



Guardian BUSINESS Makete farmers to receive 1,000 tons of wheat seeds

Absa unveils business, brand's promise across all its markets

DSE indices slip at end of week as NMB, Swissport prices drop

LHRO advocates strategies to enhance economic welfare for recovering youth



JKCI gets 500 bedsheets from NMB Page 3



'Allow sugar from Malawi, Zambia' Page 4



Project to protect vanishing migratory birds Page 6

COMESA, EAC plan to boost horticulture regional trade

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) plan to boost intra-regional trade in horticulture.

Appolo Owuor, the COMESA-EAC Horticultural Accelerator (CEHA) regional coordinator told the pre-launch stakeholders' meeting here over the weekend that CEHA is committed to fostering intra-regional trade in fruits and vegetables valued at \$25m by end of the decade.

The instrument set to be inaugurated next month is expected to transform the regional horticultural landscape, multiplying opportunities and availability of the targeted products in the EAC-COMESA zone, he said.

"Through collaborative initiatives and strategic partnerships, we aim to remove trade barriers, improve infrastructure and promote sustainable agricultural practices to unleash the full potential of our vibrant and diverse

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Burundi signs up for \$3m 'backbone' extension

By Guardian Reporter

BURUNDI and Tanzania have signed a \$3.3m agreement for extension of the fibre optic backbone services to Burundi.

Nape Nnauye, the Information, Communication, and Information Technology minister graced the signing event, where the Burundi Backbone System (BBS) and Tanzania Telecommunications Co. Ltd (TTCL), entered into a commercial agreement spanning five years, quoted at the value of \$3.3m (8.3bn/-).

The minister said that the agreement

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Ngaramtoni crash: Kenyan truck driver missing, death toll tops 25



HEALTH deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel (in blue) pictured yesterday at the Arusha Regional Referral Hospital (Mount Meru) consoling one of the people, presumably a foreign tourist, injured in Saturday's road crash known to have claimed at least 25 lives. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

POLICE in Arusha are investigating the whereabouts of the Kenyan truck driver at the heart of Saturday's road crash that has left at least 25 people dead.

Justine Masejo, the regional police commander (RPC), said that the driver was unhurt and then disappeared from the scene of the accident. He may still be holed up somewhere in the city environs, the RPC asserted.

Meanwhile President Samia Suluhu Hassan has sent a message of condolence to Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella following the deaths of 25 people and 21 survivors injured in a multiple car crash on Saturday evening.

A State House statement signed by Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications, said that the government will bear treatment costs for the survivors of the accident.

Wishing those injured a quick recovery, she directed that responsible authorities in Arusha ensure that the injured obtain free treatment, expressing sympathy for the survivors and all the bereaved, joining with those families in their hour of grief.

The road accident occurred at around 5pm at the junction of the newly built East African bypass road at the Ngaramtoni suburb in Arumeru District along

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This needs us to continue protecting the environment and water sources for the safety of the project

By Guardian Reporter

President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fatah Al Sisi will Next month, launch plant number eight, an extra of 470MW for the national grid.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, made this announcement at a meeting with media editors at the site during the weekend, affirming that currently power availability stands at 98 percent and the rationing will soon be completely ended.

Power rationing is down by 85 percent after 235 megawatts of electricity was added into the national grid as one power plant at the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) was switched on, he

Samia, Al Sisi for JNHPP grand switch next month



John Ulanga (L), Director of International Trade and Economic Diplomacy in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, presents an award to NMB Bank's Dar es Salaam Zone manager, Dismas Prosper. It was at the annual Tanzania Service Excellence Awards ceremony organised by the Chartered Institute of Customer Management and held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The bank bagged three awards, including being named Overall Winner in the Corporate Social Responsibility category. Looking on are other NMB officials, among them Customer Experience head Abella Tarimo (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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COMESA, EAC to boost horticulture regional trade

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horticultural sub-sector," he stated.

The regional cooperation blocks with to unlock the full potential of avocado, onion and Irish potato value chains, he said, noting that they are the most traded crops within the eastern and southern parts of Africa.

"Avocado, onion, and Irish potato can generate a combined \$230m per year for upwards of 450,000 smallholder farmers with 0.4 hectare holding 60 avocado trees or 1 hectare for onion farmers," the coordinator explained.

Potential value chain products like tomato and cabbage may be added in future if recommended by CEHA stakeholders and structured interest groups, he said.

The maiden stakeholders' meeting for the Tanzania chapter was held here at the weekend under the auspices of the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), with the CEHA CEO affirming that the target is to harmonise COMESA-EAC fragmented regulatory and standard policies.

They will also seek to coordinate the production chain, address poor storage and transportation snags for the perishable crops and ensure availability of quality and sufficient seeds, he elaborated.

The volume of preserved or processed fruits and vegetables is expected to double from 8 per cent in 2021 to 16 per cent, decline of time from farm-to-market by 50 per cent during the period, while farm gate prices are likely to come down by up to 25 per cent.

The value of fresh and processed horticultural products is projected to reach \$500m while creating 100,000 jobs along the value chains, he stated, pro-

jecting halving of post-harvest losses from 40 per cent at the moment.

Farmers will be adopting climate-smart practices to maintain profitability, including by growing crops that are resilient to predicted changes in local weather patterns, he said.

Building the capacity of the horticultural industry across Eastern and Southern Africa is part of a decade long plan of action for commodity trade at COMESA, to integrate smallholder farmers in domestic, regional and international markets.

The EAC has a similar plan, the Fruit and Vegetable Strategy 2021-2031, here

CEHA will now co-ordinate private sector-led investments into production and processing clusters.

It will also facilitate access to working capital and layout financing, plus making available technical assistance for processors, farmers, and other agribusinesses across the value chains to accelerate growth.

Five countries, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have been selected in the accelerator drive, based on financial contribution of the industry to their economies, he said.

In Kenya alone, avocados are expected to create 50,000 jobs while Irish potatoes add 380,000 job openings, projecting that in Tanzania and Uganda, the onion value chain is expected to capitalise on strong brand quality and growing demand to create more than 230,000 rural jobs.

Currently at \$4bn, high value fruits and vegetables are consistently more profitable than cereals and other traditional staple crops, with demand in domestic and export markets on the rise, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier during the funeral of former Namibian President Dr Hage Geingob in Windhoek on Saturday. Photo: State House

Samia, Al Sisi for JNHPP grand switch next month

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explained.

JNHPP has a total of nine plants which will produce a total of 2115 megawatts when fully operations, he said, noting that there was a 200MW to 400MW power deficit and that when the second plant is switched on, there will be a surplus of 70MW.

The project started in 2018

after the government signed a joint construction contract with Arab Contractors and El-Sewedy from Egypt, and nearly six years later it is on the verge of total completion.

He praised the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) and the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) and the contractors for working to ensure that the project is completed

within the time frame.

Mohamed Zakya, the project manager for the contracting firms, praised the DPM for pushing to ensure that plant number nine is switched on.

Water minister Jumaa Awe-so said the major responsibility is to ensure that water is available, pointing out that when there are power problems other sectors are also

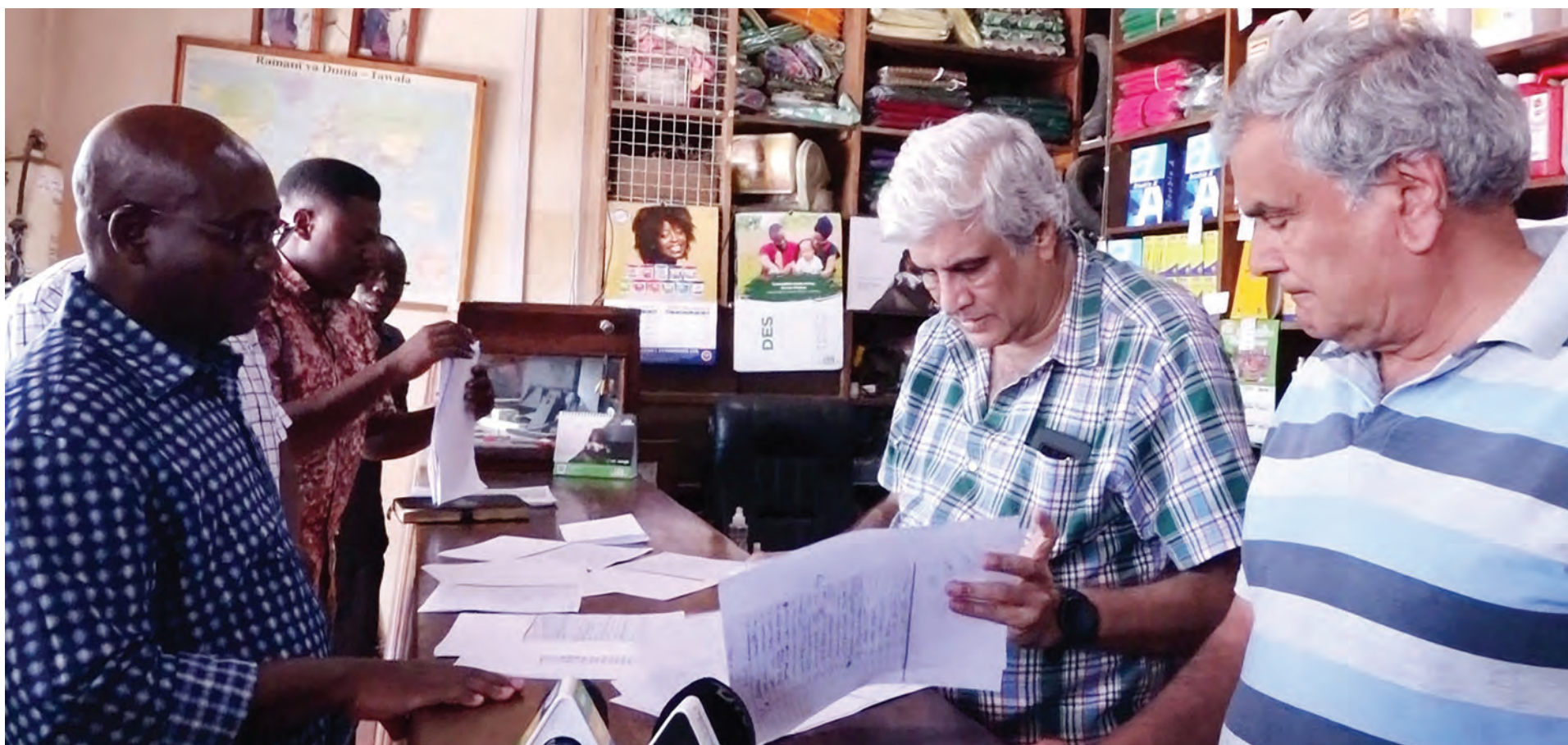
shaken.

JNHPP needs 32.7bn litres of water and so far the water level at the dam adds to 28bn litres, he said, affirming that having enough water in the dam is massively important.

"This needs us to continue protecting the environment and water sources for the safety of the project," he emphasised, urging the water authorities to ensure that

they raise the alarm whenever there are water level threats.

Abubakar Kunenge, the regional commissioner, said that factories are being constructed rapidly, with the region having 1,533 factories where 120 are big and 124 middle-level factories, increasing the demand for power.



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (L) pictured at the weekend checking sales receipts found at a wholesale store owned by a Singida municipality trader. The RC was leading members of the region's defence and security committee a tour meant to assess the availability, accessibility and pricing of sugar, which has become an unusually scarce and expensive commodity in recent weeks. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Ngaramtoni crash: Kenyan truck driver missing, death toll tops 25

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the Arusha-Namanga highway.

said that so far the death toll from the multiple-vehicle crash stands at 25 in the busy Kibaoni spot on the outskirts of the city.

The dead are 14 men, 10 women and the latest addition being a young girl, he said, noting that seven foreigners from different countries died, from Kenya, Togo, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Nigeria

and the United States, while those injured include travellers from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Switzerland, Cameroon, Britain, Mali and Hawaii, a part of the US.

SACP Masejo said that the accident involved four vehicles, including a large semi-trailer truck of Mack model, a Kenyan transit cargo haulier with KAC 943H plate number.

The truck belonging to KAY Construction Co. of Nairobi was

pulling a trailer with plate number ZF 6778 when it crashed into three other vehicles, namely a passenger commuter van, a school bus and a private car.

The speeding Mack truck's brakes failed and it crashed into the three vehicles, one a yellow school bus - a Toyota Coaster with plate number T 673 DEW for the New Vision School.

The passenger carrier was a Nissan Caravan combi with plate number T623 CQF

which yielded the bigger number of victims, the police chief noted, identifying the private car as a Mercedes Benz sedan, T 879 DBY.

Mount Meru referral hospital sources affirming that 21 injured persons from the accident scene were being treated there.

Dr Godwin Mollele, the Health deputy minister, visited the injured at the Mount Meru facility and at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) zonal referral hospital in Moshi.

Burundi signs up for US \$3m 'backbone' link

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marks a significant milestone for both countries as enhanced connectivity will improve communication and connectivity for businesses and individuals alike in Burundi.

Dr. Jabir Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general who presided over the ceremony, where TTCL director general Peter Ulanga affirmed that the Burundi Backbone System (BBS) was working with TTCL since 2019.

The initial agreement in 2019 facilitated connecting the country's fibre optic communications system nicknamed 'backbone' with Burundi's similar outlay at the Kabanga border spot in Ngara District, Kagera Region, with another connection spot at Manyovu in Kigoma Region, he stated.

BBS CEO Jeremie Hageringwe expressed his appreciation for TCRA support in the matter, its contribution to efforts to liaise with communications sector stakeholders in Burundi.

In November 2021, a Burundi team led by Lea Ngabire, the communication services top executive, visited TCRA headquarters for an in-depth exposure to backbone operations in Tanzania.

During the visit, TCRA had expressed its commitment to enhancing the valuable partnership, with the Burundi executive affirming that this renewed agreement is a step forward in regional collaboration.

It enhances the communication infrastructure and fosters lasting partnership between Tanzania and Burundi in ICT and telecommunications, as the five-year agreement sees TTCL extending backbone services to its Burundi counterpart, he added.

Expand internship opportunities for students, Vice President tells employers

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has urged players in the private sector to provide internship opportunities to students from vocational training and technical colleges to enhance their practical knowledge.

Dr Mpango made the call at the weekend soon after laying a foundation stone for the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA)'s college in Mkinga District, Tanga Region which has been constructed at a cost of 2.65bn/-.

He said that providing opportunity for students to conduct practical studies enables them to excel in their professions and be able to produce positive outcomes in the nation once they graduate.

He also wanted residents Mkinga to wake up and take advantage of VETA college to gain new knowledge and skills to enable them improve their incomes through self-employment.



Students of a Dar es Salaam secondary school pictured at the weekend with a placard bearing a message underscoring the need for society to help children realise their dreams in education and other avenues. It was at a Tanzania Gender Equality Organisation sensitisation session on the sexual corruption. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

He directed the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to work on various challenges facing the college including lack of learning equipment and ensure that it increases enrolment at the college. The VP also wanted tutors, students and citizens to protect the college's infrastructure for it to last long and benefit more youth within the district and other areas.

"The Ministry of Planning and Investment should

also work on the compensation for residents who were relocated to pave the way for the construction of a cement factory in the district," he directed.

Dr Mpango said the government is well prepared to see major transformation in the education sector to stimulate development and improve people's livelihoods.

"The government will work on various challenges to ensure that learning and teaching environment in

vocational training colleges is improved. It is important for citizens and stakeholders to support these efforts so that we produce enough competent experts in the fields of science, innovation and technology," he added.

Meanwhile, the VP urged residents of the district to feed their children balanced diets so that they grow healthily and become productive members of the society.

Bank donates 500 bedsheets to JKCI

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has donated 500 bedsheets to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) based at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) as part of its contribution to national social welfare improvement efforts.

The move is meant to support delivery of quality health services in the country.

Dismas Prosper, NMB Bank Dar es Salaam Zonal Manager said at the weekend that the beddings worth over 9m/- was continuation of the lender's corporate giving engagements in society.

"Addressing challenges in the health sector in Tanzania is a top priority for NMB Bank due to the fact that health is an issue of utmost importance in

the development of any country," he said.

"NMB Bank appreciates the efforts of the government in enhancing delivery of health services and improving the conditions of providing them in both rural and urban Tanzania," he added, noting that the authorities deserve support in fulfilling that endeavour.

According to him, the bank has for many years now been undertaking impactful social investments across the country with special focus on education and health as part of sharing the profits it makes with society.

He said for seven consecutive years, NMB Bank has been setting aside one percent of its net profit to finance corporate

social responsibility initiatives.

Ilala District Commissioner Jonas Mpogoro applauded the bank for the support, saying it was a worthy investment that other corporate entities should emulate.

"Accounting principles allow for 0.05 percent of profit after tax to be allocated for social causes but very few busi-

nesses do it," he said.

He said with its growing local and international reputation in providing cardiovascular care, training and research services, JKCI requires support to not only better what it is doing but also expand outreach to serve more people.

Mpogoro said the institute has also become a tourist attraction with visitors coming

to learn at how it operates in treating both local and foreign patients. JKCI executive director Dr Peter Kisenge said their success story cannot be complete without mentioning the partnership support from NMB Bank.

"To serve more people, we are ready to work closely with other public hospitals in Dar es Salaam," he said.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR EACOP LTD IN TANZANIA - REFERENCE NO. 00000481

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD"), invites experienced and reputable companies or organizations to express their interest in provision of Translation Services for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from Lake Albert area in Uganda to eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 296 km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania. In Tanzania the pipeline will traverse eight (8) regions comprising of Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga, 27 administrative District Councils, and 231 Villages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- The Vendor should be able to demonstrate language proficiency and the ability to translate documents accurately between but not limited to English, Swahili, French and Mandarin.
- Demonstrate proficiency in technical and industry-specific terminology relevant to the oil and gas sector.
- Translate a variety of document types including legal, technical, environmental, and general business documents.
- Implement a robust quality assurance process to ensure accurate and culturally sensitive translations.
- Provide proofreading and editing services to maintain high-quality standards.
- Adhere to agreed-upon timelines for the delivery of translated documents.
- Communicate promptly in case of unforeseen delays and propose alternative timelines.
- Maintain the confidentiality of all documents and information received during the translation process.
- Establish clear and effective communication channels for project updates and addressing queries.
- Assign a dedicated project manager as the primary point of contact.
- Ensure translations are culturally sensitive and appropriate for the target audience in each language.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Brief description of experience, expertise, and capacity to deliver the required scope of services.
- Organization profile detailing services provided, proof of performance, with reference letters from three previous clients.
- Business License.
- Certificate of Incorporation and BRELA search (attach copy)
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA 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.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project including personal certifications as necessary and level of qualifications, experience, and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Proof of certification of translation services from relevant Boards and its affiliations such as Baraza la Kiswahili Tanzania (BAKITA)
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance, and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) via email, together with the above listed documents through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on or before 11th March 2024. Email subject shall be: 00000481 Provision of Translation Services. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests (EOI) should be submitted in English Language.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.



Request for Proposals

RFP No. 27882

Provision of Medical Insurance Cover for Jhpiego Tanzania

Due Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: Friday, 8 March 2024 at 3:00 PM EAT

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites eligible registered insurance companies to submit sealed proposals for Provision of Medical Insurance cover for Jhpiego employees and dependents.

Interested eligible bidders may request for a complete set of bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpigo.org

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the email address provided in this advert.

All proposals must be delivered to the physical address indicated below by Friday, 8 March 2024 at 3:00 PM EAT.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director,
Jhpiego Tanzania,
House No. 7, Serengeti Street, Mikocheni,
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 756 888 388



A theatrical performance well in progress at Msasani Secondary School in Moshi municipality at the weekend as part of the launch of a Serengeti Breweries Ltd project meant to discourage underage consumption of alcohol. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Residents want import of 'cheaper' sugar from Zambia, Malawi

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has been urged to temporarily lift customs conditions for sugar coming from the neighbouring Zambia and Malawi in order to help reduce the ongoing shortage crisis.

A section of residents in Mbeya Region decried the acute shortage of sugar in the area, saying it does not only affect daily consumption needs but goes further to affect trade and economic development.

Speaking to this paper in different interviews at the weekend, the residents said that usually sugar from the two countries is sold at lower price compared to Tanzania's brands but due to hard customs restrictions, it is hard to import it into the country. Mariam Mwakimbasi, a food venter at Mbalizi area in Mbeya City, said that there is a lot of sugar sold at a very low price at the border of Tanzania and Zambia but it is hard to enter the country due to customs conditions.

"Because the country is going through a hard time of shortage of sugar, and that the same commodity is highly available in our neighbouring countries, it is important to allow the commodity to enter the country smoothly to address the shortage," she said.

According to her, one kilogramme of sugar is sold at 2500/- at the border areas but not allowed to enter the country until levies are paid, a situation which does not address the ongoing crisis.

"The situation has now become intense and we do not know if our businesses are going to survive especially those of us who need a lot of sugar to prepare foods. Customers do not take tea anymore because we have hiked prices of a cup of tea and coffee from 300/- to 500/- with snacks also being sold at higher prices than before," she said.

Jailos Kijalo said sugar from Zambia and Malawi is sold at border areas at a very affordable price but it is hard to bring it to Tanzania, adding that it is hard for his family to take tea every day as before.

