deposits – a central pillar of Saudi efforts to diversify the economy away from oil.

The kingdom has invested heavily into industrial and financial assets and even turned the world of sport upside down by essentially buying the game of professional football and piling into soccer. However, the Vale deal announced last week is its first major foray into



mining.

Manara Minerals, a new venture between the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund and state mining company, will get a stake in Vale's base metals business, giving Saudi Arabia an interest in mines from Indonesia to Canada producing copper, nickel and other industrial metals.

For western producers, the kingdom offers access to deep pools of capital, which are appealing as Chinese funds become less politically palatable, but also as some institutional investors have turned less comfortable with mining over environmental concerns.

Investors from the region – Qatar is already a major backer of Glencore Plc – are now likely to become one of the most important financiers for the capital hungry sector, according to serial mine builder Robert Friedland, who spent the last few years developing one of the world's biggest copper operations, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the help of Chinese funds.

"Now, probably, the largest supply of capital to the mining industry will come from the Middle East," he said in an interview last month.

But Saudi Arabia offers something else beyond cold cash: political backing for companies looking to expand into the Muslim world as deposits in more traditional jurisdictions are depleted.

Canada's Barrick has been in talks with the Public Investment Fund about a potential stake in its Reko Diq copper project in Pakistan, which is a relatively untouched frontier for the international mining industry, according to people familiar with the matter. Bringing the Saudis on board would not only ease Barrick's funding burden, but

also introduce a partner that has significant political influence in Pakistan, the people said.

Spokespeople for the PIF and Barrick did not comment.

Saudi Arabia's deep pockets may also present some challenges for the biggest producers who are looking for deals of their own. Keen to get more exposure to copper and nickel, miners have started writing the biggest checks in more than a decade. BHP Group and Rio Tinto Group – the two largest – have just completed multi-billion dollar deals to grow in copper, while Glencore Plc tried to buy Teck Resources Ltd.

For years, the big producers have found themselves repeatedly outbid by Chinese companies when it comes to buying mines. China's state-owned metal and mining companies have been willing to pay valuations that western firms simply couldn't match. Saudi Arabia now seems willing to do the same, potentially putting some deals beyond the reach of the industry's traditional buyers.

Executives at two of the biggest mining companies, which have spent years assessing base metal assets such as those owned by Vale, said privately that they were surprised by the price tag in last week's deal, which valued the unit at \$26 billion (RBC Capital Markets said it was worth about \$21 billion, while BMO Capital Markets said it was higher than market expectations.)

Still, unlike Chinese companies, Saudi Arabia is currently more interested in securing stakes – guaranteeing future supply of critical minerals – rather than buying outright and then operating the assets.

Oil set for biggest monthly gain since early 2022

TEXAS

OIL headed for its largest monthly increase in more than a year on signs the market is tightening, with estimates that crude demand is running at a record clip just as OPEC+ cuts back production.

West Texas Intermediate traded slightly higher, above \$80 a barrel, touching the highest since April. The US crude benchmark has rallied almost 14% this month, putting it on course for the biggest advance since January 2022. It's the best performance for July in almost two decades.

"Record high demand and Saudi supply cuts have brought back deficits," Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts including Daan Struyven and Yulia Zhestkova Grigsby said in a note that reaffirmed a forecast for Brent at \$86 a barrel by December. "The market has abandoned its growth pessimism."

Oil's string of advances mean futures in New York have erased their year-to-date losses, with expectations that the Federal Reserve is close to ending its cycle of monetary tightening also aiding sentiment as the dollar weakens.

A reduction of supply from OPEC+ linchpins Saudi Arabia and Russia has improved the outlook for crude. Earlier this month, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Russia will cut crude exports by 500,000 barrels a day in August, with Saudi Arabia also extending its supply curbs next month. Speculators have been ramping up bullish bets on US crude futures, as well as key refined products, prices for which have also been surging in recent weeks.

Data from China showed manufacturing contracted for a fourth month in July, while non-manufacturing expanded slower than expected. Officials from the National Development and Reform Commission and other ministries will hold a briefing later Monday to outline measures to expand consumption.

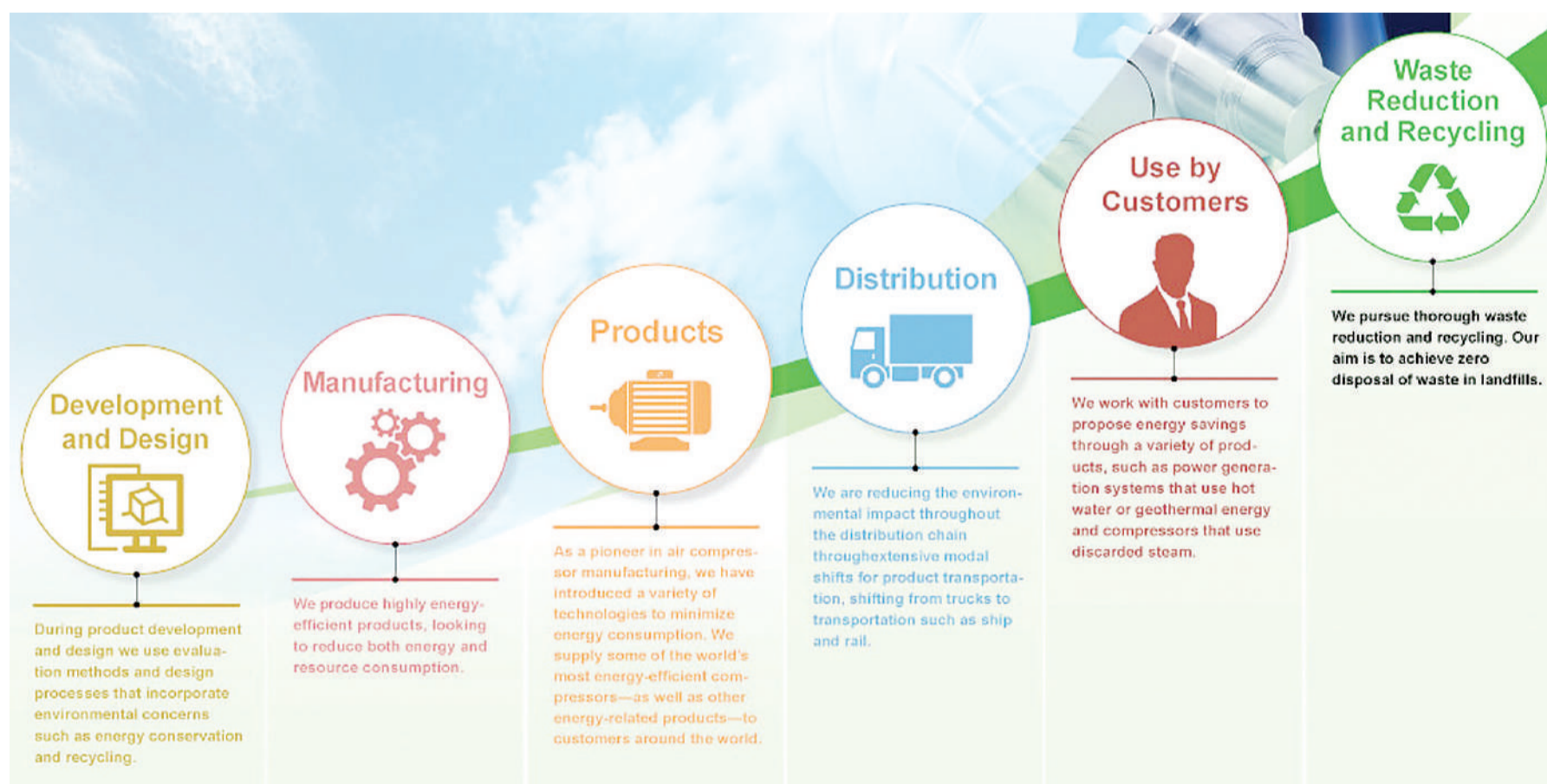


Record high demand and Saudi supply cuts have brought back deficits," Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts including Daan Struyven and Yulia Zhestkova Grigsby said in a note that reaffirmed a forecast for Brent at \$86 a barrel by December



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Understanding product's value chain, customers crucial in business



Participants to a three day training on how to know a value chain of their products to members of Knowledge Centres [KCs] that was organized by TGNP in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

WOMEN entrepreneurs in the country have been advised to know, understand their market and customers if they really want to be successful in the value chain of whatever projects or business they are doing.

The advice was given over the weekend in Dar es Salaam by Tanzania Gender Network [TGNP] Board Member Rehema Mwateba during a three day training whose main objective was to strengthen the participation of women in value chain addition of their products.

The training that was organized by (TGNP) in the support of COADY International involved five Knowledge Centers, namely: Majohe KC, Mbezi KC, Kivule KC, Mawepande KC, and Saranga KC. All these KCs are from Dar es Salaam region.

