



### FISHERIES



PM UNVEILS OPPORTUNITIES IN FISHERIES SECTOR **PAGES 3**

### PROCUREMENT



PPAA TO EDUCATE MORE STAKEHOLDERS, BIDDERS **PAGE 4**

### VERIFICATION

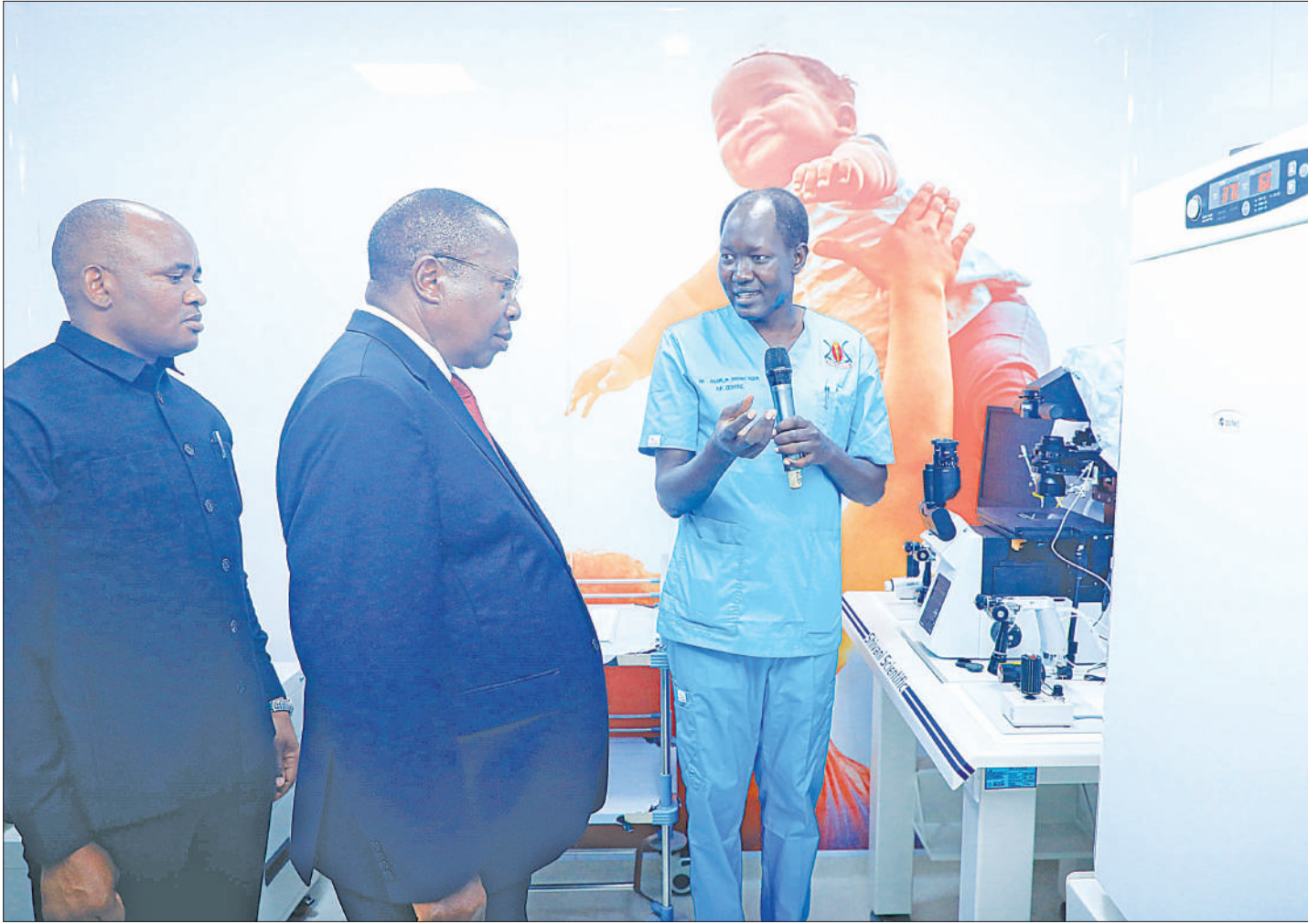


LOAN APPLICANTS URGED TO VERIFY DOCUMENTS **PAGES**

### INVESTMENT



VALUE OF REGISTERED INVESTMENT PROJECTS UP BY 53PC **PAGE 15**



Dr. Choor de Garang Alier, an embryologist with the Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan Implantation Centre at the Muhimbili National Hospital, briefs Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango on in vitro fertilisation. It was shortly after the VP inaugurated the facility in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Muhimbili rolls off fertilisation services, slated for \$5,000 bills

...the government's goal is to ensure that health services are accessible to all people, thus needing to reduce medical and specialised treatment costs

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

MUHIMBILI National Hospital has inaugurated a 1.1bn/- in vitro fertilization (IVF) service to support individuals with fertility problems.

Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango officiated at the launching in Dar es Salaam yesterday, where he also received a donated mobile clinic van, activating cochlear implant sets for 14 children at the top medical

facility.

Despite its extravagant charges, the facility is expected to reduce the stigma associated with childlessness among women, which the medical team there says upwards of 30 percent of the hospital's daily patients suffer such drawbacks.

The VP said that the new IVF service represents a significant advancement in expectations for families struggling with

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### Tanapa halfway with its 3.9bn/- Kyerwa project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

A TOTAL of 3.9bn/- was disbursed by the government for upgrading the Ibanda-Kyerwa National Park in Kagera Region, now estimated to have reached 55 per cent of scheduled works

Mussa Juma Kuji, the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) CEO made this affirmation to journalists at the end of an inspection tour of national parks in the western zone, stating that the wide ranging project is designed to enhance the park's facilities and improve visitor services.

He said the work is a substantial investment underscoring government plans to revitalize the western tourism circuit, noting that TANAPA has a mandate to fulfill the vision set out on the role of the little known circuit in the tourism industry as a whole.

The project entails the construction of an impressive tourist entrance complex and staff housing in the Kifurasa area, he said, elaborating that enhancements include a new park gate, offices for park rangers and accountants, a tourism services officer, an information technology unit and a paved road network.

Still other facilities are updated restrooms, fresh water wells, an electrified fence and solar energy supply, he said, explaining that this investment is not just

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By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWO electricity generating plants at the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) are being tested so that they can be added to the national grid soon.

James Mataragio, the Energy deputy permanent secretary, made this affirmation yesterday in the company of members of the Public Investments Committee (PIC) of the National Assembly, in the aftermath of three plants being switched on, generating 705 megawatts of electricity.

He expressed expectation that all nine plants at JNHPP will be activated to generate 2,115MW of electricity by early next year, as the parliamentarians visited the project site yesterday to witness the progress of the key public investment.

The project is billed to cost 6.5trn/- until its completion, he said, noting that one more plant is expected to be switched on for testing later in November, citing

## Two JNHPP plants enter testing stage

They are especially keen to start using electricity as clean energy for cooking and abandoning the use of wood and charcoal

plants that have started working as number 9, 8 and 7.

Mary Masanja (Special Seats), the committee vice chairperson, described the massive investment as productive as it has facilitated sufficient electricity generation for the national grid.

The project has provided opportunities for Tanzanians to find various jobs in the project during construction, with 6.1trn/- already been paid to the contractor out of the total amount agreed, she stated.

This project will make the country have a surplus of electricity generation, thus being able to sell power to neighbouring

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## LATRA cites vehicle track violation run, i-button stop

By Getrude Mbagso

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has alerted long-distance bus operators that it will suspend night services in case the specified regulations will keep being breached.

Habibu Suluo, the LATRA director general, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the Katarama fleet of buses has been placed under scrutiny as the agency believed there was tampering with vehicle tracking systems (VTS).

This is also likely interference with reporting devices (i-button), while operators are likely to have installed unauthorized equipment, he said.

He said inspections were being conducted in the wake of suspected road safety violations recently by several bus companies, including Super Feo, Abood and BM.

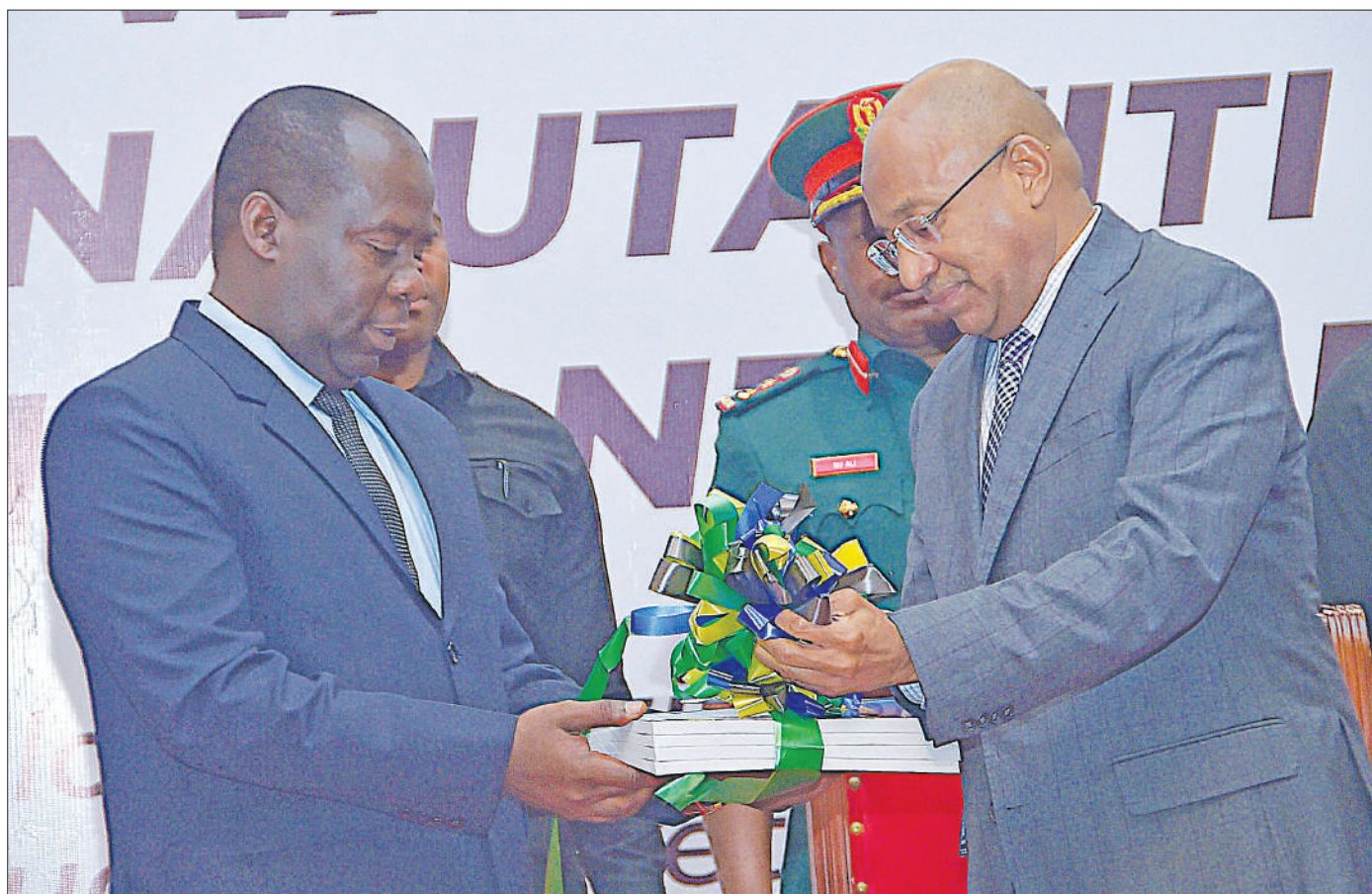
Operators were given seven days to address those infractions or face suspension of their operating licenses, meanwhile as the Katarama buses fleet is temporarily out of the road pending resolutions of queries that LATRA raised.

An i-button system is crucial for monitoring driver activity, an essential item in supervising long-distance bus movements, where fleets whose vehicles were involved.

The government is committed to uphold safety standards introduced after a June 2023 parliamentary decision allowed night bus travel, he said, noting that LATRA has since that moment worked with the Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA) as stakeholders to ensure high compliance levels.

Operators were required to sign an agreement to follow specific conditions, including proper VTS installation, driver exchange on trips longer than eight hours and maintaining accurate passenger re-

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Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Zanzibar yesterday cutting the ribbon in Zanzibar yesterday to launch a Geological and Mineral Research Report on the Isles. Left is Zanzibar's Water, Energy and Minerals minister, Shaibu Hassan Kaduara. Photo: Zanzibar State House



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## TANAPA halfway with 3.9bn/- Kyerwa project

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about physical improvements.

It also reflects the government's commitment to long-term conservation and tourism sustainability, he asserted, acknowledging the vital role of park officers and rangers.

He said that they are the foundation of conservation efforts, in which case TANAPA was keen to ensure their entitlements to education, allowances, medical care and career advancement.

Fredrick Mofulu, the park CEO, said that the upgrades would enhance operational efficiency and visitor experience, while Henry

Msabila, a senior official at the park, expressed gratitude to the visiting CEO, pointing at head office dedication to staff needs, which motivates the park team to work to excel in their various roles.

Managed by MJT Crew Co. Ltd and JV Sumry's Enterprises Ltd, construction work is said to have reached 55 percent, likely to be finalized in two months.

Issa Mfaume, the project manager, hailed the prompt funding as enabling the team to proceed with ease, maintaining high standards of work while adhering to the schedule.

## LATRA cites vehicle track violation run, i-button stop

FROM PAGE 1

cords, he specified.

Some operators have begun violating these conditions, prompting LATRA's intervention to protect the public, he said, citing the gravity of the recent spate of accidents, meanwhile as a single case of preventable fatality is unacceptable.

The police force has been tasked to investigate the buses, while the

suspension will remain until the inquiry is complete, he said, appealing to passengers to avoid the buses due to safety concerns "until decided otherwise."

TABOA chairman Abdallah Kiongozi supported LATRA's stance, stating that the association does not support operators who violate road safety regulations. All operators need to comply with established standards, he emphasized.

## Muhimbili rolls off fertilisation services, slated for \$5,000 bills

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long-term fertility challenges.

Up to now such services had to be sought in India or Turkey for a section of upper income families, while the new facility will be more affordable and handy even with its \$5,000 flat charge for the service.

"It is time for the country to rely on local specialists for skilled treatments to reduce the high costs of expert medical care abroad," he said, underlining the government's wish to further build the capacity of local experts to use, maintain top level medical equipment.

The project began in 2019, costing 1.1bn/- altogether from domestic sources, he said, describing the situation as a great relief that IVF services are now available in public hospitals.

Earlier such facilities were initiated in private hospitals in Arusha and Dar es Salaam, along with flying to South Africa, Turkey or Kenyan facilities for treatment, he said, also praising the cochlear implant service.

"I urge our specialists to focus on speech therapy for these children so that those with cochlear implants can begin to speak," he pleaded, pointing out that the mobile clinic van will enhance MNH ability to reach patients in various communities.

This capacity is aligned with the hospital's goal of providing outdoor specialised services periodically when feasible, officials had affirmed.

Prof. Mohamed Janabi, the MNH

executive director, explained that the IVF programme will initially treat 10 women already attending the clinic. There are ten available specialists while the relevant equipment can preserve embryos for upwards of 30 years, he stated.

He referred to data findings that 35 percent of infertility cases are due to male inability and 65 percent relates to female inadequacies, where three to four among every 10 women visiting the clinic have fertility challenges.

This brings distress to families, in which case the hospital moved to invest 1.1bn/- in procuring the necessary equipment now that it has the relevant expertise, he said, noting that women currently not ready to conceive, or are studying, can conveniently store their eggs at the facility.

Prof. Janabio praised government support for the project, airing expectations that MNH will be hosting experts from various areas as part of extended capacity building efforts.

The mobile clinic vehicle cost \$200,000 and is meant to reach people in particular locations when the need arises, meanwhile as the hospital has conducted cochlear implants for 84 children, with 73 having both ears fitted and 11 needing it in one ear.

Jenista Mhagama, the Health minister, said that the government's goal is to ensure that health services are accessible to all people, thus needing to reduce medical and specialised treatment costs.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launches Investment and Business Environment Improvement Report and Investment Management Tools in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. He is with the Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L), and deputy minister Stanslaus Nyongo. Photo: PMO

## Two JNHPP plants now in testing stage

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countries when the need arises, she elaborated.

The committee overseeing government investments is satisfied with the investment layout and achievements, she said, urging per-

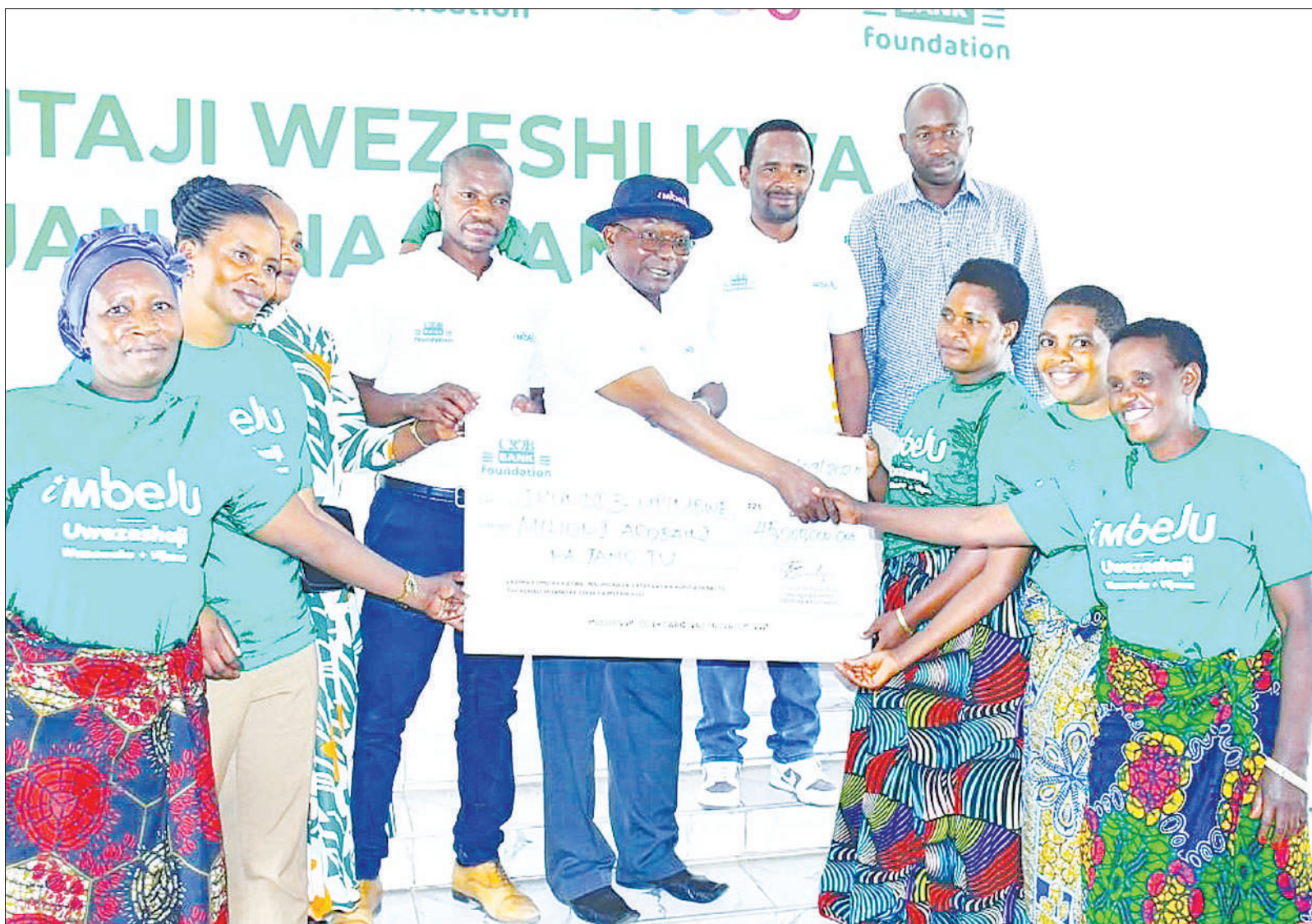
sistent pursuit of strategic project plans.

She was appreciative of government steadily assuring disbursing of project allocations, pointing out that project implementation has reached 98.99 percent according to

site experts. "It is a project that every Tanzanian should be proud of," the MP declared, while Nicholas Ngassa (Igunga) said that the massive project has vastly improved power supply in the country.

He said in his constituency many

people are already connected to electricity, improving lives as people start income generation activities. They are especially keen to start using electricity as clean energy for cooking and abandoning the use of wood and charcoal, she added.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (in hat), who is also Kavuu constituency legislator, pictured at Mpimbe in Melele District, Katavi Region presenting a dummy check for 45m/- for capacity building purposes to three groups of entrepreneurs. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## Self-medicating gorillas may hold new drug clues, say researchers

LIBREVILLE

THE self-medicating gorillas may hold clues to future drug discovery, according to scientists.

Researchers in Gabon studied tropical plants eaten by wild gorillas - and used also by local human healers - identifying four with medicinal effects.

Laboratory studies revealed the plants were high in antioxidants and antimicrobials.

One showed promise in fighting superbugs.

Great apes are known to self-medicate by selecting plants with healing properties.

A wounded orangutan recently made headlines for using a plant paste to heal an injury.

In the latest study, botanists recorded the plants eaten by

western lowland gorillas in Gabon's Moukalaba-Doudou National Park.

They selected four trees that were likely to be beneficial, based on interviews with local healers: the fromager tree (Ceiba pentandra), giant yellow mulberry (Myrianthus arboreus), African teak (Milicia excelsa) and fig trees (Ficus).

The bark of the trees - used in traditional medicine to treat everything from stomach complaints to infertility - contained chemicals with medicinal effects, from phenols to flavonoids.

All four plants showed antibacterial activity against at least one multidrug-resistant strain of the bug, E. coli.

The fromager tree in particular showed "remarkable activity" against all tested strains, they say.

"This suggests that gorillas evolved to eat plants that benefit them, and highlights the huge gaps in our knowledge of the Central African rainforests," said Dr Joanna Setchell, an anthropologist at the University of Durham, UK, who worked on the study with Gabonese scientists.

Gabon has vast unexplored forests, which are home to forest elephants, chimpanzees and gorillas, as well as many plants unknown to science.

Poaching and disease have led to a huge number of western lowland gorillas disappearing in the wild.

They are classed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

The research is published in the journal PLOS ONE.

## Mother narrates her narrow escape from flood deaths with six children

MAIDUGURI

FATIMA Yakubu could not believe that she and her six children were still alive after a dam collapsed following torrential rains in northeastern Nigeria.

The family, who live south of the city of Maiduguri near the Alau Dam, were asleep when their house began filling with water in the early hours of Tuesday.

"I woke up at lam when I felt water on my legs," the 26-year-old told the BBC. "It was rising very fast, and I was so scared. I thought I was going to die with my children."

She cried out in panic for help: "Some men heard me screaming and came to rescue us."

Along with her children she has found refuge at Bakassi Camp, one of four centres set up for the hundreds of thousands of people

who have been flooded out of their homes this week.

Until last year, the camp was occupied by those who had fled notorious Boko Haram Islamist militants, whose 15-year insurgency has caused havoc in a region where poverty is endemic.

Though diminished, the jihadists are still active and despite the closure of displacement camps, Maiduguri remains densely populated with many people still preferring its relative security to rural areas of Borno state.

The heavier than usual rains began towards the end of August - and it is still humid and pouring with rain as people try to deal with the aftermath of the dam's collapse.

