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With explicit terms and conditions, investors will be aware of specifications to observe when purchasing wagons or locomotives, he said, affirming that open access was the best approach to reduce the burden on the government and improve efficiency.

MPs: Speed up access on SGR for use by companies

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs has directed the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) to fast-track the process of formulating regulations governing private firms wishing to provide services for the standard gauge railway (SGR).

Jason Rweikiza (Bukoba Rural), the committee chairman, aired this demand in Dar es Salaam over the weekend after inspecting the Magufuli station and inquiring on the ongoing process of making regulations to govern private sector engagement with investing in SGR services.

He said that last year the Railways Act was amended to enable open access to the new railway line as part of efforts to enable the government to recoup funds invested in building the new railway line.

The MPs were thus seeking to see progress in formulating regulations that

REFLECTIVE MOMENTS: President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at suburban Morogoro municipality's Mzumbe University yesterday having a word with Sabina Geleja (R), one of her lecturers during her time as a student there, the institution then known as Institute of Development Management. The president was at the university to lay the foundation for a building as part of her week-long working tour of Morogoro Region. Left is Dr Stella Kinemo, a college mate of the president's during their IDM days. Photo: State House. Photo: State House



Samia opens new Mzumbe Campus, praises funds use

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Ruvuma Basin riparian states sign key MoU

By Guardian Reporter

RUVUMA River Basin riparian countries—Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania - have signed a memorandum of understanding for the formation of a common organisation to oversee the use of river basin resources and ecology.

Jumaa Aweso, the Water minister and his riparian states' colleagues signed the agreement at the council of ministers meeting grouping the three states in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, with the MoU seen as a reference point for further discussions on basin management

cooperation.

A basin treaty is expected to be drafted to set up a Ruvuma River Basin Organisation in pursuit of stronger cooperation in river water management, where the riparian states are receiving support from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

SADC and the riparian countries are working with the German aid agency GIZ-TWM, the International Conservation Union (IUCN), the Global Water Partnership for Southern Africa (GWPSA) and WaterNet, a Netherlands water supply agency linked with SADC, while the

overall project is lined up for financing by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The minister said at the meeting that the riparian states' governments expect to maximise their contributions to the mutual management of the river basin resources, as the pact foresees the strengthening of cooperation on the use, development, protection, conservation and sustainable management of the basin resources.

Carlos Mesquita, the Mozambican minister for Public Works, Housing and Water Resources said in a statement that included Abida Sidik Mia, the

Malawi minister for Water and Sanitation, that the agreement serves as a platform for cooperation among the partners, to assess the progress of the basin roadmap and discuss the implementation of the subsequent project.

The agreement would bring numerous advantages to the three countries, on account of the openness of member states to the development of regional projects, mobilising financing for their implementation, resulting in economic and social

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By Guardian Reporter

AS mpox cases surge in various African countries, the government has assured the public that all measures are being taken to control the monkeypox virus if cases will occur in the country.

Englibert Kayombo, acting health ministry head of communications, said in a statement at the weekend that the government is well-prepared to provide quality treatment services if there is an outbreak or cases of infection.

This reassurance follows reports of a surge in cases and deaths from the disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Burundi and Kenya, with regional officials noting a 160 percent rise in mpox cases so far this year.

There was a high risk of further spread due to the lack of effective treatments or vaccines available on the continent, with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reporting last week that mpox, also known as monkeypox, has now been detected in ten African countries this year.

DRC so far accounts for 96 percent of all cases and deaths, with close to 70 percent of infections seen among under-15 year olds, as the group similarly represents 85 percent of deaths.

Recently, Kenya confirmed its first mpox case at a border point in Taita Taveta near the border with Tanzania to the north east, with virus being detected in an individual, a long-distance truck driver whose route path

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SPORTS

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Brazil beats France 1-0 and advances to the semifinals of Olympic women's soccer tournament

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Consistent midfielder blocks Aucho's NBC PL Best XI path



Ruvuma Basin riparian states sign key MoU

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benefits for the communities living along the basin environment, he said.

He said that the river basin is unparalleled in the SADC region as a shared basin that is more or less entirely in its natural condition, lacking storage infrastructure like dams. "This river basin is rich in aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, and a large part of it is still intact," he stated.

"In this sense, Mozambique considers that there are many challenges for its management, with emphasis on the sustainable use and guarantee of water supply to the main water-using sectors," he asserted.

He pointed at basin vulnerability associated with water (floods and droughts), water quality and health of the aquatic ecosystem, as well as the need for good water governance and implementation of an integrated water resources management scheme, from the perspective of transboundary water management, he elaborated.

The river basin has a length of for 760 km, 650 km of which relates to the river serving as the border between Mozambique and Tanzania, where in Mozambique it encompasses the 42,400 square kilometre Niassa National Reserve.

It covers parts of Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces, whose development is likely to be boosted by the implementation of an integrated transboundary scheme, he said, affirming that existing challenges increase the need to adopt structural and non-structural measures which require cooperative actions between the riparian states.

"In the current context of climate change, in which our region was hit by El Niño, we hope that the ongoing initiative will help to promote integrated and sustainable resource management," he said.

This will be done chiefly by implementing measures to guarantee water safety in the entire basin to mitigate the occurrence of water-borne diseases like cholera or diarrhoea, also reducing instances of water scarcity for users, he elaborated.

SADC water cooperation is also envisaged on the Zambezi River basin grouping Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique in particular with the Cahora Bassa dam as the principal river basin development feature cited so far.

To this effect the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) was agreed earlier this year but the marginal partner state Malawi is yet to ratify the agreement setting up the commission, he added.



Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C), pictured in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, yesterday following speech by Nigerian Vice President Kashim Shettima Mustapha. It was during the opening of the 24th meeting of Finance ministers and central bank governors of African nations that are members of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

'No mpox in Tanzania, but take care'

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spans Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

"The Ministry of Health informs the public that, to date, Tanzania is safe and no cases of mpox have been reported. The disease has not entered the country, and it is crucial that we work together to keep our country safe," the statement intoned.

Mpox, caused by the monkeypox virus, spreads through close contact and causes flu-

like symptoms and a painful rash. While most cases remain mild, severe cases can be fatal, experts say.

Mpox can be transmitted through bodily fluids, including saliva, vomit, sweat and urine, as well as respiratory droplets like other respiratory or touch epidemic diseases, notably Ebola.

Transmission can also occur through skin-to-skin and sexual contact with an infected person or by using unsterilised

equipment, bedding or touching contaminated surfaces, the statement indicated, highlighting that the disease can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Symptoms of mpox include rashes, blisters or sores on the body, especially on the hands, feet, chest, face and sometimes on genitalia, accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, fatigue and swollen lymph nodes.

People need to take precau-

tionary measures, including reporting any suspected cases through the toll-free number 199, avoid touching those with mpox symptoms, refraining from formal greetings, hugs, etc.

Washing the hands regularly with running water and soap or sanitiser, wearing face masks and seeking urgent medical attention if symptoms are detected, the statement underlined, with those near the border countries told not to touch

dead wild animals like monkeys or antelopes.

Health providers across the country need to adhere to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines when treating patients.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says mpox (previously known as monkeypox) has from May 2022 to 31 May 2024 been noticed 97,745 cases and 203 deaths reported from 116 countries worldwide, the statement added.



These are members of a delegation of Indian nations expected to scale Mount Kilimanjaro under 'empowerment' of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. One is a 91 per cent above-knee leg amputee. The expedition was flagged off in India on July 30 and is determined to unfurl the Indian national flag at the mountain's highest point, Uhuru Peak, by August 15. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia opens new Mzumbe Campus, praises funds use

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has instructed Mzumbe University to reinstate its programme for training various public officials, including courses for functions of permanent secretaries and ministerial directors, to make top leadership more efficient.

In remarks after laying the foundation stone for new lecture theatres, seminar rooms, hostels and administrative buildings at Maekani Campus, the president noted that she was a Mzumbe University graduate, just like Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, a former chief secretary, and Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi, the CCM secretary general.

The training that public officials received was relevant to their roles, she stated, asserting that this enhanced their efficiency, pledging to secure additional funds to support setting up of new infrastructure and facilities at the leading public administration training institution.

She expressed satisfaction with the efforts by the university to use its own funds to put up new buildings that were being flagged off, while undertaking significant renovations of existing structures.

"I am really pleased with Mzumbe. When I graduated here in 1986, we used to stay in the Matola hostels, but now I see major renovations carried out with internal funds," she told the gathering.

Vice-Chancellor Prof William Mwegoha said that construction of new buildings costing 4.8bn/- has started in the Maekani area, with intent to lift enrolment from 15,000 to 40,000 students.

There are also programmes to train senior government officials where dedicated training facilities will be instituted within the new

buildings, he said, while the minister, Prof Adolf Mkenda, affirmed that developments at Mzumbe University are not isolated.

They are part of a nationwide initiative across public universities to improve infrastructure and build new facilities using internal funds, to ensure that government funds are effectively used to strengthen the teaching and learning environment to provide quality education.

Mohamed Mchengherwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) appealed to heads of education departments at the regional, district and municipal levels across the country to build stalls for small traders.

They should operate freely while adhering to regulations, he said, as the president launched a five-year 'mutual care' drive backed up by a land use plan project to end conflicts between herders and farmers.

The president awarded three trophies and three certificates to stakeholder and participant groups targeted by the 'mutual care' programme in Mvomero District, where the minister asked the Mvomero District Council to use not more than two months to build stalls for small-scale traders in designated areas.

They should conduct their trading activities without obstruction he said, referring to guidelines set by the president for regional and district administrations to engage with various community groups/

These instructions have been disseminated to all councils, he said, saying small traders, food vendors, motorcycle and tricycle riders are all targeted by the trading space demand

MPs: Speed up access on SGR for use by companies

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will govern private firms in such engagement, objecting to claims by the corporation that the time given was not enough.

The committee has insisted the management fast-track the process to save time, he said, underlining the need for investors to know the terms and conditions applicable before investing in such services.

With explicit terms and conditions, investors will be aware of specifications to observe when pur-

chasing wagons or locomotives, he said, affirming that open access was the best approach to reduce the burden on the government and improve efficiency.

He praised the government for massive investment in building railway tracks and procurement of rolling stocks, while the Transport deputy minister David Kihenzile said that arrangements on the Tanzania-Zambia railway (Tazara) shows significant advantages in using open access.

Out of 447,000 tonnes of cargo

transported during fiscal 2022/23, upwards of 300,000 tonnes was carried on private rolling stock, equivalent to 70 percent of total tonnage, he stated.

Last year a total of 164,000 tonnes out of 324,000 tonnes, equivalent to 54 percent was private sector rolling stock tonnage, he elaborated, underlining that the government appreciates the importance of the private sector in building the nation's economy.

Priority must be given to open access arrangements, he said, while

TRC acting director general Albert Magandi promised to ensure the process of making the regulation was completed on time.

Last year, the government amended the Railways Act to allow open access facility on railway lines for private operators to put rolling stock on SGR and carry passengers or cargo.

Amending the legislation was meant to increase efficiency, higher utilisation of facilities and fostering competition between service providers.

SGR trains now ease visit to Mikumi National Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

JUST days after the launch of standard gauge railway (SGR) train services between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, some tourists have begun using the new transport option to visit Mikumi National Park.

On Friday, over 1000 teachers from various schools in Dar es Salaam Region used the transport to visit the tourist attraction in a tour organized by regional office to promote local tourism.

The 3,230 km² fourth largest national park is strategically located on Morogoro Region which is currently served by the SGR alongside Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Dr Toba Nguvula, Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary, noted that the teachers decided to pool their own funds for the trip as a gesture of support for the government's efforts to open up the country and promote development.

Dr. Nguvula praised the successful implementation of the project so far, highlighting its role in reducing travel time, particularly for passengers travelling between Dodoma, Morogoro, and Dar es Salaam.

He also commended the management of Mikumi National Park for developing

infrastructure that facilitates easy access to the park and encouraged other Tanzanians to visit the attraction.

The RAS emphasised that the park's attractions, particularly its diverse wildlife, contributes positively to people's mental wellbeing.

"The teachers greatly enjoyed the trip and observed a variety of wildlife in the park. We promise to be enthusiastic ambassadors for this park wherever we go," he said.

Herman Mtei, Senior Conservation Officer and Head of Tourism Department at Mikumi National Park commended the teachers who dedicated their time to visit the park, highlighting that the SGR has made it easier for tourists to reach the park.

He said that the park has made preparations to serve both domestic and international visitors.

"Through funds issued by the government, we have invested in adequate infrastructure to ensure that all tourists arriving here are served efficiently," he said.

Bundala Masanywa, one of the teachers, commended the park's management for investing in accessible infrastructure, a situation that will help attract more visitors.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu (2nd-L) exchanges greetings in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with Bank of Africa managing director Esther Cecil Maruma at an event marking the 25th anniversary of the accession to the throne by King Mohammed VI of Morocco hosted by the kingdom's Ambassador to Tanzania, Zakaria El Goumri (2nd-R). Looking on are BoA's deputy managing directors Wasia Mushi (L) and Hamza Cherkaoui. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Cassava Technologies launches AI unit to enhance digital

By Special Correspondent

CASSAVA Technologies, a leading infrastructure and digital services provider, has unveiled a special unit to leverage artificial intelligence to enhance services across Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Headquartered in London, Cassava AI builds upon the company's existing partnerships with tech giants such as Microsoft, Google, AWS, Anthropic, Oracle, Atlas AI, Cerebras, and Palo Alto Networks. The unit's establishment reflects Cassava's commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements in emerging mar-

kets.

Hardy Pemhiwa, Cassava's President and Group CEO, emphasized the new unit's extensive reach.

"Cassava AI will tap into the company's operations across more than 40 markets, providing a wide array of services. These include data centers, cloud computing, cybersecurity, fiber connectivity, and renewable energy solutions," he said.

To lead this ambitious initiative, Cassava has appointed Ahmed El Beheiry, a seasoned technology and telecoms executive. Under his guidance, the unit is poised to drive innovation and digital transformation across its target

regions.

In preparation for this launch, Cassava has already invested in human capital. The company has trained over 200 AI specialists within its 5,000-strong workforce. These experts are ready to assist clients in adopting generative AI (GenAI) technologies, ensuring a smooth transition into the AI-driven future of business.

This move aligns with Cassava's ongoing investments and partnerships in Africa. Recently, the company's data center business, Africa Data Centres, announced an expansion of its Cape Town facility. This project will double the center's capacity, adding 6MW of IT

load to meet the growing demand for cloud computing services in South Africa.

Financial backing for these expansions has been substantial. In June 2024, Africa Data Centers secured a R2 billion (approximately \$112 million) financing solution from Rand Merchant Bank. This funding is earmarked for expanding data center capacity to support the burgeoning cloud computing market in South Africa.

Cassava's commitment to Africa extends beyond infrastructure. In March, its business unit Liquid C2 joined forces with Google Cloud and AI company Anthropic. This collaboration aims to deliver ad-

vanced cloud and cybersecurity solutions, along with GenAI capabilities, to businesses across the continent.

This recent partnership builds upon a previous agreement with Google Cloud, announced at the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town in November 2023. These strategic alliances underscore Cassava's dedication to bringing cutting-edge technologies to African markets.

The company's investment in South Africa has been particularly noteworthy. In 2023, Cassava pledged to invest 4.5 billion South African rand (about US\$249 million at the time) through its

various business units - Liquid Intelligent Technologies, Africa Data Centres, and Distributed Power Africa.

As Cassava Technologies continues to expand its footprint and capabilities, the launch of AI represents a significant step forward. By combining AI expertise with its existing infrastructure and partnerships, the company is well-positioned to drive digital transformation across emerging markets.

The establishment of Cassava AI not only demonstrates the company's foresight in recognizing the potential of AI but also its commitment to fostering technological growth in regions that have historically lagged in digital adoption.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Immaculate Semesi pictured in Dar Salaam at the weekend opening a workshop organised by India's Centre for Science and Environment in collaboration with the council. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Z'bar applauds Chinese aid project for bilharzia control

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ZANZIBAR authorities have praised the Chinese aid project for control of schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, saying it has helped eliminate the disease in the Indian Ocean islands.

When visiting the China-aid Project on Schistosomiasis Control in Zanzibar, Katibu Mkuu Habiba, principal secretary of the Zanzibar Ministry of Health, and Khamis Bilali Ali, coordinator of the Ministry of Health on Pemba Island, expressed their sincere appreciation for it.

The Chinese experts managing the project presented an overview of the background and progress of the second-phase project and its working model.

Habiba thanked the Chinese government for strongly supporting Zanzibar's health work over the years and appreciated the Chinese schistosomiasis control expert group for their efforts to eliminate schistosomiasis in Zanzibar and help local people eliminate the harm caused by the disease.

Habiba hoped that the Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases, the specific unit to implement the project, would increase technology transfer,

provide more assistance in capacity training for Zanzibar personnel, cultivate excellent schistosomiasis control talent, and achieve the goal of eliminating schistosomiasis as soon as possible.

She also said the potential benefits of integrated schistosomiasis management strategies, such as snail eradication through ecological interventions and safe water supply, would help local people improve their living conditions while reducing the chance of contact with infected water.

The expert team showcased the achievements of their public health education efforts and the development of a science popularization base as part of the project. They also demonstrated the detection procedure for schistosomiasis and snail ecology experiments and provided an overview of the measures taken for snail control and safe water supply.

The China-aid project experts in Zanzibar have been conducting fieldwork for nearly a year, which has achieved notable control results and garnered praise from both the Tanzanian government and the local population.

Zitto demands answers over 'restriction of civil rights' in former refugee camps

By Guardian Reporter

RETIRED ACT-Wazalendo Party Leader Zitto Kabwe has questioned why 162,000 residents of Kanonge and Katumba former refugee camps in Nsimbo District, Katavi Region were being prevented from meeting opposition politicians, despite the individuals having all the civil rights.

Due to this situation, the politician urged President Samia Suluhu Hassan to direct Home Affairs Minister Hamad Masau to

remove the camp managers, arguing that they acted unlawfully.

He made the statement at the weekend during a public meeting of the party held at Ugalla ward in Nsimbo Constituency.

He said that ACT-Wazalendo leaders in Katavi Region wrote a letter to authorities to request permission for a public meeting at Kanonge camp, which was scheduled for August 3. The response they received was that the Camp Manager had stated that politics was not allowed in

that area, he said.

"Nsimbo District Council received more than 200,000 refugees from Burundi in 1972 who were placed in the Katumba and Kanonge camps in the district. From 2008 to 2010, Tanzanian government granted citizenship to 162,000 refugees who were accepted as Tanzanian citizens. They have all the rights that Tanzanian citizens are entitled to, including the right to vote and be elected. For these rights to be exercised, politicians must be al-

lowed to visit them," he said.

"The citizens recognized as Tanzanians under the country's laws in these camps have the same rights as other Tanzanians. Therefore, preventing public meetings in these areas is denying them their constitutional rights."

He said that in 2020, they held a meeting at Katumba camp to support the party's candidate for Nsimbo parliamentary seat. This experience led him to question the circumstances under which

meetings were now not allowed in those areas.

"These are tactics to intimidate residents of these areas so that they vote for another party. I tell them to let the people have the freedom to choose whoever they want," he said.

During the Ugalla meeting, he also questioned the government's decision, through national parks and forest agencies, to increase conservation areas without considering the growing population.

He stated that this decision is one of the reasons for increasing conflicts between citizens and the government in various regions, including Nsimbo Constituency.

Mbarala Maharagande, the party's spokesperson in the shadow Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, urged people in the area to come out and vote, and run for various positions under the party's ticket in the 2024 local government elections.

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Maritime experts meet in Z'bar to discuss how to develop sector

By Guardian Reporter

OFFICIALS and experts from some ministries in both mainland and Zanzibar met in the isles at the weekend to discuss challenges in maritime transport management and develop solutions to tackle challenges.

Participants included representatives from the Office of the Vice President (Union and Environment), the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation (Zanzibar) and the Ministry of Blue Economy.

The meeting, held in Zanzibar over the weekend, saw the Tanzania Shipping Agency (TASAC) and the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) agree on key areas for cooperation in managing maritime transport services.

It was decided that an agreement document outlining the framework for cooperation would be completed and signed within two weeks.

TASAC Director General Mohamed Salum and ZMA Director General Mtumwa Saidi committed to implementing the directives within the specified timeframe.

Attendees included Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji, Principal Secretary of Zanzibar's Ministry of Construction, Transport and Communications; Capt. Hamad Bakar Hamad, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries (Zanzibar); Abdallah Mitawi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Union Matters); and Dr Ally Possi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport.



TASAC Director General Mohamed Salum and ZMA Director General Mtumwa Saidi committed to implementing the directives within the specified timeframe



Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), lines himself up at the weekend to address a rally at Mbwaru village while on a Rufiji District tour also expected to take him to Nambunju and Nyamwage villages. He is the Rufiji constituency legislator. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nane Nane 2024: Farmers drum up support for traditional seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SOME farmers engaged in organic agriculture have backed the 'Seeds are Life' campaign which is spearheaded by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), asserting that this can help revolutionise the sector.

They expressed their support for the initiative at the weekend here at the on-going Nanenane exhibitions.

Rehema Kisimikwe, a farmer under the Morogoro Region's Network of Farmers and Livestock Keepers Groups (MVIWAMORO) cited benefits of traditional seeds which the campaign has prioritised.

As a beneficiary of organic farming through the Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), Kisimikwe said that traditional seeds are more cost-effective than

industrial seeds.

"In organic farming, we promote natural fertilizers like manure and those made by trees and plants that surround us, which are resistant to drought and pests and require no chemicals and the produce is tastier, cleaner and safer," she said.

She noted that through organic farming, she has been able to gain profit and supports her children through university and builds a modern house while meeting daily basic needs for her family.

"I grow maize, sorghum and pigeon peas using organic methods and I have harvested abundant yields and improved health of my family," she added.

Foime Daniel from Manchari A Village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, said that traditional seeds have significantly transformed his life.

He now cultivates over 15 acres

of maize, sorghum, sunflower, peanuts and groundnuts.

"Since engaging with the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), I have made significant progress, including building a house, purchasing livestock and acquiring a sunflower seed deshelling machine. I now harvest 20 bags per acre, up from eight bags before," he said.

Miza Chiwanga from Chololo Village in Dodoma Region said that organic farming has positively impacted his life, enabling him to build a house and educate his children. He urged the government to focus on traditional seeds and organic farming to transform the country's food production.

Chiwanga emphasized that it was time for the government to focus on the use of traditional seeds as they ensure consumers' health and longevity.

Renalda Bayo, a farmer from Jitegeme Group in Arusha Region Network of Farmer and Livestock Keepers (MVIWARUSHA), said that traditional seeds contribute highly to community health.

"The use of traditional seeds and fertilizers ensures a safer future whereas chemical-based farming harms consumer health and depletes the soil," she said.

Juma Mbwambo from Muheza District, Tanga Region, noted that organic farming has enhanced his quality of life by increasing both income and health.

Matrida Mwambe from Masasi District, Mtwara Region, encouraged farmers to opt for organic farming which she believes opens up both domestic and international market opportunities.

"With my nine colleagues, we grow pigeon peas, sesame and maize using organic methods. Training from SwissAid has significantly improved our economic situation," she said.

Representatives from various organisations promoting organic farming emphasized the importance of using traditional seeds to ensure a healthy society.



