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Graduates called on to pursue further studies Page 6



Heavy investment by the govt boosts JKCI Page 7



Use new agricultural centres wisely to reap more, RC tells farmers in Kahama Africa needs just trade for a just energy transition, ADD head recommends

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Experts elated after US agency restores funding for Tanzania

We must work with advanced countries with genuine interest to support our development efforts

By Henry Mwangonde

ECONOMISTS have welcomed with relief the country's reinstatement into the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) arrangement, after its being excluded in 2016.

Interviewed experts expressed these sentiments in the wake of a conversation between President Samia Suluhu Hassan with MCC chief executive officer Alice Albright via zoom on Wednesday, where the US government official said that Tanzania had been reinstated into its funding eligibility list.

The US government suspended Tanzania from MCC inclusion in March 2016 on account of shrinking democratic space, where a \$472m grant was cancelled, being directed to the energy sector.

Dr Donath Olomi, the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) chief executive officer said that restoring MCC funding was a huge plus for the country's development agenda.

Noting that this is a sign of improved ties with key organizations, he pointed at the



Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) converses with local leaders during work to restore patches of Katesh surroundings in Hanang' District, Manyara Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Wildlife invasions cost govt 5.5bn/- since 2018

By Marc Nkwame

TENS of thousands of planted acree were destroyed and upwards of 28,000 killed or badly injured across 88 administrative districts since 2018, with the government paying over 5.5bn/- in compensation.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natu-

ral Resources and Tourism minister, made this observation at the first annual wildlife corridor conference at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center (JNICC) yesterday.

She said that where lives are lost, the government does not compensate for death but offers consolation,

urging conservators and other authorities to work together to address the rising incidences of invasions of wild animals in villages.

The two days conference will see scientists, researchers, conservators and min

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Former Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, who is Mzumbe University Chancellor, delivers his remarks during the 22nd graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

IMF extends \$150.5m in new financial stability loan

By Guardian Reporter

CREDIT allocation enabling the immediate disbursement of SDR 113.37m (\$150.5m), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a statement

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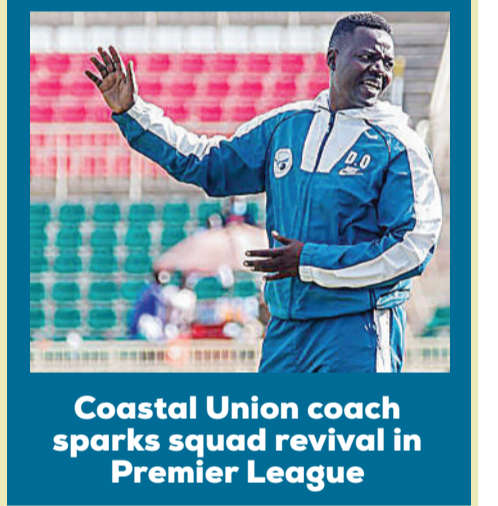
SPORTS

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Simba, Yanga express interest in Medeama SC talisman

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Coastal Union coach sparks squad revival in Premier League

DERM group 25th Anniversary Of PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Derm Group (T) Ltd and its subsidiaries wishes to inform its esteemed clients and business partners that our offices will be closed during the festive season with effect from Friday **22nd December 2023**.

Business will resume on Monday 8th January 2024.

Our site operations and regional offices in Dodoma, Geita, Songwe, Tanga, Mbeya, Mtwara, Kigoma and Zanzibar shall not be affected by this closure.

Any inconveniences caused is highly regretted. We would like to thank all our clients and business partners in general for their continued patronage of our services throughout the year.

"We wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous, productive and innovative 2024".

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IMF extends \$150.5m financial stability loan

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yesterday.

The multilateral financial institution said the IMF executive board had completed the second review of the extended credit facility, where this allocation brings Tanzania's total access under this allocation schedule to \$455.3m.

The board approved in July 2022 a total access of special drawing rights, a credit unit of account, amounting to 795.58m (200 percent of the country's quota, or \$1,046.4m) at the time of programme approval, it said.

The credit arrangement aims to support economic recovery, preserve macro-financial stability, while promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, it affirmed elaborating that the reforms envisaged center on strengthening fiscal space.

Reforms also target enhancing the monetary policy framework and strengthening financial sector supervision and advancing structural reforms, it affirmed.

Noting that Tanzania's economic reform programme is broadly on track, the board assessment highlights that most end-June 2023 quantitative performance criteria and indicative targets were met.

The government's structural reform agenda is progressing well, with financial year structural benchmarks completed on time, reflecting ardent commitment to the reform agenda, it stated. After slowing down in 2022, growth was expected to rebound in 2023 but an unfavourable global economic environment and domestic factors continue to weigh on Tanzania's economic recovery, it further noted.

Inflation has moderated and is within the Bank of Tanzania's target, with the fiscal deficit wider than expected at the closure of fiscal 2022/23, it affirmed, explaining the situation as largely reflecting shortfalls in revenue collections.

The government is committed to implement the fiscal consolidation envisaged in the current 2023/24 budget, it said, underlining that a wider current account deficit for fiscal 2022/23 and tighter external financial conditions resulted in pressures in the foreign exchange market.

"Economic recovery is expected to regain momentum going forward but faces headwinds from the unfavourable global economic environment. Near-term policy priorities include exchange rate flexibility combined with tightening of local currency liquidity and fiscal consolidation, while preserving priority social spending," it elaborated, specifying that the medium-term outlook is positive subject to steadfast implementation of the government's reform agenda, anchored by the credit arrangement. Bo Li, deputy managing director and acting board chairman, issued a statement at the end of discussions that the fiscal consolidation envisaged in the budget will help buttress fiscal sustainability.

"Efforts to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation and improve spending efficiency are important to create fiscal space, finance priority investment and social spending, and safeguard debt sustainability," he said. "Further, closing gaps in Tanzania's human and social development will require prioritizing social spending during budget planning and execution," he insisted, asserting that strengthening public financial management and oversight of state-owned enterprises "will help contain fiscal risks."

"A coordinated macroeconomic policy response is necessary to address pressures in the foreign exchange market. The authorities' response to the emerging foreign exchange market pressures has focused on interventions and regulatory measures," the IMF executive affirmed.

Addressing the root causes of imbalances, Li calls for a more comprehensive policy response that includes exchange rate flexibility, fiscal consolidation, and mopping up local currency liquidity.

Modernizing the monetary policy framework for a transition to an interest rate-based monetary policy is key to enhance the effectiveness of monetary policy, he emphasised.

Upgrading the financial supervision framework, including by implementing structural adjustment recommendations, will help to buttress financial sector stability and promote financial deepening, he similarly affirmed, demanding measures to align Tanzania's legal framework with FATF standards.

An online entry says that the FATF recommendations are the basis on which all countries should meet the shared objective of tackling money laundering and terrorist financing.

Implementing the standards will improve the effectiveness of the anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework.

"Structural reforms are essential to promote inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth. Business reforms should focus on streamlining bureaucratic procedures, simplifying the regulatory regime and enhancing regulatory transparency. "Implementation and enforcement of the authorities' anti-corruption legislation and strategies is central to enhancing governance. Tanzania's high vulnerability to climate change calls for continued efforts to increase resilience through mitigation and adaptation policies," the statement added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell to Tanzania Truck Owners Association chairman, Elias Lukumay (L) after launching Ttoa database in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

Wildlife invasions cost govt 5.5bn/- since 2018

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istry officials set to discuss ways of restoring wildlife corridors in various conservation areas.

Invasions are more frequent where people have encroached into animal movement corridors used as passages one reserve to another in search of prey, grass, mineral licks or in the course of breeding, she stated.

A report tabled at the confer-

ence asserts that 61 wildlife corridors are in use at present, with two of the vital connectivity passages listed in the Government Gazette.

Dr Julius Keyyu, operational director at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), said that 41 listed passages are on the verge of disappearance owing to increasing agro-habitat infringements.

The corridor restoration advisory committee has listed 20 corridors for priority in restoration owing to their biodiversity importance, while the minister

asked that villages near corridors and other reserved areas be placed under acute land use planning supervision.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) aided the restoration of seven wildlife corridors in the country through participatory approach by empowering local communities to that effect.

Threatened connectivity routes are Kwakuchinja corridor linking Tarangire and Manyara national parks, the Tarangire to Simanjiro plains said to be vital dispersal areas for

Tarangire wildlife, the Kigosi Moyowosi - Uvinza corridor connecting the conservation complex with Ugalla reserved area

Others include the Selous to Udzungwa corridor linking the game reserve with the southern mountain range, along with the Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), a marine corridor off the island.

There is also the Mahale Park to Katavi connection and the Amani to Nilo corridor, described as a patch of forest linking Amani and the Nilo forest

reserves near Tanga city.

Gazetted corridors are the Kitendeni corridor linking Longido and West Kilimanjaro and Mpanga to Kipengere corridor, said to be decrepit despite being gazetted, he stated.

Contributors urged that wildlife corridors be gazetted, in a path breaking conference bringing together local conservation and research entities as well as experts from USAID, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)



CCM Special Seats MP, Janeth Massaburi (2ndL) receives a briefing from the National Housing Corporation (NHC) construction manager, Eng. Grace Musita (2ndR) about the progress of Samia Housing Scheme in Kawe constituency, Dar es Salaam yesterday. She was on a special tour to inspect the progress of the project as part of the implementation of the ruling party's manifesto. Photo: Carlos Banda

Experts elated as US agency restores funding for Tanzania

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country's vast expenditure for infrastructure development, where the funding will support the sector and save budget sums that can now be channeled to other essential needs.

Dr. Donald Mmari, head of the research outfit REPOA said the move was a step in the right direction for a developing nation requiring massive resources

to catch up with a rapidly evolving technology and development landscape.

"We must work with advanced countries with genuine interest to support our development efforts," he said, asserting that in the spirit of global development cooperation being included is an excellent decision.

"The MCC contribution was a significant addition to our infrastructure improvement resource needs," he stated, asserting that Tanzania was making

good progress on the democratic front in view of the reality in Africa generally.

"I think the 2016 decision was unfortunate and probably it could have been avoided had either side engaged in diplomatic efforts," he declared

President Samia has since coming into office in March 2021 reversed some contentious measures that restricted democratic space, proclaiming a 4Rs programme of change that focuses on reforms, reconciliation, resilience and

rebuilding.

Informed sources avail that the move to reinstate Tanzania follows behind the scenes initiatives with Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba visiting the MCCi premises thrice in the past two years.

Prof Alphonse Kyessi, a senior researcher, said Tanzania was in need of the funding especially as it pushes the third five year development plan, and the outlook towards Vision 2030.

Pay people on time when executing road projects, CCM urges TARURA

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE ruling CCM has tasked the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to compensate people timely to avoid complaints.

Party's Mwanza regional chairman Michael Masanja made the call yesterday when speaking at the regional road board meeting that involved different transport stakeholders comprising seven districts.

The districts are Nyamagana, Ilemela, Ukerewe, Magu, Kwimba, Misungwi and Sengerema that also includes Buchosa council.

Masanja pointed out that TARURA needed to compensate people on time, the agency should also continue to ensure that construction of roads observe standards so that they can last longer.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, insisted on construction of infrastructure to go on time as well as reflecting on value for money.

He noted that executives should supervise government projects properly to meet objectives of

bringing development to the people who are the targeted ones.

"Good infrastructure is very important to push forward development developments therefore it is important to supervise well their construction", he said.

Also he directed the region's disaster committee to be on standby in case of floods during this time of ongoing rains that have wreaked havoc in various parts in the country.

"Precaution against harm is very important during the ongoing rains in a bid to save lives and property of people," he remarked.



Good infrastructure is very important to push forward development developments therefore it is important to supervise well their construction



Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Dr. Jim Yonazi (C) receives a donation of various items from the Women's Police Network (TPF - NET) which was presented by the Commissioner of the community inclusion CP Faustine Shilogile and the Commissioner of Administration and Human Resource Management CP Suzan Kaganda (L) for the victims of mudslide in Hanang District, Manyara Region. Photo: POLICE FORCE

Samia to grace 17th Manufacturer of the Year Awards, CTI executive

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is on Sunday expected to grace the Presidential Manufacture of the Year Awards (PMAYA), which has been organised by the Confederation of Industrialists (CTI).

The annual event is to involve various industrialists in the country who compete through various established sectors.

Leodegar Tenga, CTI executive director unveiled yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to jour-

nalists ahead of the event.

Tenga said that the annual event will involve various government leaders, big businesspeople and representatives of various international organisations.

"CTI is very grateful for President Samia to agree to attend to this important event and that her presence will boost the morale of businesspersons and industrialists as well in order to increase the quality of their products," he said.

"This is a great honour for CTI and the industrialists in the country," Tenga said, adding that the

awards which were given for the first time in 2005 aim to recognise the contribution of industrialists to the economic growth in the country and increase the quality of products.

He said the winners will be selected from the various sectors after extensive evaluation.

He said the awards aim to increase sales of goods and services abroad, increase competition in the industrial sector, increase research and development in the industrial sector in the country.

"We thank all the sponsors for

their support because without them the event cannot be held, we are very grateful to the main sponsor of this year's awards which is NBC Bank," he said.

Tenga named other sponsors of the awards event as EXIM Bank, Motison Group, TCC, TBL, Stamico, Total Energies, Kilimanjaro Cables, Alaf Limited, Bonite Bottlers, SBC, Serengeti Breweries Mati Super Brand and Elsewedy Electric East Africa.

He said the awards have greatly helped industrialists to continue improving the products they produce and he urged them to make sure they

produce products that will compete in the local and international markets.

"In order for Tanzania to achieve its dream of becoming an industrial nation, the industrialists must produce in large quantities and the products must be of good quality to compete in the international markets to earn foreign currency," said Tenga.

He said the competition has been improving throughout the years and one major improvement is the increase in the number of categories of winners from five economic sub sectors when the competition started 17 years ago to 22 economic subsectors

at the moment.

He said another improvement is involvement of the large, medium and small size businesses with an equal chance of winning in the competition.

Tenga said the sub sectors have also been realigned to better represent the industry activities of the members of the confederation which includes separation of nonalcoholic beverages from alcoholic products.

The CTI official said participants of the competition will initially be classified in accordance with their economic sub sectors and then based on their industrial sizes.

The Guardian Limited

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Freelancer Sales Executive

The Guardian Limited is looking for self driven sales personnel to join our advertising Sales Team in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Zanzibar

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- Proactively develop new business avenues
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- Develop strategic solutions that meet the unique needs of each client

Qualifications

- The position requires someone who can deliver the set targets within deadlines under competitive working environment.
- Applicants need to be highly organized, self-motivated with a positive attitude, and can thrive on setting and reaching new goals.
- Holders of a University degree or Diploma in Business Administration
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NOTE: This is a commission Based Position

Please send your application via Email to vacancy@guardian.co.tz before 28th December, 2023.

USAID TANZANIA MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING AND ADAPTATION ACTIVITY (USAID T-MELA)

CALL FOR RESEARCH GRANTS APPLICATION UNDER THE USAID T-MELA YOUTH RESEARCH & INTERNSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM

Attention to Tanzanian research and training institutions! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for youth research grants. This is your chance to secure funding for your innovative youth research projects. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in your field. Submit your application today!

Opportunity Number: TZ-APS-23-001

Issuance Date: December 1, 2023

Email for Written Questions: grants@tanzania-tmela.org

Deadline: Open for 12 months until November 30, 2024

Submit Concept Papers To: grants@tanzania-tmela.org

To Interested Applicants

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invites applications for its Youth Research & Internship Grants Program. This initiative, implemented by the International Business Initiative (IBI), aims to co-fund and provide technical assistance to local institutions and organizations addressing key youth development issues in Tanzania's mainland and Zanzibar.

Program Summary

IBI, a U.S.-based company, is implementing the USAID T-MELA Activity to enhance USAID's monitoring, evaluation, and learning capacities. One focus area is strengthening the local research institutions through grants for youth development research. The program is part of implementing the USAID Tanzania Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) 2020-2025, emphasizing youth engagement in education, economic empowerment, health, governance, environmental sustainability, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Objectives of the USAID T-MELA Youth Research & Internship Grants Program

- Enhance local institutions' capacities.
- Support the production, dissemination, and publication of research findings.
- Advance the research and evaluation methodologies for young researchers and evaluators.
- Increase organizational capacity on knowledge harvest and placement of MEL students/graduates.

The program focuses on

- Research and dissemination on youth development issues.
- Youth involvement in innovative solutions.
- Internships for Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) students and recent graduates in MEL.

Selection Process

- Initial review of concept notes
- Co-creation and refinement of concept with selected applicants
- Submission of cost proposals for a fixed amount award/grant

Award Information

- Estimated Funding Level:** Up to \$80,000 per agreement.
- Anticipated Performance Period:** Up to twelve months.
- Award Type:** Fixed Amount Awards (FAA).

Eligibility Requirements

- Registered local entity in Tanzania.
- SAM registration and UEL.
- No active exclusions in www.sam.gov
- Not a government entity.

Application & Submission Information

- Concept Note:** Submit a concept note before November 30, 2024, to grants@tanzania-tmela.org. However, applications will be reviewed and funded on a rolling basis.
- Supporting Documentation:** Include legal registration in Tanzania.
- Application format:** use the template in Annex 1, found in the link provided below.

Review Process

- Phase 1:** Mandatory compliance and merit review
- Rating Criteria:** Viability, Implementation Approach, Organizational Capability

Additional information

For detailed information and an application template, visit <https://www.ibi-usa.com/single-post/ibi-seeks-applications-for-youth-research-internship-grants-program-or-email-grants@tanzania-tmela.org>



Mary Kalavo (L) a gender and youth specialist at agricultural markets development trust (AMDT) briefs the deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Labour Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Petros Katambi (C) during the launch of 3rd cohort of AMDT mentorship programme for women and youth in agribusiness sector held in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Access to clean water soars by 13pct in Mbinga District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbinga

ACCESS to clean and safe water in rural areas of Mbinga District has jumped by 13 per cent in a space of four years, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) revealed over the weekend.

Access to clean and safe water now stands at 62 per cent, up from only 49 per cent recorded in 2019, according to Ruwasa acting manager for Mbinga District, Frolian Francis.

He made this promising revelation on Saturday (December 9, 2023) during the climax of the 62nd Independence Day Celebration held at Kigonsera high school here in Mbinga District.

Francis said more is coming, banking his hopes on the 15 projects worth 17bn/-, whose implementation is in progress in various parts of Mbinga District.

"After the completion of the projects, access to clean and safe water in rural areas will reach over 85 per cent come 2025," he said.

Before the Independence in 1961, Mbinga District had not even one single water project for

its people, but for colonisers. But now, things have changed for the better, hats off to the freedom fighters led by the founding father of this nation, the Late Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

In the same vein, the government also deserves to be praised for its commitment to bringing social services closer to its people.

Independence Day celebration, which was also attended by Mbinga Town Council (MTC) chair, Kelvin Mapunda and director Amina Seif, signifies a long battle for freedom and the people who fought for the same.



After the completion of the projects, access to clean and safe water in rural areas will reach over 85 per cent come 2025

'Language isn't barrier towards executing new education policy'

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Prof Elifas Bisanda has argued that medium of instruction is not a hindrance towards implementation of the newly revised education and training policy 2023.

Prof Bisanda made the remarks yesterday during the annual general meeting (AGM) of convocation held at OUT Ruvuma Regional Centre and attended by participants

from Tanzania and the international community.

According to him, language is not the only leading factor as many people say. Instead the focus should be on others if they really exist as what is needed is compatibility of the skills that teachers impart to the learners.

"The language of teaching is not a problem to children, instead to teachers who are taught by using Kiswahili", said Prof Bisanda.

He however insisted that the lan-

guage of teaching should be compatible with the local environment that molds a child from his/her childhood endeavor.

Prof Makenya Maboko from University of Dar es Salaam who was a keynote speaker said the time has come that Tanzania need to transform its curricula through policy and implement best practices of it through competent based education from lower levels that will determine the future of learners after completing a certain educa-

tion level.

He was of the view that through the newly revised education and training programmes will have to be redesigned to emphasize acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes that uphold employability and self-employment.

"Establishment of programmes shall be more closely aligned with the needs of labour market and economic opportunities in the country", said Prof Maboko.

A lecturer from Faculty of Busi-

ness Management of the Open University of Tanzania, Dr Chacha Matoka said the implementation of the new revised policy should be delayed as there is no proper preparation of the implementation of the same from infrastructures to human resources something that can have undesired results.

"For instance, provision of tablets to teachers in the country is of no use as many of them are used for chatting and other non-beneficial uses for themselves and the

public at large," said Dr Chacha.