She said that the specific objectives among others were

to empower the participants with the skills to understand value addition in their daily business activities they are doing. To identify the kinds of value addition, which as KCs can use them in their environment and get sustainable development.

Further, to make an implementation plan of all issues they would agree. Participants will be needed to explain the importance of producing a product that is self-advertised.

Also participants should know gender issues that would affect their efficiency to participate on the value chain addition and how to arrest them.

By definition, value addition is an extra value added over the original value of something. It can apply to products, services, companies, management, as well as other areas of business. In other words, value-added is the enhancement made by a company/individual to a product

or service before selling them to consumers. Adding value to a product or service helps companies attract more customers, which can boost revenue and profits.

For his part, the facilitator of the training and value addition specialist Owen Nelson has told these women entrepreneurs that before entering into or starting a business or a project they need to know their customers and market they have targeted.

"You need to know your customers, what they need specifically, where they live, the volumes/amounts they need, and how they want to be serviced." Nelson mentioned some of the ways that can be used to add value to a product, include: Proper storage, branding, labeling, packaging and processing.

He further noted that they can have value addition to their products through dissemination of information about your products through the different social media.

According to Nelson, the way how your product looks like is the first mark that attracts more customers to buy your products.

According to Nelson the value chain involves mainly: Sellers of agricultural inputs/raw materials, producers, processors, whole sellers, retailers, finance institutions, and transporters and eventually end consumers.

Nelson also told participants that they need to know on how to reduce prices of their products and hence make profit, to know the available opportunities on how to increase value to their products. To be able to know and select a business partner.

Importantly he told them that if they want to be successful entrepreneurs on the value chain they need to know the available opportunities of their customers, markets, these can be all responsible persons present in the front-line in the value chain or those behind the value chain can also be important by selling for them raw materials or agricultural inputs.

"You need to create good relationship with other responsible persons in the value chain syndicate," he urged them. He suggested that as an entrepreneur "You always need to add value to your products according to the requirement of your market. Adhere to the laws of the land. Be creative and give a room to learn new things every day. Challenges shouldn't be a justification for you to stop working," he explained.

Chausiku Maregesi from Majohe KC in Ilala City commended TGNP for organizing that training saying it has empowered them with value chain addition skills.

"Before we didn't know about value chain addition and we used to make business as usual, but after this training we are going to make profitable businesses."

The training on value chain addition has been like an eye opener to us. "We are going to perform wonders in our businesses," she noted.

She has called upon the government to consider small business entrepreneurs by allocating them with business cages were they can also do business instead of favouring medium and large business people only.

Tausi Pepetu from Mbezi KC said that the training on value chain addition to their products is very beneficial to them. "We are going to add value to our products we produce so as to attract more customers."

Veronica Wana from Kivule KC, has lauded TGNP and donor for coming up with such a training, saying it has been of great beneficial to her.

Ikupa Mwampamba from Mbezi KC said that the training on value chain addition will help them create business network and hence make profitable businesses.

WORLD

West Africa threatens force on Niger coup leaders

NIAMEY/ABUJA

WEST African nations imposed sanctions and threatened force on Sunday if Niger's coup leaders fail to reinstate ousted President Mohammed Bazoum within a week, while supporters of the junta attacked the French embassy in Niamey.

The 15-nation ECOWAS bloc's response to the Sahel region's seventh coup of recent years came as crowds in Niger's capital Niamey burned French flags and stoned the former colonial power's mission, drawing tear gas from police.

Images showed fires at the embassy walls and people being loaded into ambulances with bloodied legs.

At an emergency summit in Nigeria to discuss last week's coup, leaders of the Economic Community of West African States called for constitutional order to be restored, warning of reprisals if not.

"Such measures may include the use of force," their communique said, adding that defence officials would meet immediately to that effect.

Chad's President Mahamat Idriss Deby, who came to power in 2021 after a coup, met his Nigerian counterpart Bola Tinubu on the sidelines of the summit and volunteered to speak to the military leaders in Niger, two presidential aides told Reuters, asking not to be identified.

Niger's state TV showed Deby arriving and meeting them.

ECOWAS and the eight-member West African Economic and Monetary Union said that with immediate effect borders with Niger would be closed, commercial

flights banned, financial transactions halted, national assets frozen and aid ended.

Military officials involved in the coup would be banned from travelling and have their assets frozen, it added.

Niger's prime minister under Bazoum's government, Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou, said ECOWAS sanctions would be disastrous because the country relies heavily on international partners to cover its budgetary needs.

"I know the fragility of Niger, I know the economic and financial context of Niger having been the finance minister and now prime minister," Mahamadou, who was abroad when the coup occurred, told France24 television from Paris.

"This is a country that will not be able to resist these kinds of sanctions. It will be catastrophic."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken welcomed ECOWAS's action on Sunday.

"We join ECOWAS and regional leaders in calling for the immediate release of President Mohamed Bazoum and his family and the restoration of all state functions to the legitimate, democratically-elected government," said Blinken in a statement.

Can sanctions work?

Similar sanctions were imposed by ECOWAS on Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea following coups in those countries in the past three years.

Although the financial sanctions led to defaults on debt - in Mali in particular - such measures have tended to hurt civilians more than the military leaders



Nigeriens, some holding Russian flags, participate in a rally in support of Niger's junta in Niamey, Niger, on Sunday. AP

who seized power in some of the world's poorest countries, political analysts say. Timelines to restore civilian rule have been agreed in all three countries, but there has been little progress implementing them.

The military coup in Niger, which began unfolding on Wednesday, has been widely condemned by neighbours and international partners including the United States, the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and former colonial power France.

They have all refused to recognise the new leaders led by General Abdourahamane Tiani.

Niger has been a key ally in Western campaigns against insurgents linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State in the Sahel, and there are concerns that the coup could open the door to greater Russian influence there. Thousands of French troops were forced to withdraw from neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso following coups there.

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, receiving close to \$2 billion a year in official development assistance, according to the World Bank.

The United States, France, Italy and Germany have troops there on military training and missions to fight Islamist insurgents. Niger is also the world's seventh-biggest producer of uranium, the radioactive metal widely used for nuclear energy and in nuclear weapons, as well as for treating cancer.

Ahead of the summit, Niger's junta had warned that ECOWAS was considering an imminent military intervention in collaboration with other African and some Western nations.

"We want to once more remind ECOWAS or any other adventurer, of our firm determination to defend our homeland," junta spokesperson Colonel Amadou Abdramane said.

'Coup era must stop'

At their invitation, thousands of people rallied in the capital on Sunday, some heading to France's embassy.

"We are here to express our discontent against France's interference in Niger's affairs. Niger is an independent and sovereign country, so France's decisions have no influence on us," said pro-

tester Sani Idrissa.

Similar to events in neighbouring Burkina Faso in September last year following a coup, some protesters tried to climb the embassy walls, while others stomped on burning French flags.

They were dispersed by Niger national guard.

France condemned the violence and said anyone attacking its nationals or interests would face a swift and stern response.

"The era of coups d'etat in Africa must stop. They are not acceptable," French foreign minister Catherine Colonna Catherine Colonna told RTL radio, adding that the situation had calmed by the afternoon and no evacuation of French citizens was planned.

The European Union and France have cut off financial support to Niger and the United States has threatened to do the same.

Sunday's ECOWAS communique thanked nations in line with the bloc's stance but "condemned the pronouncement of support by foreign governments and foreign private military contractors."

US may escalate Ukraine conflict during 2024 elections, says Russian official

MOSCOW



Konstantin Kosachev (pictured) said in an interview with aif.ru.

THE United States may aggravate the Ukrainian conflict in 2024 if one of the parties needs additional votes in connection with the ongoing presidential race in the country, Deputy Speaker of Russia's Federation Council (upper house of parliament) Konstantin Kosachev (pictured) said in an interview with aif.ru.

"This is a very dangerous situation, because the Americans are not afraid to use foreign policy in their inter-party rivalry. If one of the parties feels that it needs to escalate the situation in Ukraine in order to gain more votes in the elections, it will do so.

So the fact that the presidential election in the United States, which will culminate in 2024, could be a terrible, if not catastrophic event. I can't guarantee that there will be an escalation, but the risk is obvious to me.

The unpredictability of American behavior will increase and the tail may start wagging the dog again," he said in response to a question about the impact of the US presidential election on the conflict.

According to Kosachev, further escalation of the military conflict with the use of Heavier types of weapons could increase the likelihood of nuclear use. "Fortunately, we have not yet reached that threshold. However, there is a risk of approaching it," the lawmaker stressed.

According to the senator, Washington persuaded Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky to abandon any talks with Russia last year and has no plans to return to the path of negotiations.

