



**PROPERTY WATCH**  
UNLOCKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES: HOW TO START A SUCCESSFUL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY

**WHI aspires to revolutionise the Tanzanian housing sector**

**Foreigners show up at DSE by selling cement company stocks**



## TMA talks of heavy rains during March

**By Henry Mwangonde**

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has issued a forecast for the long rains from March to May, it projects will start next week, which shall help to diminish the state of excessive heat in most parts of the country.

Dr Ladislaus Chang'a, the TMA acting director general, said at a press conference yesterday that enhanced rainfall is expected for most of March, 2024.

Unlike the outgoing period where the rain projection tendency was above normal to normal, this time TMA projects normal to above normal rains over most areas which receive rains twice a year, namely end of year rains (Vuli) and the long rains (Masika).

The weather expert said that when there is excessive heat, there is a possibility of heavy rains, "therefore the current heat may come to an end next week when the rain starts."

A number of weather watchers however feel that the reduction in the heat will just be relative, as the cool season starts early May until end of October, and in between there are variations of humidity which are felt as average or excessive heat.

Dar es Salaam and other regions have been experiencing heatwaves for a couple of weeks now. High temperatures have caused discomfort, and health experts say they could lead to cases of heat exhaustion and even death.

The long rains are expected to start during the fourth week of February over most areas and cease in the third and fourth weeks of May, he said.

An online entry says that East Africa's rainfall pattern, a savannah rather than equatorial forest pattern, has two rainy seasons—the heaviest rains (called Masika) usually fall from mid-March to May and a shorter period of rain (called vuli) occurs in November and December.

A writer at [www.expertafrica.com](http://www.expertafrica.com) links the rainfall pattern with seasonal winds, noting inter alia that it is the slightly cooler 'Kusi' (southward) winds that normally deliver the heaviest rain. It also appears to be implied in the TMA forecast about reduction or ending excessive heat.

This is the season known as the 'long rains' which the writer identifies with the late-April, May and early June period, distinct from late February to late May as in the TMA forecast.

TMA says that the incoming long rains are specific for the north eastern highland regions of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro, northern coast (northern part of Morogoro region, Coast (including Mafia Island), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba isles), the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region.

Authorities in weather sensitive sectors need to take precautions to reduce effects of severe weather by utilising tailor-made products provided by TMA

TURN TO Page2

# Govt to revamp sugar laws to remove monopoly structures



**AGRICULTURE** minister Hussein Bashe pictured at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a press briefing organised by the Directorate of Presidential Communications. Photo: State House

We will not continue protecting these people (industrialists), we have done so for many years and now we are going to conduct a major review and amendment of the Sugar Industry Act

**By Guardian Reporter**

THE government intends to table a bill to amend the Sugar Industry Act to eradicate the current monopolistic distribution of the commodity, to curb the current price spiral.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe made this affirmation at a State House briefing for top media officials, facilitated by the directorate of presidential communications.

He said the government will be able to control the sugar price and supply crisis without an overhaul of the regulatory environment governing the industry.

He said that some industrialists, who also import sugar apart from the sugar producing firms partly owned by the government, were also failing to place

enough sugar in the market thus fuelling skyrocketing prices.

"There are some industrialists who have been given special permits to import sugar but they haven't done so while they are quite aware of the current crisis, this is intolerable as the situation affects our people," he said.

The government issued sugar import permits of not less than 100,000 tonnes but what was imported was 31,000 tonnes, he said, showing clear impatience with sugar producers who benefited from import permits and had not worked to stabilise supplies.

"We will not continue protecting these people (industrialists), we have done so for many years

TURN TO Page2

# Reinstate beer importers, court orders liquor board

**By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar**

THE Zanzibar tourism industry is being subjected to a test of the rule of law after a court ruling that the Zanzibar Liquor Control Board reversed its decision not to renew licenses for three established importers.

Judge Rabia Hussein Moham-

ed issued a ruling on Monday granting injunctions sought by the companies after the court found merit in the applicants' demands, which some observers say the ruling has brought a glimmer of hope to the industry, now struggling with a severe beer shortage after renewals were declined.

Following the board's deci-

sion, three major importers, namely the Zanzibar Maritime and Mercantile International Co. Ltd., One Stop Co. Ltd, and Scotch Store Ltd, filed a legal challenge in the High Court of Zanzibar.

The applicants asked that "the honourable Court be pleased to order the Second Respondent (ZLCB), its prin-

cipal officer/chairman and/or any other responsible officer, to issue appropriate import/distribution/sales licenses to the applicants.

The judge ruled that the licenses be issued pending hearing and final determination of the matter, including the pending appeal to the minister and related judicial review proceed-

TURN TO Page2

# VP: Take up green bond initiative for water sector

**By Guardian Reporter**

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has directed the Regional Administration and Local Governments 'wing' of the President's Office (PO-RALG) and the Treasury Registrar to formulate a strategy to enable public corporations to use bonds in generating funds to facilitate quick implementation of development projects.

He issued instructions during the opening of the window for the sale of green

bonds to generate funds to implement water projects, held in Tanga yesterday.

He said the green bond window is a motivation to other local government authorities to use it in generating funds for implementing various projects, countrywide.

He asked the management of the Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (TUWASA) to properly manage the funds which will be generated through the bonds.

"Discipline in the management of the funds will facilitate fast return of the mon-

ey invested by investors in the bonds," he stated, affirming that the government will not hesitate to take actions against any malpractices.

He advised planning early by opening a special fund to collect refunds little by little in order to eliminate challenges during payment since the refund of the money becomes a lump sum at the maturity of the bonds.

The Capital and Securities Markets Authority (CSMA) in collaboration with the

Planning and Investment ministry in the President's Office, and the Water ministry need to set up an early warning instrument to monitor the scheme and identify risks that may arise.

The VP commended the TUWASA board of directors for their boldness to come up with an alternative way to get funds for the implementation of development projects.

TURN TO Page2



## Govt to revamp sugar industry to remove monopoly trading structures

FROM PAGE 1

and now we are going to conduct a major review and amendment of the Sugar Industry Act," he emphasised, noting that after the changes they will remain as strategic investors benefiting from a number of tax reliefs.

He sought to assure the public that the sugar supply and price challenge is going to end soon as robust measures are being taken by the government.

A total of 84 traders have been arrested for suspicions of hiding sugar and will soon be brought to court, he said, noting that sugar production links large and small-scale farmers.

They deliver the sugarcane to factories on a regular basis, he said, noting that the current sugar crisis also occurred during the 2027/18 financial year. The problem stems from El Niño rains, paralysing sugarcane production and supplies to firms.

Last year, there was a shortage of only 30,000 tonnes while production was 460,000 tonnes and for the past two years, sugar price remained stable compared to neighbouring countries, he said.

This year, production was expected to reach 550,000 tonnes but due to the heavy rains, factory supplies plummeted, thus a total of 300,000 tonnes of sugar will be imported this year, he stated.

The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) was taking up the job to import the sweetener, with the decision having been reached in considering that sugar supply is a national safety concern.

Until the end of next month a total of 60,000 tonnes of sugar will be imported to help address the crisis, he said, while the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) director, Prof Kenneth Bengesi said the demand of brown sugar stands at 552,000 tonnes and industrial sugar needs stand at 225,000 tonnes.

Current production stands at 200,000 tonnes with a gap of 200,000 tonnes of brown sugar and the entire need for industrial sugar, where at the start of this week production had reached 352,018 tonnes or 79 percent of total needs.

The amount in the market is estimated at 8,116 tonnes and 4,449 tonnes of imported sugar, thus leading to the hostile pricing trend of 4,500/-per kilo, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta at Tunguu State House in Zanzibar on Wednesday. Photo: State House

## TMA talks of heavy rains for March

FROM PAGE 1

when planning and implementations of their activities, he stated. Periods of excessive soil moisture and flooding may occur and affect crop and farm management which may impact on agriculture and food security, he stated.

Diseases such as fungus are expected to increase and affect crops such as tomatoes, sesame, beans and root crops. However, normal agricultural practices will proceed without undue difficulty in most areas, he further noted.

He advised farmers to prepare their fields, plant, imple-

ment weeding and use relevant farm inputs timely, use the best methods and technologies to prevent water stagnation in the field, erosion and loss of soil fertility, choosing the right seeds and crops for enhanced yields.

Farmers need to strengthen agricultural infrastructure particularly in low lying areas, and

control crop pests and diseases in a timely manner to reduce potential impacts, the forecast intoned.

Relevant authorities in the tourism and wildlife sector need to improve various facilities in wildlife reserves and create awareness among the surrounding community to take

appropriate actions, it affirmed.

Transporters could be affected due to the expected weather conditions that may lead to damage of road and infrastructure resulting in an increased number of accidents for land transport, trip delays and cancellations of flights, the director added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi shares a light moment with a visiting Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association delegation at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## VP: Take up green bond initiative for water sector

FROM PAGE 1

If successful, the bond will help increase water production from 42m to 60m liters, thus expanding supply of the precious liquid in the city from 96 percent to even 100 percent by June 2025.

He said the bond will also help improve the water supply network in Muheza and Pangani towns from the current 70 percent to 95 percent by June 2025.

The project will benefit a total of 458,365 residents in Tanga city as well as Pangani and Muheza towns while also getting enough to serve 74,124 residents in Mkinga district, he stated.

Water minister Jumaa Aweso said the minis-

try shall work to ensure that the new bond brings positive outcomes in the sector, urging stakeholders in the sector to help the ministry to set up the bond system in water projects and thus bring positive outcomes to the society.

Hamad Chande, the Treasury deputy minister, said the strategy is aimed to enable the government to finance water projects for many years, especially those with capacity to yield revenues.

A total of 53.12bn/- is expected to be invested in the Tanga-Uwasa Green Bond for the improvement of water infrastructure to facilitate production of enough water, officials noted.

## Reinstate beer importers, court orders liquor board

FROM PAGE 1

She similarly affirmed that the board is required to issue import, distribution and sales licenses to the applicants, enabling them to resume importing and selling alcoholic beverages.

Elaborating, it explicitly noted that the board has

to allow the applicants to continue their previous activities which includes purchasing, supplying, distributing, transporting and selling alcoholic beverages with immediate effect.

On January 2, the ZLCB decided not to renew the licenses of the three established importers, who

had served the islands for over two decades, which for several weeks brought up a sharply felt beer shortage in Zanzibar.

Prices of beer and other alcoholic beverages have since skyrocketed with some brands commanding astronomical prices with analysts saying the decision is making Zanzi-

bar an expensive destination. Contacted tourism sector observers said that while the full details of the court's reasoning are not yet available, the granting of the injunction suggests that the judges found merit in the applicants' arguments.

It remains to be seen whether the ZLCB will

appeal this decision, they said, highlighting that if implemented the court ruling will alleviate the beer shortage and bring relief to businesses and consumers.

Some stakeholders say that the situation remains fluid as the ZLCB could choose to pursue further legal avenues or seek a po-

litical solution. The short term impact on tourism and longer-term implications for the liquor industry in Zanzibar are yet to be determined, they said.

The newcomers who were granted licenses, plus the temporary measures that were instituted, have still yet to bear fruit in relation to supplying

the beverages to a wide array of hospitality outfits of various grades.

The failure to make a difference was clear despite the recent assurances during a meeting with the Zanzibar Revenue Authority, while industry watchers say alcohol is being supplied by units of the military, with reports

that the smuggling of alcohol is beginning to take shape.

Importers pay a hefty 30m/- annual fee to the board to be licenced and Zanzibar law also demands importers be Zanzibari residents with a clean tax record, a warehouse, and a delivery vehicle, they added.



# New PSSSF boss promises timely payment of pensions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE new Director General of Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) Abdul-Razaq Badru on Wednesday pledged to perform his duties diligently and pay pensions on time.

Speaking at a special meeting to welcome and introduce him here, Badru said he is a believer in teamwork and promised not to let down pensioners through payment delays.

"We will continue to provide specific education to members for them to understand more about PSSSF. We will ensure that every stakeholder is reached and we promise to pay pensions on time," he said.

Badru said PSSSF plans to carry out its duties well and continue to provide better services to members aided by major investment in the information and communication technology for timely service provision.

"I am truly grateful to be part of this team; I promise you close cooperation so that together we can carry out our duties effectively," he said.

Speaking at the occasion, Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) urged institutions under the docket to tell the public what they do so that people can seek the services.

"Public education about all our institutions should be provided, especially social security education, I believe that if this is well understood, many people will not waste time in unproductive investments," he said.

He wanted staff to provide close cooperation to the new PSSSF DG to enable him perform his duties well to bring out positive outcomes.



Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), speaks at meeting in Dodoma city on Wednesday. It was called to welcome and introduce former Higher Education Students' Loans Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru, who was recently appointed Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) director general. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Samia sends greetings on Kuwait National Day

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has sent greetings and good wishes to the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah on the 63rd independence anniversary.

Every February 21st is the Kuwait's National Day.

Samia sent the greetings on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a function to commemorate the Kuwait's independence and 33 years of the gulf nation's liberation. The function was led by Ambassador of Kuwait to Tanzania Mubarak Mohammad Alsehaijan.

She commended the development feats achieved by Kuwait in various sectors, including science and technology, health services and economic development, which made Kuwait one of the countries with strongest economies in the world and a famous center for finance, capital and investment.

Samia expressed her satisfaction with strong ties between Tanzania and Kuwait and pledged that Tanzania will continue to cooperate with Kuwait to improve business, investment and community development for the welfare of the people of both countries.

Ummu Mwalimu, Health Minister thanked the government of Kuwait for its contribution to the development of health sector in Tanzania, including the provision of medical equipment for hospitals in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The minister said the government of Kuwait has been a major ally in development of health sector in the

country, saying it has provided machines for anesthesia to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), medical equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar, medical equipment to Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma and the construction of a hospital in Handeni District, Tanga Region under the sponsorship of Abdullah Al Nouri Charity institute of Kuwait.

Mwalimu added that in 2023, through the Kuwait Children Heart Association, Kuwait brought medical specialists who collaborated with experts at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma and performed heart operations on 100 needy children.

"We thank Kuwait for immensely supporting our health sector," she said.

Alsehaijan said the cooperation between Tanzania and Kuwait has been growing stronger since 2015, pledging that his country will continue cooperating with Tanzania in social, political and economic development all the time.

"As we celebrate this important day, our nations are looking forward to cooperating in the sports sector through the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports in Tanzania and the Sports Authority in Kuwait," he said.

Tanzania and Kuwait are working together in the areas of education, health, water, agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, trade, and investment where they have both agreed to continue cooperating in order to reap benefits in the implementation of economic diplomacy.

# 'Humans need to learn to coexist with wild animals'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Bagamoyo

HUMANS need to learn to coexist with wild animals as complete separation is impossible in some environments, an expert has said.

According to John Noronha who is an expert in human-wildlife conflicts, negative reporting arising from misinformed sources have always been treating clashes between people and wild animals like some cases of serious emergency.

"Human-wildlife conflicts help people and authorities to hatch new initiatives to avert such cases and as a result, more advanced development projects are hatched," he said.

The expert was presenting a paper on 'Essential Consideration for Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts and Co-existence,' to reporters attending tailor-made training on mitigation of human wildlife conflicts.

The two-day training session was organized by the Journalists' Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from German International Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

According to Noronha, human-wildlife conflicts have contrib-

uted to social dynamics and so far managed to bring together diverse types of people from different parts of the country for meetings and dialogues.

"Conflicts may never end, but eventually, people will learn to adapt to the situation and create new environments through which they can co-exist peacefully with wild animals," he said.

John Mapepele, head of communications department at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism who graced the occasion lauded both the GIZ and JET for creating mutual partnership with the government in supporting conservation efforts in Tanzania.

Mapepele revisited the Arusha Manifesto of 1961, through which the founding President Julius Nyerere recognized the continent's wildlife and consequently its parks as the rightful heritage of all mankind and urged the new African states to manage these resources accordingly.

"Conservation is also the basis for the country's tourism sector which so far contributes to 25 percent of Tanzania's foreign currency earnings," he said, adding that the country has managed to conserve over 30 percent of its total geographical area.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango unveils plaque to launch a water supply improvement system at the Mowe water treatment and distribution plant at Pande village in Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: VPO

# Alarm as women attend clinics but deliver at home

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya



**We are grateful that these statistics show that there is good progress in this area. We need to work together to ensure that this problem ends completely**

ALTHOUGH 90 percent of pregnant women in the Southern Highlands regions attend clinic, 17 percent give birth at home instead of health facilities, risking the lives mothers and children.

Elinzuu Nicodema, Chief Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said this when speaking to health experts from five regions in Southern Highlands here yesterday, adding that the figures are contained in the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHMS) 2022.

According to NBS date,

in the Southern Highlands Zone which consist of Mbeya, Rukwa, Songwe, Ruvuma and Katavi regions, 90 percent of pregnant women attend

clinic but during delivery they chose home instead of health facilities.

He said the problem has also been reflected in the national data although it differed zone by zone, saying there is need for experts to intensify awareness.

"The problem is as big as it is shown but there are areas where the percentages range from 15, 16, 17 and 20; we need to work together to address the matter," he said.

He called upon the experts to put in place strategies to address the matter so that all pregnant women deliver at health facilities.

Dr Bonface Kasululu, Songwe Regional Medical Officer, said the statistics

provided by NBS will help them to assess and set strategies to deal with the problem.

He said that although the statistics show that the situation is not good, there are still big changes, noting that in previous years, the situation was worse than now.

Dr Elizabeth Nyema, Mbeya Regional Medical Officer, said that the problem of pregnant women giving birth at home causes an increase in deaths of pregnant women and infants.

"We are grateful that these statistics show that there is good progress in this area. We need to work together to ensure that this problem ends completely," she said.

MITCHELL DRILLING TANZANIA LIMITED


Incorporation number 97193  
The Companies Act, 2002  
(Section 334 (1))

MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that at a duly convened meeting of Mitchell Drilling Tanzania Limited (the Company) company number 97193 which took place on 20 December 2023 the following special resolutions were passed:

1. That in accordance with section 333 (1) (b) of the Companies Act, 2002, the company should be wound up voluntary; and
2. That, the members have approved the appointment of Joseph Cynock Lyimo of PricewaterhouseCoopers Tanzania of P O Box 45, PEMBA HOUSE, 369, TOURE DRIVE, 3rd floor Tanzania as the Liquidator of the Company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days. Claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

  
Joseph Cynock Lyimo  
Liquidator

For Mitchell Drilling Tanzania Limited



# BBT-YIA wins hearts of farmers in Njombe

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

AGRICULTURE stakeholders in Njombe District, Njombe Region have showered praise on Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA), saying since its implementation began last year, positive changes have been registered.

Speaking here yesterday, avocado grower in Njombe District Ferdinand Kivua commended the government for the initiative which he said was poised to transform agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries in the country.

"It is undisputable fact that BBT-YIA has come at the right time and youth have to grab this opportunity so that they can transform their lives through the programme and improve their livelihoods and national economy through improved productivity," he said.

He called on all Tanzanians to support the government's drive of attracting youth to venture into modern agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries.

Magreth Lwangili, Irish potato grower in Njombe's Kifanya area said the government's commitment towards implementing the BBT-YIA needs support to ensure the programme is successfully implemented and brings multiplier impact countrywide.

"We as stakeholders of the Southern Agricultural Growth

Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) support the sixth phase government for coming up with the programme which seeks to transform lives of youth," she said.

Razack Sanga, maize grower in Makete District described the programme as a golden opportunity for youth who are ready to make money in agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries.

"We have to appreciate efforts being made by the government in transforming agriculture and its allied sectors," he said.

Youth selected in BBT-YIA programme are offered training at selected centres across the country and each is allocated up to 10 acres, which they will end up owning.



**It is undisputable fact that BBT-YIA has come at the right time and youth have to grab this opportunity so that they can transform their lives through the programme and improve their livelihoods and national economy through improved productivity**



Emily Mkende (2nd-L), NMB Bank's Same Branch manager, pictured yesterday symbolically presenting to Same district commissioner Kasilda Mgeni 100 T-shirts the bank has issued alongside 5m/- for use in the ongoing Same Tourism Festival. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## AU launches campaign to boost girls' access to education

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Union (AU) has launched a campaign to expand opportunities for girls to access education on the continent.

Simone Yankey, acting coordinator of the AU International Center for the Edu-

cation of Girls and Women in Africa, announced on Tuesday evening that the year-long advocacy exercise aims to mobilize African nations to achieve 100 per cent enrolment of girls in schools.

"The campaign also calls on African governments to uphold their commitments to educational funding and

gender equality by ensuring that a minimum of 20 percent of national budgets is allocated to the education sector," Yankey said virtually during the launch in Nairobi, Kenya. She said that 2024 has been dedicated as the year of education in Africa by the AU, noting that the campaign has already identified champions in

each AU member to spearhead gender-responsive reforms of education sector to ensure that schools provide equal opportunities for boys and girls.

Yankey added that about 60 million girls are out of school in Africa due to various socio-cultural and gender-related challenges.

Ann Gachoya, deputy di-

rector of education at Kenya's Ministry of Education, said that the AU campaign aligns with the country's commitment to addressing educational inequities and ensuring that no girl is left behind, highlighting that Kenya already devotes more than 20 percent of its public budget toward education.



