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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9019 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 2023

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Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko presents the Best Taxpayer Award to NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna at the Tanzania Revenue Authority's Awards held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The bank emerged Overall Winner. Left is NMB chief human resources officer Emmanuel Akonaay. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Brake failure: 14 killed in bus crash at raised road section

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

At least 14 people died and 26 were injured in a road accident blamed on brake failure on their Baraka Company bus.

ACP John Imori, the Lindi regional police commander, said the accident occurred in the morning yesterday at Mtama village in the rural areas of Lindi, where two of those who died were pedestrians hit by the bus as it overturned.

The passenger bus was heading to Dar es Salaam from Newala in Mtwara Region, with its brake failure disaster intervening when scaling down the Kirorambendo mountain

terrain, he said.

The bodies of the deceased are preserved at Nyangao Hospital in Mtwara, while injured passengers are being treated at the hospital, he specified.

Interviewed eye witnesses in the village said the area of the accident has sharp corners and a slope, which the government needs to work upon to eliminate those corners as it has a notorious rate of accidents.

Dr Julius Stephen, doctor in-charge at Nyangao Hospital, said that they received 26 casualties at 8am yesterday, treating and discharging some of them. Seven have been admitted for

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Disconnect bill defaulters, govt tells TANESCO

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has allowed the power supply corporation, TANESCO, to disconnect power from entities having long-standing debts, whether they are in the private sector or are public institutions.

Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, issued this directive yesterday in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, shortly after inspecting implementation of the Kenya-Tanzania power interconnection project (KTPIP), which includes the construction of a 400 kV transmission line from Singida to the Namanga border.

He said there is upwards of 224bn/- in the hands of institutional clients including government institutions, investment entities and individuals, with a number of such clients moving with debts from old to new electricity meters.

"In Arusha, TANESCO owes its customers 77bn/-," he said, elaborating that

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Govt reinforcing medical tourism destination drive

This would enable supervisory authorities to affirm national indicators, which shows why books are vital in collecting the data

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE idea of making Tanzania a medical hub in the Eastern Africa sub-region is alive and well, as patients from neighboring countries visiting the country's top medical facilities rise.

Dr John Jingu, the Health permanent

secretary, made this observation when opening an annual meeting of coordinators of health statistics here over the weekend.

This trend is fueled by hefty investment in medical facilities and equipment, he said, pointing at the construction of region referral hospitals furnished with modern equipment.

People are flocking into Tanzania for medical treatments rather than going abroad, he said, adding that patients here

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TAWA sets up park site with oryx trademark

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A NEW tourism product is being rolled out, chiefly consisting of oryx sighting excursions in the northern circuit, at the newly established Makuyuni Wildlife Park.

Ruwamangi Kashe, the responsible conservation officer at the park, told visiting members of the Tanzania Wildlife Management

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Special guest Thamsanga Maqbuella (R) from the Global CEO Institute of South Africa presents Hosea Kashimba, Director General of Tanzania's Public Service Social Security Fund, the CEO of the Year Award in the Parastatal Category for 2023 at a prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Story on Page 3. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS



SIMBA SC COACH ANGRY AFTER CAF CL DRAW WITH ASEC MIMOSAS

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Brake failure: 14 killed in bus crash at raised road section

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further treatment, he said. "We also received 14 bodies of people who died from the accident," he stated, affirming that one of the patients has been shifted to an intensive care unit (ICU).

Last year data from the Police Force traffic department showed

that 1,720 people died due to road accidents countrywide.

Studies show that factors causing accidents in public transport are chiefly human factors at 72 per cent, external factors by 18 per cent, lack of enforcement of road use rules by 2.5 per cent and vehicle condition by up to 7.5 per cent.

TAWA sets up park with oryx trademark

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Authority (TAWA) board of directors that this initiative is part of anticipated conservation, tourism and investment projects in the area.

Oryx is a large antelope species known to selective in its habituation and rather elusive, not easily seen despite being present in Tarangire National Park and southern parts of the Serengeti National Park, he said.

Oryx antelopes however seem to be abundant in the new park located in Monduli District, Arusha Region, with new wild tracks having to be created to take tourism vehicles to the relevant location.

Oryx antelopes will be the trademark species at the new facility, which the management says it is suited for trekking safaris.

Experts describe oryx as mostly beige in their skin colour, featuring black and white markings on their body and face, easily identified by their two large, spiral horns that come out in a V-shape from their head, he elaborated.

Mabula Nyanda, the TAWA chief executive, said that the wildlife park, previously a farm for leguminous crops, has been converted into a new tourist facility in the northern circuit.

The park is close to the Arusha-Minjingu road, making it easily accessible, such that TAWA believes that with a marketing drive the new park could emerge as a weekend getaway, he stated.

Observers were wondering what is likely to be the mainstay of attraction for visiting the park, whether it is "mostly young people who want to have it all," as the agency believes, "or that elders may take greater interest in oryx, while youths are attracted to enjoyable active sports" and being attached to wildlife tourism.

Dr Simon Mduma, he TAWA board deputy chairman, described the park as offers natural surroundings, various wildlife species and campsites, tied with added recreational facilities.

The part dotted with hills will harbour lodges and camps, to offer tourists astounding sceneries from the beacon points, he stated.

Other than the trademark oryx, the park is home to a large number of wild animals, including elephants, buffaloes, leopards, apart from zebras, lions, giraffes, ostriches, impalas and elands, he elaborated.

The 47 square kilometers of acreage is meant for photographic tourism and other leisure activities, without hunting being offered in the zone, with the board official saying efforts are being made to ensure that costs of using the facilities remain affordable, to encourage domestic tourism.

TAWA expects that the park will be its trademark destination and leading property in the northern zone.

Located 70 kilometers from Arusha city center and upwards of 100 kilometers from Babati, the regional centre for Manyara, the park is an easily accessible facility for tourists without much time to spare.



Oryx antelopes will be the trademark species at the new facility, which the management says it is suited for trekking safaris

Disconnect bill defaulters, government tells Tanesco

FROM PAGE 1

these are not just individuals as the list includes government institutions and investors.

Industry owners are quick to complain over power cuts, but they are often not paying their bills on time, he said, tasking the company to cease supplying power to anyone with long-standing debts.

Urging the defaulters to settle their bills to enable the power utility firm to increase efficiency, he said the government will continue to address electricity challenges by implementing electricity generation projects including the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

The JNHPP has reached 94 per cent with the contractor finalising installation of plant systems for trial testing, he said, cautioning members of the public against sabotaging electricity infrastructure.

There is also theft of some materials such as copper cables and transformer oil, he elaborating, insisting that the government will take stern measures against all those seen to have been involved in such incidents.

He appealed to TANESCO staff to ensure they make quick responses to queries from customers, issue statements in case power supply hitches occur. The customer care centre should be upgraded to take up to 100 calls per day instead of 65 calls as recorded at present, he said.

The deputy premier said people need to protect water sources as their destruction will affect electric-

ity generation, asking TANESCO to ensure liaisons with the Vice President's Office (Environment) and the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to enhance environmental conservation efforts.

The Lemuguru power station in Arumeru District, part of the inter-connection project, will improve power services in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions when completed, being upgraded. The power station is constructed at a cost of \$258.8m, also known as Lemugul substation, is a 400/220kV substation.

He commended TANESCO for measures to reduce power rationing, hailing the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) for increasing amounts of natural gas for electricity generation.

Peter Kigadye, the project supervisor, said completing the project would facilitate power transmission to other regions and to nearby mining centres.

The project includes building eight power transmission lines—400/33 kV from the new cooling station, plus the construction of a 400 kV power transmission line from Singida to Namanga via Arusha, stretching 414.3 kilometres, he explained.

The project involves expansion of the power cooling station now at 98.72 per cent completion rate, power connection to villages near the project site and construction of power cooling stations in Dodoma, Singida regions, all completed, he added.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk (R) welcomes India's Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan, in Dar es Salaam on November 20 for talks on a wide range of issues of common interest to Tanzania and India. The Indian minister's visit to Tanzania followed President Samia Suluhu Hassan's State Visit to India last month which saw India-Tanzania relations graduate to the level of strategic partnership. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt reinforcing medical tourism destination drive

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are no longer seeking medical treatment abroad, save in particularly difficult cases, he noted.

Noting that the sixth phase government had uplifted health sector capacity especially in specialist medical services, he cited cases of visitors from nearby countries coming for treatment in border regions.

He asked the coordinators of the health management information systems (HMIS) to ensure that the collection and storage of data using electronic systems reaches all

health centres.

Accurate data helps medical officers and supervisory systems to know how far envisaged tasks are being done correctly, he said, emphasizing the need to strengthen statistical analysis skills to convey the results to various interested parties.

Accurate statistics are needed in various development plans, such that interoperable statistical systems are needed to reduce government costs in various areas, he said.

All data collected outside the district health information software

(DHIS2) such as hospital management information system (GoT-HoMIS), electronic medical record (eMR), vaccine information management system (VIMS). Instructions on dosage instruction at care and treatment centres be available in the DHIS2 system.

This would enable supervisory authorities to affirm national indicators, which shows why books are vital in collecting the data, he stated.

Prof Tumaini Nagu, the government chief medical officer, said the correct availability of data will ease

availability of medicines in the correct dose.

Claud Kumaliya, the ministry's acting director of monitoring and evaluation, said objectives of the meeting are to evaluate the current state of health statistics countrywide.

The session seeks to resolve challenges and discuss innovations to enable health statistics systems to read one another through the DHIS2 system, while enabling statistics to reach public agencies and outlets via mobile phones, he added.



Statistician General Dr Albina Chuwa (L) gifts the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Kim Sun Pyo, a carving at the recent launch of the Tanzania Statistics Integrated Service held in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Laizer commends Samia for creating better conditions for artisanal miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANITE billionaire Saninuu Laizer has applauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating an enabling environment for businessmen, especially small-scale miners as they can now conduct their activities without disturbance from government officials.

He showered the praise during a special ritual ceremony held at Mundarara village in Longido District, Arusha Region. The ceremony

was purposely organized to pray for the President due to the good work she is doing.

"I would like to thank all our leaders who organized this event as we have had an opportunity to play for our President. We ask the almighty God to help her win the coming general election in 2025 because she is doing good things for Tanzanians," said Laizer.

CCM Chairman in Longido District, Papa Nakuta, said the government in Arusha Region has

provided more than 14bn/- for implementation of development projects.

"President Samia has disbursed funds for many projects in our region. These projects are being implemented in all the villages and wards within Longido District," he said, adding that next year they are going to launch a newly constructed school at Mundarara village.

The Chairman congratulated Laizer for ensuring cooperation with the community as well as as-

sisting them. He said Laizer is an honest investor who has been paying taxes accordingly.

Meanwhile, the traditional leaders commended Laizer for investing at the village whereas he has employed people from over 70 families at his mine located in Mundarara village.

Daniel Laizer from Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT) said the event was organized in the village in honour of the Mmasai billionaire.



RIN Company director Isaac Range (L), a participant in a capacity building training programme for members of the Tanzanian business community organised by Barrick North Mara Mine, makes remarks in Tarime town at the weekend in the presence of Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda (3rd-L). It was shortly after the training was opened. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TRADERS in Mara Region have been empowered with skills on how to explore untapped opportunities in the mining value chain.

Held in Tarime District, the two-day special training was made possible by Local Business Development Programme—a brainchild of Barrick Gold's North Mara mine.

The programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of local businesses so that they can take advantage of the opportunities available in the mining sector.

Opening the training over the weekend here, Mara Regional Commissioner, Said Mtanda applauded the mining company for starting a programme to build capacity for businessmen and added that the

Traders in Mara equipped with skills on ways to explore chances in mining

training is important because it increases the participants' understanding and will enable them to have the criteria to benefit from various commercial opportunities inside and outside the Barrick North Mara mine.

The RC tasked the training beneficiaries to fully consider it so that you meet the criteria for working with the mine. "I know that after this training you will get business opportunities inside and outside the mine, but you will also get education to strengthen your business."

He also praised the Barrick North Mara Gold Mine for winning the Best Taxpayer Award in Tanzania last year, but also for being able to spend \$29million for local bidders doing business with the mine.

"But also nationally, during this quarter of the year, Barrick has spent \$5million that benefited various companies that work with the company by providing various services including the implementation of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy where it has achieved various social projects in the Tarime

District Council where many have already been completed and others are still being implemented.

He further said that Barrick Gold Company has provided the Tanzanian government with 70bn/- to support the improvement of the country's education infrastructure, including the construction of girls' dormitories in high schools.

RC Mtanda gave the training beneficiaries a gift of 10 books with a guide to investment opportunities in the Mara region.

RC Mtanda also urged bidders

working with the Barrick North Mara mine to support efforts to reprimand and stop the problem of groups of people getting into mine illegally, so that they can continue to benefit from commercial opportunities due to the existence of the mine.

"If the mine is closed due to security reasons, even these dollars will not reach them," said RC Mtanda, citing as an example the \$29million that the mine has paid to local bidders for this year 2023 only.

Tarime District Commissioner, Col. Michael Mtenjele said that the

to marathon winners.

Lucy Tesha (Programme Analyst on Ending Violence against Women & Girls) at UN WOMEN said victims of GBV need to be provided with protection, legal services and motivation.

She said that UN Women has been working with the government and non-governmental organizations in combating all forms of violence and ensuring the rights of women and children.

Tesha called upon the community and stakeholders to unite against GBV to ultimately eradicate such acts in the society. She said ending GBV would boost development as the resources spent on it would be directed on other development issues.

The origin of the 16 days against cruelty and humiliation comes from a meeting of activists against sexual harassment held in Bogota, Colombia, Central America in 1981, which is the memory of the murder of four activists committed in the Republic of Dominica, Central America, on November 25, 1960.

The global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a key international moment to call for an end to violence against women and girls.

It runs from 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10th December, Human Rights Day. This year's theme is UNITE! Invest To Prevent Violence against Women and Girls.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan today is expected to lead a voluntary marathon organized by the Asma Mwinyi Foundation as part of activities to mark the 16 Days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The aim is to raise funds to support 100 women and vulnerable children. These women, according to Asma Mwinyi Foundation Director, Asma Ali Mwinyi are those who have been abandoned by their husbands as well as victims of sexual violence.

Asma said the raised funds will help to improve their welfare by empowering them economically. He said parents with special needs children will also be able to take care of them.

"I would like to thank all our sponsors who have supported us in this marathon, including the UN WOMEN," said the Director.

"Our main target is specifically to help women who have been abandoned by their husbands due to various reasons including giving birth to children with special needs or with disabilities. We will get statistics from relevant ministries in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar," she said.

Asma noted that to be able to successfully serve all the beneficiaries, the foundation needs to collect 500m/-, of which part of it will be from the various contributors taking part in the marathon.

She said there will also be prizes to be given

PSSSF's Kashimba emerges as the Director General of year 2023 in parastatals category

By Guardian Reporter

THE Director General of Public Service Social Security Fund, (PSSSF), Hosea Kashimba, has emerged as the Director General of the year government/parastatals category of "The top CEO of the year Award-2023."

Also, the Fund's Director of Finance, Beatrice Mus-Lupi has scooped the first winner of "Financial Director of the Year" while PSSSF's Director of Operations Mbaruku Magawa, won the "Operations Director of the Year" as PSSSF's IT Director of PSS Gilbert Chawe clinched the first winner in terms of technological innovation.

Those awards for leadership skills known as The Top 100 Executive List 2023 Awards have been given over the weekend at a colourful event held in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the event, Special Guest T. Maquella from the Global CEO Institute of

the Republic of South Africa; encouraged the leaders who were given the award to continue to strengthen their leadership methods to bring productivity and efficiency.

He also assured them that Tanzania has many opportunities for rapid economic growth and based on the commercial opportunities currently available in Africa; then the expectation is the strengthening of the Dar es Salaam stock market (DSE).

These awards are coordinated by the coordinators of Top 100 Executive Tan-

zania and the Global CEO Institute of the Republic of South Africa to recognize 100 smart leaders every year by evaluating performance, competence, skill, quality and ability.

Last year, Kashimba was awarded this kind of award for his Excellence leadership among the directors who competed in this aspect for the year 2022.

These awards are an example of the competence and growth of the institution in showing the growth of profits, financial growth, innovation and service.



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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

TradeMark Africa (TMA), formerly TradeMark East Africa, is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by: Belgium, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, the MasterCard Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. TMA works closely with regional and continental inter-governmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society.

TMA wishes to invite interested qualified and reputable firms/consortiums to participate in the following request for information:

- Market Information for Upcoming Independent evaluations under Trademark Africa Strategy 2.

