



STRANGE GIRAFFE SPECIES PATTERNS IN MONDULI PAGE 3



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COMPENSATE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY STRAY JUMBOS PAGE 6



BACK-BREAKING AND GENERALLY DANGEROUS WORK

Artisanal gold miners go about their business of filtering whatever they had managed to come up with at their Mwakitolyo site in the Shinyanga municipality zone, as found by Correspondent Shaban Njia yesterday. One of the notable reservations is that they were using 'technology' far from good enough and were conspicuously without the basic gear with which to guard themselves against the risks of handling mercury and other chemicals.

Legislators at war with 'loan sharks'

The MP has criticised a number of mobile cash transfer operators for bonding with such lenders in the promotion and issuance of loans that at the end lead borrowers into trouble, their belongings seized

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has been given four months until September to have the Treasury roll out a well-defined mechanism of interest rate control among independent creditors or loan issuers.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly, issued this directive yesterday as MPs demanded controls on unregulated creditors charging interest rates way above regular rates tied to central bank benchmarks.

Echoing sentiments of MPs, she said such lenders are rampant in city streets, extending credits to people by uncontrolled interest rates and shorter loan repayment timeline

centrally to the central bank's laws and regulations.

Felister Njau (Special Seats- Opposition) had earlier raised the issue, demanding urgent debate on the matter, explaining that 'loan sharks' were pulling people into poverty on account of the number of people whose property are taken away after failing to pay unregulated loans.

The Speaker said that the loan issuers are licensed for the function but they impose interest rates that do not reflect regulatory rates. "They decide how much they wish to be paid without being regulated," she stated.

She further questioned the collaboration that 'loan sharks' maintain with mobile money

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Medics' priority: Diagnostic tools, specialists' ranks

DNA sequence analysis to compute and analyse DNA, RNA or peptide data

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Association of Physicians of Tanzania (APHYTA) has called for more diagnostic equipment availability to improve quality of healthcare.

Dr Mwanaada Kilima, the APHYTA president, issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday in a keynote address at the physicians' conference and annual general meeting, underlining that such facilitation has remained low despite heavy investment in the health sector in recent years.

The professional body believes that reviewing issues like human resources deployment would improve healthcare provision, she said, stressing the need for harmonising the standard treatment guidelines (STG) and the national essential medicines list (NEMLIT).

This is an important step in the health care system for quality diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases, the physician declared, while Dr Elisha Osati,

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'BBT, irrigation enable 0.5m agro-sector jobs'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Agriculture sector has during fiscal 2023/24 created 475,025 direct jobs as of last month, surpassing set targets, due to the 'building a better tomorrow' (BBT) programme.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe cited this datum when tabling the budget estimates pegged at 1.25trn/- in the National Assembly yesterday.

He said that the target was to create 428,571 job openings, a 10 per cent increase above full realisation of the target, where the BBT programme and irrigation projects had improved prospects in

the production value chain.

In the coming financial year the ministry will focus on increasing productivity focusing on priorities set out in the Agricultural Transformation Master Plan towards 2050, which focuses on higher production and widening the scope for creating decent jobs by promoting youths and women participation in the agriculture value chain.

The ministry will also focus on strengthening food security and nutrition, widening the scope of engaging in regional and global agricultural produce markets, he said.

Investing in the stability and prosper-

ity of cooperative unions and application of information and communication technology in the agriculture value chain was another priority, he stated.

The rise in the ministry's budget allocations from 294bn/- in 2021/22 to more than 900bn/- in the past two years has led to growth of the sector from 2.7 per cent in 2022 to 4.2 per cent in 2023, with exports attaining \$2.3bn from \$1.2bn earlier.

Funds for irrigation projects rose on a yearly basis from 46.5bn/- in 2021/22 to 361.5bn/- in 2022/23 and 370bn/- in 2023/24, with the ministry requesting

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Tanzania, Kenya revisit 2021 poultry exports 'sanitary ban'

"We remain committed to tackling these challenges, in fostering an environment conducive to seamless trade between Kenya and Tanzania"

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SANITARY and phytosanitary (SPS) measures taken in response to the global avian influenza with regard to importing poultry from across the border do not constitute a ban on poultry business between Kenya and Tanzania, the government has declared.

Dr Benezeth Malinda, a senior veterinary officer and epidemiologist at the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, said here yesterday that the two countries are currently working to resolve the cross-border poultry trade sticking points.

The official led bilateral discussions with a team headed by Rabson Wanjala, a senior trade officer at the Trade minis-

try in Nairobi, with the Tanzanian side insisting that contrary to what was being said, a ban on Kenyan chicks and poultry products was not the issue.

He cited World Health Organization (WHO) regulations on animal health disease notification reports with the measures, as aimed at safeguarding animal and public health, affirming that the meeting at the East African Community (EAC) headquarters successfully addressed longstanding concerns regarding the export of chicks and poultry products.

Wanjala cited the need for regular consultations to streamline trade processes, affirming that both countries had ex-

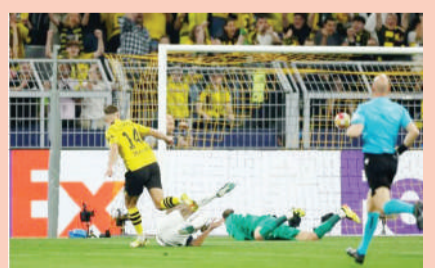
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SPORTS Page 20



Gamondi impressed as Yanga sees off Tabora United in Federation Cup

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Fuellkrug outshines Mbappe to hand Dortmund Champions League advantage over PSG

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Miss Tanga 2024 pageant slated for next week



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Legislators at war with 'loan sharks'

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service providers, while the minister stated in an earlier response that the ministry is taking the matter for further regulatory decisions.

"We are aware that people are being tortured through unregulated loans. We are going to come up with a solution," he stated, without hinting on a clear format on how it can be done, outside reaffirming the wider cadre for non-bank loans.

He stated that the issuance of loans is administered by financial institutions as per the Banking and Financial Institution Act 2006 and the Microfinance Act 2018, whose regulations were issued via notice on 13th September 2019, titled "Licence to conduct microfinance business," issued under Section 21 of the Microfinance Act of 2018.

"In recent years, there have emerged people who are forming unlicensed lending schemes by extending loans to people. People

who are well-off have been lending people money on unfavourable conditions," he asserted.

The Microfinance Act provides for extending loans for repayment on a monthly basis at an interest rate that doesn't exceed 3.5 percent, he said, elaborating that there are repaid on a monthly basis, after three months, six months, 12 months or 18 months. "The matter needs to be revisited," he stated.

The MP has scathed a number of mobile cash transfer operators for bonding with such lenders in the promotion and issuance of loans that at the end lead borrowers into trouble, their belongings seized.

"Such loans are being issued at an interest rate that tops 80 percent. Most of the loans are required to be paid on a weekly basis and some of them are paid on a daily basis. People are losing their wealth in repaying the loans," the opposition MP thundered.

'BBT, irrigation enable 0.5m agro-sector jobs'

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393.3bn/- for 2024/25, he said.

The ministry was working on a plan to harvest water from Lake Victoria for use in agriculture and to strengthen irrigation water sourcing, he said, referring to MPs' ideas on areas that do not receive enough rain.

The National Irrigation Commis-

sion expects to conduct a feasibility study and detailed design on how to use lake water in Simiyu, Shinyanga, Tabora and Singida regions, a plan that also covers Lake Tanganyika for Kigoma and Katavi regions, as the ministry explores the possibility of using water from various lakes for irrigation, especially in nearby regions, he added.

Tanzania, Kenya revisit 2021 poultry exports 'sanitary ban'

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pressed commitment to safeguard trade relations, pointing at the need for consultations where the need arises.

Malinda said Tanzania has already embarked on ensuring all trade-facilitating agencies resolve any trade hindering matters, especially in relation to non-tariff barriers.

"We remain committed to tackling these challenges, in fostering an environment conducive to seamless trade between Kenya and Tanzania," he said.

Kenya has historically been a significant exporter of poultry and poultry-related products to Tanzania, including day-old chicks, hatching eggs, parent stock and processed poultry items, with periodic disturbances.

Back in 2021, Tanzania imposed a ban on poultry imports from Kenya due to the global outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), severely impacting Kenya's poultry industry by hindering access to a vital market.

The meeting brought together veterinary authorities from both countries to resolve the ban on the export of poultry and poultry products, reaching an agreement based on the fact that trade in day old chicks and hatching eggs was ongoing.

There are facilities showing high biosecurity standards enabling the trade to be carried out, thus exporting poultry products from Kenya to Tanzania and vice versa requires risk assessment to ensure compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

The EAC partner states agreed to enhance surveillance efforts and capacity-building initiatives to ensure timely disease detection and reporting. Small-scale poultry producers in both countries will receive support to improve biosecurity measures in an effort to enhance their export opportunities, they agreed.

Recognizing the importance of efficient communication, veterinary authorities in the two countries pledged to strengthen collaboration for rapid checking and clearance on SPS measures, officials noted.

Medics' priority: Diagnostic tools, specialists' ranks

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the president of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT), focused on the training of specialists.

He said that despite heavy investments by the government in improving infrastructure and training of specialists, the country lags behind in diagnosis services, still sending samples abroad for diagnosis.

Dr Osati said the key area of deployment was how to allocate human resources including factors that discourage specialists to work in remote areas.

"We need to work on motivating physicians so that they stay in zonal and regional referral hospitals," he cautioned, affirming that most of them prefer working in the commercial capital as they want to earn more income by seeing patients in various hospitals unavailable in remote areas.

DNA sequence analysis machines

which can comprehensively compute and analyse DNA, RNA or peptide sequence to unlock data on its properties, biological function, structure and evolution analysis are by and large not available, he said.

Health minister Ummu Mwalimu said physicians have a big role to play in ensuring that the goal of achieving quality healthcare was realized, hinting that the government was working on a scheme of service where specialists will be more intensely recognised.

"Personally, I see this as the only challenge which makes physicians reluctant to go for further studies as the government grading system does not recognise their specialisation," she told the gathering.

Physicians need to go for further studies, while the government was finalising an improved grading system accommodating specialisation, she added.



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde (L) has a word with Helium One CEO Lorna Blaisse (C) and Director of Finance and Business Graham Jacobs at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after the National Assembly had passed the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025. The firm is expected to begin extended test mining operations from their Itumbua West-1 well in the southern part of Rukwa Region this July. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW report by a pan-African organisation, Paradigm Initiative (PIN), highlighting the state of digital rights and inclusion in 26 African countries has been released.

The 2023 Londa report, which was released during the just concluded Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) in Accra, Ghana, highlights issues cutting across Internet shutdowns and disruptions, data protection, disinformation during elections, online gender-based violence, cybersecurity, surveillance, digital divide, access to Universal Service Fund (USF), freedom of expression and access to information which arose in countries across the continent.

The three-day event, which took place between April 23rd and April 25th, 2024, brought together hundreds of delegates from 61 countries and provided a platform to shape conversations on digital policy in Africa, debate policy directions and forge partnerships for action.

The event incorporated a blend of panel sessions, launches, tech demos, pre-event workshops, lightning talks and exhibitions under diverse tracks including digital rights, digital inclusion and digital security. There were over 800 sessions hosted and more than 1,000 registered delegates.

Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah, Paradigm Initiative's Board vice Chair said: "We hope that the insights gained and connections forged during the forum will inspire tangible action and positive change in pursuit of a more equitable and just digital

Report highlights state of digital rights, inclusion in African states

future."

Dr Albert Antwi-Boasiako, Director General of the Ghana Cyber Security Authority (CSA) pointed out that a key pillar of digital inclusion is guaranteeing an affordable internet that is accessible to all segments of the society.

"In Ghana, initiatives such as the National Broadband Infrastructure Project, Girls in ICT Programme, and the free Wi-Fi for senior high schools programme has helped to expand access to the internet in under-served communities and bridge the digital divide," he said.

Also launched at the event were the organisation's digital toolkits, Ripoti and Ayeta. Delegates also had a chance to watch the organisation's fourth film, Oversight, which will premiere in May 2024.

The Londa report notes that 2023 was a progressive year with countries such as Nigeria and Malawi enacting and passing data protection laws. However, it raises concerns regarding online gender-based violence, which is a barrier to women's inclusion on online platforms.

It further reveals that in 2023, there were information disorders, with the election period breeding disinformation in countries such as Nigeria. Another major finding in the report is that last year, there were internet disruptions in five out of the 26 countries monitored.

Mauritania and Ethiopia had blatant internet shutdowns,

while Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Senegal had varied degrees of internet throttling and partial shutdowns on mobile internet networks. In Sudan, internet access disruption was caused by power outages.

Tunisia had notable progress in expanding internet access and connectivity through initiatives such as 'the national education network, satellite internet trials, and efforts to bridge connectivity gaps in marginalised communities.

Given the wide digital divide still being experienced on the continent, the report examines the implementation of the Universal Service Fund (USF) aimed at addressing national access to universal services to bridge the divide. The failure of governments to disclose the amounts available under USF, the report adds, is a masking veil on transparency, showing gaps in good governance practices.

The report lauded the long-awaited adoption of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention), which came into force on June 8, 2023, following Mauritania's ratification in May 2023.

"An area for advocacy is calling for African states to accede to the treaty. This will ensure commitment across the continent to foster data protection practices that enhance trade and cross-border data flows

guided by regional cooperation on universally adopted and respected data protection principles," it adds.

Another development witnessed in 2023 was the adoption of a resolution urging African states to refrain from deploying targeted mass communications surveillance to attack vulnerable groups such as human rights defenders and the media, promoting freedom of expression and right to privacy.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted Resolution 573 on the deployment of mass and unlawful targeted communication surveillance and its impact on human rights in Africa at the 77th Ordinary Session, which was held from 20 October to 9 November 2023.

Partner organisations that worked with PIN to host DRIF24 in Ghana are E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA), University of Media, Arts and Communication-Institute of Journalism, Media Foundation for West Africa, Inclusive Tech Group, Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter, and Human Security Research Centre (HSRC).

Event sponsors include Wikimedia, African Digital Rights Network, Ford Foundation, Luminate, Google, Kingdom of The Netherlands, Mott Foundation, Open Technology Fund (OTF), Internews, Small Media, International Justice Clinic UC Irvine School of Law, among others.



Association of Physicians of Tanzania president Dr Mwanaada Kilima addresses the association's conference and annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has word with Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Jerry Silaa (L) in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

Speaker wants urgent evaluation of claims by former EAC workers

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson has urged the government to conduct an urgent but thorough evaluation of benefits and salary payment claims by employees of the East African Community that collapsed in 1977.

She issued the appeal in the National Assembly yesterday when Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was responding to a question by Hawa Mwaifunga (Special Seats) who wanted to know plans by the government to clear benefit claims by the then EAC employees.

"The government should now cross-check its documents to see if the claims exist and if they are still valid or otherwise. People ask members of parliament why the benefits are delayed this long. The question has been tabled in the parliament back and forth," she said.

She said that it is time for the government to get to the root of the matter and tell people the truth

concerning such claims.

"Possibilities are some of the claimants are still alive and some have already died but their relatives are still alive. The documents and records are there. Go work on this issue so that people don't keep on waiting in vain," said Dr Ackson.

In his response, Majaliwa said that the law requires that all retirees with payment or benefit demands should seek their rights from their

respective employers.

"I am aware that some of them have already been paid. For those who have not been paid, I suggest that they submit their claims to respective employers," he said.

In her question, Mwaifunga argued that the then retired EAC workers have been incurring costs of travelling to Dodoma and Dar es Salaam to make follow-up of their benefits.



Songwe regional commissioner Daniel Chongolo speaks at the end of an inspection tour of progress in the implementation of an Ileje hospital construction project yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Yassin

DPM wants focus on preventives measures to ease cancer burden

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko has urged investors in the health sector to embark on preventive measures to help combat cancer which kills thousands of people in the country annually.

Dr Biteko made the call yesterday at the opening of the Cancer Care Centre (CCC), initiative of Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The centre worth euros3.3 million is meant to help enhance services provided by the Ocean Road Cancer Institute by ensuring availability and accessibility of cancer services.

He said that without prevention, the number of patients diagnosed with cancer will increase in the country.

Dr Biteko reaffirmed the government's

commitment of further collaborating with the private health institutions in improving and strengthening provision of health services in the country.

"Our government believes in collaborations with the private sector to ensure our people get access to diagnosis and treatment of cancer," he said.

He commended the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) for establishing the centre, adding that it was a significant step forward in improving access to high quality and latest radiotherapy and chemotherapy services for cancer patients in the country.

Health minister Ummu Mwalimu said that statistics show that 40,000 new cases of cancers and 20,000 deaths are recorded annually in the country.

Mwalimu said that out of that, cervical cancer is the leading one by 23.5 percent. She said the Lancet Oncology

Commission report shows that the number of deaths caused by cancer in the Sub Saharan African countries will double if measures are not taken.

Mwalimu said that the number of deaths in the region will double from 520,000 to one million by 2030.

She said the government has allocated 10bn/- to train experts, including 22 clinical oncologists, adding that there was only one clinical physician.

According to Mwalimu, there are 35 oncologists while the country's demand is 160 oncologists.

Princess Zahra Aga Khan said that the centre will complement the Ocean Road Cancer Institute to cut waiting time and provide support to nearly 35 percent of cancer patients.

She said the centre represents a significant step forward in improving access to high quality and latest radiotherapy and chemotherapy

services for cancer patients.

Sisawo Konteh, AKHS Tanzania chief executive officer, said the centre constructed at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam is dedicated to providing comprehensive, patient-centred care for individuals diagnosed with cancer.

He said the centre will provide advanced cancer treatment, improve patient quality of life and contribute to the global fight against cancer through innovation and collaboration.

Dr Harrison Chuwa, TCCP project manager, said the project's objective is to expand and strengthen the existing continuum of cancer from primary to tertiary level.

He said the project aims to build capacity of healthcare professionals and communities to provide high-quality cancer services and foster collaboration and joint research amongst implementing partners in Tanzania.

Advice made to financial institutions to use digital solutions in loan payments

By Carlos Banda

FINANCIAL institutions have been urged to utilise digital solutions to ease repayment processes and tackle the challenge of non-performing loans.

Edwin Urassa, chief executive officer of Credit Info, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of Credit Info Digital Collections.

He said that the digital solutions help creditors to reach and communicate with the debtors without necessarily coming into physical contact.

"The new solutions also help debtors to have a platform to engage their creditors and provide a payment plan on the amount they can pay and the period which they can use to settle their loans. Currently, loans are collected through various traditional mechanisms from phone calls, direct messages, and letters or through debt collectors," he said.

"In the past, credit information we received from financial institutions never exceeded 1m/-. However, we currently have a database that has grown close to 9m/-. Therefore, with the advent of digitalisation, there are dozens of loans applied digitally from 1m/- to 2m/- in a month which means one cannot recruit debt collectors to follow-up on the defaulters. Digitalisation of the process empowers banks, microfinance institutions and other lenders to track their debtors."

Urassa said the creation of Credit

Info Digital collection systems is in line with the country's laws and regulations, including personal data protection law, to ensure that both debtors and creditors remain secure.

Dylan Debliek, chief executive officer of FinView, said the new innovation targets to address the challenges associated with traditional debt collection such as insufficient methods, negative customer experience, legal and regulatory challenges, high operational costs, difficulty to locate debtors, privacy and security concerns as well as limited data and analytics.

"The technology addresses privacy concerns; that is the why we build global technology tailored to the specific regions where it is applicable with the right security measures," he said.

"Digital collection improves customers experience and makes sure client has the most positive experience in collection. It increases connection rate significantly. We have seen results on portfolios managed by seven other debt collection agencies and significant results were obtained. This approach also lowers the cost of staff and decreases other costs significantly."

Ahadi Ruge, call centre and recovery manager at FINCA microfinance bank, said with the growth in technology and innovation, digital solution can address a number of challenges faced in traditional loan recovery methods.

Giraffe species with strange patterns spotted in Monduli

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

AUTHORITIES have reported availability of a new type of giraffe species at the newly established Makuyuni Wildlife Park in Monduli District, Arusha Region.

Chacha Masase, officer in-charge of tourism at Makuyuni Wildlife Park, said here recently that the giraffe seem to be endemic to the precinct and that studies are yet to be conducted to find out whether the animals were a sub-species of the Maasai giraffe or they were of an entirely different kind.