"They (negotiations on Ukraine - TASS) began in March last year, but were thwarted by an unprecedented external influence on Ukraine. Then, by decree, President Zelensky banned himself and all other Ukrainian authorities from engaging in such talks.

This is, of course, a decision made by the United States. They most likely have the ability to reverse their decision. But I have not yet seen such intentions," Kosachev noted.

Agencies

UN to reduce food aid, cash payments to Afghanistan amid 'crippling funding crisis'

KABUL

THE United Nations' World Food Programme claimed that at least 38 out of 86 countries, including Afghanistan, where the WFP operates have either witnessed cuts in aid or have plans to do so shortly, reported Khaama Press.

Carl Skau, the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Program said apart from Afghanistan, these countries include Syria, Yemen, and West Africa. He said that the UN has been dealing with a 'crippling funding crisis', forcing it to reduce food, cash payments and hence support to millions of people in numerous countries. The UN's donation has fallen by roughly half, reported Khaama Press, citing a top official of the UN.

During this time of crisis, acute hunger has reached record levels, reported Khaama Press.

According to Skau, the WFP needs USD 20 billion in operating funds to provide aid to everyone in need. But, it has received somewhere between USD 10 billion and USD 14 billion in recent years.

"We are still aiming at that, but we have only so far this year gotten to about half of that, around USD 5 billion," Skau said.

The WFP was obliged to reduce food supplies for eight million people which makes 66 per cent of the population it was assisting in May after being asked to reduce them for communities in Afghanistan facing emergency levels of hunger in March, Skau added.

"Now, it is helping just 5 million people. In Syria, 5.5 million people who relied on WFP for food were already on 50 per cent rations, Skau said, and in July, the agency cut all rations to 2.5 million of them," the statement said.

Just 9 per cent of the USD 4.6 billion needed for Afghanistan's initial Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) had been received as of June of this year.

On the other hand, "in the Palestinian territories, WFP cut its cash assistance by 20 per cent in May and in June, and cut its caseload by 60 per cent, or 200,000 people, he said. Moreover, he said a huge funding gap in Yemen would force WFP to cut aid to 7 million people as early as August," it added.

The financial gaps will affect more than 31,500 households with severely undernourished children. The children would be denied access to vital integrated cash packages for nutrition due to a lack of financing.

Additionally, about 2.6 million individuals need access to clean drinking water, 1.5 million miss out on hygiene education, 1.6 million lack necessary non-food items, and 844,000 are exposed to poor sanitation.

ANI

Pope Francis urges Russia to rejoin Black Sea Grain initiative

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis on Sunday urged Russia to rejoin the Black Sea Grain initiative to allow the export of Ukrainian grain to international markets in order to help mitigate the global food supply crunch worsened by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, CNN reported.

Pope Francis said, "Let us not stop praying for the tormented Ukraine, where the war destroys

everything, even the grain. And this is a serious offence to God, because grain is a gift from him to feed humanity, and the cry of the millions of hungry brothers and sisters goes up to heaven," according to CNN.

He added, "I appeal to my brothers, the authorities of the Russian Federation, so that the Black Sea initiative may be resumed, and grain may be transported safely," the report said.

Pope Francis' statement comes

after Russia on July 17 withdrew from the Black Sea Grain initiative.

It said that Russia was being stopped from adequately exporting its own food. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov announced Moscow will not renew the agreement, saying it "has been terminated,"

CNN reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the main objective of the deal to supply grain to nations in need had not been realised. Putin said that the decision was taken as the pact eventually lost its meaning and was no more of any significance, according to Al Jazeera.

"The continuation of the 'grain deal' - which did not justify its humanitarian purpose - has lost its meaning," Putin said, accord-

ing to the article on the Kremlin's website.

The Black Sea Grain deal was brokered by Turkey and the United Nations in July 2022. The deal allowed Ukraine to export grains to the international market through the Black Sea port.

The United Nations has said the deal was important in stabilizing global food prices and bringing relief to the developing nations that depend on Ukrainian exports.

ANI

Abbas proposes new committee for inter-Palestinian unity

CAIRO

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas called on Sunday for forming a committee to complete the dialogue on issues discussed during the reconciliation meeting of heads of Palestinian factions earlier in the day.

The meeting in Egypt's New Alamein City, which was chaired by Abbas, sought to restore inter-Palestinian unity among various factions amid the increasing violence between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank.

"I consider today's meeting a first and important step to complete our dialogue, which we hope will achieve the desired goals as soon as possible," Abbas said in the meeting's final statement.

He proposed a committee to be formed by representatives of Palestinian factions that could start working immediately on discussed issues.

He thanked Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi for hosting the meeting, as well as his keenness to help end the Palestinian division, which started in 2007.

He also thanked Algeria, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, China and Russia for their efforts to achieve inter-Palestinian unity.

While the two main rival movements, ruling Fatah and Gaza-controlling Hamas, took part in the meeting, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad an-



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (Front) speaks during the reconciliation meeting of heads of Palestinian factions held in New Alamein City, Egypt, on Sunday. (Palestinian Embassy in Egypt/Handout via Xinhua)

nounced beforehand it would boycott the gathering due to political arrests of some of its

members by the Palestinian Authority headed by Abbas.

The gathering brokered

by Egypt came amid soaring violence in the West Bank. In early July, the Israeli raids on

the Jenin refugee camp killed at least 12 Palestinians and wounded more than 150.

The Palestinian embassy noted that Abbas and Sisi are scheduled to meet on Monday.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has been sponsoring meetings between Palestinian factions for years, in addition to brokering truces between armed Palestinian movements and Israel.

Egypt has repeatedly reiterated its position that supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the internationally-recognized two-state solution.

Agencies

County-level museum in Hanzhong thrives because of Three Kingdoms culture

THE Three Kingdoms period (220-280 AD), a fascinating age in early history featuring the tripartite division of China among the dynastic states of Wei, Shu, and Wu, is one of the most widely known period of history in China. The culture related to it has a profound impact.

As the main battlefield between Wei and Shu during the Three Kingdoms period, Hanzhong in northwest China's Shaanxi province possesses an important geographic position.

In the Three Kingdoms period, there was a saying that "The one who gets the Dingjun Mountain gets Hanzhong, and the one who gets Hanzhong gets the country."

Then where is the Dingjun Mountain? It is located in Mianxian county, a small town with a history of over 2,000 years in Hanzhong.

Over the recent years, the Mianxian county museum has made its name thanks to its efforts to enrich its collection, innovate advertizing models, and promote the culture of the Three Kingdoms. It is presenting the beauty of Chinese history and culture to more and more visitors.

The museum is not big in size, but it houses a number of cultural relics and items that are seemingly able to bring

visitors back to the volatile Three Kingdoms period, such as bronze caltrops, a bronze crossbow that dates back to nearly 1,900 years ago, and a valuable model of a Chinese quadrangle built in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220).

Deputy head of the museum Xiao Yongqin, who has worked for the museum for over 10 years, told People's Daily that these cultural relics are of vital importance for studying the history of the Three Kingdoms period because not many documents and relevant items from that faraway period still remain today.

Many of the cultural relics displayed at the Mianxian county museum have their own stories.

In about the 1970s and 1980s, a type of ancient weapon called "tongjili," or bronze caltrop, was discovered in Wuhouping, which is near the Dingjun Mountain and the Hanjiang River in Mianxian county. The weapon has four spikes, each with a length of 2 centimeters. When it is thrown on the ground, in whatever manner, one of spikes always points upward. This weapon was used in ancient times to slow cavalries and troops and thus nicknamed "horse

spike" in China.

According to historical records, Yang Yi, an official of the state of Shu in the Three Kingdoms period, once used bronze caltrops to prevent the pursuers sent by Sima Yi, a military general of the state of Wei.

"This weapon is similar to today's roadblocks," said Qin Jiaying, a guide of the museum.

The museum now boasts a rich collection that consists of over 2,000 cultural relics it unearthed, purchased and collected. Some of these cultural relics have been displayed at the National

Museum of China, the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution and the Shaanxi History Museum. They also joined itinerant exhibitions to Japan, the United States, the UK, among others.

Bigger museums have bigger foot traffic, but they don't have many cultural relics from the Three Kingdoms period on display. How the Mianxian county museum can give play to its advantages as a county-level facility that collects a large number of Three Kingdoms cultural relics has been a major focus of Xiao over the recent years.

He believes what builds the public's affection for culture is enduring access to culture.

People's Daily

Russia received about 30 peace initiatives on Ukraine through various channels - MFA

ST. PETERSBURG

RUSSIA received about 30 peace initiatives for a settlement in Ukraine through official and unofficial channels, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the sidelines of the second Russia-Africa summit.

"We are grateful to everyone. There were many such initiatives. It seems to me that a month ago there were already about 30 [initiatives] that were made by public figures through state channels or even in some private way," the diplomat noted.

