



**Parliament committee lauds president Samia investment endeavours**

**Behavioural change vital for attaining cashless economy**

**PMB tool for qualifying track records in IMF programmes reviewed**

**Three die of cholera, 4 hospitalised in Singida**

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**AN** aerial view of a section of the completed Dar es Salaam-Morogoro stretch of the Standard Gauge Railway, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



## World Bank offers SGR, central line credit cover

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE World Bank has expressed interest in issuing loans for the construction of the ongoing standard gauge railway project and renovation of the traditional central line or metre-gauge railway (SGR), due to the sector's importance to the country's development.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director, made the pledge in a liaison meeting with Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Works minister Innocent Bashungwa and Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Affirming that the bank is a major stakeholder in the country's development, underlining that the bank sees it as vital to participate in the two railway projects, as the country's biggest priority at the moment is SGR construction.

A World Bank team of experts and top project officials are meeting to process the needs of the projects so that the bank can provide funds to that effect,

he said.

This will enable the country to fulfil its goals of completing the vital railways infrastructure, he said, affirming that SGR completion and improvement of the traditional line will stimulate the economy by calibrated transportation of passengers and goods.

Govt team leader Dr Nchemba thanked the World Bank for its willingness to support SGR construction and rehabilitation of the central railway line.

The meeting also discussed ways of obtaining emergency funds for improving road networks extensively damaged by the rains, along with pushing forward the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) project.

Treasury permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, deputy permanent secretary Amina Khamis Shaaban, PO-RALG deputy permanent secretary for infrastructure Rogatus Mativila, top officials of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) and DART were also in attendance.

## Traffic police getting set for digital vehicle inspections

STORY ON PAGE 2

## VP: Solve Handeni fruit market hurdle

By Guardian Reporter

**V**ICE President Dr Phillip Mpango has directed the ministry of Industry and Trade to work with regional authorities to address market challenges facing fruit producers in Tanga.

Addressing residents of Kabuku township in Handeni District, Tanga Region during his working tour of the region, he directed authorities to determine the quantity of fruits produced in the area annually.

He directed the deputy minister to liaise with large scale fruit

processing industries (noticeably Bakhresa and Jambo Products) to find ways of using fruits produced in the area.

Appealing to the residents to intensify efforts in environmental protection to reduce climate change challenges, he said excessive temperature and rainfall due to climate change had led to extensive damage of infrastructure and the outbreak of diseases.

He said it is important for Tanzanians to realise that environmental conservation is everyone's responsibility, thus the

need to stop careless cutting of trees, burning forests and take up planting trees as a habit.

Kabuku residents need to ensure that they focus on education for children in order to have an educated generation for their own benefit and the nation at large, he said.

Water minister Jumaa Aweso said that 25bn/- has been disbursed for a water project for Segera and Kabuku townships to end water woes facing the two areas.

The project is likely to take all of this year to finish and the

contractor is already on site, he said, urging the contractor to expedite the work.

Any bottlenecks can be solved by ensuring a good working relationship with local government officials as construction work proceeds, he said.

Deogratius Ndejemi, the Regional Administration and Local Governments deputy minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) said the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has received 30bn/- to address various road infrastructure challenges countrywide.

The Sindeni - Kwedikazo road, 37.7 kilometers long is the key project for Handeni District, he said, elaborating that TARURA is urgently working to ensure that the roads damaged by heavy rains are repaired.

## Zanzibar for inclusive, modern tourism sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

**T**HE ZANZIBAR government is devoted to promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the tourism industry while supporting small and large investors taking a stake in the sector.

Mudrick Ramadhan Soraga, the Tourism and Heritage minister, made this affirmation at the two-day tourism sector summit organized by the Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI) and Kili Fair, with

Exim Bank (T) as the main sponsor.

Gracing the meeting, President Dr Hussein Mwinyi urged Zanzibaris to seize the various tourism opportunities available in order to benefit from the government's on-going investments in promoting and improving the sector.

"To reaffirm this commitment, we recently passed the new Investment Act of 2024, which provides numerous incentives in the tourism sector and other areas. The Act ensures that investors in various sec-

tors, including tourism, are well protected and also offers various tax incentives," he stated.

He affirmed that the government is determined to enhance infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water and airports to create an environment that fosters the growth of the tourism industry.

For the government's efforts to yield results; citizens must take advantage of opportunities created to improve their well-being, he said, while Exim Bank chief

executive officer Jaffari Matundu expressed readiness to serve local and international stakeholders in the tourism sector.

The focus would be how investors' efforts are in alignment with the government's efforts to accelerate growth in this vital industry, he said, noting that in response to government initiatives to develop tourism, the bank has increased its investment in

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## Traffic police gets set for digitalised vehicle inspections

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

DIGITAL vehicle inspection is soon taking off, traffic police commander DCP Ramadhan Ng'anzi has declared.

Addressing police officers at a road safety training here yesterday, he said that modern cars have digital equipment and the police must keep pace with the technology.

That is vital to actually ensure that vehicles, especially passenger carriers, are regularly examined to be allowed on the roads, he said, to an audience of vehicle inspectors and heads of traffic units from various regions.

They were being exposed to tailor-made auxiliary road safety training organized by the Arusha Technical College (ATC), the only vocational training institution to operate a computerised vehicle diagnosis laboratory.

ATC specialises in mechanical training, with a vehicle repairing workshops and a driving school. It is seen to far ahead in this field, focusing on the future of motoring, which has inspired the traffic police department to emulate this innovation, the commander maintained.

He was persuaded that the days of relying on the naked eye to determine vehicle roadworthiness are over, thus digital scanning and quick analysis of data on computers, the current advanced technology in automobile inspection must be taken up.

Prof. Musa Chacha, the ATC principal, said their studies assert that more than 70 percent of road accidents countrywide are caused by drivers, asserting that the reason is that most drivers are ignorant of vehicle mechanisms.

"Some drivers do not take warning lights seriously nor recognise abnormal cautioning lights or seek periodic inspections and maintenance of their vehicles," he stated.

David Mtunguja, the vehicle department head, said the training covered topics like automobile maintenance, modern driving skills and the provision of first aid and rescue services for passenger vehicles.

The college provides specialised traffic training courses including VIP chauffeuring, tour vehicles driving, handling dignitary vehicles, he said, hinting that the college will soon launch an international driving skills course.

DCP Fresser Kashai, the traffic police supervisor, in his remarks, said the digital adaptation programme boils down to reinforcing safety on national roads, reducing incidents of motor vehicle accidents countrywide.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, who is on a tour of Tanga Region, addresses a rally at Kabuku in Handeni District yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Zanzibar for inclusive, modern tourism sector

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providing financial services tailored to the specific needs of stakeholders in the sector.

This will help specific investors pick up loans for operating capital to help them benefit from government efforts to enhance service delivery and inclusion in the industry, the CEO

explained.

"Our primary sponsorship of this summit for the second consecutive time is a clear demonstration of our commitment. Through our collaboration with ZATI, we have been able to provide financial solutions to its members.

This cooperation underscores Exim Bank's ongoing support

for key sectors of the economy, particularly Zanzibar's tourism sector," he elaborated.

Through a combination of technology and expertise, the bank offers various services that have positively impacted various tourism stakeholders, including women and youth entrepreneurs, he said.

"Our commitment to provid-

ing competitive rates in foreign exchange services ensures our customers receive quality service without obstacles. Furthermore, our efforts in providing loans to boost the capital of tourism stakeholders have led to increased productivity, benefiting not only the stakeholders but also the bank," he asserted.

ZATI chairperson Rahim Bha-

loo noted that the event was a successful event, attracting over 600 stakeholders being held for the second time, bringing together various stakeholders like service providers and users.

The key objective is to expand Zanzibar's presence in the international tourism arena, he added.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning), contributes to debate in the Zanzibar House of Representatives yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Pressure mounts on South Africa's ANC as unemployment rises again ahead of election

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's unemployment rate, already the highest in the world, rose to 32.1% in the fourth quarter of 2023, according to official government figures released on Tuesday.

The Quarterly Labor Force Survey reported that the number of unemployed working-age people in South Africa rose to 7.9

million after 46,000 more became unemployed in the last three months of 2023, increasing from 31.9%.

The news is a blow to the ruling African National Congress party as it faces its steepest election test ever in a few months. The desperately high unemployment rate is a key voter issue.

Unemployment among those aged 15-24 was 59.4%

at the end of last year as Africa's most advanced economy continued to struggle to create jobs for young people entering the workforce.

The ANC has been in government since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994 but has seen its support gradually wane over the last 30 years, largely because of its failure to

deliver jobs, housing and services to millions of poor people.

Several polls predict the ANC may dip below 50% of the vote in this year's national election, which would be a landmark moment in South African politics. If the ANC loses its majority, it would need to go into coalition to remain in government and keep President Cyril Ramaphosa

in office for a second and final five-year term.

A coalition has never happened on a national level in South Africa and it would end the dominance of the party once led by Nelson Mandela. The warning signs for the ANC came in local elections in 2021 when the party received less than 50% in a vote for the first time.

South Africa's main op-

position party, the Democratic Alliance, is exploring the possibility of its own coalition agreement with numerous other smaller parties, hoping it might force the ANC out of government completely.

The date of this year's election has not yet been announced. It's expected to take place between May and August.

## KenGen set for drilling of geothermal wells in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

KENYAN-LISTED electricity generating company KenGen will soon sign a contract to drill three exploratory wells in Tanzania, as the country seeks to plug into geothermal energy.

KenGen Managing Director and Chief Executive Peter Njenga said within the next one month, the company should have kicked off operations in Tanzania, a move aimed at cementing its revenue diversification through venturing into markets outside Kenya.

KenGen started drilling its first well in Djibouti in November 2021 following the securing of a (\$4.9 million) contract in February that year. In the same year, the Kenyan firm bagged contracts for the drilling of wells and consultancy in Ethiopia.

One of the things we are doing is aggressive diversification in looking at outward markets. We are in Ethiopia; we are in Djibouti.

Malawi has visited us and they are interested in us helping them explore their geothermal. We also have Tanzania, Zambia and Rwanda.

Tanzania is now exploring its geothermal capacity and it is a small project which we intend to be done within three months," Njenga told the media.

Njenga said the regional foray is expected to bolster the company's performance with the target of closing the full year ending June 2024 (\$55.2 million) in net earnings, a 59.5 percent increase from the Ksh5 billion (\$34.5 million) reported at the close of June 2023.

"What we are looking at is to make sure that we increase our profits. Looking at our asset base which is at around (\$3.5 billion), we expect actually to be making well above Ksh10 billion (\$69 million) as profit every year," Njenga said.



Doctors pictured in Kahama Urban District, Shinyanga Region, on Tuesday performing voluntary male medical circumcision on residents of the area from a mobile van. This constituted part of a two-day media tour of activities carried out under the five-year Afya Hatua project jointly implemented by Afya Plus and a second NGO, Tanzania Health Promotion Support.. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# Conference tourism experts asked to bring more meetings

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE government has asked the African Society of Association Executives (AFSAE) -Tanzania chapter to help boost conference tourism by attracting more regional and international meetings.

Amb. Mindi Kasiga, director of government communication unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation made the request in Dar es Salaam yesterday while opening a two-day second Tanzania Association Training Workshop.

She said the workshop organized in collaboration between Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) and the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) aimed at building capacity to participants on conference tourism.

She said the workshop also aimed

at giving participants skills on how to network at local, regional and internationally levels and how to manage the associations.

Kasiga said that conference tourism is part of diplomacy tourism that the government has already embarked on promoting as a source of revenue.

She said that conference tourism has countless benefits, adding that unlike traditional holiday tourism, it is not seasonal.

She said people travel for work both in summer and winter alike which creates a market that revolves around trade fairs and conferences.

"We as custodian of economic diplomacy, we call on AFSAE to ensure whatever success comes, including preparing for the international conferences, has to come in Tanzania first," she said.

Jeffers Miruka, AFSAE founder and president said the aim of the workshop was to build capacity of members to ensure that more international conferences take place in the country.

Miruka said without knowledge, it will not be easy for them to accomplish the task of attracting conferences because it is all about competition.

He said members must know how to bid and lobby against the giants and well-experienced chapters.

He said similar workshops had been conducted in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and South Africa, adding that it was a new emerging business in Africa.

"We must ensure our executives are well prepared on what they do and ensure that the agenda is well known and they get prepared for it," he said.

## Initiative worth 11bn/- targeting coffee farmers, artisanal miners

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 101,500 smallholder coffee farmers and 18,000 artisan and small-scale gold miners in the country are set to benefit from a capacity building programme worth 11bn/- launched here yesterday.

The Pathways to Prosperity Coffee Programme is a seven-year (2023-2029) project that intends to reach 101,500 small holder coffee farmers, 30 percent women and 10 percent youth in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma Regions.

It is implemented by Solidaridad, an international network organization working in Tanzania.

The programme aims at building capacity of smallholder coffee farmers to have an opportunity to participate in economically viable value chains by increasing their productivity through the adoption of good agricultural practices for increased income.

It aims to help farmers produce high quality coffee, strengthen the leadership and governance of 50 cooperatives as well as 200 others indirectly and provide a platform for cooperatives to link and interact with 500 service providers to establish long term relations.

Speaking during the launch of the programme, managing director of Solidaridad East and Central Africa Rachel Wanyoike said that some of the expected outcomes in 2029 include viable and resilient production systems through diversification and capacity enhancement.

"The programme will be focused on ensuring smallholder farmers have a strengthened capacity to increase their coffee productivity, quality and increase their resilience to climate change" she said.

She added that the programme will also ensure inclusive service delivery with sustainable access to relevant technology, inputs, production and services tailored to the needs of farmers, miners, processors and agri-entrepreneurs.

On the other hand, Pathways to Prosperity Gold Project is to achieve a thriving artisan and small scale gold mining sector that is economi-

cally profitable, socially responsible and environmentally sound by 2029. It is to be implemented in Geita and Shinyanga regions, targeting 9,000 direct beneficiaries and other 9,000 indirect ones, 30 percent being women and 15 percent youth.

Winifrida Kanwa, Tanzania project manager-gold at Solidaridad Eastern and Central Africa told the meeting that the project will address challenges facing artisan and small scale gold miners.

She said that while gold mining sector is a source of livelihood for over 1.5 million people in the country, it is however, largely informal and faces major issues such as vulnerable production systems, lack of access to services and inputs.

## Survey: Journalists still face challenges despite reforms

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

TWAVEZA has released a new report on the general trend of media landscape showing that "despite having new legislations its practitioners are still faced with a myriad of challenges while executing their noble duties in Tanzania."

This is part of the findings of a Twaweza brief entitled 'Sauti za Waandishi' (Voices of Journalists), a survey of Tanzanian media practitioners that involved 1,202 practicing journalists, editors and bloggers working in the country.

Among the findings which

the organization released early this week in Dar es Salaam states that: "Journalists have pointed an accusing finger at government officials whom they accuse as the main source of threats to their work."

While presenting the report, Twaweza executive director Aidan Eyakuze said that: "Most journalists interviewed revealed their feelings that media in Tanzania does not have a lot of freedom to enable them operate independently so as to make a decent living like other professionals."

A three-month research that was carried between September and November 2023 was conducted through one-

on-one interviews as well as telephone interviews and involved a panel of researchers picked from various media societies.

These were the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs, Tanzania Media Women's Association, Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania and Jamii Forums.

According to the study, journalists' experiences of risk are widespread and when interviewed half of them confirmed to researchers that they had been threatened, harassed or assaulted and sometimes detained by the law enforcers on orders of high authorities.

Similar number of women journalists who were inter-

viewed said that "they are not always treated fairly compared to their male counterparts and had experienced sexual harassment or abuse and had working equipment or materials seized from them."

Other findings are related to personal gains for journalists in Tanzania which is seen to be alarming as most have less permanent forms of employment, hence do not receive insurance and paid leave.

Two out of 10 who were interviewed described their employment status as permanent compared to six out of 10 who said it's temporary while others said it was occasional, an

aspect that is hard to make a decent living from journalism profession.

According to the researchers, some members of the press have gone as far as persuading their children not to join the profession, knowing well that it has a dark future.

In recent years, Tanzanian media landscape has witnessed some challenges, including mysterious disappearance of Azory Gwanda, a journalist who worked for Mwananchi Communications Limited who went missing from his work station in Rufiji District, Coast Region in mid-2016 and his whereabouts is still unknown.

### TouchFoundation Tanzania

#### PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Regulation, 2018, Touch Foundation Tanzania is pleased to publish its financial statements and funding status for the six month period ending September 30, 2023. All funding has been provided by Touch Foundation, Inc. (a US-based NGO) except where otherwise noted.

#### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income (numbers shown in '000 TZS)

	FY2023
	For the 6 Month Period Ended: 30 Sept 2023
<b>Revenue</b>	
Contributions	2,550,438
Grand Challenges Canada	514,218
Other Revenues	10,748
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,075,404</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personnel	587,356
Grants	445,490
Construction	-
Equipment	97,725
Professional Services	217,353
Travel	380,030
Other Program Costs	1,347,449
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>3,075,404</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Statement of Financial Position (numbers shown in '000 TZS)

	FY2023
	For the 6 Month Period Ended: 30 Sept 2023
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Equivalents	147,368
Receivables	108,460
Prepaid Expenses and Insurance	-
Other Assets	191,020
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>446,849</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts and Grants Payable	48,584
Accrued Liabilities	55,153
Refundable Advances	343,112
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>446,849</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>446,849</b>

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# Samia to launch tax, investment meeting in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is next week scheduled to launch tax and investment forum organised by the Ministry of Finance ahead of the 2024/2025 National Budget.

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Elijah Mwandumbya said the forum is aimed at receiving views and recommendations from the stakeholders.

He said the forum will be held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam whereby more than

1,000 people are expected to attend, including envoys, businesspeople and other groups.

He said some of the objectives of the platform are to look at the future of tax payment, the state of the economy and integrated economy and how to enable new businesses to grow.

"Until now, we have gone to various regions in the country to collect opinions of stakeholders and the general public," he said.

According to Mwandumbya, since the establishment of the platform, they have achieved various successes, including enhanced revenue collection whereby for the period from July to December last year, the government recorded an

increase in revenue by 12 percent while for the period of December alone the government collected 3trn/-.

He said despite the successes, there are still new challenges emerging, saying the ministry is now looking for solutions in time as part of their responsibilities to increase efficiency.

"We are currently in the period of improvements to develop national economy to ensure that we reach seven percent economic growth," he said.

He said that the government has expanded tax base by registering business people with a capital of 200m/- in the value added tax (VAT) payment system.



Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Minerals have a first-hand view of evidence of environmental protection initiatives while on an inspection tour of Barrick North Mara Mine yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Committee impressed by miner's CSR programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

THE Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals has commended North Mara Gold Mine in Tarime District, Mara Region for investing in productive areas and supporting surrounding communities through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The committee also hailed the mine for developing better relations with the people living in the areas sur-

rounding it.

Committee chairman Dr David Mathayo made the remarks yesterday here when he led the committee members who visited the mine to see its operations.

During the visit, committee members were briefed about the mine's operations and implementation of community projects and the use of CSR funds in villages around the mine.

Some of the implemented projects

include construction of Matongo Secondary School, execution of Nyanogo water project and Matongo agribusiness project.

Dr Mathayo applauded the mine for transforming the area within a short period of time.

"As MPs we are very happy with what we are seeing now. I urge you to continue doing so for the benefit of the people and the environment around you," he said.

He commended Barrick Gold Cor-

poration for being one of the best taxpayers in Tanzania dividends it gives to the government which contribute to socio-economic development.

"I understand that you've been spending a lot of money to finance community projects through your CSR," he said.

Deputy Minister for Minerals Steven Kiruswa asked stakeholders in mining sector to comply with the laws and regulations set by the government, including distribution of CSR

funds and active involvement of Tanzanians in the mineral value chain.

He also praised the company for operating its mines with transparency and contributing to the national income through taxes, along with bringing development to the people through CSR.

Melkiory Ngido, Barrick Tanzania Country Manager assured MPs that the mine will conduct its activities in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the sector.



### Request for Expression of Interest Household Survey Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, Morogoro, Njombe, and Mbeya

Abt Global LLC (Formerly Abt Associates), a global leader in research, evaluation, and program implementation, is recruiting a survey firm to conduct household-level surveys to support an impact evaluation of the AgResults Dairy Productivity Project, a multi-year effort to increase dairy productivity through the private sector in Tanzania. This is an endline survey that follows on a baseline survey conducted in 2020.

#### Survey Details

- The survey will be conducted in Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, Morogoro, Njombe, and Mbeya beginning in or around July 2024.
- The expected sample size is up to 4700 completed interviews with dairy farming households.
- Surveys will be conducted at the household level, focusing on demographic characteristics, dairy farming, technology adoption, productivity, and income.
- Farmers interviewed during the baseline survey need to be located for the endline survey. Additional farming households may need to be sampled.

#### Desired Qualifications

- Experience conducting large scale household-level surveys in Tanzania, preferably for an evaluation.
- Record of high-quality performance, as indicated by references.
- Experience conducting livestock and/or agriculture-related surveys.
- Demonstrated flexibility when implementing surveys in rural settings.
- Experience with CAPI/mobile data collection.
- Experience in developing and carrying out robust data quality assurance plans, and field implementation and training plans.
- Experience in implementing panel surveys, especially maximizing response rates and minimizing attrition.

#### Interested Firms

Please submit:

- A 2-3 page summary of the interested firm's capabilities and relevant experience with respect to the above outlined Survey Details and Desired Qualifications.
- 3 references from recent and relevant activities (request the reference template by sending an email to [AgResults@abtassoc.com](mailto:AgResults@abtassoc.com)).

All expressions of interest should be sent to [AgResults@abtassoc.com](mailto:AgResults@abtassoc.com) by March 8th, 2024, 5PM Washington, DC time. Expressions of interest will be reviewed and firms selected for the short list will be invited to submit a detailed proposal.

### TUMAINI COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION



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### TENDER NO: TCSO/ACHIEVE/2023/03 INVITATION TO BID

RFQ Title: Supply of Education Subsidies  
Date of solicitation: 21/02/2024  
Submission Date and time: -21/02/2024 12:00 Hrs.  
Question & clarification: 21/02/2024

#### Introduction

Tumaini Community Service Organization (TCSO) was established on 15th August 2019 and registered in United Republic of Tanzania, under reviewed NGO policy. The organization has been in partnership with Pact Tanzania in implementing The Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination project for Mbeya region.

ACHIEVE- is a five-year global effort to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. The project is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact.

Tumaini through ACHIEVE project will provide educational subsidies comprised of 1 school bags, 1 Mathematical sets, 5 Pens, 5 Pencil, and 5 A4 Exercise books, 14,435 school bags for Adolescent girls aged 10-14 years, and 1,605 school bags for Orphan and Vulnerable Children who are in school. Total 16,040 Bags.

