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Much-fancied Morocco enjoy strong start at AFCON

UNICEF alarmed over cholera spread in Africa

HARARE

THE United Nations Children's Fund has expressed alarm over the rapidly spreading cholera outbreak in Africa, spreading to at least 10 countries, with the situation in Zambia and Zimbabwe described as acute.

Dr Paul Ngwakum, the regional health adviser for UNICEF in East and Southern Africa, said about 200,000 cases have been reported and more than 3,000 lives lost in the new epidemic.

Countries having an active outbreak were listed as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe where at various instances the situation is acute.

"The key drivers are long-term poor water sanitation and hygiene conditions, exacerbated by changing weather patterns, climate change leading to floods and droughts," he said, also pointing at end-of-year festivities, inadequate community sensitization and late reporting of cases to medical centres.

"Children, unfortunately, carry the lion's share of the burden of infection," he said, noting that over 52 per cent of Zambia's cases are children less than 15 years old.

Zambia and Zimbabwe are experiencing a rapid rise in the number of cases since the Christmas and New Year holidays, with 1,000 cholera cases reported in a week in the two neighboring countries, he said, elaborating that in Zambia, nine out of 10 provinces are reporting cases.

Fatality rates in the outbreak were high.

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JNHPP: 0.8trn/- not yet paid to contracting firm



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured in Davos yesterday participating in panel discussions on development opportunities and prospects in Africa. He is in the Swiss resort representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at this year's edition of the World Economic Forum (Jan 15 to 19). Deliberations at the annual event focused on, among other issues, the state of investments, good governance, food security, climate change and agriculture globally. Photo: VPO

Construction now stands at 95.8

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has paid 5.7trn/- out of 6.5trn/- (88.7 percent) to the contractor executing the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) that has now reached 95.8 percent to completion, it was stated yesterday.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy premier and Energy minister, made this remark in the capital when presenting a ministerial report on the state of power production and distribution in the country to the Energy and Minerals standing committee of the National Assembly.

The presentation was also attended by deputy minister Judith Kapinga, permanent secretary Felchesmi Mramba, and heads of institutions under the ministry, where the minister stressed sixth phase zeal of investing in energy projects to ensure that access to electricity in the country becomes greater than current demand.

Describing the energy sector as among top priorities for the government, he said the government had disbursed more funds to implement various projects, including

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Samia ends two-day Z'bar tour

Cautions on sabotaging rivals during nominations

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

She made this appeal when inaugurating the newly built Tasani party branch office in Makunduchi area, Unguja North Region yesterday, affirming that with civic elections this year and the general election next year many will be tempted to vie for various positions, which invites acts of sabotage on one another.

It is necessary to abide by party guidelines during the process and avoid shortcuts in seeking to get leadership positions, she said, underlining that it is time for party members to or

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges greetings with Hussein Katanga, Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, upon arrival in Uganda to represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement Summit (Jan 15 to 19) and the G-77+China Summit (Jan 21 to 22). Story on Page 3. Photo: PMO

Zanzibar set for extensive survey on tourism impact

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government authorities expect to conduct an extensive survey in the tourism sector to determine the Isles tourism carrying capacity to design its societal impact.

Fatma Mbarouk Khamis, the Tourism and Antiquities principal secretary, made this affirmation here yesterday at a forum bringing together stakeholders in the tourism sector.

They will discuss the planned study on Zanzibar tourism carrying capacity, to set out strategies for its growth and positive impacts to society and the environment, she said.

The study is meant to assess Zanzibar's ability and limits to support tourists entering the country without negative impact to the social and physical environment, she said, noting that this will help achieve the government's goals of making tourism the main sector contributing to Isles economic growth.

Determining the tourism carrying capacity of Zanzibar is a vital policy issue to

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JNHPP: 0.8trn/- not yet paid to contracting firm

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JNHPP. "The completion of this giant project will be the solution to power woes in the country and we'll also sell abroad the power surplus," he stated.

In executing JNHPP, the government is keen to ensure that it delivers what is intended, pointing at the formation of a team of experts led by Prof. Idris Kikula, a land use specialist and veteran administrator, to follow up on the project so that it is completed on time.

Electricity infrastructure in the country has to be maintained so that it can handle the generation, transmission and distribution of power, along with new infrastructure being created with various projects, he said.

Gissima Nyamo-Hanga, the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO)

managing director, said that plant number nine that will produce 235 megawatts has been completed and plants number 7 and 8 are nearing completion.

The major project will help to reduce the power supply challenge with its expected 2,115 megawatts of electricity to the national grid when fully operational, he said, underlining that the power shortage will end upon activation of two JNHPP plants with 470MW capacity within the next two months.

Dr. David Mathayo, the committee chairman, praised efforts of the ministry for its handling of energy problems in the country, affirming that the ministry leadership and its institutions are in a position to ensure the country has sufficient, reliable and predictable energy supply.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko presents report to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Minerals in Dodoma city yesterday on the state of electricity production and distribution in the country. Photo: Correspondent Teresia Mhagama

President Samia ends Z'bar visit

FROM PAGE 1

ganize a team of leaders who will take the party to higher levels especially during the coming elections.

"A strong CCM is not a branch," she said, noting that a branch can be closed and become inactive but a strong party comes from strong members. A strong party is also built on meetings and party work should be done in the branch, she said.

President Samia hailed the party's leadership at the regional level for successfully registering new members, asking them to attract more followers especially from among the youth, to create support cells and vote for it in the 2025 general election.

Abeid Mtwana Haji, a member of the party at the new branch, said building the branch cost the party 55m/-, with members collaborating to see the project is completed. The branch leadership and the local government authorities need to collaborate to motivate young people to register for the vote, he said, pointing out that the branch leadership was at 98 percent performance on the issue.

The CCM chairperson led a meeting with the CCM district leaders from Unguja and district political committees at the Dr Ali Mohamed Shein Tunteeu Hall in Unguja South Region, wrapping up a two day visit to Zanzibar in Unguja North Region where she inspected several party projects.

Zanzibar set for extensive survey on tourism impact

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balance optimal tourism development with the delicate environmental, economic and social structure, she explained.

Prof Haji Semboja, a consultant to the ministry, said that lately there has been an increase of tourist visitations both local and foreign arrivals, so the study will get opinions from stakeholders, citizens and experts on the best ways to strengthen services and infrastructure.

The issue is to ensure that the Isles are safe and generate income from tourism without encumbering development in other sectors or in the society, he stated.

Kassim Abdi Kassim, the executive director of Africom Ltd and consultant for the study, expressed gratitude for the trust, vowing that the firm will properly supervise the project to bring positive outcomes.

The study will look at the aspects of economy, ecology or nature, social features, culture and heritage in relation to tourism growth, he said, asserting that 2023 statistics show that more than 500,000 tourists entered Zanzibar, contributing 80 per cent of foreign currency earnings, with 35 per cent of jobs located in the tourism sector.

The forum, hosted by the ministry in liaison with the firm, brought together experts and tourism stakeholders from the Isles and the Mainland.

UNICEF alarmed over cholera spread in Africa

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with four percent of the more than 9,000 cases ending in death, he said, explaining that usually the acceptable threshold is below one percent.

"Since the beginning of 2024 alone, Zimbabwe has recorded over 17,000 cases, with about 384 deaths. ... And these continue to spread geographically," the medical administrator affirmed.

Showing a man walking past flowing sewage in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare on Jan. 17, the UNICEF write up says that in Zimbabwe, a shortage of purified water is forcing residents to depend on open sources.

That, along with uncollected refuse and running sewage are being blamed for the waterborne disease, it said, citing remarks from Douglas Mombeshora, the health minister, who said the central government is doing all it can to contain the outbreak, starting in the capital, Harare.

"If you move around Harare, people are just dumping garbage in designated areas and this has not been collected," he stated, insisting that the government has mobilized resources

to clean up the capital.

The government is moving in to mobilize resources to procure water-treating chemicals. Supply of potable water has dropped from 350 megaliters to 200 megaliters per day," he elaborated.

Itai Rusike, executive director of the Community Working Group on Health, a local non-governmental organisation, called on the government to declare a national disaster so that international aid agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and USAID can swiftly help to contain the cholera outbreak.

"All the measures to end cholera are in the purview of the government – central government or local governments – by providing safe water, safe sanitation and also hygienic safe disposal," the activist declared.

"So the buck stops with the government in making sure that people are provided with uninterrupted potable water, refuse is collected on time, burst sewer pipes are fixed and the general public given information about cholera guidelines and protocols," he specified.

UNICEF fears that if the outbreaks are not controlled it will mean schools closing, as is already the case in Zambia, observers noted.

TGNP appeals for gender consideration in three bills

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has called upon legislators to seriously consider gender-related issues it has proposed to be included in the pending amendment of three election laws to boost equality and women participation in the country's political landscape.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP executive director made the call on Wednesday at a seminar held in Dar es Salaam to sensitize its Gender Development Seminar service (GDSS) leaders so that they can share the context of proposed amendments to different groups of women at the grassroots level for them

to closely monitor parliamentary proceedings, discussions and decision on the matter.

According to Liundi, women as important stakeholders in the political landscape and leadership have a right of being well informed on the proposed amendments.

She said that the proposed amendments of the electoral laws are contained in the three bills which were tabled in Parliament for the first reading in November last year.

They are National Electoral Commission Bill 2023, the Political Parties Affairs Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023, and the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Bill 2023.

"The laws entail a lot of gender based issues that women need to be aware of. Over 100 women and a few men have attended this seminar to learn about critical issues that TGNP believes that if featured in the law, shall boost equality and participation of women in politics and leadership," said Liundi.

She further noted that working with more than 300 non-government organizations alongside GDSS, TGNP is at a good position of reaching millions of women with sensitization seminars at the grassroots level during and after the National Assembly sessions set for early next month.

"TGNP proposes that issues related to women's dignity in politics, corruption, costs of election process,

women's right to hold top position in political parties and women's right to holding top government position such as presidency and vice president are of crucial importance to be honoured in the proposed amendments," she said.

Jamila Kisenga, GDSS leader from Mabibo Street in Dar es Salaam said the seminar made her aware of gender related issues that need to be revisited in the new proposed amendments so that equality is realized in the political landscape.

Kisenga expressed her optimism on the proposed amendments to the electoral laws, noting that the measure will increase efficiency of the National Electoral Commission and bolster democracy in the country.



Finance ministry deputy permanent secretary Jenifa Omolo presents a National Health Insurance Fund card to Zulfat Ibrahim at Dodoma Urban District's Buigiri Special School for the Blind on Wednesday. The kindergarten pupil was one of 100 beneficiaries of the all-important service at the school. Looking on (in jacket) is the school's head teacher, Samwel Jonathan. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

AU appoints prominent Africans to Sudan peace panel

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki on Wednesday appointed three prominent African personalities as members of the AU High-level Panel on Sudan.

In a statement on Wednesday, Faki said that the panel would work with all parties in the Sudan crisis "to ensure an all-inclusive process towards the swift restoration of peace, constitutional order and stability" in the country.

The AU High-Level Panel on Sudan will be headed by top Ghanaian diplomat Mr Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

Former Ugandan vice president Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe and Mr Francisco Madeira, a Mozambican diplomat are members.

Kazibwe is the current chair of the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, while Mr Madeira served as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) to Somalia and head of the UN-backed African Union Mission in Somalia - Amisom/Atmis until 2022.

Kazibwe is the current chair of the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, while Mr Madeira served as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission

(SRCC) to Somalia and head of the UN-backed African Union Mission in Somalia - Amisom/Atmis until 2022.

"The appointment, which takes effect immediately, is in line with the conclusion of the AU Peace and Security Council and in furtherance of the AU's mandate and determination to entrench peace and stability on the Continent," Faki said in a statement.

The panel will be required to work with all stakeholders: civilian forces, warring military parties, regional and global actors including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

Faki called on all parties involved to provide the necessary cooperation and support to the team members for the successful implementation of their mandate.

Sudan has been in turmoil since the war broke out in mid-April between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which has left more than 12,000 people dead, according to the United Nations.

More than 7.4 million people have been forced to flee from their homes, including more than 1.5 million refugees. UN says at least 25 million people need assistance, including 14 million children.



Rasheed Maftah, Director of Disability Unit in the Labour, Youth, Employment and People With Disabilities 'wing' of the Prime Minister's Office, pictured in Dodoma on Wednesday presenting a progress report to the Parliamentary Welfare and Community Development Committee. This was on the implementation of projects relating to the construction and renovation of vocational colleges as well as reforms targeting people with disabilities. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

PM represents Samia at NAM summit in Uganda

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday arrived in Kampala, Uganda, to attend the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Heads of State and Government Summit.

Majaliwa who represents President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the meeting will also attend the 3rd G77+China summit scheduled to take place from January 21 to 22, this year.

The PM's delegation involves senior government leaders including Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation January Makamba.

With the theme "Leaving No One Behind" the Third South Summit looks to bring a new dynamic to the

cooperation among its 134 member states of the Group of 77 in a more competitive world.

The summit aims at boosting South-South cooperation including in the areas of trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, poverty eradication, and digital economy.

Minister Makamba said at the meeting they will reiterate the message of solidarity and speak with a unified

voice to achieve their common goals and objectives.

"In the meeting there will be specific resolutions regarding economic development, social, employment, regional and international cooperation, peace and security and other issues concerning these non-aligned countries," he said.

It also aims to strengthen cooperation on issues of trade,

investment, poverty eradication, climate change, peace and security in borders, health sector, sustainable development and digital economy.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is the host of the meeting and is expected to be officially handed over the chairmanship of the movement from the President of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermúdez.

Ex-Ethiopian PM promises to help revive flower farms

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FORMER Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has promised to help revive defunct flower farms in Arusha Region.

The farms used to export \$24.5 million worth of flowers annually, contributing \$800,240 to the national coffers in taxes and employing 4,010 workers directly and 40,000 indirectly, according to Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella.

Shortly after inspecting the defunct estates recently, Desalegn asked RC Mongella to devise a strategic plan outlining a package of key requirements for reviving the plantations.

Desalegn who is President Samia Suluhu Hassan's strategic advisor on agriculture promised to apply his experience to assist in reviving the deserted flower farms.

He assured Mongella that he would use his connections to ensure the flower farms become productive once again.

It was during Desalegn's tenure between 2012 and 2018 when horticulture was next to coffee in generating foreign currency in Ethiopia, earning him a reputation as the continent's modern agricultural revolutionist.

Desalegn attributed the achievement of his administration to a hive of 'market forces and state intervention'.

His government created a number of incentives to lure both local and foreign investors to provide investment capital and cutting-edge technology.

They included offering subsidy, generous credit schemes, 100 per cent exemption from payment of duties on imported capital goods and raw materials coupled with a five-year tax holiday on profits.

Official data show nearly two-third of firms in the industry relied on loans from the Development Bank of Ethiopia, inspiring private banks to also begin lending the industry.

Mongella and Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) have joined forces in an attempt to restore production in the 2,107.6-acre flower farms.

"We are so delighted to see the influential former prime minister of Ethiopia's willingness to support us in restoring the lost glory of the people of Arusha and the nation at large," Mongella said.

Anthony Chamanga, TAHA chief development manager, said: "We at TAHA can't wait to see these farms become operational once again to support other local businesses, recoup thousands of lost jobs, mostly for women and youth, and spawn the much-needed revenues in the economy."

Chamanga said Tanzania is attractive enough to investors in horticulture, given its conducive climate, adequate infrastructure and proximity to the markets' gateway, supportive technical institutions and ready-made clusters of activities.

Latest statistics indicate that Ethiopia exported more than 215,800 tons of horticulture products to the international market, generating over \$514 million in the final nine months of the fiscal year 2023.

Exports of flowers accounted for almost \$444 million in revenue, while exports of vegetables and fruits brought in \$57 million and \$13.3 million, respectively.



We are so delighted to see the influential former prime minister of Ethiopia's willingness to support us in restoring the lost glory of the people of Arusha and the nation at large



WWF for a living planet®

Supply of Sunflower Seeds

Background

Stretching from Lake Victoria to the Indian Ocean, the Southern Kenya - Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) transboundary area covers some 134,000 km². The area is famous for its conservation areas, including the Serengeti, Maasai-Mara, Tsavo, Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro crater, important biospheres and bird habitats including Lake Natron, Loita, Amboseli and West Kilimanjaro. There are 39 communal conservancies and 3 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that reflect its extraordinary biodiversity and tourism value. The landscape is home to millions of wild animals including threatened and endangered species such as elephant, black rhino, lion, cheetah, hirola and African wild dog.

The Land for Life project, is among the SOKNOT transboundary program funded by WWF-UK and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) aiming at securing livelihood and empowering vulnerable Maasai communities whilst recovering wildlife in critical corridors, addressing the need for Human - Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation and supporting sustainable rangeland management in the project areas; Tanzania's Lake Natron and Kenya's Loita Forest area.

WWF Tanzania for **this tender**, aims at procuring sunflower seeds in order to support eco-friendly business and livelihoods through integrated farming systems of the communities in Longido District.

WWF Tanzania invites eligible Tanzanian Suppliers registered by relevant Authorities/Bodies to bid for the tender.

Application Procedure & Submission of Applications

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

**Secretary,
Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077**

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

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

All applications should reach us by or before **09:00am** Tanzania local time on **Thursday, 1st February 2024**.

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

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES WITHOUT LICENCE

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) would like to notify the general public that provision of communication services, including cyber-security services, internet and data centres, in the United Republic of Tanzania without a licence issued by TCRA is contrary to Section 14 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (EPOCA), 2010 which prohibits anyone from providing the services without the licence.

The general public is reminded to avoid using communication services, including cyber-security services, internet and data centres services, provided by a person, firm or company that do not hold valid licence issued by TCRA according to the law.

TCRA will continue overseeing compliance in the communications sector and measures will be taken to any person, firm or company who will be found to be providing unlicensed services in the United Republic of Tanzania.

For further information and inquiries dial toll free number 0800 008 272 or email at dawatilahuduma@tcra.go.tz.

Issued on **18th January, 2024**.

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
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Zanzibar to spend more on health sector improvement

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said the construction of modern emergency departments and new laboratories in various health facilities across the island is part of efforts by the government to strengthen healthcare services.

He spoke during the inauguration of a new laboratory at Makunduchi in Unguja South Region yesterday where he said the government has put in place strategies to strengthen the health sector.

"The government has also recorded successes in implementation of the strategies through various programmes in collaboration with development partners," he said.

Dr Mwinyi said the successes include installation of Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems to bring about efficiency in provision of medical services.

He called upon officials in the

Ministry of Health to ensure that they employ workers with qualifications to increase efficiency in the public sector.

Dr Mwinyi commended non-governmental organisations and Health Improvement Project Zanzibar (HIPZ) for the support in strengthening healthcare provision in Zanzibar.

Deputy Minister for Health in Zanzibar Khamis Hafidh said his ministry has made several efforts to improve provision of healthcare services.

Dr Amour Suleiman Mohammed, acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, said that the building was completed at a cost of 650m/-.

Muntar Kareem, a representative of HIPZ, said that people have the right to be provided with quality and dignified medical services.

"Good health services require strengthening of infrastructures and we at HIPZ have been here for eight years in developing good partnerships with the government of Zanzibar" he said.

Avocado traders support 'end malnutrition' drive with 14m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

COMPANIES involved in avocado business in Njombe Region have pledged to contribute 14m/- towards a six-day campaign to end malnutrition in the region.

Najib Karmal, director of Avo Africa, made the pledge here yesterday on behalf of his colleagues at a meeting attended by Regional Commissioner Antony Mtaka.

Karmal said the business community in the region has seen the importance of participating in the campaign.

"We have decided to support the initiative because this programme is important for the region and the country at large. We believe our participation will be of help," he said.

In his remarks, Mtaka commended the efforts of the business people, saying their donation together with those of other stakeholders will help to

run the campaign in all districts.

"This contribution to support nutrition campaign is big and will help facilitate this campaign; we believe that by the end of this campaign, we will have built a new and healthy Njombe," he said.

However, Mtaka called upon the people of Njombe to engage in agriculture but should not forget to eat balanced diets instead of selling their produce and continuing to eat the same type of food.

Richard Ezekiel, a resident advised that the government should carry out an evaluation of the campaigns that have been taking place from time to time to see their impact.

"We advise that there should be a special evaluation to see the effectiveness of the campaigns because there have been several other campaigns in the past whose impact cannot be explained," he said.



Tribal community leader Alais Koina (R) welcomes Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga to Kimotorok village in Loiborsiret ward on Tuesday as the RC witnessed the release by Tarangire National Park officials of hundreds of livestock seized from local residents reportedly for straying into the wildlife sanctuary. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Korean agency presents new-look early childhood education facilities to school

By Getrude Mbago

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has renovated four classrooms and a playground at Oysterbay Primary School in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region to support provision of quality early childhood education.

Implemented under Quality Pre Primary School Education project, the works

cost a total \$23,175 (58m/-) to enable pre-school children to learn and play in a conducive environment.

Speaking during the handover event on Wednesday, KOICA country director Manshik Shin said apart from renovating the infrastructure, five teachers from the school also participated in a teaching competency programme.

"This support will be

instrumental in elevating early childhood education by enhancing learning environment. Our dedicated volunteers have played a pivotal role, engaging in activities such as wall painting, creating murals, procuring chairs and desks, renovating the existing playground, installing a tree-house and establishing a sandbox," he said.

Manshik thanked the

government for working with KOICA in implementing various development projects which aim at improving people's lives in various ways.

He said one of the ways which KOICA is using in supporting the government of Tanzania is to dispatch Korean volunteers to come and work in the country.

He said that the project, which commenced in 2022

and ending this year, aims to dispatch a total of 30 volunteers to various primary schools to implement its objectives, with 11 volunteers already dispatched in the first batch.

"Three volunteers who are Jerin An, Seong-seo Kim and Hyeonsu Jang that Oysterbay received are products of the project which is expected to positively impact 866 pupils, encompassing both kindergarten and elementary levels in various schools," he said.

KOICA's support in Tanzania primarily focuses on health, education, social welfare, rural development, gender and ICT serves cross-cutting themes. It is working to support Tanzanian people's prosperity, peace, and partnership, in collaboration with the government and other development partners.

Manshik said since KOICA began sending volunteers to Tanzania, more than 2000 have been dispatched, most of them working in schools and hospitals across different towns in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Egidus Mjunangoma, the school's head teacher commended KOICA for the support, saying it complements the government's efforts of enabling provision of quality education.

"We really appreciate this support and we believe it is going to increase children's academic performance," he said.



UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Unitrans Tanzania Limited has the following exciting opportunity at Kilombero and Kilosa Districts, Morogoro Region where is subcontracted for various agricultural operations to the sugar industry.

We are currently looking for a suitably qualified, and experienced individuals to fill in the following posts.

The bellow vacancies call for dynamic and qualified proactive individuals with strong background on their professionals.

1. DIESEL MECHANIC

Minimum Requirements

- Certificate in motor vehicle mechanic course grade I-III
- 5-10 years' experience in a haulage environment.
- Knowledge of the following brands Bell, John Deere, Game and Cat
- Relevant technical knowledge of specific mining equipment
- Basic electrical knowledge
- Basic welding knowledge
- Basic hydraulic knowledge
- Basic computer knowledge

Duties and Responsibilities

A. Fleet Maintenance

- Ensure the fleet is maintained in the most cost-effective way by the efficient ordering of spares and consumables.
- Ensure maximum availability on the fleet and least amount of down time.
- Preventative maintenance is done as per manufacturer recommendation.

B. Operational Excellence

- Service company vehicles to predefined checklists.
- Diagnostics on all Equipment.
- Completion of job Cards.
- Minor panel beating and welding if skilled.
- Take oil samples as per policy.
- Ensure that repairs at breakdowns are diagnosed and the manager/foreman is informed immediately after work has been performed.