Whichever the case, Tanzania now has a special type of giraffe which should be attracting scientists, researchers and new visitors to the country's first wildlife park.

A team of media personalities from the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) recently visited Makuyuni Wildlife Park on a study tour organized under the USAID "Tuhifadhi Maliasili" activity and were informed about the new discovery.

Ruwamangi Kische, manager of Makuyuni Wildlife Park, told the scribes that the new tourist destination in the Northern Zone was yet to attain conservation status but was being protected under the

Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA).

Measuring 47 square kilometres, the area also boasts high concentration of giraffes, species that happen to be the nation's emblem.

However, from the recent wildlife census conducted by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) giraffes numbers are at 1,679 in total, being among the less populated animals in the country.

"The park forms part of the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem which encompasses the corridor linking important wildlife entities such as Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, Ngorongoro Conservation Area as well as the Swaga Swaga and Mkungunero game reserves," said Kische.

Despite being a new entity, having been placed under TAWA in 2022, the Makuyuni Wildlife Park is already attracting visitors. In fact, a total of 240 tourists sampled the new destination in the current fiscal year.

Foreign visitors include tourists from China, the United States, Canada, Israel and the Netherlands as well as domestic ones as well as regional visitors from East Africa.

The Makuyuni Wildlife Park is located about 70 kilometres from Arusha city and 115 kilometres from the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR KENAFRIC INDUSTRIES TANZANIA LIMITED REG NO. 96548

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above Company i.e. **KENAFRIC INDUSTRIES TANZANIA LIMITED** with Registration No. **96548** (the Company) have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and Mr. Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate) of PKF Advisory Limited, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga P.O. Box 7323, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has been appointed as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the Company with effect from 04th September 2020.

The Public is hereby notified Accordingly.

Any person who has claims against the Company is required within Thirty (30) days after the issuance of this notice to send to the liquidator, full particulars of any claim against the Company supported by appropriate documentation thereof. Claims which are not supported and substantiated shall be excluded from the benefits of any distribution to be made.

All correspondence should be addressed to:
Florian Mutagwaba,
PKF Advisory Limited, 1st Floor, Tower B, Girl Guides Building,
Kibasila Street-Upanga P.O. Box 7323,
Dar es Salaam.

UN report charts path towards sustainable transition in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has issued a report that highlights opportunities for just and sustainable transitions (JSTs) in Africa.

The 2024 Economic Report on Africa argues that “youthful population, arable land, renewable resource endowments, huge deposits of strategic minerals, and latecomer advantages from emerging technologies position Africa to shape the sustainability transition at the global level while closing its own gaps in energy availability.”

Themed: ‘Investing in a Just and Sustainable Transition in Africa,’ the report makes the case for investing in a just and sustainable transition while achieving energy access for all.

It contextualizes the imperative of JSTs for Africa, highlights opportunities for JSTs along the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including financing for JSTs, and offers policy recommendations for Africa to successfully pursue such transitions.

Recognizing the role the region’s abundant renewable energy resources can play in enabling African countries to achieve their development objectives, the report acknowledges that, guided by African-informed narratives and needs, “the transition away from fossils needs to be gradual.” Africa’s current investment in its “sustainability transition” and in renewables remains negligible, according to the report.

The report identifies the need for fundamental shifts in the economic, governance, and technology systems in Africa to achieve JSTs. It recommends relying on “forward-looking visions and strategies to maximize the continent’s benefits from emerging economic and technological

opportunities,” noting “financing JSTs in Africa is crucial to ensure inclusive development of low-carbon resilient economies without compromising prosperity.”

The report recommends strengthening strategies and policies for JSTs in Africa by integrating national priorities with the SDGs and Agenda 2063, facilitating the key role of the private sector, and balancing growth and strategic public investment while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

It also calls for mobilizing new financing while making smarter use of available financial resources and for establishing a dedicated national mechanism for financing JSTs. Other recommendations include:

Developing strategies for sustainably managing natural capital to foster investment in JSTs.

Supporting multilevel collaborative governance, human capital and leapfrogging technologies to guide JSTs; and building effective Multistakeholder partnerships and coalitions at national, regional, and global levels.

“A just and sustainable transition... promoting accelerated, inclusive, and sustainable growth, as well as diversification and green industrialization will help Africa reach its potential,” noted Under-Secretary General and UNECA Executive Secretary Claver Gatete in a foreword.

“For this to materialize, however, African countries need holistic development plans and strategies that fundamentally redirect their production, consumption, governance, technology, human capital, and financial systems,” he said.

“The report’s recommendations will go a long way in contributing to improving human well-being and the welfare of future generations by fulfilling basic needs, creating productive jobs and sustainable livelihoods, and establishing a healthy ecosystem.”

Quality of mobile phone services enhanced, new TCRA report says

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE mobile phone service providers in the country perform within the statutory quality of services compliance levels, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has said.

According to the quarterly communications sector statistical report of March 2024 issued yesterday by TCRA’s director general Dr Jabiri Bakari, all service providers performed within quality of service regulations parameters.

The report says mobile phone fraud and fraudulent attempts fell between December 2023 and March 2024, according to a report of a survey on mobile communications operators’ performance in 15 areas.

TCRA surveyed mobile phone service quality in 14 areas and mobile communications safety between January and March 2024. The five mobile operators in their brand names are Airtel, Halotel, Tigo, TTCL and Vodacom.

The survey covered network availability for consumers intending to make calls, calls that fail to connect after dialling due to technical reasons and those cut off for technical reasons before the speaking parties finish their conversation.

TCRA also looked at the technologies offered by mobile network operators –second, third and fourth generations (2G, 3G and 4G) and geographical coverage.

The report says mobile services rollout and geographical coverage increased by between two and four points per technology during the January-March quarter. Third-generation (3G) mobile services increased from 86 percent to 88 percent and 4G from 79 to 80 percent. The fifth generation (5G) rollout is 13 percent.

The second generation enables voice and short messages. The third generation enables voice, messaging and data while 4G adds

high-speed internet to these. Five G debuted in Tanzania in 2022 and delivers high-speed internet. Its use improves the efficiency and effectiveness of many sectors of the economy, including but not limited to governance and social services.

Other measurements were on efficiencies in transferring calls between communication towers and the quality of voice calls for consumers in motion.

TCRA also measured the speed and rate of data transfers on networks and, to mobile devices and the time a user’s equipment takes to send a request and receive a response from the server.

The network fraud survey showed that Rukwa and Morogoro regions are the most vulnerable regions, with more than one-third of all fraudulent attempts in the country.

The report shows that all operators have significantly reduced fraudulent attempts by an average of 17 percent; except Vodacom. Fraudulent attempts in Vodacom increased by 30 percent from 2,876 in the quarter ending December to 3,735 attempts by March, 2024.

However, Vodacom network shows fewer fraudulent attempts than Tigo, which, despite a 26 percent reduction, had 6,011 attempts. Airtel cut attempts by 21 percent but still has 5,120. Halotel had 148-the least, while TTCL had 2,304.

Tigo had the highest proportion of fraudulent attempts (0.29 percent) against registered SIM cards (20,300,451). The proportion of other operators, with SIM cards in brackets are TTCL, 0.14 (1,676,541), Airtel, 0.02 (19,465,353), Vodacom, 0.017 (22,629,341) and Halotel, 0.002 (9,354,092).

The report further stated that users of mobile phone services have accorded positive response, reporting phone numbers involved in fraudulent acts by sending numbers through short messages to 15040 free of charge.



Tanzania Civil Association Authority workers take part in a procession constituting part of May Day celebrations this year held at national level in Arusha city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

‘SGR project provided 181,176 direct, other jobs by last month’

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project has provided 30,176 direct jobs to Tanzanians and 150,880 others indirectly up to last month, it has been said.

The Deputy Minister for Transport, David Kihenzile, said this in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to

a question by Santiel Kirumba (Special Seats-CCM).

In his question, the MP wanted to know the government’s plans to address some employment challenges in strategic projects including the SGR and the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in Shinyanga region.

Responding, Kihenzile said construction contracts for

the projects have taken into consideration the balance of employment among locals and foreigners.

He said SGR is a strategic project which has continued to create job opportunities to qualified Tanzanians in various professions.

“By March, 2024 SGR project provided more than 30,000 jobs

and more than 150,000 indirect ones whereas from February to March, more than 6,000 local employees were employed at the Mwanza Isaka section,” he said.

He said out the number 2,070 were from Mwanza Region, 1,387 from Shinyanga, 365 from Tabora, 376 from Simiyu and 2,628 from other regions across the country.



Young Scientists Tanzania co-founder Dr Gozibert Kamugisha speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the number of students whose applications relating to scientific works to be used in this year’s edition of YST exhibitions had been shortlisted. With him is Karimjee Foundation CEO Caren Rowland, whose agency has for long been associated with the promotion of the exhibitions. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Free eye screening uncovers vision complications in pupils

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 979 pupils at Mwambisi Primary School in Kibaha Town Council, Coast Region have undergone free eye screening which led to many being referred for treatment of various vision complications.

The camp was staged with the support from South Korea-based non-governmental organisation Vision Care.

Vision Care Tanzania Country Director Jieun Park said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the eye examination camp was conducted at the school for five days.

He said the main goal was to identify pupils with eye diseases

and vision problems for treatment at the earliest stage, provide them with tips on caring for their eyes to prevent blindness or poor vision as well as assist them undertake their studies more effectively.

Park said during the screening, a total of 94 pupils were found with allergic conjunctivitis and refractive error and were given referral to Tumbi Hospital for further check-up and treatment to restore their eyesight.

This has been possible through a long term project dubbed ‘Prevention of Blindness through Strengthening the Comprehensive Eye Health System in Tanzania by 2025’ with funding from Korean International Cooperation Agency

(KOICA).

The eye examination was conducted by Dr Matthew Yinza, an ophthalmologist at Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital, Martine Francis, optometrist from Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila, Magreth Chacha, Lulanzi Hospital’s ophthalmic nurse and Doris Msami, Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital’s optometrist in collaboration with Vision Care Tanzania staff.

Pupils also received medicines, advice on how to ensure eye health, to avoid playing with sharp objects, eating fruits and vegetables and informing their parents as soon as they notice any vision problems.

Esther Mtumba, Mwambisi

Primary School head teacher, lauded Vision Care Tanzania for the support that helped pupils with vision problems to receive medicines and referral for further treatment to restore their eyesight.

She called on Vision Care Tanzania to visit other schools and educate pupils on how to protect their eyes, about eye care and eye diseases that can affect their academic performance.

“Pupils who have been found with eye diseases should be supported in terms of medicine because other pupils come from underprivileged families,” she said.

The school was officially established in 2004 and currently has 1220 pupils and 24 teachers.

Zanzibar govt agency out to bolster control of entry of substandard chemicals

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Food and Drug Agency (ZFDA) has promised to intensify its safety and security systems to control entry of substandard and counterfeit drugs containing chemicals which are currently widespread in the world.

Dr Burhan Othman Simai, ZFDA executive director, said substandard and fake drugs and those mixed with chemicals have become a big threat to people's health across the globe as there are some countries which have reported deaths due to the drugs. Addressing reporters here yesterday, Dr Simai said recently the World Health Organization (WHO) put out a global warning on some medicines thought to be linked to deaths of children.

He said there is a current trend where some dishonest traders have been importing drugs by mixing them in cloth cargo, which is dangerous because the medicines enter into the market without being inspected by authorities.

He said the major responsibility

of the institution is to protect health of people by ensuring that food products, medicines, cosmetics, medical devices and reagents have the required quality, safety and efficacy in accordance with national and international standards.

He said WHO wants countries to improve control measures in order to make lives of people safe.

"Due to the situation, it is better to have close collaborations between stakeholders and drug producers as well as importers, traders and drug control authorities to ensure that the medicines do not enter Zanzibar market," he said.

"This is a global challenge; so, we cannot distance ourselves from taking robust measures to control the medicines as the culprits look for every means to import the chemical-mixed drugs and earn money without even considering health of people."

He appealed to traders who import drugs in the isles to ensure that the products are registered by ZFDA and that the agency will continue to examine the drugs and

those that are found to contain dangerous particles will be seized and destroyed.

He said that a comprehensive inspection WAS ongoing in all drug stores in Unguja and Pemba as well as hospitals to ensure that all drugs that have been allowed in the market have required quality standards.

Last year, a report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) warned that counterfeit drugs were to blame for the deaths of nearly 500,000 people annually.

The UN's transnational organized crime threat assessment warned that out of the 500,000 deaths, up to 169,271 were linked to fake and substandard antibiotics used to treat severe pneumonia in children.

Also, 267,000 deaths per year were linked to fake and substandard antimalarial medicines. The report also shows that between January 2017 and December 2021, more than 605 tonnes of medical supplies were seized in West Africa alone as a result of international operations.



Africa Academy for Public Health director Dr Marry Sando (R) speaks at a mental health research workshop for young people in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She is with Mirembe Hospital director Dr Paul Sarea. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Court suspends proceedings of loan dispute case over plaintiff numbers

By Guardian Correspondent

COURT of Appeal on Tuesday failed to proceed with the civil case in \$16.275 million loan disputes between Equity Bank and Nas Hauler's Limited, Everest Freight Limited and Tanga Petroleum because of a difference in the number of plaintiffs listed in the case documents.

The difference relates to the number of plaintiffs in the judgment by the High Court Commercial Division in case number 105 back in 2021 and those mentioned in the notice of appeal.

The concern came up during the hearing of an appeal filed by Equity Bank (T) Limited and Equity Bank (K) Limited against Nas Hauliers Limited, Everest Freight Limited and Tanga Petroleum.

In the appeal, the two banks challenged the decision of the High Court Commercial Division which awarded the said companies victory in a \$16.275 million loan dispute claimed to have been lent by the banks but not repaid.

The appeal was led by a panel of justices namely Rehema Mkuye, Abraham Mwampashi and Zainabu

Muruke.

But before the appeal hearing started, the court noticed a difference in the number of plaintiffs listed in the judgment being appealed and those listed in the notice of appeal and in the grounds of appeal.

Justice Muruke was the first to raise the matter whereby the contested judgment listed a total number of five plaintiffs, namely the three claimants and two defendants which are Equity Bank Tanzania and Equity Kenya Banks Limited.

However, the notice of appeal and the ground of appeal show that there are 13 plaintiffs, namely two appellants and 11 respondents plus other eight individuals (directors of companies).

The directors are Ally Hemed Said, Ahmed Hemed Said, Bahman Salim Hemed, Idrissa Said Abraham, Issa Mohamed Said, Suleiman Nassoro Mohamed, Samiha Ally Hemed Said and Alexandria Estate Limited who provided personal guarantee.

They appeared in the counter-claim filed by the banks whereby in the claim they were both claimants and the companies and their directors were respondents.

But in the judgment, the directors were not mentioned as either claimants or respondents except that there were only mentioned in the judgment as respondents in the counter-claim.

Therefore, the justices separately questioned whether the two documents (the notice of appeal and the grounds of appeal) were properly filed before the court, including people who are not mentioned in the judgment being appealed.

"We are in dilemma as to whether the notice of appeal and the grounds of appeal were filed in the court as they should be. Hence, we need to deliberate on this further" said Justice Mkuye.

After that, advocates Mpaya Kamala and Timon Vitalis representing the appellants (Equity Banks) and Frank Mwalongo representing the respondents (the borrowing companies and their directors) admitted to the differences.

Both sides claimed that the differences may appear minor and have no adverse effects because they do not affect the rights of each party.



The bank that listens

NOTICE OF THE 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman and Shareholders,

Notice is hereby given that the **TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of CRDB BANK PLC will be held on **Saturday, 18th May, 2024** at the **Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Simba Hall**, commencing at **9.00 a.m.** and the following Agenda will be transacted:

- 1. Opening of the Meeting.**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda.**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Twenty Eighth Annual General Meeting.**
- 4. To discuss the Matters Arising.**
- 5. Adoption of the Report by those charged with Governance and Audited Financial Statements for year 2023.**
 - 5.1 Directors' Report
 - 5.2 Audited Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.
 - 5.3 Declaration of Year 2023 Dividend.
- 6. Approval of Directors Remuneration.**
- 7. Appointment of the External Auditors.**
- 8. Election of Board Members.**
 - 8.1 One (1) Board Member to represent shareholders owning shares above 1% and below 10%.
 - 8.2 One (1) Board Member to represent shareholders owning shares below 1%.
- 9. To deliberate on Proposals received from Shareholders.**
- 10. Any other business with leave of the Chair.**
- 11. To set the place, date and venue of the next meeting.**
- 12. Closing of the meeting.**

NOTE:

1. The Shareholders Register will be closed on 14/05/2024 and will be opened on 15/05/2024.
2. All proposals to be discussed under Agenda no. 9 must be received by the Secretary not later than **Thursday, 02/05/2024 at 4.00 pm.**
3. Papers for the meeting may be collected from CRDB Bank Branches from **08/05/2024** and will also be available in Arusha from **17th to 18th May, 2024** and on the Bank's website www.crdbbank.co.tz on **08/05/2024**
4. Costs for transportation and accommodation will be borne by shareholders themselves.

NOTICE OF SHAREHOLDERS SEMINAR

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Shareholders Seminar on 17th May 2024, starting at 9.00 a.m. at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Simba Hall. The following topics will be presented:

- a) Investment in shares.
- b) Kijani Bond Investment.
- c) Importance of making a will.
- d) Financial Inclusion.
- e) Insurance offerings.

The contact for communication is:

The Secretary
CRDB Bank Plc
S. L. P. 268
Dar-es-Salaam
Email: shares_unit@crdbbank.co.tz
Mob Number: 0755 197 700
WhatsApp Number: 0767 757 215

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. B. Rugambo
SECRETARY

17th April, 2024

Govt unveils restored girls' secondary school in Pemba

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday officiated the opening of a key secondary school for girls in Pemba that was razed by fire in March 2022 after its reconstruction.

Utaani Girls' Secondary School in Wete District, Pemba North Region has once again opened its classrooms in modern storey buildings.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Mwinyi said that the ongoing reforms and development in the education sector are aimed at facilitating provision of quality education to improve performance in examinations.

Dr Mwinyi said the government will also construct a new modern conference hall to match with the school's new status.

He directed Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to supervise construction of the conference hall and sports facilities to further make the school attractive.

In addition, President Mwinyi agreed to the request of the people of Pemba North Region to upgrade the dilapidated Jadida Primary School in Wete District, saying that the government will construct a new primary school in the area.

He said that in order to improve the status of Pemba Island, the government through Zanzibar Housing Corporation (ZHC) will carry out a major renovation of the island's houses and build 4,000 new high-quality houses in both Unguja and Pemba.

On the port of Wete, Dr Mwinyi said that the government is committed to constructing a modern port in Wete whereby initial stages of construction have been completed.

Education and Vocational Training Minister, Lela Muhamed Mussa thanked the government for putting focus on transforming education sector.

"We will ensure that the school is protected for them to remain in the same quality and benefit more pupils in the future," she added.

Khamis Abdallah Said, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, said construction of the school started in May last year and cost 6.2bn/-.

The school comprises 41 classrooms, four teachers' offices, head teacher's office, 32 latrines, library, laboratory, computer room and a store.

Salama Mbarouk Khatibu, Pemba North Regional Commissioner, said residents of the region were more concerned about development and not the old politics of hatred.



Martine Francis, an Optometrist with suburban Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila, attends to Standard Six pupil Nasra Bakari of Mwambisi Primary School in Kibaha Town Council at an eye screening camp held there yesterday with support from South Korea Vision Care Tanzania and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Looking on is the girl's mother, Rukia Msuya. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Tullia Ackson has urged the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to compensate people whose farms are destroyed by elephants.

She made the appeal yesterday after Bahati Ndingo, Mbarali legislator, asked the parliament to deliberate on regular farm invasions by elephants which leave people without crops and houses.

"Evaluation of losses caused by elephant invasion on people's farms normally takes a long time thus delaying payments. People deserve timely compensation," she said.

Ndingo argued that elephants have also been invading people's homes in the villages of Igunda, Ikaluto, Igava and Iwalanje in Mbarali District and

Appeal for prompt compensation for distraught stray jumbo victims

nothing was done by the ministry in terms of stopping further invasions or compensating affected people.

Responding to the raised concern, Angellah Kairuki, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, said the ministry was implementing three strategies in controlling elephant invasion of people's homes and farms.