#### Items specification and requirements

NO.	Item	Specification	Quantity	Estimated Delivery Time
1.	School bag	Black/Brown/Blue/Maroon/waterproof (30cm width -40 cm length)	16,040	Two weeks
2.	Mathematical set	Mathematical set (Including the geometry set i.e. Pencil, ruler, sharpener, eraser, stencil, compass, protractor, set square, timetable)	16,040	Two weeks
3.	Exercise books	A4 Exercise books (80-100 pages)	80,200	Two weeks
4.	Ball pen	Type: Ball pen. Pen length: 14.5cm Color: Blue	80,200	Two weeks
5.	HB pencil	Material (wood, dimension 17.5x0.5x0.8cm, point type: fine)	80,200	Two weeks

The complete tender document (TOR) Containing general terms & conditions, pre-qualification requirements are available in [www.tumainico.org](http://www.tumainico.org) all interested bidders should access and download full terms of references via [www.tumainico.org](http://www.tumainico.org)

All questions and clarification should be directed to [procurement@tumainico.org](mailto:procurement@tumainico.org) with subject "Tender Clarification"

#### How to submit:

- Quotation should be submitted in an enclosed and sealed envelope.
- The eligible vendors should physically submit their proposal to Tender committee, P.O. Box 198 Mbeya, Head office. All sealed envelopes need to be marked as "Tender for Supply of education subsidies"
- All quotes must be in Tanzanian shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope.
- All the pages of bid submitted must be signed.
- The deadline for proposal submission will be 29 February 2024, 12:00 AM, and TCSO will open the bids on 1st March 2024 11:00 AM

#### Please note.

- Late or incomplete submission will not be accepted.
- Selection will be based on criteria listed above and on TOT.
- Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute award/ contract commitment by TCSO.
- TCSO reserves the right to disqualify the offer based on the failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Proposal submitted through email will not be considered.
- One bidder having business relationship shall submit no more than one tender. A breach of this condition will render the tenders of both parties liable to rejection.



Pastor Erica Mwakyolile, a member of the Peace and Reconciliation Committee in Mbeya Region, plants a tree outside the Mbeya Regional Commissioner's Office when launching Peace and Reconciliation Week. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# Six African countries to get free grain from Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S agriculture minister said late on Tuesday that Moscow had completed its initiative of shipping 200,000 metric tonnes of free grain to six African countries, as promised by President Vladimir Putin in July last year.

Russia shipped 50,000 tonnes each to Somalia and the Central African Republic and 25,000 tonnes each to Mali, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe and Eritrea, Agriculture Minister Dmitry Patrushev told Putin during a meeting, according to tran-

script on the Kremlin's website.

Putin had promised to deliver free grain to the six countries at a summit with African leaders in July, soon after Moscow withdrew from a deal that had allowed Ukraine to ship grain from its Black Sea ports despite the war Russia has been waging.

The deal, known as the Black Sea grain initiative, had helped lower prices on the global market. But Putin argued it was failing to get supplies to the countries in most urgent need.

"After the Russia-Africa summit,

we have been maintaining relations (with African countries and building cooperation," Patrushev told Putin. "As a result, we were able to deliver this volume of wheat to these countries quite quickly."

He also told Putin that Russia expects to export up to 70 million metric tonnes of grain in the 2023-2024 agricultural year. In the previous season, Russia shipped 66 million tonnes worth almost \$16.5 billion, he added.

The 2023-2024 agricultural year started July 1, 2023, and lasts until June 30, 2024.

# Study links drought to HIV transmission rise

By Guardian Reporter

DROUGHTS have the potential to increase the spread of HIV for women living in rural parts of Africa, researchers at the University of Bristol have found.

In the study, published yesterday in AIDS and Behaviour, findings imply that drought triggers behavioural changes as people struggle to battle poverty and food insecurity through activities such as transactional sex.

Due to climate change, droughts are likely to become increasingly common in the future, which could lead to higher instances of HIV transmission. Sub-Saharan Africa will be one of the regions most affected by climate change, with increasing risks of drought caused by changes in precipitation and limited water storage, as well as limited capacity and resources to support adaptation.

Drought is an ongoing and worsening trend in sub-Saharan Africa, with the percentage of land experiencing severe drought increasing from around 5 percent to 15 percent since 1901.

Lead author Dr Adam Trickey, based at Bristol Medical School explained that: "Women in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa who had recently been exposed to drought were more likely to acquire HIV than those who had not been exposed to drought.

"That we found this among women in rural areas, but not women in urban areas or men in either rural or urban areas corroborates previous studies indicating that the mechanism through which drought may in-

crease HIV risk is that drought pushes women who rely on farming for their livelihoods into sex work for money or food.

"Even if these changes were small, the large number of people living with HIV in Africa and the large percentage experiencing drought means that the effect of droughts could still result in many people acquiring HIV in this situation, particularly when you consider that around 65 percent of Africa's population relies on subsistence farming."



**PUBLIC AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

VICTORIA FINANCE PLC WISHES TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT WITH THE AUTHORISATION IT GIVES TO THE APPOINTED AUCTIONEER INTENDS TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE SECURITY OF CHRONIC DEFaulter AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

S/NO	CREDITOR'S NAME	BAIL	TYPE AND PART OF THE GUARANTEE	AUCTIONEER	DATE
1	HASSAN JUMA MRISHO	HOUSE	SALES AGREEMENT - DAKAWA	J&J RECOVERIES	06/03/2024
2	SWEDI KHAMIS SWEDI	HOUSE	SALES AGREEMENT - PUSU MWAKANGA	LEHAREL GROUP OF COMPANY LTD	13/03/2024
3	PROFESSOR IBRAHIM MLELEU/MODESTUS IBRAHIM MELEO	HOUSE	RESIDENTIAL LICENCE - MBAGALA KIBURUJWA	LEHAREL GROUP OF COMPANY LTD	13/03/2024

All auctions shall be held at the appropriate location on the time and day on which they shall be broadcast through brochures and advertising vehicles subject to permission from the relevant agencies of the Government.

**AUCTION TERMS:**

- 25% of the price will be paid on the day of the auction and the remaining 75% will be paid within a fourteen days.
- Failing to do so will result in the auction being repeated and the money paid will not be returned.
- The costs of transferring the owner and changing ownership will be done by the buyer.
- The guarantee will be sold as it is.

## EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT WATERAID TANZANIA



**Deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

It is hard to believe that today 844 million people do not have clean water and 2.3 billion do not have a decent toilet – around one in three of the world's population. Every two minutes, a child under five dies from diarrheal diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. We started because no NGO like us existed. We will end when no organisation like us is needed.

We are making great progress – since 1981, we have reached 25 million people with clean water and, since 2004, 24 million people with sanitation. WaterAid has operated in Tanzania since 1983 and has been engaged in the WASH sector for 40 years with a vision of everyone everywhere has access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. During the last 40 years WaterAid Tanzania has grown to become a nationally recognized leader in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector, working closely with the government and partners, and is respected for innovation on best models with lasting change in the WASH sector. Alongside our footprints, WaterAid Tanzania country programme strategy 2023 – 2028 aligned to WaterAid's ambitious global strategy (2022 – 2032) makes a bold commitment to "ending the water, sanitation, and hygiene crises together – for everyone, everywhere". WaterAid Tanzania strategy focus on 2 Aims: Achieve universal, sustainable, and safe WASH services in focused geographic areas to influence wider change; and Prioritize WASH across the health sector to improve public health. Our innovative approaches to deliver our AIMS are: System strengthening, influencing, innovative modelling, research & learning, partnership and alliances, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), empower and support, sustainable WASH services and behaviour change. WaterAid Tanzania is aspiring for country where no woman/girl will walk long distance and queue for hours to collect water. Where no community is held back by cycle of sickness from broken and dirty water supplies and poor hygiene and sanitation.

**WaterAid Tanzania seeks to recruit dynamic candidate to fill the Research and Knowledge Management Coordinator Position that plays a vital role in our mission to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere by 2030.**

If you are interested in these positions and have the right skills and attributes, please visit [wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us](http://wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us) to download job descriptions and application form. Send your job application form to [wateraidtz@wateraid.org](mailto:wateraidtz@wateraid.org) stating title of the applied post in the subject line



# REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR PROCUREMENT OF SPORTS MATERIALS

**RFQ Title: Procurement of Sports Materials**  
**RFQ Number: 2024-PACT/02/02**  
**Date of Solicitation: February 22, 2024**  
**Closing Date and Time: March 6, 2024, 11:00 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)**  
**Questions and Clarifications: Due by March 4, 2024**  
**Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date: April 19, 2024**

### Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries, building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact. Since 2001, we have been working in Tanzania to help people and communities build their own capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources around them to benefit future generations. For more about Pact, visit [www.pactworld.org](http://www.pactworld.org)

ACHIEVE is a seven-year (2019-2026) USAID-funded global project whose primary goal is to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. To reach this goal, ACHIEVE supports OVC and DREAMS service delivery, provides technical assistance to strengthen social welfare systems, and supports capacity development for local partners to sustain services at the community level. In 2023, USAID added global health security to the project's scope of work. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER. ACHIEVE's countries of implementation include Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. To learn more about ACHIEVE, visit [www.pactworld.org/achieve](http://www.pactworld.org/achieve)

### Overall Objective

The overall objective of this assignment is to supply branded sports materials for adolescent boys aged 10 - 14 and their coaches in the five (5) councils implementing Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) intervention. The sports materials to be supplied include footballs, football jerseys for two teams per school, goalkeeper jerseys, coaches' tracksuits, and coaches' exercise shoes, as per specifications presented in the table below.

### Sports Material Specifications

Type of Items	Items Specifications	Number of Required Items
Coaches' Exercise shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% Synthetic</li> <li>Rubber sole</li> <li>Durable density foam midsole provides lightweight response and lasting durability.</li> <li>Level platform design features a lower heel-to-toe drop for a more natural running position.</li> <li>Size – 43 (38 pairs)</li> </ul>	38
Coaches' Tracksuits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Coat and Trousers</li> <li>100% polyester, breathable, comfortable fabric, lightweight.</li> <li>Slim fit design tracksuits</li> <li>Full front zipper with ribbed cuffs and hem for a close fit.</li> <li>Pants: adjustable waist: Internal drawcord for perfect fit</li> <li>Zip pockets</li> <li>Adult Size – XL (38 suits),</li> <li>Branded as per artwork</li> </ul>	38
Footballs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type – Soccer balls</li> <li>Material – Leather</li> <li>Standard sizing – Size 4</li> <li>Weight – 12 – 13 ounces</li> <li>Circumference – 25 – 26 inches</li> <li>Waterproof</li> </ul>	38
Football Jerseys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football jersey (Size: Qty Medium 760)</li> <li>T-shirt</li> <li>100% polyester, breathable, comfortable fabric, lightweight.</li> <li>Ribbed crewneck (T-shirt)</li> <li>Short sleeves (T-shirt)</li> <li>Shorts</li> <li>Adjustable waist: Internal drawcord for perfect fit</li> <li>Branded as per artwork</li> </ul>	760
Goalkeeper Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goalkeeper Jersey</li> <li>100% polyester</li> <li>Long sleeves (top)</li> <li>Ribbed crewneck,</li> <li>Shorts/trousers, socks, and gloves (size 17.2 cm – junior size)</li> <li>Size – Medium (76)</li> <li>Branded as per artwork</li> </ul>	76
<b>Total</b>		<b>988</b>

### Delivery Point/Distribution Plan

Region	Council of Delivery	Coaches Exercise shoes (Size) 43	Coaches Tracksuits XL	Footballs 6	Football Jersey Medium 120	Goalkeeper Jersey Medium 12
Dar es Salaam	Temeke MC	6	6	6	120	12
Kagera	Bukoba MC	6	6	6	120	12
Mbeya	Mbarali DC	26	26	26	520	52
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>76</b>

### Scope of Work

The specific scope of work includes but not be limited to the following:

- Submit sample Sports materials to Pact's procurement department for review before branding (samples should be submitted for all designs, sizes, and colors).
- Communicate with Pact of any discrepancy from the approved sample before branding.
- Actual quantities to be supplied will be shared with the awarded vendor before issuance of LPO.
- Deliver Sports materials as per the distribution list below
- Submit proof of delivery of CBIM sports materials to Pact.

Interested vendors should download the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through <https://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania/procurement>

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) with the subject line "Request for Clarification: Supply of Sports materials" before COB March 4, 2024.

### Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the outlined requirements/technical specifications.
- Prompt delivery of the specified items/services on or before the required date(s).

### Submission Instructions

The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal:

- Draft the inception report detailing the methodology for supplying branded sports materials, including a tentative work plan before March 6, 2024.
- Joint Venture (JV) Agreement (If Applicable)
- Patent Registration Certificates (If Applicable)
- Quote, valid for at least 60 days
- The Company Profile must be Attached.
- Evidence of Contracts/PO/Awards: Minimum of 2 contracts of similar value, nature, and complexity implemented over the last three years.
- List at least two (2) names and addresses of the client served.
- Copies of registration, Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Incorporation Valid and relevant Business License, TIN Certificate, VAT Certificate, TAX Clearance, and Certificate Issued in 2023 (relevant to the scope).
- Item's specifications are fully addressed in the quotation.
- Certificate or letter of No-Litigation signed and signed by the Advocate of Court of law.
- Latest Audited Financial Statements for the last 2 years and last 6 months certified bank statement.
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms are 100% after delivery.

Interested bidders should submit their bids to Pact Tanzania via physical address below: -

**The Tender Committee,**  
**Pact Tanzania,**  
**Plot No. 1486, Masasani Peninsula (Masaki Area)**  
**P. O. Box 6348,**  
**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

### Note:

- Pact will open all bids on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 11:30 am** in the presence of Bidder's Representatives who choose to attend.
- Quotes must be in Tanzanian Shilling and must include taxes separately.
- Proposals must be submitted physically to Pact offices in Dar es Salaam.
- Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted.
- As mentioned above, all quotations and delivery dates shall be valid for at least 60 days following submission.

### Terms and Conditions - Disclaimers

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- Pact reserves the right to modify the terms of this solicitation by written notice at any time at its sole discretion.
- Pact may cancel the solicitation at any time.
- Pact may reject any or all proposals received.
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute award commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any quotation based on the vendor's failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Pact will not compensate vendors for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact reserves the right to issue an award based on the initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- Pact may choose to award only part of the scope of work in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards of the scope of work.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected before award determination to promote competition.
- Pact may contact vendors to confirm the contact person and address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact may contact listed past performance references without notice to the vendor. Pact also reserves the right to contact other past performance information sources that the vendor did not list in the proposal.
- The vendor confirms they understand the terms and conditions by submitting a proposal.
- Information pertaining to and obtained from the vendor because of participation in this solicitation is confidential. The vendor consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the vendor to the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that non-disclosure agreements bind all reviewers.
- The resultant award will be governed by Pact's standard terms and conditions and any applicable funder requirements.

# NIMR to conduct NCDs research via mobile phones

By Carlos Banda

THE National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is set to start collecting data this week by using mobile phones in its study on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The mobile phone methodology has been settled on so as to reach more people and reduce the cost incurred in traditional studies that involve physical contact with respondents.

Dr Mary Mayige, senior researcher and director of research information at NIMR said this in Dar es Salaam on Monday during a press conference where she noted that with the rapid increase in population, physical collection of data from households has proven to be expensive.

"As we focus on studying the state, trends and symptoms of NCDs in the country, we will conduct this research using mobile phones because it is an effective method for conducting these types of studies from time to time and acquire the information we need," she said.

Dr Mayige said that a team of researchers will establish a population sample of the contact numbers for respondents who had given their consent to participate in future research studies during the Housing and Population Census 2022, stating that security measures against scammers have been taken.

The researcher said that the approach has also considered individuals without smart devices,

saying that such group of respondents will be able to respond via text messages unlike their counterparts with smartphones who can respond using social media platforms.

Prof Said Aboud, director general of NIMR, said the NCDs have been on the rise and posing a major challenge to the country.

"According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the rise in NCDs has doubled from 19 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 2015 and is estimated to contribute to 33 percent of all deaths," he said.

Statistical data collected from hospitals have shown a large increase in NCD patients between July 2022 and July 2023 whereas the most prevalent diseases are high blood pressure which stands at 49 percent compared to 34 percent recorded in 2021/22, diabetes at 24 percent and respiratory diseases at 13 percent compared to 10 percent recorded in 2021/22 respectively."

This situation is a reminder that we need to place effective strategies to curb this challenge. Having accurate information on the diseases and their symptoms is a crucial aspect that will enable the government to strategize and measure the progress of interventions taken to combat these diseases."

Prof Aboud said NIMR has been conducting strategic researches on behalf of the Ministry of Health, noting that recently they conducted a survey for 2023/24 and that a preliminary report will be released soon.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry communications director Mindi Kasiga speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the opening of training for leaders of NGOs and professional associations. It was jointly organised by the Arusha International Conference Centre and the Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Journos drilled on human-wildlife reporting

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 25 journalists are from today undergoing a two-day training to enable them adequately report on the magnitude of Humans-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) and available mitigation measures.

Participants are expected to increase awareness of local communities on HWC issues in the Ruvuma landscape as well as to increase their access to accurate data and information on biodiversity conservation.

John Chikomo, executive director of Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) told The

Guardian this week that the training has been organized by the association with the support from the Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Tanzania project implemented by German Development Agency (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

"We expect journalists to accurately report on HWC with special focus on reducing HWC impacts on the livelihoods and security of women in the Ruvuma landscape. They are expected to promote community awareness and effective participation in conservation issues," he said, adding, the training is

scheduled for today and tomorrow in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

He said the training is conducted as part of a project to ensure continuity, networking and sustained engagement with topical issues in corridors such as human wildlife crimes, community empowerment, climate change, gender aspects in relation to HWC, multimedia storytelling and reporting on biodiversity conservation.

"JET trains journalists on subjects and issues that resulted from previous engagements and trainings. The dynamics of conservation of biodiversity increasingly bring out additional issues related to climate

change impact and adaptation, social behaviour patterns and development activities," he said.

Journalists will also learn the concepts of resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation and how they are related to habitat connectivity at wider landscape scales."

Topics to be covered include HWC causes and mitigation strategies, essential considerations for managing HWC and coexistence, role of Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) in combating HWC, gender aspects in relation to HWC, practical approaches to producing impactful HWC stories as well as the power of storytelling on HWC.



### ZAMBIA CARGO & LOGISTICS LIMITED

Plot No. 237, Kurasini Area  
Near Dock Yard  
P.O. Box 105638, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### Mukuba Depot

Phone: +255 22 2851471/4  
Fax: +255 22 2851640  
Mobile: 0715 022200  
Email: info@zmcargo.co.tz

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

### TENDER NO. ZCL/IFB/IA/2024 FOR PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR ZAMBIA CARGO AND LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED.

- Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a freight and forwarding service provider established in April 2001. The Company was incorporated in Tanzania on 10th August 2005 and is wholly owned by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and is supervised on behalf of the Zambian government by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) based in Lusaka.
- Zambia Cargo and Logistics limited has set aside funds for its Operations in the Financial year 2024 and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Provision of Internal Audit Services to the Company, same as the one indicated in the bidding Data Sheet. Bidding is on Open Bidding Method Procedures as stipulated in The Zambia Public Procurement Act No. 8 of 2020 and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2022.
- The primary role of Internal Audit is to help the Board and Management to protect the assets, reputation and sustainability of the Organisation.
- Interested bidders are required to purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZ50,000/= to ECOBANK, ACCOUNT NUMBER; 7045000597, NAME; ZAMBIA CARGO AND LOGISTICS LTD** and submit bank slip to ZCL Cashiers Officer who will then issue a ZCL receipt for collection of bid documents from Procurement Unit.
- Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited now wishes to invite all interested bidders to visit Zambia Cargo & Logistics offices from **23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023 and 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2023** in order to collect bid documents.

Secretary,  
Procurement Committee,  
Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited.

A Member of the IDC Group of Companies



Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodegar Tenga pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing a meeting on the four-day Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIME EXPO 2024) expected to be held in the city from this September 26. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Stop hiding children with cleft lip at home, parents told

By Getrude Mbagu

PARENTS have been urged not to hide children with cleft lip and palates but instead take them to hospital as the medical treatment to reverse the condition is safe and free of charge.

A section of surgeons, anaesthesia providers and nurses made the call in Dar es Salaam early this week at a workshop aimed at sharing educational experience in order to enhance operating room safety and improve cleft surgical services in the country.

The workshop was part of the Smile Train and safe surgery Lifebox initiative to improve surgery and anaesthesia safety for paediatric patients undergoing cleft surgeries.

Dr Edward Wayi, a plastic surgeon at CCBRT Hospital, said many children with cleft and palate lip deformities are left home with no help as parent fear effects of the surgeries.

He said that in Tanzania, approximately 2,500 children are born with

cleft deformities annually and fortunately, most cleft deformities can be fixed with a simple surgery.

"We encourage parents to bring children to hospital as the surgeries are safe and completely bring smiles on children," he said.

He said since the surgeries are ideally performed within the first 18 months of a child's life, early identification and intervention is essential for good outcomes.

According to him, a cleft lip affects usually the upper part of the lip where there is a physical split of the lip, while a cleft palate is when there is a split of opening in the roof of the mouth and can affect both males and females.

The expert emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring successful surgeries and post-operation care for patients with cleft conditions.

Dr Peter Saria, an anaesthesiologist and trainer at the workshop, said the aim of bringing together the professionals in the workshop was to provide them with non-technical skills and awareness to ensure they

speak the same language, have unity, and have the ability to connect when performing surgeries.

"Ensuring there is teamwork, and we believe that collaboration of professionals in the operating room helps improve the outcome both during and after the procedure," he said.

Dr Athanase Masele, dentist and cleft surgeon at Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital, said the problem of cleft lip is currently big because the services are not provided on a large scale.

"This issue involves stigma and that is why parents hide their children, especially in rural areas. But there is also a rise in awareness as many stakeholders continue to fund surgeries, education and awareness campaigns targeting rural areas," he said.

Belinda Karimi, Lifebox nurse fellow, said all patients deserve safe surgeries and that it is important for the team in the theatre room to closely collaborate to deliver cleft surgery and care as well as post-operation recovery.

# Zimbabwe starts emergency polio vaccination drive

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has begun an emergency campaign to inoculate more than 4 million children against polio.

This came after health authorities detected three cases caused by the rare mutation of the weakened virus used in oral vaccines, including a 10-year-old girl who was paralyzed last month.

The health ministry said laboratory tests from samples collected from sewage sites in several areas of the capital, Harare, late last year, showed the presence of a mutated polio virus that originated in an oral vaccine used in the global eradication effort.

In rare instances, the live polio virus in vaccines can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks, especially in places with poor sanitation and low vaccination levels.

The number of polio cases globally has dropped by more than 99 percent since the global effort to wipe out the disease led by the World Health Organization and others began in 1988. But the majority of children being paralyzed by polio these days are being crippled by a virus that was originally linked to a vaccine.

Vaccination teams in Zimbabwe are moving from house to house to deliver more doses to protect children, while others will be stationed at health facilities, authorities said.

Officials said it was the first time Zimbabwe would be using a new oral polio vaccine specifically de-

signed to reduce the risk of the virus within it mutating into a dangerous form.

Zimbabwe aims to roll out more than 10 million new vaccine doses targeting just over 4 million children below the age of 10 in two rounds in February and March. More than 95 percent of that population needs to be immunized against polio to stop new outbreaks.

Last year, the wild poliovirus caused a dozen cases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the only countries that still have that virus. In comparison, polioviruses linked to the vaccine caused more than 500 cases in nearly two dozen countries globally, mostly in Africa.

