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theguardiantz

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feedback@guardian.co.tz

+255 745 700710

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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9236 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA TUESDAY 6 AUGUST, 2024



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# Samia deplures low rice prices, NFRA to buy one bag at 140,000/-

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Kilombero

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hasnan has expressed disappointment with public agencies and individual traders exploiting farmers by manipulating measurements and underpaying them.

Speaking yesterday in Ifakara in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, on the fifth day of a seven-day tour of the region, the president scathed the behaviour of various officials who by habit systematically underpay farmers.

She referred to numerous reports about inflating measurements in purchasing produce, making payments un-

fair, citing complaints from rice farmers during the visit. The farmers work tirelessly and it is unacceptable for officials to exploit them, she said, urging that this behaviour be stopped.

Officials and traders buy rice at low prices and resell it for higher profits, significantly harming farmers and undermining their hard work, she said, directing the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to increase the price of rice purchased in the region to 900/- per kilo, from 570/- at present, which she described as exploitative.

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This is an aerial view of the 133-meter-long Ruaha Mkuu Bridge, as captured at the weekend. It is a strategic section of the 66.9-km Kidatu-Ifakara road, whose construction to tarmac level was completed recently and which President Samia Suluhu officially opened on Sunday as part of her week-long working tour of Morogoro Region. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

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**Savinho might just be a flagship signing for the multi-club ownership model - as well as for Man City**

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**Singida Black Stars vie for Victorien Adebayor signature**

# UK reaffirms support in HIV/AIDS combat

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

**B**ITAIN has maintained its support for Tanzania in the fight against HIV/AIDS to achieve the goals of eliminating new infections, combating stigma and curbing AIDS-related deaths.

David Concar, the high commissioner, made this pledge in a reception for 71 British climbers who participated in the annual

GGM Kili Challenge in Kilimanjaro Region over the weekend.

This mountain climbing campaign is organised by Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) in collaboration with the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS).

The UK is one of the major donors to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria where country allocations are being made for 2024 - 2026, he said, noting that the UK is contributing £1bn to the

fund, which in turn will allocate \$602m to Tanzania.

James Nzuamkende, the GGML representative, said that the campaign, now in its 22nd year, is meant to raise funds for enhancing government efforts to achieve zero infection targets.

He expressed gratitude to donor agencies, diplomatic missions and campaign participants for their contributions as they are crucial for the

campaign to succeed, while Dr Jerome Kamwela, the TACAIDS acting executive director confirmed that good progress was being made in the effort.

He said Tanzania is largely on track towards international long-term and intermediate goals, which include achieving 95-95-95 targets by next year, noting that 1.7m people are liv

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# 'Fair play will prevail as govt recruits 37,616 new servants'

By Guardian Reporter, Sumbawanga

**A** TOTAL of 37,616 new job placements for teachers, health practitioners and other public service spheres will soon be made public, the government has affirmed.

Deus Sangu, the Public Service Management and Good Governance deputy state minister in the President's Office,

made this announcement here yesterday in a tour of his Kwela constituency in Sumbawanga Rural District, Rukwa Region, visiting Kitete, Laela, Kamsamba and Kavifuti villages.

He said that job vacancies in teaching, health, accounting, supply and other sectors are currently being advertised, to address staff shortages across the public service as a whole.

Teaching vacancies already announced by the Public Ser-

vice Recruitment Secretariat at the regional level are based on the needs of each region and the number of placements that the government is ready to fund, he said.

The recruitment process for teachers this year has begun differently from previous years, he said, noting that the recruitment process for teaching positions is now underway.

There are fewer teaching job vacancies compared to the

number of primary and secondary school teachers graduating from various colleges, with over 100,000 teachers currently unemployed, he stated.

The government has shifted to advertising to promote competition in recruitment, to ensure that every qualified individual can obtain employment in their local area without

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# 'Fast-track electricity upgrade to Kigoma'

By Henry Mwangonde, Kigoma

**CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi has reminded the government to fast-track the process of addressing electricity supply challenges in Kigoma Region.**

Speaking at Mwangu Community Centre grounds here yesterday, he said the government has been working to address electricity challenges in the region, signalling that the challenges will soon be ended.

"We know there are challenges that need to be addressed and the govern-

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## UK reaffirms support in HIV/AIDS combat

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ing with HIV at present. The effort seeks to have 95 percent of the population knowing their status when affected, an effort that has attained 83 percent of the estimated target population, he said, noting that the 95 percent of those living with HIV using antiretroviral therapy (ART) stands at 98 percent, surpassing the target.

The third target of 95 percent of those on ART achieving substantial viral suppression was also in good stead, he said, pointing at a diminution in new infections based on recent data.

Martin Shigella, the Geita regional commissioner, applauded GGML's efforts in supporting the government to address the scourge, urging other well-placed organisations to also take up the fight.

## 'Fair play will prevail with govt recruiting 37,616 new servants'

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having to travel to Dodoma or Dar es Salaam for interviews, he further noted.

He urged graduates from various colleges and universities to take advantage of these job opportunities while preparing adequately for the recruitment process as it is a new approach to fill teaching positions.

Applicants for these teaching positions are guaranteed that the process of selecting qualified teachers will be fair and transparent, underlining that his office, tasked with managing public service employment procedures, is committed to ensuring that fair play is the rule.

Declaring his intent to support the minister, George Simbachawene, said the team will ensure that the national employment policy which emphasizes the right to employment regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, or religion is fully adhered to.

## Samia deplures low rice prices, NFRA to buy one bag at 140,000/-

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At an earlier event, the president had narrated an ordeal by family members growing rice in Mvuha area, Morogoro Rural District, compelled to abandon the effort after repeated livestock invasions on the farm.

She emphasised government commitment to adding value to farm produce and mineral resources, pointing at the importance of building processing plants in various areas.

The government is committed to creating an investment-friendly environment she said, underlining sufficient electricity supply for factories, while praising the Ifakara crop purchasing center as having brought significant benefits.

The Kidatu-Ifakara road was being paved as part of the wider southern agro-sector corridor project to tackle agricultural challenges, she said, affirming plans to expand the road further.

She expressed gratitude for development partners including the European Union (EU), UK Aid and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for support-

ing the road construction project.

Addressing environmental concerns, she appealed to officials to protect the Kilombero Valley ecological stability, as it is crucial for the Nyerere Hydropower Project, objecting to creating new villages in conservation areas.

She said that this was being done for political gain, emphasizing adherence to regulations, while stressing compensation for those displaced in implementing various projects.

She urged public patience on the issue, assuring the residents that the government recognises their rights and will address the compensation drawbacks.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office, (PORALG) said in response to complaints about produce taxes, that the ministry would arrange a meeting with relevant local authorities on curbing arbitrary taxation on produce.

The government has allocated 4bn/- for compensating Ulanga residents displaced in developing electricity projects, he



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Kilombero Sugar Company managing director Guy Williams unveil plaque shortly before the president laid the foundation stone for the expansion of the firm's Sugar Factory-K4 in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Fast-track electricity upgrade to Kigoma'

FROM PAGE 1

ment is aware of the situation in Kigoma and that it has been working on it," he affirmed, reiterating directives aired by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango during a regional tour here.

The top secretariat official said the main plan is to build electricity cooling centres to address power outages facing the region while reviving the central railway line reaching Kigoma "to open up the region

and foster development." He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has endeavoured to meet the challenges facing residents in the region in like manner as other regions, to ensure that development encompasses all areas.

Urging Kigoma residents to safeguard peace and unity as the foundations for development activities, he said that peace is a major national value bequeathed to the nation by

our founding fathers.

"They left us with peace, therefore they will be proud wherever they are if the peace is maintained," he declared, issuing a directive at Mwandiga, Kigoma Rural District, to Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuf Masauuni to ensure there is a new police station at the ward as early as possible.

Having in focus demands of the area's residents ahead of the next general election, he also

demanding that the Regional Administration and Local Governments ministry ensure that a new health centre is built in the area after residents complained that they walk considerable distances to seek health services.

Issa Usi Haji, the NEC secretary for organisation, said the CCM-led government is committed to delivering transformative development to the country as a whole, recalling that a

total of 11trn/- has been directed to Kigoma Region during the past three years for implementing a range of development projects, including taking the standard gauge railway to the port municipality as well as expansion of the Kigoma Airport.

There are also massive oil palm production plans as well as wide-ranging conservation work on Lake Tanganyika with other riparian states, he added.



Zanzibar's Trade and Industrial Development minister Omar Said Shaban (R) and NMB Foundation general manager Nelson Karumuna exchange greetings in Zanzibar yesterday on the sidelines of training for seaweed farmers organised by the foundation in collaboration with the bank and Zanzibar Seaweed Company. Left is the bank's Head of Agricultural Business, Nsolo Mlozi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

said, affirming that 2bn/- had already been disbursed.

He also addressed a complaint from Namawala residents about funds meant for building a teacher's house and a dispensary, apparently being diverted to build the village chairperson's house.

The minister demanded that the Kilombero district commissioner investigate the matter and report back within two weeks, while praising considerable improvement in school performance, building new

schools and renovating existing facilities in the past three years.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe outlined plans to develop the Kilombero Valley, which covers about 57,000 hectares, for irrigation farming, affirming that a contractor is already conducting a feasibility study, with plans to implement the project in phases, starting with 10,000 hectares.

"We will build large irrigation schemes and dams to store water and support irrigation throughout the year," he stated.

Cotton farming will also be revived in Malinyi and Ulanga districts, with the construction of a processing plant in Lupillo to add value, reducing the need to ship it raw or transport it long distances, he said.

The government will purchase rice at 140,000/- per bag in the coming purchasing season following instructions from President Samia to NFRA that rice prices be set much higher than the 80,000/- paid at present, which the minister attributes to middlemen.

## Rwanda closes 4,000 churches for default on health, safety criteria

KIGALI

MORE than 4,000 churches have been closed down over the last month in Rwanda for failing to comply with health and safety regulations, including not being properly soundproofed.

It has affected mostly small Pentecostal churches and a few mosques - some operating out of caves or on the banks of rivers.

"This is not being done to prevent people from praying, but to ensure the safety and tranquility of worshippers," Minister of Local Government Jean Claude Musabyimana told state media.

It is the first major crackdown since a law came in five years ago to regulate the proliferation of places of worship.

It requires them to operate in an organised way and in a safe environment as well as outlawing their use of loud public address systems.

The legislation also compels all preachers to have theological training before opening a church.

When the law was adopted in 2018 about 700 churches were initially closed.

At the time, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said the country did not need many houses of worship, maintaining that such a high number was only fit for more developed economies with the means to sustain them.

Kagame, who has just won a fourth term in office with 99

percent of the vote, rules over a tightly controlled society where his critics say there is little freedom of speech.

The ongoing operation targeting churches is being carried out by local urban authorities in partnership with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).

The authorities say they are taking a tough line as churches have had five years to fully comply with the regulations.

"The government has taken a stance against proliferation in the houses of worship. We still see cases of dilapidated (structures) and unhygienic conditions," RGB chief Usta Kayitesi told the New Times news website.

Some of the churches that had been shut down operated in tents, exposing worshippers to risks, Musabyimana said.

So far 4,223 places of worship have been closed, with 427 of those being in caves, reports a privately owned Kinyarwanda language Igihe news site.

The vast majority of Rwandans are Christians but many also follow traditional practices.

Pentecostal churches, often run by charismatic preachers claiming to be able to perform miracles, have grown rapidly in many parts of Africa in recent years.

Some are massive, attracting thousands of worshippers each Sunday, but others are tiny structures built without planning permission.



# New Indian envoy lands in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE new High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey has expressed his gratitude to the Indian diaspora for their significant contributions in strengthening bilateral relations between India and Tanzania.

Dey, who arrived in Tanzania on August 1, 2024, was welcomed by members of the Indian diaspora at a reception held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

During the event, he emphasized his commitment to enhancing the connection between the High Commission and the local community.

He announced plans to organize Consular Camps in various regions of the country regularly.

Over 100 members of the Indian community attended the welcome event, where Dey called for their continued support of the High Commission's efforts.

Bishwadip Dey joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2001. His early career included working in the UNES Division of the Ministry of External Affairs from 2001 to 2003. He then served as Third Secretary at the Embassy of India in

Cairo from August 2003 to August 2005, where he also studied Arabic.

Dey's subsequent roles included serving as Second Secretary at the Embassy of India in Riyadh from August 2005 to March 2008, where he handled political, information, and educational matters while also acting as Head of Chancery. He was then appointed Head of the Representative Office of India in Ramallah from April 2008 to March 2012.

From March 2012 to August 2014, Dey was Deputy Secretary and then Director of external Publicity in the Ministry of External Affairs. He later served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Thimphu from August 2014 to July 2016, and as High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago from August 2016 to February 2019, with concurrent accreditation to Grenada, Dominica, and Montserrat.

From March 2019 to June 2021, Dey was Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, followed by a role as Joint Secretary (External Relations & Power) at the Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai from June 2021 to June 2024.

Dey has extensive experience in Middle East peace processes, Arab politics,



Njombe regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka (in light-blue shirt) has a word yesterday with small-scale avocado farmers from the Wanging'ombe Town Council, including on traditional avocado preservation technology. It was at the annual national Nane Nane (Farmers' Day) agricultural exhibition in progress at regional level in Mbeya city. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

and nuclear diplomacy. He specializes in neighbourhood politics and diaspora issues. He is fluent in Hindi, English, Bangla, and Arabic.

He completed his early education at Dalhousie Public School, Dalhousie, and Pitts Gomia School, Bokaro. He holds a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science (Gold Medal), an LLB (Gold Medal), and an LLM from Delhi University, as well as Post Graduate Diplomas in International

Law, International Institutions, International Human Rights, Refugee Law and Humanitarian Laws from the Indian Society for International Law (ISIL). He also holds a Certificate in Negotiation Skills from UNITAR.

# Tanzania to benefit from AMCE project

By Correspondent Benny Mwaipaja, Abuja

TANZANIA is expected to be among the five African countries benefiting from the construction of the African Medical Centre of Excellence (AMCE), through a project being implemented by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with King's College Hospital, located in London, UK.

Brian Deaver, AMCE chief executive officer unveiled this here yesterday when speaking during a visit by Finance Minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, who led a Tanzanian delegation to inspect the construction of the project, which is located on the outskirts of Abuja, Nigeria.

Among officials in the Tanzanian delegation include Dr. Natu Elmaanry Mwamba, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Office of the President-Finance and Planning-Zanzibar, Aboud Hassan

Mwinyi. The meeting also involves Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from member countries of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Deaver explained that the hospital, which will have the capacity to accommodate 500 patients at a time, will utilize advanced technology that has never been used in Africa for treating blood cancers and sickle cell disease.

He elaborated that this hospital, along with others to be constructed in Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania, will provide comprehensive services including diagnostics, treatment, nuclear medicine, surgery, post-operative care, and other specialized services known as oncology, hematology, and cardiology.

"In implementing this project, we aim to provide high-quality healthcare services, train healthcare professionals, conduct research, create jobs, manage foreign exchange needs, especially in dollars, and boost medical tourism for African countries," added Deaver.

Speaking after visiting the project, which is expected to cost over \$260 million, Dr Nchemba stated that this model project will not only enhance medical services for the citizens but also become part of medical tourism, attracting people to visit Tanzania for these services.

Judica Nagunwa, acting Tanzanian Ambassador to Nigeria noted that the efforts made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in the economic and medical sectors are aimed at improving the health of Tanzanians and that her embassy will use every opportunity to ensure that the project benefits Tanzanians.

Afreximbank is a Pan-African multilateral financial institution with responsibilities for providing financing and promoting trade in African countries.

The project is currently 53 percent complete in its third phase.

Kasekenya further urged citizens to protect the new infrastructure, which is expected to reduce travel time and ease transportation in the city.



Deus Sangu, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), addresses a rally in Sumbawanga District's Lusaka ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Lusungu Helela

# Control traffic jams in BRT projects, traffic officers told

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS deputy minister Eng. Godfrey Kasekenya has directed traffic officers to implement innovative measures to manage and prevent traffic jams in areas where implementation of the bus rapid transit (BRT) projects are ongoing.

He issued the directives recently when he inspected the ongoing implementation of BRT projects in Dar es Salaam.

He emphasized that traffic officers should ensure that traffic flow remains consistent and, even in the face of challenges, there should be designated times for clearing traffic routes.

He highlighted issues at the entry points from the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) roads, noting that current bridge constructions are not user-friendly.

He emphasized contractors to improve the pathways to enhance safety and prevent accidents.

"If there is a need to reduce inclines or improve access from the BRT to roads crossing the SGR, it is very important to build them properly because they will be 'highways' with fast traffic," said Kasekenya.

The deputy minister also called for clear road signage during construction to guide users on passage routes and timings.

He emphasised that all construction must adhere to international quality standards and address drainage issues to prevent water accumulation.

"The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) should ensure that these issues are resolved before contractors leave the site. We cannot continue facing problems with water drainage on Dar es Salaam roads. When it rains, water should not accumulate or cause flooding in residential areas. The drainage system designs must prevent such issues," Kasekenya added. He acknowledged President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to improve infrastructure and noted that there have been no payment issues reported by contractors.

The project is currently 53 percent complete in its third phase.

Kasekenya further urged citizens to protect the new infrastructure, which is expected to reduce travel time and ease transportation in the city.

# AI forecasting equips East Africa for extreme weather

By Special Correspondent

CLIMATE scientists are building artificial intelligence (AI) into traditional weather forecasting methods in East Africa to improve the accuracy of extreme weather predictions with minimal cost.

Climate change is accelerating the frequency and severity of extreme weather events in places like the Horn of Africa, where recent deadly floods have succeeded the worst drought in decades.

With such great variations in weather, precise and timely forecasts are critical to safeguarding lives and livelihoods, say scientists drawn from the University of Oxford, in the United Kingdom, the UN World Food Program, and the

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC).

Traditional weather forecasting models in Sub-Saharan Africa often aren't reliable enough to predict extreme weather events accurately ahead of time, leaving vulnerable communities at risk.

By combining physical atmospheric processes used in traditional forecasting with AI, researchers say they have developed a first-of-its-kind hybrid modeling approach to give more accurate rainfall forecasts without the need for expensive supercomputers.

"We start from the traditional forecasts and add the AI model over it to correct what was not captured such that it better represents observed data," explains

Shruti Nath, a climate scientist and researcher at Oxford University's physics department.

She says this model, which only requires a laptop to run, gives local meteorological organizations a low-cost way of generating more accurate forecasts, in a region where precise observational data is often lacking.

"What is really different and also interesting about this approach is that it's the first time we have been able to use a hybrid modeling approach, which means that we use AI models to fill in the traditional physical forecasting models.

"This allows better, more accurate representation of reality, particularly for regions that don't have such good observations, like

Africa." Traditionally, many forecasting agencies in Africa have not had access to good computational resources, Shruti said.

"This approach gives them the ability to use AI to generate forecasting at very minimal computational cost."

The model is currently being rolled out in Kenya and Ethiopia. If successful in East Africa, researchers hope to replicate it in other parts of the world facing similar challenges.

ICPAC, which provides climate services for 11 countries in East Africa, will seek to scale the technology as well as build local ownership and trust.

The researchers say the initia-

tive could revolutionize weather forecasting and early warning systems in East Africa, making the region more resilient to the weather extremes associated with climate change.

Jesse Mason, global head of the Anticipatory Action Programme at WFP, says accurate early warning systems are vital in disaster risk management because they allow governments and communities to take proactive steps including evacuations, to save lives and limit damage from extreme weather events.

"This proactive approach is transforming humanitarian responses, shifting from reactive to preventative measures, ultimately saving more lives and reducing

costs associated with disaster relief," he said.

Obed Ogega, climate scientist and programme manager at the African Academy of Sciences in Nairobi, Kenya, says any innovation that improves weather forecasting and early warnings is crucial for Africa, which is vulnerable to weather and climate-related impacts.

"Agriculture and related sectors, which drive East Africa's economy, predominantly rely on rainfall," said Ogega, who is not part of the initiative.

"Hence, our enhanced ability to predict and plan for weather patterns in the region has significant implications on the region's food security and socio-economic well-being."



# VETA invents organic liquid fertiliser to boost productivity

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) has developed an organic liquid fertiliser to help local farmers increase crop production and productivity.

Dubbed: 'Lab Organic Fertiliser', the invention of the fertilizer focuses on supporting Indigenous farmers to deter from excessive use of chemical fertilisers.

VETA's Director General Anthony Kasore unveiled this here when speaking at the 31st Agricultural International Expo.

He said the useful fertilizer is currently under final process for official certification by relevant authorities, including the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA).

"Experience proves that excessive use of chemical fertilisers is a major source of soil infertility, and thus, we have decided to invent the organic fertilizer to help local farmers reduce the use of the high chemical industrial fertilisers," he said.

He added that the state-owned vocational training authority was continuing to invent and develop diverse agricultural technologies to help farmers involved in the country's agriculture sector improve production and productivity.

"The fertiliser has specifically developed to support smooth planting and growing of crops, and three liters can cover one acre," he expressed, saying that VETA has also developed a special modern facility for sterilization and production of special soil for growing horticulture crops.

"We have developed the facility to support the local horticulture sector, formerly, the farmers in the economic sector used to import the soil from outside the country, costing a lot of money, but with the developed technology, the soil is currently available in the country and at reasonable prices," he added.

Giving more details over the development, Eng. Joseph Kimako, the Learning and Evaluation Officer at VETA said the technology helps to kill insects and diseases in the soil.

He added that the invented facility is mixing forest soil and livestock manures, as well as rice husk to finally produce the crucial soil recommended for growing horticulture crops.

He said in Tanzania, the technology is only available at VETA, urged the horticulture farmers to use the facility to heighten their production, and unveiled that 1kg of the treated soil is marketed at 4,000/-.



Zanzibar's Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent secretary, Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji (C-seated); Zanzibar's Blue Economy and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary, Capt Hamad Bakar Hamad (2nd-R, seated); Tanzania's Transport ministry deputy permanent secretary, Dr Ally Possi (2nd-L, seated); and Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of Tanzania's Vice President (Union), Abdallah Mitawi (L, seated) in a group photo after attending a joint session on cooperation of the country's maritime transport management authorities - Tanzania Shipping Agency (TASAC) and Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA). Also in attendance were TASAC director general Mohamed Salum (2nd-R, back row), ZMA director general Mtumwa Saidi (3rd-L, back row) and various ministerial, TASAC and ZMA officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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+255 762628166 | +255 659785276 | +255 272754422

## 1,300 seaweed farmers in Z'bar to get training on modern farming techniques

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

OVER 1,300 seaweed farmers in Zanzibar are set to receive training on modern farming techniques and financial literacy to help them access affordable loans for developing their farming and processing projects.

The three-month training programme, which involves farmers from 72 groups, was inaugurated by Omar Said Shaaban, Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industrial Development.

The initiative is implemented in partnership with NMB Bank and the Zanzibar Seaweed Company (ZASCO).

In his opening remarks, Minister Shaaban praised NMB Bank, the NMB Foundation, and ZASCO for advancing their agreement with this training initiative.

"In March of this year, we gathered in Dar es Salaam to sign this agreement. Today, we are here to implement it. I commend these organizations for fulfilling their commitments, as many sign agreements but fail to execute them," he said.

He said the Zanzibar government acknowledges the initiative, highlighting NMB as a close, strategic, and everlasting partner in Zanzibar's development.

Shaaban highlighted that the training focuses on three main areas: financial education, agricultural practices, and financial empowerment through affordable loans.

"These elements will guide farmers in effective farming practices, managing their income, and accessing capital," he explained.

He also thanked NMB Bank for its continued support of Zanzibar's Blue Economy agenda.

"NMB's significant role in addressing various challenges faced by the people of Zanzibar is evident," he added.

Dr Masoud Rashid Mohammed, ZASCO's Director General, emphasized that the training programme is an implementation of a partnership agreement signed in March between NMB Bank and ZASCO.

He said the government's top priority is the construction of a Seaweed Processing Factory in Pemba, which is progressing well and is expected to be opened next year.

"This factory's success depends on a steady supply of raw materials, which is why the training for 1,300 farmers is crucial. We aim to boost production to meet the factory's needs, starting with 33 groups in Pemba and 39 groups in Unguja," Dr Mohammed explained.