The request for information document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/> All queries quoting the above should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com

The closing date for submissions is on or before **11th December 2023 12.00 p.m.** (Kenya Time). A virtual open day meeting with all interested firms/consortiums will be held on **1st December 2023 at 10:00AM Kenyan Time.** The request for information document can be obtained at

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums can submit proposals via the email above. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

These awards are an example of the competence and growth of the institution in showing the growth of profits, financial growth, innovation and service

**The United Republic of Tanzania
President's Office**

09.11.2023

**VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT
EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the Vulnerable Poor Households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased Household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

The Permanent Secretary, President's Office, State House advertised a vacant post for TASAF Executive Director from 10th October 2023 and the deadline was 10th November 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the deadline for submission has been extended from 10th November 2023 to 27th November 2023.

All other details remain as they were advertised in the original invitation.

PERMANENT SECRETARY
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, STATE HOUSE

'Capacity building for media crucial for proper reporting on agro-ecology'

By Carlos Banda

AGRICULTURAL stakeholders have been advised to invest in media capacity building programmes to enable journalists to communicate effectively on issues concerning agro-ecology.

They made the suggestion over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the finale of the two-day workshop on strengthening Farmers' Management Seed System for food sovereignty in Tanzania.

They said that it is important thing for journalists to have better understanding on key issues on seed policy advocacy and development of the sustainable ecological agricultural practice in the country.

Speaking to participants of the workshop amid a presentation on Strengthening the movement in advocating for Farmers Management Seed System (FMSS) in Tanzania, Constantine Akitanda, Communication Advisor for African Organic Network (AfroNet), said the empowering the media can help disseminate informed information on research findings that advocate for knowledge and innovation

"Stakeholders can contribute to media effectiveness by supporting capacity building initiatives such as workshops for media personnel and members of the press which bridges the gap between the media professionals and agricultural stakeholders. The media plays an important role in informing the public about the research findings that advocate for knowledge and innovation instead of having the information remain on shelves," he said.

He also said that stakeholders need to be part and parcel of enabling the media in Tanzania through empowerment programs which acts as a catalyst for improved and effective reporting on agro-ecology as journalists become better equipped to communicate complex issues and provide the general public with better understanding on sustainable agriculture.

"Capacitation has resulted in improved reporting on agro-ecology as journalists become better equipped. By doing so, journalists can communicate complex issues very well in an accessible manner fostering the public understanding. Capacitation leads to increased media coverage

on the benefits of organic agriculture and agro-ecology, as well as increased public engagement and enabling consumers to make more informed decisions.

Akitanda added that: "Having informed to influencing agricultural policies, advocating for more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. Through conducting specialized training programs on Farmers Management Seed System, so that journalists can have hands-on experience and sit together with the journalists on how to unlock the existing challenges. There has to be an effective means to ensure journalists can do research into the details and use their enhanced knowledge to engage with the community on the importance of using sustainable seed systems."

On his part, Paul Chilewa, Policy Advocacy & Projects Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) emphasized on the importance of training farmers on proper communication strategies so that they can deliver accurate information taking part in media dialogues.

"Starting dialogues in radio stations requires a lot of things. This also demands building the capacity of farmers. Take an example of a dialogue around advocacy, how prepared is the farmer to give out his key arguments. The farmer may have tangible arguments but the message may not move across because of poor articulation. This is a problem that needs to be addressed through supporting farmers to have the capacity to talk clearly about their agendas while considering the level of importance of the agenda at a personal level and national level," said Chilewa.

Commenting on the advantage of capacity building programs for the media in agro-ecology and use of sustainable seed management systems, David Manongi, Seed Expert from Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (Tabio) said the through the media the community can be sensitized on the importance using indigenous for productive and sustainable food production and address malpractices such as the practice of agriculture as a punishment in some schools, a habit he stressed influences the back drop in interests by youth to engage in the sector.

Tanzania to enter into pacts with eleven Chinese technical colleges

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has promised to enter into an agreement with 11 Chinese technical colleges with the aim of sharing knowledge and experience in improving technical education curricula through the existing cooperation of China-Africa Alliance.

Dr. Franklin Rwezimula, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology unveiled this over the weekend, when speaking at two-day China-Tanzania Academic Exchange Seminar on Occupational Standards Revision and Development that was organized by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTIVET) with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience and to find areas for cooperation.

He said the Tanzanian government is currently focusing on vocational education and training to give youth the skills that will enable them to be self-employed or have the qualifications to be employed when they graduate.

"Our Chinese colleagues have progressed a lot in technical education, many industries in their country are run by their technical education experts, so Tanzanians want to learn so that our universities can produce experts who will compete locally and internationally," he said.

He said that Tanzania's relationship with those colleges started a long time ago and in April this year a team of Tanzanians visited various colleges in China to learn vocational education.

"Through the cooperation of the China-Africa Alliance, our experts meet regularly to exchange experiences and this is a continuation of the government's efforts made through the Ministry of Education,

Science and Technology to ensure that youth get modern skills that will enable them to compete locally and internationally," he said.

Dr. Adolf Rutayoga, NACTIVET executive secretary said that through this collaboration, students of technical colleges in the country will have the opportunity to go to China to learn how education is provided.

"In this collaboration students from Chinese colleges will be coming to Tanzania, so we will be exchanging expertise between the teachers who teach at our colleges and we will learn how they build skills to their students and we believe this cooperation will give our youth knowledge and competence," he said.

Prof. John Kondoro, NACTIVET governing council chairman said the partnership is built on developing technical education training for the benefit of youth of the two countries.

He said that there are many companies that come to work in the country and often when they come they have international standards, so it is important for college graduates in the country to be aware of internationally required standards.

"Our youth should be aware that China has made great strides in terms of technology, so when we cooperate we want to enable our youth to get the skills and knowledge to compete locally and at international level as well," said Prof Kondoro.

He said that some local graduates may decide to go to work abroad, so in order to be accepted in the labor market, they must have the standards required in foreign countries.

He said the Chinese colleges will help Tanzania develop and improve curricula and standards of competency training provided in the country.



CCM Secretary General Daniel Chongolo (R) in conversation with Civil Aviation Training Centre principal Aristid Kanje in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, chiefly in connection with plans for the centre's future. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Women judges trained on criminal justice to enhance fight against GBV

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA) is conducting training on criminal justice to various groups that deals with cases related to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The training is part of commemorating the 16 days of activism against GBV. This year's theme is UNITE! Invest To Prevent Violence against Women and Girls.

The training started in Mbeya Region yesterday where beneficiaries included judges and magistrates from Mbeya and Songwe regions.

TAWJA National Chairman, Barke

Sehel who is the Judge at the Tanzania Court of Appeal said the training is conducted with support from UN Women.

She said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had recently launched the country's first Gender Bench Book on women's rights which was prepared by UN Women and TAWJA whereas she called upon the association to train its members on how to use the book which provide an accessible, user-friendly reference guide for judicial officers in protecting the rights of women and girls.

"We are also planning to conduct similar training to other stakehold-

ers including the police force, social welfare officers, organizations that deal with human rights and officers of the gender desks from police posts," she added, noting plans are to reach stakeholders in all the regions.

Sehel noted that they are working on President Samia's advice which required them to also publish the book in Kiswahili.

TAWJA Vice Chairman, Victoria Nongwa said that Tanzania is among African countries that are doing well in the war against GBV as well as respecting the rights of women and children.

She said during a recent confer-

ence of the African Court in Algeria, Tanzania was mentioned to be one of the countries that have done well in fighting GBV.

Earlier, Mbeya Regional Administrative Officer, Lodrick Mpororo said the training has come at the right time because there is an upward trend of GBV cases within the society.

Mpororo added that the training would ultimately result in increased efficiency and productivity at the country's judicial system. He said the regional office works closely with stakeholders in combating such cruelty acts against children and women.



Wang Yong (2nd-R), Vice President of China's Shaanxi Technical College of Finance and Economics of China, gifts a book to Dr Franklin Rwezimula (2nd-L), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was at a China-Tanzania Academic Exchange seminar on occupation standards. Witnessing the event are National Council for Technical and Vocational Education (NACTIVET) executive secretary Dr Adolf Rutayoga (L) and Dr Mark Zhiwu from the China Africa Vocation Education Alliance. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PSSSF welcomes members to discussions aimed at finding end to problems facing it

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) plans to listen and provide solutions to the various challenges facing the fund's members through a special arrangement from November 27th to December 22nd, 2023.

The aim of listening to members' complaints is to provide solutions,

said PSSSF Director General, Hosea Kashimba.

Kashimba made the statement yesterday at the PSSSF pavilion during celebrations of the Financial Services Week held at the Sheikh Amri Abeid stadium in Arusha.

"Member who have challenges concerning their membership, contributions and benefits should visit any of our offices in Tanzania main-

land and Zanzibar. We will use the four weeks to listen to their queries and provide solutions," he said.

He said the exercise will be held from 8:00am in the morning to 5:00pm from Monday to Friday.

He added: "Even after that specific period, we will continue to provide services to our members; our goal is to ensure that all the esteemed members enjoy our ser-

vices." at all times."

He however cautioned the fund's members, especially retirees, not to accept any instructions from strangers, insisting that in case of any challenges, they should seek advice from the fund's offices.

"We encourage our members, especially those who are about to retire, to be careful because all our services are provided free of charge. They can also speak to us through a toll-free number 0800 110 040 or reach us through our official social networks," Kashimba said.



Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), speaks at a World Children's Day event held in Arusha city at the weekend under the theme: 'Children for Climate Action'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister calls for joint efforts to address GBV

By Guardian Reporter

The government has underlined that violence against women and children was hampering the country's economy and called for increased joint efforts to curb the scourge.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, made the remarks over the weekend when speaking during the launch of the 16-day campaign against gender-based violence in Dar es Salaam at the weekend as she represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

She said that despite decline in GBV cases, the country is still spending a lot in supporting victims.

Dr Gwajima noted that the country has been spending lots of resources in serving victims of violence which include medical treatment and others, stressing that UN Women statistics states that violence against women costs the world's economy two percent. She added that some countries spend up to 3.5 percent of their gross domestic product dealing with such issues.

The campaign, under the slogan 'Invest: To Prevent Gender Violence,' calls for increased investment in the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children.

The minister however said that Tanzania has made strides through education and violence prevention strategies, and data shows a decline in physical and sexual violence incidents from 40 percent in 2015 to 27 percent in 2022. She also emphasized that there is still much work to be done, considering that the goal of reducing violence by 50 percent has not yet been achieved.

Dr Monica Mhoja, board chair of the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania requested the government to expedite the process of amending the Marriage Act of 1971, as it contradicts the Education and Child Act, particularly when it comes to the age of marriage and the involvement of children in romantic relationships.

She also called on the inheritance laws to be repealed, arguing that it has become a thorn in the side of women and girls in the country, making women suffer on assets they have sought with their spouses.

"These laws have undermined women's efforts to strengthen themselves economically. There has been a long-standing WILDAF request regarding these laws and we have submitted an alternative bill without success," she noted.

She further said there was a need to enact a law dealing with the issues of violence against women and children as the problem was still significant.

"We recognise the government's efforts in dealing with this issue in strengthening policies and systems to deal with this problem as well as the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania (MTAKUWA) 2017/8-2021/2," she said.

Dr Monica also said the inheritance law should be improved and enacted in order to provide both genders to own properties smoothly.

According to her, widow are in tough situation than any other group when comes to inheriting properties, so robust law is needed to help protect the group from abuse.

Anna Kulaya, coordinator of the Coalition against Gender-Based Violence (MKUKI) implored the government to channel more resources towards the fight against gender-based violence by allocating adequate funds to institutions and departments dealing with the scourge.

"As we are heading to the General Elections, having robust efforts to fight GBV are needed in order to ensure that girls grow and stay safe in the society," she said.

Advocate Kulaya said the Coalition is coordinated by WILDAF and was established in 2019 by 14 organisations with the aim of having a strong and united voice in the fight against GBV but currently the network has more than 200 organisations working to eliminate all forms of violence in the country.

Africa CDC chief hails cooperation with China in public health

ADDIS ABABA

DIRECTOR-General of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Jean Kaseya has hailed Africa-China cooperation in public health.

The Africa CDC chief underscored capacity-building support from China as a vivid manifestation of the positive outcomes of Sino-African cooperation in the health sector.

"We are so proud as Africans to have this kind of collaboration with

China that will help us to push our agenda for global health security," Kaseya said, noting that Africa, which has long been suffering from various disease outbreaks, is in urgent need to improve its disease control system.

He said cooperation with China is enabling the Africa CDC, the African Union's specialized healthcare agency, to play its leading role in coordinating disease prevention, surveillance and control on the continent, where on average two

new outbreaks occur per week.

The China-aided state-of-the-art reference laboratory, which was inaugurated recently inside the premises of the Africa CDC headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, is the latest outcome of successful China-Africa cooperation in public health, he said. "This is a game changer in terms of public health in Africa," Kaseya said. "This laboratory will serve as a referral lab for Africa. We do not want to see African countries

sending samples out of Africa again."

Kaseya said strong commitments from the two sides would further strengthen the cooperation toward better health security in Africa.

Earlier this year, the Africa CDC inaugurated its China-aided headquarters in the southern suburb of Addis Ababa, equipping the African continent with a stronger public health agency to advance health initiatives and manage public health emergencies.

Zimbabwe's wildlife in crisis due to extreme drought

HARARE

IN a remote southeastern region of Zimbabwe, approximately 140 volunteers participated in a crucial annual wildlife census, monitoring the state of the nation's wildlife resources amid a concerning regional drought.

The volunteers, operating in shifts, observed the positive impact of recent rains on the greenery of Gonarezhou National Park, known as the "place of elephants." However, the park's landscape tells a tale of desperate elephants damaging baobab and acacia trees while searching for sustenance in the wake of the drought.

While Gonarezhou's animals are deemed "fortunate," other wildlife reserves in Zimbabwe have suffered even more due to the adverse effects of climate change-induced drought conditions. Tinashe Farawo, spokesperson for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, expressed distress over the increasing reports of animal anguish this year.

Farawo highlighted the unprecedented challenge posed by climate change, leading to unpredictable weather patterns and prolonged dry spells across the country. He noted that the agency is still compiling statistics, but alarming numbers of elephant and buffalo deaths have been reported in Hwange, Zimbabwe's largest park. The severity of the situation has prompted the park's agency to install 100 solar-powered boreholes to provide water for animals.

The impact of climate change extends beyond Zimbabwe, affecting national parks across Africa. Studies reveal that extreme weather events are causing the loss of plants and animals struggling to adapt to extended dry periods and rising temperatures. Zimbabwe's response includes initiatives like solar-powered boreholes, but animals are still compelled to travel longer distances, often crossing national borders, in search of essential resources.

The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area,

the world's largest multi-country conservation area, witnesses animals traversing vast distances. Farawo humorously noted that animals can "eat breakfast in Zimbabwe, lunch in Botswana, and supper in another country." However, the parched environment poses multiple challenges for animals, as demonstrated by a recent study linking heat, drought, and population density to a bacterial infection that killed elephants in Hwange National Park.

The consequences of climate change are far-reaching, affecting not only elephants but also birds relying on specific trees for breeding. The escalating conflict between humans and animals adds another layer of concern, with communities near national parks experiencing heightened clashes as wildlife encroaches on human settlements in search of scarce resources. Farawo emphasized the increasing human-animal conflict, with the park's agency receiving a rising number of distress calls in recent years.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (R) exchanges greetings with Zanzibar Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui yesterday moments after arriving at the Zanzibar venue of a two-day symposium held to honour late former long-serving politician Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad. Looking on is Maalim Hamad's widow, Awena Sinani Masoud. Photo: Zanzibar First Vice President's Office



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

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Reports to: Technical Manager

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As part of our committed to technology transfer to Tanzania workforce, PanAfrican Energy Tanzania is currently hiring Trainee Reservoir Engineer to develop the skills and knowledge required to contribute to our reservoir engineering team. This entry-level position will involve hands-on training, mentorship, and exposure to various aspects of reservoir engineering.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Assist in data analysis, collaborate with senior engineers to analyze reservoir data, well performance, and production trends.
- Contribute to reservoir modelling to build and update reservoir models to optimize field development plans.
- Support in design and interpretation of well tests and surveillance programs.
- Collaborate closely with cross-functional teams, including geologists, geophysicists, projects and production engineers.
- Participate and prepare relevant materials for internal and external meetings.
- Other tasks in support of PAET and field development as may be necessary.

Key Skills and experience:

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- Strong academic background with a focus on reservoir engineering coursework
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- Effective communication and teamwork abilities
- Familiar with KAPPA, IMEX, GAP, PROSPER, MBAL, Python, Excel VBA is an added advantage.

If you have the required qualifications, applications should be submitted to the address below, or emailed to HR@panafricanenergy.com. Applications after 8th December 2023 will not be considered.

