

## AGRICULTURE



TEN DAYS REMAINING FOR 13,287 LEADERS TO SUBMIT ETHICS FORMS

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# Escrow account initiated as EACOP pays out displaced



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (4th R) and Finance and Planning deputy minister Ali Ameir together pull the curtain when laying the foundation stone for a car park project at Malindi in Zanzibar at the start of anniversary of 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project will open an escrow account for those missing from compensation, having achieved 98 percent completion of compensation payments for affected households.

Abass Abraham, EACOP external communication manager, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that so far the project managers have allocated 399 modern houses to the households that are to make space for the project.

Those whose farms have been taken and compensated, he said, noting that the vast majority of the eligible people have received compensation, with two percent of beneficiaries nowhere to be found. Some haven't resolved their family issues, he said.

Some people were registered and are entitled to get the payments but they didn't appear to collect their monies, he said, hinting that the compensation desk is still on the lookout for them.

EACOP plans to establish an escrow account to address the drawback, as a contractual arrangement in which a third party receives and disburses money or property for the primary transacting parties.

The disbursement is dependent on conditions agreed to by the transacting parties, and in this case an escrow account

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## World Bank approves \$1.1bn metropolitan phase two credit

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S economic projections received a significant boost yesterday with a \$1.1bn financing package from the World Bank.

Victoria Kwakwa, the vice president for eastern and southern Africa, said in a statement that the executive board had approved two new financing operations for Tanzania including a \$750m development policy financing (DPF) operation. It will support private-sector led recovery, while \$385m is allocated for phase two of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) to improve urban services, institutional capacity and climate resilience.

Tanzania's second inclusive and resilient growth development policy financing, building on the success of the first DPF approved in December 2022, is expected to leverage International Development Association (IDA) financing to address longer-term structural challenges that have hampered economic growth, she said.

The support will also help unleash private sector-driven recovery by providing a significant boost to ongoing reforms that are aimed at improving the business climate, strengthening the management of state owned enterprises, improving transparency and fostering economic resilience, the WB executive specified.

"We commend Tanzania for adopting reforms to foster more inclusive, private sector driven, and resilient growth, while navigating challenges posed by unprecedented global events," she stated.

"We are committed to supporting Tanzania to deepen reforms that facilitate immediate recovery and strengthen the foundations for sustained, inclusive and resilient economic growth," she emphasised.

The statement highlighted that recent assessments, including the just-released

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## Ten days remaining for 13,287 leaders to submit ethics forms

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ONLY 2,475 out of 15,762 public officials eligible for making a formal declaration of their income, assets and liabilities have done so, just

ten days to the deadline.

Waziri Kipacha, the commissioner for the Public Leaders Ethics Secretariat, said at a press conference here yesterday that 16 percent of eligible public officials had adhered to the le-

gal requirement for such declaration of their wealth, demanded on an annual basis.

With ten days left to the submission deadline in accordance with the Public Leadership Code

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Fish mongers at Ferry international fish market in Dar es Salaam attend to their customers yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Samia cited again amongst Africa's influential women

■ Egyptian CEO tops the list for the fifth time

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has again been cited as amongst Africa's most influential women, on the basis of a West African communications group evaluation.

It names Merck Foundation CEO and Egyptian Senator Dr Rasha Kelej in the list as well as Namibia Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila in the list of 100 most influential African women, revised for 2023.

Advance Media, described as Africa's leading media, public relations and rating firm, said the list of 100 most influential African women 2023 is made up of prominent African women breaking the bias across the world.

It includes two presidents, three vice presidents, one prime minister, ministers

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## Escrow account initiated as EACOP pays out displaced

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serves as a safety net and ensures that eligible beneficiaries get their desired rights, he said.

The project is making significant developments, with pipes sufficient for 100km of the pipeline having been delivered at Dar port, to be hauled to 16 construction camps in Uganda and Tanzania.

Catherine Mbatia, EACOP (T) communications lead, also said the project has started bearing fruit by creating thousands of job opportunities. It was empowering local firms and technicians, building the pipeline and running it later.

Improved farming practices are starting with people with displaced people, empowered with skills on productive farming, she said, referring to EACOP entering into a training agreement with the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) for special courses on operating the pipeline.

She said the project design adheres to the 2017 law to protect the rights of indigenous people so it has provided opportunities for employment, training, building capacity for local companies, ensuring that we buy local services and products.

Neema Kweka, the EACOP local content head, said that project experts were testing soil, providing improved seeds and fertiliser, with production reaching 30 bags per acre, from three to five bags earlier. "So you can see that EACOP is an opportunity to change lives."

"We wish that in the next five years

when we start operations, we will not hire people from outside but Tanzanians will be empowered and that is why we have entered into an agreement with VETA so that they can produce enough professionals."

EACOP spans 1,443kilometers, being planned since 2013, intended to transport crude oil from Uganda's Tilenga and Kingfisher oil fields to the Port of Tanga, Tanzania on the Indian Ocean.

Uganda wants to develop its oilfields under the two projects Tilenga, operated by TotalEnergies, and Kingfisher by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC). In 2021, EACOP was owned by TotalEnergies at 65 percent, Uganda's National Oil Company (UNOC) has 15 percent shares, TPDC holding 15 percent and CNOOC at five percent. The price of the project has increased to \$5bn and financing as of June 2023 remained uncertain.

Reports say that upwards of 24 banks have distanced themselves from the project, with Standard Bank, through Stanbic Bank (Uganda), and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, still advising on the project.

Once completed, the pipeline would be the longest electrically heated crude oil pipeline in the world, with its extensive displacement of communities and expected impact on wildlife, water resources and contribution to anthropogenic climate change.

Global environmental groups and the EU have been protesting its construction and finance, fostering peaceful activism and protests in Uganda which were silenced, regional media reports affirm.

## Samia cited again amongst Africa's influential women

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and top CEOs of both commercial and civic organizations, it said in a statement, citing Dr Rasha Kelej for the fifth year as one of 100 most influential African women.

It said that under her leadership, Merck Foundation was also recognized as the NGO of the year 2022, the most influential NGO and best health sector philanthropy of the year 2023, whose collective efforts are shaping Africa's future and transforming its healthcare landscape.

She is also president of "More Than a Mother" campaign was recognized again in the annual publication to celebrate the remarkable endeavours of African women, who inspire future African leaders.

Senator Kelej has been recognized for her commitment towards Women Empowerment, Girl Education and Patient Care transformation in Africa and other developing countries, the statement noted.

Through the 'Educating Linda' program in partnership with the First Ladies of Africa who are also the Ambassadors of Merck Foundation's 'More Than a Mother' campaign, she has contributed to the future of thousands of school girls by providing scholarships and essential school items in many

African countries. This program has benefited many girls by providing scholarships in many African countries like Burundi, Central African Republic, DRC, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe and more.

Moreover, 3,000 sets of essential school items have been distributed for girls' schools in many countries like Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, and Zambia.

With the aim to raise awareness about the critical social and health issues of the continent, she has trained more than 3000 media persons in more than 35 countries, and also launches, annually, eight different awards for best media coverage, fashion designs, films and songs.

The 2023 list of 100 Most Influential African Women has a representation of the most powerful African women from 36 African countries, chosen from various career backgrounds including diplomacy, philanthropy, politics, activism, entrepreneurship, business leadership, sports, media and entertainment. It includes many famous names like President Samia, Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde, and Namibian Prime Minister Saara Kuuonongelwa-Amadhila, amongst others.

## World Bank approves \$1.1bn metropolitan phase two credit

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Country Economic Memorandum for Tanzania and the Country Performance and Institutional Assessment show that there are several challenges hindering private sector growth.

These include strict licensing requirements to start and run a business, limited access to credit and costly public sector debts (including value added tax refunds), it said.

The assessments also show that it is important to complement the public investment push with stronger social policies to promote inclusion and economic resilience. The DPF aims to help address these challenges.

"Thanks to new financing, the second phase of the DMDP will focus on climate-smart priority infrastructure, integrated solid waste management infrastructure and services, and strengthening urban institutions," she affirmed.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director for Tanzania, said that Tanzania remains very vulnerable to climate change and is limited in its preparedness to adapt and respond to the adverse impacts.

"Building upon successful prior investments and outcomes achieved through the initial phase of the DMDP, this second phase aims to further fortify Dar es Salaam while improving mobility, livability, and resilience."

The first phase of DMDP improved mobility for 4.1m people through the construction of 207.8 kilometers of roads, particularly in underserved low-income areas.

It also enhanced flood protection for 406 hectares of urban land and upgraded 152 informal settlements enabling improved living conditions for thousands of residents now having easier access to basic services and amenities, he added.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Jenista Mhagama visits construction of infrastructure destroyed by mudslide in Katesh, Hanang District recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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of Ethics Act No.13 of 1995, the commissioner appealed to eligible public officials to adhere to the constitutional requirement espoused in the legislation.

They need to submit their forms by late next week, he said, noting that with increased technology online filing of declaration forms is feasible.

Online submission of declaration forms eases the exercise for officials who do not have time for physical submission, be that they are inside or outside the country, he said.

The Ethics Act section 9(1) (b), reminds eligible public officials to sub-

## Ten days remaining for 13,287 leaders to submit ethics forms

mit the declaration forms by the year's end, each year. "Where newly appointed leaders are required to submit their declaration form within 14 days after appointment, election or promotion."

Last year 193 public leaders failed to submit their declaration forms and were issued reprimand letters to explain the failure, where 192 provided reasons. One who failed appeared before the commission, he affirmed.

The Ethics Secretariat is mandated to receive and verify declarations of assets and liabilities demanded of public officials under the constitution, "or any other law as per the identified time deadlines and composition rules," he elaborated.

To conduct investigations on complaints levelled against any public official in relation to compliance with the Code of Ethics Act.

It also has the mandate to report to the president on affairs and business of the secretariat on matters under its jurisdiction under the Act, he stated.

The law requires any person to disclose or produce any information on accounts, documents or articles as may be required and also require an eligible public official suspected to have submitted a false declaration to confirm or amend the declaration, he added.



Australia tourists (L) in a jovial mood moments after reaching the Uhuru Peak of Mount Kilimanjaro on Monday. The climb was organised by tour guides from Freddy Trekking and Safaris in Moshi. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## 331 youth out of 1,732 benefit from a project

By Guardian Correspondent

A TOTAL of 331 youth out of 1,732 who benefited from an entrepreneurship, self-awareness and management training project in Dar es Salaam Region have been supported with school supplies, salon equipment and sewing machines to help improve their incomes.

The tools were issued under the five-year Accelerating Impact for Young Women (Aim) project implemented by Brac Maendeleo Tanzania targeting youth between 12 and 35 years.

Speaking during the handing over event of the tools, community development officer from Dar es Salaam regional office, Given Sure commended the organisation for its generous support to the youth women and men.

Among the beneficiaries are those who fell into adolescence pregnancies who have benefited with sewing machines and salon equipment while others are students who are continuing their studies in various schools.

"In Dar es Salaam, Brac initiated the project targeting three wards but two wards have benefited from the training, they are Buguruni and Vingunguti," she said.

Given urged the beneficiaries to utilise all the tools to help them elevate from poverty and other challenges.

She also asked the students who were given school supplies such as bags, notebooks and pens to ensure that they utilize them, study hard and have morals.

Desderia Mulagala, an official from Dar es Salaam city council reminded parents and guardians of youth and students to closely monitor the steps of the children leading them in a good direction.

Project manager, Buguruni branch, Caroline Buyamba said the project has been implemented for six months in the three wards.

She said last year when they started the implementation of the project, they got 1,732 young men and women and opened 12 clubs of which six were opened in Vingunguti, three in Mnyamani and three in Buguruni.

Desderi said that among the things that the youth and students were taught was self-awareness, management and being able to live with other people in the society.

"A total of 97 youth have been given sewing machines, 162 supported with school supplies and 72 have benefited with salon equipment," he said.



Energy ministry Permanent Secretary, Eng Felchesmi Mramba, speaks to journalists on the energy availability situation in the country after inspecting the water level at Mtera dam in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

By Guardian Reporter

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has conducted a comprehensive session to empower members of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) about the new National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST).

This initiative is designed to strengthen their oversight role in public procurement activities.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam, Eliakim Maswi PPRA Chief Executive Officer highlighted that the focus was on training participants in the use of NeST and engaging in discussions to enhance the sector through this innovative system.

He explained that the objective was to equip CSOs and NGOs with the tools to monitor and address improvements made by the government to combat misconduct in the public procurement sector.

## PPRA empowers CSOs, NGOs about new National e-procurement system

Maswi emphasised that the Authority demonstrated how NeST could enhance transparency and accountability, providing insights into accessing information for monitoring and whistleblowing.

He stressed the ongoing need for increased awareness among stakeholders and the general public to make the public procurement system more widely known.

The Chief Executive Officer further noted that NeST effectively addresses corruption gateways, displaying red flags to prompt timely interventions. This proactive approach enhances the regulator's ability to safeguard public funds.

He called upon the participants who were the representatives from 31 CSOs and NGOs, to play their role

effectively by using technological development to join the government effort in curbing corruption and other misdeeds in the public procurement sector.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Dr Fatuma Kagongo from the Global Peace Foundation commended the authority for involving independent overseers in efforts to promote good governance and achieve value for money. She affirmed their commitment to utilizing the acquired knowledge to ensure effective oversight in the procurement processes.

Dr Kagongo stated: "This session was productive and necessary for us because we have a role to play in ensuring that government projects meet expected quality standards

and that taxpayer money is spent effectively and efficiently."

She acknowledged the significance of the NeST system as a tool to enhance transparency, accountability, and value for money.

Dr Kagongo said the session enlightened participants on accessing tender information from the NeST system, and their input was sought for system improvement.

The NeST system, operational since July 1, 2023, replacing the Tanzania National e-Procurement System (TANePS), has already seen the upload of Annual Procurement Plans for the Financial Year 2023/24, worth 23 trillion Tanzanian shillings, as of December 19, 2023. Over 12,000 tenderers have registered with the system in different business lines.

## Njombe to cultivate 87,000 hectares for extensive production of avocados

By Correspondent  
Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AUTHORITIES in Njombe Region are expecting to get 87,000 hectares for extensive cultivation of avocados, horticulture production as well as processing of other agro-value chains products.

At the farm it is expected that, at least 60,000 hectares will specifically be used for the cultivation of avocado, whereby the remaining land will harbor horticulture activities and a state-of-the-art dairy project.

Njombe Regional Commissioner (RC) Anthony Mtaka said yesterday that work for the preparation of the project was at an advanced stage.

He added, after finalising all basic and necessary preparations, the region will advertise the farm to the public with to get serious investors who will own some hectares within the modern estate, based on areas of their interests.

"If all goes as planned, the farm will be ready to start its business from February and March, 2024, the time when we will start to open doors for prospective investors to apply for opportunities to chip in and invest," he unveiled.

The RC said that the possible investors, as

per the involved plans, will be allowed to apply for investing from between one, two up to ten hectares, saying one hectare will be marketed at 5m/-.

"Our prior assessments have proved that most people have so far wasted a lot of their money to invest into diverse agriculture projects without fruitful results and thus, in this project we have set a friendly scheme to help them," he said.

Briefing over the set scheme, he said that under the vital project, the investors who will pay for the farming blocks, will receive the block farms that have already been cleared, tilled, planted with the best avocado seeds through applications of recommended fertilizers.

In order to ensure the project runs successfully, he said they have already entered into special working contracts with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and The Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-

Uyole) for the effective management of the productive area.

"I am appealing to all of the well-wishers, from both the public and private sector to prepare themselves to grab the coming numerous economic potentials under the farm in order to improve their livelihoods," he urged.

He said the regional authorities were also holding talks with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) over the possibility to erect a number of housing units within the vast estate, for accommodating some investors, but chiefly the agro processors who will be responsible for the daily monitoring of the diverse initiatives under the farm.

Currently it is estimated that over 10,000 farmers across the country are involved in avocados production.

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF DAR ES SALAAM AT KISUTU

CIVIL CASE NO. 235 OF 2023

SARRCHEM INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

PRINCE AFRICA LIMITED.....DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF DATE OF EX-PARTE HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that, the above mentioned case has been fixed for Ex-parte Hearing on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2024 at 01:00 PM. Before Hon. R. KABATE - PRM. Please be so informed. GIVEN under my HAND and the SEAL of the Court this 18 day of DECEMBER, 2023.

ANITA GODFREY NDAMUGOBA anatazanga kupotelewa kwa hati ya kusafirira (Passport) yenye namba TAE270218 iliyoitolewa na idara ya Uhamiaji Dar es salaam tarehe 03/01/2020. Yeyote atakayeiona atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha polisi. Taarifa ya polisi: PHO/DAR/KIN/57485/2023.



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

### TENDER NOTICE

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

##### 1. Background:

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

##### 2. Requirement:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE SUBMISSION DATE
ITB/2023/SUP/005	Supply of Women's Wrappers	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/006	Supply Plastic Rigid Jerrycans	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/025	Supply of Fleece Blankets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/026	Supply of Kitchen Sets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/027	Supply of Synthetic Sleeping Mats	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/028	Supply of Sanitary Napkins (Pads)	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/029	Supply of Mosquito Nets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/030	Supply of Solar Lamps	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/031	Supply of Plastic Buckets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
RFP/2023/SUP/032	Provision of Transportation Services	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours

##### 3. Eligibility:

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

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fYISby0nw9CXjN0cc9IXwt\\_ZyleFfXd?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fYISby0nw9CXjN0cc9IXwt_ZyleFfXd?usp=sharing)

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

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



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR**  
**MEDICAL RESEARCH (NIMR)**



The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Tanzania, Through its Mbeya Medical Research Centre, is Part of an International Consortium to Win a Multi-million US Dollar Research Award from USAID to Pioneer HIV Vaccines in Africa.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Tanzania leadership is thrilled to announce a multi-million-dollar research award to advance HIV vaccine innovation within the African continent. This assistance has been awarded through its Mbeya Medical Research Center which is known for conducting multiple HIV vaccine trials since 2005. This significant funding of up to US\$ 45.6 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will foster local HIV vaccine development and testing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) including Tanzania.

The awarded co-operative agreement went to a Consortium named BRILLIANT: BRinging Innovation to cLinical and Laboratory Research to end HIV In Africa through New vaccine Technology which is led by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and its President Prof. Glenda Gray, as well as leading scientists across the African continent that included eight countries: Tanzania (NIMR), Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa.

The BRILLIANT Consortium's research will focus on utilizing the existing capacity, scientific talent, ingenuity, and investments made in community engagement on research in SSA to advance the HIV vaccine field through supporting activities in the following five interrelated areas: -

- Design and implement early-stage clinical trials of HIV vaccine immunogens;
- Test innovative pre-clinical HIV vaccine concepts, advancing the most promising candidates toward clinical trials;
- Partner with civil society advocates, affected communities including those affected by people living with HIV and AIDS, policymakers, and communicators to advance SSA-led HIV vaccine science;
- Conduct laboratory analyses on samples from trials and epidemiological studies; and
- Strengthen systems of collaborations for HIV vaccine research in SSA and increase opportunities to advance the careers of promising sub-Saharan African scientists, including Tanzania.

NIMR is deeply honored to be part of this exciting initiative with corresponding appreciation to USAID for once again supporting such a strategic undertaking. We extend our gratitude to SAMRC and all other BRILLIANT consortium partners for their unwavering dedication and efforts geared towards securing this award and commitment to eliminating HIV.

This award will accelerate health research efforts toward developing African-made, safe and efficacious HIV vaccines. Indeed, NIMR as a parastatal institution in the Tanzania Ministry of Health is very much committed to promoting the advancement of high-quality health research and innovative solutions including the fight against HIV and AIDS as part of our mandates in advancing health research as well as enhancing life both locally and internationally.

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**BRILLIANT**  
**CONSORTIUM**

Bringing Innovation to cLinical and Laboratory research to end HIV/AIDS in Africa through New vaccine Technology

## Dodoma women empowered to become climate warriors

By Getrude Mbago

IN response to the looming threat of climate change, women living in vulnerable conditions in Dodoma Region have been compelled to implement initiatives which help to bolster resilience through agroforestry and soil water conservation.

Through the execution of the Dodoma's Women in Agriculture and Business Initiative (DWABI) in Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts by the Sustainable Agriculture of Tanzania (SAT) with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), thousands of women have changed their mindsets are now engaging in various activities which include organic farming and small-scale businesses to protect the nature and boost income.

In an annual report released by SAT recently, DWABI has successfully helped to enhance climate resilience and empower women, most of whom are small-scale farmers profoundly affected by erratic rainfall, persistent droughts, and deteriorating soil health.

According to Janet Maro, SAT executive director, the organization has been working to motivate the farmers and livestock keepers to continue performing well in the sector as well as encourage others to do well in organic farming for the country's development.

She said over 2,700 farmers have been trained in agroforestry and soil water conservation technologies providing 20.5 per cent increase in yield due to sustainable agricultural practices.

"In collaboration with the International Centre of Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), DWABI organised a special capacity-building workshop on agroforestry. This workshop equipped 30 individuals with knowledge and skills that they subsequently shared with 60 DWABI groups, bringing hope to 1,659 farmers, including 1,533 women," she noted.

She said a total of 9,000 seedlings were planted across 60 agroforestry

demonstration plots, illuminating the path toward a sustainable and resilient agricultural system.

Additionally, the project introduced organic agriculture practices and energy-saving stoves, promoting a holistic approach to climate change mitigation.

She said that SAT has invested heavily in agro ecological technologies by promoting organic farming and smart livestock keeping which are cost-effective and protect nature.

"We have been working to instill organic farming knowledge and skills among the groups in various areas in the country, promoting natural and conservation farming which eventually helped to improve income," she asserted.