The language of teaching is not a problem to children, instead to teachers who are taught by using Kiswahili

TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC TANZANIA



TREES FOR THE FUTURE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- Trees for the future Tanzania has set aside the funds for the operations during the financial year 2023. TREES is intending that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Personal protective Equipment, mobile phones & Laptop.
- TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC TANZANIA now invites sealed bids from reputable company/suppliers to supply goods as shown below:

LOT	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	UNITY	QUANTITY
1.	PPE/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/03	PROCUREMENT OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Pair	52
		-Riding gloves.	Pair	63
		-Rain suit.	Each	52
		-Riding Jackets.	Pair	63
		-Gum boots.	Pair	63
		-Safety boots.	Each	52
		-Helmet.	Each	52
		-Chest protector.	Pair	52
		-Elbow, knee & sheen guard		
		2.	PMP/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/04	PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE PHONES.
-Redmi Note 12 Pro	Each			55
-8GB RAM				
-256 GB ROM				
3.	PLT/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/05	PROCUREMENT OF LAPTOP		
		-HP Pavilion 15 Laptop		
		-11 th Gen Intel Core i7-1165G7 Processor		
		-16 GB RAM, 512GB SSD Storage		
		-Backlight Keyboard		
		-Numeric Keypad		
		-Fingerprint Reader		
		-Memory card slot		
		-Window 11 Pro		
				Each

Bidders are allowed to bids for all Lot (1,2 & 3) or One Lot or Two Lots and in each case, Bidder must quote for all quantities specified in Lot No.1,2 & 3. Trees for the future Tanzania will evaluate the bids and award the contract to the most competitive bidder.

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office, Trees for the future Tanzania, P.O BOX 1624 N.H.C. Singidani Complex Building, 2nd Floor SINGIDA or via email pendo.magagura@trees.org Mondays to Fridays except Public holidays.
- A complete set of the bidding Documents and additional sets will be offered free by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3.
- 3 copies of bids 1 original and 2 copies, properly filled in enclosed in plain envelopes must be properly addressed to the Trees for the future Tanzania, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, Second Floor, P.O BOX 1624 SINGIDA. All bids must be delivered by hand to the Trees for the future Tanzania before the deadline for submission of bids.
- The deadline for the submission of bids is 22nd December, 2023 at 10: 00am. Bids will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend in the conference room of the Trees for the future Tanzania, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, second floor at 10:00 a.m. 22nd December 2023. The outer cover must be clearly marked.

HERI RASHID
COUNTRY DIRECTOR
TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

OFISI YA RAIS,

TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA



HALMASHAURI YA MANISPAA YA KINONDONI



TAREHE: 11/12/2023

TAARIFA KWA UMMA

MKURUGENZI WA MANISPAA YA KINONDONI ANAWATAARIFU WANANCHI WOTE KUWA, HIVI KARIBUNI SERIKALI YA JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA, IMEREJESHA KATIKA NGAZI YA HALMASHAURI ULIPAJI WA KODI ZA MAJENGO.

HIVYO, WANANCHI WOTE WENYE MAJENGO NDANI YA MANISPAA YA KINONDONI, WANATAKIWA KUANZA KULIPIA KODI ZAO ZA MAJENGO KUANZIA JANUARI, 2024.

HATUA KALI ZA KISHERIA ZITACHUKULIWA KWA MMILIKI YEYOTE AMBAYE HATOLIPA KODI YA JENGO LAKE.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES) [TANZANIA]

[TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES TO MSMEs IN PARTICULAR FOR THE WOMEN, YOUTH, START-UPS AND INFORMAL SECTOR]

Financing Agreement reference: *Technical Assistance Project Supporting the Development of its Non Financial Services to MSMEs*

Project ID No.: CRDB TA - EURIZ

The CRDB Bank Plc' has received financing from the Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD) represented by Societe De Promotion Et Participation Pour La Cooperation Economique ('PROPARCO') toward the cost of the technical assistance project supporting the development of its non-financial services to MSMEs for the women, youth, start-ups and informal sector.

- To provide a tailor made financial and non-financial solutions to women customers;
- To enhance business knowledge to as many as possible MSMEs including specifically women youth informal sector and start-ups;
- To equip Bank staff with adequate knowledge and skills to be able to see opportunities in women entrepreneurs and better serve this segment;
- To equip women entrepreneurs with skills that will enable them to operate businesses to required standards including formalization and improve ability to run sustainable businesses and hence be able to access finance and become economically empowered; and
- To enable start-ups and informal businesses to access financing, upgrade and formalize businesses through coaching and on board them to mainstream banking.

The CRDB Bank Plc now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the eligibility criteria to AFD financing which are as specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Sub-consultant may participate in several applications.

If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members,
- or
- a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal,

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Subconsultants.

Experiences and qualifications of Subconsultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 0800 hours to 1600 hours Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays¹.

Late Tenders, Tenders not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. Any application not received, not opened, and not read out in public Tender opening ceremony shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. All tenders shall be submitted only through the Email: tenders@crdbbank.co.tz, not later than 08th December, 2023 at 1130 hours with Subject Title "Technical Assistance Project Supporting The Development of its Non-Financial Services to MSMEs in Particular for the Women, Youth, Start-Ups and Informal Sector"; late bid will be rejected.

All questions that may arise from the pre-qualification documents should be directed to CRDB Bank Customer service department.

Email: info@crdbbank.co.tz

Copy to: procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz

Phone Numbers: 0222197700; 0800008000; 0714197700; 0755197700; 0789197700.

The Managing Director
CRDB Bank Plc
CRDB Headquarters,
Plot No.25 & 26 Ally Hassan Mwinyi Road &
Plot No.21 Barrack Obama Road
P.O. Box 268, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0) 22 211 7441 – 7
Fax: +255 (0) 22 211 6714
Email: info@crdbbank.co.tz
Website: <http://www.crdbbank.co.tz>

Appendix to The Request for Expressions of Interest (To be submitted with the application, signed and unaltered) Statement of Integrity, Eligibility and Environmental and Social Responsibility

Reference of the bid or proposal _____
(the "Contract")

To: _____
(the "Contracting Authority")

- We recognise and accept that *Agence Française de Développement* ("AFD") only finances projects of the Contracting Authority subject to its own conditions which are set out in the Financing Agreement which benefits directly or indirectly to the Contracting Authority. As a matter of consequence, no legal relationship exists between AFD and our company, our joint venture or our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants. The Contracting Authority retains exclusive responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the procurement process and performance of the contract. The Contracting Authority means the Purchaser, the Employer, the Client, as the case may be, for the procurement of goods, works, plants, consulting services or non-consulting services.
- We hereby certify that neither we nor any other member of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants are in any of the following situations:

- Being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having our activities administered by the courts, having entered into receivership, reorganisation or being in any analogous situation arising from any similar procedure;
- Having been:
 - convicted, within the past five years by a court decision, which has the force of *res judicata* in the country where the Contract is implemented, of fraud, corruption or of any other offense committed during a procurement process or performance of a contract (in the event of such conviction, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this conviction is not relevant in the context of this Contract);
 - subject to an administrative sanction within the past five years by the European Union or by the competent authorities of the country where we are constituted, for fraud, corruption or for any other offense committed during a procurement process or performance of a contract (in the event of such sanction, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this sanction is not relevant in the context of this Contract);
 - convicted, within the past five years by a court decision, which has the force of *res judicata*, of fraud, corruption or of any other offense committed during the procurement process or performance of an AFD-financed contract;

- Being listed for financial sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union and/or France for the purposes of fight-against-terrorist financing or threat to international peace and security;

- Having been subject within the past five years to a contract termination fully settled against us for significant or persistent failure to comply with our contractual obligations during contract performance, unless this termination was challenged and dispute resolution is still pending or has not confirmed a full settlement against us;

- Not having fulfilled our fiscal obligations regarding payments of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of either the country where we are constituted or the Contracting Authority's country;

- Being subject to an exclusion decision of the World Bank and being listed on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/debar> (in the event of such exclusion, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this exclusion is not relevant in the context of this Contract);

- Having created false documents or committed misrepresentation in documentation requested by the Contracting Authority as part of the procurement process of this Contract.

- Being subject to an exclusion decision of the World Bank and being listed on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/debar> (in the event of such exclusion, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this exclusion is not relevant in the context of this Contract);

- Having created false documents or committed misrepresentation in documentation requested by the Contracting Authority as part of the procurement process of this Contract.

- Being subject to an exclusion decision of the World Bank and being listed on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/debar> (in the event of such exclusion, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this exclusion is not relevant in the context of this Contract);

- Having created false documents or committed misrepresentation in documentation requested by the Contracting Authority as part of the procurement process of this Contract.

- We hereby certify that neither we, nor any of the members of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants are in any of the following situations of conflict of interest:

- Being an affiliate controlled by the Contracting Authority or a shareholder controlling the Contracting Authority, unless the stemming conflict of interest has been brought to the attention of AFD and resolved to its satisfaction;

- Having a business or family relationship with a Contracting Authority's staff involved in the procurement process or the supervision of the resulting Contract, unless the stemming conflict of interest has been brought to the attention of AFD and resolved to its satisfaction;

- Being controlled by or controlling another bidder or consultant, or being under common control with another bidder or consultant, or receiving from or granting subsidies directly or indirectly to another bidder or consultant, having the same legal representative as another bidder or consultant, maintaining direct or indirect contacts with another bidder or consultant which allows us to have or give access to information contained in the respective applications, bids or proposals, influencing them or influencing decisions of

the Contracting Authority;

- Being engaged in a consulting services activity, which, by its nature, may be in conflict with the assignments that we would carry out for the Contracting Authority;

- In the case of procurement of goods, works or plants:

- Having prepared or having been associated with a consultant who prepared specifications, drawings, calculations and other documentation to be used in the procurement process of this Contract;
- Having been recruited (or being proposed to be recruited) ourselves or any of our affiliates, to carry out works supervision or inspection for this Contract.

- If we are a state-owned entity, and to compete in a procurement process, we certify that we have legal and financial autonomy and that we operate under commercial laws and regulations.

- We undertake to bring to the attention of the Contracting Authority, which will inform AFD, any change in situation with regard to points 2 to 4 here above.

- In the context of the procurement process and performance of the corresponding contract:

- We have not and we will not engage in any dishonest conduct (act or omission) deliberately intended to deceive others, to intentionally conceal items, to violate or vitiate someone's consent, to make them circumvent legal or regulatory requirements and/or to violate their internal rules in order to obtain illegitimate profit;

- We have not and we will not engage in any dishonest conduct (act or omission) contrary to our legal or regulatory obligations or our internal rules in order to obtain illegitimate profit;

- We have not promised, offered or given and we will not promise, offer or give, directly or indirectly to (i) any Person who holds a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial mandate within the State of the Contracting Authority regardless of whether that Person was nominated or elected, regardless of the permanent or temporary, paid or unpaid nature of the position and regardless of the hierarchical level the Person occupies, (ii) any other Person who performs a public function, including for a State institution or a State-owned company, or who provides a public service, or (iii) any other person defined as a Public Officer by the national laws of the Contracting Authority's country, an undue advantage of any kind, for himself or for another Person or entity, for such Public Officer to act or refrain from acting in his official capacity;

- We have not promised, offered or given and we will not promise, offer or give, directly or indirectly to any Person who occupies an executive position in a private sector entity or works for such an entity, regardless of the nature of his/her capacity, any undue advantage of any kind, for himself or another Person or entity for such Person to perform or refrain from performing any act in breach of its legal, contractual or professional obligations;

- We have not and we will not engage in any practice likely to influence the contract award process to the detriment of the Contracting Authority and, in particular, in any anti-competitive practice having for object or for effect to prevent, restrict or distort competition, namely by limiting access to the market or the free exercise of competition by other undertakings;

- Neither we nor any of the members of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants shall acquire or supply any equipment nor operate in any sectors under an embargo of the United Nations, the European Union or France;

- We commit ourselves to comply with and ensure that all of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants comply with international environmental and labour standards, consistent with laws and regulations applicable in the country of implementation of the Contract, including the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and international environmental treaties. Moreover, we shall implement environmental and social risks mitigation measures when specified in the environmental and social commitment plan (ESCP) provided by the Contracting Authority.

- We, as well as members of our joint venture and our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants authorise AFD to inspect accounts, records and other documents relating to the procurement process and performance of the contract and to have them audited by auditors appointed by AFD.

Name: _____ In the capacity of: _____

Duly empowered to sign in the name and on behalf of: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

1 Recipient, in the case of grants
2 For example, 0900 to 1700 hours

3 In case of joint venture, insert the name of the joint venture. The person who will sign the application, bid or proposal on behalf of the applicant, bidder or consultant shall attach a power of attorney from the applicant, bidder or consultant.

NMB hands over delivery kits worth 15.3m/- to support maternal health in Kigamboni DC

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has handed over an assortment of 750 delivery kits worth 15.3m/- to support maternal health in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam reaffirming its commitment to boosting quality health services delivery provided to expectant women and their newborn babies.

The donated items included 500gm cotton wool pads, disposable mackintosh, maternity pads, surgical gloves, scalpel blades, plastic cord clamps, cloth materials for new-borns, auto-disposable syringes and chromic catgut among others.

Handing over the donation yesterday in Kigamboni yesterday, NMB Bank Dar es Salaam Zonal Manager Dismas Prosper said the donated items will compliment and accelerate government's efforts to provide quality reproductive health services, and seeks to contribute to the overall well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Prosper noted that the bank has prioritized the

health sector among its key priority areas in its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy as it believes good health is a catalyst to sustainable development.

"NMB Bank has for the last seven years set aside one percent of the bank's Profit After Tax (PAT) to finance various CSI initiatives as part of our commitment to support sustainable development in areas where our bank operates. Today, we are pleased to handover delivery kits worth 15.3m/- and we believe our efforts will go a long way in saving the lives of both expectant mothers and their newborn babies," he said.

Kigamboni District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Pendo Mahalu during the event said her district had during this year conducted a needs assessment survey spearheaded by the District Commissioner Halima Bulembu that found that the district needs around 8,500 delivery kits each year to cater for expectant women and their newborn babies.

She underscored that the support provided by NMB

Bank had come at a very opportune time assuring the bank that her district will efficiently utilize the delivery kits donated for the benefit of all needy expectant women.

"As a district, our relationship with NMB Bank has gone beyond being development partners since the bank is always there for us whenever we need it. Good health requires timely and efficient delivery of health care services. We are so thankful and believe these delivery kits donated will help to put a smile on many expectant mothers who have been forced to dig deep into their pockets to buy these essential kits," she stressed.

Kigamboni District Hospital Medical Officer Dr Mohammed Mnyau said the delivered items will be a big relief to expectant women in Kigamboni district since the delivery kits are costly and thanked the bank for its contribution.

"At times the lack of delivery kits causes unnecessary delays in service provision. These kits provided by NMB Bank will now enable us to



NMB Bank's Dar es Salaam zone manager Dismas Prosper (3rd L) hands over medical supplies to Kigamboni District Administrative Secretary, Upendo Mahalu (3rd R) donated by the bank for pregnant mothers in Kigamboni District hospital. The event took place in Dar es Salaam on December 13, 2023. Others are Kigamboni Municipality Mayor Ernest Ndamo (2nd R), Kigamboni Municipality Director Erasto Kiwale (R), Irene Masaki, NMB Bank's and government business relationship manager (L) and NMB Bank's Kigamboni branch manager Rehema Kasilima (2nd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

provide instant services when required. On average, our hospital received between 5000 - 10,000 expectant mothers each year," Dr Mnyau said.

He during the event called upon other

development partners to donate more delivery kits to enable the district to realize its set target of collecting 8,500 kits this year.

"As of today, we have been able to collect around 3,500 delivery kits bring-

ing the district's gap to 5,000 kits now. I would like to take this time to call upon all companies operating in Kigamboni District to come and support this life-saving noble cause," he said.

Graduates called on to pursue further studies

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

GRADUATES have been urged to go for further studies as a way of updating their knowledge and skills.

Prof Eliab Opiyo, Vice Chancellor of St Joseph University in Tanzania (SJUIT) made the remarks on Wednesday while officiating the 16th graduation ceremony of the university in Dar es Salaam.

He noted that graduates, who do not go for further studies, end up becoming obsolete. "If you stop learning, you also stop living," he said, noting that quality education puts emphasis on building the mind, practical skills, culture and religion.

Prof Opiyo, said with the ongoing scientific development and challenges, scholars have a great opportunity to give answers; hence

the urge to grab further learning opportunities.

"It is an undeniable fact that the more you study, the more you see the challenges in our communities that require additional knowledge, skills and competence to solve problems. This graduation should be a catalyst to start planning for further studies in the near future," he said.

He added: "I therefore urge you

to study continuously and keep yourselves updated with the new technology and scientific technology in order to provide the best update quality services to your clients." According to him, any graduate that would need assistance that can be found from the university, will not hesitate to provide.

President of the University Council Dr Thomson Ananth insisted on graduates' hard work, dedication and discipline as key pillars that will make them productive citizens in utilizing their knowledge to serve the society and industry.

"Today, you will leave our gates and head out into the world. The university has prepared you as best as it could but what will elevate you to greatness is gentleness, frugality and humility. Remember the systems and discipline you had learned and trained at SJUIT. Your knowledge and skills will be

of value if you respect and practice your discipline and systematic approach," he said.

He added: "Remember the knowledge and skills that you gathered in a systematic approach. Through this approach, it is our hope that the hard work and education you demonstrated while at the university will make you a protective citizen that you will use the knowledge to serve the society and industry." According to him, what will elevate the graduates despite the university's great emphasis in building graduates capacity in addressing emerging challenges in the world, highlighting the university's belief that with education provision, graduates' discipline is also vital in bringing out solutions upon the challenges.

"On behalf of the university council, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the government

and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in particular for the support towards the growth and development of the university," he said.

He concluded: "My gratitude goes to the university management and staff for their dedication in running the university. It is through the management that the most of the things mentioned above, not limited to have been made possible. To the graduates, I wish you all the best as you face the world," he concluded.

SJUIT focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Health and Allied Sciences that has approved 416 graduates in this year in bachelor of engineering, doctor of medicine, Bachelor of Science with education, ordinary diploma in engineering, pharmaceutical sciences, nursing and midwifery.

JKCI now do transcatheter aortic valve implantation procedure for the elderly

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

HEAVY investment made by the government has made the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to easily do transcatheter aortic valve implantation procedure (TAVI) for the elderly aged between 75 and 80 years.

Dr John Jingu (pictured), permanent secretary in the ministry of Health made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam, when visited three JKCI patients, who had their coronary artery valve replaced with a small hole without opening the chest, which is the first in the country and second in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He said that the move is after ongoing investments made in the sector, including the allocation of 5bn/- for the training of specialists and super specialists abroad, who are among the successful TAVI.

"Next year, 10.9bn/- will be allocated to 700 specialists from different hospitals in the country, including JKCI, for the training of specialists in specialized and specialist services," said Dr Jingu.

He aligned the benefits of investment in the sector, which has come from JKCI is an income of 920m/- for the period from July to Decem-



ber, this year, due to income from 3,000 patients who were treated from inside and outside about 20 countries.

"This investment saves lives, the cost is not only for us but also for neighboring countries, and there are also those who come from outside the continent of Africa. We will continue to launch services like this, the TAVI service. When I did research I found out that it is done in South Africa and here in Tanzania, in Sub-Saharan Africa," said Dr Jingu.

JKCI Executive Director Dr Peter Kisenge said three adults between the ages of 75 and 80 have received the service, for approximately one and a half to two hours per person

and the cost is 80m/- for each patient.

Cardiologist, Dr Tatizo Waane said that the TAVI service reduces the harm to the patient, because it takes less than two days, treatment and the patient is discharged.

Cardiologist, from Stancare hospital in India, Dr Ashishkumar Mandalay, together with his colleagues, said that the implementation of the TAVI service and cooperation with JKCI, has increased their experience.

He said that the presence of modern medical equipment has made the service successful, also saying that the local champions' skills helped the surgery to be done easily.

The Nature Conservancy

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC is working with different stakeholders to achieve community development through sustainable and equal fisheries resources management.

On the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika, TNC is empowering local communities and leadership to implement community-led conservation initiatives to advance the conservation process of resources of Lake Tanganyika and increase people's livelihoods opportunities. In that regard, to reduce the fishing pressure on Lake Tanganyika, TNC wishes to support local population develop alternative livelihoods options through establishment of Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA).

The COCOBA model aims to support efforts being implemented by various conservation partners by way of reducing pressure on natural resources and providing alternative economic activities. COCOBAs allow members living around natural resources such as forests, marine parks, and other conservation areas to access loans to establish conservation-friendly businesses, such as beekeeping, chicken farming, tree planting, etc.

Technically, the model aims to help people living in these areas access technical and financial services to initiate and operate sustainable family income-generating activities that do not harm the environment.

TNC is seeking a consultant to facilitate establishment and operationalization of Community Conservancy Banks (COCOBA) and training of trainers in eight (8) villages in Nkasi District Council.

The aim of this consultancy is to help alleviate pressure on natural resources and promote alternative but regenerative economic activities for the communities by facilitating access to loans for the establishment of conservation-friendly livelihood activities.

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal at e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org.

The deadline to submit proposals is set on 29th December 2023 at 10:00 am EAT.



WWF for a living planet®

Supply of Boat Engines and GPS for Serengeti Sub-Landscape

INTRODUCTION

World Wide Funds for nature (WWF) Tanzania country office is an international non-governmental organization which is working to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature. In Tanzania WWF performs various projects and programs in the priority landscapes i.e., SOKNOT, Water Tower, Ruvuma, and RUMAKI Seascape. In programs and projects execution WWF is working with various stakeholders i.e., governments at different tiers which includes local, regional and central, communities, private sectors, media and civil society organizations.