- Ensure that all vehicles are maintained in accordance with both legal requirements and according to company policies and procedures or mining requirements.
- Ensure proper safety measures are always taken at work and on the road for Unitrans.
- Ensure that appropriate safety measures are always taken, and all work is carried out in a safety aware environment.
- Complete necessary documents regarding breakdowns, services, spares drawn etc.
- File documents pertaining to service and repairs of vehicles. All vehicle documents need to be filled in by artisan after completing and signed off by foreman and filed into vehicle file.
- Does weekly stock take with the workshop foreman
- Must stand in for the foreman when needed.
- Complete necessary maintenance tasks to the correct standard and in a reasonable amount of time so as to minimize operational downtime".

2. AUTOELECTRICIAN

Required minimum qualifications.

- Certificate in automotive Air conditioning or related field from a qualified institution.
- Must have a minimum of 3 years' experience in vehicle and plant air-conditioning systems.
- Knowledge in agricultural machines is an added advantage.
- Basic auto electrical knowledge is an added advantage.
- Must have basic computer knowledge.

Duties and Responsibilities

- General maintenance of air-condition. (Offices and vehicles)
- Evaluation of all air condition
- Installation of ventilation and air conditioning systems
- Identifying maintenance risks on equipment's
- Cleaning air condition systems on the equipment's

Interested candidates may apply and email their CV's together with certificates to careers.tanzania@unitrans.africa not later than **30th of January 2024**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



TAARIFA
KWA UMMA

ZOEZI LA UHAKIKI WA WASTAAFU NA WATEGEMEZI

Januari 19,2024

Mfuko wa Taifa wa Hifadhi ya Jamii (NSSF) unawatangazia wastaafu na wategemezi wote wanaolipwa pensheni kila mwezi kuwa, kutakuwa na zoezi la uhakiki litakaloanza tarehe 1 Februari, 2024 hadi 30 Aprili, 2024. Zoezi hili litafanyika Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa kuanzia saa 2:30 asubuhi hadi saa 10:30 jioni kwenye ofisi zote za NSSF za mikoa yote. Kwa wastaafu waliopo Unguja na Pemba, uhakiki wao utafanyika ofisi za ZSSF. Aidha kwa wastaafu waliopo Dar es Salaam, uhakiki wao utafanyika katika ofisi za mikoa ambazo ni ILALA, TEMEKE, KINONDONI, UBUNGO, MBEZI BEACH na KIGAMBONI

Mstaafu anatakiwa kufika na nyaraka zifuatazo:

- Kitambulisho cha NSSF au kuponi ya pensheni,
- Kitambulisho cha Taifa au namba ya NIDA,
- Picha moja ndogo ya sasa ya rangi (passport size) kwa wale ambao hawakufanya uhakiki kwa mwaka 2023,
- Kwa wategemezi (watoto) tafadhali fika na cheti cha kuzaliwa na kitambulisho cha shule
- Kwa wastaafu wagonjwa au wazee wasiojiweza, taarifa itolewe kupitia barua pepe customer@nssf.go.tz au piga simu ya bure 0800116773 au taarifa ziwasilishwe kwenye ofisi ya NSSF iliyo karibu

ANGALIZO: Malipo ya pensheni ya mwezi JUNI 2024 yatafanyika kwa wastaafu na wategemezi ambao wamehakiki tu

ATAKAYESIKIA TANGAZO HILI AMTAARIFU NA MWENZAKE

Imetolewa na:

Kitengo cha Uhusiano na Elimu kwa Umma



APPLICATION FOR
TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

RAHMA MOHAMED KOMBO

P.O. Box 20901 DAR ES SALAAM.

Whose Photograph provided above is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. Her nationality at present is KENYAN. Country of origin KENYA. Employment HOUSE WIFE. Employers address is P.O. Box 20901 She has been living in Tanzania since 2015. Any one who knows any reasons why citizenship not be granted to the applicant, should send us written and signed statement of facts to the Commissioner General of Immigration, P.O. Box 512, Dar es Salaam. Use reference: DN. 519/95.

FOR: COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION

RC halts contributions as villagers report extortion

By **Guardian Correspondent,**
Wanging'ombe

RESIDENTS of Wangutwa village in Wanging'ombe District, Njombe Region have complained over what they call multiple development contributions charged by the village leadership that affect their savings.

They aired their complaints before the regional security and safety committee chaired by Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka that visited the village to listen to various concerns from people through a public meeting.

The residents said that the leaders had been frequently asking for contributions, some of which are not known to them, saying this hurts them considering that they also have many responsibilities at home.

"The civil militia sent by village authorities have been knocking our

doors asking for donations and if you refuse, they beat you up and soak beds with water," said Jafari Mnenwa, one of the residents.

Mnenwa said that the leaders have been collecting funds saying that they are for construction of classrooms or other projects, but before completing the collection, they came up with other donations.

"We planned to build classrooms but before we finished that project, we were asked for contributions for purchase of a plot for construction of a village office," he said.

Additionally, he said that it was agreed that anyone who comes to a village meeting is charged a fine of 5000/- but authorities demand more.

"It's surprising that they demand 10,000/- and they beat you if you refuse to give them. We have had enough of this," he declared.

Mnenwa claimed that he has always been questioning the management of

the village but instead of authorities working on the issues he raises, he was accused of stealing a solar panel and slapped with a fine amounting to 160,000/-.

Edina Ndalagwa called on the government to intervene and help address the situation because villagers pass through a very hard situation.

Ester Mrunwa, acting village executive officer said that this was an agreement made at a public meeting where the amount agreed upon to purchase a plot was 5,000/- and that anyone who is late is arrested and pays for civil militia expenses.

Following the complaint, RC Mtaka banned contributions until new arrangements are put in place.

"I therefore declare that these contributions be stopped so that people can carry on with their activities while new arrangements are being put in place," he said.



Izadini Mohamed, a nursing officer with Tabora's Kitete Regional Referral Hospital, pictured earlier this week examining the blood pressure of a resident of the municipality. It was at a five-day free heart disease screening camp jointly organised by the facility and Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute. Photo courtesy of JKCI

Issue business licences timely to spur growth, authorities told

By **Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar**

ZANZIBAR Minister for Trade and Industrial Development Omar Said Shaban has directed licensing authorities to ensure that they end bureaucracy to boost trade and spur growth.

He made the directive on License Day and the 10th anniversary of the Business Licensing Regulatory Council here on Monday.

He said that some authorities are ineffective hence they need to change and start to abide by the rules and regulations to make it easier for citizens to obtain quality services.

The minister said that the authorities must also have customer

service contract so that when a person goes to apply for a license, they can be sure to get it within 24 hours.

Shaaban added that the council needs to make sure that the idea of a license is used as a service rather than a means of generating more revenue.

"The primary source of income for certain licensing authorities is licenses and permits fees; for this reason, the annual license fees have increased," he said.

The minister said Zanzibar's service delivery system was still not operating well, meaning the council will need to continue working with the relevant authorities and licensing organizations to make sure Zanzibar

has good reputation in this area.

Ali Khamis Juma, the ministry's permanent secretary said the establishment of the institution was crucial to its operation, particularly given that its primary objective is to regulate licenses.

He said that the ministry, via the institution, strives to make it easier for business owners to operate smoothly by resolving their grievances, particularly with regard to the proliferation of licenses, permits, and fees.

Hawa Ibrahim Mbaye, the council's executive secretary, said that the organization's goals include the elimination of bureaucracy in the workplace.

WFP mobilising food aid for 2.7 million Zimbabweans

HARARE

THE United Nations World Food Programme is working with Zimbabwe's government and humanitarian agencies to provide food to 2.7 million villagers in the country, as the El Niño weather phenomenon contributes to a drought crisis in southern Africa.

Food shortages, which put almost 20 percent of Zimbabwe's population at risk of famine, are caused by poor harvests in drought-ravaged areas, where people rely on small-scale agriculture for food. El Niño is expected to further worsen this situation by causing below-average rainfall again this year, said Francesca Erdelmann, WFP country director for Zimbabwe.

El Niño is a natural, recurring weather phenomenon that warms parts of the Pacific, affecting weather patterns around the world. This has different impacts depending on the region. When rains fail or arrive late, it has a significant impact, Erdelmann

said at a news conference.

In Zimbabwe, January to March is considered the lean season, when rural households lack food while waiting for the next harvest. More than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's 15 million people live in rural areas. Their lives are increasingly affected by a cycle of drought and floods made worse by climate change.

Periods of drought are becoming longer and more severe. For decades, Zimbabwe's rainy season ran reliably from October to March. It has become irregular in recent years, sometimes starting only in December and ending earlier.

Once a food exporter, Zimbabwe has relied heavily on donor aid to feed its population in recent years. Agricultural production also fell sharply after the seizure of white-owned farms under former President Robert Mugabe starting in 2000, but it has begun to recover.

The United States Agency for International Development, the U.S. government's foreign aid agency, has

estimated, through its network of famine early warning systems, that 20 million people in Africa Australia will need food aid between January and March. Many people living in areas of greatest concern, such as Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, parts of Mozambique, and southern Madagascar, will not be able to feed themselves until early 2025 because of El Niño, USAID said.

Erdelmann said WFP received an \$11 million grant from USAID.

Zimbabwe's government says the country has grain reserves to last until October, but it has acknowledged that many people who have failed to harvest enough grain and are too poor to buy food on the markets are in dire need of help.

Prices of basic food items are skyrocketing across the region, USAID said, further impacting people's ability to feed themselves.

Zimbabwe has already acknowledged feeling the effects of El Niño in other areas after 100 elephants died in a drought-hit wildlife park late last year.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, FINANCE AND PLANNING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)
COUNTRY: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: BOOSTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ZANZIBAR
(BIG-Z)

Loan No: IDA - 69140 -TZ

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services to develop Zanzibar National Spatial Data Infrastructure: Spatial Information Platform

Reference No: TZ-POFP-389836-CS-QCBS.

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for the Boosting of Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Project (BIG-Z) that appeared in the UN Development Business online No. WB-P811333-8 of 27-08-2021.

The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Project (BIG-Z), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Consultancy Services ("the Services") includes: to design, develop and deploy the software for a Spatial Information Platform (SIP) and end user GIS applications to support decision-making in Zanzibar, to build the technical and general capacity of the ZanSDI Development Team regarding SIP (Developing, operating, maintaining and upgrading) to ensure the smooth operation and maintenance of the system after the Project ends, to provide full system-level documentation so that the SIP technology is readily transferable and replicable, including manuals, codes etc., to provide ongoing support and maintenance on demand basis for a period of two (2) years after the acceptance of the SIP.

The duration of the services for conducting this assignment is expected to be eighteen (18) months for phase one (development phase) and two (2) year for ongoing support and maintenance post system acceptance.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be found upon request to the following email: bigzpmt@gmail.com

The Principal Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The shortlisting criteria are:

A: Core business and 10 years in business.

B: Relevant similar experience as specified below

- The firm must demonstrate a minimum of five (5) years of experience in Tanzania and/or a country of comparable social, economic and development conditions, where the firm has worked with government and the private sector as the primary implementer of an NSDI project.
- The firm should have expertise in Spatial Data Infrastructure, business process mapping, database management, network setup, application security, and spatial technology capacity building. They must excel in project management, reporting, and service desk functions.
- The consultant should have extensive experience and knowledge in development, testing and monitoring of SDI, including experience in developing specifications for hardware and software requirements of SDI.
- The consultant should have extensive experience in delivering large scale training in geospatial software, data generation and processes to a wide variety of end-users with available references.
- For open-source solutions, the firm should provide evidence of two (2) demonstrable implementations (with references) and authorized vendor software status.
- The consultant should show work experience on similar projects in other developing countries.

C: Technical and managerial capability of the firm (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications, and number of key staff). Do not provide CV of the key staff. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to section III, paragraph 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's Policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Therefore, each member of JV shall independently meet the requirements of the evaluation criteria.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 07.30 am to 03.30 pm EAT excluding public holidays.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by mail) by 30th January, 2024. The firms that will submit their REOI via e-mail must get confirmation of the receipt of their documents from the Project Coordinator, BIG - Z Project. In case the firm does not receive an acknowledgement within two days after sending the documents via email they should call +255 777 429269 for follow-up.

The address referred above is:

President's Office Finance and Planning
Attn: Project Coordinator, BIG - Z Project
P.O. BOX 1154
First Floor, Sea View-Wing, Vuga Street
Zanzibar - Tanzania
Email: bigzpmt@gmail.com

The Principal Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning

Dar couple in court for alleged assault

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DARESSALAAM residents Bharat Nathwani (57), popularly known as Chiku, and his wife Sangita Bharat Nathwani (54) were this week brought before Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in the city, charged with four counts of physical and verbal assault.

The couple, Tanzanian citizens, were brought before Principle Resident Magistrate Franco Kiswaga on Tuesday.

The prosecution alleged that the crime was committed on July 21, 2023, in Dar es Salaam Region.

In the first count facing Nathwani alone, it was stated that on July 21, 2023, at Mirima-Kisumu, within Lohana building in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region, he assaulted and injured his neighbour Lalit Ratilal.

Nathwani is also alleged to have caused harm to Ratilal's wife, Kiran Lalit, by immersing her head in a cement bucket, injuring her in the eyes and ear, and hitting her in the neck and causing severe pain.

In the second count of physical assault that faces Nathwani alone, it was alleged that on that date and place, he inflicted bodily harm on Ratilal by punching him and kicking him on the head.

In the third and fourth counts that face Sangita alone, she was accused of insulting her two neighbours, an act that caused them embarrassment and disturbed them emotionally.

The hearing of the case was supposed to start on Tuesday this week before Resident Magistrate Aaron Lyamuya but that did not take place because the magistrate was not in court due to other duties.

Public prosecutor Frank Michael told Principle Resident Magistrate Kiswaga that the case was brought for hearing, adding that prosecution had two witnesses who were ready to testify.

"I therefore ask for another hearing date because the magistrate assigned this case is not here," he said.

Kiswaga asked the witnesses to appear in court on February 19, 2024, to testify.

"The witness, who said he may not appear in person on that date, will be facilitated to testify virtually," he said.

BBT agriculture inspires similar drive in fisheries

By Guardian Reporter

THE Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) has inspired other initiatives designed to boost productivity in livestock and fisheries subsectors.

While BBT-YIA seeks to engage young people in agriculture by giving each beneficiary 10 acres of land, tools and skills to engage in farming, BBT-LIFE uses the same approach but focussing on livestock and fisheries hence LIFE.

Tanzania has a slogan of 'Let's feed Africa by 2030' that seeks to increase agricultural production and exports.

Tanzania has a young population because 42.8 percent of Tanzanians (26,399,988) are under 15 years according to the 2022 census while those under 17 years account for 49 percent of the population.

The country also has an aging population. Development planners say the two groups have to be tended for.

"These two groups must be fed by those who can work," Dr Anastazia Kasigi, a statistician said, adding that there has been a slight shift downwards.

"We know in the 2012 census people under 15 years formed 43.9 percent of the population. We have experienced a downward slide to 42.8 percent in the last census. But 30,257,196 or 49 percent of our people are between 0 and 17 years. These people are dependents that have to be tended for," she said, attributing the drop from 43 to 42 percent to child spacing.

BBT-LIFE is being pushed by the ministries of Livestock and Fisheries and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government).

In developing the poultry sub-sector the two ministries are working with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and the private sector so that the sub-sector can employ idle hands in urban and rural areas by selling products to the growing national and especially urban population.

Dr Kasigi supports the two incentive-based programmes, saying they are bound to provide a viable solution to unemployment.

Zidhery Mhando, Katavi Regional Livestock Officer said stakeholders in the sub-sector have been mobilised to benefit from the BBT-LIFE programme and that the public is supportive of the scheme.

"Mobilisation has been our initial stage in implementing the programme. We have identified stakeholders in the poultry sub-sector. People support the programme and we have formed an association so that issues can be addressed properly," he said.

Apart from the local market, Katavi Region has a ready market in the Democratic Republic of Congo for food, livestock and fisheries products. Some products can also be exported to Zambia, Burundi and Rwanda.

Prof Hezron Nonga, Director of Livestock Services in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said the poultry sub-sector still faces problems but he hopes the snags will be cleared as the BBT-LIFE is implemented.

He said proper development of the sub-sector will contribute positively to eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and strengthen food security at all levels.

Dr Nonga said Tanzania has about 100 million chickens. Some 47 million belong to the traditional stock, 35 million are raised for meat, 15 million are layers and three million are hybrid.



Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulidi Surumbu (in cap) graces earlier this week's handing-over by World Vision Tanzania of a water project the agency has implemented at Doda Primary School. Third right is the project's manager, Evodia Chija. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Firms in digital inclusion drive to tackle youth unemployment

By Guardian Reporter

IN an effort to tackle dual challenge of youth unemployment and digital exclusion, Paradigm Initiative (PIN) and Sunshine Cinema have sealed a partnership aimed at bringing about transformative change in Africa.

PIN, a non-profit organisation advocating for digital rights and inclusion, also works to connect under-served young Africans with digital opportunities and ensures protection of their rights online. Sunshine Cinema is also a non-profit solar-powered media network working through Southern Africa to address youth

unemployment.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Sunshine Cinema will provide innovative mobile solar cinema kits to showcase Paradigm Initiative's impactful short films.

The kits not only harness the sun's energy but also empower young entrepreneurs as media facilitators, enabling them to earn income while driving positive social change within their communities.

The collaboration comes at a critical juncture when countries within the continent are grappling with the consequences of digital divide and the urgent need for employment

opportunities for the youth. The two organisations aim to bridge these gaps and create a ripple effect of positive change.

Commenting on the collaboration, Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu, PIN Chief Operating Officer, said: "This collaboration marks an important step in leveraging the power of storytelling to champion digital rights and inclusion on the continent. It is a symbiotic relationship that goes beyond traditional advocacy to lighting up minds and creating opportunities for the youth."

Sydelle Willow Smith, Sunshine Cinema Executive Director, said: "As we embark on this journey, we will be keen on amplifying

the message of digital inclusion, youth empowerment and social transformation. Together, we can illuminate the path towards a brighter, more inclusive Africa."

Paradigm Initiative has produced three short films inspired by the annual Londa report, which spotlights the state of digital rights and inclusion across African countries. The short films the organisation has released are Training, Focus and Finding Diana. Last month, PIN unveiled the trailer of the 4th short film 'Undersight' which follows the journey of Omar, a brilliant computer programmer who creates revolutionary data collation software, which is in high demand.



This is a scene as captured yesterday at a spot where entrepreneurs blend, bottle and sell 'home-made' liquid condiments, mainly chili and tomato sauce. It is just next to Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni commuter bus stand. The major reservation by most sources interviewed by The Guardian was that the state of hygiene there left much to be desired - and could touch off disease outbreaks. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Sensitise congregants on hygiene to avert cholera, clerics urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RELIGIOUS leaders in Mbeya Region have been called upon to educate their congregations on how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera.

Mbeya District Commissioner Beno Malisa made the call yesterday here when addressing members of Efatha Church at a special service organized to pray for the nation's peace and development.

He said that it is important for religious leaders to also set time and remind

followers and the public in general about the importance of individual hygiene as well as surroundings.

"While our region has no cholera cases, we still need to take precaution because this disease spreads quickly. We have heard of cases in Mwanza, Shinyanga, and Kagera regions. So, residents need to continue taking precaution by adhering to sanitation and hygiene practices," he said.

He noted that if people follow health rules such as washing hands before eating, they avoid various diseases such as diarrhea and

vomiting.

The DC further informed the congregants that the disease tends to spread more quickly during rainy season and advised them to take precautions like boiling drinking water and washing hands before eating.

Malisa added that because religious leaders are trusted by their followers, persuading them is easier compared to when the same message is delivered by ordinary people.

Experts urge people to simply adhere to sanitation measures to avert the disease. In

2020 for instance, at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic when hand washing was a daily routine, no cholera cases were reported in Tanzania.

Historical reports show that the first 10 cholera cases in the country were reported in 1974 and since 1977; cases were reported each year with a case fatality rate averaging 10.5 percent between 1977 and 1992. The government, together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF organise emergency strategies to combat outbreaks.



A fish dealer lines up sharks for sale at Dar es Salaam's Ferry Fish Market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Zambia beginning vaccinations against cholera after 363 deaths

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA has commenced the administration of oral cholera vaccine. On Tuesday, authorities rolled out some doses in Matero Township, one of the affected shanty compounds of Lusaka, the country's capital, most affected by the current outbreak.

The countrywide cholera outbreak has so far killed 363 people, 30 percent of which were children under the age of five, and sickened more than 9,500, according to health authorities.

The outbreak, which started in early October last year has spread to most parts of the country but the largest number of recorded cases are in the capital city of Lusaka.

Authorities mobilised resources to contain the outbreak and opened a main treatment centre at the Heroes Stadium in the city. The outbreak also prompted the government to postpone the reopening of schools, which were meant to start on 8 January, as the country tries to battle the deadly waterborne disease.

On Monday, Zambian authorities accepted the first batch of 1.4 million oral cholera vaccines handed over by GAVI, the Vaccine alliance and other partners.

Speaking at a news conference in Lusaka where the vaccines were handed over, Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo thanked various partners including the World Health

Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund.

"The WHO International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision approved over 1.7 million doses of oral cholera vaccines for use in Zambia," she said.

"About 1.4 million doses have already been received in the country in four separate shipments between the 11th and the 14th of January, 2024. The remaining balance of over 200,000 will be made available to the country soon," Masebo added.

Cholera outbreaks in Zambia coincide with the rainy summer season, which leads to heavy rainfall causing severe flooding in many areas.

Murky water could be seen flowing down the streets as children played in dirty puddles.

Inadequate wastewater management systems, and a lack of access to clean drinking water in many under serviced and informal settlements of Lusaka lead to outbreaks of cholera.

Director General of Zambia National Health Institute, Professor Roma Chilengi thinks, however, the epidemic may have peaked.

"The epidemic curve seems to hit the max, the peak," he said.

"It is too early to call and it does look like the indications over the last 4 days we have consistently registered fewer daily numbers which is a good sign."

The current 2023/2024 rain season has seen unusually heavy rain storms.

GOMA

DRC starts joint military operations with SADC's mission against rebels

THE Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) military on Tuesday announced in the city of Goma, capital of the eastern province of North Kivu, the start of joint military operations with forces from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the eastern part of the country.

The announcement was made by Lieutenant General Fall Sikabwe, coordinator of military operations of DRC's military in North Kivu, during the first joint meeting between the DRC military and SADC.

According to the DRC authorities, this SADC military force would carry out offensive operations, essentially

targeting the rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23) who occupy several areas in the territory of Masisi and that of Rutshuru, located in the province of North Kivu.

"The SADC comes with an offensive mission. With the mandate of the heads of state member of the SADC, we will initiate large-scale operations against the enemies of the Republic", said Fall Sikabwe, stressing that he is to put an end to hostility which has persisted for months.

Composed mainly of military elements from South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi, this SADC military force replaces the regional force of the East African Community (EAC). DRC authorities deemed the EAC regional force ineffective and refused to renew its mandate.

For the moment, only South Africa and Malawi have already deployed part of its soldiers in Goma. Tanzania hopes to transfer its elements which are already on Congolese soil within the UN peacekeeping mission in the

DRC, whose mandate should expire by the end of 2024.

Since late Monday, violent fighting broke out between the M23 rebels and the Congolese military in the territory of Masisi. Detonations of heavy and light weapons are heard in these areas, forcing a large number of residents to leave for the town of Sake, the city's last bulwark.

Goma, a tourist town known for economic activities in the region, was occupied by the M23 for 10 days in December 2012.