She added: "Our theory of change elucidates SAT's collaborative approach with farmers, harmonizing their invaluable local expertise to yield results that align with our ultimate environmental and societal objectives. Recognizing agriculture as the lifeblood of Tanzania, our initiatives go beyond mere cultivation techniques."

Janet said by integrating agroecological practices, life skills, entrepreneurial training, and instilling a culture of saving and lending, SAT furthermore fortifies farmers against the adversities of climate change, ensuring sustainability and resilience in the heart of Tanzanian society

Aisha Luka, one of the women said: "I am grateful for the training I received from the DWABI project. The skills I acquired have not only increased my crop yield but also made my farm resilient to the changing climate. I can now provide for my family, even in times of drought."

Paulina Malima said: "Before the DWABI project, we were at the mercy of the climate. Now, we have the knowledge and tools to adapt and thrive. The energy-saving stoves have been particularly beneficial. They use less wood, which means fewer trees are cut down. We are not just surviving; we are contributing to the fight against climate change."



Ethics Secretariat Commissioner Waziri Kipacha addresses journalists in Dodoma yesterday on public servants who filled in the declaration forms of assets and liabilities. Looking on are information and technology director Stanslaus Mwita (R) and assistant secretary of the Ethics management department Sigolwike Mkamati. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE government has handed over five new modern ambulances to the Dodoma regional authority to facilitate provision of timely health services.

Speaking when handing over the facilities on Tuesday here, Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office, (Regional Administrations and Local Governments) urged doctors in various hospitals within Dodoma City Council to supervise the use of the vehicles in order to fast-track health services delivery.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan is working round the clock to source

## Dodoma receives five ambulances to bolster health services supply

money and necessary facilities to stabilise and improve rolling out of health services across the country, including here in Capital City, so make sure you respect her efforts," he expressed.

He revealed that the region has already received three modern ambulances, for serving in three Districts of Mpwapwa, Chamwino and at the Mirembe mental health hospital.

"Make sure these vehicles are used for the intended purpose and not otherwise. You should know that

President Samia has injected a lot of money to enable the President's Office to procure them," the minister insisted.

He said that the government has spent about 52bn/-to facilitate procurement of 528 cars, of which 316 are ambulances and the other 212 are for use by regional and district doctors.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), Rosemary Senyamule thanked the President for providing the vehicles to her region, saying the

support will help facilitate the delivery of health services.

"These vehicles will enable the management of health projects in parallel with providing mobile services within the region as the government has been giving a lot of money to the health sector, so we promise to take care of these vehicles and use them as intended," she assured.

Similarly, she expressed that Dodoma region needs 79 ambulances, of which 34 percent have been obtained so far.



WWF for a living planet®

### Participatory Development of a Scalable Model of a Transboundary Water Management Plan in the Lake Natron-Greater Loita-Shompole (Re-Advertised)

#### Introduction

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in cooperation with local partner organizations is implementing a 10-year Southern Kenya-Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT-UNGANISHA) Transboundary Program. With a focus on securing the connectivity of critical wildlife habitats and migration corridors, the program has adopted a multi-sectoral approach addressing needs for conservation and sustainable resource management in the wildlife, forestry, agriculture, water, livestock and lands sectors that also generate increased benefits to local people.

World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Tanzania) under its SOKNOT program is implementing a three-year project titled 'Land for Life' which intends to launch a respective planning process, starting with a transboundary water management planning process in the Land for Life Project area that can serve as a model to be later applied to other areas as well.

WWF Tanzania Country Office-TCO is looking for a consultant(s) to Develop a Participatory Scalable Model of a Transboundary Water Management Plan in the Lake Natron-Greater Loita-Shompole Area of the "Land for Life" Project

#### Objectives Of the Consultancy

Water resources in the Land for Life project's transboundary area (area to be determined in terms of size, proximity to border, catchments etc.) are identified, categorized and mapped according to their importance for wildlife, livestock and domestic use and in close cooperation with local communities and water authorities of the County and District Governments in Kenya and Tanzania.

#### Methodology

The consultant(s) will employ various methods, including in-site/field surveys, literature review, GIS-mapping of water sources (e.g. springs, rivers, lakes), field demonstrations, presentations, interviews and meetings with key Kenyan and Tanzanian stakeholders. These approaches aim to gather data on water resources for assessing the status of water resource management plan. Additionally, the consultant will conduct stakeholder validation workshops and consultative meetings to solicit the opinions of community members and stakeholders concerning their knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions regarding transboundary water resources management plan.

#### How to Apply

Interested applicants are required to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals in a soft copy to the procurement e-mail: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

Interested applicants may access the detailed ToR through the following websites:  
[https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)

Applicants should address their proposals through the following address;

Secretary, Procurement Committee,  
WWF Tanzania; White Star Street- Mikocheni,  
P.O. Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077  
Website [www.wwf.or.tz](http://www.wwf.or.tz)

Deadline for submission is 5:00pm Tanzania local time on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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

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



Vodacom's head of M-Pesa operations Tito Mbise (2nd-L) and the retail director of Lake Energies Tanzania, Fredy Mchau (2nd R) with head of payments department at Vodacom M-Pesa, Killian Kamota (L) and marketing and communications manager, Matina Nkururu (R), officiating the launch of the partnership between M-PESA and Lake Energies in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kishapu farmers call on more quality seeds

By Beatrice Philemon

WOMEN farmers in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region have urged agricultural research institutes to help them obtain quality seeds that are drought resistant and are not easily attacked by insects.

Fredina Saidi, coordinator of the Kishapu Knowledge Centre (KNC) made the call in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking to feminists, members of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) members from different regions across the country and financial institutions on 30 Years Post Beijing: Where is the Funding for Sustainable Women's Rights Organizing and Transformation Session.

The event was organised by Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT) and took place at Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGPN).

"We are calling for the research institutes to help us because every year

during farming season, we have been struggling to obtain high quality seeds because most of those which we get are easily affected by insects especially when a crop starts to germinate," she said.

She named other issues affecting women in Kishapu District as climate change saying that in 2022/2023 farming season, droughts and insects cause more crop damage and yield loss, it brought huge effects in maize, sorghum, sweet potatoes, paddy and groundnuts production and reduce yields for farmers.

Fredina is among farmers who were affected by climate change in the 2022/2023 farming sector.

"Before climate change effects, I used to get 30 sacks of maize from six acres of land located in Kishapu District but due to severe drought and insects, harvest has declined to 12 sacks which are only enough for consumption," she said.

Fredina also used to harvest 35 sacks of paddy from one acre of land, but in 2022/2023 farming season, she managed to obtain 10 sacks of paddy, which is very little as a result of droughts.

Currently Fredina has 17 acres of land allocated for maize, paddy, sweet potatoes, sorghum and groundnuts. Among those, eight acres of land have been allocated for sorghum farming, six acres for maize production, two acres for groundnut farming and one acre for paddy production.

According to her, she could not harvest anything from sorghum, groundnuts, or sweet potatoes as the crops were affected by insects.

She said climate change has reduced income at household level and access to food for Kishapu residents that's why they are calling for the government and agricultural research institutes to increase support especially in the area of seeds.

# RC applauds private sector for stimulating development

By Getrude Mbago

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has hailed the private sector for its continued efforts to stimulate development, assuring them that the government will always remain supportive.

RC Chalamila made the statement recently in the city when officiating the 25th anniversary of the Derm Group (T) at which the company showcased its major achievements through its investments.

"The government really honours the great strides that the private firms are making to contribute to the country's development through implementation of various projects, let me assure that the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a real intent to develop the country and will always continue improving investment conditions," Chalamila stated.

He said the government has been closely working with the private sector which effectively engages in building

the nation by creating employment for Tanzanians.

He hailed the company for achievements and pledged government's support to ensure that their investments bear more fruits.

"Commemorating 25 years isn't a joke, I congratulate the management and staff of the Derm Group for the successes, what you are doing in various sectors, leaves a good mark to the nation and people," he said.

Derm Group chairman, Rizwan Mringo, attributed the achievements to the group's concrete plans and strategies along with the high spirit of its staff in implementing their duties.

Mringo admitted that for the past 25 years since the company was established it has been receiving support from the government, something which contributed to its growth.

"We commended the 6th phase government under President Samia for how it contributed to the growth of the private sector during a short period of her leadership. We have made a big

step due to the way the government has put a friendly environment for us to conduct our activities in the country without huddles," he asserted.

He affirmed to continue supporting government and stakeholders' initiatives meant to stimulate sustainable development in the country.

The Derm Group initially was known as Derm Electrics (T) owned by a Tanzanian; it has now grown so fast. It is the country's largest and fastest-growing Tanzanian-owned company, with a solid reputation for professionalism, reliability, technical expertise and delivering solutions that are economically viable.

The company deals with innovations and manufacturing of electric wires and transformers.

For the past 25 years, the company has been participating in implementation of various big engineering and construction projects, hence earning a status as one of major contractors of electricity projects in the country.



Muheza residents in Tanga Region wait for treatment for eye problems during a three-day special camp conducted at Ubwari health centre by eye specialists from Mvumi hospital in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has embarked on a transformative journey and has been diligently working to combat irresponsible drinking in Tanzania through the 'Inawezekana' campaign.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of responsible drinking habits, emphasizing moderation as the key to preventing the tragedies that stem from excessive alcohol consumption.

John Wanyacha, SBL corporate affairs director said that the campaign aims to instill the message that moderation is the key to enjoying alcoholic beverages safely.

He said the company understands that responsible drinking not only brings about safety, health, and well-being for the individual but also for the broader community, as we all share the same roads.

"The core of responsible drinking lies in the understanding that responsibility begins with the individual. It is a collective effort, but it starts with making the right choices for oneself, and by extension, for the safety of others on the road. Responsible drinking is not merely a concept; it is a practice that extends to all aspects of life. It means making choices that prioritize safety, health, and the overall well-being of both the individual and those who share the road," he said.

Wanyacha said: "The campaign is a testament to our dedication to promoting responsible drinking habits

## Brewer in campaign to nurture responsible drinking in Tanzania

within our community. We firmly believe that responsible drinking begins with each individual. It's about making informed choices about alcohol consumption and understanding the far-reaching consequences of one's actions on the road and in the community."

He said this campaign is a transformative force that strives to address the pervasive issue of irresponsible drinking. This campaign is not only a call to action but also a pledge to raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility among individuals.

The 'Inawezekana' campaign endeavors to educate the public about the dangers of drinking and driving and, equally important, the significance of responsible drinking.

"It has set its sights on a brighter, safer future for all Tanzanians. It utilizes various platforms, including educational programs, awareness initiatives, and community engagement, to reach every corner of the country," he noted.

Moreover, the campaign recognizes that responsible drinking brings about not only individual safety but also collective well-being. Communities become safer when individuals make choices that prioritize responsibility over recklessness. The campaign also seeks to address the misconceptions

surrounding drinking, such as excessive alcohol consumption being equated with having a good time.

"Anything without moderation leads to problems, even food. Moderation is not about abstaining entirely; it is about finding the balance between enjoying life and ensuring that these moments of joy do not turn into tragedy. In essence, moderation is the fundamental principle underpinning the responsible drinking movement. It is the shield that guards against the pitfalls of excessive alcohol consumption and, by extension, the devastating consequences of drunk driving," Wanyacha explained.

He added that the campaign is not just a call to action; it is an invitation for every individual to embrace their role in ensuring a safer tomorrow. It is a promise to prioritize safety, health, and well-being, not only for oneself but for the entire community. The statistics may be grim, but the future holds the promise of change, and it begins with responsible drinking.

The concept of responsible drinking transcends the idea of moderation; it emphasizes the importance of enjoying alcoholic beverages responsibly and within one's limits. This includes understanding one's tolerance, knowing when not to drink, and, most importantly, never drinking and driving."



MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road)  
P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam  
Email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu; phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719 +255 (0) 22 270 0725



## TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024

### PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/03/2023-2024

#### Introduction:

MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support various public health efforts in Tanzania.

#### Scope of Service:

MSPH Tanzania LLC is seeking to procure various professional services for the current fiscal year and invites interested parties to bid as part of a negotiated tender process. MSPH Tanzania LLC invites tenders from eligible and registered service providers for the following cluster lots.

This tender dossier has been issued for the sole purpose of obtaining offers for services against the specification contained within this document. MSPH Tanzania LLC reserves the right not to enter or award a contract because of this invitation to tender.

Any attempt by the Tenderer to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or MSPH Tanzania LLC during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating, and comparing tenders will lead to the rejection of its offers.

Lot No.	Description of the Services
<b>CATEGORY A: AIRTIME AND INTERNET REFILL SERVICES</b>	
Lot 1	Provision of airtime and internet bundle refill on a monthly basis to approximately 1,200 users across all mobile service providers.
<b>CATEGORY B: AUDITING SERVICES</b>	
Lot 2	Provision of audit and assurance services
<b>CATEGORY C: HOTEL &amp; VENUE SERVICES</b>	
Lot 3	Provision of a 2-night/3-day meeting inclusive of single occupancy accommodation, full-board, and venue for approximately 205 participants. Preferred locations: Arusha & Kilimanjaro.
<b>CATEGORY D: BACKUP POWER SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b>	
Lot 4	Provision (including supply, transportation, installation, and periodic maintenance) of backup power systems to support health facilities in Geita and Mwanza.
<b>CATEGORY E: PROGRAMMATIC SERVICES</b>	
Lot 5	Support voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) demand creation activities in Mwanza and Geita regions
Lot 6	Support delivery and uptake of HIV services to fishing and mining communities and Mwanza and Geita regions
Lot 7	Support Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, and Safe (DREAMS) initiatives targeting vulnerable adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and vulnerable adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) in Mwanza region

**A. Preliminary Evaluation Criteria** - to be evaluated, tenderers must submit the following documents (mandatory requirements):

- Business introduction letter
- Business/company profile
- Valid business license and Certificate from relevant authority (if any)
- Tax identification number (tin)
- Valid tax clearance certificate
- Value added tax registration certificate (if any)
- Certificate of incorporation (if any)
- Article of association (if any)
- Manufacture authorization (if any)
- Memorandum of association (if any)
- Experience justification
- Letters of recommendation from at least two well-known companies/organizations

Please submit certified true copies

#### B. Selection Criteria

MSPH Tanzania LLC will evaluate the responses based on a number of criteria that will include, but not be limited to:

- Experience in the specific assignment described in the Terms of Reference
- References and proof of strong customer base.
- Price - value for money.
- Support and service management capabilities - extensive list of quality of key staff proposed for this scheme
- Delivery capability demonstration and timelines - how quickly the services can be rendered.
- Financial stability/capacity.
- General qualification and suitability for the task to be performed.

#### Please Note:

- While requesting for the TOR, please clearly indicate lot numbers you are applying for.
- Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals - each should be in a separate document and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two documents shall then be enclosed in a single email.
- Bid documents will be sent to applicants via email address below upon request.
- The public tender opening will be held in presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call. Zoom Call link will be sent to those who applied in advance of the meeting.
- Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- The tender validity period is 14 days.
- Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above.
- Late and incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- MSPH Tanzania LLC may cancel solicitation and may not award.
- The tender award is subject to availability of funding.
- MSPH Tanzania reserve the right to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- MSPH reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and that bid was submitted for this solicitation.
- The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP Procurement Guidelines.

#### How to Apply:

- Interested, eligible bidders should request the electronic tender document and detailed scope of work via email to procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu
- Submit one application for each respective lot for application. If a supplier is applying for multiple lots, each lot should have a separate application document with supporting evidence specifically for that lot.
- Interested, eligible suppliers should email their electronic proposals via email to procurement department at [TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu). No hard copy proposals will be accepted. On email subject, please clearly indicate name of the company and LOT number applying for.
- All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings

The Tender Committee,  
MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP,  
7th Floor, Alfa Plaza,  
Plot No. G6, Chaburuma street  
P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

The deadline for the submission is 11:59pm East African Time on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

No tender fee charged for this invitation.

## NBAA releases results for exams held in November this year, board

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) has released results for the examinations held in November, this year, whereby 66 per cent of candidates who sat for the examinations passed.

The results were announced yesterday soon after the NBAA governing board under its chairperson Prof Sylvia Temu approved them at its 193rd ordinary meeting.

Briefing reporters in Dar es Salaam, CPA Pius Maneno, the NBAA executive director said that a total of 4,468 (66.6 per cent) out of 6,711 candidates have passed the examinations.

He said the examinations involved examination candidates at levels of accounting technicians' levels I and II, Foundation Level, Intermediate and Final level under the revised competence based syllabi.

"In total 2,343 (33.4 per cent) failed the exams. Out of those who passed the exams, 1,185 cleared all the subjects at their respective levels and 3,383 candidates passed some of the subjects," he noted.

He said that in these examinations, 236 candidates qualify to be awarded the professional certificate of completion of the Certified Public Accountants CPA (T) programme. The number makes a total 12,888 passed CPAs since the commencement of the Board's examinations in 1975.

According to him, in Accounting Technician level II, a total of 53 candidates passed the examinations hence will be issued with certificates of completion of Accounting Technician Certificate Examination.

In the Accounting Technician Level I, Maneno said that 77 candidates passed their examinations and will be issued with certificates of completion of the Accounting Technician Certificates (ATEC) examinations.

In Intermediate Level, a total of 2435 candidates qualified while 1878 passed some subjects as 1,170 candidates failed.

"In final stage, a total 1,069 (55.6 per cent) candidates have passed the examinations where 829 (43.2 per cent) out of the number, passed some of the subjects as 853 (44.4 per cent) failed their examinations," Maneno said.

The number of candidates who passed Foundation level was 741 candidates and 451 passed some of the subjects. A total of 149 candidates in this group failed the examinations.

The NBAA boss congratulated those who have passed their examinations and encouraged those who have failed to work hard in future attempts.

Meanwhile the board has launched its new curriculum and books which are expected to commence usage in January, 2024.

CPA Maneno said the curricula have been improved in order to help produce competent graduates who are well equipped and align with the current changes and needs.

He said that the board will continue implementing various initiatives so as to strengthen the accountancy and auditing profession in the country.



**In total 2,343 (33.4 percent) failed the exams. Out of those who passed the exams, 1,185 cleared all the subjects at their respective levels and 3,383 candidates passed some of the subjects**



Vegetable small traders display their merchandise at Mbezi market in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam without taking into account public health risks. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE Tanzania Medium and Small Truck Owners Association (TAMSTOA) has urged the government to strengthen the safety of goods and drivers especially when crossing borders as many parts have become risky for cargo shipping.

Chuki Shaban, the TAMSTOA chairman said this situation has resulted into regular incidents of hijacking of cargo trucks, something which leads to loss to owners and injuries or deaths of drivers.

Speaking at the association's 4th annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Shaban also noted the bad condition of Tunduma Road and a shortage of car parking as concerns.

## TAMSTOA urges the government to strengthen the safety of goods

The chairman also requested that the government address the issue of truck delays caused by excessive time spent fixing traffic difficulties on the road.

He claimed that because their trucks transport material belonging to foreigners, spending so much time on the road impedes smooth operations.

He said President Samia Hassan has been putting in place a friendly environment for doing business, a situation which has facilitated the Dar es Salaam port to receive increased

transit cargo.

"We need to support the good intention of our President, putting unnecessary blocks on the road will not help us as a nation," he said.

Deputy Director of road safety in the Works Ministry, Andrew Magombana assured the owners that the government will always be there to support and address challenges that thwart the sector.

According to him, they are going to meet the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) and Tanzania

National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to seek an immediate solution.

He assured that the government has been working shoulder by shoulder with the transporters in ensuring that a friendly environment for doing business is in place to increase national revenue.

Hassan Dede, chairman of the long-haul truck drivers association urged the owners to improve the benefits of drivers in order to make the transportation sector perform efficiently.

## Dodoma based journalists trained on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

By **Polycarp Machira, Dodoma**

SEVERAL journalists in Dodoma city have been trained on understanding the global pandemic antimicrobial resistance (AMR), thanks to Roll Back Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative), a non-governmental organisation whose aim is to fight the challenge.

AMR poses a major threat to everyday life and modern-day medicine where lives could be lost as a result of antibiotics not working as they should following improper use.

It is a growing problem nationally and globally that requires concerted efforts of a wide range of stakeholders to address it successfully. Experts argue that inappropriate use of antimicrobial medicines is among the main drivers of antimicrobial resistance.

RBA-Initiation has therefore embarked on awareness creation on AMR among several stakeholders including pupils and students in several schools in Dodoma Region, religious leaders, teachers, tri-cyclists (Bajaj), commuter bus drivers and journalists.

Officiating at the training for journalists here, Regina Richard, a pharmacist from the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government urged them to help spread education about AMR to the society, terming one of the growing health threats.

She said there is diversity in understanding the problem but a lot more need to be done to save the society, stating that some members of the public are not aware of the problem and its causes.

"It is unfortunate that some people unknowingly give animals antibiotics meant for human, beings, but this is one of the ways that lead to the problem" she said, calling on journalists to expose such people.

She also observed that living in dirty environment can lead to frequent use of antibiotics and in most cases, people take them without doctor's prescription while other mix traditional drugs with the antibiotics.

Regina added that there are also

some untrustworthy pharmacists who provide the drugs without following the procedure, and are only concerned about doing business, adding that journalists have a role to reveal such practitioners.

"It is estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths" she noted, adding that Tanzanians are not safe and more measures need to be put in place all stakeholders.

She thanked RBA-Initiative for the good work in spreading public education on AMR in the region. Oliver Minja, the organization's Programme Officer, noted, "Anybody can AMR and its effects irrespective of age, gender and physical ability, thus the need for all of us to action."

In her presentation, she noted that some of the fastest ways to get attacked include failure to complete doses as prescribed by doctors, wrong usage of drugs, and use of drugs without health expert's prescription, disposal of drugs in the environment and use of expired drugs.