WWF Tanzania through its Mara Wetlands Conservation project in the Serengeti Sub-Landscape, is committed to support the established Community Management Units (CMUs) in conducting monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) within Mara Wetlands. Among the support identified are the equipment needed to enable the CMUs to combat the illegal fishing in distant waters within Mara Wetlands.

WWF Tanzania, aims at procuring outboard boat engines (YAMAHA) and GPS (Garmin) for the CMUs to support them in conducting regular patrols within Mara Wetlands. These equipment aims to mitigation the persisting challenges in the MCS domain due to illegal fishing practices in distant waters.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced bidder(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
White Star Street, Plot 252, Mikochei
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org

Interested applicants may access the Full Detailed Specification Document through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

All applications should reach us by or before **Friday, 29th December 2023**.

WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. Late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org



BARRICK
 BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-12-01	CONDUCTING SOCIAL ECONOMIC SURVEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consultants specialized in conducting Social Economic Surveys, must have proven relevant professional experience with survey and social management skills required certification. ii. Experience working with similar works in the last 3 years. iii. Capability to integrate Social Economic data with RAP. iv. Experience in carrying out community engagement and conducting research and analysis using mixed methods approaches. v. Familiarity with statistical software and data analysis tools vi. Team with strong problem-solving skills, and an ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders including government and community-based organizations. (Supervisors / Safety officers) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health and safety acts).

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced consultants shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualifies as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Time frame to complete the project. (Including site mobilization stage).
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner
- Brela detailed search certificate i.e., statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management, and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **22nd December 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

Minister urges investors to invest in water sector

By Correspondent **Valentine Oforo, Arusha**

MINISTER of Water, Jumaa Aweso has challenged the private sector to chip-in and invest heavily in the water sector to supplement the government's efforts to solve water woes in the country.

Minister Aweso made the call yesterday here while opening a special forum of potential stakeholders in the key sector.

The forum has been organised by the Ministry of Water to provide an avenue for the participants to brainstorm over various relevant topics, including the so far achievements in the sector, available opportunities as well as the diverse challenges upsetting the water sector.

According to him, in order to attain the much-needed water adequacy across the country, collective efforts are needed be-

tween the two major sectors.

He said: "If venturing effectively, the private sector has huge room and capability to help solve the challenges of accessibility of safe water towards the public, especially through adoption of useful digital technologies."

"Before the establishment of the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (Ruwasa), the government was suffering to make sure that it runs fast to solve the challenges which however did not succeed to a large extent," he observed.

The minister directed the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the parent ministry to take punitive measures against all executives who are sabotaging water projects in the country.

"There are some unscrupulous people who work habitually and for their self-interest, such officers should take strict disciplinary measures, noting that it was

shame, but also unprofessional as some of water customer who go to seek for water connection services at water department are being told there is no meters.

According to him, the government was working seriously to improve water services to the citizens, targeting to ensure all citizens in rural and urban areas are supplied with safe water, though observed that the journey to attain the vision was still long.

Prof Jamal Katundu, permanent secretary in the Water Ministry said the meeting provides a platform for the involved stakeholders to discuss and share their key inputs for the drafting of National Water Policy and for the 2023 Strategic Plan of the Ministry.

"We're working professionally and patriotically to supervise the projects and ensure they reflect the value for money in order to solve existing water challenges," he expressed.



BARRICK
 NORTH MARA

Advertisement

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

Manufacturing and Supply of DE gritters for the Rising Main Project at North Mara Gold Mine
Tender Ref: NM035/2023

Qualification Criteria

No	Reference no	Description of work	Qualification criteria
1	NM035/2023	Manufacture and Supply of DE gritters for the Underground Rising Main Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Procurement, manufacture, and supply of De gritters for a similar sized project in Africa. Provide project profiles over the last three years for assessment. ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include photo of the fabrication workshop, confirmation of floor size and location. iii. Provide list of minimum in stock two year spares and critical spare items as well as location of these stock items in Africa or preferably Tanzania. iv. Confirm minimum lead time to supply North Mara site with spares and critical parts. v. List of Personnel and organogram. vi. Complete a side-by-side datasheet comparison of the De gritter to be supplied versus the datasheet requirements provided. Datasheet with reference <i>CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0002-D</i>. Supplier section to be completed. vii. Completed Bill of Quantities (BOQ) with reference <i>CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0004-C</i> for the De gritters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications or requirements detailed in documents with references: <i>CC0296-100-PRO-PID-0001-01</i>; <i>CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0003C</i>; <i>CC0296-000-MEC-SPC-0001-0</i> or clearly highlight non compliances for review. viii. Class two, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All Material Procurement completed, number of weeks after PO received. ii. FAT testing completed, number of weeks after PO placement per equipment supplied item. iii. Completion of painting activities where required, number of weeks after PO placement. iv. Provide Quality Control Plans and procedures governing the quality during the manufacturing process. v. Warranty & Guarantee period to be provided for the equipment. vi. Provide a list of commissioning spares, two years operational spares and strategic spares as well as complete document with reference: <i>CC0296-000-PRM-SPR-0001</i>. vii. Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions. ix. Local Content Regulations Compliance

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of **NMGM**.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your submission unsuccessful.

Key Dates

Last Date to Submit RFP Package request

20 December 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Let's drive to arrive alive this Xmas

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year. We have ten days to go moving into the climax of this festive season. We also begin tallying road accidents, fatalities and injuries as more traffic will be on our roads, more drivers will be drinking and speeding, and more of them will die or kill their families or kill others using the roads. Police roadblocks help a little. They ensure drivers are licensed and are not obviously drunk and that vehicles are licensed and therefore that they are also insured. But this is about as far it goes: a quick check that reminds most drivers to be careful and then back to as it was.

Of far more value are those police speed-traps and the highway patrol vehicles that go round looking for bad driving as well as mounting quick surprise speed-traps at unexpected places.

We hope that the police will be able to use every one of the limited number of speed cameras they have this festive season, for that will at least reduce one big killer.

A second major killer is alcohol. Unfortunately, Tanzania does not test much to see if drivers are over the limit or even drunk. We have to rely on the common sense of drivers, and it is clear that many Tanzanians feel they are quite capable of controlling a car when they have downed a few beers.

Statistics show they are wrong, and part of the holiday death toll comes from the higher likelihood that many drivers, being off work, are drinking during the day.

We have suggested before that equipping roadblocks with the basic breathalysers common in some countries would do a great deal to keeping our roads a lot safer, and we suspect that at least in the early stages of zero tolerance to drinking and driving, the fines would more than pay for the equipment.

The third killer is bad driving,

and Tanzania has a lot of bad drivers plus a lot of fairly reasonable drivers who try and drive when tired, drive long distances as quickly as possible, and drive too fast on dark roads.

Bad driving and wrong driving kill. We have seen that over the years. Sometimes, in some places and some conditions, the speed limit is far too fast at lower speeds it is easier for two vehicles to pass, especially on curves or where the road is raised to cross a stream.

Night driving kills more than it should, largely because so few people take the trouble to work out what is their minimum braking distance and then checking to see if their headlights will light up an obstruction in time. If not they will have a problem.

We might need to borrow the law in several countries that compels drivers to carry a spare headlight bulb. These are cheap and easy to replace and having both bulbs does give a driver a better chance of seeing obstructions.

Even roadblocks would be a useful place to be told a bulb was out and would offer protection while this was changed. The offence can be not having a spare, not having a dead light.

A final major killer is the impatience so many show on the roads. Taking a trip a little easier, going with the flow and enjoying the ride a bit more does not add much to the travel time few trips would be more than 15 per cent longer and would be a lot safer and more enjoyable.

Leaving early enough to complete a trip in daylight will boost the chances of living through that trip.

Most drivers know the rules and have heard the suggestions. What is needed now is for them to follow them and assume that sometimes the expert does know better. If we drive more safely we can demand others do the same.

The UN Food Systems summits: We need voices from around globe

TWO years ago and this year, the UN convened Food Systems Summit. A historic moment for centering food in many critical issues facing people all over our planet today: from hunger and malnutrition; to environment and nature; to livelihoods and human rights; to resilience to shocks and stresses like COVID 19 and the climate emergency.

Many African countries have seen good progress against some malnutrition indicators.

Like other middle-income countries, Tanzania also faces a complex battle against malnutrition in all its forms, with a growing obesity and diet-related non-communicable disease burden together with continuing high levels of undernutrition.

At the same time, large parts of the country are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with hazards like heat waves, droughts, and disrupted weather patterns threatening rainfed agriculture and linked livelihoods.

Tanzania also faces a complex battle against malnutrition in all its forms, with a growing obesity and diet-related non-communicable disease burden together with continuing high levels of undernutrition.

At the national level, Tanzania joins over 125 countries that have embarked on coordinating efforts for inclusive, multistakeholder Food Systems Summit Dialogues to engage around the vision of the 'people's summit'. All over the world, countries have been holding - and in some cases continue to hold - national and sub-national dialogues to surface

and prioritise needs and actions.

These convenings bring stakeholders from different areas of public sector, national and sub-national, representing ministries like agriculture, food, health, and environment together with private sector players like food industry bodies or small and medium-sized enterprises; together with UN agency representatives from the likes of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); together with academics and representatives from international and national Non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations (NGOs and CSOs); and finally and very crucially, together with representatives of stakeholders from groups with voices that too often go unheard - women's groups, consumer groups, young people, indigenous people, and farmer organisations.

In countries where women are most marginalised, discriminated under the law and where gendered norms prevent women from owning property and resources, people are also the hungriest. This is because gender equality and food systems are intertwined.

However, too often, we only focus on the roles that women play in production, processing, trading of food and in making decisions about consumption and purchase of food at household level.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

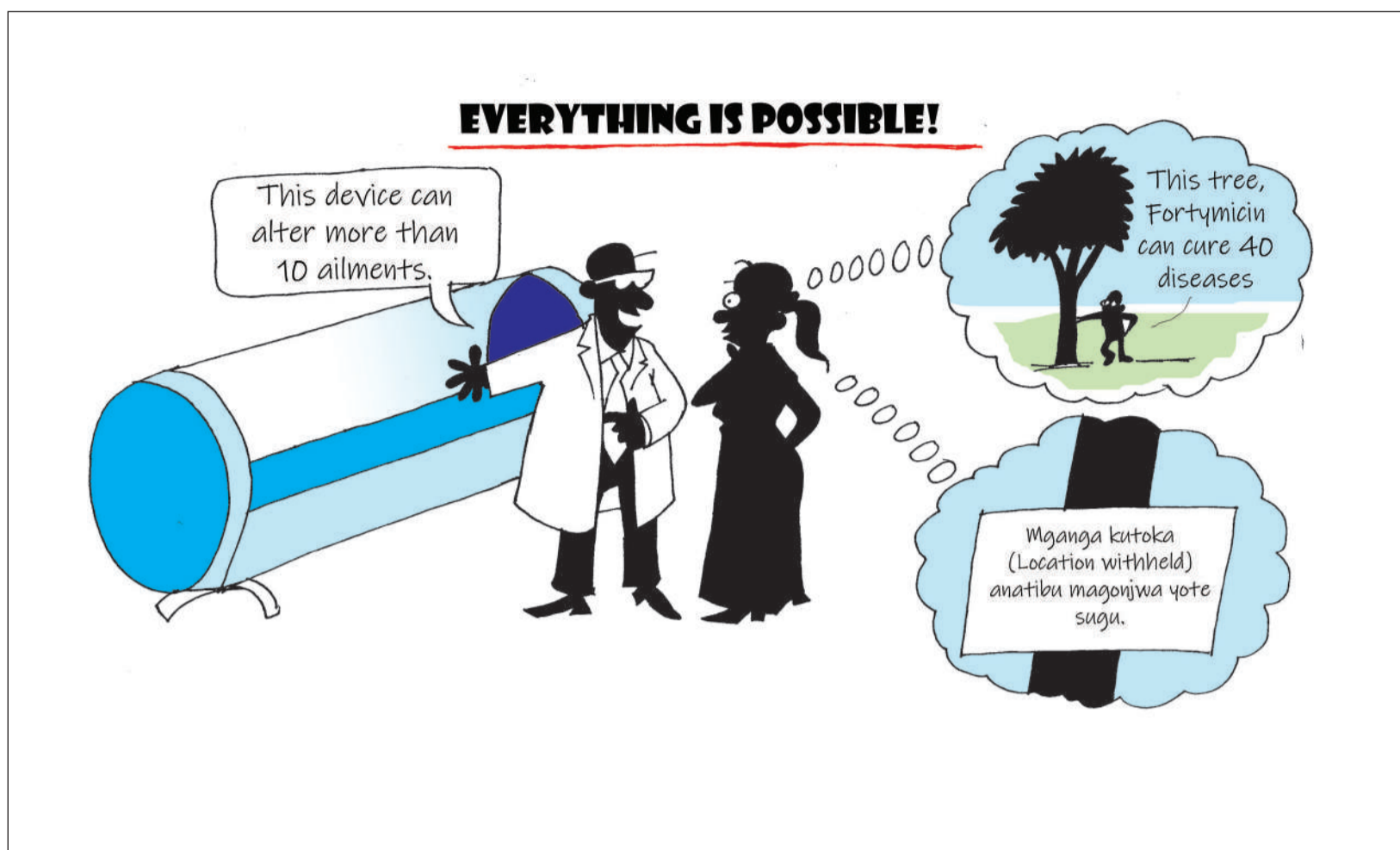
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Africa at COP28: Africa's great blue wall: Delivering climate-positive growth through the blue economy

By Jean-Paul Adam

MOBILIZING financing for such ambitious projects that provides climate adaptation and sustainable use of marine resources is key

As an Islander from the Seychelles, Africa's smallest country, I find that the ocean is intricately woven into my heritage. It not only defines my roots but also shapes the trajectory of my journey. When I think of the future, I can't help but also look at the boundless possibilities reflected in the vast expanse of the ocean.

Jean-Paul Adam I am therefore encouraged that the growing trend of African leaders turning their attention to the ocean as a catalyst for achieving "climate positive growth". This is the premise of the Nairobi Climate Action Summit, where African leaders emphasized that 'Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change'.

African leaders are emphasizing that 'climate positive growth' will be built by Africans, for Africans. Of course, support is needed - no one can achieve the scale of change needed without massive upscaling of investment.

The Great Blue Wall- climate resilience and a 'regenerative blue economy'

The Great Blue Wall is an initiative which aims to catalyze the promise of 'climate positive growth' into action.

Under the Comoros Presidency, the African Union seeks, now more than ever, a 'blue future'. Spearheaded by African countries in the Western Indian Ocean, as outlined in the Moroni Declaration adopted in June 2023, the Great Blue Wall initiative aims to shield African countries from impacts of climate change and natural disasters uplifting and delivering economic empowerment to local coastal and island communities.

The existing industrialized fishing practices of distant nations is completely detached from the eco-system which supports the biomass and hence poses a threat. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has underlined overfishing of tuna species, especially the big-eye tuna and yellow-fin tuna. At the same time, the warming ocean, increasing acidification of the water and consequent bleaching of coral reefs affects the availability of the prey species such as mackerel for the much-prized tunas.

Coastal African nations find themselves at risk, often reaping limited benefits from their marine resources, similar to challenges faced with mineral exports from the mainland. FAO and other UN agencies are working with African countries to allow them to reap more benefit from their marine resources.

The Great Blue Wall aims to conserve marine resources through Marine Protected Areas as well as empower local communities by boosting the sustainable fisheries value chain and establishing of additional economic opportunities through eco-tourism and related economic activities.

The 2022 Kunming-Montreal Framework on Biological Diversity delivered a global pledge to place 30% of the world's oceans under protection-further reinforced by the 2023 adoption of an agreement on protecting marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

The Great Blue Wall is the blueprint for 'regenerative blue economy' A regenerative model also implies actively investing in the ocean for climate resilience. In this instance, mangroves in particular are nature's best line of defense. Mangroves provide some of the most effective protections against coastal erosion, while they are also critical spawning grounds for numerous commercial fish species and crustaceans.

Marine-based eco-tourism is also one of the most valuable forms of economic activity to provide opportunities for local populations.

These are some of the elements that underpin the transformation from 'extraction' to 'regeneration'.

How does this fit into Africa's drive for sustainable industrialization?

The Great Blue Wall not only offers a model for a 'regenerative blue economy' but also addresses

broader challenges associated with Africa's maritime space.

As Africa's trade heavily relies on sea transport, ensuring climate-resistant port infrastructure becomes pivotal, most pressing is the development of Africa's maritime corridors for trade to build on the promise of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Reliable and affordable energy is a key enabler of sustainable value chains. Opportunities exist for offshore wind energy, for example, as being explored by Morocco. Meanwhile, floating solar is being tested in Seychelles, while using the ocean temperature differential for cooling purposes is being piloted in Mauritius.

Financing the vision

As the Great Blue Wall envisions climate resilience built on community-focused economic empowerment, financing is key. As we head to COP28, the gap in climate finance is glaring- all the while conflicts divert resources away from climate and development priorities. The climate finance gap highlighted by the High Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance co-chaired by Nick Stern and Vera Songwe showed that \$2.4 trillion was required by 2030.

Large-scale climate finance availability would allow the Great Blue Wall initiative to mobilize quickly and at scale. Additionally, the Great Blue Wall also aims to generate income streams that support communities, reducing dependency and helps to boost domestic resource mobilization.

Among these opportunities including tapping into the potential of 'blue carbon' or issuing carbon credits based on the sequestration potential of oceanic resources. Successful small scale projects such as Mikoko Pamoja in Kenya have delivered high quality results for local communities through mangrove rehabilitation.

Recognizing increased debt burdens of African countries, the opportunity to use debt swap instruments to replace existing expensive debt with more affordable longer-term lending could potentially liberate fiscal space to be redeployed to finance some of the priorities of the Great Blue Wall. The Seychelles debt for climate swap of 2015 for example delivered new and predictable flows of finance for marine conservation.

Looking ahead: COP28 and beyond

The Great Blue Wall has high-level political backing and is a priority for the African Union and its partners.

Efforts are underway to expand its adoption to other African countries, connecting the ambitions of the countries along the Indian Ocean to those along the Atlantic.

At COP28, the focus is on mobilizing seed financing for this ambitious project which not only provides climate adaptation, but also seeks to fundamentally transform the economic model for management of marine resources.

The Great Blue Wall captures the essence of the 'climate positive growth' we hope to see.



By Remadji Hointhy and Nirvaly Mooloo

DRC voting day looms with potential violence and exclusion challenges in the mix

DEMOCRATIC Republic of the Congo's (DRC) fourth election on 20 December will occur against a protracted conflict shaping the nation's political landscape. These polls are plagued by numerous interconnected challenges likely to result in contested outcomes and political unrest.

A complex interplay of political turbulence and democratic aspirations characterises the backdrop of previous elections in the country. In 2006, following decades of authoritarian rule and violent conflict, the DRC witnessed its inaugural multi-party elections. Joseph Kabila controversially became president, with 58% of the votes, over Jean-Pierre Bemba's 42%.

In 2011, Kabila's contentious re-election led to violent protests and a disputed ballot outcome. Subsequent political tensions compromised the country's stability. Initially scheduled for November 2016, the polls were postponed to December 2018. This sparked widespread anger and protests amid concerns about Kabila's reluctance to step down after his constitutionally mandated second term.

Félix Tshisekedi won with 39.57% of the votes defeating Martin Fayulu's 34.83%. Although the 2018 elections marked a historic peaceful transfer of power since independence in 1960, they were marred by allegations of vote manipulation favouring Tshisekedi.

Several hurdles must be overcome before this year's voting to ensure participation, anticipate post-election mediation and prevent violence.

The appointment of Denis Kadima Kazadi, a close associate of the president, as head of the electoral commission (Ceni) sparked opposition protests. It is regarded as government's attempt to obstruct the process. The controversy over the deployment of European Union (EU) election observers adds doubts, jeopardising the fairness of the process.

Security issues persist

The prevailing security challenges, especially in the eastern provinces, present a major obstacle, making electoral registration in Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu impossible. Those communities will be unable to participate in the upcoming presidential and legislative elections. The official electoral body confirmed that violence in eastern DRC would disenfranchise voters in North Kivu, and many displaced populations could also be excluded due to ongoing unrest.

This situation undermines the legitimacy of the elections, accentuating the sense of exclusion among eastern communities. In addition to this denial of a constitutional right, for many people in the DRC, voter cards have served as a sole form of national identity for decades. Not having access to them amplifies this feeling of abandonment. This potentially fosters further polarisation and creates a breeding ground for militias and armed groups that rely on community-based and ethnic mobilisation strategies.

In 2018, the Yumbi, Beni and Butembo couldn't vote due to the Ebola epidemic and insecurity. Partial elections were later organised to remedy the situation. However, insecurity in North Kivu raises uncertainty about holding similar partial elections.

Logistical concerns

Logistical hurdles persist, with the distribution of voter cards and publication of electoral rolls still incomplete in some areas. According to interviews conducted by the Institute for Security Studies in Goma in early December,

By Don Pinnock

NAMIBIA'S desert-adapted lions are not a different species but are admired for their acquired knowledge of survival in harsh, unforgiving conditions. They're a worldwide tourist attraction and are closely monitored by conservationists.