Zimbabwe last reported a wild poliovirus case in 1986, according to the United Nations children's Agency.

Zimbabwe Health Minister Douglas Mombeshora called the new detection of polio "a serious concern" but said they were prepared to respond swiftly. The health ministry said it was collaborating with health authorities in at least five other African countries that had recently detected polioviruses through environmental sampling and routine surveillance.

Polio can cause total paralysis, and children under 5 are especially vulnerable. It is transmitted from person to person, mainly through contact with contaminated feces, water or food, as well as through droplets from a sneeze or cough of an infected person.



**DOWN, DOWN, DOWN...:** Dar es Salaam residents pictured yesterday visibly surprised and in wonder and disbelief when viewing what remained of a semi-trailer truck said to have skidded off the bridge and tumbled into the river at the Tegeta kwa Ndevu section of Bagamoyo Road, with its driver reported to have died on the spot. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Three die of cholera, four hospitalised in Singida

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

AT least three people were confirmed to have died of cholera and four others hospitalised in Ikungi District, Singida Region.

Ikungi District Commissioner Thomas Apon said this yesterday, explaining that Kikio Ward is the hardest hit area.

He said the disease outbreak was discovered in the region last week and the government has taken steps to control it so that it does not

spread to other areas.

The DC said immediately after the outbreak, the government sent health workers to the affected area to work 24 hours to treat patients and quarantine was set up.

Apon said that preliminary investigation conducted by health experts revealed that the source of the disease was consumption of unsafe water.

"The government sent medical equipment and medicines to the affected areas and I have directed

all village leaders in Ikungi District to call public meetings to educate people on how they can protect themselves against cholera," he said.

The DC asked residents to take precautions by boiling drinking water, washing hands thoroughly with soap, washing fruits before eating as well as avoiding unnecessary gatherings.

The disease is caused by vibrio cholera bacteria in the small intestine, which produces a toxic

that causes the release of a lot of water in the intestine through diarrhoea and vomiting.

The bacteria is found in contaminated food, water and feces from an infected individual. Someone can also get infected through dirty water, vegetables grown in sewage, fish and seafood caught in dirty water as well as food and drinks that contain the bacteria.

# BRI driveing strong Africa-China relations, expert says

By Special Correspondent

THE strong and growing Africa-China relations could be partly attributed to the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a Ghanaian expert has said.

Paul Frimpong, executive director of the Africa-China Center for Policy and Advisory, a think tank based in Ghana, said that Africa has been benefiting from the BRI to boost infrastructure development.

The BRI is important for Africa because primary infrastructure bottlenecks in energy, water, sanitation, telecommunications, and transportation, and low access to electricity need to be removed for the continent to achieve its goals of boosting intra-African trade, he said.

"African infrastructure and economic growth may be unified and expedited due to China's participation in infrastructure projects on the continent. Multiple countries across the continent have benefited tremendously from these relations with China," he said.

BRI is already helping Africa to improve infrastructure to make it easier to conduct more intraregional and international trade, lower business costs, increase Africa's domestic and international competitiveness, and thereby experience economic success and sustained growth."

Frimpong said the interconnectivity on the continent provided by Chinese-built projects aligns with Africa's ambitions for the next 50 years, including achieving inclusive social and economic growth by ending

poverty, inequalities of income and opportunity, and creating decent jobs, among others.

Besides the economic cooperation, he said, China and African countries are connected by their shared desire to advance

the South-South agenda.

"Countries of the Global South broadly applaud China's resolve to forge partnerships based on equality and respect and its commitment to refraining from meddling in domestic issues," he said.



**WOMEN FUND TANZANIA-TRUST**  
Empowering Local Women Heroes

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
New Chairperson of Women Fund Tanzania Trust Board of Trustees



**Prof. Penina Mlama**

Mlama has a strong commitment to gender issues, performing arts, development, and education. Prof. Penina is also a leadership expert, and she has served on various boards including: The Mwalimu Nyerere University, the Tanzania Commission for Universities, the Uongozi Institute and St John's University of Tanzania.

Before her election, Prof. Penina was a member of WFT-T Board of Trustees since 2022. She officially assumed office on 13th December 2023 after the end of the transitional leadership period.

The Board takes this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to Prof. Penina Mlama for accepting the great responsibility of leading the Board of Trustees of the Women's Fund Tanzania (WFT - Trust).

Also, The Board of Trustees extends its sincere gratitude to Prof. Ruth Meena for her strategic leadership, which has propelled the Fund to reach enviable heights in its short life.

Congratulations and all the best Professor Penina Mlama. Welcome aboard!

**Issued by**  
**Secretariat: WFT-T**

The Board of Trustees of Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT-T) is pleased to announce that Prof. Penina Mlama has been elected as the new Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for a three-year term during a meeting held on 11th August 2023. Prof. Mlama succeeds Prof. Ruth Meena, who served as the Board's first chair. A distinguished academic and playwright, Prof.

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**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**  
**PEOPLE OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (1)**

**CAMFED Overview**  
CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools' years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists, and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit People Operations Coordinator based in Dar es Salaam.

**Job Title:** People Operations Coordinator  
**Report to:** People Operations Manager  
**Location:** National Office, DSM, Tanzania

**People and Culture Team**  
The People and Culture Team is on a journey of transformation to support CAMFED in the achievement of a bold ambition to 2030. We have an ambition to revolutionise our approach to people and culture capitalising on the strong foundational culture in CAMFED. Together we are pioneering humanity in the workplace. Whilst each team is grounded in the local context, we work collaboratively as 'One Team'.

**Principle Accountability**  
Undertake administrative duties to support the People Operations Manager to manage, develop and continually improve the services provided by the local People Services Hub. To work with the People Operations Manager to ensure all processes and systems work efficiently and support people locally. In partnership with the People Operations Manager, build a reputation for providing excellent customer service.

**Specific Accountabilities:**  
**Coordination of People operations**

- Provide administration support to the local People Operations Hub
- Work with others across the region/global hubs as necessary.
- Support the administration involved in commissioning, contracting, and working with external partners.

**Compliance and Risk Management**

- Maintain data, to support accurate reporting.
- Manage compliance and risk with regards to employee records
- Stay abreast of People and Culture projects, events and resources in order to be able to quickly and appropriately answer team member enquiries.

**Recruitment and onboarding**

- Support the administration around recruitment ensuring the candidate experience is a positive one.
- Support administration around induction to ensure a seamless and positive introduction to the organisation.
- Support the administering of employment contracts and support with pay and benefits administration as required by People Operations Manager.

**Training and Development**

- Support the administration of ongoing learning events as required by the Learning and Talent team.
- Consolidate employee training needs and organize trainings in collaboration with People Operations Manager.
- Prepare staff training & management development reports as required by People Operations manager.
- Act as a moderator for learning events providing technical support and follow up as necessary (using platforms such as zoom)
- Support the preparation and execution of orientation activities on new or revised people and culture policies, procedures, and systems.

**Industrial Relations**

- Handle daily employees' grievances and assist in coordination of grievance and disciplinary hearing meetings where necessary in accordance with the legislation.
- Handle any labour relations and welfare matters in collaboration with People and Culture Manager

Any other duties as assigned by the People Operations Manager and National Director

**Person Specification**

- Ability and confidence to communicate verbally and in writing at all levels.
- Excellent organisational, prioritising, and problem-solving skills with high attention to detail
- Proactive, positive approach with the ability to self-manage and multi-task.
- Demonstrable experience of providing administrative support to a team
- Highly competent in using Microsoft Office/Google tools.
- Some knowledge of or appetite for gaining understanding of People and Culture
- Working knowledge of using systems and databases to support data analytics.
- Commitment and passion for CAMFED's values, mission and vision.
- Bachelor's degree in human resources management, Business Administration, Public Administration or any other related degree

The duties and responsibilities in this job description are not exhaustive and are subject to change in accordance with the needs of the organisation.

**Applications details:**  
Please submit applications to [hrtanzania@camfed.org](mailto:hrtanzania@camfed.org) by **29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**, including your most recent CV (indicating three traceable referees with valid email addresses) and covering letter, using **People Operations Coordinator** in the subject line. Due to the volume of responses, only successful candidates will be contacted.

**Board Members**  
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Leonard Fabian Msigwa – Vice Chair  
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Thursday 22 February 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Public institutions' cooking energy shift quite pragmatic

SOME fruit is being reaped from the government's directive to public institutions feeding not fewer than 100 people per day to abandon charcoal or firewood, with those targeted indeed increasingly heeding the call to turn to what is described as clean cooking energy.

The Environment portfolio holder in the Cabinet has lately been giving a briefing on the level of alternative energy uptake and its character, and it is quite clear that clean energy in the sense of natural gas remains far from adequately popularised. Most of those shifting are making an effort to use improved wood-based modes.

A Vice President's Office (VPO) write-up on the remarks the minister made at a recent press briefing shows that institutions under the Education, Science and Technology ministry lead the way, having dropped charcoal use by up to 85 per cent by the end of last month.

Rapidly, 30 out of 35 teacher training colleges had made the shift alongside 51 out of 54 folk development colleges, and eight out of 36 centres run by the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA). Other categories of institutions, among them schools, had much fewer numbers in comparison.

For one thing, the shift is less to cleaner energy than to affordable alternatives which don't require that forest patches be cleared on a regular basis for charcoal to be plentiful.

This kind of uptake is a sort of wake-up call for the Energy ministry in particular to liaise with the Minerals one on the need to expedite the availability of wood-based briquettes.

These can also be produced from various combustible materials, especially crop waste, saw dust and

even decomposed plants or dung from herbivores. The key aspect about this variety of non-charcoal alternative isn't in its being especially clean but the factor of the relatively low cost.

It is noteworthy that it is public institutions opting for usable softer version of firewood where the felling of trees for charcoal is eliminated.

Here there is a distinct idea of what 'alternative energy' ought to imply, and where public efforts ought to be directed.

The public wants a massive supply of cheap briquettes, while policy advisers want clean energy - and they are appealing to the public to go for gas.

This is clearly in the view that the shift is feasible and straightforward, just a matter of awareness, etc. The cost margin is largely ignored for a strident emphasis on clean energy.

Experience up to late January on how the government directive is being taken up shows the pace as fairly slow, even bordering reluctance.

However, the scenario is much brighter in a number of areas, including in vocational training centres, police training colleges and a good number of boarding schools.

Just a few have picked natural gas as their proper alternative. Others are making frantic efforts to find options that will not cause cost headaches in future. There was a missing link, though, and it was in using biomass directly for usable electricity - this chiefly owing to regulatory constraints.

The other lesson is that chances of a wide-ranging shift to natural gas are limited if public institutions systematically hesitate to move in that direction, and energy policy makers cling to expectations that by 2032 most households will have shifted to natural gas.

## Brela training on company law provisions of great use

HEARING about training on company ownership laws primarily meant to keep the relevant authorities abreast with new changes so that innocent people are not punished is highly inspiring.

One ought to be familiar with matters at hand and even figure out what is being talked about as it covers two or three steps taken up in one breath particularly when involving controversies.

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) would then presumably take the position that the law was insufficient in that regard because there are stakeholders losing out or otherwise being 'punished'.

Even without some awareness of what is at stake and taking up the issue purely at the level of company or business registration and licensing, various issues crop up.

The second aspect is the method, where BRELA comes up with training sessions first held in Mbeya Region, bringing together legal officers, magistrates, police and immigration officers and significantly, even the anti-corruption bureau.

The idea was make all concerned get familiar with the changes. Of course, that isn't what is commonly known of legal procedure, where a court judgment serves as a precedent as to how far subsidiary ownership rights or entitlements can be recognised, on case by case basis.

When the keeper of the seals used in company registration goes on an educational drive on such issues, the clear implication is that the office is removing what in law is known as benefit of doubt - where

those auxiliary claimants have to prove their entitlement beyond reasonable doubt.

Without undue prejudice as to the substance of the BRELA campaign, it would appear that the issues relate less to business registration but succession - for instance, when a business owner dies, a company fails or the relevant shareholders disagree and split up.

There are issues that belong to the Registration Insolvency and Trustee Agency (RITA) and are not embedded with company registration.

The law on companies is one of the most longstanding pieces of legislation we have, as for decades we retained the Companies Ordinance, implying that it was put to the Legislative Council (before independence) when efforts were being made to convert UK law into Tanganyika legislation.

It became the Companies Act in 2002, or slightly earlier, with some amendments on the duties of company directors, etc.

That can still be problematic given the nature of the operations of state-run firms like Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) and the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco).

That is why one would be excused to have reservations when top BRELA officials discuss changes in company ownership law which now recognises stakeholders not recognised by previous law.

The agency says that under the previous law, beneficiaries were not recognised in registration documents and thus used to find themselves in trouble whenever the issue came up.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

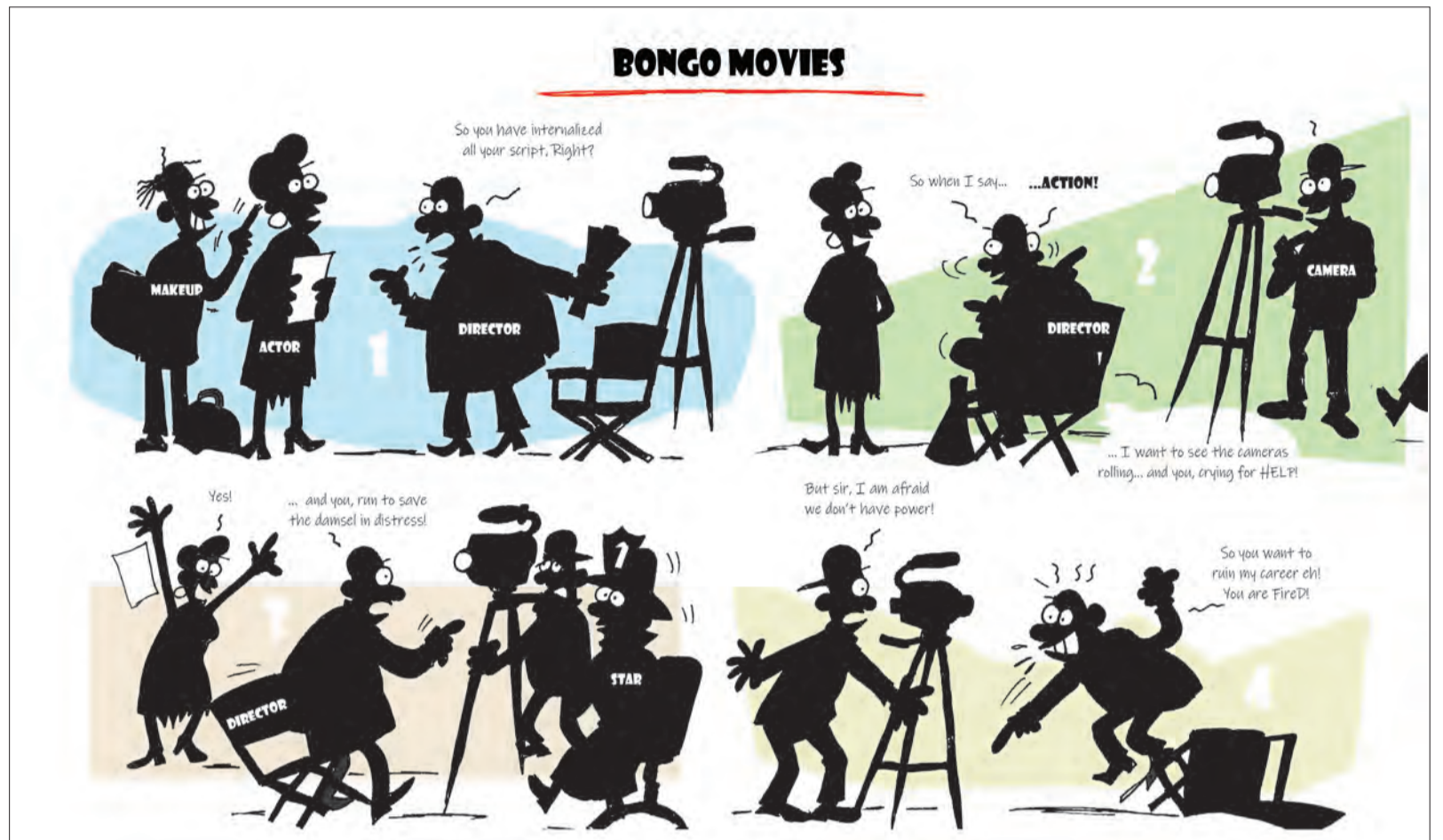
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## Charting the course for transformation: Will small island 'digital' states cope?



Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are using digital tools and technologies for real and positive impact on their countries and communities. Credit: Ministry of Digital Transformation, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

### UNITED NATIONS

Small Island Developing States, or SIDS, have long been pioneers in international development, often compelled by the challenges they face. Positioned on the frontlines of climate change, they lead efforts in mitigation, adaptation, and advocacy, and despite their geographical dispersion, they are innovating approaches to resilience and sustainability.

SIDS are leveraging digital tools and technologies for real and positive impact on their countries and communities. They are leaders in internet gender parity, whilst a number perform strongly on global indices of cybersecurity. They are increasingly becoming Small Island Digital States.

This shift is reshaping the way people in SIDS live and work, facilitating connectivity, shaping new industries and opportunities, and ensuring that public services can reach even the most remote areas.

From the SIDS Global Data Hub in Antigua and Barbuda to the national digital strategies in the Cook Islands and Niue, to the Digital Pathway of Samoa, and substantial innovation efforts in countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, the Maldives, and São Tomé and Príncipe, digital is positively changing lives and livelihoods.

Advocating for transformation A whole-of-society approach to

digital transformation is needed to benefit all facets of SIDS' societies and economies. This involves placing people at the core of digital endeavours, shaping regulations to address digital harms, and fostering digital skills across society - particularly in relation to shaping future-looking skills and career foundations and pathways.

This also includes developing and retaining talent within the public sector. The collaborative efforts of government, private sector, and civil society are essential for a strategic and inclusive approach to deliver the potential of digital. A major upcoming report from UNDP - Small Island Digital States - identifies how SIDS can drive a whole-of-society approach founded on UNDP's framework.

Through exploring the digital journeys of SIDS in this forthcoming report, it is clear that SIDS are increasingly recognizing the unique roles and strengths of each sector and ensuring that the benefits of digital reach all members of society. This includes the digital inclusion of remote and marginalized populations.

The involvement of young people, often hard to reach through traditional means, is paramount. They will be the digital leaders, innovators, and customers of the future. Recognizing this, a separate study of young people's hopes, concerns, and aspirations will also be published soon by UNDP - leveraging a

unique survey of 5,000 young people in SIDS, conducted via WhatsApp, Telegram, and Facebook Messenger.

### Shaping Small Island Digital States

UNDP supports numerous SIDS on their digital transformation journeys, for example conducting comprehensive Digital Readiness Assessments in over 15 SIDS - and having positioned digital transformation as a key pillar of the UNDP 'Rising Up for SIDS' framework.

Our work in SIDS has reaffirmed the importance of understanding how to apply digital in the most useful way. This means we need to recognize that digital transformation is often rooted in analogue and offline foundations. Individual knowledge and skills to use technology safely and meaningfully are important.

Behavioural change is vital for sustainable digital adoption, requiring shifts in internal cultures and processes, including in leveraging approaches such as open source. Financing for digital entrepreneurs in SIDS can also not be overlooked, with local financing institutions often more familiar with tourism or real estate, and less clear about the potential of digital enterprises and entrepreneurs. And planning for the long term is imperative as the return on investment in digital is often not immediate.

SIDS governments and other innovators are building the political capital, buy-in, and momentum to

deliver transformational change. Our Digital Readiness Assessments highlighted that nearly 60 percent of SIDS' populations are keen to see even bolder digital efforts from their governments.

**Charting the course** UNDP's extensive digital work across SIDS, and the findings of these two reports, highlight that despite discussions often framing SIDS in terms of vulnerability and isolation, the digital realm is proving that SIDS are not just surviving; they are thriving.

Through leadership, adaptability, and the emergence of local digital ecosystems, they are demonstrating the transformative power of digital technologies. SIDS are actively engaging in public-private partnerships, leveraging civil society, and collaborating beyond their borders to advance digital objectives collectively.

Global collaboration across the SIDS community is already driving digital best practice. Many are sharing their digital knowledge, expertise, and learning - accelerating the digital journeys of fellow countries.

This collaboration is reshaping the SIDS discourse, showcasing that these countries are actively leading in digital expertise and exploration. SIDS are agile and moving quickly. As islands, they are exciting global beacons of digital innovation and demonstration. And they are swiftly evolving into Small Island Digital States.



# Techniques to expedite transfer of knowledge to young learners

**L**EARNING is a complex process which demands a lot of efforts before a certain skill is acquired. Teachers find themselves in a pressure to enable learners attain the expected competence. All blames are thrown to teachers when something is not proper with learners.

To ensure effective transfer of knowledge, many aspects are considered including handwriting, organization of work, ability to reason and others.

Younger learners are different from older learners as they are not capable of self-leadership. They need to be directed in all ways of academic life. They are still enjoying comfortability from parents and guardians.

Everything is ready for them. They just consume. They don't think of any future challenges as they are not capable of thinking from a broader perspective. Young learners are less afraid of doing mistakes; they are not frightened so

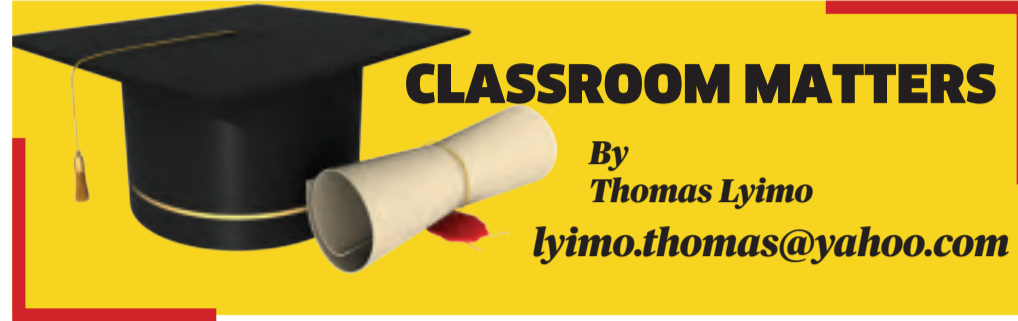
much when criticized.

Taking into account all the features of a younger learner it becomes necessary for teachers to be creative to be able to impart a certain skills and knowledge at a time. Teachers need to be motivational but also entertaining to capture the attention of learners. Teachers should not force learners to learn but rather convincing them to do so.

Sometimes the pressure from parents who are highly educated or with little understanding may derail the teacher from the path they have created to make learners fulfil the intended objectives. Some parents forget that learning is a gradual process.

They do not take into account the differences in terms of complexity of lessons when learners move from one class to another. As they are not well exposed to learning parameters and patterns, they use past results to determine the present results.

For teachers to be suc-



## CLASSROOM MATTERS

By  
Thomas Lyimo  
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cessful they need to know how to handle pressure from parents and move on strongly with the business of shaping learners into important individuals in the future. Teachers need to identify basic skills to be mastered by younger learners and design a plan to impart them into minds of those learners through stages.