She said AMR is costly as it takes over 20 years and billions of money to introduce a new drug into use once the existing ones have failed.

RBA-Initiative's Animal and Plant Coordinator, Israel Mwingira, on his part took the journalists through how improper use of antibiotics in animals can lead to AMR in human being.

He said antibiotics meant for human beings are completely from those for human use and cannot be used vice versa.



**It is unfortunate that some people unknowingly give animals antibiotics meant for human, beings, but this is one of the ways that lead to the problem**



Industries and Trade Minister Ashatu Kijaji (C) speaks with Chemi Cotex workers moments after she visited the firm's premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking (R) is the company's executive chairman Yogesh Manek. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

**JOHANNESBURG**

THE International Monetary Fund's board on Wednesday approved an immediate \$187 million loan payout to Zambia and said the country was revising a restructuring proposal for \$3 billion of bonds that official creditors had rejected last month.

It will be the third payout under the southern African country's \$1.3 billion Extended Credit Facility arrangement approved in August 2022.

One of the African continent's largest copper producers, Zambia defaulted on its debts three years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic, and its restructuring efforts have been beset by delays.

Zambia suffered a major setback in November when its official creditors rejected a preliminary restructuring

## IMF issues \$187million Zambia payout, says restructuring proposal being revised

deal with bondholders over whether it offered comparable debt relief to what they had agreed to.

The IMF's mission chief for Zambia, Mercedes Vera Martin, told reporters on a conference call that the conditions under which "comparability of treatment" would be met were still under deliberation by Zambia's Official Creditor Committee (OCC).

In a question-and-answer document posted on its website, the IMF said Zambian authorities were further revising their Eurobond restructuring proposal to meet comparability of treatment requirements, which are

defined by official creditors.

"While significant progress has been achieved, some adjustments still need to be made until both program parameters and comparability of treatment, as required by official bilateral creditors, are met," the IMF said in the document.

Western officials in the past have accused China of holding up the restructuring process, something Beijing consistently denied, while international bondholders complained about being shut out of negotiations.

"It is good that the OCC can voice

their concerns about meeting comparability of treatment," said the IMF's Martin.

But, she said, the protracted restructuring negotiations were taking a toll on Zambia's economic recovery, after it was hit by the pandemic and the default. Its kwacha currency has depreciated sharply against the dollar and inflation (ZMCPYI-EI) has risen in recent months.

Zambia's government said the IMF board approval of the next loan payout was an endorsement of its reforms and said it would boost investor confidence.



GOING, going almost gone. Mabibo resident Hemedi Abdallah (L) looks at their house at Mabibo in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam which is in bad shape following downpour along Msimbazi valley as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TRC increases passenger train trips for Dar-Arusha

By Guardian Reporter

AS demand for transport services increases during this festive season, the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) has increased passenger train trips from Dar es Salaam to Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

Focus Sahani, TRC acting director of operations, said the increase in the trips is due to the increase in passengers traveling for various reasons at the end of the year.

Sahani explained that train from Dar es Salaam to Moshi and Arusha

will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and trains from Arusha and Moshi to Dar es Salaam will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Towards the Christmas and New Year holidays and the increase in passengers traveling to the northern regions, Tanzania Railways has added an additional train that will travel on Saturday, December 23 at 2:00 pm from Dar es Salaam to Moshi and Arusha," said Sahani.

He added that the train will have 18 carriages and that nine will be third class, four second class to sit and the

other four second class to sleep. "As an organisation we care about our passengers and Tanzanians in general, we have seen the need to add a special train to take people to Moshi and Arusha for the holidays," said Sahani.

One of the train passengers, Stanley Msuya was pleased with the TRC's move to continue improving the transport during this period when there is a large number of travelers, explaining that it helps many Tanzanians especially who cannot afford the increase in the price of buses this festive season due to the economic situation.

"I am always a fan of the train, first of all, train travel is very cheap compared to buses and planes and there is no inconvenience, if you get on the train, you will find everything on the train until the end of the journey," said Stanley.

According to TRC, currently the prices of trains traveling from Dar es Salaam to Moshi is 16,500/- for third class, 18,100/- and 39,100/- for second class. For the Dar es Salaam-Arusha trips, the fare is 18,700/- for third class, 23,700/- and 44,100/- for the second class.

## Muslim community to support 500 needy primary school pupils

By Guardian Reporter

THE Sunni Muslim Jamaat Community has pledged to support admission of needy pupils in primary schools in the new academic year slated to commence in January 2024.

Sunni Muslim Jamaat Community executive secretary Muhammad Waseem said yesterday that it will support start by supporting 500 to 600 pupils who will not be accommodated in public schools.

He said the pupils will be admitted at its facility located in Mindu Street, Upanga in the city.

"Admitted pupils will be provided with free health insurance cover being the community's support to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration who has shown her trust on faith based organizations who have been supporting the country's development through the education, health and economic sectors.

According to him, schools owned by the community provide education to Tanzanians regardless of tribe, race and religious affiliation.

Addressing the public during the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards 2023 gala held over the weekend, President Samia said the country expected an increased number of pupils in the coming academic year.

"In January, 2024, new pupils will be enrolled in our schools, but the country is facing a shortage of classrooms, leading to congestion in classes," she said.

The Head of State said the government was making remarkable efforts which are challenged by the rapid population growth, therefore, pleading for the manufacturers' support through better utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

A resident of Dar es Salaam, Rahma Hamza said the community's decision was encouraging and would be a huge relief to Dar es Salaam parents and

pupils.

"I'm excited with the decision, especially the provision of health insurance to admitted pupils. Providing health assurance to pupils will place them at a better position of performing well in their examinations," she said.

Another Dar es Salaam resident, Anthony Alanus called on members of the private sector and other faith based organizations to join hands with the government in addressing education challenges expected to face the nation early next year.

However, he challenged the government to make early preparation by increasing classroom infrastructure, noting that an increase in the number of pupils could be well anticipated through the 2022 Population and Housing Census as well as other projection machinery.



**I'm excited with the decision, especially the provision of health insurance to admitted pupils. Providing health assurance to pupils will place them at a better position of performing well in their examinations**

### JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE TANZANIA



Jane Goodall Institute  
TANZANIA

- The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural World we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The JGI Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), The President's Office Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PORALG) and its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, works closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania has received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of a 5-year USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo Project. (USAID TKV Project)
- JGI-TZ under USAID TKV Project has set aside funds for operations during the year 2023 -2028. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for supply of new motor vehicle.
- JGI-TZ now invites sealed tenders from Eligible Suppliers to supply new motor vehicle as per table below.

S/N	VEHICLE DESCRIPTIONS	QTY
1	Toyota Landcruiser GX-R V6 Standard	1
2	Toyota Landcruiser Hard Top 12-seaters	2
3	Toyota Landcruiser Hardtop 4WD Double Cabin	1
4	Toyota Landcruiser Hard Top 10-seaters	1

- Tenderers will be responsible to request for tender documents from JGI-TZ Procurement email [jgitz-procurement@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:jgitz-procurement@janegoodall.or.tz) JGI-TZ will send tender documents via email, no charges will apply for the bid documents. Tenderers must confirm receipt of the documents and participation. JGI-TZ will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents. ALL inquiries for clarification should be addressed to the JGI-TZ procurement mail.
- ALL tender documents should be submitted in a sealed envelope by hand or post to The Tender Board Secretary, Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania, P. O Box 72723, Serengeti Road Mikocheni- Dar es Salaam: Marked **Tender for Supply of Motor Vehicles No. USAID-TKV/JGIZ/01/23-24'**. Not to be opened before 05:00 PM EAT on Monday 8th January 2024.
- Late tenders, Portion of tenders and electronic tenders shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Tender Board Secretary  
Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania  
Plot No. 375, Serengeti Road- Mikocheni  
P.O.Box 70723 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

217766301



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**RFP Title:** Supply and installation of solar panels at Uchira division, Moshi Kilimanjaro.

**RFP Number:** RFP NO. [TAHA/CONS/005/2023]

**Issue date:** 22 December 2023; **Closing Date and Time:** 11, January 2024, 05:00 pm

**Questions and Clarifications:** Due by 4 January 2024

**Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date:** 29, February 2024

#### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Tanzania Horticultural Association, <http://taha.or.tz> is an apex private sector member-based organization mandated to develop and promote the horticultural industry in Tanzania. TAHA's goal is to improve the growth and competitiveness of horticultural industry in the country for social and economic gains by being a strong voicing platform, representing farmers at all levels, processors, exporters and service providers in the horticultural industry in Tanzania.

TAHA and the Finnish Agri-Agency for Food and Forest Development (FFD) are implementing the Value for Water Project (VfW) since 2021, which is expected to end in 2024, with co-funds from the European Union and IFAD. The Project is designed to promote sustainable water use by the smallholder farmers in Uchira Division, Uchira Village in Moshi district, Kilimanjaro region. The project looks to showcase the utilization of irrigation opportunities which farmer communities and farmers' organisations can adopt and invest in for sustainability, bordering on solar energy and precision irrigation using drip irrigation technology and management of water use through a "pay-as-you-use" system at a very affordable price. The project aims on water metering, valve control, analytics and knowledge growth of farmers about water usage as overall aim of the project for the smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan countries.

Through this project, TAHA is working with a group of farmers in Uchira village, who have the irrigation infrastructure at the site. Currently, the Project is facilitating renovations of the infrastructure, which will also require solar panel supply and installations as the source of power for a borehole pump at the site.

#### OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of this assignment is to supply and install solar panels at the Uchira site in the Kilimanjaro region.

#### SCOPE OF WORK - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (SOLAR PART)

The Uchira Irrigation scheme consists of an existing 22kW pump from Dayliff (DS30-26), currently connected to TANESCO grid. The overall aim of the project is to pilot value-for-water business model, impact of pay-as-you-use for irrigation efficiency and water consumption, and benefits of solar technology.

#### A. Submission Instructions

Interested bidders should download the terms of reference through <https://shorturl.at/stlNU>

#### B. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFP shall be made in English. Should there be any uncertainty, the Bidder shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: [procurement@taha.or.tz](mailto:procurement@taha.or.tz) copying [zacharia.kiputa@taha.or.tz](mailto:zacharia.kiputa@taha.or.tz)
- Any clarification sought by the bidder in respect to the advert shall be titled **CLARIFICATION ON ADVERT - SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AT UCHIRA DIVISION, MOSHI KILIMANJARO**

217766801

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## Investors more credible as to solving youth unemployment

EVERY time that graduation ceremonies are held in campuses across the country, plenty of which is often noticed in November, the glaring deficit of jobs lurks again. While there is plenty of information circulating in society and various levels of government about self-employment, everyone knows that the very idea of starting a project in which to peg one's prospects is not an easy proposition. There is a new agro-sector youth initiative whose importance in terms of numbers seems to be more on youths it may finally absorb as labourers, less than entrepreneurs.

The numbers that are projected so far as in the thousands, while those seeking jobs or gainful occupations with periodic assurance of income are not in the tens or hundreds of thousands but millions. Similarly it is unclear if the youth initiative ought to focus exclusively on college leavers and graduates because their being unemployed is a blot in the prestige of education, or it could focus on those who genuinely wish for a life in farming. If is the latter, it would essentially be directed at agro-based campuses or with such options, whereas it targets most graduates.

Some people were pointing out that the youths now being enrolled in agro-sector inclusion via that initiative may seek to establish viable units and then make them available to real farmers, who obtain occupancy rights on those plots of land for a fee.

As in passing various laws, there is a set of regulations attached to legislation which focuses on covering all sorts of circumstances envisaged

in applying that specific legislation. Here it would relate to right of transfer of occupancy rights, which is rational for those wishing for market methods and objectionable to others.

The contrary view would seek that the youths stay on farms, and hopefully play a role model function to other youths to see farming as their very future. That amounts to the pursuit of behaviour change, whereas economic planning or rather forecasting and projection is to put on paper what people wish to do and then see what productivity levels or economic gains overall are possible from orientation. It is not a question of setting out what people should do, and list advantages thereof.

Tapping opportunities in life implies taking advantage of openings that are likeable to a particular individual. If one sets out to count the number of college leavers or university graduates who want to 'tap opportunities' in agriculture, they are likely to be countable. That is why the initiative focuses on agro-based campuses, chiefly.

Yet a workable economic plan needs to attract the majority of youths, those leaving college and those quitting schooling much earlier. Again, the map of how they engage in economic activity cannot be limited to their being youths and then seek a foothold in such initiative, but really as they start families in due course, etc. There is a sense in which one can pick opportunity as a single youth, and another set of parameters if one starts thinking of that youths in doubles, with a spouse, as the value reference changes steeply, from a National Service matrix to reality.

## Drinking, mental health complications surge with social privation or idleness

AS Tanzanians and other worshippers around the world approach Christmas Day, certain failings of society come to the fore, the big issue being road safety as people rush to beat arrival deadlines ahead of the big day. When they have arrived and even for those who did not travel, the second worry rushes into place, of binge drinking and what comes next. Obviously road safety will be part of the bill, but it is a more widespread or regular situation compared to travel in a rush for festivals.

A medical specialist at Mawenzi Hospital in Moshi was lately explaining that people who drink excessively due to mental pressure are in considerable danger of losing their lives due to a form of epilepsy tied up with binge drinking. It is not altogether easy to name the culprit in the circumstances, if it is the drinking or the mental pressures, as society tries to cure the drinking, whereas it is often taken up as solace for despair, intensifying each passing day. The issue is whether it is not possible to eliminate vast unemployment as a condition of society, not treat fallout.

While it is true that many youths are seeking to make a living from the land, as a rule they wish to move there as entrepreneurs who have something in town to obtain savings, and if it fails, they have adequate resources for start-ups. In a good number of cases, youth remain or take to farming by inheriting from their fathers the parcel of land that belongs to them, or the family house if they are the last born, depending on applicable customs. There are also large numbers of youths who have not formally shifted to town or have a fleeting experience of

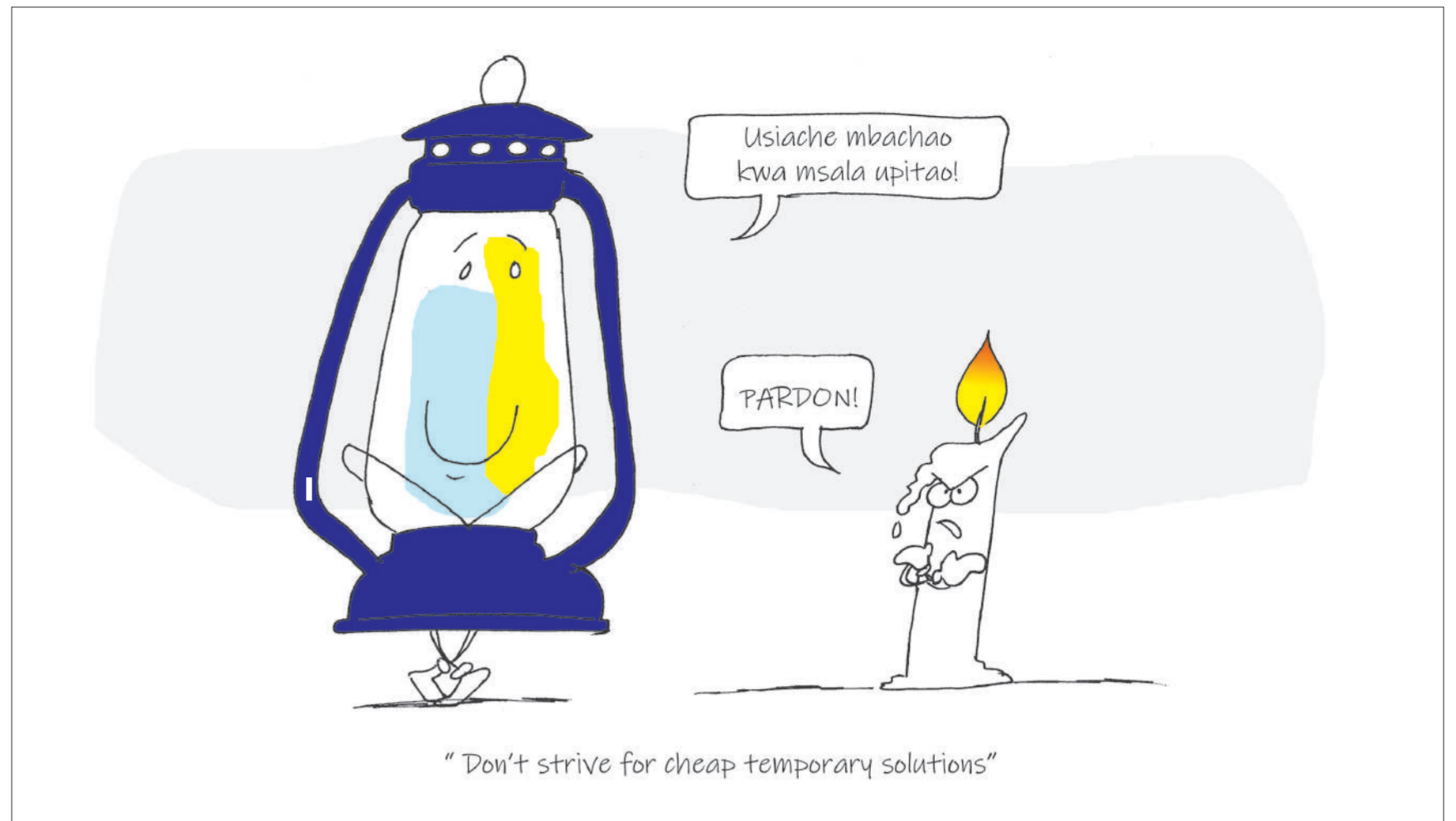
urban life, so they remain in villages by acculturation that than choice. There are similarly those in urban areas who retain rural features, and can rather easily shift back and forth.

Reasons for mental health are failure in life expectations, and a recent social sector official was affirming that being divorced is often a reason for mental health failure on the part of women.

Mental health failings have to do with being hurt at the psychological level, being unable to rectify things and those upon whom one had hopes to rectify what is amiss are not in a position to help, not due to poverty but sheer lack of interest. Being irrelevant to those whom one is born with, or have grown up together - not neighbours or street associates without durable ties - can often exhaust one's energies. It is not far from suicidal pressure among the youth.

Festival time is a dangerous moment for the display of social breakdowns, if a person has no solid environment where he or she feels warm and appreciated. In that case instability can be noticed during holidays as one finds solace in binge drinking and in that environment, depending on the state of feeling ties to events up to that moment, the feeling of isolation and relative despair can be intensified.

Whether medical specialists have particular advice in that regard is tantalising, as the patients are unlikely to be listening. By contrast, those who could have helped can precisely be those whose rejection of the patient causes that acute discomfort, first. That is why those who still care on the marginalised need to be on the lookout during the festivals, as expressions of distance, denigration or insult can be fatal.



## Tinubu's first six months: Redemption way or road to Golgotha?

By Kalu Okoronkwo

RESIDENT Bola Tinubu's assumption of office on May 29, 2023, marked a critical moment in Nigeria's political landscape, evoking both expectations and scrutiny. His landmark speech during his inauguration that brought about the much-touted oil subsidy removal was a turning point in the country's economic policy. This is because many perceived the issue of subsidy removal as a hard nut to crack hence previous administrations only paid lip service to it.

Six months in the life of a new administration is very much early day for a four-year tenure but the augury mirrors what lies ahead.

An unbiased and dispassionate assessment of Tinubu's first six months in office can only return one verdict: it has bought unmitigated hardship and thrown more Nigerians into multidimensional poverty. Food inflation is at its highest ever that even a bulb of onion has become a gem stone to be pampered and cherished.

The "removal" of fuel subsidy (we understand there is still some price stabilization mechanism going on) and the merger of the official and parallel foreign exchange rates have made living and life a hell in Nigeria that many had taken the option of ending their life and going to the "real" hell where there is some form of organization. The fire there the Holy Book tells us burn in perpetuity.

Two international organizations have recently rated Tinubu's economic policies within the first six months very low thus buttressing the reality of the administration's defective leadership. While the Financial Times of London described the policies as "flawed", the IMF has doubted Nigeria's quest for growth under the policies of the present administration.

Leadership is often measured by the impact of policies on the lives of the citizens. Within the first six months of President Ahmed Tinubu's administration, certain policy initiatives and their implementation have come under intense scrutiny for the unmitigated hardships imposed on the populace. But it seems that the administration has adopted a policy of "suffer now, enjoy later", a prospect the citizens are not seeing in the horizon.

As the custodian of the nation's well-being, the government's responsibility is not only to enact policies but to ensure they uplift rather than burden the citizens.

For instance, the administration's economic policies, particularly those related to fiscal and monetary measures, have been a source of considerable hardship. The implementation of currency devaluation, and subsidy removals have led to an unprecedented surge in inflation, significantly diminishing the

purchasing power of ordinary citizens.

In its assessment of the implementation of the naira devaluation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has faulted the economic policy of Tinubu's administration insisting that Nigeria is not positioned to benefit from such policies not being an industrialized nation.

The IMF argued that where goods are produced for export, devaluation of a country's currency will result in attracting foreign investment taking advantage of the competitive value of the currency to invest and export. The obvious implication of this policy by the Tinubu's administration is that the naira has been open to wild fluctuations and compounding the economic woes of the citizens who depend more on imported products.

The devaluation of the naira has also led to depletion of the country's external reserve as government has to inject the hard-earned currency to shore up the naira most times. When the naira exchanges for N200 to the dollar and N1500 to the pound sterling in a country with over 80 per cent poor population and depending heavily on imported products, how does the government expect its poor citizens to survive?