On 12 October a satellite collar on a male lion known as XPL 107 (but affectionately named Mwezi) was tracked from the Palmwag concession area to the Wild Veld Hunting Camp near Khowarib village. There could be only one reason: he had been shot (this was later confirmed by Desert Lion Conservation).

An NGO alerted Izak Smit of Desert Lions Human Relations Aid (DeLHRA) who was then told by a contact in Khowarib that the lion had been seen near the village. He then contacted the gatekeeper at the entry gate to the Palmwag concession, a logical entry point to access the area, who said two people in a government vehicle had escorted a vehicle with a hunting party of five with rifles into the concession. They told him they were 'policing'. They later returned.

Smit said he "arrived at the conclusion that this Lion had been hunted and shot at the last recorded position in the Skeleton Coast Park or just inside the Palmwag concession area's Western boundary around mid-day 11th October 2023".

"[Mwezi] was shot in the Skeleton Coast National Park, which is shocking," said Smit. "The Ministry used the collar to track the lion to accommodate a hunter. That collar was sponsored by a private organisation to protect the lion and to help prevent conflict situations. It's like canned hunting because he's technically captive."

'Problem-causing animal'

He sent an email to Kenneth Uiseb, Deputy Director of Wildlife Monitoring and Research at the Ministry of Environment (MEFT), asking if the hunt was legitimate as it was in a protected area and asked for copies of the hunting permit and the report of the official who accompanied the hunters.

The email went unanswered, but instead, the Department issued a Press release seeking to legitimise the hunt, saying the lion was a "problem-causing animal" and destroyed for "persistently killing people's livestock". It indicated that the "conservation" hunt raised N\$320,000, most of which would be paid to the affected communities.

According to Smit, those alleged incidents happened a long time before the hunt and cannot be exclusively attributed to him. A month earlier the NGO Desert Lion Conservation had celebrated a mating between the li-



Supporters of Congolese political parties attend a joint opposition rally in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on 29 September 2018. (Photo: Reuters)

most polling stations were yet to receive electoral machines.

Another logistical problem is accessibility in certain parts of the country due to bad or non-existent roads. In previous years, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (Monusco) played a key role in deploying electoral equipment and teams. The decrease of Monusco presence in other provinces and some eastern territories, along with its imminent departure reduces this possibility. This could compromise access to certain areas, worsen security, and undermine inclusivity.

Finally, the electoral campaign has been peppered with recurrent references

to identity, hate and exclusion speeches. Primarily between the ethnic groups or electoral strongholds of the leading candidates, in particular between Kasai natives supporting the outgoing president and the Katangese supporting Moise Katumbi. Discriminatory rhetoric against those deemed non-Congolese and violent incidents have also occurred in Kindu (Maniema) and Kinshasa.

These dynamics, along with the controversies in DRC polls since 2006, may undermine the election legitimacy, opening the door to post-election protests and violence in an already fragile context. Political turmoil and further instability can only be

avoided with free and fair elections, especially in a political climate riddled with tension, fear, and disillusionment.

Civil society and influential religious leaders must continue their efforts to educate the public about their civic responsibility to vote and non-violence practices. This proactive engagement can enhance participation and help prevent outbreaks of violence.

The government and Ceni must ensure the transparency and credibility of the electoral process by removing barriers to the deployment of election observers and establishing effective monitoring mechanisms.

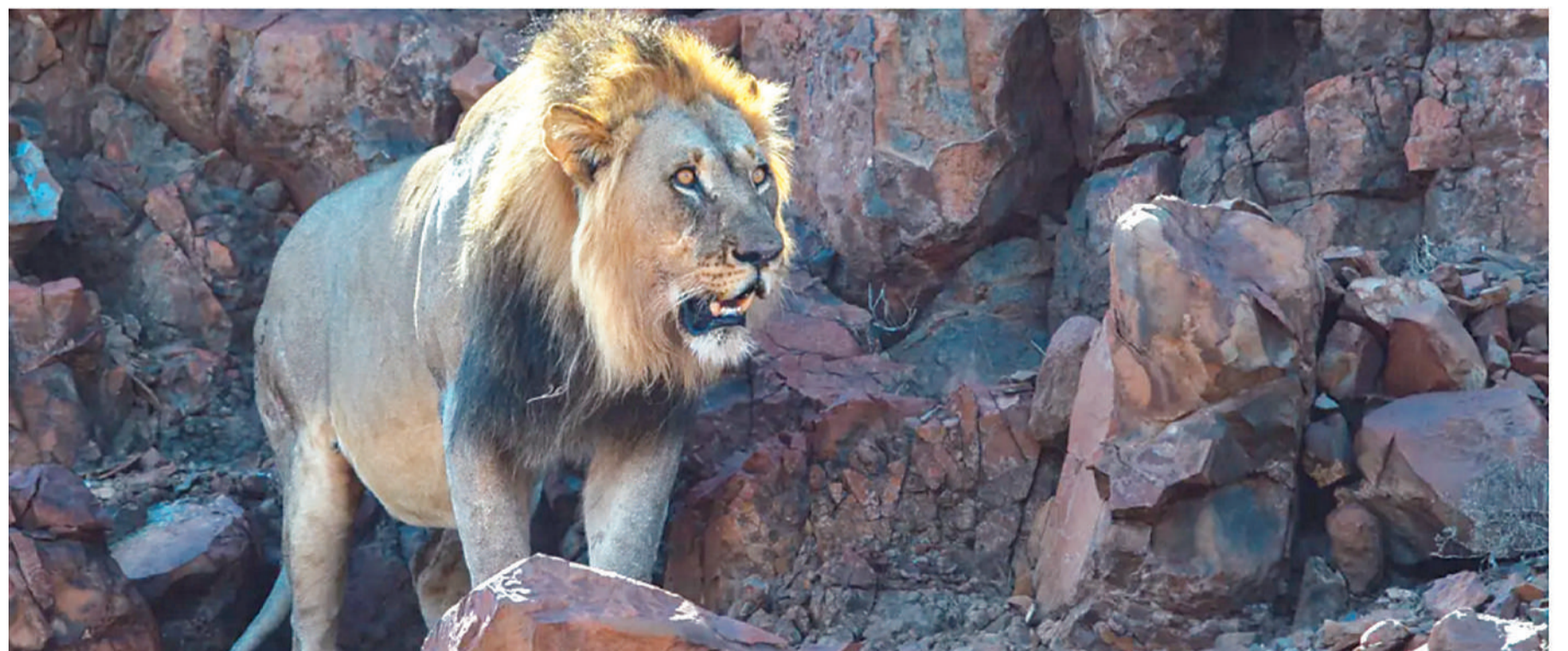
Regional partners, including the East African Community and International Con-

ference on the Great Lakes Region, African Union and United Nations involved in the DRC, must anticipate the possibility of mediation. Preparing for mediation before and after the election results could help pre-empt disputes and mitigate the risk of violence from electoral tensions.

By implementing immediate remedial measures and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the DRC can aspire to conduct elections that are not only credible but also contribute to lasting stability and democratic progress.

DM

Storm brewing over hunt of iconic collared desert lion in Namibia



Mwezi, the collared desert lion that was hunted.

ness ZPL-108 and Mwezi, described as "one of the most reproductively successful males in the population".

Its website speculated that "XPL-108 may lead the male XPL-7 to the coast and expose him to the availability of the marine food resources. In fact, after they separated, he searched for her and followed the Uniab River westwards into the Skeleton Coast Park". That was where he was shot.

Joe Mburu of Preserving Our Animals in the Wild wrote that Namibia has zero respect for wildlife. "Trophy hunting is not a form of conservation, but rather a contributing factor to extinction. In Namibia, there are only 25 desert lions remaining."

According to a report in Africa Geographic, no designated officials within the relevant conservancies or concession holders were informed that there was a legitimate hunt authorised in the area.

"We are also informed that neither the Directorate of Scientific Services at MEFT nor the relevant MEFT lion-conflict manager were informed about the planned hunt."

In its press release, the department rounded on those who reported the hunt, saying "there are individuals and groups that are keen on discrediting Namibia's conservation methods" and animal rights groups who "continue to spread unfounded rumours aimed at tarnishing the image of our country".

The lion, said the press release, had killed 14 goats and a Brahman bull and had been collared making it easier for the Ministry to track it. It had been destroyed through 'conservation hunting'.

Smit wasn't buying it.

"No evidence was given of the assertion that the lion continued to prey on livestock, causing serious concerns to communities and farmers in the area".

The press release, he said, seemed to assert that the lion was collared after the incidents to manage the conflict. However, he added, it is well known that this specific lion was collared many years ago.

"The press release also does not explain what is meant by 'conservation hunting' and where the [money] from the hunt comes from. I therefore believe ... that the so-called conservation hunting was in fact a trophy hunt."

Smit added that if a problem animal was to be killed, notice of this had by law to first be tabled in the Official Gazette.

"The hunted lion was not declared a problem animal in terms of section 53 of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 after a proper evaluation clearly required before such declaration can take place. Nor was such declaration published in the Official Gazette as is required. The Ministry therefore was not entitled to treat the lion that was shot and killed as

a problem animal. Nor was it entitled to request a fee to be paid.

Undoubtedly aware of the international furor that took place in Zimbabwe on the killing of Cecil the Lion, Ministry public relations officer Romeo Muyunda called on "all tourists, visitors and all Namibians to disregard the advocacy against our country aimed at nothing but discrediting our conservation efforts".

Smit is sticking to his guns: "I stand convinced that the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism has, in this instance, acted ultra vires and therefore request a full criminal investigation for a contravention of section 27(1) of The Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 for the illegal hunting of protected game."

DM

Impeachment inquiry threatens Biden with election-year headache

By Anthony Zurcher

BY voting to formally authorise the congressional investigation into Joe Biden, Republicans in the House of Representatives have started the ball rolling towards his impeachment.

It may be difficult to stop. Three of the four previous times the House took this step, the chamber ultimately opted to impeach. The one time it did not was because Richard Nixon resigned before a vote could be held.

Republicans allege the president benefited from his family's foreign business dealings, although they have not yet produced any solid evidence that he did.

In the short-term, the House's action gives the investigating committees more power to subpoena documents and testimony and for judges to enforce those requests. The Biden White House, which has cited the lack of a formal vote as grounds for refusing to provide some information, may now be compelled to comply.

Ultimately, this vote could clear the path for House Republicans, despite their narrow majority, to stick together and back impeachment sometime in early 2024.

They now are on the record agreeing to move the process forward. If centrist Republicans in congressional districts won by Mr Biden in 2020 are going to take the political hit for starting the investigation, they may conclude it is best to see it through to the end.

The end in the House, at least. The matter would then move to the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it takes a two-thirds majority to convict and remove a president.

That is a high bar that has never been reached for a president in US history. And at least some Republicans have expressed concern that Wednesday's vote could be another indication that the impeachment process is being diminished.

Asa Hutchinson, a former congressman and current



The US House of Representatives voted to formalise an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden on Wednesday

Republican presidential candidate, was one of the House managers who presented the case against Mr Clinton during his 1999 Senate impeachment trial. "Impeachment should be re-

served for the most serious of offenses," he told the BBC. "That's how our founding fathers designed it. We don't want to get into the tit-for-tat between the parties on impeaching the president from the opposing side. It's problematic."

Such concerns did not prevail on Wednesday. And now the investigations will continue, as the clock ticks toward the November 2024 presidential election.

Republicans have long viewed Joe Biden's son Hunter as a political liability for his father. If they can link his business dealings and personal conduct to the president, they have the potential to damage the elder Biden's standing with American voters.

A formal impeachment investigation, with public hearings, that leads to a House vote and a Senate trial has the potential to become a major headache for Mr Biden in the midst of an election campaign. And that remains true even if Republicans continue to lack any conclusive evidence tying the president to his son's misdeeds and misbehaviour.

There is no telling what kind of twists and turns are in store for this inquiry, either. While no evidence directly linking Mr Biden to his son's professional and personal failings has yet to be presented, sweeping powers can sometimes yield surprising results.

Bill Clinton's impeachment for lying about an affair with an intern began with an inquiry into a failed real estate deal. Hillary Clinton's email server saga came from a probe into a US ambassador's death in Libya.

Sometimes fishing expeditions catch a fish. But if nothing turns up, the perception of corruption tied to the Biden name - the possibility of it - may be damaging enough.

Republicans could also use impeachment proceedings, along with Hunter Biden's legal battles, to draw attention away from the very real legal plight their likely presidential nominee, Donald Trump, faces.

Already there is talk of timing the impeachment process to provide "counter-programming" that distracts from a possible Trump federal trial in March on charges of illegally attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

In a nation whose mood toward elected politicians is already sour, the electoral environment in the coming year may become even more toxic.

BBC

Imperfect COP28' gives direction for managed, equitable move from fossil fuels

DUBAI

WHILE the outcomes of COP28 are being hotly debated in both the scientific and social justice arenas, the climate conference has taken an unprecedented step forward toward a just transition, says Yamide Dagnet, Director for Climate Justice at the Open Society Foundations.

Making some preliminary remarks a day after the climate conference ended, she said: "COP28 ends like it started: imperfect, yet an important and unprecedented step forward in our 'course correction' for a just transition towards resilient and greener economies."

The UN decision acknowledged the need for the decline of coal, oil, and gas for the first time in an agreement that talks about transitioning out of fossil fuels. It will also be known for operationalizing the Loss and Damages Fund, even if the funding falls far below the requirements for climate-stressed countries and communities.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell acknowledged these contractions in his final speech.

"While we didn't turn the page on the fossil fuel era in Dubai, this outcome is the beginning of the end," Stiell said.

He also noted that climate

finance, which he said was a great enabler of climate action, fell short of the trillions needed to support developing countries with clean energy transitions and adaptation efforts.

He urged ordinary people everywhere to not relent in their demands for a climate-just world.

"In the crucial years ahead, your voices and determination will be more important than ever. I urge you never to relent. We are still in this race. We will be with you every single step of the way," Dagnet believes that COP28 is the start of a new era in climate justice.

"This is not an end; rather, just the beginning of an implementation journey that we know is hard but can be so positively transformative, and just if we manage to mobilize, in an equitable manner, all hands on deck. A climate-just journey and outcome require vigilance, creativity, and accountability; stronger solidarity and engagement at all levels; promoting human rights; and shared prosperity for all," she says.

This COP, Dagnet says, laid bare the issues with the Paris Agreement, especially with the just transition.

"More specifically, this COP exposed all the contradictions and challenges faced when implementing the promises of the Paris Agreement, especially a

managed, equitable transition away from fossil fuels and the sustained mobilization, alignment, and access to financial flows domestically and internationally to decarbonize and build resilience," Dagnet says.

While some signals got clearer with more substantive commitments, challenges remain, however, in how the just and equitable transition is sequenced.

"Inclusive processes matter to foster shared prosperity and benefits throughout the journey, together with adequate safeguards to minimize unintended adverse impacts of climate-related measures and technologies and to protect frontline and marginalized communities.

"Similarly, the just operationalization and continued capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund will require vigilance, effective guidance, and mechanisms to make sure commensurate funding is actually mobilized and reaches the communities that need it the most in a timely manner. Adequate mobilization of finance for adaptation by the donor community is also essential to tackle losses and damages with dignity. We are happy that a dozen of them committed to join OSF efforts in this regard."

IPS UN Bureau Report



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Botswana receives cold chain equipment from Africa CDC

GABORONE

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), handed over cold chain equipment to Botswana's Ministry of Health Wednesday to strengthen its health system.

Speaking during the handover ceremony in Gaborone, Botswana's capital, Sethomo Lelatisitswe, the assistant minister of Health and Wellness of Botswana, said that the equipment forms the backbone of any vaccination program. "It ensures that vaccines provided to the population maintain good quality and keep the population in good health."

Isaac Zulu, the Africa CDC representative, said that the initiative is part of the Africa CDC's strategic plan for 2023-2027 to assist member states in enhancing supply chain capabilities and management.

He added that disease outbreaks have underscored the necessity for critical health commodities, including fixed medical equipment, supplies and medicines, to effectively mitigate the effects of outbreaks.

Among the equipment handed over are cold boxes, vaccine carriers, ice bags, refrigerators and generators.

The African Union (AU) established the Africa CDC as an autonomous institute aimed at strengthening public health institutions and health security on the African continent. The Africa CDC obtained coaching and equipment for member states through a collaborative initiative with UNICEF and the Mastercard Foundation's program Saving Lives and Livelihood.

Botswana is among 32 African Union member countries benefiting from program, valued at approximately 34 million U.S. dollars.



Isaac Zulu, the Africa CDC representative, said that the initiative is part of the Africa CDC's strategic plan for 2023-2027 to assist member states



Sethomo Lelatisitswe (3rd L), the assistant minister of Health and Wellness of Botswana, and Isaac Zulu (2nd R) the Africa CDC representative attend the handover ceremony of a cold chain equipment to Botswana by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in Gaborone, Botswana on December 13, 2023. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) handed over the cold chain equipment to Botswana's Ministry of Health on Wednesday, this week to strengthen the country's health system. Photo: Courtesy of CDC

Why Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu skipped Jamhuri Day fete

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan could not attend Kenya's Jamhuri Day celebrations because she was

preoccupied with overseeing the recovery process of the recent flash floods and landslides, said Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi Tuesday.

"At the moment President Hassan is leading government efforts in dealing with the deadly deluge," Mwinyi, who represented the president at the Jamhuri Day

celebrations, told Kenyan President William Ruto in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Jamhuri Day, observed on December 12 each year, is

one of the most important national holidays in Kenya. Kenya officially became a republic on December 12, 1964.

The flash floods and land-

slides that occurred on December 3 in Hanang district in the Manyara region in northern Tanzania have killed 89 people, injured 139 more people, left 5,600

other people homeless, destroyed more than 750 hectares of farm crops, and killed many livestock.

AGENCIES

China-Africa cooperation propels Africa's digital economy development, says WTO

NAIROBI

IN recent years, amid a sluggish global economy, an increasing number of African nations have recognized the digital economy as a pivotal driver for their development, and China, with close connections with Africa, naturally emerges as a crucial partner in propelling the continent's digital economy and realizing its modernization aspirations, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Zhang Xiangchen has said.

In the process of economic globalization, there exists an imbalance in the distribution of interests between the Global North and the Global South, Zhang said in a recent interview with Xinhua in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, noting that developing countries, especially African nations, have reaped limited benefits.

Developing the digital economy is a crucial pathway to gaining advantages in international competition in the future, Zhang said. And developing countries, including those in Africa, should benefit from "re-globalization" distinguished by its emphasis on digitalization, he added.

Africa has a vast market, a sound market environment and the youngest population globally, which, Zhang said, "are advantages for Africa to develop the digital economy." However, research conducted by the WTO found that African countries have a relatively low share in global digital trade.

"Africa's slower pace in digitization primarily stems from the digital gap, including deficiencies in digital infrastructure, lack of knowledge and skills for digitalization and regulations," said Zhang. "If these issues can be addressed in African countries, I believe Africa will catch up in this field."

He said that China's long-standing relationship with Africa holds significant value in terms of sharing development experiences.

In recent years, guided by mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative, an increasing number of Chinese companies have continuously expanded their investments in Africa.

In countries like Nigeria and Kenya, Chinese-funded enterprises have established mobile payment platforms, providing secure and convenient digital payment services to millions of users. Additionally, Chinese e-commerce platforms enable many African people to sell distinctive



products worldwide without leaving their homes.

While the digital economy can be a country's competitive advantage, "the digital economy cannot entirely replace traditional industries such as manufacturing, especially for African countries that have not yet completed industrialization. The digital economy is one of the drivers for growth," he said.

"While African countries develop the digital economy, they should also strengthen their manufacturing sector to achieve industrialization as soon as possible," he added.

Zhang highlighted China's initiatives for supporting Africa's industrialization, agricultural modernization and talent development, saying that these will further drive Africa's economic and social development.

He anticipated that an increasing number of Chinese companies are poised to invest in Africa, thereby expediting Africa's digital transformation.

One of the major challenges for Africa in achieving digital transformation is education, Zhang said, stressing that "Africa needs a significant number of skilled young individuals engaged in digital-related-work;

therefore, cooperation between Africa and China on talent development is crucial."

"China is a reliable friend to Africa, and their cooperation will continuously provide momentum for Africa's development of the digital economy," Zhang said.

Study shows risks of using painkillers too early in life

LONDON

THE prolonged use of painkillers in children and young individuals may be associated with later-life challenges in mental health and addiction, a new study shows.

Researchers said treating chronic pain in those under the age of 25 is essential, but warned the regular use of painkillers could lead to over-reliance.

The study by scientists at St George's, University of London alongside the University of Liverpool, looked at anonymous medical records of 853,625 people aged two to 24.

The analysis revealed that 115,101 patients were diagnosed with chronic pain lasting more than three months. Among this group, 20,298 received repeat prescriptions for painkillers without a specific diagnosis while 11,032 were both

diagnosed and prescribed painkillers.

Subsequent follow-ups, spanning an average of five years after turning 25, revealed that the 11,644 individuals experienced a "substance misuse event", 143,838 reported poor mental health, and 77,337 received at least one opioid prescription.

"The findings are concerning as those under 25 are particularly vulnerable. This means regular use of painkillers to

ease chronic pain may lead to unintentional over-reliance on pain medication in adult life. Exploring when the right time is to refer these young people to specialised pain services for more targeted support will also be a vital factor when re-vamping pain management practice," said Professor Reecha Sofat from the University of Liverpool, who was involved in the research.