She mentioned the strategies as the five-year human-wildlife conflict resolution, the 10-year Tanzania Elephant Management Plan and the Tanzania Wildlife Corridors Assessment, Prioritization and Action

Plan.

She said the ministry has also been conducting patrols to control wildlife from national parks, game reserves and wildlife management areas. The ministry has constructed 154 centers for strengthening patrols.

"We have been training people from the national parks host communities on best ways of preventing elephant invasion of farms and homes. In Mbarali District we have trained people from 23 villages on ways of controlling elephants," she said.

According to her, the ministry has

been tying elephants with tracking collars whereby 197 collars have so far been used in Tarangire, Manyara, Serengeti, Mikumi, Lake Natron, Longido and Selous ecological systems as well as national parks.

She said the collars have been helpful to the ministry in tracking elephants' routes and controlling them for the purpose of reducing harm to people.

"We need 3.2bn/- for the purchase of 200 collars as one collar costs up to 16mn/-. Plans are to buy three helicopters for scaring away elephants from human residents," she said.

Workers' Day: Civil servants in Nigeria see 25-35pc pay rise

By Wycliffe Muia

NIGERIA has raised salaries for civil servants by between 25 percent and 35 percent to help them cope with the rising cost of living.

The lowest-paid government employee will now earn \$324 (£258) a year, Reuters news agency reports.

Police and military officers are among state workers who are set to benefit from the pay rises, which will be backdated to January.

The announcement came on the eve of Wednesday's Workers' Day holiday.

However, the rate of inflation is currently more than 30 percent - the highest figure in nearly three decades.

The cost of food has risen even more - by 35 percent, according to the latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics, so the pay rises mean that salaries for civil servants stay roughly the same in real terms - what it can buy in the shops and markets.

Pensions for those workers who benefit were also increased by between 20 percent and 28 percent, the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC) said.

The hikes come after the government recently raised the salaries of academic staff members and healthcare workers.

However, the monthly minimum wage, set by the government and which all employers are supposed to observe, has not changed since 2019, when it was put at 30,000 naira - this is now worth just \$19 (£15) after a sharp fall in the value of the naira over recent months.

The government also recently increased electricity tariffs for consumers who use the most power as it seeks to wean the economy off subsidies that have weighed heavily on public finances.

The trade union umbrella group, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), welcomed the latest pay increase but urged the government to ensure that it was reflective of the harsh economic situation in the country.

"These categories of workers are already in the privileged sector but we expect it to be extended also to other categories of civil servants who are in lower cadre and are vulnerable," NLC spokesman Comrade Benson Uphah told local media.

Negotiations are ongoing between the government and the main labour unions about an increase in the minimum wage.

Food prices as well as the prices of goods and services have doubled in many parts of the country since the removal of a fuel subsidy last year.

Petrol shortages have worsened in Nigeria's major cities, with long queues observed since last week, as Africa's biggest oil producer struggled with a fuel scarcity.

Authorities blamed the shortage on supply disruptions due to logistical challenges.

Most of Nigeria's oil is exported, while the fuel which is used locally is mostly imported due to a lack of refining capacity.



Assistant Inspector of Police Elibariki Mambuye from Ilemi ward in Mbeya Region pictured earlier this week distributing school uniforms and exercise books to Lyoto Primary School pupils living in difficult conditions. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

'Govt working to increase cassava production to 40 tonnes annually'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is working on strategies to boost cassava production from the current 6 million tonnes to 40 million tonnes per year while enabling farmers to fully utilize market opportunities globally.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Hussein Omary, made the remarks recently here while opening a stakeholders' meeting to discuss development of cassava production in the country.

He said the government will continue putting in place robust strategies, including facilitating production of

quality seeds and he urged farmers to adopt improved seeds in order to enhance production.

Omary said the crop is vital for the country and that is why the meeting was held to deliberate on how to increase its production for local consumption and export.

In the meeting, participating stakeholders gave their opinions expressing challenges they face in cassava production in various parts of the country.

"Cassava production is profitable. We are supposed to formulate strategies to ensure production increases and seek more international markets," he said.

Omary said the major goal is to see cassava cultivation increases like other crops in the country, especially considering major investments which have been conducted in the agriculture sector.

He said that despite challenges that farmers face, they should not give up because the government supports them in the development of the crop.

He noted that currently, cassava production was very low because many farmers use traditional seeds which eventually do not produce much.

Mwantomu Maiza, chairperson of the Tanzania Cassava Producers and

Processors Association (TACAPPA), said there have been many challenges which were discussed the meeting and solutions recommended.

She said the goal was to see the crop make strides including farmers' progress and increase the number of acres for cassava production.

"We thank the government for its cooperation with cassava farmers. We believe that every challenge will be addressed," she said.

She pledged to ensure that all the government directives are implemented to ensure development of the crop through empowerment of farmers.

Rise in mobile traders brings goods, services closer to remote rural Zambia communities

LUSAKA

IN the rural areas of Zambia, quiet changes unfold in the way villagers access goods and services, all thanks to the rise of mobile traders.

This approach, promoted by urban traders seeking to broaden their market reach, is gaining popularity across the southern African country.

While some of these merchants do not have specific trading locations but travel from village to village in search of customers, others use weekly or monthly markets to sell a wide range of goods. They carry a variety of goods and spend days and sometimes weeks in rural and remote parts of the country; they can be found in different trading areas on different days of the week.

From groceries to clothing to simple electronic gadgets such as mobile phone accessories, mobile traders are making it easier for rural dwellers to access essential commodities without spending money on transportation.

“Access to basic commodities has been a challenge for us living in remote areas. With mobile traders visiting regularly, we no longer have to make the expensive and time-consuming trip to town just to buy food or necessities. These traders have really made our lives easier,” said Lister Mumba, 48, from Luansobe, a rural area in the central province of Copperbelt.

Martin Sokoni, 32, a rural dweller from the Liteta area in the Chibombo District of Central Province, pointed out that mobile traders enable rural residents to spend less time buying food and more time on productive ventures.

Interactions with the mobile traders revealed that they have not only helped bridge the gap between rural and urban areas in terms of access to necessities, but that their businesses are taking off.

By bringing a diverse range of products directly to villagers, mobile trading has catalyzed economic growth and created opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs to thrive.

Sarah Mwansa, 42, a garment trader from Kabwe, the capital of Central Province, said being a mobile trader has significantly increased her sales.

“My sales have increased by over 50 percent since I started displaying my goods at various trading places in Central and Copperbelt provinces two years ago,” she said.

Mwansa’s sentiments were echoed by Rosemary Tembo, 31, also a mobile trader from Lusaka, Zambia’s capital, who trades in plastic kitchen utensils, and said mobile trading offers small-scale traders more market opportunities than being stationed in one area.



My sales have increased by over 50 percent since I started displaying my goods at various trading places in Central and Copperbelt provinces two years ago

More Kenyans lose their properties to heavy rains

NAIROBI

AS heavy rains continued to pound Kenya’s capital on Tuesday night, residents woke up to more losses in property and heavy infrastructural destruction.

Three major highways were closed for the better part of the day Wednesday due to flooding, heavy traffic snarl-ups being experienced.

A spot-check by Associated Press in Nairobi and its surrounding districts revealed the extent of the devastation. Houses marooned, cars drowned in garages and car-sale yards, whole roads cut-off by raging waters.

More than 170 people have died across Kenya since mid-March when the rainy season started, causing flooding, landslides and destroying infrastructure. The Metrology Department has warned that more rain is expected this week.

On Monday, a river broke through a clogged tunnel in Mai Mahiu area in western Kenya, sweeping houses away and damaging roads. The incident left 48 people dead and more than 80 others missing.

Search and rescue operations across the Mai Mahiu area are ongoing. President William Ruto on Tuesday ordered the military to join in the search.

Locals say rescue efforts have been slow due to lack of equipment to dig through the debris.

The government has urged people living in flood-prone areas to evacuate or be moved forcefully as water level in two major hydroelectric dams rise to a “historic high.”



Three major highways were closed for the better part of Wednesday due to flooding, heavy traffic snarl-ups being experienced



Students living in difficult conditions in Babati District and sponsored by Compassion International Tanzania participate in the organisation's 25th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday. Compassion works to end child poverty by connecting children in need with local churches who care for them including by fighting malnutrition, offering them medical care. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

Minjingu to operate 50 fertiliser distribution points by December

MINJINGU Mines and Fertiliser Limited is set to increase its distribution centres across the country from the current 36 to 50 by December this year.

The plan is meant to give farmers access to fertiliser close to their areas easily in a bid to push forward development of agriculture in the country.

Dr Mshindo Msolla, the company’s head of marketing department, said this here recently when speaking at a meeting for the company’s agents in Lake Zone.

He said that sometimes they receive complaints from farmers who fail to

get company’s fertiliser on time owing to products being far away from their areas.

Dr Msolla said that to solve the problem, the company was working hard to establish more centres to enable as many farmers as possible access its fertiliser close to them in different areas across the country.

Dr Msolla advised companies producing fertiliser to ensure that materials have answers to soil health for sustainability of agriculture.

According to him, it is important for the country to test soil health so that it can support productive agriculture throughout the year.

Dr Juma Kayeke, the company’s Lake Zone sales agronomist, said that the meeting was part of the company’s plan to build capacity for its agents on better ways to serve farmers.

He said that fertiliser produced by the company is natural as it originates from decay of living things such as insects and weevils.

Michael Sanga, Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) manager in the Lake Zone, said that fertiliser companies and agents should educate farmers on the correct application of fertiliser by using demonstration farms owned by schools across the country.

He appealed to fertiliser companies to establish as many centres as possible, adding that agents should also have adequate storage facilities to store fertilisers so that farmers can get the inputs timely.



Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) acting commissioner Mzee Kasuwi speaks to students of Lulumba, New Kiomboi and Iramba secondary schools as well as those of KNTC college in Iramba District earlier this week on the use of illicit drugs. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Rebels in DRC claim control of major coltan mining town

KINSHASA

A TOWN at the heart of mining coltan, a key ingredient in making mobile phones, has been seized in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo by rebel forces, their spokesman has said.

Rubaya fell into the hands of M23 fighters on Tuesday following heavy clashes with government troops, Willy Ngoma said.

The government has not yet commented, but a civil society activist

confirmed that M23 had captured the strategic town.

It happened on the day France’s President Emmanuel Macron called on neighbouring Rwanda to “halt its support” for the M23 rebel group.

Macron made his comments after holding talks with DR Congo’s President Félix Tshisekedi in France’s capital, Paris. Rwanda has repeatedly denied backing the rebels, who have captured much territory in the mineral-rich east during fighting over the past 18 months.

DR Congo is the world’s second-biggest producer of coltan, with most of it coming from the mines around Rubaya in the Masisi district.

Coltan is used to make batteries for electric vehicles and mobile phones.

DR Congo’s government accuses Rwanda of backing the rebels to steal its mineral wealth, an allegation the government in Kigali denies.

Ngoma said that M23 had seized Rubaya “not because of its richness, but to chase away our enemy”.

A civil society activist in Masisi, Voltaire Sadiki, said the rebels had “ordered civilians with guns to hand them [in] and continue with their lives”.

The rebels, initially Congolese army deserters, accuse the government of marginalising the country’s ethnic Tutsi minority and refusing to negotiate with them. They regard the verdant hills around Masisi as their true homeland.

Tshisekedi said the rebels are a front for what he calls the “expansionist aims” of Rwanda, which it denies.

These mental health reports are of much concern indeed

REPORTS that Zanzibar has been grappling with a rise in the incidence of mental illness cases for several years now point to a setback for all those who habitually think of development as a smooth situation of rising expectations.

As media activity has plenty to do with public or state activities, and not nearly enough with what is happening to individuals or families, 'mental health stock taking' will have come up as a shock.

The mental health coordinator with the Zanzibar's Health ministry says that there are now more than 5,000 mental disease patients in the Isles. The fact that those involved aren't just youths but even children implies rather complex causes.

While it is often easy to focus on social conditions like unemployment as explaining the situation, this time this doesn't appear to fit the bill.

The coordinator indicated that in 2021 there were 132 mental patients while last year the number of new patients reached 1,039 in total.

While key officials complained of relevant data being insufficient, ordinarily that simply means that the situation is likely to be worse than the immediate picture from the centrally based mental diseases hospital.

A broader explanation as given by the official was that the increase in young mental patients had links to the use of illicit drugs, mental stress and frequent breakdowns of romantic relationships.

Going by the official's remarks, there precious little can be done on the ground as a remedial measure except for the fact that the community was now gaining awareness on the need to take the patients to hospital.

It is reported that the Zanzibar Health ministry has been making efforts to provide mental health education and increase the number of service providers.

The personnel include advisers often for those seeking support or

assistance of various kinds, among them those hauled before law-enforcement organs and found to have mental health challenges.

It must be admitted that such situation, once it has set in, turns into an internal cycle if a family were to throw out such a person.

In other words, youths and even children then move from being individuals on whom families can depend to complement the pursuit of sustenance, especially in the often too frequent situation of lack of a providing father, to a burden.

Such burdens are not experienced only in relation to meals or shelter, as they can often find a few coins for other needs and often it is in that sort of pursuit that traps unfold to join bhang-smoking groups or worse forms of drug dependency.

Too often youths hooked on drugs, even if they aren't yet violent, would end up easily stealing anything to sell for a coin.

Similar remarks elicited on the issue indicate that the World Health Organisation sees the incidence of anxiety and major depressive disorder as having risen to 28 per cent of inhabitants globally.

Just less than one-third of the population face mental disorders whose explanation isn't drugs but unemployment and lack of a viable social welfare net. While policy is pegged to seeking out a cluster of needy families to assist each year, the real challenge is getting maturing youths into gainful engagement, or fixed safety net income.

Only with a vast reduction of the public sector, hopefully only to regulatory roles, will Africa and other income-deprived zones get enough taxes for universal monthly allowances or a whole third of the youth will be disabled socially for lack of dignity.

That would likely lead to even greater drug dependency and enhanced ostracism, with things thus growing from bad to worse.

Artisanal gold miners can be assisted, after UN's failure over use of mercury

A campaign being conducted jointly by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (CGCLA) would make an excellent seminar topic in a sociology class.

That would be as to whether there are correct ways of using mercury among small-scale gold miners, for that matter in the Lake Zone in particular.

The drive seeks to impart awareness and build the capacity of miners and apparently of other users of mercury to know how mercury enters the body, the side-effects and how users could protect themselves from the chemical.

One could be excused for blurring out a simple answer, say, the wearing of dependable gloves and even leaving it to the national Mining Commission to make impromptu inspection to ensure that this directive is being followed.

Another feature, a sort of preliminary issue, is how far gold-mining areas are unlikely to have heard about mercury "misdeeds" in the body, nearly 30 years after gold-mining started in a big way in the mid-1990s. Seeking out miners in seminars is an effort to ensure that they are all elaborately aware of the risks being taken, and perhaps this sort of step will help in making regulatory use of good sets of gloves more effective.

It is often not easy to tell from the outside how much really the briefing is needed - that is, how far there is social exposure to the ill-effects of mercury, as it is a huge deterrent.

Evidently, it is important for miners to use equipment to prevent mercury from touching the skin, as mercury

could be quite simply like a mild snake bite, with effects like damaging the nervous system, impaired vision and in due course, kidney failure.

According to a CGCLA official, mercury affects the growth of the child during pregnancy in cases of safe use and storage not being observed.

There is another dimension that was not aired in the exchange as it related to the impacts of mercury on those actually handling it. These will need to resuscitate wider environmental research on the impact of the chemical when it seeps into the ground and starts contaminating potential sources of water: streams, rivers, wells, etc.

Controlling the use of mercury for small-time miners is envisaged in the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

An online summary says that this is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

The best interpretation would be to ban mercury but small miners have ardently resisted the measure. So, the World Bank and all manner of regulatory agencies all talk of safe management and safe use of mercury. The scale of the problem is quickly in evidence when one of the miners says that the group to which he belongs was all but unaware of the effects of mercury.

The idea that most of those engaged in gold mining were indeed unaware of the health effects of the chemical shows inbuilt resistance to the 'bad mouthing' of mercury. Question: Why literally cling to pushing for the "safe handling" of mercury instead of simply impose a permanent ban on the use of the chemical?

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By Michael A. Battle Sr.

SINCE 1993, thanks to a UNESCO General Conference recommendation, World Press Freedom Day has been commemorated globally each May 3rd.

This year, I am honoured to participate in the official commemoration of the Day in Dodoma city alongside government officials, international partners and civil society leaders.

These events underscore the pivotal role of press freedom in fostering vibrant democracies by enabling citizens to make well-informed decisions and holding governments and their leaders accountable to the public.

In the United States, we cherish an informed citizenry as the bedrock of democracy, which is why freedom of speech and freedom of the press are safeguarded in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

My tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania has been profoundly enriched by engaging with journalists from all backgrounds.

Citizen journalists, with their unique vantage points, can change the trajectory of a nation, and the professionalism of trained journalists remains important for accurately framing the national debate.

Role of open data in upholding press freedom & assessing value of US-Tanzania partnership



Michael A. Battle Sr.

Collectively, their work vividly illustrates how a free press combats ignorance - the foremost of the three adversaries identified by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere - and empowers society.

Yet, the power of information hinges on the quality of the underlying data. On this World Press Freedom Day, I want to highlight the excellent work of AidData, a data research lab based at the College of William & Mary in the United States, that has just released a report assessing the value of the U.S.-Tanzanian partnership for the Tanzanian people.

The United States collaborates extensively with Tanzania, supporting a range of initiatives - from health and capacity building efforts to democratic governance. Yet, to really understand the value of that partnership, it is necessary to have

accessible data.

AidData's mission to enhance the transparency of development finance is crucial. By providing journalists worldwide with accessible, detailed data on how and where assistance funds are allocated, AidData empowers the press and the public to effectively hold governments and international entities accountable.

All citizens should have access to open data as a means to assess the efficiency and impact of investment on local communities.

At a macro level, AidData's reporting finds that the United States, through government agencies, organisations and individuals, contributes an estimated US\$2.8 billion annually (7,140 billion/-) to Tanzania's development.

We have also opened our doors to Tanzanians to live, work and study in the United States. The Tanzanian diaspora contributes an additional US\$96.4 million to the Tanzanian economy annually through remittances from the United States.

And the United States, as the single largest donor to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment over the last 20 years, has prevented the premature deaths of roughly 750,000 Tanzanians.

With access to open data, AidData

has done the hard work of quantifying the impact of the U.S.-Tanzania partnership for all Tanzanians.

These data tell a story, which enables the people of Tanzania to make informed choices about how best to engage with partner nations to achieve their national development goals.

I hope everyone will take the time to read this report and assess for themselves how the U.S.-Tanzania partnership impacts their daily lives.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan said during U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris's visit last year: "We have endeavoured to build a democratic state that upholds transparency and respect of the rule of law."

We support the President's vision and will continue to work tirelessly with likeminded Tanzanians across government and civil society to make that vision a reality for all Tanzanians.

Today, I join Americans, Tanzanians and people across the globe as we defend the freedom of the press and support informed citizenries. For there is no freedom in a society without a free press, and we guard that sacred right today and every day.

* Michael A. Battle Sr. is the U.S. Ambassador to the Tanzania.

Africa's food future: Scaling up proven solutions

By Dr Agnes Kalibata and Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

AS former United Nations and current African Union Food Systems envoys, we have firsthand experience of the complex challenges confronting Africa's food systems.

Despite its abundant natural resources, Africa continues to struggle with food insecurity and malnutrition.

The combined impacts of climatic shocks, Covid-19 and civil unrest are further exacerbating these vulnerabilities, emphasizing the urgent need for reforms to ensure food security across the continent.

The recent El Niño phenomenon experienced in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe is expected to reduce maize yields significantly, with a projected decline of 5 per cent from 2.3 tonnes per hectare (MT/Ha) in marketing year 2023/2024.

This will mark a five-year low in productivity for Zambia, with these examples highlighting the fragility of Africa's food systems and the challenges they present.

While southern Africa faces a looming food crisis, a brighter picture emerges in eastern Africa. Thanks to improved rainfall and production, the region boasts a projected net surplus of 1.7 million MT of maize for the 2023/2024.