Human Resources Manager
PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited
Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Street
PO Box 80139
Dar es Salaam
or
HR@panafricanenergy.com

Tamwa calls on security agencies to be transparent in dealing with GBV cases

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women's Association Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has urged the police force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the judiciary to be transparent when dealing with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases.

Dr Mzuri Issah, Tamwa director made the call in her statement made available yesterday, noting that recently the High Court Zanzibar announced that it has sentenced, Haji Jaha Issa (37) to be hanged to death for intentionally killing Hajra Abdallah Abdallah (21) where he stabbed her to death in the chest, rib, and stomach.

She said that the sentence was given by Judge Rabia Hussein Mohammed upon satisfied with the evidence given in the murder that took place on 26/02/2020 in Paje, Southern Region Unguja.

"Tamwa-Zanzibar believes that transparency and communication of the Court is a good basis for good governance and that it will increase the confidence of the people in relying on the judgments of the law enforcement agencies, and also reduce the level of crime as it will scare those who want to commit such crimes."

She said: "As Tamwa, Zanzibar we expects that the Court along with other legal based entities will strengthen its communication to the public about charges and judgments in order to meet the demands of the country and the world."

Dr also requested for these institutions to provide monthly information related to the progress of the case to explain its successes and challenges and set mechanisms for reporting complaints.

According to TAMWA Zanzibar record, a total of 19 women and four children have been killed in various parts of Zanzibar from 2016 until May 2023. In May this year, two girls, Laura Msemwa (23) and Khairat Juma Bakari (28) were brutally murdered in Bububu Kijichi and Mbuzini, respectively, in West District "A" Unguja, the Urban West Region.

"We also request the Court and other relevant institutions to continue to provide information on the remaining cases and thereby increase peace and prosperity in the lives of women and children who are often affected by these acts of violence."

She called on the community to continue collaborating with these important pillars to expedite and achieve criminal investigations and ultimately ensure justice is served.



Maulid Mussa (facing camera), Bank of Africa's Arusha branch relationship officer has a word with visitors to the bank's pavilion in Arusha city during the commemoration of the just-ended Financial Service Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Go for fish feeds, fingerlings making to plug demand gaps'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has called on private sectors to invest in production of fish feeds and fingerlings to bridge the demand gaps.

Upendo Hamidu, principle fishery officer in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries said that in Dodoma when speaking at the 14th Annual Learning Event (ALE) deliberated under the theme Post: AGRF Leveraging Emerging Opportunities".

This year ALE presents a platform to deliberate on African Food System (AGRF) 2023 emerging opportunities, amplifying voices of youths and women, policy dialogue, advocacy and influence, identifying gaps to be addressed and knowledge sharing and capacity building to all actors.

She said that currently, 27,000 tonnes of fish food is imported while 3000 tonnes produced locally, noting that currently, there are nine factories with a capacity of producing eight tonnes per month, while there 39 fish fingerlings hatchery plants.

Hamidu listed areas of investment in fishery sector such as production of fish feeds, production of fingerlings feeds, cold chain facilities and aqua tourism.

A fish keeper in Kigoma region Saidi Maneno fish feeds are sold at exorbitant prices the situation that increase production cost.

"If fish feeds are produced in the country, we can buy at reasonable price buyers can also enjoy buying fish at low price," he said.

Jerry Mang'ena, director and co-founder of Aqua-Farms Organization in Coast Region said: "Shortage of fingerlings is one of the major challenges we are currently facing in the country."

He said that Tanzanian

hatcheries have insufficient access to quality tilapia and catfish brood stock, as well as lack of expertise to develop their own brood stock improvement programs.

"In order to solve this issue, it requires a long-term improvement program of the tilapia and catfish gene pools in which the quality is controlled," he noted

He mentioned other challenges as the existing knowledge gap within the sector and lack of practical skills, poor access to affordable quality fish feed and seed.

Others are inadequate sector coordination and market linkages and the challenging business environment due to imported fish, tax regimes, high cost of inputs and aquaculture policy.

Mang'ena noted further that most of the foods are imported from the Netherlands which are very expensive.

According to him, the aquaculture farms are both in need of investment capital as well as working capital, the latter being sometimes half of the total required capital but often overlooked by farmers.

However, financial institutions have not yet provided much capital to the aquaculture sector due to lack of established and profitable fish farmers in the country.

The 2018 Aquaculture Investment Opportunities, phase II, conducted by the Darberg -suggests that freshwater tilapia farming has the highest potential.

"To unlock this potential, commercial aquaculture operation will need to be introduced at scale; options exist for cage, pond and recirculation systems," it suggested.

The report however noted that despite the clear opportunities for local fish productions, the sector has not yet unlocked its full potential.

Fruit, flower growers to begin using cold-rooms

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

HORTICULTURE growers in Morogoro and Dodoma regions will soon start to transport their produce in cold-rooms to the markets, thanks to the initiatives by the government and international organizations.

Ramadhan Sizya, senior trade officer in the Ministry of Industry and Trade unveiled this recently in Dodoma when speaking during 2023 Tanzania agriculture stakeholders learning event (TASLE).

The three-day event was organized by Agricultural Markets Development Trust and attracted more than 100 local and foreign participants.

He said the government and World Food Programme (WFP) have agreed to transport horticultural products through standard gauge railway (SGR)

"WFP has provided 5 cold rooms for transporting horticulture products from Kilosa and Dodoma to Dar es Salaam

market where others will be airlifted to abroad," he said.

He said the main objective for introduction of such service is to reduce the post-harvest losses in horticultural products.

"In a move to reduce post-harvest losses the government in collaboration with other partners has decided to introduce cold room services along agricultural productive areas," he said.

Statistics show that horticulture is a fast-growing sector in Tanzania agriculture. It is growing at a rate of 11 percent per annum compared to a 4 percent growth in the overall agriculture sector.

Because of the availability of both tropical and temperate climates along with different altitudes and temperatures, Tanzania grows a very wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Postharvest losses are estimated between 40-50 percent in the horticulture sector. Various steps have been taken by

the government and private sector to tackle the challenge.

Naseba chimagu, director of crop development in the Ministry of Agriculture said the government is committed to improve productivity.

He said in terms of marketing of crops more efforts were done so as to improve the livelihood of farmers.

According to him the government intends to increase its grain storage to 3million tons by the year 2030.

Dr Mary Shetto, AMDT board member thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for collaboration and participants to attend in the event.

She said communication plays a big role in agricultural sector development and the organization has arranged strategies in some crops development

"We believe that the Ministry will collaborate with us in developing strategies for the development of the agriculture sector in the country," she said.

Team up to nurture fintech ideas, ICTC urges partners

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE government has called upon development partners and investors to team up in nurturing and investing in environments where financial technology (fintech) ideas flourish, thrive and catalyze sustainable growth.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, ICT Commission director general made the call over the weekend when speaking during the launching of PesaTech Accelerator Cohort 2.

"Together we can unlock the full potential of fintech in Tanzania and pave for more inclusive and prosperous future" said Dr. Mwasaga, urging youth to be innovative in technology especially fintech so that they can attract more investors and be able to compete in local and foreign markets.

Dr Mwasaga said that the collaboration from partners and investors they have shown in fintech startups in the country is dispensable because more youth will be attracted and become innovative in fintech businesses.

"By supporting fintech innovations, your contribution not only success of individual startups but also the broader narrative of financial inclusion, empowerment and progress in Tanzania" said Dr. Mwasaga.

He told the fintech entrepreneurs that despite the challenges they are facing today should not hold them back but rather keep moving because they are building blocks to shape the solutions financial landscape of tomorrow.

"I commend your dedication, creativity and resilience for the challenges you are facing. Your startups are not just ventures they are catalysts for inclusive economic development" he added.

He said that the Pesatech accelerator serves as vital bridge, connecting startups with strategic partners and investors also acts as a market place concept not only being innovative but also essential for the sustained growth of the fintech in the country.

Dr Mwasaga also acknowledged the NMB Bank as one of the partners for the sandbox initiative which exemplifies a forward-thinking approach, providing a platform for fintech start-ups to test and scale their innovators in a controlled environment.

He said that the second cohort holds a special place in a landscape of the fintech innovation and the country is witnessing the evolution of transformative power of the financial technology possessed by shaping the future of the country's economy.

Joshua Elias, Anza managing director said that said that Partech Accelerator seeks to support eligible 12 fintech startups registered in the country in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya as well as Dodoma.

Elias added that the upcoming Pesatech Accelerator Cohort 2 has been designed to accelerate fintechs that are at a stage past Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and the fintech will participate in cohorts are those with at least initial sales to customers.

Elias said that 12 fintech start-ups entrepreneurs out of 100 that will successfully join the Pesatech Accelerator after a very rigorous selection process will stand to benefit invaluablely such as Seed fund-the program will make available for each participant a minimum of US\$ 5,000 and improvement of their products/services-through both technical.

"Also, the qualified startups will be supported and be able to improve their business by identifying gaps to become investment ready. Partnership by exposing them a wide and rich network of mentors, focuses and investors and equips them with resources and knowledge by training them how to use ward winning investment readiness curriculum that will give them," said Elias.

He added that participants will be equipped with resources, knowledge and skills by getting trained on how to use award winning investment readiness curriculum that will give them knowledge and skills they need to streamline their business operations, sales, fundraising, and business models improvements.

He added that participants must be offering digitally services or products in payments and remittances, lending and finance, saving, personal life, insurance, investment and wealth management, enabling processes and technology and E-commerce platforms.

He mentioned other criteria as Artificial Intelligence (AI), regulatory technology (reg-tech) and must have at least two team members and preferably with technical.

Pesatech accelerator is a fintech ecosystem acceleration program launching by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the country since 2022 for the aim of supporting fintech start-ups by offering a range of customers made services dedicated to catalyzing the growth of innovative fintech enterprises.

The problem is support by European Union (EU) and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, UNCDF, NMB bank and Anza.



Tanzania Red Cross officials pictured in Morogoro municipality on Saturday attending leadership training meant to help them reach their goals relating to financial and budget management faster and with enhanced efficiency and profitability. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ITA to become EAC centre of excellence

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE East African Community (EAC) is to announce the Tanzania Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) as its center of excellence in the provision of tax and customs education in the region.

This was revealed over the weekend in Mikocheni Dar es Salaam by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Hamad Chande, during the 16th graduation of the institute, where 508 graduates were awarded certificates.

The graduates were awarded certificates at various levels starting from Certificate, Bachelor and Master's degrees in various tax and customs courses.

Chande said that the college for 16 years since its establishment has done a great job of providing tax and customs experts which attracted people from neighboring countries to come to learn.

"The available information we have is that the East African Community has chosen this institute as its center of excellence in customs and tax training and the process of announcing it is ongoing, so I congratulate the governing council and its management for this success," he said.

He said that move is a clear testimony that the institute is important and has a unique responsibility in ensuring that it provides skilled tax and customs experts who will help the government collect revenues.

Chande asked the college to continue conducting research that will remove challenges in the tax and customs system in the country and facilitate the voluntary payment of taxes and close all tax evasion loopholes in the country.

"Since we have reached such a high level that the East African Community chose it as its center of excellence, I ask you to continue with excellence and if possible SADC also will decide to make this college its center of excellence," he said.

"And this is not a day dream because I truly believe it is possible with your competence and your gifted abilities, not only EAC and SADC but even Africa can choose this institute as its center of excellence."

AFDB, Fund make business case for investing in Africa's women-led enterprises at AFAWA

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Development Bank (AFDB) and the African Guarantee Fund (AGF), in collaboration with the government of Kenya have challenged the high-level stakeholders from the public and private sectors in Kenya and financial institutions, to recognize that support for extending more financial services to women-led enterprises, is good for business and economies.

The call for greater gender-inclusivity highlighted the opening day of the AFAWA Finance Series Kenya, which drew an audience of senior Kenyan government, Chief Executive Officers of major financial institutions, women entrepreneurs, and business leaders recently in Nairobi.

"Financial products need to be tailored to women's unique lived experiences, needs and aspirations from the start not later when at scale," said Ann Waiguru, Chair of the Council of Governors in Kenya and the chief speaker at the Finance Series Kenya opening ceremony.

"Financial institutions face a major challenge in understanding and responding to the unique needs of the women entrepreneurs. We need innovative approaches to improve women's creditworthiness as traditional collateral requirements only serve to reinforce gender inequalities," she added.

The AFAWA Finance Series Kenya, part of the African Development Bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative, offers an overview of AFAWA's partnership services for the Kenyan market. The 3-day gathering sensitizes policymakers and financial leaders about how opening the financial landscape to women entrepreneurs can contribute to Kenya's economic development.

"Kenyan women are known for their resilience and tenacity," Harriette Chigai, Women's Rights Advisor to the president of Kenya told reporters at the event.

"The AFAWA Finance Series is a celebration of our commitment

ence because of the qualities you have," said the Deputy Minister

In addition, Chande said that the institute experts must conduct research to solve the challenges of tax evasion, especially in businesses that have been taking place online.

He said the government realizes that there are businesses that are done online but a good system for paying taxes has not yet been developed while elsewhere in the world they have set up systems that enable them to collect such taxes.

He said tax collection is something that involves many people, starting from policy makers, tax collectors and taxpayers, so Tanzania Revenue Authority is responsible to help the institute to expand the scope of training so that the country can get talented and patriotic professionals.

He said the TRA has a responsibility to educate the public so that they realize their legal obligation to pay taxes correctly, voluntarily and on time and instructed it to provide a short course for taxpayers.

Commissioner General of TRA, Alphayo Kidata said they have set conditions for an employee of the authority who wants to get promotion to undergo training at the Institute to sharpen his/her skills.

He said the college has been of great benefit to the authority since it started providing tax and customs training 16 years ago as it has successfully produced thousands of graduates who have been doing good work in the authority.

The Rector of the college, Professor Isaya Jairo, said that ITA is the backbone of TRA in meeting the training needs of its employees where 70 percent of the authority's employees receive training at the institute each year.

He said the institute has continued to design and offer various courses as well as improve the curriculum and teaching environment to meet the needs and expectations of its current and future stakeholders.

Professor Jairo said the institute has a mission to be an international center of excellence in training, research and guidance in the fields of customs and tax education.

to creating an environment where Kenyan women can access essential financial tools for enterprise and development," Chigai added.

The AFAWA Finance Series Kenya explores ways to enhance regulatory frameworks that can boost access to finance for women-led small and medium enterprises. The event will also build understanding of AFAWA's Guarantee for Growth mechanism and how the program can help de-risk financial institutions that on-lend to women-led start-ups.

"Too many women entrepreneurs across the continent are denied opportunities to grow their businesses. We're here today to help challenge common misperceptions and emphasize that there's business to be had in offering financial services to women-led enterprises. AFAWA understands the challenges women face and the initiative is addressing them head on," said Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery at African Development Bank Group.

The AFAWA Guarantee for Growth program also offers assistance and incentives to financial institutions to increase their appetite to lend to women-led SMEs. Research shows women are better at repaying loans than men, and typically reinvest up to 90% of their income in the education, health and nutrition of their families and communities.

"The question we are addressing is how to support women and increase their productivity to fully participate in the GDP of the African economy," said African Guarantee Fund CEO, Jules Ngankam.

"Through the AFAWA Guarantee for Growth program, we are de-risking financial institutions that on-lend to women-led SMEs - increasing their appetite for this target market," he added.

Roberto Natali, Ambassador of Italy to Kenya and Caroline Vicini, Ambassador of Sweden represented AFAWA donor nations in their remarks at the opening ceremony.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Arusha city at the weekend greeting Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank staff as he passed by the bank's pavilion during the just-ended commemoration of Financial Service Week. Photo: PMO

Austria supports over 2700 women farmers in Dodoma Region to adopt organic farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Mpwapwa

THE Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is bankrolling the women farmers in Dodoma region in agriculture and business initiatives, a robust project which majors on organic agriculture training in the three districts of Dodoma region.

Dubbed: 'Dodoma's Women in Agriculture and Business Initiatives (DWABI II), the three-years project is a brain child of the 'Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania' (SAT) Organization, and it is being implemented under the financial auspicious from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) as well as ICEP.

Organic farming, also known as ecological farming or biological farming, is an agricultural system that uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure, and bone meal and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting.

Among others, the project which focuses to heighten climate resili-

ence attracts the small-scale farmers, especially those organized in model cooperatives with a prime focus also to assist the beneficiary farmers to professionally engage into value addition and entrepreneurial activities.

Since its inception in 2022, the project has so far managed to train a total of 1,952 farmers under different 61 groups, the vital training which is based on organic agriculture, specifically on agroforestry and soil water conservation technologies as one of the best ways of mitigating climate change effects and increasing productivity. And during the period a total of 60 demo plots were established.