Locals living around the Alau Dam, which is about 20km (12 miles) south of the city on the Ngadda river, became worried

about the structure as the waters in the reservoir steadily rose last week - and they alerted officials.

A delegation did go out to inspect the dam, but said there was nothing to worry about.

However around four days later it started to fracture, and the dam gave way. Within three hours water was pouring into Maiduguri as people slept - with some estimates suggesting nearly half of the city was covered.

The authorities are still scrambling to rescue people, and sometimes bodies, trapped in buildings. Many public structures are affected, including hospitals and the prison.

The crisis has been compounded by the escape of some wild animals from the state zoo - and an estimated 40 percent of its animals have perished.





Said Ameir, information and PR officer with the National Bureau of Statistics, leads a session on statistical education for journalists in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

## Minister wants explanation about 400m/- difference in oil, gas cash

THE government has collected 1.877trn/- from 44 companies in the mining and oil and gas sectors, revealing a discrepancy of 402.41m/- between payments and revenues for the 2021/22 financial year.

Minister for Minerals Anthony Mavunde disclosed this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the 14th report of the Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI).

Mavunde said that among the 44 companies, 26 operate in the mining sector, seven are involved in natural gas and oil and 11 are service providers.

According to the report, the companies reported paying

1.878trn/- to the government, resulting in a discrepancy of 402m/-, which is approximately 0.021 percent of the total reported government revenues.

He instructed that the 402m/- discrepancy be thoroughly analysed to determine its causes. The analysis will help the committee recommend measures to prevent such discrepancies in future financial comparisons.

The minister also noted that the TEITI report includes comprehensive data to adhere to

EITI international standards and national laws governing TEITI activities.

The data covers production and export statistics of mineral, oil and natural gas resources, employment figures in the extractive sector, corporate social responsibility contributions and local content involvement.

TEITI Committee Chairman Ludovick Utouh said that the report's launch aims to provide transparent information to citizens and stakeholders, enabling informed

discussions on how to enhance the contribution of the mining, oil and gas sectors to the national GDP.

Dr David Mathayo, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Minerals, praised the government's transparency in revenue reporting from the extractive sector.

He encouraged Tanzanians to review the information, understand its impact on the country's economic growth and use it to provide informed feedback and recommendations.



Tigo acting CEO Jerome Albou (L) welcomes Information, Communications and Information Technology deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi to the mobile phone service provider's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## DCEA seizes over 100,000 kilos of illicit drugs between January, Sept

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has seized over 100,000 kilograms of illicit drugs in the country between January and this month.

Aretas Lyimo, DCEA Commissioner General, made the statement in Dodoma on Wednesday evening, warning that people who still engage in the 'dirty' business will soon be arrested.

He made the remarks when addressing a meeting of sober house owners and operators across the country where he said those who run sober homes for drug rehabilitation programmes are key partners in the war against drugs.

He urged them to do their work without any fear, noting that nobody should intimidate them as their duties resemble that of religious

leaders, working to save lives of those in most cases are ignored by the society.

"It is just a matter of time as we will soon apprehend all those behind illicit drug deals in the country and you are key partners in this war," said Lyimo, adding that sober home owners help the government rehabilitate drug addicts.

He added that currently there are 62 such rehabilitation facilities in the country where there are over 12,000 known drug addicts.

The commissioner said the government acknowledges the good

work such people are doing and in supporting them it will soon build a modern rehabilitation centre in Dodoma

While reminding sober home owners to work in accordance with the stipulated guidelines, he said the government through the commission was ready to help them in any difficulties they face.

He said there is a need for more people to establish such facilities in areas with high demand rather than just having most of them in one city or town. He promised the government support for such initiatives.

However, he warned sober home owners to desist from any form of physical disciplinary measures such as beatings, among others, saying addicts deserve more education than any form of torture.

Earlier, Central Zone Assistant Commissioner Mzee Kasui emphasized the importance of sober house owners, saying they bridge the gap in the war against drugs in the country.

He argued that if all drug addicts are reformed and rehabilitated, even those selling drugs will eventually lack customers, thus ending drugs vice in Tanzania.

## PM highlights opportunities in country's fisheries sector

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that Tanzania's fishing sector generates 2.94trn/- annually, growing at an average rate of 1.9 percent per year.

He noted that significant investment opportunities remain in deep-sea tuna fishing, seaweed farming and fish processing.

He also said that the country has a lot of investment opportunities in purchasing fishing vessels, maritime services, fishing gear supply and value addition.

Majaliwa said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during the 8th Meeting of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Ministers Responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries.

The country's average annual fish production is 472,579 tonnes, with 91 percent coming from traditional fishing in natural waters and 9 percent from fish farming.

Representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Majaliwa noted that 230,000 people are directly engaged in small-scale fishing, while around six million Tanzanians are indirectly employed in the sector. Small-scale fishing contributes over 95 percent of the country's total fish catch.

He emphasized Tanzania's significant investment opportunities in fish farming, citing the country's extensive water resources, including the Indian Ocean, lakes, rivers and ponds.

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers 223,000 square kilometers, approximately 24 percent of Tanzania's total land area.

Currently, commercial fishing in the zone is predominantly conducted by Distant Water Fishing Nations under licence agreements.

He expressed hopes that the OACPS meeting would provide strategic guidance for improving ocean and fisheries management and sustainable fish farming. He reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to supporting the union's goals,

particularly in promoting the blue economy and sustainable development.

The OACPS, comprising 79 member countries, aims to foster sustainable development, eradicate poverty and enhance trade opportunities among its members. It evolved from the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group established by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega, said the union plays a crucial role in enhancing cooperation among member countries and managing marine resources.

"We will also discuss small-scale fishing which is a source of income for many of our people and explore ways to improve it by creating an enabling environment for fishers, including access to capital, modern technology, markets and infrastructure."

He added that the ministers will also have the opportunity to discuss challenges threatening the sustainability of marine resources and fisheries, including the impacts of climate change, ocean pollution, and overfishing.



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## TPA gets overall prize East African trade fair

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has been awarded top prize at the 19th East African Trade Fair held at Furahisha grounds in Mwanza, beating other institutions that participated from the East Africa region.

Additionally, the authority has also emerged as the best among government institutions that participated in the annual event.

Speaking during the award presentation to TPA at the fair yesterday, Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Selemeni Jafo said that the award was a result of significant improvements in the services at the ports managed by TPA, thanks to the substantial investment that has been made so far.

"These achievements are a result of good management by TPA, including the investments being made at the Dar es Salaam port," he said at the fair which was held under the theme 'Improving Investment and Business Environment as a Catalyst for Economic Growth'.

The fair aimed to enhance business opportunities and enable East African member states to seize market opportunities in other regional blocs, including SADC.

In his closing remarks, Dr Jafo said the government's goal is to improve service delivery across various sectors, including road, rail, and air infrastructure to boost

trade and economic growth.

He also mentioned that significant investments have been made in the ports of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tanga, Mtwara and other areas to facilitate faster movement of goods for both domestic and international traders, thus stimulating economic growth.

Speaking on behalf of TPA Director General, TPA Senior Public Relations Officer Leonard Magomba said that TPA aims to further enhance its other ports through infrastructure expansion, investment in equipment, and hiring experts to ensure they meet international service quality standards.

"Due to this significant investment, the Dar es Salaam port can now accommodate large ships up to 300 metres in length," he said.

"This has been achieved by deepening the entry channel and expanding the turning basin, allowing larger vessels to dock easily."

He took the opportunity to invite clients, stakeholders and the public to visit the TPA booth at the fair to increase their awareness on the services provided by the ports.

Magomba also encouraged businesses to continue using the country's ports for their cargo transportation needs to benefit from the available opportunities and improved efficiency.



## PPAA set to reach stakeholders nationwide in awareness drive

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA) has announced an ambitious plan to expand its educational outreach to procurement stakeholders and bidders nationwide.

James Sando, PPAA Executive Secretary, revealed the initiative yesterday while addressing journalists at the 16th East African Public Procurement Forum.

Sando explained that the authority's strategy for the 2024/25 financial year aims to target four regions that have yet to receive training on how to submit appeals if they are dissatisfied with the procurement process.

"Our goal is to reach bidders in the Central Region, Northern Region, Southern Highlands Region and Southern Region which have not yet been covered. By visiting these areas, we will enhance our outreach and support to more bidders," he said.

Florida Mapunda, PPAA Deputy

Executive Secretary, emphasized the advantages of introducing an electronic module for submitting appeals and complaints. This new system is expected to reduce both costs and processing time.

"This module will significantly lower costs and save time compared to the previous procedure which required bidders to submit complaints physically at the authority offices," she said. She also noted that the module will improve transparency.

The new electronic system will enable bidders to track the progress of their appeals in real-time, from submission through to the final ruling. This feature aims to foster transparency and accountability, boosting confidence in the fairness of the public procurement process.

The Public Procurement Stakeholders Forum which drew over 1,500 participants from within and outside Tanzania focused on the theme 'Digitalization for Sustainable Public Procurement'.



Sewage system along Azikiwe Street undergoes rehabilitation under the ongoing implementation of Dar es Salaam's ambitious rapid transit road project, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## AU urges African startups, MSMEs to embrace innovation for faster growth

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union has called on African startups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to embrace innovation and exploit opportunities presented under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.

The call was made by Albert Muchanga, the AU commissioner for economic development, trade, tourism, industry and minerals, during the third African Union Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Forum, Africa's largest gathering of MSMEs, which started on Monday and ends today under the theme "Fostering Financial Empowerment and Educational Innovation for African Startups and MSMEs" in the Namibian capital of Windhoek and virtually.

Muchanga urged African entrepreneurs

to scale their businesses beyond the micro and small enterprise stages and harness the opportunities presented by the African free trade area pact.

The AU commissioner also urged African startups and MSMEs to strive to exploit market opportunities in major global economies, including market openings in China.

He called on MSMEs in Africa to invest in research and development toward boosting innovation as the mainstay for future growth and business expansion. He said the forum serves as a crucial platform for capacity building and networking for African MSMEs.

This year's edition of the forum has prioritized engagements in the agriculture, manufacturing, information and communications technology, mineral, and creative industries as key sectors for MSMEs in Africa, according to the AU.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government in collaboration with development partners plans to create digital maps for both surface and underground water sources to help investors.

Dr Kafuku Gerald, project manager at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the Forum for Climate Change (Forum CC) that brought together youth across the country.

He said the forum was deliberated under the theme 'digitalization in climate Action: Navigating the trade-offs between innovation and sustainability'.

He said the government's future plan is to ensure potential investors get the right information when seeking right places for investment in the agriculture sector.

Dr Gerald said that digital maps also help to inform the planning of investments to improve future water supply coverage.

## Govt mulls digital water source maps to attract more investors

He said that digital technology is very important to reduce excessive dependency on foreign technology.

Dr Gerald said that so far, the government works to strengthen youth capability to contribute more to the nation's revenues.

"Maps can tell you at a glance how much rainfall a region gets annually, where streams, rivers and dams are located near a project and how much groundwater is available in an area," he said.

During the forum, he shared with the youth seeking grants on how to apply for the commission to implement their innovative ideas.

Linus Kahendaguzza, gender coordinator in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that embracement in digital

innovation helps to save money and wastage of time

"As we embark on digital innovation, we must ensure that it helps communities and the future generations," he said.

Forum CC project manager Ray Mark said that the need for youth to embrace digital technology is very important.

He said of the over 60 million people in Tanzanians, more than 50 percent are under 18 and over 70 percent are under 30.

Tanzania Youth Alliance (Tayoa) programme manager Fatma Mkota said the forum was an important platform to share and get new digital innovation skills.

"Let's us show our readiness to embrace digital innovation to realize our individual and the country's goal," she said.



### Expression of Interest (EOI) for the "PROVISION OF HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES" to AUMS Geofields (T) Limited Employees and Dependants.

AUMS Geofields (T) Limited invites reputable Tanzanian health insurance service providers that possess the requisite expertise, experience and capacity to express their interest in the Provision of Health Insurance Services to all eligible AUMS Geofields (T) Limited employees and their dependants.

**Note - This EOI is restricted to registered health insurance companies.**

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to [ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com](mailto:ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com) by not later than **16:00HRS** Local Time on 21/09/2024 quoting "EOI Provision of Health Insurance Services" in the subject line of your email. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mb's.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, directors list, number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid tax Compliance, VAT registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation.
- A minimum of five (5) years demonstrated experience in the provision of health insurance services across diverse Tanzanian geographic locations.
- Provide examples of two current health insurance contracts within Tanzania that demonstrate the type and range of services provided, the number of employees and dependants covered in each agreement.
- Health insurance certification permits and licenses to be compliant with all relevant Tanzanian legislation and regulatory bodies.
- Compliant with all Tanzanian national labour laws and regulations
- Propose details of value adding activities that would be introduced if successful.
- Provision of financial statements for the previous two financial years
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 21/09/2024 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS Geofields (T) Limited.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process

For more information on **African Underground Mining Services** and its operations please refer to the following website [www.aumsg.com](http://www.aumsg.com).

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AUMS IS PART OF PERENTI LIMITED



### ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit [www.trademarkafrica.com](http://www.trademarkafrica.com)

TMA would like to invite interested and **qualified** firms to participate in the following tender opportunities:

- 1. Request for Proposals for Consultancy Services for the Design, Development and Deployment of Tanzania Chamber Portal (TCP) for Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) And Zanzibar Chamber Portal (ZCP) for Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) - [RFP Number: PRQ20240304]; and**

- 2. Request for Proposals for Consultancy Services for the Business System Analyst and Quality Assurance for the Collection of Requirements for Enhancement of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Swift (MIMIS) - [RFP Number: PRQ20240346]**

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**





These heavy-duty trucks, which are said to be stocked with solid waste, have been held at Kasumulu (on the Tanzania side of the border with Malawi) over missing transit documents. This scene was captured as a delegation of the Mbeya regional defence and security committee toured the spot on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Traders request govt intervention to rescue underage from market

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SOME traders at Tengeru market in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, have urged the government to take immediate action to address child labour in the area.

According to the traders, the problem is big in the market and there is nothing they can do about it, something which calls for urgent action by government authorities.

They made the call recently here, urging the government to enhance collaboration with development stakeholders to address issues preventing children from realising their potential.

Neema Nnko, a vegetable seller at the market, highlighted the presence of numerous children engaged in various activities such as carrying loads and selling livestock, often due to harsh living conditions and family conflicts.

She also noted that some women come to the market with their young children.

"We appreciate the education provided by experts from the Meru District Council. We have learned about our children's rights, yet many have dropped out of school and are exploited here, unaware that their future is being jeopardized," she said.

Ally Ramadhani, another trader, said that many children under 18 are involved in market activities. He urged the government to act swiftly to return the children to school, asserting that education is their fundamental right and key to their future leadership.

"These children are vital to our nation. It's unacceptable for them to work in the market. We call on the government and stakeholders to help these exploited children return home and continue their education," he said.

He also noted that child labour

is not isolated to that market but occurs in many markets across Arusha Region, often due to parental neglect.

Marium Mwita, project manager at Save The Children-Dodoma stated that their visit aimed at educating traders on child nutrition, combating child abuse and child labour.

"Parents and guardians must recognize that children have the right to safety, development and participation to achieve their dreams. Proper nutrition from diverse food groups is crucial for their brain development," she said.

She advocated for organic farming to protect children from harmful chemicals.

Martha Mzava, Meru District Council Community Development Officer reported the establishment of special committees in the area to combat violence against women and children, including child labour.

"We provide education on various forms of abuse and offer economic empowerment programmes to improve citizens' livelihoods, which in turn supports better care for children," she said.

**“... We have learned about our children's rights, yet many have dropped out of school and are exploited here, unaware that their future is being jeopardized”**

By Guardian Reporter

## Three under police custody over foiled gold smuggling at Dar port

THE government has seized 15.78 kilograms of gold worth 3.4bn/- at the Port of Dar es Salaam while being smuggled to Zanzibar.

Minister for Minerals Anthony Mavunde unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when addressing journalists on the incident.

Mavunde said three Tanzanians were detained in connection with the smuggling and were under police custody and would be taken to court once investigations are completed.

He said if found guilty, the individuals will face severe

punishment including revocation of their licences and being blacklisted from operating within Tanzania's mining sector

The minister emphasized the importance of the mining sector for the country's economic development and stated that smuggling activities that deprive the government of revenue are intolerable.

"Our country has several

productive sectors whose revenues are the foundation of our economic development, including the mining sector. So, when we have a few individuals engaging in smuggling, denying the government revenue, we cannot tolerate them," he said.

Mavunde praised the taskforce and security agencies for their efforts in preventing mineral smuggling and urged businesses to refrain from such illegal activities

which undermine the government's efforts.

According to the 2023/2024 financial year report released by the Ministry of Minerals, the mining sector contributed approximately 9.1 percent of Tanzania's gross domestic progress by 2022. In the 2023/2024 financial year, the sector's contribution reached 6.4trn/-, showing rapid growth due to the government's efforts to enhance revenue collection and improve the investment environment.

The mining sector is one of the key sectors in Tanzania, contributing significantly to the country's GDP, employment and socioeconomic development.

certificate verification.

"To date, RITA has processed 243,629 requests, which accounts for 99.75 percent of the applications. Among these, 26,150 requests had deficiencies and were returned for correction while 618 were rejected due to invalid certificates," he said.

He added that 725 requests were still under verification, with completion expected within a day.

In line with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive for all government systems to be interconnected by December, Kanyusi noted that RITA has already aligned its systems with the HESLB.

He affirmed the agency's commitment to fulfilling its agreements with HESLB and enhancing the verification system to improve service delivery.

the three entities to get information of the loan beneficiaries who are seeking loans from the Higher Education Student Loans Board (HESLB).

Kanyusi explained that loan applicants can submit verification requests for birth certificates or parental death certificates through the e-RITA ICT system on RITA website, [www.rita.go.tz](http://www.rita.go.tz).

After verification, RITA provides a unique number which is then used in the Higher Education Student Loans Board (HESLB) system for automatic processing.

Since the loan application window opened on June 1, 2024, RITA has received 244,354 verification requests. Of these, 218,263 were for birth certificate verification and 26,091 for death

## RITA urges higher education loans applicants to submit document verification requests anytime

By Guardian Reporter

THE Registration, Insolvency, and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has urged higher education loan applicants not to wait until the application window opens to submit verification requests.

Instead, individuals should take advantage of the year-round availability of the certificate verification system to submit.

Frank Kanyusi, RITA's Chief Executive Officer, emphasized this point during a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between RITA, the National Identification Authority (NIDA), and CREDITINFO Tanzania. The MoU is aimed at strengthening collaboration among



Some of the 162 Standard Seven pupils of Muheza District's Masuguru Primary School in joyful mood yesterday upon completion of their final national exams. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Chinese truck giant now seeks assembly plant in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG

CHINESE truck manufacturer Sinotruk is looking for a partner in South Africa to establish an assembling plant with, said Michael Man, country manager for Sinotruk in South Africa on Wednesday.

Man revealed that the company, one of the world's leading heavy-duty truck manufacturers, is exploring the possibility of local assembly in South Africa. "We are looking for the right partner for local assembly. Of course, it's possible that we could build our

own assembly plant in South Africa in the future, like other original equipment manufacturers," he said in a statement.

The manager also announced Sinotruk's participation at the Futuroad Expo 2024, which will take place in Johannesburg from Nov. 19 to 21. The Futuroad Expo is an international trade fair for the truck, bus, and commercial vehicle sectors.

This marks a significant milestone for both Sinotruk and the expo as the Chinese truck giant looks to expand its presence in the South

African market. "We want to expand our brand and give South African operators different options. This is the first time we've participated in the Futuroad Expo. It's the perfect platform for visitors to learn more about us," said Man.

Despite being the market leader on the wider African continent, with more than 41,000 units sold last year, Sinotruk has had a limited presence in South Africa. "Previously, we did very little marketing in South Africa. As a result, many operators in South Africa don't know about Sinotruk and our brand," Man explained.



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

### TENDER NOTICE

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ASSORTED ITEMS

**1. Background:**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified service providers, suppliers and manufacturers to submit firm offers for the Establishment of multiple Frame Agreements for the supply and delivery of any or all the below listed Items.

**2. Requirement:**

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRE-BID CONFERENCE DATES
ITB/2024/SUP/005	SUPPLY OF BULK FUEL	Thursday 02 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024, at 1100hours EAT
ITB/2024/SUP/009	SUPPLY OF MULTIPURPOSE SOAP	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024, at 1100hours EAT
RFP/2024/SUP/015	PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES	Tuesday 03 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024, at 1100hours EAT
ITB/2024/SUP/019	SUPPLY OF WOMEN UNDERWEAR	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024, at 1100hours EAT

**3. Eligibility:**

Manufacturers, authorized resellers, wholesalers, service providers or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v-MA-PVGBNCHMol9aBehgdT7A3xlq2wx?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v-MA-PVGBNCHMol9aBehgdT7A3xlq2wx?usp=drive_link)

If you fail to access the link, please write to [ndassa@unhcr.org](mailto:ndassa@unhcr.org), [ishobeza@unhcr.org](mailto:ishobeza@unhcr.org) and copy [ndibalem@unhcr.org](mailto:ndibalem@unhcr.org)

**CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Tuesday 01st October 2024 at 2359 hours EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Thursday 10th October 2024, 1600, hours EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



## KOICA hands over e-health system equipment for facilities in Dodoma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government of Republic of Korea through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) yesterday handed over equipment for expansion of Government of Tanzania Health Operations Management Information System (GoTHoMIS) for 235 health facilities in Dodoma Region.

The agency handed over to the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) a total of 28,758 information and communication technology equipment worth \$6.2 million to support the project for GoTHoMIS to be installed in 235 health facilities in the region.

The installation of GoTHoMIS will be implemented in all the eight district hospitals, 55 health centres and 172 dispensaries in Dodoma Region. The project will also capacitate the system users on basic computer skills and utilization of the system.

The equipment includes networking equipment, personal computers, tablets, printers as well as storage and server for PORALG.

During the handover ceremony, KOICA Country Director Manshik Shin extended appreciation to the government for the determination to realise socioeconomic transformation through ICT.

He underscored the centrality of ICT use in the changing global context and Tanzania's opportunity to improve public service delivery to realize universal health coverage.

"ICT use is one of the aspirations of the Tanzanian government in digitalizing all the government services for socioeconomic development. As underscored in the 2nd e-Government Strategy 2022 and the e-Health Strategy 2019-2024, both documents aim to enhance work efficiency and service delivery to reshape the public sector," he said.

He noted that building from the long-standing mutual friendship and partnership of more than

30 years with the government of Tanzania, KOICA on behalf of the government of the Republic of Korea is committed to supporting the socioeconomic development of Tanzania to realize its development vision and SDGs.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule expressed her gratitude for the long-awaited arrival of the equipment since the initiation of the project in 2021.

She observed that the ICT equipment will enhance health service delivery, including patient record keeping, timely generation of information, access to medicines and increased revenue.

Senyamule called on district executive directors to monitor usage of the equipment for the intended purpose of improving health services. "We thank KOICA for the gesture and promise to use the equipment as intended" she said.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Dr Grace Magembe extended her thanks to the government of Korea through KOICA for the support to Tanzania, especially in the health sector.



**...As underscored in the 2nd e-Government Strategy 2022 and the e-Health Strategy 2019-2024, both documents aim to enhance work efficiency and service delivery to reshape the public sector**



Weights and Measures Agency CEO Alban Kihulla makes a demonstration to journalists attending a meeting organised by Treasury Registrar's Office in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday relating to the agency's role. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government has allocated 45.1bn/- this 2024/2025 financial year for various efforts meant to tackle human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs) across the country.