Bagamoyo District Police Commander Mushana Mujema speaks at a meeting meant to promote the health of drug addicts. Held in Bagamoyo on Wednesday, it was coordinated by local NGO Life & Hope Rehabilitation Organisation (LHRO) and jointly funded by US Ambassador's Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). He is with (R-L) Bagamoyo District Medical Officer Dr Kandi Lussingu, LHRO executive director Al-Karim Bhanji and Bagamoyo district social welfare officer Delvina Maleko. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Tamwa-Zanzibar seeks legal review to step up press freedom

By Carlos Banda

THE Media has been called on provide in-depth reports on the shortcomings of the articles found in Zanzibar's Media Law so that they can be changed and allow the public to access information without hindrance.

Dr Mzuri Issa, the Director of Tanzania Media Women's Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) made the call on Wednesday during the launch of a report reviewing the provisions that hinder freedom of the press in Zanzibar.

"Journalists should voice out the shortcomings of the existing legal provisions so that they can be changed. This will grant people the joy and feeling that they

are part of this nation and they can express their opinions without fear," she said.

Dr Issa asserted that easy access to information and increase in accountability in various aspects can only be achieved if journalists have the ability to give their opinion without worry.

"Press freedom can help reduce the present weak points in the media sector by suppressing quacks who publish fake information. This will strengthen the media making it firm and capable of providing news that carry the fundamentals of journalism," she said.

Presenting the report, Said Suleiman, a Lecturer at Zanzibar University, said an analysis of the provisions led to the discovery of

several articles that acted as obstacles to press freedom.

Suleiman said the report has reviewed a total of 8 laws which include the law of the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books Act No. 5 of 1988 amended by Act No. 8 of 1997; and the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act No. 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No. 1 of 2010. The other is the penal code of 2004 (Act No. 6) amended in 2018, the law to repeal Election Act No. 11 of the 1984 and the enactment of the Elections Act of 2017 and other related matters as well as the House of Representatives Act No. 4 of 2007 which was amended in 2022.

He said that the Broadcasting

Commission Act number 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No 1 of 2010 needs to be amended noting that article 27(2) of the law grants leaders more authority.

"The broadcasting commission Act No. 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No. 1 in of 2010 grants leaders too much power. For example in article 27 (2), the minister is bestowed with the high authority allowing him to make any decision," he said.

Suleiman advocated for articles that stipulate an environment that ensures the security and safety of journalists, activists and readers to be added against violation of the freedom of expression

Jabir Idrissa, a media stakeholder, said the presence of the laws that impede the press free-

dom have led to the absence of privately owned media outlets on the side of newspapers because of the existing bureaucracy in the implementation of such laws.

"There are no privately owned newspapers in Zanzibar today. Before the revolution, there were many newspapers. Journalism has a long history in Zanzibar but it is now dead because unfriendly laws," he said.

The meeting is part of the TAMWA-Zanzibar's continued efforts to collaborate with stakeholders and journalists to advocate and influence amendments for legal provisions that inhibit press freedom so that new laws that are at par with the modern times and free are enacted for the media in the country.

## OUT dons mull ways to ensure performance in academics rises

By Guardian Reporter

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Professors' Forum has expressed determination to increase efforts towards contributing more in academic activities, research and consultancy services.

According to the forum, one of its major roles is to improve quality and academic performance for the wider interest of the nation.

The forum's members reached the agreement during its two-day conference held at the Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha, Coast Region on Monday and Tuesday.

Prof Deus Ngaruko, OUT Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research and Consultancy, said that the platform is the only place for scholars to sit and discuss their issues and devise strategies meant to bring positive outcomes for the institution and the nation.

"We have discussed and agreed on a lot of areas; what is needed now is increased cooperation with other institutions and our fellow academicians inside and outside the country in writing and supervising projects that will help boost development in the society," he said.

Prof Elifas Bisanda, OUT Vice Chancellor, appealed to fellow members to be good examples in academics in order to attract other scholars into the teaching profession.

"Let us make sure that we lead others in conducting quality research and giving productive lectures. We need to guide those who look at us to learn how to find projects and manage academic work professionally," he said.

Prof Modestus Varisanga, said that in addition to other duties, the forum brings together the university's dons and reminds them of their responsibilities to the society.

He said that scholars need to invest in research and come up with innovative solutions to address challenges facing society.

A number of topics ranging from legal affairs, information and communication technology as well as cyber security were presented during the conference, providing a platform for the participants to discuss and share experience on how to work in synergy to improve provision of quality education as well as address challenges facing people.





## CAREER OPPORTUNITY Country Director- Tanzania

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

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

### About the programme

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

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

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

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

### The role

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

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

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

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

### About you

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

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

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

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

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

**Location:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**Full-time:** 40 hours per week.

**Contract type:** 3-year fixed term appointment.

**Salary:** Competitive Salary + Bonus + Benefits

**Salary band:** BG11

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

<https://globaleur232.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-GB/msichoices/Site/CANDIDATEPORTALINT/Posting/View/412>

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

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



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL FOOD RESERVE AGENCY  
Kizota Industrial Area | P.O. BOX 1050 Dodoma, Tanzania | Phone: +255(0)26 2963953  
Fax: +255(0)26 2963950 | E-mail: info@nfra.go.tz | Web: www.nfra.go.tz



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### SALES OF WHITE MAIZE (NON-GMO)

National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) is a Government Agency established under the Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania by the Executive Agency Act No. 30 of 1997 for the purpose of guaranteeing national food security. One of its responsibilities is to sales/recycle reserved stock.

NFRA expresses its intention to sell **234,750 Metric Tons** of white maize (grade one) reserved in the following zonal warehouses; Arusha (Arusha na Babati-Manyara), Dodoma (Dodoma na Manyoni-Singida), Kipawa (Dar es Salaam), Makambako, Songwe, Shinyanga, Songea na Sumbawanga (Sumbawanga na Mpanda).

### SALES CONDITIONS:

- Maize will be sold for the foreign market. Eligible applicants include traders, individual buyers, companies, and domestic/foreign institutions with an intention to export maize. Foreign companies/institutions wishing to buy maize from NFRA are invited to submit their applications directly and must comply with the conditions for exporting grain abroad.
- Maize will be sold using Ex - Warehouse/FCA incoterms subject to agreement with NFRA, packed in 50kg/90kg bags. Buyer will be responsible for all costs associated with uplifting and transportation of purchased maize;
- Application letter of interested buyers should indicate; buyer's name and address, contact telephone number, email address, quantity and proposed uplifting warehouses. The application letters **MUST** be attached with legal documents and business licence(s). NFRA has right to relocated proposed uplifting warehouses subject to stock availability;
- The price at which grains are sold fluctuates according to the zone and the designated uplifting warehouse. Hence, the final price will be established upon receiving the buyer's application along with the chosen uplifting warehouse.
- NFRA will decide on the final selling prices with respect to market prices, costs related to procurement, storage of grain and other costs found necessary to be included in prices;
- Approved buyers are supposed to effect payment within 7 days after receiving the approval for payments. Uplifting schedule will be subjected to purchased quantity.

All applications for this preliminary stage should reach NFRA Head Office before **7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**. For more Information, **please call +255 (0)26 2963953**.

All applications should be addressed to:

**Chief Executive Officer,**  
National Food Reserve Agency,  
Kizota, Industrial Area,  
P. O. Box 1050,  
41114 DODOMA, TANZANIA.  
**Email: info@nfra.go.tz**

Issued by:

**Chief Executive Officer,**  
**National Food Reserve Agency.**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024**



# EACJ appellate division due to decide fate of oil pipeline case

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Court of Justice (EACJ) appellate division on Tuesday agreed to determine if the court's lower chamber has jurisdiction to hear the case challenging construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Hoima in Uganda to the Port of Tanga.

The decision, for now, puts on hold the dismissal by a judge of the EACJ's first instance division who in November last year threw out the case, citing the court's lack of jurisdiction to hear it and that it was filed out of time, prompting the litigants to lodge an appeal.

In a hearing on Tuesday, a panel of the EACJ appeals division, comprising of the court's President Justice Nestor Kayobera, Vice President Justice Anita Mugeni, Justice Kathurina M'Inoti, Justice Cheborion Barishaki and Justice Omar Othman Makungu, set March 22, 2024 for the petitioners to file their written submissions, a statement said.

"The appellate court will only use the written submissions to determine whether the first instance court has jurisdiction to hear the case," said a party to the case, who attended the hearing at the Arusha-based EACJ.

The court further asked the governments of Uganda and Tanzania as well as East African Community (EAC) secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki, who are the respondents in the case, to file their counter arguments by April 22, 2024.

The appellants are also expected to file any rejoinders to the counter arguments that are to be submitted by the two states and Dr Mathuki by May 6, 2024.

The EACJ's decision to determine if the lower chamber can hear the case is a relief and procedural minor victory for activists who have suffered defeats in several courts, including in France, where they ran to in the hope of stopping French oil giant TotalEnergies from developing the 1443km pipeline that is expected to cost \$5 billion.

In November 2020, four East African non-governmental organisations

filed the court case as part of a series of actions to challenge the construction of the world's longest heated pipeline meant to transport crude oil from Uganda's oilfields in the west to the Port of Tanga for export to the international markets.

The NGOs include Uganda-based Africa Institute for Energy Governance (Afiege) and Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights, alongside Kenya's Natural Justice activist group and Centre for Strategic Litigation from Tanzania.

"We are happy that the court has set in motion processes to ensure that justice is served for the benefit of communities. Communities and East Africans in general rely on their natural and other resources to make a living and any projects such as the EACOP that threaten these resources should be challenged," said Afiege CEO Dickens Kamugisha.

The petitioners argue that Eacop violates key East African and international treaties and laws, including the EAC Treaty, Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria basin, Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

They also cite the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as the African Convention on Conservation of Natural Resources in their case filed in November 2020, asking the EACJ to issue temporary and permanent injunctions stopping the development of the pipeline.

On November 29, 2023, the first instance division of EACJ dismissed the case, following preliminary objections raised by Tanzania's Solicitor General Gabriel Malata, who argued that it was time-barred and that the court did not have jurisdiction to hear the case.

A Uganda government lawyer, who declined to be named as he is not cleared to speak on the matter, said the respondents will continue to argue that this case cannot proceed because it was filed out of time, as the first instance court found last year and agreed with the Tanzanian solicitor general.



Geita Gold Mining Ltd engineer Benjamin Mchwampaka (R) and Geita regional commissioner Martine Shigella exchange greetings at earlier this week's launch of the company's 2024/2025 internship programme. Second right is GGML's senior human resources manager, Charles Masubi, followed by Terry Strong, senior vice president of the Africa Business Unit of AngloGold Ashanti (GGML's parent company). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Smallholder pineapple farmers decry lack of market

By Guardian Correspondent,

Njombe

PINEAPPLE farmers in Njombe District, Njombe Region have decry lack of market for their bumper harvests, saying the situation plunges them into poverty.

Speaking in separate interviews on Wednesday, the farmers said that lack of market has continued to frustrate their efforts to fight poverty in their households.

They asked the government and other stakeholders to help them link with reliable markets within and outside the country for them to realise their goals.

Grace Mbote from Madeke Vil-

lage said that low prices due to absence of reliable market discourage farmers from investing more money in pineapple farming.

"We have been investing a lot of money in pineapple farming but market remains a serious challenge for us to realise our dreams and that is why we are asking the government and other stakeholders to chip in and help us get reliable markets within and outside the country," she said.

Constantine Joram, another farmer, said that smallholder farmers are the hardest hit compared to big farmers and pineapple estates.

"For big farmers this is no longer a challenge as they can

transport their fruits to markets outside Njombe District," he said.

"We don't have vehicles to transport our produce. This makes more pineapple to rot in farms, plunging many farmers into poverty due to huge losses."

Joram said that few customers offer 300/- per pineapple which is very low compared to the cost of production. Ordinarily, a pineapple fetches 500/-.

Another farmer Jane Lianzi said that in the past, pineapple farming was economically beneficial and many people embraced the fruit only for things to change.

"We used to get good amounts of money which we used to send our children to good schools but

now we can no longer do that. That is why some farmers have switched to beans farming," he said.

Onesmo Mfugale, Mfriga Ward extension officer admitted that farmers get small amounts of money because there is no reliable market for the crop.

"Pineapple prices here are currently very low. For now, we ask farmers to venture into growing other crops such as avocados, bananas and beans," he said.

To address this challenge permanently, Mfugale appealed to investors to come up with a juice processing plant in the area to save tonnes of pineapples from rotting.



Equator Suma JKT Co. Ltd managing director Robert Mangazeni (with microphone) briefs Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angelliah Kairuki in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday on heavy-duty vehicles used in forest activities and whose handing-over to the ministry the minister had just graced. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Stakeholders drafting curriculum for underground mining training

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE Tanzania Chamber of Mines (TCM) is working with Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and other stakeholders to develop curriculum for training underground mining skills.

The initiative is meant to address the dire shortage of underground mining professionals in Tanzania.

It follows GGML's collaboration with other large mining companies 15 years ago to create curriculum that produced over 1,400 young Tanzanians specialising in surface mining operations (open pit mining).

TCM executive secretary Benjamin Mchwampaka unveiled this here recently during the launch of 2024/2025 internship programme for 40 new graduates and postgraduates who began a year-long training at GGML.

He said that GGML and other mining stakeholders were preparing the curriculum, noting that it will be utilised to create books for Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) Moshi College.

The books will aid in educating young Tanzanians and producing experts in underground mining, he

said, adding that there is currently a shortage of experts with extensive knowledge of operating deep underground mining equipment.

Mchwampaka shared how the shortage of experts to operate surface mines on land was bridged, saying that when large-scale mining activities started in the country, there was no special training for mining experts.

According to him, the government had to hire individuals from Ghana, Mali and South Africa to perform tasks that could have been done by young Tanzanians.

"So, in 2009, GGML through the Chamber of Mines and other companies came together, donated around \$2 million to devise a curriculum and we entered into an agreement with VETA - Moshi College to set up a special three-year programme for young people to acquire advanced mining skills in the country," he said.

Charles Masubi, GGML senior manager in charge of human resources said that the programme aims to prepare young people to specialise in areas beyond their academic studies hence enhancing their employability.

## Call for transparency as council changes CSR project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

SOME residents of Msalala District Council in Shinyanga Region have urged their leaders to be transparent and issue reports on how public funds are spent in implementation of development projects.

Speaking at a regional political committee meeting held here on Tuesday to listen their challenges,

some of those who spoke claimed that there was no transparency on how financial resources are used.

Ntobi Athumani, Itogwaholo Village resident said value for money is very important, urging that all projects implemented in the district should reflect the amount of money and implementation reports should be made available.

Msalala MP Iddi Kassim Iddi ech-

ed the sentiments, saying lack of transparency in the utilisation of funds in various projects.

Giving an example, he said the council changed the proposed vehicle parking project into Isaka bus terminus without consultation.

"The funds came in the form of corporate social responsibility paid by various companies and citizens proposed vehicle parking project as

their priority but the council unilaterally changed it to a bus station," he said.

"This was people' project worth 400m/-; it was important to inform them before changing it to something else."

Msalala District Executive Director Hamis Katimba said that decisions to alter the project had all the blessings of relevant authorities

and was endorsed at the planning, finance and leadership committee meeting.

According to him, the leaders came up with the decision after it was seen that the vehicle parking project would cost a lot more money than the bus terminus.

Earlier, the meeting heard that the project commenced in 2021 and was being carried out in three phases

by using CSR funds.

So far, toilets had been constructed as well as guards' booth and two culverts, parking areas, gravel layer and installation of lights at a cost of 399m/-.

Other works that are being implemented include construction of passenger waiting area which had cost 45m/- and installation of a wire fence, at a cost of 80m/-.





Psychiatrists Jacqueline Dereck (L) and Louise Joel pictured in Moshi yesterday offering psychosocial support to a Moshi primary school pupil (back to camera) who has experienced gender-based violence. The service is open to pupils in ten primary schools in the municipality through 'Binti Hodari', a one-year project implemented under a mental health aid charitable organisation known as Akili Chanya Initiative Tanzania. It is sponsored by the US-based charitable organisation 'Go Campaign'. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Zambia inaugurates training to improve civil service efficiency

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA has launched training programmes aimed at equipping civil servants with skills to deliver competent services to the public.

The training programmes will be provided by the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) of Zambia, a government training entity that has partnered with the National School of Government of South Africa.

In his remarks at the launch, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said it is the responsibility of all public workers to ensure excellence in service delivery.

He said it is unfortunate that the commitment to duty and excellence in public service has declined in

public perception, adding that it is time to change this.

"The launch of the programme is a combined decision to train people in public service and sharpen their skills, because learning is a continuous process," he said.

The Zambian president said the government has a clear vision and mission to develop the country, but this requires a dedicated and well-trained public service that will implement the policies, adding that it is unfortunate that projects have been affected due to a knack for delaying things.

Patrick Kangwa, the secretary to the Cabinet, said the 1993 reforms that led to the commercialization of the NIPA posed a challenge to the quality of public service because government entities stopped sending

staff to the institution for training.

He said the resumption of training programmes is a game-changer because it will promote competent and ethical public service through training.

According to him, NIPA has since come up with innovative solutions to deliver training, such as offering classes virtually, a situation that allows public workers easy access to the programmes.

Among the programmes to be provided include pre-deployment training and certification for newly recruited public workers, in-service training and certification for serving public workers, and public service leadership and governance training for appointed officials and senior government officials.

## Death toll from Lassa fever rises to 14 in Nigeria

ABUJA

THE death toll from Lassa fever in Nigeria's southern state of Ebonyi has risen from 10 to 14 since the beginning of the year, public health authorities said on Wednesday.

The 14 deaths were among 29 cases confirmed so far from the outbreak of the viral hemorrhagic fever recorded as of Tuesday. Hyacinth Ebenyi, the director of public health in Ebonyi, told reporters in the state capital of Abakaliki.

At least 110 suspected cases of the disease have been recorded in Ebonyi since the beginning of the year, Ebenyi said, noting that "there has been an increase in the cases of Lassa fever, and it is endemic in the state."

Lassa fever is a disease spread to humans through food or household items contaminated with

rodent urine or feces. It is reportedly transmitted when saliva, urine, and excreta of rats come into contact with humans.

The outbreak in Ebonyi has prompted urgent collaborative efforts by the government and relevant partners to stem the spread of the highly infectious disease.

The state government said on Sunday that at least 25 people, including two healthcare workers, were infected between Jan. 4 and Feb. 16.

Ebenyi said on Wednesday that the disease is common during the dry season, urging residents to "stop eating rats and not allow rats to come into contact with their food."

In 2023, at least 219 deaths were recorded from 1,227 confirmed cases of Lassa fever, according to the Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

## UN urges African nations to invest more in science

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

AFRICAN countries should invest more in science, technology and innovation to tap into its resources, boost productivity and enhance competitiveness, a UN official has said.

Africa should tap into its potential to realize its aspirations, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Claver Gatete said on Monday at the Africa Business Forum 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Noting that Africa cannot realize the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) without science, technology and

innovation, Gatete urged African countries to modernize their education systems and increase research and development outputs.

He said African countries need to close gaps in digital skills, data generation, and the utilization of the digital economy on the continent.

"Currently, 75 percent of Africa's youth do not possess the required digital skills to fully participate in the digital economy, and only 50 percent of countries on the continent incorporate skills as part of their curriculum," he said.

The business forum, held under the theme of boosting the transformation of Africa through education, science, technology and innovation, brought together experts from across the continent.



## TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

### UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) continues to deliver strong operating results. Despite El Niño heavy rains in the last quarter of the year that impacted the distribution of cement and the overall results for the quarter, the Company managed to post good results for the year 2023 compared to year 2022. Revenue declined by 1% whereas the profit before tax grew by 2% year on year.

The overall performance is attributed to the product mix, process improvement and cost control in our production. Plant availability and efficiency also played a vital role to the improved performance in 2023.

The Company continues to focus on customer service and selling new products within our high quality portfolio. We maintain strong customer relationships which enables TPCPLC to demonstrate its strength as the leading payer in the industry.

Prospects In spite of the cement demand slowing down this year, we are optimistic about the future. TPCPLC will continue to work on improving efficiency and operating performance.

#### Appreciation

The Board would like to thank all its stakeholders for their support. We have every confidence that TPCPLC will continue to deliver value for the shareholders and community in the future.

#### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Hakan Gurdal  
Chairman of the Board

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TZS '000	2023	2022
Revenue from contracts with customers	490,171,829	494,716,182
Cost of sales	(333,840,537)	(328,592,344)
Gross profit	156,331,292	166,123,838
Other operating income	9,745,144	841,677
Selling and marketing expenses	(5,891,730)	(3,082,702)
Administrative expenses	(25,932,165)	(25,216,626)
Other operating expenses	(1,504,148)	(2,727,675)
Operating profit	132,748,393	135,938,512
Finance income	2,555,229	3,139,579
Finance costs	(627,369)	(810,519)
Net gain on foreign currency translation	8,795,331	1,829,994
Profit before tax	143,471,584	140,097,566
Income tax expense	(44,287,839)	(42,738,964)
Profit for the year	99,183,745	97,358,602

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

TZS '000	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Non-current assets		142,330,100
Property, plant and equipment	138,410,187	813,318
Intangible assets	858,706	980,929
Leasehold land	953,086	4,333,991
Right of Use assets	1,004,266	574,000
Other financial assets	292,000	
	141,518,245	149,032,338
Current assets		85,992,840
Inventories	91,456,317	53,561,114
Trade receivables	57,302,350	24,193,735
Other short-term operating receivables	18,450,522	600,000
Other financial assets	600,000	-
Current income tax receivable	2,454,136	105,512,644
Cash and cash equivalent	131,369,614	
	301,632,939	269,860,333
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>443,151,184</b>	<b>418,892,671</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Equity		3,598,462
Authorised, issued and fully paid-up share capital	3,598,462	296,139,811
Retained earnings	324,959,288	299,738,273
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>328,557,750</b>	<b>299,738,273</b>
Non-current liabilities		1,149,572
Lease liabilities	185,766	5,339,322
Employment benefit liabilities	5,948,863	4,266,311
Provision for quarry site restoration	4,573,453	0.066585
Deferred income tax liability	10,559,788	
	21,267,870	20,821,790
Current liabilities		3,461,375
Lease liabilities	963,806	521,690
Current income tax payable	-	78,394,395
Trade and other payables	78,853,764	13,049,775
Provisions	10,583,245	2,905,373
Dividend payable	2,924,749	
	93,325,564	98,332,608
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>443,151,184</b>	<b>418,892,671</b>



Friday 23 February 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mob 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com,  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## Why this uncertain future for our small farmers this late in the day?

**T**ECHNOLOGICAL, logistical, funding and other challenges have for decades made things difficult for small-time players in various sectors across Tanzania.

Members of the farming, fishing, livestock keeping, beekeeping, horticulture and a range of other communities all have time and again come across all manner of crippling "occupational hurdles" while going about their various activities.

We say this with particular reference to Vice President Dr Philip Mpango's directive only the other day to the effect that the Industry and Trade ministry work with Tanga regional authorities in addressing the marketing and allied challenges facing local fruit producers.

It was apparent that at least two companies were being cited as likely purchasers of the produce and that, as they know perfectly well there is such a product, there might be some limitations. It is what may be called a routine markets problem for various crops.

It will obviously be easy for the regional authorities and other stakeholders to determine the quantity of fruits produced in the area annually as per the VP's directive, while an even bigger problem will likely be what to do next.

It appears that the idea of liaising with large-scale fruit processing industries to find ways of using fruits produced in the area doesn't quite tally with market principles, particularly as concerns the source of raw materials.

Purchasing could be arranged if the limitations are slight, but manufacturers have standard raw materials and where to source them. Tanga Region and other parts of Tanzania may have to adapt accordingly to fit into this.

Appealing to the residents to intensify efforts in environmental protection to reduce climate change challenges brings back the cooking energy transition issue, where the focus on shifting to clean energy may not prove sufficiently workable.

Some areas may be boasting large numbers of livestock, raising the possibility of ready access to raw materials for making combustible charcoal substitutes.

This could include residential sewage systems from which biomass electricity could be generated, but with regulators demanding that all power be sourced from the national grid.

The problem of excess crop production is meanwhile not new, as it relates to non-specialised production activity and the fact that some crop specialisations foster a culture of going for periodic harvests and having plenty of leisure time.

This has a way of paying back, as there would ideally be too many producers depending on soil types, average temperature, etc., and a few of these elements are positive.

Some other areas might start producing the crop and, depending on the numbers, it may easily saturate the market. There would not be much the government could do.

Trying to sort out the problems facing the likes of Tanga Region fruit farmers could naturally lead to another sphere the VP touched on, namely, the voluntary ethic of environmental protection.

There is no doubt, just as the VP stated, that environmental conservation is ultimately everyone's responsibility, and hence the need to stop the wanton felling of trees and the burning of forests and instead take up planting trees.

In rural settings in the context for trees and in urban settings in the context for charcoal, the principle will be observed if it doesn't disturb earnings and purchases.

In both instances, trying to adopt different behaviour jeopardising people's expectations or labour input for a certain quantity of earnings might elicit sharp disinclination to do anything.

That is why there is a limit that the public authorities eventually will have to learn to grapple with - and this is that land can't just be put to traditional use and then the government finds the markets.

It may sound reassuring but markets choose what to buy and at what time. If the residents concerned had individual rather than customary - communal - land titles, they could obtain loans to diversify or rent out big portions of land to remain with usable vegetable and poultry gardens, etc.

## Investment, tax forum has burden of basic policy prerogatives not cleared

**E**ACH time there is mention of an ongoing or upcoming investment forum or conference, there is an underlying theme guiding excitement on that event, with people figuring out how much it could mean.

Now, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to grace that opening of a forthcoming forum with a keynote speech. The event is set to be held in Dar es Salaam next week.

According to a top Treasury official, the forum will involve more than 1,000 people, among them members of the diplomatic corps and businesspeople.

It is clear that what is targeted isn't too precise as that would involve delegates similar to negotiating teams, unlike this kind of event. It is generally tuned to cultivating certain sentiments, like sympathy for certain policy orientations, or hinting at this or that measure to find the depth of consensus or comprehension on the position.

The only problematic area to be discerned appears to be that the gathering could pose major issues

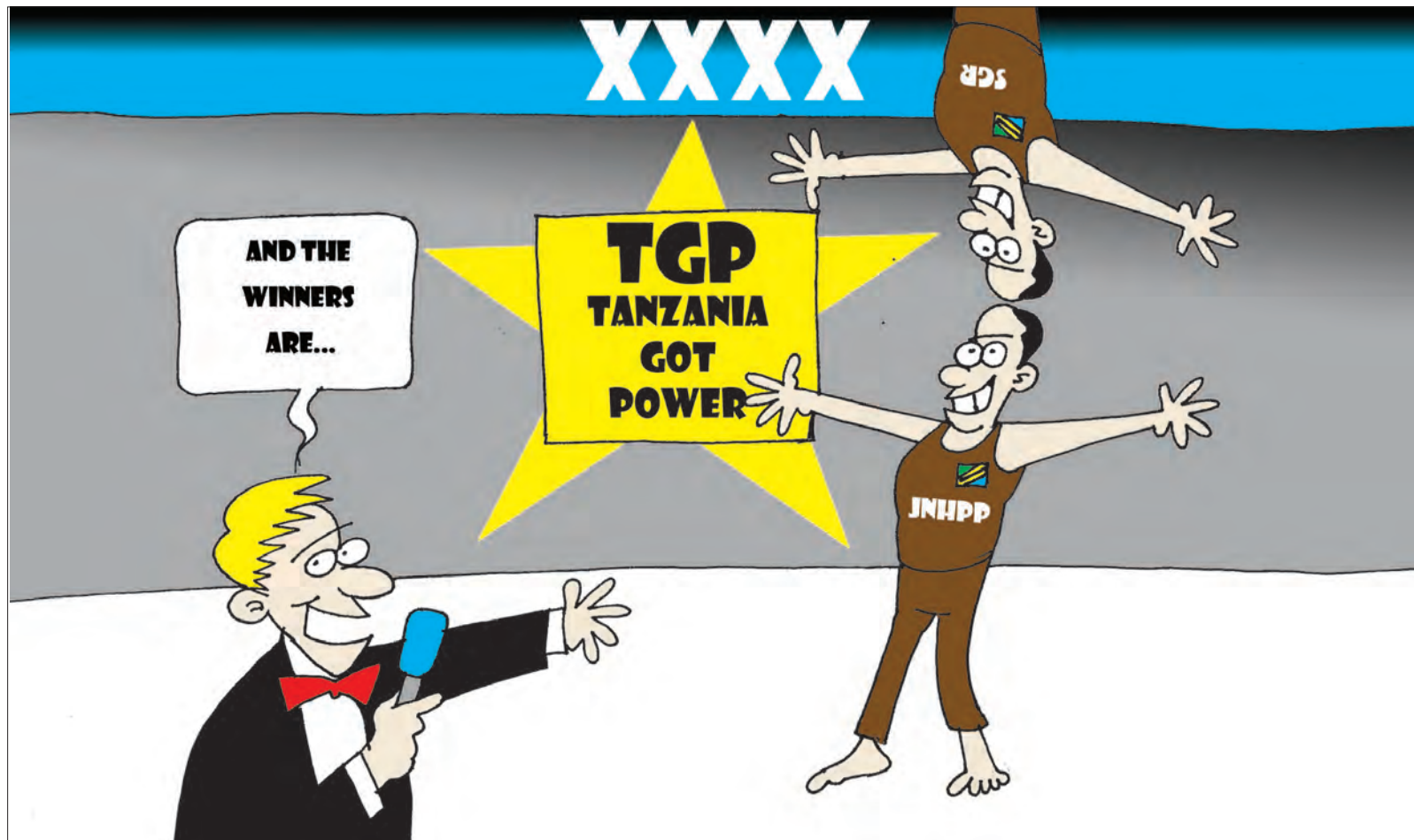
of economic thinking and policy or strategies on economic growth, whereas the focus ought to be on taxation.

The future of tax payment is fairly easy to map out, while the state of the economy and how to enable new businesses to grow is a different issue.

It is noted that the Treasury enhanced revenue collection by 12 percent in the second half of last year, which could be interpreted as an increase in investments. Effective policy yields large investments and tax returns, while the quality of governance determines how much can be done with the cash.

Tanzania has reason to pride itself with governance rectification, especially in the business climate aspect. It has not gone to the extent, like elsewhere, where disgruntled the foreign debt burden has threatened peace and harmony.

Stakeholders usually wish for government assurances that all will be well without any of their prerogatives being touched. That is in part why all manner of tax and other policy changes often call for extensive consultations.



## Coastal indigenous and minority women driving frantic efforts by Kenya to conserve 'blue forest'

TSUNZA, Kenya

**T**sunza Peninsula is a natural wonder that sits just inside the many inlets of Mombasa Island on the border between Mombasa and Kwale Counties—a little-known spectacle of lagoons, islands, and thick mangroves in Kinango Sub-County, Kwale County, on Kenya's coastal region.

This natural paradise is a beehive of activities, with fishers meandering through the creeks and returning to the shores after a dawn harvest. Dhows and motorboats glide from shore to shore, with tourists and locals travelling between the two neighboring counties.

What holds these activities together are the efforts of the 45 people, 35 of them women, of the Tsunza Fish Pond and Mangrove Restoration community project. They protect, preserve, conserve, and restore Tsunza's mangrove forest and the entire ecosystem. Mangroves are not only a critical biodiversity hotspot; they are also coastal superheroes, a first line of defense against climate-induced coastal hazards.

Mangroves are one of the most carbon-dense habitats on Earth. Its entire ecosystem of seagrass, coastal salt marsh, and coral reef vegetation is also known as a blue forest, capturing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing them in natural sinks—known as blue carbon. Their complex root systems and structure are a safe haven for fish and other aquatic species to live, eat, and breed, keeping them within the fisherman's reach.

"Tsunza used to be a sleepy village, especially in the years following a series of mysterious oil spills between 2003 and 2006. Over five million liters of oil spilled into the Indian Ocean and into the mangroves. Over three million seedlings were destroyed. The mangrove forest was in danger of dying out and the fish disappeared into the deep water. Where Tsunza was once the leading producer of fish at the coast, Tsunza Bay became a no-go zone for fish," Lucy Kazungu from Tsunza village, a member and one of the four leaders of the community project, tells IPS.

Mangroves are high-quality trees, most preferred for building materials, charcoal, and firewood. In this context, the logging and heavy degradation of mangrove forests were unfolding in Tsunza and along Kenya's coastline, estimated to be 1,420 kilometers long. Overall, the country lost approximately 20 percent of its



Women are the unsung mangrove restoration heroes. Planting and caring for mangrove seedlings and boosting preservation and conservation of Kenya's coastal blue forests. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

mangrove cover between 1985 and 2009, translating to 450 hectares of mangrove forest lost annually.

Government data shows more than 2.5 million people live in communities adjacent to mangrove forests, heavily depending on their resources for day-to-day survival and economic activities, unsustainably extracting from the forest until Mother Nature started fighting back. Minority and indigenous ethnic groups, who are the predominant groups on Kenya's coastline, including the Digo, Duruma, Shirazi, Wapemba, and Wagunga peoples, were pushed to the frontlines of climate change.

Women were particularly affected. Already vulnerable and largely excluded, the loss of mangrove cover and the entire ecosystem of swamps, shrubs, coral reefs, salt marshes, and seagrass vegetation meant even more exposure to severe coastal hazards and the loss of livelihoods.

"The fish started to disappear and only those who could fish in the deep waters fished. Women were heavily affected because we buy fresh prawn fish and Dagaa fish—the silver cyprinid—from fishermen, which we deep fry and hawk. This is the main source of income for women along the coastline. Women depend on the small fish and they are usually the first to disappear when the weather conditions are bad for them," Hamisi Juma, a resident of Vanga Bay, adjacent to the Vanga Blue Forest, tells IPS.

"Then came the floods; we did not know that mangroves are a wall protecting us from the ocean. Our rice farms, which are also female-dominated activities, were completely destroyed. Our young children could not go to school during heavy rains due to flooding."

The destruction of mangroves in Vanga Bay was particularly severe. Between 1991 and 2016, the community over-harvested mangroves at a rate of 0.5 percent per year, translating to 451 hectares or 1,114 acres of mangroves lost in 25 years.

"The coastal communities were unaware that mangrove forests and swamps and the entire ecosystem of seagrass and salt marsh vegetation are the most important ecosystems in battling climate change. Without the ecosystem to serve as the barrier between the community and the deadly Indian Ocean water, it would be a catastrophe such as what we saw in Libya, where a quarter of a city was destroyed by storms and floods in 2023," says Omar Hassan Aden, an independent researcher and expert in climate change.

But as science trickles down to the community, women are emerging from the frontlines of climate change with the lessons, determination, and commitment to be at the center of climate action. Planting and growing mangrove seedlings to restore coastal mangrove forests while significantly contributing to preservation and conservation efforts.

"As women, we are the silent

champions of saving mangroves. Last year, we planted more than 300,000 seedlings. We do not just put the seedlings into the ground; we care for them until they can grow with no other intervention. The Tsunza mangrove forest cover is one of the best, thick, and with very few spaces in between, and we are now being rewarded with high production of fish," says Kwekwe Tsuma, from Tsunza village.

"We have even started a fish pond project and women no longer have to buy fish from the fishermen. We tend to the mangrove forest, sell mangrove seedlings, keep fish, and we also have a beekeeping project. Mangrove honey is smooth, unique, delicious, one of the best and treats several diseases."

There are 8,536 hectares of mangrove forest in Kilifi, 8,354 hectares in Kwale and 37,650 hectares in Lamu, translating to 61 percent of the total mangrove forest cover, according to the most recent Ministry of Environment and Forestry statistics.

Research shows an estimated 16 percent of Kenya's coastline is at higher levels of exposure to coastal hazards and if left unmitigated, this could rise to 41 percent. In November and early December 2023, deadly El Niño floods rocked the coastal region in regions such as Mombasa, where mangrove cover is minimal. The floods were severe.

Kwale County community-led initiatives such as Tsunza and Vanga Blue Forest are helping restore 3,725 hectares of degraded mangrove forest. Kenya's Mikoko (Mangrove) Pamoja community-led committee is constituted of five women and eight men and is the world's first successful coastal 'blue carbon' project.

The Ngomeni Marereni community project restores and protects 640 hectares of highly degraded mangroves, significantly contributing to the restoration of 3,422 hectares of degraded mangroves in Kilifi County.

In Lamu, the Mtangawanda Mangrove Restoration Women Group is leading mangrove conservation, preservation, and protection efforts, contributing to the restoration of 14,407 hectares of degraded mangroves. It is expected that ongoing low-cost, high-impact community-led, community-driven efforts will restore Kenya's blue forest back to its former natural glory, saving coastal communities from the climate change onslaught.

IPS UN Bureau Report



# Marriage dissolution and division of matrimonial assets

THE contract of marriage is a sacrosanct union treated differently before the law compared to other ordinary contracts.

Due to its peculiarity, the government play a major role in ensuring parties who opt to enter such contract on their own decision will comply with their respective obligations therein.

Contract of marriage can only be called to an end after a court of law is satisfied with tangible evidence tendered by the parties to the extent that the marriage is broken down irreparably.

It is only after this that an order of divorce or separation can be issued. It is important to take note that it is only a court of law vested with mandate to terminate marriage contract unlike other ordinary contracts.

Issue of divorce or other related process governed by various religious are evidential prove required to be tendered in court of law to show that, the marriage has broken down for issuance of an order of dissolution of marriage.

It is a matter of law that once an order of divorce or separation is issued, the court is always duty-bound to deal with questions of first, custody of children in that marriage and second, division of matrimonial properties.

The above two aspects are natural consequences of the contract of marriage which must be overseen by the court. The court is duty bounded to ensure the said two aspects are monitored properly.

This article takes you through some key highlights on the question of division of matrimonial properties as the same has been a challenging issue in our community when parties start thinking on the dissolution of marriage.

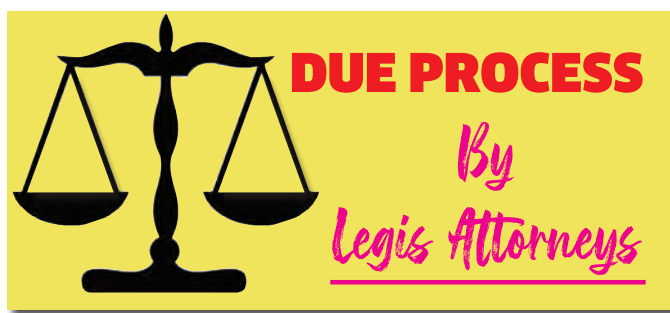
The emphasis here is that division of matrimonial properties is among areas with good number of disputes within families when an issue of divorce or separation emerges.

Therefore, it is imperative for the spouses to be aware of basic knowledge on the same instead of relying on misleading information about division of matrimonial assets.

Unlike Kenya, where there is separate act of parliament dealing with all issues of division of matrimonial assets namely the Matrimonial Property Act No 49 of 2013; in Tanzania the issue is covered under a single provision in Section 114 of the Law of Marriage Act.

In subsection 3 of the above provision, two circumstances are provided to described assets namely (i) assets acquired during the subsistence of marriage and (ii) assets acquired before entering into contract of marriage but which were substantially improved by other spouse during the subsistence of marriage.

The above section covers properties obtained during marriage, that is when spouses were together immediately after marriage and properties acquired by



one spouse before marriage but the same were substantially improved after marriage.

For example, if a husband owned a semi-finished house before entering contract of marriage, while completion of the same was done during the subsistence of marriage in which the wife plays some roles to ensure the house is finished, then the aforesaid house may be subject to division as it is a matrimonial property within the meaning of the law.

As for the registration of properties in the name of one spouse, it is a settled principle in our jurisdiction that a property registered in the name of one spouse either acquired during subsistence of marriage or prior to marriage is presumed in the eyes of the law to belong to the registered spouse unless there is sufficient evidence to rebut the said presumption as stipulated in section 60 of the Law of Marriage Act.

The duty of the other spouse is to adduce evidence to rebut the said presumption that the property was substantially improved by that spouse although the same was acquired before

entering into contract of marriage.

An example is the land case No 7 of 2018 between Sikudhani Rajab vs Ecobank Tanzania Ltd and 4 others. But if the property is registered under both names, then the law presumes each party has equal beneficial interest, unless it is proven otherwise.

Section 114 (1) of the law of Marriage Act requires the court to exercise its power under two ways in respect of matrimonial properties: (i) to order for division of matrimonial properties or (ii) to issue an order of sale of matrimonial properties and its proceeds be apportioned to the spouses.

Now the question which is frequently being asked is what is the conditions used by the court to either divide matrimonial properties or proceeds of the sale of matrimonial property?

There are four major conditions which courts ought to consider at the time of division of matrimonial assets as provided in Section 114(2) of the Law of Marriage Act. These are also discussed in the Court of Appeal in Civil appeal No 349 of 2020 between Shakila Lucas

versus Ramadhani Sadiki dated. February 14th, 2024.

Condition one is customs of the community to which the parties belong. Here the court takes into account the possibility that a property owned by one spouse may be for future generations of family and community and most of these properties are ancestral land bequeathed from that spouse's parents. Evidence tendered by that spouse and its location normally determines whether the same is owned customarily or otherwise.

Condition two is the extent of contribution made by each spouse towards acquisition of that asset. Contribution can be made by way of monetary or non-monetary such as domestic work like housekeeping, childcare and others.

In the Matrimonial Case No 6 of 1977 between Rukia Diwani Konzi vs Abdallah Issa Kihenga, the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam clearly said that domestic work must be regarded as part of joint efforts or contribution towards acquisition of assets such as provision of conjugal rights. This was a liberal approach to those spouses who do not go to work but remain at home and take care of children of the marriage and matrimonial properties.

Condition three dwells on any debts owed by either party which were contracted for their joint benefits. Here, the court is required to look into the said matrimonial properties which were deposited as security

but only for the benefit of the family. In that case, both spouses are charged with that liability until the same is discharged or otherwise.

Condition four considers the needs of infant children, if any. The court considers which party should stay with such children before matrimonial home is apportioned for the purposes of upbringing of such minors.

Sometimes, circumstances may not allow issuances of an order of sale or division of a matrimonial home. In such circumstances, the court may issue conditional order in a sense that one spouse remains with children in the matrimonial home and once children attain the age of majority, then the same can be sold and its proceeds divided between spouses in the decided allotment.

