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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa opens the two-day 4th edition of the Tanzania Energy Congress in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Govt to oversee full participation of local firms in oil, gas industry

By Henry Mwangonde

ENACTMENT of laws in the energy sector meant to facilitate the full participation of Tanzanian companies in the development of the sector's value chain is among the government's priorities, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said yesterday.

He made this affirmation at the start of the two day Tanzania Energy Congress, the fourth in a series which kicked off at the Julius Nyerere

International Convention Centre (JNICC) in the city yesterday.

The government will facilitate acquisition of appropriate technology and ensure that foreign companies in the petroleum sub-sector help to develop the necessary skills, transfer technology and develop local personnel to managerial positions. The government will also establish approaches for local participation in each stage of the value chain so that local businesses

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## Fuel price hike ignites small businesses panic

By Guardian Reporters

FEARS for the stability of small businesses and low income earners making ends meet have risen in the wake of an announcement by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) of new cap prices for various types of fuel products.

A number of those interviewed said the new fuel prices would 'paralyse' purchasing power for small businesses and low income earners, hurt the country's economy and make life harsher.

Dismay was widely expressed, with interviewees feeling that with a litre of fuel at 3,600/- a lot will not remain the same again.

Mwanza-based motorcycle taxis (bodaboda) driver Hamis Maghembe said the new fuel prices will affect them as the fares for carrying passengers remain the same, putting it at 1,000/- per trip.

"With a liter of fuel being sold at 3,600/-, when one goes on four trips his income doesn't exceed 4,000/-. I don't know what will be the

**“We're told that there is money allocated to bail out increasing fuel price in this financial year, but we don't see in this new fuel prices. As people in the streets, we're asking ourselves: where is the 100bn/- subsidy that was allocated every month in the general budget?”**

situation,” he lamented.

Bruno Damas, also at the lakeside city, said that the fuel price increase will make life miserable as fares tend to go up and the cost of living is driven up as well, wishing that the government would intervene.

Increasing fuel prices pushes up food prices in various markets due to transportation costs, he said, urging a relook into the matter by the government “as it is a source of life for people living on the streets.”

A commuter bus driver in the rocky city, Gulam Amri said they were shocked to hear about the fuel price rise, noting that this hike is sharper than was experienced in the past.

“We're told that there is money allocated to bail out increasing fuel price in this financial year, but we don't see in this new fuel prices. As people in the streets, we're asking ourselves: where is the 100bn/- subsidy that was allocated every month in the general budget?” he queried.

Amri suggested the need for the government to come out and explain the situation.

“We know this problem is global, but where is our government on this matter;” he demanded.

Food vendor Hamisa Yahaya said that customers thinned in the first period after the increase in oil prices as the food they were

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## Minister stops NHIF fiat on patient shifts

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH minister Umyy Mwalimu has prohibited the new procedure set out by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) that prevents patients to be treated at more than one hospital within a period of 30 days.

The minister issued the prohibition order yesterday when unveiling the new board of the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute (JKCI) at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) compound in Dar es Salaam yesterday, in the wake of consultations after NHIF introduced the new procedure starting this month.

While affirming the good intentions of the

new procedure, she said the fund acted alone, failing to abide by the procedural requirement of involving stakeholders before a proper decision was made.

Had this procedure been observed chances are that the fund would come up with an alternative strategy in stamping out frauds that occasion losses to the fund, the minister emphasized.

Fund managers sought for ways to control losses due to increased treatment costs, but they did not follow the right channels including getting views from the stakeholders, she specified.

NHIF will thus have to take up the matter again by following the right channels, including

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## Regional project to enhance weather forecasting - TMA

By Henry Mwangonde

A 2.5million euro project known as 'Finkeraat Finland' is being implemented by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) to enhance the capacity of weather forecasting, early warning services and air quality monitoring to improve climate change resilience.

Atupele Mwakibete, the Works and Transport deputy minister said at the launching ceremony yesterday that the project will go a long way into supporting Tanzania's economy which is dependent on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, tourism, livestock rearing, fisheries, agriculture and transport.

The Finland-backed capacity building effort is a regional project aimed at improving the climate resilience of beneficiary countries and mitigate

climate change impacts, he stated.

The project will be implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda through their respective meteorological agencies, likely to benefit well over 200m people via strategic inputs in these sectors, as well in hydroelectric power generation, he said.

“The inherent variability of climate system is more pronounced in the tropics, which poses a great risk to the lives, properties and livelihoods of our people,” he said, pointing out that the most vulnerable communities are at risk, along with the national economy generally.

Variability of weather and climate systems has contributed to extreme weather and climate events like prolonged droughts and flash floods, such that “with the impact of climate change, Tanzania like many other countries witnesses an unprecedented increase of drought and flood events in their frequency and intensity,” he declared.

These events lead to widespread socioeconomic impacts, as World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) data on mortality and economic losses from weather, climate and water extremes of 2020 shows that weather, climate, and water-related hazards accounted for over two million deaths and

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C, front row) follows a meeting on challenges reported as commonly facing members of the business community in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone. He was on an impromptu tour of the area yesterday. He is flanked by National Assembly deputy Speaker and Ilala constituency legislator Mussa Hassan Zungu (R) and Tanzania Revenue Authority internal tax commissioner Herbert Kabyemela. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