Gideon Msenya, principal game officer in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism unveiled this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when speaking at a one-day mitigation of HWCs media dialogue which was hosted by Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) and funded by the German International Development Agency (GIZ).

The dialogue was part of Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Tanzania project which is implemented in the Ruvuma landscape targeting rural populations in villages south of the

## Govt allots 45bn/- to curb HWCs this financial year

Nyerere National Park, the Selous Game Reserve in Masasi District (Mtwara Region), Namtumbo and Tunduru in Ruvuma Region.

He stated that part of the fund will be used as compensation for people affected by wildlife namely loss of property, loss of livelihoods, injuries and loss of life.

"The budget has been increased compared to the last three years after MPs raised concern on the increase," he said, noting that the amount of money is expected to increase to address the vice.

"This is a cross-cutting issue and the ministry acknowledges the vital role of stakeholders. We will

continue to work with sectoral ministries and conservation partners to address challenges, assess strategies and develop new ones," he said.

As part of the project, 59 teachers and 1,550 farmers have been trained on methods of managing wildlife-induced damage. Additionally, the government has constructed a 23-kilometer odour-emitting fence, benefiting 280 farmers, 1,300 acres of farmland, and 24 villages by protecting them from elephants.

The project has also enhanced district-level conflict resolution programmes, provided training in

quality agriculture and established social groups to address the issues. Despite the efforts, human-wildlife conflicts remain a significant issue, with 41 out of 91 districts experiencing severe challenges.

John Chikomo, JET Executive Director, noted that regular conservation training for journalists and editors is being provided to enhance their reporting on the critical issues.

"Soon, trained journalists will visit conflict-prone regions to produce articles and news stories aimed at educating the public about conservation efforts," he said.

## Sugarcane growers anticipate tech innovations at farmers' exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

SUGARCANE growers in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region are set to benefit from innovations in farming technologies at the Farmers' Exhibition Day scheduled to take place here from October 10th to 12th.

This year's event which has been expanded to three days for the first time is expected to attract thousands of sugarcane farmers and stakeholders. The exhibition will showcase innovations, including precision farming tools, sustainable irrigation systems and advanced

machinery aimed at increasing yields while minimizing environmental impact and operational costs.

Victor Byemelwa, Chairperson of the preparation committee and communications and stakeholder relations manager at Kilombero Sugar Company, highlighted the importance of the event for farmers. "We've expanded this year's exhibition to ensure that farmers experience first-hand innovations that transform the sugarcane industry. Through these technologies, farmers will be better equipped to increase production, improve efficiency and contribute to Tanzania's

self-sufficiency in sugar production," he said.

The exhibition will provide live demonstrations and interactive sessions, giving farmers practical insights into how the tools can modernize their farming operations. Industry experts will lead panel discussions and technical workshops that focus on overcoming main challenges such as low yields, high production costs and competitiveness in the market.

James Mayunga, manager for Kilombero Joint Enterprises Cooperatives Society which represents 17 agricultural marketing cooperatives, emphasized how the event would benefit the local farming community.

"This exhibition is a significant opportunity for our farmers to embrace modern farming techniques. With the support of Kilombero Sugar Company and other partners, we empower farmers with knowledge and technology to improve their yields, work more efficiently and achieve self-sufficiency," he said.

The exhibition is open to all sugarcane farmers and related stakeholders and participation is free of charge. Attendees will benefit from various activities, including technical demonstrations, financial advice and opportunities to network with key stakeholders in the sugarcane industry.

Organisers seek to advance Tanzania's sugarcane sector through innovation, sustainable farming practices, and financial support.



### REQUEST FOR TENDER -RFT SUPPLY OF SEAWEED FARMING EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IN MAFIA AND KILWA

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of nature through environmental management and sustainability programs. WWF's mission is to halt the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future where humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO), through its Marine Programme, is implementing the "Mangrove Management for Climate Risk Resilience and Improved Livelihoods" project, funded by NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation)

#### 2. PURPOSE OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLIES

WWF TCO conducted a needs assessment in Kilwa and Mafia Island for community groups practicing Nature-based Solutions, including seaweed farming. One of the key needs identified was the ability to add value to seaweed by converting raw seaweed into finished products such as body oils and soaps.

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY OF TENDERERS

WWF TCO invites bids from competent, reputable, and experienced suppliers, including manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors, who can deliver the materials needed for the value addition of seaweed described on the Lots 1-4 below (the lots are independent).

s/n	LOT	Lot descriptions
1	Lot #1	Laboratory supplies/equipment
2	Lot #2	General Supplies/merchandise
3	Lot #3	General soap & body oil making cosmetics
4	Lot #4	Printing & Supply of branded cloth materials

#### 4. HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants may get the detailed complete list of items and specifications through the following web: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)

All applicants should direct their soft copy of application to the procurement: e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) Deadline for submission is Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 1700hrs.

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

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

### ADVERTISEMENT

Right To Play (RTP) is a global organization committed to protect, educate, and empower children to raise above adversity using the power of play. We play for change in 4 key areas: Gender equality and girls wellbeing, Psychosocial support, Early childhood care and education and Primary Education. RTP is headquartered in Toronto, Canada with national offices in Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States. In Tanzania we are committed to advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals of quality education and gender equality. Our core program areas for 2024-2026 are Early childhood care and education and Primary Education.

**Vision Statement:** Seeing every child and youth have access to quality early childhood and basic education for them to be able to realize their full potential.

**Mission Statement:** To protect, educate and empower children to rise above adversity using the power of play.

In accordance with Non-Governmental Organization (Amended) Regulation, 2018, RTP is pleased to publish its received funds and expenditure from January 2024 to June 2024.

**Right To Play - Tanzania  
Semi-Annual Income and Expenditure for the period from January 2024 to June 2024**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE		2024 JAN - JUNE
REVENUE	Note	TZS
Grant income received from HO	2	1,534,724,803
<b>Total amount received</b>		<b>1,534,724,803</b>
EXPENDITURE		
Personnel costs	3	658,182,274
Program activities	4	545,176,321
Operating expenses	5	234,563,339
Bank charges	6	2,288,334
Office Equipment & Fixtures	7	10,101,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,450,311,268</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>		<b>84,413,535</b>

In summary, Right To Play Tanzania received grants from the following donors in 2024: NORAD, GAC, and UKAID

RTP received the funds for project activities on monthly bases from its HO - CANADA and some expenditures are recorded and reported under Inter Country Expenses

**Our address: Right To Play Tanzania; Plot # 446 Darul Street, Mikocheni Regent Estate  
P.O. Box 79701 Dar Es Salaam; P + 255 222 774 161 Email: info\_tanzania@righttoplay.com**





Zanzibar's Trade and Industry Development minister, Omar Said Shaaban (R), and Copyright Society of Zanzibar CEO Mtumwa Khatib Ameir consult during yesterday's distribution of royalties to deserving stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

# UNHCR seeks \$21.4m to place support for displaced in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Wednesday issued an appeal for \$21.4 million to support 9.9 million forcibly displaced people and host communities across 35 African countries.

The UN refugee agency said the funds, which will run until December, aim to ramp up critical response and prevention efforts for refugees in countries impacted by the mpox emergency.

"These funds are also essential to ensure that refugees and other forcibly displaced people are fully integrated into government-led preparedness and response plans," the UNHCR said in a statement.

The agency reported that some 88 mpox cases have been detected among refugees in Africa, with 68 cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has recorded the highest number globally. Cases have also been confirmed among refugees in the Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

The UNHCR said although mpox has been endemic in parts of Africa for decades, the rise of a new strain, clade 1b, particularly in the DRC, prompted the World Health Organization to declare a public health emergency of international concern on August 14.

In 2024 alone, over 20,000 suspected cases have been reported across Africa, according to the UNHCR. It called on the international community for increased financial support to enhance preparedness, reduce exposure, and mitigate the impact of the outbreak on the most vulnerable.

Africa is home to over a third of the world's forcibly displaced population, many of whom reside in areas severely affected by mpox, exacerbating already challenging conditions caused by conflict, underfunded humanitarian efforts, and frequent disasters, the UNHCR said.

"The mpox emergency threatens to further strain already overstretched humanitarian resources, potentially disrupting critical services and aid such as food distribution, education and protection activities," it said.

In response, the UNHCR said it has reinforced handwashing points in refugee camps and transit centres, increased soap distribution, and improved access to diagnostic testing. It has also enhanced disease surveillance, screening, and reporting, while expanding training for community health workers. Additionally, the UNHCR has ramped up community outreach to combat misinformation and reduce stigma surrounding mpox.

# Digital integration project launched to elevate connectivity, economic growth

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are set to roll out the Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP), an ambitious initiative designed to enhance digital connectivity and integration across Eastern Africa.

At a recent EARDIP Regional Coordination and Implementation Workshop in Dar es Salaam, EAC Deputy Secretary General for Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs Annette Ssemuwemba hailed the project as a transformative force for the region.

"This project will foster a more interconnected, inclusive, and prosperous region," she said.

"We are laying the groundwork for a robust digital economy that will benefit both businesses and citizens."

She emphasized that EARDIP is not only addressing current challenges but also paving the way for future digital infrastructure. "We are building the digital infrastructure of tomorrow," she added, noting that the project would unlock opportunities for innovation, trade, and economic growth, benefiting millions.

IGAD Director of Economic Cooperation and Regional Integration Dr Mohyeldeen Eltohami Taha, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in advancing digital transformation. "EARDIP represents a significant step toward a more connected and

integrated Eastern Africa. Through collaboration, we are setting the stage for a digital revolution that will enhance economic resilience, service delivery, and regional integration," he said.

He further stated that the project would equip Eastern Africa's population with the necessary tools to fully engage in the global digital economy. "Our partnership with the EAC through EARDIP reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that no country or community is left behind in the digital age," he said.

World Bank Senior Digital Development Specialist Cecilia Paradi-Guilford, speaking at the workshop which also included representatives from the World Bank, underscored the Bank's dedication to supporting the

region's digital transformation. "The World Bank is pleased to support EARDIP, as we believe digital integration is crucial for unlocking Eastern Africa's full potential," Paradi-Guilford stated. She added, "By funding this initiative, we aim to close connectivity gaps, reduce the cost of digital services, and foster inclusive growth. Our goal is to enhance economic opportunities and improve access to essential services for millions across the region."

The World Bank-funded EARDIP is poised to revolutionize the digital landscape in Eastern Africa by tackling key challenges such as connectivity, cybersecurity, and access to online markets. The project addresses the significant

digital infrastructure gaps in the region, where urban areas often have advanced technologies while rural and remote regions remain underserved.

This digital divide limits access to high-speed internet, modern communication systems, and reliable digital services, particularly in underserved areas. Consequently, many communities are excluded from the digital economy, impacting their ability to access essential services such as e-commerce, online education, and telemedicine.

Inconsistent infrastructure across borders also hampers cross-border communication and collaboration, affecting regional integration and trade. For instance, a 2021 report by the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) highlighted significant disparities in data prices, with costs ranging from USD 4.64 in Kenya to USD 21.06 in South Sudan.

Despite having major economies like Kenya and Ethiopia sharing a border, intra-regional trade remains low. In 2023, total trade within the EAC was \$80.6 billion, with intra-EAC trade comprising only 15 percent, amounting to \$12.1 billion.

To address these issues, the EAC recently launched the EAC e-Commerce Strategy, which provides a framework for enhancing growth capacities, improving legal and regulatory frameworks, and increasing trust in digital trade within the EAC region.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Job Title:** OPERATIONS LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

**Job Type:** Full Time

**Reports to:** N+1: Head of Logistics | N+2: Operations Director

**Location:** Marine Storage Terminal, Tanga

### WHO WE ARE

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is a Midstream development located across Uganda and Tanzania that includes a nearshore Marine Storage and Export Terminal (MST). Once completed, the EACOP Company will operate the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, a 1,443 km long, electrically heated crude oil export pipeline that transports oil from Kabaale - Hoima in Uganda, to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port in Tanzania for crude export to the international markets.

### JOB DIMENSIONS/ GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

- Manages all aspects of Facilities and General Services for EACOP properties in Tanzania.

### DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with policies and procedures in place in EACOP, Operations (Logistics) is responsible for:

- Manage all facilities' service contracts including but not limited to vehicle maintenance, utility maintenance, housekeeping, domestic waste disposal, catering contracts, etc.
- Be point of contact (interface) for all community landlords within EACOP operational areas.
- Scheduling transportation services including site shuttles within an operational area.
- Manage and monitor inter-site personnel movements especially to unmanned stations.
- Allocating drivers and planning routes.
- Management of diesel inventory at all sites and supply to operational vehicles.
- Periodic site visit for audits, inspections and visual evaluation of operational needs for non-technical materials and interventions.

### HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

EACOP is committed to ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of workers, communities, and the environment are well addressed and managed. Therefore, the employee is mandated to:

- Fully comply with Company H3SE (Health, Safety, Social, Security & Environment) policies and Life Saving Rules.
- Actively participate in HSEQ and promote this culture to co-workers.
- Remain vigilant and maintain continuous awareness of potential unsafe conditions.
- Communicate to management any HSE related concerns and ways to improve them.
- Maintain a workplace & workspace that is safe, clean, and always neat – practice good housekeeping.

### QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

#### Academic Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration, logistics or related field with.

#### Experience Required:

- 5+ years of experience in Logistics operations involving facility management and maintenance.

- Rigor.
- Good communication skills.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills.
- Knowledge of logistics software or transportation management systems.
- Basic accounting knowledge.

### HOW TO APPLY

The applicant must submit his/her Curriculum Vitae CV and a Cover Letter explaining why he/she is the suitable candidate for the position. Applicants are also required to provide details of three (3) referees one of whom should be the most recent employer. **Please submit your application only through ANY of the contact information provided below. Application deadline is on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**Air Swift:** airswift.com

**CCL:** tanzania@cclglobal.com

**IMI:** imi-tanzania@imi-eag.com

**ITM:** recruitmenttanzania@itmafrica.com

**Qsourcing:** recruitmenttanzania@qsourcing.com

**Seaowl:** sestz@seaowlgroup.com



**NOTE: No payment is required at any stage of the recruitment process.**



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Job Title:** WAREHOUSE & STOCK COORDINATOR

**Job Type:** Full Time

**Reports to:** N+1: Head of Logistics | N+2: Operations Director

**Location:** Marine Storage Terminal, Tanga

### WHO WE ARE

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is a Midstream development located across Uganda and Tanzania that includes a nearshore Marine Storage and Export Terminal (MST). Once completed, the EACOP Company will operate the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, a 1,443 km long, electrically heated crude oil export pipeline that transports oil from Kabaale - Hoima in Uganda, to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port in Tanzania for crude export to the international markets.

### JOB DIMENSIONS/ GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

- Manages all activities of the various EACOP warehouses at MST (main warehouse), PS-1, PS-4 & PS-5.
- Manage the Warehouses Specific Maintenance Contract (SMC).

### DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with policies and procedures in place in EACOP, The Warehouse & Stock Officer is responsible for:

- Provide support for inventory management and warehousing activities.
- Reviews material and cargo handling and storage tasks.
- Follow-up of all transport vehicles dispatched to the operational sites.
- Responsible for proper database management for electronic documentation related to material delivery.
- Monitors warehouse inventory levels and place orders as required.
- Provides information to customers (maintenance and operations teams) on the status of their orders.
- Ongoing follow-up with suppliers for out-of-stock goods.
- Continuously tracks inventory at our warehouse, manages receipt and labeling issues with the warehouse supervisor.
- Monitors expected delivery times and identifies any delivery delays to proactively intervene with suppliers to correct the situation.
- Handles products to ensure quality.
- Organize MST main warehouse catalogue goods, plan routes and process shipments.
- Carries out periodic site visits (to PS-1, PS-4 & PS-5) to ensure compliance with approved warehouse management rules and procedures.

### HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

EACOP is committed to ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of workers, communities, and the environment are well addressed and managed. Therefore, the employee is mandated to:

- Fully complies with Company H3SE (Health, Safety, Social, Security & Environment) policies and Life Saving Rules.
- Actively participates in HSEQ and promotes this culture to co-workers.
- Remain vigilant and maintain continuous awareness of potential unsafe conditions.
- Communicates to management any HSE related concerns and ways to improve them.
- Maintains a workplace & workspace that is safe, clean, and always neat – practice good housekeeping.

### QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

#### Academic Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields: Taxation, Customs, Accountancy, Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Law or equivalent.

#### Experience Required:

- Proficiency in English, both spoken and written.

- Knowledge of the processes used in operational logistics: transportation regulations practices, routes, contacts, best practices.
- 10 years' experience in logistics operations involving warehouse management.
- Adaptability, diplomacy, rigor.
- Compliance with procedures.

### HOW TO APPLY

The applicant must submit his/her Curriculum Vitae CV and a Cover Letter explaining why he/she is the suitable candidate for the position. Applicants are also required to provide details of three (3) referees one of whom should be the most recent employer. **Please submit your application only through ANY of the contact information provided below. Application deadline is on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**Air Swift:** airswift.com

**CCL:** tanzania@cclglobal.com

**IMI:** imi-tanzania@imi-eag.com

**ITM:** recruitmenttanzania@itmafrica.com

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## USAID \$0.5bn business grants initiative positive

EFFORTS by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and various like-minded business lobbies have started an initiative meant to uplift the regional small business sector and move to a collective sense of business destiny.

TradeMark Africa (TMA) and the East African Business Council (EABC) have teamed up with USAID to launch a grant fund totalling US\$508,000 to boost the capital and credit potential for at least 220 small enterprises. These will be scattered across the sub-region, to cultivate a sense of proximity as to what policies are needed for prosperity.

According to a senior USAID official, the initiative stems from the need for increased collaboration across the region focused on sustained engagement with policymakers and the private sector.

While there is a preliminary issue of the business sector growth environment generally, there are also concerns on the right appreciation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and what business lobbies need to do in that regard.

Often, voices at the apex regional business body don't reflect the grassroots situation, where East African expression is minimal while the number of cross investments are rising.

A TMA executive has expressed the view that private-sector action is critical in ensuring a unified message from businesses to policymakers at the national, regional and continental levels.

If available, that would be a strong expression of policy vision. Sadly, as a matter of fact, it isn't. While there a free trade sugar protocol in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), President Samia Suluhu Hassan has faced challenges fighting to thwart sugar production/import planter monopolies exploiting the poor.

Still, the USAID initiative isn't just tied up with business lobbies in the export/import sphere. EABC acting executive director sees institutional collaboration enabling women, youth, SMEs and other value chain actors to access trade policy instruments and participate gainfully in intra-Africa trade.

That is a 'socio-business' welfare dimension also contributing to fashioning a view of the future, or simply of policy taking for granted 'closer ties' with corresponding business interests across the region. Even then, specific events show that the sentiment can't easily be cultivated now.

A situation where different business groups have the capacity to take into account the potential or synergies of business potential next door, not just as an opportunity in the market place but as shared destiny, can't generate that sentiment in a vacuum.

It would be part of a broader or encompassing, not to say inclusive regional, African or global potential, to see its benefits for competition or for capital formation.

Neither of these needs is explicitly evident in actions by local lobbies, including when it comes to public-private engagements with large foreign firms to run ports, airports, etc.

This USAID-led drive was rather straightforward as it engaged merely the will to agree on the rules to be followed in picking companies for grants, assuming that they would first apply for such grants.

Such firms ought to have clear trade engagements at the regional level or at least cross-border level and in some cases show a substantial presence of women in their ownership or management.

The fact that SMEs are targeted alongside 3,000 farmers, processors and private proprietors all tied to AfCFTA zone should help in cultivating regionalism sympathy.

## Girls' rights are one thing, while their future is tied up with everyone else's

ADVOCACY is having to be creative and raise new agenda that attract public attention, this on account of the fact that not everything wanted by women activists can be set or guaranteed in society generally and in law in particular.

When activists see obvious reluctance for social habits to change in a certain direction, they often seek refuge in law - that is, if the law is changed, habits will also change, but the result is that either the law is not changed or if it is altered, some parts of it soon become unusable.

Some of what activism is about often concerns demands running counter to received wisdom, and makes unions somewhat uncomfortable.

At times, there is an effort to put old wine in new bottles if the outcome of earlier discussion was unsatisfactory, and a new engagement sort of promises better results as in the latest initiative.

Things are explained as a bid to advocate and advance girls' rights, where a range of activist groups are joining forces to host a national forum known as Girl Agenda 2024.

There appears to be something hurried in the manner in which the title was laboured upon, and finally endorsed, as it sets not a vision for the future but is stuck with the point of departure - in which case, by this time next year, it will not be a current topic.

What is interesting is that this time activists wish to refer to "girls" rather than "women", as often there is an effort at homogeneity. There

has to be a reason that girls are now brought into the limelight.

A series of events is being organised ahead of the commemoration (on October 11) of the International Day of the Girl Child, ion the main meant to celebrate girls' achievements and potential.

The organisers of the event have been talking of cultivating wider recognition of their rights and addressing the unique challenges they face globally. They have even come up with a thought-provoking theme: 'Girls and Leadership', where the issue is harnessing opportunities tied up with digital technologies.

Ugandan Education minister Janet Museveni has got up with a directive that secondary school students be allowed to use mobile phones routinely. Many stakeholders are seeking for safeguards, though, one worry being the impact this could have on girls.

It is evident that tying technology merely with girls' ability to achieve their leadership goals is decidedly insufficient.

When controls are removed and girls have far more opportunities to "learn, express themselves and drive positive change in their communities", chances are that activists will reap more than they are billing for.

Community-based educational reforms working to dismantle barriers "that have historically hindered girls from accessing quality education and leadership opportunities" may as well erode their historically positive roles of motherhood, etc.

## The 9/11 Commission Report turns 20 - and still has lessons for journalists

By Kevin Lind

THIS week marks 23 years since 9/11 (September 11), when four coordinated Islamist terrorist suicide attacks were carried out by al-Qaeda against the United States in 2001.

Nineteen terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners scheduled to travel from the East Coast to California. The hijackers then crashed the first two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City and aimed the next two flights toward targets in or near Washington, D.C., in an attack on the US capital.

The third team succeeded in striking the Pentagon, the headquarters of the US Department of Defence in Arlington County, Virginia, while the fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania during a passenger revolt.

The September 11 attacks killed 2,977 people, making it the deadliest terrorist attack in history.

This year has already seen a significant anniversary linked to the attack: in July, the 9/11 Commission Report turned twenty. The report - a 567-page investigation compiled over 18 months by a staff led by a bipartisan group of US legislators - included 11 chapters detailing the cultural and geopolitical winds preceding the attacks, the histories of the groups involved and the specific, time-stamped progression of what transpired in the day's various theaters, including insight into how decisions were made in real time.

Two additional chapters assigned accountability, discussed what lessons the various agencies involved ought to learn, and provided policy recommendations. You would be forgiven for thinking that this doesn't sound like the most engaging piece of writing. Here's the thing, though: it's actually a page-turner - a doorstopper that nonetheless reads like a pacy bestseller, rich with detail, interiority and momentum.

Far from being a dry government document, it walks, talks and sounds like a journalistic enterprise - in ways that carry enduring relevance to this day, in our own age of narrative investigations and congressional-probe-as-storytelling.

If it came out today, one might call the report a long-form deep dive. The language is simple and readers are propelled as if by a spy thriller, even if they are broadly aware of the beats and painfully familiar with the ending.

In the report's ticktock of events on that morning of 9/11, for example, a summary of communications between Amy Sweeney and Betty Ong - two flight attendants on board American Airlines Flight 11, the first

plane to crash into the World Trade Centre - is packed with vivid detail delivered with terse precision.