Tanzania leads the pack with an



Dr Agnes Kalibata



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

exportable surplus expected to be 36 per cent above average (1.1 million MT), while Uganda and Ethiopia are on track for typical levels (450,000 MT and 400,000 MT, respectively). This surplus could be strategically traded within southern Africa during deficit seasons.

Thanks to its vast arable land and varied climate patterns, Africa has the potential to not only be self-sufficient but also become a major contributor to global food security.

However, unlocking this potential hinges on tackling structural issues and investing in sustainable agricultural practices.

Africa's food systems require a critical shift towards resilience. Extreme weather like droughts, floods and desertification pose real threats, causing crop failures and devastating livelihoods.

To counter these risks, systemic interventions are crucial. Drought-resistant crops, improved water management, soil conservation techniques and sustainable land use are all urgent priorities.

Furthermore, rain-fed agriculture leaves smallholder farmers exposed. Investing in scalable solutions like small-scale irrigation and promoting water-efficient practices can mitigate these risks and ensure sustainable yields for these vital producers.

Beyond climate shocks, inefficiencies plague the continent's food chain. Staggering post-harvest losses exceeding 35 per cent stem from inadequate storage and transportation.

Addressing these can boost farm earnings by over 20 per cent in a single season. However, this requires targeted policies and investments in cold storage, transport infrastructure and market linkages.

By ensuring that food reaches markets in good quality, these interventions incentivise private sector investment, extending shelf life and guaranteeing markets for farmers' yields.

This approach, proven to encourage smart technologies and crop diversification, is the key to attracting youth participation in value addition.

Empowering smallholder farmers to become thriving businesses remains a viable path to rural economic growth, improved livelihoods and social inclusion.

Africa urgently needs transformative policies and investments to create resilient, inclusive food systems. National, regional and international collaboration is crucial, with governments, civil society and the private sector working in unison.

This aligns with the CAADP post-Malabo process, which envisions food system transformations beyond 2025.

As former UN Food Systems Envoys and current Africa Food Systems Champions, we believe that proven innovations hold the key. We invite you to nominate individuals or firms tackling Africa's food system bottlenecks through their work.

The Africa Food Prize of over US\$100,000 awaits the winner, to be announced at the Africa Food Systems Forum in September 2024. Be the change! Nominate now; applications close at the end of May 2024.

* Dr Ibrahim Mayaki is current African Union's Special Envoy on Food Systems and a member of the Africa Food Prize Committee. Dr Agnes Kalibata was meanwhile Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit and has served as President of AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) since 2014.

Need to intensify efforts in malaria diagnosis, treatment and eradication

By Guardian Reporter

This April 25 Tanzania joined other countries to commemorate World Malaria Day under the theme 'Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world.'

During the commemorations a number of activities were conducted some including free malaria diagnosis and this made a significant milestone to fight against malaria disease.

The aim was to raise awareness about malaria and mobilize efforts to control and prevent the disease. It also provided an opportunity to highlight the progress made in the fight against malaria, as well as the challenges that remain.

Doctors from various hospitals lead an event to provide free malaria tests and offer free Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) for those diagnosed positive. The activity focused to demonstrate social responsibility and highlight the Chinese antimalaria team's commitment to helping people, especially the poor and vulnerable groups.

Kairuki's Emergency Physician Dr Eric Mbando, where free malaria screening was conducted explained that his depart-

ment receives different types of patients including malaria.

"As we commemorate World Malaria Day it is important for people to understand that malaria is a serious and preventable disease that affect everyone. Today we have decided diagnosis and create awareness to the community on the importance of diagnosis before taking medication," he said.

He says that self-prescription is among other contributing factors that enable the disease to continue existing.

Dr Mbando recalls one incident, when they received a patient who was in a critical condition, when they asked him for how has been sick they realized that the patient went to a certain patient hospital got diagnosis and, given medication without testing for knowing blood slide for malaria.

"When we diagnosed that some patients, we realized that the malaria parasites were 6000. This was biggest number. Unfortunately, the patient died and this is because of self-prescription and treatment delay," he said.

Therefore, local population who were at the hospital and diagnosed, based on the results were encouraged to go for diagnosis before taking the medications.

The goal was to achieve



Malaria is a serious and preventable disease that can affect everyone.

good publicity for malaria treatment and control, as well as to call for community engagement and global efforts to combat malaria.

The discovery of artemisinin, an antimalarial drug with high potency and low toxicity, was made by Chinese scientists in the early 1970s. This breakthrough came as a result of their research inspired by traditional Chinese medicine, specifically isolating artemisinin from the plant *Artemisia annua* L. The

World Health Organization has hailed this discovery as the "best hope for the treatment of malaria," marking a paradigm shift in malaria treatment and making a significant contribution to global health.

Not only that, China was awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO in 2021, after 70-year effort, which were reported 30 million malaria cases annually in the 1940s.

Chairman of the Eliminate Malaria Council Tanzania (EMCT) Leodgar Tenga said that despite

the national commitment to reduce the average malaria infection rate from 7.5 percent in 2017 to below 3.5 percent by 2025 and ultimately eliminate the disease by 2030, there is still a challenge of accessing sufficient resources to implement essential malaria interventions.

"The efforts of the government and various stakeholders in achieving this goal are commendable as the government has continued to invest in healthcare services and

education to combat the challenge of malaria.

Mbangala resident, Flora Wiza, who received the free diagnosis, said she was very happy because also received awareness on the importance of diagnosis and got to understand the importance blood slide for malaria before taking medications.

"Most of the time, when I experienced some joint pain, I normally buy medications without, medical prescription," she said.

In Tanzania, in the year 2023, a total of 19.8 million people were tested for Malaria, among whom 3.46 million were found to be infected, compared to 18.6 million tested in 2022, with 3.52 million found infected, and 20.2 million tested in 2021, among whom 4.4 million were found infected. The deaths attributed to Malaria were 1,540 in 2023, compared to 1,735 in 2022, and 1,882 in 2021.

While only three African countries—Mauritius in 1973, Algeria in 2019, and Cape Verde in 2023—have successfully eliminated malaria, Kikwete expressed optimism, citing Botswana and South Africa's progress towards eradication. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, stating that success requires the involvement of various stakeholders beyond the government alone.

By Guardian Reporter

EVERY April 28 of each year, the world commemorates the International Day of Health and Safety at Work to promote the health and safety of workers in different parts of the world.

This day is important not only for various public and private institutions because employment laws bind them to ensure compliance with established procedures and regulations, but also for employees who spend a significant amount of time in the workplace.

The existence of special commemorations for this day is important because each year it serves as a reminder and motivator for employers to improve their work environments for greater efficiency and to protect the health and safety of their employees.

The issue of health and safety in the workplace varies from one sector to another depending on the type of activities they engage in. However, this does not mean that one institution should prioritize compliance with regulations more than another; all should meet the criteria according to the established laws.

The theme for the 2024 commemoration is 'exploring the impacts of climate change on occupational safety and health'. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), this theme is derived from the fact that climate change worldwide has been affecting workers through increasing risks such as extreme heat, ultraviolet radiation, extreme weather events, air pollution, vector-borne diseases, and agrochemicals.

At Puma Energy, our Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) vision is to "Empower and develop our people to be influential Health, Safety, Security, and Environmental leaders who Energise our communities," HSSE Manager at Puma Energy Tanzania Limited, Ambokege Minga said when speaking on the importance of commemorating the day.

Minga added: "We are continually committed to developing engaged, empowered, and enabled employees who are proactive in

Employees' involvement crucial in execution of health, safety policies



Employees must be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect them from potential hazards.

their own health and safety, as well as that of others. Everyone has the right to be safe at work and to return home to their family and friends as healthy as when they started the day. We recognise that our commitment to safety not only protects our workers but also contributes to our environment. By promoting safe practices, we reduce the risk of incidents and create a healthier, more resilient workplace."

The HSSE Manager explained that they have invested significant efforts not only in ensuring that the company complies with regulations and procedures according to the law but also in providing comprehensive education for employees and all partners in their operations nationwide.

"The company is guided by practices that require all employees and partners to adhere to in our daily operations.

We take pride in investing heavily in educating and motivating employees to prioritize health and safety issues in the workplace and to serve as goodwill ambassadors to their colleagues nationwide. We empower them to monitor and report any violations of health and safety regulations wherever and whenever they occur," added Minga.

Minga emphasized that the focus on health and safety extends not only to

employees but also to contractors working with them and visitors to their premises. The goal is to ensure that no one is harmed or suffers injuries while working with them or being in their work areas.

Puma also stated that they provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to shield their employees from potential hazards in the workplace such as safety gear. Additionally, they encourage reporting whenever they observe violations of laws. For example, if they notice a contractor working wearing safety gear while their employees do not, they report it. This goes hand in hand with encouraging reporting of unsafe incidents at work, which serves as useful reminders during training and education sessions for all employees to prevent recurrence.

"We are proud to say that so far we have largely succeeded in achieving significant goals in health and safety issues because we have not had any accident cases or deaths in the workplace from the beginning of the year until now. We make great efforts in providing education, protecting, and motivating all our employees in our reception, storage, and transportation activities for the development of citizens and the nation as a whole," added Minga.

On her part, the Health Safety Environment and Quality Control Specialist at Puma Energy Tanzania Limited, Rehema Madoffe, concluded by stating, "We ensure that all employees have access to excellent health insurance that protects them in the event of health challenges. Additionally, the workplace infrastructure is built with durability and quality to address various challenges such as fire disasters. Moreover, employees are trained to deal with fire disasters, where in some of our work areas; we conduct monthly drills to prepare for any type of disaster."

Indigenous Philippine village rejects gold mine, cites flawed consultation

By Michael Beltran

DOMENG Laita, 64, stands on a mountain ledge outside his home, looking down with worry on his face. Below him stands the embankment of the San Roque dam, stretching more than a kilometer (0.6 miles) along the Agno River. In 2012, a spill from a gold mine upstream sent millions of tons of waste into the river system. With a looming increase in mining activity, Laita says he dreads a repeat of the incident.

Laita looks back at his home, casting another shrug then grinding his teeth. More mining means the old tunnels under his house will likely deepen. He tries not to think about the ground swallowing up his entire family.

"There will be digging underneath. My house could fall into the softened ground. When the mining starts again, there's no telling how bad it will hurt the land," he says, walking along the mountain ridge.

It wouldn't be the first time that a mining disaster hit the town. Laita lives in Sitio Dalicno, part of Ampucao village inside the municipality of Itogon in Benguet province, in the northern Philippines. Dubbed a "gold haven" for its massive deposits of the precious metal, the region has drawn miners to the mountains for centuries.

The town is part of the northern Cordillera range in the Philippines, known for its resource-rich mountains and the Igorot, the region's majority Indigenous population.

Laita, like most Dalicno residents, has been a small-scale miner all his life, using hand tools to dig small tunnels along the slopes of the mountain and extract ore. These methods have supported his family's modest life along the village slopes. And like many of his neighbors, Laita says he feels powerless to stop the government from brokering new industrial mining permits on Indigenous soil.

In 2023, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) concluded talks with Itogon locals to obtain their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), a requirement for state agencies to allow mining operations on ancestral lands.

These talks first began

in 2012 when Itogon-Suyoc Resources Inc. (ISRI), one of the Philippines' oldest mining firms, initiated its application for production sharing agreement, or APSA 103, to mine 581 hectares (1,426 acres) of Itogon land covering nearly the whole of Dalicno.

If finalized, the agreement would allow ISRI access to 22 million tons of gold-bearing ore for the next 25 years.

Talks proceeded haltingly, gaining momentum in 2018 with a series of community consultations. Itogon communities initially rejected APSA 103 in 2022. ISRI responded with a motion for reconsideration early in 2023, entailing another round of consultations.

In September 2023, the company finalized an agreement with Indigenous representatives and the NCIP. However, many in Dalicno, where most of ISRI's operations will take place, question the FPIC process, alleging it was railroaded in ISRI's favor – a claim both ISRI and the local NCIP branch reject.

To approve APSA 103, the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires a final sign-off from the NCIP called a certification precondition. While this is pending, Dalicno residents are pressing the government to scrap the project altogether.

On the doors of many of Dalicno's cliffside homes hang signs saying "No to APSA! Save our water sources, built-up areas, people, future!" On the highway to Dalicno hang hand-painted banners that read "Save Dalicno! No to APSA!"

"Itogon has seen so many lapses with mining, we don't trust the companies," says Allan Sabaiano, head of the Dalicno Indigenous Peoples Organization (DIPO), formed in January this year with the goal of overturning the initial agreement. "They've compromised our water sources, and ISRI is coming back to take the rest. They did it by ignoring the voice of Dalicno's people."

Eric Landal, ISRI's resident manager, says the no-mining zones, including residential areas, will be off-limits to the company's operations. While conceding that large-scale mining has caused some environmental damage, Landal said, adding that "we mitigate our impacts."



Community activists in Dalicno hold a banner protesting ISRI's mining expansion plans.

If anything, he adds, it's the community-driven "small-scale mining which has more of a degrading impact, because it is unregulated with so many working that way," he says. "They themselves mine underneath their houses. If something collapses, it's their doing."

"Nobody informed me about it"

In September 2023, weeks after the agreement was signed, DIPO filed a petition at the NCIP's regional office to nullify it, citing irregularities in the consultation process.

According to DIPO, most residents were kept in the dark about the motion. Elder Juanito Ericiba, who represented Dalicno at most FPIC talks until 2022, says he was one of them. "When we said 'No to APSA' in 2022, I thought that was the end of it. I never knew about any motion for reconsideration. I just found out there was a signed agreement that nobody informed me about," Ericiba says.

He adds that Jimmy Lumbag, the man who suddenly replaced him, was never affirmed through a community decision, thereby making his participation in the FPIC illegitimate.

"It hurts, upsets my stomach. Is it because I'm just a poor man that I was overlooked? But the community appointed me," Ericiba says.

DIPO, which unlike DIPO is recognized by the NCIP, represented the entire municipality when it came to allowing ISRI entry. The matter was then put to a vote by secret ballot, Cirilo says.

"The outcome registered a yes to the operations while declaring the Dalicno homes and water source a 'no-mining zone,'" he says.

Rosita Bargaso, the IPO chair, hails from Itogon's Gumatdang village, not among

the localities that would be directly affected by APSA 103. She refutes DIPO's claims that Dalicno elders were informed but uninterested in the latter part of the consensus building. She adds that they suddenly protested after the agreement was already signed. Landal seconds this assertion, dismissing DIPO as a "small group making a lot of noise to appear like there are many." He adds that the support it has generated is because it has reached out to "leftist groups."

"It was a desperate move on their part," Landal says. "They can't convince others anymore so they called on outsiders to help."

Cirilo also says community voices weren't ignored. When asked about DIPO's allegations, including the unceremonious replacement of Ericiba, he says that "if that did happen, hopefully it won't affect the consent given through the voting. We can correct the names on the [agreement], but it cannot undo the outcome."

"Neither the document nor the company has told us what kind of method ISRI will use. They could be ready to crack open the mountain," he says.

Caytap also voiced her distrust over the "no-mining zone" disclaimer, saying underground digging is usually goes unchecked, causing irreparable and untold damage despite the surface looking untouched. "Mining affects everything," she says, adding she expects the tailings to eventually contaminate their spring water.

DIPO has since appealed to the NCIP's central office, which is currently reviewing the matter.

Meanwhile, the regional office of the environment department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau confirmed adding that approval for

APSA 103 is on hold pending issuance of a certification precondition from the NCIP. The document is issued when a review by the central office has judged the process of acquiring community consent has complied with the proper guidelines. So far, the NCIP's central office has rejected the report its local branch submitted on the FPIC process for the mine because it lacks photographs, minutes, or attendance sheets proving that community assemblies, a key component of FPIC consultations, actually took place.

"We lacked the necessary documentation," Cirilo says. "We did conduct two assemblies, but there were no pictures, an incomplete report, and we have yet to submit it."

If that means a delay to issuing the certification precondition, Cirilo says the environment department could grant a one-year special mining permit, which only needs approval from municipal officials, forgoing Indigenous consent.

After the old gold rush

Large-scale mining here began during the U.S. occupation of the Philippines, with the first colonial mine opening in 1903. Since then, firms like ISRI have followed, amassing free patents and leases that continue today.

Lulu Gimenez, a seasoned Itogon community organizer and historian, has worked with groups like the Mining Communities Development Center and the Cordillera People's Alliance. She says complaints against mines have piled up over the past century. "Communities complained of erosion, ground subsidence, and worsening conditions of water supply, but mining companies appeased them with monetary compensation for poisoned

cattle."

Activists scored a big win against Australian mining firm Anvil in 2007. Anvil had struck a \$2.12 million deal with ISRI for its mining rights, and planned to bore 20 holes, each 100 meters (330 feet) deep, for extraction. Locals protested, arguing that Anvil would puncture and drain a water table beneath a vein of ore, and successfully stopped the project.

Itogon residents cite the same fears about ISRI's latest prospects.

"Corporations have extracted too many minerals and profit from Itogon," Gimenez says. "The destruction has been going on for over a century. It's time they leave Itogon alone, let the land heal and let the people redevelop the resources."

Unwanted offer

As far as the mining bureau is concerned, ISRI has an impeccable record. In its 2022 Compliance Scorecard, used to measure how companies abide by safety, health, environmental and social development guidelines, ISRI notched a 94.35 percent rating.

The bureau lauded ISRI for its faithfulness to the Big Brother-Small Brother (BBSB) government initiative, where mining companies are obligated to allocate 1.5% of their expenses to community development and employ locals as contract miners.

ISRI also gave an additional 10 million pesos (\$173,000) in goodwill funds to the communities upon the signing of the FPIC agreement last September.

However, Caytap remains skeptical, saying the cons severely outweigh the pros. "It limits the number of people who can mine," she says. "Here, we go by traditional rules. Young ones, the el-

derly, anyone can work. And anyone with a bit more is obliged to share what they collect with the others, especially when times are tough. That's how we've survived."

Under the BBSB system, contract miners are hired in groups for short periods of time, and paid according to how much ore they extract, meaning earnings are highly variable.

ISRI's Landal, who is also vice president for geology and exploration at APEX Mining, says their BBSB employment arrangements worked well for them in Davao, in the southern Philippines, and they've already replicated it with some 400 Itogon contract miners. Should APSA 103 be approved, he says, they could take on around 400 more locals.

While private operators shoulder all of their own costs, under BBSB, Landal says, contract miners only need to pay for their own food. "We provide the tools and buy the ore they extract," he says.

Working eight-hour shifts, a group of around 20 contract miners can make up to 600,000 pesos (\$10,400) a month if they're productive, Landal says. Split evenly, that works out to 1,363 pesos (\$23.60) per person per day. Landal says even less productive miners could make about 454 pesos (\$7.90) a day, or slightly more than the daily minimum wage for the Cordillera region, which is 430 pesos (\$7.45).

Local observers, however, question the touted benefits of BBSB and put the numbers much lower.

Jestone Dela Cruz has worked as a security guard at the Benguet Corporation, the oldest mining company in the Philippines, for nearly a decade, where he says he sees miners come and go, remaining poor. "A group of eight will probably get paid around 20,000 pesos [\$347], that's less than 3,000 pesos [\$52] a month," Dela Cruz says.

Sabaiano, who's worked on ISRI sites in the past, also says the BBSB offer affords a typically low rate, with some miners taking home 7,000 pesos (\$121) for two months' worth of ore.

"How's one supposed to survive like that? Plus other expenses like food and transportation are shouldered by the workers," he says.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Safety, health assurance at workplace works for the common good of all

By Johnson Mwamasangula, Victoria

Lyimo, Shimbo Pastory

SAFETY is a fundamental human right, and in this context it gravitates between the right to work as well as the right to social security.

In function this entails all efforts invested towards promoting health and preventing of occupational-related injuries and or diseases at workplace. The work environment ought to be safe, and appropriate care and benefits, as the case may be, should be availed to workers who suffer injuries or diseases at work.

The globally improved workplace safety standards as we have them today are traced back to the Industrial Revolution in Europe in the 1800s, the famous labour exploitation era. Since then civil laws have undergone reforms to ensure workers are safeguarded from occupational injuries and diseases. World Day for Safety and Health at Workplace has been celebrated thematically on April 28th since 2003.

