

burning issue in Z'bar

**From MASATO
MASATO in Zanzibar**

SEXUAL violence and harassment remains Zanzibar's serious problem amid calls for strategic interventional measures to curb the vice.

According to a monthly report by the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCCGS) released here on Friday, there were 96 cases of violence and harassment last month, a slight decrease from 108 cases reported in the previous month.

Children remain the most vulnerable, accounting for over 90 per cent of the victims, Statistician with OCCGS's Chime, Civil and Gender Unit Ramia

Hassan Pandu, said in her August report.

She said 87 children—69 girls and 18 boys—were abused during the period, with Unguja's Magharibi A and Magharibi B districts topping the list of danger zones for children and women. Magharibi A and Magharibi B recorded 25 and 20 cases, respectively.

Pemba's Mkoani and Mcheweni districts were projected as the sanctuaries of children and women, with each district reporting two cases.

Ms Pandu said rape topped the list of widely committed offences, with 46 cases or 47.9 per cent as sodomy abscond and assault trailed with 15, 15

and 14 cases, respectively.

Debating the report, some stakeholders said children and women remain vulnerable and concerted efforts are inevitable to ensure safety for every citizen. They said even though the report had indicated a slight drop in the offences, the society should never get complacent.

"The cases have dropped but we should never relax; the fight should continue because the rapist has no mark on the face," said In-charge of Criminal Statistics, Police Headquarters, Zanzibar, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ramadhani Himidi Haji.

He warned against fabrication of sexual offence cases by

members of the public in retaliation. "We have come across cases of revenge, people may be in relation for quite some time but once they fall out, the rape charge is fabricated," he shared his experience.

Resident Magistrate Nayla Abdulbant Oweya doubted the statistics, especially on Pemba Island, if they indeed represent the real situation.

"I think we need to find more; if indeed there is no sexual violence in Pemba then we have to borrow their techniques and apply them elsewhere but it could be people are just not reporting due to lack of awareness or fear of stigma," she added.

now have a reliable market for their produce.

The annual coffee production in Ngara District stands at 1,000 tonnes, the amount which is still low, thus calling on farmers to up farm production in order to enable the industry to get raw materials.

Meanwhile, the PM directed Kagera Regional Commissioner Maj Gen Charles Mbuje, to form a special team to review a whole system of selling coffee produce in Ngara District and give advice that would help increase profitability to farmers.

His directive was in the wake of Mr Majalwa's dissatisfaction over sales trends of the produce, as supervised by the coffee farmers' cooperative society in the district.

The cooperative was making huge deductions after selling the crop, something which has been affecting farmers' efficiency.

On his part, Managing Director of the Ngara coffee factory, Abdallah Seif, appealed to the government to give them the permit to buy coffee directly from farmers at a good price.

"For instance, the price in this season is 1300/- per kilogramme, but we will not buy the coffee at price below 1,500/- per kilogramme," he said.

Mr Seif further asked the government to motivate farmers to cultivate more coffee since currently, the industry is

the current production is only a quarter of the factory's capacity.

The Ngara coffee factory, which was established in 2010, has capacity to mill 28,000 tonnes of coffee annually.

In another development, Prime Minister Kassim Majalwa has suspended the Karagwe District Procurement Officer Yesse Kaganda, after expressing discontent over the quality and standard of construction at the Karagwe District Hospital worth 2.5bn/-.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has constantly emphasised on proper management of funds in the execution of quality projects... it's annoying that the floor tiles are worn out before the building has started to be used.

"The Procurement Officer should be suspended and new floor tiles should be placed at his own costs," ordered Mr Majalwa after inspecting the construction of Karagwe District Hospital in Kagera, yesterday.

EAC urged to finalise tariff offers

Continues from page 1

could block the growth of intra-African trade and called for the embracement of the Pan-African mindset to push the AFCFTA agenda.

Mr Karema also called for the involvement of the private sector in the negotiations and elaborated that EABC is committed to harmonising private sector positions, to hasten the execution of the AFCFTA.

The agreement is set to boost Eastern Africa manufactured

exports to the rest of Africa, in particular, textiles and clothing

exports will increase by 100 per cent; heavy manufacturing by 63 per cent, while light manufacturing industry will increase by 61 per cent.

Last week, Tanzania ratified AFCFTA, effectively joining a pact connecting countries with a total gross domestic product of \$3.4 trillion.

Minister for Industry and Trade, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, made the announcement via Twitter, noting the country has

joined a market of 1.3 billion customers.

AFCFTA was first opened for signing in April 2018 but came into application in 2019 after the requisite minimum of 21 of the 55 member states ratified it.

On her part, UNECA Director Manna Keita described the agreement as a game-changer for economic growth, food security, poverty reduction, underemployment, unemployment and decent jobs.

An Economic Affairs Officer with the United Nations

Economic Commission for Africa Dr Rodgers Mwakwaya noted that the Eastern Africa region had recorded a 0.7 per cent growth in 2020, the highest growth in Africa amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among other things, the agreement is set to create 14 million decent new jobs in manufacturing, 52 per cent increase in intra-regional trade, create a 450 billion US dollars boost to continental GDP, increase trade diversification and improve livelihoods of women cross border traders and SMEs.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE

Ngorongoro Safari Lodge Limited hereby announce that it has lost its certificate of incentives from the Tanzania Investment Centre.

The information with regard to the loss of the said certificate has been reported to the police with Ref No KRT/RB/1917/2021.

SQ003656