Kijalo who conducts business between Tunduma town, Mbeya city and Kyela in the region said he has been witnessing Tanzanian law enforcement officers arresting people who transport sugar from Zambia and Malawi to Mbeya.

According to him, the officers have been entering commuter buses for inspection and whenever they catch bags of sugar, they seize them and detain the owners.

"Sugar crisis has pushed people to engage in the illegal business of smuggling sugar into Tanzania; it is now sold as cannabis. To reverse the situation, the government has to ease conditions and allow the commodity to enter the country legally," he said.

A trader who sought anonymity said the situation is chaotic as the government tries to control the skyrocketing prices, something she said is impossible.

"Even me, whenever I get the sugar, I am forced to sell it at 5,000/- per kilo as there is no other way because despite selling it at this price, we do not get profit," she said.

Recently, Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera directed all districts to supervise cap prices of the commodity and ensure that it is not sold above 3,000/-.

He wanted leaders in the districts to take stern measures against all traders who sell the commodity at higher price.

'Healthy, safe workplace environment increases productivity'

By Correspondent Halfani Chusi

EMPLOYERS have been urged to develop and implement strategies to create a healthier and safer working environment to increase productivity at workplace.

Speaking during Occupational Health and Safety Professionals Day in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Joshua Matiko, training and research officer at the Occupa-

tional Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) said it is important to ensure that workplaces are safe for all to facilitate smooth implementation of duties.

Organised by the Tanzania Occupational Health and Safety Association (TOHASA), the event saw the gathering of experts and practitioners from various countries.

Matiko commended TOHASA for bringing the experts to exchange

ideas and discuss more ways to promote safer and healthier workplace for sustainable development.

According to him, governments around the world have focused on health and safety issues at workplaces and that everyone should pay attention and invest in strategies to promote a safe working environment.

TAHOSA Chairperson Caroline Balaza said the meeting brought

together number of experts and employers to discuss safer and healthier workplace and later came up with a joint resolution.

"Everyone has the right to work and all workers have the right to a safe and healthy working environment. We should ensure that employees are happy at their workplaces and they get all the required services," she said.

She underscored the need for

the government to recognise occupational health and safety professionals as well as engage them in the improvement of policies in order to achieve intended goals.

Isaac Senya, occupational health and safety manager at Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) emphasised the importance of adhering to safety at workplace.

"I advise other companies to participate in meetings like this as

they are very important in reminding us of various important things to do in order to have a safer working environment," he said.

David Ongesa, president of the Workplace Safety Professionals Association of Kenya (WSPAK) said the meeting was of great importance and stimulated unity among professionals who have a big role to advocate for healthier and safer working environments.




Advertisement
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-02-01	CONSTRUCTION OF FORTY NEW HOUSES AT BUGARAMA VILLAGE KAHAMA – SHINYANGA.	i. Contractor specialised in Building Construction projects, must have proven experience with construction activities of different types, CRB Certificate – Building works minimum Class 4. ii. Experience working with similar works in last 5 years. iii. Competence in building works and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry. iv. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA & QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. v. List of equipment's - Resource list – specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

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

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

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **04th March 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

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




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No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-01-02	33KV OVERHEAD LINE CONSTRUCTION	i. Contractor specialised in overhead line construction, must have proven experience with different overhead line projects, Electrical CRB Certificate, class 1 – 5. ii. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years iii. Proficiency in the areas of supply, fabrication, application, transportation, unloading, and receiving, installation, construction, assembly, testing, evaluation, and quality control to fulfill the work's detailed scope, as well as complete awareness of the risks and safety precautions associated with working in the mining industry. iv. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. v. List of equipment's - Resource list – specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

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

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

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **04th March 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

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

Call for lifestyle change as overweight fuels NCDs

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIANS have been urged to adopt better ways of cutting down body weight to avoid non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Shreya Shah, a medical practitioner at the Regency Medical Centre made the call at the weekend in Dar

es Salaam when speaking shortly after the hospital conducted free health screening for residents of Ukonga area. The free medical screening camp was organized by Ukonga MP Jerry Silaa.

She said that most people who attended the screening were found to be overweight, especially women, adding that they were at risk of NCDs such as high

blood pressure and diabetes.

She said it is important that people are educated about health lifestyle such as avoiding excessive use of alcoholic beverages and foods with a lot of sugar and salt in order to avoid such diseases.

"We have attended to more than 400 people and we have found that most of them are heavier than their

height, especially women; we have advised them to do daily exercise and reduce consumption of oily and sugary foods," she said.

She asked Tanzanians to develop the habit of listening to advice given by medical experts about health matters.

She asked Tanzanians to also develop the habit of doing exercise every day to avoid NCDs.

Alex Ngomola, one of Ukonga residents who attended the camp, said many people he know do not have the habit of testing their health until they are in a bad health condition.

He appealed to health facilities to continue providing screening services to reach many people who do not have financial resources for medical testing.

Maria Gwemela, another

attendee urged Tanzanians to build a culture of testing their health regularly for early diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

"Let's not wait for free testing like what happened today. It is advisable to do general check-up at least once a year because doctors say that early diagnosis means ease of treatment and the vice versa is also true," she said.



We have attended to more than 400 people and we have found that most of them are heavier than their height, especially women; we have advised them to do



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Jerry Silaa (seated-L) undergoes blood pressure screening at a free health camp held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was at the festival supported by the city's Regency Medical Centre. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The Nature Conservancy
Africa

VACANCY

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. As a science-based organization, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that we can create a world in which people and nature thrive. We're rooted in our Mission and guided by our Values, which include a Commitment to Diversity and Respect for People, Communities, and Cultures.

We seek to fill the vacant position below to be based in the TNC office in **Dar es Salaam**.

1. **Marine Project Coordinator- Job ID 54765**
2. **Marine Spatial Planning Specialist- Job ID 54795**

Interested candidates are encouraged to visit our website careers portal login to <https://www.nature.org/careers> and search for the Job ID to apply by **March 5, 2024**.

217849301

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER NO: TP/02/2024/NCB/W/003 CONCRETING OF TRUCK LOADING FACILITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF GANTRY BUILDING

26 February, 2024

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (ICB) experienced and reputable Civil Contractors registered in **class Three (III) and above** to bid for **Concreting of Truck Loading Facility and Construction of Gantry Building**.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may request an electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz by sending an application letter and copies of Contractors Registration Board (CRB) certificate of company registration or a similar certification. from **Monday to Friday at 08:00AM to 4:00PM between 26 February 2024 to 22 March, 2024**.
4. Bidders MUST visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **Wednesday, 06 March, 2024 from 10:30hrs to 11:30hrs**.
5. Bidders are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment PPE's during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Bidders who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to enter onto site.
6. Bidders must submit hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively, enclosed and sealed in a single plain envelope marked Tender No: **TP/02/2024/NCB/W/003 for Concreting of Truck Loading Facility and Construction of Gantry Building**. Softcopies MUST be submitted in a USB flash disk. All bid documents shall be addressed and delivered to **Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam**.
7. The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **1600hrs local time Monday 25 March, 2024**.
8. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be accepted or considered for evaluation.
9. Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of the TIPER tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids
10. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

Secretary Tender Committee
Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd
P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni Depot site-1 Dar es Salaam-Tanzania

217849301

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER NO: TP/02/2024/NCB/W/004 CONCRETING OF INTERNAL BUND WALLS AT TANKS S1 & S2

26 February, 2024

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (ICB) experienced and reputable Civil Contractors registered in **class Four (IV) and above** to bid for **Concreting of Internal Bund Walls of Tanks S1 & S2**.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may request an electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz by sending an application letter and copies of Contractors Registration Board (CRB) certificate of company registration or a similar certification. from **Monday to Friday at 08:00AM to 4:00PM between 26 February 2024 to 22 March, 2024**.
4. Bidders MUST visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **Friday, 08 March, 2024 from 10:30hrs to 11:30hrs**.
5. Bidders are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment PPE's during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Bidders who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to enter onto site.
6. Bidders must submit hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively, enclosed and sealed in a single plain envelope marked Tender No: **TP/02/2024/NCB/W/004 for Concreting of Internal Bund Walls of Tanks S1 & S2**. Softcopies MUST be submitted in a USB flash disk. All bid documents shall be addressed and delivered to **Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam**.
7. The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **1600hrs local time Monday 25 March, 2024**.
8. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be accepted or considered for evaluation.
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10. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

Secretary Tender Committee
Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd
P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni Depot site-1 Dar es Salaam-Tanzania

217849301



CAREER OPPORTUNITY Country Director- Tanzania

MSI Reproductive Choices is one of the world's leading providers of sexual and reproductive healthcare. We believe that everyone should have the right to choose.

Today, our organisation has over 9,000 team members working in 37 countries across the world. Our success lies in the fact that MSI teams are locally led, entrepreneurial and results-driven, and are passionate about delivering high quality, client-centred care in their own communities. As a social business, we focus on sustainable delivery, efficiency, and funding models that are built to last, so that the women and girls we serve today will have a choice in the future too.

About the programme

Operating in Tanzania since 1989, MSI Tanzania (MST) - an affiliate of MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) - is among the country's largest providers of voluntary Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and information. Over the last 24 years, MST provided accurate information and high quality SRH Services to Tanzanian women and girls - with a focus on high-quality long-acting and permanent methods (LAPM), to increase method choice and complement existing access and availability to short term methods - enabling them to make informed choices. MST also provides maternal and child health services, cervical cancer screening and treatment of precancerous lesions, and sexually transmitted infection management.

MST has established itself as a household name, complementing and supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and People with Special Needs (MoCDGWPWSN) and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO RALG).

MST's programming is specifically designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups, with a focus on adolescents, those living in poverty, those without alternative access to care, and other marginalized groups, such as people with disability, and survivors of gender-based violence. MST differentiates itself from others in the sector through our: client-centred care; clinical expertise; focus on service delivery at scale; use of evidence to constantly improve; and our emphasis on ensuring last-mile voluntary contraceptive access, beyond the reach of existing health infrastructure. As a service delivery organization, MST is well placed to gain community, facility, and client-level insights on what works for those with the greatest need.

MST has national reach, with service delivery channels across all regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (1 Centre in Unguja). The programme currently operates eight centres, one maternity hospital located mainly in urban areas, 28 mobile outreach teams, 40 embedded nurses serving remote rural populations in partnership with government providers, and provide support to over 240 public sector facilities, through our proven health systems strengthening program. MST is strengthening its Social Marketing channel, improving access to high quality, affordable and diversified SRH products.

The role

The Country Director, Tanzania, is responsible for delivering results for women and their families, driving programmatic excellence, and implementing best practice at scale in Tanzania. They provide high quality services where they are needed the most, and their work directly contributes to preventing maternal deaths and making a sustainable impact on the lives of thousands of people every year. The CD is also responsible for ensuring Tanzania's social business model has a strong footing on both the social and business side.

The Country Director, Tanzania, is a key leadership position. The CD represents the organisation in Tanzania and is responsible for the overall strategy, management (programmatic, financial, and administrative), and development of Tanzania's national family planning and SRH programmes. They lead skilled, professional country teams to deliver life-saving services through clinical centres, mobile outreach teams, social franchising, and social marketing.

In addition, they are responsible for preparing and executing annual budgets, marketing plans and work plans; developing new business opportunities; overseeing financial, administrative, and logistical resources; ensuring adherence to MSI minimum standards; and assuring quality operations in line with annual and long-term strategic goals and objectives. The Country Director manages for results, valuing and rewarding high performance, accountability, speed and efficiency and innovation, while keeping the client at the heart of everything we do.

The Country Director is Tanzania's senior representative in the country of assignment. Reporting to Africa Regional Office of MSI, MSI Tanzania (MST) is an implementing partner of the MoH, with whom MST works closely across all its projects and service delivery channels partnering at national, provincial, district and facility level. They work closely with government to overcome barriers that prevent women and men from accessing safe, affordable, reliable family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services.

About you

We expect all team members to share our vision and commitment to achieving our mission whilst promoting equality and safeguarding the welfare of all clients and colleagues.

To perform this role, it is essential that you have the following skills:

- Proven experience of driving impact, quality and sustainability in programmes and improving operational standards.
- Effective interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire, lead, motivate and guide Country teams.
- Proven ability to effectively communicate ideas, proposals, issues and implications at senior level
- Excellent project management skills related to organisational development projects and international, cross-functional teams with a proven history of delivering results.
- Highly developed problem solving, diplomatic, networking and negotiation skills.
- Demonstration of 'making things happen', operating at pace and delivering effectively through others.

To perform this role, it is essential that you have the following experience:

- Experience of developing and successfully implementing business plans and growth strategies, with a track record of aligning resources with key priorities, keeping management teams engaged and focused on critical milestones and consistently achieving results.
- Experience of communicating a range of complex issues with the ability to convey an inspiring vision and purpose both within operations and where appropriate across other business functions.
- An understanding of major policies/ issues of large bilateral/multilateral donors strong working knowledge of business practices • An international mindset, with an understanding of, and empathy for, the development sector, together with an appreciation for cultural differences.
- Experience in leading a social business preferably in a developing country.
- Experience of formulating and controlling budgets to ensure effective monitoring takes place.
- Understanding of the issues surrounding provision of reproductive health care services internationally.
- A reputation for 'making things happen', operating at pace and delivering effectively through others.

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Full-time: 40 hours per week.

Contract type: 3-year fixed term appointment.

Salary: Competitive Salary + Bonus + Benefits

Salary band: BG11

If you feel that you are able to meet the requirements, and you are motivated enough to be part of the team, please apply through the link below:

[https://globaleur232.dayforchcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/V](https://globaleur232.dayforchcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/View/412)
[iew/412](https://globaleur232.dayforchcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/V)

Closing date: 8th March 2024 (midnight GMT). Interviews may take place before this date for exceptional candidates.

For internal staff applying from an MSI country programme, the role will be positioned within the existing salary structure of the country. Local terms and conditions of the country will apply.

277848307

Southern wildlife corridor loses 70pc of water sources

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

At least 70 percent of water bodies that used to feed the Selous-Niassa corridor in Southern Tanzania have dried up, threatening the survival of wildlife species in the area.

Water sources and rivers have reportedly been disappearing from the precinct between 1990 and the present, according to environmental research to be published soon.

Dr Maria Montero, a researcher from the German International Development Agency (GIZ) who has been conducting studies in the Southern Corridors, points out that the number of elephants within the corridor has also been dwindling.

"Invasion of human activities, including settlements has taken a drastic toll on the elephants' breeding areas," she said recently while presenting a topic on 'Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) causes and mitigation strategies.'

It was also revealed that the number of jumbos dropped from over 3000 that roamed the Selous-Niassa corridor in the early 1990s down to around 600 elephants as of 2018.

The expert researcher was addressing reporters and writers attending training classes on HWC mitigation organized by the Journalists Association of Tanzania (JET) in association with the GIZ.

Dr Montero listed some of the possible causes as hu-

man and livestock intrusion of wildlife habitats; inadequate land use planning, blockage of animal passages and disregard for advice from experts and authorities.

Isaac Chamba, a conservation officer with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), said that cases of HWC increase by over 23.76 percent annually, with effects of climate change also being among the contributing factors.

"As far as data from TAWA stations are concerned, the rate of damaged crops averages at nearly 120 percent every year," he said.

The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor which extends for a total of approximately 160 to 180 kilometres in length, following the Ruvuma River is an important corridor mapped within the international Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA).

It is one of the largest TFCA in Africa, covering approximately 154,000 square kilometres.

Two thirds of the area is mapped within the Selous-Nyerere ecosystem, forming the northern component of the TFCA which measures 48,000 square kilometers and happens to be Africa's largest single protected area.

The Selous Game Reserve is also one of Africa's oldest formally protected areas, dating back to 1896.

Its counterpart, the Niassa National Reserve, across the border to Mozambique is the country's largest conservation area and covers a total of 42,000 square kilometres.



Belinda Wera (L), Head of Vodacom Tanzania's Customer Services and Digital Care Department, and the company's Collections manager, Charles Daniel, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend holding certificates the firm was awarded after winning the Tanzania Service Excellence Awards (TSEA) 2023. It was at a ceremony organised by the Chartered Institute of Customer Management. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Project now seeks to protect endangered migratory birds

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MOST communities in Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts in Dodoma Region lack awareness about biodiversity conservation, derailing efforts to protect white stork, one of the rare species of birds found in the two districts, it has been said.

Neema Mwaja, Nature Tanzania Project Officer at Kongwa Field Office, told journalists here at the weekend that white storks are migratory birds which migrate from Europe, especially Germany to Africa including Tanzania.

Mwaja said that the origin of white storks is Europe but they normally move from the continent during winter season when the food becomes scarce to Tanzania between December and February in search of food, especially insects like caterpillars.

They fly back to Europe in March. She said when the white storks migrate from Tanzania they pass through Kenya, South Sudan, Israel and finally to Germany, and while in Europe, they lay eggs and hatch chicks. According to her, the number of white storks in Kongwa and Mpwapwa was more than 600 last year but currently there are only 100 white storks due to their migratory behaviour.

"Low awareness about biodiversity conservation makes area residents kill them with poison either for business purposes or food. In collaboration with other stakeholders, we have already started educating the communities about the importance of such birds," she said.

She said they once took samples from killed or poisoned birds to the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) for investigation and the results showed that the residents

of Kongwa and Mpwapwa face the risk of contracting diseases by eating poisoned white storks.

She said that Nature Tanzania is committed to changing the behaviour of killing birds illegally. In this regard, the organisation supported communities to establish income generating activities as an alternative way to stop the illegal killing of birds.

Mwaja further noted that communities were supplied with 50 beehives, honey harvesting gear and honey processing machines. According to her, the micro-project enabled the communities to harvest more than 400 kilograms of honey in two rounds of production.

Other groups, including the youth (previous hunters) were supported to form two football teams and established poultry projects alongside piggyery. She said that there are also programmes being implemented at school level involving primary and secondary schools, aimed at educating pupils and motivating them to become ambassadors of biodiversity conservation and environment protection. "Our project runs bird-watching and tree nursery programmes in six schools. In addition, the communities were provided with 15,000 seedlings to plant at their homes and open spaces as part of landscape restoration," she said.

Mwaja said the conservation of white storks in Kongwa and Mpwapwa in Dodoma started in 2021 in four villages, two in Kongwa and the other two in Mpwapwa.

She said Nature Tanzania commends its stakeholders, including offices of district commissioner in Kongwa and Mpwapwa, Tanzania Forest Service Agency and funders NABU International Foundation and Sustainable Health Initiative.

TOSCI officials calls on farmers to use quality seeds for increased yields

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

FARMERS have been urged to adopt modern farming practices which involve use of quality seeds approved by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) to increase yields and incomes.

Zera Mwankemwa, Quality Control Officer at TOSCI, made the call here at the weekend during a training session for journalists on how to use their profession to promote the importance of quality seeds.

She said use of seeds which are of low quality leads farmers to get little harvests and thus affecting their economy and development in general.

"Many farmers are still reluctant to adopt new and quality seeds; they still rely on normal traditionally preserved seeds which eventually do not reward them during harvests. So, it is important for them to change their mindset and start using seeds that are certified by TOSCI," she said.

She said that farmers who use TOSCI-approved seeds can get between 13 to 15 sacks of maize weighing 100kg per acre while traditional seeds produce between two to three sacks.

Joseph Pagu, another Quality Control Officer at TOSCI urged farmers to be careful when purchasing seeds as there are others which are counterfeit.

"It is important for farmers to verify if the seeds have been approved by TOSCI and this can be done through mobile phone by entering special numbers which are found on the seed bags by typing *148*52# and following instructions," he said.

Experts validate occupational standards for crucial sectors

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MORE than 100 experts from government institutions, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) met here for two days recently and validated occupational standards for five key sectors of the economy.

The occupational standards were prepared by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) in collaboration with local and foreign stakeholders, including Sunmaker, a Chinese company focused on skills development for African youth and the secretariat organization of the China-Africa TVET Alliance.

Opening the meeting, NACTVET Executive Director Adolf Rutayuga said the validated standards are important for promoting professionalism, improving performance and bringing about change within the workplace.

Rutayuga said the workshop reviewed and endorsed the developed work standards to guide vocational

education and training in the preparation and implementation of programmes that meet the needs of the labour market and the country's economic agenda.

The occupational standards cover five sectors namely construction, transport, energy, agriculture and information and communications technology, he said, adding that occupational standards are crucial in Tanzania as the country is currently building an industrial economy that requires many qualified and skilled workers.

Zhang Yujia, acting country director for Sunmaker Tanzania, said the organization aims to develop skills for African youth and began partnering with NACTVET in 2022 to carry out a series of projects.

Zhang said the projects include the revision and development of occupational standards and programme development standards, the development of curriculum, the digitalization of TVET teaching and learning materials, capacity building for TVET leaders and staff and joint diploma programmes between Chinese and Tanzanian institutions.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (3rd-R) pictured yesterday shortly after launching a branch of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) in Tabora Region. With him are TADB's managing director Frank Nyabundege (4th-L) and Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian (4th-R). Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Rwanda arts festival showcases importance of African culture

KIGALI

A NEW arts festival launched by Rwanda provides a platform for African artists and curators to explore new narratives and build relationships while highlighting the vibrancy of the African cultural scene.

Organized by the Rwanda Arts Initiative (RAI) art center and the Rwandan Ministry of Youth and Arts, the Kigali Triennial is a pan-African event that weaves together literature, theater, dance, music, cinema, fashion, digital arts, gastronomy and design.