Highlighted in the study was

the over-representation of patients with learning disabilities and autism in the cohort receiving repeat prescriptions, signalling potential over-prescribing within this vulnerable group.

The team also suggested that the observed trends in their study might be attributed to various factors, one of which could be that individuals prescribed painkillers from a young age may have experienced more severe or frequent pain.

"It's clear that chronic pain management in young people needs to be optimised," Dr Andrew Lambarth, an academic clinical fellow in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics at St George's, University of London, said.

"We know under-treating pain can cause harm in both the short and long term, but it's also essential to avoid over-reliance on medicines that could lead to dependence on prescription or

non-prescription drugs in later life," Lambarth said.

"We now need to work with all healthcare providers to help them weigh up the risks and benefits of prescribing painkillers at a young age, and encourage the consideration of other recognised and effective non-drug management approaches." The findings have been published in The Lancet Regional Health - Europe.

AGENCIES

DR Congo election: 'We would vote for peace - if we had a vote'

By Mercy Juma in Goma & Samba Cyuzuzo in Nairobi

AFTER heavily armed rebels surrounded her small village in eastern Democratic Republic Congo, Musa Bi walked for seven days with six young children until she reached a UN-run refugee camp.

The 42-year-old is filled with worry, with no idea of the fate of her husband and two other children, as the family was separated in the chaos that followed the advance by the M23 rebels.

She has little thought for the 20 December presidential election - and while the conflict taking place around her may be dominating the campaign, there will be no voting in several areas of the North Kivu province where she lives because of the unrest.

"M23 came. They were fighting with our [government] soldiers. We started running and those who could not run away, they were killed," she tells the BBC.

Fortunate to survive, Mrs Bi and her children slept in other villages until they reached the Bushagala camp only to be once more spending the nights out in the open, often in the rain.

When the BBC met them, they had been at the camp at the base of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano for six days, waiting for the UN refugee agency to register them so they get a tent - and food rations.

But the agency is so overwhelmed by the influx of those fleeing - 700 to 1,000 each day - that Mrs Bi is patiently waiting her turn, while relying on those already registered to share their food - normally made of sorghum and millet flour - with her and her little ones.

The UN estimates that nearly seven million people are internally displaced in DR Congo, the highest number on record.

Yet at Mrs Bi's village near the town of Masisi, her family was self-sufficient, growing food on their nearby farm - until they were driven out by M23, who are on the offensive again as a regional ceasefire initiative foundlers.

The fighters, initially Congolese army deserters, accuse the government of marginalising the country's ethnic Tutsi minority and refusing to negotiate with them. They regard the verdant hills around Masisi as their true homeland.

President Félix Tshisekedi, who is seeking a second five-year term, has been whipping up nationalist fervour by casting the rebels as a front for what he calls the "expansionist aims" of neighbouring Rwanda - and going as far as



to compare its president to Germany's World War Two leader.

"I'm going to address Rwandan President Paul Kagame and tell him this: since he wanted to behave like Adolf Hitler by having expansionist aims, I promise he will end up like Adolf Hitler," Mr Tshisekedi said at an election rally in the east on Friday.

"However, he [has] met his match, someone who is determined to stop him and protect his country."

Mr Kagame has not responded, but a Rwandan government spokeswoman said such comments were "a loud and clear threat".

Rwanda has always denied backing the M23, but for many years has criticised the Congolese authorities for failing to disarm ethnic Hutu rebels - some of whom are linked to the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Hundreds of militias proliferate in the mineral-rich region, where the military has failed to get a grip on security for the last three decades. All armed groups eye the profits as the metals mined end up in products such as mobile phones, cars, planes and jewellery.

In a further sign of nationalist fervour ahead of the election, Mr Tshisekedi has booted out an East African peacekeeping force - about a year after he welcomed it.

Earlier he ordered the withdrawal of the UN mission, known by

its acronym Monusco, which has deployed more than 17,000 personnel, including 12,000 soldiers.

This does not surprise the commander of the UN troops, who acknowledges that they have failed to protect people like Mrs Bi from the advancing rebels.

"When people say Monusco was not doing their job sometimes, they are not wrong, we must accept that," says Lieutenant General Otávio Rodrigues de Miranda Filho of Brazil.

"The biggest challenge when I arrived here was to change the mindset of my troops. To motivate them and to make them understand that we have to be much more proactive and effective. Otherwise we lose the confidence of the population."

Mr Tshisekedi is frustrated that neither force has taken a more robust approach to the M23, which is now only around 35km (20 miles) from Goma, the main city in the east with a population of about one million, over which Mt Nyiragongo looms.

This has raised the prospect of Goma falling to the rebels, just as it did briefly a decade ago. This gave way to a regional peace deal and the formation of a UN intervention brigade, made up of troops from the Southern African Development Community (Sadc), to bring the M23 to heel and disarm them.

The fighters eventually moved into camps, mainly in Uganda. They began regrouping two years ago at the foot of the mountains that stretch into Rwanda and Uganda - world famous for their gorillas and volcanoes - after complaints that the deal was not being honoured.

The fall of Mrs Bi's village - and the nearby town

of Masisi - shows the renewed strength of the rebels.

With the DR Congo army in no position to fight them on its own, Mr Tshisekedi sees Sadc as his best bet, and has asked the regional group for help, given their soldiers' previous success.

The 16-member bloc - which includes South Africa, Tanzania and Angola - has agreed to send troops as part of a separate tougher force, though details are sketchy and it is unclear when it will arrive.

Mr Tshisekedi's decision to order the UN force to withdraw follows several big protests against it in Goma over its failure to beat back the rebels.

But some people the BBC spoke to said their withdrawal would leave them with no protection at all.

"Any time the rebels attack our villages and farms, it is the Monusco bases where we run to, for protection," says Elizabeth Ssebazingu from the Shasha camp about 30km west of Goma.

However, their exit will not be immediate and will take place in phases, possibly over several years.

In January, Pakistani troops will start pulling out of South Kivu province, something that should take four months.

"There is no established time for the second and third phase, until now. The government asked us to keep the timelines open," Gen Otávio says.

This is something many local people do not realise, especially as campaigning politicians riding the wave of anti-UN sentiment suggest it is imminent.

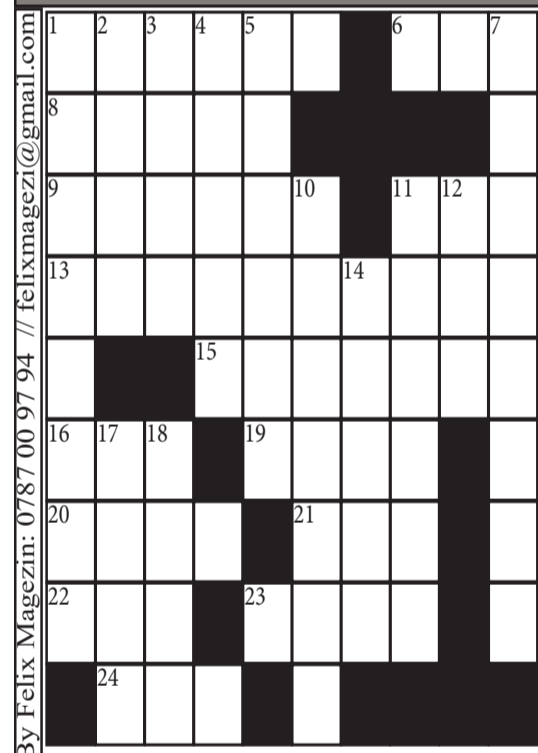
For Mrs Bi, it all feels piecemeal, while their plight continues to be ignored - despite election promises.

Her view is echoed by other refugees at Bushagala camp, including Uzima Sadro, who recently lost his farm to M23 rebels.

"Our struggles are not new. They are the same, just worse," he says.

"The politicians really do not care about us and have failed to bring peace, which is what we want."

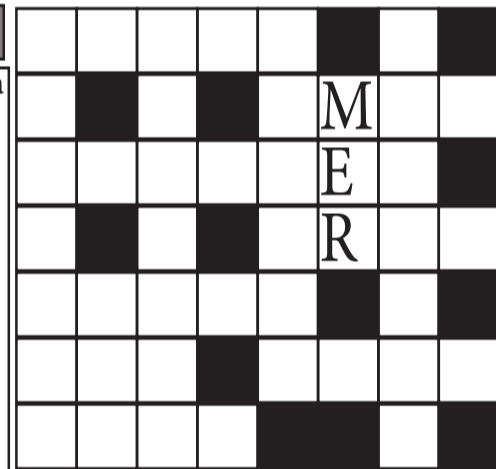
THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 45 -



13. the owner and manager of a shop 15. aimed at peace 16. request 19. unacceptable thing 20. nail plate 21. bovine spongiform encephalopathy 22. a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and grasses 23. a small cup-shaped oil lamp made of baked clay 24. Increase

DOWN:

- 1. Gaborone is her mother city 2. a nursemaid in the Far East 3. a word in Kiswahili 4. person's mouth wide open 5. sanitary towel 7. one that starches 10. physical exercise intended to improve the efficiency of the cardiovascular system in absorbing and transporting oxygen 11. apnea 12. Polynesian garland of flowers 14. tiny 17. Okay in Kiswahili 18. things with similar characteristics



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.

- ROSE ENDURED NORWAY EAR OMEN MEDICAL YEAR QUEEN MER THANA QUESTER HAO WRIT ENDEARS

Yesterday's solution



M23 rebels, made up of some Congolese army deserters, are well equipped and say they represent the country's Tutsi minority

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

NHC URGED TO BOLSTER URBANISATION EFFORTS VIA MODERN HOUSING PROJECTS

By Carlos Banda

THE government has been lauded for her consistent efforts to improve the lives of Tanzanians through implementation of strategic development projects that aim to address the challenges faced by citizens and create more employment opportunities.

The compliments were given by Special Seats MP, Janeth Massaburi, during her tour of the progress on the construction of 560 residential homes built by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) under the Samia Housing Scheme in Kawe area, Dar es Salaam.

Speaking to journalists, Massaburi commended the government for making strides to urbanize various cities in the country where she

called forth NHC to ensure more modern housing projects are implemented timely and ensure Dar es Salaam lives up to its name as the business hub of the country.

"Having a proper home reduces the risk of disasters unlike living in poor housing. It relieves you from trouble and it even impacts how you perform at work. Most importantly, social services like health and security become easily accessible in case of emergencies. Quality homes set a foundation for a nation's development. I therefore request NHC to become more innovative and build more quality housing infrastructures to make the city of Dar es Salaam live up to its status as a business city," she said.

The special seats MP also advised the NHC and other institutions

to come up with long term credit loans that will help Tanzanians with low incomes to afford better homes adding that the initiative will help address the disorganized housing settlements in areas such as kigogo, buguruni, manzese, and other areas which are highly congested and lack proper residential settlement.

On her part, Eng. Grace Musita, the Construction Manager for the Samia Housing Scheme Project hinted that the project is expected to reach completion by the end of April next year with a total of 560 homes completed citing that a phase two project is underway and it will accommodate recommendations and requests made by potential buyers of the apartments.

On her part, Anna Makete, the

Chairperson of the Tanzania Women Union (UWT) in Kinondoni District has implored the state housing institution to give priority to the local people so that they can also have access to modern homes instead of offering privilege to high income individuals who will dominate the purchase of the new apartments after the project is completed.

"This project is implemented in Kinondoni District, in Kawe constituency, we therefore request that first priority should be given to applicants residing in this constituency so that they can reap the benefits of the development efforts put in place by the President instead of prioritizing settlers from other areas include foreign countries," she requested.



Use new agricultural centres wisely to reap more, RC tells farmers in Kahama

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kalama

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner, Christina Mndeme has asked farmers and herders in Kahama District to effectively explore training opportunities offered at the agricultural resources centres in the area.

She said the idea is to improve their livelihoods.

RC Mndeme made the call yesterday during the ceremony to receive two centres that

meant to empower people in the agriculture and livestock sector. The centres have been built in Mwendakulima and Mondo wards with the support from the Barrick Buzwagi Gold Mine.

The RC said these centers will enable farmers to abandon agriculture and subsistence farming and instead cultivate modern agriculture and productive farming while these centres will be the center of access to knowledge for agriculture and herders.

She lauded the mine for

building these centres which, if used properly, will be able to bring about major changes in the agriculture and livestock sector, where the people will get the knowledge to run modern agriculture and productive animal husbandry.

Mine manager, Rebecca Stephen, said the works completed in the centres includes construction of classrooms, processing buildings, one nursery in each center, crop dryer, input store, purchase

of rice and sunflower processing machines, one tractor in each center and simple tools at each station where for both stations they have cost 976.5m/-.

Rebecca said that since these centres began to work, various successes have been achieved, such as an increase in maize yields from 1.5 tonnes to 3.0 tonnes, rice from 2.0 tonnes to 3.0 tonnes, while 4,648 households have been trained in good farming practices.

Some of the farmers who attended the event thanked

the Barrick Buzwagi Mine for opening the capacity building centers for them to get the knowledge to run their agricultural activities, as well as entrusting them with projects to get rid of poverty.

Barrick Buzwagi Gold Mine, which is in the process of being closed has designed various sustainable projects to enable the people living in the vicinity of the mine to continue to earn income in order to get rid of them and improve their lives.



Shinyanga Region Commissioner Christina Mndeme drives tractor that was handed over during the ceremony of the mine handing over two agricultural resources centre of Mwendakulima and Mondo to the Government held in Kahama district yesterday. Others are Barrick workers.

Researchers push for youths' empowerment to unlock Africa's growth

By Rotimi Agboluaje

RESEARCHERS from various countries in Africa have said the youths have the potential to unlock the growth of the continent, calling for their full empowerment.

They include a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication and Language Arts at the Univer-

sity of Ibadan, Dr. Babatunde Ojebuyi; a Kenya-based Programme Officer for Research and Policy at the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Joel Otieno and another researcher, Ridwan Kolawole, among others. They made the declaration while addressing participants at the youth aspirations and resilience

workshop, organised by PASGR, in collaboration with the MasterCard Foundation, in Ibadan, Oyo State capital.

Otieno, emphasised the potential of young people to drive Africa's growth saying: "We are based in Nairobi, Kenya. What is important to us is the centrality of youths. Young people have the potential to unlock Africa's growth.

"What's important for us now is the centrality of young people in the development of West Africa. This research in understanding has been the largest in population. We understand that young people have the potential to unlock African growth and development. So, this research is in understanding the perspective of realising young peo-

ple's potential and empowering them to achieve their potential.

Ojebuyi, who also served as the project principal investigator in Nigeria, discussed the research project's outcomes, highlighting the significant barriers faced by Nigerian youths due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity.

Africa needs just trade for a just energy transition, AfDB head recommends

DOHA

THE President of the African Development Bank Group Dr Akinwumi Adesina has reiterated his warning that the introduction of a carbon border tax by the European Union could push Africa back into exporting raw commodities and undermine its industrialisation gains.

The European Union recently launched the initial phase of a Europe-wide carbon tax on imported goods as part of its climate change reduction measures. Adesina said this could penalize African countries.

"African companies that are making cement, steel, aluminium, fertilizers and trying to export to Europe are going to be charged a border tax of 80 euros per tonne. That is very expensive, and all that is going to do is that countries in Africa that already suffer from tariff escalation when they add value to what they produce, now you are forcing them down the value chain," Adesina said.

Adesina spoke during a high-level panel session at the Doha Forum recently, on "Decoding the Debt Dilemma—Unveiling Multilateral Solutions." Other speakers were Qatar's Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari and Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum. CNBC Anchor and Correspondent Dan Murphy moderated the session.

"Africa is going to lose \$25 billion annually," Adesina said. "Africa deserves a carve-out on that [taxation] because we are financing Africa's transition. You cannot industrialise just by renewables; you need a balanced energy mix that allows you to use your natural gas to be able to industrialise."

He described natural gas as an essential resource for Africa that should not be restricted in foreign trade.

He noted that by introducing general punitive measures that also affect developing countries, developed countries are "shifting the goal post" in the differentiated responsibility within the Paris Agreement by forcing developing countries to attain net-zero carbon emissions much earlier than stipulated.

The Doha Forum is a global platform for dialogue by policy leaders on the world's critical challenges to build innovative and action-driven networks.

Commenting on the difficulty of achieving consensus on climate restrictions, including taxation, Brende said it would be a long road to political agreement on a global carbon price. But at the same time, energy access and security are vital.

"Moving to a society which is decarbonised takes time," Brende noted. "We have to find bridges between coal as the most extreme form of fossil fuel through natural gas. We have to move at a speed which makes sense, is cost-effective, and there is a price to be paid," Brende said.

Minister Al Kuwari said targets set by climate change experts had at times been "too ambitious, too aggressive, and had not properly taken into consideration transition periods. Qatar, on the other hand, has established a reputation as a responsible supplier of energy to the world, the minister said.

"Qatar believes that natural gas will be the transition fuel and should be adopted. We have invested in increasing our production by 65% and reach a maximum of that production by 2027. It's very important for climate change goals to be realistic," Al Kuwari said.

Leveraging power of multilateral development banks will boost finance for climate change, adaptation Multilateral development banks such as the African Development Bank are critical to providing

YOUNG BLACK WOMEN EMPOWERED WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

By Mamsi Nkosi

MOMENTUM Metropolitan Foundation, with Deviare, empowers 10 young black women through a transformative digital skills initiative.

Focused on critical technological domains, particularly cybersecurity, the program aims to prepare participants for success in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Exclusively targeting young black females, the initiative promotes gender diversity and empowerment. The group comprises a well-balanced mix, with 70% graduates and 30% non-graduates, showcasing inclusivity across educational backgrounds.

The regional distribution emphasizes diversity, with four participants from Limpopo, two from Mpumalan-

ga, and four from Gauteng, reflecting a strategic and inclusive approach to geographical representation.

Nkosinathi Mahlangu, Youth Employment Portfolio Head at Momentum Metropolitan, stated, "This collaboration embodies our commitment to fostering diversity and empowering the next generation of female technology leaders. We believe that providing comprehensive digital skills and real-world experiences is essential for their success."

The Digital Empowerment Program offers comprehensive training in critical technological domains, particularly Cyber Security, equipping participants with essential skills for navigating the modern digital landscape.

The program includes a unique Virtual Global Apprenticeship, providing invaluable job experience, mentorship,

and global networking for personal development and enhanced employability. This virtual apprenticeship allows participants to gain remote work experience with renowned organizations worldwide, broadening their perspectives and skills on a global scale.

Upon completing the program, Deviare offers the top three learners an exclusive six-month placement, providing hands-on experience and a pathway to exciting career opportunities within the leading technology organization.

Lubabalo Dyantyi at Deviare expressed, "Deviare is honored to partner with Momentum Metropolitan Foundation in this initiative. We are dedicated to offering meaningful opportunities that enable young women to thrive in critical technological domains, contributing to the industry's overall growth."



Knauf supports Hanang mudslide victims with construction materials

By Francis Kajubi

KNAUF Tanzania, a construction material manufacturer and supplier has donated building materials to Hanang flash floods and mudslides catastrophe surviving victims so that they can build new homes.

The German originated company has handed over the donation to the government through Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) so that it can relay the helping hand to hundreds of homeless victims anticipating to rebuild their homes.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at an event to accept the building materials Gilead Teri, TIC Executive Director, said Knauf commitment to support vulnerable communities during disasters stands as a good example to be adopted by other investors in Tanzania.

According to him, the company has donated the building materials that include gypsum boards and skimming plasters.

"Knauf is the first construction material supplier that has reached out to us for their helping hand. We have also communicated with the Prime Minister Office responsible for environment to find means to relay the support to the victims," said Teri adding,

"This is a good example for other companies to follow as it shows how they collaborate with communities during hard times. As the saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed and Knauf is that friend."

Knauf East Africa Regional Director Ilse Boshoff promised to keep the company's commitment towards supporting Tanzania in every way possible including disaster rehabilitation donation.

"We are proud to work with the Tanzanian government in every



Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) Executive Director Gilead Teri (R) shakes Ilse Boshoff, Knauf Regional Director East Africa (Right) hand as a gesture of receiving donated building materials dedicated towards Hanang communities who suffered from flash floods and mudslide victims on December 3, 2023.

possible way we can and we are much more honored to offer our helping hand to rebuild the Hanang community," said Boshoff.

Knauf Tanzania was formed with the help of Knauf Turkey in 2015 as a representative office. Its major concern in business goes abreast with the fact that a rapidly growing population had to be met with housing, commercial, educational facilities, medical centers and hospitals.

Traditional construction methods had become slow, labor intensive and impractical in many instances. The company's management understands that it is time to look towards climate friendly construction technologies.

With reasonable investments Knauf Tanzania is expanding a state of the art facility for the production of gypsum boards, plasters and metal profiles.

Keeping abreast of steadily increasing demand for high

quality products, systems and building solutions.

Knauf Tanzania maintains its mission to supply to the local market with Tanzanian products manufactured to European standards with competitive pricing.

Already a leading supplier in drywall systems, Knauf Tanzania is on track to further expand its reach and market share within the industry. It has started exporting to neighboring countries of Kenya, Congo,

Malawi and Rwanda.