Zakharova (pictured) stressed that Russia never refused negotiations on the Ukrainian conflict settlement.

"Even when we understood that they [negotiations] were unlikely to bring any added value, but we always gave such a chance to partners or the situation in general," the Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman explained.

However, as Zakharova pointed out, in April 2022, "the Kiev regime withdrew from the negotiations, it asked for."

"Several rounds took place, and then they stopped responding to the documents and materials that we sent at their request. And in September, they themselves were legally banned from negotiating with our country," she added.

Speaking about the African Peace Initiative on Ukraine, Zakharova pointed to the sincerity of African countries' attempts to help resolve the crisis.

"We are extremely grateful to our African friends for the fact that they really - not in words, but in deeds - value peace and want to do everything in their power, even without being in any way participants in all this long-term drama, but, indeed, having open hearts and understanding what this can globally lead to and is already leading to. [We are grateful] for their attempt to do everything in their power or to somehow provide intermediary services, efforts to stabilize the situation. Once again, we never get tired of repeating the words gratitude," the diplomat concluded.

African proposals

The African Peace Initiative, presented in June, has ten key points. They include a call for peace through negotiations that should begin as soon as possible, as well as for the de-escalation of the conflict, ensuring the sovereignty of states and peoples in accordance with the UN Charter, along with providing security guarantees to all countries, as well as organizing food and fertilizer supplies both by Moscow and Kiev. A separate point of the plan was a call to cooperate more closely with African countries.

This plan was presented by a delegation of seven African countries, which visited Kiev and St. Petersburg on June 16-17, where they held talks with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and the Russian leader.

The delegation then included the presidents of Zambia, the Comoro Islands (now presides over the African Union), Senegal, South Africa, the Prime Minister of Egypt, representatives of the Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

The second Russia-Africa Summit, along with an economic and humanitarian forum, took place in the Russian city of St. Petersburg on July 27-28. Similar to the first such event in 2019, the summit was held under the rubric "For Peace, Security and Development."

The event was organized by the Roscongress Foundation. TASS, which was the official information partner and photo-hosting agency of the summit and forum, also hosted the second Russia-Africa Media Forum.

Philippines, EU to resume free trade talks

MANILA

THE Philippines and the European Union (EU) yesterday agreed to revitalize trade and relaunch free trade agreements (FTA) talks.

The two parties forged the new cooperation during a meeting between Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Manila.

As the first-ever EU Commission president to visit the Southeast Asian country in nearly six decades, von der Leyen said her visit signals accelerating "a new era of cooperation" between the EU and the Philippines, vowing to bring the bilateral trade relations "to the next level."

For his part, Marcos said in a speech that he discussed with the EU chief "economic relations with particular focus on revitalizing trade" between the two regions.

Marcos welcomed resuming negotiations for Philippine-EU free trade, adding that his administration would work with EU experts to achieve the bilateral FTA, the first round of which took place in 2016 in the Philippines.

Marcos also thanked the EU's long-term support for his country, particularly on the EU's recognition of a seafarer certificate issued by the Philippines that will benefit over 50,000 Filipino seafarers working onboard EU-flagged vessels.



The two parties forged the new cooperation during a meeting between Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Manila

Rivals' silence at Iowa dinner shows Trump's dominance in 2024 race

DES MOINES, IOWA

ON the night a dozen of Donald Trump's Republican rivals spoke at the same event in Iowa, only one challenged the former president head on - and he was roundly booed. It highlights the grip Trump still has on his party.

Someone backstage at the Lincoln Dinner clearly had a mischievous sense of humour.

As each of the candidates hoping to become the Republican Party's presidential nominee for 2024 walked out to speak they were accompanied by a blast of music: a clip of the country song Only In America.

When it was Trump's turn, two lyrics, describing two alternative paths that could await someone in the US, seemed particularly poignant:

One could end up going to prison
One just might be president

The 45th President of the United States didn't seem to mind. He doesn't try to hide from the fact that he is already facing two criminal trials and may soon be indicted in two more cases. In fact, he wears these charges as a badge of pride.

Trump insists he is being unfairly targeted for purely political reasons.

He told the crowd of 1,200 Republican supporters at this dinner in Iowa - a key state because it will hold the first election in the race for the nomination next January - that he would not have been prosecuted if he was not running for the White House again. And he would not have been prosecuted if he was not winning.

Using serious criminal charges as a mark of success takes chutzpah. But that is something Trump has always had in spades. And it leaves his opponents deeply confused about how to respond.

Most simply chose to ignore on Thursday evening's news that Trump had been charged with three more counts in the classified documents investigation. In fact, they declined to take the opportunity to challenge the clear frontrunner in the contest at all.

One of the lesser known contenders, Will Hurd, did take a shot. The former Texas Congressman and CIA officer



claimed Donald Trump was not running to make America great again.

"Donald Trump is not running for president to represent the people that voted for him in 2016 or 2020. Donald Trump is running to stay out of prison."

Loud boos and rattling cutlery nearly drowned out the rest of what he had to say, with one man shouting "go home". It was clear he had lost the room.

Stacey Taiber, one of many Republican voters wearing Trump stickers, told me she did not believe any of the charges against Trump. If the political establishment were "trying so hard to get him out of the way they must be terrified he will beat Joe Biden", she said.

Her husband, Dan, said it was President Biden and his son Hunter who should be facing criminal trials. He and many others in the ballroom repeated unproven allegations about Hunter's business dealings and claims of foreign influence (which the White House has dismissed but Republicans in Congress are investigating).

There was no fun to be had watching the different can-

didates interacting with each other at the dinner. They each had their own backstage suite which they popped out of to deliver their 10-minute speech. They actually didn't have to see each other at all.

Maybe there will be more fireworks when the candidates come face to face at the first Republican debate on 23 August - although Mr Trump has suggested he might skip it because he is so far ahead in the polls.

Chris Sununu, the Republican governor of New Hampshire, is no fan of the former president but recently ruled himself out of running against him in 2024.

He told me that for the other candidates to compete with Trump it is not about what they say - because there are not significant policy differences - it is about how they perform.

"They need to be exciting, bring some passion, show some emotion, and they need a bit of humour and charisma."

Who voters like and who they think can win is what matters, he added, noting that it was very hard for newcomers to the national stage to compete with the name recognition and star

power of a former president. Vivek Ramaswamy, the millennial entrepreneur and political novice, was one candidate who showed at Friday's dinner that he has the potential to break out from the crowded field of candidates currently polling in single digits.

After a barnstorming performance, he got one of the few standing ovations - along with Mr Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the candidate currently sitting in second place in most surveys.

Outside the venue there was a stall selling the usual badges, T-shirts and baseball caps. Thirteen candidates appeared on stage (Chris Christie was the only official contender not to attend), but only four of them had their names on the merchandise.

Trump, Mr DeSantis and Ramaswamy, along with Tim Scott, the senator from South Carolina who has been getting a bit of attention recently.

"I've been making my living doing this for a long time," the vendor told me. "I know what sells." And Republicans have always been strong believers in market forces after all. **Agencies**

Oil on track for biggest monthly gains in over a year

SINGAPORE

OIL prices edged lower on Monday, but were hovering near three-month highs, set to post their biggest monthly gains in over a year on expectations that Saudi Arabia would extend voluntary output cuts into September and tighten global supply.

Brent crude futures were down 45 cents to \$84.54 a barrel by 0315 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$80.25 a barrel, down 33 cents.

The September Brent contract will expire later on Monday. The more active October contract was at \$84.23 a barrel, down 18 cents.

Brent and WTI settled on Friday at their highest levels since April, gaining for a fifth straight week, as tightening oil supplies globally and expectations of an end to US interest rate hikes supported prices. Both are on track to

close July with their biggest monthly gains since January 2022.

"While it seems that crude may have priced in all the good news on US inflation and economic resiliency for the time being, it may continue inching higher still," said Vandana Hari, founder of oil market analysis provider Vanda Insights.

"Most of the strong buying activity has been occurring during the US trading hours; action during the Asian session remains relatively slow and a poor indicator of sentiment," Hari added.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is expected to extend a voluntary oil output cut of 1 million barrels per day (bpd) for another month to include September, analysts said.

"Oil prices are up 18 percent since mid-June as record high demand and Saudi supply cuts have brought back deficits, and as the



This Oct 9, 2018 file photo shows an oil rig and pump jack in Midland, Texas. (PHOTO / ODESSA AMERICAN VIA AP)

market has abandoned its growth pessimism," Goldman Sachs analysts said in a July 30 note.

"We still expect the extra 1

million bpd Saudi cut to last through September, and to be halved from October."

The bank maintained its Brent forecast at \$86 a barrel

for December and expects prices to rise to \$93 in the second quarter of 2024.