Lastly, let's take a look at these two wrong or misleading perceptions which have been circulating in our society. One is that the spouse who caused the breakdown of marriage is not entitled to division of matrimonial properties. That is not correct position of the law.

The fact is the spouse whose actions contributed to the breakdown of marriage by seeking issuance of an order of separation or divorce by the court cannot lose his or her entitlement in the division of matrimonial properties.

Legal grounds for dissolution of marriage are different from grounds for division of matrimonial properties. In the case of

Robert Aranjo vs Zena Mwijuma (1985)1984 page 7, the appellant disputed why the subordinate court awarded the respondent equal share of their matrimonial properties while she was the sources of breakdown of the marriage.

The court held that grounds for dissolution of marriage are different from grounds for division of matrimonial assets. In division of matrimonial assets, the court is required to deal with grounds provided in section 114 in connection with evidence on record.

The second misleading perception is that entering into a contract of marriage gives an automatic ownership of properties to either party. This is a wrong perception because section 58 of the law of marriage allows a spouse to own personal properties in their name unless that position is rebuttable under section 60 of the law of marriage.

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

**You can send questions or comments to our email [info@legisattorneys.co.tz](mailto:info@legisattorneys.co.tz) or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website [www.legisattorneys.co.tz](http://www.legisattorneys.co.tz)**

By Adonis Byemwela

DESPITE promises from the government to end power rationing by March 2024, the continued struggle with electricity shortages has cast a shadow over the nation's economic stability. The Deputy Minister of Energy, Judith Kapinga, provided updates on February 1, assuring the public that trials at the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower Plant (JNHPP) would be completed by February 16, bringing 215 megawatts to alleviate the crisis.

In a recent development on February 16, Kapinga announced the successful trials of the No. 9 generator at the Mwalimu Nyerere Dam, producing 235 megawatts. While she reiterated the government's commitment to ending power rationing by March 2024, concerns were raised by the Speaker of the Parliament, Dr. Tulia Ackson, regarding the government's changing deadlines.

The power rationing crisis, which commenced in September 2023 due to electricity production shortages, has inflicted severe economic consequences. Businesses in major cities like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, and Arusha have borne the brunt, with small-scale traders facing challenges in running entrepreneurial projects.

Despite Tanzania's abundance of natural resources, providing affordable access to electricity remains a daunting task. Critics emphasize the need for a strategic focus on reliable and cost-effective energy sources, such as natural gas, to address the persisting power issues.

The current trajectory of the power sector, marked by a shift away from coal and natural gas, has raised apprehensions. The Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) has encountered challenges, including system errors in gas-fired power plants, leading to intermittent outages.

Tanesco reported a significant profit of Sh109.45 billion

## The ongoing struggle with power outages threatens economic growth and stability



in the 2021/22 financial year. However, mismanagement and poor planning have hindered the effective harnessing of Tanzania's energy potential.

Coherent planning, transparent procurement processes, and strategic investments in Independent Power Projects (IPPs) have been deemed essential.

The government's commitment to resolving the power crisis is under scrutiny, with the Parliament extending the deadline to June 2024.

This shifting timeline has further eroded public confidence in the government's ability to provide a sustainable solution to power outages.

The economic toll of power shortages is evident in

the struggles faced by businesses and entrepreneurs. In major cities, power outages have left businesses in the dark, affecting daily operations.

Small-scale traders, including juice vendors and welding projects, are grappling with financial losses, exacerbating the economic challenges already faced by many.

Notwithstanding the promise of economic growth and development, the power sector's non-balance toward leveraging natural resources like natural gas has hindered progress.

Observers point to successful models in countries like South Korea, which efficiently harnesses its energy potential and boasts twice

the electricity generation of 48 Sub-Saharan African nations combined.

The legacy of former President John Pombe Magufuli, who prioritized industrialization and reliable energy, has faced challenges since his passing. Cabinet reshuffles have seen leadership changes, with mixed results in addressing power shedding and outages.

The recent revelation of a system error in Tanesco's gas-fired power plant in August 2023 added to the woes.

While Tanesco recorded profits, the lack of a coherent strategy and reliance on temperamental energy sources like hydro, wind, and solar have raised concerns about long-term sustainability.

The emphasis on coal and natural gas, which are reliable for base load capacity, has been downplayed in favor of alternatives with inherent challenges.

Critics argue that the Mtwara corridor project, relying on coal, is key to unlocking the southern region's potential and contributing to Tanzania's GDP growth.

The need for strategic planning and transparent procurement processes is paramount to overcome the historical challenges faced by Tanzania's energy sector. Independent Power Projects (IPPs) should play a crucial role in providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions.

As Tanzanians grow weary of the persisting power

challenges and the unfulfilled promises from their leaders, the scrutiny intensifies on the government's commitment to delivering tangible and sustainable solutions by June 2024.

The economic consequences of prolonged power shortages underscore the pressing need for a comprehensive and effective energy strategy to propel Tanzania's progress and ensure economic stability.

In contrast to Tanzania's struggles, South Korea, a nation geographically small enough for one to traverse from one point to another within four hours, stands out as a remarkable example.

The country boasts twice the amount of electricity generated by 48 Sub-Saha-

ran African nations combined. South Korea has emerged as a beacon of success in efficiently harnessing its energy potential.

Tanzania, on the other hand, finds itself grappling with a disparity between political rhetoric and effective implementation.

Despite the abundant natural resources that could facilitate the generation of reliable and affordable energy, the nation's progress in this crucial sector has been hindered by a lack of tangible action.

The juxtaposition of South Korea's energy success with Tanzania's ongoing challenges serves as a poignant reminder that the time has come to emulate successful models.

On a lighter note, both Tanzania and South Korea attained independence in the same year, making it imperative for Tanzania to reflect on the missed opportunities and strive for transformative change.

It is time for Tanzanian leaders to move beyond mere podium promises and rhetoric, taking concrete steps to implement a robust energy strategy. Emulating the success of nations like South Korea could be a catalyst for driving economic development, industrialization, and overall progress.

As Tanzania navigates its way through power rationing and outages, there is a critical need for a paradigm shift in energy planning. A strategic focus on reliable sources, such as natural gas, and a commitment to transparent procurement processes are essential components for sustainable growth in the energy sector.

The urgency lies in learning from success stories, adapting proven strategies, and fostering a culture of implementation. With South Korea serving as a testament to the transformative power of effective energy policies, Tanzania has the opportunity to harness its potential and overcome the persistent challenges that have hindered progress for far too long.



# 'We want dignity': Indian farmers defy pellets, drones in demanding new deal

By Rifat Fareed

WHEN Balvinder Singh, 47, was hit by a volley of piercing objects while marching towards New Delhi with thousands of other farmers, he did not know what had struck him.

But his body is pockmarked with telltale black scars from iron pellets fired by security forces to prevent farmers from crossing over from Punjab into the state of Haryana, which borders New Delhi. Haryana is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, whose federal policies the farmers are protesting against.

Singh, a farmer from Faridkot district in Punjab, who was admitted at Rajindra Hospital in the city of Patiala, was hit when he was calming the angry young farmers at the front of the protest site, metres away from the border on February 14, a day after the protests began.

"I was calming down the protesters when I was hit," Singh says, his left eye bloody from a pellet injury. "I could not understand whether it was a bullet or something else that hurt me."

Singh says he had never heard of iron pellets being used as ammunition by security forces against civilian protesters. In the past, such pellets have been mostly used in Indian-administered Kashmir as a crowd-control mechanism. Pellet guns have blinded scores of people in Kashmir.

Now, they are part of the intensifying confrontation between farmers and the government. The government in Punjab, which is ruled by the Aam Aadmi Party



Farmers gather in protest at the Shambhu border between the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

that is in opposition nationally, has said that three farmers have lost their eyesight after being hit with the Haryana police pellets and a dozen others have also suffered pellet injuries.

Critics of the farmers, meanwhile, argue that the central government cannot allow the protests to escalate the way they did in 2021, when clashes broke out on the streets of New Delhi. Some protesters reached the Red

Fort - from where the prime minister delivers the Independence Day speech - and were accused of yanking down the national flag. A security crackdown followed.

Yet, days after this latest agitation kicked off, there are growing signs of a repeat of the kind of escalation in tensions that India witnessed three years ago.

Thousands of farmers in their tractor trolleys, small trucks, on foot, and scooters have travelled

from rural areas of Punjab and gathered on the Punjab-Haryana highway waiting to march on the capital city. They are hoping to press the BJP government for demands including a guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) for their crops and loan waivers, among others.

In Haryana, the government has been criticised for using drones to drop tear gas shells on the protesting farmers. The

state's police have sealed the border with heavy cemented blocks, iron nails and barbed wire.

Singh, who owns a four-acre plot where he grows rice and wheat, says there is no guarantee of price in the fluctuating market for other crops.

"We spend more on cultivation [when growing other crops] and there is no earning," he says.

"Now, we are also facing water shortages for even growing these

two crops [rice and wheat]. We are in deep stress."

At present the government buys rice and wheat from farmers for public distribution, and offers them a minimum support price for these grains. But other agricultural commodities do not receive this price protection. That, farmers say, has in turn led to the overproduction of rice and wheat. Paddies in particular, are water intensive, leading to depleted groundwater levels.

"If I want to diversify to other crops, there should be financial security for me that I will get a good price - that is what we are asking. We are asking for our rights," says Singh, from the hospital, where eight other farmers, some aged above 60, are also being treated.

One of them, Mota Singh, 32, from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, said that he was hit by a rubber bullet on his hand. To Mota, something even more fundamental is at stake than crop prices.

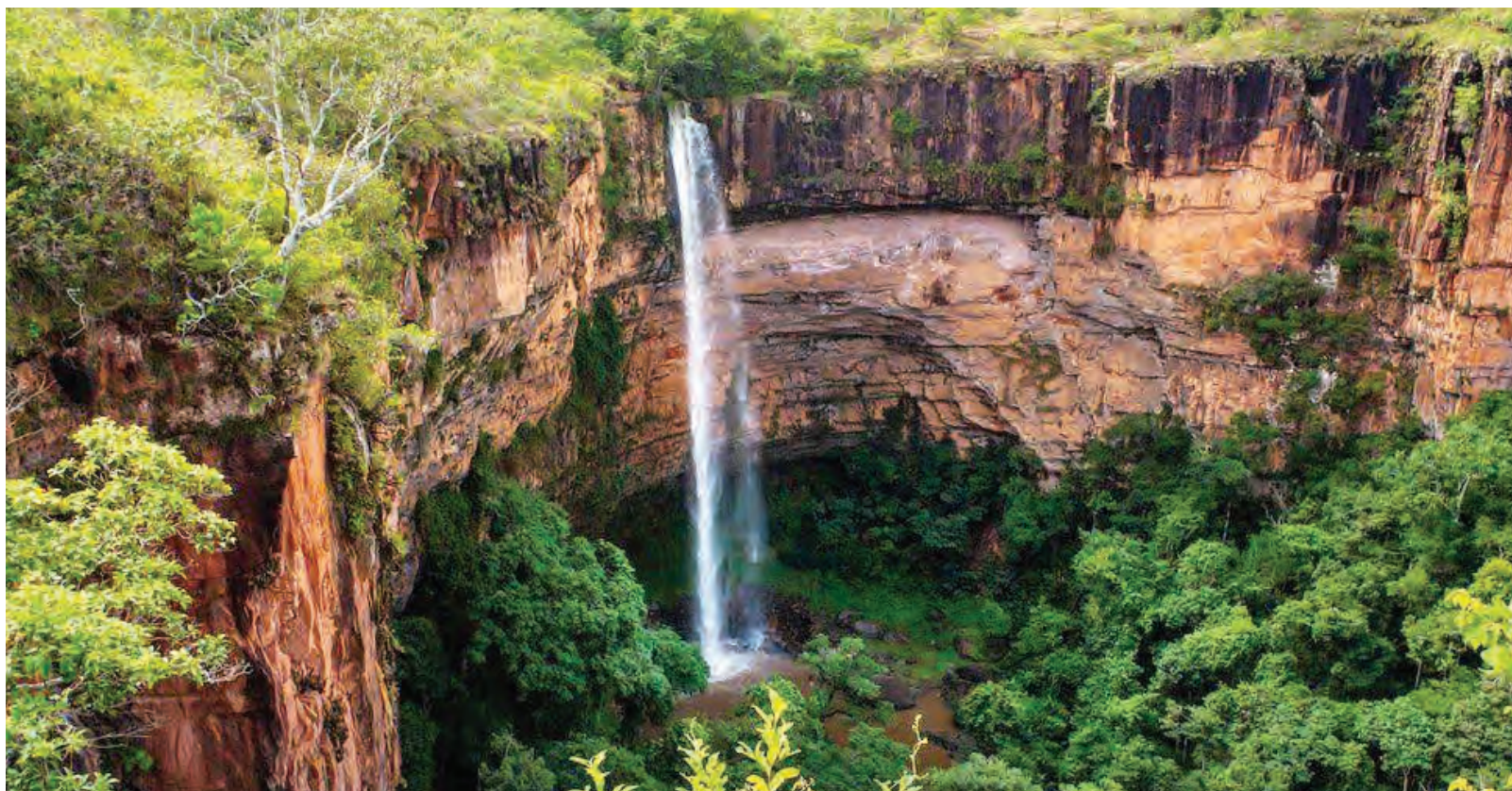
"Farmers are demanding dignity, we cannot be poor forever," says Mota, when asked why he was protesting.

Why are farmers again on the roads?

More than 250 farmers' unions have supported the protest that is being organised from Punjab.

Up to two-thirds of India's 1.4 billion population are engaged in agriculture-related activities for their livelihoods and the sector contributes nearly a fifth of the country's gross domestic product.

Farmers say that their main demand - minimum support price legislation - would ensure that the rates of their crops are sustainable and provide them with decent earnings.



The Cerrado is the largest grassland in the world and hosts 5 percent of the world's species

## Beef trade risks crucial Brazil ecosystem, says campaigners

By Esme Stallard and Leandro Prazeres

BEEF production by three of the world's biggest meatpackers has been linked to illegal deforestation in Brazil's Cerrado, according to campaigners.

The savannah, which featured in Planet Earth III, hosts 5% of Earth's species and is a buffer against global warming.

In one part of the Cerrado, nearly half of the farms supplying the companies had cut down trees, the Global Witness investigation suggests.

The companies, JBS, Minerva and Marfrig said they acted in line with local law.

The Cerrado sits next to the

Amazon but unlike its neighbouring habitat has not been afforded the same protections. An upcoming EU law to reduce the import of products from deforested land does not include much of the Cerrado, as it is not considered a forest under the legislation.

In the last year the rate of deforestation in the Amazon has halved whilst in the Cerrado it surged by 43% according to data from Brazilian space agency Inpe.

Simon Roach, senior investigative journalist from Global Witness, told the BBC: "Everyone knows that the Amazon is in crisis and it rightly has had attention from lawmakers and the public, but next door you have

this very important ecosystem that has not been protected to the same extent."

The Cerrado savannah is described by Sir David Attenborough in the BBC documentary series Planet Earth III as a "grassland paradise". It covers nearly a fifth of Brazil's territory and hosts 5% of the world's species, including more than 6,000 types of tree.

It is also a vital store of planet-warming carbon - it is estimated it holds 13.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, which is more than China released last year.

For decades it has suffered deforestation, as land is cleared for agriculture and mining. But a new investigation from interna-

tional environmental and human rights charity Global Witness, and exclusively shared with the BBC, reveals the extent to which this Cerrado deforestation is illegal and is being driven by the cattle trade.

Although the Cerrado extends across 11 states the researchers focused their efforts on Mato Grosso - as it has the country's largest cattle herd and contains parts of both the Cerrado and the Amazon.

The three biggest meatpackers operating here are JBS, Minerva and Marfrig - who supply meat to the world and collectively turned over \$98.15bn (£78.2bn) in 2022.

Each animal slaughtered by the meatpackers has a transfer

permit detailing which farm in Mato Grosso they are brought from. The most recent permits available are from 2019.

The researchers looked at the permits and then used satellite data to see whether there had been deforestation at those farms over the preceding 11 years.

Global Witness estimate that between 2008 and 2019 an area of forest bigger than Chicago was felled within ranches supplying the three beef firms across Mato Grosso.

And for those farms based in the Cerrado 42 percent had suffered deforestation.

Deforestation is allowed under a state permit but Global Witness found permits covered only 1% of the land deforested, suggesting the majority was illegal.

Dr Viola Heinrich, a post-doctoral researcher in climate science at Potsdam University, who was not involved in the study, said the figures may be higher. The researchers only counted deforestation that was bigger than or equal to 6.27 ha (15.5 acres) - as this is what the state will prosecute.

When asked about the findings Marfrig said that "it does not acquire animals from deforested areas" and that all of its supplies must meet the Brazilian Federal Prosecutor's deforestation rules.

JBS also made this point and said it had already removed 14% of the farms in Global Witness' analysis for non-compliance.

Minerva said there is no illegal deforestation in its supply chains.

Brazilian officials have said that tackling deforestation in the Cerrado is particularly difficult because regulation is set at the state level instead of being governed by national laws.

As well as releasing thousands of tonnes of carbon, deforestation threatens the habitats and lives of animals living in the Cerrado.

Last year the BBC's Planet Earth III team revealed the risk to the rare maned wolf from fires

used for clearing the savannah for farming. The mother wolf, Norenia, and two of her puppies featured in the series were tragically found dead in a farmer's ditch following filming.

According to Brazilian government trade data, in 2019 most of the beef from Mato Grosso ended up in China, but beef from the state worth over \$7.4m (£5.9m) went to the UK.

From the end of this year businesses will no longer be able to trade agricultural products in the EU which are linked to deforestation abroad, which includes the Amazon. But currently under the law's definition of "forests" much of the Cerrado is not included as the trees are not tall enough - leaving millions of trees exposed.

Dr Viola Heinrich told the BBC: "The study's framing around EUDR [the law] is important. The results bring to light the need to carefully reconsider what is defined as deforestation under the EUDR and consider natural vegetation loss outside forested biomes."

The EU Commission told the BBC that the EU regulation will still cover two thirds of the Cerrado and during its first review of the legislation will look at expanding what areas are included.

"This legislation will make little difference to deforestation in the Cerrado if it is left out," said Alice Thault, the executive-secretary of Instituto Centro de Vida, an environmental community organisation from Mato Grosso state.

The researchers were only able to get data on cattle up to 2019 because the transfer permits known as GTAs are no longer released publicly.

Roach, from Global Witness said: "There has been a transparency issue in Brazil in recent years and it has become a lot trickier to get data."

"So, more transparency is needed if we want greater accountability around deforestation."



# Cameroonian schools embrace mother tongue education in abid to preserve cultural heritage

YAOUNDE

ON a bright morning at Les Normaliens Lay Private Bilingual School in Foubot, Cameroon, teacher Belinda Bafon prepared her students for class. Settling in, the children delved into a 30-minute session dedicated to conversing in their mother tongues, a practice central to the school's curriculum.

"Who can say 'good morning, how are you' in their mother tongue?" Bafon asked as the children raised their hands almost in unison in a scramble to respond to the question.

"Irah weh? Weh sa keh?" responded six-year-old Gift Legend Fohyi, who was lucky to be chosen by the teacher.

The students were often asked to pronounce words and give names of things in their mother tongues. Bafon's lecture reflects a typical classroom setting in the country, where a new government policy has made it mandatory to teach mother tongues to children in kindergartens, primary, and secondary schools.

This classroom scene mirrors a broader educational shift in Cameroon. Institutions like Les Normaliens Lay are leading the charge to preserve and promote indigenous languages, recognizing them as vital components of the country's cultural identity. Through such initiatives, Cameroon not only educates its youth but also fosters pride and belonging rooted in linguistic heritage.

Cameroonian culture remains intact, but one important part of indigenous identity -- language -- is fading out. There are about 260 indigenous languages in the country, but only French and English, inherited from colonial masters, are official, according to the Ministry of Secondary Education.

In 2022, the state-run National Institute of Statistics of



Students take notes during a class at Les Normaliens Lay Private Bilingual School in Foubot, Cameroon.

Cameroon reported that 4 percent of the indigenous languages have disappeared since 1950, with 10 percent of them currently neglected, and 7 percent considered as threatened.

Cameroon is now making progress in fostering the teaching of mother tongues in schools as part of efforts to revive local languages, said Secretary of State to the Minister of Basic Education Kilo Vivian Asheri.

"We insist on teaching mother tongues because when a child grows up and the first language they acquire is their mother tongue,

they will understand other languages," Asheri said.

"When introducing the national language, we deal with nearly all the languages," Bafon told Xinhua.

"I was happy when I came to school because I was learning my dialect," added little Fohyi.

At Progressive English Nursery and Primary School in Bafoussam, the chief town of the West Region, Gilles Ndze was attentive as his teacher taught them how to spell their local languages.

The 10-year-old said learning how to speak his mother tongue "helps us communi-

cate with those who know our local languages and also helps us know our national culture."

Learning a native language can be a meaningful way to explore and connect with the heritage, which is largely believed to contribute to a longer and healthier life, said Clarisse Ndam Meganche, an educator and proprietor of Les Normaliens Lay Private Bilingual School.