Ther company aspires that a key component of the core structure of the business is training local contractors and sub-contractors.

Regular sessions will ensure the industry is well positioned to benefit from the innovative technology used by Knauf, opening doors to a new efficient path to developing the infrastructure in the region.

South Africa opts for nuclear power as part of measures to address electricity crisis

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa, economically crippled by a serious electricity crisis and repeated power cuts, plans to increase its nuclear power production, which is currently marginal, the government announced on Tuesday.

To date, Africa's leading industrial power has only one nuclear power plant, the only one on the continent. But the Koeberg plant, near Cape Town, is only operating at half capacity.

The government announced on Tuesday that it had launched discussions with "several potential suppliers" for the acquisition of new production units. These could be conventional reactors or small modular reactors, which are less powerful but also less costly.

Zizamele Mbambo, in charge of nuclear power at the Ministry of Energy, told a press conference that he hoped to see the first reactors in service by 2032-2033.

"An important milestone", stressed Electricity Minister Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa, which should bring an additional 2,500 MW of electricity generation capacity.

Over the past 15 years, power cuts of up to 12 hours a day have severely affected the economy and fuelled anger against the country's historic ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), with elections due next year.

The ANC could fall below the 50% mark, according to the polls, and lose its absolute majority in parliament for the first time.

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The ANC could fall below the 50% mark, according to the polls, and lose its absolute majority in parliament for the first time.

After years of mismanagement and corruption under President Jacob Zuma (2009-2018), state-owned power utility Eskom is unable to generate enough electricity for the country from its aging and poorly maintained power plants.

One unit at the Koeberg nuclear power plant was shut down for almost a year to extend the site's lifespan by 20 years. And the second unit was shut down this week for maintenance.

Mkombozi bank sees growth amid agent banking services

By Francis Kajubi

MKOMBOZI Commercial Bank Plc has during the past three years registered 700 banking agents across the country.

The registration of agents whose major roles are digital registration of new customers and offering of digital mobile money services has been made possible following serious investments made by the bank since 2020.

Bank's managing director Respige Kimati told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam at an event to launch the new headquarters that the success is

attributed to investments made in new technologies and human capital.

"We are considering the deployment of more Mkombozi agents as we work on expanding our presence in the Mwanza region earlier next year. We have successfully set our presence in Arusha city this year," said Kimati.

He said the bank is gaining dominance of the local market share at a promising pace since it introduced its internet banking and Mkombozi Mobile services that support the use of USSD Code.

In observation of the plans

in the pipeline the bank will be having 13 branches by mid-next year of which four are in Dar es Salaam while the remaining are in Moshi town, Arush city, Morogoro town, Dodoma, Bukoba, Iringa, Njome and Mwanza.

"In consideration of the local market demand the bank has initiated a special service for collection of revenues in religious institutions through SADAKA Digital. Processes are being finalized for introduction of the similar service in hospitals and schools under religious institutes," said Kimati.

The Bank's Board Chairman Gasper Njuu said that the bank

has since its inception in 2009 worked diligently to bridge financing gap from small customers to corporates.

"Mkombozi bank's main objective is to facilitate low-income earners to boost their income through businesses and therefore improve their livelihoods," said Njuu.

According to him, the bank has been offering financial management training sessions to its borrowers to enable them to acquire skills to run businesses and repay their loans peacefully.

His Grace Jude Thaddaeus

Ruwa'ichi, Order of Friars of Minor Capuchins Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam said that he would like to see the bank offering its services to the country over and beyond the borders.

"In April I received a call from a colleague in Malawi asking if Mkombozi bank can set its presence there and work with religious institutions;

I appreciated the idea but I knew we are still too small to spread our wings beyond the borders. For that reason we need to work hard to gain a remarkable presence in Tanzania," he said.

CONSTRUCTION

MSCL TAKES SHIP BUILDING PROJECTS AT THE CENTRE STAGE TO IMPROVE MARINE TRANSPORT

MARINE Services Company Limited (MSCL) has outlined its plan to invest in the ship building industry as it seeks to expand its marine services to Comoros, Seychelles, DRC and Uganda. MSCL is also on strategies to repair 13 ships and build nine ships by the year 2025. The goal is to capture the markets for transporting passengers and cargo. Our Guardian Correspondent spoke with the MSCL managing director Eric Hamissi. Here is the excerpt:

Question: Can you briefly tell us the historical background of MSCL and what prompted its establishment?

Answer: MSCL is a duly incorporated Tanzanian company based in Mwanza. Before registration as a fully-fledged company in 1997, MSCL was an integral part of Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC). The Company has more than 50 years of experience in maritime transport across Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

MSCL services across the three lakes serves as a linchpin for the communities along the lakes and provides intermodal connectivity for the Northern and Central Corridors as well as East and Central African countries bordering the lakes.

MSCL has a fleet of 17 vessels for both passenger and cargo transportation. Nine (9) of these vessels are deployed in Lake Victoria, 3 in Lake Tanganyika and 5 in Lake Nyasa.

The fleet is made up of 9 passenger-cargo vessels, 2 Oil Tankers, 3 Cargo vessels, 1 Tug, 2 self-propelled barges and 1 tourist boat. The Company has three branches: Mwanza, Kigoma and Kyela - Mbeya.

What have been MSCL's major milestones and achievements since its registration as a fully-fledged company in 1997?



MSCL managing director Eric Hamissi

In the first phase of the plan which adhered to revive transport services in the country's great lakes, the Government allocated more than 200 billion shillings for the implementation of four major projects in Lake Victoria.

The projects were intended to construct the new MV Mwanza ship "Hapa Kazi Tu", with the capacity to carry 1,200 passengers and 400 tons of cargo in Lake Victoria which has now reached 92%, at a cost of more than 107 billion shillings and executed by GAS Entec company.

Other projects include the repairing of MV Umoja which was carried out by SM SOLUTION CO. LTD from South Korea, and completed in September 2023. The ship was repaired at the cost of USD 8,422,840, equivalent to Shs.19,811,446,192.40.

MSCL has also repaired MT Sangara's petroleum ship at the

cost of Shs.8.4 billion in Lake Tanganyika. The ship has the capacity of carrying 410,000 litres of oil and was repaired by KTMI Co. Ltd from South Korea.

The Contract for the Repair of MV Liemba in Lake Tanganyika was done by M/S Brodosplit JSC of Croatia in collaboration with M/S Dar es Salaam Merchant Group of Tanzania at the cost of US D \$13,192,850.00 (equivalent to Shs 32,982,125,000.00). This project will be implemented for a period of 24 months.

Meanwhile, the contract for the repairing of the MT Nyanzumi in Lake Victoria will be implemented by M/S Dar es Salaam Merchant Group at a cost of Shs.8,892,804,020.63. This project will be implemented for 10 months according to the contract.

Another contract MSCL entered in 2023, was the pact to repair MT Ukerewe in Lake Victoria which will be done by M/S

Dar es Salaam Merchant Group at a cost of Shs.6,317,543,300.00. This project will be implemented for 10 months according to the contract.

Other deals include the contract for the Construction of a Shipyard in Lake Tanganyika, the garage will have an area of 188 meters long and 140 meters wide and will have a size of 55,000 square meters. The contractor to implement the project is the DEARSAN SHIPYARD Company of Turkey for USD 129,436,298.00 (equivalent to Shs.322,788,239,952.40). This project will be implemented for 24 months according to the contract.

"The project for the construction of a cargo ship (Ro-Ro & Wagon Ferry) in Lake Tanganyika will be implemented by the Turkish company DEARSAN SHIPYARD for \$63,467,143.00 (equivalent to 158,274,361,213.40). This project will be implemented for 36 months according to the contract," he said.

For the Cargo ship (Ro-Ro & Wagon Ferry) Construction Project in Lake Victoria tender, the project will be implemented by DEARSAN SHIPYARD Company of Turkey at the cost of \$58,171,706.00 (145bn/-). This project will be implemented for 24 months.

Q: How the company's prospects are planning for the year 2024 and to what extent has MSCL sought to position itself well in the maritime transport industry?

A:For the year 2024, we are planning to insist on administering the implementation and managing of all the Projects that we have entered in 2023 but also to strengthen ourselves in the transportation of cargo to East and Central African countries. In our Strategic Plan, MSCL expects to have at least 22 ships by 2026.

Q: What have been MSCL's

key projects in 2023?

A: MSCL in carrying out ship repairing projects including the construction of the MV Mwanza in Lake Victoria, the repair has reached 92 per cent, and the repairing of MT Sangara in Lake Tanganyika, this repairing has reached 92 per cent.

Other repairing that MSCL is currently conducting include the repairing of the MT Ukerewe ship in Lake Victoria, the contract has already been signed for implementation, the repair of the MT Nyanzumi oil tanker in Lake Victoria, the contract has already been signed for implementation.

There is also the repairing project of the MV Liemba ship in Lake Tanganyika, the contract has already been signed for implementation.

However, a detailed assessment and type of repair of the MV Mungozu which is carrying out its activities in Lake Tanganyika to determine the type of repairs needed are not yet done.

Q:What advantages and challenges has MSCL faced as a state company that provides its services across three lakes which serves as a linchpin for the communities along the lakes and provides intermodal connectivity for the Northern and Central Corridors as well as East and Central African countries bordering the lakes?

A: We have restored trust to the government due to our perfect performance and management that have been shown in all of our projects.

The other thing that we have achieved is a successful repair of the MV Victoria and MV Butiama as well as MV Clarias.

We also have sailing trips to the islands of Ukerewe, Godziba and Gana and completion of MV Umoja, a cargo ship in Lake Victoria.

On challenges, we've fewer ships that are currently working, only seven (7) ships working, including the cargo ship - MV Umo-

ja which started trial voyages in October 2023. This number is too small for MSCL to be independent but also to contribute to transportation that will bring productivity to the national economy.

Q:You have recently entered into a pact with Dar es Salaam Merchant Group (DMG) to repair the MV Liemba, formerly Graf Goetzen or Graf von Goetzen, a passenger and cargo ferry that runs along the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika as well as repairing MT. Ukerewe and renovation of MT Nyanzumi which is the Marine Tug (MT) for carrying petroleum products operating in Lake Victoria. What should Tanzanians expect after the renovations of these ships?

A: People should get prepared to take advantage of commercial opportunities that will be generated through improvements in the Transportation Sector.

ii. Availability of employment opportunities that will be generated during the implementation of projects

iii. The repair of the passenger and cargo ship MV Liemba will help to restore passenger and cargo transport services to the residents of the shores of Lake Tanganyika as well as the neighbouring countries of DRC, Burundi and Zambia.

Q: What are MSCL's plans for growth in the future, and where do you see the company in five years?

A: The MSCL has various plans and strategies aimed at increasing efficiency in carrying out its core responsibilities including increasing sources of income as explained in the next section:

Repairing 13 ships and building nine (9) new ships by 2025. The goal is to be able to capture the markets for transporting passengers and cargo in the countries of the DRC, Uganda, the Comoros and the Seychelles.

Chinese-built expressway helps cut carbon emissions in Nairobi

NAIROBI

NAIROBI, the capital of Kenya, harbors the dream of becoming a green city, with the government and private developers ensuring that the projects they undertake are climate-smart.

From roads to buildings, the city is making great strides towards realizing the green dream, one project at a time.

Leading from the front in making Nairobi a friendly city to the environment are Chinese projects, with the Nairobi Expressway standing out not only as an architectural masterpiece but also as a monument in environmental conservation.

Linking the Mlolongo, south of Nairobi, and Westlands in the west, the Expressway takes care of the environment in a way never seen before in the East African nation.

To begin with, flowers planted in pots spruce up sections of the 27-km thoroughfare, making it not only beautiful but also environmentally friendly. Then there are other plants like bougainvillea, and grass grown on the ground at different sections of the road to eliminate soil erosion.

Also, growing various plants in plastic trays beautifully supports the massive pillars that suspend sections of the road, a first in East

Africa's biggest economy. These plants take in carbon dioxide emitted by vehicles and give out clean oxygen.

"I like the idea of growing the plants on the pillars. It is not only unique but shows how we can take care of the environment using simple ideas," said Christine Majali, an environmental enthusiast.

Julia Ondeyo, a deputy director at the Kenya National Highways Authority, said in a recent interview that the character of most of the engineering structures has been that they don't create a peaceful environment for people as they travel through.

The Nairobi Expressway infrastructure, according to her, has blended environmental aspects in its design, starting a novel way of building roads in Kenya.

"These plants are creating a carbon sink in the fight against climate change as they absorb carbon dioxide generated by the vehicles and clean the air," she said, adding that besides the flowers, more than 3,000 trees have been planted along the road.

The biggest environmental advantage of the Nairobi Expressway lies in the fact that it has cut travel time from two hours to 20 minutes along the key artery that is part of Kenya's Northern Corridor, linking the port of Mombasa



The Nairobi Expressway in Nairobi, Kenya

and the hinterlands. More than 70,000 vehicles use the Nairobi Expressway daily, according to Moja Expressway Chief Executive Officer Steve Zhao.

These vehicles, the majority of them using fossil fuels, include saloon cars and commuter minibuses, commonly known as matatus in Kenya. While the saloon vehicles have a fuel capacity of about 40 liters, the minibuses have 70 liters.

"If I use the Expressway during peak hours in the morning and evening, the 70 liters I fuel lasts me slightly over a day. But if I use the lower road, it only lasts a day,"

said John Wafula, a matatu driver with Rembo Classic that plies the Nairobi-Kitengela route.

The reduced fuel consumption means a decline in carbon emissions from Kenya's public transport sector, one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

In a 2022 study on carbon emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and ozone (O₃) on Nairobi roads in five years, four Kenyan scholars of the University of Nairobi -- Cynthia Sitati, Christopher Oludhe, Leah Oyake and Aderiana Mbandi -- found that matatus had emitted 6.89 million grams of carbon dioxide equivalent (gCO₂e), light commercial vehicles 1.82 million gCO₂e, heavy goods vehicles 251,683 gCO₂e and motorcycles 181,054 gCO₂e.

Private vehicles, according to the study, were the highest contributors to carbon emissions with a total of 25.3 gCO₂e during the five years.

While matatus have found the Expressway a perfect road to aid them earn more and save on fuel, a majority of the 70,000 vehicles that use the road every day are private cars, therefore, cutting down on carbon emissions due to reduced travel time.

"Every motorist in Kenya should use the Expressway as

part of the efforts to protect the environment, the cash saved on fuel notwithstanding," said John Kariuki, a telecommunication engineer, who lives in Kitengela, south of Nairobi, and uses the road every day.

According to Moja Expressway, the Chinese firm that runs the toll road, if a motorist makes 10,000 trips on the Expressway and pays using the electronic option, they save about 314 liters of fuel.

"The Nairobi Expressway not only reduces travel time but also minimizes fuel consumption," the company notes.

Moja Expressway is also supporting other green initiatives targeting the road, as it recently joined hands with Kenyan matatu saccos Super Metro and Metro Trans, which launched a new direct route via the Expressway from Nairobi's central business district to the main airport, Jomo Kenyatta International, some 18 km away.

"In line with our drive towards a greener future, the new route will be covered using electric buses promoting sustainability by lowering carbon emissions and saving fuel," the firm said.

Kenya is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030, according to its climate change action plan.

WORLD



Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu poses for a picture during the launch of Walmart's first made-in-India bicycles, manufactured by Hero Cycles, in New York on Wednesday. ANI

'PM Modi demonstrated resolve to make climate action collaborative process'

NEW DELHI

ENVIRONMENT Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Wednesday said through India's G20 Presidency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi demonstrated his resolve to make climate action a collaborative process that 'leaves no one behind'.

Addressing the COP28 closing plenary session in Dubai on Wednesday, the Union minister said the world came together at the event for climate action "to display positive collaboration and camaraderie for an action-oriented approach towards a greener and healthier planet".

"Through its G20 Presidency steered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India displayed the resolve to make climate action a collaborative process that leaves no one behind," Yadav said.

At COP28, India extended the same spirit as enshrined in the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is a family), Yadav said at the closing session, according to an official release.

He added that India congratulated UAE's COP Presidency for its "fairness, transparency and free exchange of thought".

"We support the proposal of the Presidency on the COP decision document while reiterating the fundamental principles enshrined in the Paris Agreement to take action for global good in accordance with national circumstances," the Union Minister added in his address at the summit's closing on Wednesday.

ANI



CHINA'S gross ocean product grew 5.8 percent year on year to 7.2 trillion yuan (\$1 trillion) in the first three quarters of 2023, indicating that the country's marine economy has maintained its positive overall recovery momentum.

The country's traditional marine industries have shown strong growth momentum. In the first three quarters of this year, China remained a global leader in terms of seagoing vessel market share, with new orders for seacraft growing faster and shipbuilding companies seeing continuous rebound in their economic benefits, according to Cui Xiaojian, deputy director of

China's marine economy continues to expand with diverse highlights

the National Marine Data and Information Service.

"New orders for seagoing vessels, seacraft output, and the number of sea ship orders in the hands of shipbuilders nationwide increased by 40.2 percent, 23.3 percent and 34.3 percent year on year, respectively," Cui said.

"In particular, there has been a significant increase in the number of high-tech and high value-added ships delivered during the period. And a batch of container vessels with a TEU (20-foot equivalent unit) capacity of 24,000, LNG dual-

fuel powered bulk carriers, and gas carriers were also delivered during the first three quarters," Cui added.

The country's marine tourism industry has strode into a new stage of full recovery, witnessing a 121 percent year-on-year growth in marine passenger volume in the first three quarters of this year, which has exceeded the level of the same period in 2019.

China's marine resource supply capacity has steadily improved. In the first three quarters of 2023, 1,219 projects of sea area and island use were approved nation-

wide, up 4.6 percent year on year. These projects involve combined investment totaling over 600 billion yuan. The country has made continuous efforts to increase its offshore oil and gas reserves and production. In the first three quarters of 2023, its offshore crude oil and natural gas production grew by 4.6 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively, compared to the same period last year, while multiple projects were completed and commenced production in the country.

The construction of the coun-

try's "blue granary" has been steadily advanced in the first three quarters of this year, when the growth rates of domestic marine aquatic products output and mariculture output both exceeded 5 percent year on year.

The country's ever-growing emerging marine industries and continuously improving capability of marine scientific and technological innovation have become the highlights of its marine economic growth in the first three quarters of this year.

China's marine engineering

equipment manufacturing industry has continued to improve. The industry's value of delivered orders for marine engineering equipment increased by 50 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2023, accounting for 64.3 percent of the international market share of marine engineering equipment.

Meanwhile, seawater desalination projects in Hebei province, Tianjin municipality, Shandong province, Jiangsu province, Zhejiang province and other regions across the country have been

steadily advanced, with the scale of projects under construction and newly started exceeding 300,000 tonnes per day.

The country has constantly made breakthroughs in the development of marine renewable energy.

It has accelerated the construction of offshore wind power projects. In the first three quarters of 2023, the combined capacity of relevant projects under construction and newly started was about 19.4 million kilowatts, an increase of about 2 million kilowatts over the same period last year.

People's Daily

Kremlin expects 'Russophobic outbursts' in West during Russian election campaign

MOSCOW

"RUSSOPHOBIC outbursts" are likely to grip the West during the presidential race in Russia, as there they do not realize how consolidated the Russians are, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Apparently, Russophobic outbursts will be continued. And during these Russophobic outbursts, the election campaign will definitely be the main target. They are struggling to

comprehend the level of consolidation in society, the level of public support for the president even before the start of the election campaign," Peskov said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 television channel.



Peskov referred to a huge number of messages of support for the president, which were sent for the Direct Line question and answer session.

"There [in the West] it is impossible to understand this. Moreover, the hybrid war against us is still ongoing. In these conditions, the election campaign merely cannot but be a target for attacks. On the other hand, we have acquired some immunity against such attacks. I am sure this immunity will work," Peskov added. **Agencies**

COP28 President lauds adoption of UAE Consensus

DUBAI

SULTAN bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates and COP28 President, lauded the success of the parties in delivering a comprehensive response to the Global Stocktake and all the other mandates, and finding a new way.

In his statement at the closing plenary of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), Al Jaber said, "Together, we have confronted realities, and we have set the world in the right direction. We have given it a robust action plan to keep 1.5 within reach.

It is a plan that is led by the science. It is a balanced plan, that tackles emissions, bridges the gap on adaptation, reimagines global finance, and delivers on loss and damage. It is built on common ground. It is strengthened by inclusivity. And it is reinforced by collaboration."

He was referencing the landmark text named "The UAE Consensus", to which the Parties agreed and which sets out an ambitious climate agenda to keep 1.5C within reach.

The UAE Consensus calls on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels to reach net zero, encourages them to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), includes a new specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030, and builds momentum towards a new architecture for climate finance.

"We have travelled a long road together in a short amount of time. Over the last two weeks, we have worked very hard to secure a better future for our people and our planet. We should be proud of our historic achievement. And the United Arab Emirates, my country, is rightly proud of its role in helping you to move this forward," the COP28 President continued. "It is an enhanced, balanced, but, make no mistake, historic package to accelerate climate action. It is the UAE Consensus."