As part to ensure the beneficiary farmers are getting the most needed agronomic practices to effectively engage into organic farming, over the weekend the project has conducted a special event on organic agriculture education theatre and community sensation about persons with disabilities.

Speaking to The Guardian during the relevant event held in Mpwap-

wa District, the Project's Facilitator, Rose Ndunguru expressed that the focus behind the event was to create among the farmers more awareness about organic agriculture technologies and its benefits contributing to yield increase, food security hence livelihood improvement.

"Also, the motive behind staging of this organic agriculture education theatre and community sensation is to ensure the persons with different forms of disabilities are included in the farming sector," she expressed. And Ndunguru added: "That's why this activity runs under the theme of: 'Organic agriculture for better consumer's health and sustainable Environment with no one left behind'".

Anna Kayoya, one among the project's beneficiary farmers from Mpwapwa District said through the initiative she has so far managed to acquire vital practical skills pertaining to organic farming, the development which has assisted her to scale up her farming performance.

"Through the project we have been trained on varied methods of

organic agriculture which enabled us to increase climate resilience, and hence allow sustainable production at our farms," she detailed.

However, most of the farmers interviewed by this publication expressed to have also benefited a lot from various training on entrepreneurial skills and how to access capital loans.

"For instance, through the formation of One Model-Cooperative, we're now producing various products from organic produce, and marketing them at various markets," informed Charles Msanjila, another beneficiary farmer.

Among the project's chief specific objectives are to create awareness about organic agriculture practices to at least 3000 people including 2 percent of the persons with disabilities in 26 villages in Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts.

Others are to ensure the farmers are knowledgeable through received training, capture, and follow the instructions in the posters to practice organic agriculture technologies.



Young Scientists Tanzania Co-ounder Dr Gozibert Kamugisha briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for the young scientists' exhibition set to held in the city. He is with Karimjee Foundation CEO Caren Rowland (R) and Dare Impact Company project manager, innovator and founder Director Alfred Ngulo. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

South Africa's solar panel imports from China skyrocket

JOHANNESBURG

DURING the first half of 2023, South Africa quadrupled its imports of solar panels from China to 3.4 GW, which at peak production corresponds to the total production capacity of some power plants belonging to the country's public company.

China's photovoltaic power

exports increased by a third, reaching 114 GW in the first six months of the year, according to a study by Ember, a British energy think tank.

Europe is the largest importer, accounting for more than half (52.5%), but the fastest growth in imports is in Africa and the Middle East. South Africa is the main driver of the growth of imports into Africa

which have increased by more than 50%. South Africa is the main driver of growth in imports of Chinese solar panels into Africa (which have more than doubled, with an increase of 187%).

The country also recorded the second-highest increase (438%), or percentage growth, in imports after Europe.

"Over the past 12 months, South

Africa imported 4 GW of solar panels from China, which would produce electricity equivalent to about 3% of its annual demand," the report reads.

The report also cites "frequent load shedding," or planned power outages, which can reach up to 12 hours per day without electricity, as a contributing factor to the increase in solar installations.

Reform plans not manifest in handling troubled state firms

A recent working meeting between the Transport minister and Tanzania Shipping Agencies Co. (TASAC) staff had what it takes to map out the daunting challenges going with the reforming of the public sector.

The minister had two disparate agenda items and it is difficult to say how far either was put on the right track. One was in relation to incessant staff dismissals or displacements and the other - the bigger one - to whether corporate objectives are being implemented.

For obvious reasons, the workers were interested in the dismissals or complaints, and the minister on objectives.

What was visible had a relic of the 1970s and 1980s, where each institution is a unit directly with its own cohesion and voice, rather than being subjected to a higher unit like a ministerial division or department.

When a problem occurs, it isn't such division or department that solves it but the government as such and, worse, it throws the problem to the same management at issue to work on it - presumably to the satisfaction of the government.

The latest interaction was identical with that format, with the management being asked to do their job more properly.

For instance, the minister suggested that a major reason for constant staff dismissals or displacements was "lack of efficiency" in how the corporation (or company) operates.

Left at that level, it offers the management something like the benefit of doubt, namely, that it is removing or dismissing people for lack of competence or honesty in their jobs.

While that may as well be the case, it is also possible that people are dismissed for raising alarms on this or that racket, and when it comes to the shipping sub-sector,

this is a valid concern.

In that case, the minister was there as the political officer for the unit in which the company is involved, as only the political accounting officer can intervene in such situations.

It isn't strange as when there is a hospital constructed in a faulty manner technically, it takes the likes of a minister, and at times the prime minister on a working tour, to point out such anomaly.

It isn't the technical accounting officer in the district or region, even indeed the regional supervision, though it is beefed up with defence or security committees and anti-corruption bureau offices.

Such issues were the kind being examined at the recent Arusha conference for senior officials of regulatory agencies, ministerial departments and cabinet advisers on what to do about reforming the operations of public firms.

There were reports that a good number would be merged to reduce expenditure, which in reality means dissolving some. It is unclear if indeed TASAC faces any reforms, what with recent port operation accords.

A more powerful regulatory agency, the Public Investments Authority (PIA), meanwhile being formed, and each public agency will have to work to put its house in order.

The bottom line, as TASAC officials would believe, relates to profit and loss or levels of employment rather than where they are with implementing statutory objectives.

If that is indeed the case, when the management tells the minister that they have heard - and will heed - his directives, it would mean that they will also look at the other side of the issue and hurry up with the digital operational shift, etc.

The specific conflict would then be sidelined - or sidestepped - unlike what staff wished.

Electrification obstacles in villages show land use model quite outdated

OFFICIALS of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) have been explaining the difficulties they have been facing in taking electricity to the 1,000-odd villages listed for the crucial service before the projected completion of the work mid-next year.

Yet this simply says that power lines will have been put up at those places, after which will remain the work of connecting power to houses and public units, where the agency refers to 'hamlets,' subdivisions of a wider locality.

Here thousands will remain on the list, or will start seek connection mid-next year after power poles are erected.

One problem is crossing rivers to take equipment with no bridges having been built, apart from delays in materials or equipment deliveries in the past few years, chiefly owing to the Covid-19 fallout in trade chains around the world.

A pointed issue officials commonly mention is sabotage of the works by residents of specific localities, like stealing electricity transmission cables and taking REA poles lying on the ground for chopping for firewood.

It was a bit hilarious for the REA official to explain or rather to set out this sort of sabotage as 'knowingly or unknowingly!'

As a matter of fact, this sort of situation is rampant in the way public projects are implemented in many parts of the country.

As happened when the standard gauge railways was in its first stages

of construction, the government repeatedly issued stern warnings on such acts.

But what works is really posting a guard for any bundle of equipment, as otherwise damage may indeed occur, but it can also be over-reported, such that some cash is siphoned off in exaggerating the number of poles destroyed by vandals, etc. It is a sort of symbiosis between vandalism from outside and then from within.

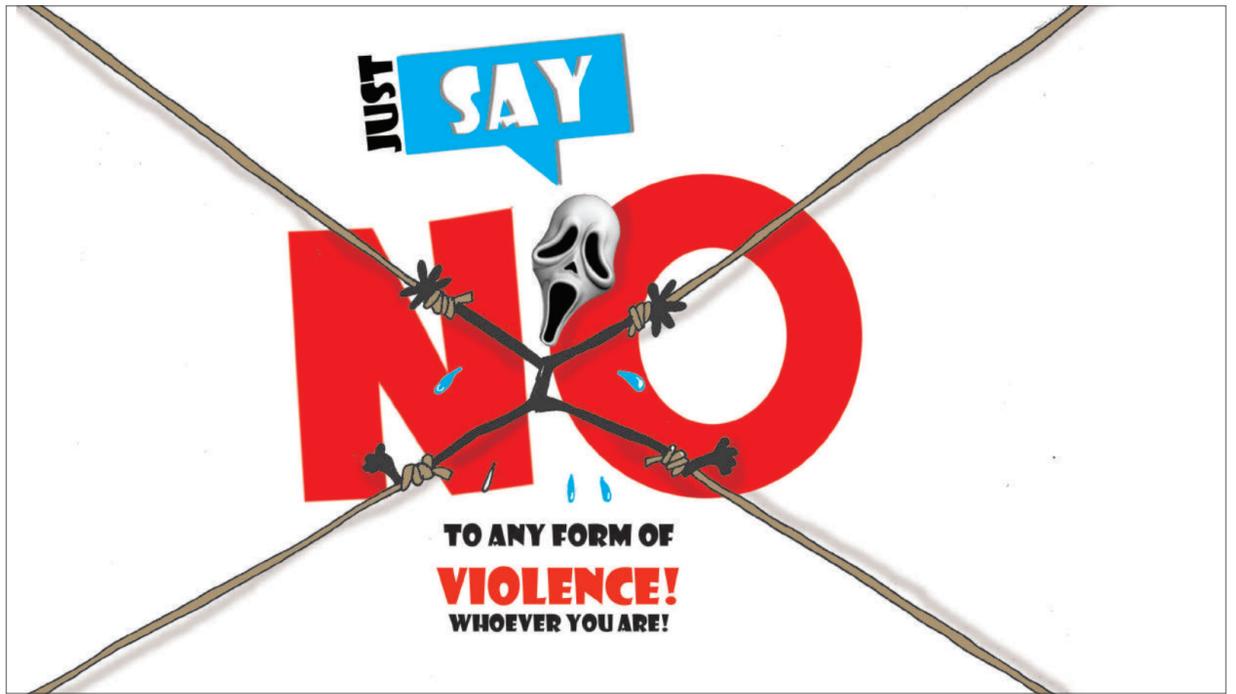
Ask almost anyone why this is the case, ordinary people stealing public equipment on the roadside, in the past - pulling out rails for selling as scrap metal, or high-flung pillage from inside air conditioned offices.

These habits arise from conditions of life and an environment where those thefts stand as a matter of pride when one takes liquor in the neighbourhood, as he or she would then have wood for cooking for anything from six months to one year after chopping a whole electricity pole!

The core reason is that there is a survival mentality that is at once built in with difficult conditions of life like seeking trees to cut and feeling relieved if there are idle poles left on the ground.

It is also mistakenly taken as a mark of dignity. The right way to go demands that we have economies where land productivity is comparable to urban industries, where legitimate taxes are paid and all are assured of routine security - and hence see greater need for observing the law.

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By Julia Kuzovkina and John Campanelli

Shortage of native seeds slows land restoration across the United States



SPRING is planting time for home gardeners, landscapers and public works agencies across the United States. And there's rising demand for native plants - species that are genetically adapted to the specific regions where they are used.

Native plants help damaged landscapes by stabilising soil, fighting invasive species and sheltering pollinators.

These plants have evolved with local climates and soil conditions. As a result, they generally require less maintenance, such as watering and fertilising, after they become established, and they are harder than non-native species.

Many US federal, state and city agencies in fact rank native plants as a first choice for restoring areas that have been disturbed by natural disasters or human activities like mining and development.

As horticulture and other experts working to help develop new seed sources will readily affirm, repairing damaged landscapes is a critical strategy for slowing climate change and species loss.

But there is one big problem: There aren't enough native seeds. This issue is so serious that it was the subject of a recent report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The study found an urgent need to build a native seed supply.

Plant scientists who have worked on ecological restoration projects say they are familiar with this challenge. Two of them have explained how they are working to promote the use of native plants for roadside restoration in New England, including by building up a seed supply network.

Need for native plants
Many stressors can damage and degrade land. They include natural disasters, such as wildfires and flooding - and human actions, such as urbanisation, energy production, ranching and development.

Invasive plants often move into disturbed areas, causing further harm. They may drift there on the wind, be excreted by birds and animals that consume fruit, or be introduced by humans, unintentionally or deliberately.

Ecological restoration is commonly meant to bring back degraded lands' native biological diversity and the ecological functions that these areas provided, such as sheltering wildlife and soaking up floodwaters.

In 2021, the United Nations launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to promote such efforts worldwide.

Native plants have many features that make them an essential part of

healthy ecosystems. For example, they provide long-term defence against invasive and noxious weeds; shelter local pollinators and wildlife; and have roots that stabilise soil, which helps reduce erosion.

Restoration projects require vast quantities of native seeds - but commercial supplies fall far short of what is needed.

Developing a batch of seeds for a specific species takes skill and several years of lead time to either collect native seeds in the wild or grow plants to produce them.

Suppliers say one of their biggest obstacles is unpredictable demand from large-scale customers, such as government and community agencies, that don't plan far enough ahead for producers to have stocks ready.

Most drivers give little thought to what grows next to highways, but having the wrong plants spring up in these areas can cause serious problems. Roadsides that aren't replanted using ecological restoration methods may erode and be taken over by invasive weeds.

Ecological restoration provides effective erosion control and better habitat habitats for wildlife and pollinators. It's also more attractive.

For decades, state transportation departments across the US used non-native cool-season turfgrasses, such as fescue and ryegrass, to restore roadsides.

The main benefits of using these species, which grow well during the cooler months of spring and autumn, were that they grew fast and provided a quick cover.

Then in 2013 the New England Transportation Consortium - a research cooperative funded by state transportation agencies - commissioned a Symbiotica research team to help the states transition to native warm-season grasses instead.

These grasses grow well in hot, dry weather and need less moisture than cool-season grasses. One of us, John Campanelli, developed the framework for selecting plant species based on conservation practices and identified methods for establishing native plant communities for the region.

We recommended using warm-season grasses that are native to the region, such as little bluestem, purple lovegrass, switchgrass and purpletop. These species required less long-term maintenance and less-frequent mowing than the cool-season species that agencies had previously used.

Switchgrass is native to the US Northeast. It grows very upright, can tolerate dry soil and drought, and produces seeds that are a good winter food source for birds.

To ensure sound conservation practices, we wanted to use seeds produced locally. Seeds sourced from other locations would produce grasses that would interbreed with local ecotypes - grasses adapted to New England - and disrupt the local grasses' gene complexes.

At that time, however, there was no reliable seed supply for local ecotypes in New England. Only a few sources offered an incomplete selection of small quantities of local seeds, at prices that were too high for large-scale restoration projects.

Most organisations carrying out ecological restoration projects bought their bulk seeds mainly from large wholesale producers in the Midwest, which introduced non-local genetic material to the restoration sites.

Improving native seed supply chains

Many agencies are concerned that lack of a local seed supply could limit restoration efforts in New England. To tackle this problem, our team launched a project in 2022 with funding from the New England Transportation Consortium.

Our goals are to increase native plantings and pollinator habitats with seeds from local ecotypes, and to make our previous recommendations for roadside restoration with native grasses more feasible.

As we were analysing ways to obtain affordable native seeds for these roadside projects, we learned about work by Eve Allen, a master's degree student in city planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For her thesis, Allen used supply chain management and social

network analysis to identify the best methods of strengthening the native seed supply chain network.

Her research showed that developing native seed supplies would require cooperative partnerships that included federal, state and local government agencies and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Allen reached out to many of these organisations' stakeholders and established a broad network. This led to the launch of the regional Northeast Seed Network, which will be hosted by the Massachusetts-based Native Plant Trust - a nonprofit that works to conserve New England's native plants.

It is widely hoped that this network will promote all aspects of native seed production in the region - from collecting seeds in the wild to cultivating plants for seed production, developing regional seed markets and carrying out related research.

Meanwhile, a road map is being developed a roadmap for new revegetation practices in New England. There is full determination to ensure that this is done to completion.

The idea is to build greater coordination between these agencies and seed producers to promote expanded selections of affordable native seeds and make demand more predictable.

The ultimate goal is to help native plants, bees and butterflies thrive along roads throughout New England.

* This article was originally published in *The Conversation*, an independent nonprofit news organisation dedicated to sharing the knowledge of academic experts. Julia Kuzovkina is Professor of Horticulture, University of Connecticut and John Campanelli, PhD Student in Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut. Symbiotica is an independent, nonprofit news organisation dedicated to unlocking the ideas and knowledge of academic experts for the public.

Leadership mentorships for people with disabilities start ahead of 2024 civic polls

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE government recently partnered with various international organisations to address the many challenges facing people with disabilities, meant to increase their participation in decision-making ahead of the 2024 civic elections.

Among the partners is the UN Women which funded awareness training for people with albinism which kicked off in Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam, recently and attracted a good number of people with diverse kinds of disabilities.

Speaking on the sidelines of the training recently, Herieth Kamara, Senior Community Development Officer at Temeke Municipal Council, said people with disabilities were invited from all wards within the municipality, expounding that the aim is to see them vie for various political positions according to the laws of the land.

"We have organised this workshop to create awareness for people with disabilities from across the wards of Temeke Municipality. We have managed to sample representatives of people with disabilities who will train their fellows in their localities immediately after this training of trainers," she said.