The festival, themed 'Where art, knowledge and business converge' ran from Feb. 16 to 25 in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

"A festival like this provides a platform for the young generation to find the sweetness and beauty of African culture in what is performed, including cultural dances," James Mazimpaka, a Rwandan actor and writer, told Xinhua in an interview.

"I hope to meet so many artists from all over the world that I can get something from them, and they can get something from me.

It is two-way. Let's build our lives around art; art is our life, and our life is art," said Mazimpaka, who also acts as an art mentor.

With more than 200 artists from 25 countries performing in 60 shows, the festival is a celebration of African excellence that also seeks to showcase Kigali as an emerging cultural capital.

Mazimpaka, who claimed he was born an actor, believed that while one can be an artist by their work, their culture is still their identity. "There is richness in our culture. There is a need to expose the young generation to African culture."

According to Sandrine Umutoni, Rwanda's minister of state for youth and arts, hosting the festival demonstrates Rwanda's appreciation of the vital role of the arts in youth development, its importance in creating bonds, and its contribution to the overall enrichment of society's cultural heritage.

The festival, the first of its kind, was initiated to educate not only the public but also professional artists, said Jules Cezar Niyonkuru, one of the organizers.

"It's an art market that will take place every three years to unite all of Africa and all disciplines. What we are trying to achieve is professionalization, building bridges with people who are here," said Niyonkuru, who is also an author, actor and theater director. "People learn not only about their own culture but also about other people's cultures. They also learn practical skills that they can use in their own careers after the festival."

ANC launches manifesto ahead of May elections

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa on Saturday highlighted the achievements of his African National Congress, which has ruled the country for all of its 30 years of democracy, as it heads into a tight race in May's elections.

Ramaphosa delivered the party's manifesto to thousands of ANC supporters at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban. The rally came as South Africa faces increasing poverty, unemployment and crime as well as a crippling electricity crisis.

Party supporters dressed in yellow, green and black party regalia packed the stadium and sang struggle songs praising Ramaphosa and the ANC, while others took advantage of the event to sell food, refreshments and party merchandise to the thousands attending.

A procession of motorbikes with bikers waving ANC flags was among the first displays to entertain the crowd before Ramaphosa arrived to the delight of supporters.

However, the tension surrounding this year's elections was laid bare when some supporters entered the stadium grounds carrying a caricature coffin bearing the name of the uMkhonto we Sizwe political party, a new political organization formed by former ANC president Jacob Zuma.

The party is set to compete in this year's elections after Zuma denounced the ANC.

In what has become somewhat of a popularity contest between parties to show who can pull in the biggest crowds to their election rallies, thousands of ANC supporters were bussed in from various parts of the country to ensure the stadium was full as early as possible.

The ANC also brought in popular musicians to entertain supporters. They performed after Ramaphosa's speech, concluding with ANC slogans and colourful fireworks and confetti.

However, millions of South Africans will likely be more interested in whether the ANC can deliver on its promises and address the many challenges the country faces. These include stagnant economic growth, rising levels of poverty, unemployment, crime and a crippling electricity crisis that has resulted in rolling power blackouts.

According to Ramaphosa, the ANC plans to create more than 2.5 million job opportunities in the next five years. He said some of these would come from South



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS MAJOR COMPONENTS, GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Suppliers for the supply and delivery of major components and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested applicants to submit expressions of interest as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE ANGLGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Supply:

REFERENCE NUMBER	CATEGORY
GGME01815	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 785C MAJOR COMPONENTS REPLACEMENT
GGME01819	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY 777D & 777E MAJOR COMPONENTS
GGME01820	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY RH170 MAJOR COMPONENTS
GGME01821	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY RH40 MAJOR COMPONENTS
GGME01822	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY 992K-H&C MAJOR COMPONENTS

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY)	
COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile and updated organogram	3%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business License	2%
Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	3%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate	3%
Copy of company memorandum and article of association	2%
Compliance with Mining Act - Approved Local Content Plan.	5%
FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Applicants audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.5%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.5%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1%
Acceptance certificates /completion certificates	2%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01815)	60%
Ability and evidence to carry warranties of supplied components.	12.50%
Be able to provide onsite commissioning of supplied component and after sales technical support. Evidenced technical experience and proof of competent personnel is recommended.	12.50%
Ability to supply CAT Genuine components as per OEM Specs with proof of previous supply history of CAT genuine parts.	17.50%
Proof of dealership of CAT parts supply.	17.50%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01819)	60%
Ability and evidence to carry warranties of supplied components.	12.50%
Be able to provide onsite commissioning of supplied component and after sales technical support. Evidenced technical experience and proof of competent personnel is recommended.	12.50%
Ability to supply CAT Genuine components as per OEM Specs with proof of previous supply history of CAT genuine parts.	17.50%
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Proof of certificate of dealership of O&K parts supply.	17.50%
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Proof of certificate of dealership of O&K parts supply.	17.50%
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Ability to supply CAT Genuine components as per OEM Specs with proof of previous supply history of CAT genuine parts.	17.50%
Proof of certificate of dealership of CAT parts supply.	17.50%
Total	100%

III. Interested companies must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL. If an applicant wishes to express interest in more than one category of the components, he must make separate submission for each category. Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why the Company is of interest to work with, what the company has to offer and how the skills and experience are valuable to the Company.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission should not be later than **8.30 AM on 12 March 2024**, (the "EOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. **In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.**

V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

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MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News
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Nigerian health team visit reason for hope

A SORT of vindication has been given to a vital sphere of government policy and project implementation, in the visit by a state level Nigerian delegation arriving in the country to learn how Tanzania has succeeded to reduce maternal mortality rates.

The Health ministry permanent secretary welcomed the delegation saying that Tanzania feels happy to receive the team as is ready to share information and experience how the country managed to reduce maternal mortality. It was uplifting.

Background data show that the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and the Malaria Indicator Survey for 2022 show that maternal mortality went down to 104 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022, from 530 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015/2016. This is a space of six to seven years, and the reduction was roughly three quarters of the rate, quite at variance with practically all other indicators put together. Why isn't stunting being drastically cut out as well, not to add poverty?

The key explanation provided for this achievement by the Health ministry top executive was the strategy to reduce maternal and child deaths via the M-mama emergency call system.

It is described online as an affordable emergency transport service that connects mothers and newborns to vital life-saving healthcare in the rural areas.

That explains plenty of the reduction in deaths definitely, but earlier data at around 2009 had shown that maternal and newborn deaths were too high in coastal regions, even when dispensary or health centre facilities were just nearby.

Introducing an emergency call system and being aware of how certain of our emergency services operate is at best a mitigated answer, and it is hard to credit it with a 75 per

cent reduction in fatalities arising from complications of giving birth.

More than this there was auxiliary praise of creativity and investments in fighting maternal and child deaths, which it is plainly uncertain if it will convince the visiting team and any who may seek to inquire.

The data may have meanwhile to be scanned for possible errors, considering the fact that the period 2016 to 2022 at the least was characterised by a situation where independent actors can't issue data that can be used in the media. One could fear systematic data failure.

Still, there are pieces of data that reasonably complement an impression of a drastic change in birth complications and fatalities, even without authenticating official figures.

One is the huge change in budgetary sums provided to the Health ministry for a number of years after the change from 74 per cent recurrent expenditure to 61 per cent, and development funds raised from 26 per cent to 39 per cent. Health notably benefited.

In a way, the top-level Health ministry officials receiving the Nigerian team may not be in the best position to explain the situation as they appeared to the working on the basis of what was being done during the current phase of government even as the database ends 2022 and thus relates to five previous years at most.

While it is somewhat misplaced in relation to the 2022 data, emphasis on the post-2021 situation adds crucial material in another direction.

That is as to how the maternal deaths turnaround was achieved well before the 2021 International Monetary Fund disbursements for post-Covid 19 recovery were obtained. It is from the funds that numerous health centres came up, and the maternal health impact be noticed two to three years from disbursements.

Reversing 50 pc stunting rate requires vast food price shifts

CERTAIN appeals often issued to the public, public authorities or at times the diplomatic community, the latter usually referred to as international community, resonate not with what can readily be done but rather with desperation.

This is for instance the case when authorities in Rukwa Region issue a strident appeal to development stakeholders to help address stunting in children which is as high as 50 per cent. The key issue there is to factorise the stakeholders suggested, and one finds it hard to think that it is international aid groups they had in mind, not local practitioners.

Usually the term 'development partners' refers to aid agencies, while 'stakeholders' is more general and includes local parties to this or that need. But when the local partners or stakeholders come up, the reference is more or less commercial in character, as stakeholder is someone who has something to gain from the sort of activity being suggested.

When the issue is to help reduce a high rate of stunting of school age children, starting five years, commerce isn't at issue; rather, donations. Top regional officials say the region has a 50 per cent stunting rate, noting also that it is higher than the national average of 30.4 per cent, and a 19.4 per cent malnutrition rate compared to the national average of 12 per cent.

Overweight rate stands at 3.2 per cent against 3.5 per cent national average; underweight rate stands at 8.3 per cent while nationally it is 3.2 per cent.

There is alarm in a number of those figures, but the issue is whether the solution lies with outside

stakeholders or within the confines of Rukwa Region.

The situation in the region, which is a broken mirror model for Tanzania and Africa as a whole, shows in a graphic manner what is actually wrong not with agriculture as such but with the wider economic model.

Stunting is a result of sheer lack of a balanced diet for a child, which sharply reminds one of a family where children take porridge in the morning or tea without milk and a sprinkling of sugar, lunch or supper essentially backed by thin vegetables and scant protein.

Fruit is no longer something to be taken for granted as in the past where the land was much greener and the population much smaller than at present. It is easy to think this up.

That is why it sounds a bit like a joke when the regional authorities remind one and all that Rukwa Region is one of the top seven regions for producing grains and other food crops. It was ranked second for food production in the past farming season but it is still experiencing severe stunting, while other data produced like clinic attendance by expectant mothers stands at above 90 per cent.

Children vaccination is more than 90 per cent but stunting is prevalent, which implies that these aren't the key issues put purchasing power, ownership of produce and how the cash is used especially by household heads. There is some stunting there too.

The RC painted a bleak picture as regards an educated path ahead with mass Std VII failures in the region, but left some shaking heads in disbelief.

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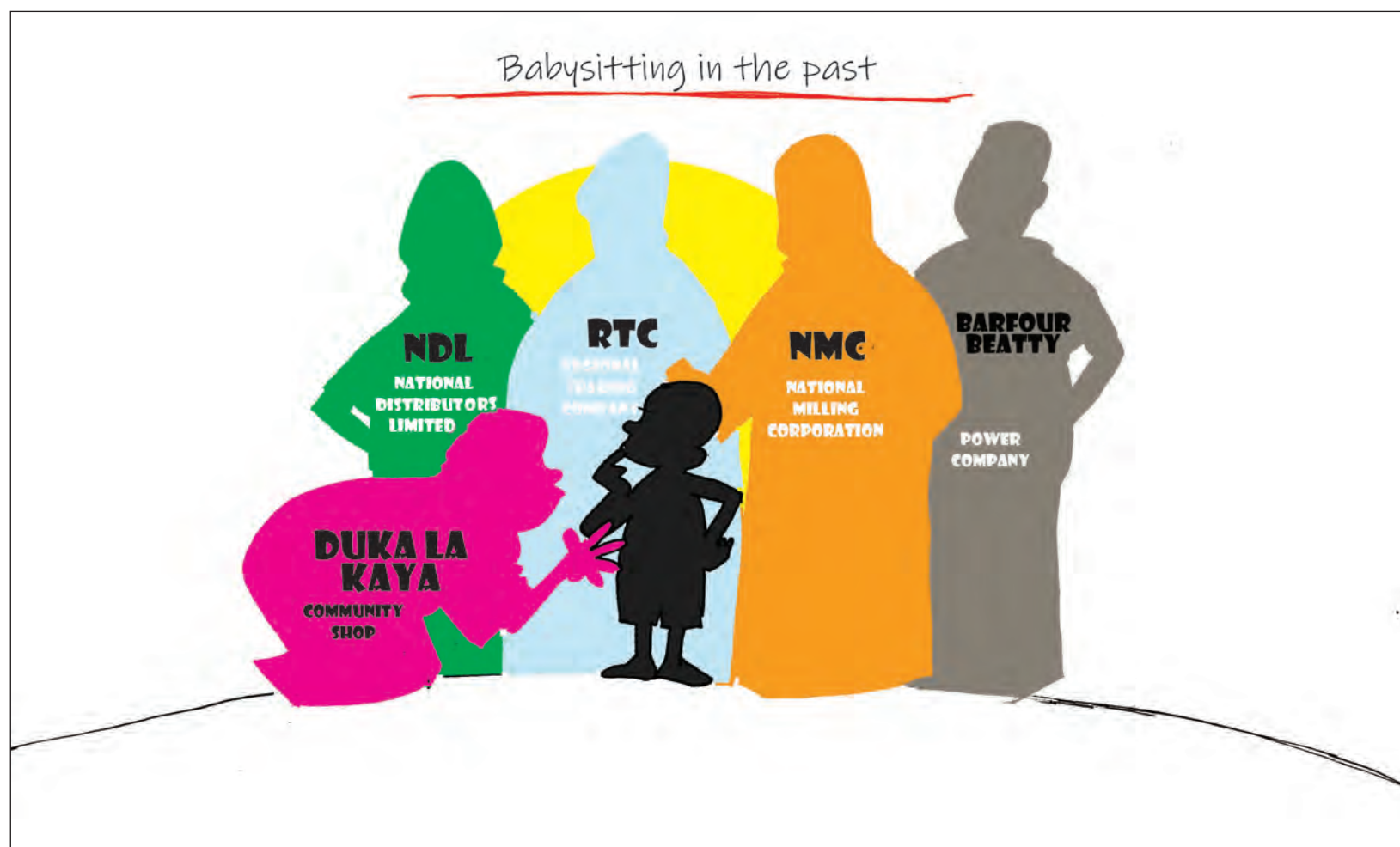
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Time is now to act against false election promises and grandiose manifesto claims

By Omphemetse S Sibanda

"If elected, I promise..." This coming from political parties sounds more like an oath of office, and it is not unreasonable for the voters to expect the promises to be fulfilled.

But is the fulfilment of these election promises a lived reality? "Despite being written in black and white, circulated in public, election manifestos do not have any legal implications on political parties, which results in flowery promises being made by parties to gather votes, often forgotten after elections."

These words are by Ragini Kanungo, published in the *Indraprastha Law Review*. The observation in the article that "in absence of proper regulation, election manifestos have been reduced to rhetoric documents aimed at manipulating marginalised, gullible populations by promising temporary benefits in the name of 'freebies'" resonates profoundly.

The exploitation of voters through election manifestos remains distressingly common. Political parties often make promises in these manifestos with the intention of wielding significant influence over the voting population.

Blatant lies and populist rhetoric

However, many of these pledges amount to nothing more than blatant lies and populist rhetoric, specifically targeting frustrated and vulnerable communities.

With each passing election cycle, the landscape of promises grows increasingly bleak, inundated with empty pledges and unfulfilled commitments. From grandiose vows of ending load shedding, providing sustainably free education, eradicating unemployment and poverty, to lofty aspirations of ending corruption, the gap between rhetoric and reality widens, leaving citizens disillusioned and disheartened.

South Africa's recent descent in international rankings, particularly in perceptions of corruption within the public sector, further compounds the crisis of governance. As our nation finds itself categorised among flawed democracies, teetering precariously close to non-functioning regimes, concrete actions must replace hollow promises to restore faith in our democracy and governance.

In our fledgling constitutional democracy, founded on the principles of human rights and freedoms, the proliferation of false campaign promises has emerged as a formidable challenge. This troubling trend has contributed to a pervasive distrust of political speech, depriving voters of the accurate information necessary to make informed



political choices.

Tainted by deceit

When campaign rhetoric is tainted by deceit, it stifles genuine dialogue and deprives citizens of the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about the future of our nation.

Ethicist Prof Sissela Bok, makes a telling argument about the negative psychological consequences that political lies and false promises have on voters in her 1978 book, *Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life*.

According to Bok, "voters and candidates alike are the losers when a political system has reached such a low level of trust. Once elected, officials find that their warnings and their calls to common sacrifice meet with disbelief and apathy, even when their cooperation is most urgently needed..."

"The fact that candidates, should they win, are not expected to have meant what they said while campaigning, nor held accountable for discrepancies, only reinforces the incentives for them to bend the truth the next time, thus adding further to the distrust of the voters. Political lies, so often assumed to be trivial by those who tell them, rarely are... When political representatives or entire governments arrogate to themselves the right to lie, they take power from the public that they would not have been given up voluntarily."

Admittedly, my proposal that

"failure to honour election manifesto promises should be deemed an unethical, if not illegal, act" will, in a country like ours, need many years to be taken seriously.

Crucial need

In light of recurring issues with unfulfilled election promises, there arises a crucial need to contemplate some level of regulation regarding election manifestos. While acknowledging the potential challenges and backlash associated with such regulations, it is essential not to be discouraged.

The Supreme Court of India, for instance, in 2013 directed the Indian Electoral Commission to frame guidelines on election manifestos to be included as part of their Model Code of Conduct.

After three decades of democracy in South Africa, the recurring cycle of elections and unfulfilled promises has eroded public trust in the political process. It's imperative for the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to embark on a comprehensive review of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

This review should prioritise the inclusion of provisions that establish clear guidelines on election manifestos. By delineating specific criteria for election manifestos, such as feasibility and accountability, the revised Electoral Code can ensure that political parties commit to realistic and achievable promises.

Electoral credibility the bed-

rock of trust

It is a fact – the credibility of electoral promises forms the bedrock of citizens' trust in their leaders. However, when politicians make false pledges during election campaigns, it undermines this trust and erodes the very foundation of democracy.

Beyond the immediate impact on voter disillusionment, such deception often leads to a domino effect, resulting in the failure of governments to deliver essential services and meet the needs of the populace.

From infrastructure development to fiscal security, the repercussions of broken promises reverberate throughout society. The prevalence of false election manifesto promises not only threatens the legitimacy of democratic institutions, but also hampers effective governance and service delivery, ultimately jeopardising the wellbeing of citizens.

While the road ahead may be daunting, it is important that we confront these challenges head-on. By demanding accountability, transparency, and ethical leadership, the populace can reclaim the promise of a better future for all South Africans. It is time to have formal election manifesto guidelines.

Dr Omphemetse S Sibanda is a Professor of Law and the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management and Law at the University of Limpopo.

Chinese medical team saves life of an eight-year-old boy from congenital umbilical hernia

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

MEMBERS of the Chinese (Shandong) Medical Team to Tanzania in collaboration with the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) conducted a free clinic recently where Ruweiss Kato (8) was discovered to be suffering from congenital umbilical hernia.

Due to financial constraints at his family, the boy could not get treatment, developing it into a huge abdominal wall hernia.

On February 15th, with assistance from the Chinese medical team, the children was diagnosed and treated at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH). After detailed examination, the director of paediatrics and experts from the medical team formulated a surgical plan for him.

However, his family could not afford the expensive hospitalization expenses.

Members of the Chinese (Shandong) Medical Team to Tanzania and employees from China Railway Construction Engineering Group (CRCEG) assisted the primary school pupil with 2.3m/- in going through the admission procedures at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

At the beginning of the Chinese New Year, the medical team aiding Tanzania received a letter of thanks from families of local patients.

"WE are thankful to the Chinese medical team for the treatment and donation to our treatment expenses. Thank you for all that you have done," read part of the letter.

Dr Zhang Junqiao, leader of the Chinese medical team as well as all the members facilitated medical expenses of little Kato. He said CRCEG also provided 2.3m/- to the family.

Kato treatment was made possible with close cooperation between local experts and those from the medical team, making the operation smooth and the swelling in his belly button finally disappeared.

It is worth mentioning that Kato mother wanted doctors from the medical team to give him a Chinese name,



Members of China Medical Team to Tanzania and employees from China Railway Construction Engineering Group as they handed over 2.3m/- to an eight-year-old boy—Ruweiss Kato (in the middle). 2nd right is Dr Zhang Junqiao, leader of the team, left is Kato's mother—Swafiya Mumin. Photo: Courtesy of Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam.

and the Chinese medical team decided to name him 'Qilu', the same meaning of Shandong province.

Foreign aid medical care has always been an important part of China's foreign aid work.

This year not only marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania, but also the 60th anniversary of China-Tanzania medical cooperation.

Since August 1964, Chinese medical teams begun to carry out medical assistance in Tanzania. So far, Shandong province has sent 27 batches of medical teams with a total of 1,084 people.

The 27th medical team to assist Tanzania consists of 11 members, cover-

ing 8 majors including anaesthesiology, cardiac surgery, cardiology, critical care medicine, respiratory medicine, paediatrics, orthopaedics, and neurosurgery.

The team will perform a two-year foreign aid mission in Tanzania.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania in her remarks in Dar es Salaam this year as they welcomed the new year dubbed: 'The year of the Dragon' to symbolize peace, harmony, power and

success, she said over the past 60 years, the two countries have enjoyed increasing economic, trade, education, medical care and culture, hence their friendship has deeply been rooted in history and grown closer and stronger during the past decades.