The administration's foreign exchange policies have faced criticism for their impact on businesses. The scarcity of foreign exchange and strict currency controls have impeded the operations of businesses as value chains are disrupted due to scarcity of foreign currency. The era of Letter of Credit, a well-known economic route of sourcing raw materials and other goods abroad are long gone leaving businesses to seek foreign exchange in the expensive parallel market.

The resultant effect is the collapse of many businesses. Multi-national organisations are also leaving our shores by the day, while some foreign airlines frustrated by their inability to repatriate sales abroad have avoided the Nigerian airspace. Those who are still coming have tripled their fares beyond the reach of the average Nigerian.

The decision to deregulate fuel prices, ostensibly to encourage market-driven pricing, has resulted in a domino effect on transportation costs. With fuel prices subject to market forces, the ripple effect on public transportation has been profound. Many unable to afford even intra-city transportation have resorted to trekking to their destinations. A regular sight at different bus stops in Lagos for instance, are people massed together not waiting to board a public transport but hoping to get a free ride from car owners. So they surge like an ocean in high tide anytime a private car stops at the bus stop hoping to be the lucky one.

While the administration has initiated various social intervention

programs to alleviate poverty, the jury is still out on their impact.

Rising poverty rate and an increasing number of citizens falling below the poverty line suggests a misalignment between the design and execution of these programmes and the persistent hardships faced by the vulnerable population.

Government seems unconcerned by the obvious implication of its fiscal policies which is stifling the population as there is no sign of obvious solution in sight.

Given the hardship and high cost of living in Nigeria, one of Nigeria's oldest and biggest manufacturers of FMCG, Procter and Gamble (P&G) just closed its manufacturing arm in Nigeria with attendant job losses. Citing high cost of doing business in Nigeria, the manufacturer decided to change its business strategy in Nigeria and opted for importation of the products abroad where economic policies are friendly. What an economic ragedy.

This is coming on the heels of the departure of the giant pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) which also recently relocated its manufacturing from Nigeria.

With the hue and cry of the citizens over the eight years presidency of the All-Progressive Congress (APC) under the Buhari's administration, Nigerians never bargained for an extended unmitigated suffering and the kind being witnessed under the present administration.

One of the glaring issues affecting the Nigerian economy under the APC administration has been the persistent rise in inflation. The soaring prices of essential commodities, coupled with a weakening purchasing power, have significantly burdened ordinary citizens. Despite various policy interventions, the inflationary trend has proven stubborn, adversely affecting the living standards of Nigerians.

The promise of job creation was a basis of the APC's economic agenda. However, the reality has been a surge in unemployment rates. The failure to generate sufficient employment opportunities has left many Nigerian youths and families disillusioned and frustrated. The effect is that Nigerians are deserting their country in thousands every day to other countries with conducive economic environment where they hope to apply their skills to earn a better living. High unemployment not only hampers economic growth but also poses social and security challenges for the nation.

Too many other economic challenges have prompted the citizens to question the need for much promised Renewed Hope mantra of the APC and the Tinubu administration.

Paradoxically what people see in this administration is a culture of waste and ostentatious living: buying of expensive SUVs, controversial presidential yacht, carnival-like foreign trips burning the

scarce foreign exchange, personal luxury like renovation of the residences of the President and his vice with sums running into billions of Naira. Pray, were the buildings hit by an earthquake because the two top citizens of Nigeria lived and only vacated those apartments about six months ago. Did they removed the blocks, roofing and the wiring? What is the cost of a brand new building from foundation?

The Tinubu administration must as a matter of exigency examine how present policies can be recalibrated to foster economic growth, reduce inequality, and improve the overall well-being of the citizens.

Ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparent governance is paramount for rebuilding trust and confidence. Clear communication about economic policies, their objectives, and their expected impact is essential. This transparency helps in managing public expectations and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for the nation's economic well-being.

Moving Nigeria forward requires inclusive governance that involves all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Engaging with civil society, organised private sector and the general public can lead to more informed policies that reflect the diverse needs of the population.

This collaborative approach ensures that policies are better suited to address the complexities of Nigeria's socio-economic landscape.

In assessing the policy initiatives and their implementation under President Tinubu's administration, it becomes apparent that the well-intentioned efforts to address various challenges have, in many instances, translated into unmitigated hardships for the citizens.

As the nation contends with economic uncertainties, rising inflation, security concerns, and social vulnerabilities, a critical examination of policy strategies is imperative. The path forward requires immediate introduction of policies that not only confront challenges head-on but also prioritize the welfare and prosperity of the Nigerian people.

While Nigeria is facing economic challenges, it is essential to view these challenges as opportunities for positive transformation. By embracing comprehensive economic reforms, prioritizing social welfare, creating job opportunities, accelerating infrastructure development, and fostering inclusive governance, Nigeria can move faster on a path of sustainable growth and development. The collective effort of government, private sector, and citizens is paramount in shaping a future where economic policies are not just markers of change but catalysts for progress and prosperity for all. For now, Nigerians are divided on whether the country under Tinubu is on the path of redemption or Golgotha.



# Ownership of land by foreigners in mainland Tanzania

As part from being a major factor of production, investment in land is regarded as among the most viable as its value tends to appreciate with time rather than depreciate. This fact has attracted many investors in landed properties in many parts of the world and Tanzania is no exception.

In Mainland Tanzania, all land is entrusted to the president as the trustee for the general public as per section 4 of the Land Act. Therefore, there are stipulated procedures in place for the local citizens to comply with in order for them to own land or to be registered as an owner of the same.

Even residents of Tanzania Zanzibar are allowed to own land in Mainland Tanzania although vice versa is not true. This article intends to address the question of ownership and legal procedures on how a foreigner can acquire ownership of land in Mainland Tanzania.

Section 20 of the Land Act Cap 114 R.E.2019 states that non-citizen or a foreigner cannot own land in Tanzania except for investment purposes only under the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC).



There are also some other ways one can hold interest in land in alternative to being allocated as a citizen. This article shades light on the stated ways although one of them is under debate and we have decided to start with it.

Firstly is ownership by inheritance whereby a person becomes entitled to land through probate and administration of the deceased person's properties proceedings. One can regard this as a loophole left by the law as there is no any restriction stipulated by any law neither Probate Statutes nor Land Statutes for foreigners to own land in Tanzania through inheritance.

This loophole has raised vari-

ous contradictions in courts and the famous case is that of Emmanuel Marangakis as attorney of Anastasios Anagnostou vs the Administrator General, Civil Case No. 1 of 2011 whereby the court stated that the laws do not reject ownership by way of inheritance thus one can own land through this way even if he or she is a foreigner.

Thereafter, many decisions differed from that position but the said position has not been overruled by a higher court. The government had even tendered a bill to reject ownership by inheritance for a foreigner which has not yet been accepted although the same was tabled sometimes in November 2019 through the Written Laws

(Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2019.

As we were preparing this article, we became aware that after a lapse of so many years, the Attorney General's office is still determined to seek revision of the aforementioned decision of Emmanuel Marangakis and that they have successfully sought for extension of time to lodge revision application of the aforesaid decision in the Court of Appeal in Civil Appeal No. 138 of 2019 thus the tug of war in this type of ownership for foreigners is still undecided or not settled.

Secondly, the laws of Tanzania do not restrict any foreigner to lease land, thus, one can lease land from a local and he or she can use the same for intended development. This can be further protected since on long term lease one can register his or her interest to the Land Registry.

Although one can enter lease agreement with a local on a specific land, the hindrance of this mode is that one should abide by the condition attached to the title or ownership, meaning if a place is a residential title then one cannot establish other activities not related to the title,

or if a land has a title which recognizes the said land to be commercial area, the conditions are to bind the leaseholder also.

Thirdly is ownership by creating a legal entity preferably a company which has local majority shareholders namely Tanzanians. This type of company is regarded as local company in terms of having majority local shareholders. The Companies Act recognizes various companies including a local company and also foreign company.

Even if one opts to incorporate a company in Tanzania and majority of the shareholders are foreigners, the same will be regarded as a foreign company for purposes of land laws thus cannot acquire land as per section 20(4) of the Land Act Cap. 114 R.E. 2019. Thus, one can associate with locals who have similar vision and are known to them and establish a partnership to create a legal entity thus ownership of land through the said entity.

Lastly, which is the safest way, is ownership through TIC. Under the Tanzania Investment Act, foreigners can own land in Tanzania through the TIC and the purpose for the said ownership is only limited to investment. TIC has established forums through which a foreign investor can go directly to it and acquire land through or through the established Export Processing Zones Act (subject to availability).

However, the most common mode

is by a foreign investor after registering a legal entity in Tanzania for purposes of carrying on his or her investment in Tanzania, identifying the land and entering into agreement for purchase with the local owner and the identified land can be registered under granted right of occupancy.

What follows is transfer procedures so that the land can be registered in the name of the investor through the municipal council where the land is located then to Tanzania Revenue Authority for payment of requisite taxes and finally to the Registrar of Titles for processing derivative certificate of title.

Man processes are that such land be identified, gazetted and allocated by TIC which shall create derivative title.

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

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

By Mark Mapambano

TANZANIA stands tall amongst just a handful of countries that made remarkable recovery in tourism which was the most ravaged sector by COVID-19 pandemic globally.

In October this year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released statistics of international arrivals in the country showing that in 2023, the number increased to 1,131,286 compared to 900,182 who entered the country in 2022.

The figures indicated that there was an increase of 231,104 visitors, equivalent to 25.7percent. That percentage is not a mean feat considering the fact that many countries are yet to go beyond 10 in this post-pandemic era.

It should be remembered that even the 900,000 plus in 2022 was impressive because in 2021 and 2020, the numbers were somewhere between thousands if not hundreds and zero at the peak of the pandemic.

Earlier in August this year, Tanzania was ranked the second country in Africa for receiving a large number of tourists in the first quarter of this year (January to March).

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources Dr Hassan Abbasi said this when briefing journalists about the 66th meeting of United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) held in Mauritius.

Dr Abbasi said the success recorded in the country in the first quarter of this year was attributed to the 'Tanzania: The Royal Tour' documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan that aims at marketing the country's tourism sector.

This tourism promotion style began working magic early in 2022—the first time in Tanzania's history when the Head of State played such a role in a film, as part of efforts to revive the tourism industry that was ravaged by the pandemic.

After its first premier in New York on April 18, 2022 and later filming in Los Angeles on April 21 followed by Dar es Salaam on April 28 the same year and in Zanzibar, numbers of arrivals began increasing.

The documentary is credited for increasing the number of international arrivals in the sector which earns the country about 2 billion US dollars (over 4trn/-) per annum, bringing in the much-needed greenback for imports and development projects.

The documentary was produced by award-winning American travel journalist Peter Greenberg and staged President Samia as his tour guide, showing him the country's tourism hotspots ranging wildlife heaven in the northern zone to the magical beaches of Zanzibar.

"The United Nations World Tourism Organisation has named and recognised Tanzania as the second country

## After Royal Tour: We need more creative ways to attract tourists



in Africa for recording a large increase of tourists in the first quarter of this year (January to March), the first country is Ethiopia with Morocco taking the third slot," Dr Abbasi said.

Apart from arrivals, he said UNWTO also recognised Tanzania as the second country in Africa after Morocco in terms of attracting many foreign investment projects in tourism sector.

"The recorded success is attributed to the sixth phase government commitment under President Samia to promote and develop tourism industry in the country," he added.

Tanzania envisions to increase the number of tourists to five million per annum by the year 2025 from the current two million backpackers and it also

targets to collect 6 billion US dollars (about 13.8trn/-) in revenues from the tourism sector.

Recent statistics by NBS show a sharp rise of arrivals to 1,175,697 between January and October, last year, compared to 716,741 during the corresponding period 2021.

It is important to note that Ethiopia which topped the continent offers mostly its ancient culture to tourists while Morocco dangles its Berber, Arabian and European cultural influences, making it predominantly a cultural tourism country.

Comparatively, Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar offer what both countries have and more. This is the land of plains of Serengeti National Park, a celebrated safari mecca populated

by the big five game (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino), and Kilimanjaro National Park, home to Africa's highest mountain among other hotspots.

The World Bank's sixth Tanzania Economic Update dubbed 'The Elephant in the Room: Unlocking the potential of the Tourism Industry for Tanzanians' recommends that to help the country reach its goal to increase tourism revenue by 2025, the country must work on three pillars to address current tourism challenges.

Pillar I is diversification of geographic locations and tourism segments because currently, tourism caters to the high-value tourist who can pay several thousand dollars to see animals while at exclusive resorts in

two specific locations: Northern circuits around Arusha and Zanzibar. Diversification of the industry would include both expanding geographic options and other tourist attractions that meet the expectations of a broader range of tourists, such as beach activities, cultural as well as business tourism.

Pillar II is integration of tourism activities at existing attractions. Arguably, Tanzania's tourism industry is not creating enough high-value, productive jobs for local workers, with an average worker making only one-third of what his or her counterpart makes in Kenya for instance.

"In addition, many resorts rely on imported materials, equipment and food. Proactive poli-

cies, developed jointly by the public and private sectors, are needed to address these two areas with the goal of enhancing local skills and quality to meet the standards of this highly competitive industry," reads the report.

And pillar III is improvement in the quality of governance. "The tourism industry is currently constrained by the imposition of multiple taxes and levies that discourage investors, particularly small investors and increases opportunities for rent seeking and corruption. This pillar involves the implementation of a fair, business-friendly taxation system and the development of transparent redistribution mechanisms, including to local stakeholders."

# Spate of water projects in Mexico ignore impacts

By Emilio Godoy

THE Mexican government is prioritizing the construction and modernization of mega water projects, without considering their impacts and long-term viability, according to a number of experts and activists.

Dams, reservoirs, canals and aqueducts are part of the new infrastructure aimed at ensuring water supply in areas facing shortages, but without addressing underlying problems such as waste, leaks, pollution and the impact of the climate crisis, like droughts.

One of the flagship projects is Agua Saludable para la Laguna (ASL), which will serve five municipalities in the northern state of Coahuila and four in the neighboring region of Durango, benefiting 1.6 million people.

Gerardo Jiménez, a member of the non-governmental Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero - an umbrella group made up of 12 organizations of people from local communities - said the ASL initiative launched in 2020 neglects the structural causes of the water crisis, water pollution and the overexploitation of water sources.

"It focuses on effects, shortages and pollution. It is designed for a 25-year period and is based on a vulnerable source. There is illegal water extraction and contraband. It does not provide alternative solutions," he told IPS from the city of Torreón.

Five of the eight aquifers in the area that provide water are overexploited. The Principal-Región Lagunera is the most important, supplying four cities.

The reservoir becomes cyclically deficient, as its annual extraction exceeds its recharge. In addition, the water contains arsenic above the limits established by Mexican regulations and the World Health Organization (WHO).

ASL includes the construction of a water treatment plant, with a capacity of 6.34 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) per second, a diversion channel and an aqueduct to transport 200 million m<sup>3</sup> per year from the Nazas River.

At a cost of 485 million dollars, the project is part of a network of new water infrastructure promoted by the National Water Commission (Conagua), Mexico's water regulatory agency, several of which are being challenged by social organizations and communities, in some cases through the courts.

The project also includes a diversion dam, a pumping plant, storage tanks and distribution branches.

It will start operations in 2023 and will also harness runoff from the Francisco Zarco reservoir, popularly known as Las Tórtolas, and the Lázaro Cárdenas reservoir, known as El Palmito.

These reservoirs could reduce their water supply due to the drought that has affected the area in recent years. The lack of rain is plaguing half of Coahuila, a situation set to worsen in the coming months with the arrival of the dry season.

Both dams are almost overflowing at present, but that level should change when the dry season starts.

Conagua's budget has recovered from previous years, from 1.4 billion dollars in 2017 to 1.6 billion dollars in 2022, concentrated primarily in works to prevent



With a storage capacity of 580 million cubic meters and an irrigation target of 22,500 hectares, the Picachos dam in the state of Sinaloa, in northwestern Mexico, will also generate 15 megawatts of electricity. CREDIT: Conagua

floods, due to their high human and economic costs.

Mexico, a country of nearly 129 million people, is highly vulnerable to the effects of the climate emergency, such as droughts, intense storms, floods, and rising temperatures and sea levels. While the south and southeast have water in excess, people in the center to the north face water shortages.

This Latin American nation has a high risk of water stress, according to the Aqueduct water risk atlas of the Aqueduct Alliance, a coalition of governments, companies and foundations. In fact, Mexico is the second most water-stressed country in the Americas, only behind Chile.

### Conventional approach

Another key project is the Libertad Dam, whose construction began in 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in 2023, with 132 million dollars in financing. Designed to take advantage of runoff from the Potosí River, the reservoir will provide 1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s to meet demand in 24 of the 51 municipalities in the northeastern state of Nuevo León, serving 4.8 million people.

Aldo Ramírez, a researcher at the private Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, said large infrastructure and environmentally friendly works should coexist, as they make different contributions, based on

a vision of urban development with an adequate hydrological focus.

"Both approaches have their advantages in certain niches," he told IPS from Monterrey, the state capital. "When we think about water management in cities, many years ago the focus was on removing the water as quickly as possible so that it wouldn't cause problems. Green infrastructure can help a lot, it has great environmental value, in water management and aquifer recharge."

Like other areas of the country, Monterrey and its outlying neighborhoods, made up of 13 municipalities and inhabited by more than five million people, depends on the supply of water from the El Cuchillo, Rodrigo Gómez or La Boca and Cerro Prieto dams. The first holds half of its capacity, while the other two barely store any water, according to Conagua data.

Through a presidential decree published in November, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador classified projects that he considers to be of public interest and of national security as high priority and/or strategic for national development.

Among them are hydraulic and water projects, which will receive provisional express permits, in a measure questioned by environmental organizations due to the violation of impact evaluation procedures.

ASL, for example, still faces a challenge filed by the Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero, while five others were withdrawn after agreeing with the government to review the project. But if this agreement is not respected, the threat of legal action remains.

### More and more water

Northwest Mexico faces a similar situation to the other regions in crisis and the government is building two reservoirs and a canal, and upgrading an aqueduct.

In the state of Sinaloa, construction of the Santa María dam on the Baluarte River is moving ahead and it should also be completed in 2023, to irrigate 24,250 hectares in two municipalities. In addition, it will generate 30 megawatts (MW) of electricity, with an

investment of almost one billion dollars.

The Picachos dam is also undergoing modernization, with the installation of turbines to generate 15 MW of electricity and the irrigation of 22,500 hectares. With a storage capacity of 580 million m<sup>3</sup>, it holds 322 million m<sup>3</sup> and will cost about 136 million dollars.

To the south, in the state of Nayarit, the 58-kilometer-long Centenario Canal, with a capacity of 60 m<sup>3</sup>/s, is being built to irrigate 43,105 hectares in four municipalities. With an investment of 437 million dollars, it will serve some 7,500 farmers with water from the El Jileño and Aguamilpa reservoirs, supplied by the Santiago River.

In addition, the government agreed with opponents of the El Zapotillo dam, in the western state of Jalisco, to leave the dam at a height of 80 meters and operate at 50 percent capacity, so as not to flood three towns, in order for the project, worth some 340 million dollars and with a capacity of 411 million m<sup>3</sup>, to start operating.

But the construction of new dams has ecological repercussions, such as the modification of the landscape, the generation of methane and the displacement of people, as evidenced by several recent scientific studies.

In the northern city of Tijuana, on the border with the United States, the government is upgrading the Río Colorado-Tijuana aqueduct, which transfers water from the Colorado River, shared by both countries, to meet urban and agricultural demand in the area, at a cost of 47 million dollars.

Jiménez, of the Encuentro Ciudadano Lagunero, calls for the regulation of the extraction of water from the Lázaro Cárdenas reservoir on the Nazas River, as well as from the wells, a more precise extraction measurement system, a fight against illegal concession trafficking and the maintenance of the urban water distribution network.

"An urgent measure must be taken so that in the medium term extraction equals the level of concessions and in the long term extraction equals recharge. We are talking about modifying agricultural production conditions and being more efficient in the use of water," he said.

In his opinion, "this situation anticipates recurring crises. If it is not addressed, it will worsen, and it is not necessary to reach that crisis."

But, in the midst of this complex scenario, he warned of the lack of political decision to change the country's water policy. "The human right to water is not being fulfilled here," he said.

Ramírez the researcher highlighted measures underway, such as pressure management to reduce leaks, the review of wells assigned to industry, the reuse of treated wastewater and demand management.

"We need to make more efficient use of water. We still have a margin of consumption, but we need to come up with more environmentally friendly solutions. We are heading towards a water crisis," he said.



Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (C) visited in September 2021 the Santa María dam in the northwestern state of Sinaloa, intended to strengthen agricultural irrigation and generate electricity. CREDIT: Conagua

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# What's in store for Indian farmers after Cop 28's conclusion in Dubai?

DUBAI &amp; SRINAGAR, INDIA

Durga Das\*, a 59-year-old farmer from the Indian state of Maharashtra, committed suicide last year by ingesting a poisonous substance. He was unable to repay the loan he had taken from the bank for the renovation of his single-story house.

This year, his 32-year-old son, Pradeep Das, a father of two children, is equally desperate. The family owns half an acre of cultivated land where they grow cotton. The harvest has been devastated due to intense heat waves, leaving farmers like Dass and his son Pradeep in dire straits. The loan the family had taken is yet to be paid, and the land they had mortgaged in the bank is about to be confiscated. This means no crops, no cultivation, no business, and no food.

"I would have ended my life long ago, but my kids," sighs Pradeep.

This family is not alone in such a predicament. About 10,000 farmers in India commit suicide every year. This means 27 every day and about one every hour. Suicides in agricultural communities have been a long-standing issue in the country since the 1970s as farmers face an increasing debt crisis.