United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) pre-Covid-19 study shows that at least 2.78 million workers died annually from work-related causes. Of those 2.4 million deaths were caused by work-related diseases (Cardiovascular, cancer and infectious diseases) and 380,000 deaths by occupational accidents. UNGC reported that incidences of work-related deaths were higher in Asia (5 times) and Africa (4 times) compared to Europe; majorly due to absence/suboptimal safety operators, weak/inadequate legislative and regulatory muscles, inadequate/sub-optimal and incompetent risk management and absence of safety operational measures. Following direct and indirect effects of these, ILO conference in 2022 made safety and health at workplace a fundamental principle and right.

Globally, affected workers suffer dis-



WORKPLACE SAFETY

abilities, recession, dependency, miserable lives, and death, regardless of sociodemographic characteristics. The causal incidences could be significantly reduced with effective and continuous risk assessment at workplaces.

In Tanzania, safety and health at workplace is regulated under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development guided by the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act 2003, National Occupational Health and Safety Policy, 2010 and other OSH rules/supplementary rules such as OSH Building and Construction Industry Rules 2015, OSH First Aid and Welfare Facilities 2015, amended

OSH General Administrative Rules 2018 and 2021, OSH Vessels Under Pressure Rules 2015, OSH Notification of Occupational Diseases, Injuries and Dangerous Occurrences 2016, and Work place Safety Law Regulations 2023.

The domestic Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) oversees safety and health at workplaces by regular inspection and workplace drawings scrutiny, accident investigation, and guiding occupiers to meet compliance requirements. Ideally, as per Section 24 of the OHS Act, 2003, which applies to all factories and workplaces in the country, employees are required to be medi-

cally examined: before they start working (Pre-employment), when at work (Periodic/Continuous) and at termination of employment for whatever reason (Exit).

A breach of the safety and health obligation by the employer is a serious and complex issue with legal consequences. It occurs when an employer fails to execute all necessary measures for safety and protection of the physical and mental health of the employees. Though the actuality of practice is not as impressive as it should as there are many active cases of injustices for victims of OSH hazards.

Notwithstanding all policies and laws in place, nothing is achieved

if workers do not speak out. Workers and the public should note actual and potential hazards in their workplaces and advise that they are worked upon. A legal cover to protect whistleblowing workers is paramount. Safety and health policies also need frequent reviews owing to unavoidable situational changes, such as climate.

Locally, there are risk factors that increase workers' susceptibility to these hazards. Age, sex, level of education: which makes most people work in informal jobs hosting majority of people with minimal or non-procedural training for the responsibilities they undertake—operating indus-

trial machineries, mixing chemicals, lifestyles—like smoking, over drinking, drug use, poor physical fitness, cardiovascular and chronic conditions, mental health issues, and pregnancy. Workplace hazards are also caused by industrial chemicals, temperature, pressure, explosives, movement, vibrations, light and flames, and loud noise.

It is timely to have climatic concerns coupled with the theme of this year, as both biological and material workplace hazards, such as bacteria, fungi, and toxins can be aggravated by climatic conditions. Chemical hazards of neurotoxins, carcinogens, systemic toxins, explosions and sensitizers, and physical hazards like hearing loss, and sight impairment can be accelerated by climatic challenges.

Research establishes that climate change negatively impacts mental health and disproportionately affects vulnerable worker population in developing countries like Tanzania. Individual, environmental, and organizational risk factors come together to increase workers' susceptibility.

Developing countries constitute a large informal sector workforce with highly physical jobs frequently carried out under hot temperatures and other adverse climate change conditions with inadequate safety regulation. This exposes workers to severe effects of climate change.

More education is needed to raise awareness of workplace safety and health among the people, and this knowledge should be imparted in school and informally. There is a threatening level of negligence of safety and health in construction, welding, cosmetics, beverages, agriculture, and mining industries.

By Special Correspondent

WHEN Ademola Adesina founded a startup to provide solar and battery-based power subscription packages to individuals and businesses in Nigeria in 2015, it was a lot harder to raise the money than it is today.

Climate tech was new in Africa, the continent was a fledgling destination for venture capital money, there were fewer funders to approach and less money was available, he said.

It took him a year of "running around and scouring" his networks to raise his first amount – just under \$1 million – from VC firms and other sources. "Everything was a learning experience," he said.

But the ecosystem has since changed, and Adesina's Rensource Energy has raised about \$30 million over the years, mostly from VC firms.

Funding for climate tech startups in Africa from the private sector is growing, with businesses raising more than \$3.4 billion since 2019. But there's still a long way to go, with the continent requiring \$277 billion annually to meet its climate goals for 2030.

Experts say to unlock financing and fill this gap, African countries need to address risks like currency instability that they say reduce investor appetite, while investors need to expand their scope of interest to more climate sectors like flood protection, disaster management and heat management, and to use diverse funding methods.

Still, the investment numbers for the climate tech sector – which includes businesses in renewable energy, carbon removal, land restoration and water and waste management – are compelling. Last year, climate tech startups on the continent raised \$1.04 billion, a 9% increase from the previous year and triple what they raised in 2019, according to the funding database Africa: The Big Deal. That was despite a decline in the amount of money raised by all startups in total on the continent last year.

That matters because climate tech requires experimentation, and VC firms that provide money to nascent businesses are playing an essential role by giving climate tech startups risk capital, said Adesina. "In the climate space, a lot of things are uncertain," he said.

The money raised by climate tech startups last year was more than a third of all funds raised by startups in Africa in 2023, placing climate tech second to fintech, a more mature sector.

More money is going to African climate startups, but huge funding gap remains



Oladapo Adekunle, an engineer with Rensource Energy, installs solar panels on a roof of a house in Lagos, Nigeria.

Venture capital is typically given to businesses with substantial risk but great long-term growth potential. Startups use it to expand into new markets and to get products and services on the market.

Venture capitalists "can take risks that other people cannot take, because our business model is designed to have failures," said Brian Odhiambo, a Lagos-based partner at Novastar Ventures, an Africa-focused investor. "Not everything has to succeed. But some will, and those that do will succeed in a massive way."

That was the case for Adetayo Bamiduro, co-founder of Metro Africa Xpress, which makes electric two- and three-wheelers and electric vehicle infrastructure in Nigeria and has raised just under \$100 million since it was founded in 2015.

Adetayo said venture capitalists "are playing a catalytic role that is extremely essential."

"We all know that in order to really de-

carbonize our economies, investments have to be made. And it's not trivial investment," he said.

The funds can also bridge the gap between traditional and non-traditional sectors, said Kidus Asfaw, co-founder and CEO of Kubik, a startup that turns difficult-to-recycle plastic waste into durable, low-carbon building material. His company, which operates in Kenya and Ethiopia, has raised around \$5.2 million since it was launched in 2021.

He cites waste management and construction as examples of traditional sectors that can connect with startups like his.

"There's so much innovation in these spaces that can transform them over time," he said. "VCs are accelerating that pathway to transforming them."

Besides venture capital, other investments by private equity firms, syndicates, venture builders, grant providers and other financial institutions are ac-

tively financing climate initiatives on the continent.

But private sector financing in general lags far behind that of public financing, which includes funds from governments, multilaterals and development finance institutions.

From 2019 to 2020, private sector financing represented only 14 percent of all of Africa's climate finance, according to a report by the Climate Policy Initiative, much lower than in regions such as East Asia and Pacific at 39 percent, and Latin America and the Caribbean at 49 percent.

The low contribution in Africa is attributed to the investors putting money in areas they're more familiar with, like renewable energy technology, with less funding coming in for more diverse initiatives, said Sandy Okoth, a capital market specialist for green finance at FSD Africa, one of the commissioners of the CPI study.

"The private sector feels this (renewable energy technology) is a more mature space," he said. "They understand the funding models."

Technology for adapting to climate change, on the other hand, is "more complex," he said.

One startup working in renewable energy is the Johannesburg-based Wetility, which last year secured funding of \$48 million – mostly from private equity – to expand its operations.

The startup provides solar panels for homes and businesses and a digital management system that allows users to remotely manage power usage, as it tries to solve the problems of energy access and reliability in southern Africa.

"Private sector financing in African climate is still rather low," said founder and CEO Vincent Maposa. "But there's visible growth. And I believe that over the next decade or so, you'll start to see those shifts."

Investors are also starting to understand the economic benefits of adapting to climate change and solutions as they have returns on investment, said Hetal Patel, Nairobi-based director of investments at Mercy Corps Ventures, an early-stage VC fund focused on startups building solutions for climate adaptation and financial resilience.

"We're starting to build a very strong business case for adaptation investors and make sure that private capital flows start coming in," he said.

Maëlis Carraro, managing partner at Catalyst Fund, a Nairobi-based VC fund and accelerator that funds climate adaptation solutions, urged more diverse funding, such as that which blends private and public sector funding. The role of public financing, she said, should be to de-risk the private sector and attract more private sector capital into financing climate initiatives.

"We're not going to go far enough with just the public funding," she said. "We need the private sector and the public sector to work together to unlock more financing. And in particular looking beyond just a few industries where the innovation is writ large."

TANZANIA'S RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE MARKET POISED FOR GROWTH IN 2024

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S residential real estate market is on track to achieve significant milestones in 2024, with projections indicating a value of US\$0.59 trillion.

According to data available at Statista, the sector is anticipated to exhibit a robust annual growth rate, with a compound annual growth rate of 4.74 percent from 2024 to 2028, culminating in a market volume of US\$0.71 trillion by 2028.

In comparison to global counterparts, China is anticipated to lead the real estate market, projected to generate a staggering value of US\$17.40 trillion in 2024.

While Tanzania's figures may seem comparatively modest, the trajectory reflects promising growth and investment opportunities within the country's residential real estate landscape.

Speaking exclusively to this journalist, Dr Jummane Mchome was of the view that the burgeoning demand for residential properties in the country, can be attributed to several factors.

For him, the first thing is the nation's economy saying: "The economy is experiencing a steady expansion, bolstered by robust macroeconomic policies and strategic investments in infrastructure and development projects."

He adds: "This economic

growth has spurred an increase in disposable income levels, thereby driving demand for housing and real estate investment opportunities."

He further mentioned about the country's urbanization, affirming that it is reshaping the country's demographic landscape, with a significant portion of the population migrating from rural to urban areas in search of employment, education, and improved living standards.

"As urban centers continue to burgeon, the need for affordable, high-quality residential accommodations becomes paramount, propelling the residential real estate market forward," Dr Mchome clarified.

On the other hand, a civil engineering student Mary Ibrahim, believes that government initiatives which aimed at promoting affordable housing and enhancing access to mortgage financing have also played a pivotal role in stimulating demand within the residential real estate sector.

"Policies such as tax incentives for real estate developers, streamlined regulatory processes, and public-private partnerships have facilitated the construction of housing units and catalyzed investment in the market," she expounded.

Moreover, she also believes that the influx of foreign direct investment (FDI)



into Tanzania's real estate sector has injected additional capital and expertise, further fueling growth and innovation within the industry.

"International developers and investors recognize the untapped potential of Tanzania's real estate market and are actively seeking opportunities to capitalize on emerging trends and consumer preferences," she explained.

For his party, Martin Mgwema, a real estate intrapreneur, said: "In response to evolving market dynamics, real estate developers are diversifying their offerings to cater to varying consumer needs and preferences."

He adds: "From affordable housing projects targeting middle and low-income segments to luxury developments catering to high-net-worth individuals, the

market is witnessing a proliferation of residential options tailored to diverse demographics."

However, despite the optimistic outlook, the residential real estate market in Tanzania faces inherent challenges and risks.

"These include regulatory uncertainties, land tenure issues, inadequate infrastructure, and access to affordable financing. Addressing these impediments will be crucial in sustaining the momentum of growth and ensuring the long-term viability of the market," noted Mgwema.

On the other hand, in his recent article on real estate, Sunday Ndamugoba a legal expert, said that given the relative infancy of the real estate market in Tanzania, a more significant challenge is the lack of trading information or

data on real estate developments in Africa, which makes it difficult to set rentals.

For him, rentals are currently perceived as being very high and therefore lucrative for investors as demand outstrips supply, but some concern remains regarding the sustainability of such high rentals; and as more and more developments are rolled out in the continent, so the rentals will reduce.

"Well, moreover the ability to attract high quality tenants in the retail space is a challenge, resulting in a relatively poor depth of retailers. There are many buildings that were erected for example in Arusha that are not occupied to date because of the "per square metre" rent payment. This will, maybe, improve in the near future as tenants start to appreciate newer systems of

payment," He said.

Ndamugoba explained in his article dubbed: Tanzania Real Estate development: A "boom" or a "time bomb" saying: "Although the demand for quality housing remains high, the expectation of subdued growth in both the Tanzanian economy and household disposable income may dampen house price progression."

He adds: "Meanwhile, banks still have to work out a significant volume of defaulted loans and sell the related properties on the market and the prospect of a gradual rise in interest rates by the end of 2015. This adds to the uncertainty on future gains in house prices."

Ndamugoba believes that more is needed to facilitate home ownership both as a fundamental right and as a stimulus to the broader economy. There should be broad tax incentives for home buyers, greater clarity on interest rates and improved investment incentives for developers as has been done in overseas markets.

He cited house price affordability is the key in England, while in Tanzania lavish and deepness of your pocket is the key. Various incentives mean that more people with average earnings should be able to afford to buy their first house and the house price-to-earnings ratio should be lower as to make it easier to get on the property ladder.

Africa is growing fast, and more investments particularly in real estate are bound to come and change the motherland. There is also a growing recognition of the need for domestic finance to play a more significant role in real estate development, with rent being paid by tenants in local currencies.

"To protect the real estate industry there should also be curbing on corruption, should it be present now, or in the future, I don't know but I fear it will cripple the industry," he noted.

Adding: "Even more so, DFIs require recipients of development finance to implement and maintain good environment, social and governance principles, as well as to comply with international anti-bribery legislation, such as the UK Bribery Act and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of the US, which have extra-territorial reach."

The legal expert was of the view that the creation of such high value "stock" in the real estate market, in turn, creates a healthy secondary exit market. This makes it easier for UK and US investors to sell their developments, whether it is a retail mall, office block or hotel, and offers a sophisticated platform for investors to invest in.

Therefore, with strategic investments, proactive policy interventions, and collaborative efforts between stakeholders, the sector holds immense potential to contribute significantly to the nation's economic development and societal well-being, the country's residential real estate market is poised for substantial growth.

EAC hands over site for Kenya, Uganda road project

Nairobi

THE East African Community (EAC) has officially handed over the project site for the 256km Kisumu-Kakira expressway connecting Kenya and Uganda to the consultancy team of Germany's GOPA Infra and Kenya's ITEC Limited which is conducting the feasibility study.

The Kisumu-Kisian-Busia/Kakira-Malaba-Busitema-Busia expressway will run from Kisumu in northern Kenya to Kakira in eastern Uganda, forming part of the Northern trade corridor, which provides the EAC partner states of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with faster access to Kenya's Port of Mombasa. The route is also one of the sections of the Mombasa

Kigali expressway that runs between Kenya and Rwanda.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is funding the US\$1.5 million feasibility study.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the existing two-lane single carriageway to bitumen standards and upgrading the limited to a two-lane dual carriageway over 104km.

The road project is divided into four sections. The first is the 11km Kisumu-Kisian section, which comprises the 3.5km Kisumu central business district to Kisumu International airport (KIA) road and the 7.5km KIA-Kisian stretch.

The second section runs for 104km from Kisian to the Busia one-stop border post (OSBP). This road requires rehabilitation and capacity enhancement to be able to accommodate current

and future traffic volumes along the corridor.

The third section is the main segment of the project on the Ugandan side and runs for 127km from Kakira in the east to Malaba on the Kenyan border. It is planned to be the continuation of the Kampala-Jinja expressway, which is expected to be completed by 2025.

The final section is the 17km Busitema-Busia stretch, which links the Kakira-Malaba segment with Kisian-Busia section in Kenya via the Busia OSBP. This forms part of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Kisumu-Busia-Kampala road.

The consultants will determine the economic viability of upgrading the existing road sections to expressway standards. The studies will be carried out over the course of 18 months as one inte-

grated project but in two country-based packages.

The team will review previous studies carried out in 2015 as well as carrying out new feasibility studies, environmental and social impact assessments and resettlement action plans (RAP).

The study will also consider improvements to the Busia and Malaba OSBPs and upgrading the Lwakhakha border crossing between Kenya and Uganda to an OSBP. The consultants are expected to propose measures including digitalising weighbridges and establishing roadside rest areas and intelligent transport systems.

Principal civil engineer at the EAC Secretariat Godfrey Enzama said the project is intended to improve traffic flow and address the issue of poor road safety along the route. He said the entire EAC region, particularly some sections of the Northern Corridor, has very high incidences of fatal road crashes caused by a variety of reasons including driver behaviour, bad weather, poor road conditions and pedestrian-vehicle accidents.

EAC Deputy Secretary-General for Infrastructure Aguer Ariik Malueth said the community expects partner states to look at upgrading the other sections of the Northern Corridor from Mombasa to Nairobi and Malaba and from Kampala westward towards Katuna and Mpondwe.

There are 10 cross-border corridors covering a total of 15,000km that form the EAC road network project: The Northern, Central, Dar es Salaam (Tazara), Namanga, Sumbawanga, Siriri, Coastal, Mtwara, Tanga and Gulu corridors.



Uganda road. File Photo

Parliament approves loan request for road

Kampala

UGANDA'S parliament has approved a government request to borrow up to €110.5 million (US\$117.8 million) from the UK's Standard Chartered Bank to finance the upgrade of the Kitgum-Kidepo road in the country's north.

The 115km road connects the Kitgum and Kaabong districts and facilitates the movement of tourists visiting Kidepo Valley National Park as well as cross-border connectivity to South Sudan and Kenya. The route is currently in a deteriorated state and presents safety concerns.

Minister of State for

Finance (General Duties) Henry Musasizi, who presented the motion for the loan's approval during a plenary sitting on 30 April, said the Kitgum-Kidepo road upgrade has been prioritised to promote tourism as well as contribute to the development of the Karimoja sub-region, which is one of the poorest in the country.

"This sub-region has the lowest road density of 5.9km of paved national roads per 1,000 [square kilometres of] land area," he said.

The minister added that upgrading the Kitgum-Kidepo road will not only ease movement to South Sudan and Ken-

ya but will also improve and promote trade with the two countries.

He also pointed out that although tourism remains one of the best-performing sectors of the Ugandan economy, its potential has not been adequately exploited due to inadequate infrastructure such as roads.

It is understood that ASGC UK will develop the road project in collaboration with the local DOT Services. The environmental and social impact assessment and the resettlement action plan were prepared by South Africa-based Environmental Solutions Africa and the local Tenvicon.

Construct Africa



Consultant team set to study the upgrade of the 256km transnational road. File Photo

NAVIGATING PROPERTY ACQUISITION IN TANZANIA: UNDERSTANDING THE DETAILS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

IN Tanzania, the journey towards property acquisition can be likened to navigating a labyrinth, where intricate regulations and unique land tenure systems dictate the process.

At the heart of this complexity lies the Tanzanian government's distinctive model, where all land is deemed state-owned, effectively restricting private ownership for both locals and foreigners.

Understanding this exceptional land tenure system is paramount for prospective buyers as they embark on the methodical procedure of acquiring property in the country.

The Tanzanian government's approach to land ownership stems from a historical context deeply rooted in customary and colonial practices. Upon gaining independence in 1961, Tanzania inherited a system where land was considered communal property, traditionally managed by local communities.

However, subsequent legislation during the post-independence era centralized land ownership under the state, aiming

to promote equitable access and economic development.

One of the fundamental principles of Tanzania's land tenure system is the prohibition of private ownership of land. This means that individuals or entities cannot claim outright ownership of land but instead can acquire rights to use it, either through leasehold or occupancy agreements.

This unique arrangement contrasts sharply with the concept of freehold ownership prevalent in many other countries, posing both challenges and opportunities for those seeking to invest in Tanzanian real estate.

For prospective buyers, navigating the intricacies of Tanzania's land tenure system requires a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing property transactions. The process typically involves multiple steps, including conducting due diligence, negotiating agreements, and securing necessary approvals from relevant authorities.

Additionally, buyers must be aware of potential risks, such as conflicting land claims or encumbrances, which could jeopardize



A digital blueprint of a land parcel. File Photo

their investment.

One of the key considerations for buyers is the distinction between leasehold and occupancy rights. Leasehold tenure grants individuals or entities the right to use land for a specified period, usually ranging from 33 to 99 years, subject to renewal upon expiration.