"The training guidelines are very clear. We want this awareness to reach a big number of people with disabilities in Temeke in particular and Tanzania as a whole."

Tanzania's democratic space expanded since the return to multi-party rule in 1992 followed by the first General Election in 1995. To ensure inclusive political participation and other rights of PWDs, Tanzania ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008. Article 29 of the convention focuses on participation in political and public life, calling on states to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others.

Albetina Mbaji, Association of People with Physical Disabilities (CHAWATA) Chairperson in Temeke District, said she learned quite a lot at the training but called on trainers to go a bit further by educating the non-handicapped persons to stop stigma against people with disabilities from the household level, explaining that in some decision-making positions at the family level PWDs are largely ostracized.



Participants of a UN Women-funded capacity building workshop on political participation for people with disabilities organized in Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam Region, recently. Photo/ Adonis Byemelwa

"I am a victim of this circumstance. If one raises a hand to appoint me for a leadership post at family meetings, some able-bodied other members disagree, arguing that a disabled person is insignificant, and can hardly make any meaningful change," she said.

"The same notion has been experienced even at the ward and district levels. It is time we educated non-physically challenged people that disability has nothing to do with one's ability. We are capable of performing several duties effectively."

Ndonge Said Ndonge, one of the people with disabilities who attended the training said the workshop was very informative, hinting that it was rare to find people with diverse kinds of disabilities grouped to be empowered and given an opportunity to express their concerns.

"I feel so much moved by this training. It is really good because we are all disabled but in some ways, we share similar challenges. It has never been easy for us to vie for political posts. This encouragement is the right move. I am now aware of the means of grabbing leadership opportunities ahead of the 2024 civic elections," he said.

Devotha Nchia, Senior Community Development Officer at Temeke Municipal Council said most PWDs are still vulnerable at personal, social, and political spheres, recommending that capacity building and more training of PWD political aspirants should be strengthened by different actors to improve their participation in political processes.

"Mass media and advocacy campaigns which have shown to be effective in changing community perceptions about PWDs should be strengthened.

I think deliberate efforts are needed to sensitize and challenge political parties to mainstream disability in their constitutions, rules and regulations which should among other things, require them to include PWDs on their nomination lists," said Miss Nchia.

Although the data and evidence for PWDs in Tanzanian politics are limited, the level of political participation of PWDs through political parties is minimal. For example, a baseline survey carried out by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) in 2014 found that in 68 percent of the mapped areas, PWDs were not found in leadership positions. It was learned that PWDs face discrimination and exclusion at different stages of their lives.

Similarly, in the 2015 General Election, only 10 councilors were directly elected from constituencies in Tanzania compared to less than five in 2010. There were six PWDs parliamentarians, including one male parliamentarian elected directly from his constituency and five female parliamentarians picked through the special seats arrangement, according to the Foundation for Civil Society report 2017.

This is not surprising because PWDs are generally stigmatized across sectors and 90 percent of them do not attend school due to a combination of stigmatization, inappropriate infrastructure and poverty. The illiteracy rate among PWDs stands at 47.6 percent compared to 25.3 percent of people without disabilities, according to the Legal and Human Rights Center Report, 2016.

A recent study by the Tanzania Federation of Disabled Peoples Organisations (SHIVYAWATA) shows that PWDs still constitute one of the poorest, most marginalized and socially excluded

groups. PWDs, irrespective of where they live and their gender, are more likely to be unemployed, illiterate, have less formal education and less developed support networks and social capital than their able-bodied counterparts.

Studies also show that while Tanzania has made rapid strides in strengthening welfare policies, the political and legislative environment has not been favorable to PWDs and other vulnerable groups. Political participation and leadership remain male-dominated while women, youth, and PWDs continue to remain underrepresented.

Political participation is a fundamental aspect of democratic governance, the rule of law, social inclusion, and human rights approaches aimed at eliminating marginalization and discrimination.

There are several well-worn arguments for the inclusion of PWDs in all aspects of life, including as representatives in the political, economic, and social spheres. These arguments are similar to those made regarding the inclusion of other underrepresented and vulnerable groups namely women, people from certain religions, ethnic groups or tribes.

Increasing access of marginalized and vulnerable populations to political participation is important for democratic sections of the population often has a conflict-prevention effect and strengthens democratic structures.

Further, an inclusive approach is argued to result in tangible gains for democracy, including greater responsiveness to citizen needs, increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines, and more sustainable peace.

This is particularly so because exclusion from political participation direct-

ly affects the health of democratic representation. Without the opportunity to participate in politics, an individual is effectively denied citizenship and potentially rendered inconsequential to those who hold power. Consequently, groups and individuals absent from political life are unable to express their opinions to political elites.

National Policy on Disability 2004, aims at providing a conducive environment for people with disabilities to engage in productive work for their development and the utilization of available resources for improved service delivery.

Additionally, the National Employment Promotion Service Act 1999 (No. 9), provides or makes arrangements for the registration, employment, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and placement of persons with disabilities.

Also, the Employment and Labour Relations Act, 2004 (No. 6), forbids direct or indirect discrimination in any employment policy, including discrimination based on disability.

The defunct National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA), 2005 to 2010, recognizes disability as a cause of poverty. Productive and decent work enables people with disabilities to realize their aspirations, improve their living conditions, and participate more actively in society.

According to MKUKUTA, ensuring a disability perspective in all aspects of policy and labour legislation, effective implementation and enforcement of existing disability laws and policies, and providing for equal employment opportunities and training are among the factors that contribute to the reduction of poverty and the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities in Tanzania.

The government recognizes Special Seats for women MPs which is a chance that could be grabbed by people with disabilities on an equal basis. Notwithstanding the stated laws, people with disabilities are yet to be hugely involved in decision-making levels as other groups.

In 2016 former President John Magufuli appointed Dr Abdallah Possi, a person with albinism, as a Member of Parliament and subsequently as deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. In January 2017 he was appointed Tanzania's Ambassador to Germany.

The 2010 Tanzania's Employment Act was amended to state that both public and private organizations should hire at least 3 percent of people with disabilities in all-set opportunities, but little has been done to research the implementation of the law.

Pistorius to walk free – after chequered justice experience in SA prison

By Rebecca Davis

OSCAR Pistorius will be freed from the Atteridgeville Correctional Centre on parole on 5 January 2024, having served about eight years in prison for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

This was the expected decision taken by the Correctional Supervision and Parole Board. Legal papers filed by Pistorius earlier this year to challenge the calculation of his parole eligibility contained endorsements from prison officials testifying to Pistorius' model behaviour behind bars.

In addition, the fact that the Constitutional Court ruled in October that the former athlete was actually already eligible for parole in March may have added some behind-the-scenes pressure to get the matter sewn up as soon as possible.

Pistorius' experience at the hands of the South African justice system has been somewhat cha-

otic - which should raise serious concerns about what happens to less high-profile, less privileged inmates.

It is easy to forget, for instance, that Pistorius was previously released in 2015 after serving just one year for culpable homicide - the result of the extraordinarily lenient original sentence handed down to him by Judge Thokozile Masipa.

After about six months of house arrest, he was back in prison after the Supreme Court of Appeal overturned Judge Masipa's culpable homicide verdict and replaced it with a murder verdict. But once again the sentencing was left to Masipa, who extended his original five-year jail term by just 12 months. This, too, was appealed by the state, with the Supreme Court of Appeal eventually imposing a 13-year-and-five-month sentence.

Absolute confusion over parole

Absolute confusion seemed to

reign over the question of when Pistorius would become eligible for parole, taking into account the time he had already served. The fact that Pistorius would have to approach the Constitutional Court to confirm what should be fairly basic mathematics is not an impressive look for the Department of Correctional Services.

It has all been very messy. But there's equally no doubt that Pistorius' time behind bars would have been far easier and smoother than those of most inmates within the South African penal system. This would particularly have been the case since November 2016, when Pistorius was transferred from the much bigger and grimmer Kgosi Mampuru prison to the Atteridgeville Correctional Centre, a small facility which is specially set up to deal with the needs of disabled inmates, and which only houses offenders sentenced "from 0 to 6 years", according to the Department of Correctional Services at the time.



Oscar Pistorius appears in the Pretoria Magistrates' Court on 19 August 2013. (Photo: EPA-EFE / STRINGER)

Pistorius' secret jail time

Given the hysterical tenor of the media attention around Pistorius' fall from grace, the time he has spent in prison has been remarkably shielded from public view.

The sole leak occurred in March 2015, when still images and video emerged, showing Pistorius playing soccer at Kgosi Mampuru with Czech gangster Radovan Krejčí.

That was it - beyond a prison visit paid to Pistorius by his former high school head of house Bill Schroder, which he subsequently discussed with the makers of the controversial documentary series *The Trials of Oscar Pistorius*, and revealed that

Pistorius had grown a beard and taken up smoking.

But if the relative silence around his incarceration may give the impression that media interest in Pistorius has waned, the reaction on Friday to the news of his parole should correct that assumption. Major international media outlets had, in some cases, prominently published the news before South African news sites had even gotten around to it.

There is every likelihood that a similar media scrum to that which ensued outside the North Gauteng High Court a decade ago will accompany Pistorius' January release. Demand for the first post-prison pho-

tograph of the disgraced athlete will be exceptionally high - although the Department of Correctional Services will presumably do everything in its power to try to ensure that he is released as discreetly as possible.

Pistorius family happiness, Steenkamp agony

Pistorius turned 37 years old this week. He has spent the majority of the last decade behind bars, believed to have left prison after his re-incarceration on only two occasions: for the funeral of his grandmother, and to attend a victim/offender dialogue with Reeva Steenkamp's parents in their hometown of Gqeberha in 2021. **DM**

Italy rallies to condemn violence against women draw huge crowds



By Vicky Wong

A large crowd of protesters marched past the Colosseum in Rome - one of many such events

TENS of thousands of people have taken part in protests across Italy, calling for an end to violence against women following the murder of a university student earlier this month.

Giulia Cecchetti was allegedly killed by her ex-boyfriend days before she was due to graduate.

Large crowds gathered in Milan and Naples, and there was gridlock in the centre of the capital, Rome.

Italy's president said the murder of women could not be tolerated.

In a statement marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Sergio Mattarella said: "Dramatic news stories have shaken the country's conscience.

"A human society that aspires to be civilised cannot accept, cannot endure, this string of attacks on women and murders," he said, adding that violence against women was a failure of society.

Data from the Italian interior ministry shows that 106 women have so far been killed in the country this year, 55 of them allegedly by a partner or ex-partner.

The protests take place amid a backdrop of public anger and soul-searching over the murder of Ms Cecchetti, a 22-year-old biomedical engineering student who had been due to graduate from the University of Padua last week.

A number of events were planned for the day, including processions, runs, walks, flash mobs, sit-ins, and even free gynaecological examinations to raise awareness of gender-based violence and patriarchy in Italy.

Ms Cecchetti's father, Gino Cecchetti, marked the day by addressing students at the University of Padua and unveiled a red bench on campus in memory of all victims of violence against women.

"Nothing will bring Giulia back, but I want many good initiatives to come out of her death," he said.

Ms Cecchetti disappeared on 11 November when she and Filippo Turetta went to buy her graduation outfit.

The couple disappeared, but CCTV footage emerged a few days later showing Mr Turetta, 22, beating his former partner in a car park close to her house in Vigonovo, near Venice - according to the investigating judge.

Her body was found at the bottom of a ditch.

Mr Turetta was arrested near Leipzig in Germany after police issued an international arrest warrant and



Protesters taking part in a flash mob in Naples, one of many events planned to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

launched a manhunt for him.

He returned to Italy on Saturday afternoon, and has not been formally charged yet.

According to the news site, Corriere del Veneto, he is being held in a prison in Verona, and a preliminary hearing has been set for Tuesday.

Giorgia Meloni, Italy's first female prime minister, has expressed outrage at the country's long history of violence against women by partners and ex-partners.

She has promised a new educational campaign in schools to combat what she says is Italy's still-pervasive culture of misogynistic violence.

Elisa Ercoli, director of Differenza Donna, a non-government organisation fighting gender-based violence, told the BBC that the killing was "the last straw, after a string of high-profile cases of femicides."

"In Italy, a woman is killed every three days."

She added that the reason most women endured violence was that their partner resented their independence.

"In a toxic relationship, the most unbearable thing for violent men is when women are more successful

than them."

Mr Turetta studied the same subject as Ms Cecchetti, but she was going to graduate before him.

"That empty desk on the day she should have gotten her diploma is a harrowing image", Ms Ercoli said.

Ms Cecchetti and Mr Turetta met at university. They were together for a year and half, before she broke up with him in August.

"He was a normal boy, practically perfect," his father Nicola Turetta said in an interview with Italian newspaper La Repubblica.

"He did well in school, he never had any problems with teachers or classmates. He never got into arguments with anybody."

Ms Cecchetti's sister Elena said she had been concerned about his possessiveness, but never imagined he could hurt her.

She pointed to a patriarchal culture of violence and control over women that normalises men's dangerous behaviour.

"Filippo is often described as a monster, but he's not a monster," Elena told Italian media. "A monster is an exception, a person who's outside society, a person for whom society doesn't need

to take responsibility.

"Monsters are healthy sons of the patriarchy and rape culture," she added.

Giorgia Meloni, Italy's first female prime minister, has expressed outrage at the country's long history of violence against women by partners and ex-partners.

She has promised a new educational campaign in schools to combat what she says is Italy's still-pervasive culture of misogynistic violence.

"Italy is a deeply patriarchal country," says Ms Ercoli. "It's a backward society where women are still subordinate."

More than 40% of Italian women aged 30 to 69 do not work, according to the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), mostly because they are unable to juggle a job and taking care of their family.

"And while women have made big steps forward and are much more aware of their rights, men are still firmly anchored to the idea of a patriarchal relationship," Ms Ercoli says.

She hopes that the outpouring of anger caused by Giulia Cecchetti's death will trigger a profound change in Italian society.

The Italian Senate on Wednesday

unanimously approved new legislation to strengthen measures against gender violence. They include stricter restraining orders and heightened surveillance on men found guilty of gender-based violence.

But critics say the government has not been doing enough to fight the country's entrenched problem of gender-based violence amid a spate of femicides.

"It is often said 'not all men'. But they are always men," said Ms Cecchetti's sister.

"It is the responsibility of men in this patriarchal society to call out friends and colleagues. Say something to that friend who controls his girlfriend, say something to that colleague who catcalls passers-by. These behaviours are accepted by society, and can be the prelude to femicide."

Her words have been shared and reposted by countless Italian women.

Earlier this week, schools were asked to hold a minute's silence in Ms Cecchetti's memory.

But students at the University of Padua, where she studied, spent the minute making noise instead - clapping, reading poetry and singing.

They refused to be silent.

UTPC launches 16 days of Activism Against GBV to promote gender equality among women, girls

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) has launched the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign in a powerful move towards promoting gender equality and advocating for the rights of women and girls in the country.

In this campaign, observed globally which runs annually from November 25th to December 10th UTPC aims to leverage the influential reach of social media platforms to raise awareness, spark conversations, and drive collective action against gender-based violence, which according to Simbaya is a major human rights violation and a global public health problem.

Launching the campaign over the weekend in Morogoro Municipality, Kenneth Simbaya UTPC executive director said the campaign is a global initiative to end violence against women and girls.

“This year, UTPC is taking a bold step by utilizing its social media platforms and the powerful potential of press clubs which are scattered in all regions in Tanzania, to engage the public, shed light on critical issues, and foster a sense of urgency for change.

According to Simbaya, UTPC recognizes the pivotal role that media engagement plays in shaping public opinion, influencing policy, and challenging societal



Union of Tanzania Press Clubs executive director Kenneth Simbaya (L) speaks at the launch of “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign in Morogoro municipality at the weekend. He is with UTPC board member, Lillian Lucas (C) and Morogoro Press Club Vice Chairman, Ashton Balaigwa. GBV is one of the pervasive human rights violations and a global public health challenge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

norms. Through the power of storytelling, journalism, and the wide reach of social media, the press clubs aim to break the silence surrounding gender-based violence and inspire collective action.

Media platforms provide a megaphone for survivors, activists, and advocates to share their stories and perspectives. By amplifying these voices, UTPC seeks

to create a chorus of support that cannot be ignored.

As the 16 Days of Activism unfold, we invite journalists, and the public to join the conversation. “By using our collective influence, UTPC believes that media engagement is a powerful force for change, together we will be able to contribute to the creation of a Tanzania where women and girls can live free from vio-

lence and discrimination, and hence fostering a culture of respect, equality, and justice for all.