"Every day, we are inching closer to death. The summers are getting hotter, extremely hot, and there are no rains. We were hoping to repay the bank the entire amount. Our house was in dire need of repair. The monsoon rain penetrated our home and made us all ill—my kids as well as my mother. We decided to repair it and took out a loan against the land we have. But heaven had something else in store for us," Pradeep told IPS, explaining the recent uncertain weather patterns.

Based on statistical modeling, researchers predict that if there was a 25 percent deficit in rainfall, the number of farmers dying by suicide in a year would increase to 1,188 individuals; 2023 is already confirmed to emerge as the hottest year ever. Several months this year set new temperature records. More than 80 days this year happened to be at least 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times. "Climate change is making agriculture an extremely risky, potentially dangerous, and loss-making endeavor for farmers, and it's increasing their risk of suicide," said Ritu Bhargava, a principal researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which conducted the research.

## COP 28

From November 29 to December 13 this year, world leaders, climate experts, scientists, and policymakers hailing from 200 countries congregated in Dubai to discuss, debate, and negotiate over the measures needed to be taken to bring down global temperatures and make the earth fit for human habitation.

Despite being the world's most populous country, India is also anticipated to be the largest contributor to the increased demand for fossil fuels in the next decade. While affluent nations have reduced their emissions by approximately 16 percent since 2007, and



Food and Agriculture for Climate Justice action by Climate Action Network International at COP28  
Credit: COP28/Neville Hopwood

China is expected to reach peak emissions before 2030, India's emissions are poised to surpass those of the European Union. By 2030, India's emissions are projected to exceed the combined pollution levels of Europe and Japan.

The COP28 climate meeting delivered some important outcomes—a first-time acknowledgment of the need to move away from fossil fuels, a first promise to reduce methane emissions, operationalization and capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, and an agreement on a framework for the global adaptation goals.

However, like all previous COPs, it remained an under-achiever, unable to measure up to expectations, particularly in galvanizing more ambitious climate action in the immediate term. The main agenda at COP28 was to carry out a Global Stocktake (GST), a comprehensive assessment of where the world was in its fight against climate change and what more needed to be done to meet the climate objectives.

Meanwhile, millions of farmers like Pradeep in India seem to have no hope of any respite in the times to come. With the recently concluded COP preferring to play a proverbial ostrich in terms of taking a final call on fossil fuel reduction—the prime culprit for the global heat wave—there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel for India's crisis-torn farming community. This means more heat waves, a surge in temperatures, and the late arrival of monsoons.

"We could plant good seeds, use quality fertilizer, and make the best human efforts for a profitable harvest, but it is weather that always plays a spoilsport. We cannot escape from its wrath. A farmer would toil for the entire year, and just one single heat wave is enough to dash all his hopes. This is it," Pradeep said.

Will the Loss and Damage Fund help farmers like Pradeep?

The COP28 climate conference in Dubai marked the official launch of a Loss and Damage Fund designed to assist vulnerable countries in dealing with the consequences of climate change. The initial funding for this initiative is approximately USD 475 million, with the UAE committing USD 100 million, the European Union pledging USD 275 million, the US contributing USD 17.5 million, and Japan offering USD 10 million.

The fund itself represents a global financial package aimed at facilitating the rescue and rehabilitation of countries grappling

with the cascading impacts of climate change. Specifically, it involves compensation from wealthy nations, responsible for

the industrial growth leading to global warming and the climate crisis, to less industrialized nations. These nations, despite

having a low carbon footprint, bear the brunt of rising sea levels, floods, severe droughts, intense cyclones, and other climate-related challenges. The evolving climate has profoundly affected lives, livelihoods, biodiversity, cultural traditions, and identities.

Although the Fund was initially introduced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, it wasn't until a few weeks before COP28 that rich and poor nations were able to resolve some of their differences and reach agreements on crucial aspects of it.

Highlighting the limitations of the traditional project cycle, Dr Anand Patwardhan, Professor at the University of Maryland, asserts that it is insufficient for addressing the impacts of loss and damage. Emphasizing

the importance of recognizing that the ongoing discussion primarily focuses on nations, he underscores the critical need for funds to directly benefit individuals who have undergone loss and damage. He stresses the significance of ensuring access to delivery in this context.

Dr Benito Muller, Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy, says he doesn't see this as a fund that spends USD 150 billion annually. "It is very difficult to spend this annually. What this fund should do is not only pilot new funding arrangements but also identify new ways of spending the money, for example, the new insurance schemes."

Anita Gosh, a New Delhi-based climate activist, says there seem to be no immediate benefits for Indian farmers, even

though the Loss and Damage Fund was announced.

"The farmers should be offered comprehensive insurance policies in case of drought-like situations or massive crop damages. The fund should also provide some financial help to the farming communities if they are in distress, like less harvest, marriage ceremonies, or house repairs. The entire idea should be that we must adopt a humane approach towards this community, which is at the receiving end of climate change," Anita said.

However, she believes the plan for how the fund should be spent is yet to be devised and that she fears it could be shelved for years, as has been the procedure in the past.

"If the past recommendations had been implemented, the situation would have been differ-

ent today. Now is the time to say enough is enough; we need action on the ground," Anita told IPS News.

## Postscript

During the 14-day period when COP-28 was being held in the opulent Dubai, more than 380 farmers are likely to have killed themselves in India—some for failing to repay the loans, some for failing to pay dowry for their daughter's marriage, and some for losing hope of giving a good life to their families. But underneath this crisis lurks the prime reason for all these deaths—climate change and the havoc it has been wrecking upon the poor.

Note: The names of the suicide victim and his family have been changed.

IPS UN Bureau Report

## JOB VACANCY

**JOB TITLE:** Head of Human Resources  
**REPORTING TO:** Chief Executive Officer  
**DEPARTMENT:** HR (Corporate Office)  
**HOURS OF WORK:** 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday. Additional hours as required by workload.

### 1. PURPOSE OF JOB:

To provide leadership and coordination in the Bank's Human Resources function. To develop and implement Exim Bank's corporate human resource strategy, policy, procedures and programs

### 2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To Create Bank's strategic recruitment and selection plan including coordinating the bank's fairness policy
- Lead the strategic capacity building through learning and development programs
- Preparing and presenting HR quarterly report to the Board
- Oversee the design, development and implementation of compensation strategy and programs to ensure regulatory compliance
- Develop and coordinate harmonious work environment by effectively managing grievances and mediating workplace disputes
- Developing and implementing the bank's succession plan and talent management program
- Recommend and maintain an organizational structure and staffing levels to accomplish bank's goals and objectives
- Evaluate the Bank's culture and provide recommendations on changes to accomplish goals and objective
- Recommend and establish company policies and procedures that are compliant with Tanzania Labor laws, regulations and best practice
- Work with department managers and corporate staff to develop short- and long-term business plans for the Bank
- Establish and implement short- and long-range departmental goals, objectives, policies and operating procedures

### 2. DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Leading HR work groups
- Attending Executive Committee meetings
- Heading HR turn around meetings and attend departmental turn around meetings
- Attend interviews
- Attending labor litigations
- Preparing HR Board papers
- Reviewing, updating and communicating HR related policies and procedures
- Attending labor litigation
- Facilitating staff movements including exit and transfers
- Coordinating performance management processes
- Rewarding and motivating staff base
- Coach, mentor, train supervisors and general staff on application of labor laws
- Provide leadership, support and give directives and guidance to HR team
- Recruit, train, supervise and evaluate department staff.

### Other Duties

- Attendance and representation of the Bank at all HR related requisite senior level functions
- Provision and leadership, guidance and counseling across all business cadres

### Limits of Authority

- Implementing Board approved HR related policies, procedures, and programs
- Working within the provision of the Tanzania Labor Act and regulations for managing staff.

### 3. INDEPENDENT DECISIONS:

- Approval of HR costs which are within the approved budget

### 4. INTERACTION WITH OTHERS:

**Internal:** Regular interaction with management, department heads and general staff

**External:** Interaction with Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA), Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Tanzania HR forum, Recruitment agents, Health Insurance agencies.

### 5. SKILLS:

- Graduate in Human Resources, Public Administration, or related field
- Relevant experience of at least 10 years in HR Managerial field preferably in the banking sector
- Computer Literacy
- Supervision skills

### 6. QUALITIES:

- Leadership skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Supervisory skills
- Good time management skills
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Can meet deadlines

Please send your application to:

hrrecruit@eximbank.co.tz

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

Application deadline: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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**EXIM BANK**  
Innovation is life

Saving energy, saving forests: How kindle stoves change women's lives

By Busani Bafana

FIVE years ago, farmer Sehliwise Sibanda would walk into a nearby forested area to fill a scotch cart with huge wood logs for cooking and heating; a pile of firewood would last her a week during the summer.

But now she does not need a cartful of huge logs. Small branches and twigs are enough to last for more than a month.

Since building a wood-efficient stove, twigs and kindle have provided enough energy to cook meals, warm bath water, and bake scones for her family of five.

The tsoiso stove is made of bricks in the shape of a box with two holes on top covered with repurposed plough wheels, an oven and a smoke chimney fixed to the wall. Tsoiso is a local language word for kindle.

The stoves use less wood fuel and emit less pollution than cooking over an open fire. Now Sibanda can cook in her kitchen.

"The stove has been a life saver for me; my family now eats hot meals and has hot bath water every day," she chuckles, showing the stove in the middle of her rondavel's kitchen.

"Cooking in the kitchen has become an easy and enjoyable task; the stove is clean and does not produce irritating smoke, and now my family gathers around in the kitchen whenever I am cooking or baking. It has brought us together."

Sibanda bakes buns that she sells at local schools and to neighbours. She uses part of the income from her baking to buy feed for her chickens, which she sells for between USD 5 and USD 6. Selling six



Sinikiwe Ngwenya shows off her energy-saving stove, which uses twigs. Credit: Busani Bafana/IPS

chickens earns her enough money to pay a tractor driver to plough her fields.

The stove has helped Sibanda and several women access energy efficiently and reduce deforestation in their village in Kezi, southern Zimbabwe. With many communities not connected to the electricity grid, wood is the key source of energy for cooking and heating. Firewood harvesting is a high price to pay for environmental protection in an arid region that experiences massive deforestation and desertification.

Biomass is a key source of energy for cooking across Zimbabwe. Most women carry the burden of collecting firewood and cooking on open fires, which exposes them to smoke pollution and puts their health at risk. The improved stoves are making a difference because they emit less smoke and use wood more efficiently, saving women the drudgery of collecting huge logs many kilometres from their homes.

Zimbabwe has been losing over 260,000 hectares of forests annually as a result of demand for wood fuel and land clearance for agriculture. This is worrisome given that the country is only planting an average of 34 hectares per year, according to the Zimbabwe Forestry Commission.

Sibanda was trained to build the stoves, and she is a community mobiliser and also trains other women to make them.

Another farmer, Sinikiwe Ngwenya, who had a stove built in her home, says the stove has also changed her life.

"Having this stove has made life easy for me; I do not worry about getting a lot of firewood to cook outside, and I have more time to do other tasks because cooking is less of a hassle," says Ngwenya. "I no longer have to bend when cooking, which is good for my health; besides, my family now enjoys warm meals anytime, and I get to bake buns that I sell."

Saving Health, Maybe Trees Too

By getting women to use stoves, a local NGO is not only helping save trees from deforestation but also giving women a hand in easing unpaid care work and also a chance for them to generate income. The women construct the stoves themselves.

Adapting wood-efficient technologies, such as the tsoiso stove, is helping women save trees and reduce the burden of unpaid care work.

Women bear the drudgery of collecting firewood, says Lakiness Zimanyiwa, a Programme Officer with the Hope for a Child in Christ (HOCIC), a local NGO that has trained women in rural areas on constructing tsoiso stoves under its Securing Rights Programme (SRP PGII) to uplift women economically.

"Tsoiso stoves were developed with the aim of reducing the burden of unpaid care work by women as they reduced time taken by women to fetch firewood, and they helped improve income through baking using the stove and selling scones to the community. The stoves are faster, so families have more time to participate in other essential tasks," Zimanyiwa told IPS.

The stoves have also helped reduce deforestation in Maphisa, as women now take less time gathering firewood and only need to collect twigs, which are enough for cooking a family meal, says Pesticane Mukwena, a project officer with HOCIC.

The world is halfway to the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and Africa is off the mark on several of them, including SDG 7 on access to clean energy, according to the United Nations. A UN Policy Brief on Advancing SDG7 in Africa recommends that policies and financing for clean cooking should be integrated into poverty alleviation and health strategies at the national level.

Gender considerations crucial to energy alternatives

"The gender element is also crucial, as engaging women in clean cooking businesses will boost results and make such endeavours more lasting. Addressing this should range from awareness-raising campaigns to directly engaging women as champions and entrepreneurs," the UN notes.

Finding alternative and cleaner energy sources is a priority for Zimbabwe, which needs more than USD 55 billion for climate change mitigation activities, mostly in the energy sector. According to the country's "intended nationally determined contribution" (INDC), Zimbabwe aims to cut carbon emissions by 33 percent by 2030 through clean energy initiatives like boosting hydroelectric power in its energy mix, biogas digesters, and improving energy efficiency.

More than 600 million people in Africa have no access to electricity, and many lack clean cooking energy.

A Vision for Clean Cooking by the International Energy Agency released ahead of the recent COP28 held in Dubai shows that in sub-Saharan Africa, only 20 percent of the population in 29 countries have access to clean cooking, with half of the nearly one billion people without access to clean cooking concentrated in five countries, such as Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda.

"Financial incentives are a vital policy tool for facilitating the accelerated deployment of clean cooking technologies. In this regard, approximately USD 8 billion of equipment and infrastructure is required annually from now to 2030 to underpin universal access to clean cooking solutions. But this must be complemented by steadfast leadership from policymakers, given that governments are best placed to influence the future," Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, says in the report's

foreword.

Indoor air pollution from biomass is one of the top 10 risks for the global burden of diseases, according to the World Health Organization. Household air pollution is responsible for an estimated 3.8 million premature deaths globally.

Climate change has worsened the demand for energy in Africa, where fossil fuels are a top source of energy for cooking, transportation, and heating, says Leleti Maluleke, a researcher for the Human Security and Climate Change programme at Good Governance Africa.

"Unequal energy access disproportionately affects women and girls due to their gender roles and responsibilities at a domestic level," Maluleke tells IPS. "Women, especially in rural and remote areas, use polluting energy for cooking and cutting trees, therefore contributing to emissions and deforestation. The lack of electricity, education, and access to information excludes them from safer and greener ways of performing their domestic duties."

Maluleke bemoaned the fact that, when it comes to energy discussions, decision-makers frequently overlook the struggles of women and that projects involving energy rarely take gender into account. She adds that energy poverty is an inequality issue. Africa has had a slow uptake of clean energy sources compared to Europe and America, making it necessary to focus on regions and communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

"Africa happens to be one of those regions where more priority needs to be placed, as it contributes the least to emissions but is impacted the most," she said. "Creating awareness of existing inequalities and injustices and how climate change exacerbates them will lead to the necessary dialogues, conversations, and actions that need to be taken on climate justice."

The use of fossil fuels has taken centre stage on the back of growing climate change impacts, as seen in more and more intense floods, longer droughts, and high temperatures.

However, industrialised countries are not relenting on curbing carbon emissions, despite scientific research indicating that the world has a small window to avoid a catastrophe by phasing out fossil fuels and embracing cleaner renewable

energy sources.

Clean energy is key to climate justice

Alia Kajee, a senior campaigner for public finance and climate justice at 350.org, says the climate crisis will disproportionately affect those who are already vulnerable, whether because of poverty, inequality, unemployment, or gender.

"Climate justice would be that those who are most negatively impacted by the climate crisis are able to withstand extreme weather shocks and adapt to changing conditions so that effects of the climate crisis do not hinder and disrupt lives, health and livelihood, or any other human right," Kajee said, emphasising the need to ensure that evidence-based decisions are made by the governments, ones that align with the science that shows the worsening of the climate crisis and decisions that need to be taken to mitigate the crisis.

"Government must protect society, whether by ensuring safe, reliable, and clean access to energy such as solar or wind power or by ensuring effective and efficient disaster relief," Kajee said.

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, called for decisive climate action at COP28, warning that "trading the future for 30 pieces of silver is immoral" and that developed countries must honour their commitments to provide USD 100 billion a year to developing countries for climate support. During COP28, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) received a boost, with six countries pledging new pledges, with total pledges now standing at a record USD 12.8 billion from 31 countries. Eight donor governments announced new commitments to the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund totaling more than USD 174 million, while new pledges totaling nearly USD 188 million were made to the Adaptation Fund at COP28.

However, UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023 highlights a worrisome increase in the SDG investment gap, surpassing USD 4 trillion annually in developing countries alone, with energy investment needs estimated at USD 2.2 trillion per year.

This feature was made possible with the support of Open Society Foundations.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and word lists.

Word search puzzle grid with a list of words to find.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI program schedule for Monday through Sunday.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One with social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

# NMB REWARDS 100 LUCKY WINNERS IN CAMPAIGN MEANT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS



NMB Bank's digital systems officer, Rukia Mhendile (L) plays the draw to find one of winners of the MastaBata 7th draw played at the NMB Mbagala branch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT) representative Irene Kawili (R) and NMB Bank Mbagala Branch Manager Halima Mcharazo (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Guardian Reporter

SANTA came early for 100 NMB Bank customers as the top financial institution unveiled 100 lucky winners for the 7th draw of its flagship MastaBata Halipoi rewards campaign held in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the bank's move to excite and enhance the joy and spirit of the festive season.

Speaking during the 7th draw held in Mbagala, the NMB Bank Mbagala Branch Manager Halima Mcharazo said the bank's 100 lucky winners will pocket a cash prize 100,000/- each adding that the bank's three months campaign seeks to appreciate the bank's customers for their loyalty and support to the bank.

Mcharazo noted that over 620 lucky customers have so far won cash prizes during weekly and monthly draws during the bank's fifth edition of the bank's MastaBata campaign that was launched on October 27, 2022.

"The season of giving is here, and it provides us with another opportunity to demonstrate our love and appreciation for our customers. Though our MastaBata campaign draw that we are holding today, our lucky 100 customers will win 100,000/- each," Mcharazo said.

She said campaign that climaxes on January 25, 2024, will enable the bank's customers to win over 350m/- in cash prizes and, fully paid fun trips to attend full moon parties at Kendwa Rocks in Zanzibar and fully paid trips

to Cape Town, South Africa during the grand finale.

"This campaign advocates for the use of digital payments that have proved to be more convenient, quick and secure. With a wider variety of payment options for NMB Bank consumers available at their fingertips, I strongly encourage our customers to switch to the use of NMB MasterCard when paying for goods or services through Point of Sale (POS), QR Code or Internet purchase so as to stand a chance of winning cash and fully paid trips during the campaign," she said.

She noted that promotion will have weekly draws where 100 lucky winners will walk away with 100,000/- each, monthly draws where 30 lucky winners will walk

away with 500,000/- each, 10 lucky winners who will win fully paid trips to attend full moon parties at Kendwa Rock in Zanzibar with the grand prize being a fully-paid trip to Cape Town for two for seven lucky winners for five days during the grand finale.

The Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT) representative Irene Kawili during the event noted that the MastaBata Campaign draw is held with strict emphasis on the gaming board's principles and procedures.

"The MastaBata campaign is run in a very transparent manner. I encourage the bank's customers to continue using the bank's digital payment options to increase their chances of winning," she said.

## Airtel Africa registers millions of customers

By Guardian Reporter

Airtel Africa has successfully managed to offer millions of people from the African continent access to reliable high-quality digital and mobile money services among its milestone achievements realized in the ending 2023.

Led by the purpose of transforming lives, connecting 150 million

customers the company finds it a significant success that underscores the company's commitment to enriching the lives of its customers.

Airtel Africa's Group CEO, Segun Ogunsanya, said in a statement released yesterday that looking forward, Airtel Africa is focused on further expansion, increased innovation, and continued investments

to ensure a digitally empowered future for all.

According to him, the growth reflects Airtel Africa's commitment to reaching more people, with more services, in more places than ever before.

"I would like to thank each one of the stakeholders for their continued commitment and support in helping the company reach this

milestone. But as everyone knows, this is just the beginning of a journey that will see many more milestones in the coming years," he said.

Ogunsanya asserted that by bringing mobile banking, data, and telcoms to underserved communities across sub-Saharan Africa, Airtel Africa is driving financial and digital inclusion and helping to

unlock the potential of people, businesses, and societies.

In response to the increased demand for accessible and affordable services, he said, Airtel Africa is continuing to expand its network and invest in the future through fiber and 5G. This is supported by new, best-in-class digital products, services, and content.



Airtel Africa's Group CEO, Segun Ogunsanya

## Minister woos Chinese investors into the hospitality sub-sector

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INVESTORS from Hangzhou province in China have been challenged to invest in Tanzania's hospitality industry like building hotels following the growing number of foreign tourists visiting the country.

Angela Kairuki, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism made the call recently when she met a delegation of businessmen from the Hangzhou province who are in the country to promote the tourism opportunities they have and look at the opportunities available in Dar es Salaam.

She said Tanzania and China have had a long-term relationship and the businessmen of those countries have been participating in various businesses.

She said President Samia Suluhu Hassan was the first president to visit China immediately after the country opened its doors to foreigners after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We cannot take this for granted, we honor and respect the existing good relationship and we will respect the way you received our president and his delegations," she said in a meeting that was organized by the East Africa Commercial & Logistics Center," she said.

Kairuki asserted that apart from Dar es Salaam, the country still has many tourism attractions, citing as an example Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti Park, Zanzibar, Pangani, where there are animals of all kinds.

"China and Tanzania have been celebrating friendly relations for a

long time, I thank you for coming to promote your city of Hangzhou and we will continue to promote our city to you, all these cities are coastal but also have peace that also attracts tourists," said Kairuki.