Kidnaps, killings terrorising Abuja

ABUJA

KIDNAPPING and killings have returned back to Nigeria's federal capital, Abuja, after over 10 months of silence from the bandits.

Last week, bandits attacked travellers on the Abuja-Kaduna highway and abducted over 30 people, witnesses and community leaders said.

The abduction took place at Dogon-Fili near Katari, in Kachia local government area of Kaduna State.

This is the first time in more than ten months when the security along the road artery was breached.

Also, 10 persons were kidnapped in the Dutse-Alhaji area of the FCT, Abuja, after gunmen reportedly dressed as military men, invaded the community.

According to eyewitnesses, the kidnapers, dressed like herders, invaded the estate in the evening around 7:30 pm.

The unfortunate incidents in the areas, bring to the fore the disconcerting reality that kidnappings, often orchestrated by individuals donning military uniforms, persist despite official denials from the police.

A resident, Suileman Ayomi, urged the government to provide more security for the region, saying they are scared because of what happened.

"I am afraid to talk to you because we don't know who may be the next person, so we appeal to the government to help us with security here and in the whole country," he said.

"The Fulanis are mainly the problem, sometimes you see them with arms and no body to caution them, they walk freely with machetes and other arms, so they should be controlled and put them in order," said another resident, Charles obodo.

Abuja, a city known for its status as the political and administrative hub of Nigeria, is grappling with a rising tide of kidnappings that seemingly know no bounds.

A Security expert, Dr Jonathan Onoja Isaac says the government should give an account of the reasons why insecurity in the FCT has increased.

"When we begin to have insecurity in

Niger, in Kogi state, in Nasarawa and Plateau state, it tells you that the FCT is not secured because these are direct borders that relate with the capital because people travel to Nasarawa, to Niger state to Kogi and to Benue on a daily basis."

According to Isaac, the government should be faulted for not having the statistics of landlords with their tenants that live in the various suburbs of the city.

"We are talking about insecurity in the FCT when we cannot profile the different people resident here, there are people parading the city every day without profiles, there are foot soldiers who parade and nobody knows what they do. They don't even have jobs but they go out every day."

He reiterated that the welfare of Nigerians must be prioritized, adding that we must also begin to talk about education, as one thing that has hindered the progress of the fight against insecurity is illiteracy.

"So what sort of security do we have? When we do not have designated check points for people to be screened on a daily basis. The only time we see check points is when there is a court case or the authority is travelling," he added.

However, according to a recent report from a local media, one of the six sisters abducted in the Bwari area council of the Federal Capital Territory on January 5, has been reported dead in captivity.

The new development has elicited outcry as many Nigerians have taken to the social media to lament the incident.

From January 2021 to June 30th, 2023, 40 kidnaping cases were recorded in FCT Abuja, with a staggering 236 victims.



Residents of Nkhungu ward in Dodoma Urban District look on forlornly at structures that were meant for use as a mixed-goods market but have stood unused since they were ready for business some nine years ago, with traders reportedly opting for unauthorised sites. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Agriculture can play a central role in climate action - FAO

ROME

IN the face of rising global temperatures, experts have highlighted the role of agriculture in climate action while ensuring global food security. This comes as 2023 was confirmed to be the warmest year on record.

Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) believes this calls for concern.

"We mustn't become numb to these records after records toppling because they have implications, implications in terms of increased frequency of

extreme weather events, implications in terms of more forest fires, in terms of droughts, floods and so on. And all of these are impacting people, impacting people, especially those on the front lines like the agricultural community. So, these records matter," he said.

While agrifood systems contribute to about one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, some experts including Zahedi believe they also hold a huge potential for positive climate action.

"Farms don't just have to be producers of food. They can be generators of renewable energy. Energy can then be used on the farm for the greenhouses, for pumping

water, for irrigation, or energy that can be shared into the grid, or better using agricultural waste, turning it into fuels, into biofuels. All of these are really energy smart agriculture solutions, and that's exactly the kind of work that we [FAO] have been doing with countries," he said.

Last December, nations struck a historic deal at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai to transition the global economy away from fossil fuels. The summit's Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate received endorsements from 137 countries with \$3.5 billion announced to replenish the Green Climate Fund.

"Almost 1.5 billion dollars have

been accessed and that funding has been specifically put into action these solutions, to bring land and sea under sustainable management. And just that portfolio has given extraordinary dividends. We have over, I think, it is 100 million hectares of land under sustainable management. That has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 500 million tonnes and is bringing real benefits in terms of green jobs and livelihoods."

According to the 2023 edition of the Emissions Gap Report, released in the lead up to COP28, the world must cut emissions by 42 percent by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Victoria Finance

PUBLIC AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

VICTORIA FINANCE PLC WISHES TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT WITH THE AUTHORIZATION IT GIVES TO THE APPOINTED AUCTIONEER TO SELL THROUGH THE PUBLIC AUCTION THE SECURITIES OF LOAN DEFAULTERS AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

S/N	CREDITOR'S NAME	SECURITY	DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SECURITY	AUCTIONEER	DATE
1	UPENDO GODWIN LEMA	MOTOR VEHICLE	1783 DCS-NISSAN QUALIS	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	30/12/2023
2	ELIUD BAHENGAZI BALIBE	MOTOR VEHICLE	1488 DTW-TOYOTA VOLTZ	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	30/12/2023
3	BEATRIX WAKYO INANGA	MOTOR VEHICLE	1578 DTK-NISSAN X-TRAIL	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	30/12/2023

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- Failing to complete the payment will result in the auction being repeated and the money paid will not be returned.
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Fraudsters ever ready to hit niche markets, so stakeholders beware...

There are reports of regulatory agencies having recently intercepted four Tanzania-bound trucks loaded with 32 tonnes of immature avocados valued at 494m/- from across the border with Kenya.

These reports have shaken a range of stakeholders and left various public authorities searching their pockets for largely elusive answers.

Key horticultural stakeholders in particular are understood to be engaged in soul searching, not quite clear how to draw the line under the incident and devise fool-proof measures to ensure that the next such consignment does not find its way into the market.

So far, there are some appeals in that regard and praising the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) for having uncovered the cargo at the strategic border post.

In that the next such cargo could be delivered more craftily, it is vital to be on guard, complete with the relevant personnel and checks at all stops in the avocado and other crop value chains.

From the manner in which some key stakeholders have been gasping for breath in the past few days after that cargo was seized, it would appear that they had no idea that such sabotage or more accurately profiteering act could take place.

It isn't really something to be expected in the usual run of things but, then, unsavoury characters will move in seeking to make a kill wherever there is a smell of good amounts of money.

In that case, there isn't enough that we have heard so far as to how stakeholders like the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) will have teams, officials to help with inspection, along with TPHPA, to keep such elements out.

The TAHA chief executive contacted the Agriculture minister on social media on the seriousness of the matter, which is evident.

The CEO proceeded to denounce the

recent smuggling effort involving unripe avocado that could have harmed the country's image in export markets had it found its way into collection centres for export.

That is where the shoe pinches, as to possibly rudimentary checking mechanisms where the fraudsters believed it was enough to deliver the cargo within our borders for the boxes to be stamped "for export" without any sample verification. That is likely what was done on the border post, which they didn't expect.

So we have reason to be happy that the right people are stationed at key border posts and stand permanently and fully awake as they carry out their duties.

But it only to be expected that, once hit, the saboteurs will not repeat the mistake of filing their cargo to particular border posts.

So, if they now know that there will be checks, there has to be more than one point of reckoning for them to be dissuaded to try to run rings around the export market, expecting the relevant authorities to be prepared for their tricks.

That places the stakeholders on extra guard, notably at crop receiving points for avocado, thus ensuring that each cargo is checked as thoroughly as resources and circumstances. Sabotage is all but war.

A remark by a top official at the horticultural association suggests what is at stake. It commends TPHPA for being demonstrably vigilant, while also asking Tanzania and Kenya to ban the culprits behind the illegal practices form all export crop business.

As the avocado purchasing season gets under way in Njombe, on the country's southern plateaus, prospects for farmers to raise glasses and toast for windfall earnings are high, if there are no fraudsters on the way.

An old line of wisdom runs thus: If you want peace prepare for war. Given what we are seeing and hearing with respect to the mess in the Njombe avocado issue, who would think or argue differently?

Removing elections bills to dwell more on inflation not practicable

Democratic debate will take a higher point in the wake of a move by a leading opposition party to apply for a permit to hold peaceful demonstrations to demand the removal of electoral law bills now awaiting their second reading in the legislature.

Aside from the problem of democratic conduct, there is a policy dimension as to the government's policies about inflation and the cost of living, since so far we have single-digit inflation.

Lower than single-digit inflation is a simple abolition of inflation, which can probably pull a crowd to demand the government to make sure that the cost of living does not rise.

One may decide against expecting the government to dwell comprehensively enough on some of this for one's comfort. This could be in consideration of the possibility that the "aggrieved" party could be looking for an excuse to hold a demonstration, with the authorities also looking for an excuse to prevent such action.

As usual, that would be a testing time for what can still be called a democratic experiment, where each political environment from one general election to another has its own rules.

The massive work of changing governance and development focus in the 2015-2020 period was not warm enough for the level or kind of multiparty politics where a sharp-tongued leader could even shout down the president about crucial issues, with the level of tolerance of this far from uniform.

Of course, failure or refusal to tolerate disruptions in governance is not altogether removed from current politics.

Many democracy stakeholders will likely be concerned with the level of magnanimity with which the regional authorities in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, and probably elsewhere will handle the planned demonstrations.

There is an overall impression, which is by and large unavoidable as a minimal requirement of democracy, that demonstrations be allowed, where it is the complaining group that chooses the subject of demonstration.

Stakeholders will not be preoccupied with potential disruptive effects - for instance, with the youthful delinquency menace, while authorities may not wish to allow perceived experiments.

The other side the democracy stakeholders will likely not be examining is whether there is a reason for a single-digit inflation situation, an excellent performance by central bank statistics, to still be a powder keg environment where one could light a match stick and bring out repressed energies to the fore.

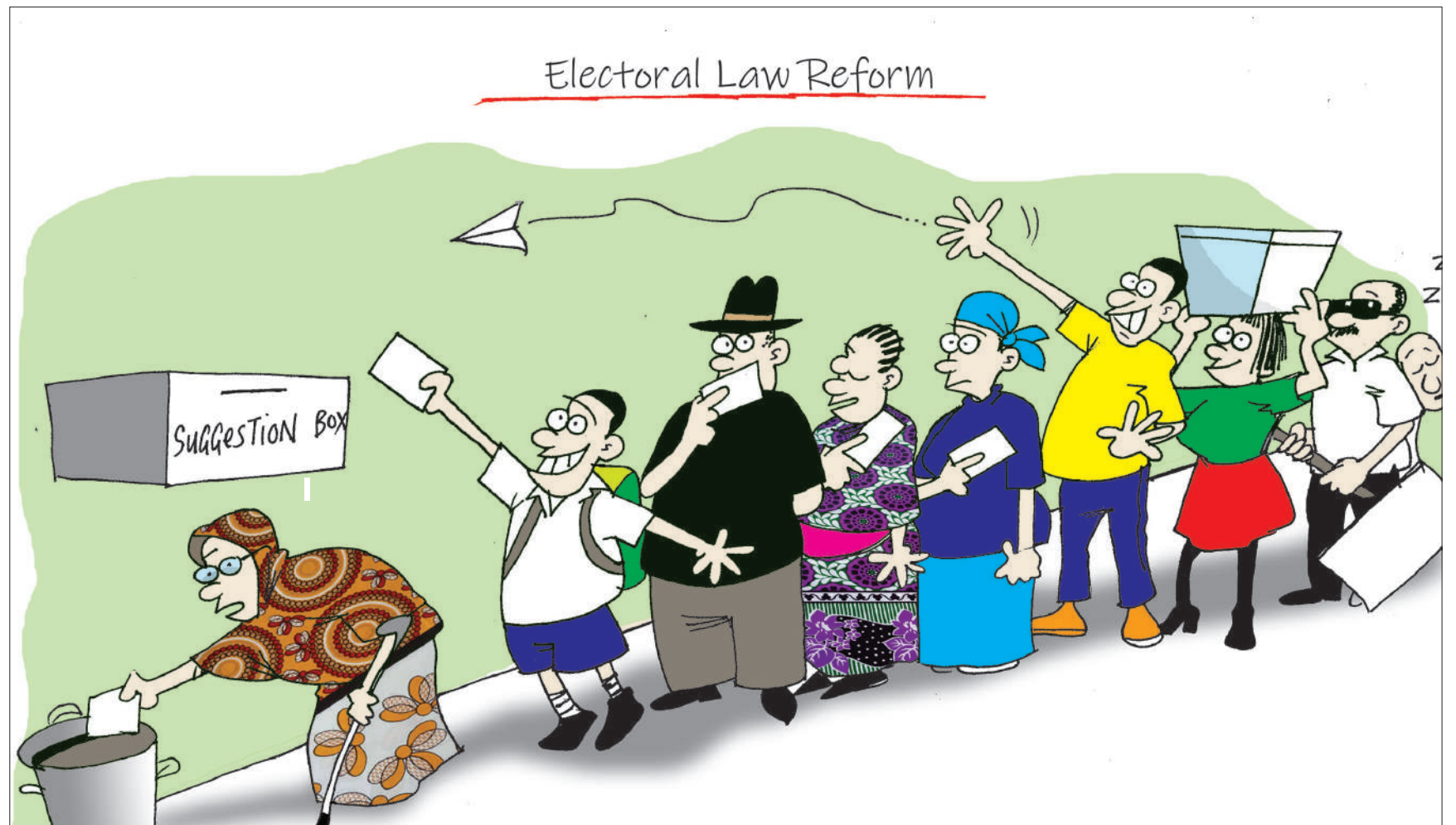
There is low inflation courtesy of low demand for goods as there is rampant unemployment, where the overbearing influence of global progressive forces has outlined a global policy of inclusion rather than systematic reform.

Within this ambit of vision, there are repeated cases of failed states as earth bears woes rather than credits in waterhole wars.

That is perhaps the difficult thing about what Africa is experiencing right now as well, with most democracy stakeholders not discussing causes of civil wars and failed states.

Rather, many are attentive only to democratic freedoms and demands for inclusion for women and youth, etc. Instead, not as much effort goes into showing what sort of economy absorbs labour or generates wealthy more easily.

All things considered, though, we shall have enough cause to commend and thank ourselves for as a nation should the ongoing exchanges of views with respect to the implementation of democratic practice in our country come to a peaceful end. We have enough experience in stock to make this happen.



By Jacob Walter and agencies

As the population of African cities grows at an alarming rate, the cities face devastating impacts of climate change that need to be addressed to ensure better living.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), an estimated 609 million people in Africa lived in urban areas as of 2021.

The urban population on the continent has been growing annually and is forecast to increase further to reach 722 million by 2026.

Subsequently, for a significant shift in urban development planning to build the resilience of the urban poor, experts in the sector say that there is a huge need for a paradigm shift for the African cities to prepare early.

"We need to humanise urban development and build climate resilience," says Dr Robert Sangori, a building scientist expert in Kenya also serving as the director of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

So, cities are indeed among the areas most seriously affected by the impacts of climate change in Africa. In fact, the just-ended year (2023) saw several African urban areas experience devastating floods, droughts, heatwaves and fires.

These had adverse repercussions on the physical infrastructure as well as water and energy supply systems, seriously disrupting the overall urban ecosystem.

In the Horn of Africa, several cities have suffered from El Niño-induced floods, and Dr Sangori has underscored the need to revise the current urban development models to prepare and adapt to the growing impacts of climate change.

He recommended that African cities be restructured with a focus turning to resource consumption and environmental impact, among other factors.

The ages-old rural exodus - or rural-urban migration - remains a major challenge partly because of high growth of the African population and the impacts of climate change.

Dr Sangori said over 50 per cent of climate-induced migrants from rural areas end up in the city, adding: "The poor segment of the population finds themselves being pushed into the periphery and occupying fragile ecosystems, which adds to their suffering."

At the recently concluded COP28 (Nov 30 to Dec 13, 2023) in Dubai, Kenya's government launched an implementation programme seeking to build resilience and enhance the adaptive capacity of the urban poor against adverse climate change effects and disasters.

Deliberations at the event included a deep dive into the role of sustainable construction in promoting a just transition for the world's most vulnerable citizens.

Population pressure exposing African cities to climate shocks



A significant breakthrough was in relation to the Dubai Agreement, which emphasized the need for enhanced resilience in infrastructure and human settlements to climate change impacts.

Some US\$500 million in climate financing for urban infrastructure was announced, hinting at a new phase of collaboration under the umbrella of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This is an international treaty among countries to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system", in part by stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

The Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (BCRUP) programme is supported by UN Habitat. Kenya's own Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development cabinet secretary (minister) Alice Wahome said many urban dwellers are facing difficulties in their habitat.

"Most of them fall into the category of the urban poor with low adaptive capacity and bear the greatest consequences of the impact of climate change," said Wahome.

She elaborated: "The situation necessitates climate interventions to help them adapt and build their resilience in such a volatile environment, especially with respect to access to water, sanitation, energy, housing and climate-proof infrastructure."

The BCRUP implementation plan has identified 12 African countries with a combined urban poor population estimated at 112 million who need immediate redress to cushion them from climate-related shocks and

stresses.

The BCRUP regional pilot programme will require about US\$5 billion to implement within a ten-year framework.

Hugo Frieszo, a project manager with DAR, a leading international multidisciplinary consulting organisation in engineering, architecture, planning, environment and project management, said: "If a city or town authority fails to plan, they plan to fail."

In the circumstances, we need to integrate a smart, sustainable, balanced and multifaceted approach from city planning down to neighbourhood or smaller towns," he noted.

He indicated that eco-friendly urban areas ought to prioritise sustainable planning, mitigation strategies, adaptive systems, green infrastructure, and low-carbon infrastructure.

Cities and urban areas currently host 55 per cent of the global population, which is projected to grow to 68 per cent by 2050.

More than half of humanity lives in cities where these impacts interact intensely with social and economic factors, often exacerbating existing environmental challenges, poverty and exclusion.

According to studies by the United Nations Development Programme (UNEP), cities generate energy and are responsible for at least 75 per cent of total global greenhouse emissions.

"This calls for measures to build capacities and resilience to reduce the negative impacts on the environment and transform cities into more sustainable communities," said Frieszo. He explained that urban areas

can reduce climate change risks and impacts by integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation with land-use planning and urban governance and in synergy with overall socioeconomic and physical development objectives.

He added: "Sustainable and integrated urban planning strategies focusing on the built environment, urban form and structure, infrastructure, transportation and urban greening can help decrease susceptibility and exposure to climate change and increase resilience, human welfare and environmental quality."

Julia Gordon, Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, meanwhile underlined "the urgent need for humanising urban development worldwide".

She noted that water, energy and transport system management innovations could go a long way in improving environmental performance and land use.

In this connection, it is meanwhile noted that COP28 concluded by underlining the critical importance of addressing urban informality and inequality in the face of climate change.

Speaker upon speaker underlined the urgent importance of placing the urban poor at the centre of the just transition and adopting a circular economy-oriented approach to sustainable construction.

Similarly, the event highlighted the urgency of addressing capacities and finance to build or rebuild affordable housing, particularly in informal settlements.

Procedures for tax disputes settlement in Tanzania

TAX revenue is a prime source of funding of the government activities in the various countries in the world. Economic growth of any country depends on tax revenue collections from various sources of income.

It is an obligation of every citizen within and outside the country to pay tax to the government, hence the need to ensure excellent policies and laws to facilitate collection of tax revenue. It is imperative to note that tax is levied only if there is expressly provision of the law in the statute lawfully enacted in respect of the said tax.

Each tax charged or levied to citizens must be emanated from clear provisions of the law. The said law must provide provisions for the charge, assessment and collection of tax and other related matters.

In normal circumstances, at the time of implementation of the provision of the law in respect of any tax, it is inevitable to have tax disputes between the tax officer and the taxpayer in either-way.

However, due to sensitivity of tax issues, demands in various government projects, timely consume in dealing with dispute and cost involved, among others, then tax disputes are handled in specialized procedures and tribunals are established to deal with said tax disputes, differently from other ordinary courts of law.

In view of the above facts and by considering its intricacy in dealing with tax matters, it is imperative to have basic knowledge of dealing with tax disputes, as ordinary courts of law have no jurisdiction to deal with such disputes, thus this article.



Laws and tribunals dealing with tax disputes

Before mentioning the laws which govern tax disputes, it is imperative to provide highlights on the tax tribunals and courts that deal with tax disputes in hierarchy from. Primarily tax disputes are always filed at the Office of Commissioner General, then taken to the Tax Revenue Appeal Board, Tax Revenue Appeal Tribunal and finally at the Court of Appeal of Tanzania.

Specific parent laws that deal with tax disputes are, Tax Administration Act 2015, which deals with general matters of administration of tax issues, collection of right amount of tax required, inclusive.

Second is the Tax Revenue Appeals Act 2019, it is the act to provide for the establishment of the Tax Revenue Appeals Board and the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal and other related matters therein.

Third, the Tax Revenue Appeals Board Rules that provides for procedures and the manner of instituting disputes at the board. Fourth, Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal rules that deals with procedures and the manner of dealing with disputes at the tribunal and lastly, is the Court of Appeal Rules, related with all procedures of dealing with appeal at the court of appeal and other related

matters.

Circumstances of Tax disputes

It is not every dispute with the revenue officers or tax authority may result in tax dispute which can be subject to be handled by tax tribunals mentioned above, it depends on circumstances of the dispute. We need to say this, because there are moments when the taxpayer may have other dispute with revenue authority such as contractual, tort or others, then the right forum to take the dispute should be ordinary courts of law and not the tax tribunal mentioned above.

Disputes which should be taken to tax tribunals for determination are in the following circumstances, where the Commissioner General misapplied the law, came to an incorrect factual finding, abused his powers, was biased, considered evidence which he should not have considered or failed to consider evidence that he should have considered in making an assessment or any decision made by commissioner general which will have impact to the payment of tax by the taxpayer may challenge such decision.

Procedures on how to deal with tax disputes

The Commissioner General

It is the matter of law that any taxpayer aggrieved by the decision of the revenue officer or the Commissioner General himself under the above circumstances, then under Tax Administration Act and Tax Revenue Appeal Act requires primarily to initiate tax dispute by filing objection to the Commissioner General.

Internally the commissioner general is mandated to deal with tax dispute as the first person in ensuring the same would be resolved in accordance with procedural and the law of land. Things to note herein, locus stand of the person to initiate the tax dispute must be taxpayer and not any other person. In most cases taxpayer should be identified by having tax identification number (TIN number).

The taxpayer either through his lawyer or any other person competent or conversant to deal with tax dispute can file objection application to the Commissioner General in written form which contains grounds of the objection as to why he or she object such decision.

The application should be in the prescribe form No. ITX-389.01.E. The application should be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of services of the decision. If it happens the taxpayer fails to file an objection within the prescribe time, then application for extension of time can be filed showing reasonable grounds as to why extension should be granted.

The objection can be filed at the regional tax offices, to the Commissioner of Custom and Excise or to the Commissioner of large taxpayer. So it depends on the circumstances of the dispute.

As the matter of procedure, for the commissioner to admit objection, the taxpayer is required to pay tax which is not in dispute or one third of the tax assessed which is the subject to dispute,

whatever is great between the two. Failure of which, the objection will not be admitted by the Commissioner General.

The taxpayer may file application applying for waiver for payment of front tax with purposes of ensuring his or her objection is admitted without paying the above tax. Good reason must be supplied to the commissioner so that waiver can be granted or denied.

It should be noted that, waiver is discretion power of the Commissioner General to either to grant it or not. However, in exercising such discretion power, the commissioner should act judiciously. If a taxpayer is aggrieved by decisions of the commissioner either in determination of the objection or when dealing with waiver, he or she can lodge an appeal to the Tax Revenue Appeal Board.