Goldman Sachs estimated that global oil demand rose

to a record 102.8 million bpd in July and it revised up 2023 demand by about 550,000 bpd on stronger economic growth estimates in India and the United States.

"Firm demand is driving a moderately larger deficit in H2 2023 than expected, averaging 1.8 million bpd, and a modest 0.6 million bpd deficit in 2024," it said.

Exxon Mobil's CEO Darren Woods said the company expects record oil demand this year and next year, and that this may help boost energy prices in the second half of the year.

In the US, energy firms in July cut the number of oil rigs for an eighth straight month by one to 529, Baker Hughes said in its weekly report on Friday. **Agencies**

China growing into source of consumer goods innovation

NEW products are an important engine driving China's consumption growth today.

This year, a number of new products have been launched in various sectors of the consumption market, including Huawei's P60 smartphone, the Blossoms Collection perfume of Jo Malone, collaboration T-shirts of UNIQLO, as well as new vehicle models by Chinese carmakers BYD, GAC Group and NIO.

Many consumers told People's Daily that new arrivals account for a big portion of the products they purchase and can ignite their passion for consumption.

They said they would often follow the brands they like to see if these brands have launched new products, and they are always tempted by new functions, appearances and experiences.

According to statistics released by online marketplace Tmall under Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, every one in six Chinese online shoppers is buying newly released products today.

Last year, more than 50,000 newly released products on Tmall achieved a turnover of more than 1 million yuan (\$139,975), which means that 136 one-million-yuan commodities were hitting the shelves every day on average. Besides, 500 brands generated over 100 million yuan in sales of new products, hitting a record high.

What's behind these figures is



Smartphones are exhibited at the Appliance and Electronics World Expo 2023 in Shanghai, April 27, 2023. (Photo by Ma Weiqin/People's Daily Online)

the record-shattering speed of enterprises in launching new products in the Chinese market.

Panasonic sells in China nearly 3,000 home appliance models in tens of product lines under almost 30 categories. According to Tan Yewen, head of the product marketing department of Panasonic Appliances (China) Co., Ltd., new products make up around 10 percent of major appliances for sale each year, while the figure is above 20 percent for small appliances.

China has the world's largest and fastest-changing home appliance market with the fiercest competition, and with e-commerce, the market sees the highest demand for product updates, said Tan.

"Only by constantly speeding

are a major way to obtain new consumers and a key of enterprises to maintaining their profits.

Hot-selling new products and brands in China are also making their ways in the global market, such as floor washers and multi-functional pet supplies.

Executives of many enterprises told People's Daily that apart from placing their production and manufacturing facilities in China, more and more enterprises are designing and developing their products in the country and then launching these products overseas.

This is attributed to the "assistance" from young consumers and e-commerce. Statistics indicate that Chinese young consumers have a strong purchasing power, and they value not only the quality and functions, but also the appearance of products, which creates new space for innovation.

E-commerce is the best "test field" for new products. Manufacturers can obtain product feedbacks on e-commerce platforms at the earliest possible, which makes possible digital insights, flexible supply chain and co-creation.

Last year, a special development team was established by American chocolate brand Dove and Tmall, which developed, in a very short period of time, two new products - black chocolate crisp and chocolate&cheese crisp.

The black chocolate crisp became the hottest-selling item of Dove's store on Tmall in just 10 days after its launch, and 76 percent of its buyers were new to the product.

"Our cooperation with Tmall shortened our R&D cycle by half, which enabled us to turn ideas into commodities in a more swift and targeted manner," said Gao Haowei with Dove's e-commerce sector.

In the fast-changing Chinese market, some enterprises are aiming at not only launching new products, but also developing a set of marketing methodology.

Gao told People's Daily that many enterprises are making innovations according to this highly replicable method: learning consumer demands, creating consumer portraits, building capability in co-creation, optimizing products and promoting them in the market.

Over recent years, executives of many enterprises in various industries have witnessed the high acceptability of Chinese consumers for innovative products.

They believe that China is growing into a source of consumer goods innovation of the world. In general, consumers are getting more rational and attaching more importance to health and the non-material features, and that's what brands should target in the future, they said.

People's Daily

SPORT



Footballers making Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) team celebrate winning the 2023 Maji Cup championship following the team's 2-1 win over Bunda Water and Sewerage Authority (BUWSSA)'s team in the final held in Zanzibar last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

DAWASA team clinches 2023 Maji Cup championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) soccer team has won the 2023 Maji Cup championship after commanding a 2-1 victory over Bunda Water and Sanitation Authority's team in the final which took place at the Mao Tse Tung Stadium in Zanzibar last weekend.

Speaking after the final, DAWASA's Acting Chief Executive Officer Kiula Kingu congratulated all of the side's players and the technical bench for the efforts they made from the preparations to

clinching the top honour.

"I congratulate all players for fighting for our institution in this competition to the point of winning this championship," Kingu stated.

Kingu added that great cooperation and efforts put in by each player are the key to the DAWASA team's success, with the institution having won the championship for the first time.

The victory makes the DAWASA team, led by head coach Mohammed Magali, clinch the showdown title for the first time since it was established in 2021.

Magali commended DAWASA's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kingu, as well as the institution's entire management for overseeing good preparations for the squad.

He said that they went for good preparations for the Maji Cup showdown, a move that was the key to the success.

"We are grateful to the DAWASA management led by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kingu, for the great cooperation he gave us starting with the team's preparations, participation and finally we have succeeded to emerge as champions," Magali said.

Zanzibar's Deputy Minister for Water, Energy, and Minerals, Shaaban Ali Othman, was the official guest at the 2023 Maji Cup championship final.

The Maji Cup championship was established in 2021 and the current competition is in its third season, carrying the theme 'The Value of Water for Life and Development'.

Choki Junior joins Mapacha Music Band

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM's dance music band, Mapacha Music, has added to its line-up by recruiting young singers, Choki Junior and Panduka Junior.

The budding musicians are the children of veteran dance music vocalists in Tanzania, Ally Choki and Mhina Panduka.

Mapacha Music Band's owner Joseph Mponezya, also known as 'Jose Mara', revealed he has taken the two up-and-coming artists to develop their talents, adding that they have already started to showcase their singing skills.

"A snake will always bear a snake, so these young artists have already started showcasing their singing talent and have offered meaningful

contributions to the band," Mara disclosed.

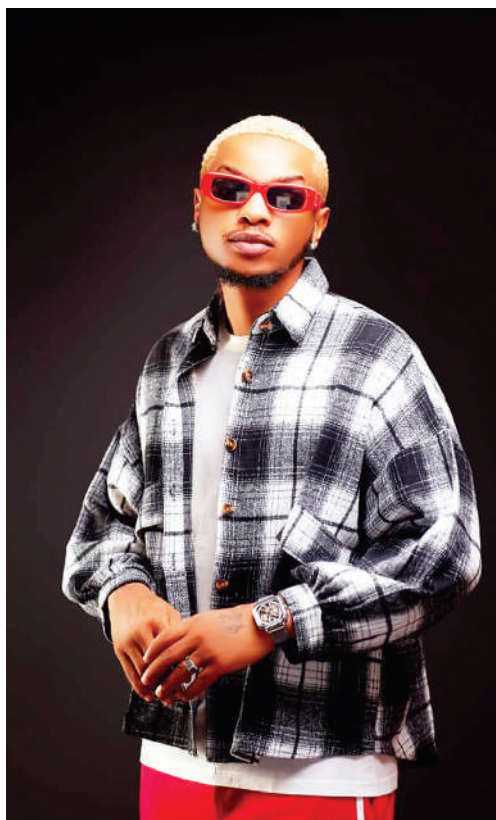
He said that the young musicians will participate in recording new songs prepared by the band for its new album.

The singer mentioned the songs set to be recorded as 'Choki la Mwana' and 'Hukumu Ya Penzi', adding that as of September the songs will be in various radio stations' music programs.

'Jose Mara' pointed out his band has many talented musicians including Jimmy Golla and others who are shining for it.

"We are stronger than we were in previous years, dance music fans are appreciating the good work we are doing," he said.

He revealed the band has become a big attraction to music enthusiasts in various shows it performs in several entertainment venues in Dar es Salaam.



Choki Junior



Panduka Junior

SPORTS

Local netball sorely needs a gigantic boost

By Correspondent Lloyd Ellipokea

HERE in our great country, we have doubtlessly had an established tradition of playing netball for several decades now.

Having said that, though, it is a saddening fact that our national women's netball team, Taifa Queens, has regrettably missed out on international competitions for a lengthy spell.

But our failure to feature on the international netball stage is unfortunately not the only sobering problem that has been bedeviling local netball.

Indeed, the sport has been negatively affected by a chronic lack of funds which has prevented the sport's governing body, CHANETA, from frequently staging netball championships on the local sports scene.