Temeke district commissioner Sixtus Mapunda (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend gracing the relaunch of Njaro Street Water project, recently rehabilitated by the Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company and now expected to benefit more than 5,000 people. Second-left is TCC Plc general manager and CEO Takashi Araki. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCB unveils mobile coffee shop to promote consumption, culture

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) has launched a project to promote coffee drinking culture in the country.

The mobile coffee drinking cafeteria service launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the weekend during the ongoing 31st Tanzania Agricultural International Exhibitions (Nanenane) in Dodoma focuses on heightening coffee consumption.

Through the initiative under TCB in collaboration with various financial institutions, youth are given motorcycles installed with modern facilities for production of different blended hot coffees.

Primus Kimaryo, TCB director

general, said the focus behind the strategy was to improve coffee consumption from the current seven to at least 15 percent.

Apart from elevating coffee consumption, the target is also to create a useful economic podium to attract youth in the country to be involved and benefit from the sub-sector. As per the project's setup, after receiving the mobile coffee facility loan, the beneficiary youth has to refund the spent money within three years of the coffee business operation.

He stated that one equipped coffee motorbike is worth 30m/-, and after fully refunding the loan, the mobile coffee shops remains in total ownership of the youth.

"To qualify for the economic slots, a youth must be a good li-

censed driver with enthusiasm and awareness about coffee business," he said, observing that TCB will continue designing and introducing a series of strategies to help push up coffee consumption across the country.

Kimaryo said the subsector has successfully managed to register significant growth in a period of five years, with markets and prices of the economic cash crop continuing to stabilize.

In recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture has worked to strengthen coffee market systems and prices, the development which has resulted in an increase in prices of the crop among the growers at the local markets from 1,300/- per kilo from 2022/2023 season to 2,000/-

ZAMBIA CARGO & LOGISTICS LIMITED MUKUBA DEPOT



PRESS RELEASE



APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a regional logistics service provider and wholly owned by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) with terminals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Walvis Bay, Namibia, and operating centre in Ndola, Zambia.

The Board wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. Vyonsi Manda as its Chief Executive Officer effective 1st August 2024.

Vyonsi is a seasoned logistician and multi-modal transportant with a career spanning over 20 years in the transport and logistics sector. He has risen through the ranks having worked as Commercial Manager, Finance Manager, Director Corporate Planning, Director Nacala Corridor and Director Operations in the railway sub sector with his recent position being Country Manager for Impala Terminals Zambia, a global multi-modal logistics service provider present in over 30 countries. He has also served on various Boards and is a Fellow of the Zambia Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (ZCILT) as well as the Institute of Directors. Vyonsi is a member of the ZCILT National Council and currently chairs its Technical and Research Committee. He holds Msc. in Logistics, Supply Chain Management and Procurement from the University of Lusaka among other qualifications.

Vyonsi is a commercially focused and result-oriented person with a proven inherent passion for success, an advocate for continuous improvement initiatives and committed to delivering high levels of customer satisfaction.

The Board is excited to welcome Vyonsi as the new CEO for Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited and is confident that under his leadership, ZCL will offer exceptional service to its customers, implement its regional logistics expansion growth plan and attain GRZ's aspirations of opening up more trade corridors and inland ports for efficient handling of imports and exports.

A Member of the IDC Group of Companies



DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC

"DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2024" (ALL AMOUNTS IN TZS) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Current Quarter Group	Previous Quarter Group	Previous Year Quarter Group	Current Quarter Company	Current Quarter Subsidiary
	30th June 2024	31st March 2024	30th June 2023	30th June 2024	30th June 2024
ASSETS					
Non Current Assets					
Property and equipment	145,723,818	158,307,044	142,922,044	129,151,750	18,571,867
Non-current prepayment	4,408,238,494	3,954,441,537	2,819,594,220	4,408,238,494	-
Intangible asset	186,317,324	213,488,825	137,574,501	186,317,324	-
Leasehold land	189,021,238	189,021,238	186,848,238	189,021,238	-
Deferred tax asset	23,736,870	23,736,870	12,864,152	-	23,736,870
Loan to DSE SACCOS	81,716,050	94,691,291	123,943,101	81,716,050	-
Investment in Government Securities	13,814,431,879	10,371,833,718	9,873,919,324	13,814,431,879	-
Investment in Subsidiary	-	-	-	227,887,476	-
	18,830,185,471	14,995,520,323	13,297,455,580	18,077,744,210	40,308,737
Current Assets					
Trade receivables	1,101,968,740	1,531,687,343	1,660,639,783	720,890,128	381,076,614
Prepayment & Other Receivables	828,873,867	748,288,002	606,051,038	619,804,900	208,368,087
Corporate Tax Receivables	121,281,892	90,240,189	96,281,090	-	121,281,892
Investment in short term deposit-Amortized Cost	14,830,680,813	18,632,560,450	17,554,726,530	13,483,775,836	1,338,904,677
Cash and cash equivalents	146,656,438	292,043,294	409,801,848	20,138,688	128,517,752
	17,028,471,740	21,292,849,278	20,327,800,389	14,854,306,648	2,176,162,082
TOTAL ASSETS	35,858,657,211	36,288,369,602	33,625,255,970	33,872,053,858	2,216,470,829
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES					
Shareholders' Funds					
Ordinary Share Capital DSE	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	-
Share Premium DSE	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	-
Ordinary Share Capital to Subsidiary	-	-	-	-	227,887,472
Retained Earnings	21,333,589,071	20,782,886,546	19,609,874,132	20,002,348,599	1,331,240,472
Car Loan Fund	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	-
Revaluation Reserve	108,228,200	108,228,200	113,838,000	108,228,200	-
Total Shareholders' Funds	32,856,800,622	32,316,098,097	31,138,694,483	31,526,160,150	1,569,107,949
Non-Current Liabilities					
Capital Grants	1,085,817,935	1,078,489,892	1,143,481,026	1,085,817,935	-
Current Liabilities					
Contract Liabilities	275,086,870	1,054,915,847	117,375,002	184,824,868	110,281,998
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	1,881,961,984	1,804,878,228	1,225,695,458	1,115,851,102	546,100,882
Corporate Tax Payable	-	22,887,446	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	1,837,038,654	2,892,781,522	1,343,070,460	1,280,675,771	656,382,881
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	35,858,657,211	36,288,369,602	33,625,255,970	33,872,053,858	2,216,470,829

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2024 (AMOUNT IN TZS)

	Current Quarter Group	Previous Quarter Group	Previous Year Quarter Group	Year to Date Cumulative Group	Previous Year Cumulative Group	Current Quarter Company	Current Quarter Subsidiary
	30th June 2024	31st March 2024	30th June 2023	30th June 2024	30th June 2023	30th June 2024	30th June 2024
Revenue							
Listing Fees	918,375,629	917,808,213	1,343,720,751	1,836,183,842	2,412,173,804	918,375,629	-
Transaction Fees	360,485,572	494,362,977	463,058,191	845,438,549	801,554,929	360,485,572	-
Registry & CSO Fees	421,589,858	394,326,774	422,003,853	805,925,732	727,730,833	421,589,858	-
Investment Income	858,736,387	873,632,480	834,770,283	1,732,368,848	1,640,929,808	812,545,381	44,190,986
Other Revenue	75,842,755	52,444,609	125,852,221	128,287,383	208,995,806	6,352,810	6,352,478
Total	2,635,039,280	2,713,165,053	3,189,405,299	5,348,204,333	5,791,985,278	2,208,040,191	474,142,422
Total Revenue	2,635,039,280	2,713,165,053	3,189,405,299	5,348,204,333	5,791,985,278	2,208,040,191	474,142,422
Operating Costs							
Staff Costs	1,088,958,399	1,030,833,886	1,005,905,874	2,119,782,085	1,924,286,733	928,138,609	305,983,123
Administrative Expenses	271,551,677	192,891,306	208,622,325	464,232,783	390,737,728	235,272,187	38,678,270
Operating Expenses	328,238,067	239,215,218	313,978,960	567,461,303	567,118,578	241,350,575	88,855,512
Total Expenses	1,688,746,943	1,462,730,208	1,526,707,188	3,151,476,151	2,882,143,039	1,304,761,372	428,127,904
Profit Before Tax	946,293,337	1,250,434,845	1,662,698,111	2,196,728,183	2,909,842,239	901,278,820	45,014,518
Tax Provision	13,504,355	16,363,703	25,380,705	29,888,059	25,380,705	-	13,504,355
Profit After Tax	932,788,982	1,234,071,142	1,637,317,406	2,166,840,124	2,884,461,533	901,278,820	31,510,162
Basic Earning Per Share	39	52	69	91	121	-	-
Diluted Earning Per Share	39	52	69	91	121	-	-

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW (COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS) AS OF 30TH JUNE 2024 (AMOUNT IN TZS)

	Current Quarter (Group)	Current Quarter (Company)	Current Quarter (Subsidiary)
	30th June 2024	30th June 2024	30th June 2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Profit before Tax	946,293,337	901,278,820	45,014,518
Adjustments:			
Interest received	(858,736,387)	(812,545,381)	(46,190,986)
Depreciation and Amortization of Intangible Assets	39,812,228	37,341,303	2,470,925
Tax Paid	(66,928,892)	-	(66,928,892)
Operating Cashflows Before Changes in Working Capital Items	80,442,306	126,074,742	(65,632,435)
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Receivable	429,718,607	274,377,086	155,341,520
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments and other receivables	(75,346,624)	(48,436,722)	(26,909,901)
Increase/(Decrease) in short term deposits	3,894,228,337	3,970,668,632	(76,440,296)
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan to DSE Saccos	12,975,241	12,975,241	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Grants	(13,672,047)	(13,672,047)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in contract liabilities	(789,829,181)	(734,898,182)	(55,130,999)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Payables and other payables	(142,928,245)	(171,060,424)	28,134,179
Increase/(Decrease) in investment in government securities	(3,442,598,161)	(3,442,598,161)	-
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(67,007,767)	(26,369,834)	(40,637,932)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest Earned	858,736,367	812,545,381	46,190,986
Acquisition of Fixed Assets	(444,796,957)	(444,796,957)	-
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	413,939,411	367,748,425	46,190,986
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Dividend Paid	(492,318,500)	(492,318,500)	-
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(492,318,500)	(492,318,500)	-
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	(145,386,876)	(150,939,910)	5,553,054
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	292,043,313	171,078,595	120,964,698
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	146,656,437	20,138,688	126,517,752

Signed By

Mary S. Mniwasa

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date

31-Jul-24

Lucas Sinkala

Head of Finance

31-Jul-24

Mecklaud Edson

Chief Internal Auditor

31-Jul-24

Silinde lauds FIs for lowering interest rates on farming loans to single-digits

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE deputy minister David Silinde has commended financial institutions for responding positively to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's call to reduce interest rates on agricultural sector loans to single-digits.

Silinde made the remarks at the weekend here during the Youth and Women for the Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Sector symposium, held as part of the ongoing 31st Nananane exhibition 2024.

The symposium was attended by various government officials, including Dodoma and Singida regional and district commissioners, district councils' executive directors, and retired leaders.

"Since President Samia took office, agricultural loan interest rates have fallen below 9 percent. If you have any doubts, visit any bank and you will be told that this achievement is thanks to the President's advocacy and the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as that of Livestock and Fisheries," he explained.

He said: "We engaged with banks

to enhance their support to the agriculture sector to benefit Tanzanians. I am grateful to the financial institutions for their commitment to empowering citizens through this sector."

Addressing youth and women from various universities, agricultural institutions, and groups involved in the agricultural value chain, Thobias Mkamate, NMB Foundation coordinator, highlighted that a lack of financial literacy, discipline, and goal management are among the challenges preventing success in the sector.

He emphasised that this is why the bank has invested efforts to educate the groups before providing loans.

Mkamate explained that, unlike many financial institutions that lack confidence in the groups, NMB is dedicated to providing essential education to make them eligible for loans and repayment.

"NMB offers short-term loans for agricultural inputs, fishing equipment, livestock, and contract farming. For long-term investments, we provide loans for purchasing machinery, tractors, power tillers, drilling wells, and building storage

facilities," he said.

He added: "The bank supports the entire agricultural value chain, from starting a farm and planting seeds to weeding, harvesting, and connecting with markets. For youth and women, we go a step further through the NMB Foundation, which conducts training."

He noted that many young people who take out loans fail to use them as intended and often change their goals, which hinders the growth of their projects.

Therefore, providing financial literacy skills helps ensure that funds are used effectively to achieve their intended goals.

Philip Mangula, CCM former secretary general underscored the importance of the agricultural sector to the participating youth and women, stating that success in agriculture depends on discipline, innovation and dedication.

He urged them to pay attention to the various presentations to engage in productive agriculture and avoid unproductive practices.

Mangula also encouraged them to utilise well loan opportunities provided by financial institutions to boost production.



Samia Legal Aid Campaign officials (R) extend legal aid to members of the public yesterday at their pavilion at the annual Nane Nane (Farmers' Day) agricultural exhibition in Morogoro municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NEC appeals to councils to embrace new solid waste management tech

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has appealed to municipal councils to integrate digital technologies in solid waste management programmes to create baseline information to be used for strategic interventions.

According to NEMC, digital technologies can help in measuring performance and proper planning of waste management in various towns and cities in the country.

Dr Immaculate Semei, NEMC director general, said this in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when opening a workshop organized by Center for Science and Environment of India (CSE).

She said to effectively manage waste, there is a need for leaders to challenge themselves to promote data-driven planning and invest in modern waste management systems.

She said councils also need to enhance up-to-date technologies, conduct public awareness and strengthen institutions in terms of technical and human resources as well as financial capacity, effectively manage municipal waste and enforce municipal regulations and guidelines.

"There is an urgent need to change our thinking and see waste as an opportunity for adequate data for proper planning," she said.

"We all know that more efforts are still needed to respond to the challenges of solid waste. Tanzania is facing numerous challenges when dealing with solid waste, including separation of solid waste, collection, transportation, treatment and financial models."

She said through the collaboration, different environmental tools have been developed and have proven to be instrumental in increasing efficiency compliance and enforcement of the environment management Act of 2004.

NEMC and CSE formalized their mutual partnership in January 2023 where they signed two MoUs; one being collaboration in strengthening environment governance and another one in solid waste management programmes and practices through the concept of circular economy.

"In the implementation, extensive work has been done in the field of solid waste management and what we are witnessing today is one of the success stories of continuation of implementation of these MoUs," she said.

Free legal services attract residents at Nane Nane fair

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A TEAM of lawyers from the Samia Legal Aid Campaign has started providing free legal assistance to people attending the ongoing 31st Nananane Farmers' Exhibition 2024 Eastern Zone in Morogoro Region.

Beatrice Mpembo, assistant director of justice monitoring unit in the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs said at the weekend that the team will provide free legal aid until the climax of the exhibition.

She said since the lawyers arrived at the expo grounds, many people have been visiting the Samia Legal Aid pavilion for legal assistance.

"The expo provides a room for people who seek legal redress to speak to lawyers for free, which is a huge relief to those who cannot afford fees for legal services," she said.

She said issues that were frequently asked include land ownership challenges and inheritance issues.

"This is an important step for people to know their rights and resolve their legal issues and this service also increases legal rights awareness to the citizens," she said.

Jerome Kiangi, one of the residents who benefited from legal assistance, commended the initiative which he said help citizens who are not able to pay for legal services.

Another resident, John Lubeja, also commended the move to send lawyers to the exhibition, adding that many people who cannot afford legal services use the opportunity.

"To get a lawyer's service is very expensive. So, when services like these are brought closer to the people like here at the fair for free, it is a very comforting thing and very commendable," he said.

Ester Msambazi, acting director of legal aid services in the ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs stated that in the last financial year, they managed to reach 500,000 people and that they have a schedule to ensure they reach all the remaining regions.

Samia Legal Aid Campaign was launched in April last year in Dodoma Region and has reached seven regions so far. Other regions reached are Manyara, Singida, Simiyu, Shinyanga Njombe and Ruvuma.

Helicopter carrying Uganda's top leader suffers accident in the western region

KAMPALA

A Helicopter carrying Ugandan Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Thomas Tayebwa suffered an accident on Saturday night in the western district of Mbarara, but there were no casualties, a police spokesperson said on Sunday.

Rusoke Kituuma, Uganda's police spokesperson, told Xinhua over the phone that the near-miss, involving a private Bell 206 JetRanger helicopter reportedly belonging to a local airline BAR Aviation Uganda, occurred at Nyakisharara airfield while Tayebwa and his entourage were on their way back to Kampala, the country's capital.

Local media reported Sunday that fire was seen coming from the cockpit, causing panic, and the pilot decided to crash land the helicopter.

Tayebwa said on his social media handle, X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday that no one was injured in the crash. "Dear all, my colleagues and I are all okay. No one is hurt."

The last helicopter accident in Uganda occurred in January this year when a Ugandan military helicopter used for operations against the Allied Democratic Forces rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo crashed and burst into flames in Uganda's western district of Ntoroko. Two crew members and a civilian died when the Mi-28 gunship crashed.



Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (R) pictured yesterday presenting laundry soap to Aziza Ally, who is admitted to hospital. Photo: Correspondent Steve William

Drive launched to benefit deprived in Africa, India

By Henry Mwangonde

ROTARY Tanzania, in collaboration with the Oyster Bay, Sunset, and Ukonga Clubs, has launched the Family Health Days (RFHD) 2024 event - a public/private partnership model aimed at delivering preventive community health care to underserved populations in Af-

rica and India.

To kick off the initiative, the organizations provided free medical care and education at Mzambarauni Primary School in Ukonga, Dar es Salaam, benefiting a total of 5,000 residents.

The initiative is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Rotary Action

Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA), a partner of Rotary International. Building on RFHA's 12-year commitment to disease prevention and treatment, RFHD has been piloted in Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Nigeria.

This effort is made possible through the active partnership

of the Rotaract Clubs of Kairuki, Muhimbili, KIUT, Alpha, and E-Swahili. The event saw participation from students and 1,500 adults, each receiving essential services such as malaria testing and prevention education, eye exams, dental check-ups, menstrual hygiene support, and access to medication and specialist referrals.

Sophia Chamzingo, the Country Chair of Rotary Tanzania, stated, "Rotary Tanzania, in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Oyster Bay, has been organizing medical camps in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kairuki since 2012, striving to provide basic health care to the Dar es Salaam community."

During the event, around 100

doctors - 50 general practitioners and 50 specialists, including dentists, pediatricians, and opticians - volunteered to offer these crucial services. Supported by a dedicated team of approximately 500 volunteers, this collective effort highlights the power of compassion and unity in addressing community health needs.



Home Affairs deputy minister Daniel Sillo takes part in the construction of a building at Nyamhongolo Police Station in Ilemela District, Mwanza Region, while on an official visit on yesterday. Right is Ilemela constituency legislator Dr Angelina Mabula. Photo: Vitus Audax

Kenya says tourist arrivals will spike with reopening of mountain circuit

NAIROBI

KENYAN Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said the government expects tourist numbers to remain on an upward trajectory amid the reopening of new circuits including the mountain region in central Kenya.

Speaking at the reopening of the iconic Treetops Lodge in Aberdare National Park, located in the central Kenyan county of Nyeri, Gachagua said tourist numbers are already surging, amid peace and product diversification.

"We want visitors to come and view Kenya as a haven and a good destination for tourism," he said.

Regarded as a crucial part of Kenya's history and heritage, the Treetops Lodge is linked to the British Monarchy and it is where the late Queen Elizabeth was staying in 1952 when her father, King George VI died and she promptly ascended to the throne.

In 2021, the lodge was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but its renovation and reopening is expected to revive the mountain tourism circuit in central Kenya, create new jobs and boost public coffers.

Gachagua said the projected increase in tourist numbers after a slump experienced at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022 will accelerate economic growth and foreign exchange earnings. He noted that the government has come up with fiscal and regulatory incentives to spur investments in the tourism sector which contributed about 350bn/- to the Kenyan economy in 2023.

According to Gachagua, the government has invested in security, upgrading of road networks, targeted marketing and benchmarking with other established markets to revitalize the travel and hospitality sectors.

Francis Gichaba, chairman of the Kenya Tourism Board, a state-funded tourism marketing agency, said the country is expected to receive 3 million tourists by December, aided by the showcasing of new attractions.

Gichaba disclosed that a new campaign to promote domestic travel will be launched soon to sustain bookings amid uncertainties occasioned by foreign tourist arrivals.

Nigerian president demands end to deadly protests

LAGOS

NIGERIAN President Bola Tinubu has appealed for protests to end after "bloodshed" during three days of demonstrations over a deepening cost of living crisis.

At least seven people have died and more than 700 have been arrested since Nigerians nationwide rallied on Thursday for the first of 10 planned "days of rage".

"My dear Nigerians, especially our youth, I have heard you loud and clear," the president said in a televised address, adding that he understood their "pain and frustration".

He went on to defend his economic reforms, which the protesters blame for their hardships since he came to office in May 2023, including skyrocketing prices.

The president said the protests had been hijacked by looters in some areas, and ending the unrest would create room for dialogue.

But Mr Tinubu did not indicate that he would reverse his policies, which include removing a petrol subsidy or ending the peg of the local currency to the dollar.

The demonstrations were organised via social media using the hashtag #EndBadGovernance and inspired by the recent success of protesters in Kenya, who forced the government there to scrap plans to increase taxes.

Tinubu said "the wanton looting of supermarkets and shops" was contrary to the promise of protest organisers.

The protests in Kano city drew the largest crowds on the first day, with police firing live bullets and tear gas to try and disperse thousands of demonstrators. Looting was also reported.

"As a president of this country, I must ensure public order," the 72-year-old president said in his speech on Sunday morning.

"Our government will not stand idly by and allow a few with a clear political agenda to tear this nation apart."

Amnesty International has put the death toll at 13 nationwide and on Sunday called on Kano's governor to "set up an independent judicial commission of inquiry to investigate the killing of at least 10 hunger protesters".

Some in Kano went on to ignore the lockdown order and a few of those that gathered in suburbs of the city on Friday and Saturday were filmed waving Russian flags and calling on Russia's President Vladimir Putin for help.

By Sunday this sentiment was being reflected on WhatsApp with protesters changing their profile photos on WhatsApp to the Russian flag, some with the words "Rasha Uwa", which means "Russia our mother" in the Hausa language.

Others are posting memes to Kano groups saying: "We Nigerians are dying of hunger and our leaders don't care. Please President Putin of Russia come to our aid."

In the capital, Abuja, security forces fired tear gas for a third day on Saturday to stop protesters marching from a

stadium - designated for them to gather - on the city centre.

Businesses, which were closed during the first protests, began to reopen in Lagos and parts of Abuja on Friday.

But flights to places like Kano from Lagos have been cancelled indefinitely.

It is not clear if the president's address will be able to assuage the anger of young Nigerians - but first indications suggest not.

Following the speech, a youth leader in the northern city of Kaduna posted on Facebook in Hausa: "Tomorrow everyone will come out with the Russian flags."

Abiodun Sanusi from the Take It Back Nigeria movement, one of the organisers of the protest, told the BBC. "We can't leave the streets until our demands are met."

He urged the president to allow protesters to march to the centre of Abuja and meet them there.

"If the president wants to have a dialogue, we urge the president to meet

with us at Eagle Square, in the presence of all Nigerians and live on television.