Tax Revenue Appeal Board

This is the second attempt to resolve tax dispute after the taxpayer is aggrieved by the Commissioner's decision. The law requires the taxpayer to file notice of intention of appeal within thirty (30) days from date of services of the decision delivered by the Commissioner General in determined objection filed or any other decision.

Following issuances of the notice of intention to appeal and serve the other party—the Commissioner General of the revenue authority, then within forty-five (45) days, a statement of appeal should be filed at the board and served the other party. Upon receipts of the statement of appeal then the Commissioner General may opt to file his defence and once the pleadings are completed, the board shall hear and determine the dispute and deliver decisions.

Tax Revenue Appeal Tribunal and Court of Appeal of Tanzania Here, an appeal can be filed

either by the Commissioner General or the taxpayer depending on who will be aggrieved by the decision by the board. The law requires the aggrieved part to file notice of intention to appeal of the decision of the board within fourteen (14) days from the date of decision.

The notice should clearly state that the filed appeal is against the whole decision or part of it. Statement to support appeal should be filed within thirty (30) days from the date when decision was delivered. The tribunal shall hear and determine the appeal. The person aggrieved by the tribunal decision shall be at liberty to file appeal to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania.

Appeal to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania shall be only on the point of law and not on the factual issues. At this stage, a ruling by the Court of Appeal is applicable hence the aggrieved person is required to issue notice of intention of appeal within thirty (30) days from the date of decision, while grounds in support of the appeal should be filed within 60 days from the date of filing the notice of appeal. There are other subsequent procedures of dealing with tax dispute which were discussed in the previous article.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address **Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz**

By **Songa wa Songa**, recently in India

INDIA is widely known as the world's largest and peaceful multiparty democracy. But what is not widely known—except in India—is that the country has invested heavily in its electoral system to maintain this coveted position.

For starters, India is the seventh-largest country by area; the most populous country as of June 2023; and from the time of its independence from Britain in 1947, the world's most populous democracy.

Numbers are as follows: India has a total area of 3,287,263 square kilometres (1,269,219 square miles) inhabited by 1.4 billion people out of which 950,000,000 are registered voters.

Election Commission of India is one of institutions visited by a delegation of 30 senior journalists from 16 African countries invited by the country's government through its Ministry of External Affairs last month for a week-long familiarization tour.

This is a very important and powerful institution in India. It solely decides the election schedules, location of polling booths, assigns voters to polling stations and makes all arrangements related to elections.

Also, all political parties must be registered with the Commission under the law it ensures that democracy is maintained within parties. It issues a 'Model Code of Conduct' for political parties and consults them on the compliance of the code.

Tough terrains
Rajiv Kumar (pictured), Chief Election Commissioner, told the delegation that to reach voters in the 1.2 million polling centres scattered across the country is not a walk in the park but a noble job that must be done diligently.

"The country is vast with easily accessible areas as well as challenging terrains such as mountains and meandering hills, rivers, a long coastline as well as a desert," he said.

"Yet, our motto here is 'No voter to be left behind' which means materials are delivered to every polling station on time."

Also, India is a melting pot of diverse sociocultural, ethnic and linguistic com-

Secrets behind India's famed peaceful multiparty democracy



munities living in the 28 states and 8 union territories where the over 2,000 political parties operate, including regional parties.

To do this, Kumar said the Commission recruits 20 million people as election staff to ensure that the country maintains its status not only as the largest democracy in the world but a peaceful

multiparty democracy for that matter.

The peace aspect is important at a time when even some of the most established democracies in the deepened countries are contested and others turn violent.

Independent body
Asked about possible political interference as reported

to be the case in many developing countries, Kumar said that is not the case with the Commission because of two main reasons: first, it is experienced and second, it is truly independent body.

He said the Commission was established on January 25, 1950—three years after independence—to conduct and regulate elections in the

country. Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president shall be vested in the Election Commission.

The Commission is an all-India body in the sense that

it is common to both the central government and the state governments. Kumar added that there are other two reasons why the work of the Commission cannot be interfered with, thanks to the constitution.

"Commissioners cannot be removed upon appointment and our budget is independent," he said.

Technology

Because of its large population, India started developing and testing Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) since 1990s. This process was undertaken by the state-owned Electronics Corporation of India and Bharat Electronics.

EVMs were introduced in elections between 1998 and 2001 in a phased manner but electronic voting is now the standard means of conducting elections in the country.

"To avoid technical glitches and delays due to logistical challenges, our EVMs are installed in all centres and tested six months before the election day," he said.

"As a result, we deliver an election in one day; the results are normally known in the evening of the voting day."

But to ensure transparency, all candidates are allowed to appoint agents who oversee the whole process from installation of the machines, testing the voting itself, tallying and announcement of results.

Before the introduction of electronic voting, India used paper ballots and manual counting method which was widely criticised because of not only delays but reports of electoral fraud by some politicians and party loyalists.

Human Rights Watch finds ‘widespread impunity’ in Nicaragua

By A Special Correspondent

THE Human Rights Watch World Report 2024 was presented in the United States on Thursday, January 11. The report notes the unflagging abuse of power on the part of the Nicaraguan regime of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo and questions the “generalized impunity” in the country.

The organization highlighted that in the last year the regime has intensified its onslaught against anyone perceived as a critic, including members of the Catholic Church, and has dismantled the civic spaces.

They also noted the massive closure of independent media, non-governmental organizations and universities, thus “violating freedoms of expression and association and restricting the right to education.”

The report puts special emphasis on the persistence of problems such as the total ban on abortion, the attacks on the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and widespread impunity for serious human rights violations.

Persecution of critics
As of October, 81 people perceived as government critics remained in detention, a Nicaraguan rights group reported, most charged with “undermining national integrity” and “propagating fake news.”

In February, the government stripped 317 people of their nationality, including 222 political prisoners the government expelled to the US, labeling them as “traitors” and confiscating their assets. The decision, which violated international human rights law, left many stateless.

Authorities removed birth certificates and academic records of some of those expelled from the civil registry, impeding the right to access personal information. They also erased critics’ personal data from the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security, depriving many of their pensions. In May, the Supreme Court permanently suspended the licenses of 25 lawyers and notaries, ruling that because they were now considered “foreigners,” they could no longer exercise their profession in Nicaragua.

Attacks on religious freedom
Attacks on the Catholic Church, which began in 2018, have escalated

In August 2022, police officers detained Bishop Rolando Alvarez, an outspoken government critic, and charged him with “undermining national integrity” and “propagating fake news.” In February, Alvarez refused to be expelled and a judge sentenced him to 26 years in prison. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported in June that Alvarez was being held incommunicado.

In May, the police announced that authorities were investigating the Catholic Church for alleged money laundering and had frozen several dioceses’ bank accounts.

In August, authorities canceled the legal registration of the Jesuit-run Univer-



Riot police patrolling a Managua street, near one of the banking centres.

sidad Centroamericana (UCA), seizing its assets and leaving thousands of students in limbo. The closure brings the number of universities shut down since December 2021 to 28.

In October, the government released 12 Catholic priests and sent them to Rome, following what it described as an “agreement with the Vatican.”

Authorities also banned the 2023 Easter processions and closed the Jesuit religious order in August, confiscating its properties. They also continued to expel foreign priests and nuns.

Freedom of expression and association

Human rights defenders, journalists, and critics are targets of death threats, assaults, intimidation, harassment, surveillance, online defamation campaigns, and, as discussed above, arbitrary detention, prosecution, and deprivation of nationality.

Authorities had closed over 3,500 NGOs as of November 2023, including women’s, religious, international aid, and medical groups. This represents roughly 50 percent of NGOs officially operative in Nicaragua before April 2018. The closures have cut off essential services to many beneficiaries.

Between 2018 and 2022, the government closed at least 57 media outlets, 30 in 2022 and 2 in 2023, the Nicaraguan Platform of NGO Networks reported.

Abusive legislation enabled many of the closures. A 2020 “foreign agents” law, for example, allows the cancellation of legal status of organizations that obtain foreign funds for activities that “interfere in Nicaragua’s internal affairs.”

Between April and June, 23 journalists fled the country, civil society groups reported, bringing

the total of media workers who fled Nicaragua since 2018 to 208.

Authorities have imposed restrictions to hinder several outlets’ operations, including censorship and blocking access to printing materials. In August, a court sentenced journalist Victor Ticy to eight years in prison on charges of “undermining national integrity and disseminating false news.”

Indigenous peoples’ rights

Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples face discrimination, reflected in disproportionate poverty rates, illegal encroachment on their traditional territories, and persistent violence.

In October, the Supreme Electoral Council stripped the legal status of the Indigenous political party YATAMA, accusing the party of “undermining Nicaragua’s national integrity.” Police had detained two of YATAMA’s main leaders, Brooklyn Rivera and Nancy Henríquez, in late September. The whereabouts of Rivera, YATAMA’s only representative in Congress, remained unknown at time of writing, according to family members.

Between August 2022 and June 2023, OHCHR recorded eight violent attacks on Indigenous peoples, especially in the Mayangna Sauni As territory of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve.

In March, settlers attacked the Wilú community in the Mayangna Sauni As territory, killing 5 people, displacing 28 families, and setting fire to all buildings.

Settlers have taken approximately 21,000 hectares from the Miskitu people and forcibly displaced around 1,000, presumably serving forestry and mining interests. Death threats have forced some Indigenous authorities into exile, and the government has prevented some from returning

to Nicaragua.

The Rama Kriol autonomous territory, which makes up two-thirds of the Indio Maiz biological reserve and is home to the Rama Indigenous people and Kriol Afro-descendant people, is also under heavy pressure from illegal cattle ranchers.

Impunity for the 2018 repression

Police, in coordination with armed pro-government groups, repressed massive anti-government protests in 2018, killing at least 328 people, injuring some 2,000, and detaining hundreds. Authorities reported that 21 police officers were killed in the context of demonstrations.

Many protesters were detained for months, subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including electric shocks, severe beatings, fingernail removal, asphyxiation, and rapes. Serious violations of due process and other rights marred prosecutions against protesters.

No police officer has been convicted in connection with abuses related to the crackdown.

Rights of girls and women

Nicaragua has, since 2006, prohibited abortion under all circumstances. Those who have abortions face prison sentences of up to two years; medical professionals who perform them face up to six years. The ban forced women and girls to continue unwanted pregnancies, putting their health and lives at risk.

Restrictive abortion laws, compounded by the lack of information and comprehensive sexuality education, impose barriers to identifying sexual violence. In May 2019, NGOs submitted the cases of “Susana” and “Lucía,” two girls who survived sexual violence and were forced to become mothers, to the UN Human

Rights Committee.

Rates of domestic abuse, violence against women, and femicide—legally defined in Nicaragua as “the murder of a woman in the public or private sphere”—increased from August 2019 to December 2020, OHCHR reported.

The government did not publish figures on femicides and other forms of violence against women in 2022 and 2023. OHCHR reported 36 femicides between January and June 2023, including the 4 murders of girls under age 16.

Disability rights

Discrimination against people with disabilities in Nicaragua is widespread. People with disabilities face severe problems in accessing schools, public health facilities, and other institutions. Under Nicaraguan law, 2 percent of public officials should be people with disabilities, but the quota is not respected, and there are few employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Asylum seekers and migrants

Between 2018 and June 2022, more than 260,000 Nicaraguans, over 4 percent of the estimated population, fled, mostly to Costa Rica and the United States.

Many have been forced to leave their country due to political persecution and the lack of opportunities.

Key international actors

In April, the United Nations Human Rights Council renewed for two years the mandates of the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua and the reporting mandate of the OHCHR. Previously, the Group of Experts had released a report in March finding reasonable grounds to believe that the authorities had committed crimes against humanity, including murder, imprisonment, torture, sexual violence, forced deportation, and persecution on political grounds.

Pope Francis called Ortega’s government a “grotesque dictatorship” in March. The Vatican closed its embassy in Nicaragua in April after the government suggested suspending diplomatic relations.

In September, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk reported a “continued and widespread deterioration of human rights” and that the government keeps “punishing and locking out those who voice their views” and “intensifying the country’s isolation”.

No international monitoring bodies have been allowed to enter Nicaragua since 2018, when the authorities expelled the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nica-

ragua, the IACHR-appointed Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, and OHCHR.

In July, Nicaragua participated in the European Union-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (EU-CELAC) summit. It was the only country that did not support a paragraph in the summit’s final resolution expressing concern about the war in Ukraine. Russia has supplied Nicaragua with military equipment and security infrastructure in the past years.

In September, the board of the UN Green Climate Fund (GCF) temporarily suspended disbursements for Bio-CLIMA, an environmental project, citing “instances of policy non-compliance.” Bio-CLIMA had the stated objective of reducing deforestation and strengthening resilience in Bosawas and Río San Juan Biospheres, but the Nicaraguan NGO Fundación del Río reported a lack of free, prior, and informed consent from Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. A final decision regarding the suspension of funds is expected earlier in 2024.

The US State Department’s Corrupt and Undemocratic Actors Report, released in July, imposed sanctions on the attorney general and parliamentary leaders. As of March 2023, the US Treasury Department had imposed asset-blocking sanctions on 11 entities and 43 people, including members of the government, legislature, and judiciary. In April, the US State Department sanctioned three judges who had helped strip the aforementioned 317 Nicaraguans of their citizenship; between August and September, it sanctioned 200 municipal officials accused of human rights violations in connection with the closures of UCA and the Central American Institute of Business Administration (INCAE).

The EU renewed sanctions on 21 individuals and 3 state-linked entities in October. In June, the European Parliament strongly condemned “the Nicaraguan regime’s widespread perpetration of systematic and deliberate human rights violations against its population for purely political reasons” and called for the release of all arbitrarily detained political prisoners.

The United Kingdom and Canada have respectively sanctioned 13 and 35 individuals implicated in human rights violations.

In November 2021, Nicaragua announced its withdrawal from the Organization of American States (OAS). The decision took effect in November 2023. The OAS Permanent Council said in a resolution adopted in November that it will continue “paying special attention to the situation in Nicaragua.”

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Programme transforms education landscape in Kigoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE intervention of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Public Sector Systems Strengthening Plus (PS3+) Activity has transformed the educational landscape at Buhigwe primary school in Kigoma Region.

Executed by the USAID in collaboration with Tanzanian government through President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government, the initiative major aim is to provide technical assistance to support the government to institutionalize public systems that are responsive to citizens' needs for quality services at the local level, particularly for underserved populations.

One of the changes the project has brought about to Buhigwe is to ensure citizens' engagement in management and delivery of public services with the district council education office and school suggestion boxes playing an important role in amplifying student concerns.

Jeremia Kinji, one of the parents, expressed satisfaction with the changes at school saying: "We are delighted to witness these positive changes. The school took the initiative to involve the surrounding community, and their suggestions have been embraced by the local government."

He said that strengthened planning and financial systems combined with citizen feedback have transformed the educational landscape at the school.

Beyond the physical improvements to the school, Chausiku Simoni, a teacher at Buhigwe Primary School said that the school's suggestion box plays an important role in giving students a voice.

"Previously, students had no platform to express their opinions, but now they have the opportunity to share their ideas."

The suggestion box at the school highlights that when student, parent, teacher, and administrator suggestions are considered, and when there are formal and trusted ways to channel suggestions through planning and financial systems, remarkable improvements



Some of the Buhigwe Primary School students who are the beneficiary of the USAID programme.

can be made.

By promoting citizen engagement, and improving public systems for responsive service delivery, the project continues to collaborate with the government of Tanzania to improve the country's education sector.

"We acknowledge the guidance of USAID PS3+ and LGA officers on where to place the suggestion box which for long was dormant because of its position, at the headmaster's office. Now, students freely express their needs and claims,

leading to the construction of more classrooms, improved water access, and enhanced hygiene facilities, all addressing their requests," said Goodluck Digimba, deputy head teacher at Buhigwe Primary School.

Jazila Athuman, a pupil at the school said that previously the suggestion box was placed close to the head teacher's office, thus causing glitches for pupils to contribute their views, but the box has now been placed near a classroom.

"The suggestion box changed

our lives. As girls we no longer have to worry about changing when in our menstrual days, we now have changing rooms equipped with everything we need like soap, buckets, clean water, and extra skirts. This improvement has allowed us to focus on our studies."

"Don't underestimate the power of a suggestion box! It has made a significant difference. We are grateful for the school's responsiveness, providing us with more USAID Public Sector Systems Strengthening Plus (USAID PS3+) January 2024

classrooms, desks, cleaning tools, and clean water for a conducive learning environment," said Gerras Richard, another pupil at the school.

Chausiku Simoni, a teacher at the school thanked USAID PS3+'s supportive supervision and mentorship.

"The suggestion box has become a tool for constructive ideas and as a school administration advised by the school committee, we do our best to review and record suggestions weekly, and ensure they're implemented effectively for the benefit of our school." Dr Themistocles Kamugisha, Buhigwe district education officer said the government has allocated up to 150m/- to two schools in Buhigwe to build more classrooms and toilets after receiving students' requests through the suggestion box.

He said under the mentorship and supportive supervision of USAID PS3+, schools in the council have successfully implemented suggestion boxes and have instituted processes to manage feedback.

During regular school committee meetings which typically include parents, teachers, local government authorities and other education stakeholders' committee members in Buhigwe now take time to review school suggestion box submissions.

In 2022, the school committee identified two key concerns raised through the school's suggestion box

which included the need for additional toilets and improved classrooms.

The committee referred the suggestions to the district education officer, which approved and asked the school to integrate the suggestions into the school's formal plans and budgets in the PlanRep system, a government planning and budgeting system for local government and service delivery facilities developed and rolled out with the support of USAID PS3+.

Once included and budgeted for in the government Planning Budgeting and Reporting (PlanRep) system, the request for additional toilets and improved classrooms qualified for budgetary allocation by the Ministry of Finance and Planning and as a result, Buhigwe DC was awarded 150m/- in their fiscal year 2022/2023 budget for the purpose of improving school facilities across the district.

With support from the community in the form of materials, such as rocks and sand, and volunteer labour to help dig foundations, fetch water, and mix cement, Buhigwe primary school now builds 26 new toilets, two new 5000-liter tanks for clean water, and two new tanks for the sewage system (one septic and one cesspit).

Additionally, the school was able to make substantial repairs to seven existing classrooms.

By Special Correspondent

WOMEN engaged in agri-food systems in Africa and Asia, including in India, face the highest climate risks such as droughts, floods or shortened crop-growing season, a new hotspot map developed by an international team of researchers has identified.

It ranked 87 countries based on the level of climate change threat faced by women working in agricultural sectors. The study covered nations in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

India stood 12th on the risk index developed by researchers from six institutes. These included the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Gender Platform, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya, International Rice Research Institute, Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Ireland, International Rice Research Institute, India, International Food Policy Research Institute, United States, Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa, Kenya and the World Bank Group, United States.

The research was published in the journal *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* on November 16, 2023.

Threats posed by the climate crisis disproportionately affect certain communities and social groups that are more exposed. People living in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) are at heightened risk.

Within these countries, local climate hazards tend to negatively affect women more than men, the analysis showed. Moreover, women's adaptive capacities tend to be more restrained than men's because of underlying gender inequality and unequal access to resources, it added.

The other Asian countries included Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal, ranking second, fourth, seventh and eighth respectively.

Agri-food systems encompass production, post-harvest handling and distribution. Within African and Asian regions, central, east and southern Africa and west and south Asia were particularly at risk, the authors of the report noted.

The research combined insights on climate, gender and agri-food systems to map these areas as 'climate-agriculture-gender inequality hotspots'.

"We show that significant climate hazards, high exposure faced by women in

Climate: Inequality hotspot study shows where women in farming are hit hardest



Women in rice farm

agri-food systems and high vulnerability faced by women due to systemic gender inequalities converge particularly in central, east and southern Africa, as well as in west and south Asia," said the study's first author Els Lecoutere, a researcher at the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform in Kenya.

The team involved in the study calculated each country's risk based on these indicators and plotted the score for each

LMIC country into a color-coded map.

Gender inequality hotspots for climate risks in agri-food systems

Source: Where women in agri-food systems are at highest climate risk: a methodology for mapping climate-agriculture-gender inequality hotspots, *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, November 16, 2023

Entry point for policymak-

ing Gender is an important determinant of the impact of hazards and the research illustrates this through examples of previous studies done in different countries.

"... women and girls are found to be more likely than men to go hungry following natural disasters linked to climate change. In India, for example, twice the number of women than men reported eating less in response

to a drought," it said.

In this context, the maps could be impactful in informing decision and policymaking around gender-responsive climate action and guide the allocation of scarce resources to populations at highest risk.

"Another key use for the results of our study is the upcoming COP28 and ongoing negotiations around a loss and damage fund and other climate investments. The hotspot maps can

help decision makers and investors target finance and investments to the areas where women are hardest hit from climate change risks," Lecoutere said.

The researchers, however, pointed to certain limitations of their study, for example a lack of data that has made it impossible to calculate a 'hotness' score for some countries, including small island development states.

Zanzibar port deal a path for entry into East Africa's market

By Carlos Banda

LAST week Tanzanians witnessed the signing of the agreement for the development of the Maruhubi Mpi-gaduri Passenger Terminal at the State House in Zanzibar.

The signing was not only a display of the isles commitment in implementing the Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy into action but a demonstration of the government's determination to ensure the potential maritime economy is realized over the East African market.

According to Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi who witnessed signing of the agreement between his government and a Dutch firm—ZF Devco, the project showcases progress in implementing the PPP policy as well as the government readiness to work with the private sector.

“Now we have a policy outlining the cooperation between the government and the private sector. This project will be the first ever example of such co-operation and execution of the PPP policy. I wanted this event to take place at the State House to show the importance of the policy and the monumental significance of the project. The current situation at the port is not satisfactory due to congestion as well as security issues.



That is why we have taken measures to further improve the port by constructing another port instead of only renovating the existing one.”

Mwinyi said.

Mwinyi said that Zanzibar needs to have proper marine infrastructures that will widen the market and entry to re-

gional and international markets, starting with the East African Community (EAC).

Akif Ali Khamis is the Director General at the Tanzania

Ports Corporation (ZPC), he said the goal for developing the passenger terminal is not only to implement the PPP policy but to create more business opportunities within the African continent.

“We aim to bring Zanzibar closer to the African continent and ensure Isle residents have access to more market opportunities within East Africa. Construction of the passenger terminal will ease transportation through marine services thus link Zanzibar with the world. The new ferry terminal's operation will no longer depend on the tidal waves to be operational,” he said.

Data from the East African Community (EAC), the intra-EAC trade, accounting for imports and exports in the 7 EAC partner states, grew from 13 percent in 2019 at a value of \$7.1 billion to 15 percent in 2021 at a value of \$9.5 billion.

By September 2022, the EAC trade value was recorded at \$10.17 billion representing a 20 percent share of intra-trade to global trade.

With the Maruhubi Mpi-gaduri port project underway, Zanzibar is set to expand its

market presence and influx of tourists, goods and services entering the isles hence boosting the per capita income of the individuals' running businesses in the isles but also increasing the level of foreign currency earned by the government through export of cloves.

Khamis is optimistic that Zanzibar will be the pioneer of green port in Africa and having a sustainable port which serves as a terminal for aerial, marine and land transport. He added that the project will act as an example for others to learn as the island focuses on improving its infrastructure to attract more tourists, businesses and offer friendly services.

On the future revenue projections after construction of the new terminal, the ZPC boss said, the new project shows promising returns since it will double the number of people entering Zanzibar from the current 3 million per year to more than 6 million per year. He said improvement will also see an additional seaplanes and sea taxis and business complex as well as hotels that will be operating at the terminal.