It runs thus: "Sweeney calmly reported on her line that the plane had been hijacked; a man in first class had his throat slashed; two flight attendants had been stabbed - one was seriously hurt and was on oxygen while the other's wounds seemed minor; a doctor had been requested; the flight attendants were unable to contact the cockpit; and there was a bomb in the cockpit."

If taking the audience inside a hijacked aircraft is normally the gambit of a Hollywood production, zooming in even further to convey Sweeney's and Ong's real-time reporting - right down to the mistakes it contained (the hijackers did not have a bomb) - is downright novelistic.

Thomas Kean, the chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the formal name for the 9/11 Commission), was responsible for a team of 78 staffers, three executive leaders, and nine other commissioners.

When it came to producing the report, Kean's perspective was informed by his time as a high school history teacher.

The vice chairman of the commission, Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana, wrote a weekly letter to his constituents.

On a day-to-day basis, Philip Zelikow, the executive director responsible for the creation of the report, organised how it was researched and written.

For the most part, the teams working on the report were separated by topic and would hand in section drafts to Zelikow; Ernest May, a former colleague of Zelikow's from Harvard's history department; general counsel Daniel Marcus; and Christopher A. Kojm, the deputy director of the commission, who would then review and edit those sections.

After the drafts had been edited, there were marathon internal debates among the staff about presentation, inclusion of material, and general buy-in.

Once everyone was in agreement, the manuscripts were shown to the commissioners for approval. "In some ways, the enterprise is more notable because it's not a single author," Zelikow recalled earlier this year, adding: "It was a very collaborative enterprise by the staff."

"They were very keen on the notion of communication to a general audience... They wanted a report that anyone with a high school education could open, read and understand," Kojm says.

Kojm elaborates: It is journalistic writing by design, because that's accessible to the general reader...

Journalists are gifted at taking complex, nuanced subjects and presenting them in a way that's understandable to general readers. Clarity and brevity are the hallmarks of good journalism - and, I think, of the commission report as well."

This is not to say that the narrative thrust of the report was driven by an outright journalistic desire to write an engaging book, however.

Zelikow explains that the driver was, rather, a dedication to a more nuanced approach to the idea of bureaucratic fault-finding. Having read the report produced by the Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbour Attack, which did not study the Japanese side at all, Zelikow knew that he didn't want to follow the usual format for a report from an inspector general.

"The typical way that's done is that you write up what happened," Zelikow says, adding: "But there's a level at which if you do it that way, you don't learn, because that's not the way people actually live and make decisions."

He has more: "The whole approach of the report is, instead of saying with hindsight here is what they did and here is what they did wrong, let's reconstruct the information they had and the choices they made given the information they had at the time."

He adds: "And then just lay that out so that the reader is vicariously driving through the windstorm along with them."

One advantage of this approach, he says, is that "it does create a feeling of narrative, because you are empathetically sitting alongside the characters in the story, including the terrorists on the terrorist side".

Kojm meanwhile chips in: "There was a good understanding among the commissioners, and certainly among the staff, of the importance of understanding the enemy. You've got to look and see the other side of the hill."

Nor did the report use the names of particular CIA or FBI agents or members of local agencies in New York or (Washington) DC who may have made mistakes amid the chaos of that fateful morning.

"It's really important to keep in mind that the people you're writing about are other human beings like you - some of whom carry terrible psychological burdens," Zelikow says.

He adds: "If you dropped the ball and three thousand people died, you might read that as a bestselling book basically saying that you were negligently complicit in the mass murder of thousands of Americans."

The apportioning of political

blame - or the appearance thereof - was also a delicate matter for the commission to navigate.

However, Zelikow says that the "highly contested environment" into which the report entered ended up making it better, forcing the commission to "concentrate on the facts" and pare the language to its barest essentials.

He adds: "We actually thought that it would strengthen the narrative power and the credibility of the report overall. Simply lay out the facts dispassionately - and not boringly."

The sheer scope of the task made that a tricky task, and Zelikow notes: "Journalists are commonly taught to basically find the person who becomes the protagonist, and then you give the story its narrative drive through the story of that person."

He adds, though, that the commissioners found themselves with many, many protagonists, and many branching investigations - settings that took their team across quite literally the entire globe.

Another guiding principle, he found, was to trust his audience. "Keep it terse and keep moving," he said, adding: "Keep the language accessible but keep it real. The report is not dumbed down. The report is readable. We were very careful never to use jargon or buzzwords any ordinary person could not understand."

As for that most basic of journalistic tasks, that of fact-finding, Zelikow more than stands by the effort today: "It turns out, much to my surprise, that the report has held up extremely well after twenty years. Factually, really nothing has come out that would cause us to rewrite a single sentence of the report."

Kojm agrees, noting: "Here we are twenty years later and, essentially, the story put forward by the commission is intact."

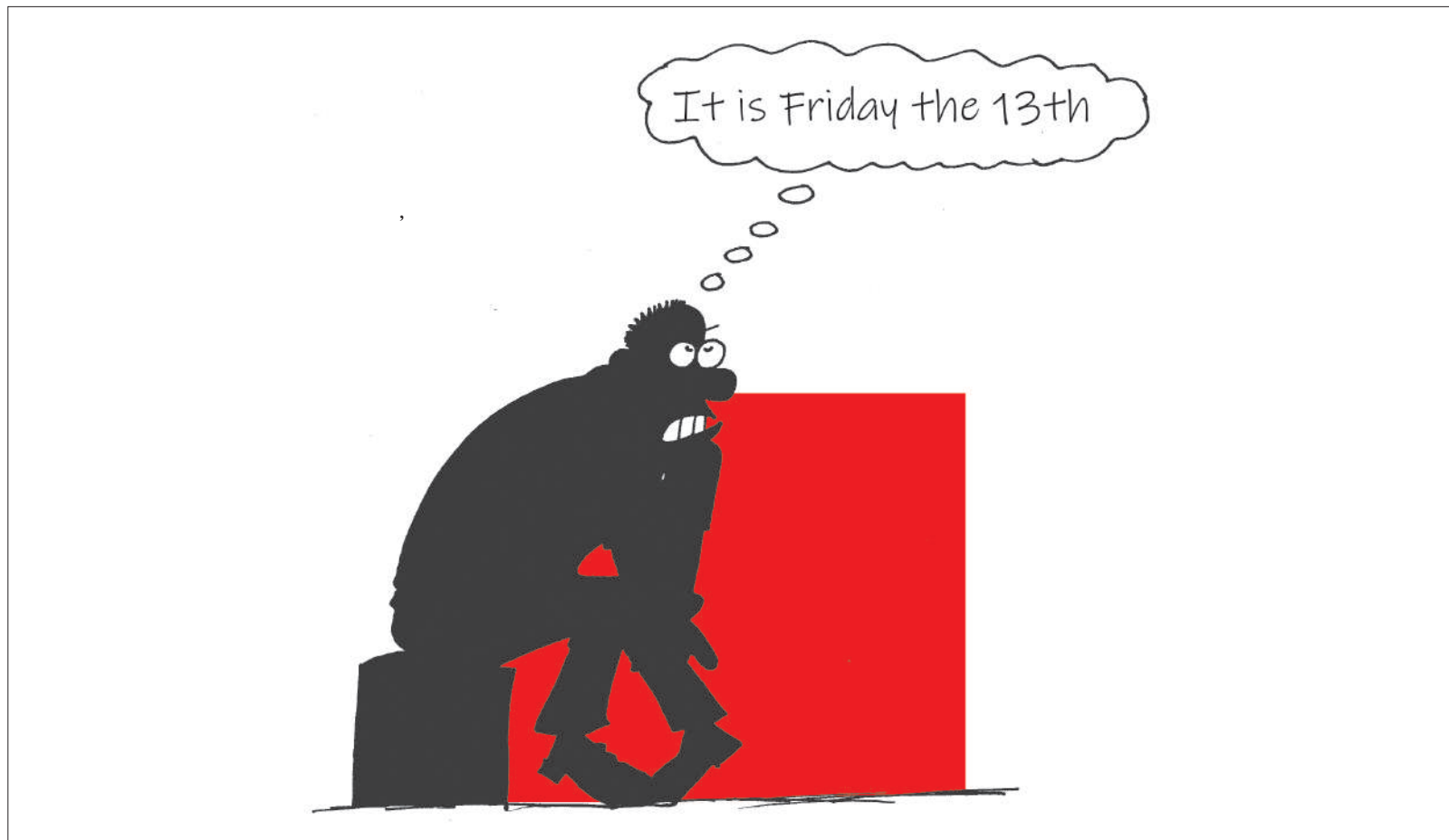
When it came time to print the report, the commission made the somewhat unorthodox decision to use a private publisher, WW Norton, which aided with copy-editing but also with printing and distribution.

According to Zelikow, Hamilton was initially puzzled by the notion of writing the report as a book for a general audience.

Zelikow says of Hamilton: "He may have appreciated clear writing intended for everyone to read, but he thought they were going to write a government report and throw it over the transom."

He remembers having assured the 9/11 commission vice chairman thus: "No. On the day this comes out, it will be in every bookstore in America. And that's what we did."

• A slightly edited dispatch by the Columbia Journalism Review.





# Climate Change

## A triple planetary crisis scarring Africa's landscapes

By Rose Mwebaza

**C**LIMATE change, the loss of nature, pollution and waste: The impacts of a triple planetary crisis are scarring Africa's landscapes, depleting the continent's oceans and freshwater sources, and raising urban air pollution to hazardous levels.

Some of the creeping impacts of this triple crisis are possibly the most debilitating: Africa is the most severely impacted region by desertification and land degradation, with approximately 45 percent of its land area affected.

In the Horn of Africa and the Sahel alone, it imposes food shortages on more than 23 million people. Just last month, more than 700,000 people were affected by floods in Central and West Africa, and tens of millions in southern Africa are facing drought.

Desertification, drought, and land degradation don't happen overnight, but pose a grave threat to long-term food sovereignty, gender equality, peace, and other development goals.

Africa is the world's youngest continent, and its talents and resources are huge. The continent's 54 countries have immense promise and power when they come together, as the budding African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement shows. And what may be true for trade is absolutely clear for addressing common environmental challenges.

As António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, has remarked, "Just as the injustice of climate change burns fiercely here in Africa, so do the opportunities."

The continent is poised to demonstrate that through unity and coordinated action, it can lead the world towards a more just and sustainable future.

Back in November 2022, at the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm



**Vivienne Rakotoarisoa harvests a reed known locally as Rambo (scientific name: *Lepironia articulata*) on her small plot of land in Mangatsiotra village in Madagascar's coastal Vato-vavy Fitovinany region, which she will later craft into baskets and mats to sell at a nearby market.**

El Sheikh, Egypt, working together, African governments helped broker a historic agreement on the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Subsequent gatherings of African environment ministers last year in Nairobi - for Africa Climate Week, the Africa Climate Summit and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment - sustained this momentum.

Later in 2023, countries aligned in Dubai (COP28) to ensure that the Loss and Damage Fund would not be a mere promise but would be replenished with actual resources. When African states unite their efforts, they

can achieve substantial results for the continent's people.

The potential is evident on multiple other issues as well: an Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa brings together countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy across the continent and driving green industrialization.

A partnership between Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo to establish battery and Electric vehicle Special Economic Zone is yet another example of how African nations are leveraging their natural resources for sustainable development, setting the continent as a key player in the emerging green economy.

Looking ahead, the upcoming African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is another opportunity for Africa to flex its diplomatic muscles. It is possibly the last chance for all African Environment Ministers to gather in the same room to align policies and actions ahead of three critical global conferences on biodiversity, climate, and desertification later this year.

In these discussions, the importance of finance cannot be overstated. Consider that 33 of Africa's countries are part of the Least Developed Countries group, making them highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks. Consider that the average debt ratio in sub-Saharan Africa has almost doubled since 2013 and

peaking at over 60 per cent, making new financing expensive and forcing spending cuts.

At the same time, there is a strong need for greater investment in science-policy interfaces, to better anticipate droughts and other environmental disasters by applying the best available scientific tools and adaptation measures.

A good start is by strengthening cross-border coordination, raising the political profile of environmental issues, and mobilizing the necessary resources to combat these threats. Another crucial step is to anchor the understanding that reversing trends in deforestation, soil acidifications and land degradation is a potent economic opportunity.

There is a need to center local communities in decision-making on environmental policies affecting them, and to ensure their rights are respected and they can fully benefit from economic opportunities emerging from their lands.

From Mauritania to Djibouti, a Great Green Wall is steadily pushing against the expansive desert. Greening initiatives across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, and Somalia, farming projects such as in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are revitalizing soils and boosting the livelihoods of communities. Research shows how every very dollar invested in restoration can create up to 30 dollars in economic benefits.

When it comes to shaping the global environmental agenda, there's a leadership role for Africa to seize. Africans of all walks of life are ready to do their part and reap the benefits it brings. And we know when 54 governments jointly flex their muscle, the continent moves fast and forward.

**Dr. Rose Mwebaza is the Regional Director and Representative, UNEP Africa Office**

By Adonis Byemelwa

**T**HE surge in suicides, especially among young people, has become one of the most pressing public health crises of our time. Communities across the globe are being shaken to their core, left with shattered families and friends haunted by the same unanswerable question: Why? As the numbers climb, the urgency to address this epidemic grows, demanding action before more lives are tragically cut short.

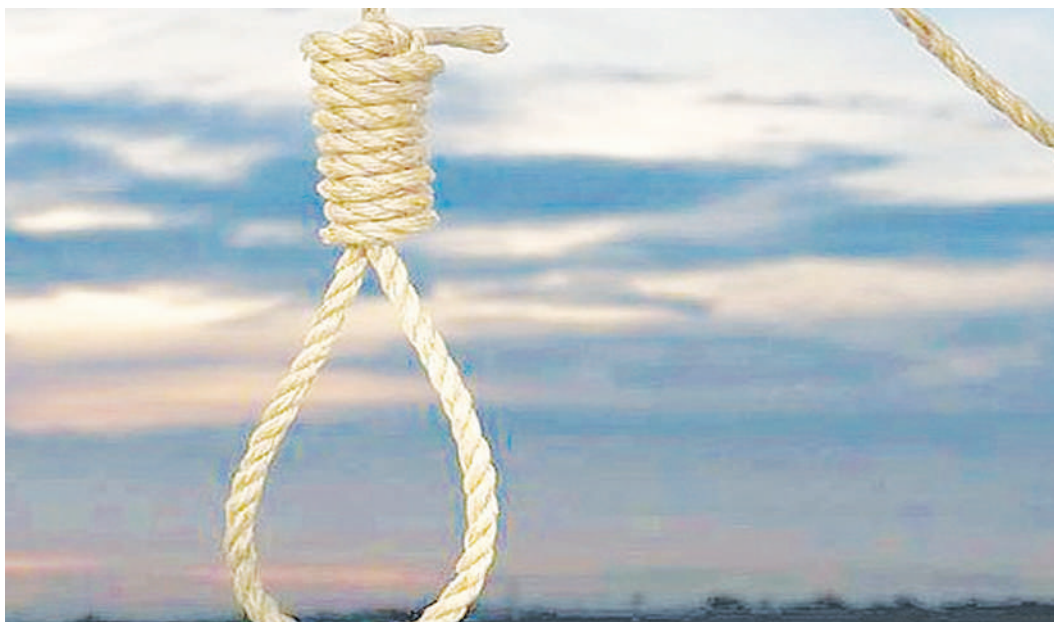
The world marked September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day, this year's theme, "Creating Hope Through Action," could not be timelier. It highlights the desperate need for action to counter the alarming rise in suicides and reinforces the message that prevention is possible. The day serves as a critical reminder of the steps needed to support those struggling with mental health challenges and to foster environments that encourage openness, hope, and recovery.

Suicide remains a leading cause of death among individuals aged 15 to 29, with a staggering 77 percent of cases occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Mental health issues such as depression and alcohol-related disorders are commonly associated with these tragedies.

The statistics paint a sobering picture: for every 20 suicide attempts, one tragically ends in death. This means that countless individuals around the globe are teetering on the edge of despair, while only a few receive the help they need in time. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been vocal in its calls for urgent intervention, emphasizing that effective prevention strategies are key to reversing this trend. It is a matter of life and death, and time is of the essence.

Leading global efforts in this cause is the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), in close collaboration with WHO. Together, these organizations have been working tirelessly to raise awareness, push for policy changes, and promote mental health as a critical part of the public health agenda. But despite these efforts, the situation remains dire. Suicide ranks among the top causes of death for individuals aged 15 to 29, robbing societies of vibrant young

## Youth suicide crisis sparks global alarm on needed mental health actions



**Psychologists play an essential role in guiding individuals through their emotional pain.**

lives just as they are beginning to unfold.

Dr. Praxeria Swai, a psychiatric specialist at Muhimbili National Hospital in Tanzania, was quoted as saying that adolescents, particularly during puberty, face significant challenges as they navigate this turbulent stage of life. "Families often do not understand, and there's a lack of proper communication. As a result, young people are left feeling isolated and emotionally wounded," she says. The consequences of these struggles can be devastating.

The WHO reports that men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women, while women are three times more likely to contemplate suicide. Men, Dr. Swai notes, tend to use more lethal methods, which increases the likelihood of death. "In our facility at Muhimbili, we are seeing a significant number of young people coming in with symptoms of depression and mental health issues," she adds.

Globally, one person dies by suicide every 40 seconds, with an estimated 800,000 deaths each year. The WHO has warned that despite these alarming figures, there is still a significant lack of conversation surrounding the issue in many communities. The organiza-

tion stresses that suicide can often be prevented, especially with timely intervention and proper support systems in place.

However, societal pressures continue to exacerbate the issue. In many cases, parents place enormous expectations on their children, particularly in academic performance, without considering their capacities.

This overwhelming pressure, combined with the desire for material wealth and success, has contributed to the rising number of suicides among students. Japan, known for its rigorous educational system, is a stark example, where many students resort to suicide after failing exams, unable to cope with the shame and disappointment.

The situation is no different in Tanzania. Dr. Swai describes the case of an 18-year-old secondary school student, Diana Roman, who tragically ended her life after failing her national exams. Diana consumed a deadly insecticide in an attempt to escape the shame of her perceived failure.

Her guardian, Bibiana Roman, recalls finding Diana unconscious in her room after she had ingested the poison. "We had tried to take the poison away from

her before, but she managed to find it again," says Bibiana. Despite being rushed to Tumbi Hospital, Diana did not survive.

Mental health professionals, including doctors from Mileme Hospital in Dodoma, emphasize the importance of addressing these psychological struggles early on. Many students face insurmountable pressure to succeed, both academically and socially, which can lead to feelings of inadequacy and hopelessness.

"We need to have psychologists present in schools, just like we have teachers," one doctor urges. "Students face various challenges, and they need the psychological support that only trained professionals can provide."

The issue extends beyond academic failure. Relationships and love also play a significant role in many suicide cases. Recently, in the Ruvuma region of Tanzania, Athuman Hassan attempted suicide after a fallout with his girlfriend, Diana Shoti. Athuman was found with a severe neck wound after using a knife in an attempt to end his life. He survived, but his story is part of a growing trend of emotional turmoil leading to suicidal behavior.

The tragic deaths of two prominent religious figures within a year have highlighted the increasing pressure faced by individuals, even within spiritual communities. In May 2024, Catholic Brother Rogassion Massawe from the Diocese of Tanga was found to have taken his own life at Magamba Formation House, where he resided. Tanga Regional Police Commander Almachius Muchunguzi confirmed the incident, revealing that the suicide occurred after Brother Massawe's superiors decided not to advance him to the next stage of ordination, a crucial step in his spiritual journey toward the priesthood. Within the Catholic Church, ordination involves a progression from brotherhood to the diaconate before priesthood—a process many dedicate their lives to completing.

This tragic event closely follows another shocking suicide in May 2023,

when Methodist Archbishop Joseph Bundala was discovered hanging in his office at his church in Dodoma. His death, currently under investigation, has been linked to mounting financial difficulties and disputes over the management of private schools under his care. The untimely deaths of both religious figures have shaken the communities they served, sparking conversations around the immense pressure clergy members face.

Recent studies have shed light on the broader issue of suicide, noting that religious leaders are not immune to the overwhelming societal expectations and personal struggles that affect many. A report from Strategies Toward Ending the Epidemic found that 40% of suicides occur during periods of significant crisis, such as financial distress, personal breakdowns, or chronic illness. The report also highlighted those marginalized individuals—such as refugees, LGBTQ+ persons, and prisoners—are especially vulnerable, as they often face social isolation and discrimination, leaving them with fewer support systems to rely on during difficult times.

One heartbreaking case in Kenya involved a first-year student at Ngara Girls' School, who jumped from the first floor of her dormitory in an attempt to take her life. Earlier, she had asked a fellow student about how one could die by suicide.

A tragic note revealed deep feelings of abandonment after her father left the family. Despite the school nurse and staff rushing her to the hospital, she succumbed to her injuries, leaving her community in sorrow.

As we observe World Suicide Prevention Day, it is clear that the fight against this crisis is far from over. But there is hope. Global movements are gaining momentum, mental health is becoming a more central part of the public conversation, and individuals around the world are stepping up to support those who are struggling.

The road ahead will require persistence, compassion, and collaboration. Every life saved from suicide is a testament to the power of hope. And with enough action, perhaps one day we will live in a world where no one feels that taking their own life is the only option.



By Sarah Rainsford

# Families cling to hope in Belarus after first release of political prisoners and journalist

**D**MITRY Luksha built up muscles breaking rocks in a Belarusian prison camp, put to work alongside men convicted of murder and drug smuggling. The journalist was imprisoned in 2022 and sentenced to four years for his reports on the mass opposition protests of 2020 and his country's later complicity in the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

But he's just been released early, one of several dozen political prisoners freed this summer in a series of surprise amnesties.

It's given hope to the relatives of others that further releases might follow.

"One day they called me in, and a man from the prosecutor's office just asked, 'Do you want to go home?'" Dmitry recalls, now in Poland with his wife, Polina.

She'd been convicted as his "accomplice" and the couple were freed at the same time.

Human rights organisation Viasna calculates that 78 political detainees have been given an amnesty so far in recent weeks. Many have serious medical conditions, but not all of them. The criteria for early release are unknown.

Like everyone, Dmitry first had to request an official pardon from Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Four years ago, the authoritarian leader was almost forced from power by enormous street protests which were eventually crushed with police brutality and mass arrests - and with Russian political support.

With another election due next year, perhaps as soon as February, it is possible Lukashenko is hoping for an image boost: state propaganda channels have been presenting the amnesties as a "humane" gesture by a "wise" leader.

Dmitry Luksha isn't sure of the true motive or why he was chosen: "Maybe those who started the process, the arrests, realise they went too far. I don't know."

But he says "20-30 percent" of all inmates in the prisons where he was held were there for political reasons.

They are marked by a yellow tag stitched to their chest so they are easy to spot.

"It's such a moment of joy to be home. Of euphoria. To hug our families and to breathe freely again," Dmitry says.

"The main thing is that this process is happening. And for it not to stop."

**'Killing her slowly'**

The unexpected releases have given hope to other prisoners' families, including those of high-profile detainees like Maria Kolesnikova.

