



98m/- for upgrade of Kibaigwa market Page 5

Chadema to hold peaceful demos Page 6

DUWASA in 1.19bn/- deep wells project Page 7

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Stakeholders shaken over foul avocado border haul

“The illegal trade is not only disrupting the value and hard work of producers and exporters of agricultural crops, but also big investments in the sub-sector,”

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SOUL-SEARCHING is being engaged in among key horticultural stakeholders, gasping for breath in the past few days after regulatory authorities seized four lorries carrying 32 metric tonnes of immature avocados valued at 494m/-, being hauled to Tanzania from across the border in Kenya.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, CEO for the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) posted to Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe twice posted on the X social media over the matter, saying three days ago that horticultural players are denounc-

ing recent smuggling of unripe avocado into Tanzania through the Namanga border by unscrupulous exporters.

“As we appreciate the TPHPA for being vigilant, we ask Tanzania and Kenya to ban the culprits behind the illegal practices,” she wrote, elaborating two days later that “as the purchasing season gets underway today in Njombe, on Tanzania’s southern plateaus, prospects for farmers to raise glasses and toast for windfall earnings are high.”

The tweet wished the farmers the best as they start reaping the benefits of their hard work, while on another post on X social media page

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Mobhare Matinyi (gesturing), Director of Information Service in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry doubling as Chief Government Spokesman, pictured at Msomera in Handeni District yesterday. He was making remarks shortly after going around 5,000 houses built at the village with government funding for people having relocated from Ngorongoro District in Arusha Region. Photo: Jennifer Gilla

SPORTS

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TFF president refutes Amrouche’s claims against Morocco federation

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Andre Onana flies 5,000 miles to Afcon ... to be left out of Cameroon squad

Msomera: Govt chides rights violation claims

By Guardian Reporter, Handeni

THE government has rejected all claims of violation of human rights in the gradual relocation of remaining Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) residents to Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

Mobare Matinyi, the chief government spokesman, made this affirmation when talking to journalists at the relocation site yesterday, underlining the government’s good intentions to improve the welfare of the conservation area residents.

The government wishes to ensure that thus

relocated have access to social services as well as enabling them to engage in other economic activities including agriculture and livestock farming, both prohibited in the conserved area.

Speaking ahead of receiving another group of 72 households leaving Ngorongoro today, he said that so far a total of 677 households with 3,822 people and 18,102 livestock have moved to the fast growing Msomera settlement.

“We are progressing well as more people have voluntarily registered to move from the conserved area. There are 525 households that have registered to relocate in the second

phase of the exercise which started on January 12,” he stated, noting that of this number 126 households with 812 people and 2,581 livestock have moved to Msomera, as well as to Shinyanga, Simiyu and other areas.

Upon arrival at their new residential areas, the villagers are provided with free food for 18 months, he said, elaborating that key social services including electricity are available at Msomera.

The government has already constructed a primary and secondary school, a cattle dipping site, dispensary, water dams and milk selling centre, he said, pointing at efforts by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to build roads within the new settlements that stretch to dozens of kilometers.

More households will be relocated in second phase as the government is finalising the

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Special groups canvass for real policy dialogue

There is a need to ensure that policy making organs clearly indicate that ruling on land disputes that fail to consider gender issues will be deemed null and void

By Henry Mwangonde

HUMAN rights groups have suggested the need for collective efforts in upholding the rights of women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs) on land, housing and property entitlement.

My Legacy executive director Fortunata Temu said at a wide ranging dialogue on housing, land and property rights for women, youth and persons with disabilities that the non-governmental organisation ‘My Legacy’ organised, that the stakeholders need to strengthen public awareness on the matter.

“There is a need for addressing issues involving human rights, land ownership and involvement of women, youth and PWDs,” she said, making a contribution on laws related to electoral laws reform.

She said that land ownership laws should be reviewed to ensure that they include the rights of women, youth and people with disabilities, urging that civic groups conduct awareness raising campaigns on entrepreneurship.

The groups need to understand how land occupancy or ownership is a potential source of income, pointing out that due to scarcity of land, this group faces challenges due to cultural norms and traditional beliefs which entitle men to clan land, but not

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Electoral handout habits: Samia cautions aspirants

...demanding that party leaders work for the people and protect national interests, while fostering patriotism

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has asked ruling party cadres including MPs, members of the House of Representatives and councillors to stop issuing hand outs to potential electors.

The president who doubles up as ruling party chairperson made this appeal as the country heads towards civic and general elections this year respectively, using an Isles tour yesterday to inaugurate a training centre for women entrepreneurs in Mahonda area, Un-

guja North Region.

The tour has been described by officials as a CCM tour in the region, visiting the centre intended to address youth unemployment drawbacks in the Isles, built by the party’s women’s wing at a 248m/- total cost.

The president described hand-outs as illegal means of attracting voters during elections as the dons are indistinguishable from bribes, elaborating that hand-outs be directed at the poor during religious festivals as an indication of good will.

“Giving such gifts during campaigns raises questions,” she emphasized, noting that the CCM constitution is clear on the matter as it states that campaigns should involve party members “and nowhere is mentioned that voters be persuaded by gifts,” thus doing so is not acceptable.

Opening the CCM regional branch office, the party leader said the tour was aimed at showing the residents what the party and government has done in the area.

She asked CCM members to exercise solidarity as there is strength in unity, stressing that doing so will make the party strong and retain the country’s leadership as it drives to prosperity.

She said that both governments bear a

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Stakeholders shaken over foul avocado border haul

FROM PAGE 1

TAHA denounces efforts to smuggle a cargo of immature avocado, wondering "who is behind the dirty game?"

Officials of the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) posted at the border seized the consignment being moved by road, apparently to facilitate export to major destinations.

"As we condemn the illegal practice, we also commend the Ministry of Agriculture through the TPHPA for being vigilant," the key stakeholder said in the statement, underlining that had the cargo found its way to collection centres in Tanzania, "chances are that Tanzania's image would have been damaged beyond repair in export markets," explaining that the country would seem to have deliberately been exporting immature butter fruit.

"The confiscation of the smuggled unripe avocado cargo was an extremely critical measure for protecting Tanzania's image," the TAHA statement affirmed, emphasizing that protecting the quality of agricultural crops contributes to increased production, attracting investors, guaranteeing food security and boosting incomes of smallholder farmers and the nation at large.

By contrast, export of premature and poor-quality fruits would certainly taint Tanzania's hard-earned reputation as a hub of excellent agricultural crops, watering down the government's efforts to spur the agricultural sector and the horticultural industry in particular," the CEO asserted.

In background remarks on the avocado export stratagem, she said that the government has of late been working to unlock lucrative markets of China, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), South Africa and Nordic countries for locally grown avocado.

Avocado is among the fastest growing value chains in horticulture with a huge potential for overseas markets, given its advantages of two production seasons compared to Mexico, Colombia and Peru, the largest producers globally.

Avocados ripen from May to September, with a second harvest season from

December to February, while in South America harvests are expected from September to December for Mexico, from September to February in Colombia, and from May to August in Peru. She stated.

Nearly 80 per cent of Tanzanian avocado production relies on rainfall, putting the crop on a competitive edge in the wake of global concern that avocado production, specifically in Mexico, carries enormous and untold environmental costs, the CEO affirmed.

"The illegal trade is not only disrupting the value and hard work of producers and exporters of agricultural crops, but also big investments in the sub-sector," she said, urging swift measures, including convening a meeting of authorities responsible for plant health from Tanzania and Kenya to deliberate on the challenge.

The meeting could devise a robust inspection system to end the unscrupulous trade once and for all, she said, demanding that companies implicated in harvesting and selling immature avocados and other crops be removed from the register.

"They cannot be tolerated, as they threaten the welfare of these countries," she cautioned, advising the Tanzania and Kenya governments to take punitive measures against all traders involved, including revoking their licenses in trading agricultural produce.

The CEO asked farmers and exporters to ensure they meet national and international standards and abide by explicit regulations and standards in accessing regional and international markets.

Companies need to seek correct information from TAHA and the Ministry of Agriculture on production, harvesting and selling procedures for avocados, she stated, expressing intent to work closely with public agencies in taking the horticultural industry to the next level, for the sub-sector to effectively contribute to economic growth.

"TAHA remains committed to working collaboratively with TPHPA and our counterparts in Kenya to curb such malpractices by taking strict actions to ensure immature avocado fruits do not find their way to international markets," the statement added.

Electoral handout habits: Samia cautions aspirants

FROM PAGE 1

great burden to facilitate development for the people, describing situations where people sit back and blame the government. When the Mainland conducts local government elections this year, Zanzibar needs to prepare for the general election in 2025 "so that CCM continues to lead the government."

The president was relieved by the construction of the Chaani Masingini party branch office, praising the regional leadership for those efforts,

saying that the work is a symbol of the party's strength.

"Having a branch is one thing," she said, demanding that party leaders work for the people and protect national interests, while fostering patriotism.

The branch is one of 12 branches in Chaani constituency with a mixed population of fishers, farmers, and entrepreneurs. The branch has 1,900 members, with the building work largely funded by Nadil Abdulatif, the Chaani member of the House.

JKCI specialists out on first foreign operation mission

By Correspondent Christina Mwakanga

NINE medical specialists from the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) have travelled to Zambia to operate on 10 children suffering from heart diseases.

Dr Godwin Sharau, JKCI's paediatric heart surgeon, said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) during a farewell ceremony for the specialists.

He said the procedures were set to begin yesterday evening on 10 children who have congenital heart problems, including holes in the heart.

"We at JKCI started since 2008 and have made more progress in heart surgery compared to our colleagues in Zambia who are just starting and are often helped by foreign experts," he said.

"We hope get good results for the children who were supposed to be operated on when they were three months old, but now they are three

and four years old."

Dr Angela Muhozya, acting executive director of JKCI, said that this was the first time for Tanzania to set up a camp outside the country, adding that it was organised in collaboration with Zambia National Heart Institute.

"We promote ourselves and many partners come to our country and we have got the opportunity go outside the country," she said.

"Amongst African countries, Tanzania is centre of excellence in treatment of heart diseases. The service is very helpful to African countries that cannot afford such services outside the continent."

She said that the surgeries were set to take place for three days.

Tanzania's High Commissioner to Zambia Lt. Gen Edward Mkingule said that history is being made in the country due to fruitful economic diplomacy the country is pursuing.

"This three-day camp in Zambia is a great honour; we bid them farewell here at JNIA on their way to Zambia to cooperate with our neighbour," he said.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso carries a goat he was gifted earlier this week by residents of Lusilile village in Manyoni District as a gesture of appreciation following the launch of a Kintinku-Lusilile water project serving 13 villages. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Special groups canvass for real policy dialogue

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women.

Those excluded from access to land are locked in a cycle of poverty which calls for collaborative efforts to address, she stated, pointing at the Land and Village Land Act of 1999 as vesting all land in the president as trustee for and on behalf of all the citizens.

She said that currently, Tanzania faces numerous challenges related to land ownership especially in rural areas, citing conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, tenure disputes and taking land away from peasants by public agencies.

It is high time for policy and legal reform efforts that pay attention to the voices of the poor, increasingly

demanding inclusion in the policy process with little success, she said.

Bashangazi Selemani, who runs an NGO based at Kipunguni on the southward reaches of the city of Dar es Salaam, said the NGO recommends that the government engage in policy dialogues with stakeholders.

Through public policy debates, differences could be sorted out in local

government policies and practices by taking into consideration expectations of women, youths and those living with disabilities.

There is a need to ensure that policy making organs clearly indicate that ruling on land disputes that fail to consider gender issues will be deemed null and void, the activist stated.



Works ministry permanent secretary Aisha Amour pictured in Dodoma city yesterday responding to observations by members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Infrastructure on progress by the ministry in the implementation of its resolutions with respect to projects meant for execution during the just-ended year. Left is Works deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Msomera: Govt chides rights violation claims

FROM PAGE 1

construction of 1,000 more houses now at various stages, he said, inviting potential investors to set up projects at the village as it now has the relevant infrastructure like electricity, water and roads.

Lilian Magona, a top NCAA official, said the relocation exercise will protect the area from defects arising from increased human activity within the

crater, castigating some foreign media outlets negatively reporting on the ongoing exercise.

All the rights of the people have been considered, she stated, underlining that the government has spent a lot of money in paying compensation as well as transporting their properties.

Apart from being compensated for houses, those relocating to Msomera are provided with 10m/- while those shifting to other places are handed

15m/-, she explained, urging the remaining residents there to list for voluntary relocation to engage in agriculture or set up commercial ventures.

Kassim Nyaki, a conservation officer, said NCAA intends to build 5,000 houses at Msomera, Kilindi in Tanga Region as well as Kitwai in Manyara Region.

Kakesio ward councillor, Johannes Tiamasi one of those who moved to Msomera, said that the weather is good and they can also cultivate food crops

while staying at Ngorongoro restricted them from doing anything outside livestock keeping. People could not walk at night due to the proximity of wild animals, he said.

Nemali Ming'ati, a student at Msomera secondary school, was happy with the learning environment in the new location after the family moved there, saying the school has enough teachers and learning is conducive.



Songwe regional commissioner Dr Francis Michael (L. in cap) speaks at Mlowo market in Mbozi District earlier this week, visibly enraged on coming across solid waste lying uncollected all over the facility. He demanded the disciplining of all those behind the mess for dereliction of duty. Photo: Correspondent Yasin Ibrahim

NGO leaders happy with govt's five-year plan for sustainability

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Dodoma Region have commended the government for formulating the National Strategy for NGOs Sustainability (NSNS) which is the first national framework with that focus.

They argue that the recently introduced document is likely to help NGOs in the country to find different ways of funding and not just rely on a single source: donors.

The NSNS 2022/2023 - 2026/2027 seeks to put in place an enabling environment for NGOs to attain improved institutional capacity for their effective operations and strong and diversified financial base for lasting impact.

Speaking during a capacity building training organized by the Non-Governmental Organization Network in Dodoma (NGONEDO) in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society Organizations (FCS), leaders of the organizations said it is important to understand the government's guidelines.

Edward Mbogo, NGONEDO Coordinator, urged fellow leaders to try and go through the document and understand the government's good intention to empower NGOs in the country.

He said some leaders of NGOs do not understand the requirements and compliance on different issues such as

taxes.

Speaking about the meeting, Mbogo said representatives from over 50 NGOs attended the capacity building meeting for empowerment on various issues. "This is one of a series of meetings aimed at helping regional NGOs understand various issues affecting them" he said, adding that they also use the platform to share experiences.

Jaquiline Mmari from Tanzania Mentors Action said that the five-year strategic plan is important in setting direction for the development of NGOs in Tanzania.

She thanked the organizers of the training for enabling them to go through the guidelines, thus more understanding on how to lead their organizations.

Charles Komba, senior monitoring and evaluation Officer from the Registrar of NGOs office who took the participants through some of the topics, said the document recognizes the broader aspects of NGO sustainability.

As in many other parts of the world, the survival of NGOs in Tanzania is becoming a challenge because of the changes in the external funding environment as well as the local operating environment, and the capacity of NGOs, especially the small resource-constrained NGOs to adequately respond to these changes.

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

ONLY 9,356 out of 21,356 pupils who were selected to join form one this year have reported to their respective secondary schools in Njombe Region, which is equivalent to 43.9 per cent.

Njombe Regional Education Officer Nelasi Mulungu said this yesterday when speaking to Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka during the latter's visit to Lunyanywi and Mpechi secondary schools.

Mulungu said as of January 15, only 9,356 pupils had reported to school while 12,000 had not reported, adding that various measures were taken to trace them.

"We have started to talk to all leaders;

Leaders appeal to parents as only 44pc join Form One

we will involve wards leaders, village chairpersons and division leaders to ensure that all children start form one," said Mulungu.

Brown Kiswaga, Mpechi Secondary School Headmaster said that currently, the school does not have any challenges and appealed to parents to take their children to schools they have been al-

located.

"Parents, please bring your children who have been allocated to this school because there are no challenges at all, he said.

Kuluthum Sadick, Njombe District Executive Director, said no child will be left at home as long as she passed, adding that parents who defy the call to

send their children to school will face stern measures.

"The infrastructure has been improved and the government has allocated a lot of money. I urge parents to bring their children to school; don't stay with them at home because education is the only liberation," she said.

RC Mtaka said there is no reason for

a parent not to take a child to school as the government has eliminated many obstacles.

"I call upon all parents to take their children out of their homes so that all children can come to school. I appeal to parents: if your child is a pupil, this is the time to be in the classroom," he said.

THE REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS ACT (CAP 334)
OFFER OF RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY.
REGISTERED OWNER:
DISMAS LINGINYAN SAMO
P.O. BOX 35
BABATI

LAND: PLOT NO 304, BLOCK 'B' BAGARA HIYOMBONI
IN BABATI TOWN.

APPLICANT: AINESS KARIKIA MUNUO administratrix
of the estate of the late
DISMAS LINGINYAN SAMO
P.O. BOX 136
MBULU

TAKE NOTICE that the ORIGINAL REGISTERED OFFER OF OFFER to the land described above is said to be lost and in view of the above the Authorized Land Officer intends to issue a CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL LETTER OF OFFER in lieu thereof unless cause to the contrary is shown within one month from the date this notice is published in the Official Gazette.
THE ORIGINAL LETTER OF OFFER, if found, should be delivered at the Land Registry, P.O. BOX 383, BABATI.

SAMUEL D. LYIMO
AUTHORIZED LAND OFFICER
BABATI TOWN
15 January, 2024



CRDB BANK
The bank that listens

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES (Re-Advertised)

CRDB Bank Plc is a leading commercial bank in Tanzania. Established in 1996, the Bank has grown and prospered over the years to become the most innovative and trusted Bank in the country. The Bank attained an important milestone when it was listed on the Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange on 17th of June 2009. CRDB Bank Plc owns four subsidiary companies namely CRDB Bank Burundi S.A., CRDB Insurance Company Limited, CRDB Bank Foundation and CRDB Bank DR Congo S.A.

The Board of Directors invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill two positions of Board Members to represent the group shareholders owning shares below 1% and the group of shareholders owning shares above 1% and below 10% who will be elected by all shareholders.

The names of qualified candidates will be presented to the Annual General Meeting for election. (<https://crdb.tiny.us/MEMARTS>)

Knowledge and Education background
In line with Section 5(2) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act (Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2021 candidates for the Board of Directors positions should have expertise and knowledge in the following academia: Banking; or Finance; or Accounting; or Auditing; or Law; or Economics.

Skills and Expertise
Taking into account the current composition of the Board, developments in technology and growth in digital banking the following skills are needed: Data science, Cyber Security, Credit, Law, Accounting, Information Technology, Insurance, Strategic Communication, Investment and Capital ventures.

Roles of Board of Directors

- Determine the Bank's vision, mission and values aimed at providing continuity and legal existence of the Bank.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the Bank's strategy to achieve the vision and mission and ensure the Bank survives and thrives
- Govern the Bank by broad policies and objectives, formulated and agreed with Managing Director. Such policies and objectives shall aim at ensuring that:
 - procedures and practices are in place to protect the Bank's Assets and reputation;
 - the Bank complies with all relevant laws, regulations and codes of best practices; and
 - the technology and systems used in the Bank are adequate to properly run the Bank for it to compete through efficient use of its assets, processes and human resources.
- Monitor risk identification and its management so as to enhance shareholder value in the long run.
- Select and appoint the Managing Director to whom the responsibility of managing the Bank shall be delegated. The Directors shall review and evaluate the Managing Director's performance regularly.

Mode of Application

- Any person who wishes to be elected as Board member must submit an application letter, curriculum vitae, certified copies of relevant academic and professional certificates and awards, two passport size photographs, certified copies of the last page of their passports, and letters of recommendation from 3 references and declaration of indebtedness to banks.
- Notification of receipt of application and other details will be sent to all applicants upon receipt of the applications. Successful candidate will serve for a term of 3 years which is eligible for renewal. Kindly note that the deadline for submission of the applications is **4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th January, 2024. CRDB strongly encourages women to apply**

The contact for communication is:
The Secretary
CRDB Bank Plc Headquarters
Plot No 25 and 26 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road & Plot No. 21 Barack Obama Road
P. O. Box 268, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel. no. 022 - 2219566
E-mail - company.secretary@crdbbank.co.tz

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD


J. B. Rugambo
COMPANY SECRETARY
9th January, 2024

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| Doc ID: | HR.Temp.005 |
| Rev #: | 1 |

VACANCY - GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS MANAGER

The Feed the Future Private Sector Strengthening Activity project (PSSA) is a four year activity implemented in the country's SAGCOT regions (Iringa, Mbeya, and Zanzibar), with a strategic focus in Dodoma. PSSA collaborates with private sector associations, youth-led and focused institutions, and national and local government authorities to enhance the overall entrepreneurial ecosystem in Tanzania. PSSA will form partnerships with associations and catalyze interventions to co-create market-based and locally owned solutions, leading to increased economic and employment opportunities for youth, particularly within agricultural market systems. PSSA is implemented by Tetra Tech International Development (www.tetratech.com/intdev), and is currently accepting expressions of interest for the position of Grants and Subcontracts Manager (Dar es Salaam Based)

The position requires fluency in English and Kiswahili, and is restricted to Tanzanian nationals. Women, youth and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Responsibilities and qualifications for this position are listed at the web address below:

Apply on-line for International Careers at:
<https://tetratech.referrals.selectminds.com/intdev/jobs/grants-and-subcontracts-manager-for-tanzania-private-sector-strengthening-activity-39421>

Tetra Tech is a leading provider of consulting, engineering, and technical services worldwide. Our reputation rests on the technical expertise and dedication of our employees - 27,000 people working together across disciplines and time zones to provide smart, sustainable solutions for challenging projects. We are proud to be home to leading technical experts in water, environment, infrastructure, resource management, energy, and international development. Tetra Tech combines the resources of a global, multibillion dollar company with local, client-focused delivery in over 550 locations around the world. We offer competitive compensation and benefits and are searching for innovative people to join our teams. We are an equal opportunity employer: **EOE AA/M/F/Vets/Disability.**

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PAN AFRICAN POST DAY – 18 JANUARY 2024



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE NAPE MOSES NNAUYE (MP.) THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, ON THE OCCASION OF 44TH PAN AFRICAN POST DAY ON 18TH JANUARY 2024

THEME: Establishing an Efficient Customer Management System



Hon. Nape Moses Nnauye (MP.)

In commemorating its 44th anniversary, the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) stands as a focal point for celebration within the postal sector, a tradition observed annually in Africa.

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, to express sincere gratitude and extend heartfelt congratulations to the Pan

African Postal Union (PAPU) for reaching this significant milestone. This commendation is particularly noteworthy in the context of the prevailing digital age, which has brought about transformative changes in Africa's economies.

PAPU's enduring commitment has been instrumental in fostering regional connectivity, elevating communication standards, and contributing significantly to the advancement of postal services throughout the African continent. The union's steadfast dedication to its mission is duly acknowledged and appreciated.

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of PAPU, we recognize its pivotal role in navigating the evolving landscape of postal services and adapting to the demands of the digital era. May this anniversary serve as a testament to the Union's enduring impact and its continued commitment to excellence in the postal sector across Africa.

Today, we celebrate not only the achievements of the past but also the potential for continued growth and the prospective future innovations. PAPU has been instrumental in standardizing practices, sharing best practices, and addressing common challenges facing the postal sector in African countries. These PAPU collaborative

efforts have not only strengthened the postal sector but also contributed to the cross-border goals of regional integration and economic development.

This year's thematic focus, "Establishing an Efficient Customer Management System," underscores a dedicated effort within the Pan African Postal Union to elevate customer service and satisfaction. The deliberate selection of this theme signifies a commitment to fostering an environment where streamlined customer interactions result in enhanced communication, well-defined policies and regulations, effective resolution of inquiries and concerns, ultimately culminating in a positive and enriching experience for users of postal services.

Efficiency and Effectiveness in our Customer Management Systems are not just ambitions but necessities for the growth and relevance of our postal sector. In a world where communication is evolving rapidly, our commitment to embracing innovation is key to ensuring that, as PAPU member countries, we are remaining at the forefront in delivering outstanding postal services.

The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to establishing nationwide efficient, reliable, and

cost-effective postal services. The institutional framework includes the Government, Regulator, Postal operators, and Customers. The "National Postal Policy 2003" is currently undergoing a review.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) regulates and monitors the development of communication sector in which the postal sector is part of. On the other hand, the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) and other private courier operators have the obligation to provide postal services within and outside the country through National and International postal network that give the customers a broader choice to postal services.

Moreover, in modernized and digitally transformed Postal Sector, Tanzania has ICT and Postal policies, legal and regulatory frameworks that intend to promote Postal Services. In establishing an efficient Customer Management System, the TPC is using the track and trace system for parcels, registered items, EMS and small packets at domestic and international levels. Furthermore, TPC uses the dot-post (.post) domain of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at the Posta e-shop which is a secured and trusted internet space in the digital economy.

In addition, the theme prompts us that, the Postal

Sector, has become the backbone of communication and trade, and is undergoing a remarkable digital transformation which ensures efficient and effective customer management. Today, it is not just about physical letters and parcels but also about the exchange of digital information in the Postal Sector, payment services, e-government, e-health, e-agriculture, e-commerce, and nurturing connections. In this dynamic situation, trust and alliance or partnership have become the cornerstones of our shared future.