What makes this deeply disappointing status quo in local netball particularly galling is the fact that the Netball World Cup recently got underway in South Africa and we will only be able to watch the proceedings from the sidelines.

Bearing in mind all of the aforesaid points, it is crystal clear that measures have to be hastily taken to breathe new life into local netball.

Towards that end, it is a plus that authorities in the present day have clearly shown an encouraging willingness to afford critical support to local sports.

Nevertheless, at the end of the day, it will be the officials in the upper echelons of CHANETA who will have to do the heavy lifting to solve all of the challenges confronting the sport.

Speaking of challenges facing a sport, many European football clubs are presently trying to regain their razor-sharpness, following a period of rest in the wake of last season.

Unquestionably, one of the major talking points of last season was the huge involvement of some African football personages in the overall success of their



Former Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Mohamed Mchengerwa (C) presents the national flag to Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) officials at a ceremony for bidding the national netball team farewell ahead of its participation in the 2022 Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers which took place in Pretoria, South Africa. The function took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

respective football clubs.

Indeed, one African big gun who played a key role in the glorious success of his Italian side Napoli last season was the deadly Nigerian attacker Victor Osimhen, who was impressively prolific in the last campaign.

Osimhen, who has an eagle eye for goal, is a lethal predator in the penalty box and he rarely squanders goal-scoring chances as was demonstrated so vividly last season.

Without a shadow of a doubt, it is a fact that Osimhen's teeming masses of supporters will be keenly hoping that the Nigerian goal poacher can pick up from where he left off last season.

Another glittering African star who will be out to claim top honors in the new season is the Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, who sadly failed to lift any pieces of silverware in the last campaign.

Blessed with a magical left foot, Salah is equally adept at beautifully creating chances for his teammates and at netting and cracking goals himself.

It is expected though that the Egyptian will be eagerly seeking to be at his irresistible best in the upcoming

season to steer the Reds (Liverpool's nickname) towards achieving trophy-winning success.

Meanwhile, the diminutive Senegalese attacker Sadio Mane will likely resolutely attempt to remind everyone of his undoubted class in the new campaign after seeing his involvement in the last season get bitterly cut short, thanks to injury.

It is hoped then that Mane can rapidly regain his trademark oomph, which will be badly needed if his club Bayern Munich is to mount ultimately successful campaigns to secure titles in the new season.

Fiston Mayele bids farewell to Yanga followers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has bid an emotional farewell to the club's talismanic striker, Fiston Mayele, as he embarks on a new and exciting adventure with Egyptian side Pyramids FC.

Mayele's departure comes as a bittersweet moment for Yanga fans, as they bid farewell to the Congolese footballer who has etched his name into the club's history forever.

Arriving at Yanga with a blaze of excitement, Mayele wasted no time in showcasing his worth on the pitch, given in his first season with the club, the prolific striker netted an impressive total of 16 goals in the NBC Premier League.

The forward narrowly missed out on the NBC Premier League coveted golden boot by a single goal to Geita Gold FC's attacker George Mpole, who scored 17. Yet, even in the face of this heartbreak, Mayele's determination remained unyielding.

Undeterred by his near-miss, Mayele persisted and the following season proved to be even more exceptional for the Congolese striker.

He found the back of the net an astounding 17 times, tying with Said Ntibazonkiza of Simba SC for the coveted top goal scorer accolade.

However, it was on the continental stage that Mayele truly shone as, throughout the last season, the Congolese sharpshooter proved to be Yanga's talisman in the CAF Confederation Cup.

With his predatory instincts and lethal finishing, Mayele scored a remarkable 14 goals in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup combined.

One unforgettable moment etched in the hearts of the Yanga faithful was the CAF Confederation Cup match against US Monastir in Tunisia.

Despite the pouring rain, fans showed unwavering support, and Mayele could not help but express his gratitude for their dedication and love.

"Yanga was like a family to me, and I feel pain for the decision that I have made, but you have to accept my decision to leave for another challenge," Mayele emotionally stated while bidding farewell.

He stated: "I thank the management, players, and fans for the support during my time at Yanga."

Mayele's departure comes after two successful seasons with Yanga, which had



Fiston Mayele. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

the forward catapulting the Jangwani Street-based side to clinching two Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) top honours, and two Community Shield triumphs.

Moreover, his exploits led Yanga to qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup final for the first time in the club's history during the 2022/2023 season, with the forward finishing as the tournament's top goal scorer with seven goals. As he moves on to Pyramids FC, the Egyptian club gains a prolific forward who is sure to make an impact in the country's league and continental competitions.

For Yanga, saying goodbye to their talismanic striker may be heartbreaking but they can take solace in the unforgettable memories he created during his time with the club.

Mayele's journey from Yanga to Pyramids FC marks the beginning of a new chapter in his career.

As he embarks on this new challenge, Yanga fans will forever cherish the memories of his exceptional goal-scoring prowess, unwavering dedication, and the joy he brought to the pitch in every match.

Mayele's name will forever be etched in the annals of Yanga's history, and his legacy will serve as an inspiration for future generations of players who don the green and yellow jerseys.

Netherlands keen to avoid Sweden in World Cup knockouts

DUNEDIN

NETHERLANDS coach Andries Jonker wants to avoid Sweden in the Women's World Cup last 16 but warned his side against taking Vietnam lightly in their final group game today.

The 2019 runners-up need only a draw against the winless Vietnamese in Dunedin to advance, having beaten Portugal 1-0 and held holders the United States to a 1-1 draw.

The US and Dutch sit level in Group E on four points but the Americans boast a superior goal difference of two going into their own final group game, against Portugal.

A sizeable win over Vietnam could propel Jonker's team to top spot, with the coach fully aware the second-placed side will almost certainly meet red-hot Sweden in the next round.

Jonker described Sweden's ominous 5-0 battering of Italy on Saturday as "a big result" which added a new dynamic to their match against tournament debutants Vietnam.

"You always have a preference for an opponent who on paper is less strong," he said on Monday. "We would prefer to play against the number two in that group than Sweden, but the first aim is always to win and get to the last 16."

Colourful Colombian fans make Women's World Cup feel like home

SYDNEY

COLOMBIA's World Cup team are being roared on by thousands of fans in Australia who are playing a major part in spurring their country to new heights in women's football.

A Colombian side led by 18-year-old sensation Linda Caicedo caused one of the upsets of the competition so far when they stunned Germany 2-1 on Sunday in Sydney.

Manuela Vanegas's header in the 97th minute against one of the favourites put Colombia on the cusp of the last 16 and dreaming of winning the World Cup for the first time.

Colombia have appeared at the Women's World Cup only twice before, in 2011 and in 2015, when they reached the last 16 for the first time. But they failed to qualify for the event four years ago.

They need just a draw on Thursday against Morocco to top their group and could still reach the last 16 even with a defeat.

Dubbed 'The Powerpuff Girls', Caicedo's Colombia were driven on against Germany by a large majority of the 40,000 spectators at a pulsating Sydney Football Stadium.

The stadium was a sea of yellow shirts with deafening jeers and whistles greeting every German when they touched the ball.

Germany star Lena Oberdorf said it felt like Colombia were at home.

She compared it to when Germany played hosts England at Wembley in the final of the Euros last summer in front of nearly 90,000, a match they also lost 2-1.

"It's the same - but you don't expect it when you play against Colombia in Australia," said the midfielder.

"The fact that there are so many Colombian fans travelling here shows how much women's football is progressing," Oberdorf said.

Germany coach Martina Voss-

"And then after that, if we can score goals, we will of course. We've never shown any sort of arrogance and we won't now either."

With prolific Arsenal striker Vivianne Miedema missing the tournament because of injury, the Dutch arrived in New Zealand to predictions they would struggle to find the net.

Jonker said two goals in their first two games was respectable and pointed to a number of high-scoring warmup games as proof they can be prolific.

Vietnam have no chance of qualifying but impressed Jonker with their defending in losing only 3-0 to the US and 2-0 to Portugal.

A Dutch scout dissected both games and reported back that beating Vietnam wouldn't be straightforward.

"It's not more intensive than our preparations for USA but it's not less intensive either. We always put in as much as we can to prepare the players for what is to come," Jonker said. "The scout confirmed it's a good team, so a lot of respect for Vietnam."

Arsenal midfielder Victoria Pelova, who provided the assist for Jill Roord's goal against the US, trained separately from her team-mates on Monday but Jonker didn't provide an update on her availability.

AFP

Tecklenburg, whose side can still reach the last 16, said she felt a few of her players shrunk a little in the face of the frenzied Colombian support.

"Full of Colombians" - Most Colombians in the crowd seem to be living in Australia rather than having jumped on expensive long-haul flights across the Pacific.

Team spokesman Carlos Lajud told AFP that some are students while others are people who moved to Australia looking for work.