Nelson Karumuna, NMB Foundation General Manager expressed gratitude to Minister Shaaban for his involvement in both the agreement signing and the training inauguration.

He emphasized the alignment of the training with the Bank of Tanzania's directive on financial education, stating: "Financial education is vital for understanding and participating effectively in agricultural business. Therefore, we are focusing on this aspect, with NMB Bank facilitating loans and ZASCO providing agricultural training."

Karumuna expressed confidence that the training programme will significantly boost seaweed production in Zanzibar. "We look forward to the commencement of this training and seek extensive cooperation from the government, ZASCO and the farmers themselves," he said. Nsolu Mlozi, NMB's Agri-Retail Head of Department, expressed pride in the initiative, underscoring the integral role of seaweed farmers in the agricultural value chain, which includes farming, livestock, fishing, and forestry.

"The agricultural sector is a strategic priority for NMB, motivating us to collaborate with the NMB Foundation in equipping farmers with essential skills. We are committed to providing affordable loans and agricultural tools to enhance seaweed production in Zanzibar," Mlozi added.



## RC Senyamule hails MSD for improving medical facilities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has hailed the Medicines Store (MSD) for the ongoing changes in the institution, which have largely helped reduce complaints of shortages of health products, especially drugs in the region and the country at large.

She argued that in the past members of the public complained of such challenges during public meetings, adding that even the ongoing expansion of MSD Central Zone store is a sign of improvement.

The RC made the remarks here yesterday when opening a meeting that involved MSD customers and stakeholders in Dodoma and Singida regions as well as those from the Kiteto district.

She stressed that one cannot talk about the development of the health sector without mentioning President Samia Suluhu Hassan, noting that she has brought about a great revolution within just three years in office.

"When we talk about improvements in the health sector and the transformation of services, we can't stop mentioning her since the nation has witnessed a significant increase in the budget of health products, health infrastructure, increase in health care facilities, increase in medical facilities at all levels of care from the grassroots to the national level," she said.

Senyamule also commended MSD for convening the stakeholder meetings, adding that the sessions are an important bridge to improving relations and communication between the parties.

The sessions, she said also help understand how MSD works with existing systems, maintaining unity and serving the public on time, providing feedback on the services provided, identifying the challenges that arise in the health goods supply chain, and ensuring they are responded to bring productivity.

She urged health sector executives to better manage the service stations so they can collect sufficient revenue, manage the supply chain of health products by avoiding product loss, as well as to do the repairs correctly and timely to help MSD perform its duties professionally and to bring productivity to the public.

MSD Director-General Mavere Tukai outlined a range of measures being taken by the department to improve access to health products in the country, including institutional structural changes.

Others include improvements in product storage areas, use of IT systems, training for capacity building, improvements in producer and contractor contracts, increased staffing to meet demand, and the establishment of subsidiary companies for managing industries.



Prof Li Xiaoyun, Head of the China Agricultural University, speaks at yesterday's launch in Zanzibar of a rural entrepreneurs' empowerment project. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## ACT: Corruption is delaying projects in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE opposition ACT Wazalendo has stated that Zanzibar could make significant progress if it controls corruption and graft in development projects.

The party's vice chairman, Ismail Jussa Ladhu, made the remarks yesterday during a public meeting held at Kwageji grounds in Bububu Constituency, Unguja Urban West region.

Jussa noted that many construction projects in Zanzibar face corruption issues, which is the root cause of delays due to government officials' involvement in receiving

undue benefits from the projects.

Citing Chakechake-Wete road project which is funded by the African Development Bank (BADEA) and the Saudi Development Fund (Saudi Fund) was one of the projects that was delayed due to corruption.

"You might ask why I always bring up issues of theft and corruption at every meeting. It's because no country can progress if it is run by theft and corruption," Jussa said.

He also stated that the government should tackle corruption in construction projects because the costs of building materials do not

match the actual market prices compared to those purchased for construction projects, indicating severe corruption, especially in the procurement of construction materials like steel and cement.

Discussing the Chakechake-Wete road project, he mentioned that the project is stagnating due to opposition from some leaders who do not want the Mecco building company to continue with the construction.

He added that despite the donors BADEA and the Saudi Fund opposing the move to strip Mecco of the project and the government's imposition of obstacles in-

cluding delayed payments to citizens needed to clear the project site, the construction of the road has been delayed.

He said that to date, citizens from Limbani to Wete have not been compensated, and development funds are not being delivered on time to the government, despite timely requests from the project's consulting firm.

The 22-kilometer road project from Chakechake to Wete in Pemba is expected to cost euros 457 million and started under the administration of former President Amani Abeid Karume.

Party's chairman (Zanzibar),

Othman Masoud Othman, stated that it is risky for the government to take out large loans exceeding the main government budget of 1.5trn/- due to Zanzibar's small economy.

He mentioned that the government has borrowed 3trn/- over the past four years, a significant amount compared to Zanzibar's actual economic condition.

Regarding elections, Othman, who is also the first vice president, said that elections in Zanzibar have faced problems due to the disregard of democratic principles and good governance, leading to loss of life and permanent disabilities.

Party's Central Committee member Mansoor Yussuf Himid said that the principles of the Afroshiraz Party have been violated by the government due to persistent discrimination, including denial of Zanzibar resident identification cards, employment, and constitutional rights to register to vote.

He noted that the goals of the 1964 revolution were to eliminate discrimination and ensure equality for its citizens, principles that have started to erode since the introduction of multi-party systems, leading to political animosity and oppression.

## Ruto inks new bill into law to cut expenditure

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto yesterday signed into law the Supplementary Appropriations Bill that slashes the government's expenditure by 145.7 billion shillings (\$1.12billion).

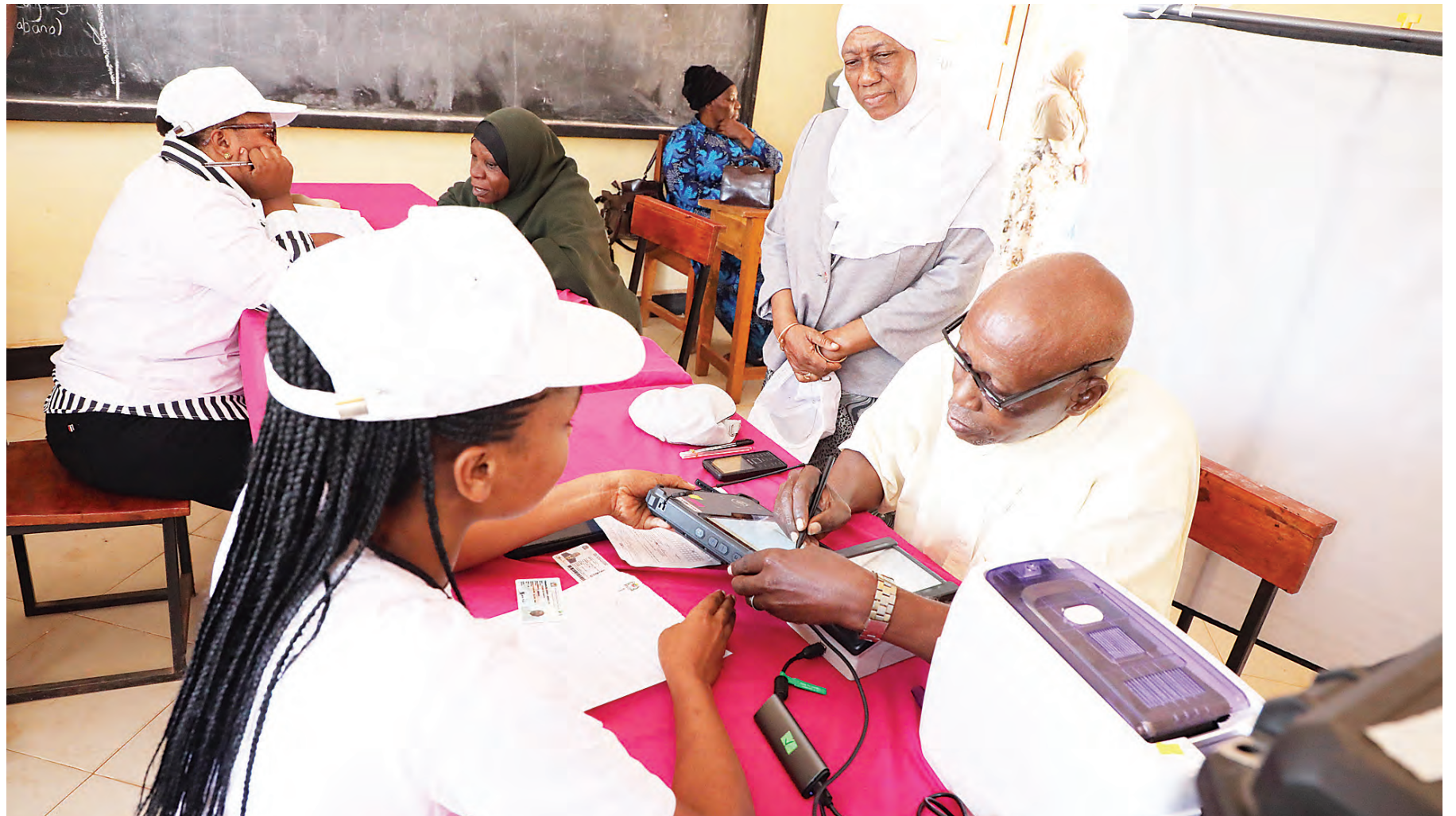
The new bill safeguards key critical expenditures, including about \$154million to support farmers and enhance production and productivity. Kenya's National Assembly passed on July 31 after the president's withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024 over anti-government protests.

"The total reduction for the National Government stands at 1.12 billion dollars, consisting of 308 million dollars for recurrent expenditure and 808 million dollars in development expenditure," the presidency said in a statement issued in Nairobi, Kenya.

To support education reforms, the new law has allocated \$928.6 million, including confirmation of school teachers, and 238.5 million dollars to the Higher Education Loans Board.

The law also has allocated \$124.6 million to funding health sector reforms and promoting Universal Health Coverage. It also sets aside 27 million dollars for salary increases for security officers serving in various agencies. It proposes reducing recurrent and development expenditure for the three arms of government, constitutional commissions, and independent offices.

On June 26, the president withdrew the contentious Finance Bill 2024 which had caused public fury over a wide range of unpopular tax increases.



Dr Zakia Mohamed Bakar (standing), a member of Tanzania's Independent National Electoral Commission, looks on yesterday as Vedastus Many Nsinde of Karyambwa Street in Muleba District, Kagera Region, updates his information in the Permanent Voters' Register at the Rubungo Primary School centre. It is an ongoing countrywide drive. Photo courtesy of INEC

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has in the 2023/2024 financial year, issued 61,400 tonnes of subsidised fertiliser to farmers in three northern zone regions intending to enhance agricultural productivity.

The fertiliser, valued at 85.96bn/-, was distributed to farmers in Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions, stimulating crop production and the economy. Speaking during the official opening of the Nanenane Farmers' Exhibitions 2024 for Northern Zone,

## Farmers in northern regions get 61,400 tonnes of fertiliser

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu said the government was keen to ensure that farmers do not face any hurdle to access the input where robust plans have been put in place to maintain the supply.

Babu also revealed that the government has invested in improving water infrastructure to reduce dependency on rainfall. This includes the construction and repair of irrigation channels

and dams, with a total investment of 62.4bn/-. He said the irrigation channels in Manyara Region cost 15.6bn/-, in Arusha (38.4bn/-) and in Kilimanjaro (8.4bn/-), Babu said.

He further noted that the government has provided subsidised livestock breeding seeds to improve the quality of livestock, a total of 44,970 cattle have been upgraded with modern breeding seeds. Under President

Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership, the government aims to ensure that farmers and all capable Tanzanians, including those in agriculture and pastoralism, are actively engaged in productive work.

Babu said that the government has also established 12 demonstration farms for animal feed in the regions intending to provide training on livestock management and high-quality

feed production, with an investment of 40.8m/-. "Support for the livestock sector and animal products, including dairy, has been strengthened, and this has been witnessed at the exhibition booths," he added.

The government has also introduced dipping facilities, distributed livestock medicine, and provided equipment, including motorcycles for extension officers.

"With the distributed motorcycles to extension officers in each region, there should be no excuse for not assisting farmers," he stated. He urged district commissioners in the regions to enhance cooperative unions, as they are crucial for the economic empowerment of farmers.

"Currently, the price of one kilogramme of coffee is 8,000/-, and a coffee tree can produce up to nine kilogrammes. If cooperatives invest in this crop, it will increase farmers' income, hence improving livelihoods," he said.



# Samia reiterates govt's commitment to helping industrial projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has emphasized the government's commitment to supporting industrial projects that enhance local production and reduce dependence on imports.

Samia made the remarks here over the weekend when laying the foundation stone for the Kilombero Sugar Factory's highly anticipated K4 project in a significant move towards boosting Tanzania's economy and achieving sugar self-sufficiency.

Set to launch in June 2025, the K4 Factory is poised to address the nation's sugar gap and contribute

to economic growth, especially for the cane growers in the Kilombero Valley.

"The K4 Factory represents a crucial step towards achieving our goal of self-sufficiency in sugar production. This project will create jobs, stimulate local industries, and ensure that Tanzanians have access to affordable sugar," she stated.

The K4 Factory, a state-of-the-art facility, will incorporate innovative and sustainable production methods, setting new standards in the sugar industry. By implementing environmentally friendly practices, the factory aims to minimize its ecological footprint while maximizing efficiency.

Industry and Trade Minister, Dr Suleiman Jafo said: "This project underscores our commitment to fostering industrial growth and ensuring that every Tanzanian can enjoy the benefits of our nation's resources.

"We are confident that the K4 Factory, once operational in June 2025, will be a game-changer for the sugar industry and the country's economy."

Hussein Bashe, Agriculture Minister stated that the expansion project will increase the number of cane growers from 9,500 to 16,000.

He highlighted that their income will rise from 65bn/- to 165bn/- per year. He emphasized the Government's commitment to ensuring a

win-win situation for both farmers and investors.

Ambassador Ami Mpungwe, board chairman of Kilombero Sugar Company said: "We greatly appreciate the proactive steps taken by the Government to address the challenges facing the sugar industry. We are confident that through collaborative efforts with the relevant ministries, we will find effective solutions to these issues.

"As we look forward to the completion of the K4 project next June, we sincerely hope that Your Excellency Madam President will honour us with your presence to officially inaugurate the new factory. This occasion will be particularly meaningful for me, as it will mark my

retirement after 25 years of service to the Kilombero Sugar Company. I am optimistic that the future holds continued growth and success for the company and its stakeholders."

Speaking during the event, Guy Williams, Managing Director of Kilombero Sugar Company, said: "The foundation stone laying marks a significant milestone for the Company. The K4 project, with an investment of \$292 million, will more than double our sugar production to 271,000 tonnes per annum, contributing to Tanzania's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in sugar by 2025. This project not only enhances our production capabilities but also brings substantial economic benefits to the Kilombero community and the

nation at large."

Local communities are set to benefit significantly from this project through job creation, improved infrastructure, and various community development initiatives.

"The positive impact on the surrounding communities cannot be overstated. We are committed to ensuring that this project brings lasting benefits to the people of Kilombero and Tanzania at large," added Williams.

The launch of the K4 Factory is a testament to the effective collaboration between the government and the private sector. This partnership underscores the shared vision of a prosperous and self-reliant Tanzania.

## Adhere to proper use of farm inputs, farmers told

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

FARMERS in the Southern Highlands regions have been urged to properly use agricultural inputs to avoid environmental destruction and ensure the sector's sustainability.

Josiah Murunya, acting manager of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in Southern Highlands made the advice here over the weekend when speaking at the ongoing 31st Nanenane exhibitions.

He emphasised the importance of farmers following environmental conservation and management guidelines while carrying out their activities, noting that agriculture contributes to environmental degradation.

Murunya explained that agriculture involves using various chemicals, including fertiliser and pesticides, which, if not used or stored properly, can pollute the environment and make agriculture unsustainable.

"For agriculture to be sustainable, it is crucial to conserve and protect the environment. Currently, the world is facing climate change challenges, with one of the causes being agriculture which does not follow proper input usage. Therefore, I advise farmers to adhere to the correct use of these inputs to minimize environmental impact," Murunya said.

He noted that in this year's farmers' expo, NEMC officials were present to educate the public, especially those involved in agriculture, livestock, and fishing, about environmental conservation.

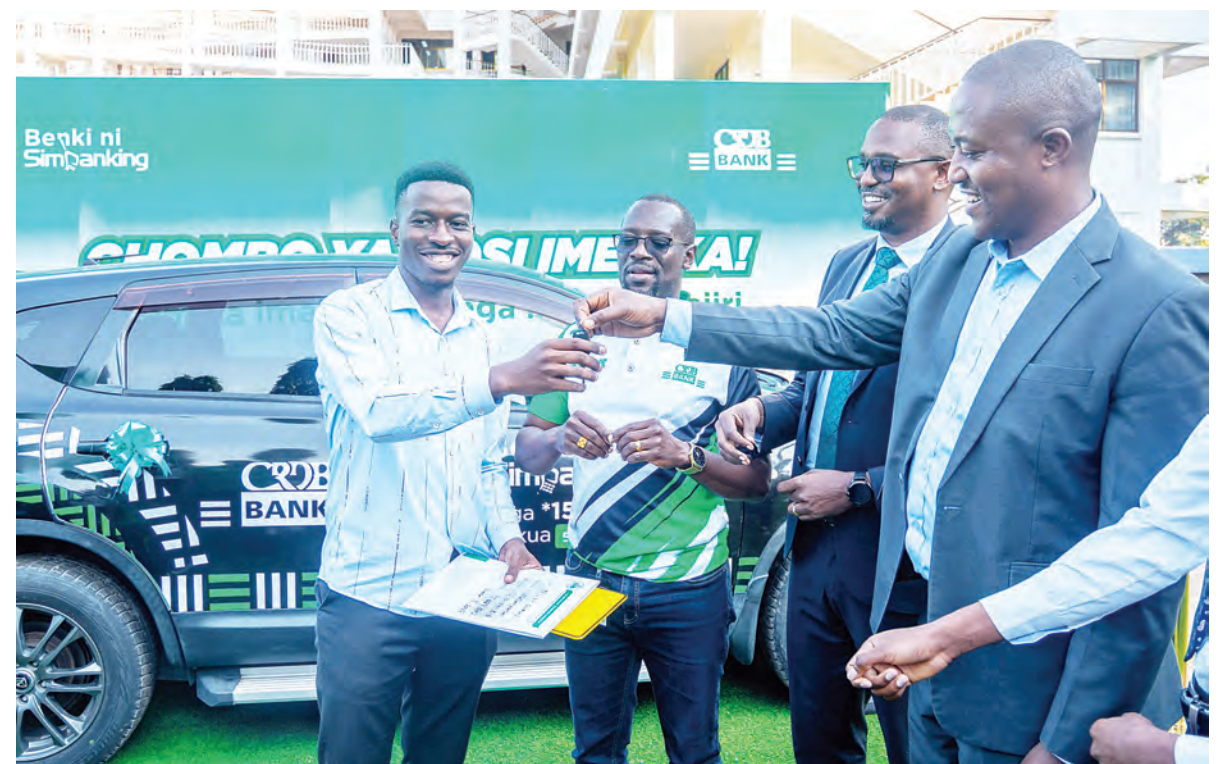
He called on the public to visit the authority's offices to receive environmental education and learn how to conduct development activities that preserve and protect the environment.

"We also provide Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) education for various investors, including farmers, to ensure good investments and avoid environmental impact issues if these activities are conducted without an environmental impact assessment," Murunya said.

"We'll continue to educate the public about the ban on plastic bags, and noise pollution above acceptable levels, and address environmental complaints from various people."

Opening the expo over the weekend, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Dotto Bitekio urged various government institutions involved in agriculture, livestock, and fishing to educate stakeholders on environmental conservation.

He said that for agriculture to be sustainable, it is essential for farmers to be taught modern techniques that will enable them to produce without harming the environment, including conservation farming.



Anza Lema (R), a students' advisor with the Moshi-based KCMC University of Health Sciences, presents a prize car to Hussein Hamisi Hamadi (L) in the municipality the weekend. Looking on are CRDB Bank Business manager for the northern regions, David Peter (2nd-R), and the bank's KCMC branch manager, Selestine Mchome. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Zanzibar, CAU team up to equip rural youth with relevant skills

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Trade and Industrial Development Ministry in collaboration with China Agricultural University (CAU) has launched a project aimed at empowering young entrepreneurs in rural areas. This initiative focuses on investing in the skills and mentorship of youth to utilize existing opportunities in rural areas and boost the economy.

Zanzibar Trade and Industrial Development Minister Omar Said Shabani stated that there are many untapped opportunities in rural areas because young people lack awareness of how to use these opportunities for developmental activities.

Therefore, the project will start by providing entrepreneurship training in China to 15 youths.

He urged the youth to seize the opportunity to learn, noting that China has advanced significantly in youth development, and history shows that even Tanzania's Ujamaa villages, established by Mwalimu Nyerere, were inspired by ideas from China. He said that China utilises its available resources to add value, so these youths will become good ambassadors for their peers by contributing to developmental activities.

"This programme, led by the China Agricultural University in partnership with the Tencent Sustainable Community Value Organization, is proof of the power of international cooperation in driving meaningful community-building changes," he said. He also mentioned that the program will enhance agricultural production, promote sustainable practices, and ultimately contribute to the economic prosperity of Zanzibar.

Fatma Khamis, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of

Trade and Industrial Development, stated that using the expertise of the China Agricultural University will enable small entrepreneurs to thrive in the competitive international market.

She noted that the programme provides essential resources such as quality seeds, modern agricultural equipment, and technological tools. These resources are crucial for boosting agricultural production and ensuring that small entrepreneurs can implement innovative and sustainable farming practices.

"We are committed to promoting agricultural practices that not only increase production but also protect our environment. By encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly methods, we aim to ensure the long-term viability of our agricultural activities and safeguard natural resources that are vital for our lives," said the Secretary.


Prof. Li Xiaoyun, CAU Lead Chair, remarked that Zanzibar is well-known for its spice agriculture and thus presents a good opportunity to support youth development and enhance the country's economy.

One of the entrepreneurs in Zanzibar, Makame Chumu Shaali, said that this opportunity is crucial, especially in today's world of science and technology, and will provide a chance to learn about Zanzibar's economy, particularly in rural areas.

He added that it will also enhance his expertise in education and make him proficient in blue economy and agriculture analysis, considering that China has advanced in agricultural and developmental sectors. Thus, the education gained will enable him to be a good ambassador to his peers, utilising rural opportunities for economic advancement.



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), receives gift on Sunday on behalf of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa from Bishop Raphael Reuben Haule of the Ruvuma Diocese. It was on the sidelines of a Thanksgiving service relating to contributions made to support a construction project at Lituhi's St. Mary's Anglican Church in Ruvuma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

 WWF Tanzania Country Office  
Plot 252, Kiko/White Star Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni  
P O Box 63117, Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania

Tel: 255 22 270077  
Fax: 255 22 277535  
info@wwftz.org  
www.wwftz.org

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP INSURANCE SERVICE - FOR WWF TANZANIA OFFICE VEHICLES 2024/25

- WWF Tanzania County Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
  - Conserving the world's biological diversity.
  - Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
  - Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

- WWF Tanzania is looking for eligible, reputable and well-established insurance firm that will provide insurance services to WWF Tanzania Motor Vehicles for the period of November 2024 to October 2025

- Interested eligible bidders should submit their **combined technical & financial proposal in a single document**. Insurance being regulated business under TIRA, applicant will be required to show details of premium charged for comprehensive insurance per vehicle plus other benefits attached to this offer. The successful applicant will be provided with the number of vehicles for final aggregated bid

- The email heading should clearly read **"INSURANCE FOR WWF OFFICE MOTOR VEHICLES FOR NOVEMBER 2024 - OCTOBER 2025"**.