"Tanzania is supportive and committed to global development initiative, global security initiative and global civilization. With that, China is ready to take this opportunity to carry on the traditional friendship and deepen the strategic and pragmatic cooperation," said the Ambassador.

Mingjian said that cooperation between the two countries is in a good status especially after President Samia Suluhu Hassan visit to China in 2022 where she met Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The two leaders agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

She added: "August last year August President Samia met with President Xi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. They shared their readiness to take the opportunity of jointly celebrating the 60th anniversary to continuously work with Tanzania in supporting each other's core interests and major concerns and deepening strategic cooperation."

Programme nurtures young students in science and technology, helps them to excel and inspire yet more

By Guardian Correspondent

SINCE Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are fundamental and critical for the country's economic growth; organizations like Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) play a pivotal role in complementing efforts by the government by providing valuable platforms within the secondary schools.

YST works to empower and nurture young students in science and technology, the thing helps them to conceptualize theoretical approaches of science into practical approach.

These subjects form the bedrock of a knowledge-based economy are essential for driving innovation, economic growth and societal development, thus becoming imperative for stakeholders to step forward and undertake similar initiatives to support the commendable efforts made by the government in fostering a science and technology-driven economy.

Prof Bruno Sunguya, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research and Consultancy at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied sciences (MUHAS) said the government is investing a lot to uplift the level of science among students as part of initiative to prepare future scientists who will influence economic development of the country through science.

Prof Sunguya who graced the 13th YST annual national science and technology exhibition and award ceremony in Dar es Salaam over the weekend said efforts invested by various institutions like YST helps to push forward the campaign

The exhibition brought together more than 90 secondary students from across the country, secondary science teachers, YST regional coordinators, government leaders, sponsors and other esteemed delegates, creating a platform for students to exercise their inborn talents in science and technology.

Prof Sunguya said that YST has demonstrated its effectiveness for over a decade as an innovative and exciting approach by encouraging students to explore ideas, generate solutions, and invent new concepts that ultimately works towards building a better future.

"Our young students have continuously strived to find solutions to the challenges they face in their daily lives, as well as those encountered by the global community. Through their critical thinking, curiosity, and unwavering commitment, they have breathed life into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, extending their impact beyond the confines of classroom," he added.

So far, the achievements made in science would not have been possible without the substantial investments made by the government in secondary schools, particularly in enhancing the learning environment, including the development of well-equipped science laboratories.

The MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor added that commitment initiated by the government underscores the importance of continually improving both the physical infrastructure and human resources in schools, while ensuring the education system remains on a trajectory towards brighter outcomes in the future.

"By collectively supporting and empowering young people in secondary schools, we can nurture their talents, inspire their curiosity, and equip them with necessary skills and knowledge to excel in STEM fields. This collaborative approach will not only benefit the individual students but also contribute to the overall advancement and prosperity of our nation," he explained, adding: "I am delighted to express my gratitude to the like-minded organizations,



Overall winners of the 2023 Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) annual science and technology competition from Bwiru Secondary School in Mwanza, showcasing their trophy shortly after emerging overall winners of the competition. From right Ernest Emily and Arnold Philipo (2nd right), 2nd left is the trustee for Karimjee Foundation Vinoo Somaia and 1st left is Prof Bruno Sunguya, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research and Consultancy at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied sciences (MUHAS). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

sponsors, and partners who are collaboratively working with YST towards the shared objective of science for development.

He said the collaborative efforts and partnerships would help the country to make significant strides in promoting science and development, thus empowering youth to drive positive change.

The student's research

Students from Bwiru Boys Technical Secondary School—Arnold Philipo and Ernest Emily came up with an innovative project titled 'Accessing the level of purity of drinking water in secondary schools'. It is meant to find out key factors contributing to students in secondary schools to suffer from waterborne disease.

Explaining on the project, they said it is developed to research on why many students in secondary schools suffer from waterborne disease.

Philipo said: "People suffer from different kinds of water diseases; a situation which may be caused by drinking water from sources that are not clean and safe. Most students suffer from typhoid, cholera, bilharzia and a like.

He argues that drinking water is the most important and basic requirement that is demanded by every person, mostly the young generation like students for their better academic development and survival in general.

Philipo explained that most of the diseases that students suffer are associated with contamination of water that is associated with poor treatment and poor preservation.

Different methods were used in conducting the research whereas several questionnaires were answered by different people including teachers, students, community members as well as officials from the Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA).

Students from Bwiru Girls Secondary School, Kitangiri Secondary school, Mnarani Secondary School and Bwiru Boy's Secondary School answered the questionnaire.

"During a visit at MWAUWASA, different data was collected whereas we collected data. The official demonstrated to use on how water is treated and purified," said Philipo.

Stakeholders' tribute

The Trustee of Karimjee Foundation, Vinoo Somaia said YST is one of many projects supported by the foundation and stands as a testament to its commitment to nurturing the next generation of thinkers, innovators and problem solvers.

"As we commemorate the 13th anniversary, it is with immense pride that the foundation acknowledges the accomplishments of YST over the past decade. One of the cornerstones of the foundation's impact has been its commitment to education. We are proud to be sponsor of the YST outreach, and mentoring program and exhibition for 13 years," said Somaia, noting the foundation will remain dedicated to its vision of fostering a culture of innovation, education and sustainable development.

For years, Karimjee Foundation has been an integral

part of the Tanzania landscape, consistently contributing to the nation's growth and development. The Foundation strongly applauds the organization for its unwavering dedication to the scientific development of our youth.

Making impact on the lives of young individuals

YST Board Chairman Prof. Yunus Mgya said that by providing a platform to the youth to showcase their projects and ideas, the organization do not only nurture a culture of scientific inquiry, but contributes significantly to the overall development of scientific literacy and innovation within the country.

"Through your involvement, we are collectively making a profound impact on the lives of young individuals, opening doors of opportunity, and igniting the spark of curiosity that can lead to ground-breaking discoveries and societal advancements," said Prof Mgya.

He added: "Your commitment to this cause is truly invaluable, and we are grateful for your continued partnership in driving scientific development within our nation," he said, adding that, together, we can nurture a generation of young minds who will shape the future and contribute to the progress of our society."

The achievements made by YST over the past 13 years are truly inspirational. The innovative approach of combining an outreach programme with an exhibition deserves applause, as it fosters projects that seek practical solutions and inventive ideas aimed at building a better future.

Mgya said the ability to engage young minds, encouraging them to think critically and creatively, has undoubtedly contributed to the development of valuable skills, knowledge and a passion for scientific exploration.

The impact of this approach goes beyond the immediate results of the projects; it plants the seeds of inspiration and curiosity that will continue to motivate these young scientists as they embark on their future endeavours.

Research findings

Water from Bwiru Boys Secondary School was found to have high turbidity, raising concerns for the precious liquid to be well purified. However, water reserved in tanks around the school is contaminated with dust since the tanks are not dosed on the top.

Results showed that the quality and purity of the water in secondary schools are safe and clean in most of secondary schools, most of diseases they suffer from may be due to water they use at their home—this is for day scholars.

Two years into Russia's onslaught, tired Ukrainians refuse to give

By James Waterhouse

It translates as 'crooked horn', but President Zelensky calls Kryvyi Rih his 'big soul and heart'. He credits this gritty, industrial city with moulding his character. He grew up in a sprawling block of flats known as the Anthill.

When you stand in front of this towering structure, Volodymyr Zelensky's journey from this setting to wartime leader feels remarkable.

"I want the war to end soon," says Vita, who lived near Zelensky's parents. "He's a normal, good guy who fights for people. I just want this war and the sirens to end sooner."

But with minimal Ukrainian progress and growing Russian dominance, there is no end in sight, and that's both fuelling and being fuelled by influential pockets of Western doubters.

At the recent Munich Security Conference, President Zelensky told delegates not to ask Ukraine when the war would end, but instead to "ask why Putin is still able to continue it".

With blocked military aid now directly hampering his forces on the front line, it was a swipe at those delaying the ammunition and weapons his soldiers desperately need.

"We must fight; we won't tolerate anything else. I'm no politician," confesses Valeriy, a man in his 80s perched outside a grocery shop. "We can't ask when the war will stop again."

"We must fight; we won't tolerate anything else. People are so angry now."

That appetite to defend has remained mostly intact since that morning on 24 February 2022. Against a terrifying unknown, people volunteered in their thousands to join Ukraine's fight.

The world's gaze turned to Kyiv, from where I was reporting.

President Zelensky's profile and popularity went stratospheric as he turned down offers of evacuation and remained in Kyiv.

"I need ammunition, not a ride," he said in a now iconic quote.

His needs have not changed, but his pleas have lost their electrifying impact.

A failed counter-offensive in 2023 led to uncomfortable questions over whether Ukraine is capable



Ukrainian volunteers are helping the war effort by building smoke grenades and stitching camouflage nettings

of liberating its territory. Republican doubters in the US are hindering Ukraine's ability to fight by blocking billions of dollars' worth of military aid. Kyiv says more frontline troops are dying as a result of weapon shortages and dwindling ammunition.

All the while, Russia has remained on a war footing, and its allies North Korea and Iran are supplying more missiles to rain down on Ukrainian cities.

Kryvyi Rih isn't immune to the fatigue most of the country feels. Some have had enough of this war, many men are fearful of being conscripted, and yet they say the conflict is still a fight for survival.

The idea of a compromise or concession to Russia is viewed as a defeat. It's existential.

In a symptom of the world Ukrainians live in, I now associate playgrounds with death.

The last time I saw children play in one was at a school next to my flat in Kyiv, before the invasion. Now they are the site of a devastating missile strike, lying abandoned on a front line, or in Brovary, near Kyiv, the scene of a helicopter crash. Youthful innocence replaced with body bags and destruction.

In Kryvyi Rih, we meet a tearful Yuriy as he watches his flat get demolished after a missile strike last year. Exposed wallpaper patterns reveal the different lives destroyed.

"No one needs this war, what is it for anyway?" he asks. "So many people are being killed."

So, does he think Ukraine should swap territory for peace?

"Definitely not," he replies bluntly. "A lot of people died for those territories. There is no point in giving them up."

The lack of battlefield progress caused a corrosive rift be-

tween President Zelensky and the head of his armed forces Valerii Zaluzhnyi. Now sacked, General Zaluzhnyi is seen as a potential political rival to his old boss.

Around Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainians try to help where their country's allies increasingly will not. In one inconspicuous building, a growing army of volunteers stitch camouflage nettings for troops on the front line.

The men and women are kept separate because of "their different jokes," explains the organiser.

In another industrial wing of the city, a former bike club has swapped cycling for smoke. Teams mix chemicals into canisters which will become smoke grenades. A useful military tool if you are trying to attack, or evacuate the injured.

"It's impossible to stay at home with my thoughts when my husband is fighting," explains Ines, one of the volunteers. "Here I feel I can do something to make it easier for them."

Russia's decade of aggression towards Ukraine began with the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and then spilled into a draining war in the country's east. On the 731st day of the full-scale invasion, it's a different kind of war.

While extraordinary, Ukraine's successes in defence and degrading Russia's navy have not changed the tide in its favour.

The novelty of this war has gone. Ukraine, Kryvyi Rih and its famous son will need to find new reserves of strength and a clever playbook to keep the world engaged.

Like cigarettes, junk food should come with a warning: 'Can kill'

By Martha Gill

THE 1970s was a confusing decade in which to be a smoker. People knew, of course, that smoking was bad for them: the evidence linking it to lung cancer had been incontrovertible since 1956. But despite government education programmes, hiked taxes and restrictions in selling to children, these warnings hadn't fully permeated the atmosphere.

How could they? Daily life bathed the brain in the idea that smoking was fine. Cigarettes were advertised in magazines, on billboards and at sporting events; they dangled from the mouths of the suave or rebellious in film and on TV; and a nicotine fug enveloped offices, bars and public transport. Could something that everyone was doing, and which suffused the culture, really be that shockingly dangerous?

It was a confusing time, also, to be a tobacco company. You could no longer claim that smoking was supported by doctors, as you did in the 50s - but you were not yet forced to admit on every packet that your product actually killed people.

It was only in the 80s and 90s that, festooned with obligatory warnings, cigarette ads started to flirt openly

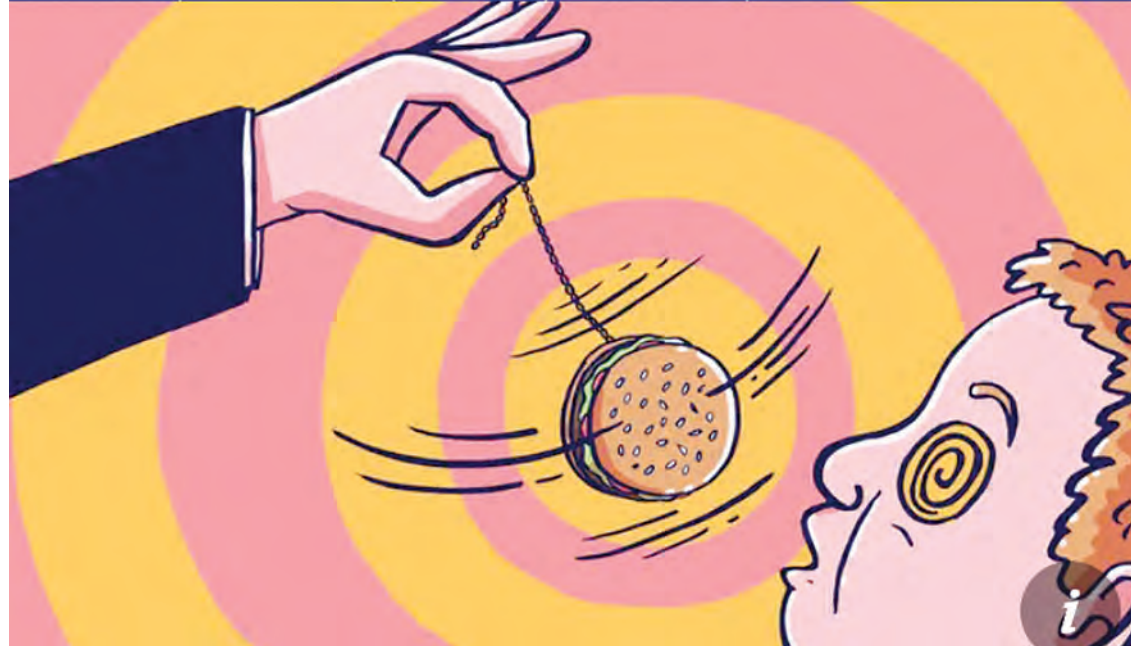
with death: one advert for Silk Cut referenced the shower scene in Hitchcock's Psycho, another for Benson & Hedges featured a dead fish on a coffin-like piano. (If you're going to die, die with us.)

But in the 70s these companies were still making the uneasy transition between denial and nihilistic acceptance. The idea that you could make cigarettes healthier, that you could acknowledge the warnings but claim they did not apply to your own product, became a central defence and marketing ploy.

New "filter" cigarettes (themselves sometimes tainted with dangerous chemicals) flooded the market, falsely claiming to protect against the worst harms of smoking. Thousands switched to "low-tar" cigarettes in an effort to make a healthy choice.

"Considering all I'd heard, I decided to either quit or smoke True. I smoke True" ran one advert in 1976, featuring a sporty-looking girl at a tennis net - "The low-tar, low-nicotine cigarette".

And this is where we are, I think, in 2024, with what used to be called junk food, and which is now beginning to be called ultra-processed food. UPF is food that has at some stage been ground into unrecognisable pulp and bathed in additives, a



definition that is gaining acceptance among experts.

But it is nothing too new. We are now, and have been for years, talking about the kind of food that encourages us to eat vast quantities of salt, sugar and fat in one barely chewed gulp. It is hamburgers, crisps, chocolate bars, ice-cream, fizzy drinks and pappy processed cereal.

As with cigarettes in the 70s, much of the evidence is in. Junk food is linked to cancer. Two landmark studies last year showed UPFs caused heart disease and strokes.

It is also beyond question that these kinds of foods cause obesity, a condition linked to 30,000 deaths a year in England alone. One in five children are obese by the final year of primary school and levels of obesity are spiralling upwards. Unhealthy diets are, worldwide, now killing more people than tobacco.

But these warnings have yet to filter through to our

daily environment, in which junk food is beamed at us from bus stops and TV ad breaks - framed as an indulgence, a guilty pleasure, but not a scourge.

Our brains, evolved for scarcity, navigate a world of cheap, easy, delicious dopamine hits on high streets and supermarket aisles. Fast food companies follow teens online and use cartoons to sell unhealthy cereals. Last week, an 18-year-old told the Times that, when she got her GCSE results, she was congratulated by the pizza chain Domino's before her mother.

Last week, the youth activist movement Bite Back published its study Fuel Us, Don't Fool Us, developed with researchers at Oxford University, and reported that Ferrero made 100 percent of its UK sales in 2022 from foods high in saturated fat, salt and sugar (HFSS).

In response, a company spokesperson claimed it was "supporting consumers" by "offering our products in small, individually wrapped portions" along with

"education on how to enjoy our products as part of a balanced lifestyle". Are you really supposed to stop after a single (wrapped) Ferrero Rocher?

Unilever, which the study found had made 84% of its UK sales from HFSS the same year, stressed its lower fat options: "Ben & Jerry's Lighten Up, Carte D'Or Vanilla Light". The owner of Kellogg's, just behind at 77 percent, told reporters it had reduced sugar in its cereals by 18 percent, and salt by 23 percent.

Yet these are foods saturated in unhealthy substances and designed to make you eat more and more of them. Removing 18% of the sugar is going to do very little. There is no such thing as healthy junk food.

We know what has to happen next: tobacco has given us the blueprint. Food high in salt, sugar and fat has to be more strictly regulated.

And regulation is the only way. Highly processed food is profitable - the business models of the world's largest food companies rely on it. Expecting them to fix themselves is like expecting a tired and hungry commuter to resist a burger. Good intentions and willpower go only so far.

But the psychological shift - the recognition that this thing that everyone does is dangerous - is overdue. Every government for the past 30 years has identified obesity as a problem. Even food companies - some of them - are asking for new legislation: at present, they say, retailers that want to do good are penalised.

Labour claims it will "steamroll" the food industry into a healthier model, banning online junk food ads aimed at children and bringing in more restrictions on packaging. It would be a start.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Access to bicycles improves lives of women, girls in rural Zambia

Mpongwe, Zambia

OVER the years, bicycles have emerged as a catalyst for change, offering newfound independence, opportunities, and freedom to many women and girls in rural Zambia.

One of the places in the country that has seen a rise in the number of women and girls using bicycles as a means of transport is Mpongwe, a district in Copperbelt Province.

It is common to see women and girls riding bicycles in Mpongwe, a predominantly rural community.

Charity Chanda, a 37-year-old vegetable trader, said owning a bicycle has transformed her life and enhanced her business.

"Before, I would walk for hours carrying heavy loads of vegetables to the market, often missing out on potential buyers," she said. "Now, with my bicycle, I can transport my produce quickly and easily, reaching more customers and increasing my income."

She said more and more women in Mpongwe are investing in bicycles as a means of effective and reliable transport.

For Alice Musanshi, 35, a homemaker, owning a bicycle allows her and her family to access healthcare services faster and run daily errands with more ease.

"I can make sure that my children get

healthcare services when they fall sick or need to go for vaccinations at the health facility. I also use the bicycle to go and attend community meetings and for my grocery shopping," said Musanshi, a mother of five.

Owning a bicycle has boosted her confidence and instilled in her a sense of self-reliance, she added.

"In years past, it was only men that were allowed to own and ride bicycles," Musanshi said. "Today, women are working hard to save money so that they, too, can own bicycles."

"A bicycle is not just a mode of transport; it is a pathway to a better future for women and girls," she said.

And Theresa Bwalya, 15, radiated enthusiasm as she recounted her daily journey to school on her bicycle.

"With my long commute to school, having a bicycle has not only reduced the time it takes me to get there but also increased my punctuality and concentration in class," she said.

Since she started cycling to school about a year ago, her grades have improved tremendously, Bwalya said.

"I used to feel tired as a result of walking long distances. That affected my performance in class," she said. "But that is now a thing of the past."



Women use bicycles as a means of transportation in Mpongwe, Copperbelt Province, Zambia

Rice researcher using statistics to shed light on the untold story of Lake Chad

LONDON

WHILE governments and international authorities have pushed a narrative by which the lake is drying out due to climate change, there is a lack of published data or studies to support these claims. This was the impetus for a team of researchers from Rice University and Imperial College London to develop an innovative approach to studying and telling the story of Lake Chad and its agrarian people – using statistics.

Frederi Viens, a professor in Rice's Department of Statistics, and Philip Ernst, chair in statistics and Royal Society Wolfson Fellow at Imperial College London (and formerly a professor at Rice), are the recipients of a grant from the British Academy and the Wolfson Foundation for their study, "Sustainability of Agrarian Societies in the Lake Chad Basin."

During their three-year research project, Ernst and Viens will study how the Lake Chad Basin's farmers and pastoralists in Northeast Nigeria have operated over the long term and dealt with difficult circumstances, including devastating droughts in the 1970s and 1980s. In particular, they will look at whether



A view of the shallow northern part of Lake Chad

these methods are sustainable over the next century as the area's population and potential for adverse climate events grow.