Occupancy rights, on the other hand, confer temporary use rights without a specified lease term, often associated with agricultural or informal settlements. Understanding the implications of each tenure type is crucial for

making informed decisions during the property acquisition process.

Moreover, foreign investors face additional regulatory requirements and restrictions when acquiring property in Tanzania. The Tanzanian government imposes limitations on the size and location of land that foreign nationals can acquire, aiming to safeguard national interests and prevent land speculation.

Foreign buyers must also navigate bureaucratic procedures, including obtaining

clearance from the Tanzania Investment Centre and adhering to foreign exchange regulations.

Despite the challenges posed by Tanzania's land tenure system, there are opportunities for investors to participate in the country's burgeoning real estate market.

Rapid urbanization, population growth, and infrastructure development drive demand for residential, commercial, and industrial properties, creating investment potential in various sectors.

Additionally, initiatives such as the Tanzanian government's ambitious Vision 2025 aim to stimulate economic growth and attract foreign investment, offering incentives for real estate development projects.

To capitalize on these opportunities, investors must adopt a strategic approach to property acquisition in Tanzania.

This involves conducting thorough market research, identifying viable investment opportunities, and engaging with local stakeholders to navigate regulatory requirements effectively.

Collaborating with reputable legal and financial advisors can also mitigate risks and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

Furthermore, fostering partnerships with local communities and government authorities is essential for sustainable and responsible real estate development in Tanzania.

By incorporating principles of corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship into their projects, investors can build trust, mitigate social tensions, and contribute to long-term economic development.

Therefore, navigating property acquisition in Tanzania requires a nuanced understanding of the country's complex land tenure system and regulatory landscape.

While challenges exist, opportunities abound for investors willing to navigate the intricacies of the market and engage with local stakeholders.

By adopting a strategic and responsible approach, investors can unlock the potential of Tanzania's vibrant real estate sector while contributing to sustainable development goals.

Raxio's data center expansion in EA sparks IFC's \$100M loan

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Tanzania is set to benefit from Raxio's data center roll-out in East Africa. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is exploring a loan of up to US\$100 million for Raxio Group to facilitate the phased development of 10 carrier-neutral data centers in Africa.

This initiative aims to create a total capacity of 13.5MW across the continent.

Raxio is focusing on constructing Tier III data centers in key markets such as Tanzania, Angola, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cote D'Ivoire, Mozambique, and Uganda.

The first data center by Raxio was completed at Namanve Industrial Park in Uganda in December 2021, with a second center established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia towards the end of the previous year.

According to the IFC disclosure made on 17 April, the company



Groundbreaking ceremony for Raxio data centre. Photo Courtesy of Raxio group

has begun construction of the data centres in Angola, DRC, Cote D'Ivoire and Mozambique with targeted commissioning in 2024.

The data centre proposed for Tanzania is in the pre-development phase, while the sites for the

additional three centres will be determined by business needs.

The projected date for the IFC board to approve the loan is 21 May. Construction of the data centre in Cacuo on the outskirts of the

Angolan capital Luanda began in

September 2023.

The facility is scheduled to come online in the second half of this year and will have an initial capacity of 3MW. It will be able to scale up to 7MW and accommodate more than 1,600 racks.

The newly opened data centre in Addis Ababa offers secure colocation space for up to 800 racks, delivering up to 3MW of IT power.

Raxio was established in 2018 to develop, build and operate Tier III data centres across Africa. Its main shareholders are US-based investment firm Roha Group and France's Meridiam. In October 2023, they injected an additional US\$46 million in equity funding to support the roll-out of the data centres. In April of that year, Raxio also secured a debt facility of US\$170 million from France's Proparco and the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund.

The IFC is the private sector arm of the World Bank.



Ogun state governor, Dapo Abiodun: File Photo

Nigeria's Ogun state advances with transport projects

Kajola

NIGERIA'S Ogun state government is making progress on several transport schemes including the Kajola Inland Container Terminal, the Ogun Agro-Cargo International airport and the Olokola deep seaport.

In late April, state governor Dapo Abiodun said work would soon begin on the dry port at Kajola in the southwest. It will be located near the standard-gauge and narrow-gauge rail lines that run to Apapa in Lagos state, enabling cargo to be moved easily via rail to and from the port complex.

"We will soon be flagging off the Kajola [terminal] and this we are particularly determined to see through because we understand the plight of most of you [and] what you have to go through by importing your raw materials into Tin Can or Apapa [ports] and incurring unnecessary expenses in demurrage before bringing them by road, struggling through the bottleneck and the traffic out of Lagos," Abiodun told investors at a breakfast meeting held as part of the 13th Gateway International Trade Fair held in Ogun state.

The inland container terminal will also include residential, commercial and industrial developments.

The Kajola terminal is part of Ogun state's multimodal transportation masterplan, which aims to maximise the state's economic potential by

offering safe, reliable and affordable means of transportation including rail, road, water and air.

Another component of this masterplan is the Ogun Agro-Cargo International airport, also known as the Gateway International Airport, which was constructed by the local Craneburg Construction in the Iperu area.

Abiodun said in late April that the airport will begin scheduled and non-scheduled flights in the next few weeks.

The project involved the engineering, design and construction of a 3.4km runway, apron, passenger terminal, control tower, taxiway and ancillary facilities. Lebanon's Dar al-Handasah carried out the design work.

The airport is part of an aerotropolis or airport city, which will include the US\$800m Ogun State Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ). The freezone is being executed in phases across 10,000 hectares by Arena Integrated Company.

The state government signed a public-private partnership development agreement in November 2022 with the African Finance Corporation-backed ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (AIIP) for the US\$400 million first phase of the SAPZ, the Remo Economic Industrial Cluster. The special-purpose vehicle for the project is Industrial Platform Remo.

Construct Africa

By guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

THE Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) has commended the financial institutions and other stakeholders, for their collaborative efforts in serving workers and the successful organization of the International Workers' Day celebrations on Wednesday in Arusha.

TUCTA President Tumaini Nyamhokya expressed his sincere gratitude to the financial institutions, for their efforts in organizing the celebrations through sponsorship and acknowledged the significant impact the institutions have in serving workers.

"Our collaboration with these institutions is not limited to the preparations for this event, but also includes various financial services they provide to our members, such as deposit accounts and diverse loan options. We are truly grateful for their continuous support," Nyamhokya said.

According to Nyamhokya, NBC Bank was one of the key sponsors of the

TUCTA applauds financial institutions for making May Day a successful event



A section of NBC Bank employees participating in the International Workers' Day parade in Arusha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

celebrations, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the workers' community.

At the event, Elibariki

Masuke, bank's director of retail banking led the bank's employees in commemorating the important occasion.

Masuke stated that the bank has a long-standing tradition of sponsoring the celebrations, recognizing the importance of work-

ers as a crucial pillar in the bank's prosperity.

"Our collaboration with the workers is further strengthened by the dedicated services we offer, taking into account their needs, including safeguarding their deposits through various account options and providing them with short and long-term loans without collateral. This aligns with our campaign 'Shinda Mechi Zako, Kinamna Yako,'" Masuke explained.

Masuke expressed his appreciation for the professionalism, innovation, and high-level efficiency of his colleagues at NBC Bank, which has attracted more customers, including workers from various organizations and institutions who consider the bank as a crucial provider of financial services.

"The successful celebration of International Workers' Day, with the active involvement of NBC Bank, underscores the strong partnership between TUCTA and its stakeholders like us in supporting the well-being and financial empowerment of workers across Tanzania," Masuke added.

CONSTRUCTION

HOUSE PRICES FALL AGAIN AFTER MORTGAGE RATES GLIDE HIGHER

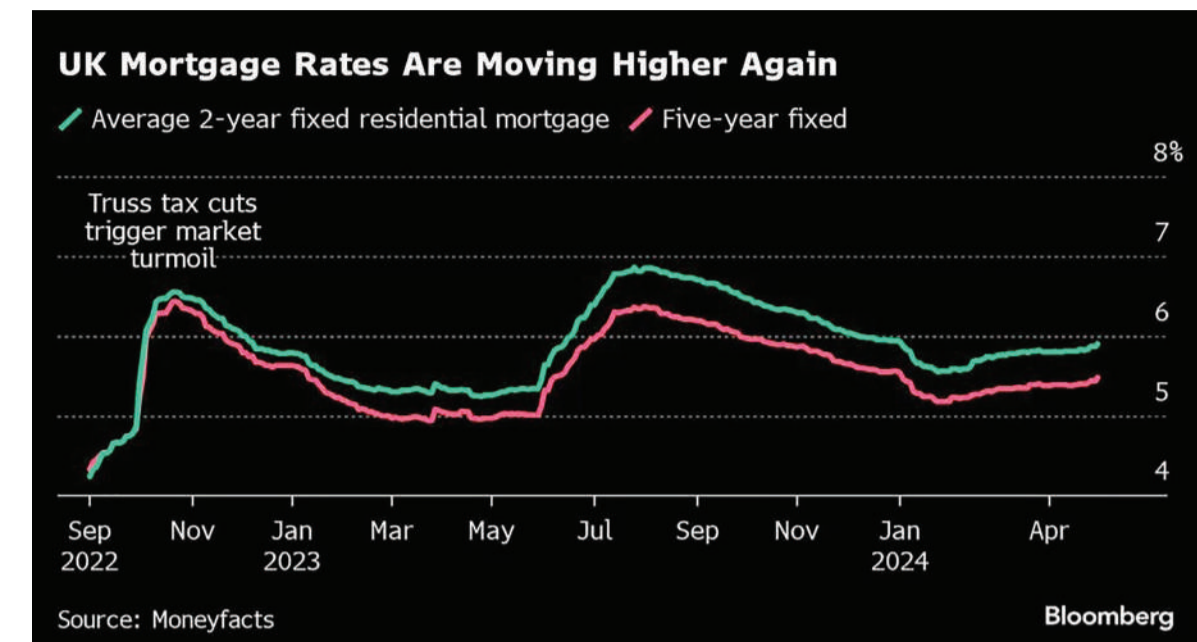
London

UK house prices fell at the sharpest pace in eight months after the cost of mortgages crept higher, one of the country's biggest lenders said, underscoring continued cost-of-living pressures on consumers ahead of a general election later this year.

The figures from Nationwide Building Society followed a scaling back of bets on Bank of England interest rate cuts this year, which pushed up the cost of home loans in markets. That's strained the ability of people to afford to buy a property and held back a recovery from last year's slump.

Higher borrowing costs have hurt Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government in the eyes of voters and reminded voters of the big jump in mortgage rates that Liz Truss triggered during her short term as premier in late 2022. The UK slipped into a recession last year, and the weak recovery so is reflected in the housing market.

"Though mortgage affordability is much better than it was last summer, it remains very stretched relative to historical norms," said Peter Arnold, chief economist at EY UK. "A strong recovery in house prices and activ-



ity is unlikely."

The Conservatives are defending seats in local authorities including mayors in West Midlands and Tees Valley in key local elections on Thursday. Sunak is widely expected to call a general election in the autumn.

Nationwide estimated house prices fell 0.4 percent in April after an 0.2 percent decline the month before. Economists had expected a 0.1 percent monthly increase. The average cost of a home is now £261,962 (\$326,680), which is about 4 percent below

the peak in the summer of 2022.

What Bloomberg Economics Says ...

"The shift in the interest rate outlook was the catalyst for the change in sentiment at the start of the year, encouraging buyers to enter the market. However, borrowing costs have risen recently as investors reappraise how far the Bank of England will cut interest rates over concerns about persistent price pressures in both the UK and US. The best-buy five-year fix are above 4.1 percent having dropped below 4 percent at

the start of the year. That will hit affordability."

—Niraj Shah, Bloomberg Economics. Click for the REACT.

Home prices have stagnated over the past year, up just 0.6 percent. That's much less than the 1.2 percent gain economists had expected.

"The slowdown likely reflects ongoing affordability pressures, with longer term interest rates rising in recent months, reversing the steep fall seen around the turn of the year," Robert Gardner, chief economist at Nationwide,

said in a report Wednesday.

Nationwide said research it did with Censuswide found that almost half of the prospective first-time buyers looking to secure a home in the next five years have delayed their plans.

"Among this group, the most commonly cited reason for delaying their purchase is that house prices are too high (53 percent), but it is also notable that 41 percent said that higher mortgage costs were preventing them from buying," Nationwide said.

Another 55 percent of people said they'd be willing to buy in a cheaper area of the country or where they could get a bigger property — half willing to move more than 30 miles away.

The UK housing market has defied expectations of a sharp downturn last year, yet its recovery over the last few months has remained weak. Prospective buyers are still finding it hard to come up with the money for a deposit, while the benchmark lending rate is at a 16-year high.

BOE officials warning of lingering price pressures have pushed up two- and five-year swap rates, used to set the bulk of mortgage products. That suggests households would still be spending a higher share of their incomes on mortgage payments than they did

in the decade to 2007, according to Bloomberg Economics.

Nationwide's figures contrast with more upbeat data from the BOE showing mortgage approvals rose to the highest in 18 months in March. Banks and building societies authorized 61,325 home loans, up from 60,497 in February and the most since September 2022.

Separate data released Tuesday from HM Revenue & Customs, the UK tax authority, showed property transactions climbing for a third month to 84,200 in March.

However, a recent resurgence in borrowing costs has raised questions over whether the recovery can continue. Natwest, Santander and Nationwide all have increased mortgage rates this month in response to rising swap rates, which are used to set the bulk of mortgage products.

For the 1 million households due to refinance fixed-rate mortgages by end of the year, new loans will be pricier than the ones they are currently on.

"Buyers and sellers are starting to accept the new reality of the housing market in the face of current interest rate levels," said Nathan Emerson, CEO of Propertymark.

Bloomberg

Lenders scramble to repurchase risky multifamily mortgage loans

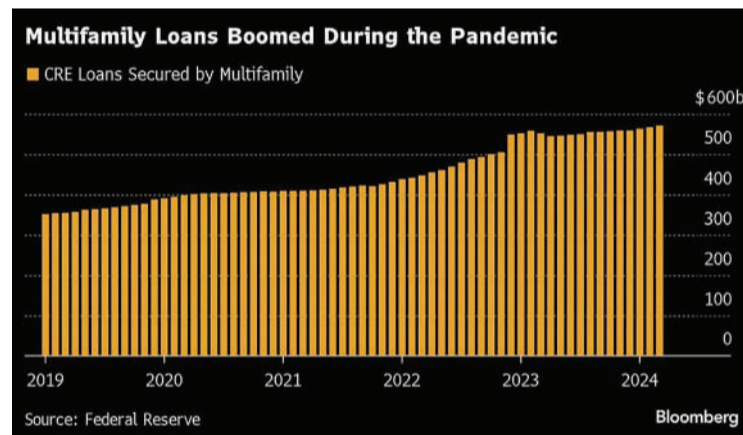
PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Washington DC

AS delinquencies on multifamily mortgages pile up, lenders who had bundled those borrowings into securitizations known as commercial real estate collateralized loan obligations are racing to stave off trouble.

To keep the share of bad loans from spiking too high — a development that would cut the issuers off from the fees they collect on the CRE CLOs — they've been furiously buying them back. The lenders acquired \$520 million of delinquent credit in the first quarter, a 210 percent increase on the same period last year, according to estimates by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

It's the latest sign of strain among the \$79 billion of loans packaged into CRE CLOs, a market which grew in prominence in recent years as Wall Street financed syndicators who bought up apartment complexes with the intention of renovating them and boosting rents. When interest rates



surged, many borrowers whose floating-rate loans were bundled into the securitizations were caught off guard and began falling behind on their payments.

To buy the defaulted loans, some lenders have been borrowing the money from banks and other third parties using what are known as warehouse lines, a type of revolving credit facility. It's surprising they haven't had more trouble accessing that debt given how quickly loans seemed to be deteriorating in quality heading into this year, said JPMorgan

strategist Chong Sin.

"The reason these managers are engaged in buyouts is to limit delinquencies," he said. "The wild card here is, how long will financing costs remain low enough for them to do that?"

One reason they have is that risk premiums, or spreads, on commercial real estate loans have tightened materially since last November. As a result, even with a more hawkish tone on the path of rates, the all-in cost of financing is still lower than where it was late last year. Still, there's no guarantee it will remain that way.

"If the outlook for the Fed shifts materially to hikes or no rate cuts for a while, that might lead to a sharp increase in delinquencies, which can stifle issuers' ability to buy out loans," said Anuj Jain, a strategist at Barclays Plc, who expects buyouts to continue as distress increases in the sector.

Market Surge

CRE CLO issuance surged to \$45 billion in 2021, a 137 percent increase from two years earlier, when buyers of apartment blocks sought to profit from the wave of workers moving to the Sun Belt from big cities. Three-year loans would give them time to complete upgrades and refinance, the thinking went.

Fast forward to today and the debt underpinning many of the bonds is coming due for repayment at a time when there's less appetite for real estate lending, insurance costs have skyrocketed and monetary policy remains tight. Hedges against borrowing cost increases are also expiring and cost significantly more to purchase now.

Those blows helped increase

multifamily assets classed as distressed to almost \$10 billion at the end of March, a 33 percent rise since the end of September, according to data compiled by MSCI Real Assets.

"There was so much capital flowing into that space to real estate operators and developers, and that led to a lot of reckless lending," said Vik Uppal, chief executive officer at commercial real estate lender Mavik Capital Management., who avoided the space.

The pain is now filtering through to the CRE CLO market. The distress rate for loans that were bundled into these bonds rose past 10 percent at the end of March, according to CRED IQ, compared with 1.7 percent in July last year.

The firm defines distress as any loan that's been moved to a special servicer or is 30 days or more delinquent. Some other data providers prefer to wait until payments are 60 days or more overdue before using that classification.

Bloomberg

New York

ZILLOW Group Inc. shares fell after the real estate company published a second-quarter outlook that called for lower revenue in its core business and predicted stalling growth in the broader US housing market.

Zillow, led by Chief Executive Officer Rich Barton, expects revenue from its residential business to be between \$372 million to \$382 million in the second quarter, according to a shareholder letter Wednesday. That's less than the \$393 million that the company took in during the first three months of the year.

Zillow based that projection on tepid first-time homebuying activity and a recent rise in mortgage rates, predicting that overall US transaction volumes in the residential real estate market would be little changed from the second quarter of last year.

Shares plummeted as much as 12% to \$36.63 before paring losses in after-market trading Wednesday at 4:55 p.m.

Zillow stock slumps on first-time buyer, mortgage rate headwinds



in New York. Shares had fallen 27% from the start of the year through Wednesday's close, before earnings were released.

Zillow's disappointing outlook comes as the company reported first-quarter earnings

that beat analysts' expectations. The company's dominant consumer brand helped it muddle through a period of slow sales and looming changes in the US housing industry. Zillow had revenue of \$529 million, more

than the \$509 million analysts estimated, on average, in a survey compiled by Bloomberg.

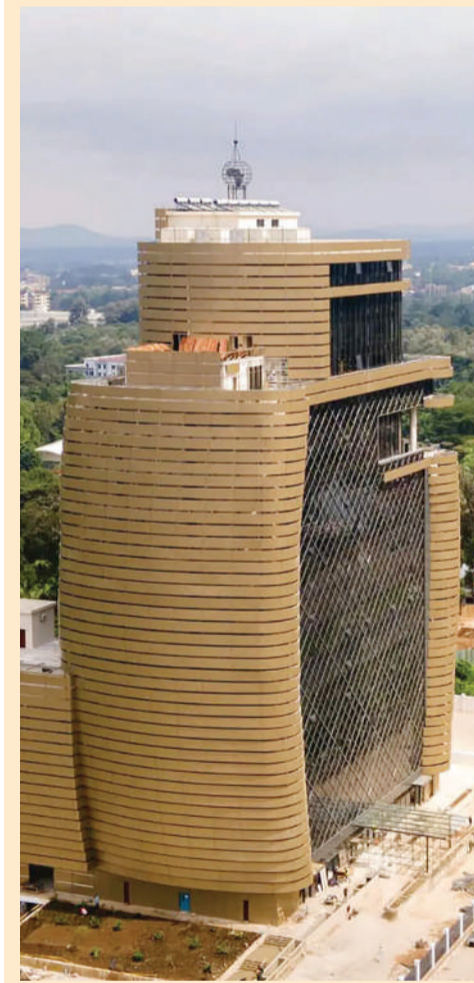
Zillow continues to attract eyeballs even as home sales and available listings remain near historic lows. About 217

million unique users visited the company's websites and apps on the average month in the quarter. The company, whose main business revolves around connecting prospective homebuyers with real estate agents, reported \$125 million in adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, beating the average analyst estimate of \$104 million.