As we celebrate the 44th year of PAPU, Tanzania is recognizing the significance of an effective customer management system for enhancing centralized customer data, Customer Retention, Customer Satisfaction, streamline customer interactions, enhanced Communication, Data-driven decision-making, sector growth and efficiency, marketing effectiveness and brand reputation.

Pan African Postal Union Day 2024 serves as a manifestation of our shared commitment to a future where postal services exceed conventional expectations. Guided by this year's theme, we embark on a path towards unprecedented efficiency, elevated customer satisfaction, and a lasting legacy that

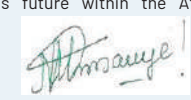
reverberates throughout our diverse Union. It is essential to emphasize that the future trajectory of the Postal sector hinges on its capacity to innovate within the postal business domain, positioning itself as a proficient and top-tier provider of communication solutions.

On behalf of Government, I pledge our continued support in the quest revitalizing a modernized and reliable postal sector in Tanzania.

Together, we shape a future where every parcel, every letter, and every interaction tells a story of excellence and progress.

Congratulations once again on this momentous occasion, and may the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) continue to thrive and evolve in the service of advancing postal services on the continent.

Wishing you successful commemorations on Pan African Postal Day and anticipating a dynamic and prosperous future within the African Postal Sector.


Nape Moses Nnauye
Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TCRA)



STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TCRA) DR. JABIRI K. BAKARI DURING COMMEMORATION OF 44TH PAN AFRICAN POST DAY ON 18TH JANUARY 2024

THEME: "Establishing an Efficient Customer Management System"



TCRA Director General, Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari

Today, the United Republic of Tanzania is joining the postal fraternity in Africa to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Day. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Postal sector in Africa and Pan African Postal Union Secretariat, based in Arusha, Tanzania, on this special anniversary.

As we commemorate the PAPU Day, it's a moment to reflect on our dedication to excellence and innovation. This marks a pivotal moment for the postal regulator to continue to champion and foster efficiency and excellence in postal operations by ensuring there is conducive regulatory environment.

This year theme is "Establishing an efficient Customer Management System". This theme emphasizes the importance of implementing a streamlined and effective system for managing customer interactions within the postal sector. The target is to ensure that, the Postal operators' systems meet the needs of their customers, contribute to improved customer relationships in the country and with other African countries facilitate cross border business. It is crucial that the operators to meet

the diverse needs of users and adapting to the changing landscape of the postal communication network.

Furthermore, recognizing that technological innovation is ongoing and advancing at an increasingly faster rate in all sectors including postal in the country, some postal industry innovations may not currently have practical applications or may need time to mature while others hold tremendous potential to disrupt the status quo to the benefit of businesses and consumers alike, now or in the near-term future. Continuing the effort to mitigate the challenges that still affect the Postal Service's ability to implement technologies will be key to the achievement of the innovation goals. Therefore, serving the customers better through adoption of ICT innovations which permeate through a social system that positively affects customer satisfaction and support customer service excellence through delivering service excellence to the customer through improving service environment, service delivery and the processes.

TCRA in collaboration with other Key sector players are working towards making Tanzania a hub for e-commerce in the Eastern and Central African regions. Under the one-stop service centers as the envisaged for transforming the post offices throughout Tanzania to provide

public services. During this year celebration marking 44th years of PAPU, Tanzania is confident that the exchange of goods and services across borders and their delivery through national Postal sector networks will be a reality within the period envisaged by the African Union's resolution on the Digital Transformation for Africa (2020-2030).

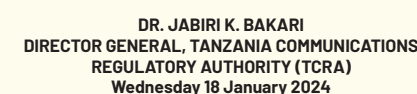
The Postal sector remains a very important sector for the social-economic development of our nation. As we, all know that the development of ICT has transformed the traditional postal business and created an avenue for the new ICT based postal services. Introduction of the e-commerce and other electronic services was positively received by the postal operators worldwide, and that the postal network is being used as a reliable means of delivery of goods ordered through the e-commerce.

As part of strategy of ensuring that customers are getting affordable and reliable quality of postal service, TCRA has licensed one Designated Postal Operator and a total number of 116 private Courier operators in five (5) categories namely: International Courier Operator - 6, East Africa Courier Operator - 1, Domestic Courier Operator - 45, Intra-city Courier Operator - 14, and Inter-city Courier Operator - 50 of December, 2023.

These licensees and others are using the online services through TANZANITE Portal for several regulatory services.

As I conclude my statement, I would like to thank Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania for her unwavering support in the construction and Commissioning of the PAPU headquarters (PAPU TOWER) on 2nd September, 2023 which will act as catalyst in moving the postal sector forward and fostering greater collaboration with the world Postal Stakeholders through having a center of excellence and create more job opportunities for Tanzanians.

Once again, on behalf of the TCRA Board, Management and Staff I wish all of you a very Happy New Year 2024 as we commemorate the 44th anniversary of PAPU.


DR. JABIRI K. BAKARI
DIRECTOR GENERAL, TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TCRA)
Wednesday 18 January 2024

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PAPU SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE PAN AFRICAN POST DAY COMMEMORATIONS, 18TH JANUARY 2024

THEME: ESTABLISHING AN EFFICIENT CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Dear Excellencies, esteemed Postal Leaders, our valued Partners, fellow Africa Postal Member Members, I bring warm compliments of the New Season!

As the New Year, 2024 unfolds, we are united in commemorating the Pan-African Post Day on 18 January 2024, fully embracing the rich heritage and the invaluable contributions of postal services to our continent's history and development progress. This day holds a true Pan African profound significance, honouring the legacy of connectivity, innovation, customer satisfaction and socio-economic development that the postal services have fostered throughout Africa.

The Pan-African Post Day is commemorated annually to mark and celebrate the founding of PAPU, an African Union (AU) specialized agency for the development of the Postal Sector in Africa as was resolved by the Constitutive Plenipotentiary Conference of Member States of the then Organization of African Union (OAU) on 18th January 1980 in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania. The observance of the Pan-African Post Day echoes the enduring spirit of collaboration and resilience embedded within the postal networks that have facilitated communication, commerce, and cultural exchanges across our diverse lands for

generations. It is a celebration of the crucial role played by postal services in shaping our societies, empowering businesses, and bridging the geographical gaps that once hindered our connectivity.

The theme for the year 2024 Commemorations, "Establishing an Efficient Customer Management System," resonates well with the ongoing Africa Posts' commitment to prioritize digitalization and customer-centric solutions within their postal services. This theme is also in tandem with the reigning World Post Day Theme "Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future" which places the customer in the focus for all the postal activities.

Recognizing the significance of an effective customer management system is pivotal in enhancing customer satisfaction, fostering trust, and fortifying the credibility of our postal operations with technological advancements, innovation, and promoting digital inclusivity. This is important for the transformation and modernization of postal services as it warrants that the Post remains efficient and relevant in an evolving world. It is evident that, at the heart of every efficient postal service lies a robust mechanism that addresses customer expectations with expediency, fairness, and transparency.



Dr. Chifundo Chief Moyo - PAPU SG.

Establishing an efficient customer management system is not merely an administrative endeavour but a testament to our zeal and dedication to providing seamless experiences to our customers and promptly redressing their concerns.

The modern postal environment offers a wide range of technology-based, digital services like e-commerce, e-Government services, digital financial services, and trackable deliveries. These provide a new setting for addressing customer needs by the Postal Players. The adoption of an efficient customer

interface and management system by Designated Operators aligns with the Pan African Postal Union's collective vision of modernizing and adjusting to the evolving needs of our customers during this increasingly digitalizing age. The Designated Operators can now expedite the resolution of customer queries, enhance service transparency, and empower customers with greater control over their postal experiences by harnessing innovative solutions and digital tools.

Whilst reflecting on this occasion, the General Secretariat urges all Postal Regulators in Africa to reaffirm their commitment to leveraging postal services as a catalyst for sustainable, economic growth and development as well as achieving social cohesion across the African continent. The Regulatory Authorities ought to safeguard the postal networks so that the sector continues to serve as a cornerstone for inclusivity, leaving no community and place behind in its collective journey towards postal progress and prosperity.

The Customer is King adage should inspire our Postal Actors and drive the initiative of nurturing customer relationships, driving operational excellence and instilling confidence in our services. The Post serves as a cornerstone for developing and fostering a culture of accountability and continuous

improvement within our postal networks. In the past year the Pan-African Post Day, in liaison with its partners, held several events which were directed at ensuring that postal services remain customer friendly including the inaugural African Postal Philatelic Conference in Cape Town, South Africa; the African Postal Regulators' Conference, in Dakar, Senegal; and the E-Commerce ORE and Financial Remittances Workshops held in Abuja Nigeria.

As we commemorate the Pan African Post Day, let us re-dedicate ourselves to fostering partnerships, embracing innovation, and investing in the modernization of postal services in order to prioritize the establishment of efficient customer relationship management systems. Let us collaborate, share best practices, and invest in training and technology to ensure that our customers receive responsive and reliable services they rightfully deserve. By so doing, we can harness the full potential of this integral sector, creating a more connected, prosperous and inclusive Africa for generations to come in fulfillment of the African Union Vision 2063 that aims at "Creating the Africa we want".

Furthermore, this Pan-African Post Day commemoration serves as an excellent occasion to express our gratitude to the dedicated postal workers across Africa who tirelessly serve our

communities and citizens. Their unwavering commitment and dedication, especially during challenging times, exemplifies the ethos of service commitment to our citizens, and embodies the resilience of the African spirit that the whole world is accustomed to.

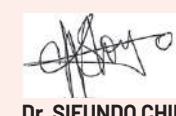
On this auspicious occasion of Pan-African Post Day, let us celebrate the postal legacies created, embrace the available market opportunities, and recommit ourselves to strengthening postal connectivity for a sustainable and interconnected future across our beloved continent.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the progress of postal services across Africa.

Together let us Make the Post Great Again and keep our Customers happy!

Long live Africa!

Long live Africa's Postal fraternity!


DR. SIFUNDO CHIEF MOYO

FROM THE DESK OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL IN COMMEMORATING THE PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION ANNIVERSARY 18TH JANUARY, 2024.

THEME: ESTABLISHING AN EFFICIENT CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Maharage A. Chande-PMG

On January 18 each year, Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) joins other African postal players and stakeholders to commemorate the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Anniversary, the regional Union with its Headquarters in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Established on the 18th January 1980 by the Constitutive Plenipotentiary Conference of Member States of the then Organization of African Union (OAU).

PAPU is the African Postal Organization that coordinates the development of postal services through Designated Postal Operators in Africa. The theme for this year Anniversary is "Establishing an Efficient Customer Management System" resonates deeply, emphasizing the pivotal roles

of customer satisfaction, trust, and technological advancement in our evolving postal landscape, taking cognizance of the role of the post in the social economic development of the country.

The Pan African Postal Union Day serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring spirit of collaboration and resilience that has characterized postal networks, facilitating communication, commerce, and cultural exchanges across our diverse lands for generations.

This day is not just about celebrating past achievements but also about acknowledging the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us as a sector. The theme for 2024, "Establishing an

Efficient Customer Management System," aligns seamlessly with our commitment at Tanzania Posts Corporation and as a country at large. Recognizing that a strong customer management system is essential for enhancing satisfaction and credibility, especially in the era of rapid technological advancement. As we are building the digital Tanzania, we are committed to serve the customer without compromise.

In the spirit of collaboration promoted by the Pan African Postal Union, we renew our dedication to fostering partnerships, embracing innovation, and investing hugely in the modernization of our services. The modern postal environment presents numerous opportunities from

e-commerce as well as digital financial services, and we are steadfast in leveraging these avenues to enhance the overall customer experience.

Navigating the dynamic landscape of the postal industry at the Tanzania Post Corporation, every member of our esteemed workforce plays a pivotal role in propelling our organization to new heights. We all understand that our customers are the lifeblood steam of our postal businesses, and the satisfaction of customers' needs is paramount, we therefore prioritizing customer-centricity and exceeding expectations to foster loyalty and positive experiences. We have established the posta e-shop (<https://www.postashoptz.post/>) and e philately (<https://stamps.tz.post/>) where our valued customers can easily access our online services without any hassle.

Tanzania Posts Corporation family understands that the world is revolving and so must revolve accordingly while embracing technological advancements by digitizing all operations processes for speedy service provision by not only streamline processes but also stay ahead of

the curve in meeting the demands of our tech-savvy customer base.

In this context, while commemorating postal services development in Africa, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated postal workers across Africa, including our own team at Tanzania Posts Corporation for their unwavering commitment, especially in the pace of challenges, embodies the ethos of service delivery, commitment and resilience that defines not only the African postal team spirit but also global perspectives.

As we celebrating the PAPU Day today, TPC would like to urge and encourage our esteemed customers to continue enjoying easily accessible and affordable digitized services in meeting their needs either within the United Republic of Tanzania or outside Tanzania.

I wish you all a well deserved PAPU day celebrations!

Maharage A. Chande
Postmaster General



David Ndibalema, Standards Development director with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday opening a meeting for roofing sheet manufacturing stakeholders from across Tanzania. From-L: TBS quality control officer Nyabuchwenza Methuselaha, acting director (Monitoring & Compliance with the Law) Dr Candida Shirima, Eastern Zone acting manager Francis Mapunda and Imports director Gervas Kaisi. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TBS: Quality of construction materials key for safety and durability of houses

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has called on manufacturers of roofing materials and steel rolling to ensure quality of their products to avoid possible harm caused by substandard products.

David Ndibalema, TBS director of standards development made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a training of stakeholders of roofing materials.

He said that roofing materials and steel are used in construction activities, meaning their quality should be high so that the buildings are safe and durable.

Ndibalema said the organization's mission is to build a strong, sustainable and competitive economy by ensuring that products produced locally and those imported into the country meet the set standards.

He said it is the responsibility of TBS to continue to emphasize the management of standards and control quality of products to ensure that all products in the Tanzanian markets meet quality criteria at all times.

The manager said the purpose of calling the special meeting was to promote understanding of stakeholders of roofing materials and steel because of the importance of the products in safety and durability of buildings.

He said that TBS experts have been providing education on the requirements of standards of roofing materials and steel products that have

been harmonized in the East African Community and adopted at the national and international level.

He added that the experts have been providing education on importation procedures and inspection of cargo of roofing materials and steel imported from abroad so that the same meet the required standards.

"This step will enable us to have a better and more professional understanding on the production, import and distribution of roofing materials and steel products in the country and TBS provides this training so that you adhere to the standards at all times," he said.

Dr Candida Shirima, the bureau's acting director of monitoring and legal compliance said TBS has a programme of meeting stakeholders with the aim of reminding them about the requirements of the law, regulations and standards.

She said the main goal is to continue ensuring that the products manufactured in the country and those imported meet the requirements of acceptable standards nationally and internationally.

"TBS gives manufacturers and distributors an opportunity to give their opinions if there are any challenges they face," she said.

He said that roofing materials and steel are used in construction activities, meaning their quality should be high so that the buildings are safe and durable

Council spends 98m/- on upgrade of Kibaigwa grain market

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

KONGWA District Council has started improving Kibaigwa International Grain Market, including building of 14 new stalls to increase its capacity and income generation.

Dr Omary Nkulo, Kongwa District

Executive Director made the statement yesterday when speaking to journalists about the improvement of the market used by cereal traders in the country and those from neighbouring countries.

He said they have started the construction of stalls around the

market with the aim of increasing income and strengthening the fence of the market which previously was used by criminals to jump and steal from the market.

Nkulo said that the construction of stalls will cost 98m/- and the cost of one stall is 7m/-, adding that for the

first phase they have started with the construction of 10 stalls which are expected to be completed in March this year.

He noted that the market has been one of the main sources of income in the council where last year they collected 900m/-.

"This money comes from levies on produce that enter the market as well as rents for warehouses in the market; the goal of building these stalls is to provide services to the produce traders who use the international market," he said.

He said that in order to strengthen

the market, they hope to buy a large new modern digital scale because the existing one is outdated as it was bought in 2004 and it is currently not available in the market.

The director mentioned that the cost of the digital scale is estimated to be 90m/-.

World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. TZA24EOI0010

Pre-Qualification of Suppliers for Goods and Services (2024-2025)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP Tanzania procures various goods and services for its operations.

WFP hereby invites qualified and competent suppliers duly registered in Tanzania with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to supply goods and services to express their interest not later than **7 February 2024** by emailing to Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org, Subject: **EOI- TZA24EOI001: Pre-Qualification of suppliers for Goods and Services (2024-2025)**

The main categories of goods and services of interest are:

| Categories under Provision of Services | Categories under Supply of Goods |
|---|--|
| 1. Construction services including Civil works, electrical and mechanical works | 1. Supply and Maintenance of Drones |
| 2. Drilling of Boreholes | 2. Supply and distribution of Fuel |
| 3. Supply and installation of Solar systems | 3. Supply of office furniture, fittings and fixtures |
| 4. Supply, Installation, testing, and commissioning of Irrigation systems | 4. Supply of branded/visibility items |
| 5. Provision of Photography, Videography, and Graphic design services | 5. Supply of warehouse equipment, fixtures, tools, and accessories (stitching machines, digital measuring devices, weighing scales, plastic sheets, pallets, fumigation sheets, etc) |
| 6. Provision of Professional Translation services | 6. Supply of Information technology and communication equipment and accessories (laptops, printers, UPS, scanners, cameras, IT accessories etc) |
| 7. Printing Services of assorted materials, visibility materials | 7. Supply of Electrical Appliances and accessories |
| 8. Consultancy services for project/programme research, Assessments, monitoring, and evaluation | |
| 9. Consultancy services for Human resources capacity building/training services | |
| 10. Events management services (e.g professional master of ceremony (MC), venue management | |
| 11. Provision of Catering services in Zanzibar | |

WFP shall send to all applicants who express their interest an Expression of interest letter that details the i) purpose of the EOI; ii) how to prepare and submit your EOI and iii) the EOI Form. To participate in the prequalification exercise, interested applicants must complete and return to the email address: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org all duly completed forms and supporting documents by 14 February 2024, 12 hours East Africa time.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

"WFP encourages suppliers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive supplier is a supplier that makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Suppliers can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as, for instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive."

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.

WFP Tanzania

World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. TZA24EOI002

Pre-Qualification of Suppliers for Food Commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) 2024-2025 as per East African Standards

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP Tanzania procures various food commodities for its operations.

WFP hereby invites qualified and competent suppliers duly registered in Tanzania with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to supply Food commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) to express their interest not later than **7 February 2024** by emailing to Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org, Subject: **(EOI) No. TZA24EOI002 Pre-Qualification of suppliers for Food commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) 2024- 2025 as per East African Standards**

WFP shall send to all applicants who express their interest an Expression of interest letter that details the i) purpose of the EOI; ii) how to prepare and submit your EOI and iii) the Supplier profile form. To participate in the prequalification exercise, interested applicants must complete and return to the email address: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org all duly completed supplier profile forms and supporting documents by 14 February 2024, 12hrs East Africa Time.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org

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WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.

WFP Tanzania

Chadema unwavering on marches to demand withdrawal of election bills from Parliament

By Carlos Banda

THE opposition Chadema is scheduled to hold peaceful demonstrations to demand removal of elections and political parties bills from Parliament and instead the government focus on emergency plan to address inflation and high cost of living.

This was stated yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the party's Permanent Secretary John Mnyika during a press conference where he said that the party has already notified police on the planned demos.

Mnyika said that on January 24th, 2024 demonstrators are scheduled to move from Mbezi Mwisho and Buruguni and finally meet at the United Nations offices in Dar es Salaam where they expect to be received by international organizations.

He explained that the notice has been delivered to commanders of the following police districts: Gogoni, Buguruni, Oysterbay, Mburahati and Msimbazi where the protests are scheduled to pass through.

"The main agenda of the demonstration is to push the government to listen to the voices of the people who demand removal of elections and political parties bills so that a new process commences after the amendment of the Constitution of 1977. We also want the government to create an emergency plan to address the rise in cost of living and inflation," he said.

"The notice letter has been written today January 17th, 2024 and submitted to commanders of the police districts where the protests will pass through. The protests will commence at 09am from Buguruni and Mbezi Mwisho routes and stop at the UN offices along Sam Nujoma Road at 14pm on Wednesday, January 24th.

The police commanders have not responded to the notice. However, in my position as chief executive of this party, the protests were planned by the party's central committee and were declared by the party's national chairman. Therefore, the demonstration will go on as planned."

Mnyika called upon members of the public to show up in large numbers and participate in the peaceful demonstrations.

He said that the reason for converging at the United Nations head office in the city is due to the fact that Tanzania has signed and agreed to execute various conventions that provide that

the government should listen to the people and respect their pinions as well as commitment to ensure free and fair elections.

"The United Nations being an international family is a place of refuge. Tanzania consented to various agreements which require citizens to have good life, to be listened to, for the government to respect public authority and the presence of free and fair elections. Therefore, the UN is a safe haven to go to following the inaction of the leaders on issues that need to be heard," said Mnyika.

"In 2022, the UN dispatched a United Nations Needs Assessment Mission to come and assess the elections in collaboration with Tanzania to enable the nation to practice free, fair and lawful elections. We acknowledge the UN delivered a report to the government and made several recommendations. However, by looking at the existing bills in the parliament, our national chairman explained on 13th January that the current bills have not addressed fundamental problems that were highlighted by the public, CHADEMA, the taskforce, international election observers or any other commission, including the Warioba Commission."



he notice letter has been written today January 17th, 2024 and submitted to commanders of the police districts where the protests will pass through. The protests will commence at 09am from Buguruni and Mbezi Mwisho routes and stop at the UN offices along Sam Nujoma Road at 14pm on Wednesday, January 24th

Watumishi Housing seeks new investors in real estate

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

WATUMISHI Housing Investments (WHI) plans to implement a number of strategies in line with its Collective Investments Scheme (CIS) Faida Fund.

Among others, this year's vision is to upscale the fund's size to 30bn/- as well as push the total number of investors beyond the current 3,524.

Within a few years since its inception, the open-ended scheme run by the country's state-owned fund manager of public servants housing scheme says it is the investment destination of choice in real estate.

Speaking in an interview with The Guardian, yesterday, WHI head of investment unit Paskali Massawe said the plan incorporates effective marketing strategies to expand the fund's outreach.

"Faida Fund will soon launch an extensive marketing campaign through both digital and traditional channels with the aim of reaching a wider audience and attracting new investors into the fold, pushing the total number of investors beyond the current 3524," he unveiled.

Massawe said that plans are also afoot to explore new avenues for investment in the fund.

"This includes identifying emerging sectors and markets with growth potential while maintaining a vigilant approach to risk management," he

said. To help attract more potential investors, he said that Faida Fund will roll out an extensive investor education programme through seminars to ensure informed decision-making among current and prospective investors.

"The other intervention is to further strengthen partnerships and collaborations within the financial sector," he said. "The fund seeks to leverage on collective resources and expertise for mutual benefit by fostering a collaborative ecosystem."



Faida Fund will soon launch an extensive marketing campaign through both digital and traditional channels with the aim of reaching a wider audience and attracting new investors into the fold, pushing the total number of investors beyond the current 3524



Akili Platform Tanzania director Roghat Robert (2nd-R, foreground) gives hints on environmental protection shortly before leading a tree planting drive at Kariakoo Secondary School in Tabora municipality on Tuesday. He is with (from-L) the school's headmaster, Leonard Nyasebwa; the headmaster's second-in-command, Petronila Babu; and Mali Hai Club supervisor Zephaniah Zakaria. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A TEAM of officials from Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has started an intensive countrywide investment campaign across the country to motivate Tanzanians to take advantage of various investment opportunities instead of leaving the same to foreigners.

The main message of the campaign is that investment opportunities are meant for Tanzanians as well to debunk the thinking that investment only concerns foreigners.

Speaking to this newspaper in a telephone interview from Manyara Region yesterday, TIC Internal Investment Promotion Manager Felix John said that in the first phase they

TIC on countrywide internal investment promotion drive

intend to reach 18 regions.

He said that so far they have already visited Mwanza, Singida, Arusha, Manyara, Geita, Singida and Tabora and today they expect to start the campaign in Kilimanjaro which will be followed by Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe and Mtwara

"We visited various hotels whose owners expressed interest in registering the same with TIC after we explained to them other investment

opportunities they can grab and extend their businesses," he said.