The campaign, according to Hilda Kileo, UTPC Program Officer responsible with press club coordination, will involve press club members, activists and members who have subscribed to participate in the campaign discussing one question each

day. According to Hilda, many instances of gender-based violence go unnoticed or are trivialized due to lack of awareness. During this campaign through discussing critical questions regarding GBV, UTPC aims to educate media practitioners and the public about the different forms of violence, its prevalence, and the devastating impact it has on individuals, communities and the

country at large.

Media has the power to challenge and reshape societal norms. UTPC intends to use its platforms to challenge harmful stereotypes and perceptions that contribute to the perpetuation of gender-based violence, according to UTPC president Deogratius Nsokolo.

Nsokolo in his written speech posted on UTPC Campaign platform, the discussions and coverage will be a catalyst for policy change.

This campaign follows Social media provides an interactive space for communities to engage in discussions, share resources, and support one another. UTPC encourages active participation from its audience, creating a sense of unity and solidarity against gender-based violence.

According to Deogratius Temba, a gender mainstreaming expert, GBV doesn't only inflict physical and emotional harm on individuals; its repercussions extend to broader societal dimensions, including social and economic development. The negative impact of GBV on social and economic progress is profound and complex, firstly, GBV acts as a significant impediment to the empowerment of women and girls, hindering their ability to fully participate in the workforce and society. This results in a loss of human potential, as many talented and capable individuals are held back by gender-based violence.

Egypt ventures into the soilles ‘altivation’

CAIRO

AMIDST water scarcity and diminishing arable land, some individuals in Egypt are transitioning to soilless farming. However, experts caution that the high initial costs and certain crop limitations may impede widespread adoption in the African nation.

Soilless agriculture, also known as hydroponics, involves cultivating plants using nutrient-rich water outside the traditional soil, typically within controlled greenhouses. Soilless substrates like sand, gravel, clay, foam, or sponge provide support for plant roots. In certain applications, fish tanks are integrated into the system to transfer nutrient-rich animal waste to plants cultivated in water.

A 2020 WWF report revealed that hydroponics utilizes only 10 percent of the resources required for traditional cultivation, contributing to reduced deforestation and minimized pesticide use.

Plug'n'Grow is among several agri-tech enterprises that have emerged in Egypt, promoting this form of agriculture, in recent years.

According to the UN, Egypt faces an annual water deficit and is projected to be classified as water-scarce by 2025 due to climate change and the construction of a dam by Ethiopia on a major tributary of the River Nile, Egypt's primary source of freshwater.

Simultaneously, arable land, constituting less than 5 percent of Egypt, is diminishing due to urbanization, with the remaining 95 percent being desert.

In addition to its ecological benefits, hydroponics offers faster growth and higher yields. Egypt, being one of the world's largest wheat importers, is particularly vulnerable to disruptions in wheat supply chains, as demonstrated by the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on global shocks and heightened food insecurity.

However, Zayed contends that hydroponics cannot be effectively employed for cultivating strategic crops. He points out that, in addition to crop limitations, the high startup costs pose a significant challenge to soilless agriculture.

El Said notes that the initial capital required for a commercial hydroponic farm is nearly EGP 3.5 million (over \$100,000 USD). Despite these challenges, Plug'n'Grow has facilitated the establishment of approximately 30 soilless ventures, primarily in Egypt, and some in India and Saudi Arabia.

Ahmed Makady, a client of Plug'n'Grow, acknowledges the high startup costs but emphasizes the profitability of hydroponics. After his first hydroponics venture in Upper Egypt, he has recently launched his second hydroponics farm in Al-Qalyubia.

He states, “It [hydroponics] is characterized by a quick return on investment,” citing greater profit compared to traditional agriculture. Makady explains that while traditional agriculture yields three to four tons annually per feddan (unit of area), hydroponics can produce more than 120 tons annually on half a feddan.



African energy transitions ought to be driven from the ground up

By Rose Mutiso

AT the UN climate summit (COP28) kicking off in Dubai this week, we can expect the nations of the world to issue a flurry of energy- and climate-related announcements, pledges, and plans. Like their global peers, African governments will be using COP28 to demonstrate their climate ambition, building on commitments they made at the inaugural African Climate Summit held three months prior in Nairobi.

But unlike their peers, African governments' plans and pledges have largely been developed and driven not by African analysis and expertise but by foreign consultants and experts, who typically use tools and approaches not well adapted for the African context and who draw on poor local data, which further limits the quality of their analyses.

The results of this outsourcing are predictable: Africans are rendered invisible in their own energy planning discussions, while those plans lack rigor, credibility, relevance, and impact as they attempt to answer perhaps the biggest challenge in human history. But the solution isn't simply to kick out all the foreigners. Instead, African governments and their development partners must finally face up to the hard task of building African energy transition planning ecosystems to put African data, expertise, and aspirations at the center of that planning.

The lessons learned through such efforts will apply broadly beyond the African context, extending to other global south countries with similarly weak energy knowledge ecosystems and even to wealthy nations where external consultants also wield considerable influence in shaping government policy. But Africa's urgency is particularly acute: We need to meet the energy needs and climate resilience for a continent where, in 2050, one in every four of the world's people will live.

Foreign consultants today

can be found at every stage of Africa's energy transition planning process. The international consulting firm McKinsey & Company, for example, through commissions from Sustainable Energy for All and its funding partners, will have by the end of COP28 led the development of Energy Transition Plans for Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya. Foreign “technical advisors” also play an outsized role in preparing and updating the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of most African countries, including through western-led initiatives such as the NDC Partnership. And foreign experts are also behind the relentless parade of thematic planning and policy documents that are launched whenever energy and climate people convene in Africa. Recent examples include Namibia's and Kenya's green hydrogen national strategies, developed by foreign consortia led by global consulting firms McKinsey and Stantec, respectively. Across the board, these plans are overwhelmingly funded by foreign donors, to whom the consultants are ultimately accountable rather than the African governments themselves.

African input and expertise is also missing from the vast majority of published energy transition research about the continent. According to recent analysis from the Clean Air Taskforce, (i) 63% of energy transition studies on Africa do not have a single Africa-based author; (ii) 75% of energy transition studies on Africa cited in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports are published by only non-Africa-based researchers; and (iii) only 10% of energy transition studies on Africa considered economic growth and poverty—the central focus of every African government—as outcomes of interest.

Not surprisingly, Africans are starting to take notice of their absence in their own energy transition planning. In August, the African Climate Summit (ACS) saw major pushback arising from perceived foreign agenda-set-

ting. This outcry is not unjustified considering that only 3 of the 13 organizations listed as technical leads responsible for shaping the summit agenda were African. This crisis of credibility matters because consensus and buy-in from a broad base of stakeholders is an important prerequisite for the kinds of large economic and societal shifts that are central to planning energy futures in any context.

Focusing on this dominance of foreign consulting firms and experts risks missing the underlying problem. Not only are Africans not conducting analyses and producing plans, but African countries lack their own energy transition planning ecosystems—the dynamic network of relationships and feedback loops that Western countries have among research, advocacy, policy, and implementation through which interesting and big ideas can make their way into formal policy. Although global experts, international nongovernmental organizations, and private consulting firms will continue to play a role in African energy planning, they cannot substitute for the deep pool of local expertise and institutional infrastructure that African countries need to navigate sensitive energy and climate choices effectively.

My colleagues and I recently created a model for energy transition planning as a step forward. Visualized as a pyramid, the ecosystem is built on a foundation of funding and local expertise. The next layer is the technical infrastructure—data and repositories, modeling and analytical tools, and research and technical outputs—from which new context-specific knowledge and insights can be created. Atop that rests the knowledge translation layer, which bridges the evidence supply with end-users such as decision-makers in government and industry. These translators include both knowledge brokers and advisors (such as consultants, policy practitioners, and think tankers) as well as centers of embedded expertise within

the demand side (for example, technical divisions within government agencies). Last, at the apex of the pyramid are the multiple forms in which knowledge and evidence are taken up and used, from plans and policies to investment and implementation. At their best, robust ecosystems produce energy planning that reflects leading-edge research, is adapted to the local context, and both informs and responds to shifting policy and civic discourse.

This broader view also explains why it's inadequate to simply substitute local experts for international ones at the top of the pyramid for the same purpose of creating one-off plans to be launched at global summits. Traditional “capacity building,” in which decades of surface-level interventions provide the impression of skills transfer but have had limited impact, will not cut it either.

Why do African nations lack this ecosystem? Development funders prefer to pay expensive consultants for short-term plans rather than invest in the long term. African governments are not off the hook, either; they should invest far more in local research and knowledge, particularly in strategic areas such as energy and climate.

Although climate is an urgent challenge, energy transition planning requires patience. Wealthy countries rely on a dynamic interplay of diverse actors such as universities, lobbyists, consultancies, think tanks, and grassroots advocacy groups, which have evolved over decades.

What to do now? Given the scale of the challenge, my colleagues and I set out to identify interventions that could build capacities within existing African institutions, delivering a strong multiplier effect and high bang for buck in the short to long term. Our scoping analysis identified three major strategies with the highest potential to solve systemic issues and achieve lasting impact.

Africa will not cope with climate change without a just, inclusive energy transition



Climate change impact on Africa has been devastating as this photo taken in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique shows. Credit: Denis Onyodi / IFRC/DRK

By Joyce Chimbi

A JUST transition should be viewed as an opportunity to rectify some of the wrongs where women are not prioritised in the energy mix, yet their experience of the impact of climate change is massive, says Thandile Chinyavanhu, a young South African-based climate and energy campaigner with Greenpeace Africa.

Recent UN scientific research on the state of the climate change crisis and ongoing climate action reveals that the window to reach climate goals is rapidly closing. The world is not on track to reach the goals set out in the Paris Agreement, which commits all countries to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

To achieve this goal, emissions must decrease by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. Ahead of COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), expectations are high that a clear roadmap to net zero progress will be reached, bringing issues of energy, a global energy transition, and energy security into sharp focus.

The energy sector has a significant impact on climate as it accounts for an estimated two-thirds of all harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the ongoing global climate change crisis, significantly altering planet Earth. The

“ Women are generally not prioritised, and so they do not have the same opportunities as men, even in matters of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and this is true for sectors such as agriculture and mining. ”

issue of energy and climate is of particular concern to African countries, especially the Sub-Saharan Africa region, as they also relate to increased vulnerabilities for women, especially rural women. The intersection between energy security and economic growth, poverty reduction, and the empowerment of women and girls is not in doubt.

Still, despite access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for all being articulated under the UN's SDG 7, one in eight people around the world has no access to electricity. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, nearly 600 million people, or an estimated 53 percent of the region's population, have no access to electricity. Currently, less than a fifth of African countries have targets to reach universal electricity access by 2030. For some, the silver bullet is to dump fossil fuels and go green; for others, it is an urgent, just, and equitable transition to renewables.

IPS spoke to Chinyavanhu about her role as a social justice and climate activist. She says she wants to contribute to climate change mitigation, ensuring that people and cities are prepared for climate change and can adapt to what is coming.

Here are excerpts from the interview. **IPS: Why are current energy systems untenable, considering the ongoing climate change crisis?**

Chinyavanhu: On going green and dumping fossil fuels, there are several issues at play, and they vary from country to country. Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—are by far the largest contributors to global climate change, as they account for more than 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions. South Africa, for instance, has a big coal mining industry and is one of the top five coal-exporting countries globally. The country relies heavily on coal for about 70 percent of its total electricity production. We need to move away from energy consumption models that are exacerbating the climate crisis, but we must also ensure that we are centred on a just transition.

IPS: What should a 'just energy transition' look like for Africa and other developing nations?

Chinyavanhu: Overall, we are looking at issues of socio-economic development models that leave no one behind. To achieve this, renewable energy is the pathway that provides us with energy security and accelerated development. We have

serious energy-related challenges due to a lack of preparation and planning around the energy crisis. The challenge is that Africa needs energy and, at the same time, accelerates its development in a manner that leaves no one behind, be it women or any other vulnerable group that is usually left behind in policy responses.

There is a need to address challenges regarding access to energy for all so that, in transitioning to clean energy, we do not have any groups of people being left behind, as has been the case. This is not so much a problem or challenge as an opportunity for countries to address gaps in access to energy and ensure that it is accessible to all, especially women, bearing in mind the many roles they play in society, including nurturing the continent's future workforce. A just energy transition is people-centred.

We must recognise and take stock of the economic impact that moving from fossil fuels to clean energy could have on people and their livelihoods, such as those in the mining sector. It is crucial that people are brought along in the process of transition, giving them the tools and resources needed for them to be absorbed into new clean energy models. There is a very deep socio-economic aspect to it because people must be given the skills and capacities to engage in emerging green systems and industries.

IPS: As a young woman activist, what do you think the roles of women in an energy transition are?

Chinyavanhu: Women are generally not prioritised, and so they do not have the same opportunities as men, even in matters of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and this is true for sectors such as agriculture and mining. Women have great economic potential and have a very big role to play towards a just energy transition as key drivers of socio-economic progress.

In the green energy space, economic opportunities are opening up. Men are quickly taking over the renewable energy industry, but there are plenty of opportunities for women to succeed if given the right resources. We are at a point in time when we have the opportunity to leave behind polluting technologies and, at the same time, address some of the key socio-economic challenges that have plagued societies for a long time.

This transition should be viewed as an opportunity to rectify some of those wrongs in a way that is people-centred and inclusive. No one should be left behind. It is really about building harmony with nature while also addressing many of the socio-economic issues that plague us today. This is more of an opportunity than a hurdle. It is about understanding and rectifying systems' thinking that contributes to women being left behind. It is important that we see the bigger picture—identify and acknowledge that different groups—not just women, but any identifier that places people at a point of vulnerability—have been left furthest behind. The energy transition process has presented an opportunity to make it right.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Thandile Chinyavanhu

RADIO One 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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BUSINESS

TADB wins govt acclaim for quality finding of agri-sector

Airtel emerges with award as best digital mobile money financial services provider

By Guardian Reporter

Airtel Tanzania has scooped an award for providing excellent financial services through mobile money services surpassing other mobile companies offering similar services in the local market.

The company was announced on Saturday night at the climax of the National Financial Services Week gala held in Arusha city that brought together delegates from commercial banks, telecommunication companies and other financial institutions.

Airtel Money Tanzania's Service Manager, Hellen Lyimo, said the award is a motivation for Airtel Tanzania to continue improving its mobile money financial services.

"We are pleased to receive this award, which undoubtedly stems from the significant innovation ongoing at Airtel in enhancing its financial services, especially through digital platforms," she said.

According to her, Airtel offers numerous digital financial services, with the primary goal of making these services easily accessible and cost-effective for consumers,

thus supporting the government's financial inclusion efforts to ensure that many people have access to financial services.

"We introduced the Airtel Vikoba Digital service, which, among other features, has been a lifesaver for Airtel Money customers in savings groups. Through Airtel Digital Vicoba, customers can conduct digital meetings without personal presence;

Such services cover making repayments and disbursing loans, saving time and ensuring the security of their funds," she said.

She said that Vikoba savings groups, in general, have significant impact in growing capital and businesses for many entrepreneurs, thus making a substantial contribution to improving the lives of individuals and the nation's economy.

"I urge people to use Airtel Money services, as we continue to expand the range of services available within it, additionally, Airtel Digital Savings Groups are designed for entrepreneur groups, providing secure handling of your money with simple operations that do not require physical meetings," she said.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has commended the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) for the role it is playing in financing the ag-

ricultural sector, hence boosting agri-business and promoting the well-being of farmers in the country.

Majaliwa made the observation recently when visited the bank's pavilion at the just-ended National Financial Services

Week in Arusha.

He said the government is aware of the great job that TADB is doing to transform the agricultural sector by offering affordable credit to farmers. He also urged the state-owned bank to keep up with the good work.

Opening the NFSW, Majaliwa urged local commercial banks to consider reducing interest rates in order to enable more people access credit.

TADB's Public Relations and Marketing Manager, Amani Nkurulu, welcomed the Prime Ministers' statement with an emphasis on the importance of making easy access to credits to small holder farmers.

"TADB is on the forefront of ensuring that farmers have access to affordable credit," said Nkurulu, pointing out that the bank has already reduced its interest rate to as low as nine per cent.

He also stated that the bank has also recently revised its Smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) to allow farmers seeking loans to be guaranteed up to 70 per cent from the previous 50 per cent.

According to him, the bank is confident that the initiative will increase the appetite of potential partner financial institutions to utilize the scheme, hence increasing the numbers of farmers benefiting from it.

"TADB is happy to participate

in the 2023 edition of the financial services exhibitions. To us, this is very important platform as it provides an opportunity to come into direct contact with farmers whom we serve, and other stakeholders across the agriculture value chain;

We urge farmers and the general public to visit our pavilion here at the Sheikh Amri Abeid grounds to learn more about us, and explore our services and products," he said.