"Teachers, parents, educators should teach their children to speak a national language; it is very important for their personal development because wherever they

are, they must have an identity, and identity is tested through language," she said.

The revival of mother tongues through education is also an important component of the country's reforms to enhance social integration and unity, said Emmanuel Kelly Fuh, the headmaster of Progressive English Nursery and Primary School.

"Children will be able to discuss with their parents and others who may not have gone to school, who are still in the village. They will be able to discuss with them without any problem and identify their culture," Fuh



**When introducing the national language, we deal with nearly all the languages.**

said.

As Cameroon joins the rest of the world in marking the International Mother Language Day, which falls on Feb. 21, it is important to emphasize the need to decolonize Africa through the teaching of local languages, said linguist Joseph Maluh.

"This program is, at its core, a solid example of what decolonization looks like. It will gradually erase the language of the former colonial master while giving importance to local languages. And while it will take a while to get a framework in place to expand this program all over Cameroon, supporting it will be crucial," Maluh said.

## African forum on tax talks of assessments on member states

By Guardian Correspondent, Livingstone

THE African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) disclosed that additional tax assessments totalling US\$4.75 billion have been recorded since 2016.

Of this sum, US\$1.92 billion was collected from audits conducted in member countries.

Specifically, in 2023, the forum facilitated tax assessments amounting to US\$1.41 billion, leading to the collection of US\$620 million from audits within member countries.

This was revealed recently during the 14th ATAF Country Correspondent Conference held in Zambia city, attended by representatives from all 43 ATAF member countries.

The objective of the gathering was to address pivotal issues, such as strengthening the role of ATAF's Country Correspondents and fostering collaboration among members.

According to press release issues on Wednesday, the conference themed "Evaluating and enhancing information exchange mechanisms in ATAF Member countries,

a cornerstone in fostering effective tax governance." served as a crucial platform to strengthen relationship and devise strategies for bolstering cooperation, ensuring ATAF's visibility, and facilitating successful service delivery to members.

The conference with representatives from Tax administrations across Africa was seeking to build on ATAF's successes over the past 15 years, including offering technical assistance to members, and focusing on areas such as modernization, digitization, the digital economy, and new global reforms.

Since 2016, additional tax assessments have reached US\$4.75 billion, with US\$1.92 billion collected from audits in member countries.

ATAF is also dedicated to fostering expertise and knowledge exchange, having organized 20 comprehensive training programs tailored to address the evolving needs of member states in domestic and international taxation in 2023.

These initiatives, designed to impart sustainable specialized skills, attracted the participation of 2,053 eager learners from 47 countries.

With 180 technical as-



Logan Wort, Executive Secretary of ATAF

stance missions conducted across 35 countries, ATAF has played a crucial role in providing invaluable support to administrations striving for tax excellence.

Given the ever-changing global economic landscape and the pressing issue of Illicit Financial Flows, ATAF's Country Correspondents and Exchange of Information Experts will analyse and assess existing levels of exchange of tax-related information among African tax administrations during the conference.

This includes identifying op-

portunities for improvement, showcasing successful models, and fostering collaboration, a release said.

Logan Wort, Executive Secretary of ATAF, conveyed his excitement for the conference, remarking, "The 14th ATAF Country Correspondent Conference presents a distinctive opportunity for African tax authorities to convene, exchange insights, and devise strategies for strengthening our collective organization and enhancing information exchange mechanisms, crucial in combatting illicit financial flows".

He said through fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, the forum will not only pave the path for more efficient tax governance across the continent but also disrupt channels utilized for illicit financial activities, safeguarding economies and shaping Africa's tax landscape.

As Africa progresses on its path towards sustainable development, the release further said, the evaluation and improvement of information exchange mechanisms are of utmost importance.

"The 14th ATAF Country Cor-

respondent Conference holds the promise of being a pivotal moment in this journey, uniting key stakeholders to chart a course towards more effective tax administration and governance," the release noted.

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) serves as a platform that unites African tax administrations for mutually beneficial discussions and capacity-building initiatives.

ATAF strives to advance efficient and effective tax systems that contribute to the sustainable development of African nations.





Ki gali residents undergo checkups of hypertension during car-free days.

By Rachna Pande

## Effects of hypertension on the nervous system

**T**HE prevalence of high blood pressure, such as hypertension is growing world over. It is affecting not only individuals from affluent western countries, but also those living in developing third world countries.

Urban life styles, obesity, lack of exercise, stress, use of alcohol and tobacco are the common risk factors causing high blood pressure. Genetic susceptibility is also present.

A person with a sibling or parent or a blood relative with hypertension is more likely to develop it. Recent studies have pointed out that even under nutrition can cause chronic cardiovascular

diseases including hypertension.

Rise in catecholamine (adrenaline and non-noradrenaline) levels cause narrowing of blood vessels and increase in the blood pressure. Hypertension affects the eyes, kidneys as well as the nervous system.

In case of very high blood pressure (>180 or 200 mm. Hg) the blood vessels of the brain are burst resulting in damage to

some part of the brain.

This results in sudden paralysis of one side of the face and or body, visual disturbances, loss of speech, loss of consciousness e.t.c. neurological problems depending on the part of the brain that is affected. Sudden bleeding due to rupture of blood vessels causes compression of brain substance and swelling.

This can result in coma or dis-

orientation and or convulsions. Sudden bleeding in the brain substance due to rupture of one or more major blood vessels is usually fatal.

The blood vessels of the brain can develop total blockade due to stiffening of their inner linings, causing paralysis of one side of the body and or face. High blood pressure also contributes to it. Timely treatment can save the

patient's life and stabilize him.

Regular medication and physiotherapy form part of the treatment. Recovery usually takes six weeks to six months or longer depending on blood vessel, vessels affected and state of surrounding blood vessels.

Long standing high blood pressure damages blood vessels of the body including brain. This affects the blood supply of the

body parts and brain.

Damage to the tissues in deep interior of the brain substance does not manifest dramatically as a stroke, i.e. sudden paralysis, neurological disturbances.

But subtle behavioral changes occur in the individual. These include loss of memory, disorientation to time, space and or person, loss of basic social behavior, lack of personal hygiene.

These changes are usually presumed to be related to aging but the underlying cause is uncontrolled high blood pressure. Senile dementia, i.e. behavioral changes with aging is induced and aggravated by uncontrolled hypertension. All these conditions can be diagnosed by scans of the brain and timely treatment does help.

Studies have shown people with diabetes with hypertension are more likely to develop damage to the peripheral nerves, (nerves that carry sensations from outside of body to the brain) as compared to those who have diabetes alone. This manifests as tingling, numbness or loss of sensation in limbs.

Long standing high blood pressure damages the kidney causing kidney failure. This reduces the elimination of toxic waste products from the body, which accumulates in the body and also affect the brain after reaching there via the blood stream.

Electrolyte imbalance caused due to kidney failure causes muscle cramps, weakness and also affects functioning of the brain. Thus the individual suffers from disorientation and or altered consciousness and even coma.

Considering these harmful effects of high blood pressure on the brain and entire nervous system, it is imperative that a person avoids developing it.

If he or she has high blood pressure it is advisable to keep it controlled with dietary measures, regular exercise, adequate relaxation and regular intake of prescribed medicines.

Rachna Pande is a specialist in Internal Medicine.

## New fish species added to Living Planet Index 2022 database

By Correspondent Telesphor Magobe

THE 'Living Planet Index (LPI) 2022: Building a Nature-Positive Society' shows a significant drop in monitored wildlife populations between 1970 and 2018 - that is in 48 years.

It contains both increasing and declining trends and uses data for species that have been monitored at least twice at any time since 1970, which is considered the baseline year.

The LPI 2022 tracks changes in about 32,000 populations of 5,230 species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Data collected during the surveyed period and its analysis help scientists understand the health trend of ecosystems.

According to LPI 2022, between 1970 and 2018 there was a 69-per cent decline in monitored wildlife populations worldwide and freshwater species declined by 83 per cent.

Cycads (palm-like seed-bearing plants found in tropical and subtropical regions) were the most threatened species and coral reefs were declining fast, followed by amphibians during the surveyed period. Scientists suggest that increasing heat waves and droughts resulting from higher global temperatures threaten many species.

As a result, 75 per cent of the earth's ice-free land surface has been changed by humans, mainly to create farms for food production. About 90 per cent of wetlands have been lost globally and 100,000 square kilometres of forest is lost per year (equivalent to about one football pitch every two seconds).

Scientists also suggest that one million species are threat-



**However, 838 new fish species and 11,011 new populations were added to the database since the 2020 Living Planet Report (LPR).**

ened with extinction in the coming years and natural processes are disrupted.

However, 838 new fish species and 11,011 new populations were added to the database since the 2020 Living Planet Report (LPR). The new data has led to a substantial increase in the number of fish species included (29 per cent, +481 species) and has improved coverage for previously underrepresented areas.

The LPR suggests that based on 6,617 monitored populations, representing 1,398 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles

and fish, the freshwater LPI provides an indication of the status of freshwater habitats.

In 2022 the LPI included at least 32,000 species populations, which translate into 11,000 more species populations than in 2020, the largest increase yet in the number of populations between two editions of this report.

The increase is partly attributed to an increase in the sourcing of data in languages other than English, with work by WWF-Brazil and the University of Sao Paulo Collecting Data in Portuguese. Their efforts have facilitated the inclusion of 3,269 popu-

lations of 1,002 Brazilian species (575 of which are new to the database) included in the LPI.

WWF's LPR is published every two years, providing a clear picture of how species populations are faring across the world and giving an indication of overall ecosystem health.

Despite the solace found in the new fish species, the LPI 2022 shows human activities have considerably contributed to the decline in the number of wildlife species populations. For instance, illegal fishing and extraction of coral reefs

have led to the destruction of fish habitats and low fish production. There are also other human activities that have led to biodiversity loss.

"This decline in wildlife and wild places is mostly due to human activities such as deforestation, large-scale farming, pollution and construction of buildings and transport networks. Such activities prevent the living system from working as we need it to in order to provide for the needs of the growing human population. The LPI is one of many different indicators that confirm that biodiversity is declining," reads

part of the LPR.

Sir Robert Watson from Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research says one million plants and animals are threatened with extinction. "At least 1-2.5 per cent of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish have already gone extinct, populations and genetic diversity have decreased and species are losing their climatically determined habitats."

European Union's Copernicus Service says the earth has warmed by 1.2° Celsius since pre-industrial times and current human activities and political pledges will fail to prevent it warming more than 2°Celsius. Studies show that beyond 1.5° Celsius global warming will cause huge problems for people and nature.

In 2022 the United Nations Human General Assembly recognised that everyone, everywhere, has a fundamental human right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Fulfilling this right is no longer an option, but an obligation.

"Implementing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment means taking a rights-based approach to the interconnected crises that are preventing people from living in harmony with nature - the climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity, and pervasive pollution."

It is against this background that every person, everywhere across the world is required to participate in the creation of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment without which life will turn into hell for each one of us. So, let's take care of nature if we want it to care for us!



## WHI aspires to revolutionise the Tanzanian housing sector

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA'S real estate sector is likely inching towards 'joyous' moment, after the Watumishi Housing Investments (WHI) unveils a new plan implement various housing projects starting from this year, which will be sold at affordable prices.

The projects will involve the construction of best-designed homes to reflect with the public needs, specifically middle and low income earners.

The company says is now implementing the second phase of the Public Servant Housing Scheme (PSHS), the major project involving the construction of 1000 units in different regions, including Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Morogoro and the capital city of Dodoma.

According to Dr Fred Msemwa, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), WHI, the real estate developer, the vision is to further revolutionize the way homes are built, priced, and made accessible to the public.

Working with the high commitment to affordability and innovations, Dr Msemwa said WHI has significantly transformed the landscape of homes ownerships in the country. "One of the key aspects that set WHI apart, is its dedication to providing homes at prices that are approximately 30 percent lower than properties developed by other players in the sector," he expressed.

Dr Msemwa explained this to The Guardian over the WHI achievement in the country's real estate sector during the past year, as well as future plans for 2024.

And he noted, "This commitment to affordability has made home ownership a realistic goal for many Tanzanians, particularly public servants who may have previously found it financially out of reach."

The WHI's CEO unveiled that, be it landed properties or apartments, the focus was to offers a diverse range of choices, catering to the different preferences and needs of potential buyers.

"Central to WHI's approach is its provision of various financing options tailored to suit the needs of potential home owners," he added.

To ensure the company continues to stand at the country's real estate apex, the WHI Communication Specialist, Maryjane Makawia revealed that, in this year, more intervention will be done to ensure more Tanzanians own homes.

She asserted that the move will possibly be accomplished through a range of helpful schemes, such as Tenant Purchase (Hire Purchase). "With low-interest rates and progressive payments, including zero percent interest payments during the construction period, WHI will make the dream of owning a home a tangible reality for many," she said.



Ongoing Watumishi Housing Investments' housing project in Mwanza city. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## UNLOCKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES: HOW TO START A SUCCESSFUL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY



By Guardian Reporter

WITH its economy rapidly expanding and urbanization on the rise, Tanzania offers an optimal environment for aspiring real estate entrepreneurs.

Speaking exclusively with this reporter, Aabidah Abdul, Managing Director of Lansdowne Property, emphasized the importance of meticulous planning, market insight, and strategic implementation in navigating the industry's complexities.

"Before diving into the realm of real estate entrepreneurship in Tanzania, it's vital to grasp the nuances of the market," she advises. "The country's real estate sector has undergone significant growth fueled by urbanization, population surge, and escalating demand for residential and commercial spaces."

She further highlights, "Key urban hubs like Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza,

and Dodoma have emerged as focal points for real estate investments, offering a plethora of opportunities across residential, commercial, and industrial domains."

According to her, at the heart of every prosperous real estate endeavor lies comprehensive market research.

"Start by scrutinizing prevailing market trends, supply-demand dynamics, and pricing frameworks in your chosen area. Pinpoint burgeoning neighborhoods, evaluate infrastructure blueprints, and measure the purchasing capacity of the community," she maintained.

Aabidah was of the view that utilizing such insights will empower real estate entrepreneur to craft a well-informed business strategy tailored to his or her market.

The Lansdowne Property boss wants an entrepreneur to formulate a business plan as it serves as a roadmap for estate venture.

"One needs to outline his/her objectives, target market, competitive analysis, marketing strategies, and financial projections. Ensure the business plan is realistic, flexible, and aligned with the prevailing market conditions," she recommended.

Adding: "Whether you're focusing on residential property development, commercial leasing, or property management services, a comprehensive business plan will guide you through every stage of your entrepreneurial journey."

According to her, one needs to navigating the legal and regulatory landscape is crucial for establishing a compliant and sustainable real estate business in the country.

"Familiarize yourself with local laws concerning property ownership, land use, construction permits, and taxation," she emphasized.

Adding: "Seek expert legal counsel to register your business, acquire essential licenses and permits, and

ensure compliance with regulations. Establishing a robust legal framework will shield your business from potential risks and liabilities."

For Jamal Ismael, a London-based real estate attorney, thinks collaborating with strategic partners is vital as can significantly enhance one's prospects of success in the real estate industry.

"Build partnerships with esteemed architects, engineers, contractors, and real estate agents, leveraging their expertise and resources to bolster your projects. Nurture connections with financial institutions, investors, and government agencies to secure funding, access capital, and capitalize on incentives for real estate development endeavors," he advised.

The real estate attorney further added: "A robust network of collaborators can unlock lucrative prospects and accelerate your business's growth."

For him, success in real estate is not just about transactions; it's about building enduring relationships, creating value, and making a positive impact on communities.

"Dare to dream big, seize opportunities, and embark on your entrepreneurial odyssey to unlock the vast potential of Tanzania's real estate market," noted he.

On the other hand, James Mugendi an independent realtor informed this reporter that there are three major forms of real estate business operating in the country which includes commercial real estate which according to him, it is the most profitable entity.

The said form of real estate includes in renting space, car parks, gas stations, retail space, office buildings and storage facilities.

"The second facet of this enterprise pertains to residential properties, encompassing the transformation of structures from one form or use to another. Residential real estate is predominantly managed by individuals who entailing the leasing of apartments, single rooms and more," he elaborated.

He elaborated that the ultimate aspect of the business revolves around land transactions, encompassing the purchase of land from one party at a set price and reselling it at a higher price to another party. It also involves acquiring land at a low price and selling it after a period when its value appreciates.

Mugendi sees the real estate business as continually thriving, emphasizing that it's never too late to join, especially considering the prime cities conducive to its growth in the country.

He adds, "With the burgeoning population and advancements in ICT, numerous individuals across Tanzania's urban centers and beyond are seizing the opportunity to delve into real estate."

## Foreigners show up at DSE by selling cement company stocks

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors appeared on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) during Wednesday by specifically selling the shares of Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC), the largest cement producer, which were all bought by local investors.

The DSE market report shows the cement producer's counter recorded the transaction of 75,241 shares valued 331mn/- traded at a discounted price of 4,400/- per share in 12 deals.

The cement company, which was listed in 2006, opened the day with a share price amounting to

4,540/-, before closing at 4,400/-, a slight decline by 3.08 percent.

However, TPCC stocks remain the fourth largest priced on DSE behind Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC), Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) and NMB Bank.

Back on Tuesday, the DSE market report shows the company recorded the transacted 382 shares valued 1.75mn/- traded at a price ranging from 4,540/- to record 4,700/- per share in six deals.

During the opening day of the week, the market report shows the cement producer's counter was also active, after recording the transaction of 11,310

shares valued 51.3mn/- traded at a price ranging from 4,360/- to 4,680/- per share in four deals.

On the closing trading session of last week, the cement producer's counter also recorded the transactions of 23,210 shares valued 100.7mn/- traded at a price ranging from 4,340/- to 4,360/- per share in 10 deals.

This is being recorded ahead of release of the company's financial statement for the second half of last year ended in December.

During the first six months of last year, the company recorded gross profit amounting to 80bn/- compared to 77bn/- re-

corded during similar period of 2022.

Dividend payable amounted to 2.89bn/- during the first half of last year, a slight increase compared to 2.76bn/- recorded during similar period of 2022.

According to the annual report for 2022, since 2018, the company has continued to make a record each year in production, sales and profit, creating more value for its stakeholders.

The report shows revenue has recorded a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.8 percent to 495bn/- in 2022, from 329bn/- recorded in 2018, with operating profit growing to 136bn/- compared to 80.1bn/- respec-

tively, which translated to CAGR of 14.2 percent for five years.

Earnings per share also recorded a CAGR of 14.4 percent, after hitting 541/- at the end of 2022, compared to 316/- recorded at the end of 2018, with dividend per share of 390/- in 2022, according to the annual report.

In his statement on the annual report, the company chairman Hakar Gurdal commented that the growth of sales volume was a result of high production efficiency, the commitment of employees, the implementation of efficient sales strategies and the enhancement of the product portfolio.





# GOVT TO INVOLVE PRIVATE SECTOR IN IMPLEMENTING BAGAMOYO SEZ

By Guardian Reporter

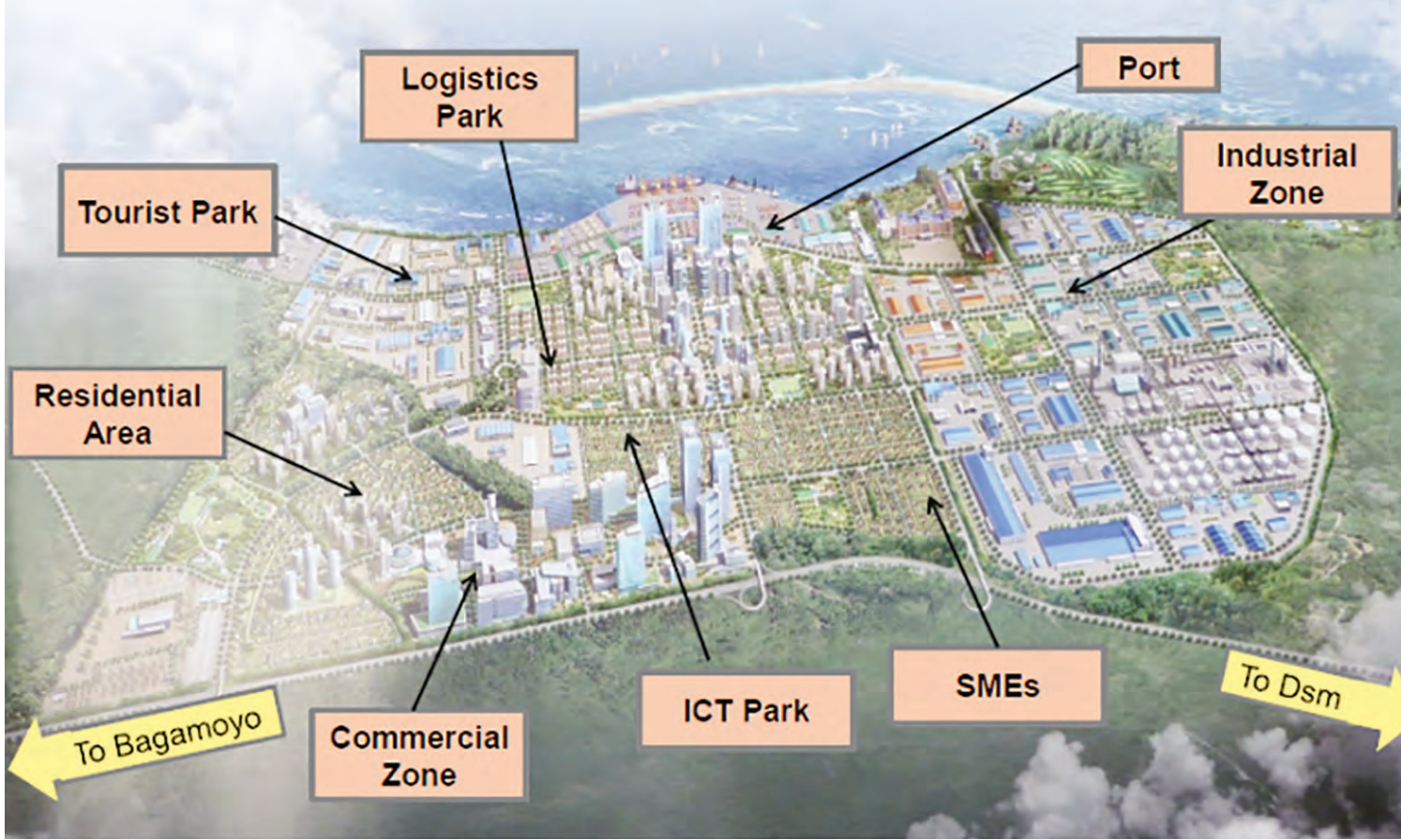
**T**HE government has said it will team up with the private sector in executing the Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project to speed up productive investments to the country.