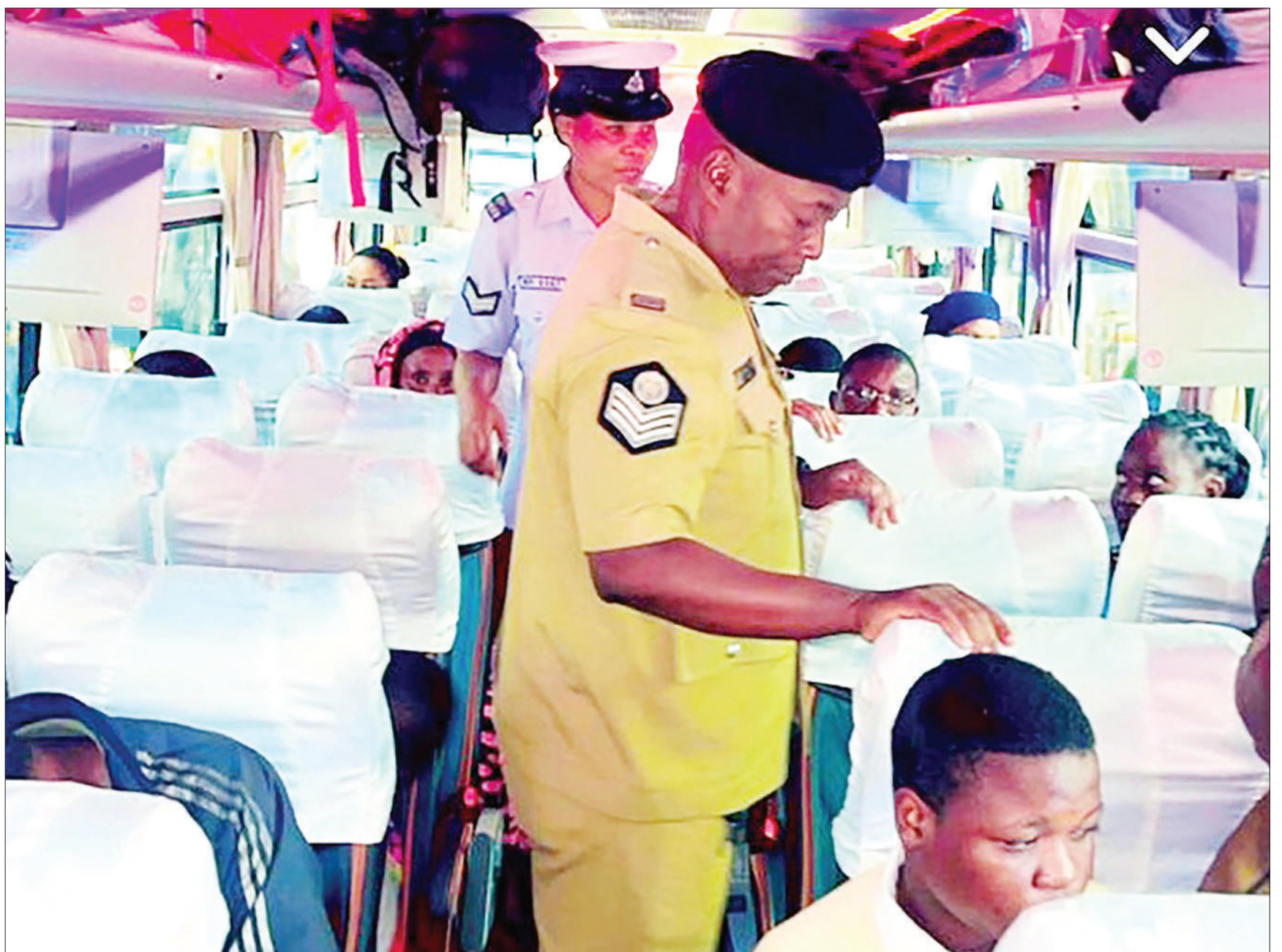
"We also visited the Minjingu fertilizer factory in Manyara Region which is 80 percent owned by Tanzanians and sells fertilizers locally and abroad," he said.

John said the factory is currently undergoing expansion so that it can increase production to meet the demand of fertilizer in the country and its foreign markets.

He said the changes in the

Investment Law of 2022 give tax incentives to investors who expand their operations, adding that many have already started to use the opportunity in various regions.

Recently, Minister of State in the President Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo told reporters that the national campaign to encourage domestic investment was to start in January and is expected to conclude in September this year.



Traffic police officers pictured at Arusha city bus stand yesterday conducting a pre-departure sensitisation 'lecture' to would-be passengers on road safety and the rights and obligations of road users. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister directs water boards to cut connection costs

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

WATER Minister Jumaa Aweso has instructed directors in the ministry and water boards across the country to review the cost of service connection downward so that more Tanzanians get the precious liquid.

Aweso made the directive on Tuesday when addressing Lusilile villagers in Manyoni District, Singida Region after visiting and inspecting the progress of construction of the

Kintinku-Lusilile water project.

Aweso said that the authorities through the water boards should review the costs as complaints have started to emerge from some citizens.

He said that the authorities should also ensure the issue of community involvement and leaders in the areas where projects are implemented should endure that there are no complaints.

Aweso thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving money

that has been used to implement water projects and thus the level of water availability has increased.

He also lauded executives of water sector in Singida Region for the good job they are doing in managing water projects and ensuring that water service improves. "I congratulate directors of the water authorities, RUWASA manager, director of water resources, all the district managers and the head of water quality for their good job in management of water projects in

Singida Region," he said.

In Manyoni District, minister Aweso visited and inspected 28 water projects including the Kintinku-Lusilile water project.

The minister directed that the Kintinku-Lusilile water project should be completed by March this year so that people can start getting the service.

Once completed, the 13bn/- worth project will serve 55,000 people within 11 villages in the district.

Tanzania gets some USD20 million in cost-saving medical supplies – report

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL Health Supply Chain Programme-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) has delivered nearly half a million early infant diagnosis tests, more than 1.5 billion antiretroviral tablets and 8.6 million viral load tests since 2016 to date.

A report from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) made available in Dar es Salaam yesterday indicates that as part of the GHSC-PSM Viral Load Initiative, Tanzania has benefited from an estimated USD 20 million in cost savings for viral load reagents by promoting increased competition and establishing transparent and all-inclusive reagent rental prices. The project is being executed by Chemonics International Inc.

It shows that since project inception from 2016, the GHSC-PSM has been collaborating with USAID

and the Ministry of Health's vertical programmes to forecast and conduct supply planning as well as procure and deliver essential health commodities such as antiretroviral treatments, viral load and early infant diagnosis kits, voluntary medical male circumcision kits, antimalarial drugs, long-lasting insecticide treated nets, family planning supplies and other essential medicines.

As for HIV/AIDS Commodity Procurement, the 95-95-95 objective to guide efforts to combat HIV/AIDS calls for 95 percent of Tanzanians to know their status. While 95 percent of people diagnosed with HIV infection are set to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, 95 percent of those on antiretroviral therapy are to have viral suppression by 2025.

GHSC-PSM is a key partner of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) in helping Tanzania meet its 95-95-95 objective before 2025.

"As USAID's principal agent for the

procurement and delivery of HIV commodities, GHSC-PSM has worked to ensure an uninterrupted supply of HIV commodities through its continuous consultation with USAID, NACP, GHSC-PSM and other stakeholders in Tanzania," reads the report.

It indicates that as part of the United States government's commitment to HIV prevention, GHSC-PSM procures commodities aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV in Tanzania. Also, it recognises the effectiveness of voluntary medical male circumcision as an approach to prevent transmission of HIV. "So far, GHSC-PSM has delivered more than 2.3 million voluntary medical male circumcision kits for USAID."

US Center for Disease Control, US Department of Defense's implementing partners in Tanzania and GHSC-PSM procured nearly 11 million tablets of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals at high risk of contracting HIV.



Kisha Marere (R. Standing), councillor for Nyakatende ward in Musoma Rural District, speaks at a fundraising sensitisation meeting on Tuesday. It was in relation to the ongoing construction of a kindergarten school for Kamguruki village. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC issues ultimatum as only 18pc of selected pupils join Form One

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA regional commissioner Juma Homera has issued a three-week ultimatum to Chunya District authorities to ensure all pupils selected to join form one this year to report to their schools without a miss.

Homera issued the directive yesterday when speaking to journalists on primary and secondary school enrolment status in the region.

"It's a second week since the schools opened, yet the situation for form one reporting in schools is not encouraging," he said.

According to him, large numbers of form one pupils have not yet reported to their respective schools. He said up to yesterday, only 38 percent of pupils selected to join secondary education in the region had reported to school,

meaning 62 percent haven't reported.

The RC said that Mbeya city council is leading with 81 percent of pupils reporting to school followed by Kyela District with 62 percent. He noted that Chunya District is lagging behind with only 18 percent.

"I would like to use this opportunity to give three weeks to Chunya District Commissioner, District Executive Director and District Education Officer to deal with this issue to ensure that all pupils report school. Otherwise I will take further action," he said.

He added that there is no reason for pupils not to report to school on time as they are allowed to start classes even if they have not finalized requirements such as uniforms, exercise books and other materials they should have.

The RC however said that apart from ensuring that pupils report to

school immediately, the region is also preparing another report for pupils who were selected to join government schools but their parents decided to send them to private ones.

"We recognise that among the pupils we selected to join government schools there are those whose parents have already sent to private schools and still appear on our statistics that they have not reported to school; we are also working on this so that we know the figures and provide their status," said Homera.

Recently, members of the Parliamentary Local Government Committee visited Mbeya Region and expressed their discontent with the number of pupils not reporting to school and asked the Regional Commissioner to make sure that all pupils report to school.

Duwasa to execute in 1.19bn/- deep-well project to curb water woes in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DODOMA Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DUWASA) is set to drill 16 deep wells in Nzuguni area and other places on the outskirts of the city worth 1.19bn/- in an effort to address water woes.

Norbert Mwombeki, DUWASA project manager said this yesterday when speaking to journalists here on the strategy to strengthen water supply in the country's capital city.

He said the proposed deep wells will increase the level of water production and improve availability of the precious liquid in the rapidly expanding city.

"Dodoma is one of the cities that are developing rapidly in terms of population, making demand for water high. Currently, the actual demand of water is estimated to be more than 133 million litres while production stands at 79.6 million litres per day," he said.

In addition, he explained that DUWASA has drilled two wells out of

five planned in the Nzuguni area worth 260m/-.

"We're currently drilling a deep water well in the Nzuguni area which is expected to cost 570m/- upon its completion," he said, adding that this is a pilot project aimed at reaching the deepest water level ever in the city.

"We're also drilling other wells in the peripheral areas; two wells have already been completed at Ntyuka and Ndachi and this project will cost 403m/- upon completion," he said.



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES FOR WFP TANZANIA (2024 - 2025)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is a humanitarian organization that works with the government and other partners to improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations, especially in areas affected by poverty, malnutrition, gender inequality, and climate change. WFP relies on an efficient supply chain network to deliver assistance to people in need.

WFP Tanzania is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified and competent service providers for transport and logistics services in Tanzania. Interested companies are requested to submit their expressions no later than 04 February 2024, 16:00 hrs. via email to tanzania.contracting@wfp.org, with the subject line "Express of Interest for the Provision of Transport and Logistics Services." Companies should specify the services they are interested in, as outlined in Table I below: **Table I: Transport and Logistics Services**

| S/N | Service Required | Service Description |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Transport Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overland transport services: Will entail transport services mainly for relief food commodities from Dar Ports and WFP warehouses in, Dodoma to destinations outside Tanzania to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Malawi. Inland transport services: Will require transportation of mainly relief food commodities from Dar port, Dodoma and other regions for delivery to WFP warehouses within Tanzania including to the refugee camps in Kigoma region. |
| 2 | Customs Clearance Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing customs clearance services for transit, import, and export of mainly relief food commodities and non-food items (including vehicles, equipment, and other materials). |
| 3 | Fumigation and Spraying Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing fumigation and spraying services, of relief food commodities in WFP warehouses mainly at Dar Port, Dodoma, Kigoma Port, and refugee camps in the Kigoma region. |
| 4 | Tally Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing Tally Services associated with cargo movement including receipt to the warehouse, dispatch from the warehouse, shunting within the warehouse, and all other movements of cargo. |
| 5 | Cargo Handling and Cleaning Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading/offloading of humanitarian food commodities from trucks/trailers/wagons. mainly in WFP warehouses at Dar Port, Dodoma, Kigoma Port Stacking of cargo in the warehouse/ onto trucks/trailers/wagons. Rebagging of food commodities Cleaning services including warehouse, mobile storage tents, etc. at Dar Port, Dodoma, and Kigoma Port. |
| 6 | Maize and Wheat Grain (specify) Milling Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered milling service companies for grains including Maize, Wheat, and Sorghum in Dar, Dodoma, Kigoma, Iringa, Makambako, Songea, Mbeya, Songwe, Sumbawanga, Kahama, and Kigoma. Owning the milling facility with good internal control measures and having the capacity to do fortification and storage capacity for grain stock. |
| 7 | Warehouse Lease | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide warehouse rental service located in Dar Es Salaam and Dodoma that is in good condition without major repairs required, accessible at a good location near a main road, and preferably accessible by railway. Minimum size required, covered storage area, is no less than 5,000 SQM and can at least hold up to 10,000 MT of food commodities with adequate open area for trucks to turn, maneuver and park. |

Qualified service providers are requested to complete a WFP Questionnaire (please contact tanzania.contracting@wfp.org to obtain a copy) and submit a filled Questionnaire form together with the requested supporting documents by **18 February 2024, 12 noon**.

Please note that this is not an Invitation to Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

"WFP encourages service providers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive service provider makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Service Providers' can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting, and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive. **WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.**"

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.



All queries, strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to tanzania.contracting@wfp.org.

Rescinding flight ban moves was quite simply the right thing to do

TANZANIAN and Kenyan government authorities have stepped into differences that had seen the two countries' aviation regulatory agencies bar planes from either side from enjoying specific rights under existing accords.

The authorities reportedly discussed the matter in a telephone conversation, struck an agreement and proceeded to write on social media that the moves had been retracted and flights would now proceed as usual.

It is still uncertain where the moves originated and whether there were strategic goals in orchestrating sharp disagreements in a situation where regional moves are towards open markets and other freedoms.

Indications are that it was from the other side of the border that the problem arose, apparently on account of the recent acquisition by Air Tanzania Co. Ltd a cargo freight plane.

It appears that there are fears in some quarters that the ATCL cargo plane will be making a difference in that sphere of aviation logistics, and hence the contemplation of protectionism by the "aggrieved" party.

But at this particular point in time, it is highly unlikely that such a contention carries the imprint of the state, the government or state authorities in office at the time.

There may be concerns of a regulatory kind that have to do with testing political resolve in one way or another, but how that is reflected back in Nairobi is a different matter.

The respective regulatory body in Tanzania had sort of retaliated after Kenya's ban of the ATCL cargo plane flights from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to third countries.

While it would be advisable to let bygones be bygones, we believe both parties to the short-lived diplomatic show of force have learnt something of utility.

What is still a bit perplexing, though,

is how the matter came up and was so swiftly resolved, how there was such urgency in some quarters - complete with apparent inability to think of the consequences.

The point is that those who opted to ban the ATCL cargo plane may have thought up a game plan where Tanzanian aviation authorities could only ban a Kenyan cargo plane from doing the same, as if they did not have other options.

All is well that ends well and, in retrospect, it can be said that those still wishing to live in the old days of nationalism where borders or airspace could be closed and remain so for a decade have lost their way into the 21st century.

Now the governing authorities need more than one or two flimsy excuses to move against another country. This is because greater or closer economic interaction and interwoven commercial interests that neither side can ignore will ensure that commonsense prevails.

That means respecting existing bilateral, regional and multilateral accords as these legal instruments provide the framework for stable cross-border commerce.

There is an expression that sometimes one needs to shout just in order to be heard, and this is one of those moments where realities make a mental impact where perception even at high places remains fluid or unclear.

The lesson was rapidly grasped, as it involved flights that would have to be cancelled from early next week, and those other disruptions were clear for everyone to see.

There are subtle banning moves where barriers like non-tariff barriers are put up, these including having to seek permits to purchase crops, or limiting purchases to sell outside to a national granary. What matters most, however, are the experience we have witnessed and the lessons we will have learned from it all.

Clean energy funds would be best used as revolving credits

ALTERNATIVE energy other financing will likely keep coming our way time and again, giving us some badly needed relief.

Now we hear that the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector window of the World Bank, has initialised US\$80m for clean energy production in Africa.

It is unclear how the obviously limited sums in question will be distributed to member countries, though of greater relevance is where there will be the most effective use of the credit.

Details from the World Bank dispatch on the credit arrangement have few indications if it is direct loaning or policy funds.

One aspect underlined is that this comes to some form of partnership, where IFC has set the funds as a facility for energy inclusion directed at the production of renewable energy for commercial and industrial customers.

How far that will succeed is another matter, given the many and varied challenges problems being heard in developed countries. A case in point is Germany, where farmers drove tractors to block entrances to public offices in protesting the removal of diesel subsidies.

Industrial customers use the cheapest energy, while renewables are easily more adapted to low amounts of energy use like home appliances, so industry has vast coal needs.

It is reported that the facility for energy inclusion is a pan-African fund meant to support small-scale decentralised renewable energy projects.

The International Development Association, itself a soft loan window of the World Bank, used to issue loans for social programmes like education.

It thereafter moved to the power sector.

Come the Covid-19 recovery plan, and the financing was handled by the International Monetary Fund, whose brief is supposed to relate to balance of payments, currency value, fiscal stability and thus overseeing government expenditure - but not project loans.

What is also apparent is that World Bank financing is engaging the private sector quite noticeably in quasi-joint venture arrangements, in like manner as UNDP's recent engagement with the CRDB Bank Foundation on projects related to youth and women empowerment, via MSMEs.

What is being seen is that the refusal to change land occupancy structures in Africa makes banks on the continents unable to generate the sort of credit and financing for innovations or viable socioeconomic needs, so the World Bank steps in. It is global redistribution and uplifting, instead of structural transformation.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, like Tanzania, has ample room for hydropower generation, which is renewable energy proper, while a few like Kenya are far stronger in solar energy development.

This admixture with private finance adds to a share of the costs. For instance, a US\$20m line of credit for cross-boundary energy provided by Standard Bank is part of a wider fund sponsored by the African Development Bank and managed by Lion's Head Global Partners.

This has its problems but it still helps to build new points of reference and accountability, as some public authorities often take the World Bank for granted, while private banks may normally be more serious in designing much more effective lending modes.

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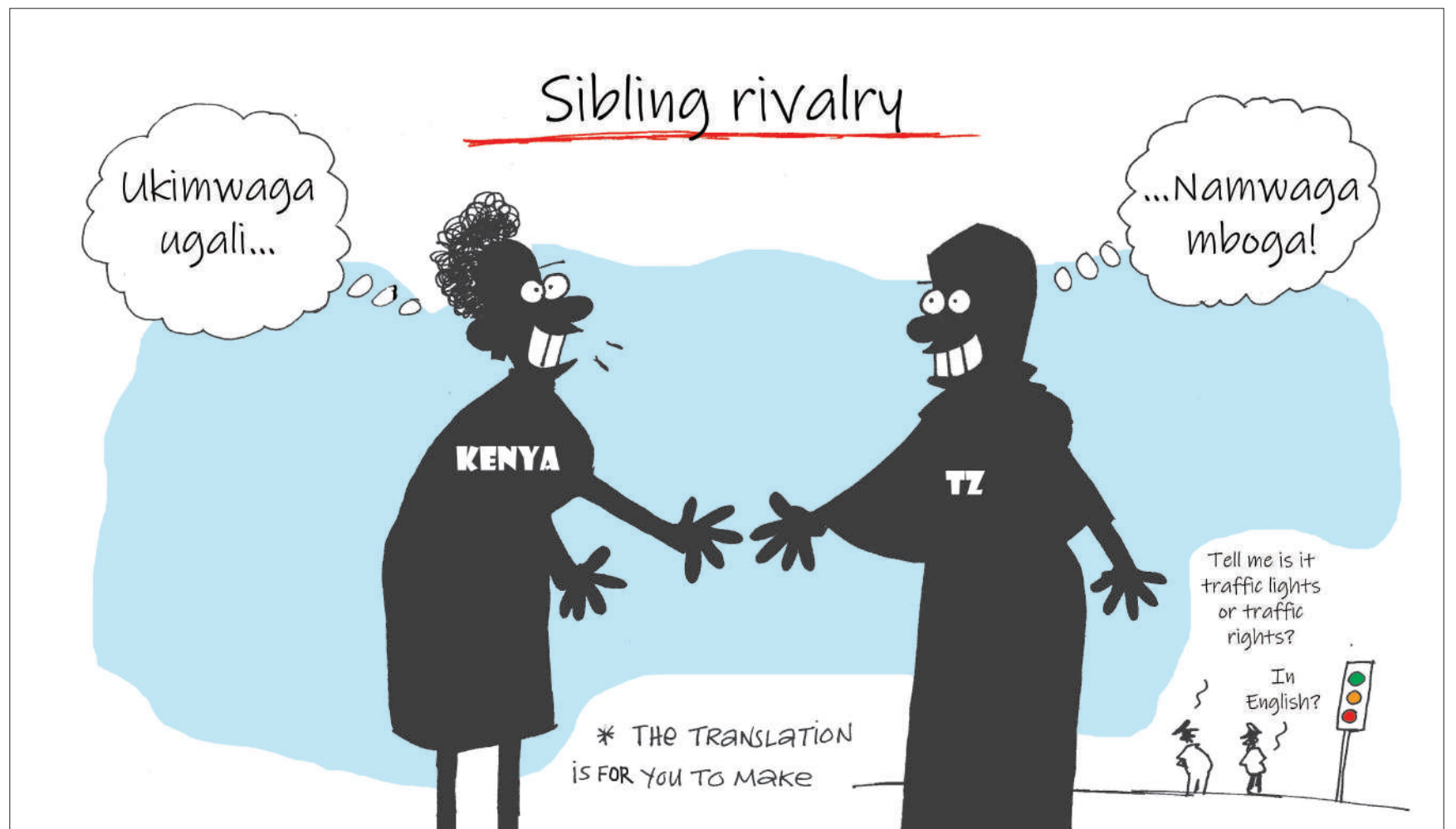
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By Lucinda Jordaan

GLOBALLY, news media face an uncertain future, compounded by general mistrust, big tech challenges, and mis/disinformation at scale. That is, surely, bad news. The good news is that editors, publishers and newsroom leaders across the world are mostly up to the challenge.

In our final newsletter for 2023, we asked our affiliation of global editors for their biggest newsroom challenges for the year as well as their outlook for 2024.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, three core issues emerged: accelerated advances in AI and its impact on newsrooms; economic sustainability, and shifting global politics.

"About 40 per cent of the world's population and 42 per cent of its GDP have a chance to elect new leaders next year," said Kevin Dubouis, Director of Content Strategy at The Wall Street Journal, who cites "changes in the world", as a core focal point for the year ahead.

AI, automation and Big Tech

"AI has been supremely disruptive and promises to be even more so," noted Joe Ageyo, Editor-in-Chief of Kenya's Nation Media Group.

He added: "Recognising its undeniable potential and veritable perils, we have developed an AI framework to help us harness the benefits while mitigating the potential dangers. Overarching is the idea of AI as an enabler - not a replacer - of our journalists and journalism."

Maria Jesus Espinosa de los Monteros, Director General (Audio) at Prisa Media in Spain, is also predicting a strong focus on AI "because we are in a transformation industry" and hoping 2024 will bring regulations "and global law about AI".

These sentiments are echoed in a just-published report from Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, entitled 'Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2024'.

Megan Clement, Editor in Chief of Impact newsletter for Gloria Media in France, meanwhile cited her biggest challenge in 2023 as "finding wider audiences for our work as social media declines".

She said that this year she will be assessing the impact of AI on gender equality reporting, and promoting "increased coverage over gender inequality in mainstream media outlets".

This tracks with Reuters' survey, which found that almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of our survey respondents say they are worried about a sharp decline in referral traffic from social media sites.

According to the survey: "Data sourced for this report from analytics provider Chartbeat show that traffic

Editors share key concerns on AI, sustainability and elections



to news sites from Facebook fell by 48 per cent in 2023, with traffic from X/Twitter declining by 27 per cent."

Bang on the money

For some newsrooms, staying afloat presented the most pressing challenge. Some cited the Covid-19 pandemic as the source of ongoing shrinking revenues, others blaming it all on shifting positions in donor funding due to hostilities in Gaza.

For most, though, the focus will be on financial sustainability. Fatemah Farag, of independent Welad ElBalad Media, will be pursuing "the usual revenue generation agenda, with an added focus on AI", while Pius Katunzi, Managing Editor of The Observer in Uganda, is determined to "diversify the channels of distribution of our content" with a multimedia platform.

And, according to Reuters, this is in line with most publishers worldwide: "The majority of our publisher respondents say that they plan to create more video, more newsletters and more podcasts but broadly the same number of news articles - as they lean into some of the few remaining areas of audience and advertiser growth."

Elections past and present

Several respondents cited elections, either in 2023 or upcoming, as the most significant challenge - along with dis/misinformation, ethnic clashes and migration issues.

Abiola Rahaman, Editor-in-Chief at Legit Media in Nigeria, reported: "One of the most significant challenges in my work in the year 2023 was navigating

the prevalence of fakes on social media, particularly during and after the 2023 general elections.

"We had to constantly reassess our content strategy and adopt a more solid fact-checking approach - which included investing resources in training journalists as a response to counter the gale of misinformation."

"We also leveraged social media campaigns, webinars and partnerships with other newsrooms and youth-driven organisations for massive sensitisation on the danger of fake news - especially among the youths."

Also on record was Shelly Walia, Executive Editor of The Quint in India: "As India heads into an election year, our focus will be to stay on top of debunking political misinformation and disinformation."

"Over the past few months, India has seen a sharp uptick in synthetic videos and audio (with increased use of deepfakes and other video cloning tools).

"These are being increasingly used to spread fake news, target political rivals, and polarise and mislead voters through propaganda."

The government now plans to regulate this space and introduce rules around synthetic media that mimic authentic images, video, and audio. Our job would be to evolve with these potential changes."