He asserted that farmers can access our short, medium and long term credit facilities at affordable interest rates which can go as low as nine per cent. The bank supports farmers and agriculture entrepreneurs from the entire agri-value chain, from agri, livestock and fisheries sector.

Theme 'Financial Education, the Foundation for Economic Growth' the exhibitions further intends to create awareness and professionalism to the public on the right use of financial services to assist in building the economy and eliminate poverty, strengthening the efficiency of financial markets through financial education, increase access to financial services as well as providing education on consumer protection for the users of financial services.

Established in August 2015, TADB's vision is to be a champion development finance institution for agricultural transformation in Tanzania. Some of its products are Asset Loan, Matrekta Loan, Project Finance, and Stock Finance to mention a few.

Use bank loans to bolster business and capital, BoA challenges SMEs



It is our bank's honor to continue this tradition of participating in these exhibitions to reach more Tanzanians. We have come to participate in this exhibition to explain the opportunities for all Tanzanians in particular.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SMALL and midsize enterprises (SMEs) have been urged to efficiently use the bank loans for them to grow their capital and businesses.

Kasanga Kaombwe, Bank of Africa-Tanzania (BoA) Arusha branch manager made the call here over the weekend when speaking at the just-ended this year's National Financial Service Week Exhibition (NFSW).

He said: "We're here to encourage and educate the public and SMEs on the correct use of loans that will help them grow their capital and businesses."

Kaombwe said that the last year the bank, through its Arusha branch provided loans of 2bn/- to businessmen and they expect to continue to provide more loans.

"Our bank, through its network of 19 branches in Tanzania, provides services to all types of customers, including private customers, small

entrepreneurs and companies as well. We have good services that are designed to suit all types of customers according to their needs," said Kaombwe.

Some of the visitors who visited the BoA pavilion expressed their satisfactions on the competitive bank service and they asked the bank to continue improving its services to benefit more Tanzanians.

He said that BoA's participation in NFSW is a continuation of the government's commitment to provide financial education to its people.

According to him, BoA has been one of the leading banks in the country in ensuring that it participates in educating the community about the benefits of financial services. For three years in a row, the bank has been participating in these exhibitions since they were launched in the Dar es Salaam region in 2021.

"It is our bank's honor to continue this tradition of participating in these exhibitions to reach more

Tanzanians. We have come to participate in this exhibition to explain the opportunities for all Tanzanians in particular."

BoA is a private commercial bank operating in Tanzania serving Corporate, SME and Retail customers. It began operations in Tanzania in June 2007 after acquiring Eurafrikan Bank which had been operating in Tanzania since September 1995.

It is the multinational Pan-African banking group operating in 18 African countries including; West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and representative offices in Paris, Spain, London, UK and China. Since 2010, BoA has become a majority owned subsidiary of BMCE Bank, which is the 3rd. largest banking group in Morocco, and present in 31 countries and 4 continents.

It has a network of 19 Retail branches include; 9 in Dar es Salaam and 10 upcountry Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar and all other major cities.



Airtel Arusha zonal manager, Monica Ernest (center) with Hatibu Joshua (left), and Simon Mwambigija (right), territory sales managers Arusha city having a happy moment after the mobile company was announced winner of financial service through mobile money during a special gala held at the weekend in the city.

NMB awarded as the largest, most compliant 2023 taxpayer

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has emerged as the national overall winner, recognized as the largest taxpayer in Tanzania and the most compliant taxpayer.

The event was held in Dar es Salaam last Friday during the Taxpayer Day 2023.

This marks the second consecutive year that NMB Bank has received the National Overall Winner: Institution paying the largest taxes in Tanzania (all sectors), National Overall Winner: Most Compliant Tax Payer adhering to the principles and best tax payment practices and Largest Taxpayer in the category of Financial Institutions in Tanzania (third consecutive year).

Receiving the awards, the CEO of NMB Bank, Ruth Zaipuna stated that these awards are a positive result of strong principles of good



governance and integrity, adherence to tax payment principles, efficiency in business operations,

and innovative financial solutions for customers. She said: "I thank our customers

and all Tanzanians for continuing to trust NMB Bank as their partner in business. My heartfelt thanks

also go to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for continuing to create a conducive environment for doing business in the country, and I especially thank all my colleagues at NMB Bank for continuing to work with enthusiasm, diligence, and great patriotism for the broader interests of the Bank and our country as a whole."

These awards were presented by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Dotto Biteko, at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam.

NMB Bank is committed to conducting its operations by the laws and regulations of the country, aiming to make a significant contribution to the growth of our national economy.

Deputy Prime Minister Dotto Biteko said the Sixth Phase Government will further its reforms agenda to not only ease doing

business in the country but also broaden the tax base and promote voluntary tax compliance.

According to him, taxpayers play a decisive development role hence the need to appreciate and reward their contribution to national building efforts.

"Taxpayers should be treated as partners without which the resources we need to finance growth and development won't be adequately obtained," Dr Biteko said, noting that educating and not antagonizing them was a matter of utmost importance under this administration.

The Deputy Minister for Finance, Hamad Hassan Chande, commended TRA for upholding the awards since their introduction in 2006, saying the recognitions are a big compliance and remittance incentive that greatly enables the agency to meet set revenue collection targets.

Stepping up money laundering war



NAIROBI

In what is turning out to be a déjà vu moment, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) has for a second time raised concerns about Kenya's standing on the global stage in the fight against money laundering, terror financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF).

ESAAMLG raised similar concerns about 12 years ago, concerns that led to Kenya being placed in the list of countries that had strategic deficiencies in the fight against ML/TF/PF at the time. Every few years, ESAAMLG conducts a peer evaluation to assess its member countries' compliance with international anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and counter-proliferation

financing (AML/CTF/CPF) standards.

This process is typically referred to as a mutual evaluation. ESAAMLG is affiliated to and works alongside the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global intergovernmental money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing watchdog.

ESAAMLG recently conducted its second round of the Kenya mutual evaluation and released its report in September 2022. The report while acknowledging the strides Kenya has made, pointed out deficiencies in line with international standards. In 2010-2011, ESAAMLG had raised similar concerns about Kenya which contributed to its 'greylisting' by FATF.

FATF subjects the countries on the greylist to in-

creased monitoring where they are given a timeframe to resolve the deficiencies. Failure could lead to more severe consequences such as being placed on a blacklist which could attract more sanctions.

Kenya, however, managed to secure its removal from the greylist in 2014 following concerted efforts and reforms to the AML/CFT/CPF regime.

Some of the areas where the recent ESAAMLG mutual evaluation highlighted deficiencies included understanding of the money laundering, terror financing and proliferation financing risks that Kenya faces.

The ESAAMLG evaluators acknowledged the National Risk Assessment but emphasised more needs to be done to better understand the risks.

The specific areas where

the 2022 mutual evaluation report highlighted the need for a better understanding of the risk included risks emanating from politically exposed persons, virtual assets such as crypto currencies, cross-border cash movements and non-governmental organisations.

Some subsets of NGOs are prone to abuse for terrorism financing. The report further brought to light the risk Kenya faces from proliferation financing and the need to pay attention to it.

Proliferation financing refers to the financial support provided for the spread or development of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

The other broader deficiencies that the mutual evaluation pointed out included limited investigations and

prosecutions of money laundering and terrorism financing cases, limited application of a risk-based approach at the national and institutional level, and gaps in establishing the beneficial owners of companies.

The greylisting notwithstanding, the recent mutual evaluation of Kenya's AML/CFT/CPF regime has underscored the urgency for further reforms. The mutual evaluation serves as a critical wake-up call. It's a call to action for all stakeholders to unite in implementing robust measures.

Embracing the mutual evaluation as an opportunity for constructive change will not only strengthen our country's financial integrity but also solidify Kenya's commitment to combatting illicit financial activities as a regional financial hub.

Nairobi suburbs now post fastest land price surge in four years

NAIROBI

The cost of land in Nairobi's upmarket suburbs has shown glimmers of recovery from the lingering effect of Covid-19 pandemic that sent asking prices tumbling on reduced demand for commercial space.

Data by realtor HassConsult suggests average land prices for mid- to high-end estates of Nairobi in the quarter ended September increased at rates last seen in the pre-pandemic era.

The recovery has come at the Ruto administration enforced the 1.5 percent housing levy on workers' earnings, marched by employers, in a bid to bridge the gaping deficit in the supply of houses largely in the low-end estates.

The data, based on advertised asking prices, shows land prices for suburbs on average edged up 0.39 percent in the review quarter compared to the previous three months, the highest growth since the last quarter of 2019.

The increment was 0.83 percent compared with a year earlier, according to the survey, which focuses on mid- to high-end suburbs where real estate activities are concentrated.

"Land in the city showed signs of price recovery with only three out of the 18 suburbs witnessing a price fall in quarter three, compared to 14 in the previous quarter," researchers at HassConsult wrote in the latest report.

"Recovery of land prices is heavily attributed to the resurgence of development activity post-Covid."

The three suburbs where plot owners cut prices in the three-month period through July include Kileleshwa where an acre cost 0.6 percent less than the quarter before to an average of Sh292 million. Others are Donholm where land prices dropped 0.5 percent to average Sh77.8 million an acre and Riverside (0.2 percent to Sh320.1 million).

Nairobi's real estate market has struggled to recover from the economic fallout that followed the pandemic more than three years ago.

Industry data has shown that land prices stagnated in some suburbs, signalling reduced demand, which prompted some owners to lower prices. The demand for the usually pricey land in the upmarket suburbs was hit largely due to the loss of earnings and jobs and cautious lending by banks.

This prompted families and businesses to keep their cash in hand as they tried to ride out of the increasingly growing economic uncertainty compounded by elevated upward price pressures that followed Russia's brutal war in Ukraine.

Payroll taxes register biggest shortfall since Covid-19 crisis

NAIROBI

Payroll taxes in the first quarter of the current financial year fell short of target by the biggest margin since the Covid-19 pandemic period, reflecting a tough labour market where firms are struggling to generate new jobs and offer pay rise.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) netted Sh123.04 billion on earnings by workers in the July-September 2023 period, the latest disclosures by the National Treasury show, against a goal of Sh142.93 billion.

The shortfall of 13.91 percent or Sh19.88 billion was the biggest since a similar period for the financial year 2020/21 when the under-performance amounted to 21.12 percent or Sh19.16 billion due to Covid-related reliefs between May and December 2020.

The slowdown in the Pay as You Earn (Paye), came despite an 11.38 percent growth to Sh110.47 billion, indicating the William Ruto administration had expected jobs to grow at a faster rate.

The Treasury has in the Budget Review and Outlook Paper (BROP) largely blamed the below-target performance in Paye receipts on "delayed disbursements to various Government entities which affected the [payroll] remittances from the public sector."

The growth in payroll taxes from the government and its agencies has further been compounded by a long-standing moratorium on new employment in civil service that restricted hiring in essential sectors such as security, education and health since December 2013 in a bid to rein in the wage bill.



Private businesses have, on the other hand, complained of increasing cost of operation, with a "multitude" of taxes and levies pushing smaller firms into the informal, or jua kali, sector.

"Many businesses especially the MSMEs [micro small and medium-sized enterprises] cannot afford the costs associated with operating in the formal employment sector," FKE executive director Jacqueline Mugo told the local newspaper in an interview earlier in the year.

"This has led to the growth in the number of unemployed Kenyans as many employers try to manage their costs," she said.

The shortfall in payroll taxes in the review period came at a time when companies reportedly battled flagging sales, prompting them to pause hiring.

Firms have since July, when additional taxation measures were enforced amidst elevated inflationary pressures, complained of slowed demand for goods and services.

The exception was in August when a supposed truce between President Ruto and opposition leader Raila Odinga in the form of bipartisan talks lifted business confidence.

However, the higher cost of fuel and electricity amid cost-of-living

pressures arising from increased taxation resulted in the freezing of employment from September, according to the findings of Stanbic Bank Kenya's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), based on feedback from about 400 corporate managers.

The labour markets toughened from October when corporate managers reported they had shed jobs at a rate last witnessed at the peak of Covid-19 curbs in June 2020.

"The rate of job cuts accelerated to a solid pace that was the joint-quickest since June 2020," analysts at Stanbic Bank and American analytics firm, S&P Global, wrote

in the PMI report for October. "Panellists commented on both the non-replacement of leavers and staff reductions due to lower workloads."

Businesses have in the past year battled the stubbornly rising price pressures on the back of high cost of materials and energy as well as a weakening shilling in addition to short supply of dollars.

They have reported a "marked drop" in demand for goods and services, which they have linked to elevated inflationary pressure and cash flow challenges. The inflationary pressures have eroded consumers' purchasing power, reduced demand for goods and

services, and constrained new investments.

The Treasury data shows excise duty fell short of first quarter target of Sh79 billion by 13.20 percent while value added tax underperformed the Sh158.13 billion goal by 3.23 percent.

Corporate income tax also fell short by 7.87 percent after netting Sh120.91 billion in the three-month period, while import duty was 21.51 percent short of Sh41.32 billion.

The fight between social media giant Facebook and its employees in Nairobi has taken a new turn after its workers moderating content on Meta's platforms, including WhatsApp, accused the firm's local agent of falsifying payslips and failing to remit deducted tax for at least four years.

The same outlet had learnt in June that the moderators have also filed an official complaint with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), asking the taxman to investigate the tax evasion claim, in their latest grievances against the social media company.

The workers have written to the KRA to carry out an "urgent" investigation on non-remittance of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) taxes and altered summary of the annual tax deduction form by their employer, Samasource Kenya EPZ Limited (Sama).

To back their claim, the moderators have presented to the KRA payslips and P-9 forms that suggest that the PAYE deducted from their salaries differs from the figures reflected on the tax forms they say Sama emailed them recently to file tax returns for income earned last year.

Rwanda FDA on measures to curb reappearance of banned products

KIGALI

To safeguard public health, the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (Rwanda FDA) has outlined measures to prevent banned products from re-entering the market.

Lazare Ntirenganya, Division Manager for Pharmacovigilance and Food Safety Monitoring Division, shed light on these critical steps in an interview with a local outlet in Kigali.

Addressing the pressing need to prevent the reappearance of banned items, Ntirenganya emphasized the crucial role of post-recall actions.

"One important step is the implementation of recall audits, precisely designed to ensure the complete removal of banned products from the market," he highlighted.

Additionally, the FDA among other measures includes media campaigns to caution the public against purchasing and using these recalled products.

The statement follows the recent identification of 22 banned herbal medicines, some of which



had been previously recalled in 2022 due to safety and quality concerns but unlawfully reappeared in circulation.

Ntirenganya emphasized the regulatory impacts for those selling banned products, citing fines equivalent to twice the value of the prohibited items

and routine inspections as measures taken by the FDA.

"We also collaborate with law enforcement agencies to address these instances and take legal action against offenders," he added.

Moreover, he reiterated the FDA's advocacy for citizens to seek medical advice exclusively from licensed

healthcare professionals rather than relying on herbal medicines.

"The traditional medicine practitioners are encouraged to register their products to ensure adherence to safety and quality standards," he added.

According to Ntirenganya, the banned herbal medicines were

found to contain harmful elements such as microbes and heavy metals, failing to meet safety and quality standards.

The FDA statement released on November 20 underscored the significance of recalls following laboratory tests identifying substandard elements in these products.

The list of banned medicines includes products like Green Mix, Dragon Vert Powder, Dragon Vert Syrup, Ifu ya Tangawizi, Ibumbary'Icyatsi, Igisura, Umuti Uvura Indwara zo Munda z'Abana, Thee, Delay Spray for Men., Ikimera Special Wine, Rusenyanzoka, Stevia Sugar, Ibanga ry'Umuryango, Umuti Uvura Umugongo, Umuti-ma w'Isi, Ishema, Uzakira Soap, and Sanamake.

Rwanda FDA urges consumers to exercise caution and refrain from using these recalled products, emphasizing their potential harm to public health.

Last week Rwanda FDA banned 22 herbal medicines that fail to meet safety and quality standards.

The decision follows laboratory results that identified sub-

standard elements within these products.

In a statement signed by FDA's Director General, Emile Bienvenu last Monday, November 20, the FDA highlighted the need for recalls after laboratory tests showed these analyzed products did not meet the required safety and quality benchmarks.

As a result, the body recalled all the listed products, emphasizing the potential harm they pose to human health.

According to the announcement, the banned medicines, includes items such as Green Mix, Dragon Vert Powder, and Dragon Vert Syrup.

Among the other recalled products are Ifu ya Tangawizi, Ibumbary'Icyatsi, Igisura, Umuti Uvura Indwara zo Munda z'Abana, Thee, Delay Spray for Men, Muzehe wa Kazi, Ngetwa 3, Dawa ya Kupanua Uume, Ikimera Special Wine, Rusenyanzoka, Stevia Sugar, Ibanga ry'Umuryango, Umuti Uvura Umugongo, Umuti-ma w'Isi, Ishema, Uzakira Soap, and Sanamake.