- Please note that, only electronic applications/proposals properly filled, should be send through procurement email at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) to reach us by or before 1000hrs local time, Tuesday 20th August 2024, DETAILED advert is also accessible through WWF website at [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/) Please, address your application to:

**Secretary  
Procurement Committee,  
WWF Tanzania,  
Plot # 252 Mikocheni, Kiko/White Star St. Off Mwai Kibaki Rd  
Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Web: [wwf.or.tz](http://wwf.or.tz)**

Late applications, portion of applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance (please, remember that, only electronic applications will be accepted)

- The applicant who passes the preliminary evaluation, will be availed with the WWF Tanzania Vehicle list for final quotation
- Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted **and that**; only successful applicant shall be contacted.
- WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org)





## Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) USAID Tuwajali Watoto Project

### Terms of Reference – for Reviewing USAID Tuwajali Watoto project implementation from February 2023 to September 2024

**Submission Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

#### 1.1 Background

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body established in 1992 by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), to coordinate and strengthen the delivery of health and education services by member churches in Tanzania.

CSSC coordinates a network of more than 900 church-owned health facilities, the majority of which are rural-based and cover nearly 14% of all health facilities in Tanzania. These include 103 (37 council-designated hospitals, 54 voluntary agency hospitals, 10 regional referral hospitals, and 2 zonal referral hospitals), 129 health centers, and 515 dispensaries. In addition, member churches own 54 middle-cadre health training institutions (HTIs), or nearly 40% of the middle-cadre training institutions in the country; In contrast, 2 church universities and 3 constituent colleges contribute to more than 50% of the overall health workforce produced in the country.

Concerning education, CSSC coordinates the services of more than 1000 Church-based education institutions, including 22 universities/constituent colleges, 9 teacher training colleges, 96 vocational training centers, 373 secondary schools, 50 seminaries, 268 primary schools, and 404 registered pre-primary schools. Together, they provide 10% of all education services offered in Tanzania.

#### 1.1 Vision

CSSC envisions a society in which all people have equal access to quality education and health

#### 1.2 Mission

To facilitate the delivery of quality health and education services by member Churches in Tanzania, through advocacy, capacity building, partnerships, and cost-effective interventions, with the compassion and love of Christ.

#### 1. USAID TUWAJALI WATOTO PROJECT

USAID Tuwajali Watoto project is implemented by the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services and Afya Plus. The overall goal of the project is to improve the status of pregnant and breastfeeding women, HIV-exposed infants, and C/LHIV in Tanzania through increased access to quality integrated comprehensive child-centered care and services. One of the objectives is to strengthen national policies and systems to enhance linkage and bi-directional referral systems to optimize resources for children and adolescents. This project will provide an independent evaluation specialist to assess the project's effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

#### 1. Overall Objective;

CSSC is seeking an evaluation specialist to support the evaluation of the implementation, outcomes, and impacts of the USAID Tuwajali Watoto project from February 2023 to September 2024 and help in presenting the data & results of the project outcome strategically. The outcome report will serve as the guiding document to achieve and showcase the impact of the project in the provision of technical assistance to the clinical implementing partners named USAID Afya Yangu South, USAID Afya Yangu North, Kizazi Hodari North and Kizazi Hodari South, GoT and one supported health facility (COE). Evaluation specialist will assist CSSC in analyzing & presenting results in a strategic way for the organization to thrive in a competitive environment as one of the credible and strongest local organizations in fulfilling its mandate of serving the community.

#### Specific Objectives:

- To evaluate how the program's technical assistance has enhanced access to and the quality of health services, leading to improved outcomes for children and adolescents living with HIV and TB.
- To evaluate the impact of the mentorship program on healthcare providers' capacity to deliver quality care.
- To assess the influence of strengthened national policies and systems on improving outcomes for children and adolescents affected by HIV, examining the impact on service delivery and health outcomes.
- To determine the effectiveness of COEs in modeling comprehensive care for children and adolescents living with HIV, in delivering quality integrated comprehensive child-centered care.
- To identify critical lessons learned from program implementation, including challenges faced, successful strategies employed, and areas for improvement in delivering comprehensive child-centered health services.
- To provide recommendations for future programming, focusing on addressing gaps, leveraging successful approaches, and adapting to evolving needs and contexts.
- To assess the project's sustainability plan for ensuring the continuation of interventions after project funding ends.

#### 2. Scope of Work

The evaluator will encompass the following activities across the three key project results;

#### Result 1: Expanded Access to Quality Services

- Quantitative Analysis:** Analyze trends in HIV testing, viral load coverage, and suppression rates for children in target regions (North/Central vs. South) compared to baseline and post-intervention.
- Quantitative Analysis:** Track changes in PMTCT service uptake (maternal retesting, EID at 2 months, outcome) after facility mentorship.
- Qualitative Analysis:** Conduct interviews with key stakeholders to understand the impact of the mentorship program on service delivery.
  - Assess the impact of PMTCT and Ped ART mentorship training done to the district mentors.
- Client Satisfaction Surveys:** Assess caregiver and adolescent satisfaction with services at Mbeya COE.

#### Result 2: Strengthened National Policies and Systems

- Policy Analysis:** Assess the project's contribution to national guideline development and adoption.
- Process Evaluation:** Track the development process of the Pediatric HIV Quality of Care standards.
- Capacity Assessment:** Assess healthcare facilities' capacity to implement the new quality-of-care standards.
- Outcome Evaluation:** Compare the quality of care indicators before and after implementing the standards in selected facilities.

#### Result 3: Quality Care at Pediatric COE (Mbeya)

- Quantitative Analysis:** Analyze trends in HIV testing at Mbeya COE disaggregated by modality.
- Quantitative Analysis:** Compare LTFU rates among RoC enrolled in the OVC program vs. RoC not enrolled in the OVC program.
- Quantitative Analysis:** Analyze the association between adherence counseling and viral load suppression.
- Qualitative Analysis:** Conduct interviews with community case workers and adolescents living with HIV to understand challenges and adherence factors.
- Comparative Analysis:** Compare Mbeya COE's performance data pre-project vs. during the project.
- Case study:** Conduct interviews with the recipient of care at the Mbeya COE to capture outstanding success stories, impact, and changes brought about by the project in the lives of targeted beneficiaries.

#### 3. Expected Deliverables

- A comprehensive report outlining the methodology, results, discussion, and recommendation to improve the provision of quality service in Tanzania.
- Presentation of findings and recommendations to stakeholders (government agencies, implementing partners) to utilize findings for strategic decision-making and program improvements.

#### 4. Evaluation Criteria

The following key questions will guide the Final Evaluation's assessment of the project against the DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance which should be applied to all project-specific objectives and indicators:

- Relevance:** The extent to which the project was suited to the priorities of the target beneficiary group(s), stakeholders, and the donor.
  - To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid?
  - Was the project relevant to the identified needs?
  - Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives?
  - Were the inputs and strategies identified, and were they realistic, appropriate, and adequate to achieve the

results?

- To what extent are the project activities and outputs consistent with the intended goal, project objectives, and indicators?

- Effectiveness:** The extent to which the project attained its objectives.
  - To what extent were the goals, objectives/outcomes, and indicators (detailed quantitative and qualitative data for every indicator) achieved or are likely to be achieved by the end of the project period? Why / Why not?
  - What could have been done differently to be more effective? What is to be improved?
  - To what extent have the project interventions contributed to national plans and strategies on health in Tanzania? What could have been done differently?
  - How effective was the project advocacy to improve national frames and guidelines for health? What could have been done differently?
  - How did the project contribute to the achievement of these objectives/outcomes and indicators?
  - Has the Mbeya Center of Excellence (COE) model effectively demonstrated quality comprehensive child-centered care?
- Efficiency:** The extent to which the project used the least costly resources possible to achieve desired results, considering outputs about inputs.
  - Has the collaboration with relevant stakeholders at all levels improved the project efficiency? If yes, how? If not, why? How to improve.
  - Has the collaboration with the districts, regional, and national authorities improved the efficiency of the health impact of the CLHIV in the implemented Regions? If yes, how? If not, why? And how to improve.
  - Did the project face any obstacles (financial, administratively), and to what extent has this affected its efficiency? How to solve, and improve?
  - To what extent did the project collaborate with national and sub-national partners and stakeholders (technical, advocacy, funding, etc.) to achieve results?

- Impact:** The positive and negative changes produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.
  - What changes has the project brought at national and local levels? Consider the lives of the final beneficiaries and policy change. The changes could be directly or indirectly, positive or negative, intended or unintended.
  - Is the project supporting the government to reach its goals? should the project continue, what should be improved? why? and how to improve.
  - How do the staff and beneficiaries of the project evaluate the services they have received? Are they satisfied? Was it good? If yes, what was good and why? If not, what was not good and why? what and how to improve.

- Sustainability:** The extent to which the benefits (outputs, outcomes) of the project are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.
  - To what extent are the project results likely to be sustained after the project ends?
  - To what extent will the benefits of continuing the interventions after the completion of the project?
  - To what extent are the positive changes of the project likely to continue beyond the end of the project period?
  - How likely will the project's positive changes and impact continue at the national level after the end of donor funding?
  - How effective were the exit strategies and approaches to phase out activities provided by the project, including contributing factors and constraints?

#### 5. Timeline:

A detailed project timeline will be developed outlining the completion dates for all deliverables.

#### 6. Reporting:

Regular progress reports will be submitted to the client. A final report will be submitted at the project's conclusion, summarizing all findings and recommendations.

#### 7. Confidentiality:

All data collected during this project will be kept confidential.

**These Terms of Reference are a preliminary document and may be subject to change based on further discussions and project requirements.**

#### 8. Profile/Qualifications of Consultant(s)

The evaluation specialist should be legally established, qualified in preparation of SPs, report writing, and data management, and with relevant experience with similar assignments (i.e., must have handled at least three similar engagements with private or government organizations). Specifically, should have

- Qualifications:** PhD or master's degree in public health, Corporate Management, Social Sciences, strategic leadership, or a related field.
- Experience:** 10+ years of experience in developing strategic plans, and national and international public health evaluation, with expertise in qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
- Strong familiarity with HIV programming and Tanzanian health and education sector priorities, policies, strategic plans, and guidelines.**
- Proven track record of working collaboratively and effectively in tasks of a similar nature.**
- Proficient in English with excellent command, strong leadership, project management, and communication skills.**

#### 9. Application Package and Procedures

Applications for the consultancy must include seven components.

- Cover letter
- Detailed technical proposal demonstrating a thorough understanding of this ToR and including the following:
  - Demonstrated previous experience in coordinating and administering studies of a similar nature;
  - Proposed steps to be taken for enumerator training, translation of tools (if necessary), data collection, spot-checking, data entry, and management (risk mitigation and data quality assurance);
  - A proposed timeframe detailing activities and a schedule/work plan (including a Gantt chart) with the proposed number of enumerators, size of enumerator teams, and the total number of days in the field;
  - Team composition (including sex-disaggregation) and level of effort of each proposed team member, if applicable.
- A financial proposal with a detailed breakdown of costs for the assignment:
  - Itemized consultancy fees/costs
  - Itemized field data collection expenses
  - Itemized data transcriptions costs
  - Itemized administrative expenses
- Curriculum Vitae(s) of all proposed staff outlining relevant experience.
- Names and contact information of three references who can be contacted regarding relevant experience.
- A soft copy of previous reports of a similar nature.
- Completed applications should be submitted electronically to: the Christian Social Services Commission using the email address: [procurement@cssc.or.tz](mailto:procurement@cssc.or.tz) copying [director@cssc.or.tz](mailto:director@cssc.or.tz). With the subject line: 'USAID Tuwajali Watoto project'. The closing date for submission of the application package is the end of the business day on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

**Executive Director  
Christian Social Services Commission  
4 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road  
P.O Box 9433 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

The deadline for the submission is **1600hrs East Africa Time on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

All proposals should be electronically submitted to [procurement@cssc.or.tz](mailto:procurement@cssc.or.tz) copying [director@cssc.or.tz](mailto:director@cssc.or.tz)

This advert can also be accessed through <https://cssc.or.tz/>



TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Ruvuma Basin riparian states can do with an agro-sector investment zone

A ZONE that by its size and resources could make a difference in regional crop produce and mining logistics, and even potentially for industry, is finally being 'discovered' by top administrators and development agencies.

The Ruvuma River Basin riparian countries - namely, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania - have lately signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of an organisation for managing resources in the basin and oversee its ecology. Even after it was signed, the MoU was still being seen as a reference point for further discussions on basin management cooperation, even as the effort has wider support in the Southern Africa Development Community, working with German aid agency GIZ/TWM.

Other stakeholders include the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Global Water Partnership for Southern Africa - the latter also attractive to WaterNet, a Netherlands water supply agency linked with SADC. A widening of vision is meanwhile available with financing prospects from the Global Environment Facility.

For one thing, donor agencies don't do the 'big dreaming' for the countries with which they engage and conversely take them on their word as to what their priorities are.

Donor agencies may seek amendments if what is being targeted isn't in line with particular aspects of their missions - for instance, if these ignore environmental controls or appear to flout rules of inclusivity that are now integral to project support. None of these issues comes up here, and matters relate to straight lack of imagination due to the strictly inter-governmental sort of concern rather than part of a widening PPP strategy in that sphere too.

A note at the signing ceremony had it that the riparian states' governments will maximise their contributions to the mutual management of the river basin resources, for the use, development, protection, conservation and sustainable management of the basin resources. Had there been an investment strategy being discussed as well, as different from investing in additional infrastructure or formulating common regulations on basin resource use, the outcome would have been different. Still, a gathering of top executives can't venture into private sector inclusion, or tailoring cooperation in that context, unless specifically directed. The lack of tangible development on either side of the river and thus gross under-use of resources in the basin and its immediate hinterland isn't just a development backwater but a major security threat. Those with an axe to grind about who is in power in this or that country picks on backwardness in an area as a mark of negligence and discrimination by those in authority, while a part of the support base sees this situation positively.

Yet it is altogether without question that rural people, much like their urban counterparts, need assured periodic incomes. For a big number of urban residents, that is possible with a viable trading activity or rental income. Those making policies are trying their best to improve agro-sector conditions with subsidised fertiliser, assured markets, soil research and extension advice. However, this could be of good use to investors only if rural dwellers held land on an individual basis, rented it out and got capital for gardening, poultry keeping and other ventures. It is many people's hope that ongoing efforts to that effect will succeed.

## NEMC appeals to local councils on solid waste management tech just skipped PPP

REPORTS have it that the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has pleaded with municipal councils to integrate digital technologies in solid waste management practices.

The idea is to create baseline information to be used for strategic interventions, which basically refers to technical decisions related to waste collection, separation for treatment or simply for destruction. While all technological uplift is good, there is too often a downside on investments involved and whether the problems had in the first place to do with technology.

The idea that councils should go digital was in a sense not very easy to buy, as NEMC as regulator in relation to waste management policy only had to push for a change to have all dumps come under its control for them to seek out investors interested in recycling, power generation, or both.

Definitely, two investors if not more could safely be assigned to a major dump on the basis of tendering and their specific investment objectives.

As these would be helping the government in waste clearing, they could be subjected to minor tax obligations in an otherwise positive encouragement policy to hit two birds with one stone - that is, solving a waste problem while generating cheaper energy say for public institutions.

Digital technologies can truly help in measuring performance and proper planning of waste management in our urban areas, but that doesn't have to be council work as they can't just insert such prerogatives. And even if the councils did so by some scaling method, they would still be doing it for themselves as an interlude to incineration, whereas an investor

would have that information and other concerns as well, depending on what is being done on a dump - energy, recycling, incineration or whatever.

With that, appeals to district or municipal councils to adopt high tech would prove poor targeting.

This appeal was made at a workshop organised by India's Centre for Science and Environment, an environment agency that was hardly looking to educate district or municipal administrators on waste management technology.

There is evident failure here to connect the dots and bring investors to take up such technology and to ask if they already have it is an aspect of lethargic administration tied to the principle that waste management is a council prerogative. So long as a few municipal officials are convinced that they gain from waste administration like hiring vehicles or collecting levies, little is likely to change.

A NEMC director is reported to have said that the regulators know that more efforts are still needed to respond to challenges associated with solid waste management.

That would show that the country faces numerous challenges when dealing with solid waste, including separation, collection, transportation, treatment and financial models.

While this observation is justified, it becomes a problem to be solved through lending strategies and waste management options if directed to private investors.

When directed to town or municipal councils, it becomes just an additional reason for inefficiency, or rationale to spend more public funds rather than seeking out private investors, shielded as they are by generalised preference for excluding investors.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



# UN's Summit of the Future

By Simone Galimberti

PREPARATIONS are ongoing for the upcoming Summit of the Future, probably the most consequential initiative of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres so far.

The gathering, to be seen as a serious attempt at fixing some of the most intricate and enduring issues of our times, could help cement the Secretary General's legacy as an idealistic architect of a stronger and more cohesive multilateral system.

To be held September 22-23, the summit will indeed provide a platform for the international community to discuss ways to strengthen and enhance global governance.

Building on the proposals of Our Common Agenda, the comprehensive blueprint that Guterres (pictured) presented in 2021, the gathering will see member states trying to broker an agreement on how to enhance some of the key pillars of multilateralism, fitter for the purpose.

The list of propositions is in-depth and exhaustive, covering several policy areas, namely Sustainable Development and Financing for Development; International Peace and Security; Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation; Youth and Future Generations; Transforming Global Governance.

Each of these domains contains proposals, from restructuring the way multilateral financing system operates, including ensuring resources for the realization of the SDGs to enabling a stronger global governance centered on stronger mechanisms to prevent conflicts.

They are now under intense negotiations and the final decisions will be contained in the Pact for the Future that is to be approved during the Summit. Yet while the aims and overarching goals of the Summit are nothing but praiseworthy, we should wonder if the proposals being discussed are truly transformational.

Moreover, linked to the above, is the international community engaged and invested enough in the discussions? What about the overall level of involvement and participation of the general public?

For sure, global civil society, from the South and the North, have been proposing a wide ranging of ideas that, if implemented, would represent a radical change.

While there is no doubt that Guterres is really trying to achieve something ambitious, at the same time none of the proposals up to discussion at the Summit for the Future represent truly game changers.

Rather they should be seen for what they are: important steps, potentially even incremental stepping-stones towards much more radical and indispensable changes that the international community still unfortunately resists.



For example, the New Agenda For Peace, that is part of the package, should be considered as an entry point to start a conversation on how to tame future conflicts by promoting "whole-of-society prevention" strategies, doing a better job at protecting civilians during conflicts.

But also in this case, the Pact resembles more a list of principles, like the commitment, one of many, of "advancing with urgency discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems" rather than truly actionable proposals.

It also focuses on strengthening mechanisms to manage disputes and improve trust, something that never can be discounted. Yet, it is harder imagining how to advance consensus on this contentious area in a time where geopolitical tensions and rivalries are rising.

But there is one priority domain for which Guterres deserves praise: putting youths first and at the center of his plans. What is noticeable is an attempt at re-thinking and re-booting the whole decision-making system by involving and engaging youths.

But, at the same time, also in this case, it is difficult to envisage any real changes beyond the semi-tokenistic proposals of Guterres like reinforcing the UN agencies' current modalities of working with youths. The Declaration on Future Generations, a sort of charter of rights for youths, is unquestionably and symbolically significant but is still far from being a truly bold and transformative and lack enforcement.

Instead, what the global civil society that, to the credit of Guterres, has been fully involved and engaged in the negotiations of the Summit of the Future, is proposing is not only inspiring but also what the world is desperately in need of.

Indeed the People's Pact for the Future, brought together by a wide ranging coalition of civil society organizations, The Coalition for the UN We need, is rich of daring ideas. It is exciting to read about establishing not only a UN Parliamentary Assembly but also other audacious solutions like creating mechanisms to involve citizens in the decisions making related to the UN, including a UN World Citizens' Initiative.

In comparison, the propositions being discussed by the member states in the Pact for the Future are substantially too timid and, in no way, are transformative nor radical as they should be. But to me the most problematic aspect is not the inevitable lack of ambition of Guterres's project.

After all, it was unavoidable that many details in implementing his vision, would have been constrained and limited by the complexities of international relations. What instead is disappointing is the fact that that any global meeting of such importance

for the future of humanity, should have also been radical in involving the citizens of the world.

The truth is, instead, grim: despite the good intentions and a real effort at involving the civil society, there is a widespread unawareness about the whole initiative among the people. In plain terms, amidst the public, there is total lack of knowledge and information about the Summit and its agenda.

The vast majority of youths who should be leading the discussions, have not been involved as they should have been. Most of them do still ignore the Summit of the Future and the negotiations around it. I do not doubt that, all over the world, the UN Country Offices might have tried to engage and consult some of them in some discussions.

But the magnitude of the initiative and the topics to be discussed, no matter how, at the end of the day, are dealt with weakened and flawed propositions, should have deserved much a stronger participation of youths.

The United Nations, in partnerships with civil society organizations in the South and North of the world, should have planned and carried out a much more robust exercise in terms of consulting and engaging young people.

Imagine how transformative would have been to organize consultations at school levels where students could have discussed their priorities and come up with their own solutions. With the proper political will and preparation, such exercises could have represented a new benchmark in terms of innovative ways of consulting and engaging with youths.

The hope is that the efforts being put to organize the Summit of the Future and the energies being spent to negotiate the Pact for the Future, will at least open a new chapter not only at nudging nations to deal with complex issues but at doing so through a completely novel bottom-up approach.

Indeed, the Summit of the Future might be remembered not for what will have achieved. Instead, the whole process that had started with Our Common Agenda, could be remembered for heralding an era where tough issues are tackled differently and more inclusively.

Engaging and involving those who, at the moment, are excluded from the decision making, the people and among them, especially the youths, should become the moral imperative to overcome the biggest challenges faced by humanity.

This is what the immense and far-ranging agenda being pushed by Guterres should be probably remembered for.

**Simone Galimberti writes about the SDGs, youth-centered policy-making and a stronger and better United Nations.**



By Guardian Correspondent

# Bridging the gaps: Role of digital technology in strengthening healthcare provision in Tanzania

**T**ANZANIA, a country facing significant health-care challenges, has been grappling with preventable child and maternal deaths, as well as unintended pregnancies, especially among adolescents. According to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 2015, more than 600,000 children under five die annually from preventable causes, alongside 9,000 maternal deaths.

The country's healthcare system has long struggled with limited resources and fragmented service delivery, necessitating innovative solutions to bridge these gaps.

In recent years, Tanzania has embraced digital technology to address these challenges, particularly through initiatives like Afya-Tek. Launched in August 2020, Afya-Tek is a digitally enabled, people-centered community healthcare system that aims to improve the coordination of care between community health workers (CHWs), primary health facilities, and private drug shops, known locally as Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs). This initiative, supported by Foundation Botnar, is a pioneering effort to harness emerging digital tools to strengthen the continuum of care in Kibaha District, Tanzania.

## The promise of digital health technology

Dr. Angel Sing, the Apotheker Director of Programs and Operations and Afya-Tek Principal Investigator, emphasizes the transformative potential of digital technologies in healthcare.

"Digital technologies and their application to healthcare have the potential to improve efficiency, lower overall costs, and streamline the workload of healthcare professionals," Dr. Angel explains. "Digitizing the flow of information can increase coordination between different levels and providers in the continuum, bringing preventive and curative care closer to communities and strengthening the overall health system in Tanzania."

According to her, the goal of the digital initiative is to reduce maternal and child deaths and improve adolescent health by digitally linking private drug shops, primary health facilities, and community health workers.

It is noted that this kind of ecosystem leverages cutting-edge technology, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and biometric identification, to deliver personalized, high-quality healthcare. For instance, Afya-Tek creates unique IDs for patients, enabling accurate identification and quick access to their health records. This technology enhances the efficiency of healthcare delivery, ensuring that patients receive timely and coordinated care.

## A community-centric approach

Dr. Angel explained that the project's implementation in Kibaha District involved extensive community engagement, including sensitization of local leaders and training of CHWs, ADDOs, and health facility staff.

"In fact, it has trained nearly 500 system users and registered over 255,000 individuals, significantly improving access to healthcare. The initiative has also recorded over 100,000 visits to private drug shops and achieved a referral completion rate of 90 percent, three times higher than typical health programs," she affirmed.

For her, this success underscores the importance of digital solutions in overcoming traditional healthcare barriers, such as distance and resource limitations.

Dostea Lunyungu, a CHW in Visiga village located in Kibaha District, Coast Region, highlights the impact of the digital system on service delivery: "The digital (Afya-Tek) device has improved the ease of access to commu-



Afya-Tek harnesses emerging digital tools to better connect health system actors.

nity services where they are needed."