Immigration is a core focus for independent non-profit Documented. Last year (2023) saw the organisation focused on how New York responded to the influx of immigrants to the city.

Nicolas Rios, Director of Audience and Communities, Documented (US), remarked: "The numbers of asylum seekers in NY will surely impact the

news cycle; immigration will be a huge subject for the US presidential election.

Here, too, AI will stake its claim, added Rios: "AI impacting search, our main audience driver, will also be an internal priority to look at."

"We just launched our two new direct-to-user products on WeChat and NextDoor. We aim to consolidate a user base in those two platforms and be able to integrate those conversations in our content creation processes."

Lastly, here is another positive general outlook - from Asia: "With so many wars raging across the world, it is easy to get caught up in what feels like the more urgent stories and forget about the fundamental issues that are calling for coverage," said Hui Yee Tan, Bureau Chief for The Straits Times in Thailand.

"I aim to stay focused on that. Also, while organisational change is hard, I hope to facilitate more inclusive, gender-sensitive journalism in my newsroom and beyond," he added.

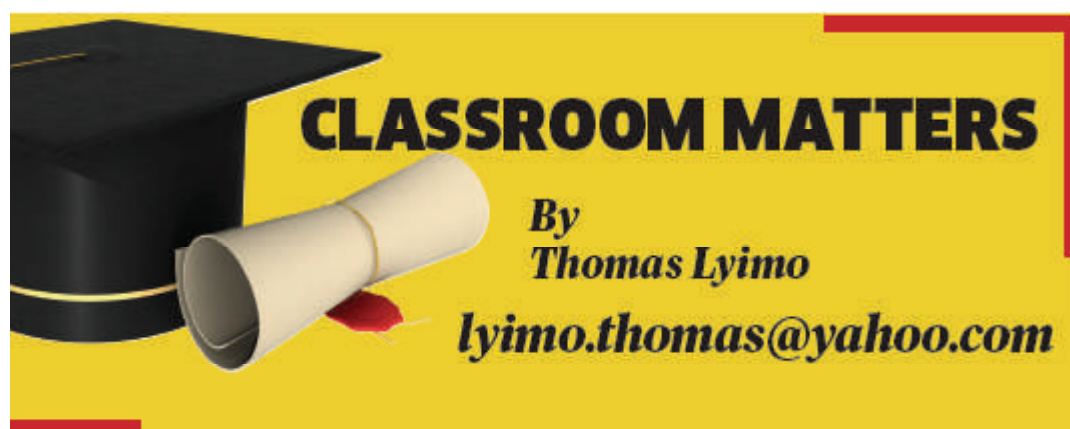
* A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) - of which the World Editors Forum, the leading global community of editors, is an integral part that has stood up for a free press, quality journalism and newsroom transformation for over 25 years. WEF works with editors to shape their newsrooms for the future. It does so by identifying innovation and trends, tools and best practices. It shares this intelligence through its blog, newsletter, meetings, networking events, conferences and research. Lucinda Jordaan is a media and communications consultant with South Africa's Lucinup Media and Communications.

NECTA reforms should send signals to stakeholders in education sector

WE normally measure what we have made. The aim is to see if the set objectives have been realized. This is due to nature of human being which is rational and objective-driven. For any critical thinker the recent objectives of NECTA which are manifested in four areas of achievement, intelligence, aptitude and diagnostic testing are something which are profound in educational arena.

The NECTA's reforms must be the result of response to criticism on the quality of education provided in the country in this era where competition for the few jobs is increasing day after day. It is normally a custom for blames to be directed to someone and NECTA are probably tired of being connected to unpromising quality of education related to examination assessment.

People have placed much premium on the value of the examination conducted by NECTA and thus we hear cases of examination fraud where some teachers are accused of helping or attempting to help learners during examinations. What people look for is how they can move on the education ladder using the NECTA's examination certification. NECTA's officials assert that the current mode of



examination hinders an opportunity for some learners who don't excel in examination to progress in terms of education and attain good lives.

The proposed mode by NECTA is expected to broaden the opportunity for many learners to excel in education through the mode of assessment that will reveal the abilities of learners which for years have been hidden in the assessment that puts all premium on final classroom examinations.

The decision by NECTA deserves praise but it should not be forgotten that we normally measure what we have made to see if the objectives have been realized. For NECTA's re-

forms to be meaningful, there must be nurturing of the attributes, abilities and skills which now NECTA wants to reveal through the new mode of assessment which they campaign for. Writing of syllabuses, books and teachers' mode of teaching must be harmonized to the objectives of NECTA. Learners must be well prepared for the new kind of assessment.

Preparation is key to any success. All individuals involved in the mode of assessment when there is a joint effort in making something effective is when success can be expected. The common aim can be attained if there is common understanding.

NECTA needs to make sure that all stake holders related to her are fully aware of the meaning of the reforms. We can easily move together if we all know the way. For NECTA reforms to be fruitful there are at least four areas to put emphasis on.

The first area is opportunity to learners. Learners need to be given more time to show or express what they know. When they are given opportunity to express their views they will build confidence. It is advisable that before teaching someone it is important to know first what they know. As NECTA prepares to conduct diagnostic testing through her examinations it is important for teachers and parents or guardians as well to start testing learners to see what they know. Intuition is among the sources of knowledge and therefore the decision by NECTA to conduct diagnostic test is a right one. Self confidence and creativity starts by acknowledging the potentials that someone retains.

The second area is learning resources. For any education

programme to be successful there must be enough learning resources. These resources will help learners acquire important skills in education. For instance presence of various story books can easily enable learners acquire reading skills. Computers on the other hand can easily enable learners to become computer literate. When exposed to computers is when hidden talents and abilities of learners can be revealed. Therefore presence of enough learning materials is a way towards attaining achievement and aptitude as assessment parameters set by NECTA.

The third area is reducing contents. Competence can hardly be attained if contents taught are so many. When things to cover are so many is when teachers rush causing most of the learners not to well understand the contents and hence a failure to become competent. Learning is objective - based activity and not just letting days go. It aims at enabling learners acquire certain skills which are so important in life. When learners have to learn

a lot of things in relation to time allocated is when discomfort and confusion may arise causing the learning process to be difficult.

The fourth area is mass campaign on media to change mindsets of parents. We have been hearing life histories of some players and musicians on how it was difficult for their parents to allow them to venture into their careers. The society has placed much hope on classroom examination where certificates are produced and forget about other crucial areas of competence which individuals retain and are more likely to make them successful than education. Therefore for NECTA's reforms to be fruitful the parents' mindsets must change.

Education should aim for value creation. Measuring starts in creation. You cannot measure what is not present as that will be waste of time. Transformation should take steps. NECTA's reforms need support from other stakeholders for them to be fruitful. Teaching is enabling assessment to take place.

JAJARKOT DISTRICT, Nepal,

Delivering humanitarian assistance in the form of cash sounds great: recipients get to choose exactly how to spend their money and aid organizations can respond faster and better track their giving.

But in Nepal, more than two months after a major earthquake killed more than 150 people and destroyed or damaged over 60,000 homes, what's known as cash and voucher assistance (CVA) continues to play a minor role in the country's disaster response.

CVA distribution "should have started in a few days, seven at most," says Safik Iraqi, Inter-agency Cash Coordinator of the international community's Cash Coordination Group (CCG) in Nepal, "but it took 47 days."

"The more delays there are the more negative coping strategies the affected people will use," adds Iraqi in an interview. These include: borrowing from local moneylenders buying poorly made items that won't last, and selling household assets to raise money for necessities.

To date, an estimated 9,000 households in Jarkot and 10 surrounding districts in Karnali Province have received some sort of CVA, while the vast majority of people have received at least minimal aid in-kind, such as food, blankets and warm clothing.

November's disaster was less destructive than the deadly 2015 earthquake and aftershocks, which killed about 9,000 people and damaged or destroyed 600,000 buildings. Cash transfers then "were a major and highly appropriate part of the response given the challenging logistics of delivering in-kind aid to remote mountainous areas," found one report.

2015 response promising

But the analysis pointed out that the Government of Nepal and partners were not sufficiently prepared to use cash to its full potential. "This was due to a lack of government will and capacity, appropriate national disaster institutions, financial infrastructure and effective coordination arrangements among international actors."

"While there has been some progress towards being able to mount better, more efficient and large-scale cash responses in the future, cash preparedness still remains too low a priority in Nepal given the disasters that will continue to affect the country," concluded the report.

CVA actually refers to a variety of ways of getting money and goods into the hands of recipients, explains Bibhor Kayastha, chief executive officer of Aria Technologies, a private-sector business working with Mercy Corps.

These include multipurpose cash assistance (with few or no restrictions on how it can be used), sectoral cash (designated for a specific purpose, like

Humanitarian cash not accelerating aid delivery in Nepal's earthquake response



Many people in Nalgad Municipality, Jajarkot District, were forced to live in tents. Credit: Marty Logan / IPS

building a house), conditional cash (given for work, such as road building), vouchers that can be exchanged for a package of commodities and other vouchers that limit people to items on a list. Various modalities are being used in Jajarkot and other affected districts, he adds in an interview.

The 3 November quake struck on the cusp of winter in Karnali Province, one of Nepal's most remote and poorest areas, forcing many families into tents or simple plastic shelters. At least three dozen people have reportedly died since then, in part due to exposure.

On 6 November the Government of Nepal approved the distribution of one month's CVA to affected households. Based on a basket of consumer goods, it is worth 15,000 rupees, or about US\$112.

Ongoing scepticism

One reason for the delay getting that money to quake victims was that some of the 8-10 agencies that considered using CVA were waiting for a market assessment to be finished, says Iraqi in an interview. Another is ongoing scepticism, among both the international community and officials in Nepal's three levels of government - central, provincial and local - that CVA will be well used.

The CCG's Joint Market Assessment Report, #1 found that in both hardest hit districts, Jajarkot and neighbouring Rukum West, cash assistance was a priority among just slightly more than 1% of respondents. Temporary shelter / house reconstruction, warm clothes and blankets, and food topped both lists.

The Nepal Red Cross Society's CVA was delayed because it had to provide immediate emergency aid, then do a detailed assessment of possible beneficiaries, says Sagar Shrestha, head of disaster management at the NRCS.

"We had to evaluate 30,000 households. It was really challenging but we had very clear instructions from local governments about which populations to focus on. We did detailed data collection, with various indicators to identify the most vulnerable, such as pregnant women and the elderly. Out of these we selected the beneficiaries then we did a community engagement to get those names endorsed, and then we posted the lists publicly for feedback," he explains in a WhatsApp interview.

Dinesh Chaudhary's wife died in November of an illness unrelated to the earthquake. While a hospital that treated her for over a month has erased his bills, and he's borrowed from family and friends,

he's still in debt for her care. "Yes, 15,000 rupees would be useful. If they offer it we have to take it, no?" he tells IPS, sitting outside of his cracked mud and brick house in Nalgad Municipality, Jajarkot.

Many of the small houses nearby have been visibly damaged, either completely crumbled or with only their bottom floor impact. The green and brown hillsides of this mountainous region are dotted with clusters of blues and yellows that signal relief tents.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) was one of the first organizations to provide CVA. It distributed the aid to 3,055 households in Jajarkot and Rukum West as multi-purpose cash assistance, which could be spent as recipients' wished.

Money transfer established More than two-thirds of the cash was transferred via money transfer operations, which normally cater to the families of local workers who migrate from Nepal to work as labourers in India, Malaysia or Gulf countries. In other cases, money was sent via local banks.

Households with members from vulnerable or marginalized groups were prioritized, says WFP. They included Lal Bahadur, 36, who lives with a disability in Jajarkot. "I am here to receive nutritious

food for my pregnant wife and daughter-in-law, who is nursing my 15-day-old grandson," he told WFP.

The agency says that cash-based transfers now make up 35 percent of all its assistance globally. "Evidence accumulated over the past decade shows that in most contexts cash effectively and efficiently meets people's food, nutrition and other related essential needs," adds WFP.

But in Nepal, the advantages of cash are slow to be realized.

"Most people in Nepal think that CVA is 'easy money'," says Kayastha. "But the process is highly technical and controlled by things like Central Bank regulations, the Data Protection Act, and environmental factors that have to be taken into consideration."

"A lot of misinformation"

"The general perception," he adds, "is that people will waste the money. But if you give it to the right person they will never go and drink (with it)... there is a lot of misinformation and even major stakeholders will just dismiss (CVA)."

Iraqi says the combination of traditional mindsets and a lack of awareness about how efficient and effective CVA can be are major obstacles to expanding. "In my experience the units in charge of implementation disaster response are very much in favour but the rest are very much against it."

"There is a need for the government to understand the global standards used for CVA, its meticulousness, the evolution in technology for delivering CVA and the importance of a harmonized and coordinated approach. This will help it to see how CVA works in the humanitarian response works and how misuse (their biggest concern) can be tracked and addressed," adds Iraqi.

Another reason for CVA's slow penetration is the 'power game' that is constantly played between Nepal's political parties, often most actively outside the capital Kathmandu. In it, scoring political points is more important than "giving choice and dignity and quality of life, which is very frustrating for organizations and people like us," said one interviewee, who asked to remain anonymous.

Officials are slowly accepting CVA, says Santosh Pandey, country humanitarian focal point at Mercy Corps Nepal. "The government doesn't always mean the federal government - many local governments have formulated very progressive humanitarian cash guidelines."

No one from the Government of Nepal was available for an interview for this article. The ministry of federal affairs and general administration is now drafting a policy on CVA for Nepal's 77 local governments.

The impact of climate migration on developing nations

BANGKOK, Thailand

As the world is still gearing up to welcome 2024, let us find a moment to reflect on some of the key trends of the past year and pursue now to embrace the path towards hope and promise for everyone, everywhere.

Deepening global inequalities are having enormous socio-economic implications across countries. Increasing income and social disparities are spreading around regions. Growing intensities of climate induced natural disasters, the uneven speed of post-pandemic recoveries, and cost-of-living crises from conflicts and geopolitical tensions are exacerbating inequalities and poverty traps globally.

The changing distribution of economic benefits vis-à-vis the rising prices of food and fuel are causing social unrest and protests. Citizens are voicing their frustration not only in the streets of capitals but through exponential engagement on social media platforms.

With the intensification of various external shocks, and the lack of economic opportunities for accelerating growth and productivity surges, multidimensional poverty indices are on rise. The inequality-poverty nexus is contributing to a new form of uncertainty for disadvantaged households.

Intensifying course of climate change
Intensifying hazards caused by climate change, such as floods, tropical cyclones, heatwaves, droughts and earthquakes, have impacted agricultural outputs and industrial sectors, especially through decreasing productivity growth and falling real wages. The widening gap between rich and poor in rural and urban areas has also been linked to extreme weather events due to the increasing frequency of natural disasters.

These inequalities are further aggravating extreme poverty, creating the vicious nexus of climate-disaster-inequalities among vulnerable groups.

Evidence from around the world indicates that climate change is likely to impact more severely on vulnerable groups and coastal communities, because they are more exposed to the uncertainties of weather patterns. Lack of adaptive capacity are often constraining the ability of these communities to build resilience and cope with the severity of these environmental shocks.

Widespread incidence of climate migration from low- to high-latitude areas and social mobility are increasingly impacting the social fabric of small island developing States and other developing economies.

With the exodus of young and skilled labour force, transfers of income and the wealth gap will further worsen inequalities in communities, raising concerns of greater socio-economic uncertainties.

From Fiji to Ethiopia, Bangladesh to Brazil, the exacerbation of inequalities due to climate change has been impacting socio-economic prosperity. Growth uncertainties are causing extreme pov-



Men on camels and donkeys travel through a dust storm in the desert near the western city of Mao, in the Kanem Region of Chad. Credit: UNICEF/UNI82205/Holt

erty to increase, while causing hardship and hunger for households in rural areas.

Varying scales of COVID-19 pandemic

Socio-economic polarization has been on the rise since the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to differentiated impacts of national lockdowns, pandemic restrictions and vaccination measures have had adverse impacts on the existing inequalities and multidimensional

poverty indices.

As economic development stagnation persists, rural areas have seen rising impacts of extreme poverty and income divergence across households, leading to new episodes of income divergence within countries.

The post-COVID 19 recoveries are uneven. Rising levels of unemployment and stagnating real wages remain major indicators of corresponding economic growth deceleration. The differentiated policy measures to stabilize la-

bour market distortions, social protection systems and sectoral productivity surges have not always achieved the desired outcomes in developing countries.

According to the labour force surveys in various countries, the majority of workers have been engaged in less paid work due to lack of dynamism in the labour market. Evidence suggests that the changes in work style and availability of types of jobs as well as their skills and profiles aggravate the income disparity within

urban centres.

From several Latin American to African countries, the pandemic-induced policy measures have differently elevated the risk of vulnerability for the manual labor force. Similarly, the studies have shown that young, low-income and self-employed workers including women with limited education, have suffered greater job losses and earnings reductions than other groups in the workforce in the UK, USA, China and India, among others.

Changing forms of conflicts

Conflicts also go beyond borders, causing immeasurable human suffering on the global scale. With the volatility and uncertainties around supply chains, food and fuel prices spiral. Cost-of-living crisis spreads around countries as governments lose fiscal space for developmental expenditure, while debt burden mounts.

Conflicts cause people to lose hope and opportunities from East to West, North to Southern countries. With the lack of rule of law and property rights, households and communities fall into poverty traps, changing the face of socio-economic disparity.

As these conflicts are prolonged, countries often fail to overcome the existing structural constraints, maintain production streams, and improve lackluster infrastructure. A higher risk of falling into poverty traps and increasing scale of disparities is then the inevitable outcome. The polarization fears and lack of trust are now a reality.

Looking ahead

Today, as we look back at 2023, there is no doubt that in the end, common aspirations and outlooks remain our best hope to chart a new course to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Evidence of successful policy coherence will provide valuable opportunities for policymakers to unite their priorities and lay the foundations for breakthroughs.

Sudip Ranjan Basu is Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer; Chen Wang is Professor, Institute of Finance and Economics, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China; Monica Das is Associate Professor, Economics Department, Skidmore College, New York



A family displaced by prolonged drought in Ethiopia now live in a makeshift tent in Mogadishu, Somalia. June 2023. Credit: IOM/Muse Mohammed

IPS UN Bureau

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 |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

21 black rhinos relocated to Kenya's Loisaba Conservancy



NAIROBI

KENYA has embarked on its biggest single rhino relocation project ever and began the difficult work Tuesday of tracking, darting and moving 21 of the critically endangered beasts hundreds of miles in trucks to a new home.

A previous attempt at moving rhinos in the East African nation in 2018 was a disaster as all 11 of the animals that were relocated died.

The latest project experienced early troubles, too, as a rhino targeted for moving on Tuesday was not subdued by a tranquilizer dart shot by a wildlife ranger from a helicopter.

Rangers attempted to restrain the rhino with a rope but it went into a stream and the team of rangers decided to release the animal to make sure it

was not harmed.

Wildlife officials have stressed the project will be difficult and take time, likely weeks.

The black rhinos in this relocation are a mix of males and females and are being moved from three conservation parks to the private Loisaba Conservancy in central Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service said.

The relocation shows the relative success of Kenya in reviving its black rhino population, which dipped below 300 in the mid-1980s because of poaching, raising fears that the animals might be wiped out forever in a country famous for its rich wildlife.

Kenya now has nearly 1,000 black rhinos, according to the wildlife department. That's the third biggest black rhino population in the world behind South Africa and Namibia.

There are just 6,487 wild rhinos left in the world, according to rhino conservation charity Save The Rhino, all of them in Africa.

The rhinos are being moved because there are too many in the three parks and they need more space to roam and, hopefully, to breed.

"The existing sanctuaries have become overcrowded and that's another challenge. So, we have become a victim of our own success, where you will have territorial fighting and male rhinos killing each other," Tom Sylvester, the chief executive of Loisaba Conservancy explained.

Rhinos are generally solitary animals, especially the males, and are at their happiest in large territories.

Kenyan authorities say they have relocated more than 150 rhinos in the past decade.

Six years ago, Kenya relocated

11 rhinos from Nairobi to a different sanctuary in the south of the country. All of them died soon after arriving at the sanctuary.

"It is very important that we learn from mistakes of the past - it was that things like water conditions were critically important... So, habitat water and then security," Sylvester said.

Some of the 21 rhinos, which can each weigh over a ton, are being transferred from the Nairobi National Park and will make a 300-kilometer (186-mile) trip in the back of a truck to Loisaba. Others will come from parks closer to Loisaba.

Kenyan wildlife authorities say the country is aiming to grow its black rhino population to about 2,000, which they believe would be the ideal number considering the space available for them in national and private parks.

KIGALI

Thriving tea industry has significant impact on rural livelihoods in Rwanda

IN the lush landscapes of the Rambura sector, Nyabihu District in Western Province of Rwanda, tea picking has evolved beyond a mere profession; it has become a lifeline for individuals like Marceline Mukamana, a resilient single mother of three.

"I work as a tea picker, and picking tea serves as my primary source of income. It enables me to cover health insurance expenses and purchase essential items such as food, clothes for my children, and other household necessities," Mukamana told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Mukamana is just one among thousands of individuals whose lives have been positively transformed by the thriving tea industry in Nyabihu District.

Located in Western Province, the Nyabihu Tea Factory stands as a testament to the significant impact the cultivation and processing of tea leaves have had on the local community.

"I have dedicated 12 years to this tea-picking profession, and it has allowed me to achieve various milestones, such as buying a cow," Mukamana continued, her eyes reflecting the pride of the accomplishments made possible through the tea fields.

Joining Mukamana in this tale of resilience is Jean Baptiste Rukiramacumu, another dedicated tea picker at the Nyabihu Tea Factory.

"Pursuing a career in tea picking has facilitated several accomplishments. For instance, I have been able to acquire a piece of land and construct a house. Additionally, I have bought two cows. The income generated from tea picking enables me to cover school fees for my children, purchase school supplies, and provide clothing for them," he explained.



A farmer picks tea leaves at a tea farm in Rwanda

Beyond personal achievements, Rukiramacumu emphasized how the financial

gains from tea picking contributed to his ability to invest in agriculture.

"The income plays a crucial role in supporting my daily activities that require financial resources," he added, highlighting the transformative impact of tea cultivation on

rural livelihoods.

The driving force behind this positive change is the Nyabihu Tea Factory, guided by the vision of Director General Yves Mungwaku-zwe.

According to Mungwaku-zwe, the factory processes tea from both its own fields and those of tea farmers who are part of a cooperative.

The file photo shows a farmer picking tea leaves at a tea garden in the Gisakura area, Rwanda, on Sept. 18, 2021. (Xinhua/Ji Li)

The cooperative approach not only fosters a sense of community but also enhances the overall productivity of the tea industry in the region, he told Xinhua.

"There are plans to expand tea cultivation by collaborating with tea farmers, assisting them in processing tea seedlings over a 15-month period. The recent harvest yielded 7.5 million leaves, resulting in a marketable output of 2,016 tonnes," said Mungwaku-zwe.

He emphasized the factory's commitment to maintaining high-quality standards, evident through certifications like the Rainforest Alliance certificate and ISO 2022 international standard certificates.

The seal of the Rainforest Alliance certificate means that the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental.

The strategic planning of tea cultivation, incorporating environmental conservation measures, has not only led to a strong domestic market presence but also enabled international exports, according to Mungwaku-zwe.

He said the tea from Nyabihu is available in most supermarkets in the country, with direct exports reaching China, Europe, America, and other global regions. The ripple effect is felt in the local economy, as the factory provides permanent employment opportunities to more than 5,000 individuals, according to him.

Tea remains one of Rwanda's top agricultural export revenue earners. In 2021, Rwanda earned more than 96 million U.S. dollars from exporting over 35 million kg of tea compared to over 32 million kg sold for more than 90 million U.S. dollars in 2020, according to data from the National Agricultural Export Development Board.

Tobacco use declines globally, says WHO report

By Guardian Reporter

TRENDS in 2022 show a continued decline in tobacco use rates globally. That year, 1 in 5 adults worldwide consumed tobacco compared to 1 in 3 in 2000.

The director of Health Promotion at the WHO presented the main findings of the Global tobacco report in Geneva on Tuesday.

"We have 1.25 billion people still smoking. That is the last figure we have from the Global trends report that we're releasing today," Dr Rüdiger Krech said.

"But that also means that we have 19 million less smokers than we had two years ago. That is the first time that we see such a decline."

Currently, the fastest decreases in tobacco use are happening in the lower middle-income group of countries whereas the highest prevalence of tobacco users is in the WHO South-East Asian region, however with fast falling rates.

The WHO region which cur-

rently has the lowest tobacco use prevalence is the African Region, which has already decreased from an average of 18 per cent in 2000 to under 10 percent in 2022.

WHO urges countries to continue putting in place tobacco control policies and continue to fight against tobacco industry interference.

According to Krech, "the region that is a bit of a problem is the European region where especially women are [...] on the increase in some parts, in some countries, or at very high levels still of tobacco users."

The report estimates that there are at least 37 million children aged 13-15 currently using some form of tobacco, and many countries have found alarming levels of e-cigarette use among adolescents as well.

There is a clear need for policies that restrict advertising to young people, restrict access and reduce exposure to tobacco and nicotine products.

Alarming rates among children The report estimates that

there are at least 37 million children aged 13-15 currently using some form of tobacco.