"We are extremely honored that the British Academy, the U.K.'s national academy for the humanities and social sciences, has chosen to award one of their seven British Academy/Wolfson Fellowships to support our research efforts on the sustainability of agrarian societies

in Lake Chad," Ernst said. "To the best of our knowledge, we are the first mathematical scientists to be supported by the British Academy under this fellowship scheme since its inception in 2019. We very much look forward to using statistical evidence to support the myriad strengths of the agrarian societies in the Lake Chad Basin."

"We are delighted that the British Academy has entrusted us, as statisticians,

to shed light on what challenges these resilient agrarian people are capable of overcoming and what could make their lives a little easier, based on hard evidence, including survey data we plan to collect directly on the ground, not based on the political discourse of Western-based international aid agencies or think tanks," Viens said. "The lack of information coming out of northeast Nigeria has

been an endemic problem since Boko Haram, one of the world's most notorious terrorist groups, started operating in the region two decades ago. But that should not be a carte blanche to make up narratives based on no evidence. Our connections with Nigerian officials and academics will facilitate this work."

The research team will work with African colleagues and local stakeholders, including village chiefs and elders, as they create a comprehensive climate and agriculture dataset and analyze it using probability models and Bayesian statistics. Their primary collaborators in Africa include: Udo Herbert, deputy vice chancellor (academic) and professor of animal physiology at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture in Umudike, Nigeria; Dennis Ikpe, research associate at the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Cape Town, South Africa, and data scientist in the Office of Institutional Research at SUNY Binghamton in New York, United States; and Bethel Ukazu, project team leader at Thels Impact Consulting, a development cooperation firm in Abuja, Nigeria.

They plan to bring into the discussion other academics with

whom Viens has been in contact over the years about agrarian lives in the Lake Chad Basin, including Nigerian research specialists in meteorology and in natural resources and members of the G-EAU water resources research group at the Institute for Development Research in Montpellier, France.

Ernst and Viens are currently working with Herbert, Ikpe and Ukazu to organize a unique symposium on agrarian lives in the Lake Chad Basin. It will be held at the University of Maiduguri in Northeast Nigeria's Borno State May 7-8. This meeting will bring together academic researchers, government officials, members of the development economics community and local rural stakeholders including village chiefs and elders. A main objective is to provide a forum for academic and professional actors to listen to these villagers' stories and accounts and understand more about day-to-day living in the Lake Chad Basin's rural communities in Nigeria.

Ernst and Viens hope their research will provide new insights into this understudied region for its more than 30 million residents who rely on the lake's basin as part of their livelihood.

Call for scaled up funding for much-needed and successful joint programme in Nigeria

By Joyce Chimbi, Maiduguri

NIGERIA is home to 15 percent of the world's out-of-school children. More than 76 million girls are not in school, and only nine percent of the poorest girls in the country are in secondary school. The Boko Haram insurgency and other armed groups fuel the out-of-school crisis in north-east Nigeria, disrupting the education of nearly two million school-age children.

Grave violations of children's rights prevail in north-eastern areas, including the abduction of thousands of children and young people; girls are enslaved and sexually exploited, and boys forced to become child soldiers.

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Executive Director Yasmine Sherif visited communities affected by the conflict and interconnected crises, witnessing first-hand the positive impact of ECW's initial Multi-Year Resilience Programme (2021-2024).

"We visited a primary school, a transitional centre for boys that fled Boko Haram areas, and one non-formal education centre that provides vocational skills training. We have seen the power of holistic education to rehabilitate and reintegrate boys who have fled from Boko Haram areas back into society. ECW and partners, the national Ministry

of Education, the Federal State Government, local organizations, teachers, students, and psychologists are all working hand-in-hand, leveraging education to heal children from traumatic experiences—providing them with better life prospects," said Sherif.

Sherif met with senior government officials, including the Minister of Education, Dr. Tahir Mammam, and Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, and aid partners, all working to ensure the right to education for boys and girls. She stressed that ECW's expanded funding for crisis-affected girls and boys in north-east Nigeria is "an investment in a more stable, prosperous, and peaceful future for the whole region. ECW's plans to continue providing safe, quality holistic education and learning opportunities towards protecting children and youth from exploitation—empowering them to achieve their dreams of touching humanity."

Sherif was also accompanied by a high-level delegation from UNICEF and the governments of Germany and Norway. Germany is ECW's leading donor with USD 366 million in total contributions, and Norway is the Fund's fifth largest donor with total contributions of USD 131 million. Building resilient education systems is both critical and urgent for Nigeria's crisis-impacted children.



Seventeen-year-old Fatimah receives vocational training at Gonidamgari Primary School in Maiduguri, North-East Nigeria. Thanks to Education Cannot Wait investments, girls like Fatimah, who had never been enrolled in school, are now able to attend a flexible hybrid learning programme for out-of-school adolescent girls.

of Education, the Federal State Government, local organizations, teachers, students, and psychologists are all working hand-in-hand, leveraging education to heal children from traumatic experiences—providing them with better life prospects," said Sherif.

ECW's initial Multi-Year Resilience Programme, delivered by the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, and UNICEF, has consistently achieved its targets, and has so far reached nearly 500,000 children and adolescents with quality, holistic education in areas affected by the crisis in north-east Nigeria.

"We need additional funding to reach all two million children in north-east Nigeria and end the out-of-school crisis. Meanwhile, the rest of the world cannot wait—we have dire needs in the Middle East, the refugees in Latin America, across the Sahel region, and in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, where nine in 10 children cannot read simple sentences," Sherif emphasizes.

"ECW appeals for additional strategic donor

partners—governments, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, and high-net-worth individuals—to join our efforts in mobilizing an additional US\$600 million to reach our target of US\$1.5 billion for ECW, allowing our partners to reach, by 2026, a total of 20 million girls and boys in crises-affected areas of the world quality education."

Dr. Heike Kuhn, Co-Chair of the ECW Executive Committee and Head of Education Division at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, agrees, saying that building "resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, quality, and lifelong learning is crucial for Nigeria, as half of its population are children and youth. Educating children means changing their lives

and letting them participate in building peaceful, sustainable societies."

Merete Lundemo, Co-Chair of the ECW Executive Committee and Special Envoy for Education in Crisis and Conflict for Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also emphasized that education is a lifeline for crisis-impacted children and that education projects bring much needed relief and normalcy to children in affected areas. Welcoming strengthened cooperation with ECW to ensure that no child is left behind and that this is part of Norway's wider engagement for children living in armed conflict.

"This joint program and the education needs and dreams of Nigeria's crisis-impacted children align with the African Union's call on all governments to ensure that all children access quality education, officially declaring 2024 as the 'Year of Education.' We must all come together with urgency and commitment to make this a reality for the poor, vulnerable children in Africa living on the margins of abject poverty, fleeing from the traumas of violent conflict and interconnected crises," Sherif observed.

The delegation also met with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence who are co-creating a new innovative project launched by the Global Survivors Fund with funding support from ECW. The initiative provides formal and non-formal education as a form of reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and their children. The expanded funding for the planned Multi-Year Resilience Programme shall build on ECW's \$23.6 million investments in the north-east of Nigeria since 2018. The investments are delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UN agencies, and international and local civil society partners.

With a focus on building lasting solutions applying the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, ECW investments in the north-east of Nigeria have provided children with learning materials, supported teacher training and incentives, school feeding, provided essential mental health and psychosocial support for girls and boys impacted by the conflict, and worked with national authorities to get children back to school through permanent community-based programmes.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Assessing students' performance: New electronic tool to ease educators' work

WITH the growing technology, Eng Alpha Mbennah, a resident of Dodoma City in Dodoma Region has developed a computer programme that can help in education system, all the way from primary to university levels.

The 'SPIN-ED Academic Performance Management System', is a computer program and electronic tool, used mostly by educators from primary/elementary level till university levels.

According to Eng Mbennah, SPIN-ED does the academic data processing for each student whereby the program allows for an educator from any of the aforementioned levels, to collect and enter student data, for every student that has been registered on the system.

Upon receiving this information, the program takes the entered data, processes it by auto-creating 'weighted' or 'unweighted averages, it then auto-determines a letter grade that each of the marks falls for example A, B, C, D, among others.

The auto-determines the class average, for the corresponding class (es) that the students are in and auto-determines the position of each student, the position for each student, per subject as well as the overall position in class, for each student.

The 35 years old engineer said the system auto-generates academic progress report cards for every student registered on the system, for every class. It auto-comments on the report cards for every student with regards to their academic performance.

At the same time, it provides autographs to display academic performance view at a glance for every registered student.

"All the things mentioned, are done automatically and I find it necessary to point out that these are (only) some of the features that



Eng Alpha Mbennah explains how the 'SPIN-ED Academic Performance Management System' works. Photo: Polycarp Machira

SPIN-ED has, and it is important to note that they each have great significance when it comes to academic performance processing", said Eng Mbennah.

Furthermore, the methods employed by SPIN-ED to do all this work,

facilitate the work of teachers and other (various) education stakeholders, helping them to make informed decisions about academic affairs and ultimately increasing efficiency in terms of teaching and learning techniques.

On the storage of pupil/student academic data the SPIN-ED program can be easily linked with various cloud storage units/facilities, for proper storage of academic data, for many academic years; an estimated 200 -250 academic years' worth of data storage.

Some of the benefits of SPIN-ED include enabling teachers/educators to generate accurate and/or correct reports and shed some light to the educator(s) with regards to how he/she can employ strategies or techniques that would enable pupils/students to excel academically.

The system is also intended to help save time when it comes to the creation of reports and to encourage the educator(s) to assess the understanding of their students regularly

It also guides, ensure and create fairness when it comes to creating academic results as well as increase awareness and awaken competition when it comes to the use of technology in education globally.

According to the engineer it also

facilitate the work of teachers/educators, that involves preparation and evaluation of results obtained from academic assessments, as well as to provide objectivity.

With regards to the history of SPIN-ED, he developed the system in 2021 and it started working in the same year. "Till now, there are three schools using it but due to specific business principles, I will not be able to mention the schools here," he added.

Dr Mbennah said he was mostly inclined to develop the SPIN-ED program due to challenges that he witnessed when he was a voluntary teacher at one of the schools within the country.

He graduated from two different universities, both in Minnesota, USA, with a Dual Bachelor's engineering degree, BSc. Engineering Sciences from the University of Northwestern - St Paul (2010 - 2012) and Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities (2013 - 2016).

Eng Mbennah returned to Tanzania in 2017 and whereby in 2021, he served as a volunteer teacher in one of the schools in the country where he discovered several challenges.

One of the challenges was especially ones pertaining to the preparation of academic progress

reports. But he also witnessed at various schools such as educators using a lot of time in progress report preparation.

He witnessed educators using a lot of time in calculating marks and everything related to students' academic performance, even if most of the teachers were not Maths-savvy.

However, he also pointed out that English language is still a challenge to most teachers when it comes to the preparation of the progress reports, hence the development of auto-comments in the SPIN-ED program.

He point out, that these are some of the challenges, but they happen to be the main ones that he had identified that year, that drove him to develop SPIN-ED.

He now introduces the SPIN-ED and appeals to education stakeholders and the community at large to adopt the system that makes academic work processing much easier, emphasizing the importance of using SPIN-ED.

"I have a strong belief that it will increase efficiency in education, especially in the aforementioned levels once the community will be familiarized with the system."

"I would like to recognize and applaud the government under leadership of President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, led by Prof. Adolf Mkenda, for all the efforts it (the government) is making in bettering our education system, in a bid to align ourselves with the changes and pace of the world, by bringing about positive change recently, for example, giving out tablets to teachers and also modifications to our curriculum, towards the end of last year," he said

He argued that it is very evident and obvious that Tanzania is not falling behind the rest of other countries in the world, expressing faith that even when it comes to the use of technology in bringing about efficiency in teaching, the country will continue witnessing positive changes.

The engineer appealed to the government, the education sector, private sector and the Tanzanian community as a whole, to support the use of the SPIN-ED academic performance management system, but also to continue to support the efforts of the Tanzanian youth that have been discovering/inventing various things for our nation as well as individuals.

Ruth, Emmanuel, one of the long serving teachers in Dodoma Region who shared her opinions on the system noted that it is likely to help teacher, most of whom have a lot of tasks.

She said, "Such innovations are likely to bring great changes in education system in the country and it would be very grateful if education stakeholders adopt such technologies".

With experience dating back from 1987 to 1995 as a primary school teacher, before upgrading and teaching linguistics at the Mt. Meru University in 2004, she said there are a lot of challenges facing teachers throughout their profession, thus such systems can save them the daunting tasks.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 70 -

1 2 3 4 5
6
7
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14

- Across:
1 a topic
6 narcotic
7 standard things
8 on a line at right angles to a ship's or an aircraft's length sky in Kiswahili
10 hot drink taken for breakfast
11 Populous country in the World
14 Administrative Capital of Tanzania
- Down:
1 her mother city is Dodoma
2 irritated
3 a large venomous African snake
4 Irish gaelic language
5 a loud, deep, resonant sound
9 a particular stage in someone's life
11 Mexican dish consisting folded tortilla filled with spicy meat or
12 former monetary unit of India and Pakistan

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

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| CEDE | AIDE | EVEN |
| YES | DRECKY | MATE |
| ALIKE | DARE | USA: SUE |
| QUEST | RIOTOUS | SUN DECK |
| SURE: AN | EDOS:NAME | ET SEQ |
| | | ROOD |

Yesterday's solution

O	M	E	G	A	C	D	R	O	P	O	F	F
A	N	U	B	I	A	R	O	D	E			
T	I	D	A	L	S	O	M	E	N	E		
G	E	V	E	N	T	P	E	A	C	E		
R	U	S	A		O	K	H	O	M	E		
S	H	A	T	W	O	L	N	S	A	N	E	S
S	H	A	K	E	R	C	A	I	N	E	R	
S	T	A	R	E	S	L	O	Y				

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

Makete farmers to receive 1,000 tons of wheat seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Farmers in Makete district are expected to receive a total of 1,000 tonnes of wheat seeds from the Tanzania Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA).

This move is part of the efforts by the ministry of agriculture to revamp and improve wheat production to meet the shortages.

To help counter the tall shortage, the ministry is working with ASA to open a major estate for the mass production of the crop in Makete district, the potential area for the production of the crop.

The other potential areas suitable for wheat production in the country include Arusha, Mbeya, Iringa, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions.

Speaking over the weekend during a brief event to handover the first consignment of the seeds, at least 450tons, on behalf of ASA's Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sophia Kashenge, the manager for ASA's Dabaga seed farm, Nicholas Msange expressed that the seeds meant to enable the growers in the area to engage into professional cultivation of the crop.

He added that the remaining 550 tons of the improved seed variety, of coded Sifa, would soon be arrived in the districts in readiness to be distributed to the farmers.

According to ASA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Sophia Kashenge, the prospectus wheat farm to be established in the district will cover a total of 1,000 hectares, and to start with, the expectation is to produce between 2,500 to 3,000 tons of wheat seeds.

"We're very eager to embark onto implementation of the project in order to help solve the long-standing challenge of shortage of wheat seeds in the country," she expressed.



Wheat farmers in Makete

Dr. Kashenge informed that demand for the wheat seeds in the country are around 30,000 tonnes annually, but what is currently being produced is less than 500 tonnes.

As an urgent and short-term measure to help containing the poor situation, Dr. Kashenge said the state-owned seeds Agency was expecting to import at least 500 tonnes of wheat seeds to help assist the local farmers in the coming growing season.

"The vision is to assure the farmers are supplied with adequate seeds while we're working to expand home production," she assured.

The ASA's chief boss, Dr. Kashenge, underscored over the need for the accumulation of more lands to enable vast pro-

duction for the seeds in all areas across the country where the starch-grass crop can flourish.

The Government is now resulting in transforming the country's Southern Highlands, especially the Makete district, into wheat production corridor as demand for the produce heightens locally, as well as in the world market.

Wheat is among important crops for food and income generation in Tanzania, but despite its importance, the production of the crop remains significantly low, around 100,000MT annually, compared to the crop demand of 1,000,000 MT per year.

The low production is 'arm-twisting; the government to annually import about 90 percent of wheat for home consumption, whereby the current average yield per hectare is estimated at

1.6 tons and strategies of increasing productivity through intensification and intensification to attain at least 3.0 tons per hectare is in place, among others.

The Makete district is currently producing 8,242 tons of wheat from the district's estates.

Recently, the ministry of agriculture through the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has hatched an important initiative in the district, which intends to double the rate of production at the moment, and then increase it to reach an output of more than 200,000 tons by the year 2026.

Among others, the timely initiative focuses on increasing the area meant for wheat production in the district from the current 17,120 hectares to a total of 118,000 hectares by 2026.



Arrie Rautenbach, Group CEO of Absa

Absa unveils business, brand's promise across all its markets

JOHANNESBURG

Absa has launched its repositioned brand to the market, signalling a shift to being a more deliberately customer-centric business with the new brand promise of 'Your Story Matters'.

The bank has set a clear trajectory to ensure that Absa's entire suite of services and offerings lives up to this crucial pivot towards a more human-centred, empathetic banking service ethos across the continent.

The refreshed brand strapline is part of the business' ambitions to align their offerings and brand experience with their internal corporate purpose launched last year of 'Empowering Africa's tomorrow together, one story at a time'.

"As a full-service bank, we cater for customers from all walks of life - from clients who only interact with us digitally, to those who prefer the reassurance of talking to one of our colleagues in-branch, we are a bank for all seasons," says Arrie Rautenbach, Group CEO of Absa.

"Your Story Matters is more than a strapline, it is a declaration of our intent that our customers are much more than mere account numbers, they matter to us and so do the stories behind the individuals. Gaining this context will allow Absa to serve them in a more meaningful manner," he adds.

The reimagining of the brand follows a detailed review of customer insights, feedback and research. "A very consistent message comes across in research into perceptions of banks and banking," says Sydney Nhlahlhla Mbhele, Absa's Group Chief Marketing and Corporate Affairs Officer.

"Customers feel that the relationship is one-sided and that banks don't understand either their life situations or their individual needs. This often leaves them feeling helpless as well as disconnected from opportunities to improve their individual or business prospects," he adds.

Infusing a bit more humanity into the Absa ecosystem that already sees the very best digital offerings that banking has to offer, coexisting with an extensive physical network was

central to this approach.

As a global bank with a presence in ten Pan-African countries and five representative offices in strategic markets including London, New York and Beijing, Absa understands that customer needs vary widely. What can they expect as the bank embarks on the next stage of its own strategic journey?

"Essentially, we're making a step-change throughout the organisation; one that will involve enhancing the value of our products, improving our levels of customer service, and vastly improving our capacity to deliver banking solutions that will be timely and relevant to our customers throughout their lives," says Mbhele.

This process is already underway - the R1 billion pricing relief we provided in South Africa over the last few years, free Absa Rewards, our market leading renewable energy deals across Africa and the plethora of employer and digital awards that Absa has received - is just the beginning.

In South Africa, for instance, Absa is the first and still the only bank to allow customers the ability to download a pre-populated Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) claim form, and process this from one of 5000+ ATMs nationwide.

This is making a tangible difference to some of the most vulnerable in society, seeking unemployment benefits. It is also tackling financial inclusion head-on with the introduction of ChatWallet, a new wallet that enables banking services for all WhatsApp users.

Born from the success of Absa's ChatBanking launched in South Africa on Facebook and WhatsApp in 2018, users can securely manage money without the need for an existing bank account, bridging the gap to financial inclusion.

Obedi Laiser, Absa Bank Tanzania's Managing Director said "Our customers, communities, colleagues, and the public at large should brace themselves for seeing a much more human-centred bank that takes interest in the unique journeys of all its stakeholders and excited to being part of their unique stories".

DSE indices slip at end of week as NMB, Swissport prices drop

By Guardian Report

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices slipped at the end of last week, following the decline of NMB Bank and Swissport Tanzania shares prices.

The market report shows the All Share Index (DSEI) closed at 1,765.96 points on Friday last week, a decrease of 2.62 points recorded a day before, while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measure the performance of local firms declined by 8.27 points after closing at 4,385.83 points.

According to the report, the NMB share price closed the week 0.85 percent down to 4,660/- compared to 4,700/- recorded a day before, while Swissport share price closed at 1,200/- compared to 1,220/-, which was 6.67 percent



down.

Top mover during the end of the week was Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) counter, which recorded a transaction of 100,000 shares valued 550mn/- sold at 50 percent discounted price of 5,500/- per share through pre-

arranged block trade in one deal.

All the traded shares of the largest listed company at DSE were floated by local investors and bought by local investors.

The second top mover was CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transaction of 41,409

shares valued 20.9mn/- traded at a price ranging from 500/- to 520/- per share in 90 deals, followed by NMB counter which recorded the transaction of 17,607 shares valued 82mn/- traded at a price ranging from 4,520/- to 4,700/- per share in 15 deals.

Other active counter included Swissport, which recorded the transaction of 5,822 shares valued 6.5mn/- traded at a price ranging from 1,100/- to 1,120/- per share in five deals and NICO counter which recorded the transaction of 15,904 shares valued 9.2mn/- traded at a price of 580/- per share in 16 deals.

DCB Commercial Bank counter recorded the transaction of 10,401 shares valued 1.5mn/- traded at a price ranging from 140/- to 150/- per share in seven deals.