"We are not interested in any secret meetings."

Mr Sanusi added that the protesters were unhappy about the threat from the defence chief on Friday that the military would "act" if violence continued.

"Only the police should be on the streets, and they should be peaceful too."

The police have denied using excessive force during the demonstrations.

Respected Nigerian security analyst Bulama Bukarti warned that the use of Russian flags was spreading and was "potentially dangerous".

"I urge protesters to be cautious and not allow themselves to be manipulated by forces of instability with their own sinister agendas," he said on X.

Following several coups in West Africa in recent years, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger - Nigeria's neighbour to the north - have left the regional bloc and welcomed Russian help in dealing with

The Guardian

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MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024

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

Visiting 'natural wonders' tied to assured incomes, use of holidays

WHILE pupils from various schools have been using the final weeks or months of the current school year touring national parks, there has been an appeal by a leading regional administrator that teachers also need to allocate time to visit the country's tourist destinations and thus help spur domestic tourism.

Yes, they do, and have been doing so for many years, first as an educational opportunity and then as a lifetime experience, moulding the reflexes of young people on the world around them. They make an effort to keep the costs quite low.

How far the pupils or the teachers will for that matter develop a habit of visiting attractions as a periodic need for instance at a time of annual leave is an altogether different matter.

It isn't a routine matter one keeps hearing of or about in offices that this or that employee expects to visit a national park with family during holidays, and alternatively people routinely talk of going to villages to see parents or close relatives.

The fact that there is instant connection these days has definitely cut down this sort of anxiety; there are multiple points of interactions taking people to villages.

While conservation authorities like the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) look for strategies to regularly be assured that those visiting any of our attractions come back sometime later, the same is being felt inwardly.

Many of those touring any of those attractions when in primary or secondary school aren't always imagining when they will be back there. The little curiosity

that creeps up the mind is solved by tuning into animal life channels on television, and even on mobile phones.

Conservation authorities figure out that visiting the various attractions is a matter of proper marketing work outside the country as well as education within the country, and thus the latest appeal to teachers.

Had dome background work been conducted it would have been discovered that 'budget tourists' save a portion of their earnings during the working year to travel during their annual holidays.

Here we also save money, but essentially it is to buy useful items for the home and build a likeable dwelling place, in the city and in the village.

Looking at the two situations, it is noticeable that many foreign tourists embark on holiday travel for a "change of air" - and where else but to see the wonders of nature.

It is an aspiration that 21st century marketing looks much like 'tasting the difference,' where the difference is another place in stark contrast with the high-rise apartment scenario many people are used to. With us, there is 'difference' when we go to the villages and see our relatives, or show our presence with some property - be it in urban areas or in villages. No 'third dimension' exists for natural wonders.

We shall thus need to change society substantially such that one doesn't have to build an own house, as it were, but just obtain an apartment and pay gradually. We also need to be urban-based to see contrast in nature and marvel at it, while now we are full of nature. We are still villagers.

Stability in livestock rearing can help forestall intrusions

YET another reminder has been issued at top-government levels on the need to prevent pastoralists from letting livestock into farming areas.

The problem is about feeding livestock in farms, with the herders concerned denying responsibility and therefore not even caring to apologise.

This has applied in most instances livestock have move into farms, with some people merely talking generally about intermittent but never-ending conflicts related to land ownership and use pitting livestock keepers against farmers. Next in the order of preference after such disputes come invasions by wild animals, chiefly elephants, hippos, buffalos and crocodiles. People commonly lament these 'conflicts' between beasts and villagers, the blame often falling on 'human activities'.

Even with an improved comprehension of the issue, or rather the stark admission that the issue is about livestock invading farms instead of periodic disputes between the two sets of land users, the directive from highest levels of government to end the issue is not going to be easy.

The Livestock and Fisheries ministry has been detailed to liaise with regional commissioners towards preventing incursions into farms, as this will help reduce periodic conflicts threatening the peace. Guidelines to that effect were issued at the recent launch of an annual agro-sector produce and services showcasing event, this year the thrust being on embracing visionary leadership for agricultural transformation.

That is indeed what is needed to end the recurrence of such conflicts so that livestock keeping be-

come a stable activity on a defined piece of land for an individual user and not a collective activity where families and clans move livestock to wherever they want.

So long as this freedom of movement is enshrined in the law, tied up with a situation where individuals don't own land and herders can't be asked why they keep migrating, little will change.

In fact, it isn't the ministry or RCs who can stop migrations but, rather, police drone surveillance.

A preliminary issue here is that it is hard to instruct herders to stop migrating when they see all open land as usable for their purposes except if they meet equally warlike adversaries on land use - wildlife rangers.

There were recently reports of members of community auxiliary militia having been dispatched ostensibly to stop herders and even, if necessary, impound their livestock. It is reports add that this nearly led to nasty scenes suggesting near-violence. Some advice: Livestock herders need to be put on specified land and not just by mapping it and landing state-guaranteed loans to build water reservoirs for drinking and irrigating patches of land.

The ministry and regional administrators have been tasked to work together in devising and executing good land use plans, including training farmers and herders how best to apply modern methods when conducting their activities.

The issue of land titles and clear prohibition of migrating and thus direct access to cattle dips is equally important. The problem is to prefer appeals at the expense of seeking strategic solutions in clearing the key user gaps.

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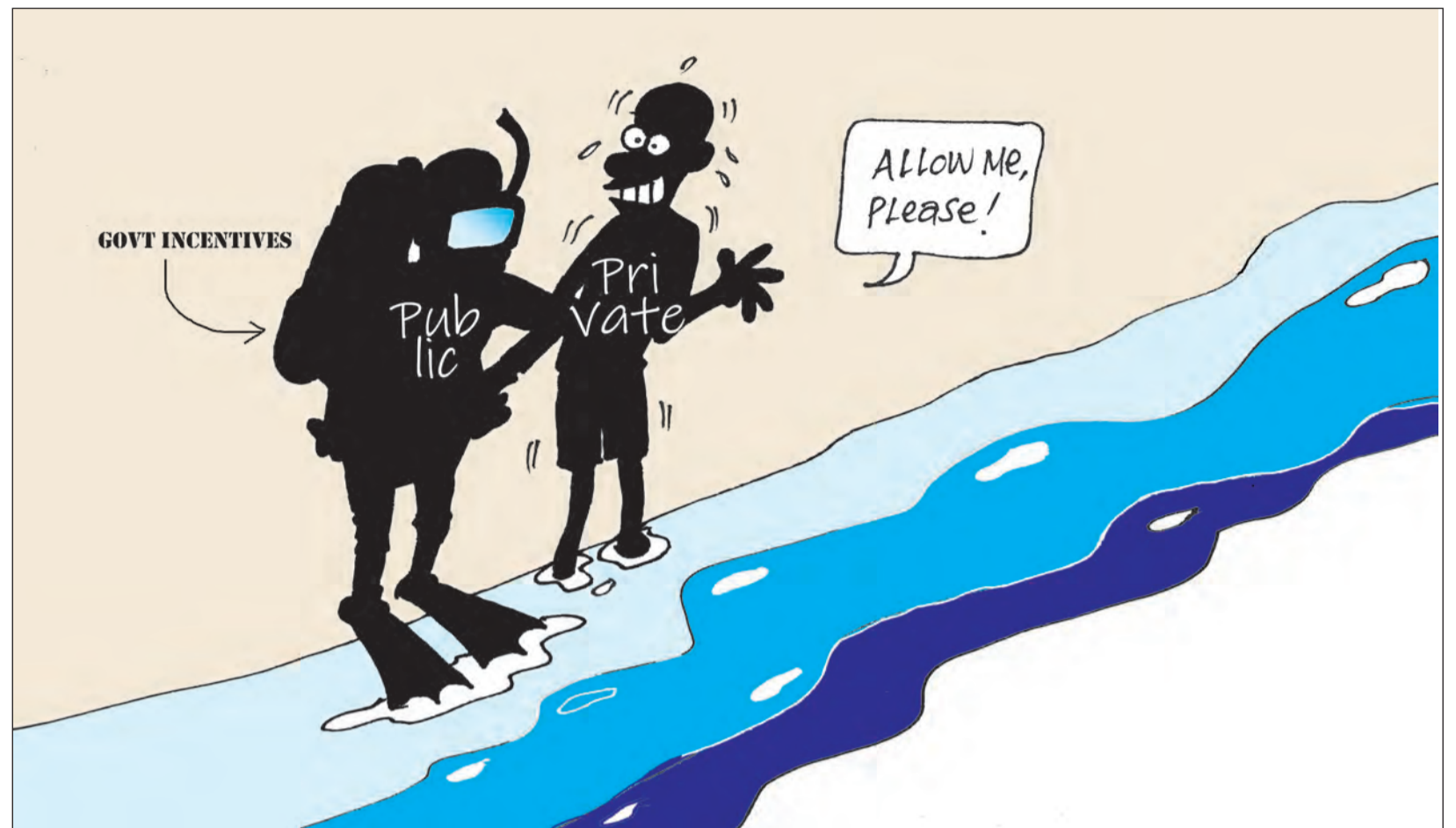
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Here is why you want a really boring job...

By KayDee

"THE only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." Now, that is from Steve Jobs, that American businessman, inventor and investor best known for co-founding technology firm Apple Inc.

But wait, what? Is this not the article on boring jobs? Why on earth would I start my article off with a quote that goes totally against the premise?

The thing is that we've been fed such a steady diet of "follow your passion" and "do what you love" that we've got a collective case of career FOMO.

FOMO is the acronym for the 'fear of missing out', or the feeling or perception that other people are having fun, experiencing new things or leading better lives than you.

But what if I told you that the ticket to living your best life actually involves a boring job? Sounds like crazy talk, right? Like saying, "Hey, wanna have the time of your life? Go watch paint dry!" But hear me out.

First of all, let's work out what we mean by a "boring" job. That is, not soul-crushing and mind-numbing work that has you head-butting your keyboard.

We are talking about predictable, stable and, yes, perhaps a little drudge-like jobs where you are not constantly fighting fires or reinventing the wheel. If anything, they are those kinds of jobs that don't come home and trouble your dreams.

Now, why in the world would anybody want that? Imagine this: it's 5 pm on a Friday. You're just packing up your stuff to head out for the weekend.

Stressed-Out Steve is still there, bending over his desk, mumbling about deadlines and client presentations. You, beaming, head for your weekend. That is what real power at work looks like, courtesy of a boring job.

But, wait, there's more! I sound like an infomercial, don't I? Bear with me.

The hidden benefits of a boring job

Mental Real Estate: When your job doesn't demand every ounce of your brainpower, you've got room for other stuff. Maybe you've always wanted to write that novel about a time-travelling cheese maker. Or perhaps you've been itching to learn how to juggle flaming chainsaws.

If you had some mundane job, your mind would begin to wander and roam. It was quite literally like waking up to a blank canvas every day, just waiting for splatters from your imagination.

Stress? What Stress?: You remember Stressed-Out Steve, right? Don't be like Steve. More often than not, a boring job corresponds to less stress. And with less stress comes better health, better sleep, and more energy

to do all the things one loves doing. It's almost a domino effect of worries melting away.

Financial Stability: Boring jobs are often just stable. And stable jobs translate into steady paycheques. You know what's really exciting? Being able to pay your bills without breaking into a cold sweat. You're like a financial ninja, conquering your expenses without drama, as silent as can be.

Work-Life Balance: This isn't just some tin-pot buzzword, folks. It's the holy grail of modern existence. No more 2 a.m. email responses or sweaty anxiety dreams about PowerPoint presentations. Your personal life gets to be, well, personal.

Energy for Side Hustles: A non-stimulating day job might just give you the energy and mental space to pursue your passions on the side. You know, it kind of feels like having a secret identity!

Appreciation for Excitement: You will find out how to get excited about other things when your job is boring. You may learn, in fact, to more appreciate the little things. It's like your boredom at work becomes a springboard for joy in other areas of your life.

Mastery and Efficiency: Now, here's the shocker - you can actually get really good at whatever it is that you're doing because of those boring jobs. When you don't have to learn new things every day, actually, you have time to perfect your current skills. Efficiency is like your superpower.

Time for Self-Reflection: A boring job gives you time to think. About life, the universe, and everything. You may discover hidden depths in yourself that you never knew existed. It's like having a daily meditation session, but you're getting paid for it.

Relationships Flourish: You'll have more energy for relationships when your job doesn't consume your life. Your friends and family all benefit from the time you have available and energy free from stress.

Weekend Appreciation: Nothing beats a dull week to make you truly, sincerely love your weekends. All of a sudden, Saturday morning feels like Christmas. You savour those instances of free time like it were the last pizza slice at the party.

We're meant to be lonely. And, it's actually good for us. But I know what you're thinking: "But what about personal growth? What about challenging myself?"

Well, personal growth doesn't have to happen at work. In fact, some might say that true personal growth happens outside of work, when you're free to explore your own interests and passions without the pressure and expectations that come with work.

Let me share something personal. A few years ago, I had one of those jobs that probably sound "exciting" to many people. I traveled nonstop, met new people, and worked on complex problems - so it looked good on paper.

But, in reality, I was completely burned out. My personal life was in pieces. I literally don't remember reading a book for fun anymore.

It was then, one day, after a mistaken identity, I ended up in a "boring" job. At first, I was worried. Would I turn dull? Would my brain turn to mush?

But you know what happened instead? I rediscovered me. I took up painting. I started volunteering at an animal shelter. I finally learned how to cook something other than instant noodles. And you know what? I was happier than I'd been in years.

Now, I'm clearly not advocating that anyone rush out and seek some no-brainer job because of that. But I am suggesting that perhaps, just perhaps, we've been looking at this all wrong.

Perhaps the key to a life of excitement is not found in an exciting job. Maybe it's a job that allows you the freedom to create a life of excitement outside the job.

Of course, caveats abound. A boring job does not

mean a toxic job. If you are just undervalued or mistreated at work, that is another story altogether. Here, what we're talking about is a job that's stable, predictable, and allows you to have a life outside of work.

Now, how do you actually find this mythical boring-but-great job? A few tips: Look for industries known for stability: Government jobs, certain corporate positions, and others - like established industries - oftentimes hold the type of stability we are talking about.

Prioritise work-life balance in your job search: Key into companies that seem to hold employee well-being and work-life balance at par.

Consider your skills and interests: A "boring" job can be satisfying if it plays towards your strengths and lets you feel competent.

Don't fear routine: Routine doesn't need to be a pejorative. It can be reassuring, and it can give you parameters to most of your life.

Seek bounded jobs - jobs that let you leave the work at work are gold. Just keep in mind that a job is something that takes you through life. It doesn't define you.

What defines you is the choice of the life you want to live, the relationships you nurture, and what you are most passionate about - that which gives you a foothold on making a difference in your world.

So the next time someone asks: "What is it that you do?" and you catch yourself saying: "Oh, I have this pretty boring job," keep your chin up to say that, because you know very well that that boring job is a launchpad to an exciting life.

And who knows? Maybe one day, on a beach, using the money from that boring job that funded your dreams, you'll say: "Thank goodness for boring jobs."

So here's a toast to the pencil pushers and data entry experts, filing clerks and all others in such unsung hero roles in the land of those boring jobs: You're not just employees; you're life enthusiasts in disguise. Embrace the boredom, and let it propel you to greatness in all other areas of your life.

Life is what one makes it, isn't it? And sometimes the greatest way to make life amazing is to have a really, really boring job.

KayDee, a former investment banker, writes about self-improvement, spirituality and economy for 'Long, Sweet, Valuable.'



**Mastery and Efficiency:
Now, here's the shocker
-you can actually get really good at whatever it is that you're doing because of those boring jobs. When you don't have to learn new things every day, actually, you have time to perfect your current skills. Efficiency is like your superpower**

By Adonis Byemelwa

Tanganyika Law Society: From election heat to renewed leadership under Boniface Mwabukusi

THE Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), a cornerstone of Tanzania mainland's bar association, has been a formidable force in shaping the legal landscape since its establishment by an act of Parliament in 1954.

Over decades, TLS has stood as a bastion of legal integrity and advocacy, influencing pivotal legal reforms and championing the rule of law. Its legacy of fostering legal excellence and upholding justice has made it an indispensable pillar in Tanzanian society, continually driving progress and ensuring the protection of fundamental rights for all.

According to the TLS website, its mission is to create a conducive environment for the legal fraternity, facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge, represent, promote, and protect members, support state organs in legislation and administration of the rule of law, and assist the public in accessing justice sustainably.

Unlike other professional associations, TLS has recently stood out for its unique community engagement, especially during its annual election season. This year, however, saw a slight decline in election fervor as Professor Edward Hosea successfully defended his presidency, easing some of the usual tensions.

Professor Hosea, who campaigned on a platform of "Constructive Dialogue," won with 621 votes against his competitors, Harold Sungusia and Jeremiah Mtobesya, who garnered 380 and 145 votes, respectively.

TLS elections have historically been dynamic, not just within the society but also externally, due to the association's significant advisory role to the government and its institutions.

Established by legislation in 1954 as a professional association for lawyers in the country, TLS's primary responsibilities are outlined in section 4 of the Tanganyika Law Society Ordinance.

These duties include uniting, defending, and supporting the welfare of lawyers in Tanzania, advising the government and its organs such as the Parliament and the Judiciary, and safeguarding the interests and welfare of Tanzanians.

Over the years, TLS has experienced varied leadership styles. Notably, in 2017, Tundu Lissu, now the vice chairman of Chadema, was elected TLS president. His tenure was marked by intense friction between TLS and the government, which accused the society of political interference rather than focusing on its foundational goals, escalating conflicts between the two entities.

In March 2017, then-Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs, Dr Harrison Mwakembe, threatened to dissolve the society if it continued to engage in political activities.

The following year, Fatma Karume, a prominent activist, was elected president. Her tenure continued the tradition of tension between TLS and the government, especially as the society was perceived to adopt an activist stance.

On September 20, 2019, Fatma was suspended from her legal practice by the High Court for allegedly attacking the Office of the Attorney General. Although she was disbarred by the lawyers' ethics committee, her license was reinstated on June 21, 2021.

With this year's TLS elections, attorneys Julius Mtatiro and Ally Kileo conducted a thorough analysis of the six candidates: Boniface Mwabukusi, Ibrahim



Mwabukusi (2nd-L) has pledged to restore the association to its foundational principles as outlined in Section 4 of the

Code of Ethics. him Bendera, Emmanuel Muga, Revocatus Kuuli, Paul Revocatus Kaunda, and Sweetbert Nkuba.

Mtatiro, in his July 31, 2024 statement, emphasized the diverse leadership qualities and experiences of the candidates, each capable of bringing unique changes or challenges to the TLS presidency.

Reflecting on the future of TLS, Mtatiro questioned what type of president the society needs in the current national context. He pondered the expectations of lawyers, particularly young lawyers, from the next TLS president, and what lessons TLS could learn from organizations like the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) and the Black Lawyers Association (BLA).

He underlined the need for a president who would continue and emphasize the crucial foundations laid by predecessors such as Professors Edward Hosea and Harold Sungusia while correcting areas that require improvement.

TLS, he noted, needs a president who is professional, calm, and persuasive, with a vision that can be realistically implemented without haste. This leader should unite all lawyers, serve as a vital link between TLS and the government, and avoid turning into a "rabble-rouser" spreading hatred based on political activism or party allegiance.

Young lawyers, according to Mtatiro, are like their peers worldwide, desiring rapid changes in key areas. They need good mentors and leaders who can foster stability and a broad understanding of issues, helping them become exceptional lawyers in the future.

He emphasized the importance of building a solid ethical foundation, as outlined in various laws and the 2022 Lawyers'

Code of Ethics.

In terms of international best practices, Mtatiro suggested that TLS could learn from PALU and BLA, which strategically and professionally champion human rights and work closely with governments and international legal bodies to influence legislation for justice and equality. These associations also offer significant legal support to underserved communities and provide training to lawyers to enhance their professional capabilities.

The recent election had seen Boniface Mwabukusi victorious, receiving 1,274 votes out of 2,218 cast, followed by Sweetbert Nkuba with 807 votes. Other candidates, Ibrahim Bendera, Paul Kaunda, Emmanuel Muga, and Revocatus Kuuli, received 58, 51, 18, and 7 votes, respectively. Upon his victory, Mwabukusi expressed his commitment to restoring TLS to its foundational principles as outlined in section 4 of the TLS Act.

"I will start with section 4 of the TLS Act to ensure the society fulfills its mandate," Mwabukusi stated, emphasizing the goals of uniting, defending, and supporting lawyers, advising the government and its organs, and protecting the interests of Tanzanian society.

When questioned about his confrontational reputation, Mwabukusi assured adherence to legal principles, stating, "People say I am confrontational, but I am guided by rules, laws, and the Constitution. I speak the truth, whether good or bad, without bias."

Mwabukusi cited his legal battles as examples of his commitment to the rule of law, including his 2020 parliamentary run in Busokelo, where he sought legal recourse after alleging electoral malpractice. "I went to court rather than inciting people. I was

the only Tanzanian candidate to do so," he noted.

He promises to uphold TLS's strategic plan from 2021 to 2025, ensuring accountability to its members and service to the community. He highlighted his 14-year legal career, during which he has defended citizens in various disputes, including land and human rights issues. "TLS must align with the needs of the people, especially in matters of the Constitution, good governance, human rights, and just laws."

Regarding constitutional reforms, Mwabukusi pledged to advocate for a new constitution, stating, "TLS must ensure we get a new constitution and uphold the law. We will stand with the people in all our responsibilities."

Lugano Mkisi, a newly graduated member of the TLS and a tax management expert, praised Mwabukusi's commitment to legal principles and his strategic vision for society. "Mwabukusi's approach reflects a deep understanding of TLS's role and its critical relationship with the government and judiciary," Mkisi remarked.

Mwabukusi's presidency marks a pivotal moment, with the legal fraternity and broader Tanzanian society keenly observing how his leadership will shape the future of TLS and its impact on the rule of law and justice in the country.

Tanzanian human rights activist and renowned journalist Ansbert Ndurumo commends Mwabukusi's win, dismissing all challenges posed by Sweetbert Nkuba, who threatens court action. Chadema Vice Chair for Tanzania Mainland, Tundu Lissu, also praises Mwabukusi's victory, highlighting his potential to bring significant positive change. Uprighting is needed in childhood for it is going to determine what the child will be when he or she becomes an adult.

Although parents would blame their chil

Central bank maintains its lending rate to stabilise rising inflation

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

IN July this year, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Board of Directors of Central Bank of Tanzania (BoT) decided to keep the benchmark lending rate unchanged at six percent which was introduced in early April for the second quarter.

The same rate is commissioned to continue by the Board of Directors for the third quarter of the trading period that is applicable effectively from July to September 2024. The central bank aims at stabilizing the rising inflation in the country.

The bank rate is the rate of interest which is charged by a central bank while lending loans to a commercial bank. In the event of a fund deficiency, a bank can borrow money from the central bank of a country.

Decisions by MPC members are a move towards sustaining the country's economic growth for the purpose of boosting consumer and business spending, thus helping to sustain the momentum of economic recovery.

Members of MPC of the central bank which held its quarterly meeting in early July this year, said in its final report that, 'implementation of monetary policy in the previous two quarters has successfully anchored the inflation rate in the country'.