Many countries including the UK have found alarming levels of e-cigarette use among adolescents. The WHO director of health promotion pleaded for more regulation. "There's a few countries who have banned e-cigarettes, which we welcome. If you have not banned it, you should take very strong regulatory measures, meaning that you need to ensure that children do not get access to e-cigarettes."

Krech mentioned: "We've teachers calling us, especially in the UK, where you saw a 150 per cent increase in the last three years of uptake of e-cigarettes by children. So, they call us to say children cannot stay a whole 45-minute lesson any more because they need to step out to get e-cigarettes."

Since most of the e-cigarettes and vapes are purchased through internet, it would be important, according to the WHO, to ensure that these devices are no longer available to

children.

All the different kind of flavours offered for vaping are more attractive to children and less to older adults. "You have thousands of flavours, each of these flavours contain different chemicals," said WHO's Krech. "So the toxicity of these liquids, if you inhale them, if you're not swallowing them, but you inhale them, is completely different. So, the tactics of the tobacco industry is to swamp the market."

To protect the future generations and ensure that tobacco use continues to decline, WHO will dedicate this year's World No Tobacco Day to Protecting children from tobacco industry interference.

For those who use vaping to quit smoking, it should be regulated as medicine where you get it through a pharmacy with a prescription for it, said Krech.

Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year, including an estimated 1.3 million non-smokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke.



Experts: Mozambique insurgency has decreased significantly

JOHANNESBURG

There is cautious optimism regarding the conflict that has been raging in northern Mozambique, largely in the province of Cabo Delgado, since 2017. There are encouraging indications that the Islamic State (IS)-driven insurgency has significantly decreased thanks to the deployment of the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces (FADM), Southern African Development Community (SAMIM) forces, and a contingent of Rwandan troops (RSF).

Leleti Maluleki, a researcher at Good Governance Africa, told IPS: "With regards to the current state of the conflict, people are slowly moving back or returning to their villages and communities. It's a sign of progress being made by the troops, and we hope it's a sign of peace."

There had been a decrease in the number of attacks by insurgents.

"That's a good thing as well, but it does not mean that the insurgency is over. We need to remember that there were stories of insurgents infiltrating the communities, so they are still among the people; they might have radicalized certain individuals, and they might have recruited some citizens. But we are seeing fewer and fewer attacks on a daily basis."

The insurgency has claimed over 4,000 lives and displaced 946,000 since it started. According to a report from the United Nations Security Council published in February 2023,



Two years after the major attacks by non-state armed groups, a considerable number of forcibly displaced people have returned to Palma. Credit: UNHCR

the number of IS fighters in the field has decreased from a peak of 2,500 (prior to SAMIM and the RSF joining the fight) to roughly 280. Last year, Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the

Office of Counter-Terrorism, said in August 2023 that counter-terrorism initiatives in Egypt, Mozambique, and Yemen had significantly limited the insurgents ability to conduct operations.

He warned, though, that "force alone cannot lead to changes in the conditions conducive to terrorism," noting that it can fuel more violence and aggravate grievances exploited by terrorists.

At the same meeting, Domingos Estêvão Fernandes, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN, pointed to the rising spread of terrorism in Africa, where fatalities linked to Al-Qaeda and Da'esh reached more than 22,000 over the past year—representing a 48 per cent increase over 2022.

Fernandes it was important to address poverty, inequality, social exclusion, and discrimination based on religion and culture to address insurgency and recognize the risk of the misuse of emerging technologies.

He pointed to the achievements of the deployment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mission in Mozambique.

"We must ensure predictable, flexible, and sustained funding for African Union peacekeeping operations," Fernandes said, adding that government agencies and defense and security forces must partner with local communities to provide early warning systems.

Maluleki added that a new challenge is the insurgent's use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a tactic that works when the insurgents numbers are dwindling, which means decreasing the likelihood of insurgents getting up close to security forces. The use of these causes panic among civilians, which leads to further destabilization of the region regarding displaced persons and refugees.

When security forces reportedly killed Ibn Omar, the purported IS leader, and two of his followers, the anti-insurgency campaign also gained momentum. Mozambique's president, Filipe Nyusi, recently made an announcement to this effect.

In terms of the future, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) heads of state at a summit in July 2023 laid plans for SADC forces to begin to leave northern Mozambique by December 15, 2024, and to complete the withdrawal by July 15, 2025. It was also noted that for this to happen, there was an urgent need for Mozambique's defense forces to be capacitated to a degree where the removal of SADC troops would not compromise the gains of the past few years. Training and other help coming from the European Union

and the United States to beef up the Mozambican forces were also mentioned at the summit.

Since the beginning of the insurgency, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that one million people had been displaced in the region. More recently, the International Organization for Migrants (IOM) reported that in September and October 2023, about 8,000 Cabo Delgado residents had become displaced.

"When it comes to the issue of displaced individuals, a lot of people lost their homes and ran away for safety. People displaced by the conflict went to neighboring, safer communities. Host communities are faced with overcrowding, and basic services are under severe pressure so the security situation needs to improve so that more people can return to their villages and relieve the burden on these host communities," said Maluleki

This increase in displaced persons occurred in the run-up to local government elections in the area and also when the €20 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, put on hold due to the conflict in the region, was being considered for being given the go-ahead. Fortunately, the October 11, 2023, municipal elections in Mocimboa da Praia went ahead, with four political parties taking part.

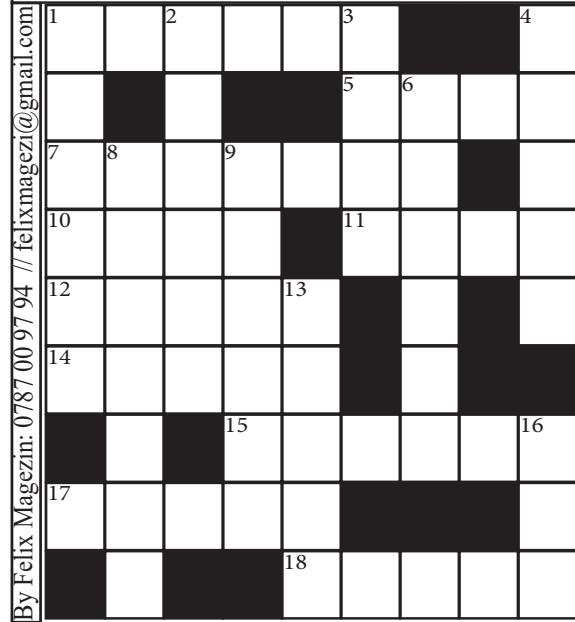
Nyusi has said it was to restart the Cabo Delgado liquefied natural gas (LNG) project that was halted in April 2021 after rebel attacks on civilians.

"The working environment and security in northern Mozambique make it possible for TotalEnergies to resume its activities at any time," Nyusi said. TotalEnergies confirmed it was working on restarting the project.

There are, however, still concerns, especially for the civilian population.

"The deployment of troops was primarily in two districts, and this is concerning because these are the districts where the government has its own interests because they are where the LNG project is. Only two of the five or six districts that the insurgents heavily targeted have received adequate security. All districts affected by the conflict need to be secured so that we can reach a true level of peace and stability and address the root causes of the conflict," said Maluleki.

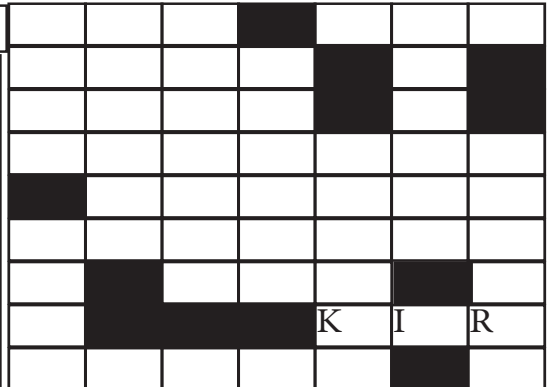
THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT -60 -



- 12 penetrate
- 14 nourish in Icelandic
- 15 a theatre where films are shown
- 17 tough central parts of fruits
- 18 endow with a quality
- Down:
- 1 past participle of drive
- 2 report an offence
- 3 an assistant to a political leader
- 4 an establishment occupied by a community of monks
- 6 make something certain to happen
- 8 a member of a senate
- 9 a cypress tree which is the source of gum sandarac
- 13 set upright
- 16 a playing card with a single spot on it, the highest card in its suit in most games

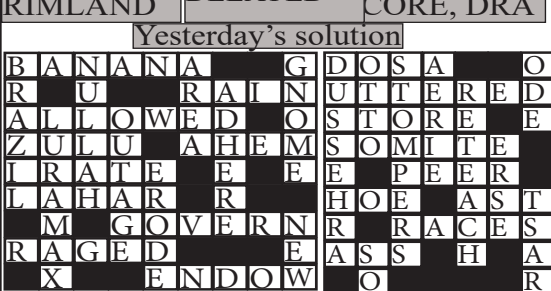
- Across:
- 1 The administrative Capital of Tanzania
- 5 iambus
- 7 Islets
- 10 the flesh of a calf used as a food
- 11 essential nature or essence

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagez@gmail.com



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

- EVENS
- BARD
- PESETA
- AMOEBIA
- RIMLAND
- SPA, BAR
- AMID, KIR
- DEALER
- ROME
- DELAYED
- YARAKS
- DEALER
- DATURA
- CAN RAT
- CORE, DRA



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
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Thursday 18 January 2024

Worst may be over for global banking job losses, analysts say

NEW YORK

Layoffs in the banking industry are set to slow this year after about 62,000 people in the sector lost jobs in 2023, the worst tally of employment losses since the global financial crisis.

The new year has started with one global banking giant announcing a job cut of about a third of last year's total.

Citigroup, the third-largest lender in the US, on Friday announced plans to cut 20,000 jobs within the next two years, raising questions about the health of the banking sector in the world's biggest economy.

However, analysts say despite mounting pressure on income amid slowing economic momentum, most global banks will not have to execute the same scale of employment cuts as last year.

"We think the worst is over when it comes to cutting jobs. Most of the job efficiency problems have been tackled and this year we expect [better] performance in the results from these banks," Naeem Aslam, chief investment officer at Zaye Capital Markets, said.

New York-based Citi on Friday reported that it had swung to a \$1.8 billion loss in the fourth quarter and that the planned cuts are part of its strategy to optimise costs.

The job cuts at Citi are part of its multi-year efforts to cut bureaucracy, increase

profits and boost a stock that has lagged peers.

The bank plans to reduce its global workforce of 239,000 by about 8 per cent through 2026, chief financial officer Mark Mason told reporters.

Citi will also no longer count 40,000 jobs on its payroll when it spins off and lists its Mexican consumer unit Banamex in an initial public offering. It eventually aims to reach a staffing level of 180,000 employees globally, Reuters cited Mr Mason as saying.

Though Citi's announcement of massive job cuts "raises questions about whether it is a continuation of the previous year's trend", it is probably not the case, Vijay Valecha, chief investment officer at Century Financial, said.

Twenty of the world's biggest banks cut at least 61,905 jobs in 2023, according to calculations by the Financial Times. That compares with more than 140,000 jobs slashed by the same lenders during the global financial crisis of 2007-2008.

The biggest contributor to that figure last year was Swiss bank UBS. It let go of about 13,000 employees after it brought Credit Suisse into its fold following the acquisition deal in June to save its liquidity-starved fellow Swiss lender from collapse.

Wells Fargo was the only other lender who cut more than 10,000 jobs.



JP Morgan Chase is among US banks that reported a slide in the fourth-quarter net income, Reuters

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Citi, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase, America's biggest banks, laid off 5,000, 4,800, 4,000, 3,200 and 1,000 employees, respectively, the report said.

Mr Valecha and Ipek Ozkardeskaya, a senior analyst at Swissquote Bank, say layoffs last year were part of the purge of excess staff that lenders had rushed to hire when economies rebounded after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, the level of job losses will be far more contained.

"The bank layoffs should slow this year, given that last year's layoffs were also a correction of the massive hiring that the sector experienced during the post-pandemic months," Ms Ozkardeskaya said.

"Yet the banking sector will see its income come under pressure due to Fed rate cuts, rising bad loans and slowing economies. Therefore, we could see the layoffs continue."

The global economy is set to post the slowest half-decade growth in 30 years, with geopolitics and the raging conflict in the Middle East among key risks to the economic outlook, the World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report this month.

Most advanced and developing economies will grow more slowly this year and next than they did in the decade before the pandemic, with global gross domestic product slowing for a third year in a row to 2.4 per cent in 2024 before increasing to 2.7 per cent in 2025.

The slowing economy, coupled with a divergent economic landscape, will challenge the banking industry in 2024 as lenders' ability to generate income and manage costs will be tested in new ways, Deloitte said in its 2024 Banking

and Capital Markets Outlook report.

"Multiple disruptive forces are reshaping the foundational architecture of the banking and capital markets industry," Deloitte said. "Higher interest rates, reduced money supply, more assertive regulations, climate change and geopolitical tensions are key drivers behind this transformation."

Wells Fargo saw its shares drop 3 per cent on Friday after warning that it expects its net interest income to slide between 7 per cent to 9 per cent in 2024, once the US Federal Reserve starts lowering interest rates.

While the New York-based lender reported that its fourth-quarter profit jumped 9 per cent annually to \$3.4 billion, chief executive Charles Scharf warned that "significant uncertainty exists regarding eventual timing and extent of Federal Reserve interest rate actions".

Bank of America, meanwhile, posted a net profit of \$3.1 billion in the fourth quarter, which was down more than 56 per cent year-on-year.

JP Morgan Chase, the biggest US bank by assets, has also reported a 15 per cent annual slide in its fourth quarter net income to \$9.3 billion.

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are scheduled to report

their earnings on Tuesday.

At least half of 2023's job cuts came from US lenders, where investment banking businesses struggled to cope with reduced business volumes.

The mounting cost and reduced profitability pressures have prompted Wall Street to "safeguard profit margins by reducing headcount", Mr Valecha said.

"Investment banks particularly face a challenging scenario with a second consecutive year of plummeting fees as deal-making and public listings dwindled."

However, despite a difficult year in terms of cost-cutting, banks have faith in the strength of the US economy.

"The US economy continues to be resilient, with consumers still spending and markets currently expect a soft landing," Jamie Dimon, JP Morgan's chief executive and chairman, said in a statement.

A soft landing is a strategy by the Fed to bring down inflation without causing a recession, he said.

Bank of America chief financial officer Alastair Borthwick and Wells Fargo's Scharf echoed confidence in consumers, saying the banks have plenty of firepower and their balance sheets were still strong.

Habib African Bank maintains its NPLs below 2pc in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

Habib African Bank has maintained the level of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) below 2 per cent at 1.47 per cent during the fourth quarter of last year, which indicates the best bank's assets quality.

The NPLs rate was also lower than 1.77 per cent recorded during the third quarter of 2023.

The bank managed to reduce its Non-Performing Loans on loans and advances to 2.9 per cent during the last quarter of last year, compared to 3.3bn/- during the third quarter.

The statement shows the bank's total assets went up to 365.3bn/- during the fourth quarter, compared to 358bn/- recorded during

the third quarter, mostly caused by an increased lending to various sectors of the economy, balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and bills negotiated.

Lending to various sectors of the economy increased to 194.2bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 182.8bn/- during the third quarter, while balance with the central bank amounted to 46.9bn/- against 38.3bn/- respectively.

The statement shows the bank's capital also improved to 43.7bn/- during the fourth quarter, compared to 41.7bn/- during the third quarter, as the result of increased profit and loss account and retained earnings, which also improved the rate of shareholders' funds to total to total assets to 11.97 per cent from



Habib African Bank branch in Dar es Salaam

11.64 per cent.

Profit and loss account amounted to 3.6bn/- during the fourth quarter, more than doubled from 1.6bn/- during the third quarter, while retained earnings slightly went up to 36.1bn/- compared to 35.9bn/- respectively.

The statement shows that the bank also managed to increase the customer deposits to 298.8bn/- during the fourth quarter compared to 293bn/- recorded during the third quarter, while special deposits slightly went up to 5.3bn/- against 5.1bn/- respectively.

During the fourth quarter of last year, the bank with only four branches also managed to expand its basic earnings per

share to 750/-, from a loss of 188/- recorded during similar quarter of 2022.

The statement shows total cumulative comprehensive income for the year increased to 3.6bn/- at the end of December last year, compared to 2.5bn/- recorded during the end of December 2022.

On quarterly basis, total comprehensive income for the year increased to 1.95bn/- during the fourth quarter, higher than a loss of 477mn/- during similar quarter of the previous year.

Operating income increase five times to 1.1bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 204mn/- recorded during similar quarter of 2022, while net income after income tax jumped to

665mn/- against a loss of 489mn/- respectively.

The statement shows that net interest income jumped to 3.4bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 1.2bn/- during similar quarter of the previous year, while non-interest income slightly went up to 1.3bn/- compared to 1.2bn/- respectively.

Established in Tanzania in 1998, Habib African Bank belongs to the most famous, respected and trusted Habib family who are treated as the pioneers of banking industry in the sub continent.

Habib family has been in the forefront of an active and acclaimed international banking business for over 8 decades.

Bolt announces fares adjustment

By Guardian Reporter

The ride-hailing users in Tanzania will now have to dig deeper into their pockets after Bolt announced the adjustment of its fare prices in Tanzania.

The adjustment includes a five percent increase in Dar es Salaam and over 10 percent in other cities, addressing the impact of macroeconomic factors on the transport industry.

In Dar es Salaam, the increased prices have been effected across the boda boda, bajaji, car and Bolt Corporate categories, with the minimum fare ranging from 1000/- and 4000/- across the categories. Bolt has also increased per kilometre pricing.

Munira Ruhwanya, Bolt Tanzania's operations manager said: "At Bolt, we prioritise the well-being of our driver community, understanding that happy and satisfied drivers deliver a superior service to riders. In response to the increased macroeconomic challenges, we have recalibrated our pricing".

She said this modification underscores the company's dedication to ensuring optimal earnings for drivers using the platform, solidifying the position as the preferred and cost-effective choice for Bolt's valued customers.

Price changes will also be implemented in other cities including Dodoma, Mwanza, and Arusha, she noted in a statement issued yesterday.

In continued efforts to enhance its driver relations and address drivers' expectations in terms of handling their concerns, she said, Bolt recently launched its Driver Engagement Center located in Dar es Salaam on 30 Maji Maji Street and is accessed on an appointment basis to ensure seamless and effective management of driver issues.

Ultimately, Bolt recognizes the pivotal role of drivers on its platform and remains committed to improve their earnings, stimulate demand, and enhance their overall service experience.

Bolt app has over 150 million customers in more than 45 countries and 500 cities across Europe and Africa.

The app offers a range of mobility products for different services and needs including ride-hailing and Bolt Business, which is specifically targeting corporates.

Lagarde says ECB will likely cut rates in summer

FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank is likely to cut interest rates in the summer, according to President Christine Lagarde (pictured).

Interviewed at Bloomberg House in Davos by Francine Lacqua, she was asked if there could be majority support for such a move, given that several policymakers have signaled that timing.

"I would say it's likely too," Lagarde said. "But I have to be reserved, because we are also saying that we are data dependent, and that there is still a level of uncertainty and some indicators that are not anchored at the level where we would like to see them."

Just a day before the start of the so-called quiet period that precedes ECB monetary-policy meetings, the president is joining many of her colleagues in seeking to damp expectations of imminent loosening, while acknowledging that officials are on



a path to ultimately lower borrowing costs. "You've talked to some of them, they have spoken recently, and each of them has their view, which I respect completely," Lagarde said. "We generally coalesce towards the decisions that we make on the basis of data. Some of them have their local domestic data, they have their respective inflation rates, "The ECB is still concerned about

upside risks to wages and Governing Council members, most notably Chief Economist Philip Lane, have signaled they should wait until they have the data for the first quarter of this year before starting to loosen policy. This points to June as the most likely date for the first rate cut," says Maeva Cousin, senior economist, Bloomberg Economics. While the president recognized

how consensus is forming, she also said that market bets on aggressive rate cuts are a distraction.

"It is not helping our fight against inflation, if the anticipation is such that they are way too high compared with what's likely to happen," Lagarde said.

Money markets responded to her comments on Wednesday by paring the extent of cuts expected from the ECB this year. They now see about 140 basis points by year end – equivalent to five quarter-point moves, with a 60 per cent chance of a sixth.

Traders were fully pricing in six reductions at the end of last week. There's also less conviction that the first move will come as soon as April, seen as a certainty until now.

Dutch central-bank chief Klaas Knot, speaking concurrently on CNBC, chimed in his view on investor bets.

"Markets are getting ahead of themselves, it's pretty clear, and the problem for us is that in the end

that might become self-defeating," he said. "We are optimistic that we have a credible prospect of a return of inflation to 2 per cent in 2025 but a lot still needs to go well for that to happen."

Fellow Governing Council member Bostjan Vasle said Wednesday that "it's absolutely premature to expect the first cuts at the beginning of the second quarter," while his French counterpart – Francois Villeroy de Galhau – said it too early to say when in 2024 the ECB will start to cut rates as the decision will be guided by data.

Lagarde acknowledged too that officials need more evidence before they can be sure that consumer prices are under control.

"We are on the right path, we are directionally towards the 2 per cent, but unless and until we are confident that it is sustainably at 2 per cent – medium term – and we have the data to support it, I'm not going to shout victory," she said. "Not yet."

MERGERS OF BANKS ARE GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

The banking sector is the largest component of the Tanzanian financial system contributing nearly 70 percent of the total assets of the entire Tanzania financial system, hence it is vital to have a sound, stable, and healthy banking industry. To have that, healthy competition among the banks is embraced by stakeholders. To remain competitive and sustain profits, some banks will have to merge.

Mergers in the banking sector are common in most countries and one of the principal objectives behind mergers is to expand operations and stay competitive. Banks should see mergers as an opportunity to expand their reach quicker and achieve higher productivity, diversify risk, increase efficiency, and reduce cost. Tanzania needs to have large banks that can support the country's vision and sustain economic growth. Last few years, we have seen several mergers and acquisitions in the banking industry which raised some concerns from the public and customers about the health of our banking industry. Some people even concluded that all was

not that well in the banking industry but the reality is, some of those banks were undercapitalized and couldn't compete anymore in the market.

Also, with the emergence of other financial services companies such as Mobile network operators and fintechs, the banking industry is certain to find itself in a wave of consolidation to ensure customers' confidence in banks is unswerving. Mergers of the banks can have a huge influence on our economy as we will have stronger and healthier banks to support the private sector without government dependence. According to the Financial Stability Report released by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in December 2022, the financial sector's total assets as a percentage of GDP were at 40.7% in 2022, so a healthy and stable banking industry is imperative for our country's welfare. The merging of banks has its advantages for our economy:

Improvement of financial health of the banking industry - Mergers of banks will reduce unhealthy competition among the banks and provide fewer options for the customers to choose from hence higher profits for the banks. Competition in the market is welcome but unhealthy

competition leads to many unethical practices which endanger the reputation of the banking industry.

Improvement of customer experience and ease of regulation - Customers will have fewer choices of banks with a wide range of products at lower costs. Larger banks will enable to development of better products and services at a quicker rate than before due to larger resources available after the merger. Also, from a regulatory perspective (i.e., BoT), monitoring and control of a smaller number of banks after mergers will be easier.

Increase capital efficiency - Larger and healthy banks can mitigate the costs well and penetrate the unbanked population better than small and unhealthy banks thus achieving truly financial inclusion. I mentioned in one of my previous articles, that it is estimated that Tanzania's annual infrastructure gap is between \$5-7B billion and one of the major reasons we have this deficit is because of the limited domestic resources available in our country as we know capital adequacy is a major issue of many banks in Tanzania. Merging the banks, increases capital efficiency since the few banks remaining will have more

room to raise capital and hence can finance bigger infrastructure projects to support the country's industrialization vision.

Diversify risks - The most crucial concern in the banking industry is risk management and banks need to have a robust risk management process to balance the deposits and credit portfolios. Mergers can diversify these risks significantly because larger banks are less risky than smaller banks as they will have diversified portfolios.

In conclusion, banks should merge to enhance their financial status, improve customer services, and ensure efficiency and profitability. Bank mergers are unavoidable in today's World due to globalization and competition in financial institutions so the regulator in Tanzania should review the current policies and create suitable conditions for banks to merge. Lastly, having fewer healthier banks, will restore discipline and preserve the confidence of the banking industry.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA (pictured) is a seasoned banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com



Kelvin Mkwawa

Overdraft fees to drop to \$3 under Biden proposal

NEW YORK

The cost to overdraw a bank account could drop to as little as \$3 under a proposal announced by the White House, the latest effort by the Biden administration to combat fees it says pose an unnecessary burden on American consumers, particularly those living paycheck to paycheck.

The change could potentially eliminate billions of dollars in fee revenue for the nation's biggest banks, which were gearing up for a battle even before Wednesday's announcement. Exactly how much revenue depends on which version of the new regulation is adopted.

Banks charge a customer an overdraft fee if their bank account balance falls below zero. Overdraft started as a courtesy offered to some customers when paper checks used to take days to clear, but proliferated thanks to the growing popularity of debit cards.

"For too long, some banks have charged exorbitant overdraft fees - sometimes \$30 or more - that often hit the most vulnerable Americans the hardest, all while banks pad their bottom lines," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "Banks call it a service - I call it exploitation."