Census figures in 2021 said there were 35,000 people born in Colombia in Australia.

Like other countries, Colombia is enduring high inflation, while unemployment stood at just over 10 percent towards the end of last year.

According to a 2021 report by the International Organization for Migration, about 80 percent of Colombian migrants are in the United States, Spain, Venezuela, Ecuador and Canada.

The rest are split between Australia, Mexico and Panama.

There are nearly five million Colombians living overseas, according to the report.

Outside the stadium before the Germany match, a corner of Sydney became a mini Bogota for a few hours, albeit 15,000 kilometres (9,000 miles) from the Colombian capital.

Colombian fans decked in yellow held flares, danced and banged drums as bemused German fans and locals snapped pictures or observed sheepishly from a distance.

"It's time we start supporting women's football in Colombia because they don't support it," one male fan told television cameras as jubilant Colombians streamed out of the stadium afterwards.

"As you saw, we were playing as locals. It was full of Colombians, and we won."

AFP

Japan hammer Spain as Australia face must-win World Cup clash

WELLINGTON

JAPAN sent a Women's World Cup warning with a clinical 4-0 thrashing of Spain yesterday, as co-hosts Australia faced having to beat Canada or risk an unthinkable exit in the first round.

The 2011 champions Japan were 3-0 up by half-time in Wellington as they surged to a victory that allowed them to finish top of Group C and set up a last-16 tie against Norway.

Hinata Miyazawa scored twice either side of a Riko Ueki goal, with Mina Tanaka wrapping up a stunning win late on.

Their first win in five attempts over Spain was so comprehensive it suggests 11th-ranked Japan may be contenders to win the tournament.

They finish the group stage with 11 goals, more than any other team, while they are one of four sides yet to concede.

Miyazawa, who was substituted at half-time, is also the tournament's leading scorer with four goals.

The opener came in the 12th minute when Miyazawa outpaced the Spain defence to reach Jun Endo's curling pass from halfway before slotting low past goalkeeper Misa Rodriguez.

Miyazawa turned provider in the 29th minute, driving forward before finding Ueki, whose shot took a giant deflection off Irene Paredes on its way in.

Another rapid counter gave Miyazawa space and the striker



Japan's Hinata Miyazawa celebrates. Agencies

blasted powerfully past Rodriguez five minutes before the interval.

Substitute Tanaka's sensational 82nd-minute goal came after a sizzling solo run from the touchline that turned the defence inside out.

Spain, who like Japan had already qualified for the last 16 before this game, finish as runners-up in their group and now play Switzerland in the first knockout round in Auckland on Saturday.

In the other Group C game, Zambia won a Women's World Cup match for the first time with a 3-1 victory over Costa Rica as they ended their tournament on a high.

With both teams already eliminated before the clash in Hamilton, defender Lushomo Mweemba put Zambia in front after just three minutes.

Skipper and star striker Barbra Banda made it 2-0 with a penalty

just after the half-hour, and Rachael Kundananji got their third after Melissa Herrera had pulled one back.

- Kerr back on bench -

Australia's star forward and captain Sam Kerr was named on the bench after injury for their Group B decider against Canada in Melbourne where only a win would guarantee them a place in the last 16.

Kerr missed the Matildas' first two matches, in which they beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 but then lost 3-2 to Nigeria.

She declared herself available after a calf injury but it was unclear how much of a part she could play against the Olympic champions.

Australia went into the game a point behind both Canada and Nigeria, and a draw could only be enough for the co-hosts to go

through should the Nigerians lose to Ireland in Brisbane at the same time.

Otherwise, they would have to win to avoid suffering the same fate as New Zealand and being eliminated from their home World Cup in the first round.

- US warning - Today the United States and England will look to seal their last-16 spots.

The Americans are pursuing winning a third World Cup in a row but have been far from their best and were held 1-1 by the Netherlands last time out.

The USA may need a big win to finish on top of Group E ahead of the Netherlands, but a shock defeat would almost certainly end their tournament.

"The most important thing obviously is getting in the knockout stage first and foremost and that is our main focus right now," said their coach, Vlatko Andonovski. "We don't want to look two, three or four steps forward. If we start thinking too far ahead, our chance may never come."

The Dutch face already eliminated Vietnam in the other match in the group.

Also today, England only need a draw against China to be sure of going through but will be without key midfielder Keira Walsh due to injury.

Denmark, who are in pole position to get out of Group D with England, face Haiti.

AFP

Marcus Rashford: Erik ten Hag saved my Man Utd career - now I'm enjoying football again

By James Ducker

MARCUS Rashford has admitted he could have left Manchester United before Erik ten Hag came in and resuscitated his career.

The England striker bounced back from the darkest period of his career to score 30 goals for United last season and impress for his country at the World Cup finals in Qatar.

Rashford looked totally revitalised under Ten Hag and was rewarded for his dramatic return to form with a new five-year contract a fortnight ago.

But Rashford says he had been considering his future at Old Trafford before Ten Hag's arrival in May last year amid interest from Paris St-Germain and unhappiness at how things were unfolding at United.

Asked if there was ever a point when he thought he might leave, Rashford said: "Before the manager came maybe a little bit, but it's football, it happens. Everything is going to happen for a reason and he came to the club at the right time for me. The timing worked out."

Rashford struggled for form and fitness during the 18 months before Ten Hag's appointment and had also suffered appalling abuse in the wake of his penalty shoot-out miss in England's European Championship final defeat to Italy two years ago.

The 25-year-old said Ten Hag had given him the freedom and stability that had been lacking previously under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ralf Rangnick, who often had him playing in multiple positions, and credits the Dutchman with restoring his happiness.

Asked what changed for him last season, Rashford said: "Just a little bit more freedom I felt, a little bit more stability. I think that gives you the baseline to try and showcase your abilities. I enjoy scoring goals, I enjoy making assists, playing in the forward areas and trying to cause a threat to the other team."

"Freedom? We were just a little bit rigid in the past. Sometimes you're not enjoying your football and that was the case with me, I wasn't enjoying my football as much as I should be, as much I was used to enjoying it. Because of that it influenced my performance and ultimately that's how I am as a person, if I'm not happy then it's difficult for me to play my best football."

Bruno Fernandes had held talks with United to ascertain if the club was on the right path before signing a new



Marcus Rashford has been revitalised by Erik ten Hag's coaching and man management. Agencies

contract in April 2022 amid concerns about its direction. But Rashford said he did not require such assurances given the club's upward trajectory under Ten Hag.

"Now the conversation is a little bit different because I think it's clear, the manager is very ambitious and he has been since the minute he stepped in," he said. "I didn't really have doubts in my mind about that."

"I'm hungry to keep improving. When the squad and the staff keep improving and getting used to each other, pushing ourselves to be better than we were the year before, ultimately that's the only way we're going to get back to winning trophies consistently."

Ten Hag has suggested Rashford can score another 30 goals next season so long as "his attitude is right".

And the striker says the manager's message is all about ensuring his focus does not waver and that he does not lose heart in games, even if things are not going his way.

"It's concentration," he said. "If I've got the concentration, sometimes you might not have a chance all game and you get that one chance and you have to take it. "If I can stay focused on that then I think I can definitely score more goals than I did last season, but I have to be in the goalscoring positions to get the chances, that's the main focus."

"It's always the purpose of your career, you want to keep improving. Sometimes it's not always statistically but if you can improve your performance you will take it any way you can."

"Hopefully I can get more goals and do more, but I'll be equally happy if we spread the goals out more and everyone gets five or six more goals and that means we're doing better than last season." United have agreed a £72 million deal with Atalanta for the 20-year-old Denmark striker Rasmus Hojlund but the burden for goals next season is still likely to fall predominantly on Rashford. Consistently hitting high numbers is what separates the likes of Erling

Haaland, Kylian Mbappe and Harry Kane from the rest and Rashford recognises as much.

"You do have to be consistent with it," he added. "For me it's important I get consistent opportunities, it's up to me to take it on, I have to keep getting in the right areas and hopefully the goals keep coming."

Rashford says he is more comfortable playing off the left of the attack but is happy to lead the line. "Different games require different positions for me," he said. "There's not a huge difference in terms of where I am, it's just the starting positions are different, there's different responsibilities."

"I enjoy playing in both positions, probably a little more comfortable on the left-hand side but always coming into that centre-forward and half-space positions. It's not much of a difference, but the main thing for me is I have to be in the areas to score goals."

Rashford admitted it was "not a great moment for Man United fans" to see Manchester City win the treble last season but that they "deserved to win the Champions League" after overcoming United in the FA Cup final.

United finished 14 points behind City last term but Rashford believes they can close the gap.

"I think consistency is the key," he said. "We've shown in one-off games we can beat them, they've shown they can beat us. It's the consistency that sets them apart."