Dostea has been instrumental in providing health education and advice to young people, particularly regarding substance abuse. "I have been able to provide various health-related education and advice to young people, particularly about the effects of drug use and cannabis smoking. This has led some individuals to completely stop using these substances. I have successfully addressed various challenges faced by young people, especially by facilitating access to health treatment when they become ill or contract a disease," she noted.

## Empowering adolescents and families

Afya-Tek has proven particularly beneficial for adolescents, a demographic often underserved in healthcare systems. The program has reached nearly 28,000 adolescents, providing them with vital health information and services.

Dostea shares how the project has helped engage young people in health education and treatment saying: "Since the linkage between CHW, ADDO, and health facilities, young people have gained numerous benefits. They now have access to tailored education and are guided to appropriate services, with their progress closely monitored."

For residents like Mariam, a mother of three from Visiga in the Kibaha Coast Region, Afya-Tek has been a lifeline. "Before Afya-Tek, accessing healthcare was a struggle," Mariam recalls. "Now, with the digital system, my children and I receive timely care. The CHWs are always there to guide us, and we no longer have to worry about long waits at the clinic."

## A lifeline for teen mothers

One of the most vulnerable groups in the healthcare system is adolescent mothers, who often face significant challenges accessing care and support. Sharing her experience, Amina Athuman, a 17-year-old mother from Visiga said: "Before Afya-Tek, I felt alone and unsure about how to care for my baby. The CHWs have been a great support, providing me with essential health information and guiding me through my pregnancy and after the birth of my child."

Amina's story is a testament to the program's impact on young mothers, who benefit from the timely and coordinated care facilitated by Afya-Tek. The system has helped Amina access prenatal and postnatal care, vaccinations for her baby, and information on proper nutrition and child-rearing practices.

"Afya-Tek has given me the confidence to take care of my child and myself," she reflects. "I feel more supported and informed."

## Strengthening the continuum of care

The initiative's holistic approach has not only improved health outcomes but also fostered a sense of community among healthcare providers and residents. The program's emphasis on connecting CHWs, ADDOs, and health facilities has created a seamless continuum of care, ensuring that patients receive the right treatment at the right time. This integration has reduced the likelihood of misdiagnosis and treatment delays, common issues in fragmented healthcare systems. Moreover, the data-driven nature of Afya-Tek allows for continuous monitoring and evaluation, providing valuable insights into community health trends and needs. This informa-

tion is crucial for shaping effective health policies and interventions, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all.

## A collaborative effort

The program's success is a testament to the power of collaboration. The program's co-design approach, involving CHWs, drug dispensers, health facility staff, and government health management teams, has been crucial for its successful adoption. The government's involvement, along with public health partners, has ensured alignment with national health strategies. The Tanzanian Pharmacy Council's endorsement of the system further underscores its potential to strengthen public sector collaboration.

The need for educational opportunities for CHWs and coordination of healthcare in Kibaha, challenges remain, particularly in the area of educational opportunities for community health workers (CHWs).

Dostea highlights a crucial issue: "Many CHWs, including myself, are passionate about our work and are qualified to further our education. However, there are limited opportunities and sponsorships available from the government to pursue advanced studies in healthcare."

Dostea's plea underscores a broader concern within the community; lack of access to further education and training can limit the potential of CHWs to provide more comprehensive care. "We need more educational opportunities to enhance our skills and knowledge," she adds. "This would enable us to offer even better services to our communities and help address the complex health challenges they face."

## Looking ahead

Afya-Tek's achievements mark a significant milestone in Tanzania's healthcare journey, but the work is far from over. The program plans to further integrate with the national health system, enhancing its digital infrastructure and expanding its reach.

Future initiatives will include research on healthcare barriers in low- and middle-income countries, with a focus on additional health areas such as non-communicable diseases, COVID-19, Ebola, Polio, HIV, and TB.

In a world where access to quality healthcare remains a challenge for many, digital health technologies like Afya-Tek offer a beacon of hope. As Dr. Angel aptly puts it, "Imagine a world where everyone has access to quality healthcare, no matter where they live. Digital health technologies, if applied correctly, can contribute to making this vision a reality by overcoming traditional barriers like distance and limited resources."

As Tanzania continues to navigate its healthcare challenges, the lessons learned from Afya-Tek hold promise not only for the country but for other nations facing similar issues. By harnessing the power of digital technology, Tanzania is paving the way for a future where healthcare is accessible, efficient, and equitable for all.

# Attaining desirable level of development: Need for individuals to know the value of what they possess

By Thomas Lyimo

**D**UE to their gifts of critical thinking, reasoning, and creativity, human beings have the potential to lead lives that are different from other creatures. The more knowledge one possesses, the greater their responsibility to act differently. Humans are capable of civilization because they can be educated, and as such, they are expected to enjoy good living conditions. This includes access to clean and safe water, quality medical care, a balanced diet and better shelter.

When individuals understand the value of what they possess, they can truly appreciate and utilize these assets. This appreciation and proper use of possessions is a manifestation of social welfare. Knowing the value of one's possessions encourages their responsible use, which can enhance an individual's well-being.

It is crucial for people to balance their expenditures and manage their time effectively. Actions that an individual takes can shape their destiny, highlighting the interconnection between social welfare and one's future.

There is an aspect of awareness when we talk about people's welfare. An individual can possess all the resources for welfare but if they are not aware of what they retain they may not attain their desirable level of development.

The way someone reacts to challenges using the resources they possess determines the outcomes. When the society is faced with challenges, it is important to come up with solutions. The value of thinking ability that people retain is seen when critical thinking is used to solve problems that face the society and by using the available resources.

It is important for people to work together when finding solutions to various challenges in the society. There must be joint efforts to mitigate problems that face the society so that social welfare can be attained. The manifestation of social welfare is in the improvement of the living standards of people.

Some challenges need only some ideas to make them perish. This makes it necessary for the society to embrace knowledge to be free from some challenges. Ignorance may cause fear among individuals making them lack composure. Lack of composure reduces comfort among individuals, thus causing emotional challenges which prevent social welfare. There is no social welfare if individuals are not healthier. Health comprises emo-



tional wellbeing.

Social welfare is within the capability of the society which can do the following to ensure every individual enjoys better social services.

One of the ways in which the society can promote social welfare is through provision of financial assistance. There are some situations which demand money and nothing else. For instance when

someone is sick and needs medical treatment what can help them is financial assistance so that they are able to pay for medicines and diagnosis.

When someone recovers from illness he can properly thus contributes to the country's development. At times, the society should assist those in need of medical treatment.

Another way to promote social welfare

is by providing psychological assistance. Many individuals face challenges that leave them feeling low in spirit and desperate, making them less productive in society. These individuals need consolation and encouragement to continue pursuing their life goals.

Providing them with energy and motivation can help them become functional and operational again. Offering guidance

and direction on how to renew their lives can greatly benefit the society. Talk therapy can be particularly effective, and extending socialization efforts can help heal these individuals and make them more effective members of the community.

Additionally, providing education and knowledge can significantly enhance societal welfare. Some people struggle in life simply because they lack the necessary knowledge. When they are empowered to think differently, their challenges can be resolved, leading to smoother lives.

Knowledge is power, and the solutions to social problems that lie within the capabilities of society itself. When disseminated, knowledge becomes a tool for socio-economic transformation. Encouraging the spread of knowledge can lead to the emancipation of society, ultimately fostering social welfare.

The use of polite language helps in retaining social welfare. Some individuals have been depressed due to harsh words spoken against them. Avoiding the use of harsh language against others may help prevent the society from a number of problems. It is crucial for the society to know that harsh language is harmful to social welfare.

No one is self-sufficient. Human beings depend on each other; thus helping one another is significant. Collective effort in the society can mitigate a lot of challenges. Sometimes people suffer because they lack understanding on how to benefit from good social relations. Efforts should be towards placing social relations in a way that can boost socio-economic development. We need to benefit from one another to make life more meaningful.

**The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com**



By Carolyn Cowan

# Agroforestry offers Thai rubber farmers sure pathway to profit and sustainability

LITTLE by little, the canopy of branches and interlocking leaves closes overhead as our vehicle rolls deeper into the plantation. Pakamart Tongkam points from the driver's seat into the stark thicket of rubber trees that now surround us: "When I was a child, I slept out there in a small hut while my mum and dad worked in the plantation through the night."

Several years later, as an adolescent, Pakamart helped her parents with their daily rubber tapping. The routine was grueling, she tells Mongabay during a visit to Nathawi district in southern Thailand's Songkhla province, a heartland of rubber production. Rising at 2 a.m., the family would trek through the humid plantation to strip the bark of hundreds of individual rubber trees to collect the milky latex.

Most of all, Pakamart recalls an overriding air of uncertainty: if it rained during the two-hour window of time it took for the latex to drip into the collection bowls, the entire day's yield would be ruined: "No income for that day," she says. Relying on a single crop meant such poor harvests were devastating for their livelihood.

But despite the precarious conditions, rubber farming is a major source of income for more than a million small-holder farmers in Thailand, who together produce 90 percent of the country's sizeable annual yields of natural rubber.

Rubber has historically been a major driver of deforestation across Southeast Asia. And with recent studies show-

ing that at least 2 million hectares (5 million acres) of forest have been lost to the crop since 2000, it ranks high on the global list of commodities most responsible for forest loss, behind beef, soy and palm oil.

Thailand produced more than 4.7 million metric tons of natural rubber in 2022, accounting for one-third of global supplies and making it by far the world's largest rubber producer. Yet the small-scale farmers who drive this gargantuan industry are grappling with mounting challenges ranging from crop diseases and soil erosion to unstable market prices, plus the impacts of climate change. As a result, many struggle to make ends meet, and often carry significant debt.

"These days, farmers cannot get enough income to care for their families from latex alone," Pakamart says. "Weather patterns are shifting. Last year, rubber farmers could tap only about 100 days out of 365 days in the year."

## Agroforestry gaining momentum

Much of Thailand's lowland tropical forests were cleared decades ago to make way for the booming rubber industry. Deforestation peaked in the 1990s as commercial rubber



Latex is tapped daily, usually in the middle of the night while temperatures are low enough to avoid coagulation. Farmers strip a narrow channel of bark to stimulate the latex which is then collected in a small bowl.

monoculture plantations and their associated road networks sprang up, driven largely by policies at the time that incentivized the practice. The landscape of the southern provinces, where the warm, humid climate is favorable for growing rubber trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*), were dramatically transformed from natural forest to a patchwork of plantations.

Alongside the highway between Hat Yai city and rural Nathawi district, the legacy of deforestation is plain to see. Regiments of rubber trees file relentlessly past the car window. Within, the plantations look dark and sterile, mostly devoid of understory vegetation due to the high use of agrochemicals. The small pockets of natural forest that remain typically cling to hillside slopes that are too steep to cultivate, or else hang on within the obscure confines of state-managed military land.

The economic inequities and ecological devastation of the rubber industry are not lost on Pakamart. Following her stint in her parents' plantation, she earned a science degree at Prince of Songkhla University and is now managing farmer training programs at the Rubber Agroforestry Sustainability Foundation (RASf), an enterprise set up in 2021 to promote rubber farms' sustainability and resilience through agroforestry.

Agroforestry combines useful trees with shrubs, annual crops and herbs in a system where they can benefit from their close association to produce food, fiber, timber and medicine while supporting biodiversity, building soil and water levels, and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Recently, Thailand's agroforestry movement received a big boost when the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), an industry association that aims to develop a sustainable rubber supply chain, announced funding to train 1,000 farmers based in southern Thailand in the environmentally friendlier farming practice by 2025. The GPSNR agroforestry initiative, funded by tire manufacturer Michelin and carmaker Renault as part of their sustainability portfolios, has been running since 2022. RASf is leading the effort to roll out the training events under the initiative across six provinces. Alongside technical advice, Pakamart and her colleagues are linking farmers with sources of native timber seedlings from the government's forestry department, and are hosting trainings to raise awareness of which crops to plant and what standards farmers will need to meet to sell their product to the more profitable sustainable rubber market.

## 'Bring the forest to the farms'

A major challenge facing RASf and other similar initiatives in Thailand is convincing farmers who have long practiced monoculture farming to change their approach, because timeworn beliefs can run deep. RASf works with roughly 270 small-scale farmers in southern Thailand, many of whom previously thought agroforestry would harm their latex yields, for instance.

Sara has worked alongside rubber agroforestry farmers for several dec-

ades to compare agroforestry and monoculture outcomes. Various looking at the soil community and composition, nutrient turnover rates, carbon sequestration, and the diversity of bats and birds, he has found that even relatively simple intercropping systems resulted in improved outcomes. "We have more and more research evidence, and we can use this to inform farmers," he says.

Crucially, he's found that latex yields don't suffer in agroforestry systems. And in some cases, agroforestry yields can outstrip that of monoculture, with trees remaining productive for longer. While a monoculture rubber farm will become unproductive and have to be clear-cut and replanted after about 20 years, Sara has seen 40-year-old agroforestry plots continue to produce ample quantities of latex. Thus, even though there are fewer rubber trees in an agroforestry plot compared to monoculture – to make space for a diversity of other crops – rubber tree longevity is higher, and productivity per tree in such systems is typically about the same as those in monocultures, or even higher.

Sara estimates that about 50 percent of the previously exploited area of Kho Hong Hill is now in recovery as a result of the action of the farmers and the conservation group, who continue to work together with the support of RASf, which grew out of the work of the researchers on Kho Hong Hill.

## Tangible farming gains

Sujitra Tongpradab, 56, manages one of the agroforestry plots on Kho Hong Hill. She's farmed rubber for 41 years, a skill she learned from her parents and that has passed from generation to generation in her family. She chose to switch to agroforestry from her heritage of monoculture rubber 11 years ago, and hasn't looked back. In particular, she values the year-round availability of produce. When the rubber latex can't be harvested during the three months of the wet season, she instead harvests fruits, bamboo shoots, and a herb called pak riang, a key ingredient in local coconut-based curries. "The market to sell fruits, herbs and vegetables is always open, all year round," Sujitra tells Mongabay. "We can always rely on this other productivity."

While rubber trees form the basis of her agroforestry system – the latex from which accounts for roughly 80 percent of Sujitra's monthly income – she intercropped high-value timber and fruit trees within the rubber tree canopy. Stately ironwood, phayom and agarwood trees stand alongside mature coconut palms and fruit trees like santol, mangosteen and limeberry.

## Agroforestry's premium price

While Sujitra attributes her consistent income in part to the diversity of year-round produce in her agroforestry plots, she also acknowledges the importance of being able to sell her latex for a better price. Besides providing farmers with access to technical knowledge and supporting their diversified farming practices, a crucial part of the RASf program also facilitates access to premium-priced latex markets.

To do this, RASf linked up with a dedicated processing plant in Phattalung province called Paratex, which offers a bonus of 4 baht per kilo (11 cents/kg, or 5 cents/lb) to farmers growing rubber in sustainable agroforestry systems. By exclusively processing agroforestry-produced latex, Paratex ensures there's no mixing with latex grown in monocultures. An important end buyer of the agroforestry latex is a condom manufacturing facility in Malaysia operated by Germany-based Richter Rubber Technology (RRT).

## Policy can drive adoption

Given the mounting evidence demonstrating that agroforestry rubber is much better for both people and planet than monoculture systems, the natural rubber supply chain is increasingly engaging with it as a way to earn green credentials. While this is a broadly positive and welcome move, experts say it's important to note that rubber agroforestry systems haven't been found to support as much biodiversity as undisturbed natural forests.

"Although there is more biodiversity in clonal-based rubber agroforestry systems compared to monoculture systems, it is still very far from that of natural forests," says Eric Penot from the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (CIRAD), "but agroforestry rubber is better than nothing." Penot adds that at a landscape scale, networks of agroforests could to some extent provide wildlife-friendly corridors between fragmented patches of natural forest.

Traditional "jungle rubber" systems – the practice of planting rubber trees within regenerating patches of secondary forest, often as part of slash-and-burn agriculture – support higher levels of biodiversity, according to Penot, and were historically much more prevalent in Thailand. However, government policies that incentivized monoculture cultivation led to their demise several decades ago, he says.

## Diversification for the future

Back in Nathawi district, Pakamart checks in with Takon Phutseekaeo, 62, a farmer who attended one of the GPSNR-funded agroforestry trainings in December. After having farmed rubber in a monoculture for 35 years, following the event he planted 30 timber tree seedlings among his rubber trees. He's also growing stink beans, jackfruit, pineapples, bananas and bamboo, and says he'll add shade-tolerant robusta coffee to the mix in the future.

Takon says he chose to diversify the types of crops he cultivates due to a recent dip in latex yields from leaf-drop disease, an increasingly prevalent rubber pathogen in southern Thailand. The opportunity to join a group of like-minded farmers doing something positive for the environment and society is also important for him, he says.

Even if markets shift and rubber generally becomes more profitable, Takon says he wouldn't switch back to monoculture. His instincts from decades of engagement with the rubber market tell him that prices are volatile: if the rubber price goes up and everyone floods the market, the price will crash. "I don't want to rely only on rubber," he says.

## NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND



5th August 2024

## SALE OF PARCEL OF LANDS

- The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is the Government Agency of Tanzania, established under the National Social Security Fund Act, (Cap 50 R.E 2018) having its Head office located at Benjamin Mkapa Towers, Azikiwe Street Dar es Salaam.
- The Fund has parcels of land around the country that are potential and might be used for strategic development. During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Fund planned to sell a portion of its land parcels located in Mwanza and Rukwa.
- The Fund is now seeking bids from prospective buyers to purchase the following properties for strategic development

S/N	PLOT DESCRIPTION	REGION	PLOT SIZE (M <sup>2</sup> )	CURRENT USE	PLOT ATTRIBUTES
<b>LOT NO.1</b>					
1	Block H Plot No. 45 Nyanguge	Mwanza	17400	Commercial	The plots are beach in nature allocated on the lake shore and are suitable marked as suitable for tourism and recreation. They are accessible through Dorcas Schools
2	Block H Plot No. 48 Nyanguge	Mwanza	47600	Housing Estate	
3	Block HH Plot No. 49 Nyanguge	Mwanza	54600	Housing Estate	
<b>LOT NO.2</b>					
1	No 38 (HD) Block H Sumbawanga	Rukwa	372	Residential	A property Located at Jangwani area in Sumbawanga Municipality just at the Central Business District.

## 4. Instruction to the bidder

- Bidders are allowed to bid for more than one Lot.
- For the case of Lot No1 (Nyanguge) bidders are required to bid for the entire Lot.
- Bids should enclose the bidder's physical address, telephone, fax, e-mail address and mobile phone number (if any).
- Successful bidders will be informed and required to acknowledge acceptance of the Offer within 7 days after being informed of the award.
- The purchaser will be required to pay 25% of the purchase price of the plot within one (1) month from the date of contract signing. The purchaser will be required to pay 75% of the purchase price of the plot within three (3) months from the date of effecting the down payment at a rate of not less than 25 % every month.
- Failure to pay a monthly instalment for three consecutive instalments will be construed as default. In case of default, the relevant plot will be reallocated to other interested potential purchasers and the defaulter will be refunded only 50% of the deposited amount.
- Site visit will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- The successful purchaser shall be responsible for all transfer costs.
- The Offer should be clearly marked "OFFER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PARCEL OF LAND LOT No (Specify it)" must be submitted to NSSF office located at Benjamin Mkapa Towers, Azikiwe Street Dar es Salaam 7<sup>th</sup> Floor at or before 1500 hours local time on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**Director General**  
**National Social Security Fund**  
**Benjamin William Mkapa Pension Towers (Tower B)**  
**at Junction of Azikiwe/Jamhuri Streets, Dar es Salaam**  
**P. O. Box 1322, Dar es Salaam Tanzania**  
**Tel: +255 22 2163400-19, Fax: +255**



## EU, FAO project equips 360 farmers with modern planting skills, materials

By Guardian Correspondent

A Total of 360 small-scale farmers in six districts in the country have benefited from free modern farming equipment (double barrel jab planters) provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to promote crop production and improve livelihoods.

The tools will also help heighten food security while also ensuring environmental sustainability.

The handover is part of the interventions of the capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries - Phase III (ACP-MEAs 3) project, funded by the European Union (EU). Valued at \$20,400 (55m/-), the 360 planting machines were distributed to farmers in the districts of Kilosa in Morogoro, Kilolo (Iringa), Mbarali (Mbeya), Karatu (Arusha), Kigamboni (Dar es Salaam) and Same (Kilimanjaro).

During the official launch of the distribution exercise in Dar es Salaam recently Diomedes Kalisa, Project Coordinator at FAO said donation of the equipment will go along with training to the farmers to facilitate proper handling for best results.

He said the job planters will be helpful to farmers as they save labor, and time and reduce the cost of production at planting time by about 50 percent.

He said the equipment improves the speed and accuracy of sowing and fertilizer application with work rates up to four times higher than for planting by traditional methods.

Kalisa noted that among the four outputs of the MEAs 3 project, output number two aims to promote the implementation of measures that support producers in transitioning to more sustainable, resilient, and productive production systems, as well as to facilitate their access to innova-

tive solutions, adaptive-management training, and financial and non-financial incentives.

According to him, based on various field visits and observations, it was noted that farmers in the selected districts, especially women and youth, lack sustainable agricultural tools to improve efficiency while ensuring environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic gains.

"Best ecosystem-based practices that generate multiple global environmental and socio-economic benefits are scaled up, linking landscape-level ecosystem management with improved food security and poverty reduction at the community level and promoting alternative livelihood activities, we hope that these tools will speed up production and promote economic growth," he explained.

Hassan Ismail, Senior Agro-Engineer at the Ministry of Agriculture said job planters present an opportunity for farmers to adopt precision agriculture methods, resulting in improved crop yields and resource optimization.

He said the primary objective of job planters is to optimize seed placement, spacing, and depth, thereby maximizing crop yield while minimizing resource usage.

Deogratias Gambago, private sector desk coordinator at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries commended FAO and EU for the initiative which helps foster sustainable agricultural practices, improve farmers' livelihoods, and empower communities with skills to enhance environmental conservation.

Kilolo District Commissioner, Joachim Nyingo urged farmers to embrace smart and sustainable agriculture which also goes along with applying modern farming tools to improve income and livelihoods.

According to him, despite efforts by the government to transform the agriculture sector and increase



A moment of joy as farmers receive modern planting tools

productivity, many farmers are still lagging behind in utilizing properly the available land for farming and income generation activities due to various challenges including awareness and capital. "Considering that we are moving from traditional agriculture to transformed agriculture, these tools are important and will help our farmers use less time and labor in farms, increase production and harvests," he explained.

Nyingo encouraged farmers who have received the tools to properly utilize them to bring change in their farming but also remember to support others with the tools.

He also emphasised that the hand-over of modern farming tools has come at the right time as the sixth phase of government has invested efforts to transform the agriculture sector by promoting production to heighten food security and change

people's lives.

"We appreciate FAO and EU for their support, this project which has been implemented in various districts in the country for the past three years, has greatly helped transform agricultural practices as well as heightened environmental conservation," he said.

A section of local farmers also expressed gratitude for the support they received, acknowledging the impact it will have on their livelihoods.

Joseph Mbwilo, a farmer at Mbigiri village in Kilolo thanked FAO for bringing the project to the vulnerable communities who could not afford purchasing the modern farming tools.

"We are really grateful for this, many of us here are low-income earners, and accessing training as well as tools to improve our farm production can be a little bit hard, but with

the support from FAO and EU, we are among farmers who own modern tools to heighten production," Mbwilo explained.

Yosefa Mdemu, another farmer at Lukani village emphasized the importance of sharing the received modern farming skills and tools to empower more farmers in the community.

She said that the donated tools will help women plan their daily activities well and get ample time to rest because they will be spending less time on farms due to the availability of the job planters.

Lilian Mgaya, a farmer at Igumbilo village in Chimala ward, Mbarali said: "Apart from this machine, FAO also once came here and trained us on modern beekeeping along with modern beehives and honey processing tools, we are very grateful that today they have come to provide us with more tools to make our farming

easier."

"I am happy because I will no longer spend much to pay laborers to help me during planting season because I have this modern tool which will greatly help reduce the workload, save time and money," he said.