Under the proposed rule, banks could only charge customers what it would cost them to break even on providing overdraft services. This would require banks to show the CFPB the costs.

Alternatively, banks could use a benchmark fee that would apply across all affected financial institutions. Regulators proposed several fees - \$3, \$6, \$7 and \$14 - and will gather industry and public input on the most appropriate amount. The CFPB says it arrived at these figures by looking at how much it cost banks to recoup losses from accounts that went negative and were never paid back.

According to research conducted by Bankrate last August, the average overdraft fee was \$26.61. Some banks charge as much as \$39. The nation's biggest banks still take in roughly \$8 billion in overdraft fees every year, according to data from the CFPB and banks' public records.

Biden has made the elimination of "junk fees" one of the cornerstones of his administration's economic agenda heading into the 2024 election. Overdraft fees have been at the center of that campaign, and the White House directed government regulators last year to do whatever is in their power to further curtail the practice.

"We are proposing rules to close a longstanding loophole that allowed many large banks to transform overdraft into a massive junk fee harvesting machine," said Rohit Chopra, direc-

tor of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in a prepared statement to reporters.

Banks could also provide small lines of credit to allow customers to overdraft, a service that would operate like a credit card. Some banks like Truist Bank currently offer that type of service.

The CFPB has signaled for months that it planned to curtail the collection of overdraft fees, with regulators making statements and the bureau putting out research that shows overdraft fees overwhelmingly impact the poor and households of color, who often overdraft multiple times a year.

In response, banks have prepared a massive lobbying campaign to rebuff the Biden Administration's proposal. Whichever proposal is adopted is almost certain to be challenged in court.

The rules would apply only to banks with more than \$10 billion in assets, which is roughly 175 banks that make up most of the financial institutions Americans do business with. The rules spare small banks and credit unions, some of which rely disproportionately on overdraft fees. CFPB officials told reporters that it chose to focus on the largest banks since most Americans bank at these large institutions and that is where the widespread abuses have historically happened.

Decades ago, banks created a service that allowed certain customers with checking accounts to go negative in their accounts to avoid bouncing paper checks. What started as a niche service became a massive profit center for the banks after the proliferation of debit cards that caused customers to debit their bank accounts for small and large amounts of money multiple times a day.

Overdraft fees have been a financial bonanza for the banking industry, with the CFPB estimating that banks collected \$280 billion in overdraft fees in the last 20 years. These fees became so popular that one bank CEO named his boat the "Overdraft."

Caving to popular and political pressure, most of the biggest banks have added safeguards to customers' accounts to allow them to bring the balance back into positive territory before they incur a fee. Bank of America, once considered by industry critics to be the biggest abuser of overdraft fees, cut its fee from \$35 to \$10 two years ago and says revenue from overdraft fees is now less than 10% of what it had been.

While overdraft fees have fallen in recent years, a Bankrate survey found that 91% of bank accounts still can charge overdraft fees.

If the rule is adopted and survives political and legal challenges, the new regulations would go into effect in the autumn of 2025.

Markets heed central bank pushback against rate cuts

BY ALINE OYAMADA & JAMES HIRAI

Across the world's biggest markets, traders are finally paying heed to warnings from central banks and winding back bets on aggressive interest-rate cuts this year.

The latest leg of the repricing kicked off Wednesday after the UK reported a surprise acceleration in inflation, the first in almost a year. Within minutes of the release, the market had moved to price in just four quarter-point Bank of England reductions this year, down from as many as six last month.

For days, officials from the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve have been striking a more cautious tone about the outlook for monetary policy easing. The UK number may just be a blip in a long-run downward trend, but it's helped policymakers in their efforts to sell that message and rein in some of the rate-cut enthusiasm.

Traders are now paying heed, betting on fewer cuts from the world's major central banks this year. They've also pushed back the timing for the first moves, assigning a lower probability to reductions in the first quarter.

The UK data "has provided the mood music for the concerted efforts by various central bankers to keep rate-cut expectations in check," said Jane Foley, head of FX strategy at Rabobank. It "will reinforce expectations that the BOE is set to lag both the ECB and the Fed on rate cuts this year."

Central banker caution about rate cuts is built on a number of platforms, from the relative resilience of employment and economies to concern that price growth will prove stickier and stay above targets.

And many central bankers still have scars from the recent spike, having at first predicted that it would be transitory. Now, even with inflation having peaked in major economies, they are wary of underestimating the threat again and loosening too soon or too fast.

Speaking in Davos on Wednesday, State Street CEO Ron O'Hanley said the health of the US labor market and the economy means the Fed is going to "err on the side of holding interest rates."

"I don't think the Fed would like to see a resurgence of inflation," he said.

"To me, the Fed was very clear in their dot plot. I don't know why markets decided to double it and go to town on that. It doesn't make sense."

Distractions

On Tuesday, Fed Governor Christopher Waller said the US central bank should move carefully when it begins cutting interest rates, comments that tempered expectations for loosening.

Markets now imply 150 basis points of cuts in the US this year, from as much as 166 basis points last week. The chance of a cut in March, once seen as a certain, is now just over 50%.

ECB President Christine Lagarde followed with remarks Wednesday that market bets are a distraction.

"It is not helping our fight against inflation, if the anticipation is such that they are way too high compared with what's likely to happen," she said in an interview at Bloomberg House in Davos.

Money markets responded by paring the extent of cuts expected this year. They now see 140 basis points by year end - equivalent to five quarter-point moves, with a 60% chance of a sixth.

In the UK, the inflation figures were the key market driver. Expectations for four cuts compares with six just a month ago, while the first move is seen in June rather than May. The data also lifted the pound against the dollar for the first time in four days.

But even as central bankers



There is a growing realization that central banks won't be rushing to cut rates quickly," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown. They are "facing the foe of stubborn inflation and geopolitical risk is widening particularly in the Middle East, with no end in sight for shipping delays which threaten to lift goods prices.



That will still leave inflation tracking a little higher than previously expected, but still leaves it quite a lot below the MPC's latest November forecasts," he said. "We look for the first rate cut to come in May. But the months ahead will be quite a wild ride

push back on the timing and pace, the rate direction still seems set.

James Rossiter, head of global macro strategy at Toronto Dominion, was among a number of economists to note that the upside UK inflation reading was driven by volatile components, in this case airfares, which could quickly reverse course.

"That will still leave inflation tracking a little higher than previously expected, but still leaves it quite a lot below the MPC's latest November forecasts," he said. "We look for the first rate cut to come in May. But the months ahead will be quite a wild ride."

Supply bottlenecks

In her Bloomberg interview, Lagarde noted the dangers of an inflation resurgence. She said what she's "watching carefully" are wage bargaining, profit margins, energy prices and fresh bottlenecks.

Policymakers have reason to be wary. Disruptions to supply chains that began during the pandemic were partly behind an initial bout of inflation that occurred before energy prices spiked in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"There is a growing realization that central banks won't be rushing to cut rates quickly," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown. They are "facing the foe of stubborn inflation and geopolitical risk is widening particularly in the Middle East, with no end in sight for shipping delays which threaten to lift goods prices."

BANKING & FINANCE

Dollar at one-month peak on easing rate-cut

TOKYO

The dollar index hovered at a one-month high against a basket of currencies on Wednesday as remarks by Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller dampened expectations for a March rate cut.

Meanwhile, China's offshore yuan failed to hold on to a brief pickup from a two-month

low in the wake of mixed domestic economic data, as expectations grow for Beijing to roll out more stimulus measures soon.

In a boost to the dollar, Waller said that while the US is "within striking distance" of the Fed's 2 percent inflation goal, the Fed should not rush towards cuts in its benchmark interest rate until it is clear lower inflation will be sustained.

Market expectations of a rate cut in March

have eased to a 62.2 percent chance versus an 76.9 percent view in the prior session, according to CME's FedWatch Tool.

While the market's latest pricing brings the Fed rate curve into more sensible territory, "with 157 basis points of rate cuts still priced in for 2024, there is room for this to ease back," said Tony Sycamore, market analyst at IG.

Remarks by European Central Bank (ECB)

President Christine Lagarde later on Wednesday could bring further repricing, he added.

"Rate cuts are coming but not as soon as some might be hoping for," Sycamore said.

The dollar index, a measure of the greenback against a basket of major currencies, climbed to 103.55, its highest level since Dec. 13.

US retail sales data will be published later on Wednesday.

In China, official data showed the economy grew slightly slower than expected in the fourth quarter, while a deepening property crisis, mounting deflationary pressures and weak demand continue to plague the country.

The offshore Chinese yuan ticked up to as high as 7.2073 per dollar after the data release but slid back to 7.2220, not far from the two-month low of 7.2229 touched on Tuesday.

Big US banks call on Fed to rewrite capital rule

NEW YORK

United States banks have urged the US Federal Reserve to completely overhaul a draft rule hiking capital requirement, in the latest leg of Wall Street's effort to water down the "Basel Endgame" proposal that bankers say will hurt the economy.

Comments on the Basel rule, and two other big bank capital and long-term debt draft rules that aim to boost banking system safety and soundness, are due on Tuesday.

The deadline offers banks a key opportunity to try to reshape the Basel rule, which they have been fiercely fighting with lobbying and public advertising and media campaigns.

"The impending deluge of negative comments should bolster the case for a more comprehensive shift or a re-proposal," Isaac Boltansky, director of policy research at brokerage BTIG, wrote on Saturday.

While it is rare for the Fed to rewrite rules, it is not unprecedented. A Fed spokesman declined to comment. The central bank's vice chair for supervision and the rule's key architect Michael Barr has said last year's banking crisis shows extra capital is necessary to guard against unforeseen shocks.

The rule, first unveiled in July, recalibrates how banks calculate how much cash



they must set aside to cover risks.

Banks say it is unnecessary since the industry is already awash with capital, and is so onerous it will hurt products and services from green lending and pension plan services to commodities hedging and Treasury market liquidity. They will call for the Fed to repropose the rule, executives said.

"I very much hope that it is... completely revised," Citigroup Chief Executive Jane Fraser told reporters during a quarterly earnings call on Friday, adding it would hurt U.S. bank competitiveness and push lending into shadow banks.

In an unusual move, bank groups representing Citi, JPMorgan Chase & Co and Bank of America, among others, got ahead of the deadline, on Friday warning the Fed in a

public letter that, if finalized, the rule would violate federal laws because it fails to justify why the changes are necessary.

Also speaking to reporters on Friday, JPMorgan Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Barrum said litigation "can't be taken off the table when you're talking about something of this seriousness," but that it was not the preferred route.

Barr has said the rule's effect on borrowing would be limited and U.S. banks have been more competitive than European banks, despite having more capital. Last week he also said the Fed is taking feedback into account and considering fixes.

Meanwhile, USTreasury yields rose on Tuesday, reversing the bullish tone at the end of last week after central bankers in Europe and the United States pushed back against market expectations of

imminent interest rate cuts.

Yields, which move inversely to prices, were higher across the curve by about six basis points after weakness in European bonds on Monday spurred by European Central Bank officials pushing back on market bets on rate cuts. US markets were closed on Monday for a national holiday.

Meanwhile, a report over the weekend showed Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic said inflation could "see-saw" if the central bank cuts rates too soon.

Fed funds futures traders on Tuesday were pricing for over 150 basis points in rate cuts this year, with a nearly 70 percent probability assigned to a first cut as soon as March.

The mismatch between market expectations and indications from the Federal Reserve, which has pencilled

in 75 basis points of cuts in 2024, is likely to continue to cause swings in yields, said Doug Huber, vice president for investment strategies at Wealth Enhancement Group.

"There's the questions of when rates get cut and how may are there ... to us that will set us up for an environment where we're anticipating more volatility in rates," he said.

While higher compared on their close last week, yields declined on Monday after the New York Federal Reserve's Empire Manufacturing survey came much lower than expected.

Benchmark 10-year yields were last seen at 4.02 percent, up from a 3.95 percent close last week. Two-year yields, which more closely reflect monetary policy expectations, were at about 4.2 percent, up from 4.13 percent on Friday.

73 projects under PPP ready for implementation

By Correspondent James Kandoya

The government yesterday said that so far 73 projects in energy and transports are ready for implementation under Public, Private Partnership (PPP), including the power transmission project.

David Kafulila (pictured), the Chief Executive Officer of the Public, Private Partnership (PPP) Centre, told the Guardian over phone that the readiness of investors were attributed by the recent decision of the government to amend procurement legal frameworks.

Kafulila said the projects based on infrastructures include rail, roads, and airports while in education sector they include hostels while in energies sector, projects are centred on power transmissions

He named one of the projects worth US\$300 million power transmission that will be implemented by the North East Company limited.

He said the projects in roads infrastructure were a US\$2 million - four lanes project from Kibaha - Morogoro, construction of outer-ring roads (130 kilometres), and the Kigamboni Ferry bridge, worth US\$300 million.

"After the legal framework review



including amendment of procurement Act, more investors are now ready to implement the projects under PPP after legal review," he said.

"The process of identifying other projects is still taking place. Therefore, we hope the number of projects will increase," he added.

Other investors have shown interest in constructing monorail in cities, cold rooms, business complexes at the airports and construction of hostels in the

education sector.

May last year, the government expressed its ambition of raising US\$9 billion (21trn/-) in a three years to finance transport and energy projects to allow it to invest in areas that are less attractive to investors

Jenifa Omolo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Finance and Planning said that in Dar es Salaam when officially opening PPP project identification workshop.

She said the workshop, involved CEOs, directors of government agencies such as Tanzania National Road Agency (TANROAD), the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) and Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO).

Others were Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), Tanzania Airport Authority (TAA), Tanzania Petroleum Development Programme (TPDC) and Tanzania Port Authority (TPA).

Omolo said energy and transport sectors were critical in driving economic growth and development in emerging economies like Tanzania therefore, investing in the sectors through PPP will create a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth.

She said effective PPP will improve transportation infrastructure thereby facilitating the movement of goods and also embrace the Energy sector to provide reliable and affordable energy for homes, businesses, and industries.

"I am confident that we can achieve this goal through our partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and develop a successful PPP program that aligns with our development objectives," she said.

Mwanza youths list benefits of USAID support

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TRAINING on proposal development, financial management, leadership, monitoring and evaluation, research and data management has brought positive results to members of Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN) by helping them to secure funding to implement different projects.

Brightius Titus, MYCN's executive director said this recently in Dar es Salaam when briefing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) staff and other members from different Civil Society Organisations from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar about what has been achieved through DATA Driven Advocacy Activity (DDA) project in Mwanza Region.

The training was offered free of charge by Freedom House Inc-Tanzania and Pact Tanzania through Data Driven Advocacy project with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Under DDA project, MYCN staffs were also trained on organizational sustainability, resource mobilization, strategic plans, adaptive management, communication and social media, media engagement, quick book system, compliance, how to report Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), governance, advocacy skills and human rights.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from Pact Tanzania and Freedom House Inc-Tanzania, donor funding has increased rapidly from US\$98,000 in 2018 to US\$175,000 per year.

The obtained grants from donors have been used to establish child road safety project, advocate for the review of Road Traffic Act to include child restraint, train pupils on road safety issues, how to report once they face challenges in road as well as wearing helmets.

Also MYCN has been able to formulate new Sardines Value Addition Strategy (2024-2028) in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and other stakeholders aimed at adding value to the sardine, promote blue economy, increase employment and help youth and other people to reduce poverty through engaging in sustainable blue economy businesses.

Establish empowerment project for young women and people with disabilities and come up with new six-years project dubbed: 'Decentralization and Climate Change Adaptation' Project (2022-2027).

Also has been able to conduct advocacy on HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act amendment to allow 15-18 years children to undergo HIV/AIDS self-testing.

"Right now service providers and institutions dealing with HIV/AIDS are trained on how to use new guidelines so that can provide high quality health services," he said.

Also financial management systems, data storage systems, monitoring and evaluation system, data management and communication system have been improved something that was not the case in the past.

Apart from that, they have been able to engage with the government decision makers as well as improved organizational governance.

They have been able to secure more grants from different donors include Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) based in Sweden, Foundation for Civil Society, Sustainable Energy Organisation based in Denmark and Children Radio Foundation based in South Africa.

Daniel Lema, Freedom House Inc-Tanzania, chief of party added DDA project was established to improve and sustain Tanzanian Civil Society's ability to advocate for and influence policy on key national human rights.

The activity provides mentorship and technical assistance to rights -focused civil society organizations in data collection, evidence-based advocacy and digital and physical protection.

According to him, DDA helps CSOs build or strengthen platforms for coordination with stakeholders and strengthen institutional capacity.

It also provides CSOs with resources and mentorship to engage the government and encourage more inclusive, data-driven, human rights focused policy making process.

He expressed thanks to CSOs and groups of people who have participated to implement DDA project including USAID office specifically Bret Saalwaechter, director of democracy, rights and good governance USAID/Tanzania and Mr. Adam

BANKING & FINANCE

Saudi EXIM bank signs MoU with US EXIM to advance trade

RIYADH

Saudi EXIM Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with US EXIM, focusing on fostering all-round collaboration, strengthening economic ties, and advancing trade relations between the two nations.

This MoU was signed on the sidelines of the 2024 Future Minerals Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from January 9 to 11.

The MoU additionally seeks to foster bilateral trade and strengthen economic ties between the two countries. It outlines a framework for cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of expertise and resources between both entities.

Through this agreement, Saudi

EXIM and US EXIM seek to facilitate trade financing, support exports, and promote investment opportunities in key sectors. The MoU also promotes knowledge and information sharing, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices, ultimately enhancing the competitiveness and growth of businesses in both Saudi Arabia and the US.

The signing of the MoU is part of the bank's initiative to establish guiding principles for enhancing cooperation and trade relations in the US market. This initiative focuses on facilitating the export and import of products and services, exchanging information and expertise, and offering support related to credit lines and facilities.

These efforts aim to bolster the presence of Saudi non-oil exports in global markets, aligning with the objectives of the kingdom's Vision 2030 and increasing its contribution to the gross domestic product.

Eng Saad Al-Khalb, CEO of Saudi EXIM Bank, emphasised that the signing of this agreement is part of the bank's commitment to contribute to accelerating global economic growth. This involves strengthening trade relations and enhancing the efficiency of export and import activities with global markets. Al-Khalb highlighted the solid foundations of cooperation and shared interests in the bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and the US. He expressed the bank's commitment

to ongoing collaboration to achieve common economic objectives, broaden trade and investment cooperation, and capitalise on promising opportunities, particularly in strategic sectors outlined by the kingdom's Vision 2030, such as mining, petrochemicals, manufacturing, renewable energy, tourism, financial services, healthcare, and more.

Chair & President of US EXIM, Reta Jo Lewis Esq, commented: "This milestone paves the way for a mutually beneficial collaboration between our respective banks. The relationship between Saudi Arabia and the US has always been strategically important and we aim to further enhance and solidify this bond."



WORLD

'World's Coolest Winter' seen to lift UAE's role in global tourism

ABU DHABI

THE United Arab Emirates' ministers and officials in local and federal government entities reaffirmed that the 4th season of "World's Coolest Winter" campaign represents a key milestone in cementing the UAE's position at the forefront of global tourism.

This year's campaign was launched by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice-president and prime minister of UAE and ruler of Dubai, on Jan 9 under the slogan "Unforgettable Stories".

Ministers and officials underlined the importance of the "World's Coolest Winter" campaign, implemented by the Ministry of Economy with the support of the UAE Government Media Office and in cooperation with various bodies concerned with tourism, culture and heritage, in showcasing cultural and heritage landmarks that are distinctive to the UAE.

The nationwide campaign presents a wide range of options that cater to diverse interests of domestic tourists and international travelers and leave unforgettable moments in their memories about the UAE.

Officials also stressed on the campaign's pivotal role in bolstering the sense of belonging and connection to the UAE as a place and highlighting the key touristic attractions of each emirate, especially during the mild winter season that distinguishes the country.

The campaign is part of the ambitious projects that aim to promote tourism as a promising sector, which helps attract more international companies to the UAE's markets and

create new job opportunities for national cadres that stimulate national economic growth and strengthen the UAE's global competitiveness.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, minister of economy, said the "World's Coolest Winter" campaign stimulates investments in tourism projects in the UAE and boosts the sector's contribution to the national economy in line with the National Tourism Strategy 2031.

He added: "The fourth edition of the Coolest Winter campaign contributes to familiarizing the world with the leading tourism experiences offered by the UAE, as well as the cultural, recreational, natural, and historic treasures that characterize them.

The campaign also aims to boost investment in tourism projects within the country, and support the growth of revenues in the travel, hospitality and aviation sectors, thereby increasing their contribution to the national economy."

He noted the importance of the campaign in promoting the country's tourism diversity through highlighting its diverse activities and premium tourism products that cater to the interests of local visitors and international tourists alike. This contributes to attracting all segments of domestic tourists through promotional events and initiatives, which revitalizes the economy and growth rates further enhancing the competitiveness of the tourism sector at the regional and global levels.

The UAE ranks among top 10 countries globally in a number of competitiveness indicators linked to the tourism, travel and hotel sector.



A boat sails on a night ride at the Dubai marina with a view of the Gulf emirate's skyline in the United Arab Emirates on Dec 15, 2023. AFP

Bin Touq noted that the past three editions of the "World's Coolest Winter" campaign, first launched in 2020, represented an important step towards achieving the goals of the National Tourism Strategy 2031 to attract AED 100 billion (\$27.2 billion) as additional investments in the tourism sector and raise its contribution to GDP by AED 450 billion by the next decade, raising the country's status as the best tourism identity in the world.

The minister stated that the figures recorded by the campaign in its third edition will inspire more efforts and achievements. The total revenues of hotel facilities amounted to AED 1.8 billion, an increase of 20 percent compared to the second edition of the campaign, and the third edition attracted 1.4 million local tourists, an increase of 8 percent compared to the second edition.

Saeed Al Eter, chair of the UAE Government Media Office, said the campaign presents an exceptional opportunity to drive further growth in the tourism sector and promote the distinctive features of the UAE, which boasts ecological diversity, rich historical sites, unique cultural and heritage elements, and warm hospitality that offer an unforgettable visitor experience.

He noted that the UAE's winter season transforms every corner of the UAE into an attractive spot for domestic visitors and tourists.

Al Eter said: "The remarkable success witnessed in the campaign's past three seasons are the outcome of the joint efforts of local and federal government entities in collaboration with authorities running promotional programmes and campaigns.

This cooperation is gaining additional momentum this year as the UAE Government Media Office is keen to strengthen coordination among the campaign's organizers across the seven emirates and unify efforts to deliver a positive image of our country."

He added: "This year's slogan 'Unforgettable Stories' carries profound meanings and connotations about making the visitor experience filled with moments of awe, discovery, adventure, and entertainment that form stories and images captured on international media platforms.

The slogan ideally reflects the campaign's main objective to make every detail of the trip around the UAE memorable and inspire tourists to return to the country for another visit as soon as possible, further consolidat-

ing the UAE's standing as a top touristic destination globally."

Saleh Mohammed Al Geziry, director-general of tourism at the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), said: "Promoting the UAE as one global destination. 'The World's Coolest Winter' campaign further underscores the nation as a thriving global hub for business and leisure travel. Whether you're a culture enthusiast, a sports fan, a food connoisseur, an adrenaline seeker, or a music lover, Abu Dhabi has a range of activities that encourage visitors to experience the emirate at their own pace."

Through the collective efforts, the UAE was building an infrastructure that fosters the sustainable growth of the leisure, hospitality and tourism industries, anchoring our position as a top global touristic destination, Al Geziry said.

Issam Kazim, CEO of Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, said the campaign builds on a successful journey that began in 2020 and played an influential role in transforming the UAE into a global tourism hub and a favorite winter destination.

He pointed to the UAE's modern infrastructure and facilities, world-class transport system, warm hospitality, authentic customs, ecological diversity, and broad range of festivals and activities.

"The 'World's Coolest Winter' campaign presents an added value to the tourism sector and global standing of the UAE," said Kazim, vowing a "special" 4th season of the campaign that is set to attract a record number of visitors and increased hotel revenue.

Agencies

Great time for Indian companies to invest in Russia, says minister

NEW DELHI

INDIA and Russia enjoy a "great partnership," and it is a great time for Indian companies to invest in the Russian market, Minister of Moscow City, Sergey Cheremyn said yesterday.

Speaking to ANI, Cheremyn, who is here in India, said the bilateral trade between both countries has grown in recent times and more investment can be initiated into the high technology sector of both countries.

Cheremyn, who is the Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow, also launched Moscow's pavilion at the 31st Convergence India and 9th Smart Cities India Expo.

"This is the first time we are participating in this event. We (Moscow) are one of the most dynamic cities. Recently, we were awarded by the United States Habitat as the number one city in the world for modernization. This is because Moscow implemented digitalisation in all the municipal spheres. We use digital solutions in education and healthcare," he said.

He further elaborated on how Indian cities and Moscow can collaborate in the development of smart cities and the success of India's smart cities mission.

"We have great synergy because India is very advanced in software technology, ITs and cyber security, and that can bring synergy to both Moscow and New Delhi, or big metropolises, but all our citizens," he asserted.

Highlighting the long ties between the two countries, Cheremyn reasoned why Indian companies should invest in Moscow, saying Russia is a great market and an 'entrance' to the European market.

"For 75 years, we have had a great partnership between the two countries. We have great potential for bilateral trade in such fields as smart and safe cities and high-technology machinery. It is a great moment for Indian companies to come and invest in Russia. It is not because most Western companies have existed but we have a lot in common. Moreover, Russia is a great market and it is also an entrance to the European market," he further added.