Teachers may select a certain skill for a certain topic. This enables them at the end of the topic to make evaluation and see how much they have succeeded. When you are evaluating a single skill it becomes easy to come up with reliable findings. If teachers are seri-

ous in imparting a particular skill to a certain topic at the end of the year they will have accomplished the objectives which they wanted the learner to attain.

When teachers do revision it is an opportunity for learners to apply some skills in the topics which they did not apply previously.

The following are the skills which teachers should struggle to impart into the minds of younger learners to make them successful in their academic pursuits.

One of the skills is reading and writing. The very basic skill when it comes to schooling is the ability to read and write. While a teacher is teaching some

concepts or perspectives at the same time he may find that most of the learners are still struggling in reading and writing.

If the learner cannot read and write while at the same time teaching younger learners on how to read and write while at the same time teaching the syllabus contents to make their business successful.

Another important skill is organization of work. It is hard to tell someone that a person is learning if the organization of their work is poor. Good organization of work motivates someone to accept that a per-

son is learning. Therefore the teacher needs to utilize some of their time directing younger learners how to organize their work. Organization of work reflects intellectual capacity of an individual hence it should be taken with much emphasis enabling individuals organize their work in a manner that is understandable.

Also younger learners should be taught how to find solutions for challenges. Instead of the teacher everyday providing an exercise and come to mark later, they may decide to provide an exercise which will be open and done during the lesson time. Demanding learners to find solutions for questions during the lesson time creates a sense of responsibility and make learners to depend on themselves when finding solutions. Learning should help an individual become independent. There is a tendency of some learners waiting for others to find answers for questions so that they can copy. This is a very destructive behavior

and it can be discouraged by demanding instant solution for questions.

Again younger learners should be taught communicating. Learning demands cooperation. If learners cannot communicate they cannot cooperate. Teachers should teach learners to communicate so that they can teach each other as today's world places much focus on learner-centred approach in the teaching and learning process. The teacher cannot teach everything to everyone. Some pupils should be source of knowledge to others.

It is not possible to teach all skills in a single lesson or topic. The teacher needs to divide their teaching time into objectives to be realized per topic or sub-topic. This may help to have quick improvement. People are always eager to see improvement. If there is no any change in learning no one can be convinced that learning has taken place. Teaching is achieving a certain skill at a time.

By Guardian Reporter

STEEP rise in malnutrition among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Gaza strip poses grave threats to their health.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) call for safe, unimpeded and sustained access to urgently deliver multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip.

This includes nutritious foods, nutrition supplies and essential services for malnourished and at-risk children and women to safely access health and nutrition care and treatment services, particularly infants and young children under 5.

According to a comprehensive new analysis released by the Global Nutrition Cluster, the on-going conflict in the Gaza Strip enters its 20th week, food and safe water have become incredibly scarce and diseases are rife, compromising women and children's nutrition and immunity and resulting in a surge of acute malnutrition.

The report 'Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis - Gaza' - finds that the situation is particularly extreme in the Northern Gaza Strip, which has been almost completely cut off from aid for weeks.

Nutrition screenings conducted at shelters and health centres in the north found that 15.6 per cent - or 1 in 6 children under 2 years of age - are acutely malnourished.

Of these, almost 3 per cent suffer from severe wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition, which puts young children at highest risk of medical complications and death unless they receive urgent treatment. As the data were collected in January, the situation is likely to be even graver today.

Similar screenings in the Southern Gaza Strip, in Rafah, where aid has been more available, found 5 per cent of children under two years are acutely malnourished.

This is clear evidence that access to humanitarian aid is needed and can help prevent the worst outcomes. It also reinforces agencies' calls to protect Rafah from the threat of intensified military operations.

Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of WHO's Health Emer-



## WHO report shows children in Gaza are threatened by rising malnutrition

gencies Programme said: "Hunger and disease are a deadly combination. Hungry, weakened and deeply traumatised children are more likely to get sick, and children who are sick, especially with diarrhea, cannot absorb nutrients well. It's dangerous, and tragic, and happening before our eyes."

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations, Ted Chaiban said: "The Gaza Strip is poised to witness an explosion in preventable child deaths which would com-

pound the already unbearable level of child deaths in Gaza. We've been warning for weeks that the Gaza Strip is on the brink of a nutrition crisis. If the conflict doesn't end now, children's nutrition will continue to plummet, leading to preventable deaths or health issues which will affect the children of Gaza for the rest of their lives and have potential intergenerational consequences."

"The steep rise in malnutrition that we are seeing in Gaza is dangerous and entirely preventable", said WFP Assistant Executive

Director for Programme Operations, Valerie Guarnieri. "Children and women, in particular, need continuous access to healthy foods, clean water and health and nutrition services. For that to happen, we need decisive improvements on security and humanitarian access, and additional entry points for aid to enter Gaza."

Before the recent months' hostilities, wasting in the Gaza Strip was rare with just 0.8 per cent of children under 5 years of age acutely malnourished. The rate of 15.6 percent of wasting among children under 2 in

Northern Gaza suggests a serious and rapid decline. Such a decline in a population's nutritional status in three months is unprecedented globally.

There is a high risk that malnutrition will continue to rise across the Gaza Strip due to the alarming lack of food, water and health and nutrition services:

At least 90 percent of children under the age of 2 and 95 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women face severe food poverty - meaning they have consumed two or less food groups in the previous day - and the

food they do have access to is of the lowest nutritional value.

According to the report, 95 percent of households are limiting meals and portion sizes, with 64 per cent of households eating only one meal a day. Over 95 percent of households said they had restricted the amount of food adults received in order to ensure small children had food to eat.

Inadequate safe drinking water, as well as insufficient water for cooking and hygiene purposes, are compounding poor nutrition.

On average, households surveyed had access to less than one litre of safe water per person per day.

According to humanitarian standards, the minimum amount of safe water needed in an emergency is 3 litres per person per day, while the overall standard is 15 litres per person, which includes sufficient quantities for drinking, washing and cooking.

Without more humanitarian assistance, the nutritional situation is likely to continue to deteriorate rapidly and at scale across the Gaza Strip. With the majority of health, water and sanitation services severely degraded, it is essential that those that remain functional are protected and reinforced to stem the spread of diseases and stop malnutrition from worsening.

# Snowless winter and climate crisis: Kashmir's 'unprecedented' weather



By Umar Manzoor Shah

**A**BDUL Gani Malik, a 75-year-old goldsmith living in Kashmir's capital, Srinagar, has witnessed eras of tranquillity and turbulence in the Himalayan region.

What he has not seen, however, is a snowless Kashmir during the winter.

Malik still works at his shop, located in one of the jam-packed markets of the old city area of Kashmir's capital, intricately lacing colourful emeralds on dazzling gold necklaces.

While conversing with IPS, he mentions that the winter in Kashmir has never been so terrible and terrifying as it has been this year.

He recalls how, during the 40-day harshest winter period from December 21 to January 30, snow would accumulate to about six or seven feet, freezing and making pathways treacherous even for city dwellers.

In the mountainous region, according to Malik, the snow would

**Local Muslims held special prayer ceremonies in January for snowfall. Photo: IPS**

last for several months, regulating temperatures during the summer and providing water and food.

"Now is a different tale. The mountains appear dry and dead. The rivers are carrying no water, and our woods are bereft of life. This is an absolute apocalypse," Malik said.

The region of Kashmir is located in the north-western complex of the Himalayan ranges, with marked relief variation, snow-capped summits, antecedent drainage, complex geological structure, and rich temperate vegetation and fauna.

Kashmir's winter is traditionally divided into three parts, Chilay Kalan (old man winter), Chilay Khuarud (young winter), and Chilay Bacha (kiddy winter). The coldest part, called Chilay Kalan, starts on December 21 and ends at the end of January. It is during this period that snowfall is expected.

"The temperatures during

this period plummet to even minus 8 to 10 degrees Celsius, and when it snows, it accumulates in glaciers. The snowfall in the later period is of no use," says Abdul Ghani Malik.

He was part of the congregational prayers held across Kashmir for snowfall. Local Muslims, who constitute more than 90 percent of the local population, decided in January to hold special prayers for snowfall in all major mosques. "We prayed, and we hope God listens to our plight."

According to Abid Ali, a student of environmental sciences from Kashmir, Kashmir's livelihood depends on snowfall, and if it doesn't snow, things are going to take a terrible shape.

"The region's electricity system, agriculture, and tourism are all dependent on snowfall. The dry winter will prove catastrophic for the local populace," Abid said.

Kashmir, as per estimates, reported a 79 percent precipita-

tion deficit through December of last year. Indian meteorologists claim that unusual weather is linked to global warming and El Niño, the sporadic climate phenomenon that can create warm, dry conditions in the Indian subcontinent and other parts of Asia.

## Threat to agriculture

In Kashmir, 60 percent of the state's revenue comes from agriculture and horticulture, and about 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas.

However, over the years, the valley has experienced irregular patterns of precipitation. In the first five months of 2022, Kashmir saw a 38 percent rain shortage, according to data provided by the Meteorological Department (MeT) in Srinagar.

The data reveals that the Kashmir Valley has experienced a significant lack of pre-monsoon precipitation over the years. From March 1 to May 31, 2022, the region got 99.5 mm

of rain, 70 percent lower than average.

Comparatively, between March and May of each of the following years—2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021—there was a deficit of 16, 28, 35, and 26 percent, respectively. The dry winter this year is already throwing life out of gear for the farmers.

Abdul Karim Ganaie, a farmer hailing from south Kashmir's Pulwama, says the threats are menacingly looming large, and people cannot do anything other than watch helplessly as the crisis unfolds.

When IPS contacted Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal, the director of agriculture in Kashmir, he stated that the department was closely monitoring the situation and would be issuing a warning to the farmers in the coming months.

"We accept that the situation is going to prove worrisome for Kashmir's farming community, but we have to adopt a strategy to ensure minimal losses. We are working on that front," Choudhary said.

## Tourism under cloud

The famous tourist destinations in Kashmir are also witnessing a dip in tourist arrivals, putting the people associated with this business in dire straits. In January, the famous tourist resorts recorded the lowest arrival of foreign and domestic tourists, with only 30 percent occupancy in hotels.

It snows at last but too little, too late!

Finally, in the first week of February, when the harshest 40-day-long spell was already over, it snowed in most of the areas of Kashmir. However, according to experts, the snow would yield the fewest results as it is not possible to accumulate for an extended period.

What is important, says Mehraj Ahmad, a research scholar working on climate change in Kashmir, is that the snow must accumulate in the higher reaches for as long as possible until the arrival of summers.

"The snowfall of February or March carries the least significance when compared with the snowfall of January. Therefore, we really are keeping our fingers crossed and praying for the safeguard of our lives against the dark, dreadful effects of climate change," Ahmad said.

IPS



**Now is a different tale. The mountains appear dry and dead. The rivers are carrying no water, and our woods are bereft of life. This is an absolute apocalypse.**

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

**MEDICAL** experts and women's rights activists are pinning hopes on the establishment of an anti-rape crisis center for the provision of medical and legal aid to victims of sexual assaults in a timely manner will ensure convictions.

Currently, it takes years to bring the perpetrators of rape to justice due to a lack of evidence and more often than not, the accused get acquitted.

"In most of the cases, the evidence in sexual assault cases is lost because people wash the victims' genital areas from where samples are taken for semen analysis to trace the real culprit. Subsequently, the accused are acquitted by courts," Prof. Hakim Khan Afridi, head of the Forensic Sciences Department at the Khyber Medical College, said.

Afridi added that it was also important to preserve the survivor's clothes to ensure that the perpetrators of rape and sodomy are brought to justice.

Advocate Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel said the accused are often acquitted due to reasons such as faulty first information reports (FIRs), insufficient evidence, credibility issues with witnesses, problems in the investigation process, absence of forensic labs and crisis centers in provinces and cities, legal procedural errors, compromises or settlements outside the legal system, potential pressure or threats, societal and cultural factors influencing perceptions, effective legal defences creating reasonable doubt, among others.

Improving the legal system,

## New anti-rape crisis centre brings hope for sexual abuse survivors in Pakistan



Women and experts attend a seminar on rape and justice organized by Blue Veins in Peshawar, Pakistan. Photo: IPS

enhancing investigative procedures, and addressing societal attitudes are essential for fair and effective adjudication, she said.

"Rape cases in Pakistan may face delays in decisions due to factors like meticulous forensic processes, adherence to legal procedures, court backlogs, investigation complexities, challenges in witness cooperation, the need for thorough legal representation, potential appeals, and consideration of

the psychological impact on survivors," she said.

Kakakhel, who supports rape survivors with legal resources, said that ongoing efforts aim to streamline legal processes, but reforms, improved investigations, and increased awareness are crucial for minimizing delays within Pakistan's legal framework.

However, lawyer Muhammad Ismail is hopeful that things will get better with the setting up of the first-

ever Anti-Rape Crisis Centre (ARCC) at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad, which will help the survivors.

Earlier in January, Pakistan, in collaboration with the UK government and UNFPA, set up the ARCC to extend the expeditious and effective redressal mechanism for survivors of sexual violence. It seeks to provide well-rounded medical, legal, and social services to survivors of sexual and gender-

based violence.

Ismail says it is a big development towards ensuring safety, protection, and bringing to justice those committing sexual assault.

"It will help the victims' medically as well as legally. Samples for semen analysis and the provision of legal assistance will be done on time and enough evidence will lead to convictions," he says.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the UK's High Commissioner, Jane Mar-

riott, said that the crisis cell was a significant milestone in addressing gender-based violence in Pakistan.

"This new facility will ensure that gender-based violence survivors are provided with quicker response services under one roof. The UK is proud to partner with Pakistan in advancing such important innovations for tackling violence," Marriott said.

The United Nations Popu-

lation Fund Representative,

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, said,

"Rape is an ugly crime that causes lifelong pain and psychological trauma to those who face it. By all means, rape is a crisis that needs a collective response. We should start with prevention and awareness raising but also ensure a comprehensive response to help those in need.

Women-rights campaigners appreciate the center, too.

An eight-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 45-year-old man in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of the four provinces in Pakistan but the culprit is scot-free because of a lack of evidence, Bibi Nusrat, a women's rights activist, told IPS.

"Initially, the accused confessed to police but in court, he denied any wrongdoing because the sample had been collected from the victim in an incorrect way. She has taken a bath soon after being raped," she said.

The ARCC is a blessing for the people who faced issues in assessing justice.

Dr. Muhammad Jawad at PIMS, where the ARCC is located, says they are establishing branches throughout the country.

"The victims would contact the centre in their respective provinces, where their medical examinations and tests would be done free of charge," he says. The rape victims would also get free legal assistance because, in most cases, the hiring of lawyers is a big issue due to a lack of money.

## Veggie centre in new project to counter effects of aflatoxin in vegetable sector

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE Arusha-based world vegetable centre (Worldveg) has embarked on a crucial project meant to overcome aflatoxin cases in the vegetable sub-sector, especially in the vegetable drying, and other value addition sides.

Tanzania stands among countries which continue to battle against aflatoxin in crops produced and foods, the challenge which apart from affecting the agricultural sector, poses a major health risk to human beings.

Aflatoxins are a family of toxins produced by certain fungi that are found on agricultural crops such as maize (corn), peanuts, cottonseed, and tree nuts. The main fungi that produce aflatoxins are *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*, which are abundant in warm and humid regions of the world.

In Tanzania, aflatoxin contamination cases have widely been reported to appear in some few common crops, including maize and groundnuts, resulting most of the relevant research being concentrated on the said prone crops.

But recently, the agricultural experts at the Worldveg have seen the need to launch a key initiative to help counter aflatoxin cases towards the vegetable sub-sector, after realizing the possibility of contamination of the disease in vegetables, the common and popular human consumed food.

Dr Simon Boniface, an Entomologist and Laboratory Manager yesterday told The Guardian during an interview that the ongoing research was being executed in cooperation with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

"In Tanzania, very little research has been conducted to establish the vegetable varieties that are subjected to aflatoxin, but some reports have suggested there are some vegetables and spices that are prone to aflatoxin, and thus we have decided to venture into the relevant research," he unveiled.

He informed that apart from touching the farmers, the ongoing intervention was majoring efforts to empower the vegetable dealers, those engaging into value addition.

"The vision behind the initiative is to impart the vegetable value addition stakeholders with vital knowledge on how to mitigate the possibility of aflatoxin contamination in their products," he observed.

For instance, Dr Simon expressed, processing of vegetables incorporates a range of activities, such as drying, processing, storing and packaging, saying all stages can open the door for aflatoxin contamination.

Together with that, the expert observed that since the aflatoxin fungus are living underground, within the plants as well as in the end produce, there's huge possibility for vegetable varieties to be contaminated, hence a need for specific research and solution.

Records show that more than half of Tanzanians live in rural areas and depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. However, these crops are highly susceptible to fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination—the leading cause of liver disease and liver cancer in Tanzania—and reduces the country's export-earning potential.

To fight against fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination, the Ministry of Agriculture has so far penned down three deals and two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with different companies for the execution of the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project, worth US Dollars 35.3 million (about 81bn/-).

Together with that, several other efforts have been stepped up with other stakeholders in the private sector, international organizations, to add muscles in the war against the dangerous fungus in crops.

In the similar constructive role, the IITA has managed to develop aflatoxin biocontrol technology, Aflasafe, which has so far won the Best Innovative Research Project at the World BioProtection Awards in 2022.

The dry spore innovation, one of the Institute's technologies for solving the problem of aflatoxin contamination in crops such as maize, soybean, and groundnut, won the award in a category short-listing 38 finalists from 32 different organizations.



Pedestrians shop for pepper and other food items at the Mile 12 Market in Lagos, Nigeria

## AfDB: high cost of living in Africa could cause unrest

By Timothy Obiezu, Abuja

THE African Development Bank is warning that the rising cost of energy, food and other commodities in several African countries, including Angola, Ethiopia and Kenya, could trigger social unrest. Already, people in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, have been marching to protest the high cost of living, prompting the government to release grain from the national reserves.

The African Development Bank's notice was contained in its biannual Africa Macroeconomic Performance outlook publication released last week.

The bank said in its 2024 forecast that energy and food price increases – along with a currency depreciation in Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria – could spark internal conflict, despite Africa showing overall economic growth.

The bank also said conflicts in eastern Europe and the Mid-

dle East could trigger supply chain disruptions, exacerbate inflation across the world, and make Africa's situation more precarious.

This, as protests over hunger and the cost of living grow in Nigeria.

### Hundreds protest food prices

On Monday, hundreds of people demonstrated in southwestern Oyo state, asking authorities to take steps to bring down the cost of food or resign from office.

Security analyst Senator Iroegbu agrees with the African Development Bank's projections.

"It's obvious for even the blind to see that there will be social unrest because [of] the three basic needs of life, food, shelter and clothing. The most important is feeding," said Iroegbu. "Nobody can survive without food and that is the level Nigerians are heading to, so people are becoming restless. In fact, if one-tenth of

what happens in Nigeria happens in another place, there will be serious unrest but the elasticity of that is being tested."

The African Development Bank said Africa has several rapidly growing economies, such as Ivory Coast, Libya, Niger, Rwanda and Senegal.

But the bank said performance varies from country to country depending on economic policies.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu embarked on bold economic reforms including the scrapping of expensive fuel subsidies and floating of the country's currency, upon taking office last May.

While authorities say the policies are bound to pay off, the immediate shocks are having an impact on the economy.

Last week, Nigeria's inflation hit 29.9% – its highest mark since mid-1996. In response, authorities ordered the release of 102,000 metric tons of grain, including rice and maize, to lower food prices.

### Government 'not sleeping,' says official

On Tuesday, Nigeria's chief of defense staff, Major General Christopher Musa, spoke to journalists in Abuja about the situation.

"The entire world is feeling the heat; it's not only peculiar to Nigeria," said Musa. "We've had a few riots here and there. Why I'm happy is that the government too is not sleeping, it's stepping up to ensuring that they address these challenges. You've seen that grains have been released, measures are being put in place to bring succor all over the country. The issue of dollar and exchange rate, everything is tied to it and that's why we're having these issues."

The African Development Bank says economic growth in Africa is expected to average 3.8% and 4.2% in 2024 and 2025, respectively – higher than projected global averages in the same period. But protesters say unless they can afford food and life's basics, they will continue to march in the streets.

## Initiative for enhanced climate resilience in rural communities

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of efforts to address the root causes of climate change and help adjust to its expected and actual effects to reduce vulnerability, an international not-for-profit organization, EIT Climate-KIC, has introduced an initiative that seeks to enhance the climate resilience of rural communities in the country through innovation and collaboration.

The initiative dubbed "Building an Adaptation Innovation Cluster in Tanzania" focuses on increasing resilience and sustainable development by supporting locally developed adaptation solutions for rural communities, which includes creating an enabling environment that promotes climate innovations, and stimulates new green start-up

growth, employment, and investment.

EIT Climate-KIC Communications Manager, Henriëtte de Wit, said in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening that currently, a gap exists in ensuring that adaptation solutions reach the most vulnerable rural communities effectively and that these solutions take root within the communities.

"To address this, it is crucial to enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change. Climate risks have the potential to worsen poverty levels and deepen food insecurity, particularly in agriculture-dependent households.

This involves an ongoing process of gathering and learning from local knowledge and experiences, as well as exploring the dynamics between local communities and the private

sector and thereby providing the local communities with the vital tools needed for adaptation resilience," she said.

She added that the cluster approach is when groups of people from different backgrounds, locations, and sectors, share a common purpose and come together to become "more than just the sum of their parts".

"This is because when there is knowledge sharing, learning, networking, and connection, there is potential for many more ideas and solutions than was possible before coming together," she said.

Speaking during the event to officially introduce the initiative, Youth and Women Development Assistant Director, Mophat Mapunda, noted that one of the ways to address the challenges of climate

change is to sensitize the public on simple but effective alternative cooking energy.

"Communities mostly use firewood and charcoal for cooking and it has been that way for many since our forefathers and yet the fuel increases heat and smoke pollution thus a need to be innovative when using such energy for cooking," he said.

He said that one innovative way is to ensure that heat and smoke emissions are reduced by pruning trees and using sticks instead of felling whole trees and using logs to make the world a safer place and mitigate climate change effects.

Laurel Kivuyo, Founder and Director of Climate Hub Tanzania, said that in addressing the challenges of climate change, among their activities include sensitizing the youth

about the problem.

"We also engage in different projects that are focused on recycling of waste and in the process help generate revenues," she added.

For his part, Sahara Ventures Chief Executive Officer, Jumanne Mtambalike, said that one of their main roles in the project is to help nurture innovative ideas that will lead to adaptation of climate change challenges.

EIT Climate-KIC is Europe's leading climate agency and community which supports cities, regions, and countries, and industries to bridge the gap between climate commitments and current reality. The innovation adaptation cluster initiative is financed by the Government of Ireland through Irish Aid and is locally being implemented in collaboration with Sahara Ventures.



EIT Climate-KIC communications manager Henriëtte de Wit addresses participants during the official inauguration of the Building an Adaptation Innovation Cluster in Tanzania initiative.

# In Brazil's soy belt, community seed banks offering hope for the Amazon

By A Special Correspondent

**N**OT too long ago, the plot of land that Maria Ivonete de Souza inherited was barren, the soil hardened by years of cattle ranching. When the family had arrived to the Amazon from southern Brazil four decades earlier, her father had swiftly cleared the dense rainforest to make way for pasture.