LHRO advocates strategies to enhance economic welfare for recovering youth

By Sabato Kasika, Bagamoyo

AL-KARIM Bhanji, the visionary Executive Director behind Life & Hope Rehabilitation Organisation (LHRO), is advocating for game-changing strategies to uplift economically the youth trapped in the grips of drug addiction.

Bhanji outlined key strategies such as providing entrepreneurship education and offering capital to facilitate their engagement in income-generating activities, ensuring sustainable livelihoods for struggling youth.

Delivering his impactful message in Bagamoyo, Pwani region, just two

days ago, Bhanji addressed a crucial health promotion meeting organized by the organization across five wards of the district.

Identifying project wards including Dunda, Magomeni, Nianjema, Kisutu, and Kiromo, Bhanji spearheaded a one-year initiative aimed at empowering addicts to reclaim their fundamental rights, generously supported by funding from the US Ambassador Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR Grant) and Pepsif.

At this pivotal gathering, Husna Kipilipili, the Coordinator of Mental Health and Drug Rehabilitation, revealed a remarkable milestone:

744 young individuals have courageously stepped away from drug abuse, now seeking recovery through methadone treatment at the district hospital.

"Youth are the nation's workforce, and here we are informed that 744 have stopped using drugs. It is important for the government and various stakeholders to find ways to economically empower them," said Bhanji.

He elaborated that with education and capital, young people could also engage in backyard farming and break away from dependency, which sometimes leads to stigma.

He emphasized that if young

people leave drug abuse but continue living in the same environments that led them to drug use without any meaningful activities, they might relapse. Bhanji stated that if they relapse, they become burdens to their families and even contribute to losses by being fed or sometimes resorting to theft.

"A young person engaged in some activity, including small-scale business, finds it easier to sustain their livelihoods. Therefore, my plea is for strategies to support this group economically," he said.

He noted several key things to consider for young people, including educating them about the

dangers of drug abuse, providing entrepreneurship education, and giving them capital to engage in any income-generating activity.

"I believe among these 744 young people, there are those with various skills ranging from automobile mechanics, motorcycle repair, radio repair, phone repair, and even carpentry. So, if they receive capital to buy tools, they can return to their activities and sustain their livelihoods," he said.

The guest of honor at the meeting, the Chief Medical Officer of the district hospital, Dr. Kandi Lussingu, thanked the leaders of the community development department, lo-

cal police, gender desk, and other stakeholders for their collaboration in helping young people out of drug addiction.

"Removing young people from drug addiction is a crucial step, so let's continue to collaborate to save the next generation, as they are the future workforce of the nation," said Dr. Kandi.

The district police chief, Mushana Mujema, said that the involvement of the police in the project by the organization's Director is a clear sign of wanting to help young people break away from dependency.

"Our job is to prevent all forms of crime, as some young people using these drugs engage in such activities. We are ready to provide assistance that will help our youth break away from their former drug lives to become assets to their families, communities, and the nation as a whole," said Mujema.

Dr Kijaji emphasizes on steel products' quality

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Ashatu Kijaji has asked government authorities to visit factories producing steel and other products to check if the products are meeting the required standards.

The minister was instructing Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), which deals with business licensing, the Tanzania Standards Agency (TBS) for quality assurance as well as the Measurement Agency (WMA).

Minister Kijaji gave this instruction over the weekend in Dodoma, when visiting ALAF and Herosean Enterprises, which produces Dragon steel, as an implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives.

President Samia once directed government authorities to check quality assurance for the products produced by factories in this country.

While at the Herosean Enterprises factory that produces Dragon steel, the minister noted



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji listens to one of the Dragon factory officials during her visit in Dodoma over the weekend. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

that there are other products in the factory that are not related to the actual objectives of the license issued by BRELA.

"Today I have visited these two factories but unfortunately this Dragon galvanized steel factory is involved in the business

of selling other products including Refrigerators, PVC, Tiles and Ceiling board," she said.

"I have asked them to show

me the registration of selling those products, different from the galvanized products in the factory but I did not get the right answers. I am instructing the institutions involved in this issue to deal with it to find out the truth," said Kijaji.

Similarly, Dr. Kijaji called on the owners of factories producing galvanized products in the country to sell the product at friendly price to benefit all groups of consumers.

"Another thing I want to tell Tanzanians about the products I visited today, compared to other countries, we in Tanzania, our price is lower than any country in the East African Community. So, I ask you not to listen to the noise in the street; continue to build factories and we, the government will continue to implement our projects," Dr. Kijaji said.

The customer service officer of the ALAF galvanized steel factory, Herry Jailos, thanked the Government for conducting a visit and identifying the challenges they are facing, including the lack of markets due to stiff competition.

NMB Bank bags three service excellence awards

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc scooped three awards at the 2024 Annual Tanzania Service Excellence Awards organized held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend including the overall winner for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category.

The second largest lender in terms of assets also won two other prizes that include 1st Runner Up in the Banking Sector and 1st Runner Up for Special Inclusive Customer Service Programme.

The awards organized by the Chartered Institute of Customer Management recognised NMB Bank's commitment to enhancing service excellence and transforming lives by offering services that socially and economically empower consumers, businesses, and communities.

The Service Excellence Awards were launched in 2010 and have been held in various African countries but made their first debut in Tanzania this year.

Speaking shortly after receiving the awards, the NMB's Head of Customer Experience, Abella Tarimo said the awards were a testament to proper execution of the bank's strategy.

"At NMB Bank, customer satisfaction is the core of our operations that is why we always put our customer first. We upgraded our system last year to ensure we give seamless services last year. Our customer service centre now works 24 hours since January this year and all this show how we are committed to service excellence".

She added: "Through our innovative digital solutions, extensive branch network, and dedicated employees, we will continue to champion shaping Tanzania's financial landscape and providing exceptional services to our valued customers while also giving back to communities that we operate in through our corporate social investment programme."

Ambassador John Ulanga, the Director of International Trade and Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation who officiated as guest of honour during the event said the structure of Tanzania's economy has changed significantly 30 years ago.

"30 years ago, 48 percent to 50 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was contributed by agriculture and the services sector accounted for around 25 percent. Today, almost 50 percent of the GDP is contributed by the services sector," he said.

He added: "The perfect structure of a middle income country requires 50 percent of GDP to be contributed by services sector, 20 percent or less contributed by agriculture and the remaining 30 percent being a contribution of manufacturing and other sectors".

Ulanga during the event urged companies to invest in technology so as to enhance both customer service and the customer experience journey.

"The quality service provided distinguishes one company from another. The time is now for companies to focus on how best they can boost customer service," he added.

Samsung, Tigo partner to promote digital experience

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Samsung Electronics and Tigo Tanzania have joined forces to unveil the availability of the new Galaxy S24 series.

With this partnership, customers will be able to enjoy the best digital experiences with Tigo's 5G network, the fastest in the country.

Also, the Samsung Galaxy S24 will come with a free 96GB of internet data for a year when purchased from any Tigo shop across the country.

Tigo Northern Director, Henry Kinabo said, "In partnership with Samsung, our collaboration in introducing the S24 smartphone underscores our commitment to delivering cutting-edge devices to our customers, integrating both 4G+ and 5G network capabilities".

"With over Itrn/- invested since 2022, our aim is to achieve nationwide 4G coverage and 5G deployment in major urban centres by the close of 2024," he said.

Tigo's Network Infrastructure modernization and upgrade investment has earned the company international recognition, where, Tigo has been confirmed by Ookla as the fastest network in Tanzania for the year 2023.

In addition, in the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) 2023 -Q4 report, Tigo ranked top on the quality of service.

"This means that, our customers who will buy the new product, can enjoy the best ser-

vices while at the same time exploit the benefits of superior network across the country to better their social and economic activities," emphasized Kinabo.

The introduction of the Galaxy S24 has been well-received by customers, thanks to its transformational Galaxy AI capabilities.

Galaxy AI delivers innovative and practical AI features to help transform the way people communicate, create, and discover the world.

From barrier-free communication through features like Live Translate and Chat Assist to a new standard for search provided by Circle to Search with Google, AI will improve nearly every experience that Galaxy S24 users can enjoy.

The new ProVisual Engine, a suite of AI-powered camera tools, maximizes creative freedom, from image capturing with new zoom capabilities to editing with the help of generative AI.

Speaking during the launch of the partnership, Samsung Electronics Tanzania's country leader Manish Jangra said the launch of the Galaxy S24 series demonstrates the firm's initial step toward a new era of AI phones that go beyond the current smartphone.

"Designed to be an essential part of our daily lives, Galaxy AI will permanently change the way people interact with the world. We can't wait to see how our users enhance and empower their everyday lives with Galaxy AI to open up endless possibilities," he added.



Henry Kinabo, Tigo Northern Director (L) and Edwin Byampanju, of Samsung Tanzania in jovial mood during the launch of new Galaxy S24 at Ushirika Grounds, Moshi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Following the announcement, the latest Samsung Galaxy S24 series achieved a double-digit increase in pre-order sales compared to its predecessor, with more than 69 percent of Tanzanian consumers opting for

the most premium Galaxy S24 Ultra.

Various models of the Galaxy S24 series will be available in all Samsung and Tigo shops nationwide at recommended retail prices based on the chosen variant.



Geita regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-L), with AngloGold Ashanti's (GGML's parent company) Senior Vice President - Africa Business Unit, Terry Strong and GGML's Senior Manager Human Resources, Charles Masubi (R), at the launch of the GGML 2024/2025 Internship Programme recently in Geita.

Miner's interns called on capitalise on opportunity

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Regional Commissioner Martin Shigella has urged the 2024/25 cohort of interns at Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) to work hard, be creative, and maintain discipline.

RC Shigella made the call recently when speaking at the official launch of 2024/2025 internship programme for 40 new graduates and postgraduates who began a year-long training at GGML.

He has encouraged the graduates to seize the opportunities available both inside and outside of the mine to further develop themselves after completing the year-long internship programme.

He addressed the 2024/25 cohort of interns and 10 individuals who completed last year's programme and continued with higher training at GGML.

Ten interns from last year's

program have been selected to participate in the Africa Business Unit Graduate (ABU) programme. This programme allows them to exchange experiences with graduates from other countries, such as Ghana and Guinea, where AngloGold Ashanti, the parent company of GGML, operates mines.

RC Shigella said that discipline for the graduates is an important basis in any kind of foundation that will help to advance their careers.

He also said that with GGML's internal procurement turnover approaching a trillion shillings per annum, especially considering that the company is complying with the local content law which requires it to source its products here in the country, it is a good opportunity for the graduates to learn the intricacies of the company's supply chain, which may even inspire them to start their own business and join the list of many local com-

panies that supply products to the mine.

As well as congratulating GGML for having effective plans to create opportunities for Tanzanian youth, he also congratulated the interns who had managed to break through and land the coveted places, especially considering that there were 2,800 applicants for the positions, but only 40 were selected.

Senior Manager for Human Resources, Charles Masubi, said that the ABU programme, which has taken on 10 people who successfully completed last year's internship, will enable them to get higher vocational training to accompany the skills they acquired during their studies.

"If he is an engineer, we will teach him how to draw up an agreement, how to prepare a budget, but also how to communicate properly with his colleagues," he said.

WORLD



Former US Presidential hopeful and 2024 presidential hopeful Donald Trump (center) gestures at an "Election Night Watch Party" in Columbia, South Carolina, on Saturday. AFP

Trump defeats Haley in her home state, but Haley vows to head into Super Tuesday

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday secured victory over Nikki Haley, his former ambassador to the United Nations, in South Carolina's Republican primary, advancing a step closer to a potential face-off with incumbent Joe Biden in the upcoming presidential election in November.

Despite her aspirations to regain momentum after three losses in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, Haley – South Carolina's first female governor from 2011 to 2017 – got roughly 40 percent of the vote, trailing Trump by approximately 20 percentage points.

As Trump and Haley traverse the primary landscape, vying for the Republican presidential nomination state by state, Trump's firm hold on a significant faction of the party is evident.

However, he remains embroiled in controversies surrounding his efforts to overturn the 2020 U.S. presidential election results and his alleged role in inciting the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot. Meanwhile, despite growing inner-party pressure to drop out and allow Republicans to unite around Trump, Haley vowed she was "not giving up this fight."

"We're getting around 40 percent of the vote. That's about what we got in New Hampshire, too. I'm an accountant. I know 40 percent is not 50 percent. But I also know 40 percent is not some tiny group," Haley told supporters in her election-night remarks.

"In the next 10 days, another 21 states and territories will speak," she said. Her next station is Michigan, and then Super Tuesday on March 5, when 15 states and one territory will vote to choose candidates to compete in the general elections.

Voters cast their ballots at a polling station during the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary in Charleston, South Carolina, the United States, Feb. 3, 2024. (Photo by Andrew Whitaker/Xinhua)

Trump, who has swept all the early states, has contended that the Republican primary election was effectively over. "This was a little sooner than we anticipated," he said in his victory speech in Columbia in South Carolina, adding that he had "never seen the Republican Party so unified as it is right now."

"A Marquette Law School national poll of registered voters conducted from Feb. 5 to 15 showed that Haley could hold a larger lead over Biden than Trump in a hypothetical general election match-up, considering "her strength with Republicans combined with an ability to attract more Democratic and independent voters than does Trump."

But most observers believe Trump's leadership in the party can hardly be shaken, and more discussion has been switched to who Trump's election partner will be. A Morning Consult tracking poll conducted from Jan. 23 to Feb. 4 showed Trump is considerably ahead in every major Super Tuesday state.

A daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley, 52, who portrays herself as a leader from "a new generation" and attacks Trump about his age and records in making America "chaos," has aimed to court independent voters and moderate Republicans.

But that strategy appeared to be ineffective. In the first Republican primary in Iowa, Trump secured over 50 percent of votes, while Haley even placed behind Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, previously considered a promising right-wing challenger to Trump who later withdrew.

In the recent Nevada contest, featuring both a state-run primary and a party-run caucus, only the caucus results dictated delegate allocation. Having chosen to participate in the primary, Haley was consequently excluded from the caucus. She suffered a significant setback, losing the primary to the "none of these candidates" option by a considerable 30 percent margin. Trump's name was not on the ballot. The outcome underscored her formidable challenge in securing the nomination.

The odds are against her, even in some of her targeted groups. For instance, according to an ABC News poll, even among college-educated voters, where Haley has experienced the greatest growth of support, she's trailing Trump by about 30 points nationally.

Trump has established a powerful, identity-based relationship with his most dedicated supporters, and his opponents in the GOP have generally been unwilling to challenge this," Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor at Saint Anselm College in the northeastern state of New Hampshire, told Xinhua.

Haley and her campaign have shown no sign of relenting. Calling the election "a building situation," she said in an NBC interview that she did not necessarily need to win her hometown but had to do better than she did in New Hampshire, which was better than she did in Iowa. Xinhua

Two years on, peace still elusive in Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW / KYIV

AS the full-scale fight in Ukraine reaches its second anniversary, Russia appears to have the upper hand with the capture of Avdiivka, a strategic stronghold in the Donetsk region, leaving Kiev and its backers in an even harder situation than before.

The weariness caused by the two-year-long conflict, dubbed by some analysts as "Ukraine Fatigue," is now permeating Western nations, leading to a divided stance on providing further support to the country.

The recent Israeli-Palestinian conflict has further limited the ability of the United States, particularly the West, to focus on Ukraine.

However, the two countries, which remain committed to advancing military operations, show no signs of initiating peace talks.

Battlefield dilemma

In recent months, Russia and Ukraine have both focused on the strategic importance of Avdiivka, located just 20 km from Donetsk and controlled by Russian forces.

The city plays a crucial role in securing the northern front lines for the Ukrainian army in the Donetsk region.

Oleksandr Syrsky, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, said last week that Ukraine had ordered the withdrawal of troops from the frontline eastern town of Avdiivka.

"To avoid encirclement and preserve the lives and health of servicemen, I decided to withdraw our units from the city and move to defense on more favorable lines," he said.

According to Russia's Defense Ministry, Russian troops have taken full control of the town of Avdiivka.

Sean Bell, a British military analyst, said the fall of Avdiivka has given Russia its most important battlefield victory since it seized Bakhmut after months of grueling attritional warfare.

Many analysts believe the balance of war is tipping in Russia's favor but not to the point where Ukraine is at risk of a full-scale collapse.

In fact, the front lines of the conflict have barely moved since 2023 as Ukraine's mid-year offensive failed. This also holds true even after the fall of Avdiivka.

"Militarily, it's not a big loss," said Rob Bauer, chair of the NATO Military Committee, concerning the fall of Avdiivka. "They destroyed the whole infrastructure. So, you don't have a city. You have another couple of hundred meters," he said of Russia's territorial gains.

As the former commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said recently, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has now entered a phase characterized by stalemate and attrition.



This photo taken on Jan. 2, 2024 shows buildings and cars damaged in a missile attack in Kyiv, Ukraine. Xinhua

According to analysts, it is seemingly difficult for both sides to achieve a major breakthrough on the battlefield this year, but the intensity of the conflict may somewhat decline.

Ukraine will probably switch from offensive to defensive, while Russia will also find it hard to expand its territory beyond the four areas it controls.

The upcoming US and Russian presidential elections, the amount of aid Ukraine can obtain from the West, as well as the quantity of troop replenishment for both will all decide the trend of the conflict.

Declining Western aid

Admit it or not, global attention to the Ukraine crisis has dwindled recently, and people in the West, particularly in the United States, are becoming increasingly tired of the ongoing crisis.

Nearly half of the US public believes the country is spending too much on Ukraine, according to a recent Gallup poll.

The US election campaign has already negatively affected the delivery of more aid to Ukraine.

Currently, a \$60-billion package of aid to Ukraine is stalled in US Congress by right-wing Republicans.

US officials admitted that little could be done before America elects a new president.

The situation is comparably better for the Europeans, with the EU countries sealing a deal at the beginning of February to provide Ukraine with 50 billion euros (about \$54 billion) in support for Ukraine after Hungary dropped its veto threats.

But converting this commitment into ammunition available to frontline soldiers is still a challenge.

Even so, it seems that some Western countries don't want to lose this opportunity to weaken Russia, and continue to exacerbate the conflict and profit from it.

In the two years of the conflict, the US defense industry has experienced a boom in orders for weapons and munitions, The Wall Street Journal reported recently.

Business is coming from European allies trying to beef up their military capabilities as well as from the Pentagon, which is both buying new equipment from defense manufacturers and replenishing military stocks depleted by deliveries to Ukraine, it said.

The State Department recently said the United States made more than 80 billion dollars in major arms deals in the year through September, of which about 50 billion dollars went to European allies – more than five times the historical norm, Myles Walton, a military industry analyst at Wolfe Research, was quoted by The Wall Street Journal as saying.

At the recently closed Munich Security Conference, increasing mili-

tary aid to Ukraine was still the focal topic.

Moreover, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization last month kicked off "Steadfast Defender 2024," its largest military drill in decades, which is deemed to be directed at Russia.

Unreachable peace

The year 2023 started with high hopes for Ukrainian troops planning a counteroffensive against Russia, but ended with disappointment on the battlefield.

"Whatever else the war may be achieving, it has not been good for Ukraine," said Charles W. Freeman, a retired American diplomat and writer, adding that Ukraine's bargaining position against Russia has been greatly weakened.

Both Russia and Ukraine have repeatedly said they want the war to end, but on their terms.

In January, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that a ceasefire then would only give Russia the chance to regroup and replenish its units and weapon stocks.

"Talking about a ceasefire in Ukraine, it would not constitute peace. It would not mean the war would stop. It also provides no opportunity for political dialogue," Zelensky said on a visit to Estonia.

For its part, the Kremlin said in December that it saw no current basis for peace talks, and called Kiev's peace plan an "absurd process" as it excluded Russia.

Meanwhile, Western countries have continued, though reluctantly, to deliver dwindling aid to Ukraine.

For most analysts, a negotiated solution in 2024 does not look promising at this point.

A survey conducted in January across 12 EU countries found that pessimism about the conflict's outcome was being fueled by Ukraine's failed counteroffensive, a potential US policy shift and the possibility of Donald Trump being reelected president.

Though support for Ukraine among Europeans remains high, some form of "compromise settlement" is seen as the most likely solution to the conflict in the survey of over 17,000 respondents by the European Council on Foreign Relations. This marks a shift in sentiment, however, as a majority of Europeans upon the first anniversary of the conflict said Ukraine must regain all of its lost territory.

In November, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said about the Ukraine issue: "There is a lot of fatigue. We are near the moment in which everybody understands that we need a way out."

Xinhua



Russian defence chief listens to commanders' reports in special military operation area

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu listened to reports by commanders of the Battlegroup Center on the current situation and the nature of the enemy's activities in the special military operation area in Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Saturday.

"During his work in the area of the special military operation, Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergey Shoigu listened to reports by the commander of the Battlegroup Center and headquarters officers on the current situation, the nature of the enemy's activities and the fulfillment of combat missions by Russian troops in the operational direction," the ministry said in a statement.

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu ordered during the visit to the Battlegroup Center headquarters to further reinforce the battlegroup with electronic warfare equipment, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"The Russian Defense Minister set the task to further strengthen the group with electronic warfare means, primarily at the tactical level," the ministry said.

Orlan-30 reconnaissance drone proved to be good during Avdeyevka liberation, Battlegroup Center Commander Andrey Mordvichev reported to Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu.