The Smart Cities India expo is a showcase of India's emerging modernisation and developing landscape. The expo showcases the integration of transformative technologies with the key pillars of urban development.

ANI

Rwanda bill: UK Conservative Party deputy chairmen resign

LONDON

TWO deputy chairmen of the British ruling Conservative Party resigned Tuesday evening as the lawmakers in the United Kingdom voted on amendments to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's emergency legislation on immigration.

Lee Anderson (pictured) and Brendan Clarke-Smith announced their resignations after voting in favor of an amendment to the legislation.



They wrote in a joint letter to the prime minister regarding the amendments that "whilst our main wish is to strengthen the legislation, this means that in order to vote for amendments we will therefore need to offer you our resignations".

In April 2022, the UK reached a deal with Rwanda, under which illegal immigrants and asylum seekers would be sent to the east African country to have their claims processed there. If successful, they would be granted permanent residency in Rwanda rather than being allowed to return to the UK.

However, the scheme has met with resistance. The first flight scheduled to take seven migrants to Rwanda in June 2022 was canceled after an intervention by the European Court of Human Rights. Two months ago, the UK's Supreme Court ruled that the government's scheme was unlawful.

The British government later introduced an emergency legislation that would override domestic and international human rights law, and Members of Parliament (MPs) voted in favor of the new bill last month.

On Tuesday, British lawmakers rejected amendments to the bill proposed by the Labour Party by 336 votes to 262. A main vote on the bill is expected on Wednesday.

Jane Stevenson, another Conservative MP, also offered her resignation as a Parliamentary Private Secretary over the vote on Tuesday evening. *Xinhua*

Worst cholera outbreak in years hits eastern, southern Africa - UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is helping 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa battle one of the worst cholera outbreaks in years, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF has reported more than 200,000 cases of cholera, including over 3,000 deaths in eastern and southern Africa, said Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"The outbreak has placed an immense strain on health care systems and exposed vulnerabilities in sanitation and hygiene infrastructure," Dujarric said. "UNICEF is providing life-saving supplies for prevention and treatment across the region."

The spokesman said the agency is also working closely with government agencies and community members to promote hygiene practices, improve water and sanitation infrastructure and ensure that families have access to the information and resources needed to protect their children.

Zambia and Zimbabwe were particularly hard hit. "Since the first reported case in Zambia in October 2023, more than 9,500 people have been affected, and 374 deaths have been registered, with a case fatality rate of 3.9 percent, a devastatingly high number," UNICEF said in a release on Monday. "Nine out of 10 provinces are now reporting cholera cases."

UNICEF said that about 52 percent of all cases in Zambia are



Patients receive treatment at a clinic in Kuwadzana, a suburb west of Harare, Zimbabwe, on Nov. 19, 2023. Zimbabwe's capital city, Harare, recorded more than half of the reported national suspected cholera cases on Friday as the pandemic continues to spread across the country, according to official figures. *Xinhua*

children under 15. As the worst-affected district, Lusaka shares over 90 percent of the disease burden.

"In Zimbabwe, since the start of the outbreak in February last year, more than 18,000 cases have been reported across all 10 provinces, with 71 confirmed deaths and more than 300 suspected deaths," the agency said.

"Harare and Manicaland Provinces are the most affected. One in six new cholera infections in Zimbabwe are affecting children under 5." UNICEF said the new school year has resumed as planned in Zimbabwe.

But in Zambia, the cholera escalation has led to the postponement of the start of school till Jan. 29. Approximately 4.3 million students are affected. *Xinhua*

China's automobile production and sales in 2023 reached 30.161 million and 30.094 million units respectively, surpassing the 30 million mark for the first time, according to data released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) on Jan. 11, 2024.

This achievement solidifies China's position as the world's top automobile producer and consumer for 15 consecutive years.

Furthermore, China maintained its global leadership in the production and sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) for the ninth consecutive year, with over 9 million units produced and sold in 2023.

In the same year, China's automobile exports approached 5 million units, representing a significant increase compared to the previous year.

"This new record is the result of the collective efforts of the entire auto industry," said Fu Bingfeng, executive vice president and secretary general of the CAAM.

China's auto production and sales report strong growth

China's ability to produce and sell over 30 million vehicles highlights its substantial market advantage and consumption potential.

In recent years, China has been steadfast in developing NEVs, constantly making breakthroughs in core technologies and expanding the market size. It took the country 27 years to produce the first 10 million NEVs, and only 17 months to reach the milestone of 20 million, showcasing an impressive "China speed."

In 2023, China produced and sold 9.587 million and 9.495 million units of NEVs, respectively, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 35.8 percent and 37.9 percent. China accounted for over 60 percent of global NEV sales.

As of the end of 2023, NEVs in use rose to 20.41 million in China, according to data released by China's Ministry of Public Security on Jan. 11, 2024.

While embracing industrialization and marketization, China's NEV industry is now embarking on a new phase of extensive and high-quality growth, propelling the global auto industry into a new era of electrification and intelligence.

According to data from the CAAM, China's automobile exports reached 4.91 million units in 2023, marking a year-on-year growth of 57.9 percent. This impressive growth can be attributed to Chinese car companies' emphasis on international expansion and their competitive edge in the new energy vehicle sector.

New energy vehicles, which have become a prominent symbol of China's manufacturing prowess, have played a crucial role in propelling the steady expansion of the Chinese auto industry on the global stage.

Zhang Jinhua, secretary-general of the China Society of Automotive Engineers, noted that Chinese new energy vehicle technology and products have become a crucial force supporting the transformation of the global auto industry. The establishment of China's NEV ecosystem will play a vital role in strengthening the synergy between domestic and international markets and resources.

Currently, Chinese car manufacturers are actively investing in overseas production facilities as part of their long-term global expansion plans.

Liu Luochuan, director of the Strategic Development Research Center at Dongfeng Motor Corp., foresees deepening localization of Chinese automobiles in foreign markets, accompanied by a rise in the number of overseas production bases.

By 2030, an estimated 50 percent of China's overseas automobile sales will come from trade exports, while the other half will be generated by sales from overseas factories. Additionally, there will be a growing proportion of new energy vehicle exports contributing to this trend.

"China's auto supply chain not only contributes to the global auto industry through trade but also plays a role in shaping the layout of the global supply chain through investment," said Zhang Yongwei, vice president of China EV100, an electric vehicle industry think tank.

Taking power batteries as an example, as of now, Chinese auto manufacturers have surpassed a cumulative planned capacity of 500 gigawatt-hours (GWh) overseas.

China's auto industry has gained

a global competitive edge, thanks to its robust domestic market and well-established industrial and supply chains. New brands in the intelligent NEV sector have emerged, including NIO, Li Auto, AITO, and Xpeng, leaving their mark on the global auto market.

China's auto market has significant growth potential, fueled by factors like vehicle ownership per 1,000 people and the demand for car upgrading and trade-ins. The CAAM predicts that car sales in China will surpass 31 million units by 2024.

Miao Wei, vice-chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), believes that China's target of having new energy vehicles account for over 50 percent of total sales by 2035 could be achieved as early as 2025, or at the latest by 2026.

People's Daily

Uncertainty, anxiety loom over 2024 US presidential election

NEW YORK

Uncertainty and anxiety loom over the 2024 U.S. presidential election as the Iowa caucus on Monday kicked off the official race for the White House.

Only 31 minutes after the caucuses in the Midwestern U.S. state had begun Monday evening, former President Donald Trump was projected to easily win the first major test of the 2024 Republican primary race.

The victory is seen as a boost to Trump's momentum toward a potential rematch in November with the current Democratic President Joe Biden that could likely put the country's institutions to an extreme test.

"Trump has significant control of Republican primary voters and elites, and seems nearly a lock for the nomination," David Redlawsk, James R. Soles professor and chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Delaware, told Xinhua on Monday.

"This is due to his remaking of the most active parts of the Republican party -- those most likely to vote in primaries. Even if many Republicans (and most Independents) do not really want him, much of the GOP sees him as the only possible option to beat Biden, no matter what his flaws," said Redlawsk.

"The main thing that makes 2024 nearly unique is the fact that a former president defeated in the prior general election is running," he said, adding that the only other time this has happened was in 1892 when Grover Cleveland ran and won, defeating Benjamin Harrison, who had beaten him four years before.

"Having a former president running changes the election dynamics significantly," he said. "The fact that it is Don-

ald Trump adds to this since Trump clearly is signaling his lack of belief in the kind of democratic traditions that have defined the United States throughout its history."

On top of that, the fact that Trump has been indicted on many counts and is facing multiple criminal and civil trials also makes this election "entirely different from any that have come before," said Redlawsk.

There are also efforts trying to remove Trump from the ballot in a handful of states. Colorado's Supreme Court ruled last month that Trump is disqualified from competing in the race under the 14th Amendment's insurrection clause, finding that he violated his oath with his actions around Jan. 6, 2021.

Maine's Secretary of State Sheena Bellows also disqualified Trump under the amendment. But Trump has framed his legal issues as political attacks, arguing he's the victim of a "witch hunt" as he runs for another term.

In the case of Joe Biden, he is the incumbent president and as such the leader of the Democratic Party, according to Redlawsk. "There was really no one who could (or would) effectively challenge him since he decided he wanted to run again.

It is rare for an incumbent to face a serious challenge in his own party so the Democrats have him regardless of voter enthusiasm," he said. "A rematch between two old, disliked candidates is likely to come November and this is a result of partisan dysfunction and fracture," said Samuel J. Abrams, professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College, and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, in an interview with Xinhua.



Former U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at a caucus site in Clive, Iowa, the United States, Jan. 15, 2024. Multiple U.S. media outlets on Monday night projected former U.S. President Donald Trump, who is the front-runner in the Republican presidential race, will win the 2024 Iowa Republican caucuses. Xinhua

"Both parties lack clear platforms or agreement on policies and priorities. Meanwhile, both have active presidents who want the Oval Office and are not thinking about party building and the good of the nation at present," said Abrams.

"Trump has no clear successor nor Biden and the race is now about their personalities, not policies and politics."

"Moreover, we have a situation with incredibly low approval of both candidates and no new, real competition, suggesting low engagement and interest and thus low turnout -- so the base that supported Biden, for instance, may not show up this time around. The question is will Trump stir up

enough interest in the battleground states to win and it is too early to figure that out," he said.

Abrams warned that "this election is quite dangerous for the nation and I worry about stability." "On one hand, if Trump wins, he will be aggressive, not work with Democrats, and use the powers of the president to push through his agenda," he said.

"While some of his agenda is smart, the fact remains that compromise and shared governance have traditionally promoted stability, and failing to do that has economic, social, and political consequences."

"Should Biden win, he will have to demonstrate that he can set his party on a path forward beyond just beating

Trump; how will the Democrats manage the economy, global affairs, civil unrest, etc; how progressive or centrist will they be; who will be the next generations of leaders?" said Abrams.

"I think that regardless of who wins, partisan rancor will continue and we will see unstable majorities emerge such that one party comes into power, becomes fairly extreme and pushes through policy which is unstable and not widely accepted only to be changed by the next administration," said Abrams.

"This does not bode well for the future -- it is hard to invest, hard to plan ... and civic life will decline with anxiety rising."

Lavrov to participate in UNSC debate on Middle East, meeting on Ukraine next week

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will take part in an open debate



on the Middle East and a meeting on Ukraine at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on January 22-24, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova announced at a news briefing.

"In the period from January 22 to January 24, Russian Foreign Minister plans to take part in a UNSC quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue, and a meeting on Ukraine initiated by our country," she said.

"As regards the discussion of the Ukrainian issue, we consider it a good opportunity to once again convey Russia's position, including on political and diplomatic means of settling the crisis, taking into account Russia's legitimate security interests," the diplomat added.

The upcoming event on the Middle East is expected to discuss ways out of the violent crisis between Israel and Palestine which affects the situation in the entire region, Zakharova said. According to her, since the very start of the unprecedented bout of violence on occupied Palestinian territory, mostly in the Gaza Strip, Russia "has strongly pushed for an immediate ceasefire and restoration of the political horizon in the Middle East settlement process," she concluded.

Agencies

Davos 2024: Global economies brace for impact as interest rates remain in uncharted territory

Davos

THE recent Chief Economist Outlook survey indicates a continuing ease in global inflation in 2024, prompting speculation about the trajectory of interest rates for the year.

Central banks worldwide, over the last two years, implemented their steepest interest-rate increases in two decades to counter inflation.

While expectations for high inflation are diminishing globally, the persistently high rates are testing economic resilience and impacting borrowers and global markets.

The implications of these high rates and the possibility of them becoming the new normal were discussed in a session titled "The High Rate Reality" at Davos 2024, the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

The panel included Gita Gopinath, First Managing Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF); Francois Villeroy de Galhau, Governor of the Central Bank of France; Chuck Robbins, Chair and CEO of Cisco Systems; and Nasdaq Inc. Chair and CEO Adena Friedman, in conversation with Steve Sedgwick, anchor at CNBC.

Gopinath began the session by addressing "premature" expectations around aggressive rate cuts. She highlighted the current labour market conditions in the US and the Euro area and suggested that while rates might come down in 2024, this is more likely to hap-



Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po gives a speech at "The World and China's Economy Under Resilient Growth", a dinner hosted by Tencent, at Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. (PHOTO / HKSAR GOVERNMENT)

pen in the second half of the year.

She emphasized that the average interest rates are expected to remain higher compared to the post-financial crisis period (2008-2019) due to more severe and frequent supply shocks, cautioning central bankers to adopt a more conservative approach.

"We still have labour markets that are relatively tight in the US, and including the Euro area. So we should expect rates to come down sometime this year. But based on the data that we're seeing right now, we expect this to be more likely in the second half of this year," she said.

"Now we're in a world where we have far more supply shocks that are much more severe, and we've seen that inflation can come back pretty strongly," she said.

Gopinath added, "So we are moving to a regime where central bankers are going to be a little more cautious about running the economy hot, and also moving pre-emptively and not waiting until they see inflation go above target. Because of those reasons, we're moving to a higher rate environment."

Villeroy de Galhau, considering the soft-landing scenario, indicated the possibility of a rate cut in the Eurozone in 2024. He emphasized that major surprises, such as those in the Middle East, could influence the decision.

"Bearing major surprises - we look at the Middle East - our next move will be a [rate] cut, probably this year," he said.

The impact of rising interest rates on the economy is still unfolding, with varying effects

across sectors and regions.

Gopinath mentioned that around 75 per cent of the transmission in the US has already occurred, but the Eurozone is still experiencing the impacts.

The panel discussed the resilience of households and corporations with stronger balance sheets, but Robbins highlighted changes in corporate decision-making influenced by a shift from a "free money mentality."

He noted the effects of mergers and acquisitions (M&A), emphasizing a more responsible approach in the new high-rate environment.

Friedman suggested that while markets predict rate cuts in 2024, the US Federal Reserve is likely to prioritize stability before making significant moves.

She cautioned against returning to a low-interest economy, emphasizing the importance of a rate environment in the 3-4.5 per cent range for sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, the panel acknowledged that the 'new normal' would likely not resemble the subnormal period of 2015-22. Villeroy de Galhau suggested it might be an era of 'fair money' rather than 'easy money' or 'free money.'

As discussions at Davos 2024 unfold, global leaders grapple with uncertainties surrounding interest rates, striving to navigate economic challenges and foster sustainable growth in the evolving financial landscape. ANI

DR Congo starts joint military operations with SADC mission against rebels

GOMA

THE military of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Tuesday announced in Goma, the capital of the eastern province of North Kivu, the start of joint military operations with military elements of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional bloc, in the eastern part of the country.

The announcement was made by Lieutenant General Fall Sikabwe, coordinator of military operations of DRC's military in North Kivu, during the first joint meeting between the DRC military and SADC.

According to the DRC authorities, this SADC military force would carry out offensive operations, essentially targeting the rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23) who occupy several areas in the territory of Masisi and that of Rutshuru, located in the province of North Kivu.

"The SADC comes with an offensive mission. With the mandate of the heads of state member of the SADC, we will initiate large-scale operations against the enemies of the Republic", said Fall Sikabwe, stressing that he is to put an end to hostility which has persisted for months.

Composed mainly of military elements from South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi, this SADC military force replaces the regional force of the East African Community (EAC).

DRC authorities deemed the EAC regional force ineffective and refused to renew its mandate. For the moment, only South Africa and Malawi



Photo taken on Jan. 16, 2024 shows Lieutenant General Fall Sikabwe, coordinator of military operations of DRC's military in North Kivu, in Goma, capital of North Kivu province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The military of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Tuesday announced in Goma the start of joint military operations with military elements of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional bloc, in the eastern part of the country. Xinhua

have already deployed part of its soldiers in Goma.

Tanzania hopes to transfer its elements which are already on Congolese soil within the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC, whose mandate should expire by the end of 2024.

Since late Monday, violent fighting broke out between the M23 rebels and the Congolese military in the territory of Masisi.

Detonations of heavy and light weapons are heard in these areas, forcing a large number of residents to leave for the town of Sake, the city's last bulwark. Goma, a tourist town known for economic activities in the region, was occupied by the M23 for 10 days in December 2012.

Global artists pursue dreams in Jingdezhen, China's 'porcelain capital'

AS the night descended, Taoxichuan Ceramic Art Avenue, a cultural and creative block in Jingdezhen, east China's Jiangxi province, buzzed with a constant flow of people. Visitors were captivated by a dazzling collection of delicate ceramic handicrafts.

Wu Anran, a young designer, is no stranger to this scene. A decade ago, she started her business in Jingdezhen and had a stall in the area. Today, Wu owns her own studio, and her ceramic works have gained widespread popularity at home and abroad.

Jingdezhen, known as China's "porcelain capital," has become a magnet for young entrepreneurs like Wu.

In recent years, more than 60,000 people from all around

the world have settled in this city, including over 5,000 foreigners at peak. Drawn by the allure of porcelain, these people have found a sense of belonging and fulfillment in Jingdezhen, where their dreams are realized.

Ceramics is a cultural treasure of China, playing a significant role in the country's history of international cultural exchange. Jingdezhen boasts more than 2,000 years of pottery history, over 1,000 years of official kiln history and over 600 years of imperial kiln history.

For more than 1,000 years, Jingdezhen ceramics have traveled along the Maritime Silk Road to the globe. Today, its rich ceramic culture continues to thrive, as different civilizations converge and blend in Jingdezhen.

"Anyone working with ceramics will want to come to Jingdezhen," said Stan from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Renowned for its high-quality clay used in porcelain manufacturing, Jingdezhen has a multitude of artisans and kilns gathered, attracting art lovers from across the globe who come here to learn, create, and exchange ideas.

Jingdezhen Ceramic University, located in the city, is the only multidisciplinary university in China named after ceramics.

In 2013, Stan came to the university to pursue a master's degree in traditional ceramic techniques. Today, he teaches at a school in his country and frequently visits Jingdezhen for learning and exchange.

"I'm captivated by the diverse range of porcelain here and the cultural atmosphere of Jingdezhen, which sparks my creativity," Stan expressed.

Jingdezhen Ceramic University has attracted over 3,000 international students from more than 60 countries and regions since the 1950s.

In 2021, South Korean artist Song Yeon-joo visited Jingdezhen for the first time and was fascinated by the abundance of ceramic workshops here. Previously focused on acrylic painting, Song expanded her artistic horizons when a friend suggested that she could combine painting with ceramics during her time in Jingdezhen.

The combination of traditional

ceramic textures and modern abstract paintings is truly captivating.

"I absolutely adore the blue and white porcelain from Jingdezhen and I think it's a perfect fit for my ocean-themed ceramic paintings!" Song exclaimed excitedly. "Here, no matter what kind of creativity you have, it will be embraced and can become a reality," she said.

Despite its small size, Jingdezhen serves as a global hub connecting people from all over the world.

Next to the site of an imperial kiln factory, there are art galleries, artists' studios, and other facilities. Regular events such as salons, lectures, and forums provide a platform for young people

from various countries and cultural backgrounds to exchange and share ideas.

At a site of kilns that date back to the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), domestic and foreign tourists paid a daily visit to learn pottery techniques from inheritors of intangible cultural heritage.

In an international ceramic art village in Jingdezhen, artists with diverse styles come together to exchange production techniques, igniting creativity and inspiration.

Jingdezhen has forged friendly relations with more than 180 cities in 72 countries. The renowned Taoxichuan International Art Center has become a hub for artists from over 50 countries, infusing the city with an international

perspective and a dynamic creative ambiance.

These artists draw inspiration from the rich heritage of Jingdezhen, using their own artistic skills to propel the innovative growth of ceramic art and the wide promotion of ceramic culture.

The ceramic industry in Jingdezhen is flourishing, generating a revenue of 66 billion yuan (about \$9.21 billion) in 2022. The local government has implemented favorable policies to support talented individuals who have chosen to settle in the city. These policies aim to preserve and develop the ceramics industry, fostering a community of skilled ceramic artisans and enthusiasts.

People's Daily

Kelvin John can still develop his career in Europe

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOME football enthusiasts in Tanzania have hardly hidden their fanaticism over youthful striker Kelvin John, handing him the nickname 'Mbappe' as they are likening the goal-getter to France's attacker Kylian Mbappe.

John, now featuring for Belgium's Jupiler Pro League club KRC Genk, was raised from the youth ranks in Tanzania and he was seen as the next big thing in the country's soccer.

The outlook came about due to his prowess, pace, and ability to hold on to the ball and bring chaos to the opposing sides.

The young forward can play against opposition defenders and beat them on one versus one and later score a goal.

When he was introduced by KRC Genk, almost all of Tanzania's soccer enthusiasts believed that the country would have a future player who would excel as is the case for accomplished attacker Mbwana Samatta.

Since the arrival of Belgo-Algerian tactician Adel Amrouche last year to serve as head coach for the senior national team, Taifa Stars, John is yet to receive a call-up to the squad. He is a forgotten player for many various reasons.

With Tanzania being a third-world country with extremely few footballers plying their trade in Europe, John was supposed to be the first- if not second name on the senior national team's call-up list.

It means Amrouche is not moved by John's progress in Belgium, but the majority of Tanzanian football followers understand that he has not lived up to the hype- akin to when he broke into the senior national team after he had excelled in the national U-17 squad- wearing the side's captain armband.

Several issues are yet to be revealed but his development has dropped very fast over the years, before Tanzanian football followers thought he would be either the next Samatta or even more effective and popular figure than Samatta.



Belgium-based Tanzanian winger, Kelvin John, currently plays for Jupiler Pro League's KRC Genk.

Samatta signed for KRC Genk at 23 years old, something he regrets to this very day because he believes he was supposed to be in Europe much earlier- and he was already a senior footballer by the time he moved to the continent.

John signed for KRC Genk at 18 years old in June 2021, he signed whilst being in safe hands and at a tender age.

He had time to develop and, now that he turns 21 this year, he was not supposed to play for the KRC Genk development squad.

He should rather be regularly turning out for the club's first team, either making it to the starting eleven or having a place on the substitutes' list.

At this moment, he was required to play for the senior national team, especially on the flanks, because Samatta was still strong and dangerous in

the central striker role, and Amrouche still preferred him as the number nine.

This opportunity is not availed to John at either Tanzania's senior national team or KRC Genk.

At Taifa Stars, John was deemed to be the team's future captain, a normal process in modern football- which has the most popular player turning into his country's senior national team skipper.

Tanzania might have Europe-based defenders like Novatus Dismas and Haji Mnoga but a striker is the one that takes the skipper armband, given he is the most popular figure in the senior national team.

It recently happened in France where popular attacker Antoine Griezmann was snubbed for the skipper role and Kylian Mbappe was appointed as the country's squad skip-

per. John's off-field mismanagement is doubtful, whatever is going on outside the pitch impacts his performance on the pitch.

Some players are happy to accomplish their goals while playing in Europe while others immediately accomplish their goals just by playing in Europe.

I cannot judge anyone, but Samatta is the most disciplined national team baller. I am not sure about John, as per head coach Amrouche's interview on why he hardly selected the promising forward to his squad as he said the baller should change his attitude.

There are alarms to be alert on this issue because, if John had been a disciplined footballer, he would have by now been successful and scaled great heights in his career.

Two years in Europe were enough to develop his career and ensure that

the baller flourished at KRC Genk and Tanzania's national team.

It is about time John has to analyze his progress or rather his management should lead him in the direction which will help to restore his prowess.

It is not too late for John- at 20 years old- the forward requires massive improvement in his career and discipline off the pitch more than on the pitch.

The majority of African soccer players find themselves on the brink of failing to pursue their dreams in Europe due to off-field indiscipline, including lacking financial discipline- brought about by a penchant for partying and spending on luxuries.

John has caught the eye of many Tanzanians, who wish him well in his career, he was lucky to have Samatta as his mentor in Europe.

Samatta was playing for KRC Genk at the same time the young forward had first arrived at the club, unlike the former who had no one he knew the first time he arrived in Belgium.

Tanzania's journalists, football enthusiasts, and others are all familiar with the lifestyle of the country's players, many of whom fail to enjoy progress when they first reach Europe.

Most of the country's and the remainder of East Africa's footballers hardly have the resilience- which can see them flourish in competitive leagues in Europe and elsewhere- akin to their West African counterparts. This might be the reason the region has few players in Europe.