Dorcas Simon, a farmer at Chemchem village in Karatu district said: "Due to its nature and I have tested myself here, this machine will provide relief to us enabling farmers to also have time to spend in other economic activities apart from farming."

Credo Stephano, a resident of Maore village in Same District said the tools and training on modern and sustainable farming will help them transform farmers in the village and increase productivity.

He assured FAO that the tools will be well kept to benefit more farmers in the village and bring transformation.

## Five principles of peaceful coexistence catalyst of Africa's development

By Humphrey Moshi

THE rise of Global South in general, and China in particular, underpinned by the Five Principles, has ushered in cooperation platforms and institutional frameworks in which the voice(s) of cooperation party is heard, contrary to those of the western countries, where such voices are suffocated through imposition of conditionalities; disregard of diversities in culture, civilizations, geography and level of development. Indeed, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the implementation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, it quite appropriate to take stock of how they have spearheaded Africa's social and economic development.

It needs to be recalled that the Five Principles are the following: Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

To the extent that the cooperation platforms (PTs) between China and other countries are either regional specific, such as Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) or broader such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Their main objectives have been those of promoting trade, both goods and services; foreign direct investment (FDI); development aid and people to people exchanges.

Generally, one of the unique characteristics of the platforms for cooperation is that they are non-bureaucratic. Hence, consultative through holding of scheduled summits and ministerial conferences whose decisions are dutifully implemented. This in turn, promotes the spirit of ownership and partnership among the cooperating parties. Further, in this regard, we can claim with confidence that China has, consistently and unwaveringly, adhered to the Five Principles, without resorting to either hypocrisy or application of double standards as is the



Aerial photo taken on May 8, 2018 shows the Chinese-built Maputo Cross-sea Bridge in Maputo, Mozambique. File photo

case for Western countries.

Indeed, to the extent that the cooperation platforms are well aligned with individual African Countries' Development Vision and Plans (Kenya Vision 2030; Tanzania Vision 2025, etc); coupled with those of Regional Groupings, such as East Africa Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), as well as Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). To that effect, most African countries have been quite pro-active in embracing the cooperations platforms, and by doing so their societies have realized remarkable social and economic outcomes.

This is evident, among others, through the mushrooming of BRI-led projects in Africa, ranging from infrastructure (both hard and soft), manufacturing, special economic zones (SEZs), agriculture, education, public health, energy, vocational training to cultural institutions (Sport- stadiums and 57 Confucius institutes)

In a nutshell, the impact of the above enumerated projects has been positive as shown: the pre-

Covid-19 economic growth rates increased averaging 3.4 per cent, while some regions, EA had even higher rate at 6.5 per cent, trade volume between China and Africa was USD 204.2 billion, an increase of 197 per cent in 2018, Chinese investments in Africa skyrocketed to USD 2 billion in 2019. This is due to an improved investment climate (6,000kms of railways, over 6,000kms of roads, 60 ports and 80 large-scale power plants), employment creation has also increased (local labor content 89%). For example, in Tanzania, it has created more than 14,000 jobs, while the level of industrialization has increased in terms of its contribution to GDP, given that, 60% of Chinese investments are manufacturing, likewise, human development capacity has been enhanced through grants of scholarships (over 50,000 students), on-job training and improved health services (23,000 doctors on Chinese medical teams), poverty reduction rates have been accelerated. Moreover, avenues for financial resource mobilization (China Exim bank CDB, AIB, etc.) have been broadened.

The positive enumerated impact notwithstanding, there are challenges facing African countries in effectively seizing the unfolding opportunities embedded

in the cooperation platforms. These range from: low level of public awareness; geo-politics of competition and rivalry, some western scholars' express misgivings and skepticism about the projects (China's credit imperialism; China's colonization of Africa; debt trap; etc.); high debt to GDP ratios dampen a country's appetite to join the initiative; Africa lacks the institutional and human capacity to coordinate multiplicity of global, continental and regional development framework (the feeling of overstretched capacities); Africa's weak negotiation capacity, this is not inherent but depends on nature cum capacity of leadership; to agriculture not given its deserved attention and priority.

Surely, we are confident that these challenges are surmountable for one basic reason. During his speech to the Conference Marking the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence on 28th June 2024, President Xi Jinping, firstly, committed himself to better support Global South Cooperation through various initiatives, such as the intent to establish a Global South Research Center, launch a Global South Youth Leader Development Fund, among others.

Secondly, he resolved to stay on the path of peace-

ful development, develop friendship and cooperation with all countries, and promote common development across the world.

President Xi Jinping's visionary address is profound in thought and rich in connotation. Informed by history and oriented toward the future, it fully expounds on the essence and relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Noting the momentous transformation of the world, it points the direction of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and sends a powerful message of the Global South working together with people across all countries working together for a better future. This important address reaffirms China's commitment to the path of peaceful development, elevates the Vision of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind to a new height, and inspires China and the world to redouble efforts in their joint pursuit of development and prosperity. The address fully demonstrates President Xi Jinping's deep commitment to the world and strong sense of responsibility for history as the leader of a major party and a major country. It represents the latest development of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, and provides strategic and scientific guidance for us to draw historic wisdom from the Five Principles, and build consensus on tackling the problems and challenges facing the world today.

The foregoing commitments and resolutions are a clear manifestation of China's sustenance to uphold the Five Principles. This offers great hope for future cooperation arrangements. Indeed, this being the case, Africa and other developing countries, should continue to seize the unfolding opportunities availed by the cooperation platforms, with a view to accelerate the speed of achieving their development aspirations.

**Humphrey Moshi is Professor of Economics & Founding Director Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS) at the University of Dar es Salaam.**



By Frank Abel

# Turning the Tide: There's crucial need for green investments in climate crisis battle

IN an era where the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident, the urgency to shift towards sustainable practices has never been more critical. The transition from fossil fuel dependence to renewable energy sources, the adoption of eco-friendly technologies, and the push for sustainable agriculture are all steps in the right direction. However, these efforts require significant financial backing. This is where green investments come into play.

Tanzania, like many developing nations, stands to gain significantly from attracting green investment initiatives to combat climate change. Here are some key areas where green investments can make a substantial impact:

### Solar power

Tanzania receives plentiful sunlight throughout the year, making solar energy a highly viable and sustainable energy source. Solar power can be harnessed through both large-scale solar farms and small-scale solar projects, particularly in rural areas where access to the national grid is limited. Investment in solar power can reduce dependence on fossil fuels, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and provide reliable electricity to remote communities. By attracting investments in small-scale and large-scale solar projects, Tanzania can enhance energy access and promote sustainable development at the grassroots level.

### Wind energy

Several regions in Tanzania have favourable wind conditions that can be harnessed for energy production. Wind energy is a clean, renewable source that can complement other forms of renewable energy, such as solar power, to create a balanced and resilient energy mix.

Investments in wind farms can provide significant quantities of renewable energy to the national grid. These projects can be particularly effective in coastal and highland areas where wind speeds are optimal. Wind farms not only reduce carbon emissions but also contribute to local economies by creating jobs and stimulating infrastructure development.

### Hydropower

Hydropower has long been a cornerstone of Tanzania's energy sector. However, the focus needs to shift towards small and medium-sized hydropower projects that minimize environmental impacts and ensure sustainable water resource management.

Small and medium-sized hydropower projects can be developed on smaller rivers and streams, reducing the ecological footprint compared to large dams. They provide a reliable and steady supply of renewable energy, particularly in rural areas. Investments in such projects can also support local communities by providing electricity for homes and businesses, fostering economic growth and development.

### Geothermal energy

Tanzania's location in the East African Rift Valley provides significant geothermal energy potential. Geothermal energy is a stable and reliable source of power that can operate continuously, unlike solar and wind which are dependent on weather conditions.

By investing in geothermal exploration and development, Tanzania can tap into this abundant resource. Geothermal power plants can provide a consistent and reliable energy supply, contributing to energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, geothermal projects can spur technological advancements and create skilled jobs in the energy sector.

### Sustainable agriculture

Organic farming and conservation agriculture are also vital for sustainable agriculture in Tanzania. Organic farming reduces the use of synthetic chemicals, protecting water quality and enhancing soil health, while conservation agriculture focuses on minimal soil disturbance, maintaining soil cover, and crop diversification. These practices improve water use efficiency, reduce erosion, and enhance biodiversity. Green investments can support certification programs, market development, and research to optimize these practices for local conditions.



A wind power plant in Singida Region

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) integrates technology and innovation to increase productivity, enhance resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CSA practices, such as precision farming and drought-resistant crop varieties, help farmers adapt to changing climate conditions while optimizing resource use. Green investments in CSA can support the development and dissemination of these technologies, equipping farmers with the skills needed to implement them effectively. By attracting green investments in sustainable agriculture, Tanzania can build a resilient agricultural sector that supports both the economy and the environment, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future.

### Sustainable transport

Sustainable transport is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing urban mobility in Tanzania. Electric vehicles (EVs) offer a clean alternative to traditional fossil fuel-powered transportation. By investing in EV infrastructure, such as charging stations, Tanzania can promote the adoption of electric cars, buses, and motorcycles. This transition not only reduces emissions but also decreases air pollution, improving public health and contributing to a cleaner environment.

In addition to EVs, developing safe and accessible infrastructure for cycling and walking is essential for sustainable transport. Investments in dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian paths, and public transit systems can significantly reduce traffic congestion and lower carbon emissions. These improvements encourage more people to opt for non-motorized modes of transport, fostering a healthier lifestyle and creating more liveable cities.

### Conservation and reforestation

Conservation and reforestation are vital

strategies for mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity in Tanzania. Forest conservation efforts focus on protecting existing forests from deforestation and degradation, ensuring that these ecosystems continue to sequester carbon, regulate water cycles, and support diverse wildlife. By establishing protected areas and promoting sustainable forest management practices, Tanzania can safeguard its natural heritage and enhance ecosystem resilience against climate impacts.

Reforestation, on the other hand, involves planting trees on degraded or deforested land to restore ecosystems and increase carbon sequestration. This practice not only helps in combating climate change but also improves soil fertility, prevents erosion, and supports local communities by providing resources such as timber, fruits, and medicinal plants. Mangrove restoration is a specific type of reforestation that is particularly important for coastal protection and enhancing marine biodiversity.

### Sustainable tourism

Tanzania, known for its stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, and rich cultural heritage, has long been a magnet for tourists from around the world. Tourism plays a crucial role in the country's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, creating jobs, and fostering regional development. However, as the global climate crisis intensifies, the need for sustainable tourism practices has become increasingly urgent. Sustainable tourism not only minimizes the environmental impact of travel but also ensures that local communities benefit from tourism activities, promoting a balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Eco-friendly lodges and resorts represent a cornerstone of sustainable tourism. These

establishments prioritize environmental conservation by employing green building practices, using renewable energy sources, and implementing waste reduction measures. In Tanzania, many lodges and resorts have adopted such practices, ensuring that tourism development does not come at the expense of natural habitats and wildlife.

For example, eco-lodges often incorporate solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems, reducing their reliance on non-renewable resources. Waste management practices, such as composting organic waste and recycling, further minimize their environmental footprint. Additionally, these establishments often engage in reforestation projects and wildlife conservation efforts, directly contributing to the preservation of Tanzania's natural heritage.

By attracting investments in eco-friendly accommodation, Tanzania can enhance its appeal to environmentally conscious travellers. This not only boosts the tourism sector but also sets a precedent for sustainable development across other industries. Furthermore, eco-friendly lodges and resorts provide employment opportunities for local communities, fostering economic resilience and empowering residents to participate actively in conservation efforts.

Investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, provides a dual advantage of reducing

greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing energy security. Simultaneously, sustainable agriculture practices, including agroforestry and organic farming, contribute to soil health, biodiversity, and resilience against climate extremes. These efforts are complemented by the promotion of sustainable transport systems and the adoption of conservation strategies, which collectively support a transition towards a more sustainable and resilient economy.

To effectively turn the tide in our climate crisis, it is essential to foster a robust framework for green investments that involves government policies, private sector engagement, and community involvement. By prioritizing investments in green technologies and practices, we can build a sustainable future that not only addresses the immediate impacts of climate change but also lays the foundation for long-term economic growth and environmental health. Embracing these investments is not just a necessity but an opportunity to create a resilient and thriving world for current and future generations.

**Frank Abel is a Senior Programme Accountant at Amref Health Africa Tanzania and one of the stakeholders of sustainable development focusing more on the effect of climate change. He can be reached via +255 753 73 23 55.**



# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UPONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 13:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 13:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 13:20 AM 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**DIGITISATION OF CO-OPs IN TANZANIA**

3,319  
1.6 Million  
5.124 Trillion/-  
6,183  
1.49 Million  
7,522  
21 Million

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## Resilience drives up DSE as 10bn/- is traded in July

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) resilience, strong economic growth and improved business environment are expected to stimulate the equities market in both local and foreign investors.

The market report shows during July, the turnover amounting to 10bn/- was recorded, which was equivalent to a third of total turnover recorded in the third quarter of last year, with local investors' dominance.

According to the DSE market report, local investors accounted for 92.18 percent of total shares sold and 96.98 percent of total value of shares bought.

Foreign investors bought shares valued 304m/- and sold shares valued 787.2m/-, which translates into a net outflow of 483m/-.

The market indices also experienced the gain during the first month of the current quarter, with exceptions of & Allied, which closed at 5,074.70 points at the end of last month, from 5,120.14 points recorded during the end of June, 2024 and Commercial Services (CS) which closed unchanged.

All share Index (DSEI) closed at 2,070.83 points from 2,016.97 points, while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) and Bank, Finance and Investment (BI) index closed at 4,566.45 points and 5,572.41 points respectively from 4,475.21 points and 5,205.50 points respectively.

The total market capitalization slightly increased to 17.2trn/- at the end of last month, compared to 16.8trn/- recorded at the end of June, while the domestic market capitalization increased to 12.09trn/- from 11.8trn/- respectively.

The increase of both total and

domestic market capitalisations resulted from the gaining of share prices among local and cross listed counters.

Analysts say the market is undergoing major improvements, as some of the listed companies were implementing corporate actions during May and last month, including conducting Annual general meetings (AGMs) and declaration of dividends, which induced the increase of trading activities.

"Trading movements of most of the counters were active during the period, specifically those which undergone corporate actions and there were certain block trade activities time to time," said Ramadhan Kagwandi, the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Exodus Advisory, member and investment advisers, at DSE.

Overall, he said, corporate earnings for most of the listed companies were robust, with many companies exceeding market expectations.

Kagwandi expects the increasing activities in the remaining months of the current quarter, from both local and foreign investors.

He explained that the newly launched collective investment schemes are expected to stimulate the market activity, as they will mostly invest their funds, at least 20 percent into the equity market, and the remaining will be poured into the dominant securities markets.

The newly launched Timiza Fund, Tanzania's pioneering private mutual fund managed by Zan Securities Limited, exceeded expectations by achieving an oversubscription rate of 103 percent, driven by its attractive return on investment.

It successfully raised 10.38bn/- during its initial sales period from May to June, surpassing its 10bn/-



The DSE's total market capitalization reached 17.2trn/- by the end of last month. File Photo

target.

Muhingo also expects the increased involvement of foreign investors due to resilience of the DSE market, stabilization of the country's economy due to improved business environment and improvement of the global economy.

Further regulatory reforms aimed at improving market efficiency and investor protection will enhance the attractiveness of the DSE, he noted.

Raphael Masumbuko, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zan Securities Limited, brokers, members and investment advisory firm on the DSE, said there is bright future in all areas of equities markets.

He said the market has seen banks announcing good profits while the economy is improving, which all these will increase investors sentiments to participate in the stock market.

Both NMB and CRDB, some of the largest listed counters released their earnings report for the second quarter, showing strong results.

NMB reported a remarkable 20 percent increase in net profit to 314bn/- while CRDB Bank exceeded expectation with 53 percent rise in after tax profit of 275bn/-.

"With these remarkable performances, both banks and expected to dominate the trading

activities in the coming weeks, potentially prompting a sell-off of other counters in favour of them. As more companies disclose their financials, we anticipate continued high activity in the market," he said.

Given the political economy Tanzania has, Msumbuko expects that there is a possibility of continued growth, because political stability is an asset to the economy.

According to African Development Bank (AfDB) outlook, the country's real GDP growth is projected at 5.7 percent in 2024 and 6 percent 2025, driven by agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism and supported by public investments and reforms to improve the business environment.

Inflation is projected to decline to 3.3 percent in 2024 and 3.4 percent in 2025, helped by stability in food and energy prices.

The World Bank also says GDP is projected to grow 5.6 percent in 2024, with the long-run potential of around 6 percent, supported by an improving business environment and ongoing structural reforms.

"When you have political stability, inflows will grow because it ensures predictable environment to the economy," Masumbuko said.

He said other improvements including infrastructure such

as Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will contribute fully to the economic growth.

"We think that the introduction of the SGR is expected to reduce the costs of transportation, which will contribute to the growth of business activities in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors," he explained.

On participation of foreign investors on DSE activities, Msumbuko said that they expect an increase based on various factors including stable economy and stable policies.

"For example, when foreign investors want to invest in East Africa, they usually rank where there is good political stability and strong economic growth," he said.

"The growth of our economy is good and foreign investors are tapping where they think the growth is going well, and this is what we proud that our economy is promising."

In debt market, Masumbuko said increased activities are expected mostly in the secondary market, driven by higher yields making government bonds more attractive.

"The recent yields increases (high yields implies lower price) and the substantial time gap until long next long-dated auction will further contribute to this heightened activity," he added.

## UN fund hosts policy dialogue for cleaner cooking taxes

By Guardian Correspondent

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), through the CookFund Programme funded by the European Union Delegation (EUD) in Tanzania will today host the second in its series of high-level policy dialogue on "Tax Impact on Acceleration of National Clean Cooking Strategy" in Dar es Salaam.

This forum will bring together public and private sector clean cooking stakeholders to identify the current tax landscape, share challenges, and develop actionable solutions to accelerate the adoption of clean cooking technologies in Tanzania.

Several ministries and government agencies will represent the public sector, while key development partners and private sector organizations, including the European Union, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), PwC, and various clean cooking companies and enterprises, will represent the private sector.

The recently launched National Clean Cooking Strategy outlines the government's goal to reduce taxes and levies on clean cooking appliances and energy-efficient stoves by June 2026, further enhancing affordability.

Head of UNCDF Tanzania Peter Malika, stated that the organization is committed to advocating for policy frameworks that support tax relief and incentives for clean cooking solution enterprises in Tanzania.

Malika further remarked, "We are hosting this forum to address gaps and explore opportunities for tax incentives and subsidies that can bolster businesses in the clean cooking sector. Our aim is to foster growth and expand access to clean cooking solutions for more Tanzanian households."

Clean cooking is a critical national priority, affecting every Tanzanian household. Sustainable cooking solutions are vital for improving socio-economic conditions, particularly for women and youth who face challenges related to safety and affordability with traditional methods like firewood and charcoal.

The European Union (EU) is supporting this transition with €19.4 million through the CookFund Programme, providing grants to SMEs that offer clean cooking solutions, transitioning public institutions to cleaner fuel and appliances and national level awareness campaign.

"The current tax structure impacts the entire clean cooking value chain, affecting both companies and end-users. This dialogue is crucial for identifying challenges and developing collaborative solutions to advance the National Clean Cooking Strategy 2024-2034."

Building on the insights from the previous dialogue, today's forum provides a platform for stakeholders to identify partners to support their existing initiatives and highlights areas where they can help to address the challenges faced by others.

This collaborative effort supports the government's ambitious goal, led by Samia Suluhu Hassan and the Ministry of Energy, to ensure 80 percent of the population uses clean cooking solutions by 2034.

The President said during the launching that apart from lowering costs, the strategy will enhance the country's efforts in fighting against the effects of climate change.

It is estimated that 469,420 hectares of forests are being destroyed each year for the sake of firewood and charcoal.

In November last year, President Samia rallied fellow African leaders and representatives to accelerate clean cooking solutions in the region and help transition some 900 million Africans from biomass fuels to more affordable and environmentally friendly options over the next couple of years.

## New AI tech to help farmers in fighting banana disease

By Correspondent Valentine

Oforo, Dodoma

Farmers in Tanzania will detect and fight against Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) following the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tech project developed by the International Institute of Tropical Agricultural (IITA).

The Regional Emergency Response Plan To Control the Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) Outbreak in East Africa project, worth over US\$300,000 majors in the development of key technologies to assist the farmers to cheat the virus - based disease, among others.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian at the ongoing 31st Tanzania Agricultural International Exhibition, Rudolf Shirima, a researcher at IITA expressed that the disease is caused by a virus known as Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV).

He added, the disease which has so far destroyed huge percent of banana plantations across the country has no chemical cure, because all the cultivated banana and plantain varieties are susceptible to Banana Bunchy Top Disease.



A banana farmer whose farm has been affected by Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) briefs IITA researchers how the farm has been damaged to agricultural researchers from IITA. PHOTO, Correspondent Valentine Oforo

"The disease is caused by a virus known as Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV). The virus is transmitted by an insect vector, the banana aphid (*Pentalonia nigronervosa*), or through the use of infected planting material (sucker, in vitro plants, or shoots from macropagation of corms)," he expressed.

To curtail the disease, he said through the project, IITA has developed digital artificial intelligence facilities to help farmers to detect the disease.

"IITA is working in sync with

the ministry of agriculture, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to disseminate to the farmers key agronomic knowledge and skills to fight against the disease," he said.

He added that the vision is to contain further spread of the virus in order to allow banana farmers to heighten production and productivity.

"We're using a number of different approaches to assist the farmers to battle against the dis-

ease, apart from use of the artificial intelligence facilities," he said. He said the reliable solution to curtail the disease was a total uproot of the infected banana plants in order to limit further spread.

The disease causes crop loss between 90 and 100pc in just one season after infection, which means, farmers will lose all income they used to generate from the sales of fruits in the market, according to him.

The other method against the disease that the project is train-

ing the farmers, he said was use of special pesticides to kill the disease's vector virus, banana aphid (*Pentalonia nigronervosa*).

"We're also training the banana farmers how to develop and spread the infected banana plants soap forms as the way to kill the virus," he added.

In further efforts, he said the institute was also working to support production of safe and quality banana seeds in order to overcome the disease.

"Among the ways for the spread of this disease is dissemination and use of contaminated (affected) banana seeds," he observed.

Since the inception of the project, he however said there had been good results because many farmers have so far managed to acquire vital skills and technologies to lessen the disease.

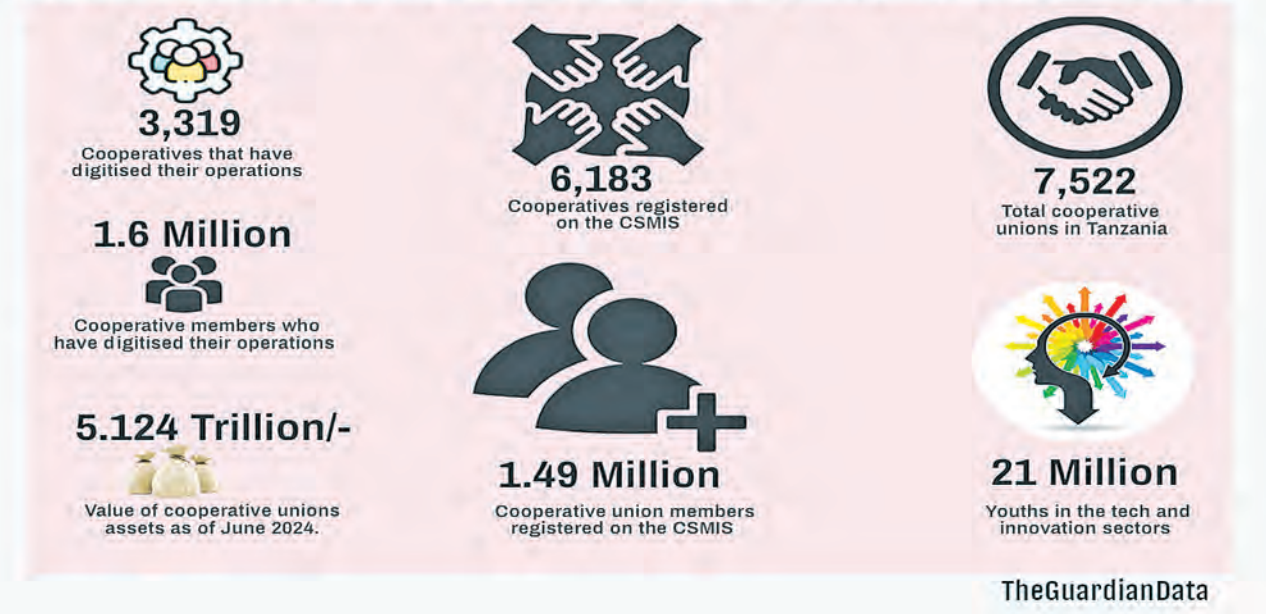
BBTD was reported for the first time in Tanzania in 2023 in Buhigwe district, Kigoma region.