"He razed it all by hand, with a saw and an ax," Souza said on the porch of her wooden farmhouse on the dusty outskirts of Colider, some 393 miles (632 kilometers) north of Mato Grosso's state capital. "It's horrible to be talking about this. Because I'm recalling things that bother me deeply today."

Now, decades later, Souza is fighting to turn back the clock on destruction in this region. In a bid to reforest, she has planted seeds from species that are native to the rainforest but have begun to vanish from here, as soy and corn production expand at a frenzied pace.

"If people knew how difficult it is to plant trees, they would never even dream of cutting them down," said Souza, who leads the community organization *Coletivo Ag ua Vida*. "Here, we want to do things differently. We want to restore the forest to health."

A key part of this dream is building a community seed bank that can help rehabilitate the native vegetation and protect the biodiversity being wiped out by monoculture in Mato Grosso, Brazil's biggest producer of grains. Souza has helped organize events bringing together the region's subsistence farmers, Indigenous people and traditional communities, so they can swap seeds and know-how.

"It's so important for us to have these seeds," she said, waving to a cluster of mismatched canisters holding seeds in shades of brown, yellow and red. "And we have to share, so that this seed doesn't disappear."

Local seed initiatives like these are gaining momentum across Brazil - and they are emerging as a key tool for reforestation, as the country looks to make good on



Cattle ranching is a key economic driver in Mato Grosso, Brazil's agricultural heartland.

its pledge to rehabilitate 60,000 square kilometers (23,160 square miles) of deforested and degraded land by 2030. Proponents say planting seeds - rather than seedlings - can be a cheaper, faster and more efficient way to restore decimated forests, helping Brazil meet its ambitious target.

Scientists also claim forest restoration through seeds can help recuperate some of the biodiversity that is being lost through deforestation. Unlike government seed banks, which store samples for historic preservation, community banks collect seeds, exchange varieties and ultimately plant a medley of them, in a bid to mimic the forest as closely as possible.

If applied on a large scale, reforestation through native seeds could play a crucial role in offsetting some of the destruction that has swept the Amazon in recent years, while also staving off a climate crisis that is already hitting local communities, according to Luciana Gatti, a senior researcher in climate change for the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

"The key is to plant trees, trees and more trees," she said. "Reforestation is our only way out of this."

"The forest is like a rain factory' In Mato Grosso, the trappings of agriculture are everywhere. On street corners, towering billboards offer new brands of seeds, pesticides and tractors. Politicians campaign on promises for bold infrastructure projects aimed at boosting soy and corn output. Towns that were specks on the map a few decades ago are booming, fueled by the world's insatiable hunger for commodities.

Since the early 1980s, the area occupied by agriculture and cattle in Brazil has jumped by 50%, according to a recent study by MapBiomas, a Brazilian environmental think tank. But scientists say this dizzying growth has come at a steep cost for the climate: repeated heat waves, erratic rain patterns and punishing droughts have become commonplace in the Amazon in recent years.

"The forest is like a rain factory," Gatti said. "It churns out water and it also cools temperatures. So it plays a big role in climate."

The impacts of climate change on the Amazon reached new proportions this year, as historic drought dried up important rivers, decimated subsistence crops, curbed hydropower supplies and

isolated remote riverside communities, leaving many without food and medicine. On a recent visit to the region, the devastation was evident as our car slid past streams that had run dry and fields parched from weeks without rain.

Large-scale agriculture, which consumes 70% of Brazil's freshwater supplies, is the main culprit of this deepening climate crisis, according to Gatti. "The problem is this model of planting a sea of soybeans," she said. "Monoculture is destroying the climate."

The impact of monoculture is two-fold, she explained. On one hand, fewer trees mean the forest is able to recycle less water back into the atmosphere, resulting in reduced rainfall. The forest then grows drier, which diminishes its ability to regulate temperatures. (Researchers have linked temperature anomalies in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado to deforestation events up to 50 km away).

Harvested corn fields in rural Mato Grosso state, Brazil's main producer of grains. Agricultural expansion has already swallowed up much of the rainforest in this region and environmental advocates say this is driving climate shifts. Image by Ana Ionova for

Mongabay.

The ideal would be to reforest en masse and move towards an agroforestry model, where native species grow alongside other crops. "That way, you have agricultural production and, at the same time, you preserve trees that will help make rain and reduce temperatures," Gatti said.

The climate impacts of deforestation go far beyond Brazil too. Vapor from the Amazon rainforest canopy accounts for about a fifth of the oxygen released into the atmosphere each day. The rainforest is also both the world's biggest carbon sink and a huge source of potential emissions, holding an estimated 123 billion tons of carbon. When trees are cut down, the destruction deals a major blow to the global climate because more carbon dioxide is released and less is absorbed.

As a result, scientists insist that restoring native forests, in Brazil and elsewhere, represents one of the planet's best hopes for mitigating climate change, both locally and globally. And in the long-term, research suggests these restored forests in the Amazon can help regulate rainfall and prevent important rivers from drying out.

"The species that have the pow-

er to restore balance are the species native to that environment," Gatti said. "And the more they grow, the more water they will throw into the atmosphere."

"The more, the better"

Scientists also warn that species native to the Brazilian rainforest are disappearing - and many point a finger to monoculture.

Although the full scope of the Amazon's biodiversity is unknown, some studies estimate that it may hold between 15,000 and 50,000 species of flora. And research has suggested that climate change and forest destruction could lead to a 58% decline in tree diversity in the Amazon by 2050.

Community seed projects are working to combat this diversity loss by using a method called "muvuca," which relies on spreading a large and varied mixture of mostly native seeds across degraded areas, to assure a higher diversity of plants and trees.

"We try to truly imitate the forest as it is, sowing all the seeds at the same time," said Renato Naz rio, a forest restoration technician at the Xingu Seed Network, a nonprofit providing support and training to about two dozen community seed initiatives in the Amazon. "And each one has a different role in the reforestation process."

Typically, about a third of the seeds are rapidly-growing non-native species, such as squash and jack beans, that act as "green fertilizers." This vegetation provides food and income for local communities, as well as safeguards against invasive plants, so that other native tree species like copiba (genus *Copaifera*), cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) and pequi (*Caryocar brasiliense*) can have a chance to mature. Some trees reach maturity in 20 years, while others take as long as 50 to grow to their full size.

"The more species the better," said Naz rio, noting this method can yield between 5,000 and 12,000 species per hectare. "This shows it's possible, through ecological restoration, to recuperate the forest's biodiversity."

Over the last few decades, species that were once important medicines or staples in Indigenous diets, like certain types of maize, have vanished in some villages deep in the rainforest. Some trees which yielded seeds and fibers for traditional jewelry, headpieces or artisan wares have also become scarce, dealing a blow to cultural traditions.

## Role of biostimulants in bridging yield gaps and fostering farmers' resilience to climate

By Zablun Oyugi

**I**N the wake of dire climate change effects globally and dwindled crop harvest leading to food insecurity, biostimulants application are now being considered as sustainable tool for plant production and a meaningful approach to plants nutrition boost thus reducing the gap between organic and conventional yields.

According to a 2018 review on Plant Biostimulants: Innovative Tool for Enhancing Plant Nutrition in Organic Farming published by European Journal of Horticultural Science, biostimulants application can overcome nutrient limitation typical of organic systems by improving nutrient availability, uptake and assimilation, and consequently reducing the gap between organic and conventional yields.

In fact, given the increasing interest worldwide in organically produced foods in the past two decades and the need for environmentally-friendly production system able to produce food with minimal harm to ecosystems as well as minimal use of off-farm inputs, the use of naturally derived plant biostimulants contin-

ues to offer some ray of hope for farmers and consumers.

Cathy Liu, the Marketing Director at Wellyou Tech, a Chinese-based supplier of agricultural chemicals says plant biostimulant substances come from various natural sources such as plant extracts, hormones, seaweed and other organic materials best for crops yields enhancement.

"These substances contain compounds that activate or enhance certain physiological processes in plants, thereby increasing yield, quality and stress resistance thus helping in plant growth and development," said Liu in her LinkedIn published piece on Application of plant biostimulant in agriculture.

Plant biostimulants encompass various categories, such as humic and fulvic acids, amino acids, seaweed extracts, and plant growth regulators like auxins, cytokinins, and gibberellins. Each category offers distinct advantages tailored to different crops and growth phases.

The classification is based on their action in the plants or, on the physiological plant responses rather than on their composition.



A significant use of plant biostimulants in agriculture is mitigating plant stress induced by diverse environmental factors.

Climate change effects such as drought, salinity, and fluctuations in temperature are among the stressors impacting plant health, consequently influencing crop yield and quality.

However, biostimulants are able to stimulate the natural processes in plants when they need it the most allowing plants to achieve optimal yields in situations where the environmental conditions are not ideal, enabling farmers to be both profitable and

sustainable, according to Yara International ASA document on Plant Biostimulants: a vital solution for sustainable agriculture and a resilient food system.

How biostimulants can enable farmers achieve sustainable agriculture

When used alongside organic and mineral fertilizers, biostimulants can significantly benefit farmers striving to embrace climate-positive practices, address food loss and waste, and maintain the profitability of their farms.

According to Yara, the following are some of the ways this can

be achieved:

**Enhancing nutrient utilization:** Biostimulants enhance nutrient utilization by promoting robust root development, enabling plants to absorb increased amounts of nutrients and water, or by enhancing nutrient availability within the soil.

These functionalities collectively aid in minimizing nutrient wastage into the environment and optimizing fertilizer utilization.

Indeed, several studies conducted on greenhouse and open-field vegetables suggest that applications of biostimulant

substances can promote nutrient uptake and assimilation as their appropriate application can improve root and shoot vigor.

In addition, the increase of plant nutrient uptake has been often attributed to one or more of the following factors: an increase in soil enzymatic and microbial activities, modification of root architecture as well as an enhancement in micro-nutrient mobility and solubility, according to the European Journal of Horticultural Science publication.

**Soil health:** Soil has humic substances (HS) which are natural substances resulting from the chemical and biological transformations of dead cell materials as well as from microbial metabolism.

HS have been recognized as essential contributors on the physico-chemical properties of soils thus most biostimulant effects of HS refer to stimulation of root growth and improvement of plant nutrition resulting from the increase of soil nutrient availability.

Certain biostimulants have the capability to enhance soil health and fertility by enriching soil parameters and functions.

This can additionally foster positive outcomes in terms of soil restoration and water utilization efficiency, crucially contributing to the long-term preservation of soil fertility.

Resistance/tolerance to climate change: Biostimulants have the potential to bolster plants' resilience against abiotic stressors like drought or extreme temperatures.

Thursday 22 February 2024

## Parliament committee lauds president Samia investment endeavours

By Julieth Mkireri, KIBAHA

THE Parliament Standing Committee on Governance, Constitution, and Legal Affairs has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration for its proactive efforts in mobilizing both local and foreign investments, resulting in significant success.

The committee has pledged to offer close cooperation to address any obstacles faced by investors, thereby facilitating the realization of their objectives in producing goods for both domestic and international markets.

Chairing the committee, Dr. Joseph Mhagama, highlighted these sentiments during their yesterday's visit to Modern Industrial Park situated in Disunyara/Kikongo Mlandizi, Kibaha district, Coast region.

He attributed the surge in investment within the country to the President's adept promotion of the nation, aligning it with available opportunities, a move that has attracted numerous local and foreign investors.

Furthermore, the Committee extended congratulations to the region's investor, a native, pledging to swiftly address any obstacles hindering investment, thereby fostering an environment conducive to development and increased employment opportunities for youth.

Dr. Mhagama emphasized the importance of providing local investors with a supportive environment akin to that offered to foreign investors and modern enterprises. He assured full cooperation and prompt resolution of any issues that may arise.

For his part, State Minister in the President Office responsible for Planning, and Investment, Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, commended the investor for setting an example and becoming a beacon for other natives through his investment endeavors.

Prof. Mkumbo highlighted that investment in the country is not solely driven by external parties; Tanzanians have also demonstrated significant interest and that statistics from the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) indicates that 61 percent of investors in the country are natives.

Angela Maingu, Sales and Marketing Manager of Turkey Estate, the company responsible for selling industrial parcels in the said project, presented an initial overview of the project. She noted that the Kamaka Company, based in Dar es Salaam, is the primary investor of the venture.

According to her, the objectives of Kamaka's investment in the region encompass attracting both investors and new technologies, fostering economic growth, thus positioning the area as a hub for research and educational institutions, by providing practical training opportunities.

Maingu disclosed that the total cost of the project, including the construction of anticipated factories, amounts to 3.5 bn/-. According to her, at least 1.1 bn/- will be utilized for comprehensive infrastructure development in the period of five-year. Moreover, at least 35 bn/- has been already used for that matter.

Spanning 1,077 acres, the project site comprises 210 plots, with 202 designated for industrial use, alongside two power stations, two commercial zones, three community service areas, and a dry port. The site features an extensive network of internal and external roads spanning 25 kilometers.

# Behavioural change vital for attaining cashless economy

By Guardian Reporter

**M**ANY people do not believe that carrying cash for the purpose of making payments for goods and services is costly and risky.

Sometimes, many feel proud when carrying cash in hand, as they believe that it is a symbol of "wealth".

Data show that, despite ongoing campaigns to promote cashless economy over the period of time, each 100/- spent by Tanzanians in paying goods and services, more than 88/- conducted through hard currency, while 12/- is paid digitally.

This behavior is continuing to disappoint the central bank, due to spending a lot of money that could either be spent in other uses; to print hard currencies time to time to replace the old notes and coins, because the changing hands do not consider proper handling.

Apart from the disappointment to the central bank, hard currencies handlers also sometimes face a lot of security risks including robbery incidents. It is believed that a cashless society could make the economy more efficient by reducing the need for cash handling and storage.

This could save businesses and individuals time and money.

Fabian Kasole, assistant manager, policy and licensing, department of oversight and policy, directorate of National Payment System, Bank of Tanzania (BoT), says despite of having plenty of digital payment channels, including mobile payment solutions, the majority of people still prefer paying in hard cash.

This is due to the fact that changing a behavior is no easy, as many still do not trust digital channels for their own reasons.

While the mobile payment



Fabian Kasole, assistant manager at policy and licensing, department of oversight and policy, directorate of National Payment System, Bank of Tanzania (BoT)

channel remains the most used in terms of volume of transactions in making payment, there has been a growing trend towards other channels such as point-of-sale (POS) machines and mobile banking.

The advantages of a cashless economy including less crime, less hassle for managing currency and easy finds transfer,

On the other hand, the disadvantages of a cashless economy are less privacy, greater exposure to hacking, technological dependency, and more.

According to Kasole, the central bank introduced two payment systems for large (above 20mn/-) and small value (below 20mn/-), which facilitate digital real time payments transactions for institutions and individual respec-

tively.

The central bank is managing the Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS) a payment system that allows users to send and receive money in real time using their mobile phones or bank accounts.

Kasole said TIPS is integrated system which does not require services provider to pass through aggregator (third party). Users can register on the system through a USSD code or an application and search for the name of the recipient in the system.

The system has therefore increased financial inclusion by improving access and usage of financial services through promoting the interoperability of digital financial services amongst all Payment Service Providers in the country.

Other systems include Tanzania Instant Settlement Sys-

tem (TISS) and Tanzania Automated Clearing House (TACH).

On East African region's cross border digital financial services, Tanzania, through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is also integrated into East African Payment System (EAPS), which allows Tanzanians to make payment or transfer funds to other EAC member countries without using third party.

The systems operates on a real time gross settlement basis by utilizing the linkage between the various Partner States' Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems using SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) messaging network for safe and secure delivery of payment and settlement messages to each other.

EAPS has therefore in-

creased efficiency and facilitate cross border transactions that is essential for boosting intra-regional trade among the East African.

Tanzania is also linked to the regional cross-border real-time gross settlement (RTGS) system in the SADC region.

It is an automated interbank settlement system operated by the South African Reserve Bank, as appointed by the SADC participating member central banks.

Participants in SADC-RTGS include central banks and financial institutions, i.e. banks and non-banks in the SADC region that are authorised by their respective central bank to participate.

Kasole said the benefits of digital payment systems include conveniences, fast transactions, easy to track due to recorded transactions, protects loss of funds, ensure security among payers and payees and is stress free.

"Digital payment system is more secure and has high level of security," he said.

He mentioned some of the challenges facing digital financial services transformation as the public trust on digital payment system, public education and frauds. Kasole said, looking forward, the central bank is expected to launch a public education aimed at promoting cashless economy.

In his statement on the National Payment Systems (NPS) annual report 2022, the BoT Governor Emmanuel Tutuba noted that the mobile money technology was the key enabler for accelerating financial services access for the marginalized communities, particularly low-income individuals, small enterprises operators and smallholder farmers.

"The Bank will continue to modernize the payment system in collaboration with stakeholders to foster digitization of the economy to support inclusive finance and inclusive growth," he said.

## PMB tool for qualifying track records in IMF programmes reviewed

By Guardian Reporter

THE IMF Executive Board completed its review of the policy for Staff-Monitored Programs with Board Involvement (PMB), a vital tool helping member countries establish qualifying track records for IMF support programs.

This is according to IMF's press statement which was made to this paper yesterday, saying the board has also endorsed the proposal to keep the said tool in the Fund's toolkit with a subsequent review expected in three years.

In September 2022, the Executive Board amended the policy on Staff-Monitored Programs (SMPs) to create PMBs, as with all SMPs, the objective of the PMB is to build or rebuild a track record of policy implementation towards an Upper Credit Tranche (UCT)-quality Fund-supported program.

"The PMB is carefully circumscribed for member countries under either, an ongoing concerted international effort by creditors or donors to provide substantial new financing or debt relief in sup-

port of the member's policy program or significant outstanding credit under emergency financing (EF) instruments at the time of a new EF request," the statement reads in partly.

Adding: "It allows the Executive Board to opine, at the time of the PMB approval, on the robustness of the member's policies to meet the program's objectives and, in the context of reviews, on whether it agrees with staff that the member is on track to meet those objectives."

It was noted that the purpose of the review, as envisaged at the time of the inception of the instrument, was to determine whether the PMB remains a valuable addition to the Fund's toolkit.

"The PMB plays an important niche role in the toolkit supporting members in circumscribed circumstances," the statement affirms.

Since its inception, three members namely Malawi, Ukraine and South Sudan, have implemented PMBs.

Given the limited number of cases, further experience would be needed to draw



International Monetary Fund Headquarters. Photo: Brooks Kraft / Getty Images

more definitive conclusions in terms of the usefulness of the PMB vis-à-vis alternative instruments and a more parsimonious Fund toolkit.

In this context, the Executive Board decided to keep the PMB in the Fund's toolkit. The instrument will be expected to be reviewed in three years.

IMF is of the view that the PMB can complement the Fund's toolkit in well-circum-

scribed circumstances, while noting that the limited number of cases thus far prevented drawing firm conclusions.

"They agreed that the Staff-Monitored Program (SMP) should continue to be the Fund's primary instrument to build or rebuild a track record of policy implementation toward a Fund arrangement that supports an Upper Credit Tranche (UCT)-quality

program," its reads.

According to the statement, directors acknowledged the potential benefits of limited Executive Board involvement through the PMB, including enhancing donor coordination, catalyzing additional financial support including in low-income, fragile, and conflict-affected countries, creating an additional safeguard in cases of elevated emergency

financing exposure, reflecting the Board's views on policies at an earlier stage, and thereby facilitating the transition to UCT-quality programs. They positively noted the experiences of Ukraine and Malawi in this regard.

However, given the limited set of countries that have used the PMB, directors emphasized that it is too soon to accurately gauge the pros and cons of PMBs, and that further experience would be needed to draw more definitive conclusions on the usefulness of the PMB vis-à-vis alternative instruments. A few directors were skeptical about the merits of the PMB relative to the regular SMP.

Furthermore, the stamen has that directors stressed that access to the PMB should continue to be limited to the two use criteria to prevent encroachment on the use of SMPs. Where the PMB-use criteria are met, the PMB should continue to be encouraged, but the ultimate choice between a PMB or a regular SMP should remain voluntary and continue to rest with the requesting member.

Directors reiterated the importance of mitigating potential challenges associated with the implementation of PMB policy, particularly, potentially blurring the lines between Board endorsed programs and SMPs.

They also underscored the importance of mitigating these risks by maintaining effective communication regarding the nature and purpose of the PMB, and encouraged the next review to include an assessment of risks and challenges that may emerge with more experience with the PMB.

In order to avoid diluting the strength of the signaling effect of the Board endorsement of UCT-quality programs, it would be critical to communicate clearly that responsibility for PMBs rests with staff and management, and the Board has limited involvement and does not endorse a PMB.

The board agreed to have the review in three years once more experience is gained, while a number of Directors were open to an earlier review if warranted.

# China's tourism data are more promising

**B**ARRICK Gold Corporation has donated \$40,000 (101.61mn/-) to four non-government organizations (NGOs) that are working to transforming people's lives through community projects in different sectors.

Melkiory Ngido, Barrick Country Manager said recently that the money has been provided as part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) arrangement which significantly targeting to improve the lives of people.

He said among the benefited NGOs include New Hope Community Development Organization which works



Jeremy Stevens

on empowering women and youth economically. The organisation was given \$10,000 for implementation of its projects.

However, its projects target at enhancing surveillance research, advocacy and youth involvement, community participation and coordinated responses among policy makers.

The Fungua Trust is another beneficiary which is dedicating its projects to enhance community capacity for positive and sustainable change.

The NGO has been given \$10,000 which will be used in supporting approximately 1,200 school girls in improving their sanitary hygiene to

enhance access to quality education.

He said the NGO will also use the money in sensitizing over 3,000 school girls with reproductive health knowledge.

Tujikomboe, the Kahama district-based group, also received \$10,000. The women-run organization aims at providing financial independence to women by empowering women employed in gravel production.

The other beneficiary group is the Youth Well-being Initiative that runs projects aimed to provide support for prevention, control and treatment of non-communicable diseases in children and youths.

"All these NGOs have received the same amount. They are going to use the money in purchasing stone crushers and therefore increase their gravel production," said Ngido.

He further said that in the first tranche which was started in July 2023, the company disbursed 25.15bn/- (\$10million) for infrastructure development projects covering 64 schools.

"The programme has so far seen the construction of 396 classrooms, 97 dormitories and 600 ablution blocks," he said.

Upon completion, he said, the programme will facilitate the construction of 1,090 classrooms, 270 dormitories and 1,640 ablution blocks across 161 schools.

He pointed out that through a joint venture company-Twiga Minerals Corporation the

miner is also progressing its \$40 million pledge to build a world-class 73 kilometre road from Bulyanhulu to the new Kahama airport.

Speaking of the company's success, Ngido said Barrick's North Mara and Bulyanhulu gold mines have sustained their strong performance and achieved their production guidance for 2023. The mines are part of Twiga Minerals joint venture.

He said the transformation of two derelict mines into a world-class complex which, on a combined basis, produces gold at a Tier One level.

"The Twiga partnership has not only transformed Tanzania's gold mining industry, it

has also re-established the country, well-known as one Africa's most popular tourism attractions, as a prime investment destination that has a wealth of metal and mineral resources," he said.