This was unveiled by the Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo when briefing the Parliamentary Committee for Governance, Constitution and Legal Affairs in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

"This is the focus that the government is currently adopting to engage closely the private sector in implementing projects like the Bagamoyo SEZ," he said.

Prof Mkumbo said the revival of the Bagamoyo SEZ project follows the fundamental decision made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to pursue the project after it stalled for over a decade ago.

He said the govern-



A master plan of Bagamoyo SEZ

ment will have to compensate people in these areas in order to have the sufficient land for the project implementation.

He said this has been

a challenge of taking people's land and fail to compensate them and ultimately these people return and repossess their land.

He said the govern-

ment will put basic infrastructures in the Bagamoyo SEZ project area like road network, water, drainage systems, electricity, natural gas network.

"This is how to package better the Bagamoyo SEZ project area in order to attract serious investors," he said.

The said there many investors in the world

but to get serious ones is not an easy task. He stressed, "We need to get a very serious investor to implement this project,"

Prof Mkumbo said the

investors may team up themselves because the project is big so that they can easily raise funds for executing the project.

He said recently they visited the Benin and found them implementing a project which is almost similar to Bagamoyo SEZ using the public private partnership model at 50 per cent shareholding structure.

Last year, the government said at least 11tr/- was needed for the implementation of Bagamoyo SEZ investment project.

Of the total amount need, the government said, it will inject 1.6tr/- for availing infrastructure in the area such as roads, water and electricity.

"Basing on the report, we speak of the investment worth 11tr/- for the implementation of the Bagamoyo SEZ," he said, noting that over 200 industries are expected to be established in the zone.

The Bagamoyo SEZ project will constitute the development of 19 areas for various purposes such as industries, trade, logistics, ports and services.

The Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Governance, Constitution and

Legal Affairs Dr Selem-ani Zedi pledged to provide full support to the Bagamoyo SEZ project realisation due to its significance to the country's economy.

"I want to assure you that the committee will offer all the necessary support to ensure that the project becomes successful," he noted.

Speaking earlier, the Export and Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) Director General Charles Itembe said the Bagamoyo SEZ project area will be provided with various infrastructures including road network, electricity, water supply and drainage system and natural gas network.

He said 43 per cent of the area for the implementation of the project of about 8676 hectares of land has been compensated.

Some of the benefits of the project include contribution to the economic growth, technological development particularly transferring of skills and jobs creation and increase of marine businesses to support port business.

Local companies will also benefit directly and indirectly from the project as well as boosting foreign exchange earnings into the country.

## Mufindi due to invest 300m/- in modern markets to boost small traders' business environment

By Beatrice Philemon

**MUFINDI** District Council in Iringa Region is set to embark on the construction of three modern markets valued at over 300m/- aiming at providing small-scale traders with improved and conducive environments for conducting businesses, alongside essential infrastructure facilities.

Robert Sungura, the district's community development officer, stated this yesterday in an exclusive interview with The Guardian saying the said markets will be constructed in three wards namely Mabaoni, Igwole, and Ifwagi.

According to him, over 150 small-scale traders are poised to benefit from these developments.

"We have already submitted a funding request to the central government," Sungura stated. "Currently, we await their response. Once funds are allocated, we will proceed with construction."

Sungura explained that the decision to

construct the proposed markets was driven by the evident demand, particularly from petty traders.

Acknowledging the financial limitations of many small-scale traders, the district aims to alleviate this challenge, recognizing the significant need for such facilities.

"Recognizing the crucial role of a conducive business environment in fostering the growth of small and medium traders, both locally and globally, the district has initiated a new project to support them," he maintained.

Adding: "This initiative aims to provide a better operational environment for traders, subsequently enhancing their contribution to the national economy. And when completed, traders will have access to comprehensive services."

It is noted that the construction of markets for petty traders plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth, supporting small businesses, and enhancing the overall well-being of commu-

nities. They serve as vital hubs where small-scale traders can conduct their businesses in a structured and conducive environment.

In his recent article dubbed: 'Why the construction of markets for petty traders is of paramount importance,' Ayub Noah, an independent marketer, provided several reasons one of which is to facilitate economic activities.

"Markets provide a centralized location for petty traders to sell their goods and services, attracting both local residents and visitors. By creating a space where transactions can take place efficiently, governments stimulate economic activity and promote entrepreneurship within communities," the article reads in part.

According to him, constructing markets formalizes informal economy, as many petty traders operate within the informal economy, often facing challenges such as lack of legal recognition and limited access to resources.

Other benefits according to him include improving livelihoods as many petty traders, their businesses are their primary source of income. So, by providing them with a dedicated market space, it helps to secure livelihoods and create opportunities for socio-economic advancement. This, in turn, contributes to poverty reduction and enhances the overall quality of life for traders and their families.

Noah believes that markets serve as social and cultural hubs where members of the community gather, interact, and exchange ideas. By investing in market infrastructure, the government contribute to the development of vibrant and cohesive communities, fostering a sense of belonging and pride among residents.

Therefore, the construction of the said markets in Mufindi district, is essential for driving economic growth, formalizing the informal economy, improving livelihoods, as well as fostering community development.

## Mantra to enhance support to women, health, environment

By Correspondent Valentine

Oforo

AS the International Women's Day (IWD) nearing, Mantra Tanzania, a ROSATOM subsidiary operating mining activity Tanzania, has announced major areas of community supports, which will include women empowerment, environment, health and nutrition.

The mining company operating in Namtumbo-Ruvuma, says is highly committed to promoting gender diversity and inclusivity within its workforce.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, the company's Legal Manager, Dua Mbapila Rwehumbiza expressed that company is working to create a working environment where women are encouraged to excel and lead.

"We're planning to achieve this by implementing targeted recruitment strategies and professional development programs to ensure that women not only join their teams but also thrive and advance in their careers," Rwehumbiza expressed.

In the realm of operational safety, she said, the Mkuju River project owners, Mantra, are unwavering in their adherence to the highest standards, as the timely protocols are meticulously crafted to align with the Tanzanian Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) and international benchmarks, drawing from ROSATOM's extensive expertise in uranium mining.

Khadija Kawawa, Mantra Sustainability Advisor and former Public Relations Manager said the company is currently keeping focus on Investing in women's health initiatives, not only improving the well-being of the community but also contributing to sustainable development.

Kawawa elaborated further that the introduction of the alternative livelihood sustainable project in the Likuyu community exemplifies Mantra Tanzania's holistic approach to empowerment, saying the



Dua Mbapila Rwehumbiza, Mantra Legal Manager and Company Secretary. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

initiative has been designed to provide mostly women with new economic opportunities, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to start their own businesses or engage in sustainable agriculture.

"By fostering economic independence, we are enabling women to be architects of their own futures and active participants in their community's growth," she insisted.

Expressing over the same interventions, the Managing Director of Mantra Tanzania, Aleksandr Riabchenko, noted that empowering women was integral to the enduring prosperity of the company's operations and the entire regions that Mantra Tanzania serve.

"At Mantra, we are committed to creating a work environment that fosters and nurtures female talent, ensuring that women have equitable access to future employment opportunities in both critical and professional roles. Through continuous learning and development programs, we aim to cultivate a diverse leadership pipeline that will drive innovation and excellence within the Tanzanian Mining Industry," Riabchenko observed.

Moreover, in his recent state-

ment, Riabchenko expressed deep appreciation for the pivotal role played by the Namtumbo District Commissioner, Hon. Ngollo Malenya, in fostering collaboration and progress within Namtumbo, especially in assisting the company to attain its women empowerment zeal.

Majani Wambura, Mantra's Sustainability Manager detailed that the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts are closely aligned with environmental stewardship, recognizing that women often bear the brunt of environmental degradation.

He said the company is devoted to implementing environmentally sound practices throughout its operations, with an eye to minimize ecological footprint, added "We engage women in our environmental programs, empowering them to become custodians of their natural surroundings and beneficiaries of a cleaner, more sustainable world."

He added that the spirit of International Women's Day, Mantra Tanzania celebrates the vital role that women play not only in the company, but also in the fabric of Tanzanian society.





**CONSTRUCTION**

# US WITNESSES A DECADE OF RISE IN HOMEOWNERSHIP, BUT BIG DISPARITIES INTACT

**New York**

A new NAR report finds that homeownership has increased over the past decade, but Asian, Hispanic, and especially Black Americans face more hurdles.

People of color achieved historic homeownership rates in 2022 despite fast-rising mortgage rates, but there is still work to be done to close the racial homeownership gap, according to new data from the National Association of Realtors.

The 2024 Snapshot of Race and Home Buying in America report found that the U.S. homeownership rate increased to 65.2 percent in 2022 compared to 63.9 percent a decade ago. Homeownership rates for Asian and Hispanic Americans also notched all-time highs of 63.3 percent and 51.1 percent, respectively.

Despite the gains over the last decade, the report showed the racial homeownership gap between Black and white homeowners widened from 27 percent in 2012 to 28 percent in 2022.

While more people have become homeowners over the past 10 years, ownership rates lag far behind in some states. The national homeownership rate for white Americans was 72.3 percent in 2022, and in only two states Hawaii and D.C. was the rate below 60 percent.

For Black Americans, on the other hand, the picture looked very different. The Black homeownership rate was 44.1 percent overall, and less than 60 percent in every state. Mississippi had the highest percentage of Black homeowners at 57 percent, but in 10 states, the rate was less than 30 percent, and in North Dakota and Wyoming, only 19 percent of Black households owned their homes.

Elevated mortgage rates, high

rents and low housing supply are squeezing many homebuyers out of the market. But these issues are more pronounced for households of color because they often face additional barriers and disparities in wealth and income, said NAR Deputy Chief Economist Jessica Lautz.

"The impacts of housing affordability and limited inventory are more extreme for minority buyers, because more than half are first-time buyers who must rely on down payment sources beyond gained housing equity," Lautz said.

The federal government has tried to address the racial homeownership gap in recent years through first-time homebuyer subsidies and greater enforcement of the Fair Housing Act.

Even so, people of color often face additional hurdles in their homebuying journey compared to their white counterparts, Lautz noted. For example, 26 percent of Black homebuyers were denied mortgages in 2022 versus 16 percent of white applicants and 15 percent of Asians, NAR data showed.

Black homebuyers who were able to secure a loan also received less favorable terms and higher interest rates than white and Asian borrowers, according to NAR. For instance, a disproportionately high share of Black households with mortgages 20 percent had an interest rate above 6 percent despite making up less than 10 percent of overall homebuyers, data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act showed.

The housing affordability gap for people of color has also widened. A report released last summer by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies found that affordability declined for all groups between 2022 and 2023, but minorities fared the worse.

The number of white renter households that could afford

mortgage payments fell by 30 percent during that time, while it dropped by 39 percent for Black renter households and 37 percent for Hispanics.

Saving for a down payment is another challenge for people of color because they often pay more of their monthly income toward rent, Lautz added. In Colorado, for example, 41 percent of Black renters pay more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, compared to 24 percent of white renters, NAR data showed.

The ability to save is also greatly influenced by income, and the income gap between Black and white Americans has increased since 2012. The report noted that the median income of white earners in 2020 was \$75,700 – nearly \$28,000 more than the median income of Black earners. In 2012, the gap was \$21,540.

One bright spot: Hispanic Americans have been closing the income gap. As of 2022, they earned about \$13,000 less than white Americans, and the Hispanic homeownership rate has been climbing steadily for nearly a decade, according to NAHREP.



Real Estate News Illustration by Lanette Behiry/Real Estate News; Shutterstock

## The thriving of the real estate industry: Can we do better?

**New York**

CELEBRATING excellence should be about, well, actual excellence – not the size of someone's wallet.

It's awards season, a time to celebrate excellence. It's hard to please everyone. Jokes from hosts fall flat. Barbie fans are upset about Oscar snubs. On the plus side, sometimes, an award can mean as much as life.

In the world of real estate, it seems like it's ALWAYS awards season.

Accolades are everywhere, to the point that people don't even bother getting upset about snubs or slights. And let's be realistic: If someone in real estate wants an honor, there is probably one within their reach especially if they have the money. But it's worth asking ourselves whether spending big bucks to get a nomination or consideration matches the real value of picking up a prize.

First, let's be clear that any entity has the right to come up with any award and entry process including a fee for entry that it deems valid. Same goes for rankings, like the Swanepoel Power 200, which uses data to drive its list and doesn't charge anyone for consideration. (Note: Stefan Swanepoel founded both Real Estate News and T3 Sixty, which produces

the SP 200.)

Let's cut to the chase: Awards that have a high entry fee, especially when coupled with minimal requirements for entry, just don't feel right to many of us. The fast-rising newcomer might not be able to afford hundreds of dollars to be considered for an award, even if they've had epic and measurable success.

In other words, it's not necessarily ... just "an honor just to be nominated," as we have heard from many stars walking on the Oscars red carpet.

The organizations that charge a substantial entry fee I mean, hundreds of dollars will tell you it's for administrative purposes. But if an awards program with 10 categories receives five nominations in each, some quick napkin math shows that this can mean revenue in the \$30,000-\$50,000 range.

It's no surprise that there are so many awards in our industry. We're human, and we love the recognition and for the provider of the awards, it's good money. But I think we can be better than this. We can be more transparent up front. And for those of you who can't stomach paying the next exorbitant entry fee, I hereby honor you with the "My Ethics Are In The Right Place Award." No charge.

Real Estate News

**UZALO**

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM**

**ITV**

ITV	CAPITAL TV
<p><b>FRIDAY 23 FEB</b></p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri wako</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing</p> <p>11:20 Jagina rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru:</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>17:30 Kiislam</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p>	<p>18:15 Top ten</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 Jiji letu</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 24 FEB</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:05 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>12:50 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>13:20 Shamba lulu</p> <p>13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love</p> <p>15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>17:00 Shamsham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>19:00 Jungu kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen</p> <p>21:40 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>22:10 ITV Top 10</p> <p>22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p>



## WORLD

## Voices grow louder for return of looted items

NAIROBI

CALLS are increasing across Africa for the return to the continent of heritage items stolen during colonial times.

As a result, experts said more cultural relics are likely to find their way back home, contributing to a restoration of the very essence of African culture.

Earlier this month, for example, citizens of Ghana were elated over the return by a museum in the United States of antiques that had been looted from their country by British forces almost 150 years ago. The looted Asante royal regalia and other objects were returned to their original place, the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi, the capital of Ghana's Ashanti Region.

The return of the artifacts signifies a turning point in Ghanaian history and reflects a global dialogue about cultural heritage restitution. Experts said this might inspire others to evaluate the source of cultural items that they possess.

Abigail Arunga, a Kenyan writer and social activist, said African countries have been demanding the return of stolen artifacts for some time now, but the calls are getting louder.

"In Kenya, Kenyan artists under an umbrella organization called The Nest began the Invisible Inventories Program in 2012, with the objective of writing to a number of museums across the world asking them if they have any Kenyan artifacts in their collections," Arunga said.

"Last time I checked, of the 40 museums that were written to, 33 have responded. So

far, there is a record of 32,000 Kenyan artifacts in 33 foreign museums."

Experts said the efforts are much more than the recovery of objects stolen during colonial times. The pursuit of such items is also about reclaiming the lost identity of people or nations, healing historical wounds and redressing the imbalances perpetuated by centuries of colonial oppression, they said.

In the past five years, Benin has officially asked France for the return of statues that were looted during the European ransacking of the Royal Palaces of Abomey in 1892, Arunga said, while in Ethiopia, the Association for the Return of the Magdala Ethiopian Treasures has been fighting for the return of cultural items seized by British forces at Magdala in 1868.

## Perpetrating injustice

"We demand the return of these African artifacts because they are not just items of antiquity, but represent a stolen culture, and their continued stay in European museums is a refusal to acknowledge the injustice that was perpetrated by colonial powers."

In some cases, the removal of items resulted in communities losing knowledge about cultural concepts or no longer knowing how to make such items, including combs, clothing, war armor and other emblems of a lifestyle that was rich and vibrant, she said.

Charles Kojo, who is from Ghana, said the theft of Africa's cultural treasures has had far-reaching consequences that extend



Artifacts returned from Fowler Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles, are carried to Asante King Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi, Ghana, on Feb 8, 2024. AP

beyond the material realm. From ceremonial artifacts and archives to intangible cultural expressions, Africa's rich and diverse heritage has been scattered across foreign lands, out of reach for millions on the continent, Kojo said.

The impact of this loss is profound, as it robs present and future generations of the opportunity to connect with their history, culture and identity, he said.

"This is not just about returning pieces of art, but about restoring the very essence of these cultures. In this pursuit of restitution, we acknowledge the importance of redressing historical wrongs and dismantling the structural inequalities that persist today," he said.

A crucial aspect of calls on the continent for restitution should involve investing in the development of skills and infrastructure in African countries, he said.

Such investment would ensure that repatriated artifacts are appropriately cared for, displayed and preserved, Kojo said. This would help Africans cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility and empower their nations with the means to safeguard their own heritage. Veronica Waweru, an archaeologist doing fieldwork

in Kenya, said museums around the world still hold and exhibit stolen items, despite a UNESCO treaty in 1970 halting the illicit trade of cultural artifacts.

"Even after some museums decide to repatriate artifacts, they must cut a great deal of red tape to do so," Waweru said. "However, in recent years, there has been increased pressure on Western powers to return stolen African property. These demands have caught the attention of the intended targets, as Western leaders all over the world have vouched to begin returning African treasures."

For example, in 2022, Ireland promised to return mummified remains to Egypt. In addition, the Natural History Museum in London and Cambridge University said they are ready to return stolen human remains back to Zimbabwe, and France has shown a willingness to return artifacts to African countries.

These developments are a result of sustained pressure by African countries and organizations calling for the return of the items, Waweru said. However, it is important that African countries continue fostering widespread public awareness, she said.

## Liberation of Avdeyevka was difficult mission, but completed successfully, says Medvedev

MOSCOW

THE operation on liberation of Avdeyevka was a difficult mission, but the Russian forces have completed it successfully, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview for Russian media.



"You have probably noticed, because the fortified area that has been created in the Avdeyevka area, was created over the course of more than two years. These are some really serious fortifications, and they made it possible to hold on to this settlement," he underscored. "This was a difficult mission, but our Armed Forces have completed it with flying colors."

The politician noted that an analysis of events was provided during the February 20 meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu.

"This is, undoubtedly, a major success of the Russian forces. Everyone who took part in this operation are heroes," the official underscored, adding that "it is necessary to say it straight."

"It is not [Ukrainian armed forces Commander-in-chief Alexander] Syrsky and the likes of him, it is our valiant armed forces, who got concentrated, who were preparing for a long time, and who made this breakthrough. I would like to congratulate everyone with this event once again," Medvedev said, referring to those who call Alexander Syrsky responsible for the Ukrainian failure in Avdeyevka.

On February 17, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu reported to Vladimir Putin that Russian forces have taken full control over Avdeyevka. The Russian Defense Ministry underscored that the Ukrainian retreat was chaotic.

Avdeyevka is located West of Yasinovataya, Ukrainian forces used it to shell nearby Donetsk and Makeyevka. According to the Defense Ministry, the Russian forces continue offensive actions on DPR territory.

## Govt leaving no stone unturned to ensure farmer welfare - PM Modi

AHMEDABAD

THE central government is leaving no stone unturned to ensure farmer welfare, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday while addressing farmers at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation in Ahmedabad.



"We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure farmer welfare. The government has built 60,000 plus Amrit Sarovars across the country. This initiative will not only benefit farmers but will also strengthen the rural economy. Our goal is to provide modern technology and its know-how even to the small farmers of the country," PM Modi said.

"Our focus is to improve the life of small farmers, to increase the scope of animal husbandry, to improve the health of animals, to encourage animal husbandry as well as pisciculture and beekeeping in the village," PM Modi.

He said that the government has provided the farmers with modern seeds to combat climate change.