He added, "Many said this could not be done. But when I spoke to you at the very start of COP, I promised a different sort of COP. A COP that brought everyone together, private and public sectors, civil society and faith leaders, youth and indigenous peoples. Everyone



United Nations Climate Chief Simon Stiell (L), COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber (C) and Hana Al-Hashimi, chief COP28 negotiator for the United Arab Emirates, pose at the end of the COP28 UN Climate Summit on Wednesday, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. AP

came together from day one.

Everyone united, acted and delivered. We operationalised loss and damage and started to fill the fund. We mobilised more than US\$85 billion in new financial commitments. We launched ALTERRA, the world's largest catalytic private investor that is 100 percent focused on solutions to climate change. And we delivered world first after world first."

"A global goal to triple renewables and double energy efficiency. Declarations on agriculture, food and health. Many more oil and gas companies stepping up for the first time on methane and emissions.

And we have language on fossil fuels in our final agreement. All of these are world firsts. And all of these are crucial actions that will help shape a better, cleaner world with greater, more equitable prosperity. And then we became the first COP to host a change-makers Majlis.

And I felt that that was the turning point in our negotiations. You reconnected with your spirit of collaboration, you got out of your comfort zones and started speaking to each other from the heart. That... made the difference," Dr. Al Jaber affirmed.

"Now, we can truly say that we united, we acted, and we delivered. Friends, here let me sound a word of caution. An agreement is only as good as its implementation. We are what we do, not what we say. We must take the steps necessary to turn this agreement into tangible action. If we unite in action, we can have a profoundly positive effect on all our futures.

"And I mean all our futures. Because inclusivity has been the beating heart

of this conference. It kept us going during the difficult days. You never gave up on the process, a process that was driven by solidarity, transparency and a willingness to listen. And everyone has been heard, from indigenous peoples, to global youth, to the Global South. As a result, we have delivered a paradigm shift that has the potential to redefine our economies."

"We have reframed the conversation around climate finance. We have integrated the real economy into climate action. And we have moved to a new mindset, where solutions to the climate challenge become the drivers of a new economic age.

"It has been a personal privilege for me to have the opportunity to guide this conference. I am humbled by the commitment I have seen and the unwavering efforts I have witnessed. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all who made this happen. To every country who came and made this COP a success, I say thank you. To every single participant, everyone I met in this special place, I say thank you.

You have come in record numbers, you care deeply about the future of this wonderful planet... and so do I. And to you, the delegates, who met me at 4 and 5 am, I also say thank you. And allow me to take this opportunity to express my deepest respect and gratitude to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. I am deeply grateful for his confidence, guidance and constant support. I hope we made you proud."

The COP28 President noted that the UAE has shown that it can deliver on the global stage for the benefit of the planet and its people. **Agencies**

WHO chief Tedros congratulates Brazil on G20 presidency, welcomes theme of building sustainable planet

GENEVA

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday congratulated Brazil on its G20 presidency and welcomed the theme for the next summit - 'Building a Just World and Sustainable Planet'.

"I congratulate Brazil on its G20 presidency, and I welcome the theme you have chosen of 'Building a Just World and Sustainable Planet', which could not be more relevant nor more timely," the WHO Director-General said while speaking on 'Health in the G20'.

"I also welcome your (Brazil's) health priorities: Pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response; digital health; equity in health; and climate change and health," he said.

"You have identified some of the most significant issues in global health," Tedros said.

"As the world continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's vital that we learn the painful lessons it taught us and work together to strengthen the global health architecture. In particular, it is essential that countries finalise negotiations on the pandemic agreement and the International Health Regulations in time for the World Health Assembly in May next year," he added.

Tedros said this is a generational opportunity that "we cannot afford to miss".

India recently passed the ceremonial gavel of the G20 presidency to Brazil.

At the ceremonial turnover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed 'unwavering faith' in Brazil for leading the Group of Twenty (G20) presidency with dedication, and vision and also assured 'all possible cooperation' to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

President Lula da Silva said Brazil will put inequality as the core issue during the G20 Summit under its Presidency, adding that it was a huge challenge for his country to take over the G20 presidency.

"I'm one of the founder members of the G20," Lula da Silva said, pointing out that a summit like the G20 shows the importance of a multipolar world.

"I would like to congratulate India for organising the Summit exceptionally well. We have received great warmth from the Indian people. Brazil has the conditions to be the host country of G20 next year. We want to use many cities in Brazil to organise a great number of events there," he said.

On Brazil's G20 Presidency, the WHO Director-General said, "We believe Brazil can play a vital role in this negotiation, and in encouraging G20 countries to focus on resolving the remaining issues and bringing negotiations to a successful conclusion. I have confidence in your leadership."

He said the cornerstone of the pandemic agreement is equity, "which we are pleased to see is another focus of Brazil's G20 Presidency".

"The pandemic demonstrated that the production of vaccines and other tools is concentrated in too few hands. Strengthening local production is therefore critical for ensuring a more equitable response to future epidemics and pandemics," he said.

ANI

'Cannot have old wine in new bottles and expect new results'

NEW YORK

REITERATING New Delhi's stand for the expansion of the multilateral institutions, India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj said that multilateral institutions "rarely die", they simply "fade into irrelevance."

She was speaking at the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reforms in New York on Wednesday.

Kamboj highlighted that this September, UNGA heard unequivocal calls for comprehensive and meaningful reforms from more than 85 global leaders.

"These calls must be answered. We must all realize that the clock is ticking, and turning the other way in the face of global challenges is just not an option. I have said this before Co-Chairs and I say so again. Multilateral institutions rarely die, they simply fade into irrelevance," she said.

The Indian envoy also cited the African Union's inclusion into the G20 during New Delhi's presidency making the group a more "representative and relevant institution".



India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj

"Upon India's initiative, the African Union became a permanent member of the G20 at the New Delhi Summit in September, thus ensuring that an important and valuable voice from the Global South is added to an influential institution of global governance and decision-making.

It was India's firm conviction that with Africa's full participation in the G20, this group would truly be a more representa-

and relevant institution," Kamboj further said.

She added, "This significant step in reform should inspire the United Nations, a much older organization, to also make the Security Council contemporary. Broad representation is, after all, a prerequisite for both effectiveness and credibility.

The Summit of the Future next year, therefore, provides a golden opportunity,

if I may use a cliché, to reaffirm our common commitment to the UN Charter and undertake a review of the Charter focused on reforms in general, including Security Council reform."

Kamboj cited the 2015 Framework Document, on the issue of "Categories of Membership", in which a total of 113 member states, out of 122 (more than 90 per cent) who submitted their positions in the Framework Document, supported expansion in both of the existing categories specified in the Charter.

She further said that the Indian delegation is of the view that conversations can only lead us so far and India, as the world's largest democracy, will continue to strive for the voice of the Global South to be heard.

"My delegation is firmly of the view that we cannot have old wine in new bottles and expect new results, which is comprehensive reforms. Conversations on convergence and divergence alone can only lead us so far.

As diplomats we know that countries do not change positions, unless in a negotiating mode where we create possibilities of real and meaningful exchanges," Kamboj said.

ANI

West's bid to isolate Russia sank amid Putin's wide-ranging foreign interactions – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE diverse range and number of Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign partners demonstrates that the West's attempts to isolate Russia have utterly failed, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the Federation Council (upper house of parliament, or "senate").

"The policy aimed at isolating Russia has failed. It is enough just to mention the numerous instances of interaction between President Putin and his foreign colleagues," Lavrov said.

"We, as you know <...> and see in reality, are ready for such a challenge and will continue to firmly uphold our truth," he added.

Additionally, the top Russian diplomat noted that Russia's "reliable policy course based on the principles of the UN Charter enjoys the widest support among the countries in the global majority."

"We are not adapting to concepts and schemes proposed by other countries. We are shaping our foreign policy agenda on our own, guided by our own priorities, while observing, I should emphasize, the recognized norms of international law and taking into account the interests of our partners who are ready to work with us based on mutual respect and consideration of [sovereign] interests," Lavrov stressed.



China-Africa cooperation propels Africa's digital economy development, says WTO deputy director-general

NAIROBI

IN recent years, amid a sluggish global economy, an increasing number of African nations have recognized the digital economy as a pivotal driver for their development, and China, with close connections with Africa, naturally emerges as a crucial partner in propelling the continent's digital economy and realizing its modernization aspirations, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Zhang Xiangchen has said.

In the process of economic globalization, there exists an imbalance in the distribution of interests between the Global North and the Global South, Zhang said in a recent interview with Xinhua in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, noting that developing countries, especially African nations, have reaped limited benefits.

Developing the digital economy is a crucial pathway to gaining advantages in international competition in the future, Zhang said. And developing countries, including those in Africa, should benefit from "re-globalization" distinguished by its emphasis on digitalization, he added. Africa has a vast market, a sound market environment and the youngest population globally, which, Zhang said, "are advantages for Africa to develop the digital economy."

However, research conducted by the WTO found that African countries have a relatively low share in global digital trade. "Africa's slower pace in digitization primarily stems from the digital gap, including deficiencies in digital infrastructure, lack of knowledge and skills for digitalization and regulations," said Zhang.

"If these issues can be addressed in African countries, I believe Africa will catch up in this field." He said that China's long-standing relationship with Africa holds significant value in terms of sharing development experiences.

In recent years, guided by mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative, an increasing number of Chinese companies have continuously expanded their investments in Africa. In countries like Nigeria and Kenya, Chinese-funded enterprises have established mobile payment platforms, providing secure and convenient digital payment services to millions of users.

Additionally, Chinese e-commerce platforms enable many African people to sell distinctive products worldwide without leaving their homes. While the digital economy can be a country's competitive advantage, "the digital economy cannot entirely replace traditional industries such as manufacturing, especially for African countries that have not yet completed industrialization.

"The digital economy is one of the drivers for growth," he said. "While African countries develop the digital economy, they should also strengthen their manufacturing sector to achieve industrialization as soon as possible," he added.

Xinhua

UN official calls Gaza 'living hell' at Global Refugee Forum

GENEVA

A top United Nations (UN) official told the 2023 Global Refugee Forum opened in Geneva on Wednesday that Gaza is now "a living hell," calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), flew to the forum directly from Gaza.

Most of Gaza's population has been forcibly displaced, he said, largely into the southern city of Rafah. The city has now swelled from 280,000 people to well over a million, and has therefore become "a tented community."

"Inside our own warehouses, families live in tiny spaces that are separated by blankets hung on thin wooden structures. Out in the open, flimsy shelters have emerged everywhere," Lazzarini said, adding that the spaces around UNRWA buildings are congested with shelters and desperate, hungry people.

"What can 100 trucks or so per day offer to 2.2 million people?" Lazzarini said. The outside world must roll out "meaningful" humanitarian assistance, he underlined.

"The high-level discussions about the number of trucks per day have taken up so much time and energy that I have no answer to a father of five in Rafah who asked me how he and his children can survive on one can of beans for three days," he said.

According to the UN official, the sight of a truck carrying humanitarian assistance now provokes chaos. Hungry people stop the truck and ask for food, and they eat it on the street. "I witnessed this firsthand when I entered into Gaza on Monday evening," Lazzarini said.

UNRWA is now sheltering more than a million people in its schools and other facilities, distributing whatever food it manages to bring in, "but this is often as little as a bottle of water and a can of tuna per day, per family, often numbering six or seven people." "I asked one colleague how he managed to remain composed and offer help in a shelter. He told me that he looks for a corner in the building to cry 10 times a day," Lazzarini told the forum.

"More than 130 UNRWA staff are confirmed killed. Many of our staff, who are themselves displaced, take their children to work with them to ensure that



An observer dressed as Santa Claus gestures as he poses for a photo, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Monday. REUTERS

they are safe together or die together," he added.

"The people of Gaza are facing the darkest chapter of their history since 1948, Lazzarini stressed, and are running out of time and options as they face bombardment, deprivation, and disease in an ever-shrinking space. "Today, they feel abandoned by the international community. They feel betrayed as the world fails to act in the face of one of the worst hu-

manitarian catastrophes of our time in Gaza," he said.

"They now believe that human lives are not equal and human rights are not universal. This is a dangerous message, and it will have serious repercussions," he added. He called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, and an end to the siege to let in sufficient aid.

"I welcome here the overwhelming support of 153 UN

Member States at the General Assembly calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire," he said.

Israel has been conducting a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip in retaliation for Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct 7, which killed around 1,200 people. The death toll in the Palestinian enclave has now exceeded 18,400 since the escalation of the conflict. Agencies

Report: Humanitarian crises to worsen in 2024

MEXICO CITY

CLIMATE change, worsening armed conflicts, growing debtloads and shrinking international support will accelerate humanitarian crises worldwide in 2024, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) said in a report yesterday.

In its 2024 Emergency Watchlist, the New York-based IRC pointed to 20 nations largely in Africa at the greatest risk of a worsening humanitarian situation next year.

The report comes after the number of people in need of humanitarian aid this year rose to 300 million while those forced

to flee their homes soared to 110 million.

"This is the worst of times," IRC chief David Miliband said in a statement, calling for more emphasis on climate adaptation, women's empowerment, 'people-first' banking, support for displaced people and actions to stem impunity.

Sudan ranked top of the IRC's emergency watchlist followed by the occupied Palestinian territories and South Sudan.

Beneath them rank nine Sub-Saharan nations; Myanmar and Afghanistan in Asia; Syria, Lebanon and Yemen in the Middle East; Europe's Ukraine; South America's Ecuador and Haiti in

the Caribbean.

These 20 territories account for some 10 percent of the world's population but 86 percent of global humanitarian need, 70 percent of displaced people and a growing share of those facing extreme poverty and climate risks, the IRC said. Agencies

China, Vietnam deepen practical cooperation, benefit two peoples

CHINA and Vietnam are connected by mountains and rivers. They enjoy cultural proximity, cherish the same ideals, and have a shared future ahead of them.

In recent years, the two countries have brought out the full potential in their geographical proximity and complementarity of industries, and accelerated synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Two Corridors and One Economic Circle strategy, in a bid to better serve their respective national development and benefit the two peoples.

To the west of Kong Chro District, Gia Lai Province in south-central Vietnam, there stand dozens of huge wind turbines with their blades slowly rotating, providing steady electricity for local production and life.

These belong to a wind power project designed and constructed by China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), which includes two wind farms. So far, all 64 wind turbines of the project have been erected with grid-connected power generation capacity, some of which have been put into use.

According to Lin Lingli, deputy gen-

eral manager of the new energy division of Guangdong Electric Power Design Institute of CEEC, the project uses internationally advanced onshore wind turbines with large capacity and high towers, which have a large power generation capacity and occupy less land. Compared with coal-fired power plants of similar size, the wind power project can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 897,000 tons annually.

Driven by a series of policies and measures, a number of Chinese enterprises helped develop Vietnam's renewable energy power generation, contributing to the country's energy transition and development. Wind farms invested in or constructed by Chinese enterprises have provided Chinese solutions to alleviating power shortages in Vietnam, offering many families with green electricity.

Long Giang Industrial Park in south Vietnam's Tien Giang Province enjoys prominent geographical advantages. It's only 50 kilometers away from Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City and also 50 kilometers away from the container terminal of the Saigon Port. A hectic scene could



Local employees work in a workshop in Long Giang Industrial Park, Tien Giang Province, Vietnam. (Photo/Li Guozhong)

be seen within the industrial park as all kinds of vehicles were running to and fro.

The comprehensive industrial park was invested and built by a Chinese company, and is among the first batch of the overseas economic and trade cooperation zones at the national level accredited by China's Ministry of Commerce. Enterprises in the industrial park are mainly engaged in textile and light industry, machinery and electronics, as well as construction materials and chemicals.

The industrial park has received strong support from both Chinese and Vietnamese governments since it was established in 2007, offering constant impetus to China-Vietnam economic and trade cooperation and development.

Up to now, the industrial park has developed over 85 percent of its total area, introducing 53 companies, including 41 Chinese-funded enterprises to invest in

the park. Among them, 48 have started production.

According to statistics, the industrial output value of the park accounts for over 35 percent of the annual industrial output value of Tien Giang Province, and over 45 percent of the province's foreign trade volume.

The industrial park has created more than 30,000 jobs for Tien Giang Province and neighboring provinces, significantly improving the life quality of local people.

Deputy general director of the industrial park Tang Zhenyu said that expanding employment is one of the most direct and sustainable ways to improve the life quality of local people.

"We will step up efforts to attract outstanding companies in various fields to the park, providing more job opportunities for young people in Vietnam and making them the main force driving local economic development," Tang said.

Early in the morning of Dec. 7, many students were seen in the carriages of a train on the Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line in Hanoi. These students, on their way to school, told People's Daily that

taking the light rail is safer than taking a motorcycle and faster than taking a bus, so they don't have to worry about being late for class.

The Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line, which was built by China Railway Sixth Group Co., Ltd., is Vietnam's first urban light rail. It is a signature project synergizing the BRI and the Two Corridors and One Economic Circle strategy. With a total investment of \$868 million, the project started construction in October 2011.

The Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line is one of the main lines in Hanoi's urban rail transit network. It plays a crucial role in alleviating traffic pressure in downtown Hanoi and promoting local economic development.

Besides, the line has become a new landmark of Hanoi attracting many young people and tourists to take photos and enjoy the convenient way of traveling.

According to statistics from Hanoi Metro Company, the Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line has carried a total of nearly 20 million passengers since it started operation in November 2021.

People's Daily



Coastal Union's new head coach, David Ouma.

Coastal Union coach sparks squad revival in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

COASTAL Union head coach David Ouma says his determination to turn around the fortunes of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League side is well on course.

Ouma - who joined the NBC Premier League side in November - has since helped the team move to the current seventh spot on the league log after enjoying an impressive run in the four matches he has taken charge of the club.

Coastal Union has collected 16 points in the 13 matches the squad has played. It has notched nine of the points under the tutelage of the Kenyan tactician who has helped it come out victorious in three matches and lost just once.

His first match in charge resulted in a 1-0 win over Prisons. The Tanga outfit lost 2-1 away to Singida Fountain Gate FC before picking two consecutive wins against Geita Gold FC (3-1) and Kagera Sugar (1-0).

The tactician stated: "Everything is stable now and I have managed to inculcate my philosophy on the team.

We have got some impressive results so far and it can only get better as we move forward."

"My aim remains to help the team finish in the best position ever and, at this rate, we can do it," he said.

Ouma's side will have two more fixtures, the first of which will see it confront Greenland FC in the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Four days later, Coastal Union will lock horns with JKT Tanzania in a Premier League clash before winding up the year.

The Kenyan gaffer said the fact that all of the club's matches are televised has made the top flight very popular.

Ouma disclosed: "The local fans have taken a huge interest in the league because they have an opportunity to watch all matches live."

"It adds a bit of pressure on the technical bench and players to perform because fans have high expectations," the tactician noted.

"Fans also love to watch their teams play and the stadiums are always full. It is like Kenya in the early 1970s and late 1980s when our football was at an all-time high," he said.

TTB offers youths opportunity for Christmas, New Year festivities

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA Tourist Board (TTB) in collaboration with Tanzania House of Talent (THT) has handed more than 50 Tanzanians a winning opportunity to enjoy Christmas and New Year festivities in international tourist hotels in the country.

Damas Mfugale, TTB Director General, revealed the plan in Dar es Salaam yesterday as he launched a campaign, dubbed 'Likizo Time', to strategically motivate domestic tourism in the country.

Mfugale said the campaign is part of the board and stakeholders' initiative to ensure Tanzanians are motivated to tour and enjoy historical sites.

He said the campaign will be continued in all holidays with a 25 to 50 percent discount price.

"As part of the 'Likizo Time' campaign, we have collaborated with Tanzania House of Talent and other stakeholders to offer winning opportunities-free accommodation in tourist hotels in the country- to more than 50 Tanzanians," he said.

"I express my warm regards to all stakeholders including Johari Rotana, Whitesands, Sea Cliff Hotel Dar es Salaam, Iringa Mount Royal Hotel, Serena Hotels group, Pwani Nyerere NP Hotel, and Mafia Polepole Hotel that participated in the discount, seeking to ensure that Tanzanians get an opportunity to familiarize themselves and enjoy beautiful sceneries of several tourist attractions," he said.

According to him, one of the criteria for winning the opportunity is that people will have to participate in a special online challenge that will initially de-



Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Director General, Damas Mfugale, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he launched a campaign, termed 'Likizo Time', aimed to strategically motivate domestic tourism in the country. It will provide a winning opportunity for more than 50 Tanzanians to enjoy Christmas and New Year festivals in international tourist hotels. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

mand them to follow 'Tanzania Unforgettable' and 'Likizo Time' pages on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

The participants will moreover have to post a campaign poster of any place in the country that melted their hearts once they visited such destinations.

The third stage will demand a participant to post a caption specifically analyzing the place and factors that motivated him/her to love the place.

The fourth stage will demand participants to tag not less than 10 people, persuading them to vote for the act that will go along with liking and commenting on the picture.

Lastly, a participant will have to tag the 'Likizo Time' and 'Tanzania Unforgettable' pages for them to access the progress.

According to him, the winning procedure will have an overview of a post with more engagement including likes and comments.

On top of that, the winner will be announced on December 19 and December 26 this year through social media and mainstream media.