“We will gain more taxes through land rates, parking fees from aerial, marine and land transport vehicles, and through the hotels other amenities will be available. The success of this project in revenue generation will not only benefit ZPC but also other institutions like the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) through taxes collected from the hotels and other infrastructures,” he noted.

Matthew VanderBorgh, Co-Founder and Director General of ZF Devco - a Dutch firm that execute the Maruhubi Mpi-gaduri passenger terminal in collaboration with the government said the project's design and construction observes inclusivity to make sure everyone grabs hold of the profits generated from the new facility.

The Maruhubi Mpi-gaduri port will also connect the isles with ports in Tanzania mainland.

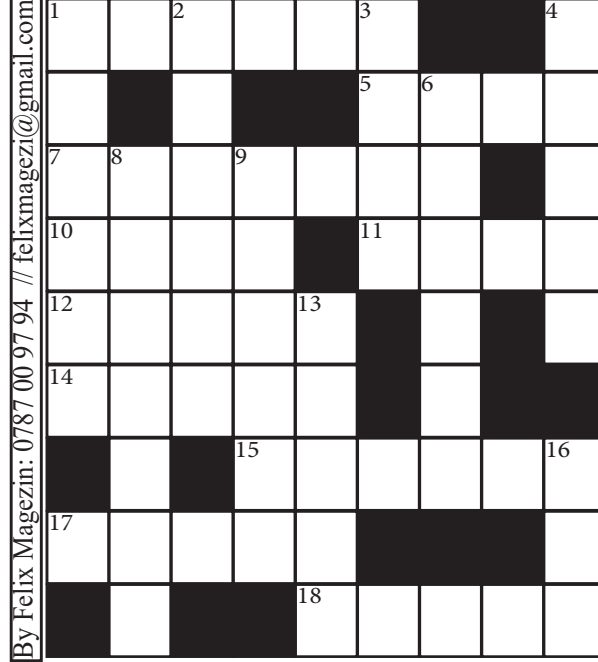
“The port will have facilities that allow all people including women, youth, men, handicapped, and elders to access the various services. It is an inclusive ferry terminal with state-of-the-art facilities that have been designed and constructed in a way that everyone can use. The port will not impact Zanzibar alone, but also connect Zanzibar with other ports in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Pemba and Bagamoyo as it will allow ships from multiple points to come in. It will operate 24 hours and 7 days a week. The RoRo service of the new port will expand exponentially as people and trucks will be able to enter Zanzibar unimpeded at any time of the day,” he said.

Jaffer Machano, Director and Co-Founder of ZF Devco stated that the port will not only boost Zanzibar's economy but integrate other economic sectors thus driving the economy forward.

He pointed out that the port is a non-containerized facility which specifically deals with people and loose cargo, maintaining the key idea of supporting the mechanism of the government's investment in to the passenger port in a bid boost the efficiency and convenience of passenger travel and loose cargo transportation.

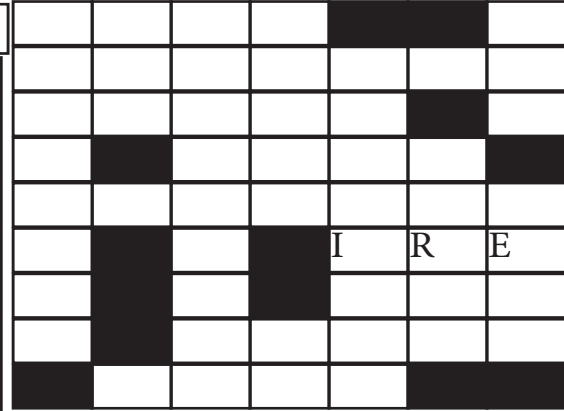
Despite the development strides made by the government, it is crucial for public institutions to provide maximum cooperation for the partaking actors executing construction of the project to ensure the project is completed within schedule.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT -61-



- 11 Capital of Norway
 - 12 rub out
 - 14 fictitious stories
 - 15 form of worship consisting of special prayers
 - 17 a person who arrives
 - 18 stop sleeping
- Down:
- 1 a mystery
 - 2 conforming to a standard
 - 3 monetary unit of Europe
 - 4 the central point
 - 6 tell someone something positively in order to dispel potential doubts
 - 8 an apparatus for aerating water or other fluids
 - 9 a member of an ancient Jewish ascetic sect of the 2nd century BC–2nd century AD in Palestine
 - 13 “Painting in the sky”
 - 16 a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear

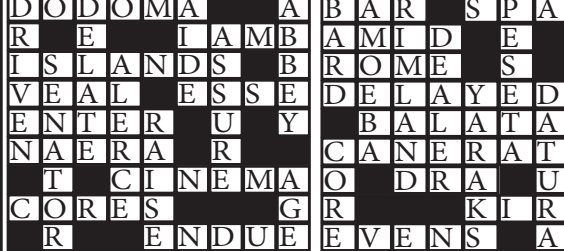
- Across:
- 1 the smaller upper assembly in the US
 - 5 rebellion in Kiswahili
 - 7 an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life
 - 10 Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies



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.

- KNEES-UP
- SKIRTING
- CEASEFIRE
- KENYA
- INN
- INANE
- DELE
- TREATED
- SECTIONS
- IRE, OIL
- RANEE
- MESS
- EERIE
- SPY
- AS

Yesterday's solution



RADIO One 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 YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 - 05.00 HRS 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 YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 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INVESTORS BANK ON AFRICAN TIMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDING BOOM

By Guardian Correspondent

Wooden buildings, such as the engineered timber construction planned for the world's tallest wood building in Zanzibar, may only be starting to appear in cities worldwide, but that is not stopping investors from betting on wood becoming a key building block in African construction.

"About 200 years ago, everyone was building with timber, then it shifted to cement, steel and stones. Now people are going back, especially with modern housing," said Karl Kirchmayer, co-founder and managing partner at ASC Impact.

Although wood buildouts in major cities and towns are hardly in the mainstream, the trajectory, based on recent commercial activity, leans towards a timber-centric future, according to ASC. In October 2022, the Burj

Zanzibar was unveiled on the East African archipelago as the world's tallest hybrid timber structure. Due for completion in 2026, it is located in Fumba Town, Zanzibar's pioneering eco-town, developed by the German-led engineering firm CPS.

A growing interest in wood is fuelled by its sustainability credentials, and the increasing global emphasis on reducing the carbon intensity of the construction sector.

According to Energy Monitor, replacing energy-intensive building materials with timber prevents more than 100 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere by the end of the century.

Kirchmayer says the popularity of hybrid housing units, where concrete is used only for the foundations and timber for most of the structure, is also set to gain in popularity due to faster construction times.



With vast lands conducive to tree growth, Kirchmayer and ASC Impact believe that Africa is ripe for reforestation initiatives that support mass timber production and other green projects.

"The best way to sequester carbon is by planting new forests, particularly across vast surfaces. Utilising these trees for timber means the

carbon is sequestered in the buildings, replacing steel and cement. This carbon remains bound as long as the structure stands," he said.

Substituting all the imports of sawn wood and construction wood is where they see the biggest benefit.

"So we want to produce the construction wood for the inland market. With new

plantations and forests and sustainable forestry, you create not only the timber and sustainable construction material but also a lot of sequestration, substituting steel and cement," he said.

Already, ASC has concessioned more than 300,000 hectares for reforestation and is targeting an investment of €400 million in the

coming years.

To avoid pushback from governments apprehensive about allocating land solely for forestation, ASC Impact is integrating agriculture and carbon offset projects into their offerings.

"So we are planting for inland consumption. We are planting corn, soybeans, sunflowers and various oth-

er crops," he said.

"Communities and governments are much more open to investments in agriculture than to only carbon sequestration or reforestation projects. So we have not only the agricultural revenue but also the timber revenues after a very long period, and we are also selling carbon credits," he said.

This model has resonated with investors.

Kirchmayer notes that one of the key challenges facing mass timber adoption in Africa is the existing regulatory framework, which often favours energy-intensive construction methods.

However, progressive policy changes and increasing awareness of sustainable building practices are beginning to pave the way for greater acceptance of mass timber.

Early adopters in countries like Kenya and South Africa are setting precedents, showcasing the fea-

sibility and benefits of mass timber structures.

"I know this is a cultural thing and also a development thing in the way that people think that higher quality construction is with concrete and cement," he said.

ASC Impact, with a footprint in Congo Brazzaville, Ethiopia and Angola, is not the only company trying to ensure that timber is seen as a building solution for the future, in Africa and elsewhere.

Last year, New Forests, a forestry company based in Australia, raised \$200 million from three investors for its new fund, which aims to support sustainable forestry in Africa.

The fund, named the African Forestry Impact Platform (AFIP), is the first fund dedicated to Africa by New Forests. The fund has a target of raising \$500 million in the next two to three years.

By Guardian Correspondent

URB, a development firm headquartered in Dubai, is expected to construct Africa's most sustainable city to accommodate 150,000 inhabitants, with a start on site planned for 2024.

Dubbed 'The Parks', the city aims to achieve self-sufficiency by generating all of its energy, water, and food on-site through biodomes, solar-powered air-to-water generators, and biogas production.

The 1,700-hectare development will incorporate residential, medical, ecotourism, and educational centres with the aim of expanding the green tech economy in South Africa.

Green spaces and parks will also be a hallmark of the development.

A 5 km long multifunctional green spine will integrate 12 mixed-use biophilic areas to connect residents to all hubs within the city in minutes by walking, cycling, or high-speed autonomous electric vehicle (EV) shuttles.

The Parks will also incorporate and encourage different urban farming methods such as community gardens, biodomes, aquaponics, and vertical farms.

The agricultural infrastructure will adopt the world's first high-tech scalable FEW+W smart urban farm using saline water.

In addition, the city will



Architectural design of The Parks City

S.Africa to construct 150,000 inhabitants sustainable city

host fish and dairy farms enabled by IoT, AI, and automation to produce higher-quality locally-grown foods.

Organic waste will support biogas production as an additional source of energy.

3D printing technology will form part of the construction process, minimising waste and increasing efficiencies.

In addition, cooking oil from restaurants and kitchens will be recycled into

biodiesel and used as fuel in construction for future phases of development.

With an investment of US\$20bn, URB intends to create more than 40,000 jobs in the city.

The Parks' economy will be automated & digital, with most jobs in green tech.

The Parks will become a benchmark of economically viable sustainable living and a positive contribution to the green economic growth of South Africa

CEO of URB, Baharash Bagherian, who has masterminded designs of various sustainable cities including recently launched projects such as Xzero, AlNama, Nexgen and many more yet to be revealed, highlights the importance of The Parks as a new benchmark in sustainable cities.

"THE PARKS is innovatively planned with the highest standards of sustainability to create a car-free community & a unique zero carbon

destination. The Parks is designed from its landscape to provide the happiest & healthiest ecosystem," he says. According to him, the landscape is designed to promote social sustainability and an active lifestyle, which permeates throughout the public realm of the city.

Some of these features include outdoor fitness stations, community farming plots, outdoor sports courts, dedicated jogging and cycling tracks, waste to art public realm, outdoor concerts and much more.

The sustainable infrastructure serving the community are celebrated as features in the design, thus becoming more than functional systems.

They will add aesthetic & educational value to the development & become part of the lifestyle experience.

Green spaces are the heart and arteries of the entire development.

"At the center of the development there is a unique 5km long multifunctional green spine, which has various branches of vibrant community parks that link all the buildings together," he says.

He noted that the master planning for the development was also guided by ecology. The landscape is designed to capture, treat & reuse water whilst conserving as much of this precious resource.

CHINA'S ECONOMIC DOWNTURN: A looming recession shadows aspirations, property markets

SHANGHAI

In the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, the economic downturn in China is leaving a profound impact on the aspirations of its youth, Reuters reported.

In the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, the economic downturn in China is leaving a profound impact on the aspirations of its youth, Reuters reported.

Melody Zhang, a recent graduate from Renmin University, experienced the harsh reality of the job market, shedding tears the night before China's civil service exam. With over 2.6 million applicants vying for a mere 39,600 government positions, Zhang's dreams of a media career were shattered.

In the midst of a youth unemployment crisis, she remarked, "We were born in the wrong era."

Economics professor Zhu Tian from China Europe International Business School in Shanghai is among those who argue that China is already in a recession. Despite the nation's 5.2 per cent economic growth last year, many feel the pinch of unemployment and decreasing income.

Zhu emphasizes the need for urgent stimulus measures to break the potentially vicious cycle of low confidence, especially affecting the younger generation entering the job market.

China's Generation Z, comprising those aged 16-24, faces a pessimistic job market. In June, over one in four Chinese in this age group were unemployed, with the latest data in December showing a youth unemployment rate of 14.9 per cent.

Those fortunate enough to secure jobs often earn less than expected due to cost-cutting measures by businesses responding to poor domestic demand. Reuters cited Janice Zhang, who worked in the tech industry, lamenting that the state of the economy makes her feel like a "grain of sand on the beach," unable to control her own destiny.

China's economic success, which expanded significantly since the 1980s, is facing a historical shift in mood. The country's model of massive investments in manufacturing and infrastructure has led to a debt burden that is challenging to sustain.

Regulatory crackdowns on finance, technology, and education, coupled with subdued household consumption, have further limited opportunities for high-skilled jobs in the services sector.

The property market in China is grappling with a crisis as 96 per cent of urban households owned at least one apartment in 2019. With property values plummeting in some cities since 2021, many homeowners feel less wealthy, resulting in reduced spending.



UK housing market enters new year with momentum building

LONDON

UK estate agents are more upbeat than at any time since before the pandemic amid easing mortgage costs and hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates, a survey found.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said its gauge of 12-month sales expectations jumped 10 percentage points in December to 34, the highest level since February 2020.

The improved outlook came as buyer demand shifted from negative to "neutral territory" for the first time since April 2022, while the downward pressure on house prices showed signs of diminishing, RICS said.

The findings add to evidence that the housing market is turning a corner after skirting predictions of a crash last year.

Cheaper mortgages fueled by a price war among lenders is bringing buyers off the sidelines. The recovery is already under way, RICS

said, with newly agreed sales in December the least negative for two years.

"Supported by an easing in mortgage interest rates of late, buyer demand has now stabilised, and this is expected to translate into a slight recovery in residential sales volumes over the coming months," said Tarrant Parsons, senior economist at RICS.

The prospect of a "solid recovery" in sales will be widely welcomed in a sector that relies on a healthy flow of transactions. Insolvency figures

this week showed real estate was one of the hardest-hit parts of the economy last year, with almost 700 companies going out of business between January and November – almost double the level pre-pandemic.

The RICS survey follows a report from property portal Rightmove, which showed asking prices for UK homes jumped the most in eight months in January after a post-Christmas surge in demand. However, RICS warned against declaring victory just yet.

CRDB BANK EMPOWERS YOUTHS, COMMUNITY DEV'T OFFICERS WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Guardian Reporter

More than 200 leaders of women and youths groups and district community development officers from Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast regions have attended a leadership training organized by CRDB Bank Foundation at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam, as part of implementing the iMbeju programme.

Speaking during the opening of the training, CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Mwambapa said the programme is targeting to build leadership capacity and knowledge on how to manage socio-economic groups in the changing economic environment.

"Our expectations is to see this training is helping them to strengthen the management of your groups by supervising them well as well as formulate strategies which will help them to grow, not only at group level, but also individual members, and we hope to see you establishing companies," she said.

Explaining on the iMbeju programme achievements, Mwambapa said as at the end of December, CRDB Bank Foundation has so far trained 100,000 youths and women as well as providing seed capital amounting to 5bn/-.

During the one day seminar, CRDB Bank Foundation handed over seed



CRDB Bank Foundation board chairman Martin Warioba (4th R) hands over a dummy cheque to the founder of Bluefin Solutions Limited Musa Kissena (4th L) and the company's business manager Scholarshica Mushi (3rd R) during the capacity building seminar on management for youths and women groups leaders and district community development officers at the CRDB Bank headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Esther Mwambapa (3rd L), CRDB Bank company secretary John Rugambo (2nd R), acting director of retail banking Joycelean Makule (2nd L) and head of small business development, CRDB Bank Foundation Fadhili Bushagama (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

capital amounting to 236.57mn/- to six young innovators who attended as part of rolling out iMbeju programme.

She said CRDB Foundation will continue to feasibility studies for other businesses in order to find ways of giving them seed capitals, building capacity on business devel-

opment as well as connecting them with opportunities locally and internationally.

In December 2023, CRDB Bank Foundation financed five youths' macro entrepreneurs to attend Africa Business Forum held in Algeria to learn and showcase their businesses. They include Mipango App,

Niajiri, Lipa kwa Uhakika, Simply Tech, and Setllo.

"This year we are opening the window for new applicants from youths' macro-businesses and I would like to ask for youths to grab this opportunities when announced," she said, noting that CRDB Bank

Foundation is expected to establish a credit scheme for groups.

Speaking during the opening of the seminar, the CRDB Bank Foundation board chairman Martin Warioba has urged group leaders to implement what they will learn from the event, to improve groups' efficiencies and become good ambassadors of iMbeju programme.

The board chairman assured the participants of the seminar that his board will continue to formulate and administer policies which will help the foundation to empower women and youths to build their personal economies for community development.

While handing over seed capital to youths, Warioba urged them to better use the offered funds to intended purposes because their achievements will testify the fruits of iMbeju programme country-wide.

Early this week, CRDB Bank Foundation and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement to collaborate in different areas and to start with youths and women empowerment.

Study: SA has most lenient driving rules

SYDNEY

South Africa has been ranked as the country with the most lenient road rules in a new study that compares 17 nations across the globe.

This study is not a measure of how strict police and governments are in terms of fines and enforcement, but how much room drivers are given before they break the law.

The study was conducted by Australian insurance specialist Compare the Market AU.

Researchers analysed six different metrics for each country, including blood alcohol limits, speed limits, mobile phone restrictions and seatbelt requirements, in order to determine which country has the strictest road rules.

Norway was ranked as the strictest country, with France second, followed by Colombia and Denmark.

Norway achieved an index score of 7.09 out of 10.

The Nordic country has a low blood alcohol limit of 0.02 BAC (blood alcohol concentration), lower speed limits on urban streets and rural roads (30 km/h for residential areas and 80 km/h on country roads), as well as strict and mandatory seatbelt requirements.

France is second on the index (at 5.94/10), largely thanks to having the strictest rules regarding mobile phones.

No driver is allowed to use their mobile phone, even with a hands-free setting.

Colombia and Denmark both have an index score of 5.84 out of 10.

Colombia's lower highway speed limit of 100 km/h and low blood alcohol limit of 0.02 BAC helped offset the fact that seatbelts are required, but not strictly enforced.

In Denmark, drivers can use a mobile phone handsfree, but only if it is using a system built into the car.

Having phone holder attachments to take calls hands free is not allowed, and this saw Denmark rank in the top three for strict road rules.

South Africa has an index score of 3.13 out of 10.

According to researchers this is largely based on having higher speed limits for highways, residential areas and rural roads, despite having low BAC limits.

Grid constraints casting shadow on SA's renewables bid window

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's grid constraints are continuing to cast a shadow over the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP), the seventh bidding round for which was launched in December for 3 200 MW of on-shore wind and 1 800 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) after months of delay.

Independent Power Producer Office head Bernard Magoro told prospective REIPPPP Bid Window Seven (BW7) bidders during a virtual conference on January 17 that the delays were largely attributed to concerns over the availability of grid-connection capacity in the wind- and solar-rich Eastern, Western and Northern Cape provinces.

Various interventions and solutions had been considered following the partial failure of BW6, during which none of the wind projects vying for a 3 200 MW allocation were selected as preferred bids after Eskom indicated that the grid capacity on which they were premised had been consumed. Therefore, only bids for 1 000 MW of solar PV advanced to the preferred-bidder stage.

The development resulted in Eskom introducing an interim grid allocation solution that departs from the previous 'first come, first served' approach to one that prioritises so-called 'shovel-ready projects', while it also sought approval for a new 'gated' approach that would enable it to set aside specific capacity for public and

private procurement cycles. Eskom also indicated that it would adopt a new curtailment framework that could unlock immediate connection capacity in those areas that are described in its most recent Generation Connection Capacity Assessment as having 'zero' capacity. The document indicates that there is 19.9 GW of grid capacity elsewhere in the country, however.

Both proposed solutions have been submitted to the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) for noting and approval but they have not been integrated into the BW7 request for proposals (RFP). It does, however, include a modest change to the curtailment approach by removing the previous threshold restricting compensation for energy than



could not be absorbed by the grid so as to "optimise the management of available grid capacity".

In addition, BW7 allows for bidders to bid based on grid-connection cost estimate letters (CELS) and valid budget quotes (BQs), instead of CELs alone.

There is also potential for bidders to access capacity recovered as a result of the expiry of BQs for projects that failed to achieve financial close under both BW5 and the Risk Mitigation procurement programme. Eskom announced the expiry in early January of five

Risk Mitigation BQs and there is a likelihood of further expiries arising from BW5.

Nevertheless, prospective bidders for the allocation in REIPPPP BW7 could have to rely heavily on prospects outside of those regions with the most potent renewable resources, while Nersa continues to consider the new curtailment and grid allocation frameworks for future rounds.

Magoro indicated that BW8 for another 5 000 MW of renewables could be launched before the end of government's financial year,

which runs to the end of March. Likewise the office is also preparing a third battery storage auction for 616 MW and a Coega-specific gas-to-power bid window, which will have a request for qualifications phase ahead of the RFP.

These would be in addition to the second bidding round under way for 615 MW of battery storage and the inaugural gas-to-power auction for 2 000 MW.

The grid, Magoro said, would remain a challenge for the future rounds. But he expressed optimism that all the components

proposed for managing grid capacity and grid allocations would be in place for the upcoming bid windows.

Besides the modification to BW7's approach to curtailment, the other new elements introduced as part of the RFP include:

A reduction, from 100% to 80%, in the government guarantee framework should Eskom, which remains the buyer, fail to pay, while the 100% guarantee remains in place for any government termination as a result of legislative changes;

Dar resident wins brand new car in Halotel campaign

By Guardian Correspondent

Kassim Mbufu, of Dar es Salaam has won a brand new Mazda CX5 vehicle, after being declared as the grand prize winner of Halotel Tanzania campaign, as part of commemorating eight years of the company's establishment.

The campaign was aimed to reward Halotel network customer's with various gifts as a token of appreciation for their continued support in the provision of communication services in the country.

The statement issued by the company yesterday said the campaign lasted for duration of three months as it commenced since October last year.

Speaking during the

prize handover event at the Halotel shop located in Palm Village Mikocheni, Abdallah Salum, the Director of Business Center, Halotel Tanzania, emphasized this is one of the company commitment to caring for and valuing its customers.

He said as part of the ongoing celebrations marking 8 years since Halotel's establishment in this country and the company's dedication to providing communication services to Tanzania, they have decided to express their gratitude by giving back to customers.

"We appreciate the significant contribution our customers have made to the growth of our network and while we recognize



Halotel Deputy Managing Director for Business Sector Bui Van Thang (2nd R) hands over a dummy car key to Kassim Seif Mbufu, the campaign winner at Halotel shop Palm Village, Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam. Others left are the members of Mbufu family and right is Abdallah Salum, the Director of Business, Halotel Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

and value our customers, today we specifically award a new car the grand winner for Kivumbi na Halotel Campaign," he said.

"Halotel is committed and will continue to provide services at affordable prices ensuring smooth access to communication services for all customers and Tanzanians in general and providing them with the opportunity to connect and utilize Halotel network."

Salum explained that Halotel remains committed to ensuring its customers that will continue providing a wide coverage of communication services across the country.

"Halotel believes that enhancing connectivity

positively influences other sectors such as Economy, Healthcare and the entertainment industry," he added.