"For the first time, we have also provided Kisan Credit Card facility to cattle farmers and fish farmers. We have given farmers such modern seeds which can combat climate change," the Prime Minister said during his address at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Speaking on occasion, the Prime Minister hailed the 'Nari Shakti' as the driving force behind the "flourishing dairy sector" in the country.

PM Modi affirmed the government's commitment to stepping up the economic power of women.

"Today we are the largest milk-producing country in the world. Eight crore people are directly associated with India's dairy sector. Our dairy sector has a turnover of Rs 10 lakh crore. It is noteworthy that the driving force behind our flourishing dairy sector is Bharat's Nari Shakti," the Prime Minister said.

"To make India developed, it is necessary to increase the economic power of every woman in India, hence today our government is also working all-round to increase the economic power of women," he said.

The PM said that about 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of the more than Rs 30 lakh crore provided by the government under Mudra Yojana are "sisters and daughters."

ANI

## EAM Jaishankar holds bilateral with counterparts of Tanzania, Ghana and Slovak Republic, discusses bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI

ON the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Slovak Republic, Ghana and Tanzania and discussed cooperation with both countries in multiple sectors.

EAM Jaishankar (pictured) held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Ghana, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey and assessed the progress of India-Ghana bilateral cooperation, especially the development partnership.

Taking to X, EAM Jaishankar shared about the meeting saying, "Glad to meet FM @AyorkorBotchwey of Ghana on #RaisinaDialogue2024 sidelines. Assessed the progress of our bilateral cooperation, especially development partnership. Also spoke about the need to reform the Commonwealth."

Additionally, EAM Jaishankar assessed the progress in the bilateral cooperation between India and Tanzania with his Tanzania counterpart, January Makamba.

"A warm meeting with FM @

JMakamba of Tanzania. Carried forward our Raisina panel discussion on India-Africa solidarity. Assessed positively the progress in our bilateral cooperation," EAM posted on X.

EAM Jaishankar also held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic, Juraj Blahar and reviewed the status of India-Slovak Republic bilateral ties.

"Good to meet FM Juraj Blahar of Slovak Republic on his first visit to India. Reviewed the status of our bilateral relationship. Look forward to deeper collaboration in bilateral and regional formats."

Earlier on Wednesday, Tanzania Foreign Minister January Makamba, Foreign Ministers of Mauritius Maneesh Gobin and Panama's Janaina Tewaney Mencomo arrived in New Delhi to attend the Raisina Dialogue.

Taking to X, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal shared about their arrivals saying, "More Foreign Ministers land in New Delhi for #RaisinaDialogue2024! FM @ManeeshGobin of Mauritius, FM @JMakamba of Tanzania &



FM @JanainaGob of Panama arrive to a warm welcome in New Delhi."

Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

The ninth edition of Raisina Dialogue is being held in Delhi from February 21-23. It is being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research

Foundation.

Ministers, National Security Advisors, senior officials and representatives of industry, technology, finance and other sectors from more than 100 nations are participating in the Raisina Dialogue.

In a post on X, Randhir Jaiswal stated, "RaisinaDialogue2024 - 's premier conference on geopolitics & geoeconomics is back with its 9th edition this year. Feb 21-23, 2024 Theme - Chaturanga: Conflict / Contest |

ANI

## Zigong's lanterns enjoy high reputation around world

IN a workshop of Zigong Longteng Culture and Art Co., Ltd. based in Zigong, southwest China's Sichuan province, the skeleton of a loong-shaped lantern was completed amid flying sparks from welding.

Loong, or Chinese dragon, the fifth sign in the traditional Chinese zodiac animal cycle, represents a totem of the Chinese nation. This year's Chinese Spring Festival coincides with the Year of the Loong.

On the other side, a worker meticulously pasted and colored the scales of the "loong," gradually revealing the enchanting charm of the lantern.

The lantern production process is complex, including designing, draft-

ing blueprints, selecting appropriate materials for shaping, arranging lighting and drive systems, gluing, and painting, which requires many skilled workers.

During festivals, the lantern industry in Zigong can drive 100,000 people employment, including temporary labor, said Deng Peilin, chairman of Zigong Longteng Culture and Art Co., Ltd.

Lanterns are a symbol of Zigong and a crucial driver of local economic development. As early as the Spring Festival in 1964, the first lantern festival of the city was held, which bonded the city with lanterns.

After years of development, the

lantern industry in Zigong today, including design, manufacturing, exhibition and other segments, has become increasingly specialized, with the industrial chain being continuously improved.

Nowadays, there are over 1,000 lantern-related companies in Zigong, with an annual output value of about 6 billion yuan (\$830 million) and a share of 85 percent in the domestic lantern exhibition market.

Many of the orders received by Deng's company were from overseas. "Thanks to the popularity of the Zigong lantern festival, lantern products are widely showcased at important exhibitions and major in-

ternational sales platforms such as the Canton Fair. This ensures sales channels for our lantern products," said Deng.

On Feb. 2 this year, the 30th Zigong International Dinosaur Lantern Festival officially kicked off. A group of lanterns featuring "nian" (year in Chinese), a mythical beast thought to have preyed on people and livestock at the turn of the year in Chinese myth, attracted many visitors. These giant mechanical monsters swayed their heads and roared from time to time.

Weighing over 10 tons, these "beasts" can flexibly complete more than a dozen moves, said Zhong Yi,

chief planner of the lantern fair. Zhong noted that these "beasts," made by colorful lamp craft combined with simulated dinosaur mechanical drive, were equipped with "AI brains," enabling them to "talk" with visitors. The Zigong International Dinosaur Lantern Festival hosted each year is a feast of excellent craftsmanship, materials, and design concepts.

For instance, a lantern set for the first time used water-soluble resin molding, making the characters' faces almost lifelike.

Design concepts of lanterns are also updated. Popular game and trendy toy characters have been made into lanterns, and the lantern

fair used spray guns and airbrushes to depict color gradients, creating a visually dazzling effect.

It is learned that Zigong's lantern industry holds over 160 patents and 7,000 lantern copyrights. In 2023, Zigong's lantern companies undertook over 200 colored lantern projects.

Continued innovation relies on the support of talent. Sichuan University of Science and Engineering established China's first lantern school. Zigong Vocational and Technical College has set up a colored lantern major. Every year, over 2,000 "lantern craftsmen" are cultivated in Zigong.

People's Daily



# Sports should be free of politics, says Putin

KAZAN

POLITICS should be kept out of sports as they are designed to unite people, not divide them, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

Putin thanked Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during their meeting for attending the Games of the Future, indicating that this sporting event is "of a humanitarian nature."

"I have emphasized repeatedly and I want to say it again: sports should be free of any politics, instead, they must bring people closer together. We have many participants (at the Games of the Future - TASS) from more than 100 countries. They have come from 104 countries, from different continents," Putin said at a meeting.

According to the Russian leader, among those who arrived at the open-



ing ceremony of the Games of the Future are supporters of e-sports as well as traditional sports.

"Let's wait and see how this will look in practice. No doubt it will do good. What is more, in many countries around the world young people have an interest in new sports," Putin said.

In the president's opinion, it is "very good" that the event includes not only e-sports "which allow you to sit endlessly, but also movement, real sports."

Agencies

# Emirates fully acquires Bustanica world's largest indoor vertical farm

DUBAI

EMIRATES Flight Catering, one of the world's largest catering operations, has fully acquired Emirates Bustanica, formerly called Emirates Crop One, and its consumer brand Bustanica, the world's largest indoor vertical farm.

This strategic move establishes Emirates Bustanica as a fully UAE-owned company, helping sustain the country's vision of enhancing food and water security and its agricultural capabilities. The acquisition empowers Emirates Bustanica to leverage its local expertise and the latest tech know-how to meet the growing demands of the market.

Emirates Flight Catering (EKFC) is one of the world's largest catering operations. Offering airline, events and VIP catering as well as ancillary services including laundry, food production and airport lounge food and beverage.

A trusted partner EKFC, serves over 100 airlines, hospitality groups and United Arab Emirates government entities. Each day, the company's 11,000 dedicated employees prepare an average of 200,000 meals and handle 210 tonnes of laundry.

Located near Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, Bustanica's 330,000sqft facility has the capacity to grow more than one million kilograms of exceptional quality leafy greens a year, equivalent to three tonnes daily, while using 95 per cent less water than conventional agriculture.

Operating under the brand name Bustanica, the produce is available across all major retailers in the UAE such as Spinney's, Waitrose, Carrefour, and Choithrams. Customers on Emirates and other airlines enjoy this farm-fresh produce in their salads and meals.

Since its launch in July 2022, Bustanica has become a part of UAE's dinner table conversations, thanks to its growing range of leafy greens, herbs and microgreens that can and should be eaten straight out of the box - even tap water can contaminate the produce.

Bustanica's produce is grown without pesticides or herbicides, and is 100 per cent clean, fresh, and nutrient-rich. Bustanica produces a variety of lettuce, spinach, parsley, and kale.

Passengers on Emirates and other airlines can fork these delicious leafy greens, including lettuces, arugula, mixed salad greens, and spinach, onboard their flights. Bustanica is not just revolutionising salads in the sky - UAE consumers can add these greens to their shopping carts at the nearest supermarkets. Bustanica also plans to expand into the production and sale of fruits and vegetables.

Bustanica is driven by powerful technology - machine learning, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and other patented technologies - and a highly specialised in-house team that includes agronomy experts, engineers, horticulturists, and plant scientists.

The farm's closed-loop system is designed to circulate water through the plants to maximise water usage and efficiency. When the water vaporises, it is recovered and recycled into the system, saving 250m litres of water every year compared to traditional outdoor farming for the same output.

Bustanica will have zero impact on the world's threatened soil resources, an incredibly reduced reliance on water and year-round harvests unhampered by weather conditions and pests. Consumers buying Bustanica's greens from supermarkets can eat it straight from the bag - even washing can damage the leaves and introduce contaminants.

Operating the largest flight catering facility in the world at Dubai International Airport, Emirates Flight Catering (EKFC) is a global leader in aviation hospitality. EKFC offers a comprehensive range of services, including airline catering, airport dining, private dining and event catering, food supplies to hospitality industries, complemented by support services such as laundry.

Renowned for its commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability, EKFC consistently delivers exceptional culinary experiences tailored to the discerning tastes of consumers worldwide. With cutting-edge facilities, a dedicated team of culinary experts, and state-of-the-art technology, EKFC continues to set the standard for premium dining across the aviation and wider hospitality industries.

Emirates Flight Catering constantly invests in the latest technologies to delight customers, optimise operations, and minimise the environmental footprint. Bustanica helps secure the supply chain, and ensures customers can enjoy locally sourced, nutritious produce. By bringing production closer to consumption, EKFC reduces the food journey from farm to fork. Bustanica has set global standards and benchmarks in agronomy.

Agencies

# UNESCO welcomes AU's decision to promote education in 2024

PARIS

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Wednesday welcomed the African Union (AU)'s decision to dedicate 2024 to education, given that the continent is home to the largest out-of-school population in the world.

The 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government opened on Feb. 17 at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia, under the theme "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa." "This decision of the

African Union sends a very strong signal to invest in education as a driver of sustainable development of the continent and to consider the needs of young generations," UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said in a press release. According to UNESCO, Africa has now 98 million school-aged children not in education, and 90 percent of those who are in school remain illiterate by the age of 10.

As the UN lead organization for education, UNESCO is determined to support the efforts of African States to achieve universal primary and secondary education and access to quality higher education and research opportunities in Africa, Azoulay added.

# China contributes to Antarctic studies, protection over past 40 years

CHINA'S Qinling Station started operation on Inexpressible Island in the Terra Nova Bay of Antarctica on Feb. 7.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter on the completion of the building of the Qinling Station and its operation in Antarctica. He said the completion of the building of the Qinling Station will provide a strong guarantee for scientists in China and around the world to continue to explore the mysteries of nature and bravely ascend the peak of science.

Antarctica has immense value for scientific research. It is hailed as the golden key to unlock the Earth's mysteries and a natural science laboratory.

Because of its distinctive geographical conditions and natural environment, changes in Antarctica will have incalculable impacts on the global climate and environment.

The Qinling Station is China's fifth research station in Antarctica, after the Great Wall, Zhongshan, Kunlun, and Taishan Stations. It is also China's third Antarctic research base to be operational throughout the year.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's polar expedition. Over the past 40 years, China has launched five stations and two research vessels for Antarctic research, entering an era of three-dimensional development across sea, land and air.

The Great Wall Station is located on King George Island, the Zhongshan Station in the Larsemann Hills, the Kunlun Station and Taishan Station in Antarctica's inland region, and the Qinling Station in the Ross Sea area. Their geographic differences exactly bring greater value to scientific research.

The region where the Great Wall Station is located is suitable for subantarctic ecological monitoring and research. The Zhongshan Station is an ideal place to observe and study the evolution of the Antarctic ice sheet and the interactions between the ice shelf and the ocean. It is also an excellent location for research in aerophysics, geology, geophysics and other disciplines.

The Kunlun and Taishan sta-



China's 40th Antarctic scientific expedition team sets sail from Shanghai, Nov. 1, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Shen Chunchen)

tions in Antarctica's inland enable frontier research in ice core science, atmospheric science and astronomical science.

The Ross Sea region features interactions between the lithosphere, cryosphere, biosphere and atmosphere - different layers of the Earth system. This helps researchers investigate important scientific questions like how changes in Antarctica affect the whole world.

Over the past 40 years, China has become a driving force in Antarctic scientific exploration, achieving many breakthroughs in fields like glaciology, space science, bio-ecology, and climate change.

Countless "firsts" have marked the fruitful achievements of China's Antarctic expeditions.

The first Chinese Antarctic expedition team conducted the first multidisciplinary field scientific survey near the Great Wall Station.

During the 19th Chinese Antarctic expedition, China tracked and monitored changes in the thickness of Antarctic sea ice for the first time in the world.

The 21st expedition team entered the area of the Dome Argus (Dome A), the peak of Antarctica's inland icecap, and carried out substantive scientific investigations, for the first time in the history of Antarctic research.

In recent years, China has conducted continuous observations of the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice, glaciers, soil, bio-ecology and other elements of Antarctica. This has made important contributions to the international community's understanding of the polar regions, especially the interaction between global climate change and Antarctica.

Over the past 40 years, China has always been an active contributor to environmental protection in Antarctica.

In early September 1990, the Great Wall Station temporarily halted the use of all vehicles and required staff to walk on foot, in order to ensure a good environment for seals around the station during their pregnancy and following childbirth.

At the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meet-

ing in 2008, the Antarctic Specially Protected Area around Mount Harding in the middle of the Grove Mountains proposed by China was approved. As the first Antarctic Specially Protected Area independently proposed by China, it has made positive contributions to environmental protection in the region.

China's first independently built polar icebreaker, the Xuelong 2, is a well-deserved "green" vessel. From the control of exhaust emissions, sewage and waste discharge, to real-time regulation of air conditioning and heating, and even the use of paints, all are in strict compliance with environmental requirements.

Environmental protection was also integrated throughout the construction process of the Qinling Station. Through integrated design, domestic modular customization and pre-assembly were implemented to save energy, water and materials.

In addition, the station reduced the number of temporary facilities and construction personnel on site to minimize the scope of construction activities, aligning with the goal of building an environmentally sustainable research station.

Over the past 40 years, China has become an important participant in the international governance of Antarctica.

In 1983, China acceded to the Antarctic Treaty. In October 1985, China became a consultative party to the Antarctic Treaty, obtaining decision-making status in international polar affairs.

In 2017, China successfully hosted the 40th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the 20th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection, where it led the proposal of an international initiative on green expeditions, which was widely recognized by the international community.

In 2023, China and several other countries jointly submitted a proposal to promote international cooperation on aerial surveys of the Antarctic ice cap and improve the accuracy of global sea level rise projections.

People's Daily

# Wang Yi wraps up Europe tour, calls for stronger ties and unity

BEIJING

CHINA stands firm as a force for stability in a turbulent world, and it maintains that major countries should promote their cooperation based on mutual respect and trust, tackle hotspot issues via dialogue and consultation, enhance global governance through unity and coordination and boost global growth with openness and mutual benefit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters Wednesday as he wrapped up his six-day Europe tour.

**China: promoter of world peace**

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attended the 60th Munich Security Conference where he delivered a speech at the event on China and elaborated on China's position on major international issues in light of the conference's theme, visited Spain and France, and held the China-France Strategic Dialogue in France from Feb 16 to 21.

The annual report of the MSC this year reflected Europe's pessimism about the international situation and highlighted significant challenges facing the world today, Wang told reporters on Wednesday.

The risk of a "lose-lose" situation aggravates with heavy global governance deficit, escalation of tensions at regional hotspots, surge of zero-sum games, and impulse to decouple and cut off industrial and supply chains, he said.

The MSC held a session dedicated to China, during which we sent a clear message that China will firmly act as a force for stability in a turbulent world, he added.

On the sidelines of the MSC, Wang had extensive contacts with officials from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, the European Union, Canada, Argentina and Ukraine.

During the candid, substantive and constructive discussions with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Wang stressed that the US side should view China's development objectively and rationally, adopt a positive and pragmatic policy towards China, and earnestly implement the consensus between the two heads of state reached at the San Francisco summit.

When meeting officials of other countries, the Chinese top diplomat reiterated that the development of China means growth of force for peace and stability and more opportunities for cooperation.

China stands firm as a promoter of world peace, a con-



Spanish King Felipe VI meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, in Madrid, Spain on Monday. XINHUA

tributor to global development and a provider of public goods, Wang said.

On the Ukraine crisis, Wang said that political solution is the only way forward. "We should not give up promoting peace talks as long as there is a glimmer of hope," he said, adding that China will continue to play a constructive role in restoring peace and support building a balanced, effective and sustainable European security framework.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that has already killed nearly 30,000 civilians and displaced some 1.9 million people, Wang said that the root cause of the conflict is the persistent failure to meet the Palestinian aspiration for statehood.

The position of China is clear - ceasefire immediately, ensure humanitarian assistance, release all detainees, convene an international peace conference, and relaunch the two-state solution, with the ultimate goal of peaceful coexistence of the two states and harmonious coexistence of the Arab and Israeli people, he said.

Partnership: Keynote in China-Europe relations  
On China-EU relations, Wang said Wednesday that both sides, should make partnership and cooperation as the mainstay of their relations, seek common ground while shelving and narrowing differences so as to push their relations steadily forward.

In Spain, Wang met with King Felipe VI, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, and Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, during which the Spanish side expressed willingness to consolidate traditional friendship and deepen practical cooperation.

In France, with which China celebrates the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year, Wang met with President Emmanuel Macron and co-chaired the 25th China-France Strategic Dialogue with French Presi-

dent's Diplomatic Counselor Emmanuel Bonne. Wang also held discussions with French Foreign Minister Stéphane Sejourne in Munich.

The two sides agreed to exchange high-level visits, strengthen strategic communication, reject "decoupling" and cut off industrial and supply chains, deepen traditional cooperation, and expand cooperation in emerging fields.

Wang said that China and Europe have resumed in-person exchanges at various levels and fully activated dialogues and cooperation in various fields since last year, which "demonstrates a stable performance with positive momentum for growth in bilateral relations".

"I noticed a growth of rational perception of China among Europeans, as they see China's development in line with the logic of history, which should not be feared or rejected by Europe," Wang said.

The European side is positive about strengthening exchanges at various levels with China, and enthusiastic about deepening practical cooperation with China, as it expects more concrete results from bilateral operation in such fields as economy and trade, energy, green development, digitization, education and people-to-people exchanges, said Wang.

Xinhua



# Simba players brace for CAF CL encounter against ASEC Mimosas

By Correspondent  
Seth Mapoli

**S**IMBA Sports Club is poised to take on ASEC Mimosas FC in the highly anticipated 5th-round match of Group B in the CAF Champions League today.

The stage is set at Stade Felix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, with kickoff scheduled for 10:00 PM East African time.

Ahead of the crucial CAF Champions League match against ASEC Mimosas today, Simba goalkeeper Aishi Salum Manula (pictured), on behalf of his teammates, expressed their readiness for the upcoming match.

Manula stated: "As players, we are thoroughly prepared for this game. Additionally, as goalkeepers, we are primed for whoever earns the opportunity to play; they must perform admirably."

The goalkeeper, who was present in the squad during the encounter between these two teams in

the 2022 CAF Confederation Cup match, wherein Simba suffered a 3-1 defeat away from home, further remarked:

"We are determined to secure a favorable result in any manner possible. Our objective is clear: we approach this match with a strategic mindset, ready to exert maximum effort to attain our goals.

"Securing a positive outcome in this game is among our top priorities," Manula said.

The Msimbazi Reds face potential challenges ahead of their CAF Champions League clash, as a win is crucial for them to enhance their chances of advancing to the quarter-finals.

A victory in the game will keep Simba's hopes alive for reaching the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League before their last game in the group against Jwaneng Galaxy.

It's evident that ASEC Mimosas aim for respect and to secure the top spot in Group B, having already qualified with 10 points.



Simba have been well-prepared after playing five league matches since February 3, this year, winning all four away games and drawing against Azam FC.

These preceding matches have served to prepare Simba for their encounter

with ASEC, who have not played any competitive matches this year but have been engaged in several friendly matches.

ASEC's last competitive match was on December 30, where they won 1-0 at home against Stade

d'Abidjan, with midfielder Serge Pokou scoring from a penalty kick, who incidentally played a significant role in a previous draw against Simba in Dar es Salaam.