This was after evaluating an overall assessment of the economic outlook in the country and at a global level market and found that is entirely based on the macro-economic forecast.

The instigation of the move means that Tanzania's economy is expected to continue growing strongly, food supply to be adequate and exchange rate pressures to moderate owing to increased foreign exchange inflows from tourism, gold, as well as cash crops and food.

According to the report by MPC members, domestic economic conditions have improved significantly in the recent past at the back of implementation of policies and reforms for fostering high economic growth.

The outlook also is positive, driven by expected favourable weather for agriculture, adequate power supply, improvement in infrastructure (especially railways, roads and ports), as well as policies and reform programs.

The report on summary of assessment of the recent performance of the economy and outlook which was signed by BoT Governor, Emmanuel Tutuba showed that, "the country's economy continued to grow by 5.1 percent in 2023 compared to 4.7 percent in previous



Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba

year 2022.

The main growth drivers were agriculture, mining, quarrying, construction, and financial intermediation (mainly credit to the private sector). Tourism, which cuts across many activities, also contributed to the strong growth.

Similarly, the Zanzibar economy expanded by 7.4 percent in 2023, compared to 6.8 percent in 2022, driven largely by tourism activities, food services, construction, and real estate. Economic growth is projected to be high in the second half of 2024 and the years ahead.

The country's inflation remained below the target of 5 percent and consistent with the East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) convergence criteria. In April and May 2024, inflation was 3 percent and

3.1 percent, respectively.

Economic and monetary conditions contributed to strong private sector credit growth and stability of the financial sector. On annual basis, private sector credit growth averaged 16.4 percent during the second quarter of 2024, compared with 17.1 percent in the preceding quarter.

The banking sector remained liquid, profitable, and adequately capitalized; with deposits, assets, and loans increasing. Asset quality improved, as reflected by a lower NPL ratio of 4.4 percent in May 2024, below the tolerable level of 5 percent and 5.5 percent recorded in the corresponding period in 2023.

Other factors considered by MPC members are that, in April and May 2024, inflation was at three percent and 3.1 percent, respectively largely as a result of low food

inflation complemented by prudent monetary and fiscal policies.

Tanzania's foreign exchange reserves remained adequate, above \$ 5 billion at the end of June 2024, sufficient to cover more than 4 months of projected imports, while foreign currency liquidity improved slightly towards the end of June 2024, attributable to a gradual increase in foreign flows from tobacco, gold, and tourism.

The current account position continued to improve, as the global economy normalizes from economic shocks. Exports improved on account of gold, tourism and traditional crops, meanwhile imports increased at a lesser extent than exports.

As a result, the current account deficit is estimated to have narrowed to \$ 959.2 million in the quarter ending June 2024 compared with \$ 977.8 million in the cor-

responding quarter in 2023.

"There is anticipation of a further increase in foreign exchange inflows from tourism, mining, traditional exports, and export of food to neighbouring countries" said the report.

BoT joins Kenya, Uganda and Rwandan central banks that are cautiously loosening their monetary policy positions to strengthen consumer and business spending powers that have been significantly eroded by high cost of loans and high cost of goods and services which are adversely impacting economic growth rates in the region.

Available statistics from EAC partners states shows that, in January this year the Bank of Kenya raised its bank rates to 13 percent, Rwanda 7.5 percent, whereas in Uganda the rate stands at 10 percent.

According to the Bank of Burundi the benchmark interest rate has been fluctuating after it was last recorded at 12 percent. Interest rate averaged 9.22 percent from 2007 until 2023, reaching an all-time high of 16.24 percent in July of 2012 and a record low of 5.0 percent in December of 2022.

The National Bank of Rwanda (NBR) on May 2024 reduced its central bank rate by 50 percent and remained at 7.5 percent, attributing the policy shift to declining inflation and the slowing pace of exchange rate depreciation.

The Bank of Uganda's MPC maintained its central bank rate at 10 percent up to June 2024, but now the domestic inflation has risen moderately lower than previously projected largely due to the exchange rate.

In Kenya, the MPC met on June 5, 2024 and decided to retain the policy rate at 13 percent, arguing its previous measures have lowered overall inflation to the midpoint of the target range, stabilised the exchange rate and anchored inflationary expectations.

MVIWATA's rural tourism programme helps bolster conservation, improves smallholder farmers' livelihoods

By Correspondent Zuwen Shama

RURAL tourism refers to tourism activities that take place in non-urban areas. It allows visitors to experience and enjoy the rural way of life, which includes natural landscapes, traditional cultures, and agricultural practices.

It provides a unique opportunity to visitors to explore and appreciate the simplicity and beauty of rural life while supporting the economic and cultural vitality of the regions.

The national network of small-scale farmers groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA) collaborates with villagers in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Morogoro, and Zanzibar in ensuring rural tourism is effectively practiced by local families.

MVIWATA implements the initiative in collaboration with a French-based organisation—TAMADI, for purposes of boosting rural tourism and create a platform where visitors from abroad will have chance to tour smallholder farmers and learn their traditions in their homestead.

Through this collaboration, travellers from various parts of the country come to Tanzania to engage with and learn from local communities.

TAMADI also works with other peasant organizations, notably La Via Campesina, an international peasant movement, with the primary goal of demonstrating that alternative tourism is viable. The approach allows people to experience and appreciate diverse cultures without harming or encroaching on the environment, cultures, or resources of the host communities.

The hosts in this model are often smallholder farming families living in selected villages, which are organized into various tour circuits.

Majority travellers come from France and Belgium, which have long been leaders in this type of cultural exchange. The approach has provided economic, social, political, and environmental benefits to the involved communities.

MVIWATA also receives a portion

of the income generated from the touristic activities. It uses the funds to support various network activities, including members training, meetings and infrastructure development. Socially, the funds are used to build or improve schools, hospitals and roads.

Rural tourism fosters conservation efforts as villagers are motivated to protect their forests, environment and water sources since they are integral to their culture, wealth, and identity.

One of the rural areas where this kind of tourism is practiced is Bumbuli ward in Bumbuli District, Tanga Region. In interviews with local families, it was noted that, historically, locals viewed white people as superior, which led to a fear of interaction.

However, this type of cultural exchange has significantly changed this perception. Locals are now engaging with visitors more openly, seeing them as regular people who can learn from them.

Cultural interaction raises concerns about potential behavioural changes that might not be perceived as beneficial to local communities. With this type of tourism, travellers are encouraged to respect and adhere to local cultural norms and traditions, treating their hosts as guests rather than typical tourists.

As part of the exchange, travellers learn Swahili and other tribal languages, adopt local dress styles, observe eating habits, and participate in celebrations, food production, and preparation.

When visitors come to Tanzania, their primary goal is to understand Tanzanian culture, lifestyle, and to build meaningful relationships with local communities. They actively engage in community activities, contributing to social events and daily life.

To ensure a positive experience and minimize challenges, the program has established criteria and conditions for visiting these communities. Visitors are aware that they are entering rural areas and are expected to follow local customs, including modest dress and behaviour.

The program also opens up entrepreneurship opportunities by aligning rural tourism activities with local traditions and promoting businesses related to Tanzanian culture. For instance, the Maasai community interacts with farmers and spice producers particularly in Zanzibar.

Mlidhani Hatuwezi, a farmers' group in Pongwe, Zanzibar is one of 16 villages participating in the rural tourism programme. The group, with 35 members, is involved in algae farming, goat and poultry keeping, and soap production using materials from their algae farms.

The group provides food, accommodation, and demonstrations of agricultural, handicraft, and cultural activities to visitors. Tourists pay a substantial amount to the group, and the income is divided among members, with some funds allocated to support their agricultural activities through the group's bank account.

Execution of income generating activities has led to an increase in group membership from 20 to 35 and formation of additional farmers' groups in Pongwe village.



Travellers in one of the villages in Zanzibar

Asha Hamis, Chairperson of the Mlidhani Hatuwezi group from Pongwe in Unguja Island, shared with The Guardian that the group has experienced significant direct benefits. Their number of goats has increased from five to 33, chickens from ten to 70, and algae farms from two to 17.

The group is also working on a project to construct a building that will serve as both an office and an algae farm store. Indirect benefits include improved health and sanitation through the construction of toilets and hygiene training.

"As a smallholder farmer, I feel proud to welcome travellers to my village. We showcase our daily activities, including farming, traditional foods and beverages, handicrafts, and cultural practices," said Hamis.

She shared that, as a farmer, she never imagined interacting with outbound travellers, let alone sharing Unguja's local foods with them.

"It is a privilege. We were used to seeing tourists stay in luxury hotels in Zanzibar, but this project has enriched us and made us proud of our culture and values. Our translators help us overcome language barriers, allowing us to communicate effectively with tourists," Hamis added.

Daniel Wilson, a host family member in Kwalei Ward, Bumbuli District, Tanga Region, noted that the program began in 2010 with 18 villages participating, and they have been welcoming tourists annually.

Following the growing number of visitors each year, the existing accommodations are insufficient, prompting construction of additional houses to meet the demand and to harness the benefits for the villages.

Wilson explained that the group conducts evaluations to assess the arrival of visitors, address challenges, and explore future opportunities for improvement.

"To enhance our services, we have sent two villagers to a tourism college to develop their skills in the service industry. They are now sharing their knowledge with other villagers," Wilson told The Guardian.

Sara Vicent, a villager in Kwalei ward said the programme experienced difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic but rebounded with increased number of visitor, which has greatly motivated the community.

"This programme under MVIWATA has brought many travellers to our area; it has motivated us to preserve our culture. We have also built additional houses. Many people appreciate the Bumbuli environment, particularly the mountains and the local people. The benefits have allowed us to construct school toilets to ensure hygiene amongst children," Vicent noted.

Maria Petro, a Bumbuli villager and MVIWATA member, noted that visitors come to the villages to learn about and experience Bumbuli's cultural traditions.

"They enjoy our traditional food, with some even joining us in the kitchen to observe, while others visit the farms to see our harvesting and planting processes. They observe and learn about our village life," Petro explained.

She highlighted that visitors take pleasure in diverse traditions, such as dancing traditional Kisambaa dances and learning the Kisambaa language, which they pick up quickly.

She said many visitors enjoy interacting with village children, photographing the mountains and valleys as well as participating in local activities like coffee gatherings. Some traditional foods that visitors particularly enjoy include chapati, peanuts, ugali, cassava, coffee, vegetables and fruits.

Theodora Pius, Head of Programs at MVIWATA, explained that rural tourism organized by the network involves multi-day trips called circuits, which currently include 15-day and 22-day options.

"Visitors gain insights into various aspects of our culture, including rituals, traditional foods and their significance, and how we celebrate and mourn. They also learn about our food, language, games, agricultural techniques, and various production methods from the local communities," Pius told The Guardian, noting that visitors normally visit communities in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Morogoro regions as well as Zanzibar.

Currently, the trips begin in Kilimanjaro Region, specifically in the villages of Mlima Shabaha, where visitors observe livestock farming and agricultural activities. In Arusha Region, tourists explore the Tarangire area, stay with local villagers, with accommodation and food costs covered by MVIWATA members.

"Under this arrangement, all costs related to accommodation, food, and other expenses are paid directly to the host families, most of whom are MVIWATA members. A special arrangement for sharing the income helps boost their economic activities," she added.

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NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

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			Shaaran Seif Suleiman (Tanzanian)	35
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2.	Fast Fibre Tanzania Limited	National Network Facilities	Vodacom Tanzania PLC (Tanzanian)	50
			CIVH UK Holdco Limited (British)	50

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Issued on 5th August 2024.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND TAX ADVISORY SERVICES and PROVISION OF CONCRETE EQUIPMENT RENTAL SERVICES REFERENCE NO.: MST-TZ-20240805

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for onshore Marine Terminal and Storage Facilities of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable Service Providers that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to express their interest in providing the above mentioned Services for the EACOP projects.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are two (2) planned Packages, Interested and qualified companies may apply either of the packages or both BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Package 1: Provision of Professional Consultation and Tax Advisory Services(MST-TZ-20240805-001)

The scope of services shall include but not limited to:
a. Provide professional consultation and advisory services in compliance with the Tanzania Tax laws.
b. Identify potential audit issues and develop strategies to address them.
c. Assist in preparing necessary documentation and responses for the auditors.
d. Provide professional representation during audit meetings and negotiations.
e. Negotiate on behalf of our company to resolve any tax disputes or disagreements.
f. Analyze the audit results and advise on any additional tax liabilities or refunds

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Service Providers expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

a. Company Profile;
b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).
c. Certificate of Registration and Extract (BRELA), TIN Certificate, Valid Business license and relevant permits.
d. Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
e. An experience list for similar services provided to OIL & GAS INDUSTRY in the last Three years, especially in tax exempted projects;
f. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
g. Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database, or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Package 2: Provision of Concrete Equipment Rental Services (MST-TZ-20240805-002)

The scope of services will be provision of construction equipment rental services, including but not limited to: Mobile Crane, Truck, Scissor lift, Batching plant, Concrete mixer trucks, nitrogen generator and other construction equipment. The equipment should be in good condition, either new or manufactured within the last three years.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Service Providers expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

a. Company Profile;
b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).
c. Certificate of Incorporation (BRELA), TIN Certificate, Valid Business license and relevant permits.
d. Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
e. A proven track record of experience in providing similar services in the last 3 years;
f. ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO 45001:2015) OR Equivalent certificates
g. OSHA Compliance Certificate
h. Self owned batching plant and Concrete Mixers and capacity of establishing batching plant on site.
i. Other certificates and Permits required by the Government
j. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
k. Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database, or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended

Interested Service Providers with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents for package 1 to Sunchao@docgl.cn, suchenghe@docgl.cn, zahara.chaidlo@docgl.cn and for Package 2 to pa@docgl.cn (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 18th /August/2024. Subject of the email should be **MST- TZ-20240805 [Package No.] -EOI- [SERVICE PROVIDER NAME]**.

Service Providers satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by DOCG.

Note: DOCG reserves the right not to consider Service Providers that submit an incomplete dossier. Only prequalified Service Provider will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

Jitters over uneven application of EAC common external tariffs

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

EAST African Community's partner states have been urged to uniformly apply the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) to enhance intra-EAC trade, investment and regional value chain.

Simon Kaheru, East African Business Council (EABC) Vice Chairperson made the call here over the weekend when officiating the EABC webinar focusing on "Post-Budget 2024/25 - Disparities in the Application of EAC-CET and Impact on EAC Businesses," organized in partnership with the EAC Secretariat and RSM Eastern Africa.

Kaheru elaborated that the EAC-CET is an essential instrument of the EAC Customs Protocol. It facilitates intra-trade and creates a level playing field in the EAC Customs Territory by providing a uniform tariff structure for products imported outside the EAC bloc.

However, the Stays of Applications and Country-Specific Duty Remissions continued to be applied, diluting its effectiveness and distorting the market.

He stated that there is a need for public-private dialogues and private-to-private partnerships to drive the uniform implementation of the EAC-CET in order to boost intra trade.

Adrian Njau, EABC acting executive director stated that the previous CET maximum rate was a 3-band structure with a maximum tariff rate of 25%.

The current EAC-CET, successfully adopted in 2022, is a 4-band tariff structure with the maximum tariff rate of 35% that promotes value addi-

tion, regional value chain integration, intra-EAC trade, and safeguards products that are sufficiently produced in the region against similar imports outside the EAC bloc.

He stated that, according to the EABC Analysis 2022, the EAC-CET maximum tariff of 35%, if implemented effectively will increase intra-EAC trade by \$18.9 million and create 6,781 jobs.

In his presentation, Donald Tindamanyire, Principal Customs Officer Tariff and Valuation at the EAC Secretariat, stated that Partner States agreed to adopt 35% as the maximum tariff after analysis showed that it will increase revenue by 5.5%, boost intra-regional trade, reduce importation, promote value addition, attract FDI, and create employment opportunities for East Africans.

The benefits are unlikely to be attained because of the non-uniform application of the agreed CET. Persistent stays of applications (SOA) and country-specific duty remissions, for example, in the 2024/25 financial year, there are 1,956 tariff lines under stays of applications.

Uganda takes the lead with 901, followed by Kenya with 816, Rwanda with 116, Tanzania with 89, and Burundi with 24.

According to Tindamanyire, the SOAs were mainly on products that attracted a 25% import duty, accounting for 77% of all SOAs, followed by products that attract a 35% import duty, accounting for 25% of all SOAs.

Categorization of SOAs by value chain sector shows cotton, textiles, and apparel take the lead with 621 tariff lines under SOA, followed by iron and steel, and agro-processing tariff lines in the financial year 2024/25.



Adrian Njau (pictured), acting Executive Director of EABC, said the CET ought to promote value-addition, regional value chain integration, intra-EAC trade, and safeguard products that are produced in abundance in the region.

Josphat Karanja, Manager of Tax Consulting at RSM Eastern Africa, explained that the lack of uniform application of the EAC-CET creates an unlevelled playing field since production attracts different import duties across countries, distorting the market.

The annual stay order applications, which are effective for only one year, lead to uncertainties for manufacturers and traders, thus affecting crucial business decisions.

He said the EAC-CET was put in place to protect the common interests of various partner states through the protection of specific sectors. Lack of uniform application of the CET thus loses its intended objective.

The webinar convened over 100 industry leaders and government officials in the region. The industry leaders reemphasized the importance of the CET as central to driving intra-trade and called for political goodwill to ensure its uniform application.

Other key recommendations include the need to build productive capacities in the region, harmonize private sector positions on CET, protect local industries, apply regional duty remission schemes to promote East African manufacturers, develop industrial infrastructure for priority value chains such as leather to promote value addition, continue creating awareness of the EAC-CET Version 2022 among both public and private stakeholders to achieve its objectives, promote dia-

logue between the private and public sectors to address emerging issues regarding the implementation of the EAC-CET, form a common position on the rate to be applied on products of economic importance, assess the impact of EAC-CET 2022 on FDI and inter/intra-regional investment, assess national and regional productive capacities, and address challenges leading to the constant application of SOAs, especially for the agro-processing, textile, and apparel sectors.

Activists challenge pharm company Gilead over HIV medication

MUNICH

CAMPAIGNERS and experts have demanded a breakthrough HIV intervention hailed as "the closest thing to an HIV vaccine" must be made available as soon and as cheaply as possible to all who need it as its manufacturer faces protests over its pricing.

Activists led a massive protest during the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS2024) in Munich last week as a study was presented showing lenacapavir—a drug currently sold by pharmaceutical firm Gilead for more than USD 40,000 per year as an HIV treatment—could be sold for USD 40 per year as a form of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to help prevent HIV infection.

Community groups working in prevention, as well as experts and senior figures at international organizations fighting HIV, called on the company to ensure it will be priced so it is affordable for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which account for 95 percent of HIV infections.

"It is no exaggeration to call lenacapavir a game changer. It could be life-changing for some populations. We need to see it produced generically and supplied to all low- and middle-income countries to the people who need it," said Dr. Helen Bygrave, chronic disease advisor at Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) Access Campaign.

During the event, data from a trial of lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injectable, were presented. The results of the trial were announced by pharmaceutical firm Gilead last month and showed the drug offered 100% protection to more than 5,000 women in South Africa and Uganda.

Many experts and community leaders helping deliver HIV interventions who spoke to IPS described the drug as a real "game changer," offering not just spectacular efficacy but relative ease and discretion in delivery—the latter key in combating stigma connected with HIV prevention intervention in some societies—compared to other interventions, such as oral PrEP.

But they warned there were likely to be challenges to access, with



Activists protest during the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS2024) in Munich over affordable pricing for a drug currently sold by pharmaceutical firm Gilead.

cost expected to be the main barrier.

Lenacapavir is currently approved only as a form of HIV treatment at a price of USD 42,000 per person per year.

While as a PrEP intervention it would be expected to be sold at a much lower price, an abstract presented at the conference showed that it could cost just USD 40 a year for every patient.

In a statement put out following the protests, Gilead said it was developing "a strategy to enable broad, sustainable access globally" but that it was too early to give details on pricing.

Critics claimed Gilead was not being transparent in its statement—the company talked of being committed to access pricing for high-income, resource-limited countries rather than specifically low- and middle-income countries—and there are fears that the price at which it is eventually made available as PrEP will be so high as to put it out of reach of the countries that are struggling most with the HIV epidemic.

"Cabotegravir, a two-month injectable form of PrEP, is currently being procured by MSF for low-income countries for USD 210 per person per year. We would not expect [the price for lenacapavir] to be higher than that, and we would hope it would be more 'in the ballpark' of USD 100 per person per year," said Bygrave.

She added that "questions have been asked of Gilead about its pricing for lenacapavir, and

the company has been pretty vague in its answers." "Civil society needs to put continued pressure on Gilead about this issue because, without that pressure, I do not trust Gilead to do the right thing," Bygrave, who took part in protests at the conference against Gilead's pricing, said.

Some speakers at the conference set out a series of demands for the firm.

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, called on Gilead to license generic manufacturers to produce it more affordably through mechanisms such as the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), a UN-backed programme negotiating generics agreements between originators and generic pharmaceutical companies.

Others, such as keynote speaker Helen Clark, Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, said such interventions must be seen as "common global goods, and ways must be found to make them accessible to all."

"The pharmaceutical industry has been the beneficiary of much public research investment. With respect to HIV/AIDS, it has benefited from the mobilization of scientists and engaged communities who have advocated for investment in R&D and treatments. Prima facie, the notion that the companies can then make great profits from and not share the intellectual property created is wrong," she said.

Others went even further, accusing some

pharmaceutical firms of being parties to the creation of a de facto global two-tier system for medicine supply.

"Companies must share their medicines. We cannot accept an apartheid in access to medicine in which the lives of those living in the Global South are not regarded as having the same value as the lives in the North," Archbishop Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Cape Town and HIV advocate, said at a UNAIDS press event during the conference.

Some of those who work with key populations stressed the need to push through all necessary approvals and set lenacapavir's price at an accessible level as quickly as possible to save lives.

"It's great to have innovation and get important new tools in the fight against HIV. But the question is: how long will it take to get them to the people who need them? Until then, they are just a great announcement—like a beautiful picture hanging up there that you can see but cannot actually touch. We need to give communities the funding and the tools they need to do their vital work," Anton Basenko, Chair of the Board of the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), told IPS.

The calls came as campaigners stressed the exceptional potential of lenacapavir. It is not only its astonishing efficacy, but also its relative ease and discretion of delivery, which ex-

perts are excited about.

Stigma around HIV prevention, such as oral PrEP, which involves taking daily tablets, has been identified as a major barrier to the uptake of HIV interventions in some regions.

Some HIV healthcare specialists at the conference told IPS they had seen cases of women leaving clinics with bottles of tablets and, as soon as they heard them rattling in the bottle, threw them into the bin outside the clinic because the noise would tell others they were taking the tablets and leave them open to potential discrimination, or even gender-based violence.

"The lack of oral PrEP uptake and adherence among women and girls is due to a number of factors, such as stigma and worries about being seen with a huge bottle of pills. What about if you are in a relationship and your partner sees the bottle and starts asking whether you are cheating on them or something?"

"A woman could go and get a lenacapavir injection a couple of times a year and no one would have to even know and she wouldn't have to think about taking pills every day and just get on with her life. This drug could change lives completely. I would definitely take it if it was available," Sinetlanda Gogela, an HIV prevention advocate from Cape Town, South Africa, told IPS.