As of October 2023, the disease has spread in many regions, including Dar es Salaam, Coastal, Morogoro, Mbeya, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza.

The disease has spread widely and caused extensive damage in Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, and Mwanza.



## DIGITISATION OF CO-OPs IN TANZANIA



## SPECIAL REPORT

# Building cooperative unions' operations through digitisation-7

By Francis Kajubi

Cooperative unions would be well advised to invest in the development of databases and websites by embracing robust technology operations to improve service delivery, reach many members and reduce operational costs.

Reasonable investments in technology will align cooperative unions' operations with sustainable development goal No. 17 (SDG17) which basically focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development technology. Its targets 17.6-17.8 are devoted to technology.

The new era of online marketing also calls for cooperative unions to initiate social media accounts so that they are connected beyond nations and continental boundaries.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, Chairperson of the Tanzania Co-operative Development Commission (TCDC) made the recommendations in a recent interview with The Guardian.

He said that investing in new technologies is a key aspect in ensuring that cooperative unions maintain accurate information that can be applied in influencing advanced improvements in existing cooperative laws and policies.

Nsekela said that technology for cooperatives is inevitable especially in this period when Tanzania eyes to be part of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enable cooperative members to become competitive in production and marketing strategies.

"Investment in new technologies for restoring data on assets and the state of production, for emerging and existing regional opportunities should be our priority for cooperative unions that can further help in applying for and acquiring low-interest loans from financial institutions," said Nsekela.

He asserted that in transforming cooperative unions from service-based to business oriented entities, there are several measures that have been taken into consideration by the TCDC namely: the revival of old industries and the construction of new industries.

Another role, he mentioned, is the identification and assessment of the assets of the cooperative unions, most of which keep idle assets that can be used for new investments.

"The Cooperative Act No. 6 of 2013 is being reviewed to attract business-led productivity as the first draft has already been submitted to the Parliament's Committee on Agriculture to be reviewed and provide feedback on areas of improvement," said Nsekela.

He said the commission has begun the process of improving insurance services delivery for farmers and cooperatives to attract more investment and protect its members from the effects of climate change.

Emmanuel Masaga, ELCT Northern Diocese SACCOS, Head of ICT Department, said that with regard to investing in technology, the SACCOS have successfully enabled its members to register for the use of Umoja Switch bank cards where they can access banking services wherever they are.

"Three months ago we reached an agreement with NMB Bank Plc for our

members to access digital financial services from the bank," said Masaga.

He said that the SACCOS has opened accounts on social media platforms and has developed its own application that helps members to access financial services easily and cheaply on their fingertips.

Masaga advised cooperative unions and SACCOS leaders to embrace the use of technology and emerging innovative solutions in their daily activities implying that it reduces operational costs.

"As the number of smartphones increases on a yearly basis and the growth of internet access among Tanzanians, I call upon cooperative unions to invest in self-driven digital platforms with modern technology to be more relevant and reduce operational costs," said Masaga.

He was of the view that the government and the private sector should invest in sensitizing communities on the essence of technology by aligning it in the education curriculum from primary schools to universities.

With regard to technology development in the country, data by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Commission shows that as of March 2024 there were 21 million youth and women self-employed in the technology and innovation sectors, particularly start-ups and online businesses.

The ICT Commission's data clarifies that youth employed in the technology and innovation sectors are aged between 15 and 34 years forming 33 percent of the total country's population pegged at 61.7 million as per the 2022 National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Census report.

The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) current report shows that in the academic year ending 2022, a total of 2,166 higher learners graduated from the ICT field.

It states that students pursuing ICT related subjects in primary and secondary schools are approximately 12.3 million

Dr Benson Ndiege, Registrar and Chief Executive Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) said the commission has started investing in modern digital systems and encouraging Cooperatives to digitally handle their operations.

He said that TCDC has already developed an Electronic System for the Management of Cooperative Societies which allows Cooperative unions to store their information on the system.

"3,319 cooperatives have been registered in the system and 1.6 million members have been identified in the system. This system is connected to the system for identifying the number and type of crops sold per day, thus attracting more clarity and transparency," he said.

Dr Ndiege said that in the year 2023/24, 500mn/- has been spent in delivering fertilizers and inputs to farmers within the cooperatives whereas 776 cooperatives were registered as farm input agents to supply farm inputs subsidy provided by the government.

"With regard to misappropriation of cooperative unions' assets, stern measures are observed to tame it. The auditing of assets owned by coopera-

tives is ongoing where as of June they have been found to own assets worth approximately 5.124trn/- where it is estimated until the end of the audit at the end of this year the value can likely top 7trn/-," said Dr. Ndiege.

He explained that the assets are: 158 buildings, 54 farms, six factories, 78 machineries, 122 plots, 134 vehicles, 52 warehouses, and 43 intangible assets.

According to Dr. Ndiege, in strengthening cooperative unions' operations in 2023/24, TCDC registered 69 new unions in the vegetable sub-sector and 40 unions in the livestock sector.

Hussein Bashe, the Minister of Agriculture said in the process of transforming cooperatives into handling their operations on digital platforms, in the financial year 2023/24 as of May 2024, TCDC registered 1,492,838 members and 6,183 Cooperative unions on the Cooperative Supervision Management Information System (CSMS) of the 7,522 cooperatives with permanent registration.

Bashe said that the aim of the registration is to strengthen management, improve efficiency and facilitate access to accurate data for various development plans in promoting the cooperative sector as a whole.

He said the system is integrated with the Central Integrated Government System (GovESB), the Electronic Crop Weighing Scale System well known as Farmer Hub, the Enterprise Resources Management Suite (ERMS), the Electronic Government Payment Collection System (GePG) and Online People Registration System under the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

Bashe asserted that TCDC during reviewed period provided training on the use of Co-operative Supervision Management Information System (CSMS) to 104 cooperative officers and 1,243 Association Executives from 874 unions from the regions of Dar es Salaam, Songwe, Mwanza, Kagera, Tabora, Lindi, Mara and Kigoma.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General ICT Commission was of the view that a time has come where no one can distance themselves from technology and innovation advancements.

"The ICT Commission is ready and willing to collaborate with cooperative unions in accelerating technological development for the sake of creating a competitive economy and creating diverse economic opportunities," said Dr Mwasaga.

According to him, cooperative unions bring together millions of people who need ease and quick access to financial services and attract more efficiency alongside boosting financial inclusion.

He asserted that the ICT sector contributed 4.3 percent of total tax revenue in quarter two of 2021 contributing 2.5 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP).

The Tanzania Startup Ecosystem Report 2022 shows that employment opportunities created by the ICT sector grew by 14.65 percent creating 89,509 direct and indirect jobs.

Established licensed Start-ups increased to 673 at the end of 2022 from 587 at the end of 2020.

To be continued.

## ECO-CITIES UNVEILED: Indeed, Germany's green practices can inspire Tanzanians

By Correspondent Dotto Charles, Berlin

AS urbanization continues to surge worldwide, cities face the dual challenge of accommodating growing populations while mitigating environmental impacts. Germany has been a pioneer in this regard, implementing green infrastructure that balances urban growth with ecological preservation.

Tanzanian cities, facing similar urbanization pressures, can draw valuable lessons from Germany's approach. By embracing green practices, Tanzania can develop sustainable urban environments that promote both economic development and environmental health.

Germany's commitment to sustainable urban development is evident in its extensive use of green infrastructure. "Germany's approach to urban planning has been holistic, integrating natural systems into city design," notes Dr. Simone Kreck from the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development.

The country's urban areas feature numerous green spaces, including parks, green roofs, and permeable pavements, which help manage stormwater, reduce urban heat islands, and enhance air quality. This comprehensive strategy has made German cities more resilient to climate change impacts and improved the overall quality of life for residents.

One of the most notable aspects of Germany's green infrastructure is its advanced water management systems. "A big difference between Germany and Tanzania is that German cities have had water and sanitation systems for more than 100 years, underground systems where dirty water from households is collected and then sent via pipelines to treatment plants," explains Carel Mohn, Editor-in-Chief of Klimafakten.

However, Mohn also highlights the limitations of these systems, noting that "the capacity of these systems is not always sufficient to deal with the amount of rainfall we are seeing with climate change, leading to overflows and blockages."

Also, the idea of having rainfall collected in pipes and then rushed off to the ocean, is no longer sustainable as climate change increases the risk of prolonged droughts and groundwater drawdowns even in Germany.

To address these challenges, German cities have increasingly adopted nature-based solutions, such as creating more permeable surfaces and expanding green areas to allow water infiltration and groundwater formation.

In Tanzania, cities like Dar es Salaam and Arusha face rapid urbanization and its associated environmental challenges, including flooding and pollution. The implementation of green infrastructure could help mitigate these issues.

For example, incorporating green roofs and rainwater harvesting systems can reduce the strain on municipal water supplies and manage stormwater effectively. "Green roofs not only provide insulation but also reduce runoff, making them a vital component of sustainable urban design," states Dr. Anthon Tarimo,

an environmental planner based in Dar es Salaam.

Such measures could significantly reduce the risk of flooding and contribute to a more sustainable water management system in Tanzanian cities, similar to their German counterparts.

To combat these issues, German cities have adopted nature-based solutions that complement traditional infrastructure. Mohn emphasizes, "One key strategy is to make sure there is less concrete in cities. You need to open up the soil and ensure that water can go into the ground rather than running off sealed surfaces."

This approach involves increasing permeable surfaces, such as green spaces and porous pavements, which allow water to infiltrate the soil, reducing runoff and preventing urban flooding. Another innovative practice in Germany is the use of green roofs.

These vegetated rooftops help manage rainwater, improve air quality, and provide insulation, reducing energy consumption. "You ideally have a situation where rainwater does not go into the drains and pipes but is kept on the premises where it falls," Mohn explains. "Collecting rainwater in underground reservoirs and using green roofs slows the volume of water, as the vegetation absorbs some of it and delays runoff."

Additionally, institutions such as the Federal Environment Agency and researchers like Dr. Simone Kreck advocate for integrating green infrastructure in urban planning. They stress the importance of sustainable water management and using natural resources to reduce urban heat islands and improve the overall quality of life in cities.

Tanzanian cities, like many in developing countries, face rapid urbanization, often leading to environmental degradation. The unplanned expansion of urban areas can strain existing infrastructure, exacerbate flooding, and increase pollution. However, by adopting some of the strategies used in German cities, Tanzania can develop more resilient and sustainable urban environments.

Tanzanian cities can prioritize integrating green spaces into urban planning, just as Germany has done. Parks, gardens, and other green areas provide recreational spaces for residents and act as natural water management systems. They help absorb rainwater, reduce runoff, provide for cooling and improve air quality.

For instance, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city, could incorporate more green belts and community gardens to enhance biodiversity and create a buffer against flooding. The prevalence of concrete and asphalt in urban areas contributes to increased runoff and flooding.

German cities have addressed this by using permeable materials for pavements and parking lots. Tanzanian cities could adopt similar practices, such as using permeable bricks or gravel, to allow water to percolate into the ground. This not only mitigates flooding but also replenishes groundwater resources.



Carel Mohn, Editor-in-Chief of Klimafakten, speaks to The Guardian in Berlin at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Charles.



# President Samia roots for preservation of landrace seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to embark on needed process for the professional preservation of Tanzania's landrace seeds.

Dr Samia issued the useful directives when visited the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA)'s Msimba-based seed estate in Kilosa District, Morogoro region over the weekend.

The president emphasized that the Ministry of Agriculture, through its Institutions should start the process of preserving, and taking care of landrace seeds.

Amid advanced technologies in production of improved seeds in Tanzania, the president said the landrace seeds remains key for the sector's performance, insisting that the parent ministry to collect and preserve them, saying they're great treasure for country.

During the vital tour, President Dr. Samia Suluhu has inspected the modern ASA seed processing plant with the capacity to process at least 4 tons per hour.

The useful facility has the ability to process various seeds such as maize, sunflower, millet, wheat as well as legumes.

The president hailed the Agricultural Seed Agency ASA for continuing to produce quality agricultural seeds and

market them to farmers at affordable prices.

Speaking earlier, the Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe told the President that ASA has continued to invest in modern irrigation infrastructure, saying over 3,000 hectares are set to be installed with irrigation infrastructure in the 2024/2025 financial year.

Minister Bashe expressed that the state-owned seed agency need to acquire more seed farms with the necessary infrastructure to be able to achieve the goals of quality seed production and reduce the importation of seeds from abroad.

He informed the president that seeds production in the country has increased from

3000tons to 49,000tons while the relevant demand is over 127,000 tons.

Speaking for his part, ASA's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Leo Mavika expressed to the president that the installed seed processing plant has the capacity to process four tons of seeds per hour.

He said that the factory will enable production of quality seed varieties, the development he observed will cement efforts by the government to heighten seed productivity and reduce importation.

Mavika assured the president that ASA will continue to stand at forefront to implement all instructions from the government so as to help achieve the set goals.



The acting CEO of Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) Leo Mavika (L) briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the performance of the modern seeds processing plant installed at Msimba- seed farm in Kilosa District, Morogoro region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# WMA to continue fighting improper goods packaging

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) has said that it will continue to control traders who use improper packaging famous as "lumbesa" to ensure that the farmer benefits from their sweats.

WMA has also promised to continue to conduct surprise inspections every crops seasons to ensure that the scales used are checked and farmers are not cheated by some dishonest traders.

This was said yesterday by the Acting Director of Technical Services from (WMA), Albogast Kajungu, at the National Agricultural Exhibition known as NaneNane which is going on in Nzunguni grounds in Dodoma.

He said WMA has a great contribution in the agricultural sector especially in strategic crops which are cashews, sesame, coffee, tobacco and cotton to ensure that the issue of measurements is taken into account and farmers are not cheated.

He said that the main task of the WMA in the sub-sector of strategic crops is to ensure that the scales used in the purchase of these crops are verified to satisfy themselves that they are correct.

"The goal is to ensure that when the farmer sells his crops, he gets the same value for money as the crops he sold," explained Kajungu.

The director said that the work of verifying scales is done in two phases where the first phase involves checking the scales before the season of each crop starts while the second phase involves a surprise inspection.

He said they have been conducting surprise inspections during the season for each crop to satisfy themselves if the pre-verified tests are being used correctly.



Senior Measurement Officer with Weight and Measures Agency (WMA), Said Ibrahim giving education about the importance of verifying water meters at Nane Nane Agricultural shows ongoing at Nzunguni Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

"Therefore, before the season we go to check all the scales used to buy crops and during the season we go to satisfy ourselves if they are used correctly," he said.

In addition, Kajungu explained that, apart from the work of inspection, WMA provides education to farmers and citizens in general so that they know the characteristics of the scales for buying the inspected produce.

He mentioned one of the features of the verified scale as the presence of a WMA sticker showing the date the relevant scale was verified and the last date the sticker will have ceased to be

used. "So if a citizen sees the sticker, it gives him the assurance that the scale has been checked by WMA," stressed Kajungu.

Regarding the packing of farm produce, he explained that according to the law, packing farm produce weighing more than 100 kg is interpreted as lumbesa which is a legal offence.

Kajungu has called on farmers and citizens in general to understand that all farm produce must be packed with a legally acceptable weight of 100 kg.

About the importance of complying with the law of measurements Chapter No. 340, Kajungu

emphasized the importance of having produce buying centers that are easy to set scales verified by WMA so that they can be used by farmers to verify their crops.

He said it will help to satisfy themselves that they are packed in a weight of 100 kg without exceeding in order to get a rightful profit for both parties, the seller and the buyer.

The experts of WMA are participating in the NaneNane Exhibitions nationally in Dodoma and regionally in various places in the country with the aim of providing education to agricultural stakeholders and citizens in general.

# USAID's project bring back smiles to PLWHA in Iringa

By Guardian Reporter

Beneficiary of USAID's financed project in Iringa region Omary Juma who has been diagnosed with HIV and burdened by financial hardships said the project has really helped to bring back his smile.

"My health has improved through this project's comprehensive support which includes health monitoring and education about reproductive health and HIV and AIDS," said Juma.

He added, "The project has helped me a lot. I learned most things from my community care workers and that has changed my life. I now have hopes with my life and I can now accomplish my dreams. I feel happy and courageous".

The USAID technical delegation had last Friday conducted a joint visit to the USAID Afya Yangu (My Health) and the USAID Kizazi Hodari (Brave Generation)



Dr Stella Mtera (L), CTC in charge of Tosamaganga Hospital in Iringa, listens to USAID technical adviser, Sarah Dastur during the latter's visit to inspect beneficiaries of the USAID led programs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

in the Southern zonal projects in Iringa region.

This visit involved representatives from USAID Tanzania and Washington. The visit assessed and supported ongoing orphans and vulnerable and children

(OVC) and pediatric HIV and TB activities, showcasing collaborative efforts between the projects to improve health outcomes in the region.

The two projects are both implemented by Deloitte Consult-

ing Limited aiming at improving the health status of the thriving youth, children and communities.

The USAID Technical Adviser Sarah Dastur paid a visit to the JJ Mungai Primary School within the Iringa Municipal, Isakalilo center which cares for children living with HIV and Tosamaganga hospital which has provided care and counselling for people living with HIV.

During the visit, beneficiaries of the projects commented on USAID for coming up with the projects that helped Tanzanians especially low income earners saying that the projects have brought back smiles to them.

"Our commitments are aligned with the Government of Tanzania's strategic priorities which involve close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special groups," she said.

# Cross-breeding technology seen in transforming livestock sector

By Francis Kajubi

LIVESTOCK keepers stands a chance to improve their productivity following the inception of a well-researched cross breeding technology from the United States and Brazil into the local market, thanks to Urus Tanzania, part of URUS Global, an non for profit organization specialized in animal genetics, dairy and beef cattle breeding.

The newly introduced cross-breeding technology that uses semen sourced from the US and Brazil offer high yields, which is crucial for maximizing productivity and profitability, according to Edson Mfuru, URUS Tanzania country manager.

"The semen has been tested and proven to deliver superior performance in terms of both quantity and quality of produce" said Mfuru.

According to him, although Tanzania ranks the second in terms of cattle population in Africa, contribution of livestock sector into the national income is not enormous, as livestock-related activities contribute only 27 percent of the Agricultural Sector contribution to the economy and 7.1 percent to Tanzania's GDP in particular; with sector growth at 5.0 percent as per the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report for 2020.

He said the growth largely reflects increases in livestock numbers, rather than productivity gains. The low contribution of livestock in the economy is attributed to many factors, such as animal breeds with low productivity, presence of livestock diseases among other factors.

Mfuru noted that while local breeds produce an average of 1-5 litres of milk per day, while breeds resulted from cross breeding using semen sourced from US and Brazil can produce 15-25 litres per day and thus ensuring profitability for livestock keepers adding that while local breeds can offer up to a maximum of 200kgs of meat, cross breeds can offer up to 1000kgs.

"Cross bred cattle and improved breeds like Girolando are often bred for specific traits that result in higher milk production, or more meat per animal and they also grow faster and reach market size more quickly, reducing the time and resources needed to raise them," he explained.

He further noted that the hybrid varieties are often more resistant to common diseases and parasites, reducing the need for medical treatments and associated costs adding that increased resistance leads to lower mortality rates, ensuring a more stable and predictable production output.

"Crossbreeds like Girolando, are typically bred to convert feed into body mass more efficiently, meaning less feed is needed to produce the same amount of meat or milk. Improved feed conversion reduces overall feed costs, which are a significant expense in livestock farming," he added.

Mfuru asserted that Urus Tanzania is currently supporting livestock keepers across Tanzania with advanced crossbreeding programs and other agricultural services and with footprints in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Kagera.

"While our primary presence is in the above-mentioned regions, we are dedicated to reaching livestock keepers wherever they are in Tanzania. Our goal is to ensure that every livestock keeper in Tanzania, regardless of their location, has access to the best possible support and resources to improve their livestock management practices. We are continually working to expand our reach and improve our services to meet the needs of all farmers," he said.



URUS Tanzania field coordinator Ramadhani Mwevirah (L) clarifies a point to customers who visited the company's pavilion at the ongoing farmers exhibition in Dodoma city.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## Nigerian president urges end to cost-of-living protests, calls for dialogue

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Bola Tinubu on Sunday appealed for the ongoing cost-of-living protests across the country to be halted, while urging protesting citizens to make room for dialogue with the government.

Delivering a national broadcast on Sunday morning, Tinubu expressed bitterness over the loss of lives and destruction of public and private facilities during the protests so far, saying the development is contrary to the promise of the organizers of the protests, which began on Thursday.

"My dear Nigerians, especially our youth, I have heard you loud and clear. I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, and I want to assure you that our government is committed to listening (to) and addressing the concerns of our citizens," the president said, calling for an end to the bloodshed, violence, and destruction.

In addressing the concerns of the citizens, Tinubu vowed to continue to carry out reforms that will be beneficial to all Nigerians, improve and expand the national infrastructure, and create

more opportunities for young people.

The Nigerian leader acknowledged the current economic hardships in the country, explaining that the economy has remained "anemic" for decades and taken a dip because of "many misalignments that have stunted our growth."

Over a year ago, the most populous African country reached a point where the government could not afford to continue "the use of temporary solutions to solve long-term problems," Tinubu said, noting that he had to take the painful yet necessary decision to remove subsidies on gasoline and abolish multiple foreign exchange systems which had "constituted a noose around the economic jugular of the nation and impeded economic development and progress."

He said the country is on the path of economic recovery and prosperity, reeling out some of the government's interventions, including the approval of a new minimum wage, distribution of food items to the poor, efforts to curb food prices, disbursement of student loans, and reduction of transportation costs with the country's compressed natural gas revolution, among



Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu arrives for the closing session of the New Global Financial Pact Summit, June 23, 2023 in Paris. AP

others, to alleviate the sufferings of the masses.

"Let us work together to build a brighter future for ourselves and for generations to come. Let us choose hope over fear, unity over division, and progress over stagnation.

The economy is recovering, please, don't shut out its oxygen," he said, appealing to the citizens to halt the protests.

The planned 10-day protests by the

youth were intended to peacefully call on the government to address the economic hardships amid the serious cost-of-living crisis in the West African country.

The demonstrations turned violent in some major cities, prompting the police to beef up security. The inflation rate in Nigeria rose to 34.19 percent in June amid the worst cost of living crisis.

Agencies

## Donald Trump cancels ABC News debate with Kamala Harris, pitches one with Fox News instead

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump has announced that he is dropping out of ABC News debate scheduled for September 10 and instead, he has proposed an alternative debate with Vice President Kamala Harris to face off on Fox News on September 4, the New York Times reported.

Kamala Harris shared a post on X in response to Trump and stated that she'll be there on September 10.

"It's interesting how 'any time, any place' becomes 'one specific time, one specific safe space.' I'll be there on September 10th, like he agreed to. I hope to see him there," Harris said on X.

The change, which Trump announced on his social media site, Truth Social, raised objections from the Harris campaign and appeared to throw a potential showdown between the rivals into question, as per the New York Times.

It also comes as Harris has made gains in national polling and appears to present a much stronger challenge to Trump on the debate stage than President Biden, who struggled to articulate a clear message in his faltering debate performance in June. Trump and his campaign also seem to be grappling with how to run against Harris after preparing for a race against Biden.

A campaign official for Vice President Kamala Harris has responded to former President Donald Trump's debate proposal, suggesting that his offer to debate on Fox News is an attempt to divert at-



Vice-President Kamala Harris delivers remarks at a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority gathering in Houston, July 31, 2024, in Houston. AP

tention from his decision to withdraw from the previously agreed-upon ABC News debate.

Trump had agreed to that debate in May, before Biden dropped out of the race and before Biden's calamitous performance in a CNN debate on June 27.