He asserted that conversion drilling at both mines has again replenished their reserves after depletion.

At North Mara, the potential for another underground operation is being explored while the optimization of its open cast mine plan is expected to add years to its life.

At Bulyanhulu, he said, there are near-surface opportunities with the potential for increasing production and mining flexibility.

By Francis Kajubi

## Barrick Gold donates funds for community endeavours

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## Bahraini lenders post high profits even as costs rise

Manama

BAHRAINI lenders have enjoyed steady growth over the past year, thanks to diversified business models and supportive domestic economic conditions.

The country's higher-interest-rate climate, coupled with a healthy pipeline of local and regional infrastructure projects, lifted the profitability of the biggest banks throughout 2023.

Bank ABC, the only one of Bahrain's top five lenders to post full-year results before The Banker went to press, saw net profit attributable to shareholders grow by 53 percent to \$235mn, with total operating income growing 16 percent for the year.

Bahrain's largest lender, Ahli United Bank acquired by Kuwait Finance House in 2022 posted attributable net profits of \$552mn in the nine months to September 2023, a 62 percent year-on-year increase.

National Bank of Bahrain's attributable net profits increased 16 percent over the first nine months of the year compared with 2022, with Gulf International Bank's profits growing by 141 percent over the same period.

Al Baraka Group's attributable net income over the first three quarters of 2023 remained steady compared with 2022, although its total net in-

come increased by 19 percent.

Net interest margins at all banks benefited from rising interest rates, with monetary policy-makers at the Central Bank of Bahrain acting in line with the US Federal Reserve, given the peg between the dollar and the Bahraini dinar.

The CBB lifted its key policy rate from 5.25 percent at the start of 2023 to 6.25 percent in July, where it remains at time of writing.

"Many Bahraini banks have reaped the benefits of higher interest rates. Their NIMs have been high despite their cost of funding going up at the same time," said Sumaya Al Jazeeri, assistant vice-president at SICO, one of the country's largest wholesale banks.

Aggregate NIMs for six of the country's largest banks (excluding AUB) hit 2.9 percent by the end of the third quarter of 2023, up from 2.69 percent during the same period in 2022, according to regional investment bank Kamco Invest.

Despite the increase, Bahraini NIMs are among the lowest in the Gulf Cooperation Council, given the competitive dynamics of the country's over-banked financial system which includes 30 retail and 54 wholesale lenders exerting downward pressure on margins.



Strong numbers: National Bank of Bahrain's attributable net profits increased 16 per cent over the first nine months of 2023. Photo: Bloomberg

# 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	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	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	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	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	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)
22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)		22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## British university's alternative finance wing makes digital asset education tool

CAMBRIDGE

THE Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance at the University of Cambridge has launched its Cambridge Digital Money Dashboard, which aims to provide interactive visual representations of up-to-date data on stablecoins, central bank digital currencies, tokenised bank deposits and crypto assets.

The first phase of the dashboard focuses on the 10 major US dollar-pegged stablecoins, and targets regulators, supervisors and policy-makers.

The CDMD is offered as a platform that brings together relevant digital asset adoption and risk indicators, allowing for multi-stakeholder uses and comparison. It aims to offer policy-makers, financial authorities, academics, industry and the general public access to reliable information and analytical tools for thorough and insightful decision making.

Founding collaborators on the dashboard include the Bank for International Settlements, Dubai International Finance Centre, Fidelity Investments, Mastercard and NatWest.

Keith Bear, a fellow at the CCAF who also sits on the Bank of England CBDC technology forum and the investor trends and research committee at the European Securities and Markets Authority, said: "This dashboard is an open-access web tool, the main goal of which is to track the evolution of the emerging digital money instrument."

The key group of beneficiaries of the new dashboard are regulators, supervisors and policymakers. "We believe it is important to provide all the stakeholders in the ecosystem with trusted information which can be a basis for informed decisions on policy-making," said Roman Proskalovich, lead, emergent money systems at the CCAF.

He says the dashboard also targets those members of the public who want to better understand the development of stablecoins and other digital money instruments, so the platform features detailed educational content.

While Proskalovich does not believe the tool will lead to further acceleration in the growth in the stablecoin market, he said he believes "it could well be that there will be some major changes with stablecoins and how they're used".

In due course, the plan is for the open-access web tool to cover all emerging digital money instrument types, according to Proskalovich. "We plan to add CBDC tokenised bank deposits and crypto assets," he said. "The main goal is to track the evolution of emerging digital money."

CCAF is co-operating with a variety of data providers to achieve near-real-time data feeds. The dashboard has three sections, including digital money 101, which provides educational content on the nature of the monetary system, evolving and presentation mechanisms and digital money instruments.

"The second section, adoption, is where data exploration starts," said Proskalovich. This includes an option to zoom smaller stablecoins and to see an overview of the global cryptography ecosystem, he said. "For the first iteration we have the most important fundamental metrics that we start with that later on will be extended," he added.

This section will be extended in future releases, for example with the addition of detailed information on stablecoin usage, including a wallets breakdown of the sectors where stablecoins are used, he said.

The third section in this first release, called risks and protections, aims to cover the risk of price deviation. The dashboard's price feed is based on 14 major exchanges and enables users to interactively check how often the price was falling, for example in a particular price range, said Proskalovich.

"As stablecoins are not always stable, we believe it is very important to show different stabilisation mechanisms that are essentially helping them to achieve stability, as most major stablecoins are trying to do that with reserves that are backing stablecoins," he said. "We provide extended information on this, for example, giving users an overview of the assets stablecoin issues have to back their stablecoins, with details about different asset categories and their share in a stablecoin reserve portfolio."

Bear said that despite his role on the BoE's technology forum the aim of the dashboard is not deliberately supportive of the goal of CBDCs. "As an independent university research centre, we tend to focus on empirical evidence rather than conjecture in that respect," he said. "We see the value of CBDCs, but we also see some of the concerns, privacy among them."



# AfDB's hybrid capital deal opens class of fangled assets for MDBs

THE term 'ground-breaking' is often overused in capital markets. But the African Development Bank's hybrid capital deal in January 2024 was just that - or at least that is the hope. In the works for three years, it is the first such transaction in the public sector bond market, opening the door for other multilateral development banks to lend more to emerging markets for sustainable development.

Talk of hybrid capital has been gathering pace over the last few years. It came into sharp focus in 2022 after an independent review of MDBs' capital adequacy frameworks by the G20. The review recommended that, as hybrid securities are treated as equity by credit rating agencies, MDBs should use this product to lend more without impacting their credit ratings. But while the objective was simple, structuring the deal was far from it.

Finding the right price Pricing the deal proved challenging. While corporates and financial institutions issue hybrid capital, MDBs or public sector borrowers had not done so before. There was no benchmark for what the spread would be for a public sector borrower's senior to subordinated curve.

"With regards to pricing, we had intense discussions internally with the banks about the best way to work this out," said Hassatou N'Sele, vice president and chief financial officer at the AfDB. "While this is not a 10-year bond - it is equity - a fair starting point to build the price was a 10-year senior unsecured bond. The pricing had to make sense for us and for investors, but it was difficult to bench-



By Burhar Khadba

mark as there were no real comparable deals."

During an extensive roadshow conducted over three weeks across the UK, US and Europe in September 2023 - where the AfDB met with over 150 investors - discussions around pricing were at the forefront.

"The price discovery process was at the centre of our discussions with investors," said Benjamin de Forton, head of debt capital markets at BNP Paribas, one of the joint structuring banks and leads on the transaction. "We explained the structure to investors, got feedback on what was working for them and not working for them. It was very much an open exchange between us."

Creating an investor base from scratch

The challenge was accentuated by the fact that the leads were explaining a novel product by an MDB to an undefined investor base. "We had to educate both the traditional sovereign, supranational and agency investor base that don't buy perpetual products and credit investors that don't buy MDB bonds," said de Forton.

For the AfDB and its leads, this meant building an investor base from scratch, with the banks using their SSA, financial and corporate DCM desks to reach out to as broad an invest-

tor base as possible.

As hybrid capital is subordinated in the capital structure, the worry was that the AfDB would pay a significant amount for the deal over its senior curve. During the roadshow, investors were asking for a spread of around 150-200 basis points over the issuer's senior or conventional curve. While this spread aligns with what corporates and banks would typically pay for hybrid capital, it raises concerns for public sector borrowers as cost efficiency is crucial to funding and issuance.

"For the price discovery process, one aspect was to look at the best in class in this market," said de Forton. "That was the starting point. But it was difficult as this deal is rated AA, which no other hybrid security has. Another difficulty was that there was no outstanding 10-year point on AfDB's curve, but assuming a new 10-year might come at [US] Treasuries plus 23-25bp, that gave a spread to the issuer's senior curve of around 130bp."

Strong result on price and demand

Achieving a spread of 130bp over the AfDB's senior curve was a great result, although some DCM bankers away from the deal saw the spread as closer to 150bp. Either way, it came in tighter than anticipated. "We

were able to structure this in a way that worked out for all of us," said N'Sele.

Some market participants away from the deal said the delay of the transaction from the September 2023 roadshow to execution in January 2024 was due to frictions between investors and the issuer on the price. But, according to N'Sele, the delay was more about finding the right window. "The delay to the transaction was not due to issues around the pricing, but volatility in the market towards the end of last year," she said. "We worked for three years on this transaction, and this maiden sustainable hybrid capital transaction deserved to be launched in a conducive market."

As well as achieving a great result on pricing, the demand for the deal was impressive. The order book peaked at over \$6bn, allowing the issuer to comfortably issue \$750m for the perpetual non-call 10.5-year sustainable hybrid capital deal. There were over 275 investors in-book, with over 190 allocated to the trade. Hedge funds and specialised funds took the bulk of the allocation (54.8%), followed by asset managers (27.8%), central banks and official institutions (6.7%) and insurance and pension funds (6.6%).

Will other MDBs follow?

For this transaction to really make an impact, other MDBs will have to follow. Whether they will is the crucial question that market participants seem split on.

"It looked like a good outcome in all regards," said a head of an SSA syndicate away from the AfDB's deal. "But the question is: does it make economic sense versus borrowing direct from

shareholders? My feeling is that the premium that the World Bank will pay versus their senior curve with their private placement to Germany will be less than what AfDB paid with this transaction."

In September 2023, Germany became the first country to subscribe hybrid capital through a €305m private placement for the World Bank. A private placement allows MDBs to bypass the capital markets and issue directly to their shareholders. By issuing in this way, funding costs are contained as there is only one investor and shareholders receive a coupon for the investment, which they do not get with a regular capital raise.

According to N'Sele, the AfDB is looking at this method too. "Our sustainable hybrid capital project has two flavours: one designed to be placed with shareholders and another one through capital markets," she said. "We are pursuing our discussions with shareholders and foundations for a hybrid capital placement."

There are other innovative ways for MDBs to unlock more lending. These include shifting part of their portfolios and transferring the risk to the private sector through synthetic securitisations, which is also an area where the AfDB has taken a leading role. But hybrid capital seems poised to gain traction - especially after such fundamental groundwork has been laid.

**Burhar Khadba is the Head of Content, Sovereign Debt Institute at the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF), an independent forum for central banking, economic policy and public investment**



ATE's Head of Learning and Development, Albert Rukeisa (L) and GGML's Senior Manager for Human Resources, Charles Masubi, exchange views at the launch of GGML's 2024/2025, Internship Programme, which was meant to provide on-the-job training to 40 unemployed graduates from various universities for one year.

## ATE lauds GGML for transferring leadership skills to local women

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has praised Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) for providing senior leadership positions to women, including through special leadership training - Female Future Tanzania (FFT) - coordinated by ATE.

Albert Rukeisa, ATE head of learning and development made the remarks here over the weekend when speaking during a

function to welcome 40 unemployed graduates from various colleges given the opportunity to receive on-the-job training at GGML for a period of one year.

He said that GGML had managed to train 23 women to high levels of leadership.

He said the number of women workers trained by GGML represents six per cent of the participants from private organisations to date.

He said GGML has continued to contribute to the development of the na-

tion's skills through various programmes, including internship training for unemployed graduates.

"These efforts over 15 years have been a springboard for other employers to continue to provide opportunities for young people to learn and increase the number of mining professionals in the sector," he said.

He added: "GGML is one of the best employers here in Tanzania and has won several times in the Best Employer of the Year awards

organised and coordinated by the Tanzania Employers Association.

"In parallel with employer recognition, this mine has good relations and firm commitment with the workers' union in running the mine," said Rukeisa.

He added that last year the mine signed an MoU with the Tanzania Mines and Construction Workers Union (TAMICO) - Geita Branch for better conditions, and that ATE was proud to be part of this success.

He said that apart from the programmes to provide practical training to these graduates, GGML has also been at the forefront of gender issues.

According to AngloGold Ashanti's Senior Vice President - Africa Business Unit (GGML's parent company), Terry Strong, one of the company's priorities is to continue to improve gender equality in its business roles to represent the communities in which it operates.

Terry said the company has continued to work hard to ensure that the goals of empowering women to join the mining sector are successful.

One of the beneficiaries of the graduate on-the-job training programme is Eveline Nyanzi, who graduated last year and was offered a permanent position through the African Business Unit (ABU) programme.

Eveline, who is an electrical engineer, said: "I have learnt a lot, including how to work in the field. My presence at GGML is a unique opportunity because I will be able to implement various projects with the confidence and knowledge I have acquired," she said.

Mkunde Adams, a geological technologist, said the opportunity to continue working at GGML through the ABU programme has further boosted his confidence and sharpened his skills.

"In the geology department we have had a unique opportunity, every employee is given value, no matter their contribution, big or small... every member of staff puts the training they have received into practice, especially when it comes to implementing the number one priority, which is safety," he said.

## WORLD

## Palestine: Israel PM's remarks on Gaza bring no security to region

RAMALLAH/GAZA/GENEVA/DOHA/AMMAN

PALESTINE on Tuesday rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about Israel's security control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, considering it a challenge to international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the spokesperson of the Palestinian presidency, said in a press statement that these Israeli policies "do not bring security and stability to anyone here or in the region," warning against the continuation of this "destructive approach that will lead matters to a complete explosion".

"Palestine rejects this Israeli policy that challenges the world," he added.

Abu Rudeineh called on the US government to "force" Israel to stop the conflict first "because the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people is a red line".

Netanyahu said Monday that Israel will maintain its security control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"In recent days, we have witnessed pressure on us unilaterally to impose the establishment of a Palestinian state that would endanger the existence of the State of Israel," he added in a video statement.

"The recognizing a Palestinian state at this stage would be a 'reward for terrorism' and would undermine the chances of a lasting peace deal," he said.

Meanwhile, at least 12 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday during an Israeli attack on a residential square in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian medical sources.

The medical sources told Xinhua that "the Palestinian civil defense crews transported 12 bodies of Palestinians and dozens of wounded after targeting several homes in the Nuseirat camp, which was crowded with displaced people".

"The bodies of the victims arrived

in pieces at a local hospital, while the wounded were transferred to the hospital to receive treatment amid great suffering due to the running out of medicines and the limited number of medical staff present in the hospital," the sources said.

The sources said they are facing "extreme difficulty" in dealing with the large number of victims arriving at hospitals.

Earlier in the day, the Gaza-based health ministry announced that the number of Palestinian deaths as a result of Israeli attacks on the Strip had risen to 29,195 since the outbreak of the Hamas-Israel conflict.

### Critical patients evacuated

The World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday that it has transferred 32 critical patients, including two children, from the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza in two life-saving missions in the past two days.

An estimated 130 sick and injured patients and at least 15 health workers remained inside the hospital, WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic told a press briefing in Geneva.

The WHO voiced concerns over their safety and well-being and warned that further disruption to lifesaving care for the sick and injured would lead to more deaths.

The Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis has ceased to function following Israel's military raid on Feb 14, after a week-long siege, said the UN health agency.

The Nasser Hospital had no electricity or running water, and medical waste and garbage were creating a breeding ground for disease, said the WHO. Describing the situation there as "heartbreaking", WHO staff Chris Black said that the hospital was surrounded by burnt and destroyed buildings, and heavy layers of debris, with no stretch of intact road.

The dismantling and degradation of the Nasser Hospital was a massive blow to Gaza's health system, said the agency.



Onlookers gather around a car that was destroyed in an Israeli raid in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AFP

Other facilities in the south have been already operating well beyond maximum capacity and were barely able to receive more patients, it added.

Jasarevic said the WHO hoped to see the Nasser Hospital and other health facilities in Gaza protected, rebuilt, and properly supplied. This could only be achieved if there was a ceasefire and unimpeded access to health workers, patients, and humanitarians, he added.

The WHO repeated its calls for the protection of patients, health workers, health infrastructure and civilians.

### Hamas receives aid to hostages

Also on Tuesday, the Qatari government said Hamas has confirmed the receipt of a shipment of medicines and the commencement of their delivery to beneficiaries among the Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has informed the Qatari side that it received the medicines and started to deliver them to the hostages in Gaza under an agreement mediated by Qatar, in cooperation with France between Hamas and Israel last month, the Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The agreement includes "the entry of medicines and a shipment of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially in the most affected and damaged areas, in exchange for delivering the medicines needed by hostages in the sector," the ministry's official spokesperson

Majed Al-Ansari was quoted by the statement as saying.

As part of its commitment to ending the conflict in Gaza, Qatar has affirmed its ongoing mediation efforts, in collaboration with regional and international partners, according to Al-Ansari.

In Amman, King Abdullah II of Jordan on Tuesday warned against the cessation of international funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), saying it is a vital lifeline for nearly 2 million people facing the risk of famine in Gaza.

The king made the remarks at a meeting with a delegation from the US Senate, during which he emphasized the gravity of the situation in Gaza as the holy month of Ramadan approaches, noting that the UN agency provides essential services to Palestinian refugees in the region, according to a statement by the Royal Hashemite Court.

During the talks, the king also called for more efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire that would end hostilities in Gaza. He cautioned about the dire consequences of the ongoing conflict, saying it would be catastrophic for the entire region.

Several of UNRWA's staff were accused by Israel of involvement in the Oct 7 Hamas attack against Israel. Following the allegations, a number of donor countries, including the United States, Britain, and Canada, have announced their decision to suspend their funding for the agency.

**Agencies**

## DR Congo's prime minister resigns

KINSHASA

PRIME Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Sama Lukonde Kyenge submitted his resignation to President Felix Tshisekedi, the DRC presidential office announced on Tuesday on X, formerly Twitter.

Sama Lukonde Kyenge was appointed prime minister on Feb. 15, 2021.

On Feb. 8, the Constitutional Court of the DRC rendered the incompatibility of government and legislative functions, asking ministers, provincial governors, and members of political cabinets, who are also elected in legislative elections, to resign from their political functions unless they renounce their electoral mandate. "Consequently, (the Constitutional Court) demands that the members of the government, the ministerial cabinets, and the general



Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Sama Lukonde Kyenge (L) hands his resignation letter to President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Tuesday. Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Sama Lukonde Kyenge submitted his resignation to President Tshisekedi, the DRC presidential office announced Tuesday on X, formerly Twitter. (DRC Presidency/Handout via Xinhua)

secretariat of the government who are newly elected national

deputies, municipal councilors of sectors or chiefdom and who have opted for their electoral

mandate, automatically and immediately lose their incompatible functions," said a decree by

the Constitutional Court.

On Dec. 20, 2023, 31 of the 60 members of the government, including the prime minister, were elected national deputies in the general elections, in which nearly 44 million voters were called to go to the polls during the day to elect a new president, deputies, as well as provincial and municipal councilors.

Felix Tshisekedi was re-elected with a majority of 73.47 percent of the vote and was sworn in on Jan. 20, 2024.

On Feb. 7, Felix Tshisekedi named Augustin Kabuya Tshilumba, secretary general of the ruling party Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), to form the next government. The UDPS won 69 seats in the 500-member National Assembly ahead of 44 other parties in the general elections.

**Xinhua**

## Wang Yi: China, France should enhance strategic coordination

PARIS

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Tuesday that China and France should strengthen strategic coordination and deepen cooperation to contribute to global peace and stability.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris.

Wang conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to Macron, saying that the two heads of state have established a strong mutual trust and a sincere friendship, and guided the development of bilateral strategic cooperation, exerting a profound and positive influence on the world.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France, serving as an important point from which to build on past achievements and forge ahead, Wang said, adding that both sides should take the anniversary as an opportunity to sum up the experience of the extraordinary journey the two countries have been through, carry forward the useful experience and successful practices, and jointly plan the next 60 years of China-France relations.

China is ready to work with France to uphold the original aspiration, stay focused, deepen cooperation and open up the future, Wang said.

Pragmatic cooperation between China and France brings significant benefits to both peoples, Wang said, noting that China will stick to high-quality development and higher-standard opening-up, and will continue to open its market to all countries in the world, including France.

Wang also expressed the hope that the French side would create a fair and just business environment and provide positive and stable long-term expectations for Chinese enterprises in France.

Macron asked Wang to convey sincere greetings to Xi and wished the Chinese people all the best in the Year of the Dragon.

Recalling with pleasure his successful visit to China last year, Macron said he looks forward to working with China to make preparations for high-level exchanges this year, and hopes that the two sides will take the opportunity of the France-China Strategic Dialogue to implement the important consensus reached by him and Xi, and further build lasting and close France-China relations.

France has always adhered to the one-China policy and this position is clear, he said.

In the face of global challenges, France adheres to strategic independence and is willing to strengthen strategic coordination with China to jointly safeguard peace and stability, he said.

Wang said the current international situation is turbulent, hotspot issues are complex and thorny, the world economic recovery is slow and challenges come one after another.

As independent major countries, permanent members of the UN Security Council and important forces in a multipolar world, China and France should strengthen strategic coordination and deepen strategic cooperation to contribute to global peace and stability, he said.

China appreciates France's adherence to independence and autonomy, and hopes that France will continue to boost the sound and steady development of China-Europe relations, enhance mutual trust, promote convergence of interests, and jointly act as a stabilizing force in today's world.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, France, on Feb. 20, 2024. (PHOTO / THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY VIA XINHUA)

## Spring Festival mirrors vitality of Chinese economy, society

DURING the Spring Festival, a cross-border livestream commerce event was hosted at the Horgos Yiwu International Trade Market inside the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Some 20 hosts were busy selling commodities at the event, including a Kazakhstani host, who skillfully switched between different languages to introduce Chinese products and answer questions from viewers.

With the running China-Europe freight trains and thriving cross-border livestream commerce, Horgos,

which means "a place where camel caravans pass by" in Mongolian, has truly become a place where wealth is accumulated.

The Spring Festival is an important time to observe the operation of the Chinese economy. With more convenient transportation and comfortable experiences, thriving market supply and demand, prospering new forms of consumption, splendid cultural activities, an booming culture and tourism market, as-usual commerce, and a vibrant start of foreign trade, the just-concluded Spring Festival holiday allowed people to deeply feel the festive atmosphere and enjoy

happy lives, while witnessing an energetic and vibrant China.

China on the move releases development vitality. The vibrant travel and consumption markets during the Spring Festival holiday were quite impressive.

According to statistics, China reported nearly 2.3 billion trips in varied modes of transport during the just concluded Spring Festival holiday that ran from Feb. 10 to 17 this year.