"I think the average points to win the league at the minute is [something like] 96, it's a huge difference to what it was a few years ago, when 86 to 90 points could potentially win you the league. They've shown a new level of consistency and it's up to the rest of us to try and close that gap."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



“

Manuela Vanegas's header in the 97th minute against one of the favourites put Colombia on the cusp of the last 16 and dreaming of winning the World Cup for the first time.

SPORT

Japan hammer Spain as Australia face must-win World Cup clash

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Namibia U-19 cricketers are pictured after earning qualification for the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup, to be played in Sri Lanka, after emerging as champions of the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers that came to a close in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Namibia U-19 cricketers sail through to 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup

By Guardian Reporter

NAMIBIA'S national U-19 cricket team has secured qualification for the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka, having triumphed in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers that ended in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Namibia, nicknamed 'Walvis Bay Salt Eagles', became the third team to punch its ticket for the U-19 World Cup 2024 through the Qualifier route. Last month, New Zealand went through from the East Asia-Pacific Qualifier while Nepal advanced from Asia in February 2023.

The Namibia U-19 cricketers sealed their qualification for the global showpiece after notching a comprehensive 53-run win over Nigeria U-19 in the final day's clash at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

Having won the toss, Namibia U-19 cricketers elected to bat, posting 148 runs for nine wickets in the allotted 50 overs.

Chasing 149 runs to come out victorious was ultimately a tall order for Nigeria U-19 cricketers, given the youngsters were skittled for 95 runs in 37 overs.

Peter-Daniel Bignaut garnered the Player of the Match prize for his scintillating bowling, having ended with five wickets for 23 runs in 10 overs for the Namibia U-19 team.

Namibia U-19 cricketer ended at the top of the week-long qualifiers' table having registered a win in all five duels they took part in and ended with a 1.7490 net run rate - amassing 524 runs and giving away 279 runs.

Kenya U-19 (0.0191 net run rate), Uganda U-19 (0.3431 net run rate), and Sierra Leone U-19 (-0.6977 net run rate) teams ended in second, third, and fourth places respectively, followed by Tanzania U-19 squad (-0.4728 net run rate) which settled for the fifth place and bottom-placed Nigeria U-19 cricketers managing a -0.6069 net run rate.

Seascope Hotel, METL, CTV, Ashton Media, Pepsi, GI Security, Red Dot Distribution, and Reliance Insurance are that supported the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers.

Six teams namely Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda took part in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers which got underway on July 23.

Sixteen teams will be competing at the 2024 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka over 41 matches and 11 teams automatically qualified for the event as the best-placed Full Member nations from the previous event played in 2022.

The remaining five spots have been determined through regional qualification pathways, with one team from each region securing a place at the global event.

Americas and East Asia Pacific have hosted one qualifying event in 2023, with the winner of the showdowns sealing a spot at the 2024 U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup.

The African, Asia, and Europe regions have each gone through a two-step qualification structure. These regions hosted Division 2 Qualifiers in 2022 to determine the teams that will compete in the second and final qualifying event, the Regional Qualifier, with events taking place in 2023.

The winner of the African event will join regional qualifiers from Asia (Nepal), East Asia Pacific (New Zealand), Europe, and America's representatives, as well as the 11 Full Member cricket nations that automatically qualified for the 15th edition that will be played in Sri Lanka.

The Full Member competitors are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka will be hosting a third U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup after riveting events in 2000 and 2006.

Tanzania's U-19 cricketers were on the verge of qualifying for the previous global showpiece which took place in the West Indies in 2022 after dictating the pace in the Africa Division One Qualifiers, which took place in October 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Unfortunately, they were pipped to that lone berth by Uganda on net run rate (NRR) after the latter bundled the former out for 51 runs in 26.5 overs on the final day of the qualifier and proceeded to chase down the target within 11 overs to boost their NRR to 2.128.

Tabora United ropes in Nigerian goalkeeper

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TABORA United has announced the signing of free agent goalkeeper John Bariyima Noble.

The Nigeria international is the first new face added to coach Goran Kopunovic's squad ahead of the 2023/24 season.

He has put pen to paper on a one-year deal, with options for the future also agreed in the contract.

The 30-year-old was most recently with Nigeria's Enyimba FC. The goalkeeper joined Enyimba FC in 2020 and established himself as a mainstay in the team with impressive performances that earned him call-ups to the Nigeria national team, Super Eagles.

Before joining Enyimba FC, Noble built his reputation in Togo, turning out for Toro Sports Academy, Kilsa United FC, Gokana United FC, Cynosure FC, and Kotoko FC in the Togo Premier Division before moving to ASC Kara.

It was with ASC Kara that he won the Togolese championship in 2018 and appeared in the 2018/19 CAF Confederation Cup, where he caught the attention of Enyimba FC scouts with his outstanding performances.

Noble earned his maiden invitation to the Super Eagles' set-up in March for their 2022 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers' encounter against Benin Republic and Lesotho.

His impressive form between the sticks helped Enyimba finish second in the 2020-21 Nigeria Professional Football League season and reach the quarterfinal stage of the CAF Confederation Cup last campaign, where they were knocked out by Egyptian side Pyramids.

Tabora United earned the club's first-ever promotion to the NBC Premier League on the last match day of the 2022/23 Championship League season.

They finished second ahead of Pamba FC to take the remaining automatic promotion ticket.

After earning topflight promotion, they changed the name from Kitayosce FC to Tabora United.

The name change is a step in rebranding the club to reflect its regional base and the financial support from the Tabora Municipal.

Two weeks ago, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) announced Tabora United as one of two teams that had been slapped with a FIFA transfer ban.

The transfer ban was due to outstanding dues to Egyptian coach Ahmed El Faramawy Yousef Mostafa Soliman. Soliman filed a lawsuit at FIFA for breach of contract.

After Soliman won the case, Tabora United was supposed to have paid him within 45 days since the decision was issued, but they did not adhere to the judgment.

The club was banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amount is paid.

However, the ban has since been lifted after Tabora United cleared its debts with Soliman.



John Bariyima Noble.

Yanga confirms 2023/24 CAF Champions League squad



Yanga's players, midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki (L) and forward Chrispin Ngushi, participate in the club's training session at the Avic Town venue, Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for a friendly tie pitting the club against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs which took place in the city on July 22 and culminated with Yanga defeating Kaizer Chiefs 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC's squad for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League campaign has been revealed.

The NBC Premier League champions have been pitted against Djibouti side, ASAS FC, in the First Preliminary round which will be played over two legs this month.

Miguel Gamondi-coached Young Africans SC will get the African campaign underway with an away trip between August 8-20.

There is also the possibility of both games being played in Dar es Salaam due to Djibouti's lack of standard venues for international games.

Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, will host the return fixture a week later as the winner of the tie will play either Sudan's Al Merreikh or Congo's AS Otoho in the Second Preliminary round for a place in the CAF Champions League Group

Stage.

With the CAF registration window set to close yesterday, Yanga's squad for the competition has been confirmed.

The team had a busy transfer window, bringing in defenders Nickson Kibabage from Singida Fountain Gate FC, Gift Freddy from SC Villa (Uganda), as well as right-back Yao Kouassi Attohoula and midfielder Pedoh Pacôme Zouzoua from Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas to bolster the squad.

Other new arrivals are midfielders Jonas Mkude from Simba SC, Mahlatse 'Skudu' Makudubela from Marumo Gallants of South Africa Africa, and Maxi Mpia Nzengeli from AS Maniema Union of DR Congo and forward-Ghana import Hafiz Konkoni.

According to CAF Champions League regulations, all participating squads should contain no more than 30 players who are eligible to play in the domestic competition for the club in the particular season.

If they qualify for the Group Stage, Yanga will be eligible to add three more players to their squad having only submitted an

initial list of 27 players to CAF.

CAF said in a statement: "A national association which has registered less than 30 players in July may after the Second Preliminary round, starting on January 1 until January 31, complete its list up to a maximum of 30 players, provided that the additional list does not exceed seven new players."

Full Squad:

Goalkeepers: Djigui Diarra, Metacha Mnata and Aboutwalib Mshery

Defenders: Kibwana Shomari, Yao Kouassi, Lomalisa Mutambala, Nickson Kibabage, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Dickson Job, Gift Freddy and Ibrahim Hamad.

Midfielders: Khalid Aucho, Zawadi Mauya, Jonas Mkude, Pacome Zouzoua, Salum Abubakar, Mudathir Yahaya, Jesus Moloko, Max Nzengeli, Denis Nkane, Farid Mussa and Mahalatse Makudubela 'Skudu'

Forwards: Kennedy Musonda, Clement Mzize, Hafiz Konkoni, Stephane Aziz Ki, and Chrispin Ngushi

Flexibles by David Chikoko