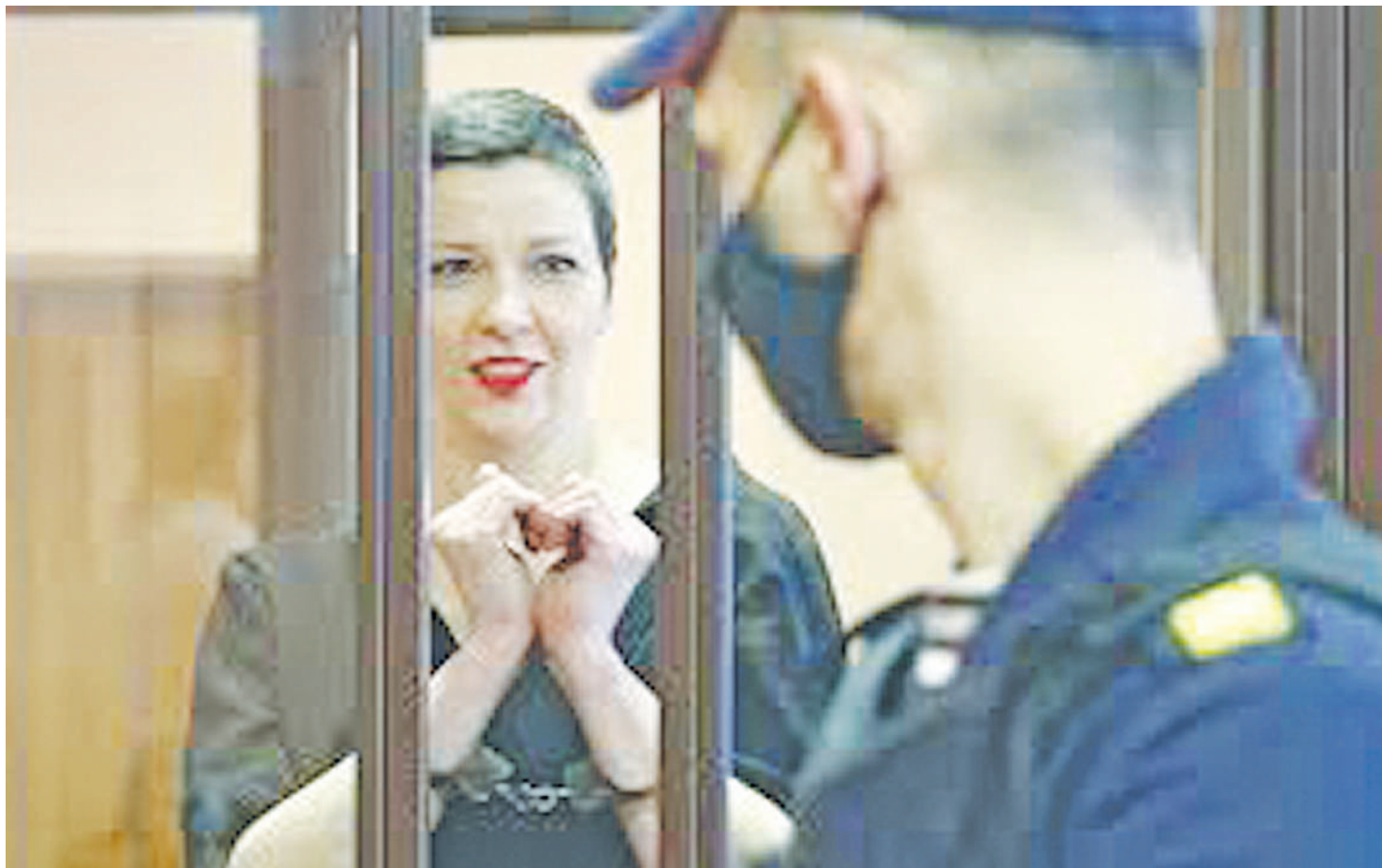
"I believe this is a moment when Lukashenko started to send signals to the Western world that he will be ready, in the future, to negotiate on releases," Maria's sister Tatsiana Khomich argues.

For her, the need is urgent.

The conditions in which Maria is being held are "killing her slowly", her sister warns. "I think any means [possible] should be used to help her. To save her. Because her situation is critical."

A classical flautist, Maria Kolesnikova helped lead the peaceful street protests in 2020, becoming hugely popular for her seemingly boundless energy and optimism. She was later sentenced to 11 years for "conspiring to seize power".

In prison she had emergency surgery for a perforated ulcer and is since reported to have lost at least 20kg (three stone), and is now said to weigh only 45kg. She's being denied extra parcels or cash for the



**Maria Kolesnikova helped lead peaceful protests in 2020, now her sister fears her life is in danger**

special diet she needs.

"Maria is starving in the colony. I believe she already passed a critical weight loss that endangers her life," her sister worries.

Tatsiana only gets snippets of information via other prisoners when they're released, because since March 2023 Maria has been kept in punishment cells.

She is held in isolation, with no calls, letters or visits. For months at a time, she can be denied even a half-hour daily walk around a tiny, covered prison yard.

"We saw that the international community didn't react in time in the case of Alexei Navalny," says Tatsiana, remembering the Russian opposition activist who died suddenly

in prison as talks over a possible deal to free him were under way.

"They were too late and not very decisive."

In the end, a major prisoner exchange with Russia did take place - including some well-known Russian dissidents - and that gave Tatsiana some hope.

"We saw that everything is possi-



**Sentenced to four years for his work as a journalist, Dmitry Luksha was released unexpectedly**

ble. We saw that you can negotiate during a war, or a Cold War. You can negotiate with people you name terrorist, or dictator."

There are others who sense a moment of opportunity with the Belarusian leadership: signals that it is seeking to engage again with the outside world.

"I think the Lukashenko regime is interested in avoiding becoming part of Russia. That's why they want some communication with the West. That's why they're releasing prisoners," argues Ryhor Astapenia, a Chatham House analyst on Belarus based in Warsaw.

Pushing for more, and more prominent prisoner releases might be one avenue to pursue, in any attempt to "decouple" Minsk from Moscow.

But that very approach remains controversial, given Alexander Lukashenko's crucial supporting role for Russia in the war on Ukraine.

It's also a strain to see the early releases as any real thaw, as the repression continues.

Belarus's authorities brutally put down anti-government protests in 2020

Ryhor Astapenia himself was recently sentenced in absentia to 10 years, along with other academics and analysts, for a supposed plot against the government.

After imprisoning political activists and journalists in Belarus, prosecutors had turned their attention to those who criticise the country abroad.

"They do it because they can," he shrugs. "They see no reason to stop."

It was two years after the mass protests of 2020 that the police turned up for Dmitry Luksha. By then, he had imagined he was safe.

"Those two years were my undoing," he knows now, having spent 28 tough months in jail.

When he was released, unexpectedly, he thought he would stay in Belarus. But that was impossible.

"I would jump whenever the lift opened. Or when a minibus with tinted windows pulled up. And there were so many armed police in the street," Dmitry explains, from the safety of Warsaw where tens of thousands of other Belarusians now live, for the same reasons.

"You understand that you've done nothing wrong, they shouldn't be coming for you. But you can't tell your heart that. It's the brutal Belarus of today, and your heart is afraid."

That's why Dmitry hopes the amnesties will continue, whatever is driving the process: Viasna still lists 1,349 political prisoners in Belarus.

"I really hope the numbers released will grow, so that those with long sentences also get out. Those people live in hope that someone will come and tell them: it's your turn. I really hope they do."

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Climate change resilience projects to get financial muscles from CBBF

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

**T**ANZANIA is set to implement numerous projects aimed at strengthening the sustainability of biodiversity and forests through financial support from the Congo Basin Blue Fund (CBBF).

Arlette Soudan-Nonault, executive secretary of the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CBCC) said this here yesterday when meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism and senior officials from the ministry and through the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

Nonault led a delegation of the commission which is in the country for five-day visit to explore ways on how Tanzania can benefit from the fund. The team also aims to raise awareness among government and private sector stakeholders about the commission's role.

The delegation's visit marks a new chapter, enabling Tanzania to actively participate in the Commission's vision.

"We have come to Tanzania to discuss with the government how best the country can take part in implementing key projects on forest and natural resource preservation, with a focus on addressing climate change effects in the Congo Basin region," she said.

During their visit, the delegation plans to meet with various public and private sector stakeholders to raise awareness about the commission's presence and key role.

Jean Paternie Megne Ekoga (pictured), Vice President of the Central African States Development Bank (CASDB), said the bank is working to mobilize financial resources from CBCC member countries to support project implementation.

"We're here in Tanzania to discuss how the country can partner with us in mobilizing resources for financing these critical projects," he explained, noting that the bank has so far raised \$10 billion and



is strategizing to secure additional funds.

TFS Conservation Commissioner, Prof Dos Santos Silayo, said joining the CBCC brings numerous advantages to Tanzania. The country will be well-positioned to access substantial funds to execute key projects aimed at combating climate change and improving wildlife welfare.

"Tanzania plays a strategic role in

supporting the environmental, climate, and ecological systems of the Congo Basin," Silayo said. Geographically, Tanzania covers a significant portion of the Congo Basin, which includes Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Nyasa, and Lake Rukwa. This positioning justifies the country's eligibility for receiving the Congo Basin Blue Fund for conservation efforts in these areas.

Although Tanzania has been a member of the CBCC since its inception in 2016, the country had not been fully involved in the commission's key activities. This visit signals a positive shift toward greater involvement, especially in accessing funds for enhancing climate change interventions.

The Congo Basin, a vast tropical sub-region of Africa, is home to ex-

ceptional biodiversity and provides essential ecological services such as water regulation and carbon sequestration. However, human activities and climate change are increasingly threatening the integrity and survival of its ecosystems.

The Congo Basin rainforest is the largest in Africa and the second-largest in the world, after the Amazon. Its size and diversity make it crucial for mitigating climate change by acting as a carbon sink. However, deforestation and environmental degradation due to climate change are adding stress to the forest ecosystem, which in turn affects the basin's hydrology. A 2012 study found that the variability in precipitation caused by climate change will negatively impact economic activity in the region.

CBBF is an African development fund addressing climate challenges on a continental and global scale, promoting regional integration and population welfare. The fund is the main financial instrument of the Climate Commission of Congo Basin (CCCBB), designed to collect resources for financing programs in the blue economy, green economy, and the fight against climate change, including poverty alleviation.

The Congo Basin Climate Commission, established in 2018, aims to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development in the sub-region. It currently includes 16 member countries, including Tanzania, supported by the Kingdom of Morocco.

# Africa takes targeted preparedness measures as mpox cases increase

By Aimable Twahirwa, Addis Ababa

**A**S the mpox virus continues to spread to new countries across Africa, triggering a continental health emergency, health authorities are sparing no effort in taking targeted measures to control the outbreak—and have called on funders to ensure that resources are distributed fairly.

Monkeypox was declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Africa CDC on August 14 after the new strain, known as clade 1b, began to proliferate from the DRC to neighboring African countries, including Rwanda.

On September 6, the Africa CDC and WHO announced the launch of the Mpox Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, a joint continental response plan for Africa to support countries' efforts to curb the spread of the virus to save and protect lives.

Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (Africa CDC) director general, Jean Kaseya, said at the launch that this "unified strategy ensures that all partners are aligned on common objectives, eliminating duplication and maximizing impact."

The overall estimated budget for the six-month plan, running from September 2024 to February 2025, is close to USD 600 million, with 55 percent allocated to mpox response in 14 affected AU Member States and readiness for 15 other Member States, while 45 percent is directed towards operational and technical support through partners.

"This is an important milestone for a coordinated action between our agencies to support countries by reinforcing expertise and mobilizing resources and capacities to swiftly and effectively halt the spread of mpox," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"By coming together, we can achieve more, and our collective strength will carry us further, ensuring that communities and individuals are protected from the threat of this virus."

Mpox cases in Africa have increased at an unprecedented rate over the past three years. In addition to zoonosis-linked outbreaks, the intensified human-to-human transmission through sexual behaviors and other factors requires urgent attention and an enhanced response, according to the Africa CDC and WHO.

To address the ongoing mpox outbreaks, a comprehensive strategy is criti-



Africa is taking a multi-faceted approach to stemming the mpox epidemic

cal for effective management and mitigation.

It also needs equitable access to resources.

Africa CDC welcomed the Governing Board of the Pandemic Fund's recent statement on funding, in which it agreed to fast-track support to countries affected by the crisis and to develop a special financing mechanism to support countries experiencing public health emergencies—but with a caveat.

"Africa CDC acknowledges and profoundly appreciates its continued support in strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities across the continent," it said, but it also called for "speed and efficiency in garnering resources for mpox, as well as the creation of a special financing mechanism to accelerate support for outbreaks, including mpox."

Africa CDC and other health organizations on the continent are acutely aware that the playing field is often not even.

"It is the ardent desire and hope of Africa CDC that this transformative upcoming funding round will prioritize a more inclusive approach, increasing support to a greater number of African countries and regional entities, especially in light of the limited allocation in the previous round, where only five (5) of the fifty-five (55) African nations received funding," it said in a statement released on September 11, calling for an end to delays in the interests of ensuring that health and lives of African populations are safeguarded and prevent the further spread of mpox.

"Together, we have the opportunity to avoid the repetition of past mistakes and build a more just and equitable global health architecture."

The Mpox Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan emphasizes a community-centered, multisectoral approach tailored to the unique epidemiology and risk profiles of each member state. The plan bolsters surveillance, laboratory testing, and community engagement and ensures the availability of critical countermeasures while building resilient and equitable health systems.

Data from the Africa CDC indicates that there have been 37,583 cases and 1,451 deaths—affecting at least 15 African Union States, including Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan and South Africa.

Health professionals consider a mutated strain of clade 1, a type of mpox that spreads through contact with infected animals and has been endemic in the DRC for decades, to be the strain of greatest concern.

Kaseya said during the recent press briefing in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that the continental health organization was currently moving towards securing almost 1 million doses of the MX vaccine.

Africa CDC and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced on September 5 that the first shipment of 99,100 doses of the JYNNEOS mpox vaccine had arrived. This shipment is expected to launch a critical vaccination campaign aimed at curbing the rising

epidemic in the DRC, the Africa CDC said in a statement.

On September 10, a further shipment of 15,460 doses of the mpox vaccine arrived in the DRC, donated to Gavi-eligible nations by the vaccine producer Bavarian Nordic. They add to the 215,000 vaccine doses that the European Union donated.

One major shortcoming often highlighted is that behaviors are directly implicated in accelerating the spread of mpox, impeding the behavioral change by people who already face challenges in accessing healthcare services in remote communities in Africa.

Prof. Jean Jacques Muyembe, a prominent African epidemiologist from the DRC who is also senior advisor to the Africa CDC's director general, told IPS that for the specific case of his home country, mpox continues to spread through contaminated bushmeat, which a large part of local communities consume in quantities.

"Adopting and maintaining healthy behaviors is important for these communities where notable zoonotic diseases such as mpox are believed to be transmitted through bushmeat," said Muyembe, who is also the chair of the DRC's National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB).

According to the findings released by the WHO, mpox can spread from animals to people in a few ways, such as through small wild animals in West and Central Africa, where the disease is endemic or with direct close contact with an infected animal, fluids or waste, or getting bitten or scratched.

While bushmeat in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa where mpox is en-

demical cannot be simply wished away, Muyembe points out that the administration of lifesaving vaccines to hundreds of millions of affected communities remains the best solution for Africa to defeat the outbreak.

"Randomized controlled trials will help us to measure the effectiveness of these health interventions," said Muyembe.

Apart from bushmeats, initial investigations conducted by the Africa CDC in the DR Congo and research elsewhere in Europe suggest that vulnerable populations, like sex workers and men who have sex with men, may be at risk.

"Well-organized standard care can reduce the mortality rate of mpox in Africa, but education is also critical to sensitize most families using the forest for hunting to abstain from bushmeat and also to practice safe sex," the senior Congolese epidemiologist told IPS.

Kaseya points out that in addition to surveillance and diagnosis, African vaccine manufacturing seems to offer a promising and sustainable solution as the continent currently works hard to safeguard itself against future pandemics and disease outbreaks—and to ensure delays like the ones African nations faced in receiving COVID-19 vaccines never happen again.

"The only tool [for prevention] we have today in Africa is vaccine but for the diagnostic, we want to ensure that in some countries we move from the current 18 percent of testing up to 80 percent of diagnosed cases," he said.

Since its inception, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology has been widely used in all

stages of vaccine product development as a tool to assist in the evaluation of vaccine quality, safety and efficacy, especially in Africa.

"Capacity building is critical to support those who are conducting testing in the field," Kaseya said of current efforts jointly conducted by Africa CDC and other strategic partners, including Global Fund and GAVI Alliance.

Drawing from the past experience of COVID-19, health experts are concerned about vaccine availability.

"Today with mpox we are in a similar situation (to COVID) where we need to look for vaccines because we don't manufacture them," he said.

Danish biotech firm Bavarian Nordic has concluded a deal with Africa CDC to ramp up production of its mpox vaccine and enable its vaccine to be manufactured in Africa in the future.

Through the concluded technology transfer deal, the African pharmaceutical industry will start manufacturing the mpox vaccines, according to Africa CDC officials.

Out of nine existing pharmaceutical industries in Africa, only one factory has the capacity to provide the mpox vaccine, it said.

Prof. Nicaise Ndembu, senior advisor to the Africa CDC's DG, told IPS that the available evidence indicates that the mpox vaccine remains a safe and effective way to protect against symptomatic infection in high-risk close contacts.

"We need to build on current progress made to ensure that the African region is not left behind in efforts to control the mpox pandemic," he said.







# GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MARKET SET FOR RAPID EXPANSION

By Kitty Wheeler

**G**lobal construction is poised for growth by 2030, driven by infrastructure projects and technological advancements in equipment.

The global construction equipment market is on track for substantial growth, a report says.

According to the analysis in a recent market report by MMRA, a construction equipment market analysis firm, the industry is expected to reach US\$194.10bn by 2030, fuelled by urbanisation and infrastructure development worldwide.

This projection indicates an increase of US\$263.80bn over the next decade.

China, India, the US and Indonesia are expected to contribute 60 percent of market growth during the forecast period, according to the report.

This growth is attributed to massive government investments in public infrastructure projects across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific.

Asia-Pacific will be the largest and fastest-growing region, driven by rapid industrialization, urbanization, and infrastructure development in countries like China, India and Southeast Asia.

The report highlights ongoing and planned smart city initiatives as key drivers of construction activity, increasing demand for



advanced machinery and equipment.

These projects encompass the development of roads, highways, schools and hospitals.

Major players in the construction equipment market include Caterpillar, a US-based manufacturer of construction and mining equipment; Hitachi Construction Machinery, a Japanese producer of excavators and dump trucks and Komatsu, another Japanese multinational corporation that manufactures construction, mining and military equipment.

However, the report notes that strict government regulations on carbon emissions and fluctu-

ations in oil prices are constraining market growth.

Despite these challenges, rising residential property prices and increased housing demand are driving new investments in the industry.

The report identifies growing urbanisation as a key factor driving demand for housing projects, particularly in developing countries such as China, India and Brazil.

This population shift is necessitating the construction of new housing infrastructure, including single-family homes and high-rise buildings.

Data from the World Bank Group shows that India's urban

population increased from 27.7 percent of the total population in 2000 to 35.8 percent in 2023.

The report authors state that "developing nations are expected to drive the construction equipment market during the forecast period due to ongoing government support and significant investments in modernising public infrastructure."

Globally, infrastructure development is gaining momentum.

The report cites the US government's announcement of a US\$1tn infrastructure investment package in November 2022, with 4,300 projects already underway and more than US\$110bn in funding allocated.

Similar initiatives are underway in other countries.

The UK government, for instance, announced in September 2022 plans to invest over US\$900bn in public and private infrastructure over the next decade.

Construction equipment growth: technological advancements and environmental concerns

The construction equipment industry is experiencing significant technological advancements, with a growing focus on electric and autonomous equipment.

The report reveals that while fully autonomous equipment is not yet a reality, the industry is moving in this direction.

"Construction companies are expected to benefit from autonomous equipment if they want to enhance productivity, improve the skilled labour shortage and increase worker safety on the job site," the report states.

Environmental concerns are also shaping the industry, prompting the development of eco-friendly engines with reduced emissions.

The report highlights that the construction equipment industry is "unmistakably moving toward electromobility and autonomous solutions on a global scale, using technologies like IoT, virtual reality and self-learning machines."

However, the report also notes that changing trade policies, regulations and environmental concerns pose challenges to the industry.

Different import taxes and trade agreements can impact competition and market growth.

"The effects of global trade laws and policies operate as barriers to the growth and sale of the construction equipment industry in many nations," the report concludes.

However, stricter emissions standards are pushing manufacturers to invest in greener technologies, which may increase equipment costs, while volatility in the prices of steel, copper, and other raw materials can affect the cost structure of equipment manufacturing.

While the market will continue to face challenges such as environmental regulations and supply chain uncertainties, innovation and increasing demand for infrastructure development will drive future growth.

The global construction equipment market is poised for sustained growth, supported by major infrastructure investments globally, particularly in emerging economies, the shift towards more environmentally sustainable and efficient technologies and increased demand for automated and intelligent equipment to enhance operational efficiency.

## Controversy arises over the ownership of donated sets of medical facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Mema Foundation has filed an appeal to oppose the ruling by the High Court of Moshi, regarding the ownership and importation of optical medical equipment brought into the country from Denmark, valued at US\$92,870.

The embattled medical equipment were imported into the country in November 2021 from Denmark as a donation by the NGO Better Vision Africa, based in Denmark.

According to Mema Foundation's Secretary General, Alfred Kaaya, the equipment was supposed to be distributed for free to those in need, especially persons with albinism, children, and the elderly in certain districts of the Arusha region, particularly after the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) granted a tax exemption estimated at 41m/-.

Initially, in case number 7 of 2022, Mema Foundation, through its Secretary General Alfred Kaaya, filed a lawsuit against Charlotte Strandfelt, Dr. Focus Maro, the NGO namely Good Samaritan Foundation, and KCMC Referral Hospital, by accusing them of taking the equipment without Mema Foundation's permission and breaching of the contractual agreements.

In his claims, Kaaya stated that, as the Secretary General of Mema Foundation, he was responsible for preparing all the documents for importing the equipment.

The Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) inspected and issued clearance approval number TMDA-WEB0021/MDR/SIPER/5988, and the Tanzania Revenue Authority granted a tax exemption.

Kaaya claimed that, along with the first defendant, Charlotte Strandfelt, who was previously his partner in the Mema Foundation, they received the equipment and took it to Pazuri Hotel, located just

outside the city of Arusha.

He alleged that later, under unclear and questionable circumstances, the equipment were taken and transported to KCMC Referral Hospital, where its Director, Professor Giliard Masenga, confirmed receiving the equipment in a letter with reference KCMC/A.43/VOLIX/48.

However, despite Kaaya's claims, Judge S.H. Simfukwe, in his ruling, noted that the complainant (Kaaya) failed to convince the court that his organization was the rightful owner of the equipment Norwegian well-wishers.

Basis of the appeal  
 According to Kaaya, his organization is challenging the ruling of the High Court of Moshi, as the defendants (1, 2, 3, 4) failed to present any documentary evidence in court to prove that they were the rightful owners or importers of the equipment, as required by the country's law.

"The High Court of Moshi did not consider the importance of having relevant government authorities involved in granting the tax exemption (TRA/TMDA) present in court or submitting written evidence to prove the ownership and legitimacy of the equipment," Kaaya explained in one of the points of his appeal.

He further explained that the

High Court of Moshi failed to recognize that defendants 1 and 2 could not present to the court the number of boxes containing the equipment they had received and placed under their control.

Kaaya added that the High Court of Moshi made a legal error by proceeding with the case without considering that defendants (1, 2, 3, 4) had not submitted written evidence as required by law.

Mema Foundation, based in Uruariv, Arumeru District, was legally registered under registration number NGO/2076 on August 10, 2021.

Speaking to this newspaper, KCMC Referral Hospital's Director, Professor Giliard Masenga, confirmed the dispute over the medical equipment and he added that his hospital was entrusted with importing it into the country.

However, when asked about who was given the tax exemption documents by the TRA, the professor could not provide an explanation and briefly by responding that the equipment sill stored at the hospital, awaiting instructions from its owner for distributions.