In Beijing, popular sites like the Summer Palace and Badaling Great Wall reached full capacity, while temple fair events at the Temple of Earth, the Longtan Park, and the

Badachu Park became "trending spots."

In Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province, the Datang Ever-bright City, a tourist landmark featuring a grand street with characteristics of Tang Dynasty (618-907), shined brightly. Visitors dressed in traditional Chinese costumes, holding fans and posing for photos, and auspicious loong (the Chinese dragon) motifs could be seen everywhere.

Foreign media outlets covering the Spring Festival travel rush believed that it not only involves a massive movement of people but also reflects the vitality and dynamism of the Chinese economy and society. They said China's holiday consumption demand was fully unleashed and injected momentum into a strong start for the Chinese economy.

Reservations for Chinese New Year's Eve dinners were explosive, and waiting lines at restaurants were long, exuding an atmosphere of festivities and reflecting strong recovery in consumption. This year's Spring Festival box office sales exceeded 8 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion), breaking the historical record.

Consumption is an important window into consumer trends. Sales of sugar-free pastries, health-

care gifts, low-fat snacks and so on grew rapidly. Energy-efficient appliances, low-carbon transportation and other green products and services were very popular. Traditional culture-inspired Chinese style products became new favorites in the market.

Pursuing green and healthy choices, favoring technological intelligence, and showcasing cultural characteristics, the Spring Festival consumption is increasingly showing new trends and highlights, as new types of consumption flourishes and the consumption environment continues to improve.

**People's Daily**



## Russian forces take advantageous positions in Avdeyevka area over past day

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN forces continued taking advantageous positions near Avdeyevka and repelled four Ukrainian army counter-attacks, eliminating roughly 425 enemy troops over the past day in the special military operation in Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Tuesday.

"In the Avdeyevka direction, units of the Battlegroup Center continued taking more advantageous frontiers and positions and inflicted damage on amassed manpower and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 24th and 53rd mechanized brigades. In addition, they repelled four counter-attacks by assault groups of the Ukrainian army's 59th mechanized brigade and 3rd assault brigade near the settlements of Lastochkino and Pervomaiskoye in the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said in a statement.

The Ukrainian army's losses in the Avdeyevka area over the past 24 hours amounted to "425 personnel, a tank, four armored combat vehicles and five motor vehicles," it specified.

### Russian forces repulse four Ukrainian attacks in Kupyansk area over past day

Russian forces repulsed four Ukrainian army attacks in the Kupyansk area, destroying roughly 45 enemy troops, a German howitzer and a US-made artillery gun over the past day, the ministry reported.

"In the Kupyansk direction, units of the Western Battlegroup conducted active operations and inflicted damage by firepower on formations of the Ukrainian army's 30th and 32nd mechanized brigades and also repulsed four enemy counter-attacks near the settlement of Sinkovka in the Kharkov Region. The Ukrainian army's losses totaled as many as 45 personnel and two pickup trucks," the ministry said.

In counter-battery fire, Russian forces destroyed a German-made Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzer, three Gvozdika motorized artillery systems and a US-manufactured M119 artillery gun, the ministry specified.

### Russian forces improve frontline positions in Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces improved their frontline positions and repelled a Ukrainian army attack in the Donetsk area over the past day, the ministry reported.

"In the Donetsk direction, units of the Southern Battlegroup improved their forward edge positions and inflicted damage by firepower on formations of the Ukrainian army's 28th mechanized brigade and 241st territorial defense brigade near the settlements of Kurdyumovka and Krasnoye in the Donetsk People's Republic. They also repelled an attack by assault groups of the Ukrainian army's 42nd mechanized brigade near the settlement of Bogdanovka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said.

### Russian forces destroy over 395 Ukrainian troops, 3 tanks in Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces destroyed more than 395 Ukrainian troops, three tanks and three US-made armored vehicles in the Donetsk area over the past day, the ministry reported.

"The Ukrainian army's losses totaled over 395 personnel, three tanks, including a German-made Leopard tank, three US-manufactured M113 armored personnel carriers, four armored combat vehicles and nine motor vehicles," the ministry said.

In counter-battery fire, Russian forces destroyed a Polish-made Krab self-propelled artillery gun, a D-20 howitzer, a Gvozdika motorized artillery system and a D-30 howitzer, it specified.

### Russian forces destroy Ukrainian jammer, anti-tank gun in south Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces destroyed a Ukrainian jamming station and an anti-tank gun in the south Donetsk area, eliminating roughly 190 enemy troops over the past day, the ministry reported.

"The enemy's losses amounted to 190 personnel, a tank and four motor vehicles. In counter-battery fire, a US-made M777 artillery system, a UK-manufactured FH70 howitzer, an MT-

12 Rapira anti-tank gun and a Bukovel-AD electronic warfare station were destroyed," the ministry said.

In the south Donetsk direction, units of Russia's Battlegroup East inflicted damage by firepower on formations of the Ukrainian army's 108th territorial defense brigade near the settlement of Lugovskoye in the Zaporozhye Region. In addition, they repelled a counter-attack by an assault group of the Ukrainian army's 58th mechanized brigade near the settlement of Shevchenko in the Zaporozhye Region, it said.

### Russian forces eliminate 120 Ukrainian troops in Kherson area over past day

Russian forces destroyed roughly 120 Ukrainian troops and two US-made artillery guns in the Kherson area over the past day, the ministry reported.

"The Ukrainian army's losses amounted to 120 personnel, three pickup trucks, a US-made M777 artillery system, a US-manufactured M109 Paladin artillery gun, a Gvozdika motorized artillery system and a D-30 howitzer," the ministry said.

In their well-coordinated operations supported by artillery, units of Russia's Dnepr Battlegroup inflicted damage by combined firepower on formations of the Ukrainian army's 65th and 118th mechanized brigades and 82nd air assault brigade near the settlements of Rabotino, Orekhov and Verbovoye in the Zaporozhye Region, the ministry said.

### Russian air defenses down Ukrainian MiG-29 warplane in Kherson area over past day

Russian air defense forces shot down a Ukrainian MiG-29 fighter jet in the Kherson area over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Air defense capabilities shot down a Ukrainian Air Force MiG-29 aircraft near the settlement of Belozorka in the Kherson Region," the ministry said.

### Russian air defenses intercept seven Storm Shadow missiles over past day

Russian air defense forces intercepted seven Storm Shadow cruise missiles, a missile of the US-made Patriot surface-to-air missile system and three HIMARS rockets over the past day, the ministry reported.

"During the last 24-hour period, air defense capabilities intercepted seven UK-made Storm Shadow cruise missiles, a surface-to-air missile of the US-made Patriot anti-aircraft missile system and three rockets of the US-manufactured HIMARS multiple launch rocket system," the ministry said.

Over the past 24 hours, Russian air defense systems destroyed 124 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles, in particular, in areas near the settlements of Mirnoye in the Zaporozhye Region, Lozovoye and Klyuchevoye in the Donetsk People's Republic, Podgornoye, Novoyegorovka and Kremennaya in the Lugansk People's Republic, the ministry specified.

### Russian forces pound Ukrainian troops in 117 areas over past day

Russian forces inflicted damage on Ukrainian manpower and military hardware in 117 areas over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Operational-tactical aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, missile troops and artillery of the Russian groupings of forces struck Ukrainian manpower and military equipment in 117 areas," the ministry said.



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**The Ukrainian army's losses totaled over 395 personnel, three tanks, including a German-made Leopard tank, three US-manufactured M113 armored personnel carriers, four armored combat vehicles and nine motor vehicles**

# Vital China on the move

THE Spring Festival travel rush, carrying people's hopes for family reunion, reflects the new landscape of China's high-quality development.

During the 2024 Spring Festival holiday, which ran from Feb. 10 to 17, China reported about 2.3 billion trips in varied modes of transport. In particular, the railway system handled about 99.59 million trips; about 2.18 billion trips were made on highways; waterway and civil aviation trips stood at 9.4 million and 18.04 million.

Regions and departments across China have strengthened coordination, increased transport capacity reserves, and prepared contingency plans, to make Spring Festival travels safer, more convenient and cozier, injecting vitality into this country on the move.

In 2023, China saw the introduction of new high-speed rail lines spanning 2,776 kilometers, along with the construction and expansion of over 7,000 kilometers of expressways. Additionally, the accessibility of domestic air routes expanded by 23 percent, providing strong support for meeting the travel demands during the Spring Festival holiday and facilitating regional connectivity.

During this year's Spring Festival holiday, Chen, who resides in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian province, took his family to the ancient city of Quanzhou in the province, taking the G1609 high-speed train. The trip only took them less than an hour.

The Fuzhou-Xiamen high-speed railway is China's first cross-sea high-speed railway designed for a speed of 350 kilometers per hour. With the opening of it, the travel time between Fuzhou and Xiamen has been shortened to around an hour, while that among Xiamen, Zhangzhou, Quanzhou, and other cities has been cut to half an hour.

At the end of last year, the full opening of the Beijing-Xiong'an expressway just gave Zhang Chenghui, whose hometown is in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei province, a new



Passengers check in at a railway station in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province, Feb. 15, 2024. (People's Daily Online/Si Wei)

option to return home.

"The road is smooth, signs are clear, and the scenery is beautiful. It only takes an hour to drive from Beijing to Xiong'an. It's so convenient," he said.

In Hefei, east China's Anhui province, an intelligent operation command center for expressways was recently put into use by Anhui Transportation Holding Group, which is able to obtain real-time traffic, weather and other information, thus ensuring safe travel during the Spring Festival travel rush.

Last November, the Anyang Hongqiu Airport in Anyang, central China's Henan province opened for operation, becoming the first civil airport in the north of the province.

"With the new airport, it's much more convenient to return home now," said a woman surnamed Cai, who was traveling back to Anyang from Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province. Previously, it took her over seven hours by high-speed rail to get home, but now the trip has been shortened to 2.5 hours by plane.

During the Spring Festival travel rush, regions across China introduced a series of thoughtful services, striving to improve passenger experience and provide strong support for safe and convenient travel.

"Tongtong, you did great!" At Beijing Daxing International Airport, a man surnamed Liu took his grandson Tongtong from the ground crew of China Southern Airlines. He soon called the child's mother, telling her that Tongtong had arrived safe and sound.

Tongtong, 6, was able to fly alone across much

of China from Guangzhou, thanks to the upgraded "unaccompanied minor" boarding service introduced by China Southern Airlines during the Spring Festival travel rush.

"From check-in, security check, boarding to pick-up, there is a staff member accompanying the child at every step, so the little ones will not leave our sight," said Yi Liang, a staff member at the China Southern Airlines special passenger service counter at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport.

Yi said that with the increase in passenger flow and flights this Spring Festival, China Southern Airlines has further upgraded its special passenger services. Since the start of the Spring Festival travel rush, China Southern Airlines has provided services to over 600 unaccompanied minors and other special passengers on a daily basis.

During the Spring Festival, regions across China also strengthened the organization of freight sources and smoothed logistics channels to fully ensure the adequate supply of important livelihood commodities.

In Shaanxi province, the Haolebaoji-Ji'an railway increased coal transport capacity; in Jiangsu province, multiple express delivery companies stayed operational during the Spring Festival to deliver New Year goods to households; in Hainan province, ports of the Qiongzhou Strait implemented 24-hour operations to meet the needs of ro-ro passenger ships...

China on the move reflects the joy of reunion and mirrors the vitality of development.

People's Daily

## India, Greece have agreed to take bilateral trade to two times by year 2030 - PM Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said that the visit of Greece Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to India reflected the strengthening of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

He stated that the growing cooperation in the defence and security sectors reflects deep mutual trust between the two nations.

In a joint press statement after holding bilateral and delegation level talks here with his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that both countries have agreed to take their bilateral trade to two times by the year 2030.

PM Modi said, "I am happy to welcome PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his delegation to India. After my visit to Greece last year, his visit to India is a symbol of the strengthening strategic partnership between the two countries. The visit of the Greek PM to India after 16 years is a historic occasion."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra were among others who were present in the delegation level talks.

Teming his discussions with Kyriakos Mitsotakis "meaningful and useful", PM Modi said that the two nations are rapidly heading towards doubling bilateral trade by 2030. He expressed happiness that India and Greece are taking steps to implement the agreements reached in this area in 2023.

PM Modi said new opportunities were explored during his meeting ranging from agriculture, pharma, medical devices, technologies, innovation, skill development, and space.

PM Modi said, "Our discussions today were very meaningful and useful. It is a matter of happiness that we are rapidly heading towards doubling bilateral trade by 2030. We identified several new opportunities to give new energy and direction to our cooperation. There are many possibilities for closer cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture."

He added, "And I am pleased that both sides are taking steps to implement the agreements reached in this area last year. We emphasized on increasing cooperation in



many areas like pharma, medical devices, technology, innovation, skill development, and space."

He said shipping and connectivity are the highest priority areas and discussed increasing cooperation in these areas with the Greek PM. PM Modi noted that India and Greece have common concerns and priorities in the fight against terrorism.

PM Modi said, "We also discussed connecting the start-ups of both countries. Shipping and connectivity are topics of high priority for both the countries. We also discussed increasing cooperation in these areas."

Announcing the formation of a Working Group between India and Greece for defence and security, he said, "The growing cooperation in defence and security reflects our deep mutual trust. With the formation of a Working Group in this area, we will be able to increase mutual coordination on common challenges like defence, cyber security, counter-terrorism, and maritime security."

He said, "New opportunities for co-production and co-development are being created in defence manufac-

turing in India, which can be beneficial for both the countries. We have agreed to connect the defence industries of both the countries. India and Greece have common concerns and priorities in the fight against terrorism. We discussed in detail how to further strengthen our cooperation in this area."

He noted that India and Greece have a long history of deep cultural and people-to-people ties.

PM Modi stated that people of both nations have been exchanging trade and cultural ties as well as ideas.

He said, "As two ancient and great civilizations, India and Greece have a long history of deep cultural and people-to-people ties. For almost two and a half thousand years, people of both the countries have been exchanging trade and cultural relations as well as ideas."

"Today we identified several new initiatives to give a modern form to these relations. We discussed concluding the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between the two countries as soon as possible. This will further strengthen our people-to-people relations," PM Modi said.

This is the first bilateral Head of State or Government level visit from Greece to India after 15 years. The last Prime Ministerial visit from Greece to India took place in 2008.

ANI

# RC urges residents to embrace Kili Marathon 2024 opportunities

By Guardian Correspondent

**T**HE Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu, has urged the residents of the region, especially businessmen, to take advantage of the business opportunities arising from the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon event.

Babu gave the advice yesterday in a presser regarding the preparations for the international event as far as the regional government was concerned in the preparations.

"This race is expected to involve more than 10,000 participants and a similar number of other people who will come to the Kilimanjaro Region to follow this important sporting event in East Africa," he said, adding that the numbers also involve participants and other people from abroad.

He said: "The information I have so far is that the accommodation facilities within the Moshi town and the neighbouring districts within Kilimanjaro Region are already fully occupied, forcing others to seek accommodation facilities in the neighbouring region of Arusha."

"I continue to urge local businessmen to use other commercial opportunities other than lodges because during this important event, there are many business opportunities," he added.

In addition, Babu commended the organizers of the event, which he said, apart from raising the talents of athletes as well as the regional and national economy, the race also supports President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts



The Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner (R), Nurdin Babu, receives the running kit for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2024 from the marathon's Event Manager, David Marealle (L). Looking on is the events Protocol Manager, Nurti Saggafu. The handover event took place at the RC's office in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

aimed at promoting the sports sector in the country.

Regarding preparations at the regional level, Babu said that everything was going well, including the guarantee of security for the participants and other people who will visit the region during the entire week of the international event.

"We, at the regional level, have prepared well for this important event and also to ensure security before and after the race to all participants and other visitors," he said.

Babu urged all those who will visit the Kilimanjaro Region during the event to use that opportunity to visit the tourist attractions in the region, which he said includes

Mount Kilimanjaro which has a unique international recognition.

Babu also thanked the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon for giving the opportunity to the leadership of the region to organize a special jogging event on February 24, this year.

"This jogging event, apart from being used as a warm-up for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, scheduled for February 25, this year, will also be used to raise awareness of the inauguration of this year's Uhuru Torch Race, which is expected to take place in Kilimanjaro Region on April 2, this year," he noted.

The Kilimanjaro Premi-

um Lager Brand Manager, Cathrine Lyakurwa said all is set for the Sunday event.

"We have plenty of surprises for the participants both at the stadium and Kili Dome at Moshi Club and this is a must-attend," she said, adding that a lot has been improved this year including an expanded area, more parking space, and entertainment.

Tigo Northern Zone Director, Henry Kinabo, said Tigo is proud to partner with the event for nine years now in a row, adding that this time they will set up several Wifi areas which will be free of charge during the Marathon period.

Gee Soseji Marketing Manager, Margret Karua,

assured 5km Fin Run participants that they will have a special experience.

"We are pretty new sponsors to the marathon and we look forward to a thrilling event come Sunday," she said.

Other sponsors include water table sponsors Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Kilimanjaro Water and CRDB.

Official partners are GardaWorld Tanzania, CMC Automobiles and Salinero Hotel while official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and coordinated here in the country by the Executive Solutions Company.

## Tanzania to begin Afcon 2025 qualifications straight in group stages

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA senior national football team will begin their 2025 AFCON tournament qualifications in the group stages after CAF released a list of nations that will vie their chances in the preliminary rounds.

Following the conclusion of the 34th edition of TotalEnergies CAF AFCON, the focus has shifted to the next edition.

The preliminary round of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2025 will include the eight lowest-ranked teams according to the FIFA ranking.

The teams are Somalia, Djibouti, Sao Tome, Chad, Mauritius, South Sudan, Liberia and Eswatini. The matches will be played on a home and away basis during the FIFA window of March 18-26, 2024, and the four preliminary round winners will join the 44 exempted teams for the group stage.

Talking about the national team to avoid the preliminary stage, the former player of Taifa Stars, Adolph Rishard, said that the decision has a big advantage because the playoff matches are very unpredictable.

"For us coaches, there are no matches that have been giving us a headache like the playoffs, where you only play two matches to find one winner who will

advance to the next stage.

"The playoff matches are always played in a short period of time. So they do not give enough time for the players to rest and do programs to adjust, unlike group matches," he said.

Meanwhile, Taifa Stars will play with Bulgaria in a special competition organized by the world's football governing body, known as 'FIFA Series', on March 22, in Azerbaijan.

The mini-tournament, which replaces FIFA's international friendlies, will feature four teams from Africa, Europe and Asia.

Africa will be represented by Tanzania, Europe will be represented by Bulgaria while Asia will be represented by Mongolia and the hosts Azerbaijan. This will be the first time for the Tanzanian national team to play against Bulgaria and Mongolia in friendly games organized by FIFA.

The Information Officer of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Clifford Ndimbo, has confirmed the existence of the tournament and said Tanzania will participate and they are currently in preliminary preparations for the event.

"We have information about the existence of these 'FIFA Series' competitions and we, as Tanzania, are at the initial stages of seeing how we participate.

## Njombe pugilists laud stakeholder's support

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN boxers Hashim Kiranga and Amos Kaduma have expressed their regards to boxing stakeholder, Anthony Mkani, for supporting the boxers' participation in the World Alliance Boxing Association (WABA) Elimination Fight scheduled for March 9 in Uganda.

Mkani, the director of a Makambako District-based company - which buys and sells maize - is footing the costs for the two pugilists' training camp as they gear up for the coming bouts.

The Makambako District-based pugilists have moreover expressed their appreciation to the businessman for providing them with a reputed boxing coach from Dar es Salaam, Omari Yazidu, who will assist Erasto Kabuje in coaching them.

The boxers have thanked Mkani for his willingness to back them, given the gesture gears towards seeing to it they excel and make their nation proud.

Mkani said he believes the young boxers will do well in

their bouts, stressing: "I have to support them so they could represent Makambako District, Njombe, and the nation well."

Kiranga is set to take the right to slug it out with Junju Power of Uganda in the eight-round Welterweight bout.

Kaduma will come up against another Ugandan, Ronald Duku, in the eight-round Cruiserweight fight.

The boxers' compatriots, Ibrahim Tamba, George Dimoso, Nicholas Tomusange, Masha Samson, and Said Zungu will also participate in other bouts versus the hosts' pugilists slated for the day.

Tamba will trade blows with Ivan Magumba in the Super Middleweight bout spanning eight rounds, Dimoso is set to confront Ignusias Onyango in the weight division's fight that will span eight rounds.

Tomusange will take the ring to trade punches with Fahim Muburu while Samson is set to make his experience count in a Super Middleweight fight versus Sadri Bwoji, spending eight rounds.

Zungu will confront Joshua Nyanzi in a Super Lightweight fight that will span eight rounds.



Some of CR Belouizdad players after arriving at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The Algerian side will lock horns with Young Africans in their CAF Champions League Group D tie to be held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday. PHOTO: Agencies

# Tabora United eyes for ASFC glory amidst NBC Premier League challenge

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TABORA United's management has set their sights on their upcoming fixture against Nyamongo from Musoma in the Azam Sports Federation Cup, determined to qualify for the next stage of 16.

Tabora United, the newly promoted side in the 2023/2024 NBC Premier League season, struggle to find their footing with a lackluster performance re-

flected in their standings.

With only 17 points garnered from 16 games, their record paints a challenging picture, having won merely three matches, drawn eight, and lost five.

Currently positioned 13th in the league table, Tabora United find themselves teetering precariously close to the relegation zone, a testament to the steep learning curve and tough competition of top-flight football.

Despite their best efforts, Tabora United's journey in

the league is fraught with difficulties as they grapple to secure favorable results. With the season progressing, the team faces mounting pressure to improve their performance and steer clear of the relegation battle looming ominously on the horizon.

As they navigate the competitive landscape of the Premier League, Tabora United must rally their strengths and strategize effectively to defy the odds and cement their place in

the elite ranks of Tanzanian football.

Following their recent NBC Premier League match on Monday, which ended in a goalless draw against Azam FC, both teams secured a point each.

With Azam now boasting 36 points, surpassing Simba to claim the second spot, Tabora United's Information Officer, Christina Mwangala, confirmed their team's focus on the impending clash with Nyamongo Football Club.

"After the draw with

Azam, Tabora United swiftly turned their attention to the ASFC Cup encounter against Nyamongo at the Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium on Thursday," stated Mwangala.

The squad, known as Nyuki wa Tabora (Tabora Bees), wasted no time in resuming training after their match against Azam, fully aware of the significance of the tournament ahead.

Head coach Goran Copnovic emphasized the importance of their relentless preparation to progress to

the 16th stage of the ASFC.

"We haven't given our players a break following the recent game against Azam FC as we are fully committed to advancing in the ASFC. It's a knockout competition, and losing means bidding farewell to the tournament. Tabora United is determined to lift the cup," Copnovic affirmed.

Reflecting on their journey, Tabora United's triumph in the 32nd stage saw them defeating Monduli Coffee from Arusha with a

resounding 4-1 victory.

Yohana Mkomolwa's impressive hat-trick, accompanied by Moses Msukanywele's goal, secured their passage to the 16th stage.

This relentless pursuit of success underscores Tabora United's commitment to excellence and their aspirations to make a mark in the ASFC. With their eyes firmly set on the upcoming fixture against Nyamongo, every member of the team is determined to give their all on the pitch.