The concerns around access to lenacapavir at an affordable price for low and middle income countries come against a background of record debt levels among poor countries, which experts say could have a severe negative impact on the HIV epidemic.

A recent report from the campaign group Debt Relief International showed that more than 100 countries are struggling to service their debts, resulting in them cutting back on investment in health, education, social protection and climate change measures.

Speakers at the conference repeatedly warned these debts had to be addressed to ensure HIV programmes, whether they include lenacapavir or not, continue. Many called for immediate debt relief in countries.

"African debt needs to be restructured to let countries get hold of the medicines they need," said Byanyima.

"Drop the debt; it is choking global south countries, denying us what we need for health. Please let us breathe," said Makgoba.

The US President's Malaria Initiatives supports interventions to combat, eliminate the disease

TANZANIA is among the top 11 countries globally in terms of malaria infections and deaths. However, the significant reduction in malaria prevalence in the country is attributed to a collaborative effort between the government, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the Global Fund and various malaria stakeholders. The Guardian interviewed Naomi Serbantez, PMI Resident Advisor and Malaria Team Lead at USAID/Tanzania, on how the initiative has played a pivotal role in the fight against malaria. Here is an excerpt:



Naomi Serbantez, PMI Resident Advisor and Malaria Team Lead at USAID/Tanzania

Q: Can you tell us what the U.S. President's Malaria Initiatives (PMI) is? Which projects does it support and for how long has it been in the country?

A: As Tanzania's largest bilateral donor, the U.S. government provides substantial assistance to Tanzania and sponsors a wide range of programs across many sectors, especially in the health and educational sectors. Among them, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is a U.S. government program launched in 2005 to reduce malaria-related deaths and illness around the world. It is managed by a partnership between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and focuses on malaria high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Southeast Asia and Latin America.

In 2006, Tanzania was among the first three countries to receive funding under PMI. To date, Tanzania has received more than \$747 million dollars to support the fight against malaria in both mainland and Zanzibar.

The key objective of PMI is to complement the Government of Tanzania's efforts to control and eliminate malaria through interventions like distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women, and prompt diagnosis and treatment of malaria.

PMI is improving the skills and abilities of health workers, enhancing supply chain management for malaria commodities, and supporting surveillance and monitoring systems. PMI also supports research to develop new malaria control tools and strategies by fostering innovations to improve the effectiveness of existing interventions.

Q: You are the first Tanzanian woman to be appointed U.S. President's Malaria Initiative USAID Resident Advisor and Malaria Team Lead at USAID/Tanzania. What does this milestone mean to you and the public health profession? What is the benefit Tanzania as a country is benefiting from your role?

A: This appointment is a significant milestone both personally and for the public health profession. It recognizes my expertise, dedication, and contributions to malaria control and public health, validating the hard work and commitment I have invested in combating malaria and improving health outcomes in Tanzania.

Representing my country at such a high level is a source of immense pride, and I hope my achievement will inspire other Tanzanians, especially young professionals, to pursue careers in public health and strive for excellence. This role brings a great responsibility to lead and positively impact malaria control efforts. It also provides an opportunity to bring local insights and perspectives to PMI's strategies, ensuring they are effectively tailored to the Tanzanian context.

My appointment demonstrates the growing recognition of the capabilities and potential of local health professionals. It highlights the importance of involving local expertise in leadership positions to address health challenges more effectively. This milestone underscores the value of investing in professional development for health workers, encouraging more initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of local professionals in the public health sector.

Having a Tanzanian in this role strengthens partnerships between local and international stakeholders, enhancing collaboration, ensuring better alignment with national priorities, and fostering a more

inclusive approach to malaria control and public health initiatives. This achievement serves as a role model for aspiring public health professionals, demonstrating that with dedication, hard work, and the right opportunities, they can attain leadership positions and contribute significantly to their field.

With a local perspective in a key advisory role, there is potential for more culturally and contextually appropriate interventions, leading to more effective strategies and a greater impact on malaria control efforts. As a woman in leadership, this appointment adds to the diversity of leadership in global health initiatives, highlighting the importance of representation and inclusivity in tackling global health challenges. It reflects global recognition of the progress and potential in Tanzania's public health sector, potentially attracting more attention and resources to support ongoing and future health initiatives in the country.

Overall, this milestone is a testament to the progress in public health in Tanzania and the value of local leadership in global health initiatives. It signifies a step forward in achieving more effective and sustainable health outcomes through inclusive and collaborative efforts.

Q: As the US President's Malaria Initiative's (PMI) USAID Resident Advisor and Malaria Team Lead, leading the second largest global PMI program with programming at \$44 million per year, can you tell us how the funds are spent in fighting malaria in the country?

A: Managing a significant program with a large budget, it is critical to allocate these funds strategically to maximize the impact on malaria control and elimination. By strategically allocating funds across WHO proven interventions, the PMI program reduces malaria transmission, decreases malaria-related morbidity and mortality, and ultimately, will achieve the goal of malaria elimination in the country.

Q: What are the key malaria projects which PMI is currently giving priorities in the country?

A: In Tanzania (both mainland and Zanzibar), PMI focuses on several malaria interventions to combat and eventually eliminate malaria. The areas of highest priority includes, Vector (Mosquito) Control - PMI supports the procurement and distribution of mosquito-treated bed nets to households and primary schools, and it prioritizes vulnerable groups, such as children under five and pregnant women, through continuous bed net distribution through antenatal care (ANC) and immunization clinics.

Another area is on case Management whereas PMI focuses on strengthening malaria diagnostic capabilities by providing rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and enhancing laboratory services to ensure accurate and timely malaria diagnosis. Ensuring the availability and distribution of effective antimalarial drugs, particularly artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), to health facilities and community health workers as well as Malaria in Pregnancy, the support that ensures pregnant women receive preventive treatment during their antenatal visits to protect them and their unborn children from malaria.

Q: Malaria prevalence rate in Tanzania dropped from 14 percent in 2015 to 7 percent in 2022. Tell us how collaboration with PMI helped the country achieve this milestone.

A: The significant reduction in malaria prevalence in Tanzania is attributed to a collaborative effort between the Government of Tanzania, PMI, the Global Fund, and various malaria stakeholders. PMI complements the efforts of the Government of Tanzania by supporting the National Malaria Strategic Plans.

Q: Zanzibar faced a malaria surge despite past successes because of climate change. How is PMI combating this challenge to ensure there won't be resurgence?

A: PMI, together with the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP) and other malaria stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Health Zanzibar, is

actively addressing the challenge of malaria resurgence in Zanzibar. Recently, this resurgence has been associated with climate change and the resultant prolonged rains last year.

The key strategies that are being deployed to combat this issue and ensure sustained malaria control include; enhancing surveillance and response by strengthening malaria surveillance systems to detect and respond to malaria cases promptly. This includes real-time data collection and analysis to track malaria trends and identify outbreaks early; implementing early warning systems that incorporate climate data to predict malaria outbreaks, allowing for timely interventions and resource allocation; implementing integrated vector management by distributing insecticide treated nets and conduct targeted indoor residual spraying campaigns in high-risk areas to reduce mosquito populations; adapting to climate change adaptation by developing strategies that are resilient to climate change. For example, promoting environmental management practices to reduce mosquito breeding sites, such as draining stagnant water, managing waste properly, and taking other measures to minimize breeding habitats; improving access to diagnosis and treatment by ensuring the availability and use of malaria test kits in health facilities. It is critically important to have access to effective antimalarial drugs and ensure that healthcare workers are trained in proper case management; ensuring community engagement and behavior change campaigns to educate communities about the importance of using insecticide-treated nets every night, seeking prompt treatment, and other preventive measures. This includes engaging community leaders and members in malaria control activities, fostering ownership, and encouraging participation in prevention efforts and strengthening health systems by working closely with the Government of Tanzania, local health authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure coordinated and comprehensive malaria control efforts.

Q: The projection is that Tanzania will be able to eradicate malaria by 2050. Tanzania is still among the top 11 countries globally in terms of malaria infections and deaths. How close or far are we from this goal?

A: Tanzania has made progress in reducing malaria cases, but achieving eradication by 2050 demands intensified efforts, innovation, and ongoing collaboration among governments, international organizations, NGOs, and local communities. While aspirational, this goal remains feasible through sustained commitment and comprehensive strategies that ad-

dress the complex challenges of malaria. By implementing these strategies and fostering collaboration across sectors, Tanzania can significantly reduce malaria infections and deaths, moving closer to the ultimate goal of elimination.

Q: Former President Jakaya Kikwete advised the Tanzania End Malaria Council to ramp up efforts using successful strategies in light of the prevailing challenges. What is the outlook?

A: The outlook for malaria control in Tanzania involves a concerted effort to scale up successful strategies while adapting to emerging challenges. With political will, sustained funding, private sector and community engagement, Tanzania can make additional strides towards reducing malaria burden and move closer to the goal of elimination.

Q: How does PMI support government-led initiatives to combat malaria?

A: PMI's support for government-led initiatives to combat malaria is comprehensive and strategic, focusing on strengthening health systems, enhancing malaria prevention and control interventions, improving surveillance and monitoring, fostering innovation, and advocating for sustained commitment and partnerships. By working in partnership with governments and other stakeholders, PMI contributes significantly to efforts aimed at reducing the malaria burden and ultimately achieving its malaria elimination goals in affected countries like Tanzania.

Q: What are the top three tips to protect yourself and family from malaria?

A: The main three tips are, sleep under an insecticide-treated mosquito bed net every night. Mosquitoes that transmit malaria are typically active during nighttime. Ensure that the bed nets are intact and properly treated with insecticide; seek prompt diagnosis and treatment for fever. If you or your child develops symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, or fatigue, seek medical attention promptly, especially if you live in or have traveled to a malaria-endemic area. If diagnosed with malaria, complete the full course of antimalarial medication as prescribed by healthcare professionals to ensure effective treatment and reduce the risk of transmission and elimination of mosquito breeding sites around your home, work site, and places where you spend leisure time. You can reduce mosquito breeding and the resultant risk of malaria infection by draining stagnant water, using larvicides where applicable, and ensuring proper waste disposal. By following these tips consistently, you can significantly reduce the risk of malaria infection for yourself and your family.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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BUSINESS

SPECIAL REPORT

Cooperatives playing critical role in environmental conservation-6



Grace Monyo, plant breeder lead at TaCRI's coffee crop improvement department, displays some of the coffee varieties developed by the Institute. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Research agency comes up with 23 varieties of disease-resistant coffee in bid to boost production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) has successfully managed to develop at least 23 hybrid coffee varieties which are tolerant to diseases, targeting at facilitating farmers to boost productivity.

The hybrids that have been developed in different agricultural seasons include nineteen varieties for arabica, tall and compact, and four for robusta coffee.

The vital development in the country's coffee growing corridor was unveiled at the weekend by Grace Monyo, the plant breeder lead at TaCRI's Coffee Crop Improvement Department during the ongoing 31st Tanzania Agricultural International Exhibitions.

She observed that for years the majority of local farmers were demoralized by several coffee crop diseases, the grim situation which compelled some to quit from the sector.

"The most upsetting diseases on the crops include coffee berry and coffee leaf rust for arabica, and coffee wilt disease for robusta varieties," she expressed.

The plant breeder argued that the release of the useful varieties have motivated the majority of growers to revamp cultivation of coffee beans.

She unveiled that the tall arabica hybrids that have been developed by the state-owned coffee research institute as N39-1, N39-2, N39-3, N39-4, N39-5, N39-6, N39-7, KP423-1, KP423-2, KP423-3.

Others in the category in question are N39-8, N39-9, N39-10, N39-11 and N39-12.

"The robusta varieties that have been developed include Maruku 1, Bukoba 1, Maruku 2 and Muleba 1," she added.

On the other hand, Monyo pointed out that the compact arabica hybrids that have been developed include TaCRI 1F, TaCRI 3F, TaCRI 4F and TaCRI 6F.

Apart from growing potential, Monyo said the varieties are useful in terms of production and productivity, saying they are enabling farmers to yield up to

5,000kg per acre.

"The varieties are also very useful when it comes to beverage quality, they produce good bean sizes with pleasant aroma," the coffee plant pundit expressed.

Following the encouraging response from the farmers to adopt the hybrids, she said demand for the varieties keep on skyrocketing to surpass the institute's production capacity.

In addressing the challenge, she said TaCRI is working with farmer's groups, and the municipalities with coffee cultivation to ensure enough seedlings are produced and made available to the farmers.

She said the institute was producing the hybrids through different ways, including clonal propagating, seeds, crafting and tissue culture, among others.

And through the institute's technology transfer unit, she said coffee farmers in the country are trained over the important, and professional ways in adopting use of the hybrids in replacement of the old plants.

TaCRI was incorporated in 2000 as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital under the Companies Ordinance (CAP. 212), and it became legally constituted and operational in September 2001 with the major objective of rejuvenating the Tanzania coffee industry, placing new emphasis on stakeholder-led, demand-driven research for development.

Objective of TaCRI is to rejuvenate the Tanzania coffee industry by placing new emphasis on the role of stakeholder-led and client demand-driven research for development.

The Institute provides a crucial public service to stakeholders in the country's coffee industry by providing coffee producers with relevant and practical technological innovations and advice to improve productivity and quality but also enhance profitability and livelihoods for coffee producers and increased competitiveness of Tanzanian coffee on the world market.

By Francis Kajubi

Cooperative unions engaged in tobacco farming have been urged to consider solid investments in alternative clean energy sources infrastructure for drying-up the crop.

The energy transformation agenda is being proposed for the sake of conserving the environment and mitigating possible climate change implications that might be accelerated by the tremendous cutting down of trees.

The shift to clean energy sources from wood for drying-up tobacco leaves will complement the realization of the sustainable development goal No. 13 (SDG 13) which obligates countries to observe dedicated actions towards mitigating climate change related effects.

Dr Cyril Komba, Senior Lecturer and Dean Faculty of Cooperative and Community Development, Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) shared the advice recently in an interview with this journalist.

Dr. Komba was of the view that for the environment to be properly protected and conserved, cooperative unions must apply modern methods of production, yield storage facilities and drying-up of agricultural products.

He advised that energy sources out of nature such as the heat of the sun should be continuously embraced by farmers in drying-up crops thus containing the possibility of climate change effects.

"Cooperative unions must be used as platforms in the campaign to foster environment protection and advocate for change of mindsets and people's behaviour regarding the implications of cutting down trees for drying-up agricultural crops such as tobacco," said Dr. Komba.

He explained that cooperative unions must utilize their resources to the fullest in encouraging sustainable production and better use of natural resources such as water, forest and land.

According to Dr. Komba, through cooperative unions farmers can be empowered to use the best farming methods that protect the environment and increase agriculture productivity.

"Concerted efforts are needed to combat the prevailing trend in cutting down of trees despite mere progresses that have already been achieved;

For instance, as of June



A visualisation on the importance of environmental conservation in relation to climate change effects. File Photo.

2024, more than 351 AMCOS have participated in tree planting campaigns in the areas of their operations across the country," said Dr. Komba.

According to him, in the pursuit of achieving sustainable development goals by responding to climate change through cooperative unions and individual members, environmental protection strategies such as forests conservation, water sources management, and the application of organic farming are basics that must be observed by all stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

"Alongside the arising operational challenges holding back cooperative unions progress, the sector has been involved in sensitizing communities on environment conservation and sustainability," said Dr. Komba.

Emmanuel Masaga, ELCT Northern Diocese SACOS, Head of Information, Communication and Technology Department, said that towards sustainable environmental conservation, the SACOS has been running a program to distribute 6,000 seedlings to each member of the society so that they can participate in planting them in their farms and in public open spaces according as per the guidance of the respective local government authorities where they reside.

Ress Mashurano, Chairperson Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU) said the union made up of 141 AMCOS owns a tree farm covering 550 hectares.

He said the trees have been part of the carbon project which is expected to commence production of carbon for export before the end of this year.

This journalist has established that initiatives observed by cooperative unions towards environment conservation and sustainability of the nature are in line with obligations

stipulated by the National Environmental Management Act No. 20, 2004 Section 6 which states: "Every person living in Tanzania shall have a stake and a duty to safeguard and enhance the environment and to inform the relevant authority of any activity and phenomenon that may affect the environment significantly."

Kassim Masengo, Manager of Mahanje Saccos in Madaba District Council in Ruvuma region revealed that in protection of the environment and avoiding climate change effects by reducing consumption of trees in drying up agricultural products, the Saccos with 1,860 active members in the financial year 2022/23 had planted 1,450 trees across the district.

Masengo said the trees have been planted in hospitals and health centers, schools and in the open spaces of local government authorities.

Alfred Kifewe, member of Changombe AMCOS in Tabora municipality said that the AMCOS had during the just ended 2023/24 financial year planted 19,800 seedlings in the municipality to close the gap of trees that are cut for drying up thousands of tons of tobacco.

According to him, every member of the AMCOS is responsible for taking care of 412 seedlings ensuring that they grow up into mature healthy trees.

The critical role played by cooperative union with regard to planting of trees with the intention of protecting and conserving the environment is aligned with Article 27 (I) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania 1977 which states: "Every person has the duty to protect the natural resources of the United Republic, the property of the State authority, all property collectively owned by the people.

The National Environmental Policy 2021 indi-

cates that the rate of deforestation for firewood, charcoal and construction purposes is estimated at 469,420 hectares per year.

Deforestation is rampant in unreserved forests. The Policy states that Tanzania Mainland has 48.1 million hectares of forests and woodlands, representing 55 percent of the total land area.

On the other hand, the report on the Status of Environment focusing on Land Degradation, Forest Degradation and Deforestation by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for 2018/19 financial year shows that 54 percent of the local government authorities (LGAs) indicated that the level of deforestation was getting worse as years pass by.

Sebastian Masika, Chairperson Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) which is formed by 33 AMCOS from Mbeya and Songwe regions said that in the 2022/23 agricultural season five million seedlings were planted and in the 2023/24 agricultural season seven million seedlings were planted for protecting the environment and replace the trees that are cut down for drying up tobacco.

Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe said that in regulating the current use of trees in drying up of tobacco, the ministry has consulted the Tobacco Research Institute of Tanzania (TORITA) to identify alternative energy sources that can be used in the drying up of the cash crop.

"We tried to use coal and realized that it produced a lot of heat that was burning the tobacco. We are now trying to see if bricks made of straw and the heat from the sun can be used to dry tobacco to reduce deforestation," said Bashe.

Bashe said that even if someone cuts and plants, the trees take up to three years to grow well, so there is a gap attributed

to the daily cuttings. He suggested that on the way forward tobacco should be dried up with steam to protect the environment.

He asserted that within the next two years the use of trees in drying up tobacco will be resolved with the use of alternative clean energy sources.

According to Bashe, in order to protect the environment against deforestation for tobacco drying, 78bn/- is needed to build modern tobacco burning centers that use electricity with the capacity to dry up to 300,000 tons per year.

"We have tasked the Tobacco Board of Tanzania to determine the required burning centers for all cooperative unions across the country. We are going to hire a contractor who will build and manage them for at least three consecutive years. The initiative will help to achieve the tobacco production and processing goal of at least 300,000 tons per year without posing environmental threats," said Bashe.

He said apart from the environmental issue, many farmers in the unions have been securing loans on high interest rates worth between 2mn/- and 5mn/- on a yearly basis to build local tobacco burning furnaces.

Juma Shishi, Manager Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) said that in Chunya district there is a need for 90,000 tobacco burning furnaces of which there exists only 44,700.

"However, these tobacco burning furnaces use trees where approximately 80,000 trees are being cut down every season to dry up the harvest. Deforestation is a threat to climate change. We need to be empowered to use renewable energy sources to conserve trees and the environment," said Shishi.

To be continued.

Bank supports govt initiatives in tourism industry

By Francis Kajubi

In a bid to support the government's strategies in boosting the tourism sector by capitalizing on the development of sustainable infrastructure the DCB Commercial Bank has sponsored a trip for over 1,000 teachers through the SGR train from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro with extension to Mikumi National Park.

The trip aims at promoting domestic tourism and helps the teachers learn different relevant issues that will improve experience

in their ways of teaching in schools.

Speaking shortly before the commencement of the trip at the SGR station in Dar es Salaam yesterday, DCB's Chief Executive Officer, Sabasaba Moshingi, said that the bank had collaborated with the office of the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner to provide these teachers with the opportunity to visit Mikumi National Park.

He said the learnt experience will help them teach their students about the tourism attractions they witnessed.

"DCB is owned by the Dar es Salaam City

Council, where these teachers are coming from. I advised them to use our bank's improved services, such as savings accounts, various insurance options, and loans with favorable terms, to improve their lives and avoid falling into the hands of institutions offering loans on unfavorable conditions," he said.

The bank's Business Director, Ramadhan Mganga, stated that DCB is the true lifeline for the lives of Tanzanians as it provides various services and products that meet the banking needs for all. He encouraged the

teachers and all Tanzanians to take advantage of the services.

Additionally, he said that to facilitate the trip, the bank hired 30 buses that will transport the teachers from Morogoro to Mikumi, as part of appreciating the teachers' contributions to the bank's development.

Speaking earlier at the event, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila commended DCB for organizing the teachers' trip. He stated that his office would continue to organize trips for other groups as part of a long-term strategy to pro-

mote the SGR train.

"The tour will not only enhance the teachers' knowledge through the Mikumi visit but also boost the ongoing Royal Tour campaign," he said.

The commercial bank was established in 2002 in response to the call of the third phase President, the late William Benjamin Mkapa, following the capital cries of low and middle-income residents of Dar es Salaam who were unable to obtain loans from many commercial banks due to the strict criteria set by those banks.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

Board embarks on installing of cashew processing facility

THE Cashew nut Board of Tanzania (CBT) has embarked on preliminary works for the project to install a vast cashew nut processing industrial zone in Mtwara region.

Expected to be set up at a plot covering 1,572 acres in Maranje village, in Mtiniko ward of Nanyamba Town Council, the envisaged multibillion project focuses on ensuring that all cashew produced by farmers in the country is processed before reaching markets by 2030.

Japhari Matata, CBT's Acting Manager for Morogoro branch held yesterday at the ongoing 31st Tanzania Agricultural International Expo in Dodoma, said implementation of the robust project has commenced, covering at least 354 acres at the area.

Among the works that have been already executed include the installation of electricity, water and road infrastructures, saying the project was at an impressive pace of implementation.

The other ongoing basic works include installation of two major warehouses, each with capacity to store 10,000 tons of raw cashews, as well as fencing of the potential economic area.

According to him, upon completion, the project will see setting up of a total of 30 cashew nut processing plants, six cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL) mills, four sesame processing mills and factories for making other cashew nut byproducts alongside other products used in the cashew crop value chain.

The other development, according to him, will incorporate construction of 30 warehouses for storing raw cashew nuts and other raw materials.

As per the project's setup, CBT is responsible for the installation of all necessary in-



CBT's acting manager for Morogoro branch, Japhari Matata, explains achievements made by the board in the cashew nut sector at the ongoing Nane Nane exhibition in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

frastructures, whereby diverse potential cashew nut stakeholders from within and outside the country will be invited to invest into the cashew nut processing plants.

"The board will work to inspect and ensure the prospective investors are installing the

modern processing facilities in order to attain needed cashew nut quality in the international markets," he briefed.

Dwelling over other plans, he said the project will also see construction of other structures such as supermarkets, housing for workers, sports

fields, restaurants, gas station, police station, fire station and service center for investors.