"The Orlan-30 unmanned aerial vehicle system proved to be very good in the course of liberating Avdeyevka settlement," the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Strike drones of the Battlegroup Center destroyed more than 700 various enemy targets in the Avdeyevka direction, Battlegroup Center Commander Andrey Mordvichev reported to Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu.

"During the last fortnight alone, strike drones in the Avdeyevka direction destroyed more than 700 various enemy targets, including armored vehicles, artillery systems, radars and manpower of the adversary," the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Agencies



The Russian Defense Minister set the task to further strengthen the group with electronic warfare means, primarily at the tactical level

Xinhua

South Sudanese President Kiir visits Rwanda, Burundi and DRC amid rising regional tensions

KIGALI/BUJUMBURA

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, who currently serves as the chairperson of the summit of the East African Community (EAC) heads of state, on Thursday embarked on a significant working visit to Rwanda in a bid to address escalating tensions in the East African region.

Rwandan foreign minister Vincent Biruta received Kiir who was accompanied by

EAC Secretary-General Peter Mathuki at Kigali International Airport, Rwanda. President Kiir later engaged in a consultative meeting with Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the president's office in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

The discussions, as outlined in the communique released by the EAC secretariat Friday, focused on the critical status of peace and security within the EAC, a regional bloc that groups Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya,

Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia.

Both leaders emphasized the pivotal role of peace and security in fostering social and economic development within the community and achieving the objectives of the EAC, according to the communique.

They called on partner states to comply with their obligations as enshrined in the treaty for the establishment of the EAC.

The two leaders underscored the need for expeditious complementary implementation of

the political track of the EAC-led Nairobi process and the Luanda process to avert the unfolding dire security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which risks spilling over into neighboring partner states. The Luanda and Nairobi processes refer to African regional efforts to ease the tension in the eastern DRC, including meetings in the Angolan and Kenyan capitals.

The DRC has accused Rwanda of backing M23 rebels, an

accusation rejected by both Kigali and the M23 rebel group. South Sudanese President Kiir started assuming the one-year chairmanship of the summit of EAC heads of state in November 2023.

He took over the rotating chairmanship from Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye. Kiir extended his visit to neighboring Burundi Friday before proceeding to the DRC.

During his one-day visit to Burundi, President Kiir held a meeting with Burundian Presi-

dent Evariste Ndayishimiye, where they recommended the respect and implementation of agreements to solve regional conflicts.

A communique issued at the end of the consultative meeting between both presidents showed that they discussed regional issues notably the tension between Burundi and Rwanda, as well as the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Both leaders noted the need for the two sister states

of Burundi and Rwanda to ensure the implementation of all previously agreed upon commitments arising out of the bilateral dialogue between the two countries," said EAC Secretary General Peter Mathuki who read the communique, adding that the implementation of those commitments will energize the implementation of the EAC integration imperatives that include free movement of people, goods and services.

Xinhua

What are the hidden motives behind US refusal to stop two ongoing fights?

BEIJING

OVER the weekend, the full-scale war in Ukraine has hit a two-year mark, and the Palestinian death toll in the Gaza conflict is nearing 30,000.

Two ongoing conflicts are causing humanitarian catastrophes. Ignoring this fact, the United States persists in its plans to sustain funding for the conflict in Ukraine and has, for the fourth time, vetoed a UN resolution advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza last week.

Why is the United States not stopping the fighting? Analysts have assessed the scenario and reached a resounding conclusion: It is a combination of factors, including the U.S. strategic interests for global dominance and the lucrative war business.

STRATEGIC INTERESTS

Obviously, the United States has its strategic priorities in these two conflicts. By prolonging both conflicts, its aim is to attain geopolitical objectives in order to uphold its global dominance.

Not long after fighting broke out in Ukraine, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in April 2022 that the United States hopes the war in Ukraine will result in a "weakened" Russia, a country that was named as a rival power by Washington since 2017.

"It has already lost a lot of military capability and a lot of its troops, quite frankly, and we want to see them not have the capability to very quickly reproduce that capability," Austin said.

Meanwhile, the United States is seeking to bolster its influence and control in Europe, especially through NATO. Austin also said the United States hopes "to see the international community more united, especially NATO." He cited the sanctions imposed on Russia by the United States and its allies as an example of how the fighting in Ukraine has made the security alliance more unified.

Furthermore, under the pretext of fortifying security amid the conflict in Ukraine, the United States has taken



People bid goodbye to each other with a hug in Irpin, Ukraine, March 8, 2022. (Photo by Diego Herrera/Xinhua)

a number of steps to strengthen its military presence and operations in and around Europe, showed a report to U.S. Congress titled "A Great Power Competition: Implications for Defense" updated on Jan. 10, 2024.

While in the Middle East, the U.S. persistent refusal to stop the Israel-Hamas conflict has drawn attention, as analysts argue that this ongoing conflict has diverted Western leaders' time and political energy away from Ukraine.

Then why the United States is not stopping this conflict? "That's primarily because the United States agrees with Israel's goal of destroying Hamas," said an opinion piece published by Politico.

A prolonged Israel war on Hamas will dismantle the militant group and "undercuts Tehran," said the article.

Echoing the point, a Wilson Center report, "National Security Challenges for the United States and Israel in the Biden Era," said: "Maintaining the U.S. presence in the Middle East is a vested Israeli interest. The United States could consider ... operations to push back against Iran in the region."

"The United States has little interest in negotiating with the Palestinians," Elias Fuentes, an international affairs expert at the National

Autonomous University of Mexico pointed out. While explaining the U.S. stance in the Israel-Hamas conflict, Fuentes said, "its primary focus is safeguarding its own interests."

ECONOMIC SPINOFFS

U.S. defense giants are faring well amid heavy government demand for military aid to Ukraine and Israel.

According to Biden administration officials, of the 60.7 billion U.S. dollars earmarked for Ukraine in a 95 billion supplemental defense bill, 64 percent will actually flow back to the U.S. defense industrial base.

Industrial production in the U.S. defense and space sector has increased 17.5 percent since the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out two years ago, Federal Reserve data show.

"The Pentagon's increased demand for goods and services from U.S. defense companies has likely improved their potential profits," William Courtney, a retired U.S. ambassador and adjunct senior fellow at the RAND Corporation, told Xinhua.

Seen from financial reports for the year 2023 of major U.S. arms dealers, sales of defense company Raytheon, or RTX, were close to 20 billion U.S. dollars in the fourth quarter, exceeding the third quarter and up by 10 per-

cent compared to the same period last year. Defense firm Lockheed Martin's stock price surged at the outset of the Ukraine crisis from around the 400 dollar-per-share mark to nearly 500 dollars per share in less than a year.

"Since most of the fight involves ground operations, U.S. and other Western producers of equipment, ammunition, and other supplies for ground forces, including ground-based air defenses such as the Patriot, may have benefitted the most," Courtney said.

Over the past year, the United States raked in more than 80 billion dollars in major arms deals, with about 50 billion dollars coming from European allies, according to the U.S. State Department.

Likewise, the United States is Israel's largest military aid provider. The Israeli Air Force uses air-to-ground missiles produced by Raytheon, while Boeing provides Israel with a large quantity of Small Diameter Bombs, Joint Direct Attack Munitions kits, and more.

Lockheed Martin also supplies Israel with "Hellfire" missiles. According to Bloomberg, just over a month after the conflict in Gaza began, around 2,000 "Hellfire" missiles were shipped from the United States to Israel.

Data also showed that the United States has provided Israel with over 130 billion dollars in security and weapon aid since its founding in 1948, with approximately 80 percent of Israel's military equipment imports coming from the United States.

Besides raking in profits from arms sales, the United States is also making serious money as the Russia-Ukraine conflict has driven up European demand for U.S. liquefied natural gas.

The U.S. has become the biggest exporter of LNG to Europe, as EU countries have raced to replace Russian fuel. Over 60 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to Europe in the last two years.

A sharp critique from a recent Wall Street Journal article said: "While war often has economic spinoffs, these are occurring without the U.S. actually doing any of the fighting."

Xinhua

China's ambassador calls for stronger China-EU economic ties

ATHENS

CHINA'S ambassador to Greece stressed the importance of enhanced economic cooperation between Europe and China and emphasized collaboration over competition in a recent interview with Xinhua in Athens.

Ambassador Xiao Junzheng (pictured) highlighted the significance of cooperation after the 5th Balkans and Black Sea Forum, which brought together 170 representatives from international organizations, governments, diplomatic missions and businesses engaged in discussions on geopolitics, regional cooperation and Mediterranean port hubs in Athens last week.

"There are indeed unsolved problems regarding China-EU trade, but generally speaking, cooperation between our two sides is much more important than competition, and consensus far outweighs differences," the ambassador told Xinhua.

Xiao emphasized that China, like Europe, is a creator, beneficiary

and defender of the existing international order. Both sides support multipolarity and oppose bloc confrontation, the new Cold War, decoupling and severing supply chains.

China advocates advancing a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, which is responding to the common needs of all countries and realizing win-win situations as much as possible, he added.

According to Eurostat, the total trade volume between the EU and China in 2022 surged by 23 percent, reaching 856.3 billion euros (\$910.6 billion), with China being the EU's largest import source and the third-largest export destination.

So far, China and EU have established more than 70 consultation and dialogue mechanisms, he added.

Xinhua



'PM Modi has been best Indian friend'

NEW DELHI

FORMER Prime Minister of Australia Tony Abbott has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "best Indian friend" as he wished him well for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Calling India a robust democracy, Abbott said that Australia would be very happy to continue to do business with Prime Minister Modi for years to come.

While speaking to ANI, the former Australian PM said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured) has been the best Indian friend that Australia has ever had, and I wish him well for the coming elections."

"Naturally, India is a robust democracy and from time to time there is a change of government in this country. I don't want to give advice to Indian people, but certainly, I know from the Australian point of view that we would be very happy to continue to do business with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for many years to come," he said.

Meanwhile, Abbott also said that the relationship between India and Australia is a very strong one, and added that the great thing about doing business with India is that no one is going to suddenly stop the trade for capricious reasons.

"The relationship at present. It's a very strong relationship, and it's getting stronger all the

time...India is, as I keep saying, the world's emerging democratic superpower. I think right now India is roaring down the Runway to a full economic take-off. You only have to look at the way infrastructure is being built in all of India's major cities to know that," Abbott said.

India's political landscape is undergoing a significant transition as the Lok Sabha elections draw near.

INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) consortium is gearing up to challenge the established National Democratic Alliance.

Earlier in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the NDA won 353 seats, the UPA stood at 91, and Others won 98. The voting was staggered in seven phases between April 11 and May 19, in which around 67 per cent of the nearly 900 million eligible people exercised their franchise to elect 542 members of the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha elections will be held this year in April and May.

ANI



THE clear waters and green shores of the Yundang Lake, the white egrets playing in Xiatanwei Coastal Wetland, and the azure sky above the Wuyuan Bay...

These ecological masterpieces in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian province serve as a vivid portrayal of the coordinated development of ecology and economy, as well as the harmonious co-existence between man and nature.

Xiamen is a key birthplace and early adopter of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization.

In March 1988, seeing the polluted Yundang Lake where almost no trace of aquatic animals could be found, Xi Jinping, who then served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Xiamen Municipal Committee and vice mayor of Xiamen, put forward the request to carry out a plan that detailed legal governance, stopping pollution, dredging

Xiamen a vivid example of beautiful China



work, revitalization of the body of water and improvement of the surrounding environment.

After five phases of large-scale treatment, the once "stinky lake" has been transformed into a "green lung" of the city.

Starting with the comprehensive treatment of the Yundang Lake, Xiamen has actively promoted ecological protection and restoration of sea, river basins, and the en-

vironment for over 30 years. It has explored a path to ecological civilization that well coordinates high-quality development and ecological protection, and promotes the harmonious co-existence between man and the sea, which shapes a beautiful ecological environment, promotes high-quality development, and improves the quality of life.

This mirrors the positive progress made by Xiamen

in development philosophy and approach, and serves as a vivid example of advancing ecological civilization.

A sound eco-environment is the fairest public product and the most inclusive public benefit.

From carrying out beach restoration projects to keep the most beautiful beaches for the people, to constructing marine and wetland parks, beautiful shorelines, and recreational trails around lakes

and bays, and to exploring an ecological management model of co-construction, co-governance and co-sharing to benefit the people with a sound ecology, Xiamen has consistently prioritized addressing the most pressing environmental concerns that directly impact and are of utmost importance to the public, so as to better practice the notion that "Every person is a protector, contributor, and beneficiary of the environ-

ment," and fully motivate the initiative and creativity of the people.

Over the past 30 years, Xiamen has been committed to building a community of life that incorporates mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and deserts.

The city has taken a law-based, science-based, holistic and coordinated approach to governance and tried to resolve root causes of problems in environmental protection.

This has led to continuous improvement in the modernization of ecological environment governance, achieving a positive interaction between high-level ecological protection and high-quality development. Xiamen has successfully embarked on a path of high-quality development that prioritizes environmental optimization for growth and uses devel-

opment to enhance the environment. Respecting nature, adapting to nature and protecting nature to promote harmonious co-existence between man and nature is a distinctive feature of Chinese modernization.

Currently, China's economic and social development has entered a stage of accelerated green and low-carbon development, and it is an important period for building a beautiful China.

China is planning and promoting ecological and environmental protection, continuously enhancing the potential and momentum of high-quality development, and promoting harmonious co-existence between man and nature with a higher perspective, broader vision, and greater efforts. It is striving to build a beautiful homeland with blue skies, green landscapes, and clean waters, and to compose a magnificent chapter of Chinese modernization.

People's Daily

Morocco's King hosts Spain's Prime Minister

RABAT

MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI has hosted Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez whereby the two leaders

discussed a number of issues including the Western Sahara dispute.

The also discussed the ongoing preparations to jointly host the 2030 FIFA World Cup with Portugal.

Prime Minister Sánchez reiterated his country's endorsement of the Moroccan proposed plan for Western Sahara, emphasizing its significance in advancing a realistic and credible resolution to the lingering territorial dispute.

In response, King Mohammed VI expressed gratitude for Spain's constructive stance on the matter, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and cooperation.

Additionally, Prime Minister Sánchez commended Morocco's strategic initiatives, including efforts to promote cooperation among Atlantic-bordering African nations and initiatives such as the Atlantic Gas Pipeline project.

Sánchez's visit comes nearly a year after the he and the King adopted a declaration, signaling a new era of cooperation after years of tensions.

Prior to his meeting with the King, the Spanish PM met with Morocco's Premier Aziz Akhannouch.

During a press conference, the Spanish PM called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and renewed support for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

"In our opinion it is imperative that a permanent ceasefire be reached, that hostilities cease and that all hostages that are held right now by Hamas be freed. We must also guarantee access to humanitarian aid, and for that the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, is fundamental, this is an argument that Spain has been making," Sanchez said.

Agencies

Russian envoy refuses to listen to European diplomats' speeches at UNSC meeting on Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA'S Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya (pictured) has said that he refuses to listen to European representatives' speeches at the UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

"I would like to warn in advance that I won't listen to the European representatives' ritual incantations. Let them show their eloquence to one another, polluting the broadcast with their hypocritical presentations," he said.

"I would like to remind you that none of the European Union countries and the West in general has ever come up with an initiative of convening even a single meeting [of the UN Security Council] on Gaza," Nebenzya said. "It speaks more than eloquently your hypocrisy and double standards."

Earlier, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky said that Western countries were preparing a "pro-Ukrainian covenant" at the United Nations to mark the second anniversary of the special military operation.

Polyansky said that there would be useless get-togethers where Western countries would practice anti-Russian rhetoric and commend the Kiev regime.

Agencies



Girls team from K'njaro to represent Tanzania in Spanish soccer league

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

ACE girl footballers from Kilimanjaro will be representing Tanzania in the forthcoming Spanish soccer league, La Liga for East Africa, whose finals matches will be staged in Kenya next May.

The Simba Footprints team happens to be the girls' soccer squad based in Moshi Municipality and will be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya for the La Liga East African Cup, putting together teams from Kenya, Uganda and

Tanzania.

As for the boys' soccer envoys, Tanzania will be represented by the team from the Future Stars Academy of Arusha during the final matches in the ongoing second season of the La Liga East Africa Cup in Nairobi.

Both teams, Simba Footprints and Future Stars excelled in the Tanzania qualifying events that were held in Arusha on Saturday.

La Liga East Africa Cup for youth clubs for boys and girls that started on February 17, this year, takes place in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

with the overall regional finals expected to take place in Nairobi next May.

Eight teams were participating in the La Liga Arusha tourney, among them four girls' clubs and four boys' teams with participants aged between 15 and 17 years of age.

The Future Stars Academy of Arusha organized the Tanzanian version of La Liga East Africa Cup and the FSA Director, Alfred Itaeli, says they will be organizing annual events in association with the Spanish soccer league,

La Liga, targeting to identify new talents.

In Tanzania eight teams competed for the ticket into East African finals among them were the boys' clubs including Arusha 05, Future Stars, New Vision Academy and Young Life Academy.

On the other hand the girls' teams were Edmund Rice School team, Future Stars, Rotary Emayani Queens and Simba Footprints Queens.

During the last year's events, Jorge Gazapo, the La Liga International Development envoy representing Tanzania,

Rwanda and Burundi, attended the league and vowed to keep supporting soccer events in East Africa.

That is to be achieved through La Liga grassroots, a football arm of the Spanish League targeting to identify and boost young players

"La Liga grassroots always strive for the best and in association with our counterparts in Kenya and Uganda, we are working to make the festivals an international tournament and we believe the events will be excellent," Gazapo had said.



The guest of honour, Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Damas Ndumbaro (L) hands over a dummy cheque of 5m/- to the winner of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon women's category Natalia Sulle. The race was held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. Right is the Tanzania Breweries Limited country director, Michell Kilpin. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup is like our World Cup - ZFF president

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

PRESIDENT of the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) Suleiman Mahmoud Jabir has asserted that the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup is like a World Cup and having it back will perhaps help strengthen participant teams to even qualify more for AFCON.

Recently, the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) awarded Zanzibar the hosting rights for the 2024 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup.

This was announced during the CECAFA General Assembly that took place on Friday in Mombasa, Kenya.

The CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup returns after it last took place in 2019 in Uganda.

The ZFF president said he was happy that the tournament is returning with more optimism to sharpen teams for the upcoming AFCON.

"We, as ZFF, are proud to host the returning CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup, a tournament that will sharpen our teams for the upcoming AFCON edition, as a zonal competition it's like a World Cup for us. All games have a derby taste due to our neighborly presence," said Jabir.

"This is an opportunity for our players to show their prowess and help our teams, both Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland. We look forward to receiving dates on when the tournament will kick off as we look forward to having a fruitful tournament this year," he added.

Countries expected to take part include Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Zanzibar and Djibouti.

Zanzibar has also been awarded the rights to host the CAF Africa Schools Football Championship CECAFA Zonal qualifiers.

Uganda were awarded the rights to host the AFCON U-17 Boys CECAFA Zonal qualifiers, while Tanzania Mainland will host the AFCON U-20 CECAFA Zonal qualifiers.

Ethiopia were awarded to host the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA qualifiers and the CECAFA U-20 Girls Championship.

Also in attendance were the CAF General Secretary and Vice President Veron Mosengo and Augustin Senghor Ahmed respectively, together with Leodegar Tenga, an Honorary Member.



The Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, (in blue t-shirt) accompanied by his host, the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu, participate in the Gee Soseji 5Km Fun Run during the Kilimanjaro Lager International Marathon 2024 held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Advent squash tournament to take place this weekend

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Advent Squash Open Tournament will be held this weekend at Colosselum Hotel in Dar es Salaam, organizers have disclosed.

Marwa Busigara, who is one of the tournament organizers, said it will be held from March 1-3 and they expect more than 60 players to compete.

He thanked Advent Company for sponsoring the tournament, saying it's one way of reviving the game in the country.

"This year Advent Squash Open Tournament will be held this weekend at Colosselum Hotel. We expect more than 60 people to compete. Registration is by email, phone or at the hotel's reception section," he said.

Squash is played by around 20 million people in 185 countries worldwide.

Squash is a racket and ball sport, played by two players on a four-walled court with a small hollow rubber ball.

Players take turns to hit the ball with their rackets onto the playable surfaces of the four walls of the court.

The object of the game is to hit the ball so that the opponent cannot hit an effective return.

Here in the country, there are few courts, but there are plans to construct more courts and take the game to all parts of the country.



Tigo 21km Half Marathon 2024 male's category winner Faraja Lazaro finishing the race which was held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Youssouph Dabo encouraged by Azam's improvement

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

HEAD coach Youssouph Dabo was pleased with the attitude shown by his Azam players in their 5-0 victory over Green Warriors in the Federation Cup Round of 32 game played at Chamazi last week.

A much-changed Azam team produced a composed performance in sweltering conditions at Chamazi.

Iddy 'Nado' Selemani opened the scoring after the half-hour mark to give Azam a deserved lead.

Ivorian winger Kipre Junior quickly added a second barely a minute after Nado's opener.

Ten minutes after the interval, Azam registered their third goal following a defensive mix-up that resulted in an own goal by Green Warriors.

It was a job well done in the mind of the Senegalese coach who was happy his players had learned from their first Federation Cup game against Alliance in December, last year.

Abdulhamis 'Sopu' Suleiman found the net with a guided shot from distance before Ayubu Ly-

anga got in on the act with a well taken free kick goal in the 81st minute to complete the rout

"I am happy. Whenever you win you are happy. As I said to my players before, we knew it would not be an easy game until we scored because these are the kind of games you need to score quickly to push the opponent to take more risks and stop time wasting.