After receiving the grand prize, Kassim Seif Mbufu, the grand prize winner expressed his joy by stating that the winning car has brought him great happiness.

"It feels dreamlike, but it is indeed true. As a retiree, owning such a car is a beautiful experience. I encourage my fellow Tanzanians to join and keep using the network due to its good and affordable services. There are many other benefits like these that you can only enjoy when you are part of the Halotel Network," he said.

Throughout the cam-

paign, weekly winners were announced, each receiving prizes such as Samsung A14 phone equipped with 5G technology and a 128GB capacity, along with a Halotel Sim card and 10GB internet.

Other prizes were Samsung A34 featuring 5G technology with a capacity of 128GB, along with a Halotel Simcard and 5GB internet.

Some fortunate participants received a Router with Halotel Simcard and 5GB Internet.

Furthermore, a total of 165 Winners were presented with 5,000 Tsh vouchers each during the campaign period as a weekly winners.

CONSTRUCTION

MANY RICH INDIANS WISH TO INVEST IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS

NEW DELHI

As many as 71 percent rich Indians want to invest in real estate in the next 12-24 months, indicating that there is significant confidence in the property market.

Capital appreciation has overtaken lifestyle upgrade as the primary motivation for real estate investment, signaling the return of investors to the market, said the annual Luxury Outlook Survey 2024 conducted by India Sotheby's International Realty (ISIR).

The annual Luxury Outlook Survey 2024 conducted by India Sotheby's International Realty (ISIR) showed that High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and Ultra High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNIs) were confident about investing in the real estate market, with a staggering 79 percent exuding confidence in the economy's positive trajectory in 2023-24, compared to 59 percent last year.

As far as interest rates on home loans are concerned, 56 percent of HNIs and UHNIs believe that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will start reducing interest rates in 2024, indicating a positive mortgage and financing outlook.

The survey also reflected that a staggering 83 percent of affluent Indians own multiple luxury properties, re-



Rich Indian families

fecting a trend of diversified real estate portfolios among the elite.

Apart from primary residences, 34 percent own commercial real estate, 25 percent holiday homes, 21 percent agricultural land and 20 percent farmhouses.

As many as 35 percent of holiday home buyers said that they preferred Goa as a second home destination, highlighting the enduring appeal of the city among India's wealthy.

The desire to invest in overseas properties remained stable at 12 percent, with Dubai UAE, and USA being their top choice.

As many as 43 percent of UHNI and HNI respondents expressed a desire to consolidate their portfolios, focusing on better quality properties and rent-yielding assets. Almost 34 percent of UHNIs and HNIs have shifted to digital mediums, including 3-D virtual reality and walkthroughs, to re-

search in order to view properties.

"The rising economic momentum is reflected in record breaking housing sales numbers in Indian real estate in 2023 and an all-time high stock market. We believe the top end of the real estate market will benefit the most in the next 12-24 months.

The affluent class is expected to nearly double to 100 million people within three years,

according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. India's ultra wealthy are growing. The robust start-up ecosystems and a growing number of unicorns have added to the swelling ranks of the super-rich. Our Luxury Outlook survey findings indicate a renewed and heightened interest among investors who now view real estate as a compelling avenue for long-term wealth creation," said Amit Goyal, Managing Director, India Sotheby's International Realty.

"We are witnessing a remarkable shift in economic sentiment, reflecting the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. We are not surprised that there's been a substantial increase in the launches of new luxury projects across the top seven cities in 2023.

There's also a shift in sentiment that aligns with a broader acknowledgment of real estate's enduring value and potential for sustained financial growth. We believe investors are strategically positioning themselves for wealth accumulation and creating multi-generational wealth through real estate investments," said Ashwin Chaddha, CEO, India Sotheby's International Realty.

Mobile firm extols gov't for creating conducive environment for business

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been lauded for creating a conducive environment for investors that attracted a number of technological companies to chip in and invest in the sector to foster the country's digital space.

Mgope Kiwaga, Samsung Electronics' head of sales in Tanzania, made the remarks recently in Dar es Salaam when speaking to journalists during the official launch of the mobile firm product dubbed: 'Al Samsung Galaxy S24'.

He said that the Tanzanian government has been in a fore front in transforming its economy status by also adapting newly communication technology that will enable Tanzanians to shape their livelihood through their fingertips.

"The government efforts need to be lauded if we're to make Tanzanians enjoy the digital space," he said, noting that the mobile firm has come up with smartphones that will foster and tape up barrier communication across the globe.

"We're empowering the global community and easy their communication while aspiring creativity that will fueled social and economic development," he noted

"This newly unveiled smartphone that launched today has its artificial intelligence that pave the way for users to use it as a gate way to everything in their daily life from language, geographical location and other technical knowhow," he said.

He went on to say that Samsung have more than 100 dealers across the country that capable of delivering the best services to customers while distributing the newly innovative product in the Tanzanian market.

Manish Jangra, Samsung Country Head said AI amplifies nearly every experience on Galaxy S24 series, from enabling barrier-free communication with intelligent text and call translations.

"The Galaxy S24 series will ignite the next decade of mobile innovation." Galaxy AI is built on our innovation heritage and deep understanding of how people use their phones. We're excited to see how our users around the world empower their everyday lives with Galaxy AI to open up new possibilities," he added.

Fahad Fuad an influencer and Samsung ambassador, said that the mobile phone will enable them as ambassadors to market the best destination in the country such as Serengeti, Ngorongoro and mikumi

\$25.06m-plus luxury home sales double in Dubai

Dubai

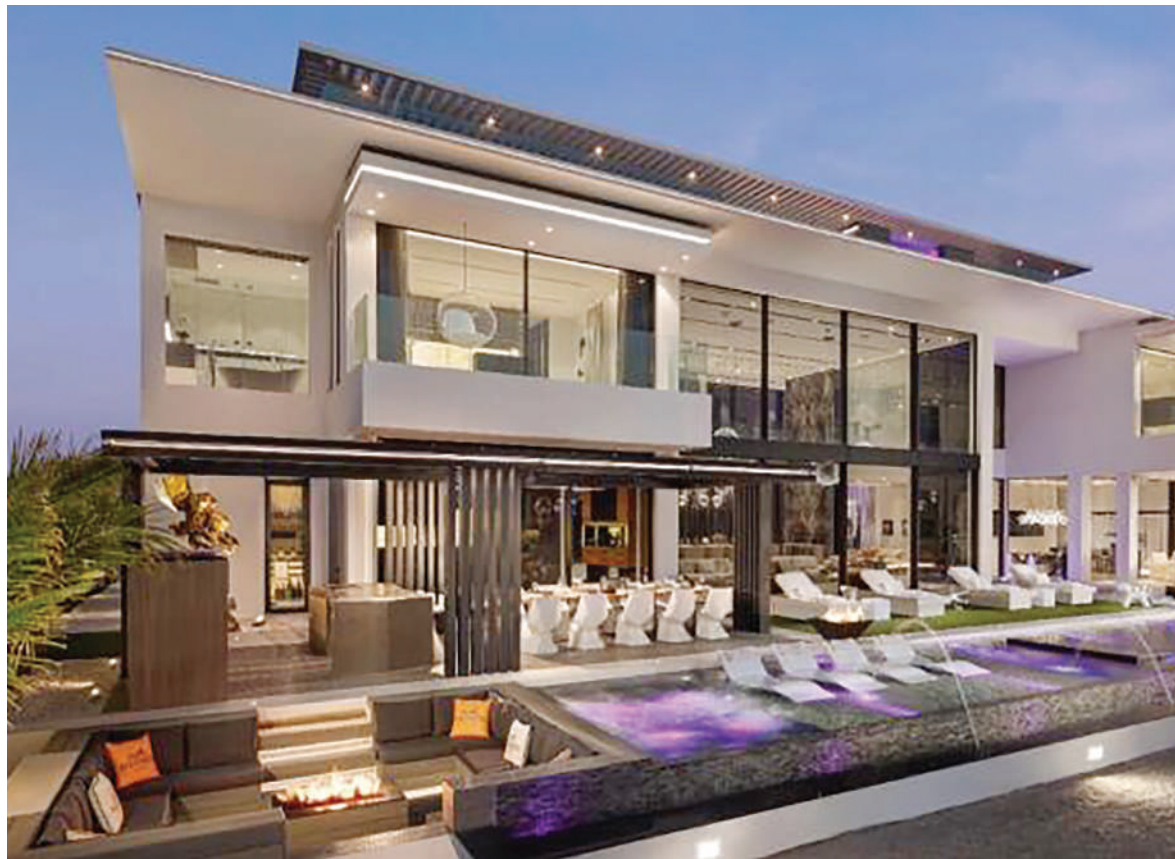
The sale of uber-luxury homes with a price tag of \$25 million (Dh92 million) and above doubled to 56 last year, as fewer homes were available for sale than in 2022.

According to data released by Knight Frank, total deals of properties with a price tag of \$25 million-plus reached \$2.3 billion (Dh8.4 billion) last year as demand stays robust for the ultra-luxury property segment.

The property consultancy on Tuesday said the total number of \$10 million-plus homes sold in Dubai grew by 92.4 per cent to 431 in 2023.

The total value of sales above \$10m price point grew by 91 per cent to \$7.6 billion last year, 28 per cent of which was achieved in the fourth quarter alone.

"Dubai has doubled down on its position as the world's most active \$10 million plus homes market. The depth of demand from international buyers for Dubai's most luxurious homes is also reflected in the fact that city-wide listings above \$10 million fell by 8.9 per cent last year. Developers are still scrambling to respond to the emirate's meteoric rise as one of, if not the most, sought-after luxury-second home markets in the world,"



said Faisal Durrani, Partner - Head of Research, Mena.

Knight Frank's analysis also reveals that during the first nine months of 2023, Dubai had already sold more than twice as

many homes priced over \$10 million than its nearest competitor - New York, which recorded 159 deals, against 323 in Dubai.

Similarly, Dubai's \$10 million+ residential property market reg-

istered sales totalling \$5.8 billion between Q1 and Q3 2023, nearly double the level of second-placed London (\$3.2 billion).

Palm Jumeirah The Palm Jumeirah remained

at the epicentre for luxury home sales in Dubai.

The iconic palm tree-shaped island accounted for 38.5 per cent of homes sold for more than \$10 million during 2023 (or 166 deals), and 39.2 per cent (or 22 deals) of sales of more than \$25 million.

"The Palm Jumeirah's appeal is now universal, and the island has well and truly cemented its status as one of the most desirable addresses globally. And in line with the broader trend we are seeing in Dubai of genuine end-users and second-home buyers dominating transactional activity, inventory levels are slipping," said Will McKintosh, regional partner and head of residential for Mena at Knight Frank.

The Palm Jumeirah, for instance, had 9.5 per cent less homes for sale last year than in 2022, reflecting the buy-to-stay and buy-to-hold attitude of the bulk of purchasers. The island's location at the heart of New Dubai and recently achieved prestigious Blue Flag status only adds to its appeal amongst the world's elite looking for instant access to the 'Dubai life'.

Following closely behind the Palm Jumeirah for the total number of homes sold for more than \$10 million in 2023 is Jumeirah Bay Island (47 sales) and the recently launched Palm Jebel Ali (36 transactions).

Kenya eyes Sh50bn in PPP funding of public projects

NAIROBI

Kenya is targeting to raise Sh50 billion through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to fund projects in the year starting July as it seeks to further move away from debt financing of the projects.

The Treasury made the disclosures in the draft Budget 2024 Policy Statement saying that the projects target key areas such as power generation and transmission, roads, water and aviation.

Kenya has in recent years turned to PPP funding to finance costly projects without adding to the country's debt, a shift from the yester-years where commercial loans funded key projects.

"The PPP Directorate has a pipeline total of 31 projects at various stages of the PPP project cycle, with most of them being at the procurement stage," the National Treasury

says.

"With these PPP pipeline projects, the Government envisages mobilizing Sh50 billion within the next 2024-25 financial year."

The government is eyeing grand infrastructure projects to deliver water for agricultural, industrial and human consumption, widen the road network and also modernise the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

But a thinning fiscal space due to fast-maturing debt payments has squeezed the ability of the Exchequer to fund them or source for fresh commercial debt, highlighting the critical role of the PPP model in driving grand infrastructural projects.

Grand infrastructure projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway were financed through expensive Chinese loans. But servicing the debt has turned into a nightmare for the government.

Servicing of domestic and external debt ate an equivalent of two-thirds (Sh347.22 billion) of tax revenues in the first quarter of this financial year, highlighting the impact of the loans.

The debt obligations are fast-rising this financial year ending June 2024 largely due to the maturing semi-concessional and commercial borrowing tapped to build roads, bridges, power plants and a modern railway line.

Kenya in 2021 enacted changes to the Public Private Partnerships Act of 2013 in a bid to reduce bureaucracies and woo investors keen to partner with the State in delivering the projects.

Through the Public Private Partnerships Act, 2021 which repealed the previous Act of 2013, public entities in PPP deals are now allowed to single-source work in a bid to speed up projects.



Jomo Kenyatta International Airport

WORLD

UK: Sunak survives Conservative asylum law rebellion

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defeated a Conservative rebellion on Wednesday over his plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, winning a costly victory that weakens his authority and deepens divisions in his party.

Sunak faced down the rebellion by right-wingers in his Conservative Party by offering token compromises to those who demanded he toughen a new bill to tackle illegal immigration in moves centrists feared could breach human rights protections.

In the end only 11 of Tuesday's almost 60 rebels decided to vote against the legislation in a vote in the lower house, known as a third reading. Some worried that if they did not back it, they could inadvertently collapse the government.

With the Conservatives trailing the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls before this year's election, some lawmakers were concerned about rejecting a plan voters might feel could

reduce illegal immigration - a crucial issue for some Britons.

"The passing of the bill tonight marks a major step in our plan to stop the boats," said a spokesperson for Sunak's office.

"We have a plan, we have made progress and this landmark legislation will ensure we get flights off to Rwanda, deter people from making perilous journeys across the Channel and stop the boats."

But rebels are angry over what they see as Sunak's disregard for their concerns, something that could come back to haunt him as he tries to unite his party before the election later this year. Earlier, votes on proposed changes to the draft legislation showed almost a fifth of Conservative lawmakers wanted their leader to toughen the plan, an argument that deepened divisions in his party between its right-wing and more numerous centrists.

While ultimately most backed Sunak's plan, they warned him they would continue to inflict pressure on

him to reduce immigration.

Some Conservatives blame Sunak for failing to reinvigorate the party's fortunes after replacing his short-lived predecessor Liz Truss in 2022. But faced with the possibility of triggering an early election, they decided voting against him was a step too far.

'Last chance'

Sunak has made stopping arrivals of asylum seekers crossing over from France in small boats a central aim of his government and says the Rwanda plan would create a deterrent. Under the plan, migrants who arrive in Britain illegally face being sent to Rwanda some 6,400 km away to have their asylum claims processed.

While most migrants say they are fleeing wars in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, the British government describes many of them as economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

During the earlier debate in parliament, Suella Braverman, who was sacked as interior minister by Sunak last year and is a vocal supporter of a toughened Rwanda plan, said strengthening the law was "our last chance to get it right".

Ultimately, Sunak sided with his more centrist lawmakers, who said that strengthening the plan could result in Britain breaking international law - something Rwanda warned the government could force it to leave the deal.

The government says it has paid 240 million pounds

(\$304 million) to Rwanda so far, and no asylum seekers have been sent there.

Labor leader Keir Starmer said only Sunak's government could spend "hundreds of millions of pounds on a removals policy that doesn't remove anyone". Yolande Makolo, Rwanda's government spokesperson, said Rwanda had "no obligation" to return the funds but would consider a request for a return of a portion of the money if no migrants arrived in Rwanda.

Defeating the rebellion may offer Sunak some breathing space to focus on tackling Britain's flagging economy and offer voters tax cuts in a budget on March 6.

But immigration is not likely to go away, as the Rwanda legislation will next head to parliament's House of Lords, where it could face stumbling blocks. "It is not the case that tonight's vote is the end of matters," said a source at a meeting of some rebels before the vote. "The prime minister is by no means out of the woods."



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak leaves 10 Downing Street to attend the weekly Prime Ministers' Questions session in parliament in London on Wednesday. AP

Morocco's King oversees emergency water supply plan amid drought

RABAT

KING Mohammed VI chaired a meeting on the measures to ensure water supply amid a severe drought that left many key dams empty.

Speaking at the meeting, water minister Nizar Baraka said dam filling rate dropped to a critical 23.2% so far in January, compared to 31.5% in the same period last year, due to a rainfall deficit of 70%.

The King had urged in 2020 relevant departments to implement a plan to ensure water supply and fend off drought. The plan included building different types of dams and investing in desalination.

During the same meeting, water minister Nizar Baraka gave a briefing on emergency measures to address the impact of drought including steps to curb water squandering and waterways to connect basins having surpluses to those suffering deficits.

The emergency plan also provides for restricting irrigation in some areas and reducing the flow, in order to act on the demand side.

As for waterways, works are ongoing to connect the Bouregreg basin to Oum Rabia and press ahead with desalination plants as well as wastewater treatment.

During the meeting, the King urged authorities to spare no effort to ensure water supply and adopt a frank communication regarding water issues with citizens. **Agencies**

Non-Aligned Movement seeks greater say in global affairs

KAMPALA

NON-ALIGNED Movement (NAM) member states meeting in Kampala are coalescing positions to ensure that the 120-member state organization has a greater say in international affairs.

Uganda's Vice-President Jessica Alupo, while opening the two-day NAM Ministerial Meeting Wednesday, as part of the 19th Summit of the NAM, said the Movement gathers at a time of increased geopolitical tension.

Alupo said with such happenings on the international fora, NAM countries should remain united and stick to the founding principles of the Movement, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, recognition of the equality of all races and the equality of all nations, large and small, and abstention from intervention or interference into the internal affairs of another country.

"As countries of the Global South, we have regularly come together to discuss issues of common interest and concern. This meeting is yet another opportunity for you to continue with a constructive conversation on these issues," she said.

Xinhua

Somali communication workers union condemns attacks on members by suspected govt security agents

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Somalia Communication Workers Union (SOCOWU) has condemned the recent injustices committed against its dedicated members within Hormuud Telecom in Somalia by suspected government security agents.

"Our members, hardworking individuals contributing to the nation's connectivity, have endured unwarranted suffering in an unfortunate incident," the union said in a statement.

The union said it is disheartening to note that the National Intelligence and Security Agency, entrusted with safeguarding the lives and dignity of Somali citizens, has been implicated in harassing SOCOWU members.

"We vehemently denounce such actions and call for an immediate cessation of any undue treatment against these workers," Chairman Mohamed Abdullahi.

The union appealed to the leaders of the National Intelligence and Security Agency and all government officials to swiftly release the workers who are currently unlawfully detained.

"We emphasize the importance of upholding justice, respecting the rights of workers, and fostering an environment where citizens can contribute to the nation's progress without fear of persecution," he said.

The lobby group implored the President of the Republic of Somalia and the Prime Minister to intervene and take decisive action against those responsible for the harassment of our members.

The union said it remains committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of communication workers in Somalia.

'86% of CEOs believe India's economic growth will improve over next 12 months'

DAVOS

86% of India CEOs believe the Indian economy will improve over the next 12 months, according to PwC's 27th Annual Global CEO Survey, which polled 4,702 CEOs in 105 countries and territories, including 79 from India.

The survey reflects confidence, spotlighting the fact that India leaders' optimism about their country's economic growth has seen a nearly 30% increase over the last one year. While global leaders are hopeful about the future too, they are still somewhat cautious in their predictions for the year, with 44% of global CEOs believing the economy would improve in their respective territories.

India's air of positivity is also being felt across the world. The CEO Survey shows that India has reclaimed the fifth position as an investment destination for global CEOs, up from the ninth position it held in 2023.

62% of India CEOs are confident about their company's growth over the next 12 months

India leaders are convinced that their companies are on the

right track. When asked how confident they were about their company's growth over the next 12 months, 62% of India CEOs said they were 'extremely or very confident', as against 37% of global CEOs. About 70% of India CEOs - as against 49% of global CEOs - said they were confident of their company's prospects for revenue growth over the next three years.

While most India CEOs are confident about the future, a sizable section is concerned about the need to embrace change to keep pace with future trends. While 59% of India CEOs - as against 53% of global CEOs - said their companies would remain economically viable for more than 10 years if they continued on their current trajectory, 38% said their companies would remain economically viable for less than 10 years in this scenario.

Inflation, cyber risks and health concerns are top concerns for India CEOs

India CEOs saw inflation and cyber risks as the biggest threats to their businesses in the short

term (12-month period). India's annual retail inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.44% in July 2023 but had cooled to around 5.5% in November 2023. The perceived risk from cyberthreats saw a jump of 10% from last year, with 28% of India CEOs - as against 18% last year - expecting extreme/high exposure to it. Health threats also figure high on the India CEOs' list, with 27% saying they expected their companies to be extremely and highly exposed to these over the next 12 months. The concern over health is evident with employees actively seeking employers who offer generous health insurance for their families.

India CEOs anticipate GenAI will deliver significant top- and bottom-line benefits

Around 71% of India CEOs expected GenAI to increase employee efficiency over the next 12 months, while 70% believed it would improve their own performance. They also believe it is likely to increase revenue (48%) and profitability (46%). On the impact of the growing use of GenAI, around 30% of India

CEOs felt it would lead to the shrinking of jobs, but there was broader acknowledgement of its potential to create new job opportunities, with 48% saying it would have little or no impact on headcount and 13% seeing an increase.

It is also clear that India CEOs are fully aware that GenAI comes with its risks and will require vigilant oversight. Around 71% saw it as increasing cybersecurity risk, and 53% thought it would increase legal liabilities and reputational risks.

For India CEOs, changing customer preferences is the top reinvention driver

India CEOs are increasingly looking to reinvent their businesses to deal with regulatory, internal and supply chain constraints. The customer is central and 61% said customer preferences had led to changes in how their companies created, delivered and captured value in the last five years. India's business leaders felt technological change (57%) and government regulations (47%) were also prominent triggers of reinvention. The reg-

ulatory environment and a lack of skills within the company are the key barriers to reinvention for Indian CEOs.

Managing climate risk, a growing priority for businesses

India CEOs' responses on climate change issues in the 2024 survey show a keen awareness of the urgency to speed up climate action, but they recognise that it is still work in progress. While just 8% said they had completed projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption, 82% said it was in progress, and only 4% said they had no plans.

India CEOs reported progress on decarbonisation, climate adaptation, reskilling the workforce and investments in nature-based climate solutions. But they also said regulatory complexity (50%), lack of climate-friendly technologies (49%), lack of demand from external stakeholders (44%) and lower returns on climate-friendly investments (48%) were inhibiting Indian companies' ability to decarbonise to a moderate and large/very large extent. **Agencies**

China's Nanchang carves out remarkable development path with LED technology

ABOUT one out of every three smartphones worldwide utilizes silicon substrate-based LED for its phone flash. Similarly, for every three flashlights in the world, there is one with such technology.

In fact, many cities in China have extensively adopted silicon substrate-based LED chips for road and tunnel lighting.

Silicon substrate-based LED has become one of the three major technology pathways in the global LED industry. Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi province, is exactly where this technology started.

LED stands for light-emitting diode, which is a third-generation semiconductor light source. As an energy-saving and environmentally friendly cold light source, it is a fundamental component of the electronic information industry and has a wide range of applications.

At the beginning of this century, the common substrates for blue LED chips were sapphire or silicon carbide, and the two technical routes have been industrialized. However, the dominance of these technologies was largely held

by developers outside China.

"At that time, we aimed at the unpopular technology direction of growing gallium nitride-based materials on silicon substrates," said Jiang Fengyi, a professor from Nanchang University. According to him, this was a path that had been almost abandoned by foreign developers.