"Donald Trump is running scared and trying to back out of the debate he already agreed to and running straight to Fox News to bail him out," Michael Tyler, the communications director for the Harris campaign, said in a statement. "He needs to stop playing games and show up to the debate he already committed to on September 10."

Tyler said that the Harris campaign

was open to discuss further debates if Trump honoured his commitment to the ABC debate.

"Anytime, Anywhere, Anyplace should have no problem with that unless he's too scared to show up on the 10th," he said.

It's unclear whether ABC News will attempt to go ahead with its debate, giving time only to Harris. In a post on X on Saturday, Harris said: "I'll be there on September 10th, like he agreed to. I hope to see him there."

Trump responded on his social media platform with an ultimatum: "I'll see her on September 4th or, I won't see her at all."

According to Trump's post on his social media site, the Fox News debate would take place on September 4 at a to-be-determined location in Pennsylvania, one of the most consequential battleground states. The network's anchors Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum would moderate.

Trump said on social media that the Fox News debate would have a live audience; the previous debate between him and Biden was hosted by CNN in an empty venue. Though both campaigns agreed to the format of the first debate, Trump had bemoaned the lack of a crowd.

He added that the rules would be similar to the CNN debate, though he did not specify which rules. The candidates' microphones in the June debate were muted when it was not their turn to speak to prevent interruptions.

Trump also said that he was "totally prepared to accept" Harris as the Democrats' new candidate. Since her campaign suddenly took shape after Biden dropped out of the race about two weeks ago, Trump has characterized her ascendancy as a "coup" within the Democratic Party. In his debate announcement, the former president complained about the shake-up.

"I spent hundreds of millions of dollars, time, and effort fighting Joe, and when I won the debate, they threw a new candidate into the ring," Trump said on his social media site on Friday, adding that he hoped to tie Harris to Biden's policies. ANI

## Russia may deploy nuclear missiles in response to Western actions, says senior diplomat

MOSCOW

THE moment may come when Russia will need to deploy nuclear missiles in response to Western actions, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told Rossiya 1 TV channel.

"I confirm - if the Supreme Commander-in-Chief [of the Russian Armed Forces Vladimir Putin], if our military says that we need special munitions on certain carriers, then it will be done.

But they must make this decision based on a combination of factors. I do not rule out that the moment may come when it will be needed," he said.

On July 10, the White House press service reported that the United States would begin deploying new longer-range weapons on German territory starting in 2026 than those currently deployed in Europe.

On July 28, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Washington that Moscow would stop implementing its unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium- and shorter-range strike weapons if US long-range missiles appeared in Germany.



## US General arrives in Middle East as Israel prepares for possible Iranian attack

WASHINGTON

US Central Command's General Michael Kurilla arrived in the region on Saturday amid preparations for a possible attack by Iran on Israel in response to the recent killings of senior Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, US-based news website Axios reported, citing two US officials.

General Kurilla's visit, which was planned before the recent escalation between Israel, Iran, and Hezbollah following the killing of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, is now seen as a strategic move. He is expected to mobilise the international and regional coalition that previously defended Israel against an attack from Iran on April 13, Axios reported, citing a US official.

Three US and Israeli officials said that they expect Iran to launch an attack on Israel as early as Monday. Iranian and Hezbollah leaders have pledged to retaliate for the killings of Hezbollah's top military commander, Fuad Shukur, and Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

According to a US official, Kurilla is expected to visit several Gulf nations, including Israel and Jordan. Jordan is a key stop, as it played an important role during the April 13 attack by intercepting Iranian drones bound for Israel and allowing US and Israeli jets to use its airspace for interception.

The official said that the US hopes the same will happen again if needed. The US is boosting its forces in the Middle East in preparation for Iran's possible attack on Israel and sending more warships and fighter jets to the region, the Pentagon said on Friday, according to Axios report.

US officials expect Iranian retaliation to follow a similar pattern as their previous attack on Israel but may also involve Hezbollah in Lebanon, Axios reported. The US government is concerned that it may be more difficult to mobilise the international and regional cooperation of nations that defended Israel from the previous Iranian attack, as Haniyeh's killing has drawn sharp sentiments against Israel across the region.

US and Israeli officials said they do not know whether Iran and Hezbollah will carry out a coordinated attack or operate separately. The officials said that they think Iran and Hezbollah are still working on finalising their military plans and giving them approval at the political level.

A US official said the Biden administration wanted to announce the bolstering of US forces on Friday as Iran and Hezbollah were discussing regarding their response with the hope that the announcement will help to deter and influence their military plans.

When asked on Saturday whether he believes Iran will back down, US President Joe Biden replied, "I hope so. I don't know."

On July 31, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an attack in Tehran. In a statement, the IRGC said that Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were killed when their residence was hit in Tehran.

A projectile hit a residence allocated to war veterans in Tehran at 2 am (local time) on Wednesday, according to a Press TV report. Ismail Haniyeh, who was based in Qatar, travelled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian President-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, according to a Press TV report. ANI

## Historical wins, heartfelt moments mark 1st week of Paris Olympics

PARIS

AS the first week of the Paris 2024 Olympics came to a close, the French capital has already witnessed historic moments and remarkable achievements that will be remembered for generations.

The opening ceremony, a first-ever waterborne spectacle on the River Seine, set the stage for a series of captivating competitions and emotional victories.

Beyond the competitions, the true spirit of the Olympics has shone through in the stories of resilience and camaraderie that have unfolded across various venues.

TRADITION

Forty years ago in Los Angeles, Xu Haifeng triumphed in the men's free pistol event to claim China's first ever Olympic gold, inspiring

Chinese athletes to chase their dreams on the Olympic stage.

At Paris 2024, the legacy continued with China's teenage shooters Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao clinching the Games' first gold medal in the mixed 10m air rifle event, echoing Xu's historic feat.

The 19-year-old Sheng further demonstrated his prowess by seizing gold in the men's 10m air rifle. His teammate Liu Yukun won the 50m rifle three positions title, while Xie Yu triumphed in the men's 10m air pistol. These victories highlight the strength and depth of China's shooting team.

Meanwhile, Chinese divers and paddlers remain on course to achieve a clean sweep of Olympic titles in Paris. They have already secured victories in the men's synchronized 10m platform and table

tennis mixed doubles, events in which they fell short in the last edition of the Games.

South Korea continued its dominance in archery, winning its 10th straight Olympic gold in the women's team event and retaining the men's team title.

In gymnastics, Japan rallied to win its eighth Olympic title in the men's team event, showcasing their enduring excellence in the sport.

American star Simone Biles, who won the women's all-around gold at Rio 2016 but withdrew from the event in Tokyo, made a triumphant return at Paris 2024, reclaiming the crown and solidifying her status as one of the greatest gymnasts of all time.

NEW CHAPTER

The iconic Roland Garros saw Chinese tennis players create his-

tory, as Zheng Qinwen upset world No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland and Angelique Kerber of Germany en route to clinching the women's singles gold. It's only China's second ever tennis gold after Li Ting and Sun Tiantian's women's doubles triumph at Athens 2004.

"I am so happy that I can make this history for Chinese tennis. I've always wanted to be one of the athletes who can get a medal for China, for our country, and right now I'm one of them," said the 21-year-old Zheng, who has idolized two-time Grand Slam winner Li Na since childhood. Li finished fourth in the women's singles at Beijing 2008.

A day before Zheng's victory, Wang Xinyu and Zhang Zhizhen grabbed a mixed doubles silver medal for China, the country's best

result in this event.

At La Défense Arena, Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle, 19, led all the way to win the men's 100m freestyle title in 46.40 seconds, beating his own world record of 46.80 set at the 2024 World Aquatics Championships in Doha.

Chinese youth also excelled in emerging sports. Deng Yawen, 18, claimed China's first BMX Olympic gold in the women's park. "I prepared for the event at my own pace, and I chose the tricks that I was sure of to gain a good spot. If you do every move well, your final score can't be bad," said Deng.

To the delight of home fans, French swimmer Leon Marchand has emerged as the brightest star of these Games so far. On Wednesday, the 22-year-old became the first swimmer to win both the 200m

butterfly and 200m breaststroke gold medals at the same Games, despite having only two hours between both finals. He also won the 200m and 400m individual medley events, becoming the fourth swimmer in history to secure four individual golds in a single Olympics.

"I am using all the energy from the stadium, so I swim as fast as possible in every race. I have accomplished many dreams since I have been here, sharing an incredible moment with everyone," said Marchand.

The 60th and potentially last-ever clash between legendary tennis players Novak Djokovic of Serbia and Spain's Rafael Nadal took place earlier than expected in the second round of men's singles at Paris 2024. Xinhua



# Development path in China inspires Africa

NAIROBI

AFRICA is expecting deepened exchanges and cooperation with China as the latter advances toward modernization, a progress that will continue to benefit not only Africa but also the entire world, said African experts and entrepreneurs following a key meeting recently held in China.

Hope Papo, deputy spokesman of South Africa's African National Congress party, congratulated the Communist Party of China on the successful third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

He said the outcomes of this session indicate a strengthening of China-South Africa cooperation across various sectors, including infrastructure development, technological advancement and economic growth.

"The plenum's decisions are important for China and the world. We have been telling people that you can't ignore China. We see China and South Africa deepening relations, bringing tangible benefits to our citizens. We welcome China's commitment to peace and security, building prosperity without violence," Papo said.

Charles Onunaiju, director of the Centre for China Studies in Abuja, Nigeria, said the plenary session, which concluded last month, reaffirmed that China will seek peaceful development and common prosperity for all countries during its modernization drive, which brings benefits to the whole world.

"It reiterated that the modernization China pursues is peaceful development and that in foreign relations, the country would continue to be firm in its commit-

ment to an independent foreign policy of peace and ... to promoting a human community with a shared future," Onunaiju said.

China would further integrate and give concrete expression to shared values of mankind in its pursuit of the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, he said, highlighting China's dedication to fostering an equal, multipolar world and promoting universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

Onunaiju also applauded the CPC's people-centered approach in pursuing modernization, which will ensure its success.

"Most emerging economies have had their growth trajectories vitiated by the growth of special and vested interests and ended up in the so-called middle-income trap, which China has avoided, with the CPC having neither interest of its own nor of any special interest group, but the broadest interest of the vast majority of the Chinese people," he said.

David Monyae, director of the Centre for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johannesburg, highlighted the enduring ties between Africa and China, dating back to precolonial times. Even when China was still poor decades ago, it helped Africa's development, he said, citing projects such as the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, where Chinese workers made significant sacrifices.

He said African countries should engage with China, learn from its poverty alleviation efforts that lifted more than 800 million out of absolute poverty, and apply suitable lessons for their own development strategies. The emphasis on cooperation among countries at the Third Plenary Session is a positive signal for both Africa and



This photo released by the Confucius Institute at Durban University of Technology on Aug 18, 2023, shows faculty and students of the institute displaying a calligraphic work that reads 'China-South Africa friendship'. (XINHUA)

the whole world, he said.

### Supporting globalization

"China says let's work together, in support of globalization; they are also people-centered," he said. "China is embarking on a long march for development and modernization. The Third Plenary Session is a call for Africa to work with China to

ensure that when China develops, we also develop. China is confronting reform and contributing to the building of the new international order in a peaceful way."

Julius Thairu, chief commercial and customer officer of Kenya Airways, commended China's efforts to promote international cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative, which has helped to

enhance connectivity, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between China and Africa.

"By improving air connectivity, we unlock tremendous potential for increased trade, tourism and investment, benefiting industries across both regions," he said. "Moreover, the promotion of cultural exchange through easier travel fosters deeper understanding and stronger people-to-people connections, which are crucial for sustained collaboration." **Xinhua**

PARIS

## Zheng's golden tennis legacy

DOMINIKA Cibulkova, Kevin Anderson, Mark Philippoussis, Todd Martin, Greg Rusedski, Eugenie Bouchard, Mardy Fish: the history of tennis is littered with the names of the nearly men and women who reached Grand Slam and Olympic finals but never broke through to take that final step to the top.

Perhaps the legacy of Zheng Qinwen could have been a member of that group after she lost seven months ago in the Australian Open final.

The straight-set loss to Aryna Sabalenka could have done irreparable damage to many players without Zheng's mental fortitude. A disappointing loss to unseeded Elna Avanesyan in the French Open in May and an embarrassing defeat to qualifier Lulu Sun at Wimbledon last month led many to worry that Zheng's Australian Open run was simply a flash in the pan.

Yet, here in August, back at Roland Garros, it's Zheng who sits atop the podium.

Her gold, which follows



Gold medalist Zheng Qinwen (R) of China attends the victory ceremony for the women's singles of tennis at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on Aug. 3, 2024. Xinhua

a tournament where the Chinese player had to display immense grit, determination, and endurance just to reach the final, represents the pinnacle of her career so far, as well as the pinnacle of Asian and Chinese women's Olympic tennis.

At 21, the gold could perhaps be the first of many medals for her at the Olympics, or it could be her last. However, one thing is for sure: the gold, and the inspiration that it will provide to young girls and boys back in her homeland,

won't be the last for China.

"I want to tell them to be brave and dream big. Achieving dreams requires setting goals, but the journey will have its hardships, doubts, and sacrifices. Enjoy the process because every failure is a step towards success. Standing where I am today, I can say that all the effort is worth it," Zheng said, speaking directly to young tennis fans staying up late in China to watch her matches. "Since I was a child, you can have a lot of inspiration on me and I

always want to become one of the agents that I can inspire all the young kids to make them want more tennis."

Despite only being at the start of her career, Zheng understands the importance of her role, not just to win matches and tournaments, but also to inspire the next generation.

More than a decade on from Li Na's heroics at the same venue in the French Open, Chinese fans now have a new star to look up to. While the Olympics may not rank as highly for some tennis fans when compared to the Grand Slams, for many Chinese fans - including Zheng's father - the Olympics remains the peak.

"I know he always treats the Olympic Games more important than any of the Slams. I think all the Chinese fans are the same, including me, as you can see.

"Since I was 10, my father always talked about Grand Slams and the Olympics. I know the Olympics mean more to him than a Grand Slam. In 2022, I mentioned in an interview that I was looking forward to the 2024 Olympics. But I also knew high expectations could lead to disappointment," Zheng admitted. "This Olympics has been a rollercoaster for me, with unprecedented pressure and tension.

"I felt like I represented all of Chinese tennis, knowing the Chinese people were cheering for me. Winning the gold made all the hard work and struggles worthwhile."

**Xinhua**

## US is behind EU recommending Kiev to ban oil transit from Russia – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE EU's recommendation to Ukraine to ban the transit of Russian oil meets the interests of the United States, which needs Brussels to be completely dependent on US energy resources, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told TASS.

"I would like to add that Washington is behind Brussels," Zakharova said, commenting on Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto's words that the transit ban was coordinated from Brussels. "The US deep state needs the EU to be completely dependent on its energy resources.

This guarantees Washington economic bonuses and political control over the European Union. This is why the EU countries' long-term contracts with Russia were so hated by the United States. This is why the Nord Streams were blown up," she added.

Earlier, Ukraine halted the transit of Lukoil oil through its territory to Hungary and Slovakia after Kiev blacklisted the company.

Szijjarto previously stressed that stopping pumping Russian oil by Ukraine undermines the energy security of the two EU states and would be a direct violation of the Association Agreement with the EU.



# Young Kenyan artists intensify efforts for wildlife conservation

NAIROBI

TO thunderous applause from the audience, Meshack Lasio and his band members gyrated to the beat as they performed a traditional song from his native western Kenya, extolling the virtues of wildlife conservation.

The lead soloist lived up the auditorium at the National Museum of Kenya, where a live concert was held Thursday to raise awareness of the plight of wildlife. Lasio and his Isukuti vocalists and dancers were the star attraction at the New Era Conservationist Live Concert in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, which served as a rallying call for the artistic community to advocate for increased protection of iconic wildlife species facing multiple threats. The concert that culminated in the screening of a movie brought together musicians,

poets, instrumentalists, and dancers, whose thrilling performances highlighted the urgency of resetting wildlife protection models in Kenya and beyond.

Among the conveners of the concert were the World Animal Protection (WAP), an international animal welfare lobby, and GreenTalk Art, a Nairobi-based organization that leverages art and culture to raise awareness on animal welfare issues. "Through our songs, we hope to rally everyone toward this noble cause of protecting our wild animals in their natural habitat. These animals are part of our heritage, and we should not allow them to disappear," Lasio said. Filled to capacity, the National Museum of Kenya's auditorium was in a frenzied mood as a diverse cast of Kenya's rising stars in performing arts showcased their prowess in conveying messages



that exhort nature or wildlife conservation. A 20-year-old rap artist going by the stage name of Adrian Honcho was lyrical in his delivery of a tune that condemned poaching as a vice while encouraging the

audience to be part of a new movement dedicated to conserving iconic wildlife species.

Honcho said his passion for wildlife was nurtured at a tender age, while music has

provided him with a platform to advocate for better policies and legislation aimed at strengthening the protection of charismatic species like giant land mammals.

Dozens of upcoming artists

defied frigid weather to stage electrifying performances during the live concert, which aimed to kick-start a national conversation on innovative ways to advocate for better wildlife conservation measures.

With his stage presence and baritone voice stealing the thunder, Ramadhan Tsuma, a spoken word artist from the coast region, proved his prowess in Swahili poetry to draw attention to the plight of wildlife countrywide. In his presentation of a Swahili poem,

Tsuma decried predatory behavior by mankind that has decimated wildlife habitats, leading to the loss of tourism revenue and livelihoods to Indigenous communities. For the second year running, Kenya has hosted a live concert showcasing the power of music, dance, and poetry in rallying policymakers, do-

nors, researchers, and local communities to enhance the protection of charismatic wildlife species in the country and across Africa.

Tennyson Williams, regional director for Africa at the WAP, said the new generation of artists has the energy and vigor to reignite a national conversation on reshaping wildlife conservation policies and legislation.

Going by the stage name Lucy Empress, a young female poet, Lucy Wanjiru, was sentimental while appealing to the attentive audience to sacrifice their time, resources, and expertise to protect wildlife.

According to Wanjiru, all forms of art can be effective in rallying communities toward abandoning practices that harm wildlife including illegal hunting and encroachment on habitats.

**Xinhua**



## Botswana wallop Malawi in ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Qualifier Africa Division 2

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

BOTSWANA made their plan to become a force to reckon with in the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Qualifier Africa Division 2 known after beating Malawi by 61 runs in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The promising Botswana squad, led by Ayush Harith's patient 32 runs and significant contributions from Bernard Moloi (16 runs) and Monroux Kasselmann (13 runs), went on to amass 149 runs when it went in to bat first.

Forty-three extras, moreover, offered a significant contribution to the batting squad's total.

Malawi's promising start to the squad's innings (80/2 at 18.5 overs) was disrupted by Botswana's Aryan Abin Pattamana, who took four wickets in five balls, leading to a major collapse.

Pattamana finished with five wickets for seven runs in 3.5 overs, earning the Player of the Match prize.

Malawi's U-19 cricketers were, during their innings, all out for 88 runs in 23.5 overs, witnessing Botswana commanding the 61-run win.

"Aryan's spell was pivotal for us today. It's great to see such performances coming in at crucial times," Botswana's captain Jack Daniels remarked.

Pattamana, the Player of the Match, commented: "I'm thrilled to have contributed to the team's victory. We planned to bowl tight and create pressure, it worked perfectly."

In the other clash, Sierra Leone's bowling attack dominated Rwanda at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club ground, as the former garnered a seven-wicket defeat of the latter.

Winning the toss and opting to bowl, George Sessay and James Bangura were lethal in the Powerplay, with Sessay taking 4-15 and Bangura garnering 2-25 for Sierra Leone.

Despite a partnership between Emmanuel Manishimwe and Jean Claude Imanishimwe, Rwanda was bowled out for 51 runs in 19 overs.

Sierra Leone chased down the target comfortably, scoring 52/3 in 12.1 overs, with Raymond Coker contributing a brisk 20 runs off 16 balls.

Sessay, the Player of the Match, attributed his side's success to exploiting the pitch's moisture.

A thrilling U-19 ICC Men's World Cup Qualifier Africa Division 2 tie at the Dar Gymkhana Club's ground ended with Tanzania grabbing a crucial home victory against Nigeria, winning by six wickets.

The ground was packed with enthusiastic supporters cheering for the home side, creating an electric

atmosphere.

Batting first, Nigeria's U-19 cricketers struggled against the disciplined Tanzanian team's bowling attack.

Laksh Bakrania, Tanzania's captain, led from the front with an impressive performance, taking three wickets for 19 runs in his 10 overs, and was well-supported by Augustine Mwamele (3-15) and Hamza Ally (2-19).

A highlight of the match was Bakrania's stunning one-handed catch and bowled to dismiss Femi Oresenwo, who was looking well set after building partnerships with Ali Rahmon and Kenneth Boniface. Despite the batting efforts, Nigeria was bowled out for 127 runs in 45.4 overs.

In response, Tanzania chased down the target with confidence, scoring 128/4 in 35.4 overs to emerge victoriously.

Karim Kiseto played a brilliant innings, becoming the tournament's first half-century with his score of 57 runs off 88 balls, supported by Ally (20 runs off 37 balls).

Nigeria's bowlers, Progress Osagie (2-22) and Opening bowler Okasha Isiyaku (1-30), tried to apply pressure, but Tanzania held their nerve to secure the win.

"This win is significant for us as the host nation. The team showed great character, and we are thrilled to start the tournament positively," Bakrania, the Tanzanian skipper, noted.

This victory was, particularly, sweet for Tanzania as they avenged their defeat against Nigeria at the same ground in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier 2023 Division 1, where both teams were relegated to Division 2.

Ghana battled hard to secure a four-wicket victory over Mozambique in their opening match at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) ground.

Despite chasing a low total of 80 runs, Ghana faced a challenging task, losing six wickets in their pursuit of the target.

Mozambique batted first and struggled to build partnerships, bowled out for 80 runs in 34.3 overs.

Ghana's Lee Nyarko delivered a captain's performance, taking five wickets for 25 runs in his 10 overs, and was well-supported by Bernard Addo (2-12) and David Ateak (2-19).

Mozambique's skipper Antonio Laice (17 off 52 balls) and Filipe Nelson (13 off 30 balls) were the top run-getters for the squad.

In reply, Ghana faced a spirited bowling effort showcased by Mozambique. Despite losing wickets at regular intervals, they chased the target, scoring 81/6 in 11.4 overs.

## Thrills and spills galore expected in new 2024/2025 football season

By Lloyd Ellipokea

IT seems just like yesterday when last season's action-packed and fascinating football campaign came to a fitting dramatic conclusion.

Here, on home soil, Young Africans SC's adversaries were positively green with envy over the smashing manner in which the Jangwani Street-based side claimed the Mainland Premier League trophy and the Federations Cup to boot.

It should be noted that Young Africans have held sway over domestic football in recent seasons as no other club has been able to pose a significant threat to their unmatched supremacy.

In light of this, then, one expects that the brand, new season, which is merely days away will feature some captivating, hard-fought battles between the local game's true behemoths such as Simba, Young Africans and Azam FC.

As pointed out earlier, the traditional curtain-raiser to the new domestic football season, the Community Shield, will take place between those two age-old foes Young Africans and Simba at the iconic Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 8, this year.

Interestingly, the spanking new 2024/25 Community Shield clash has now been expanded into a mini championship featuring four high-flying football outfits, which are: Simba, Young Africans, Azam and Coastal Union.

Excitingly, Simba will lock horns with Young Africans in one semi-final on August 8 while the other semifinal



Simba Sports Club's official squad for the 2024/25 season is pictured during their Simba Day celebrations on Saturday. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

will see Coastal Union come up against Azam in what should be an extremely intriguing matchup.

Understandably though, the mouthwatering encounter that will attract the greatest attention is undoubtedly the always-absorbing Dar es Salaam Derby between Young Africans and Simba.

Indeed, it will be mightily interesting to witness who dominates the midfield for Simba following the headline-grabbing departure of Zambian football maestro Clatous Chama to bitter rivals Young Africans.

For their part, Young Africans will be eager to demonstrate their superiority over Simba and towards this end, the Jangwani Street-based club's recent thumping 4-0 triumph over South African titans Kaizer

Chiefs will certainly have done their confidence a world of good. Ergo, the stage seems set then for what should be an utterly gripping battle royal between local football's two biggest rivals.