The residential real estate industry has been jolted in recent months by antitrust litigation that seeks to upend a decades-old status quo. In March, the National Association for Realtors agreed to a settlement that would change the way agents are paid, potentially slashing commission income for the agents who remain Zillow's core customers.

Zillow is positioned to thrive amid industry changes because of its large audience of high-intent homebuyers, and because it caters to the most-productive agents, Barton and Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Hofmann said in a letter to shareholders Wednesday.

Bloomberg



The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Headquarters in Arusha stands poised to redefine the very essence of Tanzania's northern tourism hub. This monumental masterpiece emerges not merely as a building but as a beacon of architectural excellence, soaring high above its counterparts, including the illustrious Ngorongoro Tourism Centre and the esteemed Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI).

Nestled within the vibrant Phillips area of Arusha, this visionary project commands attention on a sprawling expanse of 22,421 square meters. From the meticulously crafted completion of its basement to the awe-inspiring superstructure gracefully ascending to the 17th floor, every facet of this architectural marvel reflects an unwavering commitment to perfection. Such dedication culminated in a triumphant milestone celebrated on December 23, 2021, marking a momentous achievement in the annals of modern construction.

WORLD

UK begins detaining migrants set to be deported to Rwanda



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during a press conference at Downing Street in London, April 22, 2024. AP

LONDON

BRITISH authorities have started to detain migrants in preparation for them to be sent to Rwanda in the next nine to 11 weeks, the government said on Wednesday, laying the groundwork for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's flagship immigration policy.

Parliament last month approved a law that paves the way for sending asylum seekers to Rwanda if they arrive in Britain without permission. Sunak, who is expected to call an election later this year in which illegal migration is likely to feature prominently, wants the first flights to take off in July.

More than 7,500 migrants have arrived in England on small boats from France so far this year. The government says the new

law will deter people from making the perilous trip across the Channel. Five people died trying to make the crossing last week.

Images released by Britain's interior ministry on Wednesday showed a man being put in a van by immigration enforcement officials, and another being led out of his house in handcuffs.

"Our dedicated enforcement teams are working at pace to swiftly detain those who have no right to be here so we can get flights off the ground," interior minister James Cleverly said in a statement on Wednesday.

One trade union representing civil servants who may be instructed to help enact the policy said it had launched a legal challenge because its members were potentially being asked to breach international law.

"Civil servants should never be left in a position where they are conflicted between the instructions of ministers and adhering to the Civil Service Code, yet that is exactly what the government has chosen to do," said Dave Penman, General Secretary of the FDA union.

Opposition

Other unions and human rights charities opposed to the policy are expected to launch challenges to stop the flights from taking off after the UK Supreme Court declared the policy unlawful last year.

Care4Calais, a refugee charity, said the detentions had started on Monday.

A spokesperson said the group's helpline had received calls from "tens of people", adding that they still did not know who would be earmarked for the first deportation flight, or when it would be attempted.

"People are very frightened," said Natasha Tsangarides, Associate Director of Advocacy at charity Freedom from Torture, saying the fear of being detained and sent to Rwanda would push some people to go underground and disengage with their support system.

Britain sent its first asylum seeker to Rwanda under a voluntary scheme, The Sun newspaper reported on Tuesday, a separate program to the deportation policy.

US' anti-Russia sanctions cast doubts on its constructive role in world – diplomat

WASHINGTON

THE United States' anti-Russian sanctions add to doubts about the constructiveness of Washington's role in the world, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said, commenting on another package of anti-Russian sanctions.

"Local officials list a variety of measures among 'no-other-option steps' to confront Russia. Including absolutely odious and unsubstantiated accusations against the Russian Federation of using chemical weapons," he said. "Washington seems to not understand that Russia and the Russians cannot be intimidated by such decisions. Local officials do not realize that these illegitimate tricks only scare other states away. In fact, they fertilize doubts about the constructiveness of America's current role in the world."

The United States, in his words is seeking "to intimidate our [Russia's] partners, including China, to block the channels of normal foreign trade cooperation." "It is once again targeting Russian high-tech, transportation, and energy companies, meaning to 'knock out' competitors from the markets," he noted.

"The whole world saw another 'hodgepodge' of restrictions created by the Administration. This is an example of the series of Russophobic actions taken by the United States in recent days. Among them - a multi-billion dollar 'package' of assistance to Kiev, delivering dangerous long-range ammunition and promises of ephemeral security guarantees for the regime," the Russian ambassador stressed.

On May 1, the US Department of the Treasury has unveiled Washington's new package of anti-Russian sanctions. The list of those facing restrictions includes 29 individuals and more than 250 legal entities from several countries. The US authorities say the sanctions target Russia's defense-industrial complex and sources of supplies.

Apart from that, the US Department of State alleged that Russia had used chloropicrin against the Ukrainian army, was the reason to impose sanctions against Russian radiation, chemical, and biological protection troops and two Russian defense ministry's research institutes.

UCLA cancels all classes after overnight violence on campus

LOS ANGELES/ SAN FRANCISCO

THE University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), one of the top public universities in the United States, canceled all classes for Wednesday after a night of violent clashes on campus over the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict in Gaza.

"Due to the distress caused by the violence that took place on Royce Quad late last night and early this morning, all classes are cancelled today," said the university in an alert to faculty, staff and students on Wednesday morning.

The university urged them to avoid the Royce Quad area and announced that Royce Hall, one of the original buildings and the defining symbol for the UCLA campus, will remain closed through Friday. University of California President Michael Drake announced in a statement on Wednesday an "independent external review" has been ordered.

When the free expression "blocks the ability of students to learn or to express their own viewpoints, when it meaningfully disrupts the functioning of the University, or when it threatens



Clashes between pro-Palestinian protesters and pro-Israel counter-protesters take place at the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in Los Angeles, California, the United States, on Wednesday. Xinhua

the safety of students, or anyone else, we must act," Drake said Tuesday.

Last week, pro-Palestinian protesters set up an encampment of tents near Royce Hall. Violent clashes erupted between pro-Palestinian protesters and pro-Israel counter-protesters late Tuesday night and lasted a couple of hours.

Fireworks, tear gas and fights broke out just after 10:50 p.m. Tuesday local time (0550 GMT Wednesday) and continued early Wednesday morning as around 100 pro-Israel counter-protesters attempted to seize

the barricade around and storm the ongoing Palestine solidarity encampment, according to Daily Bruin, the university's student newspaper.

"The chaos comes as Chancellor Gene Block faces criticism for improper handling of the encampment and the same day the university deemed the encampment to be unlawful, threatening students inside with suspension and expulsion," reported Daily Bruin, adding that campus police and security retreated as pro-Israel counter-protesters and other groups attacked protesters in

the encampment.

A participant in the encampment, who was granted anonymity for safety reasons, was quoted as saying by Daily Bruin that there were at least five injuries inside the encampment, most with eye injuries and some temporarily unresponsive. UCLA declared on Tuesday that the encampment is "unlawful and violates university policy." Officials said that the protesters faced suspension or expulsion.

Mary Osako, vice chancellor for UCLA Strategic Communications, said in a midnight statement that "horrific acts of violence occurred at the encampment tonight and we immediately called law enforcement for mutual aid support. The fire department and medical personnel are on the scene."

"We are sickened by this senseless violence and it must end," Osako noted. Local news outlets reported that protesters clashed for over two hours before law enforcement intervened.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a post on social media platform X that the violence unfolding at UCLA is "absolutely abhorrent and inexcusable." California governor Gavin

Newsom's office also said in a statement on X Tuesday night that it is closely monitoring the situation at UCLA and that law enforcement leaders are in contact while "resources are being mobilized."

PROTESTS SPREADING ACROSS US.

Following the arrest of more than 100 student protesters last month at Columbia University in New York, pro-Palestinian demonstrations are spreading at colleges and universities across the United States.

Aside from UCLA, students at some other California colleges and universities, including Stanford University, the University of Southern California, UC Berkeley, and Sacramento State, joined the national protest.

A total of 35 pro-Palestinian protesters were arrested at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, early Tuesday morning, ending a week-long occupation of buildings on the university's campus in Northern California.

The New York Police Department confirmed on Wednesday that the arrests from Tuesday night numbered 202, with 109 from Columbia University.

NEW DELHI

Air India's Airbus A350 marks International debut

AIR India has launched flights on the Delhi-Dubai route with its new Airbus A350-900 aircraft according to a statement by Air India.

The launch of flight on this route marks the international debut of Air India's recently acquired aircrafts, making it the sole carrier to operate the A350 between India and Dubai.

The commencement of flights was celebrated with pre-departure ceremonies at both Delhi and Dubai airports, where guests were presented with A350 memorabilia.

According to the statement by the company, Air India's A350-900 aircraft has a three-class cabin configuration with 316 seats, including 28 private Business suites, 24 Premium Economy seats, and 264 Economy seats. All seats are equipped

with the latest technology and the entertainment systems.

Airbus A350-900 is a long-range passenger aircraft that can accommodate 300-350 passengers in a three-class configuration. It has a range of 15,000 kilometers.

According to Airbus, the A350 is powered by two Trent XWB turbofan engines that result from a very close collaboration

between Airbus and the powerplant manufacturer, Rolls-Royce. The Trent XWB uses the best technology and materials while benefiting from more than 70 million hours of in-service experience with various Trent versions in airline operation.

Currently, Air India operates a total of 72 flights per week to Dubai from five Indian cities, with 32 flights originating from Delhi, solidifying its strong presence in the region. **ANI**

Digitalisation drive helps advance modernisation of social governance in Chongqing

IN the office building of the Chongqing Ecology and Environment Bureau, a water monitoring and control system flashed red, signaling excessive phosphorus concentration at a river section.

By tracing data from the sensors network, the system narrowed down the investigation area and pinpointed several upstream industrial enterprises as potential sources of contamination.

Inspection teams from local environmental protection agencies and other relevant departments were immediately dispatched to the identified sites. After their intervention, water quality returned to the normal level.

This rapid response was made possible by Chongqing's efforts to advance digitalization.

The water monitoring and control system integrates data from over 10 municipal departments in agriculture, water resources, housing and urban-rural development sectors, as well as districts and counties in Chongqing.

The system's sensing network has expanded from the original 1,112 sensors to over 15,000, allowing issues to be detected within 24 hours on average, down from 7 days previously.

In April 2023, Chongqing initiated a comprehensive digital transformation program known as "Digital Chongqing." This involved establishing an integrated

intelligent public data platform, a three-tier digital urban operation and governance center, six major application systems, and an intelligent governance framework.

The program aimed at infusing digital technologies and digital cognition into every aspect of city management and service delivery, restructuring operational systems, business processes and institutional mechanisms across various sectors, and modernizing social governance.

Recently, the digital urban operation and governance center in Chongqing's Jiulongpo district received an alert: a dump truck with unsecured load was identified by video surveillance while crossing

into another district's jurisdiction in violation of regulations.

Through a location tracking system, the vehicle's position and originating construction site were quickly pinpointed.

With a single click, a task order was dispatched to relevant authorities. The detection to resolution of the entire illegal dump truck incident took less than 3 hours.

In advancing digitalization, Chongqing has worked to break down information barriers between government departments.

"Based on the data collected from government departments related to housing, urban management and transportation, we

developed a dump truck monitoring system, which had been promoted city-wide to solve monitoring challenges," said Zhang Jun, deputy director of Jiulongpo district's big data application and development management bureau.

Chongqing also pursues targeted governance while promoting digitalization. For instance, the Xianglushan neighborhood of Chongqing High-tech Industrial Development Zone installed smart door sensors for elderly residents living alone and connected them to its governance command center.

In Baochengsi community of Changzhou neighborhood, Rongchang district, an intelligent

elderly care system is in place to serve senior citizens in need.

Over 1,000 townships and neighborhoods in Chongqing have established the integrated three-tier digital governance network, which seamlessly connects the township and neighborhood level, the village and community level, and finally down to individual grid unit areas.

Chongqing has made 65,000 digital grid-level holographic maps that facilitate end-to-end task allocation and case management.

As a result, the resolution rate for issues reported at the grid level has reached 99.9 percent.

People's Daily

TFF reveals dates for NBC PL, Championship League playoffs fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER the conclusion of this season's NBC Championship League, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has revealed the dates of the playoff games for the NBC Premier League promotion playoff between Biashara United and Mbeya Kwanza FC.

Two teams from this season's NBC Championship League have received automatic promotion to the next season's Premier League after finishing first and second.

Mbeya's Ken Gold FC is the first to receive promotion while Pamba FC of Mwanza ended the club's 20-year wait as the squad was also guaranteed participation in NBC Premier League football next season.



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Media Officer, Karim Boimanda.

Two teams from NBC Championship League that finished third and fourth will meet in a two-leg match of the promotion playoffs and the winner will play against the loser of the Premier League promotion/relegation playoffs between 13th and 14th placed outfits to find the winner who will secure a spot in top-flight football next season.

Biashara United won 4-0 against Cosmopolitan FC to finish fourth in the NBC Championship League with 62 points, having garnered 19 wins, five draws, and six losses- whilst scoring 60 goals and allowing 21 goals.

Third-placed Mbeya Kwanza FC finished with 65 points- notching 20 wins, five losses, and five draws whilst posting 50 goals and leaking 28 goals.

The federation revealed that Biashara United will be at home in the first leg slated for May 19 in Musoma, Mara, while the second leg has been scheduled for May 26 at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara.

The winner of the two-leg fixture will have to wait until June 4 for the loser of the Premier League playoffs as the second leg for the top-flight playoffs has been set for June 8.

The final NBC Premier League promotion match between the winner of the Championship League playoffs and the loser of the NBC Premier League playoffs has been slated for June 12 for the first leg, while the rematch has been penned for June 16.

The status quo in the NBC Premier League relegation battle is that Mashujaa FC and Tabora United are in the playoff contention spots while Geita Gold FC and Mtibwa Sugar are on the brink of suffering relegation.

With six games left in the top flight, teams from the eighth spot to the 16th spot mathematically have the chance to either survive or be relegated, as Dodoma Jiji FC now positioned eighth has 28 points while bottom-placed Mtibwa Sugar has 17 points.

Ntibazonkiza urges Simba fans to rally behind squad in remaining PL fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza has urged the outfit's fans to rally behind it ahead of the remaining NBC Premier League fixtures, much as the club is facing vanishing title hopes.

The Msimbazi Street club defeated Azam FC 1-0 in the final of the re-established Muungano Cup at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar last weekend to have the former lifting the second domestic title of the season.

Ntibazonkiza was voted as Man of the Match in the final of Muungano Cup, after having a wonderful 90 minutes display.

Other players who picked accolades are Simba SC defensive midfielder Fabrice Ngoma who won the Player of the Tournament, the club's Moroccan goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred who won Goalkeeper of the Tournament, and Azam FC winger Abdulhamis Suleiman who won the Golden Boot.

Simba SC won the second title of the season after losing the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, which saw the Msimbazi Street club suffer a 1-0 loss to Mlandege FC in the final in January.

The Burundian international said his outfit's fans should be behind it and show up in big numbers in the remaining games to push for the league title and CAF Champions League Group Stage berth.

"Fans that know football are always with us and we appreciate them, we are not happy with the current situation and we want to make sure we rise above moments like this and make sure the club succeeds, that's why we are here today heading back with a trophy in our hands," the midfielder remarked.

"The season has not gone well for us, which is not a surprise because all teams in the world go through a period like this," Ntibazonkiza said.

The footballer remarked: "A positive transition is necessary and, later, things will come back to normal, we have nine games left, we need them (fans) to show up in big numbers, and we will turn things around."

Ntibazonkiza- who has seven goals and two assists for Simba SC in this season's NBC Premier League- is one of the most reliable players in the team, missing only one game out of 21 games in the league.

Simba SC won the Muungano Cup showdown trophy and was awarded 100m/-. The squad made its way back to the Premier League and was held to a 2-2 draw by Lindi's Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa on Tuesday.

The Muungano Cup will next season feature eight teams from the Mainland and four from the Isles to spice up the 61st anniversary of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Miss Tanga 2024 pageant slated for next week



Miss Tanga 2024 coordinator, Victoria Martin (C), speaks to journalists during the announcement of the beauty pageant slated to take place at Tanga Beach Resort Hotel in the city on May 11. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE 2024 Miss Tanga pageant coordinator, Victoria Martin, has affirmed that girls that are participating in the event are not into behaviours that are uncalled for.

Victoria stated the beauty pageant's participants, as well as those battling it out in Miss Tanzania, are girls who are seeking to achieve success in their lives through the modelling industry.

She said so while officially announcing the hosting of the 2024 Miss Tanga pageant, stressing that parents should al-

low their girls who have qualifications to register for the beauty pageant scheduled to be held here on May 11.

The Tanga beauty pageant coordinator revealed various successful ladies won prominence through beauty pageants, and are now holding various reputable roles in the government, institutions, and the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

She said the modelling industry is officially recognized by the government through the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports.

She insisted that is why many ladies who took part in the

pageants in the past have been trusted by various institutions and the government.

"Let's focus on real examples, Jokate Mwegelo- now CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) Secretary-General- her bright start was seen through the modelling industry," the pageant coordinator, also the 2007 Miss Tanga winner, revealed.

"She was appointed as District Commissioner for Kisarawe, Temeke, and Kogogwe before securing appointment as CCM's Women's Wing Secretary-General," she said.

Jokate, who participated in the 2014 Miss Tanzania pageant, won the hearts of many

modelling industry stakeholders before turning to politics, and she also had a role in the film industry- given she was an actress.

"Apart from Jokate, the modelling industry has changed the lives of many girls, therefore, parents should take this opportunity seriously as is the case with many other careers," Victoria remarked.

Commenting on preparations for the 2024 Miss Tanga pageant, she revealed all beauty queens set to battle it out in the pageant were supposed to report for the camp yesterday, adding that this time the pageant would be one of a kind.

Coach stands firm in Mashujaa FC's Premier League survival quest

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

DESPITE occupying a precarious position on the NBC Premier League table, Mashujaa FC's head coach Mohamed Abdallah remains confident about his team's ability to retain its top-flight status for the 2024/25 season.

Mashujaa FC finds itself clinging to 13th place with a mere 23 points following a hard-fought draw against Singida Fountain Gate FC.

Abdallah, better known as 'Baresi', acknowledged the team's current struggles but refused to give up.

"We still have a significant number of matches remaining, and I firmly believe we can utilize them effectively to secure our place in the NBC Premier League," he declared.

The former Mlandege FC head coach emphasized the need for a heroic effort from his players.

He remarked: "We must become heroes to ensure Mashujaa FC remains in the top flight next season. I have unwavering faith that we will achieve this goal."

Over the past five matches, they have managed just one win, a narrow 1-0 victory against JKT Tanzania.

This lone bright spot is overshadowed by a string of disappointing results, including two losses- a 2-0 loss to domestic football giants Simba SC and a 2-1 defeat to Coastal Union.

There were, moreover, two frustrating barren draws in ties versus Azam FC and, most recently, Singida Fountain Gate



Mashujaa FC players (in white jerseys) take on Singida Fountain Gate FC footballers when the two outfits took on each other in a recent NBC Premier League tie in Kigoma.

FC. Currently occupying a relegation zone position, Mashujaa FC's overall record paints a concerning picture.

In 24 matches played, they have managed five wins, drawing eight games while losing a concerning 11.

Their offensive struggles are a key factor in their predicament. With just 19 goals scored, they have fallen short of their attacking potential.

To make matters worse, their defensive frailties have seen them concede 28 goals, result-

ing in a negative goal difference of -9.

Mashujaa FC's upcoming schedule presents both challenges and potential turning points.

On May 8, they will entertain local soccer powerhouse Young Africans SC at the home turf, Lake Tanganyika Stadium, in Kigoma.

Three days later, KMC FC will visit the same stadium for another crucial match against the Kigoma side.

The team will then travel to Tabora for a May 14 encounter

with Tabora United at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium.