In the production of LEDs, the growth of upstream materials to a large extent decides the LED color, brightness, lifespan, and other indicators. To produce LED chips, it is necessary to grow a gallium nitride light-emitting film on a substrate.

However, there are serious thermal and lattice mismatches between silicon and gallium nitride materials. Researchers around the world had not yet found an ideal solution despite years of efforts.

On Nov. 27, 2003, Jiang and his team embarked on a challenging exploration. In 2004, after more than 4,000 trial and error attempts, Jiang's team became the first in the world to overcome this key technical difficulty.

"This will be a brand new arena," said Wang Min, who worked together with

Jiang. Wang keenly sensed the potential transformative impact this technology could bring to the industry.

Since then, Wang and Jiang co-founded tech firm LatticePower to promote the industrialization of silicon substrate-based blue LEDs. In October 2007, LatticePower officially settled in the Nanchang National High-tech Industrial Development Zone.

After years of development, in 2012, the company successfully achieved mass production of high-power LED chips on silicon substrates, which was praised as an annual news event by the International SSL Alliance.

In order to better open up the market, Wang decided to go for vertical integration - packaging LatticePower's own LEDs. In 2014, a ceramic packaging line was officially launched, enabling the mass production of its own "light bulbs."

Since then, LatticePower's LED products have made great strides with higher cost-effectiveness, eventually capturing around 30 percent of the global mobile lighting market. LatticePower Semiconductor Corporation, a subsidiary of LatticePower, boasts a monthly production

capacity of up to 100 million units.

In the product showcase area of LatticePower, there are nearly 100 types of products on display, including large LED high-definition screens, streetlights, and smartphone flashlights. Today, LatticePower has grown into a leading semiconductor optoelectronic device manufacturer, offering products that span the entire industrial chain to customers worldwide.

In addition to the packaging line, LatticePower is continuously expanding its industrial ecosystem. With strong government support, it has attracted well-known venture capital funds such as GSR United Capital to establish sub-funds in Nanchang, successively incubated Lattice Lighting and Lattice Grand Technology, and introduced companies such as ShineOn and Kingsoon to promote the ecosystem of the silicon substrate-based LED industry.

Relying on silicon substrate-based LED technology, Nanchang has carved out a path of independent innovation in the global LED industry. Today, the technology continues to produce world-class innovative achievements such as

yellow and red LEDs.

Driven by such innovation and the support of relevant government policies, Nanchang has established a complete LED industry chain, becoming the largest production base for high-power LED light sources in China.

In 2019, a 1-billion-yuan (\$140.58 million) fund was established to amplify the application advantages of silicon substrate-based LED technology, which attracted a number of leading domestic LED companies such as Shenzhen MTC, Xiamen Changelight, and Hongli Zhihui Group. In 2022, the LED industry in Nanchang achieved a revenue of 21.2 billion yuan.

According to the plan, the city will focus on the manufacturing and packaging of LED chips to build itself into a "light valley." In particular, the Nanchang National High-tech Industrial Development Zone will concentrate on building a complete LED industry chain cluster with a focus on silicon substrate-based LEDs, and the Nanchang Economic and Technological Development Zone will prioritize the development of basic materials, chip packaging, and ter-

minal applications. Besides, other districts and counties will focus on developing supporting links in the industrial chain. The goal is to expand Nanchang's LED industry scale to 50 billion yuan by 2026.

People's Daily



Since then, Wang and Jiang co-founded tech firm LatticePower to promote the industrialization of silicon substrate-based blue LEDs. In October 2007, LatticePower officially settled in the Nanchang National High-tech Industrial Development Zone.

Thriving tea industry has significant impact on rural livelihoods in Rwanda's Nyabihu District

KIGALI

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

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

Mukamana is just one among thousands of individuals whose lives have been positively transformed by the thriving tea industry in Nyabihu District. Located in Western Province, the Nyabihu Tea Factory stands as a testament to the significant impact the cultivation and processing of tea leaves have had on the local community.

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

Joining Mukamana in this tale of resilience is Jean Baptiste Rukirama-

cumu, another dedicated tea picker at the Nyabihu Tea Factory. "Pursuing a career in tea picking has facilitated several accomplishments. For instance, I have been able to acquire a piece of land and construct a house.

Additionally, I have bought two cows. The income generated from tea picking enables me to cover school fees for my children, purchase school supplies, and provide clothing for them," he explained. Beyond personal achievements, Rukirama-cumu emphasized how the financial gains from tea picking contributed to his ability to invest in agriculture.

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

The driving force behind this positive change is the Nyabihu Tea Factory, guided by the vision of Director General Yves Mungwakuzwe. According to Mungwakuzwe, the factory processes tea from both its own fields and those of tea farmers who are part of a cooperative.

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



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

cultivation by collaborating with tea farmers, assisting them in processing tea seedlings over a 15-month period. The recent harvest yielded 7.5 million

leaves, resulting in a marketable output of 2,016 tonnes," said Mungwakuzwe. He emphasized the factory's commitment to maintaining high-quality

standards, evident through certifications like the Rainforest Alliance certificate and ISO 2022 international standard certificates. The seal of the Rainforest Alliance certificate means that the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental.

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

He said the tea from Nyabihu is available in most supermarkets in the country, with direct exports reaching China, Europe, America, and other global regions.

The ripple effect is felt in the local economy, as the factory provides permanent employment opportunities to more than 5,000 individuals, according to him. Tea remains one of Rwanda's top agricultural export revenue earners.

In 2021, Rwanda earned more than 96 million U.S. dollars from exporting over 35 million kg of tea compared to over 32 million kg sold for more than 90 million U.S. dollars in 2020, according to data from the National Agricultural Export Development Board.

Xinhua

Russia now knows West cannot be trusted, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has finally got rid of any possible illusions about the West after the start of the special operation and now knows that it cannot be trusted, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference on the achievements of Russian diplomacy in 2023.

"Any illusions, if some still remained since the 1990s, that the West has now opened its arms to us and that democracy will unite us all - all these illusions have finally vanished. The West is not trustworthy," Lavrov said.

He remarked that the Western countries had demonstrated that they only want to "live at the expense of others and be smarter than everyone else."

Lavrov explained that in this way a number of factors related to the West's hybrid comprehensive aggression against Russia helped Russian society understand "how it should go on living." **Agencies**



Agencies

Putin, North Korean foreign minister affirm commitment to global peace, cooperation

SEOUL

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui outlined their countries' intentions to develop cooperation to ensure peace and stability on the planet at their meeting on January 16, the Korean Central News

Agency (KCNA) reported.

According to the agency, the Russian leader asked the delegation that arrived in Moscow to convey New Year's greetings to his counterpart Kim Jong Un. In turn, Choe Son-hui relayed the "the warm greetings" from

the North Korean leader to Putin.

"The talk reaffirmed the stand of both sides to promote the dynamic development of the overall bilateral relations, in conformity with the strong desire of the peoples in the



two countries to usher in a new heyday of the strategic and traditional DPRK-Russia relations

of friendship and achieve common prosperity and development, and closely cooperate and keep pace with each other for ensuring the regional and global peace and stability," KCNA wrote.

The agency also emphasized

that "the talk proceeded in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with feelings of friendship." The meeting was also attended by North Korean Ambassador to Moscow Sin Hong-chol, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov.

Agencies

Flier readies to recruit 5,000 cabin crew from six continents this year

DUBAI

EMIRATES are celebrating the New Year and the imminent arrival of its spanking new fleet of Airbus A350s with a global cabin crew recruitment drive with a difference. The 5,000 new joiners will ensure the airline's commitment to offering the world's best inflight experience maintains a steady course.

The recruitment drive is designed primarily for those who will soon or have recently stepped into the world of work. The airline is inviting fresh graduates with internships or part-time jobs on their résumés, those with a year or so of hospitality or customer service experience, and individuals keen to embark on an exciting career travelling the globe. The new recruits will be a part of the world's largest international airline and one of the most iconic brands, plus they will learn hospitality and life skills from the best trainers in the business.

What is more, they will travel the world across more than 140 cities in 76 countries and enjoy the entire gamut of benefits working as Emirates' cabin crew.

In 2024, Emirates' recruitment team will host open days and assessments in more than 460 cities across six continents, reflecting the span of the airline's network and the diversity of its cabin crew team, while flying the flag for living and working in dynamic Dubai.

In 2023, Emirates hired a staggering 8,000 cabin crew and held recruitment events in 353 cities as the airline ramped up its ser-



vices post the pandemic. In August 2023, the airline's cabin crew numbers crossed the 20,000 milestone and are now 21,500 strong.

The new cabin crew recruitment drive comes as Emirates begins to take delivery of its eagerly anticipated A350s from mid-year and the Boeing 777-Xs starting in 2025. The airline has 65 A350s and a mix of 205 777-9s and 777-300ERs in its order book. The new aircraft will expand the airline's reach and provide flexibility to add new routes to its network.

New cabin crew recruits undergo an intense eight weeks of training in delivering the highest standards of hospitality, safety and service that Emirates' customers have come to expect over the years. Trained in Emirates' state-of-the-art facility in Dubai, cabin crew learn invaluable transferable skills that include a knack for communications, initiative and leadership qualities. They

develop the ability to work effectively in a multicultural team, the focus to stay mentally strong and calm under pressure, becoming bastions of hospitality and exceptional service, and ambassadors of an iconic brand. Cabin crew also have access to the latest training programmes and LinkedIn courses.

Ane Monego Castagna from Italy, who joined May 2023 said: "Sometimes you've got to chase your dreams, other times the dream chases you. In April last year, I received the 'golden call' that changed my life. During training, I was amazed by the knowledge and skills imparted to us and what it took to become an Emirates cabin crew. The opportunity to make friends for life, be super confident and to fly with the airline is priceless. Thanks to Emirates, the life I live today is better than anything I have ever dreamed of!"

Robyn Clark from the UK, who joined in February 2023 said: "Working for Emirates is a job like no other. From the day I got the call to boarding every flight, I feel so proud of what I've accomplished. Putting on the iconic Emirates uniform every morning is a feeling I can't explain - this really is a dream come true. I will always be grateful to Emirates for the memories I've made, the amazing experiences I've had travelling the world, and being able to come back from my journeys to Dubai - one of the safest and most vibrant cities globally - that I now call home."

Emirates' multicultural cabin crew team hail from more than 140 nationalities and speak a staggering 130 languages - which is why customers can always expect to converse with a warm, friendly voice in their own language. Crew form lifelong friendships and close-knit bonds within the community, fostering better teamwork, a common sense of purpose and a shared service philosophy.

Cabin crew experience excellent career progression, including upgrading to higher cabin classes, and becoming a cabin supervisor, purser or trainer. Today, the airline has 1,180 pursers who have climbed the career ladder after successfully completing exacting training and assessments. Crew also have the opportunity to apply for internal vacancies throughout the Emirates Group.

Agencies

Davos WEF: India is in a sweet economic spot as compared to other countries

INDIA is in a sweet spot in terms of economy when compared with other countries globally, Nadir Godrej, the CMD of Godrej Industries said in an exclusive conversation with Business Today TV's Managing Editor, Siddharth Zarabi at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

He said while the rest of the countries have experienced shocks during pandemic, India has survived it reasonably well. "China seems to be suffering from a lot of problems. Some of them seem to be associated with the very autocratic kind of rule that we now see in China. There seems to be less feedback mechanisms and China has slowed down, and that itself has given us an opportunity," he said while comparing India with China.

On global inflation's effect in India, Godrej said, "Many people expected that global inflation shock is moderating, but there are no clear signs of it as of yet in the latest numbers from the US are not all that promising. It's still possible. Many people expect US interest rates to fall. I think the Reserve Bank will be even more careful. Indian inflation has stabilised, but it's not really coming down. And surprisingly, the rupee has been very steady at around 83 and I sincerely hope that the rupee will stay that way."

He cheekily pointed out that several people in India appreciate the weak rupee without knowing that it is the major cause behind rising inflation.

In Real Estate

On the real estate scenario in India, he said, "The real estate cycle seems to be going on very well. It's partly due to the

very good Indian economic growth. The growth is a little bit more on the higher level side. That's why the premiumisation at the same time, will continue, at least for some time and at the same time after the pandemic, back to the office movement seems to be quite strong in India, so office space is also in demand. It is possible that there will be more hybrid working, more flexi working. But most companies seem to want people to come back to work, so that will help the office space market."

He further hoped that the low cost housing segment would pick up soon. "And maybe when the premium market levels of the low cost market will take a look up. And we as real estate developers, developers must look at all markets. Of course, the premium market is remunerative, but we must strive to do better," Godrej said.

Godrej said that land rates are certainly going to increase unless FSIs rise due to shortage of urban land in India. "FSIs are definitely an issue in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR as it is much more restrictive. Other cities can expand geographically, but then often they have very bad traffic problems," he added.

Interest Rates
On the interest rates, Godrej mentioned that, "I think real interest rates are very reasonable in India, and they shouldn't be extremely low there. About 2 to 3% and the RBI will track it. I won't be in a hurry if inflation falls rapidly and the RBI is a little slower. Real interest rates may go up slightly, but it's better than the RBI playing it safe. We should look for low interest rates only when inflation comes down. And we shouldn't obsess about nominal interest rates."

On elections in 2024 affecting broader economic trends, Godrej said elections can spring surprises and there is a global trend of less liberal democracy which is seen in several countries. "And if any country loses its democracy, or its democracy becomes an electoral autocracy rather than a true democracy where opposition and ruling party can come to a consensus. This is a big danger for the world, and we don't know what consequences it will have. And if it leads to any wars with massive geopolitical problems, then of course we will see a slowdown. And if it leads to a nuclear war, things are going to be bad. Also, if it means that we take less action on climate change, that could be a problem for the whole world," he added.

Enhanced shipping capability contributes to China's auto exports

CHINA'S auto exports hit 4.91 million units in 2023, according to statistics released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

From surpassing 1 million units in 2012 to exceeding 2 million in 2021 and 3 million in 2022, China's auto exports rocketed past 4 million units in just the first 11 months of 2023. This rapid growth reflects the increasing globalization of the Chinese auto industry. It is also inextricably linked to China's improved logistics capabilities.

Ocean shipping, China-Europe freight train service, and road transportation are the common methods of exporting automobiles, with ocean shipping being the most popular. The Taicang port in east China's Jiangsu prov-

ince is exactly a good example.

Located on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, 60 kilometers away from the estuary, the Taicang port was bustling. Semi-trailers from all directions lined up at the entrance of the port, loaded with various brands of vehicles.

Next to the berth of a vessel of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited at the Taicang International Container Terminal, a 40-meter-high gantry crane was loading containers onto the vessel's cargo hold. This vessel was about to set sail for Europe a day later.

Hao Yong, the on-site supervisor for vehicle shipping at the terminal, said that about 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles were shipped monthly from the terminal last year, with

the peak reaching nearly 30,000 units in December.

The roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) auto terminal Haitong Taicang Terminal features higher efficiency. The currently operational storage yard at the terminal, which houses 20,000 standard parking spaces, is still not enough to meet the rapidly growing business volume.

"The yard will be full again just a few days after a batch of cars is shipped," said Wang Haibo, the manager on duty of the control center of the logistics company that runs the terminal.

According to him, the terminal is still under construction, with an investment of over 2 billion yuan (\$281.16 million). Once fully operational, it will have an annual throughput capacity of 1.3 million

vehicles, Wang added.

The "tight parking space" at the storage yard reflects the bustling activity at the port. According to statistics from the customs of Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, 397,300 vehicles were exported from the Taicang port in the first 11 months of 2023, up 157 percent year on year.

The surge in auto exports has also led to rising demand for RoRo vessels. Improving efficiency through digital and intelligent upgrading, shipbuilders are working in full capacity to meet this demand. In the first half of 2023, China Merchants Jinling Shipyard delivered 21 RoRo vessels, and the company's order book is full with deliveries scheduled all the way until 2027.

New energy vehicles hold a prominent position in China's auto exports. In 2023, China exported 1.203 million units of new energy vehicles, marking a remarkable 77.6 percent year-on-year growth.

It is learned that new energy vehicles must maintain a battery charge level between 20 percent and 50 percent during long-haul transportation. Therefore, there must be charging facilities on board. Additionally, specialized fire prevention systems, fire detection equipment, and fire-resistant materials are required to mitigate risks such as battery leakage, short circuits, and fires.

At a terminal of the Taicang port, a vessel of COSCO Shipping Specialized Carriers Co., Ltd. departed for South America, car-

rying 2,797 new energy vehicles. Inside the cargo hold, each vehicle was monitored by an infrared temperature imaging device. Once the temperature exceeded a certain threshold, the sprinkler system would be activated to ensure the safety of transportation.

An executive from COSCO Shipping Specialized Carriers Co., Ltd. said that, in response to the requirements for transporting new energy vehicles, the company has collaborated with designing institutes and shipyards to enhance the structural strength of cargo holds.

"Currently, we have over 30 multi-purpose vessels capable of transporting new energy vehicles," the executive noted.

Meanwhile, the shipping indus-

try is expediting its transition towards a green and low-carbon approach. It is reported that COSCO Shipping Specialized Carriers Co., Ltd. has ordered 24 large dual-fuel liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicle carriers. China Merchants Jinling Shipyard, on the other hand, has equipped its RoRo vessels with LNG tanks and hybrid battery technology to reduce the emission of toxic gases.

According to estimates, compared to traditional fuel-powered container ships, these dual-fuel ultra-large container ships can lower carbon emissions by 20 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 85 percent, and sulfur emissions by 99 percent, significantly reducing environmental pollution.

People's Daily

Deadline day transfers bring dynamism to Benchikha

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's transfer during this season's mini-registration window deadline has brought a lot of depth to the outfit's attacking options.

With the Msimbazi Street outfit having introduced Pa Omar Jobe and Michael Kouablan, the squad's attacking pattern is definitely about to change.

The side looks to have answered head coach Abdelhak Benchikha's calls by signing two prolific strikers backed by the ballers' statistical data that substantiate their prowess.

Both Jobe and Kouablan have penned a two-year deal with the Msimbazi Street squad, which is in dire need of a prolific forward.

The Algerian gaffer revealed to the media after his club had lost to Mlandege FC in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final: "In the first half, we played very well but, after conceding the goal in the second half, automatically the team sat behind."

Benchikha, as a result, missed the opportunity to win his first silverware while at the helm of Simba SC's technical bench.

"It was difficult for us. We do not have strong forwards, Simba SC needs strong forwards for the CAF Champions League," the Algerian tactician, who pushed Simba SC leaders to quickly find elite strikers, said.

Acquisition of Ivorian striker Kouablan from Zambia's MTN Super League side Green Eagles, the goal-getter was leading the top flight's goalscoring chart with 14 strikes in 17 games.

Kouablan joined Green Eagles, nicknamed 'Kawale Boys', from Angolan side Desportivo da Huila at the start of the 2023/24 season.

He is now expected to battle for a starting place in Simba SC with the likes of Jobe, John Bocco, Said



Simba SC's head coach, Algerian Abdelhak Benchikha.

Ntibazokinza, Kibu Denis, and others.

Jobe, aged 25, boasts an impressive football career, having played for esteemed teams such as Gambia's Real De Banjul FC, Senegal's ASEC Ndiambour, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmond in Bangladesh, and FC Shkendija of North Macedonia.

He moreover played for Struga of North Macedonia, FC Neman Grodno in Belarus, and Zhenis in Kazakhstan, before moving to Simba SC in Tanzania.

Jobe has scored 41 goals and executed 10 assists in 73 games according to Germany-based Transfermarkt, a network offering footballing information, statistics and transfer news.

With successful dead-

line acquisition, Simba SC fans shall see either experienced two strikers on the pitch, or one prominent goal scorer who is expected to become Benchikha's talisman in various formation and structural set-ups.

Benchikha opted to line up with two ballers operating in number nine, with one playing on the flanks, when the gaffer was taking charge of USM Alger.

With both Jobe and Kouablan being dynamic and able to cut in from the flanks in both 4-4-2 diamond formation and 4-3-3 formation to 4-2-3-1, the Algerian gaffer will have a chance to utilize them on the pitch.

Simba SC's left-wing currently looks to be occupied by Cameroonian Willy Onana- he has turned out

to be Benchikha's trusted player due to his ability to take on defenders in one against one situation.

The winger can moreover hold on to the ball in link-up plays- a move that engages his teammates.

The right wing is open for The Gambian and Ivorian Kouablan with both Denis and Lusi Miquissoine yet to please the gaffer.

Should Benchikha opt for the right wing to utilize his two strikers, Simba SC stands to get a variety of bench options to impact the game, an area the outfit struggled in the last two seasons given fringe players were not as impactful as they should have been.

This also eliminates the imbalances of playing either Clatous Chama or Ntibazonkiza on the flanks.

It adds more battle for the two players to impress the coach in the attacking midfield area, which is commonly known as a number 10.

Winger Luis Miquissoine is dynamic- the baller can competently play on either the left or right flank, and Denis can do the former's work too- this adds more threat going forward as the squad will have a variety of attacking options.

The central midfield area is now complete, given that Senegalese Babacar Sarr is set to move to the defensive midfielder role while Congolese Fabrice Ngoma is set to move into offensive midfield. Sadio Kanoute and Mzamiru Yassin stand to deputize the midfielder.

The defensive area is now full of competition following a stellar game showcased by Hussein Kazi during the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup.

Kazi is set to rotate with fellow central defenders- Henock Inonga and Che Malone Fondoh- while Kennedy Juma remains impressive coming off the bench.

Simba SC's goalkeeper spot is up for grabs, Aishi Manula's performance while serving Taifa Stars in the 2023 AFCON is expected to have an impact on Moroccan Ayub Lakred's position, as is the case with the outfit's young keeper, Tanzanian Ally Salim.



Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche. AGENCIES

Taifa Stars coach now admits his tactical plan against Morocco failed

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team "Taifa Stars" head coach Adel Amrouche has admitted his tactical plan failed as the team was handily beaten 3-0 by Morocco in their 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations opener at the Laurent Pokou Stadium in San Pedro, Ivory Coast.

The Belgo-Algerian coach also admitted during the post-match interview that the quality of their opponents played a big part in the last results.

Amrouche's approach quickly unraveled as goals from Selim Amallah, Azzedine Ounahi, and Badr Benoun sealed a comfortable Group F victory for the Atlas Lions.

According to CAF Media, the gaffer said: "Our gameplan failed. We did not expect this scenario but I congratulate Morocco for their performance and result."

The Algerian conceded the gulf in class was evident in Cote d'Ivoire on Wednesday.

"The quality of Morocco's players made the difference and they deserved to win," Amrouche admitted. Amrouche said injuries before the game also hampered Tanzania's hopes according to their coach.

"We wanted a good result but I also had a lot of injuries which did not help us. We then made individual mistakes," explained Amrouche.

But the former Kenya manager says Taifa Stars can still advance from Group F.

"I'm trying to stay optimistic. We will correct our errors from this game and focus on the upcoming matches," Amrouche said. "It won't be easy but we still have a chance," the coach revealed.

Tanzania next faces 2012 TotalEnergies CAF AFCON winners Zambia on January 21 in a pivotal group encounter.

After this sobering defeat, Amrouche must quickly lift his side to achieve the "miracle" of progression he targeted pre-tournament.

Meanwhile, Zambia coach Avram Grant insisted his focus has swiftly turned to responding against Tanzania after Wednesday's 1-1 TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations draw with DR Congo.

The Chipolopolo surrendered the lead in Douala as DR Congo's Yoane Wissa canceled out Kings Kangwa's opener.

But Grant is wasting no time dwelling on the result and is already plotting victory in Zambia's next Group F outing.

"Every game is different and the next one will be different from this one," Grant told reporters post-match.