## British billionaire Ratcliffe completes purchase of minority stake in Manchester United

LONDON

BRITISH billionaire Jim Ratcliffe said becoming a co-owner of Manchester United is a "great honour" and "responsibility" after his purchase of a minority stake was finalised on Tuesday.

The 71-year-old's investment, which will give him control of football operations at the 20-time English champions, was approved by the Premier League and English Football Association last week.

It was announced on December 24 last year that Ratcliffe had agreed to buy a 25 per cent stake in United from unpopular owners the Glazer family in a deal worth around £1.02 billion (\$1.3 billion).

Following the completion of that deal, the founder of petrochemicals giant INEOS has invested a further \$200 million to take his total stake to 27.7 per cent and will inject \$100 million more by the end of this year to enable investment in infrastructure at Old Trafford.

"This marks the completion of the transaction, but just the beginning of our journey to take Manchester United back to the top of English, European and world football, with world-class facilities for our fans," Ratcliffe said in a club statement.

"Work to achieve those objectives will accelerate from today."

United have not won the Premier League since former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and last won the Champions League in 2008 as their fortunes on the field have deteriorated during the Glazers' reign.

The Americans have been deeply unpopular with supporters ever since a leveraged takeover of the club in 2005 saddled the club with hundreds of millions of dollars of debt.

Joel Glazer, United's executive co-chairman, said: "I would like to welcome Sir Jim as co-owner and look forward to working closely with him and INEOS Sport to deliver a bright future for Manchester United."

A boyhood United fan, Ratcliffe has already met with leading supporters' groups and local politicians as he charts a course to lead United back to the top on and off the field.

Omar Berrada has been poached from local rivals and Premier League champions Manchester City to be the club's new CEO.

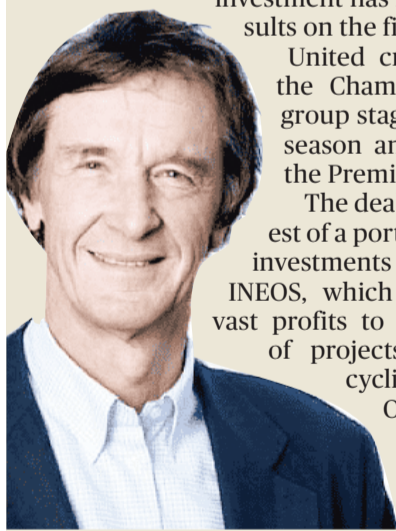
A pursuit of Newcastle's Dan Ashworth to be United's sporting director is also nearing completion as Ratcliffe aims to revolutionise the Red Devils' failing recruitment structure.

A UEFA report last week revealed that United had the most expensive squad in history at the end of last season with a combined transfer cost of \$1.5 billion. However, that investment has not reaped results on the field.

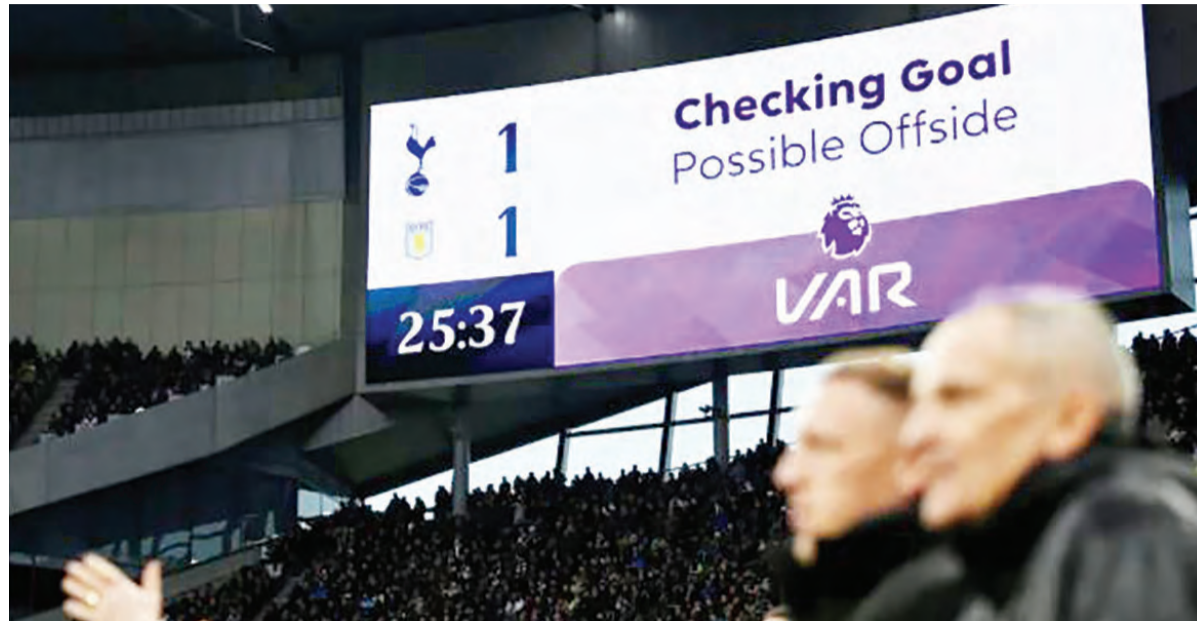
United crashed out of the Champions League group stages earlier this season and sit sixth in the Premier League.

The deal is just the latest of a portfolio of sports investments by Ratcliffe's INEOS, which has used its vast profits to fund a series of projects in football, cycling, Formula One, athletics and sailing.

AFP



# What is VAR, how does it work and what are the biggest problems?



By Karl Matchett

WOLVES manager Gary O'Neil proclaimed: "What is the point in VAR?" His side felt aggrieved after yet more decisions proved vital in defeat at Fulham. Newcastle boss Eddie Howe labelled a penalty against his own club in stoppage time against Paris Saint-Germain "a poor decision" which "looks completely different" in a slowed-down replay to officials watching on monitors.

The current situations come after an increase in the use of technology in football over the past few years but none seems to create as much heated debate and questioning as that of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

By and large, it is felt that minor and visible calls are improved across the course of the season with on-pitch referees getting extra help. However, there have been several high-profile incidents of late that have led to clubs, or personnel within them, complaining about the eventual decision or decision-making process, with another recent one coming in the Champions League.

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag felt aggrieved that a number of calls went against them in their 4-3 defeat to FC Copenhagen, including a decision to send off Marcus Rashford for serious foul play.

But the other side of the debate is that - without their being absolute, specific lines on what is

and isn't a foul, where a decision should or shouldn't be made and so on - the bar for where VAR intervenes and decides on disallowing incidents (or not) appears far higher in the Premier League than in European competition.

It is widely felt on these shores that the penalty against Newcastle for PSG would not have been given in England, nor would Jarrell Quansah's late goal for Liverpool against Toulouse have been chalked off for a handball against Alexis Mac Allister much earlier in build-up play. But neither of these instances occurred in the Premier League, and referees in Europe - under the Uefa banner - have different takes and different levels of interventions.

Here's everything on VAR you need to know, including the latest causes for complaint against it.

### \*What has gone wrong?

A lot, Newcastle felt aggrieved that a penalty was awarded for handball after a VAR review having not been given during open play, in the final minute of injury time in their 1-1 draw at PSG.

Earlier in the competition, Man United complained about Rashford's red card, given out for stepping across and onto the foot and shin of an opponent. Ten Hag insisted his side had seen three "very debatable" penalties go against them in four games and called his forward's sending off "very harsh".

In domestic football, Arsenal manager Mikel

Arteta complained over "unacceptable" errors from on-pitch and VAR officials as his team lost to Newcastle, while Wolves boss O'Neil continues to feel unfairly treated by the use of the technology.

Earlier in the season he labelled a penalty decision given against his team and upheld by VAR as "scandalous" - also against Newcastle. VAR sent referee Michael Salisbury to the screen to award a penalty after Joao Gomes brought Harry Wilson down in the box, and William scored his second spot kick of the game to seal all three points for Fulham.

O'Neil highlighted the decisions involving the late penalty, Carlos Vinicius' alleged headbutt on Max Kilman and why Tim Ream did not receive a second yellow for a foul on Hwang Hee-Chan, while the Whites' first penalty, awarded for a foul by Nelson Semedo on Tom Cairney, was also contentious. To note, VAR would never have intervened on Ream, as they only get involved for direct red card offences, not second yellows.

Ange Postecoglou suggested recently that clubs have to shoulder part of the blame for long stoppages for VAR, saying: "Some of it is self-inflicted because if we come out every week complaining about decisions that is what will happen, every decision gets forensically checked and we will be sitting around for a long time in every game trying to figure out what is going on."

### \*What has gone right?

In truth, a lot. It's overlooked when three or four calls are spot-on, when one

However, it must be noted that the vast majority of these are subjective opinions and where Arteta sees fault, another manager, supporter or, indeed, official may see justification in decision.

One incident which was not subjective, but instead a quite clear mistake, came with Luis Diaz's goal for Liverpool against Tottenham being ruled out for offside and then allowed to stay disallowed, despite the VAR officials running their processes and showing the forward was onside. The "significant human error" came as a result of the official, Darren England, appearing to forget that offside rather than a goal had been awarded in the first place.

To another extreme, Millie Bright criticised the fact there was no VAR in the first edition of the Women's Nations League, after a clearly offside goal was allowed to stand against England which would have been simple to rule out.

Further clear VAR errors which PGMOL have had to apologise for include no penalty being awarded to Wolves against Man United after Andre Onana clattered Sasa Kalajdzic, a Brentford goal against Arsenal not being checked properly with no offside lines drawn and a West Ham late equaliser being ruled out for a foul, where none was apparent.

### \*What has gone right?

In truth, a lot. It's overlooked when three or four calls are spot-on, when one

causes serious complaint or at least is a subjective call which a majority seem to disagree with.

As an example, in the incident-packed Tottenham vs Chelsea fixture, several goals were correctly ruled out for offside through use - or checking - of VAR and the penalty awarded which saw Cristian Romero sent off was also a result of VAR intervention.

Generally speaking, these calls that are widely accepted as correct do not get highlighted, partially because the technology exists for that very reason: it's expected to help officials make the right calls with a second look.

That doesn't mean they don't occur, though. The Premier League reported that 82 per cent of decisions were correct in the season before VAR was introduced, rising to 94 per cent being correct in 2019/20.

### \*What is the process for VAR checks?

From the Premier League website: VAR will be used only for "clear and obvious errors" or "serious missed incidents" in four match-changing situations: goals; penalty decisions; direct red-card incidents; and mistaken identity.

When any of those match situations occur or potentially occur, VAR is constantly rewatching and monitoring match footage from the hub at Stockley Park.

If there is a decision to be made, the VAR or Assistant VAR (AVAR) will relay to the referee that play should be halted while checks are made, before recommending either an overturn, a pitchside check of the monitor for the ref or a continuation of play with the on-pitch original decision.

The video officials have until the ball goes dead to inform the referee that a check is underway if play is already ongoing.

The referee can then either check the monitor or accept the VAR recommendation. Upon reviewing the pitchside monitor, they may then stick with their own initial assessment or

overturn the original, before communicating their new decision to the crowd.

### \*What have PGMOL said?

The refereeing chief of Professional Game Match Officials Limited, Howard Webb, took over the role last year to improve the standard of officiating in the English game and to help oversee a smoother use of technology.

PGMOL confirmed to the League Managers' Association "they are actively looking at how best to incorporate VARs into match-day refereeing teams, to ensure the dynamic between on-field referee and VAR is conducive to producing positive outcomes."

After the Diaz incident, the organisation "acknowledged a significant human error occurred" and brought in additional processes to ensure no repeat happened. They also released the audio of that incident, an "unusual step" according to Webb, "to show everybody what was very quickly pretty apparent to us, a human error and loss of concentration."

Webb has suggested the pool of VAR-specific officials will be increased but Lee Mason presents a cautionary tale. The former referee was appointed a full-time VAR for 2022/23, but departed the role last season after the aforementioned error over Brentford's goal against Arsenal.

Mason, who had already been stood down from the officiating list that campaign previously for wrongly disallowing a Newcastle goal, was labelled a "serial offender" by ex-PGMOL boss Keith Hackett - however, at the start of the current campaign, Mason was re-hired as a referees' coach for the lower leagues. That has not stopped questioning over why his credentials are suited to guiding less-experienced officials despite having been removed from his own post already.

Update: PGMOL confirmed to The Independent that Lee Mason does not work on VAR any longer.

THE INDEPENDENT

# Haaland 'shuts mouths' as Manchester City close on Liverpool

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Erling Haaland had "shut the mouths" of his critics after scoring the only goal of a nervy 1-0 win for Manchester City over Brentford on Tuesday.

Just two points separate the top three in a fascinating Premier League title race as City moved to within a point of leaders Liverpool, with third-placed Arsenal one point further back with 13 games to go.

Haaland was keen to make amends for a frustrating night in front of goal as City were held 1-1 at home by Chelsea on Saturday.

The Norwegian has only recently returned from a two-month in-

jury layoff and Guardiola said he was also coping with the loss of his grandmother off the field.

But Haaland was more like his old self in front of goal when he raced onto Julian Alvarez's pass to slot in his 22nd goal of the season 19 minutes from time.

"Top strikers score a lot of goals. Don't criticise, he will shut your mouth. Sooner or later he is there," said Guardiola.

"He was out for two months, he lost his grandmother, it is not easy for a human being.

"We spoke about the moment (missing chances against Chelsea), and I realised this later, but he didn't say anything about the passing away

of his grandmother."

Kevin De Bruyne was left on the bench for the entire match as Guardiola revealed he has "niggles" in his hamstring.

The Belgian missed the first five months of the season due to a hamstring tear.

De Bruyne's ingenuity was missed as City struggled to make their domination count despite enjoying nearly 70 per cent possession and having 25 shots on goal.

The Bees were the last visiting side to win at the Etihad 14 months ago and had their chances to spring another huge surprise.

Frank Onyeka failed to beat Ederson when one-on-one midway through the first half before Ivan Toney sent a

dipping free-kick inches over the bar.

The vast majority of goalmouth action came at the other end.

Oscar Bobb came closest to opening the scoring in the first half, on a rare start for the Norwegian youngster, when his effort was cleared off the line by Ben Mee.

Bernardo Silva also headed a glorious chance wide as Thomas Frank's men held out until the break. Liverpool and Arsenal's hopes of a second unlikely gift from City in the title race in four days would have been raised by a quiet start to the second period.

However, City remain well in the hunt to become the first side ever to win four consecutive

English top-flight titles for a reason.

One slip by Brentford defender Kristoffer Ajer provided the moment Haaland had been waiting for as he galloped clear on goal and kept his composure to score for just the third

time in his last eight games.

"I'm incredibly proud. We didn't give much away until the goal - which is a slip," said Brentford boss Frank. "I think they're good enough. They don't need that luck to get over the

line"

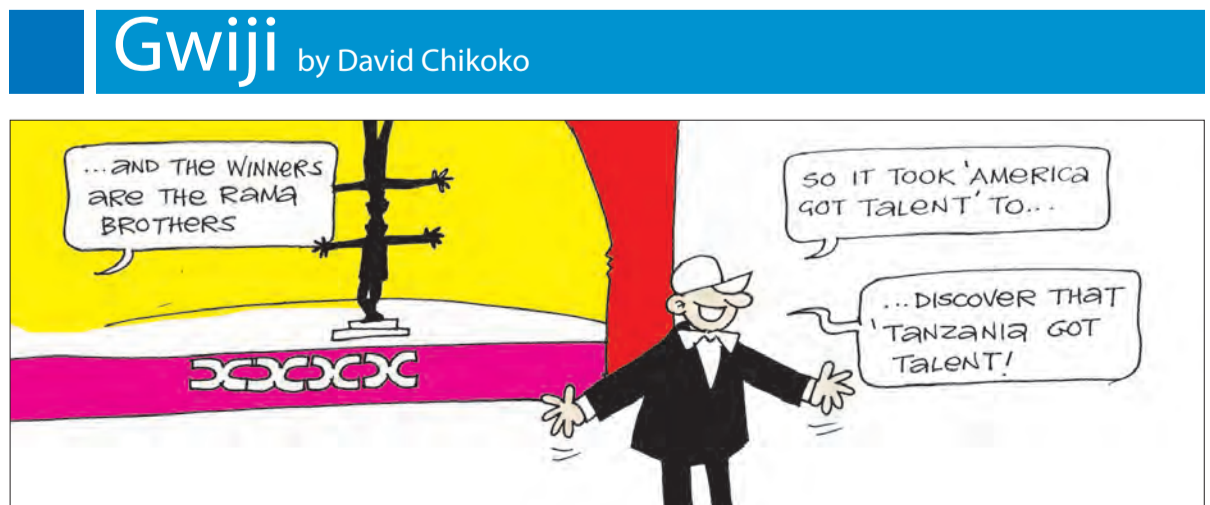
City should have extended their advantage, especially as goal difference could yet prove decisive in the title race.

Phil Foden scored a hat-trick when the sides met earlier this month in City's 3-1 win in west

London.

But the England international was denied twice late on by Flekken as the goalkeeper tipped over a blistering shot and then stood up well to block as Foden tried to go round him.

AFP



# SPORT

British billionaire  
Ratcliffe completes  
purchase of minority  
stake in Man Utd

PAGE 19



## We are cautious against ASEC Mimosas - Matola

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC assistant coach Suleiman Matola has expressed arduous contest against ASEC Mimosas as the team left the Julius Nyerere International Airport ahead of their CAF Champions League Group B fixture at Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny tomorrow.

Matola said the technical bench is aware of the prowess the Ivorian team possesses as they sit in fourth place in the Ivory Coast Ligue 1 standings with 26 points, four behind leaders Racing D'Abidjan.

The Msimbazi Reds, under the tutelage of Abdelhak Benchikha, are tasked with a positive result ahead of tomorrow's continental contest to secure a quarter-final spot as Matola said they need to avoid a defeat in the match.

"The technical bench is aware of the prowess of ASEC Mimosas. We have studied them well via video footage, but also have huge precautions heading into this fixture. We understand they are not first in their league but we have seen what they did in the previous games of the group fixtures.

"It is not going to be an easy match because ASEC would want to win this match and continue with their unbeaten record in the group stage. And we, as Simba, want to disrupt that record to our advantage. We know ASEC have qualified for the quarter-finals already and one place is up for the grabs and we want to take it," he said.

Simba will miss the services of goalie Ayoub Lakred, who serves a second yellow card suspension, and winger Willy Esomba Onana, who has been injured.

However, Matola has said they are happy with the current players and will utilize them effectively.

"We are happy with the current group of players. We have healthy competition in our goalkeeping department. Lakred is an outstanding player but Aishi Manula and Ally Salim are all available to lead the team between the sticks," he said.

Lakred received two back-to-back yellow cards due to time wasting.

ASEC Mimosas lead Group B with 10 points, Simba are in second place with five points, Jwaneng Galaxy are in third place with four points followed by Wydad Casablanca with three points.



# Gamondi proud of Yanga's style of play, declares it the best in the league

By Correspondent  
Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi reflected on his side's 5-0 win against Polisi Tanzania and shared his pride about their style of play, which he declared a joy to watch and the best in the league.

A first-half brace from striker Joseph Guede was complemented by other goals from Farid Musa, Clement Mzize and Shekhan Khamis and secured a comprehensive victory for Young Africans' progress to the last 16 of the Federation Cup in a game played at Chamazi Complex.

Speaking to Yanga TV, Gamondi said: "I am very proud of the players. I always say the players deserve credit but it is not only about having good players, you have to be a manager to manage these big players, put into practice ideas and football philosophy.

"It is not easy to coach in Yanga. It is never easy in the biggest teams. There is a lot of pressure, a lot of people but I think the style of play of Yanga is brilliant. Sometimes I don't want to be too humble but the way we play, and the number of goal-scoring chances we create is by far the best in the league.

"Sometimes journalists criticize us for missing a lot



Young Africans defender Gift Fred (L) battles for the ball with a Polisi Tanzania player during their Azam Sports Federation Cup tie at the Azam Complex on Tuesday. Young Africans won 5-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS SC

of chances but we create a lot of chances. You create chances because you play well. We need to improve but sometimes we score five goals and today we could have scored seven or eight.

"The other day in Morogoro we created 21 chances. We can score ten goals but it is okay, it is football.

"I am very happy and proud. If you remember at the beginning I said for me football is a show, we play for the fans, not only Wananchi but for all the people who love football.

Yanga is a team to watch even if you are not a Yanga fan," he said.

Young Africans now shift focus back to the CAF

Champions League with a crucial tie against Algeria's CR Belouizdad on Saturday.

Wananchi will be looking to avenge the 3-0 defeat from the first leg when they visited Algeria in November last year. The Tanzanian Champions are in Group D which also has reigning champions Al Ahly of Egypt and Ghana's Medeama and

remains wide open with two rounds of fixtures to go.

Ahly maintain top spot with six points, followed by CR Belouizdad and Young Africans who are equally tied on five points. At the bottom of the group is Medeama with four points.

The top two teams will advance to the quarter-finals.

## Azam looking to see off Green Warriors in the Federation Cup

By Correspondent  
Michael Mwebe

A DIFFERENT task awaits Azam this evening as they switch their focus to the Federation Cup face-off against Championship side Green Warriors at the Chamazi Stadium.

As they gear up for this Round of 32 encounter which takes place two days after their goalless draw with Tabora United, they are aware it is a knockout game with no room for error.

Though Azam are second on the NBC Premier League standings level on points with third-placed Simba, the Federation Cup presents the best opportunity to end their five-year title drought.

In the Round of 64, the club from Chamazi saw off First League side Alliance of Mwanza with a 2-1 home victory in December, last year.

With their sights set on finishing the season with at least one piece of silverware, Youssouph Dabo's men will set out to take a home victory in dominant fashion and advance to the Round of 16 before

returning to league action next week.

If Azam overcome Green Warriors, they will face the winner between Mtibwa Sugar and Stand United in the last 16 round.

Visitors Green Warriors come into the match having lost 1-0 at home to Copco in the Championship last week.

It was a disappointing result for the army side against a team below them in the table.

The defeat against Copco means Green Warriors have lost their two most recent fixtures having previously gone down 1-0 away to Transit Camp, who are

also below them in the table.

Elsewhere, JKT Tanzania will square off with another Championship side TMA at Major General Isamuhyo Stadium, kick off at 4PM.

Other Federation Cup matches today will see Geita Gold host Mbeya City, Ihefu taking on Mbuni while Tabora United will entertain Nyamongo at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium.

The Federation Cup is played on a straight knock out basis from the Round of 64, Round of 32, Round of 16 before the quarter-finals, and then semi-finals take place leading to the final.

The Round of 16 will take place in March while the quarter-finals are set for April. The semi-finals will be played in May, followed by the final in June, 2024.

In addition to a trophy, medals for players and the technical bench and Tsh 50m prize money, the winner of the Federation Cup earns a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Young Africans are the defending Champions of the Federation Cup after a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Azam on Monday, June 12, 2023.



Azam FC Head Coach, Youssouph Dabo (Agencies)

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT HAS DIABETES GOT TO DO WITH SUGAR?

KISWAHILI TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Movie  
13:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubungo Kids  
16:00 Zole Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
17:00 S3LEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 TOP 10  
21:30 Zole Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**TOP 10**  
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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