The winner and an individual that will be with him/her will have an opportunity to enjoy free accommodations in tourist hotels during Christmas from December 24-25 while others enjoy the moment on December 31, 2023, and January 1, 2024.

Bandari FC junior players set for game time in Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

KENYA'S Bandari FC Technical Director Ricky Solomon has said the club aims to use the Mapinduzi Cup, slated to kick off on December 28 at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar, as a platform for promoting its junior footballers' talent.

The Mombasa-based club will compete against prominent outfits from Mainland Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the host Zanzibar as they embrace this rare opportunity to compete internationally.

However, it would not be an easy ride for Bandari FC, which might meet teams like Young

Africans SC (Yanga), Simba SC, and Azam FC among others. The Isles' club, Mlandege FC, is the showdown's reigning champions. The Bandari FC official thanked the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) for the invaluable opportunity presented to the outfit.

The leader pointed out: "We have accepted the invitation and I want to thank the ZFF for the invitation. It is a privilege and honor to participate, not to mention that we are the only team from Kenya."

"This is a great opportunity for our youths to play against big African teams like Yanga and Simba SC which will give them

a different challenge from the one they get from the likes of Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards and they will build their experience greatly," Solomon, the former Harambee Stars player, disclosed.

The Mapinduzi Cup is an annual competition organized by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, in cooperation with ZFF, to commemorate Zanzibar's Revolution Day.

Azam FC has won the showdown's title a record five times, Simba SC has lifted the title three times while Mtibwa Sugar and Yanga have won it twice.

Zanzibar's Jamhuri, KMKM SC, Zanzibar Police, Mafunzo FC,

Miembeni FC, and Malindi SC have each lifted the title once while Uganda's sides KCCA FC and URA FC have also lifted the trophy once.

Other teams that are expected to grace the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup in Zanzibar include Mlandege FC (Zanzibar), Singida Fountain Gate FC (Mainland Tanzania), Vital'O FC (Burundi), Simba SC (Mainland Tanzania), Yanga (Mainland Tanzania), and APR FC (Rwanda).

Azam FC (Mainland Tanzania), URA FC (Uganda), Bandari FC (Kenya), KVZ FC (Zanzibar), Chipukizi FC (Zanzibar), and Jamhuri SC (Zanzibar) will also participate.

Ihefu SC targets tactical reform as new head coach set to spearhead ambitious goals



Ihefu SC footballers engage in training in Mbeya recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League fixtures.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IHEFU SC is pleased to announce significant progress in selecting a new head coach for the club.

The Mbarali District-based outfit anticipates introducing the new head coach before the conclusion of the first round of the Mainland Premier League.

Zagalo Chalamila, Ihefu SC Secretary-General, stated that they are currently finalizing some procedures to facilitate the signing of the contract.

According to the official, they anticipate that the new coach, a quality addition, will positively impact the team's performance and help them achieve their intended goals.

Chalamila expressed the team's ambition for the

season, saying: "We aim to finish in the top four this season."

He highlighted the decision to bring in a new head coach before the second round, explaining that it allows the coach to contribute suggestions for the upcoming mini-transfer window, set to open at the end of the week.

The leader emphasized the importance of involving the new coach in registration decisions, stating that Moses Basena, the previous head coach, provided recommendations for summer signings.

However, the team values the input of the new coach, as they believe he will play a crucial role in leading the team and achieving their set objectives.

Ihefu SC, having parted ways with two coaches

before the first-round conclusion, is currently positioned 13th with 13 points after honouring 13 matches.

This decision reflects the club's commitment to strategic planning and ensuring the new coach has a say in crucial matters from the outset.

The upcoming mini-transfer window is seen as an opportunity for the coach to shape the team according to his vision and strategies.

The club's leadership stated it further remains optimistic about the future under the guidance of the incoming coach.

It noted it is confident the change will bring about the desired transformation in the team's conduct and performance.

Man City go for full house of trophies at Club World Cup

LONDON

PEP Guardiola is hoping to complete his trophy haul as Manchester City manager at the Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia as the Gulf Kingdom shows off its wares in hosting a major international football tournament for the first time.

City travel to Jeddah, the host for all seven matches in the tournament, looking to add a first Club World Cup to the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup they won last season.

"We miss just one trophy to finish the circle and win all the titles City can have," said Guardiola, who has already won the competition three times during his spells at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"We will go there and prepare because for us it is a dream."

Despite a recent four-game winless streak in the Premier League, City are strong favourites to lift more silverware.

Not since Corinthians beat Chelsea in 2012 have the Champions League winners failed to lift the Club World Cup.

No matter who emerges victorious from the final on December 23, there will be a new name on the trophy.

Fluminense are South America's representatives after winning the Copa Libertadores for the first time last month.

However, the major threat to City could come from the rise of Saudi as a sporting hotbed.

Al-Ittihad have only qualified due to their status as champions of the host nation but boast a wealth of previous Club World Cup winners in Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante and Fabinho.

Benzema became the first player to ever score in four Club World Cups as Al-Ittihad swept aside Auckland City 3-0 in the first round on Wednesday.

Next up they face against African champions Al Ahly of Egypt in the quarter-finals.

The winner of the other quarter-final between Mexico's Club Leon and Urawa Red Diamonds will meet City when they enter the competition at the last four.

- Saudi's sporting ambition -

Benzema, Kante and Fabinho were just some of the star names who have recently swapped top European clubs for the riches on offer in the Saudi Pro League.

That was just the beginning of an offensive to turn the country into a football powerhouse.

Saudi is set to host the 2034 World Cup and looks almost certain to also be awarded future versions of a revamped Club World Cup.

This will be the final edition of the current format before it expands to a 32-team tournament every four years from 2025.

AFP

Turkey referee punch: Turkish FA says referee is not going to quit

ANKARA

THERE is "no possibility" referee Halil Umut Meler will quit after being punched in a Turkish top-flight match, says the country's football federation chief Mehmet Buyukeksi.

Ankaragucu president Faruk Koca was arrested on Tuesday after he ran on to the pitch and struck Meler following Monday's 1-1 draw with Caykur Rizespor.

All leagues were suspended but the TFF say they will resume on 19 December.

Meler was released from hospital on Wednesday with a swollen eye.

The 37-year-old is one of Turkey's top referees and officiates international games for Fifa.

He is also on Uefa's elite referee list and Buyukeksi said in a news conference on Wednesday that he still expects Meler to officiate at Euro 2024 in Germany.

"We expect Halil Umut Meler to take part in Euro 2024. There is no possibility of him quitting refereeing right now," said Buyukeksi.

Turkish football bosses suspended all leagues following the incident but Buyukeksi added: "We had decided to postpone the matches in all leagues indefinitely. With the decision we took today, all leagues will restart on Tuesday, December 19."

Buyukeksi said the football federation's disciplinary committee would "do what is necessary and announce its decision on Thursday".

"There is never any room for violence in the game. What happened in the match is in no way acceptable," he said.

"We will show zero tolerance for any similar incident on or off the field, and we will not tolerate any action against our referees and the refereeing institution."

This week's postponed games will be played on 10 January.

After Koca punched Meler to the ground, he received several blows from others as he lay on the turf, and suffered injuries including a minor fracture.

BBC

PSG, Porto into Champions League last 16 as Newcastle exit

LONDON

PARIS Saint-Germain and Porto qualified for the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Newcastle bowed out of Europe after losing 2-1 at home to AC Milan.

PSG drew 1-1 away to Group F winners Borussia Dortmund to go through as runners-up after Milan came from behind to beat Newcastle at St James' Park and eliminate Eddie Howe's side.

Newcastle, who needed to win and for PSG to draw points to keep their first Champions League campaign in 20 years alive, took the lead through a brilliant Joelinton strike in the first half.

But Christian Pulisic equalised on the hour and substitute Samuel Chukwueze broke Newcastle hearts with an 84th-minute winner, although it wasn't enough for Milan to overhaul PSG.

"We gave everything to the match. I can't ask for anything more (in terms of) commitment, effort, physical exertion. Unfortunately for us it wasn't to be," said Howe.

The French champions, in danger of a first group stage exit since the Qatari



Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe vies for the ball during the team's Champions League group match against Borussia Dortmund in Dortmund, Germany, on Wednesday. AFP

takeover in 2011, fell behind when Karim Adeyemi scored early in the second half in Germany.

Warren Zaire-Emery came to the rescue for PSG five minutes later after Kylian Mbappe weaved into the box, his pass deflected out to the teenager who advanced towards goal before slamming home a powerful shot.

Mbappe, whose PSG future will again come into sharp focus in January, had an effort ruled out for offside but the point was enough in the end for the visitors, who finished level on points with Milan but

progressed thanks to a better head-to-head goal difference.

"We're far from the finished article," said PSG captain Marquinhos. "We're going to have to prepare well and prepare better because bigger opponents are on the way."

- Porto complete line-up for knockouts -

Porto made the last 16 at the expense of Shakhtar Donetsk after a 5-3 win over the Ukrainians.

The hosts only needed to avoid defeat at the Estadio do Dragao to progress from Group H with Barcelona, and an early Galeno goal put Porto

ahead.

Danylo Sikan hauled Shakhtar level but Galeno netted again before Mehdi Taremi made it 3-1 to the Portuguese side.

An own goal gave Shakhtar a lifeline but 40-year-old Pepe eased Porto nerves with his team's fourth and Francisco Conceicao then put the game to bed, with Eguinaldo bagging a late consolation.

"In Porto, we never play for a draw, even though that result also suited us. The manager said this match would be like a final and we had to win. Mission accomplished," Galeno told CNN Portugal.

Royal Antwerp claimed a famous 3-2 win over Barcelona as George Ilenikheneta netted a stoppage-time winner.

The Belgians twice led courtesy of goals from Arthur Vermeeren and Vincent Janssen but Barcelona replied through Ferran Torres and Marc Guiu, who looked to have salvaged a draw before Ilenikheneta's heroics.

Manchester City became just the second English club to win all six Champions League group stage games with a 3-2 victory at Red Star Belgrade.

Twenty-year-old Mi-

cah Hamilton and Oscar Bobb scored their first goals for the club before Hwang In-beom pulled a goal back for the Serbian champions.

Kalvin Phillips scored his first City goal with a late penalty as Aleksandar Katai struck a consolation for Red Star in added time.

Defending champions City had already wrapped up top spot in Group G ahead of RB Leipzig, who won 2-1 at home to Switzerland's Young Boys.

Benjamin Sesko and Emil Forsberg got the goals for Leipzig either side of Ebrima Colley's equaliser in a frenetic five-minute spell in the second half.

Atletico sealed first place in Group E as Antoine Griezmann and Samuel Lino struck in a 2-0 victory over runners-up Lazio.

Celtic ended a 15-game winless streak in the group stage with Gustaf Lagerbielke's late header earning Brendan Rodgers' team a 2-1 victory over Feyenoord.

Luis Palma's first-half penalty put the Scots on top but their barren run looked destined to continue when Yankuba Minteh levelled with eight minutes left.

AFP

Naive Newcastle gamble for glory against AC Milan - and leave Europe with nothing

By Jason Burt

With 31 minutes to go, Newcastle were in the last-16 of the Champions League. By the final whistle they were out of Europe completely and could have conceded three or four goals to an AC Milan side who consigned them to last place in their group. Football can be cruel. Football can change in a heartbeat. Football can be heart-breaking.

In the pursuit of glory, Newcastle went for broke, throwing central defender Fabian Schär into the attack and leaving alarming gaps in defence. They knew they could still finish ahead of Paris St-Germain, who were only drawing away to Borussia Dortmund, and stay in the Champions League but needed to win. So they went for it. They risked it all. And lost it all.

That is the positive spin. The negative? Newcastle could not retain control. They were guilty of some tactical naivety, some poor game-management, some fateful errors and some ineffective substitutions that weakened their cause. Once again they also suffered badly from fatigue especially after Milan equalised. A draw would have kept them in third and kept them in the Europa League.

After that goal, a poor goal to concede and coming amid confusion over whether PSG were in fact leading, there only looked like being one winner even if Bruno Guimaraes forced a wonderful save from goalkeeper Mike Maiznan who pushed his shot onto the crossbar.

That tiredness is an inescapable factor for Newcastle. Injuries and the loss of Sandro Tonali, expensively-acquired from Milan of course, have hit hard



Pulisic steers in the equalizer. Agencies

but the way Eddie Howe wants his team to play is so demanding and is with such a high tempo it inevitably takes its toll. And if every player cannot stay the pace it proves costly.

"It's not beyond our wildest dreams because we did have wild dreams," read a banner spread across the Gallowgate End prior to kick-off, reciting the words of Sir Bobby Robson and Newcastle certainly chased the dream but ran out of steam.

Even so, only the hardest of hearts can blame them. At least they showed ambition.

After all, what were they supposed to do? They needed a second goal to make sure, after Joelinton's superb opener, and once Milan drew level they could not exactly sit back and decide: well, the Europa League is good enough.

What would that have said about ambition? How would their fans have reacted to that? Imagine if they had done so and Dortmund had scored late on to beat PSG and open up the path to second place? The outcry would have been deafening if Newcastle had cautiously drawn in those circumstances.

In their first Champi-

ons League campaign for two decades Newcastle were in a group of death. But this was a tough way for it to end. It was not the limp surrender in also finishing bottom of their group that we had seen from Manchester United 24 hours earlier. But it felt deflating all the same.

In the cold light of day both Uniteds have won just one of their six group games - and that has severely harmed England's chance of claiming that fifth Champions League for next season, by the way - and Newcastle lost both ties to Dortmund and surrendered four points to Milan. In truth that is not good enough.

Of course it might all have been different had they not suffered the in-

justice of the last-minute penalty concession to PSG in Paris which took their fate out of their hands. But now all they have to look back on is that 4-1 win over the French champions at St James' Park and as intoxicating as that was, the effects have long worn off.

There will be those who argue that being out of Europe might be the best for Newcastle, given how stretched their squad is. But that is not the view of the club's hierarchy - chief executive Darren Eales made it clear last weekend that being in Europe next spring was extremely important - and it should not be Howe's view either. It is not the mindset of top clubs and top play-

ers.

The mindset was admirable from the start. Miguel Almiron should have scored but was stunningly denied by Fikayo Tomori. But then Joelinton did as he collected a pass from Lewis Miley - who, at 17 years at 226 days became the youngest ever player for an English club to claim a Champions League assist, beating Theo Walcott's record - took a touch and struck a powerful shot high into the corner of the net.

His calm celebration, standing still, was almost Eric Cantona-esque and how we wished that was going to be the image of the evening. The Brazilian then ran over to the touchline to hug Howe, showing how much the manager has trans-

formed his career.

Newcastle felt so much in control. But the updates from Germany were not helping, providing a rollercoaster of a distraction and when PSG equalised it appeared to affect Newcastle who were undone by a goal in which Milan were allowed to play through them with Olivier Giroud easily sidefooting across goal for Christian Pulisic to pounce.

The air was sucked out of the stadium. Newcastle appeared drained but it would all have been different had Guimaraes scored. Instead there was a sense of panic, and that was an indictment, and Milan coach Stefano Pioli seized on that as he brought on more youth and more pace.

And so 63 seconds after coming on substitute Samuel Chukwueze was left unmarked as Milan countered and he gave them the lead. Earlier Rafael Leao hit the post, after running clear following an error by Tino Livramento, before with the last kick of the game Tomori also struck the goalframe when he should have scored. Newcastle's players were on their knees at the end. They were down. They were out.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

TTB offers youths opportunity for Christmas, New Year festivities

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Simba Queens head coach, Juma Mgunda.

Simba Queens aim to retain WPL title

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Queens' head coach Juma Mgunda has said clinching the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League title is their number one priority ahead of the 2023/24 domestic campaign.

The outfit secured the Community Shield mini tournament silverware following a 5-4 victory over JKT Queens in penalty shootouts of the final which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on December 12.

Defensive midfielder Vivian Corazone won the Player of the Tournament while goalkeeper Carolyne Rufa won the Golden Gloves accolade for the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Simba Queens lost the domestic women's league title last season, taking second place behind the champions, JKT Queens, thus this season it is aiming to retain its lost glory.

Mgunda noted this season they aim to win all games against their close challengers to clinch the league title.

The gaffer disclosed: "We are happy that we have something on our sleeves ahead of the upcoming season. I am proud of my group for what we have achieved before the group but we have to understand that we have a huge task ahead of us to retain the league title."

"Winning the league title comes with a lot of benefits, representing CECAFA in the CAF Women's Champions League and that has to come with a win in the regional competition, but with all said we first have to win the league," Mgunda noted.

The gaffer noted: "The women's division is on a huge rise and we are happy that we are part of the history that is ongoing in the country. This has led to our national team doing well in continental competition."

Speaking at the Community Shield mini tournament, Mgunda hailed his club's opponents in the Community Shield mini tournament, JKT Queens, as one of the league's close competitors.

"I am grateful for winning this tournament because the competition was difficult and it has made us realize how we prepare for the league. JKT Queens are our competitors, so, we had to intensely prepare," the former Coastal Union coach revealed.

Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League is expected to start on December 20, with the showdown being billed to be entertaining.

Simba SC out to snap five-game winless run in PL, faces Kagera Sugar



Kagera Sugar's midfielder, Eric Mwijage (2nd R), challenges his Simba SC counterpart, Clotous Chama, when the outfits locked horns in a previous NBC Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will aim to keep pace with front-runners Azam FC and Young Africans SC when the former entertains Kagera Sugar in an NBC Premier League clash at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the afternoon.

As the league heads into Matchday 13, Simba SC finds itself sitting fifth in the table - nine points shy of leaders Azam FC, albeit with four games in hand.

They are also five points behind second-placed Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, which has played one more game.

Since early November Simba SC has endured a five-match winless run in the NBC Premier League and CAF Champions League, recording three draws and two losses in the process.

Still, they remain within touching distance of table-topping Azam FC, and they have also lost twice in seventeen matches in all competitions this season.

Simba SC head coach Abdel-

hak Benchikha said he does not know much about Kagera Sugar but described the game as a must-win ahead of their crucial CAF Champions League clash with Wydad AC.

The Algerian coach pointed out: "We had usual preparation. We had a long trip from Morocco. I don't have lots of information about Kagera Sugar. I know it is a good team that plays good football with big individuals but we are Simba SC."

The coach stated: "Working for Simba SC is a motivation for me, and my players. We always think about win-

ning. We respect all teams but we must win."

"Maybe one or two players are injured but the rest of the squad is ready for the match."

"I don't know if I will make lots of changes but we must do so for the next match. This match is very important because of the upcoming one."

Kagera Sugar, meanwhile, suffered a 1-0 defeat to Coastal Union when the two sides met last weekend.

Mecky Mexime-coached Kagera Sugar has now won only one of the outfit's previous five matches, suffer-

ing two defeats during that sequence.

When a soccer follower looks at the bigger picture, Kagera Sugar has managed to win just three of the club's 11 NBC Premier League encounters, recording four draws and four losses in that time.

Only a superior goal difference is keeping them out of the relegation zone.

Mexime, the Kagera Sugar head coach, rubbished suggestions that their opponents are in bad shape, describing them as a strong team that has the advantage of playing in big tourna-

ments at the moment.

"We have about three days in Dar es Salaam and we have prepared well. We made big preparations in Bukoba, here we have come to finalize and play the game," the tactician noted.

Mexime revealed: "This is a league game, saying Simba does not have good results is to disrespect them. Simba SC is a big team, it is in the CAF Champions League."

He insisted: "It is not a team to take lightly, we who are tasked with these jobs know the strength of the team we are going to meet."



Ghana's Medeama SC forward, Jonathan Sowah. AGENCIES

Simba SC, Yanga express interest in Medeama SC talisman

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

TANZANIA'S soccer rivals Yanga and Simba SC are reported to be involved in a tussle for the services of Ghanaian attacker Jonathan Sowah.

The two giants are keen on breaking the bank to land the prolific goal scorer, now playing for Medeama SC, in the next transfer window.

The Ghanaian outfit's president Tony Aubynn confirmed the interest in the forward but remains adamant about the player's future.

Top Yanga officials got the opportunity to watch Sowah when he scored in Medeama SC's 1-1 draw with the NBC Premier League in the CAF Champions League Group D fixture in Kumasi last week.

Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki and Congolese midfielder Maxi Nzengeli are currently Yanga's leading goal scorers.

The duo has netted seven goals, while the squad's goal-getters Hafiz Konkoni, Kennedy Musonda, and Clement Mzize- are all struggling to get on the scoresheet.

Simba SC has been short of goals this season, with Jean Baleke hav-

ing notched seven goals in the domestic league whilst failing to impress in CAF Champions League games and some of the local games.

Sowah's impact at Medeama SC has been profound since joining the club as he led the 'Mauve and Yellow' to their first-ever Ghana Premier League title last season, earning him a place in the senior national squad- Black Stars.

He plays a crucial role in orchestrating attacking plays, and his knack for influencing pivotal moments will be greatly missed, prompting the team to reassess the squad's strategies.

The 24-year-old forward has notched an impressive 18 goals in 33 matches for the 'Yellow and Mauves' since his debut last year.

In the ongoing campaign, he has already netted seven goals in 13 games, including a notable two in the CAF Champions League.

Sowah, who recently made his competitive debut for the Ghana national team against Comoros in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, has been linked to Egyptian sides Al Ahly SC and Pyramids FC.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