She was of the view that the city of Hangzhou and Dar es Salaam are endowed with similar investment and tourism attractions, so this is a good opportunity for Chinese businessmen to come and invest in various projects.

"These two nations of ours have been gifted to preserve various traditions and cultures which, by chance, are the same as ancient places, mountains and tourist areas, so I am happy to see that your city is establishing a relationship with Dar es Salaam that will be of great benefit," she said.

Joshua Mhogolo Dar es Salaam Tourism Officer said delegation from Hangzhou have come to promote the attractions they have and they had the opportunity to show them what they have.

He pointed out that the relationship with the city will be of great benefit due to the large number of visitors who will come to the country from China as tourists.

"We as the city council, have already identified the areas of investment and tourism opportunities that we have, such as the construction of hotels, so if we find investors in those areas, it will be a very good opportunity for us," he said.

He mentioned the tourist attractions in Dar es Salaam including the Makumbusho village, Askari Monument, Zingiziwa forest, Clock Tower, National Museums and various beaches.

## Kenya Power resumes mass hiring after six-year freeze

NAIROBI

Kenya Power hired 363 new workers in the year to June 2023, the first time the company has increased its workforce in six years.

The utility has been shedding its workforce since 2017, but in the financial year 2022/23, the company increased its staff count by 3.8 percent.

The increase saw the utility's staff numbers increase to 10,018 in June 2023, up from 9,655 in the previous year.

"We on-boarded an additional 389 technicians and craftsmen to reinforce our field operations," says the utility in its annual report.

The utility last raised its workforce in June 2017, increasing it by 1.5 percent to 11,295.

Kenya Power had been making year-on-year additions to its employee numbers before hitting the peak in 2017.

After that, the utility started shedding off workers over the next six years totalling 1,640 or 14.5 percent to hit a low of 9,655 in June 2022.

This includes workers who left through retirement as well as natural attrition such as death, termination, expiry of contracts, and resignations.

The company's board has also endorsed the translation of terms of 1,373 employees from short-term contracts to renewable five-year contracts. The programme will be implemented in two phases.

"The terms of these new contracts are tailored to align closely with those of our permanent and pensionable staff members," said the company.

Despite the significant increase



Kenya Power workers carry out repair works along Haile Selassie Road, Mombasa.

in staff numbers, Kenya Power's salaries and wages went down marginally to Sh15.85 billion from Sh16.04 billion, indicating that the pay for the recruits is overall lower than those of workers who exited during the period.

Salaries and wages make up 8.2 percent of the record Sh190.97 billion revenues that the utility earned during the year, underscoring the company's race in recent years to trim its workforce.

Kenya Power has been under pressure in recent years to rationalise its huge staff numbers to cut costs and introduce a shift system to maximise performance.

The task force on the review of power purchase agreements appointed by then President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2021 recommended the firm undertake a suitability vetting of staff to check their qualifications, competencies, and integrity.

The utility has been struggling

with its huge wage bill, and in February last year announced plans to let go 1,962 of its workers in a voluntary employee separation exercise.

The three-phase exercise, which covers the period to June 2023, is estimated to have cost the company a one-off cost of Sh5.3 billion.

Kenya Power has completed the evaluation of the tenders that will see it connect 280,000 Kenyans to the grid under a Sh28 billion European Union-funded project.

The project will also be financed by the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency.

The firm revealed 245,638 in its financial disclosures that customers have already been connected to the grid and an additional 27,558 were on-boarded through the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (Rerec) and government schemes.

"To build on these gains, we

have commenced implementation of Phase IV of the project targeting to connect 280,000 customers at Sh28 billion. The project is financed by the European Union, European Investment Bank, and French Development Agency," said Kenya Power in the latest annual report for the year ended June 2023.

"The Company has concluded the tender evaluation for the project and is awaiting a go-ahead (no objection) from the financiers to proceed to the next stage. In a nutshell, once the go-ahead is granted, the contractor will be brought on board for the implementation of the project," said Kenya Power in a written email response to the local outlet.

The company has welcomed funding from various governments to aid in the electrification of Kenyans including Sh1.9 billion in the year ended June 2023 from Japan International Corporation Agency

to connect 11,000 customers in Nakuru, Nyandarua, Kilifi and Kwale counties.

The drive to electrify the nation has seen an additional sale of 99.98 gigawatts per hour and an expanded customer base of 9.2 million.

The various projects in place to support the electrification agenda include; the Last Mile Connectivity Project (LMCP), connectivity programmes spearheaded by Rerec, and government-funded schemes.

The firm said the growth in the number of customers contributed to a 4.4 percent increase in electricity sales to 9,567 GWh from 9,163 GWh the previous year, resulting in 21 percent higher revenue from electricity sales, Sh157.35 billion to Sh190.98 billion.

They blamed the unavailability of critical materials such as meters and transformers in undertaking connectivity and system expansion projects.

Kenya Power developed a new metering strategy that ensures customers only pay for what they consume and helps the company account for sales.

By December 2024, the firm aims to transition all large power customers to smart metering and consumers above 200 units on advanced metering infrastructure within three years.

"Despite these loss reduction initiatives, system efficiency declined by 0.56 percent to 77 percent during the year mainly attributed to increased electricity pilferage, transmission and distribution capacity limitations, and shortage of meters due to ongoing procurement-related litigations which resulted in delays in procurement of meters," said Kenya Power.

# 473KM NAIROBI- MOMBASA EXPRESSWAY GETS APPROVAL

## NAIROBI

**T**HE planned 473-kilometre Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway has received first-stage approval for construction under a public-private partnership model, the Treasury has revealed, paving the way for the project to progress to the development phase.

The Treasury said the project, which seeks to clear heavy congestion and slow speeds between the two cities, is expected to cost about \$3.6 billion (Sh555.09 billion).

"Mobilisation of private sector resources to develop and expand key trunk networks in the country, such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Expressway, which is at advanced stages of preparations, having been granted first stage approval by the PPP [Public-Private-Partnership] committee recently and therefore ready to progress to the project development phase. Estimated cost is \$3.6 billion," it said.

The multi-billion shilling Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway project had earlier attracted interest from, among others, Korean Overseas Infrastructure and Development Corporation (KIND) and American firm Bechtel Executive in partnership with a US Capital Investment Company Everstrong Capital. The estimated project cost had been set at about Sh300 billion in 2018.

Bechtel had in 2018 been tapped by the government but the agreement did not progress following a tussle on how the project construction would be



financed.

A report published by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) in 2021 indicated that the US firm rejected Kenya's offer to have it construct the road and recover its costs from charging motorists toll fees.

The PBO, which advises lawmakers on the economy and budget, said Bechtel had settled on a model where the State pays it for building the road instead of recovering its money through user fees.

This will force the government to borrow billions of shillings, jerking public debt whose rapid growth has triggered warnings and throwing the road construction into limbo.

Sources at the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) said the US firm also demanded a virgin land corridor for the project—a request that the State was uncomfortable with since it would require costly acquisition of land.

"The request for virgin land was contested because KeNHA already has a sufficient reserve on the cur-

rent road corridor, and it wouldn't make sense to buy fresh land for the road project," a State official said.

In the initial plan, motorists were expected to pay toll charges for using the planned road. The PBO cited a study by the Inter-American Development Bank that showed a road is likely to be a viable candidate for construction through the toll model if it has a flow exceeding 5,000 vehicles per day unless the government offers a substantial subsidy to the contractor.

"This limits the number of roads that can be undertaken by the model in Kenya to a few sections of the main transport corridors. Along the A8 (Malaba - Eldoret - Nakuru - Nairobi - Voi - Mombasa) road, the Nairobi Expressway has so far proved to be a viable section for tolling while the Mombasa - Nairobi Expressway has proved difficult," PBO said.

"The contractor has indicated that the country will get better value for money if the road is constructed under an EPC (Engi-

neering, Procurement, and Construction) model rather than a toll model," it added in its 2021 report.

Bechtel argued that the alternative PPP model where the contractor sources for funds would cost five times more at \$15 billion (Sh2.23 trillion) and take much longer to complete.

The Chinese firm building the Nairobi Expressway cut down at least 2500 trees to build the double-decker road.

The National Environment Management Authority (Nema) says it has now given the contractor, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), until the end of March to plant 3,000 assorted seedlings along the 27-kilometre multi-billion expressway.

Nema Director-General Mamo Boru Mamo says he gave CRBC three months from last month to ensure trees it fell during the project are replaced.

He said from their environmental impact assessment (EIA), the project led to the cutting down of at least 2,500 trees hence the or-

der to replant 3,000 seedlings.

"Under the provisions of EIA, we have directed the Chinese company to undertake greening up of Nairobi Expressway. We estimated that they had removed 2,500 trees during the construction and we want them to plant at least 3,000 assorted tree seedlings to replace the tree cover lost during the construction process," said Mr Mamo.

The Nema DG added that the greening will go hand in hand with the beautification programme already underway.

At least 13 different species of trees were lost to make way for a four-lane dual carriageway that starts from Mlolongo to the James Gichuru junction.

"We have directed them to undertake the greening in addition to the beautification programme using tree seedlings, especially on the way leaves," he said.

The construction of the expressway led to a loss of biodiversity in the capital city with different environmental organisations putting different figures for the loss with some quoting as much as more than 4,000 young and mature trees as having been cut down.

According to communication given by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the Chinese contractor was in turn supposed to plant trees elsewhere, five trees for every one that is cut down.

"We expect that the trees will mitigate noise pollution and also provide required environmental service and also improve the aesthetic value of the environment and reduce the concrete jungle," said the DG.

Mr Mamo pointed out that the seedlings must be in line with the Kenya Forest Services guidelines in order to avoid introducing invasive species along the expressway.

## Saudi Arabia's center3 acquires CMC networks

### DOHA

Center3, a wholly owned subsidiary of the stc Group based in Saudi Arabia, has entered into a definitive agreement to purchase CMC Networks, a provider of networking solutions across Africa and the Middle East.

CMC Networks operates data communications network spanning more than 110 service sites.

It boasts the largest pan-African network, serving 51 of 54 African countries and 12 Middle Eastern countries, as well as regional hubs in major interconnect sites spanning Europe, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.

According to a joint release, the acquisition is consistent with center3's strategic objective for growth and expansion in the Middle East and African regions.

"It represents a significant step in the company's journey to extend its market presence and enhance its offerings in this dynamic and rapidly growing region," according to the press release.

The Carlyle Sub-Saharan Africa Fund (CSSAF) is acquiring CMC Networks.

In 2020, the CSSAF team established Alterra Capital Partners (Alterra), a distinct private equity firm that continues to advise CSSAF's investments, including CMC Networks.

"This acquisition is a watershed moment for center3," stated Fahad Alhajerji, CEO of center3. "CMC's range of services fit center3's digital infrastructure and networking assets very well.

"This transaction demonstrates our strategic commitment to entering key markets with significant growth potential. Our prior investment in 2Africa Cable, along with this acquisition, demonstrates our belief in Africa's critical role in center3's future expansion."

We are pleased about the opportunities presented by CMC Networks, particularly its experience, capability in the African region, and prospective expansion in the Middle East."

CMC Networks Group CEO Marisa Trisolino, added: "Joining forces with center3 is an exciting development for us. We share a same vision of further developing in the African market, and by working together, we will be able to do more, innovate more, and provide greater value to our clients.

"This acquisition will combine both companies' strengths, fostering innovation, improving customer service, and providing new opportunities for growth in the African and Middle Eastern markets. We are enthused about the future and the prospects that this collaboration will provide for CMC Networks."

Meanwhile, Alterra partner Eric Kump stated, "This acquisition is a fantastic opportunity to bring the dynamic center3 and CMC Networks teams together."

The transaction is subject to the usual conditions and approvals.

## How Rwanda's new fertiliser plant could boost agriculture

### KIGALI

A Bugesera-based fertilizer blending factory that Rwanda on Wednesday, December 20, envisages increasing crop yields by 40 per cent, according to its owners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI).

They indicated that the Rwanda Fertiliser Blending Plant could accomplish this by blending fertilisers tailored to the specific soil and crop nutrient requirements. It will be importing fertiliser raw materials, and blending them locally.

The plant is set up at the Bugesera Special Economic Zone located in Eastern Province and houses a blending unit with a production capacity of 120 tonnes per hour, equivalent to 100,000 tonnes annually, according to data from its owners.

This is higher than Rwanda's current annual demand estimated at 85,000 tonnes of fertilisers, sup-

plied through importation, data from MINAGRI shows.

Construction of the plant costs over \$19.2 million (approx. Rwf24 billion), as per data from its owners.

It was built under Rwanda Fertiliser Company (RFC), a joint venture between Moroccan fertiliser company OCP Africa, Agaciro Development Fund, and Agro Processing Trust Corporation Ltd (APTC).

OCP Africa is a subsidiary of OCP Group, a global leader in plant nutrition, and the world's largest producer of phosphate-based fertilisers, as per information from the firm.

On factory shareholding, OCP Africa owns 57.4 per cent of shares; Agaciro Development Fund, 32.6 per cent; while APTC has 10 per cent.

Mohamed Anouar Jamali, CEO of OCP Africa and Chairman of RFC said, "Our vision illustrated

in this state-of-the-art blending plant aims to achieve 40 per cent increase in crop yield through customised formula that optimises soil health and nutrient balance," he said.

He expressed confidence that it will have a profound impact on the agricultural value chain not only in Rwanda but throughout the entire region.

The plant is anticipated to generate approximately 50 direct jobs, facilitate the transfer of expertise to enhance Rwanda's skills in the fertiliser industry and contribute to a 25 per cent increase in farmers' income, thereby fostering economic empowerment, as per information from RFC.

The Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Ildephonse Musafiri, said that by blending fertilisers in Rwanda, it is expected that fertiliser prices will be low, which would result in many people buying and using them.

Meanwhile, he said, fertiliser application is still at a low level in Rwanda, estimating it at an average of 60 kilogrammes of fertilisers per hectare, which negatively affects farm productivity. Yet, he said, there are developed countries that apply about 140 kilogrammes per hectare.

On factors limiting fertiliser use in the country, he cited high costs, pointing out that though the government provides fertilizer subsidy, the farmer has to pay about 60 per cent of fertiliser expenses.

"Again, as it will be producing fertiliser suitable to the soil of a given area, we hope that farm yields will increase by 40 per cent compared to our current output. That has a major impact on the food we consume in the country, our exports, and people's nutrition in general," he said.

"If everyone's farmland has registered a 40 per cent increase in productivity, we would eliminate

hunger within two years," he added.

For the CEO of Agaciro Development Fund, Tesi Rusagara, the facility will not only increase financial autonomy for farmers, but it will also boost the agro-processing sector through improved production.

"It will also increase the financial autonomy of the government as localised production will reduce the import bill, but also enhance our export base," she said, pointing out that the facility's production capacity exceeds the domestic fertiliser demand.

Godfrey Bagire, a farmer in Nyagatare District, said that fertiliser application was based on a generic formula, expressing optimism that the factory will help address delays in access to fertilisers.

"We are happy that the factory is launched in the country, which will enable us to access quality fertiliser close to us," he said.

## Nigeria gets additional broadcast, telecom frequencies

### LAGOS

THE International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has granted Nigeria additional frequencies to improve broadcasting and telecommunications services in the country.

The resources were released during the recently finished ITU World Radio Conference 2023 (ITU-WRC23) in Dubai, UAE.

Dr. Bosun Tijani, minister of communications, innovation, and digital economy, who headed Nigeria's team at the conference, said via X that the Nigerian delegation was also able to obtain satellite resources for broadcast services.

Furthermore, according to the ITU resolutions, the conference accepted the Radio Regulations Board's suggestion to allow 41 states, including



Nigeria, to acquire new and useable orbital resources for satellite broadcasting.

The countries were unable to use their assigned orbital slots in recent years due to reasons such as a lack of coordination and interference from other satellite networks, according to the United Nations body in charge of global communications. The ruling aims to allow countries to build sub-regional satellite networks.

According to the Minister, "Following the closing ceremony and ratification of the agreements at the ITU-WRC23, I am excited about the success that our delega-

tion has been able to achieve, including the recovery of satellite resources for broadcast services and securing additional FM Frequency channels which are both a boost to our telecoms and broadcast industry."

"Work must now begin as we plan towards the next WRC in 2027 and as I mentioned to our delegation yesterday, I am keen to see more diversity and succession planning to ensure we can have effective and impactful representation at these events," said the minister.

The ITU revealed earlier this year that 2.6 billion people worldwide still do not

have access to the Internet. The increased resources are expected to improve access to affordable and meaningful connectivity for people who are currently disconnected.

"WRC-23 puts the world on a solid path towards a more connected, sustainable, equitable, and inclusive digital future for all," stated ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. "Key spectrum regulation accomplishments for space, research, and terrestrial radio services build on the momentum of the ITU's ongoing work to achieve universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation."

## CONSTRUCTION

# UK: HOW RWANDAN BUSINESSES ARE BOOSTING VISIBILITY, COLLABORATIONS

## KIGALI

In September, Rwandan-owned businesses in the United Kingdom (UK) came together under a new initiative dubbed 'Rwanda Business UK', aimed at improving their collaboration, visibility, and collective support.

There are numerous Rwandan-owned businesses in the UK, spanning sectors like services, entertainment, art, marketing, education, food, and coffee.

Despite their efforts to grow, they at times faced various challenges including limited awareness, isolation, and a lack of collective support.

Michaelle Kubwimana, Founder and Network Director at Rwanda Business UK, told a local outlet that the businesses used to operate "independently in isolation" and "each thrived in its niche."

This led to a lack of cohesion and hindered mutual support and awareness of each other's endeavours.

"The idea of coming together stemmed from a shared motivation to strengthen ties, foster collaboration, and enhance the visibility of Rwandan-owned businesses. Rwanda Business UK recognised the untapped potential within the community and sought to bridge the gap that existed, connecting businesses from various sectors," she told the local outlet.

An essential part of the networking bridge that Rwanda Business UK is building comprises many companies and entrepreneurs. These, for example, include ISHURI, which is based in the UK but has teams working in Rwanda, and Kawah Coffee, which has farms in Rwanda but is based in the UK.



(L-R) Richard Moir, a board member of the London Chamber of Commerce, Isaac Alabi, Operations Director at RB (UK), Michaelle Kubwimana, Networking Director at RB (UK), and Nicholas Stevens (CEO of NTL Trust) pictured during a networking event organised by Rwanda Business UK.

Rwanda Business UK has already done some work as a catalyst for unity among businesses in terms of organising networking events, enabling cross-sector collaborations, and allowing businesses to discover synergies and explore joint ventures.

"The future looks promising. The unity and collaborative spirit have opened doors to new opportunities, with British businesses ready to support and engage with Rwandan-owned enterprises," she told The New

Times.

The organisation also offers in-depth market research, competitive analysis, and consumer insights. Rwanda Business UK empowers businesses to establish and grow their presence in both nations.

It also connects businesses to expert consultants, agencies, and professionals in the UK. The organisation also conducts training workshops and mentorship programmes to enhance organisational capabilities in various aspects

such as marketing, operations, HR, and finance.

Rwanda has started trading under the UK's low tariff scheme which came into force on Wednesday, June 21.

The Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) announced in 2022 cuts tariffs on products entering the UK from 65 developing countries, including Rwanda, and simplifies trading rules so that more products qualify.

In Kigali, the scheme was launched on Wednesday at an

event hosted by the Minister for Trade and Industry, Jean-Chrysostome Ngabitsinze.

A statement from the UK embassy in Kigali noted that the scheme will benefit developing countries looking to diversify and increase exports, "driving their prosperity and reducing their need for aid."

The British High Commissioner to Rwanda, Omar Daair, said UK and Rwanda enjoy a deep and meaningful partnership covering many areas of mutual interest, among which is trade.

"Trade is an important and growing part of the relationship and as a High Commission we are keen to do what we can do to help that reach new heights," he said.

Paul Whittingham, Head of the UK's Trade for Development department in London, said the new scheme will provide a more generous trading arrangement for Rwanda thanks to simplified and more flexible rules of origin, making it easier to produce goods using components from other countries without losing duty-free status.

The DCTS covers 37 countries in Africa, 26 in Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East, and two in the Americas.

Ngabitsinze said the removal of tariff barriers will increase the volumes of Rwandan products going to the UK market but noted that there is work to do in terms of producing good quality products and in larger quantities.

## Power firms help keep homes toasty

## BEIJING

China's State-owned enterprises are making all-out efforts to ensure adequate and stable heating in the country in response to the ongoing cold snap and heavy snowfall across regions over the past week.

As the country has seen sudden frigid temperatures, triggering a sharp increase in heating demand, State Power Investment Corp has been stepping up energy supplies to meet the growing power demand, with overall thermal coal inventories increasing to more than 18.5 million metric tons, which will last for more than a month, it said.

The company has also been diversifying energy resources and incorporating renewable options to enhance overall sustainability. It reported more than 29.3 billion kilowatt-hours of power generation since December, with renewable energy sources accounting for around 49.01 percent, it said.

On the other hand, natural gas production and supply have also been running at full swing at Changqing oilfield to ensure residents have warm homes during the winter, with daily natural gas output reaching 152 million cubic meters, said its operator China National Petroleum Corp.

The oilfield, located in Northwest China's Ordos basin, is the nation's largest oil-and-gas field, sending natural gas to more than 40 major cities, including Beijing and Tianjin. To ensure sufficient natural gas for this year's winter heating season, the oilfield has produced 49.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas so far this year, it said.

In addition to Changqing oilfield, other key energy suppliers in northern regions — such as Daqing and Tarim oilfields — have all kicked into high gear to meet the heating needs of households during the cold months.