"The equipment is here at the hospital, and we are waiting for instructions from the owner for the next steps to be taken," said Professor Masenga.



Natacha Emilien, Deputy Group CEO of CSI Energy Group.

## Local natural gas-to-electricity producer unveils ESG strategy

By Guardian Reporter

CSI Energy Group has launched its first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report, titled "The First Stitch," underscoring the company's dedication to sustainability and ethical leadership in the energy sector.

The report serves as a reflection of the company's focus on environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and sound governance, all vital pillars in the pursuit of sustainable development.

"The First Stitch" symbolizes the company's commitment to initiating a narrative of change, blending Africa's traditional heritage with innovative practices for a sustainable future.

"We are at the start of a transformative journey, where each decision we make is like a stitch in the fabric of a greener, more inclusive Africa," said Natacha Emilien, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer, CSI Energy Group.

Emilien highlighted the company's Kinyerezi 1 Extension project in Tanzania, which plays a crucial role in reducing the nation's dependence on hydropower.

The natural gas-fired power plant has bolstered Tanzania's energy security and is estimated to have saved the country \$500 million in fuel costs.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a member of the UN Global Compact, CSI Energy Group integrate universal principles of human rights, labour, environmental protection, and anti-corruption into its operations.

As part of their climate action commitment (SDG 13), the company aims to cut Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 10 percent by 2025 through enhanced energy efficiency and reduced carbon output.

A company statement emphasized the importance of embedding sustainability into everyday operations, citing initiatives such as the promotion of the 3Rs (Re-

duce, Reuse, Recycle), water conservation, and waste management as part of their tangible environmental impact.

In 2023, CSI Energy Group created 545 jobs, 85 of which were filled by women.

The company also provided practical training to 26 interns, nine of whom were retained for future growth.

"Our corporate social initiatives are focused on fostering local community development. For instance, our collaboration with local food vendors has driven economic activity, positioning us not just as an employer but as a true community partner," said Christine Nafula, Sustainability Manager at CSI Energy Group.

Nafula highlighted the wide-reaching effects of these initiatives, which include providing local families with necessities, offering road safety training, and enhancing educational resources.

"By working closely with local vendors and accommodation providers, we're creating new economic opportunities that extend far beyond our immediate projects," she added.

Looking ahead, Nafula reaffirmed the company's commitment to ensuring that every "stitch" in their journey is meaningful and enduring.

"While challenges remain, we are energized by the prospects of achieving a just energy transition. This report is not only a reflection of our efforts but also a promise to build a future where sustainable energy is accessible to all Africans," she concluded.

CSI Energy Group operates as a diversified network of companies across Africa, offering resilient energy solutions through three core divisions: high-level engineering, procurement, and construction; energy transition and renewable energy project development; and financing.

With over two decades of experience in 12 countries and more than 200 completed projects in sectors such as renewable energy, electricity infrastructure, oil and gas, and mining, the company continues to promote sustainable development across the continent.

The company believes that access to electricity is a human right, and CSI Energy Group is dedicated to enabling a just energy transition in Africa, ensuring equitable access to energy for all.





# PM INAUGURATES EPZA'S BUSINESS FACILITATION PORTAL

By Guardia Reporter

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has officially launched the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) Business Facilitation Portal that provides investors with direct access to a wide range of information and investment procedures irrespective of their geographical location.

The PM launched this alongside other four reports on the improvement of Business Environment and Investment as well as Improvement and Investment Management Tools, in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Prime Minister told the government institutions and authorities to expedite the reform of laws that will facilitate business operations to ensure that new regulations create a better environment for business and investment.

"This issue should go hand in hand with setting priorities for providing services quickly, efficiently, and in accordance with international standards. Authorities should have streamlined systems for communicating with investors and removing existing barriers," he said.

The other reports launched

included the National Guideline for the Development and Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Business Environment and Investment Improvement Plan; the National Investment Report for 2023 and the Strategic Plan of the President's Office, Planning, and Investment for the period 2024/2025 - 2025/2026.

He also called on government institutions and authorities to enhance cooperation with the private sector, as it can offer valuable insights and suggestions for

necessary improvements.

Additionally, he called on the need for the development plans to provide training and services to business stakeholders, including promoting the use of new investment management tools.

With the EPZA Business Facilitation Portal, investors will be able to address their investment concerns promptly and efficiently, irrespective of their geographical location.

The EPZA Director General Charles Itembe said the newly Business Facilitation Portal is part of President Samia Suluhu

Hassan's directives on creating conducive business and investment environment in the country.

"This groundbreaking initiative marks yet another significant milestone in advancing Tanzania's business-friendly environment," he said.

He said the system will streamline the entire investment process by eliminating the need for clients to travel to the office to access services.

Instead, they can now register online, obtain their licenses, and receive the necessary incentives from anywhere they are located.

He said the launch of this system will enable Tanzania to better compete in attracting substantial foreign investments into the country.

By spearheading initiatives such as the EPZA Business Facilitation Portal, the government seeks to attract both domestic and foreign investments, fuel job creation, and foster sustainable economic development.

This landmark project embodies Tanzania's vision of becoming a prime investment destination, where entrepreneurs and investors thrive, and opportunities abound.



Hybrid Rubber-Tyred Gantry (RTG)

## AD Ports contracts China firm to supply cranes for terminal projects across Africa

ABU DHABI

AD Ports Group has awarded Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries Co. Ltd (ZPMC) contracts worth over AED420 million to supply six ship-to-shore (STS) cranes and 17 hybrid rubber-tyred gantry (RTG) cranes for deployment at its terminal projects in New East Mole Terminal, Pointe Noire, Republic of the Congo, and Noatum Ports, Luanda Terminal, Angola.

This initiative is part of AD Ports Group's 30-year concession agreement to develop and operate a multipurpose terminal in Pointe Noire Port, Republic of the Congo, as well as a 20-year concession agreement to modernise and operate the Luanda Terminal in Angola.

These agreements align with AD Ports Group's strategy to promote advanced development in emerging markets, fostering mutual and sustainable economic growth.

Under the awarded contracts, the Pointe Noire and Luanda terminals will each receive three Super Post-Panamax STS cranes, capable of reaching 21 container rows, a distance of 60 metres.

Additionally, Pointe Noire will receive nine hybrid RTGs, while Luanda Terminal will receive eight hybrid RTGs.

These hybrid RTGs can save up to 60 percent of diesel compared to traditional diesel RTGs, equivalent to one million litres per year and approximately 5,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO of AD Ports Group, commented, "We are pleased to advance our concession agreements in Angola and Congo. These cranes play a crucial role in modern port operations. In line with the vision of our wise leadership to enhance trade and promote investment relations with key global partners, we are committed to investing in our terminals' infrastructure and adopting advanced, innovative technology solutions to add value to our customers and partners and benefit the economies we operate in."

Ruikai You, Party Secretary and Chairman of ZPMC, said, "As the world market leader in STS cranes and ports equipment, ZPMC's global footprint is unparalleled, as is the strength of our specialist upgrade teams. We are pleased to expand this multi-year partnership with our key client AD Ports Group to supply state-of-the-art Super Post-Panamax STS cranes for its expansion into Africa."

In June 2023, AD Ports Group signed a 30-year concession agreement with the Government of the Republic of the Congo for the management and operation of the multipurpose New East Mole Terminal in Pointe Noire.

With an estimated investment of US\$500 million over the concession's duration, the terminal will handle containers, general cargo, breakbulk, and various other types of cargo.

In April 2024, AD Ports Group signed a 20-year concession agreement (extendable for another 10 years) with the Luanda Port Authority for the operation and upgrade of the existing Luanda multipurpose port terminal in Angola.

AD Ports Group has committed an estimated \$250 million towards modernising the terminal and developing the logistics business over the next three years, with potential investment increasing to \$379 million over the concession term, in line with market demand.

These agreements highlight AD Ports Group's ambitious international expansion plans, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of global supply chains, creating faster trade routes, and providing diverse logistics solutions for key strategic trading partners.

# Minister roots for correct use of measurements at EA trade fair

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jafo, has emphasized the importance of using accurate measurements in all buying and selling activities, urging traders to avoid tampering with measurements.

He made this statement yesterday while officiating the opening of the 19th East African Trade Fair at Furahisha Stadium in Mwanza.

Dr. Jafo highlighted that tampering with measurements is not only a violation of the Law of Measurements, Chapter No. 340 but also goes against religious teachings, which forbid dishonesty in trade. He stressed, "Theft through incorrect measurements is a crime, and traders must adhere to accurate measurements to avoid stealing from their customers."

Lazaro Joram, Senior Measurement Officer of the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Mwanza Region, noted that the agency continues to educate the public on the importance of using correct measurements in business.

He explained that the WMA uses trade fairs to increase public awareness about the proper use of weighing instruments and to provide guidance on measurement standards.

"WMA takes advantage of these exhibitions to showcase our responsibilities, highlight the significance of correct measurements, and provide professional advice on the types of scales used in various sectors, such as agriculture, fishing, commerce, and transportation," said Joram.



WMA Senior Measurement Officer Lazaro Joram providing education on correct measurement practices to stakeholders at the East African Trade Fair in Mwanza. Photo by Correspondent

He also invited the public to visit the WMA Pavilion to gain a better understanding of the approved scales and to learn how to identify verified instruments through official marks placed on them.

Joram further explained that one focus area of public education is on proper packaging of farm produce. According to the Measurement Law, farm products must be packaged in bags not exceeding 100 kilograms.

He warned that legal action will be taken against farmers who pack their goods in excess weight, commonly referred to as "Lumbesa."

"The new interpretation of 'Lumbesa' refers to any package exceeding

100 kilograms, not just adding extra packaging on top of a sack. We urge farmers to use scales to ensure their produce meets the legal weight requirements," he added.

Joram also emphasized the role of WMA in verifying the weight machines used in the purchase of strategic crops in the Lake Victoria zone, specifically cotton and coffee.

Before each crop season begins, the agency ensures that the weight machines are verified and suitable for use.

Additionally, WMA conducts surprise inspections at Primary Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) to ensure compliance with accurate weight

measures and to protect farmers from being cheated.

Beyond agriculture, WMA is also responsible for overseeing the accuracy of measurements in the transport sector, which includes air, road, and water transport. The agency ensures that weight machines used in these areas are verified to prevent overloading, which can cause accidents and damage infrastructure.

Paulus Oluochi, Senior Relations Officer at WMA, encouraged the public to visit the WMA Pavilion to learn more about the correct use of measurements and to address any challenges they may face regarding measurements in their businesses.

# Bank launches initiative to boost adoption of cashless economy

By Francis Kajubi

In a bid to promote cashless economy, Absa Bank Tanzania has unveiled a new three-month initiative, designed to promote the use of digital banking channels.

Customers participating in the campaign have the opportunity to win a brand-new vehicle each month.

The initiative highlights the bank's dedication to driving financial inclusion and aligns with its mission of 'Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together, one story at a time,' as well as its brand promise, 'Your story matters.'

At a media briefing in Dar es Salaam recently, Absa Bank Tanzania's Chief Financial Officer Bernard Tesha explained that this initiative aims to boost digital adoption across Tanzania.

"We have invested significantly in digital transformation to meet our customers' evolving needs and to support the government's efforts toward increased financial inclusion," Tesha said.

The initiative, running from September 10, 2024, to December 10, 2024, will award a Subaru Forester 2014 model to one lucky customer each month.

Through the campaign, any bank's customer who makes transactions using their debit or credit card is automatically entered into the raffle draw.



Absa Bank Tanzania Chief Financial Officer Bernard Tesha (R), Head of Retail Banking Ndabu Swere, and Marketing and Communications Manager Beda Biswalo display the keys to three brand-new 2024 Subaru Forester cars to be awarded to winners of the newly launched campaign at an event in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Customers who complete at least 20 card transactions totaling a minimum of 5m/- each will earn raffle tickets for the monthly draw. Additionally, customers using Absa's digital banking platforms will receive bonus tickets.

Ndabu Swere, Head of Retail Banking, emphasized the inclusive nature of the campaign: "We want this campaign to be impactful for everyone. Both existing and new customers can participate, and the more transactions they make, the higher their chances of winning."

Digital banking transactions through platforms like Absa Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, and Hello Money will also grant customers additional raffle tickets, increasing their chances of winning.

According to Swere, the campaign supports Absa's goal of broadening financial inclusion in Tanzania by encouraging a shift from traditional banking methods to digital transactions. Digital adoption not only offers convenience but also reduces cash-based transactions, which aligns with

the government's financial inclusion goals.

Tesha noted, "We believe that increasing digital adoption is essential for driving financial inclusion in Tanzania. Our investment in digital infrastructure allows us to offer secure and accessible banking services to customers across the country."

The campaign, themed 'Winning a Car Can Change Your Story,' reflects Absa's brand promise that 'Your story matters.'



## CONSTRUCTION

By Correspondent Zuwenah Shame

The Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe, emphasized the importance of importing quality products from foreign countries to protect consumers in Tanzania.

Kigahe made the statement during the opening ceremony of the 25th Build Expo 2024, held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He pointed out that there is a challenge where some manufacturers import substandard products, and the government will take measures to ensure consumer protection.

"As the government, we aim to protect our consumers, therefore, I urge manufacturers to import quality products that meet standards to bring value to our customers," said Kigahe.

He added that the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) will closely monitor substandard imported products and take legal action against those who are dishonest in business.

Kigahe highlighted that Tanzania is a country with immense potential and opportunities for trade and investment, with one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa, boasting an average annual GDP growth rate of 6.3 percent over the past decade.

He also noted that Tanzania is

## DEPUTY MINISTER EMPHASIZES ON IMPORTATION OF QUALITY GOODS

part of the East African Community, a regional bloc with a combined population of over 177 million people and a GDP exceeding US\$193 billion.

"Tanzania offers a conducive environment for doing business, with a stable political system, a sound legal framework, a liberalized market, and a strategic location. It also has abundant natural resources, a diverse cultural heritage, and a vibrant tourism sector," he said.

Kigahe emphasized the importance of partnerships, growth, and progress, noting that foreign investors are key players in helping Tanzania achieve its socio-economic agenda.

"Our ministry is focused on creating opportunities in key growth areas, and we are pleased to collaborate with the organizers to bring together companies that will introduce the latest products and techniques to support our development."

He also mentioned that the industry is constantly evolving, with innovative products, techniques, and practices emerging. Alongside the use of cutting-edge products



The Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe (L), listens to an explanation from the Sky Ruby Pvt Ltd Managing Director Mayur Baburao Gavali (2nd R), a company involved in flammable fuel storage equipment, such as petrol and diesel, during the 25th International Buildexpo Africa 2024 exhibition, held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is the Marketing and Business Expert, Mohif Vinodrao Adhe. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

and technology, maintaining and repairing existing infrastructure is crucial for the industry.

Kigahe further stated that Tanzania

aims to bring together companies that will help seamlessly integrate what is already in place with the country's future goals.

"This is why events like this exhibition are vital for promoting trade and development in Tanzania and the region. They provide a plat-

form for showcasing achievements and opportunities in various sectors and industries and facilitate dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to address the challenges that hinder trade and development."

He noted that foreign investors can contribute to Tanzania's development in various ways, such as providing capital, technology, and skills to the local economy, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, mining, energy, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure.

"They also enhance Tanzania's export performance and diversification by accessing new markets, introducing new products, and improving the quality and value of existing products," he added.

Additionally, Kigahe said that foreign investors support the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship in Tanzania by creating linkages, partnerships, mentoring, training, and financing.

SMEs are the backbone of the Tanzanian economy, accounting for about 35 percent of the GDP and 80 percent of employment.

More than 250 local and foreign companies participated in the exhibition, with representation from countries such as Japan, Spain, UAE, Qatar, Ghana, Sweden, Greece, and Australia.

## Value of registered investment projects up by 53pc

By Guardian Reporter

The government's pro-business approach is conveying a positive message to investors, with latest data showing a 53 percent increase in a value of registered projects.

The 2023 National Investment Report launched on Wednesday shows a number of projects registered last year valued at \$8,658 million compared to \$5,658.47 million registered in 2022.

The number of projects registered from various sectors during the period under review, flew by 15.2 percent to 9,678.

According to the report, the tremendous increase was attributed to the new Tanzania Investment Act, 2022 that has set a stage for a friendly business and investment environment.

The Act has reduced the minimum investment capital for local investors from \$100,000 to \$50,000 and enhanced online facilitation through the Tanzania Electronic Investment Window (TelW).

The icing on the cake, the Act has also enhanced the one-stop facilitation centre and promotion strategies within and outside the country.

The minister for Planning and Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, said on Wednesday that the government recognizes investment promotion as a cornerstone of economic development.

"Under the leadership of y President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, significant policy and legal reforms have been initiated to enhance the investment climate for both domestic and international investors," he observed.

Notably, he went further to say, in 2022, a new investment Act was enacted, introducing a range of incentives designed to attract investors to Tanzania.

Furthermore, he added, in 2023, the President established the President's Office - Planning and Investment, which is dedicated to facilitating investment opportunities in the country.

In the same vein, trade expert and economist Dr Donath Olomi said on Thursday that last year's handsome performance is the outcome of the improvement of business environment in the country.

"Tanzania has gained investors' trust and confidence as they feel to be safe investing here," observed Dr Olomi.

He also credited President Samia Su-

luhu Hassan and Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) for being proactive in marketing investment opportunities available in the country.

His sentiments were echoed by Prof Abel Kinyondo, an Economist from the University of Dar es Salaam.

"Registration of more projects is a sign of an improvement in business environment given the fact that investors go where there is friendly business and investment climate," said Prof Kinyondo.

However, he was of the view that for the investment in reference to be meaningful, it should touch the lives of Tanzanians. According to the just launched report, Prof Kinyondo's view has been accommodated since the registered projects in 2023 were expected to generate 195,803 direct jobs.

This is equivalent to an increase of 154.82 percent from the 76,841 jobs expected in 2022.

This could significantly be triggered by the fact that the ownership of projects registered in 2023 increased for both foreign, joint venture (JV), and local.

Local ownership of the projects increased to 159 from the 99 projects marked in the corresponding year.

"Domestic investors have an investment interest of 55 percent in the total registered projects in 2023," reads a part of the report.

Foreign ownership of the registered projects increased to 214, compared to 112 projects recorded in the same period in 2022.

In terms of JV ownership, it increased to 130 projects in 2023 from 82 projects in the same period last year.

Notable performances in 2023 were recorded in the manufacturing sector with 208 registered projects, transportation with 111 registered projects and tourism with 58 registered projects.

The trios were followed by commercial buildings with 57 registered projects and agriculture with 48 registered projects.

The projects are primarily concentrated in Dar es Salaam, which attracted 213 projects equal to 40.5 percent, followed by the Coast Region 89 projects (17 percent) and Mwanza 23 projects (4.4 percent).

Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Mwanza were most preferred due to, among others, proximity to the market, availability of power, developed infrastructure, and availability of labour.

## Women urged to attend upcoming E.Africa trade fair

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Women entrepreneurs in Tanzania are being encouraged to take part in the upcoming East African Community (EAC) trade fair, popularly known as the Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi Exhibition, scheduled for next month in South Sudan.

Josephat Rweymamu, Chairman of the Confederation of Informal Sector Organization Tanzania (CISO), made the call in Dar es Salaam during an event to honor the winners of the last exhibition, which was held in Burundi and attracted over 1,600 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The 24th edition of the EAC MSME exhibition is set to take place from October 26 to November 5 in Juba, South Sudan.

The event is being organized by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organization East Africa (CMSEO-EA) and partner states.

Rweymamu highlighted the many opportunities that remain underutilized in the region, which could generate income and create employment.

He emphasized the importance of producing high-quality products to compete effectively and expand market reach, noting that the EAC market offers significant potential.

"We are here to congratulate the Tanzanian winners of the last trade exhibition and to encourage even more participation in the upcoming event," Rweymamu said.

He confirmed that 300 MSMEs have already registered for the upcoming exhibition and urged more businesses to seize the opportunity to explore untapped markets.

One of the celebrated winners was Harriety Mkaanga from Morobat Group Co. Ltd., whose "Samia Suluhu Hassan" suite was selected as the best product showcased at the exhibition.

Mkaanga praised the abundance of opportunities in Tanzania that could generate jobs for young people if fully exploited and thanked the government for its support.

"There are plenty of entrepreneurial opportunities in Tanzania. I urge women to take advantage of these opportunities to create employment and income," she said.

Asha Karanda from Kibaha-based Komat Investment, who placed second in the competition, emphasized the high level of competition, with participants from seven countries across the region.

Her product met all the set criteria, allowing her to emerge as a winner.

She expressed her pride in representing Tanzania and acknowledged the government's role in empowering small businesses.

"I'm proud to represent my country and to be among the winners at this prestigious event," she said.

The Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi trade fair aims to bring together artisans and small businesses from across the EAC, providing a platform to open new markets and bridge technological gaps among participants.



Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BOT), Sauda Msemo.

## Govt prepares system to connect Fintech, banking

By Guardian Reporter

The government has announced the development of a system designed to enable cooperation between banks and FINTECH companies, aimed at strengthening financial services in Tanzania.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at an East African business and investors forum, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Tanzania (BOT), Sauda Msemo, emphasized the growing role of technology and the importance of the country keeping pace with technological advancements.

"These financial services through Fintech are expanding rapidly. As the government, we have already prepared a strong system for these two sectors to collaborate in promoting this service," said Sauda.

Additionally, Shedrack Kamenya, Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Association of Financial Services Providers (TAFINA), highlighted the main goals of bringing together financial service pro-

viders, policymakers, and stakeholders to jointly explore how to promote the sector and address challenges like financial losses in these services.

"Our primary focus is to invest in and establish partnerships to ensure everyone has access to financial services through fintech. We are also focusing on improving the financial environment to support service availability and address issues such as financial losses," Kamenya added.

The forum saw the participation of 10 companies from various countries during the two-day conference.

One participant, Alfred Tembo, the African Market Manager of G-Payment, praised TAFINA for recognizing the importance of involving East African countries in advancing the sector within the region.

"I also commend the Tanzanian government's willingness to welcome investors, especially in this sector, to facilitate payments across various services," Tembo said.



## WORLD

## Lack of accountability on UN staff killings in Gaza 'unacceptable' - UN chief

UNITED NATIONS

A lack of accountability for the killing of United Nations staff and humanitarian aid workers in the Gaza Strip is "totally unacceptable", UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview on Wednesday.

Guterres also said that establishing a UN peacekeeping force would not be the "best solution" for Haiti, where armed gangs have taken over much of the capital and expanded to surrounding areas, fueling a humanitarian crisis with mass displacements, sexual violence and widespread hunger.

Ahead of the annual meeting of world leaders at the UN General Assembly later this month, Guterres summed up the past year as "very tough, very difficult".

It has been dominated by the war in Gaza, which began just two weeks after leaders left New York following last year's assembly when Palestinian Hamas militants killed 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages in a cross-border rampage into Israel, according to Israeli tallies.

Describing Israel's retaliation against Hamas in Gaza - where local health officials say some 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began - Guterres said there have been "very dramatic violations of the international humanitarian law and the total absence of an effective protection of civilians".

"What's happening in Gaza is totally unacceptable," he said.

The Israeli military says it takes steps to reduce the risk of harm to civilians and that at least a third of the Palestinian fatalities in Gaza are militants. It accuses Hamas of using Palestinian civilians as human shields, which Hamas denies.

Nearly 300 humanitarian aid workers, more than two-thirds of them UN staff,

have also been killed during the conflict, according to the UN. Guterres said there should be an effective investigation and accountability for their deaths.

"We have courts, but we see that the decisions of courts are not respected, and it is this kind of limbo of accountability that is totally unacceptable and that requires also a serious reflection," Guterres said.