"We succeeded to score two goals in the first half and in the second half was just to manage the situation and score more goals.

"In our first Federation Cup game against a team from Mwanza, maybe some players thought it was an easy match but we saw it was very tough. We need to learn and improve our play and mentality from each game, I think that first game helped us to manage this one well," he said.

With the Federation Cup Round of 16 secured in the bag, Azam shift their focus back to the NBC Premier League title race. They make the trip to Mbeya to take on Tanzania Prisons on Sunday.

Azam are second on the NBC Premier League standings level on points with third-placed Simba who have played a game in hand.



Kane's injury time goal saves Bayern against Leipzig

LONDON

HARRY Kane scored two goals in the second-half, including an injury time winner, to snatch Bayern Munich a 2-1 home win over RB Leipzig on Saturday, ending the side's worst run since 2015.

Bayern had lost three matches in a row for the first time in nine years before the club announced this week that coach Thomas Tuchel would leave in the summer.

Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told Sky "it might seem a bit like the good old Bayern luck, but we deserved to win today."

The win reduced the gap to leaders Bayer Leverkusen to eight points with 11 games left.

Neuer said Tuchel's exit "cast a bad light on us as players, that we weren't able to make it work with a top coach like Thomas Tuchel.

"It's our mistake. We want to keep things going professionally until the end."

Kane broke the deadlock midway through the first half but Leipzig hit back with 20 remaining minutes, Benjamin Sesko equalising for the visitors.

With Bayern in danger of conceding further ground to Leverkusen in the title race, Kane stepped up and scored in the first minute of injury time, his 27th league goal of the season.

Kane had a golden chance to release the pressure on the home side just five minutes in but his point-blank header was pushed onto the post by Janis Blaswich.

The England captain went close once more just before half-time but a bicycle kick was directed straight at Blaswich.

Kane finally broke through after 56 minutes, slamming a low shot into the Leipzig goal, his 26th strike in 23 games.

Leipzig, who had not lost to Bayern in the league in two years, pressured the German champions, breaking through after 70 minutes through Sesko. Sesko collected a short Dani Olmo pass and drove his shot low, with the ball deflected by Leon Goretzka and rolling into the net.

The match looked set for a stalemate until Kane latched onto a pass from Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, before volleying past Blaswich to seize a valuable win.

Stuttgart were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Cologne.

Stuttgart were without injured Brighton loanee Deniz Undav, who had scored five goals in his past four league games, picking up the slack from striker Serhou Guirassy, who has only recently returned to club action after the Africa Cup of Nations.

Stuttgart took the lead in the 53rd minute, Enzo Millot finishing off the type of well-worked team move which has become the hallmark of Sebastian Hoeness' side this season.

Cologne drew level nine minutes later, though, Eric Martel tapping in after being left unmarked at the far post from a free-kick.

After needing to win a two-legged relegation play-off to stay in the top division last campaign, Stuttgart have been this season's Bundesliga surprise packages and stay third as they bid to return to the Champions League for the first time since 2010.

A disappointed Stuttgart captain Waldemar Anton said: "If you want to play international football you have to come out on top in games like this."

Elsewhere, Union Berlin drew 2-2 at home to Heidenheim.

The visitors forged ahead through Nikola Dove-dan on just three minutes thanks to a defensive blunder.

Germany left-back Robin Gosens drew Union level in the 44th minute, sending an ungainly shot across the face of goal and into the net, moments before Andras Schafer gave the hosts the lead.

Heidenheim, who are surprisingly within touching distance of the European placings in their first top-flight season, equalised through Jan-Niklas Beste, who chipped the ball home after a counter-attack.

Borussia Moenchengladbach thumped Bochum 5-2 at home, picking up a crucial three points to move eight clear of the relegation play-off spot.

Darmstadt went within inches of a third win of the season, having two goals chalked off in the dying stages for offside and handball in a 1-1 draw at Werder Bremen.

The result keeps Darmstadt last on 13 points.

AFP

Stunning Young Africans book CAF Champions League last-eight slot

AFP

TANZANIAN club Young Africans made a stunning entry to the CAF Champions League quarter-finals for the first time on Saturday by hammering Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria 4-0 in Dar es Salaam.

Needing to defeat the visiting side by at least four goals to squeeze through from Group D on the head-to-head tie-breaker, the east Africans scored three second-half goals to succeed.

It was a multi-national triumph for 'Yanga' with Tanzanian Mudathiri Yahya, Burkinabe Stephane Aziz Ki, Zambian Kennedy Musonda and Ivorian Joseph Gnadou netting.

The most crucial goal came from Gnadou, with six minutes remaining, as it overtook the head-to-head advantage Belouizdad began the match with having won 3-0 in Algeria last November.

Victory for Young Afri-

cans also ensured record 11-time champions Al Ahly of Egypt, who beat Medeama in Ghana on Friday, also qualified for the knockout stage.

Ahead of the final round in Group D on March 1, Ahly have nine points, Young Africans eight, Belouizdad five and Medeama four.

Ahly will host Young Africans in a match to decide who tops the final standings while Belouizdad have home advantage over Medeama in a dead rubber.

After decades of underachievement in Africa, Young Africans improved dramatically last season to reach the final of the second-tier CAF Confederation Cup, losing on away goals to USM Alger of Algeria.

Former champions TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa also secured last-eight places on Saturday.

- Resurgent Mazembe -

Mazembe defeated Pyramids of Egypt 3-0 in Lubumbashi and Sundowns beat Nouadhibou of Mauritania 2-0 in Nouakchott to take unassailable leads over their Group A rivals with one matchday to come.

ASEC Mimosas of the Ivory Coast and Petro Luanda of Angola have already secured last-eight places, and Simba of Tanzania and Esperance of Tunisia are likely to join them on March 2.

Simba will clinch second place behind ASEC in Group B, and eliminate three-time champions Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, if they win a home fixture against Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana.

Esperance will progress provided they avoid defeat at home to Al Hilal of Sudan after cruising to a 2-0 victory over lacklustre Etoile Sahel in a surprisingly one-sided Tunisian derby.

Tanzania, whose clubs traditionally make little

impact in CAF competitions, are poised to be the only nation with two quarter-finalists, if Simba qualify.

Mazembe are back in the knockout stage after a three-year absence thanks to first-half goals from Joel Beya and Glody Likonza and a third in added time by substitute Patient Mwamba.

Sundowns should have won more convincingly after dominating group debutants Nouadhibou, but were not certain of maximum points until Thembinkosi Lorch doubled the lead in the 91st minute.

Esperance stretched an unbeaten run against arch domestic and African rivals Etoile to 10 matches thanks to goals from Brazilian Yan Sasse and Zakaria el Ayeb.

The El Ayeb goal on 41 minutes was a superb solo effort as he took the ball from his half before beating goalkeeper Ali Jemal with a low shot from outside the area.



Substitute Joseph Guede Gnadou celebrates after scoring the all-important fourth goal that secured Young Africans of Tanzania a spot in the CAF Champions League last eight for the first time in their history. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS SC

Arsenal tear Newcastle's plan to pieces to claim the sweetest revenge

By Jamie Braidwood

KIERAN Trippier pointed at Fabian Schar. Fabian Schar pointed to Loris Karius. Loris Karius pointed to Tino Livramento. Everyone pointed at Sven Botman. Bruno Guimaraes kicked something in red, just for something to do. On the touchline, Eddie Howe stood with hands on hips. Over Howe's shoulder, Jason Tindall stood with hands on hips, whispering in Howe's ear. Newcastle's plan was in pieces. Thrashed by Arsenal, this was no contest.

Arsenal were outstanding. Mikel Arteta's side took the hurt of Wednesday night's defeat in Porto and the frustration of November's defeat at St James' Park to move two points off top with their sixth Premier League win in a row. Under the lights at the Emirates, Arsenal were intense and ferocious, their work and effort off the ball in pressing Newcastle into submission only matched by the quality and precision of their attacking play. Bukayo Saka's weaving third goal after the hour-mark belatedly gave Arsenal some breathing space, following an opening 45 minutes of utter domination.

It was clear just how much Arsenal enjoyed this; Arteta's side didn't just beat Newcastle, they destroyed them. In the evisceration, Martin Odegaard turned and roared after chasing Guimaraes into his own box and sending the Brazilian crashing to the turf as he blocked his clearance, such was Arsenal's desire for the game to be played exclusively in the Newcastle half. Last season, when Newcastle possessed the league's best defence, capable of arriving at the Emirates and shutting out the hosts, such a fixture may have suited them. But Newcastle are not the same side - and the



Gabriel's header deflected in off Livramento and Botman (Getty Images)

excuse of their injury crisis is wearing thin.

Newcastle offered nothing in attack, but worse still was the absence of commitment. "Hugely disappointing," Howe reflected. "We didn't compete tonight. It's not like us."

Without Nick Pope and Martin Dubravka, ruled out due to illness, it was Karius, with his nightmare in the 2018 Champions League final still hanging over him, who saved Newcastle from an even heavier defeat. Karius was perhaps spared further embarrassment, though the same could not be said for those in front of him, as Newcastle's miserable defensive record since Pope's injury continued. Botman's comical own goal gifted Arsenal the lead but Newcastle's defending was statuesque in the face of Arsenal's thrilling speed and movement.

Jorginho, the only change from Wednesday's late heartbreak in Porto, conducted play expertly from the base of Arsenal's midfield, setting up Saka and Gabriel Martinelli to run at Newcastle throughout. Odegaard danced

and drew circles around the visitors, Declan Rice surged, and the emerging surprise package of Arsenal's season, Ben White, in his midfield-hybrid role, pulled various strings together. Kai Havertz scored one, missed some more, but led the forward line and its press superbly with Odegaard, who dictated a stunning tempo. Together, Arsenal were irrepressible.

The Emirates played its part, as well, and the atmosphere set the tone. Newcastle arrived and looked to slow Arteta's side down, but Arsenal stayed patient and flew

forward in waves. They broke Newcastle's early resistance with yet another set-piece goal, even if it took more than just one Newcastle touch to help it over the line. Karius saved superbly to deny Gabriel's thumping header, but the ball's spin carried it back towards the goal. Livramento's attempted clearance deflected onto Botman's knee and carried it in. After conceding 18 goals in their previous five Premier League matches, it was a hapless start.

Newcastle's response was non-existent and Arsenal could have been

out of sight. Havertz buried Arsenal's second from close range after Jorginho played an exquisite ball through and Martinelli's electric pace then rescued a touch from going over the byline, as Botman failed to close him down. The centre-back appeared to give up, just as Howe's side were lifeless, finishing the first half without a shot on the Arsenal goal. Schar almost gifted Arsenal a third but Sean Longstaff's interception denied Havertz another tap-in. Martinelli headed over following a sumptuous flick from Odegaard. Saka rifled a shot that

Karius kept out well at his near post.

Karius would be left shaking his head again in the second half: Newcastle briefly improved after the restart, finally mustering a shot on target as Anthony Gordon tested David Raya, then as the returning Alexander Isak cut inside before firing over. Yet Howe's side should have been left with no way back, after Havertz dragged wide following a lightning surge from Saka and Martinelli. Eventually, Saka took charge, dancing inside Livramento before firing into the far corner. Then, another corner. This time, Jakub Kiwior's header deflected in off Lewis Miley.

Arteta could afford to ring the changes with his side four goals up, offering all of Odegaard, Saka, Martinelli and Havertz some rest after largely sticking with his starting line-up from Wednesday night. This was some response. As for Newcastle, the away fans in the corner remained as one despite the scoreline, the 8pm kick-off, and the long return home. They danced in the away end at full-time. By then, substitute and former Gunner Joe Willock had met Dan Burn's cross to loop a header over Raya, pulling one back. But those away fans deserved much more than this.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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Benchikha urges fans to roar for victory against Jwaneng Galaxy

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has rallied the team and their devoted fans ahead of a crucial match against Jwaneng Galaxy at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

With the fate of their CAF Champions League campaign hanging in the balance, the coach stressed the significance of securing a victory in Saturday's showdown to progress to the quarter-finals.

In a bid to inspire the team, Benchikha emphasized the collective effort required from players, technical staff, and supporters alike.

Reflecting on their recent performance, where they secured a crucial point against ASEC Mimosas, the coach acknowledged the team's resilience but underlined the need for a decisive win against Jwaneng Galaxy.

"We need a victory to achieve our objectives of reaching the quarter-finals," Benchikha stated.

He urged every member of the Simba family to play their part, emphasizing that success would be a result of combined efforts on and off the field.

Notably, he called upon the fans to turn out in force, echoing the energy and passion witnessed in previous matches.

Highlighting the significance of the upcoming fixture, the coach drew parallels with their previous encounter against Wydad, recognizing the importance of delivering a top-class performance to secure progression in the tournament. He emphasized that the match against Jwaneng Galaxy would be a test of character and determination for the team.

"This is the final match of the group stage, and we must emerge victorious to secure our spot in the quarter-finals," he declared.

With anticipation building ahead of the crucial clash, the team's management assured fans that every effort would be made to ensure a memorable atmosphere at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Ahmed Ali, manager of Information and Communications at Simba FC, reiterated the club's commitment to creating a vibrant and electrifying environment for the players and supporters alike.

He pledged that extensive preparations would be undertaken to ensure a capacity crowd of 60,000 fans, transforming the stadium into a cauldron of excitement and support for the team.

As the countdown to the pivotal match against Jwaneng Galaxy began, Simba found themselves on the cusp of a historic achievement in the Champions League. With the backing of their passionate fan base and the determination of their players, the team remained focused on the task at hand - securing victory and advancing to the next stage of the competition.

Amid the excitement and anticipation surrounding the upcoming fixture, Simba reaffirmed their commitment to excellence and unity, embodying the spirit of teamwork and resilience that had brought them success thus far.

With the stage set for an epic encounter, all eyes will be on the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where Simba would seek to etch their name in the annals of footballing glory.

Despite Wydad Athletic's recent 1-0 victory over Jwaneng Galaxy, their efforts have not deterred Simba's determination to secure a spot in the quarter-finals of the tournament.

With a crucial match looming against Jwaneng Galaxy on Saturday, Simba remain focused on clinching victory to advance in the tournament.

Currently, tied on six points with Wydad, Simba occupies third place in Group B standings. However, the tiebreaker rules enforced by CAF present a favorable scenario for Simba.

In their previous encounter, Simba emerged victorious with a 2-0 win over Wydad, giving them the upper hand in head-to-head results.

For Simba, the equation for Saturday's match is clear: only a win against Jwaneng Galaxy will suffice. Any other result could pave the way for Wydad to qualify if they secure a victory against ASEC Mimosas in their final fixture.

The upcoming match against Jwaneng Galaxy carries the weight of a final for Simba. It serves as an opportunity for redemption, especially after suffering a 3-1 defeat in their previous encounter with Jwaneng Galaxy at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Tanzanians shine in Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon

Lager International Marathon



The winner of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2024, Tanzanian Augustino Sulle, finishing the race held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region yesterday. PHOTO: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon continued to be an attraction of many people to the extent that various activities stopped in the town of Moshi, Kilimanjaro region during the 22nd edition of the event which took place yesterday with Tanzanians excelling in the races.

Scores of runners from inside and outside the country took part in the event, pushing the estimated number of participants to more than 10,000. In all three distance segments which included the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km, 21km Tigo Half Marathon and the Gee Soseji 5km Fun Run.

Proportionate to the rising popularity of the marathon, which is one of the big sports events in East Africa, and the increase in the number of participants over the years, the level of organizational challenge has also been growing every year.

Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, flagged off the races, took part and finished the 5km fun run and later on was at the finishing line to receive the proud finishers, including the winners of all categories.

Speaking during the event, Minister Ndumbaro commended the organizers of the event which he said contributed a lot in improving sports in the country as well as identifying new talents every year.

"The Government has and will continue to work closely with the founding members, main sponsors, and other

sports stakeholders in making sure the event, which started more than 20 years ago, becomes sustainable for the benefit of sports development in the country," he said.

"May I take this opportunity to thank the main sponsors of the event, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, and other sponsors who include the Tigo - 21km Half Marathon, Gee Soseji - 5km Fun Run, water table sponsors Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, CRDB Bank and TPC Sugar, as well as official partners - Garda World Security, CMC Automobiles, Salinero Hotels and suppliers - Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel," he said.

For her part, the Tanzania Breweries Limited country director, who are the main sponsors of the event since it was established in 2003, Michelle Kilpin, said the event has made dramatic strides as it enters its 22nd Anniversary.

"This achievement has been witnessed by millions across the world; It has been an exciting journey as this is now one of the biggest international athletics events in the entire region as it brings together over 12,000 runners and many more spectators from Tanzania and outside the country, where by this year it drew participants from 56 countries," she noted.

She added: "Our sponsoring brand 'Kilimanjaro' proudly shares its name with the magnificent mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, a world-renowned attraction which, like our brand, stands tall and the magnet for so many enthusiastic foreign and local runners here today," she continued to say.

"May I take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners today and even those who did not win but managed to finish the race. We, as Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, are giving 28m/- as prizes in total where the first male and female in the 42km race will each walk home with 4m/-," she said.

The CEO also thanked the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism through the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) for the massive support they have and continue to give the Kilimanjaro International Marathon over the past 22 years.

"As the main sponsors, we will continue to support this initiative to ensure the sports and tourism policies are well implemented. The success of this event through the support of our stakeholders has helped promote our brand and push sales contributing to the success of the business that has seen Tanzania Breweries remain the leading taxpayer, thus making a significant contribution to employment and the economy," she added.

Speaking during the occasion, Tigo's official Innocent Rwetabura, said the company, who are the sponsors of the Kilimanjaro International Half Marathon category, was very proud to be part of the famous marathon in Africa for the ninth year in a row.

The Managing Director of the Gee Soseji, who are the new sponsors of the 5km Fun Run, David Minja, said that the event was the right platform for improving sports and that it (the company) was proud to be part of the Kilimanjaro marathon family.

"By participating in this race, we will

cooperate with the main sponsors, other co-sponsors, and stakeholders in general to make sure the event becomes sustainable," he said.

During the event, Augustino Sulle from Tanzania won the 42km men's category after clocking 02:21:06, ahead of Abraham Kosgei from Kenya.

The Kenyan clocked 02:22:02 to clinch the second place, while Elisha Kimutai clocked 02:22:17 to win the third place.

In the women's category, Natalia Sulle won the race.

The Tanzanian athlete clocked 02:51:23 as she soared to win the race, ahead of her compatriot Neema Sanka who clocked 02:51:47 to claim the second place, while Vailet Kidasi won the third place after running for 03:01:03 to complete an all three Tanzanians parade at the podium in the women's 42 km category.

In the Tigo Half Marathon men's category, the race was won by Faraja Damas from Tanzania who clocked 01:16:40, followed by Peter Mwangi from Kenya who clocked 01:03:44, while Tanzanian Kennedy Abel won the third place after clocking 01:04:22.

In the race's women category, which was dominated by Tanzanian athletes, Failuna Matanga won the race after clocking 01:16:40, Neema Kisuda won the second place after running for 01:16:54, whereby Neema Mbua also from Tanzania won the third place after clocking 01:17:07.

In the 21 km women's category Vivian Opskvik from Norway clocked 01:29:09 to emphasize the event's International status.

Gamondi: Yanga deserved qualification, group was the toughest

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi was delighted with his team's performance during their 4-0 win over CR Belouizdad in the CAF Champions League on Saturday evening, and believes that Wananchi deserved to qualify for the quarter-finals from the 'toughest' group.

Needing a victory of at least four goals to overturn the 3-0 loss they suffered when the two teams met in match day one back in November, last year, Young Africans scored three second-half goals to progress with a game to spare.

Young Africans found themselves ahead two minutes to halftime thanks to Mudathir Abbas' timely strike.

Stephane Azizi Ki doubled the advantage immediately after the break before Kennedy Musonda made it 3-0 two minutes later in a three-minute second-half blitz that left the Algerians bewildered at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Six minutes to normal stoppage time, substitute Joseph Guede Gnadou scored the all-important fourth goal that secured Young Africans a spot in the CAF Champions League last eight for the first time in their history.

Young Africans have eight points after playing five matches though third-placed CR Belouizdad can reach that figure with a win against bottom-placed Medeama this weekend.

However, the Tanzanian giants

have a better head-to-head record against the North Africans and hence have sealed qualification.

Gamondi was on media duty after the full-time whistle, telling the press that the group had been challenging for the Young Africans squad but they kept believing until the end.

"I am so happy. I say big hongera to the Wananchi and the players of Young Africans because we did an unbelievable performance. The performance was a fantastic and well-deserved qualification.

"We are in the history of Young Africans. After 25 years without qualifying, we set the goal of competing in the group stage and we have qualified.

"We didn't start well. We were in

the toughest group in the CAF Champions League but we believed. Some people did not believe, did not trust, or were unhappy because we lost the first game.

"As Young Africans we never give up, we fight till the last minute and today we deserve this qualification," the gaffer said.

Young Africans' triumph also ensured defending Champions Al Ahly, who defeated Medeama on Friday, have also qualified for the quarter-finals.

Ahly will host Young Africans on Saturday in a match to decide who tops the group while CR Belouizdad have a home advantage over Medeama in a dead rubber.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