"We will surely put in place another tactic to seek victory against Tanzania."

The Israeli manager conceded DR Congo deserved a share of the spoils after fighting back before half-time.

"It was a difficult match for both teams but DR Congo were much better than us," admitted Grant.

"We moved the ball well but it was difficult for our attackers against big, strong defenders."

After a credible draw with one of the tournament favourites, Grant's pragmatic Zambia now targets three points against Tanzania on Sunday.

On the evidence of this resilient display, the 2012 AFCON winners have the tools to progress from the group stage.



Dar es Salaam's Kibasila Secondary School students, Shuagod Julius (L), and Hassan Karim are pictured playing basketball at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts in the city last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba SC confirms shock exits of two forwards

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE NBC Premier League giant, Simba SC, has confirmed the departure of the outfit's reliable forwards- Zambian Moses Phiri and Congolese Jean Baleke.

Simba SC took to social media mid-week to confirm the development. Phiri joined the Msimbazi Street outfit in June 2022 while Baleke joined the outfit in January 2023.

The club has expressed regard to both forwards for their time and wished them luck in their future endeavours.

"It was a great time to have you in our team and now we say thank you very much. All the best in your new life outside Simba SC," the side posted farewell posts for the players on

its social media accounts.

Both players leave the club having helped the side win only one trophy- this season's Community Shield mini tournament's top honour the outfit won with a victory over Yanga at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Phiri hit the ground running for Simba SC before suffering an injury in December 2022 and, since then, failed to fully return to his previous form hence finding game time hard to come by. The goal-getter mostly secured cameo appearances from the bench.

In his first four months at Simba SC, Phiri managed to score 10 goals in 17 league games and was the second leading goal scorer in the league- only being surpassed by Congolese Piston Mayele, who was turning out for

Yanga and had netted 14 goals.

Phiri also managed to score five goals in this season's CAF Champions League- helping Simba SC book a place in the Group Stage.

It is not clear yet if the former Buildcon FC captain will either return to Zambia's MTN Super League or continue his adventure outside the country.

The Guardian though understands he is on the verge of joining the MTN Super League's other club, Power Dynamos.

Before his move to Simba SC, Phiri scored 14 goals in the Zambian Premier League while turning out for Zanaco FC in 2021/22, the goal-getter was trailing Ricky Banda who netted 16 goals.

Phiri won the 2020/21 FAZ Super Division

Golden Boot with 17 goals- helping Zanaco FC qualify for continental football.

As for Baleke, he is reportedly making his way back to his parent club TP Mazembe, before searching for another team to finish the second half of the season.

Baleke's exit has shocked most Simba SC lovers as he leaves the club as a top goal scorer with eight goals from nine games this season.

He has overall played six months of each season at the club since his arrival during last season's mini-transfer window.

Last season he scored the same number of goals from nine matches, he has played 18 games in the NBC Premier League, scoring 16 goals with 69 minutes per goal, one assist,

and 17 goal contributions.

This season he has played six games in the CAF Champions League without scoring a goal from the Second Preliminary Round (two games).

Baleke thereafter honoured four matches in the Group Stage, with his side battling it out in the showdown's Group B.

Last season he scored four goals in the CAF Champions League, scoring three in the Group Stage and later notching one in the quarterfinals' tie against Morocco's Wydad Casablanca.

It is understood that Beleke did not suit Simba SC's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha's style of play- leading to his exit.



Sir Jim Ratcliffe is coming in as minority owner at Manchester United. Agencies

Controversial Qatari bid for Manchester United failed to provide financial guarantees

By Miguel Delaney

THE controversial Qatari bid to buy Manchester United failed to provide proof of funds throughout the drawn-out sales process and never had a bid that was above \$5bn.

The facts, laid out in the United States Securities and Exchange Commission filing released on Wednesday, raise questions about the nature of the offer as well as much of the public relations around it.

The process is close to conclusion with Sir Jim Ratcliffe buying a minority stake, although the filing makes clear he had four proposals rejected as he attempted ways to purchase a majority. The British billionaire eventually settled on his current successful structure in July 2023.

Raine, the group managing the bids, were paid \$31.5m by the club and were contacted by over 170 potential bidders. Only 26 of those entered into non-disclosure agreements, with eight eventually making it through to the second round, and that finally narrowed down to two.

Although there had long been briefings and leaks that the Sheikh Jassim-fronted bid was on the brink of victory - with that reaching a peak in June 2023 - it has now become apparent that they were never even close to an offer that would have been acceptable. The final bid would not have been legally acceptable.

With "Bidder A" the Sheikh Jassim bid, the filing states: "At the direction of the board representatives, Raine indicated to Bidder A that it needed to provide details of its intended financing sources in connection with its acquisition proposal and that its acquisition proposal did not provide the shareholders with sufficient value..."

Bidder A's proposal contemplated the acquisition of all Ordinary Shares at a price of \$25.00 per Ordinary Share and the proposal did not include customary financing commitment letters. "According to those with knowledge of the process, the acceptance of any bid which offered different numbers for A and B shares would have led to the suitor and the club being immediately sued."

The filings nevertheless make clear how difficult the Glazers were to deal with, as they were unwilling to accept full sale of their B shares and insisted on parity of price between A and B shares.

"Representatives of Manchester United continued to inform Bidder A that the Board of Directors was not prepared to move forward with a transaction whereby the holders of Class A Shares received less per share consideration than the holders of Class B Shares and that the Board of Directors would require sufficient evidence of the financing and customary financing commitment papers."

It is from that perspective that Ratcliffe's negotiation of sporting control, two board seats and a route to full ownership is seen as a significant success.

Of the 26 parties who signed non-disclosure agreements, 10 expressed initial and formal interest, seven proposed minority investment. As late as May 2023, suitors were informed that the "primary focus was currently on negotiating a full sale of Manchester United".

There have long been suggestions that the Glazers were split on this, and that Avram and Joel Glazer were insistent on staying on in some capacity.

THE INDEPENDENT

Much-fancied Morocco enjoy strong start at AFCON

ABIDJAN

SOCCER 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco cruised to a 3-0 win over 10-man Tanzania as they opened their Africa Cup of Nations campaign on Wednesday, while 2012 champions Zambia held the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Captain Romain Saïss, Azzedine Ounahi and Youssef En-Nesyri all netted for Morocco in the Ivorian coastal city of San-Pedro, while Tanzania had Novatus Miroshi sent off.

Although an African powerhouse for decades, Morocco are seeking only a second Cup of Nations title, 48 years after lifting the trophy in Ethiopia.

Morocco sprang to international prominence just over a year ago in Qatar when they became the first ever African World Cup semi-finalists, eliminating Spain and Portugal along the way.

Wednesday's victory over Group F outsiders Tanzania was anticipated as Morocco are ranked 13th in the world, 108 places above the Taifa Stars.

Morocco began with seven of the team that started in the 2-0 World Cup semi-final loss to France in Qatar.

There were three La Liga players, two each from the Premier League and Ligue 1 and two with Saudi Pro League sides.

This contrasted sharply with Tanzania, whose line-up included Tarryn Allarakhia from Eng-



Morocco's Youssef En-Nesyri (19) heads the ball goalwards during his side's 3-0 win over Tanzania. (AP PHOTO)

lish fifth-tier outfit Wealdstone.

The winger struggled in sweltering conditions and was replaced after 38 minutes, by which time Morocco were already ahead.

Hakim Ziyech, on loan to Galatasaray from Chelsea, lifted a free-kick over the defensive wall and when goalkeeper Aisha Manula failed to grasp it, Saïss converted the loose ball.

Tanzanian hopes of finding an equaliser suffered a huge blow with 20 minutes remaining when Miroshi fouled Ounahi and was sent off for a second

booking.

"On a mission"

Ounahi rounded off a fine move to make it 2-0 on 77 minutes, and the scoring was complete shortly after when En-Nesyri converted a low cross for a goal that was confirmed as on-side following a VAR check.

"We're focused, we're on a mission here, and we have a status to live up to," admitted Morocco coach Walid Regragui.

"People are waiting for us to deliver, but we are keeping our feet on the ground and we respected Tanzania in this game."

The spoils were shared in the second match of the day later on in the same group, played at the same stadium named after deceased Ivorian star Laurent Pokou. Kings Kangwa lobbed Zambia into the lead midway through the first half after Congolese goalkeeper Lionel Mpsi came racing out of his area and could not get back into position in time.

But Yoane Wissa, who has four goals in the English Premier League this season for Brentford, converted Cedric Bakambu's low centre to make it 1-1 be-

fore the half-hour mark, and that was how it finished.

Congo thought they had won a penalty just after the hour mark when the Ethiopian referee ruled that Tandi Mwape had blocked Arthur Masuaku's cross with his arm.

However, the decision was correctly overturned following a review, with the official able to see that Mwape had made the block with his chest.

Zambia, coached by Avram Grant, were making their comeback after missing the last three editions of the AFCON and were looking for their first win at the tournament since lifting the trophy against the odds in 2012.

The next games in Group F are on Sunday, with Morocco meeting the Congolese before Zambia take on Tanzania.

All teams at the Cup of Nations have now played once, and the action was to continue later yesterday with a triple-header of matches in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's economic capital.

Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau were to meet at the Ebimpe Olympic Stadium at 1400 GMT before Group A rivals Nigeria and hosts Ivory Coast face off in a heavyweight clash.

That was to be followed later by the Group B clash at the Felix Houphouët Boigny Stadium between Mohamed Salah's Egypt, the record seven-time African champions, and a Ghana side reeling after losing their opening match to Cape Verde.

AFP



Morocco coach Walid Regragui

Coach Regragui satisfied after Morocco navigate tricky opener

ABIDJAN

MOROCCO coach Walid Regragui expressed satisfaction after his side kicked off their TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations campaign with a composed 3-0 win over Tanzania.

"First matches are always difficult, and the humidity made this one tough, but we respected Tanzania," said Regragui after Wednesday's Group F clash.

"The team's spirit was very good and we got an important win."

The Atlas Lions boss felt Morocco executed their gameplan well against tricky opponents.

"We wanted to score early and had chances, but the goal finally came from a set piece. Once we scored, that was the hard part done," analysed Regragui.

He added: "At times in the second half we accepted not having the ball and managed the game like a great team."

Regragui also believes Morocco benefitted from playing after other teams at the tournament.

"Seeing their first matches allowed us to avoid the same mistakes. We noticed many sides declined physically in the second half, so we prepared to stay fresh,"

he explained. The Moroccans now face DR Congo on January 21st in their second group game.

After a composed start, Regragui will hope his talented side can maintain intensity.

With stars like Achraf Hakimi and Sofyan Amrabat emerging unscathed, Morocco already appear well-placed to progress in Cote d'Ivoire

Meanwhile, Morocco midfielder Azzedine Ounahi emphasised the significance of their 3-0 opening TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations victory over Tanzania after being named player of the match on Wednesday.

Ounahi, who scored Morocco's second goal, was delighted with both his own performance and the team's strong start to Group F.

"It was important to begin well and that's what we did - we have the three points and I'm happy with my personal display and that of the team," the 22-year-old said post-match.

The Marseille midfielder believes the Atlas Lions have built a formidable squad capable of going deep into the tournament.

"We have a great team and we are working hard to keep morale high. I think we are ready to go

as far as possible," Ounahi added confidently.

After recent injury issues at club level, Ounahi was pleased to show he is returning to top form in Cote d'Ivoire.

"I wasn't 100% with my club in recent weeks with a back injury. But today I'm happy and it's up to me to keep focused and keep working to get back to my best level," he said.

Ounahi is already looking ahead to Morocco's next clash with DR Congo as they aim to build momentum and finish top of Group F. "The coach and fitness coach are making a big effort so we stay fit in the hot, humid conditions," explained Ounahi.

CAF MEDIA

Hosts Qatar into Asian Cup last 16 but China made to sweat

DOHA

HOSTS and defending champions Qatar on Wednesday were the first team to reach the Asian Cup knockout rounds, but China will need to fight it out to join them after successive 0-0 draws.

Qatar were left red-faced after losing all three games at their home World Cup in 2022, the worst performance of any host in the competition's history.

They then axed Carlos Queiroz early last month and replaced the former Real Madrid coach with Tintin Marquez in a last-minute gamble.

It has paid off so far with Qatar following up their 3-0 win over Lebanon with a 1-0 victory over Asian Cup newcomers Tajikistan in front of 55,000 at the tent-like Al Bayt Stadium.

Livewire forward Akram Afif, who scored twice in the opening game of the tournament, hit what turned out to be the winner with another clinical finish.

The forward raced onto a through ball from Almoez Ali in the 17th minute before stabbing it deftly past Tajikistan's goalkeeper Rustam Yatimov.

"Almoez is one of my best friends and we understand each other very well," Afif

said of his partnership with Ali, who scored a record nine goals as Qatar won the title for the first time in 2019.

"We have been playing together for a long time so we understand what each other is going to do just with a look. We hope the best is still yet to come."

Tajikistan finished with 10 men after Amadoni Kamolov was sent off for kicking out at Ahmed Al-Ganehi's face late in the game, the first dismissal of the competition.

Qatar's victory put them through as Group A winners with a game to spare, but who progresses with them will go right down to the wire. In the final round of matches in the group on Monday, Qatar play China while Tajikistan face Lebanon. Despite two listless 0-0 draws China are in pole position to go through with the hosts.

China have two points, with Tajikistan and Lebanon each on one. Only the top two are sure to reach the knockouts.

China may benefit if the hosts decide to rest players, as coach Aleksandar Jankovic looks to avoid the ignominy of going out at the group phase.

After a goalless draw with Tajikistan to start their campaign, China

again failed to fire with a 0-0 stalemate against Lebanon on Wednesday.

Lower-ranked Lebanon twice struck China's crossbar while the Chinese had an effort cleared off the line in an entertaining encounter.

But it was ultimately another anti-climax for Chinese football, which is reeling from a graft scandal at home.

"At the end we did not win but we showed good mentality, excellent attitude and big fight," said the under-pressure Serbian Jankovic. "The road is still long and the target is the same -- to play in the knockout stage."

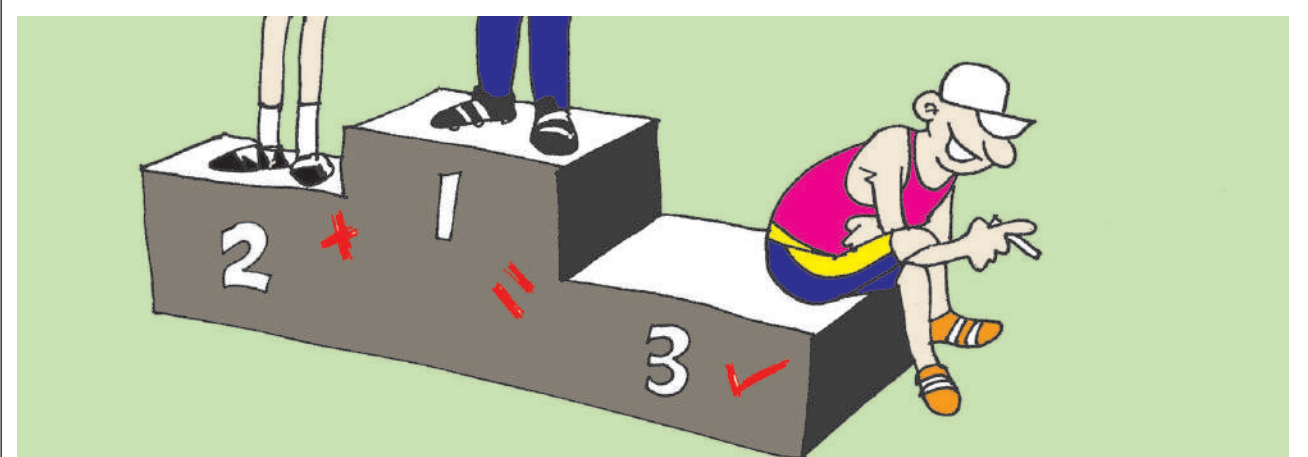
Like Jankovic, opposite number Miodrag Radulovic felt his Lebanon team had done enough to win the game, but was content to an "important" point.

"We didn't score but I am satisfied because we are still in the tournament going into the last match," he said. "Just finishing -- if we improve this, we will win the game."

There are three matches on Thursday, starting with Syria against Australia, one of the title contenders.

India play Uzbekistan in the same group before Palestine face the United Arab Emirates in the last match of the day. AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Much-fancied Morocco
enjoy strong start at
AFCON

PAGE 19

Amrouche laments Dismas' red card in Taifa Stars 2023 AFCON defeat



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, dribbles past Morocco's player as the squads locked horns in a Group F encounter of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations that was held in Ivory Coast two days ago. Morocco hammered Taifa Stars 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

TANZANIA kicked off the team's 2023 Africa Cup of Nations tournament campaign with a 3-0 humbling defeat to Morocco in Ivory Coast on Wednesday evening.

In a tough Group F game, Tanzania's players found themselves chasing the game after the half-hour mark.

Roman Saiss was in the right place at the right time to slot home inside the area after the goalkeeper Aishi Manula fumbled Hakim Zi-

yeche's speculative free kick.

Ziyech then almost found himself on the scoresheet but Haji Mnoga was a match for his fierce effort towards the bottom corner.

Youssef En-Nesyri was twice guilty of missing chances as Tanzania held on for a respectful one-goal deficit at the break, and was on hand

again soon after the restart to mistime a shot to let his opponents off the hook.

All faint hopes for Tanzania were extinguished with 20 minutes to go when Novatus Dismas was shown a second yellow card for another late challenge, reducing Taifa Stars to 10 men.

A quickfire double then

put the game to bed. Azzedine Ounahi first exchanged a neat one-two on the edge of the area before firing home, and then setting up En-Nesyri to finally get his goal and tournament up and running.

Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche discussed Novatus' red card and several other players' bookings in his press

conference. The Algerian felt it made things very difficult for his side. "It was tough for us today. That red card, like I said before, sometimes we play football but there are some things we can't control. If you see that red card, I think Novatus never imagined it," Amrouche said.

The Belgo-Algerian coach pointed out: "We are going to correct our mistakes for the next game and I hope we are going to progress."

"It is two tough games. Zambia and DR Congo are strong teams. We know Zambia and they also know our players."

"We are going to work hard to correct today's mistakes and don't forget we have the youngest team in the tournament. This is a good experience for them," Amrouche noted.

The coach explained: "When you play against Morocco, World Cup semi-finalists it is difficult to compare the quality of the players they have and what we have."

"We have the youngest team in the tournament. This is the future for Tanzanian football and, for that, we must rally behind these players. I am sure they are going to make fans happy in the future," the coach revealed.



Simba SC's new midfielder, Edwin Balua. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

Simba SC completes transfers, sets sight on 2023/24 CAF CL and NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC has made a strategic move by signing 23-year-old midfielder Edwin Balua from Tanzania Prisons on a three-year contract.

Balua, known for his left-footed prowess and versatility, can play effectively on both wings and in central midfield.

His talent and age were key factors that attracted Simba SC to bring him to Dar es Salaam from his previous side's base, Mbeya.

Balua's impressive performance went as far as earning him a spot in Mainland Tanzania's Kilimanjaro Stars squad that played against Zanzibar Heroes in a friendly that took place at the New Amaan Complex in the Isles in December.

Balua joins five other players signed during the January transfer window, namely Saleh Karabaka, Babacar Sarr, Ladack Chasambi, Pa Omar Jobe, and Freddy Michael Kouablan.

This influx of fresh talent demonstrates Simba SC's commitment to strengthening its squad for upcoming challenges.

However, the club also announced the departure of several players, some of whom are attackers Jean Baleke, Shabani Iddi, and Moses Phiri.

Midfielders Jimmyson Mwanuke, Mohamed Mussa, and Nassor Kapama will equally not be part of the squad for the remainder of the season.

Baleke, the club's recent leading goal scorer, has returned to his former club- TP Mazembe of DR Congo.

Simba SC said in its statement that it acknowledges and appreciates the Congolese forward's contributions, wishing him well in his future endeavours.

The statement moreover pointed out that Phiri, who was once a first-choice player before sustaining a prolonged injury, is joining Power Dynamos of Zambia on loan until the end of the season.

The club said it believes this move will allow him to regain his form and return even stronger.

Simba SC also announced loan moves for Nassor Kapama and Jimmyson Mwanuke to Mtibwa Sugar, and Shabani Chilunda to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Simba SC, through the squad's social media accounts, expressed appreciation for the contributions of these players and acknowledged them as integral members of the red and white family.

Following a 10-day break after participation in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, the Simba SC squad is expected to return to training early next week.

The squad's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha will have about a month to prepare his team for the upcoming CAF Champions League Group B ties.

The side will further shape up for this season's NBC Premier League, and the Azam Sports Federation Cup, with the inclusion of the new signings.

Taifa Stars maintain hope for 2023 AFCON knockout stage

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

DESPITE Tanzania's national football team 'Taifa Stars' having a poor start to the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations by losing to Morocco 3-0, the former has a chance to do well in the tournament taking place in Ivory Coast.

Taifa Stars started the match, which was played at the Laurent Pokou Stadium in San Pedro, with a plan to defend more, following their squad being made up of a large number of players with defensive qualities, while the responsibility of attacking fell to Mbwana Samatta, Charles M'Mombwa, and Tarryn Allarakhia.

Despite Stars entering with a plan to defend while appearing to attack by surprise, they found themselves conceding the first goal in the 30th minute after Aishi Manula fumbled a Hakim Ziyech free-kick and Romain Saiss made the most of the rebound to finish it off.

Morocco appeared to have a large majority of possession, to the extent that Taifa Stars coach Adel Amrouche made a change by taking off Tarryn, who was struggling, and in his place, Simon Msuva- who was responsible for attacking from the wing- came on.

Stars found themselves in even more trouble in the second half, especially after being reduced to ten men after Novatus Dismas was shown a second yellow card, followed by a red card, in the 70th minute.

Seven minutes later, Morocco scored their second goal through Azzedine Ounahi and then scored their third in the 80th minute through Youssef En-Nesyri.



Tanzania's senior national football team players are pictured training in Ivory Coast last weekend to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13-February 11, 2024. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Despite Taifa Stars making several changes, including bringing on Morice Abraham and Feisal Salum while Mudathiri Yahya and Samatta came off, it was still not enough to avoid the defeat.

Despite the result, Taifa Stars' central

defender, Hamad, is one of the players who appeared to show good form. His discipline in defending was great and he appeared to be calm.

After any football match, the coaching staff has the opportunity to assess and

strategize for upcoming games.

Taifa Stars will face Zambia and DR Congo in the remaining fixture of Group F.

The coach and technical bench must analyze how they can approach and prepare for the subsequent matches.

Taifa Stars need to forget the result of this match and instead focus on their two remaining matches in the group stage, which are against Zambia on January 21 and DR Congo on January 24, to make history by reaching the knockout stage.

Another Group F clash between Zambia and Congo concluded with a 1-1 draw. Kings Kangwa scored for Zambia in the 22nd minute, followed by Yoane Wisa's equalizing goal for DR Congo in the 27th minute.

As a result, Morocco currently tops Group F with 3 points, while DR Congo and Zambia both have 1 point each. Taifa Stars occupies the bottom spot in Group F.

As Taifa Stars face Zambia, Morocco is scheduled to face DR Congo on January 21 in the Laurent Pokou stadium held in San Pedro.

The upcoming match will be a significant event in Group F. The fate of group F hangs in the balance, awaiting the verdict of these matches.

In the inaugural game for the Taifa Stars, several players showcased an impressive performance.

Notable contributors include Abraham, M'Mombwa, and Ibrahim Hamad, who displayed a commendable level of skill and determination on the pitch.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR EMAILS OFTEN. I FIRED YOU THREE WEEKS AGO