The top UN court - the International Court of Justice - said in July that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements is illegal and should be withdrawn. The 193-member UN General Assembly is likely to vote next week on a draft resolution that would give Israel a six-month deadline to do so.

Guterres said he has not spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - who has long accused the UN of being anti-Israel - since the deadly Hamas attack in Israel on Oct 7 last year. The pair met in person at the UN a year ago and Guterres said he would do so again - if Netanyahu asked.

"I have not talked to him because he didn't pick up my phone calls, but I have no reason not to speak with him," Guterres said. "So if he comes to New York and he asks to see me, I will be very glad to see him."

When asked if Netanyahu planned to meet with Guterres on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon said that Netanyahu's schedule hasn't been finalized yet.

## Haiti 'scandal'

Guterres described the current state of the world as "chaotic". He said the conflict in Gaza and Russia's operation in Ukraine were "stuck with no peaceful solutions in sight".

When asked about Western accusations



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during an interview at the United Nations headquarters, Sept 9, 2024. AP

that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Iran are now providing Russia with weapons, Guterres said: "Any expansion of war in Ukraine is an absolutely dramatic development."

Iran has rejected the Western accusations, while the DPRK has denied the allegations against it. UN sanctions monitors said in April that debris from a missile that landed in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Jan 2 was from a DPRK's Hwasong-II series ballistic missile.

In Haiti, a UN-backed international force has been slow to deploy - after Haiti asked for help in 2022 - and lacks funds. The United States wants the UN Security Council to ask the UN for a plan to transition the force into a UN peacekeeping operation.

"I don't think peacekeeping is the best solution in a situation like this ... peacekeeping means to keep the peace, and that's not exactly the situation we have in Haiti," Guterres said. "I find it a scandal that it has been so difficult to mobilize funds for such a dramatic situation."

## Trump looms

Guterres' first five-year term as secretary-general coincided with the US presidency of Donald Trump, who cut funding to the international body, calling it weak and incompetent. Trump is again the Republican president nominee and will face off against Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris in the Nov 5 election.

"We are ready to work in all circumstances in defense of the values of the

(founding UN) charter and of the values of the UN," Guterres said when asked if the world body had a contingency plan for a possible second Trump administration.

During his first term in office Trump also withdrew the US from the Paris Agreement, an international pact to fight climate change, and Trump's campaign said he would do it again if he wins in November. The US is currently a full participant in the accord after President Joe Biden swiftly rejoined in 2021.

"It will survive. But, of course, it will probably survive severely undermined," Guterres said of a second withdrawal from the pact by a potential Trump administration. Guterres has long pushed for stronger action to fight climate change.

With abortion rights a key topic in the US election, Guterres said the US voice was "obviously very important" at the United Nations when it came to the issue of women's sexual and reproductive rights as well as health.

Under Trump's presidency, the US opposed long-agreed international language on women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in UN resolutions over concern that it would advance abortion rights.

Trump also cut funding in 2017 for the UN Population Fund because his administration said it "supports, or participates in the management of, a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization." The UN said that was an inaccurate perception.

Agencies

## Russian diplomat says Washington, London stand behind Ukrainian strike on Ramenskoye

MOSCOW

THE US and UK are behind the Kiev regime's attack on Ramenskoye, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"So, for example, there was a strike on Ramenskoye. Of course, we understand perfectly well that the Kiev regime is just a tool, and that Washington and London are no doubt behind it, pulling the strings," she said at a news conference.

According to the diplomat, attempts by Western governments and special services to push Russia's non-systemic opposition toward destabilizing the internal political situation in Russia are doomed to fail.

"We are well aware of the ongoing efforts of the British and American governments and special services to destabilize the domestic political situation in our country. If someone in Britain, the United States or other Western countries still hopes, as they believe, to somehow use the so-called non-systemic opposition, which obviously works not as an opposition but as agents of influence, if they try to encourage it or somehow push it toward violent protests or toward some even greater madness, including in connection with various elections, then I can simply say right away: This will not work. Such calculations are doomed to fail from the outset," the spokeswoman said.

"Russian society, as it understands perfectly well the goals of this malicious activity by Washington and London and all their satellites, is only becoming more united, resistant to the intrigues of our enemies."

No one today has any doubt that the United States, Britain and all this NATO community stand behind all the terrorist attacks that have been carried out on the territory of our country," Zakharova said.

On September 10, a drone attack damaged an apartment building in a town of Ramenskoye outside Moscow. One woman was killed and eight other people sought medical help.

Two of the people were hospitalized at Ramenskoye Hospital. One of them was later moved to the Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine. Another four people are being treated at a hospital in a town of Zhukovskiy. Two more people refused hospitalization.



## Top US, British diplomats announce new aid for Ukraine

KYIV

- VISITING US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Wednesday announced new aid packages for Ukraine, local media reported.

Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, Blinken said that the United States would provide more than \$700 million for Ukraine in fresh assistance, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported.

Of the sum, \$325 million will be directed for the restoration of energy and electric networks, 290 million dollars for humanitarian aid, and \$102 million for humanitarian demining.

Blinken also informed that he had discussed with Ukrainian officials the use of long-range weapons.

For his part, Lammy announced that Britain will provide more than 600 million pounds (about \$783 million) worth of support for Ukraine, the Ukrinform news agency reported.

The funding will be used to finance Ukraine's urgent humanitarian, energy, and stabilization needs, and provide credit guarantees for Kyiv.

Agencies

## Xi calls for fostering industries to revitalize rural areas

LANZHOU

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Wednesday stressed the significance of industrial development in revitalizing the country's rural areas.

Different regions should develop their own strengths and follow a revitalization path suitable to their own conditions, Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said while inspecting the city of Tianshui, northwest China's Gansu province.

In an apple orchard, Xi talked to farmers and agro-technicians to learn about in detail the quality and specialty of Huanu apple endemic to Tianshui, the planting techniques and market sales.

Xi encouraged local villagers to make persistent efforts to make the apple industry bigger and stronger to build a happier life.

Officials briefed him on the construction and management of a major water diversion project in the province. In February 2013, Xi visited the construction site of the project.

He expressed his satisfaction learning that the project has been progressing smoothly over the past 11 years, and water

from the Taohu River, a major tributary of the Yellow River, is benefiting six million residents thanks to the project.

The Chinese leader, at this time, stressed the need to prioritize projects that benefit the people and effectively address press-



Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the Maijishan Grottoes to learn about the protection and preservation of local cultural heritage in Tianshui, northwest China's Gansu province, Sept 11, 2024. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

ing production and living issues faced by the general public.

In the afternoon, the Chinese leader inspected Lanzhou, the capital city of the province.

Xi went to a local community and a sec-

tion of the Yellow River, where he learned about local measures to improve public services, enhance the well-being of the people, strengthen comprehensive public order maintenance, and promote ecological conservation in the Yellow River basin.

Lanzhou, a city built along the banks of the river. There, he stressed the importance of prioritizing elderly care and child-care in efforts to improve public services.

During a chat with community workers and residents, he said community work is carried out for the well-being of residents, and providing quality services should be a priority of the work.

Describing residential communities as the foundation of urban governance, he said community work should be strengthened to truly benefit the public.

While inspecting a section of the Yellow River near the Zhongshan Bridge, he called for continuous efforts to promote ecological conservation and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin.

Advancements should be made year after year to ensure the implementation of policies for promoting ecological conservation and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin, he said. Xinhua

## Japan ruling party kicks off leadership race with nine hopefuls

TOKYO

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday officially began its leadership race as the two-week campaign started, with a record nine candidates competing to become the new party chief and the country's next prime minister.

The contest for the position of LDP president, which carries a three-year term until 2027, kicked off amid declining trust for the party in the wake of its slush fund scandal,

with party reform being a key issue in the upcoming election.

The candidacies were filed at LDP headquarters on Thursday morning, with the official start of the election announced by party lawmaker Ichiro Aisawa in his capacity as chairman of the LDP's election administration committee.

As both houses of parliament are controlled by the LDP and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, the winner is certain to become prime

minister early next month when the Diet, Japan's parliament, reconvenes.

Upon current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's decision last month to not seek reelection as the LDP president, the election has become the most crowded race in the party's history and one of the most unpredictable, according to local media reports.

As the 15-day campaign began on Thursday, the nine presidential candidates would set out on a nationwide campaign, engaging in debates,

delivering stump speeches, and lobbying local LDP chapters.

Voting and ballot counting are slated to take place on Sept 27, when the candidates will compete for a total of 734 votes, of which 367 are cast by LDP lawmakers and 367 by general party members.

A winner must obtain more than half of the votes in order to be elected as the new party chief, however, if no one wins a majority in the first round, a run-off vote between the top two candidates will be held on

the same day, when the 47 prefectural chapters get one vote each and the 367 lawmakers vote a second time. Among the veteran candidates and public favorites is former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, 67, making his fifth and final bid to become LDP chief over his 38-year political career.

Another hopeful vying for the LDP presidency is 43-year-old Shinjiro Koizumi, a former environment minister and son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Two female contenders are

Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, 63, and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, 71. Other candidates include former Economic Security Minister Takayuki Kobayashi, 49; Digital Minister Taro Kono, 61; Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, 63; LDP Secretary-General Toshimitsu Motegi, 68; and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato, 68.

According to an opinion poll conducted by the Japanese newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun in late August,

Koizumi has emerged as the most popular candidate with 23 percent support. Ishiba was second at 18 percent and Takaichi third with 11 percent.



**Voting and ballot counting are slated to take place on Sept 27, when the candidates will compete for**



## China, Egypt to implement consensus, deepen cooperation

ST. PETERSBURG

CHINESE and Egyptian government representatives agreed to further implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state and deepen cooperation during a meeting in Russia's St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

Meeting with Secretary-General of the Egyptian National Security Council Youssef Alaa El-Deen, Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, noted that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi have provided strategic guidance for China-Egypt relations, which has served as a strong political guarantee for mutual trust and unity between the two countries.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said China is willing to implement the key agreements between the two heads of state, deepen all-around mutually beneficial cooperation and push bilateral relations toward the goal of building a China-Egypt community with a shared future in the new era.

Wang pointed out that Egypt, as a major developing country with significant influence in the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds, is welcomed as a new BRICS member attending this year's meeting of the BRICS high-ranking officials responsible for security matters and national security advisors for the first time.

China is ready to collaborate with Egypt and other BRICS partners to steadily advance greater BRICS cooperation, create an important platform for South-South cooperation, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries while defending international fairness and justice, Wang said.

Wang expressed appreciation for Egypt's contribution to the success of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in



Wang Yi (right), director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, meets with Youssef Alaa El-Deen, secretary-general of the Egyptian National Security Council, in St. Petersburg, Russia on Wednesday. (PHOTO / MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHINA)

Beijing and stated China's willingness to work with Egypt and other African countries to build an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era, implement the ten partnership actions for modernization, and help Africa accelerate its development and revitalization.

El-Deen expressed his pleasure in Egypt's participation in the BRICS mechanism for the first time as a full member and thanked China for its valuable support. He affirmed the strong mutual trust and solid relations

between Egypt and China.

Egypt is committed to advancing the Belt and Road Initiative and expanding practical cooperation under the guidance of the two countries' leaders, he said, adding that Egypt will continue to actively engage in the FOCAC and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, and explore ways to strengthen trilateral cooperation with China and its African partners.

Both sides exchanged views on the Gaza conflict and the Ukraine crisis. El-Deen spoke highly of China's efforts in

promoting reconciliation among Palestinian factions and commended China's efforts to mediate and promote peace talks.

Both sides expressed their willingness to work together in calling for a ceasefire and end to hostilities in Gaza as soon as possible and seeking a fundamental and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue.

They also agreed to enhance communication and collaboration on the Ukraine issue to jointly promote a political resolution to the crisis.

Xinhua

## Feasibility study on Lumwana super pit expansion expected by year-end

TORONTO

THE feasibility study for the expansion of Barrick's Lumwana mine in Zambia is expected to be completed by the end of the year, paving the way for construction to start in 2025 the company said today.

Speaking during a webinar focused on updating the market on the Lumwana Super Pit Expansion Project, Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the expansion unlocks the potential to transform the Lumwana mine into a long-life, high-yielding, Top 25 copper producer, and a Tier One2 copper mine, capable of contending with the volatility of the copper demand cycles.

The expansion involves doubling throughput by twinning the existing process circuit and then significantly increasing mining volumes. Plant throughput will grow from the current 27Mt to 52Mt, doubling the mine's annual copper production from 120kt to a life-of-mine average of 240kt per annum3. A ramp supports the process expansion of total mining volumes, which are planned to increase incrementally year-on-year, from 150Mt in 2024 to approximately 240Mt in 2028 and then to an average rate of 290Mt per annum from 2030 onwards1,4.

Chief Operating Officer for Africa and Middle East Sebastiaan Bock said: "The phased ramp-up will enable a competitive cost profile over the life of the mine and annual operating cash flow and free cash flow5 are projected to improve by as much as 85% and 60%, respectively, based on the long-term copper price consensus. These production and cost improvements will contribute an estimated incremental net present value (NPV) of \$1.7 billion1."

At a flat long-term average copper price consensus of \$4.13/lb, Barrick estimates that the project will deliver an incremental IRR (Internal Rate of Return) of 20%6 and a total mine IRR of more than 50%6, paying back the initial expansion capital in approximately two years after completion of the expansion. Post-expansion, cost of sales, and CI cash costs7 are estimated at approximately \$2.36/lb and \$1.85/lb, respectively, placing Lumwana in the first quartile of the industry, excluding the benefit of any byproducts.

According to Mineral Resource Management and Evaluation Executive Simon Bottoms, the process plant engineering has matured to a point that has allowed Barrick to select major equipment vendors and place orders for long lead equipment, including both mills and crushers. "We are starting detailed engineering works this quarter and expanding our onsite accommodation while building partnerships with key suppliers and contractors ahead of the pre-construction ground preparation works, which are scheduled to start next year," said Bottoms.

Agencies

## BRICS security leaders convene in St. Petersburg to discuss new world order

ST. PETERSBURG

THE BRICS security summit chaired by Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu will discuss the parameters of the future world order.

The meeting is being held on September 11-12 in St. Petersburg. The forum will also discuss support for multipolarity and the right of nations to choose their own path of development, as well as reforming the global political and financial-economic governance systems.

According to the preliminary agenda, the representatives of the BRICS group, chaired this year by Russia, intend to talk about how to work together to counter the "rules-based order" imposed by the West.

It is noted that BRICS representatives are particularly interested in dialogue with the countries of the Global South that aspire to conduct an independent policy based on state sovereignty. The



event's organizers consider the meeting very significant "amid the aggravated confrontation and unpredictability in global affairs, the worsening situation in the world economy and finance, and increasing obstacles on the path to achieving the goals of sustainable development," the briefing notes indicated.

Earlier, the 14th meeting of BRICS high representatives in charge of security kicked off in St. Petersburg. The event, chaired by Shoigu, is attended by representatives from Russia, China, Brazil, India, South Africa, as well as from

Egypt, the UAE, Iran and Ethiopia.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian President Vladimir Putin may hold a meeting with the BRICS representatives participating in the event.

Agencies

## US goal of inflicting strategic defeat on Russia unrealistic – Russian ambassador

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON'S declared goal of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia is impossible, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said, commenting on the US government's remarks about the possibility of lifting restrictions on the use of US-supplied weapons for attacks deep inside Russia.

"The United States is steadily driving itself deeper into the quagmire of the Ukrainian conflict," he said, adding that the US government is "ready to sacrifice the well-being of US citizens by transferring multibillion-dollar volumes of weapons and ammunition to the Kiev regime."

"The only demand of Washington curators is to increase military clashes with Russian troops. We continue to be tested for the limit of our tolerance or patience to hostile steps. The overall purpose is the notorious strategic defeat of our country," the ambassador continued.

He went on to say that the US administration "stubbornly ignores Russia's interests."

"Now they are increasingly talking about the possibility of shelling Russian territory with long-range

weapons. Only a few politicians mention the possibility of a Third World War to which local authorities are paving the way," the ambassador said.

Antonov reiterated that "it is impossible to negotiate with terrorists."

"No schemes or so-called 'peace initiatives' to cease fire in Eastern Europe without taking into account Russia's national interests are possible," he said.



## BRI businesses salivate over HK's financial prowess

HONG KONG

BUSINESSES in developing economies are eyeing Hong Kong's financial services to play a bigger role as the city serves as an ideal platform for facilitating massive investment through the nation's flagship infrastructure project the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The companies' path has been smoothed by Hong Kong's strengths in funding, with the developing world's growth potential suggesting vast opportunities await, said Ding Yanzhang, chairman of Power Construction Corporation of China, which is also known as PowerChina, during the ninth Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

Launched in 2013, the BRI has created abundant success stories across developing countries. In Malaysia, a 640 km-railway project under BRI named East Coast Rail Link is going to connect the country's east and west coasts. In Cambodia, a new expressway has reduced travel time from the capital, Phnom Penh, to its southern coast from five hours to two.

"As the BRI opened up so many business opportunities, I believe Hong Kong can fully leverage its unique advantages in terms of financial services," Ding said, citing PowerChina as a prime example of the beneficiary. In recent years, the infrastructure contractor has issued nearly \$3 billion in bonds in Hong Kong. Ding said these



(From left) Chairman of Welab Bank Ceajer Chan Ka-keung; chairman of Power Construction Corporation of China Ding Yanzhang; Chief Executive Officer of Lee Kee Group Clara Chan; Co-Chairman and Co-Chief Investment Officer of Value Partners Group Dato' Seri Cheah Cheng Hye; and Chief Executive Officer of Sintesa Group and Chairwoman of Indonesian Employer's Association Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, attend the business plenary "Capturing Belt and Road Business Opportunities" during the ninth Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong on Wednesday. (EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY)

debt financing funds have delivered "positive results" in many BRI-related projects.

Addressing the same event,

Dato' Seri Cheah Cheng Hye, co-chairman and co-chief investment officer of Value Partners Group, said the Hong

Kong Special Administrative Region is an ideal platform and the most qualified city in China to launch a "financial version of Belt and Road".

For the investment veteran, the booming BRI-related market means huge financing demands. "In the developing world, especially in the Middle East, and countries like Indonesia, they are still undergoing industrialization and far from having excess capacity."

He also highlighted Hong Kong's role in promoting renminbi internationalization as the Chinese currency is expected to gain further international prominence amid deepening partnerships within the BRI. As the world's largest offshore renminbi hub, Hong Kong's total offshore renminbi deposits

amounted to around 1 trillion yuan as of June, Hong Kong government data showed.

Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, chief executive officer of Sintesa Group and chairwoman of the Indonesian Employer's Association, said economies involved in the BRI have growing interests in cooperation in areas including digital economy, agriculture, and finance.

She called for more effort on regulatory fronts to provide better transparency, accountability, and communication within the BRI economies.

Clara Chan, chief executive officer of Hong Kong-based Lee Kee Group, said the city's professional services and gateway location could play a vital role in helping businesses involved in the BRI on their journey to-

wards the mainland market, especially the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

With a population of more than 86 million, the 11-city cluster's economic output topped 14 trillion yuan last year, according to data from the Guangdong Provincial Office of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. This marked an increase of 3.2 trillion yuan from 2018.

As a regional economic powerhouse comprising the country's financial center Hong Kong and nearby technology hub Shenzhen, the GBA is in a "very good position" regarding talent, market, finance, as well as innovation and manufacturing, Chan said.



# Taylor Swift wins big at MTV Video Music Awards, ties Beyoncé's record and thanks Travis Kelce

NEW YORK

Taylor Swift's dominance continued at the MTV Video Music Awards, where she took home seven awards – including the night's biggest, the trophy for video of the year.

In her speech Wednesday night, Swift thanked her "boyfriend, Travis" for being on set of the "Fortnight" music video and cheering her on. Fans rewarded the mention of NFL star Travis Kelce with loud screams.

"Everything this man touches turns to happiness and fun and magic," she said, before shifting gears to the 2024 presidential election and instructing her fans who are over 18 to register to vote.

Swift did, however, avoid discussing Kamala Harris' presidential bid on stage. On Tuesday night, Swift endorsed the vice president, moments after Harris' debate with former president Donald Trump ended.

Swift's awards haul brings her to a career total of 30, tying her and Beyoncé for the title of most-awarded musician in VMA history. Eminem is now the male artist with the most VMAs, at 14.

Swift and Post Malone also took home the first televised award of the VMAs for best collaboration, for "Fortnight," handed to them by Flavor Flav and Olympian Jordan Chiles.

Swift started that speech by giving remembrance to everyone who lost their lives and loved ones during 9/11, 23 years ago.

"I've just been thinking about what happened 23 years ago, everyone who lost a loved one and everyone that we lost and that is the most important thing about today," she said. "And everything that happens tonight falls behind that."

She then turned to discussing Malone.

"There is a reason Post Malone is everyone in music's favorite person to collaborate with," she shifted her attention to him. "It has taken forever for me to get him to stop calling me ma'am."

Chappell Roan won the MTV Video Music Award for best new artist.

"I dedicate this to all the drag artists who inspire me," she said in her speech, while wearing chain mail, reading from a written speech in her diary. "And I dedicate this to queer and trans people who run pop. ... Thank you for listening."

Women dominated the award show, no example greater than an imaginative, medieval set from Roan.

Drag queen Sasha Colby introduced her with "your favorite drag queen's favorite artist," a reference to Roan's now famous Coachella performance, which in turn was inspired by Colby. Real fans no doubt got a kick out of the hyper-referential tidbit.

Roan appeared in armor, shooting a lit crossbow at castle gates that stood behind her, burning them in the process. Her dancers were knights, battling each other in incredible choreography as she sang her queer pop hit, "Good Luck, Babe."

The other voice of 2024 pop, Sabrina Carpenter, won the trophy for song of the year for "Espresso."

"This is really special," she said in her speech, dedicated to her fans. "And thank you to that me-espreso."

Earlier in the night, she brought her summery-pop to the award show, powering through her hit singles "Please Please Please," "Taste" and "Espresso" while dancing with a moon man and an alien.

Katy Perry received the Video Vanguard Award, performing an eight-song medley spanning her career: "Roar," "E.T.," "California Gurls," "Teenage Dream," "I Kissed a Girl," "Firework," and "Lifetimes."

"I did that all on the first day of my period, can you believe it?" she joked after accepting the honor from her partner, Orlando Bloom. "There are so many things that have to align to have a long and successful career as an artist. There are no decade long accidents."

She also teased a new song, "I'm His, He's Mine," featuring Doechii, which samples the Crystal Waters classic, "Gypsy Woman (La Da Dee La Da Da)."

Previous recipients of the Video Vanguard Award include Shakira, Beyoncé, Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna and Missy Elliott.

An army of Slim Shady-lookalikes followed Eminem as he kicked off the VMAs, launching into a medley of his hits "Houdini" and "Somebody Save Me," featuring a broadcast feed of Jelly Roll. (The song references Jelly Roll's massive country radio hit, "Save Me.")

Megan Thee Stallion welcomed the crowd as a first-time host Wednesday night, who joked that the VMAs now stands for the "voluptuous Megan awards." She later performed.

Earlier in the evening, Karol G took over, for a fiery performance of her hit, "Si Antes Te Hubiera Conocido." Rauw Alejandro brought Puerto Rico to the stage, running through "Touching The Sky," "DILUIVO" and "Déjame Entrar."

Tyla won the best Afrobeats award. LL COOL J celebrated 40 years of Def Jam Records with Public Enemy's Flavor Flav and Chuck D.

Halsey took it to the suburbs for her new single, "Ego," channeling garage bands. GloRilla's "Yeah Glo!" and "TGIF" brought style.