Baresi's unwavering optimism is a beacon of hope for Mashujaa FC fans. The team's fate rests on the ability to capitalize on these upcoming matches.

Can they rise to the occasion and defy the odds, or will they succumb to the threat of relegation?

Only time will tell, but one thing is certain- the fight for survival promises to be a thrilling spectacle for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season.

Dar residents urged to participate in jogging

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has called upon Dar es Salaam residents to take part in three-hour jogging, to be held every Saturday, to slow down the rate of non-communicable diseases currently incurring the government unreasonable costs in the treatment of people.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, told the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday that physical exercises that will be launched in Dar es Salaam tomorrow are expected to contribute to reducing cases of non-communicable diseases.

Majaliwa said that in making this initiative safer for road users, there are parking lots and open spaces that the city has reserved for people to park their vehicles and partici-

pate in exercises.

He made the call when responding to a question by Kunti Majala, Special Seats Legislator who wanted to know the government's position in allocating a special day within weekdays that will be dedicated for participation in physical exercises to protect people from non-communicable diseases.

He said that the Barack Obama drive and Ocean Road will be used for this purpose whereby ambulances, Tanesco vehicles, fire tenders, and cyclers shall be the vehicles allowed to use the roads for the cited time.

"Gymkhana ground, Farasi grounds and Coco Beach will be used as parking lots during the exercising time. I take this opportunity to direct regional and district commissioners to allocate a special day and time for

exercising," Majaliwa remarked.

The Premier said he had on April 28 this year hinted at the temporary closure of the Tanzanite Bridge in Dar es Salaam on Saturdays from 6 am to 9 am to pave the way for city residents to participate in physical exercises to prevent non-communicable diseases.

"I would like to recommend public institutions and private organizations that have been forming jogging clubs and lead the sensitization of the general public to participate in physical exercises," Majaliwa noted.

He moreover commended the Speaker of the National Assembly, Tulia Ackson, for initiating the Bunge Marathon alongside the Mbeya City Marathon, which is held every June under her sponsorship.

PSG optimistic about Champions League chances despite Dortmund defeat

DORTMUND

PARIS Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique was hopeful his side would still reach the Champions League final despite a 1-0 defeat away to Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of their last-four tie on Wednesday.

"It's football. Very often it is marvellous and other times it is like this. We would have preferred to be in a different situation, but I think when you look at it it was a very even game," the Spaniard told broadcaster Canal Plus after his side were undone by a solitary Niclas Fuellkrug goal in the first half.

The French champions had more possession and more attempts on goal but were hindered by wayward finishing and perhaps a lack of luck -- Kylian Mbappe and Achraf Hakimi hit separate posts in the same move at one point in the second half.

"Nobody ever said it was going to be easy in the semi-finals of the Champions League. The boys in the dressing room are a bit down. We had one chance where we hit both posts," Luis Enrique added.

"You have to say this is an exceptional stadium but I am sure we will be very strong in Paris and we have nothing to lose."

It is just the fifth game PSG have lost all season, and the first time they have been beaten under Luis Enrique without scoring.

However, they can take heart from the fact they have already defeated Dortmund at home in the current campaign, winning 2-0 at the Parc des Princes when the teams met there in the group stage in September.

They also overturned a 3-2 first-leg deficit to knock out Barcelona in the quarter-finals by winning 4-1 in the return.

Going further back, PSG knocked the German club out of the Champions League in the last 16 in 2020 with a 2-0 win at home after going down 2-1 away in the first leg.

"We are two teams who like to get forward, who like to have the ball, who press. It was a very physical match," PSG captain Marquinhos -- who produced one crucial lunge to deny Julian Brandt late on -- told Canal Plus.

"In terms of the result it is true we had lots of good chances, especially in the second half, clear chances that we can't afford to miss if we want to get to the final. At home we will really need to make sure we convert chances like that."

The Brazilian added: "It is always very difficult to play here. We wanted to come here and win. We didn't manage to do that but it is only 1-0."

AFP

'Big stage' Sancho back to scintillating best in Champions League semi

DORTMUND

BORUSSIA Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said Wednesday that winger Jadon Sancho's excellent performance in his side's 1-0 Champions League semi-final first leg victory over Paris Saint-Germain was brought out by the "big stage".

"He's shown that really often in training. It's maybe not so easy to bring it onto the field, especially when you haven't had rhythm for a while. We know his quality and we saw it again today. We knew we needed a performance like that from Jadon."

But the player knows it is only half-time in the tie as Dortmund seek to reach June's Champions League final at Wembley.

"It's not over. We've still got to go to Paris and get the job done there," said Sancho.

Sancho was constantly dangerous on both flanks as well as in the middle on Wednesday, showing the quality which earned him a big-money move from Dortmund to Manchester United in 2021.

The England winger dribbled at will, carving up the PSG defence. He laid on a terrific late chance when he slid a pass to Julian Brandt on the penalty spot, with Dortmund denied by some excellent defending from Marquinhos.

Speaking with CBS Sports, Sancho credited Dortmund's 80,000-strong crowd for getting the side across the line.

"Week in week out, that's how it is. It helps us a lot. When we hear our fans we're so motivated from the start so we just can't wait to play."

Sancho said he hoped to back up the complete performance at the Parc des Princes next week.

"Hopefully I can carry on. I take it game by game. Performances like today, I hope they just carry on."

The 24-year-old, who joined Dortmund on a six-month loan in January, having been banished from the United first team by manager Erik ten Hag.

When he arrived in Dortmund, Sancho had played just three matches off the bench in the entire Premier League season, and had not taken part in a game since August. Sancho said he had not thought about a return to Man United.

"I don't know. I'm just focused on the present right now."

AFP

Fuellkrug outshines Mbappe to hand Dortmund UEFA Champions League advantage over PSG

DORTMUND

NICLAS Fuellkrug gave Borussia Dortmund a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in their Champions League semi-final first leg on Wednesday as the journeyman striker outshone superstar Kylian Mbappe on the night.

Seeking a return to the final for the first time since 2013, the 1997 winners were dogged and determined, outmuscling their heavily favoured opponents in front of more than 80,000 fans.

Fuellkrug, playing in his first Champions League season at the age of 31, collected a lofted pass from centre-back Nico Schlotterbeck in the 36th minute and blasted a low shot into the left corner of the net.

PSG, led by Kylian Mbappe, hit the post twice in quick succession early in the second-half but could not break through.

"I think we today showed a classic team performance. Each helped the other to win the game. We needed a bit of luck a couple of times, but we can be very satisfied with our performance," said long-serving centre-back Mats Hummels.

"It was a very satisfying, very grown-up performance



Dortmund forward Niclas Fuellkrug scored the only goal in his side's Champions League semi-final win over PSG on Wednesday. Agencies

from us."

Dortmund, who had already lost and drawn against PSG this season in the group stage, can continue to dream of a return to Wembley 11 years after their last Champions League final.

Despite the setback, however, PSG will remain confident of overturning the deficit at home next week against a side they thoroughly outclassed at their home venue in September.

"The Parc (PSG's stadium) and our supporters are giving us hope for the second leg, and we know we can do much better," PSG captain Marquinhos told Canal+.

Dortmund manager Edin Terzic said pre-match PSG were "built to win the Champions League" since the Qatari takeover a decade ago.

Nowhere was the contrast between the two clubs greater than PSG's global superstar Mbappe, playing in his last season for his hometown club, and journeyman Dortmund striker Fuellkrug, who was playing second-division football this time two years ago.

Spurred on by a passionate home crowd who booed and whistled every Mbappe touch, Dortmund had the best of the opening stages, Jadon Sancho shining down the right flank.

Marcel Sabitzer had Dortmund's best chance of an opener after 14 minutes, blasting straight at Gianluigi Donnarumma from a tight angle.

The opener came after 36 minutes thanks to some superb old-school forward play from Fuellkrug.

Centre-back Schlotterbeck had the ball well in his own half and thought about a safe pass back to the "keeper but instead punted it forward, with only Fuellkrug aware of the idea.

The striker controlled the ball with one touch and drilled a low shot past a helpless Donnarumma.

Fresh from wrapping up the

Ligue 1 title at the weekend, PSG had few chances despite their attacking riches in the opening half, registering zero shots on target.

The visitors however sprung to life after half-time, Mbappe rattling the inside of one post seconds before former Dortmund wing-back Achraf Hakimi rattled the inside of the other.

PSG should have equalised after 56 minutes, Marquinhos curled a beautiful pass through a crowded Dortmund box but Fabian Ruiz's diving header went wide.

Another former Dortmund player Ousmane Dembele blasted over right in front of goal with 10 minutes remaining.

The impressive Sancho laid on an excellent pass for Julian Brandt with moments left but Dortmund's hopes of a second were snuffed out by some desperate PSG defending.

The victory, along with Tuesday's 2-2 draw between Bayern Munich and Real Madrid in the other semi-final, guarantees Germany rather than England or France an extra Champions League place for next season.

That has already secured Dortmund's place in the competition next season.

AFP

Why Dutch managers struggle in English Premier League - but Arne Slot can buck trend at Liverpool

Luke Edwards

WHEN Arne Slot is officially unveiled as Liverpool's new manager there will already be doubts about his ability to maintain the success of Jurgen Klopp given the mediocre record of Dutch managers in the Premier League.

Slot has done a wonderful job at Feyenoord, winning the Eredivisie last season and the Dutch Cup this time around. There is a good reason he was Tottenham Hotspur's first choice to replace Antonio Conte last summer. He is much admired. But his side Feyenoord side are going to finish second this season behind PSV Eindhoven in a year where the biggest and most successful club in the Netherlands, Ajax, have had a disastrous campaign.

It is too simplistic to write off a manager on the basis of their nationality, of course, but there is a pattern that emerges if you look at how Dutch managers have fared in the Premier League. Even those coaches who have had some success, have not had longevity. Only the former Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham manager, Martin Jol, has managed more than 200 Premier League games.

Indeed, history has shown us that Dutch managers have found it tricky to bend and shape English football culture to their will, despite some giants of the game having the chance to shine on these shores.

All were different personalities, all had their various strengths and weaknesses, some have had a positive impact, at least initially, but Guus

Hiddink, Louis van Gaal, Ronald Koeman, Dick Advocaat, Ruud Gullit and, of course, Erik ten Hag have, to varying degrees, all failed to replicate their previous success abroad while managing in England.

It is not just Ten Hag, having built a reputation as one of Europe's finest head coaches during five successful years in charge of Ajax, who has struggled to execute his vision and implement his ideas.

Ten Hag did a good job in his first season at Manchester United, qualifying for the Champions League and winning the Carabao Cup, but he is fighting to save it in his second despite reaching the FA Cup final for a second successive year.

Some of the criticism of Ten Hag has been over the top. He does not have a squad that is good enough to win the league and the competition for a top-four finish is arguably more intense now than it has ever been.

To reach three domestic cup finals in the space of two years is, when you strip away everything else thrown at him as Manchester United manager, in terms of the character of his players, motivation and defensive vulnerability, a more than decent achievement.

But, given the size of the shoes Slot is stepping into, would a similar record go down well for him at Liverpool? It is unlikely to be perceived as success if he only wins the League Cup in two years at Anfield given everything Klopp has achieved and the quality of the squad he will



Arne Slot

inherit.

To be fair to Ten Hag, he has already won one trophy and still has a shot of a second, albeit against the silverware-scooping juggernaut that is Pep Guardiola's Manchester City. Only Jose Mourinho has won two trophies for Manchester United in the 11 years since Sir Alex Ferguson retired.

But this is the same environment that Slot will have to survive and, hopefully, thrive in and Ten Hag won more in the Netherlands than the new Liverpool manager.

Even the Dutch managers who have been per-

ceived to do well, such as Hiddink in two caretaker stints in charge of Chelsea, or Koeman who finished sixth with Southampton or Gullit who won the FA Cup at Chelsea and reached the final with Newcastle United, and Van Gaal who won the same trophy with Manchester United and finished fourth in the league -- they have not sustained it over a prolonged period of time.

What makes the lack of success so strange is that, on the face of things, the Dutch are possibly the most receptive to British culture in Europe. The language

barrier is less severe, given the prevalence of English speakers in the Netherlands, and none of the managers mentioned above have needed interpreters to communicate with the dressing room.

Yet there is a bluntness about the Dutch that perhaps does not sit well with some. They are very direct and to the point in the way they talk. When you combine that with a traditionally stern, disciplinarian approach in management styles, it will cause friction.

Newcastle players who played for him say it was Gullit's arrogance and lack of man-management skills that condemned him to fail on Tyneside, not his tactics or football knowledge. The less said about Frank de Boer's disastrously brief stint at Crystal Palace the better.

But as a wider point, maybe Dutch managers have not tended to last long in the Premier League because the players find it hard to enjoy playing for them when the months start to be measured in years.

There is also a very different sense of humour

in the Netherlands to the UK. Which might seem like a small thing, but in a dressing room and on the training ground, humour is important for team morale.

It is difficult to imagine any of the managers mentioned in this piece having a laugh and joke with their players and staff to alleviate tension. Could it be that you can create a working environment that is too intense and demanding for players in this country to thrive?

Perhaps it is also to do with the way football is coached in the Netherlands. For a country with a population of just 17.7 million, the Dutch have always punched above their weight in terms of the quality of players they produce.

Much of that is down to the way they develop players from a young age, focusing on technical ability, rather than physicality and athleticism. Training methods are similar with senior players too. Not all enjoy being told where to stand, where to pass, where to run in such minuscule detail.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zubeir Katwila.

Mtibwa Sugar coach aims for positive results vs Simba SC

By correspondents Michael Mwebe & Nassir Nchimbi

MTIBWA Sugar head coach Zubeir Katwila has stressed the outfit's need for three points against Simba SC in the quest to ensure they remain in the NBC Premier League as the two sides meet at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening.

The Morogoro-based sugar millers are fighting for survival in the NBC Premier League as they languish in the last place with 17 points from 23 games.

Katwila has said they need to win many of the remaining ties to cling on to the league but that has to be done with top defensive discipline against Simba SC's attack.

"We assess game by game in the league, we are at a phase in which games are tough and we need to be clinical as well while adhering to our defensive schemes, sitting last whilst heading to the remaining games of the league is not easy, the group has no pressure, we know we have to work harder," the gaffer noted.

The tactician said: "Simba SC will miss many important players, we will miss our players due to suspensions and injuries, what is at hand is analyzing our players with the current squad they possess, and we will fight for the team with the present players we have."

Katwila highlighted their off-the-ball struggles, pointing out he has already addressed to his players and he expects they will be compact while defending and being clinical on scoring chances they will secure.

"My players are somewhat struggling off the ball, especially in movements, we had training on those areas and we aim to make amends to our defense and chances we create turning into goals," the tactician said.

"If Simba SC won't line up a good defense, then we will punish them, given we are determined to do all we can to survive," Katwila noted.

The tactician expressed optimism in the team for the remainder of the league, albeit failure to make progress since he took the reins of Habibu Kondo mid-season. The team's leadership has shown full support to the coach, seeking to remain in top-flight football.

The pivotal NBC Premier League showdown between Simba SC and Mtibwa Sugar stands to produce an outcome that will have far-reaching implications for both clubs.

While Simba SC remains embroiled in a fierce battle for a top-two finish, Mtibwa Sugar finds itself languishing at the bottom of the table, facing the grim prospect of demotion.

Simba SC's recent form has seen them struggle to secure victories, with a string of three consecutive draws leaving them desperate for a turnaround in fortunes.

On Tuesday, Simba SC continued their lackluster end to the season with a 2-2 draw at Namungo FC. It was the Msimbazi Street outfit's third consecutive draw in the league.

They are now not only out of the title race but are facing an uphill battle to grab a CAF Champions League ticket from second-placed Azam FC.

The inability to convert chances into victories has left them staring at missing out on a CAF Champions League ticket for the first time since 2018. They are trailing Azam FC by seven points.

However, Simba SC has two games in hand that can potentially cut the gap to one point before the two sides face each other. With only eight games to play, every match is a must-win scenario for Simba SC to retain hopes of beating Azam FC to the second position.

Adding to Simba SC's challenges is the unavailability of the selection of various players. In the tie against Namungo FC, Simba SC missed Clatous Chama, Henock Inonga, Ladaki Chasambi, Luis Miquissone and twice let their lead slip in Juma Mgunda's first game in charge.

Gamondi impressed as Yanga sees off Tabora United in Federation Cup



Yanga's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki (L) outfoxes Tabora United's center-back Heritier Lulihoshi when the teams locked horns in CRDB Bank Federation Cup's last-eight clash at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam two days ago, ending in 3-0 victory for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi has hailed his team as it progressed to the CRDB Bank Federation Cup semi-finals with a 3-0 victory over Tabora United in the last-eight duel at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening.

The Federation Cup holders secured their passage with goals from Stephen Aziz Ki, Kennedy Musonda, and Joseph Guede.

The Argentine coach enjoyed the encounter and felt the results were a fair outcome for his dominant side.

Speaking after the game,

the head coach told the press: "I am very happy to qualify for the semi-finals. It was a good performance even though in the first

half I was not too happy because we did not move the ball quickly like we needed to do. The other thing is we did not close up space."

The Argentine noted: "We dominated and scored one goal but, in the second half, we were so much better. We know this team probably

became tired in the second half, we had more space."

"I managed four of five players in the second half and this was the most important thing for us," Gamondi stated.

"The comeback of Pacome Zouzoua was big news for us. We saw he came back in good form, even though he had not played for one month and a half, quality players have something special," the tactician remarked.

"I am very happy that we scored three goals. In the last eight games, we conceded only one goal, it was against Simba SC. We have kept a lot of clean sheets which is important, especially in this part of the season," the coach added.

Young Africans SC will now turn the club's focus back to the NBC Premier League, as the club is expected to travel to Kigoma to take on Mashujaa FC on Sunday.

With six games to go, Young Africans SC is enjoying a healthy eight-point lead at the top of the standings. The club is well on course to win a third successive Premier League title.

Azam FC seeks to pour Muungano Cup frustrations on Namungo FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FOLLOWING Young Africans SC, Coastal Union, and Ihefu SC's progression to the CRDB Federation Cup semi-finals on Wednesday, it is now the turn for Azam FC and Namungo FC to see who will complete the showdown's line-up for the stage.

Azam FC will be hoping to progress in search of their second Federation Cup trophy, whilst Namungo FC is hoping to re-create the club's 2020 success in the tournament when they sailed through to the final.

Before succumbing to a 2-1 loss to Simba SC in the Muungano Cup final in Zanzibar last weekend, Azam FC was on a 22-match unbeaten streak across all competitions.

After the bump in the road in Zanzibar, Yousouph Dabo and his team aim for a bounce-back win at home this evening.

Azam FC remains occupying second place in the NBC Premier League standings, eight points behind league leaders Young Africans SC, thus the Federation Cup presents the best opportunity to end the former's five-year title drought.

In the Round of 64, the Chamazi Street-based club saw off First League side, Alliance FC of Mwanza, with a 2-1 home victory in December



Azam FC's midfielder Yahya Zayd (R) shoots past Namungo FC's midfielder Ayoub Semtawa when the teams met in this season's NBC Premier League match in Ruungwa, Lindi recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

last year.

They knocked out Championship League side Green Warrior in the Round of 32 be-

fore seeing off Mtibwa Sugar in the previous round.

With their sights set on finishing the season with at

least one piece of silverware, Yousouph Dabo's men will set out to take a home victory in dominant fashion and ad-

vance to the last four before returning to league action next week.

If Azam FC overcomes Namungo FC, the Chamazi Street-based club will face Coastal Union who booked their semi-final ticket with a 1-0 home victory over Geita Gold FC in Tanga on Wednesday.

As for Namungo FC, they come into this match on the back of a 2-2 home draw with Simba SC in Lindi on Tuesday.

It was a good result for Namungo FC against a team currently above them in the table and they twice came from behind to salvage a draw that keeps them out of the relegation zone.

They have gone from worrying about relegation to being on the precipice of a Federation Cup semi-final.

Namungo FC knocked out Kagera Sugar on penalties in the Round of 16 after the match finished as a 0-0 draw, with goalkeeper Deogratius Munishi turning out to be vital for Namungo FC during the spot-kick session (which ended 5-3).

Azam FC and Namungo FC have met twice this season, Namungo FC won 3-1 at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam before Azam FC returned the favour with a similar scoreline in Lindi.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