Azam FC players are pictured celebrating after garnering a goal in a recent 2023/24 NBC Premier League match which was held in Dar es Salaam.

Azam FC set to camp in Zanzibar next week

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER completing the transfer of four players during the mini-transfer period, Azam FC is set to pitch camp in Zanzibar next week after its players return from holiday on January 23.

The ice cream makers lead this season's NBC Premier League log with 31 points ahead of second-placed Yanga which has collected 30 points, with the former having taken part in two more ties.

Azam FC is a team with more goals scored this season after netting 35 goals and conceding 10- it has leaked four more goals than Yanga.

Speaking of Azam FC's upcoming training camp, the squad's Head of Information and Communication Department Thabit Zakaria asserted the reasons for pitching camp in the Isles.

The official noted: "Currently players are on a mini holiday after featuring in the Mapinduzi Cup, they will return to Azam Complex Stadium on January 23 and, on January 25, they will leave for Zanzibar until mid-February as we prepare for the Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup."

"We decided to choose Zanzibar because the facilities that include training grounds are vast in Zanzibar, there are hotels that are conducive to our players, and, above all, the Isles weather is similar to Dar es Salaam's," Zakaria confirmed.

Three footballers, Sospter Bajana, Lusajo Mwaikenda, and Feisal Salum will miss the club's camp in Zanzibar as they are tasked with senior national squad duty in Ivory Coast.

Congolese striker Idriss Mbombo has left the club with six months remaining on his contract as he joins

Zambia's Nkana FC, three years after leaving the Zambia Super League club for Egyptian side El Gouna.

Mbombo is expected to reinforce the frontline of the squad, nicknamed 'Kalampa'. Nkana FC head coach Ian Bakala will be hoping Mbombo can replicate the form he showcased during his previous stint at the club (2019-2021).

In place of Mbombo is Colombia Franklin Navarro (24) from Cortuluá. Navarro is a new striker and he becomes the first Colombian to play in Tanzania.

Navarro adds depth up front with the presence of Prince Dube and Senegalese Allasane Diao for head coach Yousouph Dabo to pick.

Azam FC's new signings will also be part of the team, including Sudanese goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa (aged 27) from Al Merreikh.

He has been brought in on a six-month deal in place of injured goalies, Comoros' Ali Ahmada and Ghanaian Abdulai Idrissu.

Another Colombian player Yeison Fuentes- formerly with Leonel FC- inked a three-year contract with Azam FC, and the baller is set to play a crucial role as a central defender for the Chamazi-based outfit.

In his recent press conference, Fuentes revealed the reason behind his decision to join Azam FC.

He stated: "I'm thrilled for the opportunity I've been given. Excitement fills me as I step into this new chapter and prepare to hit the ground running in practice."

The Colombian added: "Conversations with Navarro assured me that Azam FC is an excellent place. I'm here to achieve great feats and contribute to the team's success by playing top-notch football."



Junior footballers nurtured by Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park put their skills to show during a training which took place at the center's venue in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Ecobank Group unveils new campaign for 2023 Africa Cup of Nations

By Guardian Correspondent

ECOBANK, the pan-African financial services group, unveiled its new brand campaign, known as 'A Better Way| A Better Africa' in Lome, Togo last week, during the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) which is held in Côte d'Ivoire.

The institution said it is a proud official sponsor of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations and is leveraging the unifying, ex-

hilarating, and progressive spirit of African football to demonstrate its commitment to the continent's sustainable growth.

The campaign highlights Ecobank's drive to empower its clients and customers to achieve their goals for a better future and therefore a better Africa.

Jeremy Awori, Ecobank Group's Chief Executive Officer, said: "At Ecobank, we drive growth in Africa by our delivery of affordable, reliable, and innovative financial ser-

VICES to our clients and customers while making a significant contribution to Africa's development. 'A Better Way| A Better Africa' reflects our unwavering dedication to our continent." The Ecobank Group boss noted: "Driven by our commitment to continuous improvement, we deliver enhanced financial services, greater customer experience, and more customer-centric solutions."

This brand campaign is based on the results of an extensive pan-African brand sur-

vey, addressing the perspectives and opportunities shared during the research.

Awori added: "Our pan-African purpose and single gateway platform, as well as the diversity of our leading workforce operating from 35 countries, position us as an enabler and partner for our clients and customers to identify and seize new opportunities."

The campaign also highlights Ecobank's digital network and its continent-wide connectivity, including its unified payment eco-

system, which supports market access and business growth, while capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The fully integrated campaign features a diverse mix of digital and traditional media and includes a television commercial filmed on the continent.

After the conclusion of the 2023 TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations, the campaign will continue to be rolled out across Africa.

'Win AFCON and I'm done!' -- Osimhen dreams of triumph with Nigeria

ABIDJAN

VICTOR Osimhen won the Serie A title with Napoli last season and ended 2023 by being named African footballer of the year, but the striker reckons lifting the Cup of Nations with Nigeria might just top the lot.

"It would be one of the best moments of my life," the 25-year-old told AFP in Abidjan, where the Super Eagles are preparing to face hosts Ivory Coast in their second group game at this edition of the AFCON on Thursday.

"I have done that with Napoli, I have made history, but no matter what I do, no matter how many goals I have scored, to be able to win the AFCON, I would go a long way in my life but probably when I do that I am done," he admitted.

"I am really looking forward to winning something with the Super Eagles."

Osimhen is, naturally, the focus of most attention around the Nigerian squad after his exploits with Napoli, scoring 26 goals last season to lead them to their first Scudetto since 1990.

The eyes of Africa's most populous country, home to over 220 million people, are on him, but he insists he can handle the pressure.

"I have aimed high all my life, while growing up, and this pressure comes naturally. I am the kind of person who doesn't fold under pressure," he said while speaking at the Nigerian team hotel overlooking Abidjan's Cocody Bay.

"As the pressure comes I take it into my head to try to give my best and do well for myself.

"So far so good, I have been doing well for my club and country, which I feel like is the most important thing," said Osimhen, who pipped Achraf Hakimi and Mohamed Salah to the African player prize.

"To win the African player of the year is just the dream of every young African player. For me to have won it shows the kind of things I have put in, the hard work, the sweat, the tears.

"For me it is really a dream come true," he added, appearing relaxed having just finished another interview with Togo's 2008 African footballer of the year, Emmanuel Adebayor.

The lithe forward spearheads a Super Eagles side packed full of attacking talent and the aim for Osimhen is to lead them to a first AFCON crown since 2013.

Doing that would allow him to take his place alongside Nigerian greats such as Nwankwo Kanu and Jay-Jay Okocha, the latter part of the team that won the 1994 Cup of Nations.

"I used to speak with Nwankwo Kanu and Jay-Jay Okocha. I think I owe a lot of my success to them, because they have been sort of an inspiration to me while growing up," said Osimhen, who announced himself as the top scorer at the Under-17 World Cup in 2015.

"To be up there in the same category as them -- not that I am better than them in terms of football, but in terms of what I have achieved -- I think is huge for me." Osimhen is fresh from signing a new contract at Napoli, where he insists he is happy and has "a good relationship" with president Aurelio De Laurentiis.

His previous AFCON experiences have been frustrating, as he hardly featured when Nigeria -- with Odion Ighalo leading the attack -- finished third in 2019 and then missed the 2022 edition altogether.

"In 2019 when I came, Ighalo was there. He is a big brother to me, so it was important for me to go through this learning process from him, to get this experience," Osimhen said. "I was supposed to be there in Cameroon, but of course I had my facial injury.

"Now I am here. It is a dream come true for me. I don't want to put myself in the centre but of course a lot of people say this. I think I am more of like a team player.

"I think we have the quality to make sure we have a very good tournament that we can be proud of."

Osimhen scored as Nigeria were held by Equatorial Guinea in their opening Group A game, a result that increases the pressure before facing the hosts.

"The first game was really disappointing," he said. "Going forward we need to make sure we get it right in the next game, which is against a tougher opponent."

AFP

Karim Benzema files defamation complaint against French minister

PARIS

KARIM Benzema on Tuesday filed a complaint for defamation against French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who last year said the former Real Madrid star had "notorious" links with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Darmanin, a tough-talking right-winger with designs on the French presidency, criticised Benzema after the former France striker and 2022 Ballon d'Or winner posted on X (formerly Twitter) in mid-October in support of the inhabitants of Gaza, who, he claimed, were victims of "unjust bombardments" carried out by Israel in retaliation for the bloody Hamas attack of October 7.

Darmanin reacted to Benzema's post by alleging that the player "has a notorious link with the Muslim Brotherhood", a Sunni Muslim Islamist group with its origins in Egypt.

Benzema's complaint, lodged by lawyer Hugues Vigier, and seen by AFP, says these remarks "undermine" the player's honour and reputation.

AFP

Clinical Mali triumph after South Africa miss penalty

ABIDJAN

HAMARI Traore and Lassine Sinayoko scored within six second-half minutes to give Mali a 2-0 Africa Cup of Nations Group E victory on Tuesday over South Africa, who missed a penalty.

Percy Tau fired a spot-kick wide in the opening half in Korhogo and it proved a costly miss as the clinical Eagles were never in danger after netting twice.

Victory took Mali to the top of the group on goal difference from Namibia, who shocked Tunisia 1-0 in the first match of a double-header.

Mali are a bogey team for South Africa, having twice eliminated them in the quarter-finals in previous Cup of Nations meetings.

The Malians came closest to winning the African showpiece in their 1972 debut as they reached the final before losing 3-2 to Congo Brazzaville in Yaounde.

South Africa did better in their first appearance 24 years later, defeating Tunisia 2-0 in the final in Johannesburg, but have not lifted the trophy again in nine subsequent appearances.

While Mali did not have a single home-based player in the starting line-up, South Africa chose nine, including seven from domestic giants Mamelodi Sundowns.

The mainly Mali-supporting crowd in the 20,000-capacity stadium built in the northern city for the Cup of Nations saw a lively end-to-end start to a much anticipated showdown.

- Tau embarrassment -

South Africa squandered a chance to take the lead on 19 minutes when Tau, who plays for Egyptian and African giants Al Ahly, blazed a penalty over the crossbar to his huge embarrassment.

It was awarded after the referee



Celebration: Deon Hotto scored a historic late winner for Namibia against Tunisia. Agencies

eree went to the VAR touchline monitor and saw Sikou Niakate elbow Evidence Makgopa after Aubrey Modiba crossed into the area.

South Africa were almost made to pay for the missed spot-kick in first-half added time when Sinayoko was foiled by goalkeeper Ronwen Williams.

A couple of Bafana Bafana defenders failed to clear the ball, allowing Sinayoko to break clear but Williams dashed off his line to divert the ball away from danger.

Mali should have gone in front soon after half-time but Amadou Haidara fired wildly off target from close range with only the goalkeeper to beat.

However, the Eagles did take the lead on 60 minutes thanks to the alertness of captain Traore after a free-kick.

The Sekou Koita set-piece beat Williams only to rebound off the underside of the crossbar and Traore reacted quickest to push the ball into the net.

Just six minutes later and Mali were two goals ahead as Sinayoko demonstrated his physical strength by brushing aside Siyanda Xulu and slotting the ball

into the net from close range.

In the second round of Group E matches, Mali face Tunisia on Saturday and Namibia meet South Africa on Sunday with both matches in Korhogo.

In another Group E match, Deon Hotto scored on 88 minutes to give minnows Namibia a shock 1-0 win over former champions Tunisia on Tuesday in Korhogo as the group kicked off in the Africa Cup of Nations.

It was the first victory for the Brave Warriors in the competition after two draws and seven losses since they debuted in 1998.

Hotto, who plays for South African club Orlando Pirates, raced forward to powerfully head a Bethuel Muzeu cross past goalkeeper Bechir Ben Said.

Hotto had the ball in the net again in added time, but the goal was ruled out by a marginal off-side decision.

Before the dramatic finish, Tunisia had more possession but Namibia had more goal attempts and more shots on target.

Defeat spoilt what Tunisia captain Youssef Msakni hoped would be a memorable night as he equalled the record of finals

appearances by playing at a Cup of Nations an eighth time.

Tunisia came close to scoring after just four minutes when a header from experienced forward Taha Yassine Khenissi was parried to safety by goalkeeper Lloyd Kazapua.

Peter Shalulile, who plays for perennial South African champions Mamelodi Sundowns and is the captain and star of the Namibian side, had a snap shot saved by Ben Said soon after.

Having concentrated on defending in the early stages, Namibia gradually became more offensive against the 2004 African champions.

Khenissi was forced off injured after just 15 minutes and Haythem Jouini took his place in the Tunisian attack.

A poor pass inside the box from Hotto brought a disappointing end to a promising move that threatened to break the stalemate.

Midway through the opening half the referee halted play for a water break to the relief of both teams with the temperature at the 1700 local (GMT) time kick-off 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit).

Aliou Cisse, coach of 2022 Cup

Andre Onana jets 5,000 miles to Afcon ... to be left out of Cameroon squad

By James Ducker



Andre Onana was exasperated by his omission and had to be assuaged by El Hadji Diouf. Agencies

AN exasperated Andre Onana had to be calmed down by El Hadji Diouf after the Manchester United goalkeeper travelled 5,000 miles in less than 24 hours to make Cameroon's opening Africa Cup of Nations match - only to be left out of the squad.

Onana had hoped to start against Guinea on Monday but ended up being left out of the squad entirely by Cameroon coach Rigobert Song, the latest twist in the strange circumstances surrounding his involvement in the tournament in Ivory Coast.

The United No 1 was later spotted by journalists venting about the situation at Diouf and reportedly asked the former Liverpool and Senegal forward: "If I wasn't going to play or make the team, then why did I come here on a private jet?"

Onana also struggled to hide his frustration in an interview with Canal+ after the 1-1 draw at the Charles Konan Banny Stadium in Yamoussoukro amid the risk of another collision course between the goalkeeper and the Cameroonian Football Federation.

"I have a lot to say but I will not say it here because we are in competition," Onana said. "Let me continue to be criticised, I am used to it. I do what is good for my country."

Cameroon had agreed to United's request to delay the release of Onana so he could play for them in Sunday's 2-2 Premier League draw with Tottenham at Old Trafford.

Onana boarded a private jet bound for Ivory Coast immediately after the game only for the goalkeeper to endure a nightmare 16-hour journey after the plane could not land due to fog and was instead diverted 150 miles south to Abidjan, where it arrived shortly before 6am on Monday.

The plane then made another attempt to fly to Yamoussoukro later that morning but again had to redirect to Abidjan due to bad weather, forcing Onana to complete the final leg of his journey by car.

After a three-hour drive from Abidjan, Onana did not arrive in Yamoussoukro until around 2pm on Monday - just three hours before Cameroon's game against Guinea was due to

kick-off.

As such, Song's decision to omit Onana after such an arduous journey hardly came as a surprise to many, with the United goalkeeper's cousin, Fabrice Ondoa, the Nimes goalkeeper, starting instead. Devis Epassy and Simon Ngapan-douetnbu were named as the substitute goalkeepers.

Nonetheless, Onana - who has had a torrid first

six months at Old Trafford - appeared to have been left visibly dismayed by his omission and it remains to be seen if he now starts Cameroon's second Group C match against Senegal on Friday.

Onana has had a fraught relationship with Song and the Cameroonian Football Federation president, Samuel Eto'o, the former Barcelona striker, and the latest developments could present fresh challenges.

The former Ajax goalkeeper, who joined United from Internazionale in a £47.2 million deal last summer, was sent home from the World Cup 14 months ago after a falling out with Song.

Onana subsequently announced his retirement from international football, only to return to the fold in September when he

played against Burundi. It is understood Onana had mixed feelings about playing at Afcon amid a reluctance to miss several weeks of his first season at United and concerns he could struggle to win his place back in the team.

United and Cameroon ended up striking an agreement that allowed Onana to join up with the squad at the 11th hour but that move in itself has gone down badly with some in Cameroon and raised questions about the goalkeeper's commitment to his country.

Sébastien Bassong is among those who have criticised the situation. "It's out of order from both sides," the former Tottenham defender told the BBC World Service.

"It's a low from Onana to even consider it. It sends

of Nations winners Senegal, said this week that it is difficult to play in such heat.

"I am appealing to CAF (Confederation of African Football) to look at the issue of kick-off times, particularly those matches starting at 1400 local (GMT) time," he told reporters.

There was a dramatic start to the second half at the 20,000-capacity Stade Amadou Gon Coulibaly as Msakni came agonisingly close to putting the Carthage Eagles in front.

His near-post header off a corner was brilliantly tipped over the crossbar by Kazapua, who is only the reserve goalkeeper at South African top-flight club Chippa United.

The first choice at Chippa is Stanley Nwabili, who is also at the African football showpiece and played for Nigeria in a draw against Equatorial Guinea two days ago.

Meanwhile, Bertrand Traore came off the bench to score a 96th-minute winner from the penalty spot as Burkina Faso beat Mauritania 1-0 in their opening game at the Africa Cup of Nations on Tuesday.

The match in Bouake was all set to finish in a goalless stalemate until Issa Kabore went down in the box under a challenge from Mauritania defender Nouh El Abd four minutes into stoppage time.

Called across to review the tackle on the pitch side monitor, the Moroccan referee decided to give a spot-kick and Traore, who has made just six appearances for Aston Villa this season off the bench, sent the goalkeeper the wrong way.

The result means the Stallions, runners-up at the 2013 AFCON, are top of Group D after rivals Algeria and Angola drew 1-1 on Monday.

Burkina Faso's next outing is against Algeria in Bouake on Saturday.

Appearing at their third consecutive Cup of Nations, Mauritania are still without a win at the tournament in seven attempts.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



EATV THURSDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Movie
13:55 Dondoo za Michezo
14:00 Movie
14:30 Ujenzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 TOP 10
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

TOP 10
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers

east africa RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga resumes preparations for NBC PL, CAF CL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has resumed full training sessions ahead of the second phase of this season's NBC Premier League, CAF Champions League, and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

All of the club's ballers who have not been selected for their respective countries' national teams now battling it out in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast are participating in training at the club's base in Dar es Salaam.

The club is pursuing a successful defense of the NBC Premier League top honour. The side is lately positioned second in the top flight log with 30 points, a point below leader Azam FC which has 31 points with two more games than the former.

After the conclusion of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, Yanga will face JKT Tanzania on February 18 before playing continental football.

Widely known as Young Africans SC, the outfit has pitched the training sessions at Avic Town in the city, where they do two sessions a day to keep the players fit before the CAF Champions League resumes.

In this season's CAF Champions League, Yanga has five points in Group D, having amassed five points after taking part in four games.

The Jangwani Street outfit will lock horns with CAF Champions League's next opponents, Algeria's CR Belouizdad, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 23.

For Yanga to qualify for the premier continental club showdown's quarterfinals, the squad has to win all remaining fixtures against Egypt's Al Ahly away at Cairo International Stadium and against CR Belouizdad at home.

The Jangwani Street club's Media and Communication Manager, Ally Kamwe, noted the squad resumed training sessions on Monday ahead of the resumption of domestic and continental showdowns.

The official disclosed: "We resumed our training sessions on Monday to keep ourselves ready for the upcoming fixtures, the NBC Premier League is around the corner, and so is the CAF Champions League, we have to be ready and prepared as soon as possible to fulfill our goals."

Kamwe also highlighted that new signings will add value and ensure the club secures positive results after a concrete analysis was done by the outfit before seeking the performers' signatures.

"It's not easy to get top players during the mini transfer window but, with the efforts dedicated by the club, we were able to rope in Augustine Okrah, Joseph Guede, and Shekhan Hamisi to improve our squad," the Media and Communication Manager said.

Yanga also loaned out Crispin Ngushi to Coastal Union and Hafiz Konkoni to Cyprus Premier League side Dogan Türk Birli i until the end of the season.

Missing players in the Yanga training camp are Stephane Aziz Ki who made his AFCON debut with Burkina Faso in Tuesday's 1-0 win against Mauritania while Djigui Diarra stood between the posts in Mali's 2-0 win against South Africa.

Yanga's other players include Taifa Stars defenders Dickson Job, Ibrahim Hamad, Bakari Mwamnyeto, and midfielder Mudathir Yahya.

TFF president refutes Adel Amrouche's claims against Morocco federation



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia has said the federation does not support Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche's statement against Morocco Football Federation (FRMF).

Karia was adamant that TFF would take proper measures to solve the saga and provide guidance in speaking on issues that are not related to the federation.

Amrouche, the Belgo-Algerian tactician currently heading the technical bench of Taifa Stars- now battling it out in the Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast, has reiterated his hostility towards Morocco and its football development.

Recently, Amrouche made serious accusations, targeting the FRMF and claiming that African football is manipulated by the Moroccan football

federation.

"Currently, the FRMF is a confirmed power in African football, in the last match against Morocco, they forced us to play in the evening when we wanted to play early in the afternoon," Amrouche claimed in a televised statement to an Algerian TV channel.

He claimed that Morocco manages and determines ev-

erything in African football, including the referees.

The claims came a few days following statements that were in complete contrast to the accusations he had recently leveled against Morocco.

Following Amrouche's claims, Karia asserted: "TFF does not support Amrouche's statements, we will take concrete measurements as the team is still in the competition and provide guidance on how to publicly speak on issues not related to TFF so that it may not cause instability in our good relationship with FRMF."

The TFF president pointed out: "We Tanzania have a good relationship with FRMF and those statements said by the coach are his, not TFF's, we understand that the African football governing body is doing an extraordinary job and it is not influenced by any African football Federation."

"TFF and FRMF are closely working together, you can cite that as our national teams of all ranks usually camp in Morocco and this shows Amrouche statements are far from our thoughts," Karia said.

On Saturday, Amrouche spoke to Morocco's television channel Arridadya, emphasizing

brotherhood and friendly ties between Moroccans and Algerians.

"I wish only the best for Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia," he claimed in a previous interview.

This is not the first derogatory and unproven claims made by Algeria and its media against Morocco mid-AFCON.

Last week, Algerian media have been spreading rumours of corruption targeting Morocco's federation and CAF.

The controversy erupted after Algerian reports claimed that Morocco was allowed to play its friendly game against Sierra Leone at the Laurent Pokou Stadium, one of the venues designated solely for the continental tournament in Côte d'Ivoire.

Such allegations surfaced despite neither the FRMF nor the CAF announcing that the match would be played on the stadium hosting the continental tournament's Group F matches.

The claims have been proved false, as the friendly game took place at a different stadium, dispelling the claims of impropriety within the Moroccan football setup.

NBC Premier League shines in 2023 AFCON finals

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans' Malian goalkeeper Djigui Diarra kept a clean sheet for 90 minutes, playing a pivotal role in his country's national team's 2-0 victory over South Africa in the Group E match of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Ivory Coast.

This win comes hot on the heels of another impressive performance by Tanzania-based players, with Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki featuring for 87 minutes in his country's national team's 1-0 win against Mauritania.

Diarra was a commanding presence in Mali's goal, facing a barrage of 12 shots, six of which were on target.

His agility and reflexes frustrated South Africa's five dangerous attempts, proving to be the difference between a draw and a comfortable victory.

Despite Mali's 45% possession against South Africa's 55%, the former's tactical discipline and Diarra's heroics secured the three points.

The first half remained goalless, with South Africa holding the edge. However, Mali was a rejuvenated side in the second half, scoring two goals in quick succession.

Hamari Traore struck first in the 60th minute, followed by Lassine Sinayoko just six minutes later, putting Mali firmly in control.

This victory not only kickstarts Mali's campaign but also breaks the side's record of participating in 55 AFCON matches without lifting the trophy.

Despite reaching the final once and finishing second, third on three occasions, and fourth twice, the Eagles have yet to taste the major continental showdown's ultimate glory.

Mali currently shares the top spot in Group E with Namibia, both having amassed three points, but are separated by goal difference.

Tunisia and South Africa occupy third

and fourth places respectively, setting the stage for an exciting group stage battle.

The 2023 AFCON also showcases the increasing number of NBC Premier League players, with a staggering 18 players representing their respective countries. This is a testament to the league's growth and a source of immense pride for Tanzanian football.

The 19 stars representing their countries in the 2023 AFCON from Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League include Tanzanians Aishi Manula, Mohamed Hussein, Mzamiru Yassin, and Kibu Denis (Simba SC), Dickson Job, and Mudathir Yahya (Young African).

Ibrahim Bacca, Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans), Sospeter Bajana, Feisal Salum, and Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Abdulmalik Zakaria (Namungo FC), and Beno Kakolanya (Singida Fountain Gate FC) are the other Tanzanian players.

Representing Zambia are Clatous Chama (Simba SC) and Kennedy Mussonda (Young Africans). From Mali is goalie Djigui Diarra (Young Africans). Burkina Faso has Stephane Aziz Ki (Young Africans), whereas DR Congo has Henock Inonga (Simba SC).

The presence of these players in prestigious tournaments like AFCON underscores the NBC Premier League's potential and contributes to its continued development.

Currently ranked 5th among the strongest leagues in Africa and 39th in the world, the NBC Premier League is on a steady upward trajectory.

The success of Tanzanian players at AFCON serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring future generations and solidifying the league's reputation as a breeding ground for continental footballing talent.

With continued commitment and investment, the league is poised to take its rightful place among Africa's elite.



Burkina Faso's midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki, is plying his trade in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League with defending champion Young Africans SC, alias Yanga. AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