CNPC said it has also been stepping up efforts to diversify its gas resources, including developing domestic gas, imported pipeline gas and imported liquefied natural gas. Annual gas supply provided by the company accounts for more than 60 percent of total consumption of the energy resource nationwide, it said.

China Petroleum & Chemical Corp, also known as Sinopec, launched the country's largest LNG storage tank last month in Shandong province, with a storage capacity of 270,000 cubic meters.

With an additional gas storage capacity of 165 million cubic meters, which can meet the gas demand of 2.16 million households for five months during the winter, the LNG tank will further bolster natural gas storage capacity and help meet peak-shaving and seasonal rebalancing demand in the country, it said.

An analyst said State-owned energy companies play a key role in guaranteeing ample energy and heating capacity to ensure reliable and sustainable energy supply.

Leading the charge, major energy corporations are investing in infrastructure upgrades to optimize the efficiency of power generation and distribution systems, said Luo Zuoxian, head of intelligence and research at the Sinopec Economics and Development Research Institute.

Strategic stockpiling of essential resources, along with improved coordination with regional authorities, have addressed potential challenges and minimized disruptions in heating services, Luo said.

The National Development and Reform Commission said on Tuesday that the country can secure sufficient energy supply for winter heating demand this year.

Storage of coal, a traditional key energy resource for heating, at the country's power plants has been above 200 million tons, sufficiently ensuring coal demand for heating and power generation, it said.

Moreover, the country is also striving to diversify its energy mix for winter heating to accelerate the energy sector's low-carbon shift, including nuclear energy, which has already been applied as an alternative energy resource for heating in China.

# Ramping up Nigeria's crude oil production

## LAGOS

THE Chairman of Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG), Mr. Abdulrazaq Isa, has said that attracting the level of investment required to fully optimise the country's production base will require focus on some key priorities in the short to medium term.

Speaking at the 2023 Annual Dinner held recently in Lagos, Isa stated "The key priority areas include amending critical aspects of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to strengthen the regulatory framework and competitiveness of the fiscal regime; enhancing security across the Niger Delta; expediting the conclusion of ongoing International Oil companies' (IOCs) divestments; sustaining the implementation of the "Decade of Gas" policy and holistically addressing inherent inefficiencies within our



industry which has driven costs to astronomical levels".

He emphasized the non-negotiable goal of achieving production targets by the turn of the decade and called for collabora-

tion with the government and other stakeholders to optimize growth opportunities, emphasizing the importance of sustained advocacy efforts in 2024.

"Based on the vast hydrocar-

bon resources at our disposal and the ongoing global decarbonisation drive, achieving production targets of 4mmb/d of oil and 12 bcf/d of gas by the turn of the decade should be non-negotiable", he added.

Also speaking, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobi, appealed to IPPG members to support President Tinubu's quest to achieve 2 million bpd target.

"IPPG is a critical institution for Nigeria's energy future. We will prioritize IPPG members who have proven oil assets during the next marginal field bid rounds," he added.

On her part, Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Mrs. Olu Verheijen, revealed that President Tinubu has approved an Import Duty Waiver to promote the utilization and supply of gas

in the domestic market, covering equipment related to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). She shared insights from her recent stakeholder engagements.

"From my engagements with leading international and independent oil and gas companies operating in Nigeria, there are massive investment opportunities for the energy sector, estimated at \$55.2 billion projected by 2030, of which \$13.5 billion is expected to be invested by these companies in 12 months' time", she added.

The Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Babajide Sanwo-Olu also present at the event assured IPPG of the state government's commitment to support them in their endeavors especially as their progress will ultimately create positive impact and rub off on the progress of the state.

## Manufacturing decline drags down services sector growth

## NAIROBI

Declined manufacturing output has stifled growth in the budding services industry, a new World Bank report said, underlining the spiral effect of limping key economic sectors.

Industrial activity slowdown has curbed growth in services by dampening the potential for wholesale, retail trade, transport and storage, and financial services.

"The deceleration in industrial activity and a substantial contraction in imports had a dampening impact on financial services and transport and storage subsectors, leading to weaker growth for these subsectors in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022," the report noted.

According to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, growth in wholesale and retail trade was largely unchanged at 4.2 percent in the quarter ended June



Textile workers at Altex EPZ Textile Manufacturing in Athi River.

from 4.1 percent at the same time last year.

Meanwhile, growth in transport and storage decelerated to three percent from 7.2 percent while financial services grew at a slower rate of 13.5 percent from 16.1 percent previously.

During the same period, the manufacturing sector grew at the slowest pace in six years as the sector was dogged by tax increases, higher import costs of raw materials, dollar scarcity, and a flood of duty-free imports.

The sector expanded by a mea-

sly 1.5 percent in the period, the lowest rate of expansion since 2017, save for the decline arising from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

During the release of the second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) print in October, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers stated the operating environment had been generally hostile to the manufacturing sector due to over-taxation and policy uncertainty.

The World Bank echoed similar remarks to players in the sector, highlighting subdued business sentiment and higher production costs.

"The slowdown in manufacturing activity reflected a deterioration in business sentiment during much of the first half of 2023, driven by heightened political tensions, a slowing global economy, a weakening shilling, and shortages in foreign currency that also led to reduced imports of industrial

supplies," the multilateral lender added.

As of the end of 2022, the manufacturing sector contributed to 7.8 percent of GDP having recovered from a share of 7.4 percent in 2021. The sector's performance has been lacklustre amidst the government's bid to scale manufacturing's contribution to at least 15 percent of GDP.

The sector is nevertheless expected to see some respite from the anticipated growth in the agro-processing sector due to favourable weather conditions which are set to improve the harvest and milk production.

Overall, the World Bank expects the Kenyan economy to expand faster in 2023 with GDP projected to increase by five percent from 4.8 percent last year boosted largely by a strong rebound in agriculture which previously faced two consecutive years of output decline.

## WORLD

# Putin: Russia ready to talk on Ukraine

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is prepared to talk to Ukraine and its Western backers about the future of its neighbor if they want to, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday but stressed that Moscow would defend its interests.

"In Ukraine, those who are aggressive toward Russia, and in Europe and in the United States – do they want to negotiate? Let them. But we will do it based on our national interests," Putin told a meeting of the Defense Ministry's board in Moscow.

"We will not give up what is ours," Putin said, adding that Russia did not intend to fight with Europe.

According to the state news agency TASS, the meeting was attended by the military top brass, including Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu and General Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff of Russia's armed forces, as well as Federal Security Service Director Alexander Bortnikov.

Russian troops, Putin said, now had the initiative on the battlefield.

"We are not going to abandon the goals of the special military opera-

tion," Putin said, adding that Russia needs better military communication, reconnaissance, targeting and satellite capability.

He said Russia's defense industry was responding faster than that of the West, vowing that Russia would continue to upgrade its nuclear forces and keep its combat readiness at a high level.

Shoigu told the meeting that Russia's production of tanks has increased since the launch of the special military operation in February 2022 by 5.6 times, unmanned aerial vehicles by 16.8 times and artillery shells by 17.5 times.

He said Russia had recruited 490,000 soldiers on contract and voluntary basis in 2023 and will try to boost the contracted force to 745,000 men next year.

Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it had summoned Finland's ambassador on Tuesday to object to a new military agreement granting the US broad access to the vicinity of the new NATO member's long border with Russia.



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a meeting with the top military brass in Moscow, Russia, on Monday. AP

## Counter measures

Russian officials informed the ambassador that Moscow would "take the necessary measures to counter the aggressive decisions of Finland and its NATO allies", notably the growing NATO military presence near its border, ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

Helsinki became the US-led NATO military alliance's newest member this past year as its agreement with Washington is "aimed at allowing swift military access and aid to Finland in case of conflict".

The Kremlin said on Friday the pact would "pose an obvious threat to us" and lead to regional tensions.

In Washington, the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate said on Tuesday that the US will not be able to approve new aid for Ukraine before the end of the year, as the two sides continue to seek a compromise. "As negotiators work through remaining issues, it is our hope that their efforts will allow the Senate to take swift action ... early in the new year," Democrat Chuck

Schumer and Republican Mitch McConnell said in a joint statement.

The announcement from Capitol Hill marked another setback for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, whose government has warned of the "dire need" for weapons ahead of winter, Agence France-Presse commented.

The congressional impasse is also a blow to US President Joe Biden, who has made support for Ukraine and the strengthening of the Atlantic alliance hallmarks of his foreign policy, it added.

# Xi stresses robust ties with Moscow

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping pledged support to the Russian people in choosing their own path of development on Wednesday, while calling for more robust bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, energy and connectivity.

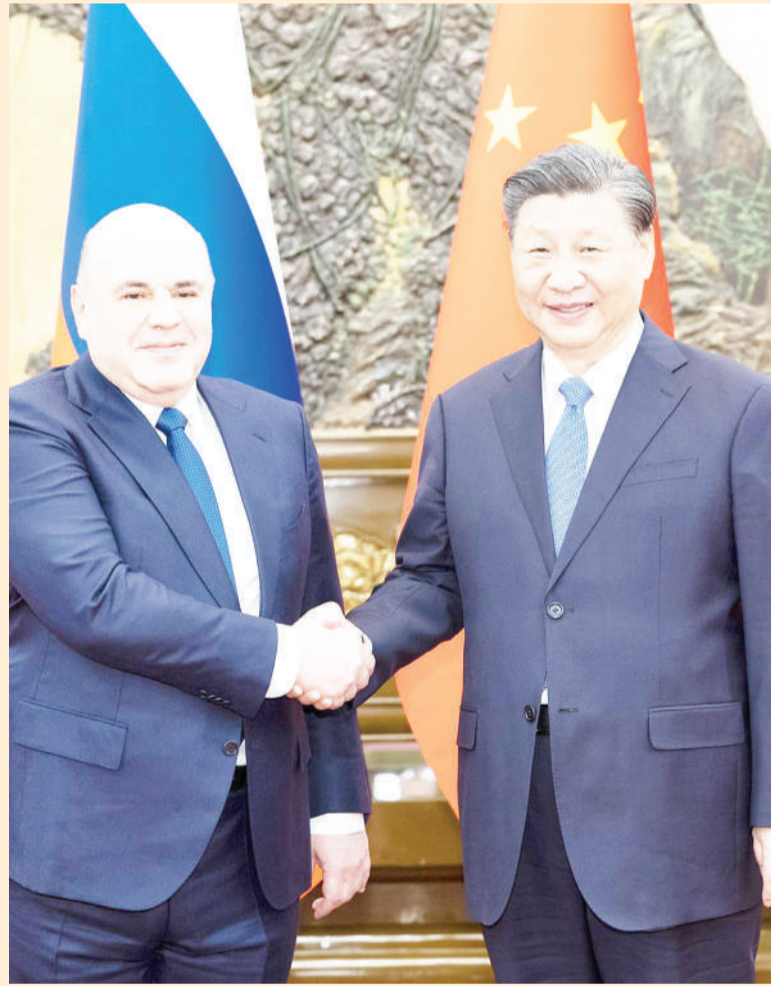
During a meeting in Beijing with visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Xi said the two nations should continue to enrich their bilateral cooperation by giving full play to the advantages of political mutual trust, economic complementarity, infrastructure connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.

He highlighted the need for joint efforts to safeguard the security and stability of industrial and supply chains.

The president hosted Mishustin, who is making his second visit to China this year for a regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government, at the Great Hall of the People. The two also met during Xi's state visit to Russia in March.

Xi said the two nations have already met the target of increasing annual bilateral trade to \$200 billion in the January-November period, a target set jointly by him and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which demonstrated the strong resilience and broad prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation.

He stressed that upholding and



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in Beijing, China, on Wednesday. XINHUA

building up bilateral ties was the strategic choice made by both sides based on the fundamental interests of their peoples.

Xi expressed Beijing's readiness to work with Moscow to take the

75th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year as a new starting point to continuously expand the positive effects of the high-level political relationship.

In doing so, both nations can

continue to jointly move forward in the process of comprehensively promoting economic and social development and realizing national rejuvenation, he added.

Xi underlined the strong resilience, vast potential and broad room for maneuver of the Chinese economy, saying that its long-term positive fundamentals remain unchanged.

He reiterated Beijing's commitment to promoting high-quality development and high-level opening-up, which he said will provide new opportunities for the development of all countries, including Russia.

The president called for joint efforts to ensure that the China-Russia Cultural Year in 2024 and 2025 is a success, including steps to design and carry out a variety of rich and colorful cultural and people-to-people exchange activities.

The goal is to consolidate social and public support for the everlasting friendship between the two countries, he explained.

The Russian prime minister stressed Moscow's readiness to further tap into potential and expand cooperation in areas such as trade, energy and connectivity.

He conveyed the condolences of the Russian government and people to Xi regarding the magnitude 6.2 earthquake that struck Gansu and Qinghai provinces late on Monday night, say-

ing that Russia is willing to provide rescue assistance as needed.

Xi expressed his gratitude, saying that President Putin and many foreign leaders sent messages of condolences after the earthquake.

China is making every effort to carry out rescue efforts and is doing its best to protect the lives and property of the people, he said, adding that the rescue forces and materials in the disaster-stricken areas are sufficient, and the basic well-being of local residents has been guaranteed.

The people in the affected areas will surely be able to overcome the disaster and rebuild their homes under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, he added.

Xu Poling, director of the department of Russian economy of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the high level of ties and strong political mutual trust between Beijing and Moscow have been evident in the frequent meetings between leaders from both countries.

He explained that trade between the two nations has grown exponentially and become more balanced, adding that bilateral trade could reach a historic high of \$230 billion this year.

"There is even greater room for bilateral cooperation in industrial goods and supply chains," he said.

XINHUA

# Ready to look into it, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, has, for the first time responded to the claims made by the US of an Indian link to an alleged foiled assassination plot against India designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, and stated he will "look into" any evidence, adding that "few incidents" would not affect US-India ties.

"If someone gives us any information, we would definitely look into it," PM Modi said in an interview with the UK based newspaper Financial Times.

"If a citizen of ours has done anything good or bad, we are ready to look into it. Our commitment is to the rule of law," the Prime Minister said.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who was declared a 'designated individual terrorist' by the Government of India on July 1, 2020, has been actively exhorting Punjab-based gangsters and youth over social media to fight for the cause of the independent state of Khalistan, challenging the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country, NIA investigations have shown.

Pannun has been under the NIA lens since 2019 when the anti-terror agency registered its first case against him.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi also raised concerns over extremist activities, and said, India was "deeply concerned about the activities of certain extremist groups based overseas," adding "These elements, under the guise of freedom of expression, have engaged in intimidation and incited violence," Financial Times reported.

He also said, "There is strong bipartisan support for the strengthening of this relationship, which is a clear indicator of a mature and stable partnership."

"Security and counter-terrorism co-operation has been a key component of our partnership," he told the FT.

"I don't think it is appropriate to link a few incidents with diplomatic relations between the two countries," PM Modi added.

Recently in May, PM Modi visited the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for the state visit. Following which, Biden came to India in September to attend the G20 Summit that took place here in New Delhi under India's Presidency.

Significantly, the US Justice Department had claimed that an Indian government employee, who was not identified in the indictment filed in a federal court in Manhattan, recruited a fellow Indian identified as Nikhil Gupta to hire a hitman to allegedly assassinate Pannun, who is a dual-citizen of the US and Canada.

It added that the alleged plot was foiled by the US authorities.

The Justice Department claimed that Gupta, an associate of CC-1 (an unidentified person who directed the alleged plot), described his involvement in international narcotics and weapons trafficking in his communications with CC-1.

Pannun, had recently threatened to attack India's Parliament.

On this, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi had said, "We do take threats seriously. We are caught in a bind here. I don't want to amplify too much credence to search for extremists who make threats and get a lot of coverage."

"We have taken up this matter with the US and Canadian authorities. Extremists and terrorists have the tendency to want media coverage on an issue," he said.

"He is wanted by our agencies for violation of the law and there is a process under which we seek assistance and that they are prosecuted, depending on whether the crime is committed."

In our case, I think requests have gone through detailing the kind of crimes that he is responsible for, in India...We have also flagged concerns to our partners regarding any threats made by extremists or terrorists against India or Indian diplomats," Bagchi added.

Moreover, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also claimed in September that his administration had reasons to believe that India was behind the assassination of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian territory.

However, the allegations were outright rejected by the Ministry of External Affairs, which labelled them as absurd and motivated.

The story was first reported by the Financial Times. The Financial Times is a British daily business newspaper.

ANI

# India needs to openly work with New Zealand in agriculture sector

NEW DELHI

FORMER NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said that India and New Zealand need to openly work in agriculture sector. He stressed that New Zealand has great expertise in the agriculture productivities sector.

While speaking at the event on "Partnership Pathway: New Zealand India Economic Relations alongside New Zealand's Minister for Trade Todd McClay, he said, "I'm a great believer that it will greatly benefit India if you were to use New Zealand's great expertise in the field of agriculture productivities. It's a phenomenal destination as far as agriculture product productivity is concerned."

"It does a lot of high-value production and India is an agrarian country. Almost 40 percent of Indians are in

agriculture, but we need to increase earnings from the agriculture sector in a very big way and to my mind the real linkage movement between production to the end consumer through value-added production really holds just a key to that and there's no better destination than learning the art from New Zealand. We need to openly work with New Zealand in this area," he added.

Amitabh Kant noted that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) should work with New Zealand in dairy sector. He said, "You know we feel very protective about our farmers as far as the dairy sector is concerned and I am very clear about this that Fonterra etc are top class company giving massive amount of value added in milk. Now, we should not feel very threatened about it."

"We should get NDDB [National Dairy Development Board] to work with them. As you know it could be a strategic partnership so that Indian companies should gain from that and that will help us to get into a range of value of production in dairy sector. Their dairy sector is the most advanced in the world and I think there's plenty to put India to get on that," he added.

He said that India can greatly benefit from New Zealand's technological expertise and knowledge of kiwis. He spoke about eating fine kiwis in Arunachal Pradesh which he said were there due to a New Zealand working in partnership with Arunachal to produce kiwis.

"I'm a great believer that you know I went to Arunachal and some of the really fine kiwis that I had were in Arunachal

which was thanks to a New Zealand working in partnership with the state of Arunachal to produce kiwis that were climatically very well suited and I think my personal view is Minister that don't restrict to just one state spread across the Northeast and India, I can assure you will greatly benefit from your technical expertise and knowledge of kiwis. We are a very large country. We are bigger than 24 countries of Europe +30 thousand kilometres. So one region of India will be able to benefit radically in terms of productivity," he said.

Hailing India's growth in the digital sector, he said every Indian has a digital identity. He stated that all Indians have bank accounts have been linked with digital identity and mobile number.

He said, "The other area which is to my mind very important is that India

is very digitally advanced. Every Indian has a digital identity. All Indians have bank accounts and we have linked it up with the digital identity and the mobile number. We do 48 percent of the fast payments in the world. We do 1lx of what USA and Europe do. We do four x more fast savings than what China does."

Amitabh Kant said that people in India do paperless and cashless lending. He said that India and New Zealand must collaborate in digital sector. He said India is more advanced in digital sector than any other country in the world.

Speaking India doing cashless transactions, he said, "we now do paperless, cashless lending. We do paperless, cashless insurance on the go in one minute. Now these are things on which India and New Zealand must col-

laborate. I think that can be a Winwin. I think we are more advanced than any country in the world, and yet the digital we built up a techno economic solution where the power of data remains with the citizen."

"It gives access to it technologically on the go, and therefore it's a very different model from the Big Tech, a model of Google and Facebook and Meta and Apple and Amazon in US and Tencent and Alibaba in China. And that's some model from which I think New Zealand can greatly benefit as far as technological rerum in that area is concerned," he added.

He said that India and New Zealand can also collaborate in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). He noted that there are a vast opportunities across a number of areas.

ANI



## Israel strikes 300 Hamas targets in 24 hours

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI forces struck 300 Hamas targets in Gaza in the last 24 hours, including air and naval strikes, and face to face battles, the Israel Defence Forces said on Wednesday morning.

Dozens of terrorists were killed, the IDF added.

Targets included a building in Khan Yunis which served as a headquarters and weapons storage facility. Weapons seized by Israeli forces included ammunition, explosive charges, and 20 mortar shells.

Also destroyed was a position from which Hamas fired rockets at Israel on Tuesday.

The IDF also said on Wednesday morning that aircraft attacked a series of Hezbollah targets in Lebanon in response to rocket fire.

At least 1,200 people were killed in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on Oct. 7. The number of men, women, children, soldiers and foreigners held captive in Gaza by Hamas is now believed to be 129. Other people remain unaccounted for as Israeli authorities continue to identify bodies and search for human remains.

ANI

## Court orders Okinawa governor to approve US base relocation

TOKYO

A Japanese high court on Wednesday ordered the governor of Okinawa prefecture to approve the central government's design change for planned ground improvement work under a US base relocation project.

The Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court ruled in favor of the central government on the lawsuit it filed against Denny Tamaki, governor of the southernmost prefecture, in October over his refusal to approve the design change.

The controversial project aims to relocate the US Marine Corps' Futenma air base in Ginowan to the Henoko coastal area in Nago, which is also in Okinawa.

The presiding judge ordered Tamaki to approve the design change within three business days. If Tamaki does not approve within the time set, the land, infrastructure, transport, and tourism minister will be able to give approval in place of the governor and start ground improvement work.

It would be the first-ever proxy execution of the central government,

local media reports said, noting that the Okinawa prefectural government will be able to appeal to the Supreme Court, but the appeal cannot stop the proxy execution.

Earlier in September, Tamaki told a United Nations Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva that the concentration of US military bases in Okinawa threatens peace, noting that the Japanese government is forcibly filling in precious sea areas to build a new US military base, regardless of the opinions of local residents.