Blackpink's LISA, the best K-pop award winner, made her way to the VMA stage for the first time as a soloist, powering through two of her brand-new singles, "New Woman" and "Rockstar." Shawn Mendes made along-awaited return, debuting a new John Mayer-esq. acoustic number, "Nobody Knows."

Anitta performed "Paradise," "Alegria," and "Savage Funk," joined by DJ Khaled, Fat Joe and Tiago PZK and won the award for best Latin. Camilla Cabello performed in a panopticon. Benson Boone seemed as stoked as ever to perform his viral hit "Beautiful Things" on the VMAs stage. Lenny Kravitz proved rock isn't dead with "Are You Gonna Go My Way," "Human" and finally "Fly," in which he was joined by Quavo.

AP



Taylor Swift, center, and Post Malone, third from back left, accept the video of the year award for "Fortnight" during the MTV Video Music Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, at UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y. Host Megan Thee Stallion, from far left back, Rodrigo Prieto, and Ethan Tobman, far right, look on. AP Photo

# Tanzania now joins global sports body VIRTUS, sets sights on full membership

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Para Swimming Association (TPSA) has joined the international sports body for the people with disabilities (VIRTUS), marking a significant step in promoting sports for people with intellectual impairments in the country.

Ramadhan Namkomveka, TPSA's secretary general, announced the temporary membership, which is set to expire next year, with hopes for full membership shortly thereafter.

Namkomveka explained that VIRTUS, a founding member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), is a global organization dedicated to promoting sports for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

He expressed pride in Tanzania's inclusion in VIRTUS, highlighting how it will open opportunities for Tanzanian athletes

to participate in international competitions.

"We are excited to join VIRTUS, an organization that supports athletes with mental disabilities. Now, our athletes can participate in various sporting activities. VIRTUS advocates for and promotes elite sports for athletes with intellectual impairments globally," Namkomveka said.

Currently, Tanzania boasts several athletes with intellectual disabilities, including Rebecca Kalengo and Daniel Junior Msangi from PIGEC Swim Club, Humayl-Mohammed Gangji and Mohamed Mohamed from Al Muntazil, Ivan Shayo from St. Joseph School, and Luis Siangicha from Chadron's Hope Foundation. These athletes will now have more opportunities to compete on the international stage.

Namkomveka emphasized TPSA's commitment to expanding access to sports for people with disabilities.

"Our goal is to involve all disabled peo-

ple in the country in sports. By joining VIRTUS, we aim to promote sports for those with intellectual challenges and ensure they are not left behind," he said.

In addition to the VIRTUS membership, TPSA has named two new coaches, Julius Maganga and Innocent Jonas, who will join eight other coaches in supporting disabled athletes in various sports.

TPSA is also planning a national swimming competition for athletes with disabilities, including those with blindness, mental impairments, and cerebral palsy.

The competition is scheduled for October 12 at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, with athletes who have autism and Down syndrome also set to participate.

This initiative is part of TPSA's broader efforts to promote inclusivity in sports and provide a platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their talents.



Industries and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kgahe (C) is pictured yesterday dancing a traditional dance during the 25th International Build Expo Africa 2024 held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent MIRAJI MSALA

# BFT organizes one-week course for boxing judges, coaches, and officials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has announced a one-week course aimed at judges, competition officials, and coaches, to be held at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza.

The course, starting next Tuesday, will attract participants from all Lake Zone regions, including Mara, Shinyanga, Mwanza, and Kagera.

BFT secretary general Mashaga Makore

revealed that the course is designed for Grade One officials and will be facilitated by experienced instructors.

Makore, alongside Mafuru Mafuru, will instruct judges and competition officials, while Michael Chagalawe and Robert Sululu will handle the coaching sessions.

"The course is for judges, coaches, and competition officials from Lake Zone areas. Our aim is to involve as many people as possible in boxing, ensuring that the

sport grows across these regions," Makore said.

He also mentioned a recent meeting with the Mara Regional Commissioner, where discussions focused on advancing boxing in the region.

Makore expressed optimism about the regional commissioner's willingness to support the development of the sport.

"We had a productive meeting with the Mara Regional Commissioner last

Wednesday, and we're excited that he is committed to improving boxing in his region.

"We're planning some significant events there as part of our nationwide efforts to promote boxing," he said.

In addition to the upcoming course, Makore celebrated the victory of Tanzanian boxer Yusufu Chagalawe, who recently defeated Democratic Republic of Congo's Peter Kabeja in Addis Ababa.

"The bout in Addis Ababa was the third

between Chagalawe and Kabeja. In previous encounters at the All-Africa Games in Ghana and the Mandela Cup in South Africa, Kabeja won controversially. We are delighted that this time, Chagalawe secured a well-deserved victory in Ethiopia," Makore said.

This initiative highlights BFT's commitment to growing the sport of boxing and ensuring the development of local talent through proper training and competitions across Tanzania.



## Analysis: Should Real Madrid try to make William Saliba their club record signing?

FOOTBALL ESPANA

REAL Madrid have a rather small squad, and that has already been exposed in the early stages of this season. In midfield, they only have two fit players: Federico Valverde and Luka Modric. In defence, it's about as bad, with Antonio Rudiger and Eder Militao being the only viable natural centre-back options until David Alaba returns from his ACL injury, which may not happen until 2025.

Central defence has been an issue for Real Madrid since the start of last season. In 2023-24, Carlo Ancelotti only had Rudiger and Nacho Fernandez as options for the vast majority of the campaign, which led to Aurelien Tchouameni being drafted in on several occasions. In the long run, this is something that they will surely hope to avoid.

Real Madrid failed to sign Leny Yoro in the summer, as the teenager decided on a move to Manchester United. An alternative was surprisingly not sought, so it's very likely that the situation will be re-assessed in 2025.

When that comes, it will be interesting to see who - if anyone - is pursued. A player that can be a long-term option would surely be the best solution, as Yoro would have been. While a new centre-back is needed anyway, it should be taken into account that Rudiger and Alaba are both the wrong side of 30, so they will need to be replaced in the coming years.

William Saliba has been linked recently, and it's obvious to say that he would be an outstanding signing for Real Madrid. He fits the transfer policy perfectly: he's young, not fully established and has room for becoming even better than he already is.

The only problem is that he would be very expensive. It's been reported that Arsenal would demand upwards of €120m, and if Real Madrid were to pay slightly above this, it would make him their record signing, surpassing Eden Hazard, who himself cost in the region of €120m.

If Real Madrid have the money to pay this, and personal terms can be agreed with Saliba, then this would be a no-brainer. He's already one of the best central defenders in the world, and there's no doubt that he will be out on his own in the next few years. Los Blancos officials will surely be aware of this.

Saliba is obviously more established than someone like Yoro, so it makes sense for him to be significantly more expensive. However, Real Madrid can surely afford to sign him, given the lack of spending this summer. Surely it would be worth it to splash out?

## England's Carsley plays down 'impossible job' tag

BBC

BEING England boss is not the "impossible job" but "a really good one", says interim boss Lee Carsley.

Victory at the 1966 World Cup remains England men's only major title after Carsley's predecessor Gareth Southgate led the side to consecutive European Championship finals.

Carsley was promoted from coaching England's Under-21s after Southgate's resignation following Euro 2024, but two wins from his opening two games in the Nations League have boosted his chances of being named permanent manager.

The Three Lions beat the Republic of Ireland 2-0 in Dublin before overcoming Finland by the same scoreline at Wembley as England played with greater attacking freedom than on their run to the Euro 2024 final.

Carsley's current role has been called "An Impossible Job" after the 1994 documentary filmed during Graham Taylor's tenure in charge of England, but Carsley says he is unaware of the reference.

"I've not heard that one, no," Carsley said, when asked about it.

Even before that documentary the role had been characterised as an 'impossible' one given the intense scrutiny the manager faces from the press and public.

Carsley came in for criticism before his side had even kicked a ball with him at the helm for saying he had never sung the national anthem before games as he wanted to focus on the match, and would not be changing his position on that.

"I think it's a really good job," he added. "It's a job where, when you look at different opportunities, the first thing you think is: 'Can you win? Can you be in a position where you can win?' This job definitely ticks that box."

"We've got the players to not only be competitive, but to win a major trophy."

When Carsley was appointed as interim manager, the FA said it was "with a view to remaining in the position throughout autumn while the FA's recruitment process for a new permanent head coach continues".

# Pochettino embarks on 'journey' with US men's team after turbulence at PSG and Chelsea

By JAMES ROBSON

MAURICIO Pochettino didn't expect to be here. His appointment as United States men's national team head coach was not in the plans when he signed a two-year contract at Chelsea last season and made his triumphant return to the Premier League.

But soccer management is a fickle industry and the U.S. has taken advantage of the unexpected availability of a top-tier coach, who still has much to prove despite having already taken on some of the biggest jobs in the sport.

"Hiring Mauricio is a step forward in our mission to compete at the highest level and make a lasting mark on the global soccer landscape," U.S. Soccer CEO JT Batson said. "Mauricio understands the unique potential of this team and this country, and he shares our belief that U.S. Soccer is on the cusp of something truly special."

Pochettino (pictured) heads to America after spells with Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea. Along



the way his name has been mentioned in connection with Manchester United, Real Madrid and England. That is the level at which he is often pitched, which is why convincing him to succeed Gregg Berhalter can be viewed as a major coup for the U.S.

Not least because his appointment comes at a time when England is seeking a new coach and jobs may be on the horizon at United and Manchester City over the next 12 months.

Instead of waiting - as he did for 12 months between PSG and Chelsea - Pochettino has opted to dive straight back in after exiting Stamford

Bridge at the end of last season and take up the project of leading America into a home World Cup in 2026.

It is a bold and somewhat surprising move. One that is unlikely to end with a trophy and offers no guarantee of him eventually returning to club soccer at the same level at which he leaves it.

Jurgen Klinsmann, who had managed Germany and Bayern Munich, followed his stint as U.S. coach by managing Hertha Berlin and South Korea.

"The decision to join U.S. Soccer wasn't just about football for me; it's about the journey that this team and this country are on," Pochettino

said.

What the U.S. does offer Pochettino is the chance to be the lynchpin of a project that has a clearly defined aim of leading the team at the next World Cup. That comes after the turbulence of coaching at PSG and Chelsea, two clubs with reputations for cycling through managers in their eternal hunt for success.

The 52-year-old Argentine was fired by PSG despite winning the French league in his only full season at the club. At Chelsea he served one year of his two-year deal amid chaotic dealings of co-owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, who have spent nearly \$1.3 billion on 39 players and had four different full-time managers since taking charge in 2022.

Against that backdrop, Pochettino is likely to appreciate a settled job with the U.S. and the chance to see through his vision at the heart of an exciting period for American soccer ahead of the World Cup and the growing popularity of MLS following Lionel Messi's move to Inter Miami.

If that's what he will get from American soccer, what

can American soccer expect from him?

"There's a lot of things that need to change and just the mentality and the culture of the group," U.S. forward Christian Pulisic said. "I know, hopefully, that's the first thing that he's going to want to change."

Developing talent was Pochettino's calling card at Southampton and then Tottenham in the Premier League.

Previously unheralded players at Southampton were suddenly being picked up by England's top teams after working with Pochettino. Adam Lallana, Dejan Lovren and Rickie Lambert left for Liverpool, with Luke Shaw and later Morgan Schneiderlin joined United.

At Tottenham he nurtured the talent of Harry Kane - who had yet to show his potential as a world-class striker. Son Heung-min, Dele Alli and Kyle Walker all flourished under him.

Now the job is to get the best out of talents like Pulisic, Weston McKennie, Gio Reyna and Timothy Weah.

AP

# Freddie Ljungberg's journey from Calvin Klein to Arsenal's Invincibles: 24 years on

DAILY CANNON

IT is 24 years since Arsenal signed Freddie Ljungberg, a player whose influence extended far beyond the football pitch.

Joining Arsenal in September 1998, he quickly became a fan favourite, known for his dynamic play and distinctive style.

Over the years, Ljungberg's contributions helped shape Arsenal's Invincibles era, solidifying his legacy as one of the Premier League's most memorable figures.

As we commemorate his signing, it's a fitting moment to reflect on his dual impact as both a fashion icon and football legend.

17 years ago, a Swedish Calvin Klein model named Freddie Ljungberg crowned a distinguished career in front of the camera with the receipt of a prestigious and much-coveted award.

Vittsjö-born Fredrik Ljungberg, a noted specialist in underwear shoots, was voted by readers of highbrow quotidian The Sun as "The Sexiest Player in the Premier League". The victory was a tour-de-force for this chiselled doyen of male mannequins, the culmination of a glorious period in the limelight and recognition of his peerless dedication to the cause of bodily perfection.

Over the preceding years, cheekbones hoisted higher than a Chris Waddle penalty and an abdomen as finely sculpted as that of a Greek god had catapulted Freddie rapidly to the pinnacle of his trade. He became a household name, with his torso, groin and occasionally face gracing billboards across the world.

But, despite his success, life wasn't always a



Freddie Ljungberg after his first club interview as Arsenal head coach (Photo via Twitter)

breeze for the Scandinavian pinup.

"It sounds so cocky and I will not whine, but if, for example, I'd go to a night club, girls would come up and grab my crotch," he revealed to Swedish paper Di in a heartbreaking exposé.

"Just like that. It was happening everywhere. They came from behind, side, pulled and tugged at me. The worst part was that you could not do a damned thing about it. When I angrily removed my hands, people just laughed. Some people thought that I could blame myself, I had done Calvin Klein and played for a top team..."

Arguably, Ljungberg's side-job as a professional footballer for the aforementioned "top team" may have ultimately hindered his modelling career, but there is undeniable proof he was very good at it.

More than a decade after emerging triumphant in the Sun poll, the Swede was acknowledged as being the 11th-greatest player in the history of Arsenal FC, a modest London-based outfit who had repeatedly insisted on his participation in their activities despite being aware of

international stalwarts and believed he'd spotted similar potential in Ljungberg.

And he was right.

The Swedish midfielder swiftly won the hearts of both his manager and the club's fans with a unique brand of aggressive, box-to-box play. Within months of his arrival, the supporters were entirely smitten, observing with rapt attention as Ljungberg approached each game with an almost manic sense of urgency, haring about the pitch with a barely restrained fervour.

When in defence, he sought the ball with the hungry air of a truffle-hog pounding through a forest, the scent of a tuber in its nostrils. In attack, he was pure zealot, a mohawked kamikaze casting himself with abandon at the opposition. Onlookers swooned as they watched him chop at an opponent's heels and win back possession twenty yards from his own goal, before gaping in awe as he charged the length of the field on the counter, smoke pluming angrily from his heels.

Yet there was an element of control about Ljungberg's play, a ruthless internal calm

that belied the sheer ferocity of his running. He could finish with a coldness that surprised you: shots on the run curled with precision into the bottom corner; dinks over and around onrushing keepers; low, skimming drives rasped in from the edge of the box.

Such a proficient and composed finisher did he become that he ended up with 72 goals for Arsenal, many of which arose from his knack of zipping beyond the forwards to get on the end of crosses, touches and through balls from Pires, Bergkamp or Henry.

But it wasn't just in front of goal that Ljungberg showed his poise.

There were mad-cap dribbles and rapid dragbacks carried out with arms thrashing and legs splaying, yet with the ball remaining throughout nestled safely on his instep.

There were raking passes, glancing clips that bisected backlines and a variety of improvised first-time nudges, all executed with a precision that seemed at odds with his often-frantic movements.

Ljungberg was busy, a harum-scarum one-man hive of activity. But so often, it was his tech-

nique that punished his foes: he had that rare ability to paralyse opponents with a flash of skill or flair for which they weren't prepared.

The sense of perpetual motion that he projected sometimes gave the impression of a certain lack of refinement in comparison with some of his more ostentatiously gifted team-mates, but this served only as a distraction: those who underestimated his talent usually paid for their complacency.

And so, while that famous 2007 Sun accolade remains unquestionably his finest achievement, it should be acknowledged that Freddie managed to become one of the most enduring icons of the Invincibles era, not just for his committed play but also for his endearing quirks: the gaudy fauxhawk, the tattoos, the easygoing charm.

Ljungberg was also one of the most effective Premier League players of his era, an unassuming, reliable figure who combined physique, hard work and talent to cement his place at the heart of - perhaps - the competition's greatest ever team.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Pochettino embarks on 'journey' with US men's team after turbulence at PSG and Chelsea

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## Azam FC aim for a winning start under new coach Rachid Taoussi

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC are determined to kick off their home campaign in the Premier League with a win as they face Pamba Jiji FC at the Azam Complex tomorrow evening.

The match, originally scheduled for today, has been rescheduled to tomorrow with kick off at 7:00 pm. This decision, made by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), allows Azam's six players, who were on international duty, to rejoin their teammates in preparation for the match.

This match marks the debut of new head coach Rachid Taoussi, who signed a one-year contract with the club earlier this week.

Taoussi (pictured), an experienced Moroccan coach, brings a wealth of knowledge to Azam FC, having managed top Moroccan teams like Raja Casablanca, RS Berkane, and FAR Rabat.

He will be supported by his assistants, Badr Driss, Ouajou Driss, and Rachid El Mekkaoui.

Both Azam FC and Pamba Jiji FC are looking for their first win of the season.

Pamba Jiji FC, who recently returned to the Premier League, started their campaign with two scoreless draws against Tanzania Prisons and Dodoma Jiji.

Despite their lack of goals, coach Goran Kopnovic remains optimistic about his team's chances against Azam FC.

Azam FC, under Taoussi's leadership, are eager to bounce back from their goalless draw against JKT Tanzania in their opening fixture.

The new coach has acknowledged that the team has struggled to convert scoring chances, especially from open play, and aims to rectify this issue in tomorrow's game.

Azam FC spokesperson Hasheem Ibwe stressed the importance of the next five matches, starting with the clash against Pamba Jiji FC.

He expressed confidence in the team's preparation and highlighted the significance of the upcoming games in boosting their form and regaining fan support.

"We are eagerly anticipating our match against Pamba Jiji FC. Their rich history in Tanzanian football makes this a highly anticipated fixture. Many teams that have struggled in lower divisions are now pushing to make their mark in the top tier.

"We know this will be a tough match, but we are ready for the challenge," Ibwe said.

Azam FC hope to build on the successes of last season, which saw them finish second in the league and reach the Federation Cup final.

The club aims to go even further this season and reclaim their status as one of the top teams in Tanzanian football under the leadership of Taoussi.

# Yanga gear up for CAF Champions League clash in Ethiopia



Young Africans SC players are pictured yesterday arriving in Addis Ababa ahead of their mouth-watering CAF Champions League showdown against Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) to be held tomorrow at the Abebe Bikila Stadium. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans SC, reigning champions of the Tanzania Mainland Premier League, have arrived in Addis Ababa ahead of their crucial CAF Champions League showdown against Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE).

The match is set to take place tomorrow at the Abebe Bikila Stadium, with the return leg scheduled for next week at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Despite a few challenges, including the absence of Farid Mussa due to a hamstring surgery, the team is in high spirits.

Manager Walter Harrison confirmed that all other players, including those returning from international duty, have rejoined the squad in Addis Ababa, ensuring a strong lineup for the upcoming match.

"We are continuing with our training sessions, and the squad is in excellent shape. The players who were involved

in the AFCON qualifiers have joined us, and we are ready for the final round of the CAF Champions League," Harrison said.

He added: "Our morale is high, and we aim to secure positive results away from home, knowing we respect our opponents but are confident in our abilities."

The Young Africans' squad is buoyed by their remarkable 10-0 aggregate victory over Vital'O FC in the previous round, which has added to their growing confidence as they prepare to face

CBE.

The team's key international players, who were recently called up for their national teams, include Khalid Aucho (Uganda), Prince Dube (Zimbabwe), Clatous Chama and Kennedy Musonda (Zambia), Aziz Ki (Burkina Faso), Djigui Diarra (Mali), and Duke Abuya (Kenya).

Additionally, seven players from Yanga were selected for Tanzania's national team. The players are Mudathir Yahya, Aboutwalib Mshery, Dickson Job, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Bacca, Clement Mzize, and Nickson Kiba-

bage.

Despite the absence of 14 players during the international break, coach Miguel Gamondi kept the team's momentum by organizing a friendly match against Kiluvya FC, which Yanga won 3-0.

As they prepare for the first leg in Addis Ababa, Young Africans are determined to carry their domestic dominance onto the continental stage, with hopes of securing a solid advantage before the return leg in Dar es Salaam.

## Davids anticipates tough Al Ahly Tripoli test, urges players to excel under pressure

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club's head coach, Fadlu Davids, is confident that the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup (CAF CC) match against Al Ahly Tripoli will serve as an important test for his team.

Simba are set to play the Libyan giants at the June II Stadium in Tripoli on Sunday, in what promises to be a high-pressure mouth-watering encounter away from home.

The match marks the first leg of the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round, with the return leg scheduled to be played at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. The winner of this two-legged tie will secure a spot in the prestigious group stage of the tournament.

Coach Davids expressed his readiness for the challenge ahead.

"Facing Al Ahly Tripoli will be a good test for us to understand the strengths and weaknesses of our squad. Playing away from home in a high-pressure environment will push my players to perform at their best," Davids stated.

Davids emphasized that his team is well-prepared for the contest, both physically and mentally. He believes that the match in Libya will gauge their preparedness for the rest of the

CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

He said: "We understand the challenge that lies ahead. We are facing a strong team in Al Ahly Tripoli, but we have worked hard to ensure the players are in top physical condition and mentally ready for the game," Davids said. "It is essential that we perform well in the first leg to set the tone for the return leg in Dar es Salaam."

The Simba coach also acknowledged the importance of being prepared for any outcome in the away fixture.

"Playing away is always difficult, especially in countries like Libya, where the atmosphere can be quite intense. However, our team has experience in such situations, having played in challenging stadiums in Morocco against Wydad Casablanca and in Egypt against Al Ahly," he said.

One of the positive aspects of the upcoming match is the return of key players who were on international duty. Simba will have a full squad to choose from, with several players returning from representing their respective national teams. Davids highlighted the performances of these players during the international break.

"Many of our players have been in excellent form for their national

teams," Davids said. "For instance, Ally Salim, Mohamed Hussein, and Edwin Balua played significant roles for Tanzania's Taifa Stars, while Steven Mukwala was crucial for Uganda. We are fortunate to have them back, and their form will be critical for us in Libya."

The return of these players will undoubtedly boost Simba SC's chances as they aim to make a strong statement in Tripoli. Their experience and form will add depth to the squad, which has been preparing intensively for the upcoming clash.

The June II Stadium in Tripoli, which has a capacity of 60,000 fans, is expected to be packed to the brim as Al Ahly Tripoli have already announced that all tickets for the match have been sold. The stadium is known for its electric atmosphere, and Simba will need to stay composed in such a high-pressure environment.

Davids remains optimistic, citing his team's previous experience in playing in similar conditions.

"We are no strangers to playing in tough environments. We have played in front of hostile crowds in Morocco, Egypt, and other countries. This experience will help us manage the

pressure and perform well," Davids remarked.

Simba's squad features a mix of seasoned players and newcomers, with about 14 stars set to make their debut in such an intense atmosphere. The game will be an opportunity for these players to prove their mettle and contribute to the team's success.

While the focus is currently on the first leg in Libya, Davids is fully aware that the tie will ultimately be decided over two legs. The return leg in Dar es Salaam presents Simba with a chance to capitalize on home advantage, where they will be backed by their passionate fans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"We are taking it one game at a time, but we know the importance of getting a good result in Tripoli. Our aim is to give ourselves the best possible chance to finish the job at home in Dar es Salaam," Davids said.

The players, coaching staff, and fans all recognize the significance of this match in their CAF Confederation Cup journey. A win in Tripoli would not only boost their chances of progressing to the group stage but also solidify their status as one of Africa's top football clubs.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