"We have already started to market the project to possible investors who can chip-in and invest, of whom some have so far expressed interest," he said.

He said the investors will benefit from the numerous investment incentives to be offered by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC).

Matata said investors who wish to invest in the bare land will have to pay \$1 per square meter on yearly basis, whereby renting a warehouse fetches \$4 per square meter a month.

"Renting an office space will fetch \$7 per square meter a month, and the investors will be given a leasehold for a period of 33 years with renewable possibilities as well as a derivative right to own the land," he said.

He said the processing plants to be installed at the state-of-the-art cashew hub will have capacity to process all cashew produced in the country, currently standing at 310,000 tons a year.

"The CBT's target is to have the country produce up to 700,000 tons by 2025/26 harvest season, the tonnages which will as well be processed all at the economic zone," he clarified.

"In Tanzania cashew is largely cultivated by smallholder farmers with an average of 2.5 acres. We are committed to enabling

them to expand their cultivation coverage in order to stand a better chance of avoiding food insecurity," he said.

CBT Director General Francis Alfred said the government has injected 7.5bn/- in facilitation of the project's basic works.

Alfred implementation of the project the board is applying the National Competitive Bidding in order to get proper local contractors.

Tanzania is one of the largest cashew producers in Africa, with exports ranging between 10 and 15 percent of the country's foreign exchange. The country is the eighth-largest grower of cashew nuts in the world and ranks fourth in Africa.

Data depict that Tanzania produces at least 20 percent of Africa's cashew nuts and only trails in production of Nigeria, Côte D'Ivoire, and Guinea-Bissau, according to figures by United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

Tanzania is well known for its cashew nut production, the nuts are nicknamed 'green gold' due to its exceptionally good taste and the high return on investment.

Despite the success, only 21 percent of the raw cashew nuts is processed locally, with the 79 percent being exported to India and Vietnam for value addition before reaching consumer markets of Europe and America.

Recently a significant increase in cashew nut processing has been witnessed as a result of tremendous efforts by the government through CBT to uplift cashew processing within the country from around 5 percent in 2021 to 21 percent to date.



The Koncept Group Founder and Chief Executive Officer Krantz Mwantepele (R) toasts with a cross-section of the company's employees during an event to commemorate the company's 9th anniversary in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar's digital firm mulls opening of office in the UAE

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian digital company-Koncept Group, is set to open a new office in Dubai later this year to tap into the United Arab Emirates (UAE) market as part of its growth strategy.

Krantz Mwantepele, the firm's founder and Chief Executive Officer unveiled the ambitious plan in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when celebrating its 9th anniversary, reflecting a remarkable journey and the profound impact the company has made on brands and communities across the country.

The digital advertising, marketing, and Public Relations agency in Tanza-

nia has played a pivotal role in redefining the boundaries of creativity and business.

Mwantepele said the agency has continued to evolve to meet and anticipate the needs of its clients thus emerging as a top agency in Tanzania, recognized for its exceptional marketing and PR strategies.

"The last 9 years have been a remarkable journey. We are grateful for the trust our clients have placed in us and the exceptional work our team has delivered. We are excited for the next chapter, where we will continue to push boundaries, leveraging data and technology to empower brands to thrive both across Tanzania and on a

regional stage."

He expressed gratitude to past and present staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence, even in challenging times.

"As we embark on our 10th anniversary, we will stay committed to data-driven PR, Marketing, and sustainability practices. Our agency stands as a shining example of how a forward-thinking approach can revolutionize an industry and leave a lasting legacy."

Mwantepele noted that with digital media quickly becoming the perfect complement to traditional media, his company has embarked on an ambitious plan of developing a creative suite of products that amplify its clients' brand awareness and enhance engagement.

"We will continue focusing on three key areas that include enhancing the reputation of clients, building their brand, and delivering successful business outcomes," he stressed.

Commenting on being recognized as one of "Africa's 10 Most Empowering Business Leaders to Follow in 2024," Mwantepele said, "This is a humbling honor that fuels my commitment to driving positive change."

TCRA urges mobile phone users to go for online economic profits

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has urged consumers to go for online economic opportunities and cautioned them to be vigilant when using communications services for their safety to avoid thefts and fraud through mobile phone and internet networks.

Eng. Asajile John, TCRA Manager for Central Zone-Dodoma made the call over the weekend here when speaking at the authority's pavilion at the ongoing 31st Nananene Agricultural International Expo 2024, themed: "Embracing Visionary Leadership for Agricultural Transformation".

At the expo, TCRA has become a crowd puller, with communications services prospective investors and consumers, faced with challenges, flocking to and having their problems instantly resolved.

Eng. Asajile advised the

visitors at the pavilion not to respond to any unsolicited messages on mobile phones and instead forward through short messages the suspicious phone numbers to the toll-free code number "15040".

He advised the consumers to verify the status of mobile phone numbers registered using their identity card numbers issued by the National Identification Authority (NIDA). They should dial *106# and follow the displayed instructions.

These are (1) for verifying registration status, (2) numbers registered on their networks using their NIDA numbers, (3) total numbers of SIM Cards registered on other networks using their IDs, (4) to delete any registered numbers and (5) to verify or add new numbers, respectively.

Consumers are also advised that the only authentic number for communication between the service providers and service consumers is "100", adding that if it is not "100" know that it is fraudulent.

lent.

The public is also being briefed on TCRA's Mobile Frequency Spectrum Monitoring Station (MFSMS) and the Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) Radiation Metre, through which TCRA assures the public that EMF radiations are within safety limits in conformity to National and internationally approved standards.

Telecommunication and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)-Digital Services regulated by TCRA have been proven key enablers to various agricultural activities, like knowing weather conditions, sourcing potential markets for agricultural products through online systems, and receiving payments through mobile money and online systems.

TCRA's senior officers in Central Zone, Dodoma, and others from Dar es Salaam have been engaging a steady stream of consumers thronging the colorful pavilion, with issues ranging from quality of services, and tariffs for

mobile voice and data services to safety against online fraudulent acts.

The pavilion is designed as a one-stop center with the presence of representatives from the Union of Mobile Phone Technicians in Dodoma and Sign Language Translators. Telecommunication services providers are also actively participating in the colorful annual event. They include the Tanzania Telecommunication Corporation (TTCL), Airtel, Halotel, Tigo and Vodacom.

There is currently great growth in the Telecommunication Communication Sector, with more than 76.6 million registered mobile phone SIM cards, more than 55.7 million mobile money accounts - which facilitate money transactions and 39.3 million internet users by June 2024, according to the Telecommunication Sector Performance Statistical information, which the TCRA Director General Dr. Jabiri Bakari released in Dar es Salaam recently.



TCRA Officers Semu Mwakyanjala (R) and Joyce Paul attend to a Chinese national at the authority's pavilion during the ongoing 31st Nananene Agricultural International Expo 2024 in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Innovators in ICTs who create solutions to various ICTs-related social challenges are offered free of charge, Valuable Communication Resources of Frequency Spectrum, Numbering, and Domain Names, Dot TZ (.TZ). The Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) has to approve the viability of the innovative project before TCRA gives the resources, said Dr. Bakari.

Telecommunications services reach more than 90 percent of

Tanzanians, according to the statistics. A recent Global Safety Survey Index by the Geneva-based Telecommunication Union (ITU) shows that Tanzania's Line Systems are Second Best on Safety and, hence most secure among the continent's 54 African Countries.

Besides fielding questions, the officers have been providing education on online safety and tips on effective and responsible usage of online, digital services.

TCRA is among over 320 institutions showcasing their services and products at expo grounds and the celebrations climax next Wednesday.

The week-long annual exhibition was opened by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, on 1st August this year where he called on agricultural research institutions to be more innovative to promote productivity and efficiency of agricultural products out in the country.

Financial push to lift promising tech firms

SHANGHAI

Shanghai's recently announced policies to optimize the financial services rendered to technologically advanced companies will promote new quality productive forces and drive high-quality economic development, said experts.

Their comments emerged after a review of the new guideline released by the Shanghai municipal government on Wednesday that called for nurturing more high-quality listed technology companies by giving more play to the capital market.

According to the guideline comprising 24 detailed measures, the STAR Market at the Shanghai Stock Exchange should adapt to the development trajectory of new quality productive forces, and support IPOs of certain technology companies that are yet to turn profitable but boast key technologies, huge growth potential and innovation capabilities. Stock market analyst Wang Jiyue said the green light given to such companies does not apply to every candidate. Companies making bottleneck breakthroughs, show-

ing significant efficiency improvement, achieving groundbreaking research and development results, and promising firm profitability outlook will likely find support if they seek to list despite a record of no profits, he said.

Launched in 2019, the STAR Market is home to 573 listed companies that raised 910.8 billion yuan (\$125.9 billion) from their floats. These companies, mainly specializing in "hard technologies" like integrated circuits, biomedicine and aviation, devoted a combined 156 billion yuan to R&D in 2023, up 14.3 percent year-on-year, according to the SSE.

Sun Lijun, co-head of global banking for UBS Securities, said the capital market's enhanced inclusiveness and valuations based on long-term considerations can encourage technology startups to pursue technological breakthroughs and expand their footprint in the global market.

The new guideline stated that the STAR Market should be moderately inclusive on the valuations of listed companies' mergers and acquisitions. Industry leaders are encouraged to pursue M&A deals or



pick up controlling stakes in companies along the industry chain to consolidate their core operations. Financial institutions are encouraged to provide loans, insurance or bonds for M&A activities.

Given the current pace of global economic recovery and technological innovation, companies can quickly acquire new technologies, expand market share and grow resources via M&A activities, accelerating their own transformation and upgrade, said

Tian Lihui, director of the Institute of Finance and Development at Nankai University.

Efforts should be made to complete the multilevel structure of the capital market so that financial services can be provided to technology companies throughout their entire life cycle, said the guideline. In this sense, Shanghai should build a platform of professional services to provide angel investment as well as investment and financing to companies in

their seed or startup stage.

Meanwhile, the special board at the regional equity market targeting the technologically advanced small and medium-sized enterprises should be consolidated in Shanghai. Efforts should be made to deepen the pilot project for the transfer of private equity and venture capital shares and the pilot project for comprehensive stock option services, according to the guideline.

The multilevel stock market is of special impor-

tance for the expansion of SMEs to provide more financing channels, said Chen Li, chief economist of Chuancai Securities.

An ecosystem featuring long-term investment should be nurtured in Shanghai, according to the guideline. Therefore, long-term capital, represented by the national social security fund, insurance capital and banks' wealth management capital, is encouraged to invest in the key technology sectors in Shanghai.

Firm to eliminate outer packaging to reduce carbon

LAGOS

A firm, Jameson, an Irish whiskey has announced plans to eliminate outer carbon footprint.

The company in a statement disclosed this, stating that it is a milestone in its journey towards sustainability.

The company in a statement said: "As part of its parent's company, Pernod Ricard Nigeria's efforts to promoting sustainability, Jameson is set to eliminate the outer packaging from its product branding, marking an important step to reducing its carbon footprint. This innovative move is aimed at minimizing waste and reducing impact on the environment.

The exclusion of the carton casing will significantly decrease the amount of paper and cardboard

used in the production process, resulting in an eco-friendlier packaging solution. This change will not only reduce waste but also conserve natural resources, aligning with Jameson's commitment to environmental responsibility."

Commenting, Michael Ehindero, Managing Director, Pernod Ricard Nigeria said: "We are mindful of the environmental impact of our business activities. The removal of the carton is one more demonstration of our commitment towards protecting the environment through sustainable practices. We are constantly exploring new ways to reduce our carbon footprint, promote environmentally friendly practices throughout our operations, and encourage sustainable consumption."

Motorists held for modifying vehicle speed

KIGALI

Separate Police operations conducted across different roads in the City of Kigali to enforce the speed governor policy in vehicles, have led to the arrest of 22 people including drivers, for modifying or disconnecting the devices.

At least 18 drivers were arrested after they were found driving public vehicles with no speed governor or had disconnected them.

Four others were allegedly altering and disconnecting the speed governors in vehicles.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, the RNP spokesperson, said that speeding is one of the major causes of road accidents and related fatalities.

He added that public vehicles, especially those whose speed governor were tampered with, are among those that involve in accidents due to speeding.

"Some of the arrested suspects include those who had disconnected the device, those who modified them to block its GPS, others had altered them in a way that it did not limit them to 60km per hour maximum speed, while others had set them above the speed limit," ACP Rutikanga said.

Some drivers and owners of vehicles overrun the system to switch on and off the device, especially when they notice traffic officers,

and installed switch buttons to help them take control of the device.

ACP Rutikanga warned drivers and mechanics against such dangerous practice, which put people's lives at risk. He added that operations are still ongoing to enforce the speed governor Order.

"These continuous operations are in line with the implementation of the February 2015 Presidential Order relating to installation of speed governors in public service and other commercial vehicles, to control the speed of vehicles, which is one of the leading causes of fatal accidents," ACP Rutikanga said.

The hi-tech device limits vehicles to the maximum speed of 60 kilometres per hour. It has the capacity to trim down the speed every time the vehicle attempts to exceed the set maximum velocity.

It also has a storage computer which allows controllers or traffic officer to check the previous speed of the vehicle, and errors if the device was tampered with.

Despite the decrease in road accidents largely due to the Gerayo Amahoro campaign, at least 90 percent of road accidents result from reckless human behaviours including speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving while distracted especially using the phone.



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WORLD

Donald Trump proposes alternative election debate, Kamala Harris says no

ATLANTA

REPUBLICAN presidential nominee Donald Trump proposed to debate Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris on Fox News on Sept 4, but the Harris campaign countered that Trump was trying to back out of a debate that had already been set to run on ABC.

The rules would be similar to the first debate with President Joe Biden, who has since dropped his reelection bid, Trump said in a post, opens new tab on Truth Social late on Friday. But this time it would have a "full arena audience" and take place in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, Trump said.

Trump and Biden had agreed to a second debate on Sept 10 on ABC News, which the former president had suggested should be moved to Fox, the most popular network with his followers.

Harris, who on Friday secured the delegate votes needed to clinch the Democratic nomination for the Nov. 5 election, said on Saturday she plans to participate in the originally planned debate.

"It's interesting how 'any time, any place' becomes 'one specific time, one specific safe space,'" she wrote on social media platform X. "I'll be there on Sept 10, like he agreed to. I hope to see him there."

Harris spokesperson Michael Tyler

said Trump was "running scared" and that her campaign was happy to discuss further debates after the Sept. 10 one that "both campaigns have already agreed to."

On Saturday, Trump said on Truth Social that Harris is "afraid to do it" and that he will see her on Sept 4, "or, I won't see her at all."

Both candidates have been crisscrossing the country aggressively, with Trump trying out fresh lines of attack against Harris, who some polls show is in a virtual dead heat with the former president.

At a rally in Atlanta on Saturday night, Trump attacked Harris' character and the policies she has promoted as vice president, and he continued to raise questions about her racial identity.

On Thursday, Trump had falsely suggested to the country's largest annual gathering of Black journalists that Harris had downplayed her Black heritage. Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican heritage, has long self-identified as both Black and Asian. She attended a traditionally Black university, where she joined a prominent Black sorority.

Trump, speaking at the same stadium where Harris held a rally on Tuesday, said on Saturday that there were "19 different ways" of pronouncing Harris' first name, while also calling her a "lunatic" with a "low IQ." Before Trump took the stage, his campaign displayed an article on a large screen referring to



This combination of file pictures created on August 3, 2024 shows US Vice-President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaking on March 26, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina; and former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaking in the first presidential debate with US President Joe Biden in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 27, 2024. AFP

Harris as the "first Indian-American senator."

The former president also dedicated much of his speech to attacking Georgia's Republican governor, Brian Kemp, and the state's Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger. Both men drew Trump's wrath for failing to overturn Trump's election loss to Biden in Georgia in 2020.

Trump's combative performance contrasts with the advice of some senior Republicans who have called on him to avoid attacks on Harris' identity and friendly fire directed at conservatives.

Following Trump's speech, the Harris campaign released a statement by Geoff Duncan, the Republican lieutenant governor of Georgia from 2019 to 2023 and a vocal Trump critic.

"If you were able to see through Donald Trump's incoherence and vindictiveness tonight, you saw a Donald Trump who does not care about uniting this country or speaking to the voters who will decide this election," Duncan said.

Debate 'terminated'?

In his Friday post on Truth Social, Trump said the ABC debate had been "terminated in that Biden will no lon-

ger be a participant" and because he himself was in litigation with ABC.

ABC on July 26 outlined qualification requirements, opens new tab for the debate but did not mention any candidates by name. Those requirements include proving polling support and state ballot access by Sept 3.

Recent polls show a tight contest between Harris and Trump, who had opened a clear lead over Biden after the president's fumbling, halting performance first debate.

ABC News had no comment about Trump's statement, a spokesperson said. Fox News did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump's proposal for the debate on Fox came right after the Democratic National Committee launched an advertising campaign taunting him by saying "the convicted felon is afraid to debate" and questioning whether that is due to his stance on abortion.

David Plouffe, an adviser to former President Barack Obama who recently joined the Harris campaign, posted on social media: "Now, he seems only comfortable in a cocoon, asking his happy place Fox to host a Trump rally and call it a debate. Maybe he can only handle debating someone his own age."

Trump is 78, and Harris is 59.

Mining plays a vital role in advancing the UN's SDGs, says Barrick

TORONTO

GIVEN its importance to the economies of many developing countries and the proximity of its activities to people and natural habitats, the mining sector is uniquely placed to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow at the Company's fourth annual sustainability update today.

Presenting Barrick's recently published Sustainability Report for 2023, Bristow said Barrick's approach to sustainability was based on an integrated and holistic strategy that seeks to deliver outcomes that are achievable, demonstrable and aligned with global priorities.

"With our alignment to the SDGs as a central framework to our sustainability reporting, we are better able to address the challenges of alleviating poverty, managing changes to the climate and preserving biodiversity concurrently, because these are inextricably linked," he said.

"In 2023, Barrick distributed more than \$15 billion in economic value with nearly \$12 billion going to host countries. It also realized its 2025 target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 15% against a 2018 baseline and achieved an 84% water reuse and recycle rate," said Barrick sustainability executive Grant Beringer.

During the webinar, Bristow outlined Barrick's upcoming key sustainability projects, including the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for the Lumwana expansion and Reko Diq project, the conclusion of a number of resettlement projects, the restart of Porgera, the roll out of Barrick's biodiversity assessment tool and the consolidation of standards between leading mining frameworks.

"Our holistic approach to sustainability is entrenched throughout our global operations, and our long-term, scientific and measured strategy is delivering great results on the ground. But last year's performance doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels. We need to do even better as we chase continuous improvement," said Bristow.

Many arrested as violent far-right protests erupt across UK

LONDON

MULTIPLE arrests have been made after violent far-right demonstrations erupted across the United Kingdom on Saturday, following the deadly stabbings in Southport that shook the nation.

Far-right protesters clashed violently with police officers throughout the day in major UK cities, including Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Leeds, Nottingham, Sunderland and Belfast.

In Liverpool, two police officers have been taken to hospital with facial injuries. Six people, aged between 29 and 58, have been arrested on suspicion of offenses including violent disorder and criminal damage.

In Bristol, projectiles were thrown as protesters clashed with local police and counter-protesters who chanted anti-fascist slogans.

Police have made multiple arrests. In Lancashire, a ceremonial county in North West England, more than 20 people have been arrested, according to local police.

Staffordshire Police, responsible for policing Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in the West Midlands of England, reported detaining 10 people - all male and aged between 15 and 52 - on charges including assault, violent disorder, and racial or religious threatening behavior. Following incidents of "violent disorder" in Sunderland since Friday, Northumbria Police said they have detained 12 people so far.

Politicians and the police condemned the far-right protesters for causing chaos at a time when the country needs to focus on healing after the deadly knife attack on Monday.

"Violence, looting and vandalism - all of this is not protesting; it's criminal behavior. It is also not mourning the loss of those innocent children in Southport, with whom our thoughts should be," said Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Susan Dungworth during a press conference on Saturday afternoon. Shadow Home Secretary James Cleverly said on his X account that "we cannot let rioting thugs and extremists win."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer affirmed the government's "full support" for the police against "extremists" attacking officers and attempting to "sow hate" as he held talks with ministers on Saturday over the violence across the country. Three children died and multiple others were injured after the attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance workshop in Southport.

Xinhua

Eastern DR Congo buffeted by fresh flareups with ADF, M23 rebels

KINSHASA

PEOPLE in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have lately been caught up in fresh fighting pitting government troops against two rebel groups, the March 23 Movement (M23) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

FIGHTING AGAINST ADF

In Cantine, a village in the eastern North Kivu Province, about 100 villagers were massacred in early June by ADF rebels; the DRC military vowed to fight back.

"The challenges are numerous for our soldiers, and we have only one message for this population: we are going to win this war," Jacques Ychaligonza Nduru, deputy chief of staff of the DRC armed forces, told Xinhua from Cantine.

The ADF, founded in the 1990s by several opposition movements in Uganda, was defeated by the Ugandan army, but its members have remained active in the eastern DRC. The ADF declared its affiliation with the Islamic State in 2017.

Since late 2021, the Ugandan and Congolese militaries have launched joint operations against ADF rebels in the eastern DRC.

The Congolese army's fight against the ADF started in 2016, when government



A file photo taken on July 25, 2024, shows soldiers seen in Cantine, a village in North Kivu Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Xinhua

troops went deep into the forest of the Beni territory, where the village of Cantine is located, to hunt down ADF rebels, who have also been targeted by a special brigade consisting of Tanzanian, Malawian, and South African peacekeepers. In 2017, at least 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed in an ADF attack on their base in Beni.

Since June, ADF rebels have been approaching areas previously controlled by government forces, despite a joint operation by the DRC military and the UN

peacekeeping mission in the country, which began in May.

"We are aware of people's concern over this situation, which particularly disturbs us as an army responsible for protecting them and their property," admitted Nduru, in charge of operations and intelligence, who recently traveled to Beni to reassure the population. "Trust us. Trust your army."

ADF, M23 COLLUSION SUSPECTED

In addition to the hostilities with ADF

rebels, people in the eastern DRC also have to face the advances of M23 fighters, who have taken over several towns since June in the Lubero territory of North Kivu, where the ADF is also active.

According to residents interviewed by Xinhua in Beni and surrounding areas, government soldiers are seen as being overwhelmed by the dual challenge of ADF and M23 rebels. The M23 resurfaced in late 2021 after its defeat in 2013.

"Our soldiers have been engaged in various operations across the country, particularly in North Kivu, for years without rest," said one resident, who requested anonymity. "That is why we have concerns about the advance of the M23 rebellion. That's why we support the community self-defense initiative alongside the army."

In July, recruitment activities were seen in Beni for the creation of local self-defense forces to protect the community against the resurgence of ADF rebels, who are taking advantage of a security vacuum made possible by M23 advances.

"We fear that if the M23 rebels advance, most of the soldiers (deployed here to fight against the ADF) might be withdrawn and sent to operations against the M23," said Mumbere Pascal, a Cantine resident.

Xinhua

Stimulus package set to ignite fresh growth in China's consumer market

BEIJING

FROM household appliance to auto manufacturing, a wide range of industries in China are gearing up for recovery. Policymakers have fleshed out details for a stimulus package to revitalize the super-large market.