The governor has also, on multiple occasions, expressed concerns over excessive levels of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances detected in the water around US military bases in Japan.

The island of Okinawa hosts 70 percent of all the US military bases in Japan while accounting for only 0.6 percent of the country's total land area. More than 70 percent of local residents opposed the US military base construction on the Henoko landfill, showed a 2019 Okinawa Prefecture voting results.

## Rehabilitation centers in South Sudan restore hope for people with disabilities

JUBA

HUNDREDS of people with disabilities in South Sudan are successfully recovering from physical and social trauma, thanks to the physiotherapy treatments and provision of artificial limbs supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian organization based in Geneva.

The Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center cares for a majority of individuals with disabilities, many of whom are victims of gunshots, landmines or unexploded ordnances left behind by years of conflict.

Daniel Kuol, a 31-year-old man from Kolonyang Payam in Jonglei state, thanked the ICRC for its help, saying he arrived at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center in November nursing a gunshot wound in his left leg.

In March 2022, Kuol was shot during a raid by armed Murle youth from the neighboring Greater Pibor Administrative Area who had targeted his village for cattle.

Currently, he awaits the fitting of an artificial limb at the center, expressing hope for the future. "I arrived here two weeks ago, awaiting my artificial limb. Once fitted, they will provide me with transportation fare to return to my hometown," Kuol said.

Supported by the ICRC, South Sudan has three physical rehabilitation centers for individuals with disabilities in Juba, Wau and Rumbek. Kuol is among the in-patients from several states and administrative areas accommodated at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center, where they receive essential provisions. Kuol encourages others in similar situations not to despair.

He said that caretakers at the center advise and encourage them to start small businesses to earn a living. Wenbul Dhill Kulang, a disabled South Sudan People's Defense Force soldier (SSPDF), said that he lost a limb due to a gunshot wound sustained during a 2004 conflict with the Sudan Armed Forces in the Kapoeta area of Eastern Equatoria state.

Kulang awaits an artificial limb to return to his native home in Bentiu town, Unity state. Abraham Deng, another war veteran who used to be a sergeant major in the SSPDF, expressed relief at receiving an artificial limb at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center. Deng lost a leg while fighting with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) against the Sudan Armed Forces in 1994.

Emmanuel Lubari, director for disability in the South Sudanese Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, said the country is working with the ICRC to maintain the three physical rehabilitation centers.

He called for physiotherapy, artificial limbs, orthotics, wheelchairs and psychosocial support for the local people who were injured in years of conflicts. Lubari noted that there is a shortage of orthopedic technologists in South Sudan, saying that some students are currently studying in Cambodia with ICRC support and will return to provide services in the country.

From January to October this year, the three centers have attended to about 14,057 people. David Dak Chak, a psychologist collaborating with the ICRC at one of the centers, emphasized the crucial role of the international community in extending mental health and psychosocial support services.

"We offer individual, family and group counseling while ensuring confidentiality, dignity and non-discrimination," said Chak. Also, therapists engage patients in discussions on topics vital to their aspirations and encourage them to share experiences and coping mechanisms.

Furthermore, these centers encourage patients to pursue future success. "They understand that disability does not define one's worth," Chak added.

Xinhua



**We offer individual, family and group counseling while ensuring confidentiality, dignity and non-discrimination**

## EU agrees new rules on hosting migrants, seeks to cut numbers

BRUSSELS

THE European Union reached an agreement early on Wednesday on new rules designed to share out the cost and work of hosting migrants more evenly and to limit the numbers of people coming in.

Representatives of the European Parliament and of EU governments reached an accord after all-night talks on EU laws collectively called the New Pact on Migration and Asylum that should take effect next year.

The laws cover screening irregular migrants when they arrive in the European Union, procedures for handling asylum applications, rules on determining which EU country is responsible for handling applications and ways to handle crises.

Migrant arrivals in the European Union are way down from the 2015 peak of more than 1 million, but have steadily crept up from the 2020 low to 255,000 in the year to November, with more than half crossing the Mediterranean from Africa to Italy or Malta.

Previous efforts to share out the responsibility of hosting migrants have foundered because eastern EU members in particular were unwilling to take in peo-



Migrants are rescued by an MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) rescue team boat, after leaving Libya trying to reach European soil, in the Mediterranean Sea, Oct 6, 2023. AP

ple who had arrived in Greece, Italy and other countries.

Under the new system, countries not at the border will have a choice between accepting refugees or paying into an EU fund.

The screening system envisaged will

seek to distinguish between those in need of international protection and others who are not.

People whose asylum applications have a low chance of success, such as those from India, Tunisia or Turkey, can be prevented from entering the EU and detained

at the border, as can people seen as representing a threat to security.

Refugee rights groups have said it will create what amounts to prison camps at the EU's borders.

## Xinjiang achieves leapfrog development in opening-up

AT the Meilin Global Products, a bonded shopping center in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, a wide range of premium products from all over the world just dazzled shoppers.

Zadul Turson, the operator of the bonded shopping center, just returned from a business trip to Hong Kong. The long journey didn't consume too much of his energy. He told People's Daily, "We need to seize the opportunity. I plan to open some 30 duty-free shops next year, so as to bring more duty-free products to communities."

The "opportunity" he said was the recent establishment of the China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Whether a policy is favorable is evidenced by the market. In an international trade center of the Xinjiang Xiyu Light Industry Base, over 500 parking spaces were already occupied.

An executive of the Xiyu Light Industry Base noted that the second phase of its cloud-based warehouse has been built this year, and over 300 merchants will settle in. It marked the third upgrade of the Xiyu Light Industry Base.

A Kazakh truck driver who has been transporting goods across the China-Kazakhstan border for seven years told People's Daily that more and more of his friends have come to China for trucking because they want to "prosper together."

Projects have yielded fruitful results and logistics channels have become more efficient. What is this promising land relying on to create a new chapter in investment and business development?

The prosperity of Xinjiang, an important trading hub, in the old days, is displayed in a cultural exhibition hall of the Bakti port in Tacheng.

Historically, Xinjiang has long been a key hub for trade and logistics between Asia and Europe. Geographically, it is adjacent to eight countries and is located in the heart of the Eurasian continent. In advancing high-level opening up, Xinjiang has unique geographical advantages. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has provided an excellent opportunity for Xinjiang to turn from a borderland in northwest China to a "thriving regional center."

Economically disadvantaged regions must capitalize on historic opportunities and dedicated effort to spur transformational development. In recent times, Xinjiang has embodied a spirit of industriousness and bold experimentation. By spearheading construction of a



Wind turbine blades are manufactured in a workshop of a new material company in Changji Hui autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. (People's Daily Online/He Long)

central hub of the BRI, the autonomous region has secured substantial gains.

Since the launch of the China-Europe freight train service, Xinjiang's Alashankou port has witnessed the passage of over 30,000 trains, with the efficient operation of a "24/7" appointment-based customs clearance mechanism. The Horgos highway port has implemented a 24/7-passage-for-traded-goods trial, where vehicles only need to place an electronic card on a reader after declaring, and the clearance process can be completed in just 20 to 30 seconds. From 2013 to 2022, Xinjiang's total import and export value increased from 170.81 billion yuan (\$23.96 billion) to 246.36 billion yuan.

The train whistles and the rolling wheels of trucks exactly mirror the surging vitality injected into Xinjiang's economic development through deepening reform and opening up.

Pursuing transformation and upgrading, Xinjiang is seeking momentum from innovation. In a workshop of the Xinjiang Branch of Chinese automaker GAC Motor, vehicles are rolling off the production line. At the gate of Sany Tacheng Wind Power Equipment Co., trucks loaded with wind turbine blades are ready to depart.

In the first three quarters of this year, Xinjiang's total foreign trade volume increased by 47.3 percent year-on-year. Among them, the exports of electric passenger vehicles, lithium batteries, and solar batteries surged by 61.5 percent from a year ago. These three items have replaced mechanical and electrical products, clothing, and footwear and headwear as the new hits of Xinjiang's foreign trade, which reflects the high-quality development of the autonomous region.

This also suggests that in order to give play to the late starter's advantages, it is necessary to adapt to the trend of high-end, intelligent, and green development, seize the enormous opportunities brought by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, and strive to shape new advantages on the new track. At the sixth China International Import Expo, a Xinjiang-themed promotion event attracted wide attention, which told the world that Xinjiang is no longer a remote corner but a core area and a hub.

As long as Xinjiang leverages its unique geographical advantages, and harnesses the strength of openness and collaboration, it will definitely achieve even greater development.

People's Daily

## Rescuers race against time in aftermath of powerful China quake

LANZHOU

IN the grip of a cold wave, with temperatures plummeting below minus 10 degrees Celsius, the plateau county of Jishishan in northwest China's Gansu Province was jolted from its slumber midnight Monday by a 6.2-magnitude earthquake, causing death, destruction and panic.

Xinhua reporters arrived at the severely-affected Chenjia village in Dahejia township at around 3 a.m. Tuesday, finding it plunged into darkness as a blackout gripped the area, and electricity cables dangled on the ground.

Several houses crumbled, leaving streets strewn with shards of glass, bricks and rocks. According to local villager Ding Xiaolong, he was asleep at home when the quake struck.

The intense tremor woke him and he quickly rushed out of the house for safety. Speaking to Xinhua, Ding said he feels fortunate for being able to escape, but

he also conveyed deep sadness for one of his fellow villagers who is currently working in the coastal city of Xiamen, located more than 2,000 kilometers away.

"I received a phone call from him after the quake, and he asked me to check on the situation of his family," Ding said, adding that he rushed to their house, only to discover it had been leveled to the ground, with four people buried underneath.

Despite Ding's efforts to gather over 20 people for help, it proved futile as it was already too late. All four members of his friend's family had lost their lives. Ma Shijun, a student at Dahejia Middle School, recounted running out of the dormitory barefoot, without even grabbing a coat, which left his hands slightly numb.

Following the earthquake, teachers promptly organized students to seek refuge on the playground. "Seeing more and more rescue personnel arriving, I find myself less frightened than I was

when the earthquake first struck," Ma said. According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the quake jolted at 11:59 p.m. Monday and has a focal depth of 10 km.

The epicenter is about 8 km from the county seat of Jishishan Bao'an, Dongxiang, Salar Autonomous County. As of 10 a.m. Tuesday, a total of 105 were confirmed dead in Gansu and 11 in the neighboring Qinghai Province, with hundreds injured.

Due to high altitude, cold weather and complex geological conditions, Jishishan county is prone to natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

Since 1900, the area within a radius of 100 km from the epicenter has recorded seven earthquakes above 5 magnitude. Villagers are being evacuated to secure locations, medical teams are racing against time to help those in need, and taxi drivers are transporting the injured to hospitals.

Rescue vehicles and ambulances are rendering vital assistance in the earthquake-affected areas. Members of the Gansu branch of the Blue Sky Rescue Team, a Chinese civil relief squad, have set up dozens of tents in the public square of Dahe village.

Local officials have provided warm water for the affected residents to consume and use for preparing instant noodles. Around 2 a.m. Tuesday, taxi driver Madahud headed towards the Chenjia village. He said that his phone had been inundated with messages seeking help.

In Dahejia township, where the temperature plummeted to 16 degrees Celsius below zero, over 140 medical staff at a local hospital were busy treating the injured people. According to first-person accounts, the loved ones of many of these patients are untraceable in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Xinhua

The  
Guardian

# SPORT



Basketballers making Dar es Salaam's Vjiana Club take part in a training session at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Ngome Club boxers shine in Champion of Champions Boxing Championship 2023

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM'S Ngome Club boxers have shined in the 2023 Champion of Champions Boxing Championship finals which were held in Iringa on Tuesday.

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From Onana's performance with Rayon Sport, there was never any doubt that he has some sharp scoring skills, as a capacity that stood to be used, exploited, or otherwise brought to the fore.

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That the current head coach takes the credit for bringing the best out of the player, before the visiting side scrambled to get a defensive formation to stop the rot going into the second half, does not exonerate the fans from the steep embarrassment that one sees on their faces, even conducting actual analysis.

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The  
Guardian

# SPORT



Basketballers making Dar es Salaam's Vjiana Club take part in a training session at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

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# Yanga focused on sealing qualification for CAF Champions League last eight



Yanga's Burkina Faso midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki (C), dribbles past Medeama SC's defenders when the clubs met in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League clash which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday and ended in a 3-0 win for Yanga. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Guardian Correspondent

**Y**ANGA's skipper, Bakari Mwamnyeto, has stated the side is eager to stay within reach of qualification for the last-eight stage of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

The Tanzanian outfit made its determination to fight for progression to the last-eight stage of the premier continental club competition known after commanding a 3-0 demolition of Ghana's Medeama SC in a Group D clash that took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Ivorian midfielder Pacôme Zouzoua, Zambian attacker Kennedy Musonda, and Tanzanian midfielder Mudathir Yahya scored three goals for Yanga to propel their club to the second spot in Group D after collecting five points

from four ties.

Mwamnyeto, speaking in an interview with the club's online Television, stated: "We had expected to come out victorious, albeit not by such a margin of goals. We had already planned to give our all and win, given that, to us, this was a final."

The center-back added: "Our coach told us this match is final, we must win it... we have secured the victory and we thank God for that."

He also expressed his regards to the club's leadership, technical bench, and the supporters for rallying behind the outfit and seeing to it that it comes out victorious in the crucial fixture.

"We thank our club's fans for turning up in large numbers, we call on more fans to again turn up in the next fixture," Mwamnyeto said.

It was the first victory for Yanga in Group D of this season's CAF Champions League. The Jangwani Street outfit had, previously, been languishing at the bottom of the group with two points from three clashes.

Yanga is trailing the group leader, Egypt's Al Ahly, also the showdown's defending champions, which has also amassed five points and boasts of a superior goal difference.

The Wednesday loss has left Medeama SC sitting third after collecting four points from

four ties.

Algeria's CR Belouizdad is now positioned last, having notched four points from three matches.

The club's clash against Al Ahly, which was slated for Tuesday at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers, had been postponed.

The decision was reached by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to allow Al Ahly to battle it out in the FIFA Club World Cup semi-final, which ended with the Egyptian outfit succumbing to a 2-0 defeat to Brazil's Fluminense.

Yanga began its campaign in the premier continental club showcase with a 3-0 defeat to CR Belouizdad in Algiers on November 24, and, in the

following match, the Tanzanian club managed to notch a 1-1 draw with Al Ahly in Dar es Salaam on December 2.

In the third tie, the Jangwani Street club, again, notched a 1-1 draw with Medeama SC in Kumasi on December 8.

Yanga could have come out with an emphatic win in the Wednesday duel if the club's players could have fully exploited several more opportunities that went their way particularly in the first half.

The Jangwani Street club wasted two good chances which could have seen it command a 3-0 lead in the first half, the first of which was squandered by Congolese midfielder Maxi Nzengeli.

Nzengeli made a good run into Medeama SC's penalty area and was set up by Ivorian right-back, Kouassi Attohoulou, but the former surprisingly blasted the ball way over the Ghanaian club's crossbar.

The other chance, which went begging, saw Musonda fail to beat Medeama SC's keeper, Felix Yeye, from within the box after the Zambian forward was beautifully set up by midfielder, Yahya.

Yanga will next host CR Belouizdad in a clash scheduled for February 23-24, 2024 in Dar es Salaam once the premier continental club showcase resumes.

In Group D's other fixture slated for the same dates, Medeama SC is set to confront Al Ahly in Kumasi - with the Ghanaian club aiming to have its campaign getting back on track.

## Pellegrino earns call-up to Taifa Stars' provisional squad for 2023 AFCON

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AMAL Pellegrino, the prolific goal scorer currently illuminating the Norwegian Premier League, Eliteserien, has ignited excitement across Tanzania after earning a call-up to Adel Amrouche's preliminary squad for the Taifa Stars.

With the prestigious 2024 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) looming on the horizon, Pellegrino's inclusion signifies a potential boost to Tanzania's aspirations of leaving a mark on the continental stage.

Born and raised in Norway, Pellegrino embodies the growing trend of players with Tanzanian heritage flourishing in European leagues.

His talent has not gone unnoticed back home, where his exploits for the Norwegian Premier League club, FK Bodø/Glimt, have captivated fans and pundits alike.

Last season, he etched his name in Eliteserien history by clinching the top scorer title with a staggering 24 goals, propelling his team to league championship glory.

His impact extended beyond domestic triumphs, playing a crucial role in FK Bodø-Glimt's qualification for the Europa Conference League group stage, showcasing his talent on the European stage.

Pellegrino's call-up is not merely a recognition of his brilliance, it reflects a broader shift in the Taifa Stars' strategy.

In recent years, the national team has actively sought out players with Tanzanian roots excelling abroad, acknowledging the valuable skills and experience they bring.

This approach has already paid off, with players like Haji Mnoga becoming key figures in the Taifa Stars squad.

The 2024 AFCON showdown, set to be hosted in Ivory Coast, presents a significant opportunity for Tanzania to make a statement on the international scene.

The draw for the 2024 AFCON has placed Tanzania in Group F, alongside some of the tournament's most fearsome opponents. Taifa Stars will face off against Morocco, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Zambia.

The competition brings together the best of African football, providing a platform for players to showcase their talent and nations to vie for continental glory.

With players like Pellegrino joining established stars like Mbwana Samatta, Simon Msuva, Feisal Salum, and Novatus Dismas, Taifa Stars are brimming with potential to cause upsets and rewrite their AFCON narrative.

Pellegrino's inclusion in the preliminary squad is just the first step, but it has sent ripples of excitement through Tanzanian football.

His journey from Eliteserien stardom to potential AFCON hero encapsulates the growing diaspora of Tanzanian talent and the team's ambition to compete on the highest international stage.

As the road to Ivory Coast unfolds, all eyes will be on Pellegrino and the Taifa Stars to see if they can translate domestic promise into continental success.

Pellegrino is not the only new face in the squad. Joining him are Zion Nditi (Aldershot Town) and Roberto Nditi (Forfar Athletic) - both promising players -, and former Chelsea prospect Adam Nditi.

Other notable additions include Ayoub Bilal (FK Gorazde), Tarryn Allarakhia (Wealdstone), Miano Danilo (Telford United), and Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2).

## Tanzania seals football partnership with Saudi Arabia

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA and Saudi Arabia are set for a notable development in the football landscape as the two countries' federations have finalized a groundbreaking cooperation agreement.

The deal, which was executed in Dar es Salaam yesterday, anticipates a surge in various aspects of the beautiful game in the two countries.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia, and Yasser Al Misaal, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) president, officially began the two bodies' collaborative journey by signing the agreement in the city. The agreement spans several key areas.

This collaboration encompasses eight key areas, starting with administration. Sharing knowledge on governance, finance, and marketing will allow the two countries' football federations to learn from each other, fostering efficient and sustainable growth.

The two countries' football stakeholders should imagine the benefit of exchanging tips on financial management, crafting impactful marketing



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.

campaigns, and implementing good governance practices!

Technical development takes center stage with collaborative efforts to nurture talent.

Enhanced coaching programs, robust player development initiatives, and comprehensive refereeing training will ensure a continuous pipeline of skilled

players and officials.

Football fans in the two countries should picture talented youngsters honing their skills under the guidance of top coaches, all thanks to this global knowledge exchange.

National teams are also part of the equation. Friendly matches and joint training camps will

create lasting connections between countries and ignite a competitive spirit.

It is not just about winning, it is about pushing boundaries and learning from each other on the international stage.

Football supporters should imagine fierce yet friendly rivalries born out of these collaborative training sessions.

Refereeing receives well-deserved attention. The two countries' federations are set to exchange expertise and organize workshops to elevate refereeing standards, ensuring fair play and high-quality officiating.

This means every crucial call on the pitch benefits from a combined pool of knowledge, leading to a more just and satisfying game for everyone.

Infrastructure is not being neglected, given the two countries' federations are combining efforts to develop and upgrade football facilities, offering players and fans world-class amenities.

Football lovers in the two countries ought to imagine witnessing cutting-edge stadiums and training grounds built through coordinated efforts, creating an environment that inspires both athletes and spectators.

Competitions and leagues are ripe for exploration. The federations are looking for ways to organize joint tournaments and leagues, enhancing the competitive landscape and strengthening ties between countries.

This is not just about rivalries, it is about creating a diverse and exciting playing field where every team can learn and grow from each other.

Women's football is finally getting the attention it deserves. The two countries' federations are committed to promoting and developing the sport, empowering female athletes, and expanding opportunities for them to

play at all levels.

Women's football stakeholders in the two countries should picture a future where skilled female footballers grace the pitch just as often as their male counterparts, thanks to this global push for equality.

Youth football is the bedrock of the sport's future. The two countries' federations are pouring resources into youth academies and grassroots programs, igniting a passion for the game in young people.

This means more kids with access to coaching, training, and the chance to chase their football dreams, creating a bright future for the sport.

Even beach soccer is getting a boost. Collaborative development initiatives and tournaments will bring the excitement of this dynamic sport to a wider audience.

The beach soccer fanatics ought to look forward to the thrill of watching skilled players put their skills to show on the sand, thanks to this newfound focus on expanding the reach of football.

This five-year pact signifies a substantial opportunity for both TFF and SAFF. Tanzania is set to gain access to Saudi Arabia's expertise and resources, propelling its footballing progress.

Conversely, Saudi Arabia is expected to expand its influence within Africa, fostering valuable partnerships and enriching its footballing ecosystem.

Moreover, the Tanzania-Saudi Arabia cooperation agreement is a win-win for both nations, promising a future marked by elevated standards, exciting opportunities, and a shared passion for the beautiful game.

The forthcoming days hold the prospect of thrilling matches, talented players, and a vibrant footballing landscape, thanks to this landmark deal.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE SWEET AND LOVING THAT YOU WON'T MIND SHARING WITH OTHERS?