Let us now turn to the multi-sport, drama-filled Olympic Games in Paris which has delightfully lived up to expectations.

Sadly, from a Tanzanian perspective, the Olympic Games thus far have been a miserable tale of dashed hopes and immense frustration.

Indeed, no Tanzanian athlete has secured a medal so far which means that the country's 44-year medal drought seems painfully set to continue.

That being said, our medal hopes now rest on our marathoners, who are to wit: Al-

phonse Simbu as well as Gabriel Geay in the men's category and Magdalena Shauri as well as Jackline Sakilu in the women's category.

Judging from the stiff opposition that our marathoners will face from notably Kenyan and Ethiopian counterparts in both the men's and women's marathons, it is going to take something absolutely special for our marathoners to capture a medal, which would break our lengthy 44-year jinx.

Thus, with the men's and women's marathons set to take place on the last two days of the sporting extravaganza in Paris, it goes without saying that all Tanzanians will be keeping their fingers crossed for our embarrassingly long losing streak at the Olympics to, at last, come to an end.



Barrick workers in Tanzania, through their marathon clubs, participate in the Serengeti Anti-poaching Run 2024. The 12-kilometre run was held in the Serengeti district, Mara region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Singida Black Stars vie for Victorien Adebayor signature

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Black Stars are pulling out all the stops to strengthen their team with a hot pursuit of Niger international winger Victorien Adebayor, aiming to make a significant impact from the start of the new campaign.

Reports within the club state Singida Black Stars are working tirelessly to complete this deal early to unveil the player in an international friendly against Aigle Noir of Burundi at the Big Day Festival on August 10 at Liti Stadium in Singida.

Adebayor (pictured) is famous

in the Tanzania football scene after being linked with a move to Simba in 2022/2023, a move that did not go through after he joined RS Berkane of Morocco before moving to AmaZulu the following season.

"If everything goes well, this player will join Singida to play for the club next season. Adebayor is one of head coach Patrick Aussems's recommendations. So let's wait and see what happens in this deal," said the source.

Patrick Aussems's men had an awful journey in the Kagame Cup journey, and they have played four friendly matches, securing a



3-0 victory against Police Tanzania, a 2-2 draw with ACA Eagles, a 2-1 loss to Dodoma Jiji FC, and a 2-0 loss against Namungo.

These matches have been crucial in assessing the team's progress and areas needing improve-

ment as Adebayor is identified as their solution to their attacking woes. The club has been linked with the player who impressed while on loan at US Gendarmerie from AmaZulu. There's speculation that Adebayor might not return to South Africa.

Singida Black Stars' information officer, Hussein Massanza, confirmed that the club's roster is still under construction. Some players currently training with the team haven't yet signed official contracts.

Massanza also hinted at potential player departures, promising exciting developments as the

squad takes shape.

"Singida Black Stars are set to loan out some players, but there will be big surprises when everything is finalized. We are working hard to reach the needs of coach Aussems so that we can have a good season," said Massanza.

"We will reveal the said players but for now I think the best answer is to encourage our fans to expect good things. We have just completed our training camp in Arusha and are now returning to Singida for our festival which will be monumental."

Massanza also noted that the Big Day Festival match will be a

significant event, featuring various entertainment activities and serving as a crucial preparation for the season ahead.

For the team, Aussems is diligently working to build a formidable Singida Black Stars FC squad through strategic friendly matches. His focus on both attacking and defensive aspects aims to ensure the team is well-prepared for the competitive season ahead.

With the support of fans and the continuous refinement of strategies, Aussems hopes to lead Singida Black Stars FC to a successful campaign in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League.



## Erik ten Hag hints at surprise new role for Jadon Sancho at Man U

By Richard Jolly

JADON Sancho could start the season as Manchester United's striker, capping a remarkable return to favour.

The winger, who was banished to train with the Under-18s last season after falling out with manager Erik ten Hag, may deputise for the injured Rasmus Hojlund, who has been ruled out for six weeks with a hamstring problem.

Ten Hag has signed a striker this summer but Joshua Zirkzee, the £42m arrival from Bologna, has only just linked up with his new teammates after Euro 2024 and may not be ready to begin Saturday's Community Shield against Manchester City.

Sancho has been used as a false nine in pre-season and, after the 3-0 defeat to Liverpool in the United States, Ten Hag said he is considering using the England international as a central attacker.

"Yes, otherwise we wouldn't play with him there," he explained. "Of course, Joshua Zirkzee is coming in. He has started training. But he is not so long in training so it will take time and he has to adjust to English football and our way of playing."

"Jadon can of course play as a striker. He can also play in wide areas but it could be he is a good option."

Sancho has not played in a competitive game for United since August. After his relationship with Ten Hag broke down after he was omitted for September's game at Arsenal and refused to apologise for inferring the manager was a liar, he spent four months on the sidelines before rejoining Borussia Dortmund on loan and helping them reach the Champions League final. United were hoping to sell him earlier in the summer, but now Sancho could resume his career at Old Trafford.

While Marcus Rashford is also an alternative to lead the line while Hojlund is out, Ten Hag said he would rather deploy him as a winger.

"I think Marcus has done it [play as a striker] before, he can do it and it is definitely an option," the United manager added. "But I think he is more productive from the left inside, when he is coming inside, so when he can arrive there he is most effective. But we also have Bruno Fernandes as a striker as well."

Captain Fernandes operated as a false nine when United beat City in the FA Cup final at Wembley in May.

Meanwhile, Ten Hag said Victor Lindelof was withdrawn at half-time in the Liverpool game as a precaution while fellow defender Jonny Evans was struggling with illness.

THE INDEPENDENT

## Maresca defends his team after defeat to Man City

By Nizaar Kinsell

ENZO Maresca says Chelsea played well despite conceding four goals to mistakes in the defeat to Manchester City.

An Erling Haaland hat-trick and Oscar Bobbs's strike came through misplaced passes, with the first two goals coming within the first five minutes.

However, the Blues clawed two second half goals back through substitutes Raheem Sterling and Noni Madueke and Maresca insists his team are showing pre-season progress while on tour of the United States.

"A very strange game, to be honest, because we planned the game and I think the plan was good in terms of the way we wanted to attack and defend," Maresca said at the Ohio Stadium.

"In the first-half, apart from the first five minutes when we conceded two goals, the team was good. But it is a strange game because you plan the game in one way, then you concede two goals and it changes the dynamic."

"We need to learn that when you concede one, you cannot concede one and then after two minutes another one. This is something that I just said to the players; we need to learn. When we concede one, we need to become stronger so we don't concede another one."

"We do not like to lose games but my main focus for me is to see things, different things, and to try to be ready for the official games at the beginning of the season."

Meanwhile, Chelsea's new striker Marc Guiu says it was his "dream" to play in the Premier League and denied reports he left Barcelona for money.

The 18-year-old Spaniard has been given a prominent role in Chelsea's pre-season tour after the Blues triggered a £5m release clause in his contract.

Guiu, who has scored once in four matches while on tour of the United States, rejected a new contract at Barcelona before his move to Stamford Bridge.

He denied reports in Spain that it was partly motivated by money and said: "It was not an issue with my contract."

"I've always dreamt of playing in the Premier League and Chelsea is a great club with a lot of history."

BBC

# Noah Lyles now wins a historically close Olympic 100-meter sprint by five-thousandths of a second

SAINT-DENIS, France

NOAH Lyles paced on the far end of the track, hands folded over the top of his head, wistfully looking up at a scoreboard that would, sooner or later, flash an answer he's been seeking over three sweat-soaked years.

Was all that toil since the last Olympics – all the work on the practice track and in the weight room in the name of finding a centimeter here or a millisecond there – really going to be worth all the trouble?

Ten seconds passed, then 20. Then, nearly 30. And then, the answer popped up.

Yes, Lyles is the 100-meter champion at the Paris Olympics. The World's Fastest Man.

Just not by very much. The American showman edged out Jamaica's Kishane Thompson on Sunday by five-thousandths of a second – that's .005 of one tick of the clock – in a race for the ages.

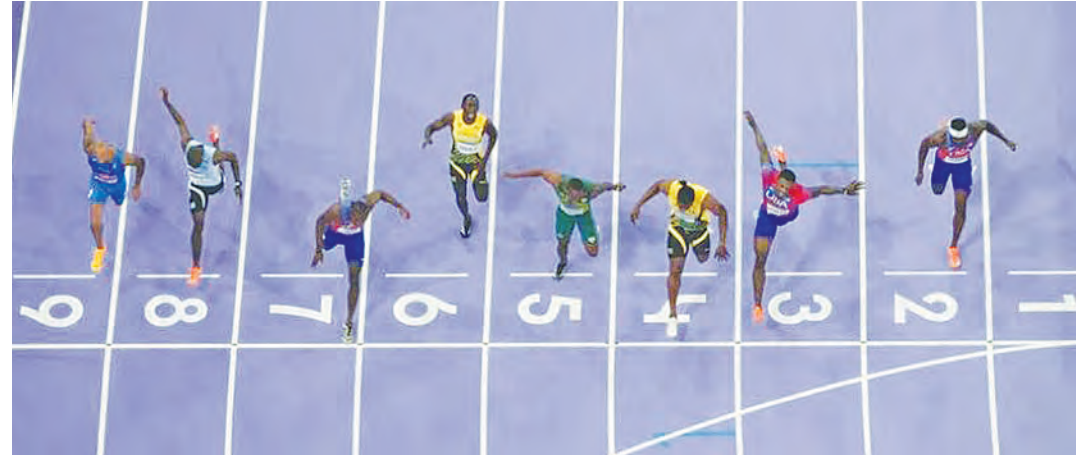
The final tally in this one: Lyles 9.784 seconds, Thompson 9.789.

The new champion said that before he left for Paris, one of his physio guys ensured him this race would be a squeaker.

"He said, 'This is how close first and second are going to be,'" Lyles said as he pinched his thumb and his forefinger together so they were almost touching. "I can't believe how right he was."

For perspective, the blink of an eye takes, on average, .1 second. That was 20 times longer than the gap between first and second.

It was so close, that when the sprinters crossed the line and the word "Photo" popped



In one of the closest finishes in Olympic history, American sprinter Noah Lyles (Lane 7) edged Jamaica's Kishane Thompson (Lane 4) by five thousandths of a second Sunday to win the 100-meter dash and grab the honorary title as the world's fastest man. Agencies

up next to the names of Lyles, Thompson and five others in the eight-man field, Lyles walked over to the Jamaican and said "I think you got the Olympics dog."

Thompson, who raced three lanes to the left of Lyles and had no clue where he was on the track, wasn't convinced.

"I was, 'Wow, I'm not even sure, because it was that close,'" the Jamaican said.

Time would tell. It always does. When Lyles' name came up first, he snatched his name tag off the front of his bib and held it to the sky. Moments later, he shouted at the TV camera: "America, I told you I got this!"

The first four racers were separated by less than .03. The top seven all finished within .09 of each other.

America's Fred Kerley came in third at 9.81. "That's probably one of the most beautiful races I've been in," he said.

In the photo finish, Kerley's orange shoe crossed the line before anyone, or anything. But it's the chest breaking

the barrier that counts. Lyles' chest crossed first.

This was the closest 1-2 finish in the 100 since at least Moscow in 1980 – or maybe even ever.

Back then, Britain's Allan Wells narrowly beat Silvio Leonard in an era when the electronic timers didn't go into the thousandths of a second. The same was true in 1932, when Eddie Tolan won the Olympics' first ever photo finish.

Lyles conceded that during the excruciating wait, he was pretty sure he had dipped his chest just a tad too soon. Dipping, it turns out, is one of the few things he doesn't work on over and over again at his training track in Florida.

"But I would say I have a decent history with dipping," he said, recalling races he won in high school and as a junior.

The 9.784 marked a new personal best for Lyles and made him the first American champion in the marquee race at the Olympics since Justin Gatlin in 2004.

Lyles is hoping to go even bigger than that, and maybe take this sport back to a day when it was Carl Lewis and Edwin Moses lighting up the track – a must-see affair, the likes of which Lyles headlined in front of around 80,000 on a warm night at the Stade de France.

The mission started after Lyles settled for a bronze medal in Tokyo in his favorite – and then, only – sprint, the 200. Those COVID-impacted Games were a terrible experience for Lyles. He rededicated himself to bettering his mental health, but also looked for a new mission – the 100 meters and, with it, a chance at track immortality.

The practice was tough for a sprinter never known as a great starter, but he stuck with it. When he won the world championships last year, then backed it up by winning the 200, his goal for Paris was very much in sight.

But when he came into the Olympic final having finished second in both his qualifying

races and staring across at one sprinter who had run faster than him this year – Thompson – and another who had beaten him twice this year – Jamaica's Oblique Seville – he knew this would be no coronation.

Thompson added another roadblock when, during the introduction, he let out a primal scream, the likes of which Lyles has been unleashing in some of his biggest races.

"I thought 'Man, that's my thing, that's crazy,'" Lyles said.

Lyles galloped and leapt about 20 yards down the track before returning to the starting line, where the runners waited some three minutes for the gun to finally sound.

It was worth the wait.

Now, the question that could be debated for years is: What was the difference in this one?

Could it have been Lyles' closing speed and that lean into the line that he thought was mistimed?

Was it his ability to stay in reach of everyone among this straight line of sprinters over the first 60 meters – a skill he's been working on in tedious practice after practice since he took on the shorter sprint?

The answer: all that and more.

"Everyone in the field came out knowing they could win this race," Lyles said.

It took 9.784 seconds, then about 30 seconds more, for the scoreboard to flash the name of the man who actually did.

"Seeing that name, I was like 'Oh my gosh, there it is!'" Lyles said.

AP

## Savinho might just be a flagship signing for the multi-club ownership model - as well as for Man City

By Richard Jolly

IT is a very old-fashioned route to the top, yet also a very modern one. A few years before joining the Premier League champions, Savinho was getting up at 5am to milk his grandparents' cows on the family farm in Brazil. Manchester City was not on his mind then, he admitted. "I was really happy being on the farm," he said, sounding like a throwback to the times when footballers had been miners and millworkers, trained in trades or primed to take over family businesses.

At 20, he has scored in the Copa America, as part of a Brazil forward line with the Champions League winners Rodrygo and Vinicius Junior, played a pivotal role in helping Girona complete a top three in LaLiga with Real Madrid and Barcelona and been bought to supply the City Galacticos. "I'm really looking forward to providing assists for [Erling] Haaland and other players like [Kevin] De Bruyne," he said.

But City's flagship summer signing arrived at the Etihad Stadium after a transfer with a difference; or perhaps a sign of things to come.

Savinho was recruited from Troyes for an initial €25m, plus a potential €15m in add-ons; yet he never made an appearance for Troyes. As he was upwardly mobile, they slipped downwards, relegated twice in his time on their books,



Manchester City have signed Savinho as new ownership structure pays dividends. Agencies

albeit reinstated to Ligue 2 because of Bordeaux's financial meltdown.

Instead, it transpired, he arrived in France with another move already arranged.

"There was already a loan agreement when I signed and that was explained very clearly to me and I did like that offer, it was appealing to me, so it worked well," said Savinho. His first loan was at PSV Eindhoven. "The first season adapting in Europe is quite difficult," he added. "I learnt a great deal on the pitch tactically. I also learnt a lot technically. There was also the culture, when I first moved to the Netherlands there was the climate, the cold, the language. The experience in the Netherlands meant that when I went to Girona I was a better player."

His second loan came at part of another family business, one that doesn't involve milking cows. Like Troyes, Girona are part of the City Football Group. "At Girona I earned the trust and confidence of my

teammates," he said. He scored 11 goals and made 10 others in Girona's surprise surge. "From there, I caught the attention of Manchester City and negotiations started with City," he said. "It went on for some months and it was mutual. I was very interested in playing for Manchester City and they were very interested in signed me."

Yet if his pace and skill were eye-catching, it is safe to say Savinho was on City's radar before then. Indeed, he said last

season that he signed for Troyes, despite interest from Arsenal, to try and play for City; the CFG have a 47 percent stake in Girona and their chairman is Pere Guardiola.

Savinho could be a poster boy for the merits of multi-club ownership; City have been able to introduce a teenage talent from South America to European football, testing him at other clubs before determining he suited them, while Girona got a player they probably could not afford to buy and who took them to the best season in their history.

Troyes, who bought him from Atletico Mineiro for an initial €6.5m, pocketed a profit. "It was really good," said Savinho, of his time at the French club.

Everyone was a winner: in some respects, anyway. Troyes have not been if results are the determining fac-

tor, going down twice, winning a mere 13 of 76 league games while Savinho did not even debut for them; nor, perhaps, any other club who had hoped to buy the winger, but who instead saw his progress to Manchester smoothed.

It is, however, worth noting that his transfer to City was checked and adjudged by Uefa that it was fair-market value; there was nothing improper in the price. European football's governing body has ruled that players cannot be transferred between sister clubs in the same continental competition, unless there is a pre-existing agreement, as there was for Savinho.

Settling in Manchester could be easier, meanwhile, because he had spent 15 days there while with Girona. All of which could reward CFG for their scouting, for their global network that can create pathways

for players. Perhaps it is no wonder that others are seeking to emulate them: Chelsea, in the guise of BlueCo, bought Strasbourg while Fenway Sports Group are looking to acquire another club and considered Bordeaux. Meanwhile, Girona's success has provided City with a player and should make them money.

The day before Savinho was unveiled at the Etihad Stadium, his Girona teammate Yan Couto joined Borussia Dortmund, on loan but with a €30m permanent move likely to be triggered. The full-back is owned by City, but has never played for them. Savinho, meanwhile, was owned by Troyes and never played for them. A crowd-pleaser on the pitch may be a symptom of football in the 2020s and a trailblazer for a multi-club future.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Noah Lyles wins a historically close Olympic 100-meter sprint by five-thousandths of a second

PAGE 19

## New signings have adapted to Yanga system, says coach Gamondi



Young Africans Sports Club's official squad for the 2024/25 season is pictured during their Wiki ya Mwananchi finale on Sunday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**M**IGUEL Gamondi, the head coach of Young Africans, expressed satisfaction with how the team's new signings have seamlessly adapted to their playing style and tactics.

With an eye on strengthening every aspect of their squad, from defense to midfield and attacking positions, Gamondi conveyed his contentment with how the new signings have integrated into the team's system.

Ahead of the 2024/25 season, Young Africans have signed seven players.

In the goalkeeping department, they have signed Aboubakar Khomein from Singida Black Stars to replace Metacha Mnata.

The back line has seen the addition of Chadrack Boka as a replacement for Joyce Lomalisa. The Congolese left full-back will compete for a starting place with Nickson Kibabage.

To fill the void left by Zawadi Mauya in defensive mid-

field, Young Africans have recruited Aziz Andabwile from Singida Fountain Gate.

Kenyan midfielder Duke Abuya arrived from Singida Black Stars to provide more options in midfield following the exit of South African winger Mahlatse Makudubela. Further up front, Clatous Chama joined from arch-rivals Simba, Prince Dube arrived from Azam while Jean Baleke was signed following the end of his short spell in Libya.

Young Africans wrapped up their preseason with a 2-1 victory over Zambian

champions Red Arrows on Sunday.

Following the match, Coach Gamondi lauded the adaptability and performance of the new players, emphasizing they are all happy to be part of the team.

"I am happy with how the team is doing in preseason, how the team is working. We are working very hard and we try to apply what we did during the week. You know in preseason the result is not the most important but it is how the team plays though it helps to get a good result. "They are adapting very

quickly. It is very easy to work with them because they adapted very well to the system. Our system is simple with the methodology of our training. They are already part of the team and I think they enjoy playing for us and you can see it on the pitch," he said.

The positive adaptation of these new players was evident in all the four preseason-friendly games Young Africans have played.

Baleke, one of the recent acquisitions, made an impactful debut, scoring a goal against German Bundesliga

side FC Augsburg.

This preseason display provides a promising outlook for Young Africans as they set their sights on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the new season.

Young Africans will look to defend their Premier League and Federation Cup titles as well as make a deep run in the CAF Champions League.

On Thursday they start their campaign with a Community Shield semi-final match against arch-rivals Simba at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 5SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Furuka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SELEKT  
17:55 Kurosa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 PHASHIAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurosa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Simba 2024/25 season official squad numbers now revealed

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA will feel like they have a point to prove during the 2024/25 campaign, having finished a disappointing third last season.

Failure would be disappointing given the ambitious and expensive outlay Fadlu Davids's side enjoyed in the transfer market.

Fourteen new players have arrived at Simba while more than seven have also departed from the team in a major shake-up of the squad, resulting in plenty of shirt number movement ahead of the 2024/25 season.

On Saturday, the club revealed the squad numbers for all the new signings: Jean Charles Ahoua, Steven Mukwala, Joshua Mutale, Abdulrazak Hamza, Debora Fernandes, Augustine Okejepha, Valentin Mashaka, Omary Abdallah Omary, Valentin Nouma, Karaboue Chamou, Yusuph Kagoma, and Moussa Camara.

Zambian winger Mutale, signed from Power Dynamos, is Simba's latest No. 7, a number that was previously worn by Willy Onana last season.

New goalkeeper Camara, arriving from Guinea's Horoya, took number 26. Centre-back Hamza, signed from South Africa's SuperSport United, wears the number 14 jersey.

Burkina Faso left-fullback Nouma, who is expected to offer competition to Mohamed Hussein, has the number 29 on his back.

The youngest player in the current squad, Nigerian midfielder Augustine Okejepha (20), recently signed from Rivers United, has taken number 25, while Ivorian centre-back Chamou officially has number 2.

Midfielder Awesu, captured from KMC, has taken the number 23, while Omary, arriving from Mashujaa, will wear the number 8 jersey.

Angolan midfielder Debora Fernandes Mavambo took the number 17 shirt from Clatous Chama, who has joined Young Africans following the expiration of his contract.

Kagoma has the number 21, and Mashaka will wear the number 27.

Ugandan striker Steven Mukwala has received the number 11 shirt after his transfer from Asante Kotoko, while attacking midfielder Ahoua will be donning the number 10 that was vacant after the exit of Saido Ntibazonkiza.

In the modern game and due to so many players being flexible in their positioning, squad numbers don't have as much meaning as they used to.

Players tend to have the option to choose any number they wish, but certain clubs may enforce specific numbering rules.

NBC Premier League players are allowed to wear any number between 1 and 70, as long as it's distinctive within their squad.

First-team players are typically assigned shirt numbers between 1 and 30, but there are outliers to this presumption. For example, in the Simba squad, Kibu Denis holds the No. 38.

## Top winners of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour to represent Tanzania in Grand Finale, Kenya with chance to win the grand prize of 1 million KES, equivalent to nearly TZS 20 million

Top winners of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour to represent Tanzania in Grand Finale, Kenya with chance to win the grand prize of 1 million KES, equivalent to nearly TZS 20 million

The winning team of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour, Tanzania leg, has earned the opportunity to compete in the grand finale in Kenya on December 6th, fully sponsored by KCB Bank Tanzania.

Following the conclusion of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour 2024 Tanzania leg, a celebratory award ceremony took place on August 3rd, 2024, at Lugalo Golf Club. In addition to the grand finale opportunity, various category winners received numerous prizes.

The top winners, Peter Mlewi, Major General Ibrahim Mhona, Hadija Selemani, and Hawa Wanyeché, were the standout golfers who earned the honor of

representing Tanzania at the grand finale in Kenya. Their exceptional skills and dedication have secured them full accommodation and a chance to compete for the grand prize of 1 million KES, equivalent to nearly 20 million TZS.

The event was graced by the Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, accompanied by KCB Group CEO Paul Russo, KCB Bank Tanzania Board Director Jacqueline Woiso, KCB Group Regional Businesses Director and MD KCB Tanzania, and the KCB Group Director of Finance. The ceremony was attended by prominent golfers and KCB customers, celebrating the achievements of the participants and the values of excellence and sportsmanship championed by KCB Bank.



The KCB Group Chief Executive Officer, Paul Russo presenting an award to one of the winners of the just ended KCB East Africa Golf Tour 2024, Joseph Tairo in the award ceremony at Lugalo Golf Club over the weekend. The four standout golfers have earned the Honor of representing Tanzania at the grand finale in Kenya with a chance to compete for the grand prize of 1 million KES, equivalent to nearly 20 million TZS

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