In its latest bid to boost domestic demand, China's leadership signaled its intention to expand consumer spending in a high-level meeting on Tuesday. The meeting underscored promoting the country's sweeping program of large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins of bulk durable consumer goods.

The renewed commitment came in the wake of a detailed plan announced last week to earmark approximately 300 billion yuan

(about 42 billion U.S. dollars) in ultra-long special treasury bonds to boost large-scale equipment renewals and replace old consumer goods with new ones.

To the surprise of some market analysts, the fund is tilted towards consumption and capital spending, as they had previously projected that the ultra-long special treasury bonds would traditionally flow into infrastructure, an established pillar of the national economy.

Above all, half of the fund was earmarked to support consumer goods trade-ins, which is roughly equivalent to 0.3 percent of the total retail sales of consumer goods registered last year. "This will give a vital boost for the consumer sentiment," said a UBS report.

The 300-billion-yuan bond in-

centive package marks a fresh round of the country's large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins of consumer goods program to spur domestic demand, following an action plan in March to initiate it -- nearly 15 years since the last such round of renewals.

Preliminary data painted a rosy picture of the program's tangible impacts on the real economy. During the first five months of this year, sales generated from home appliance replacements surged more than 80 percent from a year earlier on major e-commerce platforms, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.

Spending on the purchase of equipment and tools increased by 17.5 percent year on year during the same period, contributing

more than 50 percent to the total investment growth in the country, the commission added.

Nevertheless, the positive outlook is tempered by the fact that China's consumer price growth remained moderate at 0.2 percent in June. The subdued inflation rate points to a warming consumer sentiment but also still-weak domestic demand.

Emphasizing the need to expand consumer demand with a focus on boosting consumption, Tuesday's meeting also hinted at a focus on economic policies that would improve people's livelihoods and expand channels to raise residents' income.

Given the economic pressure coming from both domestic and global fronts, the meeting positioned consumption as a key le-

verage point to achieve the growth target, according to analysts. They take the meeting as a sign that China is taking a dual approach to target both enhancing income and increasing consumption to spur domestic demand.

The country's promise to bolster consumption is also echoed in a resolution released after the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee, which was held from July 15 to 18.

The much-anticipated tone-setting plenum has underlined efforts to improve the income distribution system, the employment-first policy, and the social security system in a bid to improve the people's well-being.

Furthermore, it has urged efforts to refine long-term mechanisms

for expanding consumption, reducing relevant restrictions, and actively promoting the debut economy.

Looking ahead, the current priority of the economic work is to align fiscal policies with the expansion of consumer loans by banks and promotional discounts by merchants, in a bid to quickly generate a synergistic push for consumption power, noted Wang Qing, chief economist at Golden Credit Rating, a credit rating agency in China.

On the manufacturing sector, Wang expects the policy incentive supporting equipment upgrades will substantially drive investment into the sector, generating a stronger internal impetus for China's economy through enhanced industrial activities. Xinhua

'World's supermarket' embraces global trade with vitality and confidence

HANGZHOU

AS the Paris Olympics kicked off, 30,000 soccer balls made by Minsa, a Chinese sports brand based in east China's Yiwu, arrived over 10,000 kilometers away in Africa. Their design includes purple elements, as purple is one of the main colors of the Olympic venues.

At the same time, Minsa founder Chen Shaomei was welcoming first-time foreign customers to his store in the Yiwu International Trade Market in Zhejiang Province, known as the "world's supermarket."

"Major events like the UEFA Euro 2024 and the Olympics have ignited a global passion for football, boosting our sales. Our factory is fully booked until the end of August," Chen said. His products, which include soccer balls, basketballs and volleyballs, are exported to over 100 countries, with 90 percent of the company's business being international.

Chen's store is one of 75,000 in the world's largest small-commodity wholesale market. The vastness of the market is staggering – it would take over 15 months to visit each shop for just three minutes. Over 2.1 million types of goods are distributed around the world from the Yiwu market.

Data shows that Yiwu's foreign trade growth has outpaced that of Zhejiang Province and China. From January to June this year, Yiwu's import and export volume totaled 324.77 billion yuan (45.5 billion U.S. dollars), a year-on-year increase of 20.8 percent. Exports alone reached

288.03 billion yuan, growing 21.4 percent.

Yiwu's booming orders have been attributed to its rapid updates in independent design concepts and its support of new technology platforms.

Liu Pingjuan, founder of Yiwu kitchenware brand Chuangyi Kitchenware, is a beneficiary of the Chinagoods digital trade services platform, which has helped businesses connect with overseas markets.

In October 2023, the world's first large language model in the commodity trade sector and an upgraded Chinagoods AI creative services platform were unveiled at the Yiwu Expo. They allow videos in Chinese to be converted into 36 languages with a simple click after they are uploaded to the platform.

"Technology upgrades have broadened our market reach. Now, I often wake up to find customers adding me on WeChat in the middle of the night," Liu said.

Yiwu's business owners are not simply waiting for international customers to visit their stores, they are also embarking on a journey to expand their markets globally in the new economic climate.

Last November, the Yiwu Cultural Products Industry Association held the 2023 Indonesia ASEAN Stationery and Gifts Expo in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, with over 300 businesspeople from Yiwu's cultural products sector participating. The expo was Yiwu's first overseas trade fair dedicated to one specific industry. According to its president, Huang Changchao, the association's promotional efforts will extend to medium-sized Indo-



Foreign merchants select goods at the Yiwu International Trade Market in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang Province, July 29, 2024. Xinhua

nesian cities with populations of 500,000 this year, following endeavors that began at the end of last year to promote brands in cities with populations exceeding 1 million.

"Indonesia is key for us to fully open up the Southeast Asian market, which has a large population and cultural affinity with China, making it easier for our cultural and creative products to establish a brand presence," Huang said.

Reform has also been a driving force behind the vigorous development of various market entities in Yiwu. In November 2006, when Zhejiang issued a document on expanding Yiwu's economic and social management authority, 131 management responsibilities were delegated to

the county-level region of Yiwu. Local authorities are now entitled to issue foreign trade operator registrations and verification letters for invitations extended to foreigners who apply for Chinese visas, among other processes.

Reforms in Yiwu are ongoing and include accelerating the cultivation of new business models, improving logistics services and innovating supply chain financial services.

"No one can better appreciate the improvements in the business environment than us businesspeople rooted in Yiwu. Despite the challenges and bottlenecks in various industries, we remain confident and motivated to embrace the global market," Huang said.

Xinhua

Namibia names national capital's main airport road after former President Hage Geingob

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA on Saturday paid tribute to its late President Hage Geingob by naming the Hosea Kutako International Airport Road as the Dr. Hage G. Geingob Freeway.

The event was attended by Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba, former President Hifikepunye Pohamba, and other Namibian government officials, Chinese Ambassador to Namibia Zhao Weiping, representatives of Chinese enterprises, and more than 300 local people.

President Mbumba in his speech said that since independence, the government has placed a high premium on the expansion, improvement, and continued development of Namibia's infrastructure with the understanding that world-class road networks, railways, airports, and ports are enablers of economic growth, job creation, and regional integration.

Mbumba evoked the wisdom of Confucius, stating "The Chinese philosopher Confucius once said, 'Roads were made for journeys, not destinations.' Indeed, Geingob's life can be described as a journey -- a journey of purpose.

He has left behind near footprints and those that are far." The freeway is a symbol of Geingob's enduring legacy, he declared, adding that the ceremony also underscored Namibia's commitment to infrastructure development.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport of Namibia John Mutorwa said in an interview with Xinhua that this highway connecting the capital of Windhoek to the international airport is a landmark project of unity and cooperation between Namibia and China.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Chinese government and people for their support and help," said Mutorwa. "I hope that China and Namibia can continue to strengthen cooperation in the economic and political fields."

Russia's East battleground defeats four Ukrainian brigades

MOSCOW

UNITS of Russia's East battleground defeated four Ukrainian brigades, the enemy lost up to 95 servicemen and two ammunition depots, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"Units of Russia's East battleground occupied more advantageous positions, defeated the servicemen and equipment of the 78th mechanized, 58th motorized infantry, 1st tank brigades of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as the 128th territorial defense brigade in the areas of the settlements of Vodyanoye, Zolotaya Niva, and Storozhevoe in the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the Ukrainian Armed Forces lost up to 95 servicemen, one tank, three vehicles, two Polish-made 155mm Krab self-propelled artillery pieces, one UK-made 155mm FH-70 howitzer, one 100mm Rapira anti-tank gun and one Bukovel-AD electronic warfare station. Two ammunition depots were destroyed.

Russia's air defense systems shot down Ukrainian Su-27

Russia's air defense systems shot down a Su-27 of the Ukrainian Air Force, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"Air defense systems have downed a Su-27 of the Ukrainian Air Force," the ministry said.

At the same time, Russian air defense systems destroyed 162 drones, including 82 drones outside the special military operation zone, over the past day.

"Thirteen missiles of the US HIMARS multiple launch rocket system, one Vampire missile, and 162 unmanned aerial vehicles, including 82 outside the special military operation zone, were shot down," the ministry said.

Russia's Dnepr battleground destroys three Ukrainian ammunition depots

Units of Russia's Dnepr battleground destroyed three ammunition depots and up to 75 servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces over the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"The Ukrainian Armed Forces lost up to 75 servicemen, seven vehicles, a 152mm D-20 gun, a 152mm Msta-B howitzer, and an Anklav-N electronic warfare station. Three ammunition depots were destroyed," the report said.

According to the Ministry, units of the Dnepr battleground inflicted losses on formations of the 103rd and 108th territorial defense brigades in the areas of the settlements of Belogorie in the Zaporozhye region and Kazatskoe in the Kherson region.

Russian air defense systems destroy over 160 UAVs

Russian air defense systems destroyed

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"Thirteen missiles of the US HIMARS multiple launch rocket system, one Vampire missile, and 162 unmanned aerial vehicles, including 82 outside the special military operation zone, were shot down," the ministry said.

Russia's Center group liberates Novoselovka Pervaya settlement in DPR

Russia's Center battleground liberated the settlement of Novoselovka Pervaya in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"Units of the Center battleground have liberated the settlement of Novoselovka Pervaya in the Donetsk People's Republic. Formations of the 31st, 32nd mechanized, 1st tank, 95th airborne assault brigades of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the 109th territorial defense brigade were defeated in the areas of the settlements of Vozdvizhenka, Toretsk, Nikolaevka, Druzhba and Rozovka in the Donetsk People's Republic. A counterattack by the Liut assault brigade of the National Police of Ukraine was also repelled," the ministry said.

Russia's North battleground defeats four Ukrainian brigades in Kharkov region

Russia's North battleground defeated four enemy brigades in one day and repulsed two counterattacks - the losses of the Ukrainian Armed Forces amounted to 190 servicemen, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"Units of Russia's North battleground defeated the personnel and equipment of the 42nd mechanized brigade of the Ukrain-

ian Armed Forces, the 36th marine brigade, the 106th and 129th territorial defense brigades in the areas of the settlements of Staritsa, Vovchansk in the Kharkov region, Miropolye and Basovka in the Sumy region. Two counterattacks of the enemy assault groups were repelled. The losses of the Ukrainian Armed Forces amounted to 190 servicemen, two armored combat vehicles, and six pickup trucks," the Ministry said.

Ukraine's losses in Russia's West group zone reach 490 servicemen and three tanks

The losses of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the zone of Russia's West battleground over the past day amounted to 490 servicemen and three tanks, including two German Leopard tanks, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"The units of Russia's West battleground have taken up more advantageous positions. The formations of the 107th, 112th, 114th and 116th territorial defense brigades were defeated in the areas of the settlements of Sinkovka, Tabayevka, Glushkovka in the Kharkov region, as well as Makeyevka in the Lugansk People's Republic. The counter-attack of the assault group of the 54th mechanized brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces was repelled. The enemy lost up to 490 servicemen, three tanks, including two German Leopard tanks, one infantry fighting vehicle, two US M113 armored personnel carriers, and eight vehicles," the ministry said.

Agencies

Harris wins enough votes to be Democratic presidential nominee

WASHINGTON

US Vice President Kamala Harris has secured enough votes of the Democratic delegates, who have been voting virtually, to be formally nominated for president, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said.

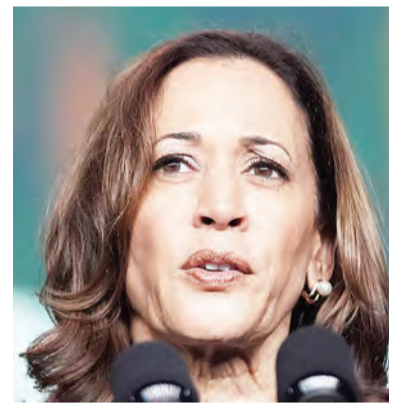
"I am so proud to confirm that Vice President Harris (pictured) has earned more than a majority of votes from all convention delegates and will be the nominee of the Democratic Party following the close of voting on Monday [August 5]," he said in a statement.

Harrison did not specify how many votes the politician has secured so far. She needs 1,976 delegate votes to win.

Harris, who was the only qualified candidate during the virtual voting, wrote on the X social network that she would be formally nominated for president next week.

"I am honored to be the presumptive Democratic nominee for president of the United States," she wrote. "I will officially accept your nomination next week."

Since Thursday, delegates of the Democratic National Convention have been virtually voting by email or phone to formally designate Harris the party's official presidential nominee. The vote closes on Monday.



More than 4,000 delegates, who were selected during the Democratic primaries, cast their ballots over the phone or using an online form. Most of them had supported US President Joe Biden before he withdrew his re-election bid.

Their votes did not automatically go to Harris, although 99% of them (3,923) said they would support her.

The US presidential election will take place on November 5. Biden was supposed to remain at the top of the Democratic ticket, however, after his poor performance at the televised debate against Republican Donald Trump on June 27, calls intensified, particularly among Democrats, for the incumbent president to drop out of the race.

On July 21, Biden decided to quit his reelection campaign and supported the nomination of Harris as the party's candidate. **Agencies**

US unemployment rate ticks up, strengthening case for rate cut

WASHINGTON

THE US jobless rate rose in July, which some economists said has strengthened the case for an interest rate cut.

Job growth ratcheted down in July more than analysts had anticipated, according to data released Friday from the US Labor Department.

That caused the unemployment rate to edge up higher and sparked fears of an economic slowdown.

The US economy added a mere 114,000 non-farm jobs in July, dropping from 179,000 in the prior month and below economists' estimate of 185,000 jobs.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3 percent, the highest since October 2021, when the economy was still

recovering from the COVID-19 crisis.

"The employment report was surprisingly weak," and strengthened the case for a near-term rate reduction, Barry Bosworth, economist and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua.

Combined with the price report, it may be a tipping point for the Federal Reserve (Fed), Bosworth said.

Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the IMF, told Xinhua that Friday's report suggests the Fed is behind the policy curve.

It is "difficult to understand" why the Fed has not already started an interest rate cutting cycle when the economy is slowing, real progress is being made in re-



A construction worker carries scaffolding parts on March 14, 2024, in Boston. AP

ducing inflation, and downside risks to the economic recovery are now building, Lachman said.

"This heightens the chances that by the time that the Fed starts cutting interest rates, it will have waited too

long to avoid an economic recession," Lachman said.

Dean Baker, a senior economist at the Center for Eco-

nomics and Policy Research, after markets took a nose-dive on Thursday, after data showed a surprise rise in individuals filing for jobless benefits.

The drop was the worst sell-off this year, and prompted investors to fret that the central bank could be waiting too long to start trimming interest rates.

The jobless report comes just a few months before November's presidential elections.

"A rising unemployment rate is difficult for an incumbent administration," said Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West.

"But it is not clear whether this is a one-month development or the start of a new trend," West said, referring to Friday's report.

The report also comes

Xinhua

Coastal Union relocate camp as Azam shift focus to Community Shield showdown

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

COASTAL Union have relocated their training camp from Unguja to Pemba to gear up for the upcoming Community Shield match against Azam FC, scheduled for August 8 at the New Amaan Complex Stadium in Zanzibar.

The move is aimed at intensifying their preparation and ensuring the team is in top form for the crucial fixture.

The club's information officer Abbas El Sabri, confirmed the relocation, emphasizing the strategic importance of the move.

"We moved our camp to Pemba to prepare for our game, which is expected to have a lot of opposition. The goal is to win and advance to the finals," El Sabri stated.

Head coach David Ouma also expressed confidence in the team's readiness, attributing their strengthened unity and performance to the four friendly matches they played on the islands.

"The friendly games we played have helped me to further strengthen my squad. I believe we will do well in the Community Shield game as well as in the upcoming Premier League season, which starts on August 16," Ouma said.

He added that the team is fortunate to have no injuries among the players.

During their preparation, Coastal Union played four friendly matches, showcasing their competitive edge. They secured a 1-0 victory against Tekeleza FC, followed by a commanding 8-0 win over Kombaini.

The team continued their winning streak with a 4-0 triumph against Jamhuri and another 4-0 victory

against Chipukizi.

On the other side, Azam FC have been rigorously preparing for the new season since early July. Their training camp began in Chamazi, Dar es Salaam, before moving to Zanzibar, where they played a friendly match against Zimamoto, winning 4-0.

The team then traveled to Morocco for an intensive two-week camp, during which they played three international friendly matches.

Azam's preseason matches included a 3-0 win over US Yacoub Mansour, a 1-1 draw with Union Touarga, and a 4-1 defeat to Wydad Casablanca, the former champions of Morocco and Africa.

Following their stint in Morocco, Azam participated in a festival in Rwanda, emerging victorious and claiming the trophy.

The team introduced new signings, including Franck Tiesse from Mali and Colombian Jhonier Blanco, who made a significant impact during their matches. Other notable acquisitions for Azam include Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Mamadou Samake, Cheickna Diakite (all from Mali), and Colombian Ever William Meza, along with local talent Nassor Saadun and Evance Tepsie.

Azam, under the guidance of coaches Youssouf Dabo and Bruno Ferry, have shown promising performances with their new additions. The squad is now heading back home to finalize their preparations for the Community Shield match against Coastal Union.

The Community Shield clash on August 8 will see Coastal Union and Azam FC face off at the New Amaan Complex in Unguja. Concurrently, Simba and Young Africans will be playing at the Benjamin Mkapa stadium, with the winners of these matches advancing to the final.

The final match is set for the following Sunday, immediately after the third-place playoff between the losing teams from Thursday's matches.

Post-Community Shield, Azam, Coastal Union, Young Africans and Simba will shift their focus to the CAF international competitions.

Azam will host Rwandan champions APR, while Young Africans are set to meet Vital'O of Burundi in the CAF Champions League.

Coastal Union will compete against Angola's Bravo in the CAF Confederation Cup while Simba will play against the winners between Zanzibar's Uhamiaji FC and Al Ahly Tripoli in the second preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup qualifiers.

Consistent midfield competition blocks Aucho's NBC PL Best XI path

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans enjoyed a triumphant night at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Awards on Thursday, with Stephanie Aziz Ki clinching the coveted Most Valuable Player accolade for the 2023/2024 season.

The attacking midfielder edged out closest rival Feisal Salum, despite the latter's impressive 19-goal tally in the just-ended Premier League season. Aziz Ki's 21 goals and eight assists proved decisive. Young Africans' dominance extended to the dugout with Miguel Gamondi receiving the Best Coach award for guiding the team to the Premier League title.

While the club's accolades were celebrated, a notable omission from the Best XI raised eyebrows. Khalid Aucho (pictured), a key figure in Young Africans' midfield, was absent from the team of the season for the third consecutive year.

The star-studded lineup of the season includes Ley Matampa, Koussia Yao, Mohamed Hussein, Ibrahim Hamad, Dickson Job, Mudathir Yahya, Salum, Maxi Nzengeli, Aziz Ki, Waziri Junior, and Kipre Junior Zunon.

Aucho's exclusion from the NBC Premier League Best XI for another consecutive year has ignited fresh controversy among football fans. While the contributions of teammates like Nzengeli and Yahya, especially his clutch goals, are undeniable, many question the fairness of the selection process and the metrics used.

A surprising choice for the league's Best XI, Nzengeli, a natural left-winger, excelled in a central midfield role last season. Regularly deployed as a number eight, he showcased remarkable adaptability and con-



tributed significantly to Young Africans' success. Nzengeli's impressive tally of 10 league goals underlines his offensive threat from midfield, while his ability to control the tempo of games demonstrated his versatility and importance to the team.

Aucho's role as a defensive midfielder, often overshadowed by more attacking-minded teammates, may have contributed to his overlook. Nonetheless, his consistent performances and importance to Young Africans' success warrant recognition per fans' verdict on various social media platforms.

The 30-year-old powerful-built Ugandan international is widely recognized for his exceptional passing accuracy and ability to make precise decisions on the ball. However, his overall impact on the game has been a subject of debate leading to his absence in the league accolades.

Young Africans boast a talented midfield, with players like Salum Abubakar and the recently signed Duke Abuya

showcasing their abilities. Despite the competition, coach Gamondi continues to trust Aucho's contributions. While Aucho's role in recovery and distributing the ball is invaluable, the demands of modern football require more from midfielders.

To elevate his status and contend for individual awards, he must expand his repertoire beyond passing accuracy and add more offensive statistics. Age may pose certain physical limitations, but the pursuit of accolades necessitates overcoming these challenges.

While Aucho excels in distribution and tempo control in matches, his defensive contributions and offensive output have been relatively modest. Despite being primarily a defensive midfielder, his defensive actions have been inconsistent, and his involvement in goals and assists is notably low. While acknowledging he has a different player profile, he needs to emulate Yahya's attacking contributions to boost his award prospects if this is what the fans want after achieving trophies at the end of the season.

Yannick Bangala's 2020/2021 MVP win as a defender highlights the possibility of exceptional performance in non-traditional attacking roles. However, Aucho isn't currently Young Africans' standout player. To be named the league's best or make the Best XI, a player must excel in their position.

Sharing the midfield with Yahya, Aucho's role is primarily defensive. Yahya's impressive goal-scoring record overshadowed Aucho's output last season, especially considering Young Africans' dominant possession. Although Aucho is a crucial link, Yahya's end product was superior, contributing to his selection in the best team.

The midfield positions in the Best XI were fiercely contested this season. Players like Salum, with his impressive 19 goals and defensive versatility, and Aziz Ki, who excelled in an attacking midfield role, made strong cases for inclusion. Ultimately, Aziz Ki's standout performance, marked by 21 goals and eight assists, secured him the Best Midfielder Award and League MVP. The high level of competition in the midfield positions makes it difficult to argue for the exclusion of any of the selected players to accommodate Aucho.

It's important to remember that awards are often based on statistical contributions and team success. While Aucho is a valuable player for Young Africans, his statistics did not compare favorably to those of the midfielders who made the Best XI. Yahya, Salum, Ki, Kipre Zunon, and Nzengeli had a better league season as midfielders than the Uganda Cranes vice-captain.

A complete midfielder needs more than just distribution. The capacity to contribute offensively and defensively is crucial for players aiming for top honors. Despite publicly downplaying individual awards, Aucho must strive for all-around improvement to elevate his game.

Aucho's role at Young Africans is undeniably valuable. His influence often goes beyond personal statistics, as he creates opportunities for teammates to shine. His exceptional passing range and ability to dictate the tempo of a game are unquestionable assets.