ASEC Mimosas, assessing the league standings, may be surprised as Simba currently sit in third place with 36 points after 16 matches, while ASEC are in fourth place with 26 points after 15 matches.

Simba boast an attacking line that has scored 31 goals and conceded 14 in the league, compared to ASEC's 20 goals before their league halted for the 2023 African Cup of Nations finals.

Furthermore, ASEC's top scorer Sankara Karamoko, with six goals in the CAF Champions League, will be absent from the game for the first time, having been transferred to Austrian club Wolfsberger AC during the recent transfer window.

Karamoko notably assisted in ASEC Mimosas' previous away draw against Simba.

## Dar City rekindles rivalry with JKT in regional league

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS season's Basketball Dar es Salaam (BD) League fixtures have been made public, with Dar City and JKT set to resume their rivalry at Don Bosco Upanga courts on March 2.

The two teams met in the men's category of last season's league final, which ended with Dar City winning 69-63 and lifting the title.

Dar City emerged victorious in three duels of the best-of-four final - commanding 75-61, 75-56, and 69-63 drubbing of JKT - which secured one victory - beating Dar City 68-55.

The two clubs have interestingly been slated to lock horns in this season's league's opening tie and it remains to be seen whether JKT will revenge for its loss or prolong its woes when it comes up against Dar City.

JKT coach Christian Jacob 'Webber' said they have seen the schedule and are planning to do well in the opening match.

"It will be a difficult match

because we met Dar City in the final, they beat us and we missed the top honour but - this time - we have to take revenge, we will not accept losing twice," the tactician noted.

Dar City's coach Mohammed Mbwana said they are ready to start the league well and ultimately defend their title.

Mbwana, the former Chang'ombe Boys Basketball Club's baller, stressed: "When you start the league with a win, the morale becomes higher, we know it will be a difficult match because I know our opponents will come out with all guns blazing because we beat them in the final last season."

"For that matter, they must be out to take revenge, but we are good, let the league begin," the gaffer noted.

The opening day's other matches in the men's category will see DB Oratory come up against Srelilo while the women's category will see Jeshi Stars lock horns with fellow army outfit - Twalipo Queens.

## Ibrahim Mgendera's consistency wins plaudits

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

BOXING enthusiasts in Tanga have hailed professional pugilist, Ibrahim Mgendera, for keeping on garnering good results in his fights.

The boxer, alias 'King Class Mawe', once again proved his worth with a resounding win over Malawi's Israel Kamwamba in the region on January 27, this year.

The Tanzanian fighter won by Knockout (KO) in the second round of the 10-round bout.

The bout - which was televised live by Azam TV and garnered a lot of attention from the game followers - was organized by Mafia Boxing Promotion under sponsorship by, among others, CRDB Bank.

The Mgendera versus Kamwamba bout was the day's main card and took place at Mkwakwani Stadium, get-

ting underway at 7:00 pm.

The Super Featherweight boxer, who started his boxing career in 2010, boasts a stellar record having featured in 38 bouts spanning 238 rounds.

The boxer emerged victorious in 32 bouts, 15 of which were won by Knockout (KO), and lost six fights - three of which were KO losses.

Before fighting Kamwamba, Mgendera enjoyed a scintillating run having emerged victorious in six bouts, as opposed to his opponent who had registered victory in two out of six bouts.

The bout was preceded by undercard bouts featuring boxers from Tanga and Dar es Salaam-based boxing clubs.

The undercard bouts witnessed the boxers taking on each other in six-round, eight-round, and 10-round bouts, keeping boxing lovers entertained.



Chamazi FC players during a training session at Chamazi's gas pipeline grounds in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

# Bluefins unveils swimmers for 2024 Taliss-IST Championships



Bluefins Club's swimmers are pictured after participating in a recent training session at Upanga in Dar es Salaam. The club will compete in the 2024 Taliss-IST Championships scheduled for this weekend at the International School of Tanganyika swimming pool at Masaki. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

ONE of Tanzania's prominent swimming clubs, Bluefins, has disclosed it will field a squad made up of 24 swimmers in this year's Taliss-IST Championships.

The championships will be held at the 25-meter pool at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), Masaki in Dar es Salaam this weekend - featuring other 13 clubs from various regions.

Bluefins Club's founder and head coach, Rahim Alidina, mentioned the swimmers as Sahal Harunani, Aaliya Takim, Kabeer Lakhani, and Zainab Moosajee who are also in the national swimming team.

Other swimmers, according to Alidina, are

Imaan Kimario, Saalih Mbonde, Qais Kanji, Abbas Abdulali, Moiz Kaderbhai, Adnan Hassanali, Rania Noorani, Burhanuddin Jafferjee and Hassan Harunani.

The list also comprises Zaeem Somji, Burhanuddin Jivajee, Zahra Alibhai, Shuneal Bharwani, Burhanuddin Huzeifa, Idris Zavery, Uzair Harunani, Ithra Kahemele, Burhanuddin Abdulkadir, Maahira Noorani and Taher Zavery.

The swimmers are still taking part in intensive training ahead of the event.

"Our coaches have been training our swimmers well for this event and we are very excited to see how they will perform in this weekend's event," Alidina disclosed.

Alidina pointed out: "We have managed to include some young and up-and-coming swimmers in the team for this event and we are very confident that they will do well and improve their personal best time in the event."

Dar es Salaam Swim Club, MIS Piranhas from Morogoro, Lake Swim Club, Mwanza Swim Club, Pigeon, LVSC, Rip-tide, Train2gain, French School, and Braeburn Swim Club Kenya are the other clubs set to compete in the championships.

The list also has Zanzibar's Wahoo, Flash Swim Club from Uganda, CRSC, FK Blue Marlins, Premier Swim Club, and the hosts, Taliss-IST Swim Club.

The swimmers will compete in various age

categories in both boys and girls - namely U-8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 15 and 16, as well as 17 and over.

The swimmers will also battle for medals in five swimming styles, namely Backstroke, Butterfly, Freestyle, Breaststroke, Individual Medley, and Relays.

The Taliss-IST Championships will witness the country's top-ranked swimmers facing swimmers from other clubs in the country.

The championships are intended to keep the swimmers busy maintaining and even up-scaling their standards.

Awards will be handed over to the first three winners of each age category in the event, which is expected to feature more than 200 swimmers.



# Porto defeat leaves Arsenal with an awkward UEFA Champions League problem to solve

By Miguel Delaney

**A** TWIST on the night, from one glorious curling long-range effort. It really was something out of nothing. Just when Arsenal's trip to Porto seemed to be drifting towards the most dismal of 0-0s, Wenderson Galeno took hold and let fly to suddenly leave Mikel Arteta's side having a lot to do in the second leg of this Champions League last-16 tie. They now must overcome a 1-0 deficit, having seemed to be rather complacently settling for a draw.

It should never have got to this, but then Arsenal never got going. That is perhaps the greatest frustration, as Porto - and, admittedly, an overly officious referee - ensured this was the worst type of stop-start game.

It has certainly stopped Arsenal scoring. After having scored 21 goals in five games, to seemingly end all talk of a staleness afflicting their attack, Arteta's team went through a blank for the first time since the turn of the year.

That might have been just a blip, made that way by the nature of Porto's game, but that is something the manager

is going to have to be attuned to - not least in the second leg.

Arteta will know they should have done so much more here.

If you stood back, and assessed the relative levels of the two teams, this was essentially Arsenal playing the equivalent of a mid-table Premier League side. That is how much the economy of European football has changed, although Porto have had their own highly specific problems. The backdrop to this game was civil war around the club and the presidency.

The grand difference is Porto are one of this competition's great clubs, having lifted the trophy twice. They at least started trying to play with the aura that comes from that, unlike most mid-table sides Arsenal will face.

You could sense it in the way the Champions League anthem was roared out by the crowd in the minutes before the game. That is something that has become a trend at major continental clubs, like Inter and Milan, as if the trophy becoming more elusive has elevated its mystique.

Porto briefly played to the occasion, really going for Arsenal. William Saliba even struggled



Arsenal's defeat means they must come from behind at the Emirates Stadium in order to progress (PA)

under pressure he hasn't faced for some time.

For one attack, David Raya was forced to come out and clear for a throw-in, which raised the vision of Galeno quickly throwing the ball off the goalkeeper's back and playing it in. The winger didn't take that, and then wasted an even

bigger chance.

On 21 minutes, he was set up for what seemed a certain goal, only to hammer his shot off the inside of Raya's post. The ball somehow came straight back, only for Galeno to instinctively swipe at it and strike narrowly past the post.

Both were under-

standable in the circumstances - one effort a bit difficult, the other too hard - but it still seemed inexplicable that Porto weren't ahead.

It looked like it was going to be one of those nights for Galeno, where he might live with regret. He made sure that didn't happen, but in part because the opposition couldn't make anything happen at all.

Arsenal were quite prosaic, in a way they probably didn't need to be, but doubtless came from the circumstances. Arteta seemed to have envisaged this as a classic European tie of old, that demanded a tactical

discipline.

It was a bit too disciplined, as the only chance they produced in the first half was a Saliba header wide.

Even when Arsenal did let themselves get a little looser, there wasn't the same coherence to their attacking. A lot of moves were missing the

right decision at a key moment. Gabriel Martinelli did superbly to send Joao Mario this way and that, only for the ball in to go nowhere.

Yes, it was one of those nights when the question of why they didn't sign a striker returned, as was always going to be inevitable.

The gap was there when Bukayo Saka sent a fine cross in to no one. In one moment late on, Martin Odegaard looked set to send the winger through, only for a poor touch to see a move fall down again.

It didn't help that Porto quickly regressed to a more responsive game, breaking up Arsenal's flow. The referee aided that, while slowing the game, in calling for virtually every free-kick.

It almost reached parodic levels towards the end, with more technicalities seemingly spotted than in rugby. There was barely any football, until Galeno produced something to grace any pitch.

This is what the Champions League should be about. A beautiful strike swerved around the ailing Raya and into the far corner. Arsenal had warning. They now have a job to do.

THE INDEPENDENT

## Fifa and Uefa face unfixable problem over multi-club ownership

By Miguel Delaney

UEFA and Fifa are in a stand-off over regulation on multi-club ownership, as the two biggest confederations struggle to find a solution for one of the biggest issues facing football today.

The European body are pushing for Fifa to come up with rules before next year's inaugural Club World Cup in the USA, especially with the possibility that it could feature clubs from multiple groups. Manchester City and Chelsea are both certain to be involved, as two examples, and the former are part of one of the biggest such groups in the world as City Football Group while the London club's owners investigating the possibility of expanding beyond the recent purchase of Strasbourg.

Fifa are at the same pushing Uefa to clarify its own rules, that have so far led to situations like Leipzig and Salzburg - both from the Red Bull group - meeting in the Europa League. That is despite the rules notionally supposed to keep such teams apart to prevent conflict of interest. The two clubs were able to prove sufficient separation, which has left a consistent question over whether the regulations are fit for purpose.

Complications are based on two fundamental issues. One is that every single rule in football is based on clubs as separate entities.

Second is that Fifa have never fully defined what a club is. Different confederations have different ideas, let alone different countries and it is understood to be a particular complication with the Asian Football Confederation due to how centralised sport is.

The Fifa statutes currently state:

"Clubs, leagues or any other groups affiliated to a member association shall be subordinate to and recognised by that member association" and that "every member association shall ensure that its affiliated clubs can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an affiliated club's corporate structure. "In any case, the member association shall ensure that neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercises control in any manner whatsoever (in particular through a majority shareholding, a majority of voting rights, a majority of seats on the board of directors or any other form of economic dependence or control, etc) over more than one club whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised."

THE INDEPENDENT

## All change please: Who's in and out at Europe's top clubs



Fans favourite: Liverpool supporters display a banner featuring Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp. Agencies

LONDON

FIRST, it was Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp, then Xavi at Barcelona and on Wednesday it was announced that Bayern Munich's Thomas Tuchel will also be quitting as a coach at the end of the season.

AFP Sport looks at who is out, who could be out and who might be coming in to take charge at some of Europe's top clubs.

\*Leaving

-- Jurgen Klopp last month announced his shock exit from Liverpool at the end of the season following almost nine years in charge. The German, who took the Anfield side to Champions League and Premier League titles, said he will not accept a new coaching job within the next year and will never coach another English

team.

-- Xavi helped Barcelona to the La Liga title last season despite their serious financial problems but will leave the club at the end of this campaign. The former midfielder said he felt "liberated" by the decision to leave. "You are made to feel every day that you are not good enough," he said.

-- Thomas Tuchel will also be out of work in the summer after a disastrous run of three straight defeats saw Bayern Munich confirm his impending exit in June. Borussia Dortmund's late slip-up allowed Tuchel to secure an 11th straight Bundesliga title for Bayern last term, but they are eight points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen this time around. Tuchel won the Champions League with Chelsea and two Ligue 1 titles with Paris Saint-Ger-

main.

\*In danger

-- Several high-profile coaches in England have found themselves in trouble, but they have so far dodged the sack thanks to a series of encouraging results after a tough period. Such is the case for Erik ten Hag at Manchester United,

who has the backing of new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe. Mauricio Pochettino and Eddie Howe are in similar situations at Chelsea and Newcastle respectively.

-- It's in Italy where coaches at the big clubs are in the most precarious positions. Stefano Pioli (AC Milan) and Massimiliano Allegri (Juventus) are both under contract next season but

could pack their bags in June if the season finishes badly for their teams. Napoli, whose title defence quickly turned into a disaster, are on the hunt for the right man long-term after sacking two coaches already this campaign.

-- Marseille are in the same boat in France after bringing in 70-year-old Jean-Louis Gasset -- the man dismissed by eventual champions Ivory Coast during the Africa Cup of Nations -- following unsuccessful spells under Marcelino and Gennaro Gattuso.

\*In demand

-- Brighton manager Roberto De Zerbi has built such an impressive record at the relatively modest Premier League side that his name has already been mentioned as a successor to Xavi or Klopp. However, the 44-year-old Italian is under contract at the club until 2026 after taking Brighton to sixth place in his first season.

-- A world champion in 2010, a double European champion in 2008 and 2012 and with two Champions League winner medals from 2005

and 2014, Spaniard Xabi Alonso won everything as a player. He has also made an exceptional start to his coaching career at Bayer Leverkusen who are undefeated this season and boast an eight-point lead in the Bundesliga over Bayern Munich. Klopp already views him as a potential successor at Liverpool. Alonso, however, recently extended his contract at Leverkusen until June 2026.

-- Thiago Motta has taken unfashionable Bologna to fifth in Serie A with a combination of attacking, attractive football. The 41-year-old has even been mentioned as a future coach at PSG where he spent a large part of his playing career. -- Serial title winner Zinedine Zidane, who led Real Madrid to three successive Champions League titles, is seen as a potential future coach of the French national team. Out of the game since 2021, his name is often discussed every time the coach of a big club is sacked. On Wednesday, he was already being linked with succeeding Tuchel at Bayern.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





All change please:  
Who's in and out at  
Europe's top clubs



PAGE 19

# Matola now explains why ASEC Mimosas tie is complicated for Simba



Simba SC players under assistant coach Selemani Matola (3rd L) during a training session in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on Wednesday. Simba will face ASEC Mimosas in their CAF Champions League Group B match today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## Olympic Games qualifiers: Twiga Stars face South Africa test today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior women's national football team, Twiga Stars, face the task of overcoming a tough South African challenge when the two sides meet in the third round of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualifiers.

The game, which comes off at the Chamazi Stadium today, will test the mettle of the Tanzanian side as they aim to secure victory against the formidable South African side before the reverse fixture at Mbombela Stadium on Tuesday.

Head coach Bakari Shime (pictured) successfully led the team to qualify for Africa's women's prestigious competition, the African Women's Cup of Nations, in November last year.

In the first round, Twiga Stars lost 2-0 to Ivory Coast in the first leg in Abidjan before winning by the same margin in Dar and triumphed in a penalty shootout.

In the second round, they beat Togo 3-0 in Dar before losing 2-0 in the return encounter to secure a return to the Women's Africa Cup of Nations since their debut in 2016.

Shime's Twiga Stars took a step towards qualifying for the Olympic Games for the first time by defeating Botswana 2-0 in the first leg and 1-0 in Gaborone in the return in October, last year.

Coach Shime will be hoping to carry that same spirit as the team goes into the third round of the qualifiers against the highly rated South Africa.

"Preparation for this game has largely been completed in the sense of preparing the players in all departments, technical, physical fitness and technique. What remains is to wait for the game itself so that we can play against our opponents," Shime said in his pre-match press yesterday.

He added: "This is a big match because in football there are big and difficult matches. This is a big match that every player wants to be a part of. It is a match that can not only elevate a player but also make her be part of another historic moment."

Shime counterpart, Banyana Banyana head coach Desiree Ellis, was adamant that her team will not underestimate Twiga Stars and that's why they had early preparation for the two encounters.

"Our preparation has gone really well. We started a little bit earlier because we knew this was gonna be a very important game and we are a team that doesn't underestimate anyone. We take each game on its merit and we want to make sure we are absolutely ready for the match."

"The last couple of matches we played last year were second-round qualifiers whereas both African qualifiers were home away from home. You have to play whether it is home or away. And with no away goals rule in place, we just have to make sure we get a positive result to take the pressure off us when we go back home," she said.

The aggregate winner over two legs will move on to the final round of qualifying where they'll play either Nigeria or Cameroon for one of the two places that are guaranteed for African teams.



By Correspondent  
Michael Mwebe

SIMBA assistant coach Selemani Matola is hopeful of a good outing in their CAF Champions League assignment against ASEC Mimosas despite conceding it will be complicated playing the West Africans.

Today, Simba will take on hosts ASEC Mimosas at the Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan in a CAF Champions League Group B game.

A victory or draw against

an already qualified ASEC Mimosas side will put them in pole position to grab the remaining group ticket ahead of Jwaneng Galaxy and Wydad.

Ahead of the game, Matola explained they are mentally prepared and ready for a match that has its own advantages and disadvantages as they face an ASEC Mimosas team that has been inactive for two months but have no pressure after sealing qualification with two games to go.

"The situation is good as you can see our training

started at 4 o'clock until now all the players are in good morale. Expectations are high and I am glad the players know this is a crucial game and the role they have to play.

"They sit by themselves and talk about it. As the technical bench seeing this gives us hope of winning our game," he said.

Matola explained that on one side it is an advantage to face ASEC Mimosas who have not played a competitive game since their last CAF Champions League game in December, while

on the other side, it is tricky because their hosts will be looking to confirm top spot in the group.

"It can be a big advantage for us. They haven't played any matches in two months. We are active and have played a lot of matches. It will be an advantage for us because they were on break and they are back after two months out.

"They might have lost their chemistry which is an advantage for us. It is how we prepare and organize ourselves to get results.

"On the other hand, they

will not want to tarnish their record. They want to maintain their record and top the group so that they play the group runners in the next stage. That's where the challenge lies.

"Having already secured qualification, they might also decide to relax and focus on the next round which could make things easy for us. Thus, this is a complicated match," he added.

Simba, who sit second in Group B, are bidding to qualify for the CAF Champions League quarter-finals for the fifth time since 2019.

## Kili International Marathon announces roads to be closed ahead of Sunday race

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon organizers have announced details about road closures and other logistics that might slightly affect movement in Moshi on the event day, Sunday, February 25, this year.

A statement issued by the organizers said this will help Moshi residents and visitors to plan their travels in advance and use alternative routes during the temporary closure to enable safe operations of the marathon.

According to the statement, Soikoine Road from KCMC corner to Kilimanjaro Road will be closed from 6 am - 9.30 am.

Motorists can use alternative routes to Moshi via Shanty Town and Rau, and to Mwaka same routes.

Also to be closed is Kilimanjaro Road to the corner of Kilimanjaro Road and Soikoine Road from 7:45 am - 9:30 am.

"This will allow runners to get to the event parking at CCP and Mocu Parking via

Uru Road gate in time for all races to start and will then be closed to allow runners free access," according to the statement.

The organizers stated that Msoka Road via Kibosho will also be closed both ways from 6:30 am - 8:30 am.

The statement further said there will be no parking on Soikoine Road from Kilimanjaro Road Corner, and any vehicles parked there will be towed away by Police.

There will be free parking at CCP - access is via Kilimanjaro Road and the pe-

destrian gate right to the start of the Tigo Kili International Half Marathon.

There will also be free shady parking at Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) grounds that will be accessed via Uru Road only, which



whole route from 6 am to 12:30 pm. Motorists are asked to drive slowly and carefully and be aware of runners," said the organizers, who also called on trucks and buses to avoid the marathon route as they may be pulled over for long periods.

Meanwhile, the number and kit collection exercise kicked off in Moshi yesterday and will go all the way to tomorrow at the Ushirika Stadium.

The Sunday event will be graced by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager - 42km (Main Sponsor), Tigo - 21km Half Marathon, and Gee Soseji - 5Km Fun Run, while water table sponsors are TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies and CRDB Bank.

Official partners include CMC Automobiles, GardaWorld Tanzania and Salinero Hotel while official suppliers include Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organised by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager - 42km (Main Sponsor), Tigo - 21km Half Marathon, and Gee Soseji - 5Km Fun Run, while water table sponsors are TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies and CRDB Bank.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