However, the modern game demands a more multifaceted midfielder role. While Aucho excels in controlling the flow of play, his defensive responsibilities and offensive contributions might not match the criteria for some of the league's top honors.



Stanbic Bank Tanzania chief executive officer Manzi Rwegasira (C) and head of the corporate & investment banking of the bank, Ester Manase (L) handing over a dummy cheque worth 15 million/- to the chairman of the Chinese Enterprises Association in the country, Shi Yong, for sponsoring the 11th Stanbic Bank Cup basketball tournament of the association. The handover ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent



The friendly games we played have helped me to further strengthen my squad. I believe we will do well in the Community Shield game as well as in the upcoming Premier League season, which starts on August 16

Dauids now focuses on physical conditioning and team spirit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Fadlu Davids has emphasized the importance of improving the team's physical conditioning, while also praising his players for executing the team's game plan in their 2-0 victory over APR on Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The Benjamin Stadium in Dar es Salaam came alive as Tanzania Mainland Premier League giants Simba marked their 88th anniversary with the grand 16th edition of Simba Day. The stadium, with a capacity of 60,000, was filled with passionate fans and football en-

thusiasts, all gathered to celebrate the illustrious club's rich history and exciting future.

The highly anticipated event saw Simba unveil their star-studded squad for the upcoming Premier League season, adding to the excitement in the air. The occasion also served as a platform to honor outstanding players and members who have contributed immensely to the club's success over the years.

The highlight of the day was an international friendly match between Simba and Rwandan giants APR, which Simba won 2-0.

Speaking on the game, Davids

said his side are yet to reach their expected level of fitness ahead of the new season, emphasizing the need to stay grounded as they have not yet played many competitive games.

"We were physically out-matched by APR due to their extended pre-season; however, tactical adjustments in the second half showcased our potential. The players' ability to implement our instructions immediately was encouraging," Davids said.

"Physical fitness is still a work in progress, but mental fortitude will be crucial as we push our physical limits. Our aim is to win

the Community Shield, and we'll give it our all."

"The incredible support from our fans today was inspiring. Their energy lifted the team. We want to replicate this atmosphere in our upcoming match against Young Africans to engage the squad and keep them motivated," concluded Davids.

The anticipation reached its peak as the players were presented with their jersey numbers, symbolizing their integration into the Simba family. Among the notable jersey assignments, Jean Charles Ahoua received number 10, Joshua Mutale 7, Steven Muk-

wala 11, Deborah Fernandez 17, and Karaboue Chamou number 2.

Simba Day has undeniably grown in popularity over the years, becoming an eagerly awaited annual tradition for both Simba supporters and football enthusiasts in the country.

The event not only showcases the club's impressive legacy but also serves as a perfect prelude to the start of the top-flight football season in the country.

Simba SC Squad for the 2024/2025 Season:

Goalkeepers: Ally Salim, Ayoub Lakred, Hussein Abel, Moussa Camara, Aishi Manula.

Defenders: Hussein Kazi, Kelvin Kijili, Che Malone Fondoh, Shomari Kapombe, Abdulrazack Hamza, Valentin Nouma (captain), Mohammed 'Tshabalala' Hussein, David Kameta, Chamou Karaboue.

Midfielders: Mzamiru Yassin, Awesu Awesu, Saleh Karabaka, Deborah Fernandez, Edwin Balua, Augustine Okejepha, Ladack Chasambi, Joshua Mutale, Fabrice Ngoma, Omari Omari, Yusuf Kagoma, Jean Ahoua.

Forwards: Freddy Michael, Valentino Mashaka, Steven Mukwala, Kibu Denis.

Liverpool cruise past Manchester United in friendly

By Simon Stone

LIVERPOOL completed their three-match US tour with a 100% record as Arne Slot's side eased to an impressive 3-0 win against Manchester United in Columbia.

In front of a 77,559 - the biggest non-US football crowd at the Williams-Brice Stadium - Fabio Carvalho put Liverpool ahead after 10 minutes when he took advantage of some slack defending inside the area from Case-miro.

The lead was doubled on 36 minutes when Mohamed Salah's excellent close control beat United youngster Toby Collyer on the touchline, with the Egypt forward bursting to the byline to set up Curtis Jones with a low cross.

A third came when Konstantinos Tsimikas seized on a loose ball in the 61st minute, scoring after Andre Onana failed to hold Diogo Jota's instinctive first-time effort.

New manager Slot will know judgement on how he succeeds as Jurgen Klopp's replacement will not be based around pre-season games, but the former Feyenoord man will be delighted at the outcome of his side's State-side trip before their Premier League opener against newly promoted Ipswich on 17 August.

In contrast, a difficult night for United was made even worse by what appeared to be a serious injury to young defender Will Fish, who left the field on a stretcher after coming off worst when he fouled Harvey Blair.

The trip for United ends with them having lost to both Premier League opponents faced after defeat against Arsenal seven days earlier, although they did beat Real Betis in between.

Like Liverpool, they have a number of key men to welcome back into the fold after Euro 2024 and Copa America commitments when they return to training next week.

"Perfect US trip for new boss Slot

In phases Liverpool were exceptional and moved the ball around quickly.

They pressed high and fast at the start of the game and committed plenty of men forward, which allowed them to take advantage of United's unforced errors.

Salah appears to have a spring in his step, Jones was a busy presence in midfield and both Caoimhin Kelleher and his replacement Vitezslav Jaros made excellent saves as required.

With talk of Kelleher potentially leaving Anfield before the transfer window closes at the end of the month, Jaros' instinctive efforts to repel Ethan Wheatley and Scott McTominay would have been heartening for his manager.

The results on tour, with Liverpool having also beaten Arsenal and Betis, mean Slot can approach the final two weeks of pre-season from a position of strength, which is all he could have hoped for when he was named as Klopp's successor in May.

"We are very happy with the result. We scored some really nice goals but I don't think we had enough control over the game because United were threatening us more than a few times," Slot said.

"It's a 3-0 win but the score could have been different tonight as well."

"United pay for wasted chances

At half-time United must have wondered how they were behind.

They carried a genuine goal threat as Mason Mount took up intelligent positions in the number 10 role, Amad Diallo and Marcus Rashford attacked from wide areas and 20-year-old Collyer burst into the box when his workload allowed.

The problem was that Erik Ten Hag's side were found wanting at crucial times in both penalty areas.

Casemiro and Collyer were culpable for the Liverpool goals, while United's attacking players took it in turns to waste clear chances. Diallo flicked a close-range header wide from Mount's cross and the Ivorian also blazed over when presented with a chance to shoot by Aaron Wan-Bissaka, whose time at Old Trafford appears to be coming to an end as West Ham try to tie up a deal.

Kelleher twice denied Mount before tipping a mishit Rashford effort over.

The wasted opportunities continued to pile up after the break, although the momentum started to ebb from their game as the substitutions came.

Ten Hag may have a new contract, but United will need to do more than this to convince anyone that last season's eighth-place finish was the aberration it was claimed to be.

And they have Manchester City in the Community Shield on Saturday.

"There were mixed feelings," Ten Hag said. "I have seen positive bits, but the way we concede goals, we are, of course, not happy with it."

BBC

Brazil beats France 1-0 and advances to the semifinals of Olympic women's soccer tourney

NANTES, France

GABI Portilho fired Brazil into the semifinals of the Olympic women's soccer tournament with a 1-0 win over France on Saturday.

Portilho raced through on goal in the 82nd minute and swept a shot past France goalkeeper Constance Picaud to eliminate the host nation at Stade de la Beaujoire in Nantes.

Celebrating wildly in the crowd was Brazil great Marta, who was suspended from the quarterfinals match, but will be available again for the semifinals against world champion Spain in Marseille on Tuesday.

France paid the price for failing to capitalize on its chances in the first half, with Sakina Karchaoui seeing a 16th-minute penalty saved by Brazil goalkeeper Lorena.

Griedge Mbock Bathy then headed against the bar from a corner in the 39th.

Portilho's goal was Brazil's first shot on target and she then hit the post late on.

Brazil - a two-time silver medalist from Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 - had advanced to the quarterfinals as one of the best third-placed teams after losing two of its three group games.

One of those was against Spain - losing 2-0 in its final Group C match, when Marta was red-carded. The 38-year-old star has said this will be her last major tournament with the national women's soccer team and she was in tears by the end after watching her teammates celebrate on the field.

Brazil's victory was marred,



Germany goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger saves a penalty shoot-out during their match against Canada. AP Photo

however, by an injury to defender Rafaelle, who was taken off by stretcher in the second half and later seen using a crutch.

Spain beat Colombia 4-2 in a penalty shootout to advance to the semifinals after fighting back from 2-0 down in the second half.

Meanwhile, in Marseille, Canada women's soccer team lost a penalty shootout to Germany in the quarterfinals of the Paris Games on Saturday, ending an Olympic run marred by a drone-spying scandal.

Goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger saved two penalties then converted on her own attempt to send Germany into the semifinals with a 4-2 shootout win after a scoreless draw through extra time.

Canada's players were mentally exhausted following the loss, after winning all of their matches in the group stage to overcome a points deduction

as punishment for video surveillance of an opponent.

"I can't quite find the tears because I shed them all this past week," Canada defender Vanessa Gilles said. "So to have gotten this far, I think is a testament to our group."

Germany, which won the gold medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, will play the United States in the semifinals Tuesday in Lyon. The United States defeated Germany 4-1 earlier in the tournament.

Berger's penalty sealed Germany's win after she stopped attempts by Ashley Lawrence and Adriana Leon.

"I was surprised about myself, that I I calmed myself down, and I didn't feel any pressure whatsoever," Berger said. "So it was a pretty cool feeling when it hit the net and saw the goalkeeper going the other side."

Sydney Lohmann nearly scored for Germany in the

second extra period but her header from some six yards out just skimmed the crossbar.

Leon had perhaps the best chance of the match for Canada in the 71st minute when she threatened on a fast break, but Berger was ready.

Canada reached the quarterfinals despite having six points deducted from the standings after team staff were accused of using a drone to film an opponent.

Canada clinched its quarterfinals spot as a third-place team with a 1-0 win over Colombia. Hours before the game on Wednesday, Canada lost its appeal of the FIFA's points deduction before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

FIFA, soccer's governing body, also banned Canada coach Bev Priestman for a year and fined Canada soccer \$227,000.

Before the tournament's start, New Zealand reported a drone flying above training.

Authorities later detained a Canada team analyst and confiscated surveillance equipment.

Two staff members were immediately sent home and Priestman removed herself from the Olympic opener.

But Canada Soccer CEO and general secretary Kevin Blue said evidence came to light that the surveillance was a "systemic ethical shortcoming," and Priestman was also sent home. Andy Spence was leading the team in her place.

Spence said his job going forward is to support the players as Canada Soccer continues its independent investigation.

"I think it'd be unfair to me to start making comments around something that's much bigger than me," he said.

Canada forward Jordyn Huitema's mother, Julie Huitema, was among the Canadian supporters at the match. She suggested the players have come together in the face of the scandal.

"They're meshing like they've never meshed before," Julie Huitema said. "They're bringing each other up."

Canada captain Jessie Fleming was injured and did not return after halftime.

"It's just tough. Sometimes football doesn't go your way, and that was us today," Fleming said. "But I'm just so proud of part of this team. And I think there's a lot of positives to take away from this tournament. I mean, I really feel like we had them on the ropes in the second half."

AP

The Mikel Arteta quirk that defines Arsenal's transfer plans

By Richard Jolly

MIKEL Arteta has a summer ritual. The Arsenal manager tends to sign a left-back; but with the caveat that they are more than a left-back to such an extent that that some might not describe themselves as such at all. Riccardo Calafiori arrives in London as one of the breakout stars of first the Serie A season and then Euro 2024; but each as a central defender. Yet it is not just the primacy of the partnership of Gabriel Magalhães and William Saliba for Arsenal that suggests the Italian is likely to be deployed to their left.

His price tag - £42m - and status as Arsenal's biggest summer signing so far suggest that he has not been recruited as a reserve, though he would provide a high-quality alternative in the event of injury to Arteta's regular double act. Instead, he has the look of a left-sided Ben White; a centre-back reinvented as a full-back before the Spaniard. Or, given Calafiori's background as a full-back before Thiago Motta took him to a new level as a central defender, perhaps a return to his original duties.

There are several instructive elements. One is that, despite posting the best defensive record last season - conceding five goals fewer than Manchester City, 12 fewer than Liverpool and 22 fewer than Everton, the fourth most frugal side - Arteta's immediate target was to



Mikel Arteta's insistence to upgrade his left-backs shows his desire for defensive perfection. (AFP)

improve the defence again.

Another is that, while he had continuity in the rest of the defensive unit, there was a four-way job-share at left-back, all among Arteta signings defined in part by versatility. Takehiro Tomiyasu (bought in the summer 2021), Oleksandr Zinchenko (summer 2022), Jakub Kiwior (January 2023) and Jurrien Timber (summer 2023) may be seen as two right-backs, a midfielder and a central midfielder; Calafiori can look an upgrade on Kiwior, another left-footed central defender and it would feel unsurprising if the Pole was deemed dispensable now.

But within that quartet there are different situations. The experiment with Oleksandr Zinchenko may now be abandoned, as though initially tactically ideal and then unsuitable; inverting into midfield, with a playmaker's assurance in possession, the Ukrainian added another dimension. Yet the trade-off from defensive deficiencies and

last season; it was the first and he was injured. The evidence from twin pre-seasons is that he can add an ability to move into midfield, allying tactical nous with a progressiveness to his passing that Kiwior and Tomiyasu lack, to offer much of what Arteta wants; in that sense, the wait for Timber and the assumption he would slot into the side this season rendered the move for Calafiori a surprise.

Meanwhile, it may be worth noting that the only specialist left-back Arteta has bought, Nuno Tavares, has spent the last two seasons out on loan, at Marseille and Nottingham Forest; the only one to have been a regular first-choice for him, Kieran Tierney, was also loaned out last season. The Scot was downgraded as the job description changed, with a lesser emphasis on overlapping and crossing. Part of the nature of

Arteta's Arsenal is that every youthful rebuild can offer the illusion of longevity before the Spaniard's restlessness leads to seemingly pivotal figures falling from favour: go back to 2021-22 and Arsenal's surprise challenge for a Champions League spot and three who underpinned their improvement were Aaron Ramsdale, Emile Smith Rowe and Tierney, each young enough to spend a decade in the team; now the transfer window could close with each at a new club.

Go back still further and Arteta's last trophy, the 2020 Community Shield, came with Tierney on the left of a back three and a man-of-the-match performance from his left wing-back: Ainsley Maitland-Niles, who has played for four other clubs since then, whose name is a throwback to an earlier era and whose favourite position was centre-mid-

field.

So Arteta's evolution tactically can be traced through his left-backs: the midfielder as wing-back, the conventional left-back after a shift to a back four, the inverted midfielder, the centre-back. If the signing of Zinchenko brought suggestions that Arteta was seeking to copy his mentor, Pep Guardiola, the use of Kiwior and, probably, Calafiori again indicates that where the Manchester City manager leads, his Arsenal counterpart follows. The Italian has spoken of his admiration for John Stones; his more immediate task, however, will be to emulate Nathan Ake and Josko Gvardiol, the centre-backs repurposed on the left for City. And Arteta, forever striving to get better, seems to look at the left of his defence every year and to players who are not just left-backs.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko

PRESS CONFERENCE



SPORT

Brazil beats France 1-0 and advances to the semifinals of Olympic women's soccer tournament

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Tanzania seeks to stretch winning run in ICC U-19 Men's CWC Africa Qualifier Division 2



Tanzania's U-19 men's cricket squad's batsman (L) puts his prowess to show during the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Qualifier Africa Division 2 clash against Nigeria held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA'S U-19 cricketers will seek to boost their search for progression to the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 1, as they take on Mozambique in the Qualifier Division 2 clash in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The tournament hosts had opened their campaign in the qualifiers grandly, commanding a comprehensive six-wicket defeat of Nigeria at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue last Friday.

In tomorrow's fixture, Tanzania would be banking on dependable cricketers including skipper Laksh Bakrania, Augustine Mwamele, Hamza Ally, Ally Hafidh, and Karim Kisetu, who had a stellar showing in the opening tie, to dispatch Mozambique.

Bakrania, for instance, showcased a stellar bowling performance in Tanzania's tie versus Nigeria - in which the youthful cricketer ended with a three-wicket haul for 19 runs in 10 overs, showcasing true leadership on the pitch.

The cricketer's scintillating display with the ball had him deservedly walking away with the Player of the Match prize.

Kisetu excelled with the bat against Nigeria, given the performer surpassed the half-century mark to blast 57 runs, which included seven boundaries, to give his team an edge over the opponents.

Mozambique had a stuttering start to their campaign, conceding a four-wicket defeat to Ghana at the University of Dar es Salaam venue on the same day.

The Mozambicans would be relying on, among others, opener Filipe Nelson and team captain Antonio Laice, to notch their first victory and keep alive hopes of securing a spot in the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 1.

The duo was the cricketers boasting an encourag-

ing game with the bat in the clash versus Ghana, as Nelson scored 13 runs and Laice made his way back with 17 runs.

In tomorrow's other clash, long-time rivals, Ghana and Nigeria would take on each other, seeking to establish themselves as serious contenders.

Today's ties will have Malawi confront Sierra Leone, whereas Rwanda would be eager to bounce back when taking on Botswana.

The ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 2's participating squads are Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and hosts Tanzania.

The tournament is held at the DGC and University of Dar es Salaam grounds, featuring promising young cricketers from the mentioned eight countries.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar stated during the opening ceremony: "I am excited and honored as we gear up to host the ICC U-19 Boys Qualifier, Africa from July 31 to August 11, 2024."

The TCA boss pointed out: "I am immensely thankful to ICC for considering Tanzania worthy of conducting this tournament and assure all stakeholders that we will do everything possible to make ICC and cricket lovers proud worldwide."

"On behalf of everyone at TCA, I welcome the (other) seven participating countries, ICC officials, umpires, scorers, and guests to our beautiful city, Dar es Salaam, which means 'haven of peace'."

"Cricket in Tanzania is becoming a household name, and we are dedicated to

nurturing budding talents across the country.

He added: "We are grateful to the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, especially to the Honorable Minister, Damas Ndumbaro, for his excellent professionalism and support."

"Our energetic team at TCA cannot wait to host this event, and we promise a spectacular experience. Welcome to all participating nations."

Ndumbaro said: "Dear athletes and support staff from participating countries, ICC officials, TCA officials, and my fellow Tanzanians, I am honoured as we eagerly await the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Qualifier Africa Division 2 starting from July 31, 2024, in Tanzania."

Ndumbaro remarked: "I warmly welcome players and officials from Nigeria, Mozambique, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Botswana, and Malawi."

"A special thanks to the International Cricket Council for choosing Tanzania as the host. Our government, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, values sports as integral to national growth."

The minister, moreover, revealed: "The TCA, under Balakrishna Sreekumar's leadership, has significantly advanced cricket in Tanzania. We will ensure a successful and memorable tournament for everyone. I wish every participant the best. Ahsanteni sana!"

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurosa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurosa
23:05 EATV SAA1(r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba now send 'we will be ready' message to Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA head coach Fadlu Davids has informed Miguel Gamondi and Young Africans that they "will be ready" for the derby when the two sides resume their rivalry in the Community Shield on Thursday.

As NBC Premier League champions, Young Africans, go into the opening game of the season as favorites and have won two of their last three encounters with Simba. However, Fadlu is anticipating a stern test nonetheless.

Simba displayed a clinical second-half performance to beat Rwandan champions APR in a pre-season friendly on Saturday evening at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Debora Fernandez Mavambo and Edwin Balua were on the scoresheet for Davids' side against the Rwandan champions.

In his post-game reaction after the 2-0 victory, Davids expressed satisfaction with the team's second-half performance, though noting there is still a lot of work to be done.

"We have to be really clear about where we are in the third week of pre-season. APR have played a tournament already, they are five weeks in so they are at a better physical level than us. We saw it in the first half, slow passing, too lethargic, not moving the ball quickly enough."

"It was just about sitting down at half time and fixing tactically what we had to do: move the ball a bit quicker, try to get behind them because, in the first half, we were in control but did not create enough. It was about putting them under pressure and I am really happy with what I saw but there is so much work to do," he said.

Davids acknowledged his team is not yet ready to play the way he wants them as they are finalizing pre-season but he believes they will be ready mentally to go pound for pound against their arch-rivals.

"We are only on week four of pre-season so we are not ready for 90 minutes that's for sure. 90 minutes in relation to how I want to play but we will be ready for the derby. We know it is mentality. Are you strong enough mentally to be able to go against them?"

"They have played some competitive matches as well in South Africa so it's not about us blaming our fitness, we are going to have the right mentality to go take them pound for pound and we'll go at them."

Dabo praises Azam's game management after Rayon victory

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

AZAM FC head coach Yousouph Dabo expressed pride in his team's game management as they concluded their pre-season with a victory.

Lusajo Mwaikenda's second-half header secured a 1-0 win against Rayon Sports on Saturday, in a friendly match held at the Kigali Pele Stadium in Rwanda.

Azam are set to play another Rwandan team, APR FC, in the preliminary round of the 2024/25 CAF Champions League. This friendly match against Rayon Sports served not only as preparation but also as an opportunity for the team to acclimate to the weather in Kigali.

In his post-match press conference, Dabo expressed satisfaction with the overall performance, particularly highlighting the team's game management.

"I think it was a good game, at times tough but it was good for us. Like I said before, we agreed to come here to understand the environment and to

help us for the next game," Dabo remarked.

"The performance of my team was very good. We stayed strong even when the whole stadium supported Rayon Sports. It's good for our growth, confidence, and mentality. The most important thing is we did well, and without the ball, we defended well. It's football when you have the ball and when you don't have it."

"We have found solutions to the two situations, with and without the ball. We did not create a lot of chances to score. This was the kind of game where you don't need to create many chances to score because the two teams are very compact."

"Like I said earlier, the most important thing was how we managed with and without the ball and we succeeded in doing it," he said.

Azam's pre-season has come to an end, and the Senegalese coach has plenty to consider as the 2024/25 campaign starts on Thursday.

Azam will face Coastal

Union in a Community Shield semi-final match in Zanzibar.

The team began their preparations for the new season with a 4-0 success over Zima-

moto on July 12, followed by a 3-0 victory over Morocco's US Yacoub El Mansour.

Dabo's side then drew 1-1 with Morocco Botola Pro side

Union Touarga in their third pre-season outing but suffered a 4-1 defeat to Wydad in their final pre-season game in Morocco.



Governor of Haut-Katanga Province, Jacques Kyabula, participates in the 5-kilometer run during the CRDB Bank Marathon Congo held yesterday in Lubumbashi, DRC, where USD 50,000 was raised to support the Children's Ward at Jason Sendwe Hospital. Accompanying him were the Haut-Katanga Province Health Minister, the Ambassador of Tanzania to the DRC, Said Mshana, Makete MP and Chairman of Bunge Sports, Festo Sanga, Chairman of the Board of CRDB Bank DRC, Dr. Fred Msemwa, Acting Managing Director of CRDB Bank Group, Bruce Mwile, Managing Director of CRDB Bank Foundation, Tully Esther Mwambapa, along with other leaders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Flexibles by David Chikoko