This action by the FDA stems from their previous efforts in 2022 when some of these products were also recalled.

Lazare Ntirenganya, Division Manager for Pharmacovigilance and Food Safety Monitoring Division, clarified that the banned products have never been reinstated since 2022.

Winners of Africa's business heroes funding announced

KIGALI

Three entrepreneurs from Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria have emerged as the top winners of the 2023 grants from Africa's Business Heroes (ABH), a charitable initiative of the Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Philanthropy.

At the Grand-Finale held in Kigali on Friday, November 24 as the ABH celebrated its fifth anniversary, the three winners were selected from 10 innovators who made it to the semi-finals in September. All 10 finalists who will share \$1.5 million.

The grand prize winner is Dr Ikpeme Neto, a Nigerian who is the CEO and founder of Wellah Health Technologies. He will get \$300,000.

The first runner-up is Thomas Njeru, CEO and co-founder of Kenyan agriculture company Pula Advisors Limited. He will \$250,000.

The second runner-up is Ayman Bazaraa, CEO and co-founder of Egyptian education and training company Sprints. He will get \$150,000.

The other seven innovators will get \$100,000 each. They include one Rwandan innovator, Albert Munyabungo, who is a co-founder of delivery company VubaVuba Africa.

There is also Bola Bardet, CEO and co-founder of Susu, a Beninese healthcare company; Ismael Belkhatay, CEO and founder of Moroccan fintech company Chari; and Mohammed Ali, founder and CEO of Egyptian electrical company iLock.

Also among the winners is Sierra Leonean Nthabiseng Mosia, co-founder of energy distributing company Easy Solar, and Theo Baloyi, CEO and founder of South African retail company Bathu, as well as Christina Mawuse Gysisun, CEO and co-founder of Sommalife, a Ghanaian agriculture enterprise.

The top 10 finalists, who emerged from more than 27,000 applicants from across the African continent.

Since 2019, four more Rwandan entrepreneurs have scooped \$385,000 (over Rwf460 million) in funding from the Alibaba initiative.

They are Francine Munyaneza, founder of Munyax Eco; Yvette Ishimwe, founder and CEO of

IRIBA Water Group; Christelle Kwizera, founder of Water Access Rwanda and Kevine Kagirimpundu, co-founder and CEO of UZURI.

In September Albert Munyabungo, a Rwandan innovator and co-founder of delivery company VubaVuba, was named among 10 African entrepreneurs to share \$1.5 million (over Rwf1.7 billion) of funding through Africa's Business Heroes (ABH), an initiative of the Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Philanthropy.

Munyabungo is one of 20 entrepreneurs who pitched their projects during the ABH 2023 semi-finals held in Kigali from September 1-2.

The top 10 finalists, who emerged from more than 27,000 applicants from across the African continent, were announced on Saturday night.

Munyabungo becomes the fifth Rwandan entrepreneur to win the Alibaba funding since 2019, when the initiative of the Chinese billionaire Jack Ma was launched.

"This is an exciting moment. I am full of joy after making it to the top 10 out of 27,000 applications. That means we have our share of the \$1.5 million," Munyabungo told The New Times.

"I am looking forward to the next step. We have so many projects in the pipeline, including expansion to two more countries in 2024 and integration with major economic platforms, across the world looking at connecting farmers and restaurants that we partner with."

Speaking of the environment that enabled previous Rwandan winners, Munyabungo said, "the government is actually doing whatever they can to empower innovators and young founders. What I would say to innovators is do as many applications as you can, don't do just one and feel discouraged. Do five or 10 a week. It takes 10 or 20 things to get one that works well."

Also in the top 10 is Mawuse Christina Gysisun, CEO and co-founder of Sommalife, a Ghanaian agriculture enterprise.

"I need some days to recover from this because it is unbelievable. I can't believe that the judges have this much faith in us to give us a chance to go out there and share our story," Gysisun said.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM			
ITV	9:55	14:00	20:00
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	Habari za saa	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	Habari
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	Watoto wetu	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
6:00 HABARI	10:25 Jagina	14:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha	10:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	23:30 Music: The Base
7:30 HABARI	11:00 Chetu ni chetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	00:30 Al Jazeera
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	17:00 Music: The Base	FRIDAY 1 Dec
8:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:00 Al Jazeera	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	12:30 Afa ya jamii	18:30 Jarida la wanawake	6:00 HABARI
9:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	6:40 Kumekucha
10:00 Watoto wetu	13:00 Ripoti maalum	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	7:30 HABARI
10:55 Habari za saa	13:40 Shikabamba	20:00 Habari	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
11:00 ITV Top Ten	13:55 Habari za saa	21:05 Aibu Yako	8:55 Habari za saa
11:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Shikabamba	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
12:00 Al Jazeera	14:15 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
12:30 Jungu Kuu	14:55 Habari za saa	21:50 Kipindi maalum:	9:55 Habari za saa
12:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	10:00 Watoto wetu
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	16:30 Watoto wetu	23:00 Habari	10:30 Usafiri wako
13:40 Art and Lifestyle	17:00 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	10:55 Habari za saa
13:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	00:30 Al Jazeera	11:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing
14:00 Art and Lifestyle	18:15 Mapishi	THURSDAY 30 Nov	11:20 Jagina
14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	11:55 Habari za saa
14:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:00 Al Jazeera
15:00 Meza huru:	20:00 Habari	6:00 HABARI	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
16:30 Watoto Wetu	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	6:40 Kumekucha	12:55 Habari za saa
17:00 Music: The Base	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	7:30 HABARI	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
18:00 Jiji Letu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	8:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	23:00 Habari	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
19:00 Afa ya Jamii	23:30 Music: The Base	9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon	14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	00:30 Al Jazeera	10:00 Watoto wetu	14:55 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari	WEDNESDAY 29 Nov	10:30 Shamba lulu	15:00 Meza huru:
21:05 Dakika 45	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto Wetu
22:00 Bundesliga na DW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
22:15 Mapishi	6:00 HABARI	11:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Kiislam
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	6:40 Kumekucha	12:00 Al Jazeera	18:00 Jiji Letu
23:00 Habari	7:30 HABARI	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	18:15 Top ten
23:30 Music: The Base	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	12:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu
00:30 Al Jazeera	8:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
02:00 DWTV	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	13:30 Art and Lifestyle	20:00 Habari
TUESDAY 28 Nov	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	13:55 Habari za saa	21:05 Kipima Joto
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt	23:00 Habari
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Watoto wetu	14:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base
6:00 HABARI	10:25 Jungu kuu rpt	15:00 Meza huru	00:30 Al Jazeera
6:40 Kumekucha	10:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto wetu	SATURDAY 2 Dec
7:30 HABARI	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	17:00 The Base	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	11:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	6:00 HABARI
8:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	18:15 Mapishi	6:40 Kumekucha
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:30 Jagina	
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	12:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Usafiri wako	
	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	
	13:55 Habari za saa		

WORLD

South Korea partially suspends 2018 military agreement with DPRK

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea decided Wednesday to partially suspend the military agreement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) that was reached after the 2018 inter-Korean summit.

The partially suspended inter-Korean military pact was approved during an extraordinary cabinet meeting presided over by South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo in Seoul. With the suspended effectiveness, South Korea will restore reconnaissance and surveillance operations against the DPRK around the

Military Demarcation Line dividing the two Koreas, said Han, adding that such a measure is vital for national security. In April 2018, then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un met in the village of Panmunjom and signed the Panmunjom Declaration, followed by a joint declaration inked in Pyongyang in September 2018. The military agreement, an annex to the joint declaration, was signed on Sept. 19, 2018, to stop all hostile military acts and establish buffer zones across the inter-Korean border on the ground, at sea and in the air.



The signing ceremony for the Sept. 19, 2018 Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) between top defense officials from North and South Korea | Image: Pyongyang Joint Photo Press Pool

Xi urges ceasefire in Gaza, stresses two-state solution

BEIJING

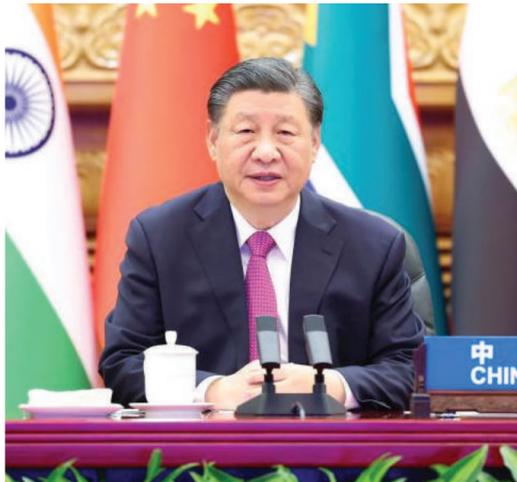
Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday attended the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue, saying that the parties to the conflict must end hostilities and achieve a ceasefire immediately.

Xi called on the parties to stop all violence and attacks against civilians, release civilians held captive, and act to prevent loss of more lives and spare people from more miseries. Xi said humanitarian corridors must be kept secure and unimpeded, and more humanitarian assistance should be provided to the population in Gaza. He said the international community must act with practical measures to prevent the conflict from spilling over and endangering stability in the Middle East as a whole. He emphasized that the only viable way to break the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the two-state solution, in the restoration of the legitimate national rights of Palestine, and in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

China calls for early convening of an international peace conference that is more authoritative to build international consensus for peace and work toward an early solution

to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable, Xi said. Xi said this is the first summit since the expansion of BRICS. Given the current circumstances, it is very timely and very important that we meet and speak up for justice and for peace on the Palestinian-Israeli issue. "The conflict in Gaza is raging on into its second month. China is gravely concerned that the conflict is causing enormous civilian casualties and a humanitarian disaster, and tends to expand and spill over," he said.

The collective punishment of people in Gaza in the form of forced transfer or water, electricity and fuel deprivation must stop, he said. All the parties must act to deliver on UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions through concrete measures on the ground, Xi said. Xi said the root cause of the Palestinian-Israeli situation is the fact that the right of the Palestinian people to statehood, their right to existence, and their right of return have long been ignored. He said there can be no sustainable peace and security in the Middle East without a just solution to the question of Palestine. Xi said since the outbreak of the latest Palestinian-Israeli conflict, China has been working ac-



tively to promote peace talks and a ceasefire. China has provided humanitarian assistance to help ease the humanitarian plight in Gaza and will provide more supplies and assistance according to the needs of the people in Gaza. At the UN Security Council, China has acted in its capacity as president to facilitate the adoption of the resolution, which calls for extended humanitarian pauses and corridors, the protection of civilians, and the provision of humanitarian assistance, he said.

Hailing the BRICS cooperation mechanism as an important platform for emerging markets and developing

countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and safeguard common interests, Xi said the meeting to coordinate positions and actions on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict marks a good start for greater BRICS cooperation following its enlargement. China stands ready to work with other members to usher in a new era for BRICS cooperation, Xi said. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa chaired the summit, which gathered leaders from China, Brazil, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and foreign ministers from India and Argentina.

The leaders expressed grave

concern over the Palestinian-Israeli situation and condemned all acts of violence against civilians. They stressed the need for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, calling for an immediate durable, sustainable humanitarian truce and humanitarian aid delivery. They emphasized the importance of settling disputes through dialogue, and voiced support for all efforts conducive to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. The leaders called on the international community to support a just solution to the Palestinian question, and promote the realization of the two-state solution and establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty. Wang Lei, director of the Center for BRICS Cooperation Studies at Beijing Normal University, said the summit reflects the sense of responsibility of the BRICS countries, their call for international peace and stability, and their consensus on many major issues. China's position is consistent, fair, just and without selfish interests and China genuinely works for regional peace and development, said Xu Feibiao, director of the Center for BRICS and G20 Studies with China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Ethiopia peace talks end without agreement: official

ADDIS ABABA

Peace talks between the Ethiopian government and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebel group have ended without an agreement, an Ethiopian official said on Tuesday.

Redwan Hussein, national security advisor to Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, attributed the failure to the "intransigence" of the OLA negotiators. "The obstructive approach and unrealistic demands of the other party are the principal reasons why these talks could not succeed," said Hussein on X, formerly Twitter. The second round of closed door peace talks between the two sides in Tanzania lasted for more than a week to find a peaceful solution to

a long-running low-level insurgency in Oromia, Ethiopia's most populous region. In April, the two sides met for the first time in Tanzania for peace talks which ended without an agreement.

The OLA is a breakaway faction of ex-rebel group Oromo Liberation Front, an opposition political party claiming to fight for the rights of Oromos, an ethnic group making up about 35 percent of Ethiopia's population. The OLA, with an estimated 3,000 fighters, operates mainly in the western and southern parts of the Oromia Region, the principal homeland of ethnic Oromos. In May 2021, the Ethiopian parliament voted to designate the OLA as a terrorist group, a designation still in effect now.



South Sudan President Salva Kiir

South Sudan, Sudan's civilian coalition push for ceasefire talks amid conflict

JUBA

The government of South Sudan met with members of Sudan's civilian coalition, Forces of Freedom and Change, on Tuesday in an effort to push for a cessation of hostilities before the start of political negotiations aimed at ending the conflict that erupted on April 15.

Omar El Degeir, the leader of Sudan's Forces of Freedom and Change, emphasized the need for all political forces in Sudan to agree on democratic governance, a unified army, transitional justice and economic recovery through negotiation.

"We have to resolve problems through negotiations instead of bullets, artillery and warplanes," El Degeir told journalists after a consultative meeting with South Sudan officials in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Dhieu Mathok Diing Wol, the secretary general of the South Sudan mediation

committee that brokered the signing of the 2020 Juba peace agreement between the Sudan transitional government and various opposition forces, said that South Sudan President Salva Kiir initiated consultations and meetings with Sudanese political and civil organizations aimed at resolving the conflict.

"It is important to have the warring parties, especially the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), agree to a cessation of hostilities and a ceasefire, allowing the political process to begin," said Mathok, who is also the minister of investment.

During a two-day consultative meeting in Juba on Oct. 23-24, Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Deputy Chairman Malik Agar and members of various opposition parties endorsed Kiir to mediate between the warring factions.

Israel, Hamas confirm deal on releasing hostages, ceasefire

JERUSALEM/GAZA/DOHA

Israel and Hamas on Wednesday confirmed their agreement on a Qatar-mediated proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza.

In exchange for Hamas to release hostages, the Israeli side agreed to release Palestinian prisoners and allow more humanitarian aid to enter the besieged enclave, said the Israeli government in a statement.

Under the deal, at least 50 hostages, mainly children and women, would be freed for the release of about 150 female and teen Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, said the statement from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

The hostages will be released in smaller groups over a span of four days, during which "there will be a full ceasefire in the fighting," it said. Israel is pressing for freeing more children. The ceasefire would be extended for an extra day for every additional 10 hostages released by Hamas, it said.



Hamas confirmed the four-day ceasefire agreement with Israel on Wednesday under a Qatari-Egyptian mediation after 46 days of bloody conflict in the besieged coastal enclave. "After complex negotiations,

we have reached a humanitarian ceasefire with Israel.

It will include the stop of all military operations in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli army will stop all movement of its military vehicles in all the territo-

ries in Gaza," Hamas said in a press statement.

In addition to exchanging hostages, hundreds of trucks loaded with humanitarian aid, medicine, and fuel will be allowed to enter all areas of

Gaza, it said. During the ceasefire, Israeli drones will stop operation for four days in southern Gaza, and stop working in the north for six hours a day starting from 10:00 a.m. (0400 GMT) until 16:00 p.m. (1000 GMT), it added.

Moreover, the Israeli army will allow the residents to move freely from northern Gaza to the southern territories, Hamas said. Later in the day, the Qatari Foreign Ministry confirmed the ceasefire agreement, which was jointly mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, adding that the starting time of the pause will be announced within the next 24 hours. Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to de-escalating tensions, preventing bloodshed, and protecting civilians through diplomatic efforts. Since the new round of Palestinian-Israeli conflict erupted on Oct. 7, Qatar has been making efforts to mediate between the warring parties, secure the release of hostages held by Hamas, and de-escalate the situation in Gaza.

Increased productivity vital to address Africa's rapid population growth, urbanization: UNECA

ADDIS ABABA

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on Tuesday called on African countries to embrace digitization, enhanced intra-Africa trade and better land-policy systems to address the demands of rapid population growth and urbanization in Africa.

"With population growth and rapid urbanization, the food industry will continue to grow in the coming years. Investing in the capacity of farmers to increase production will be vital," said Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the UNECA, in a statement at the fifth edition of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA). On the theme of "Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerating Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA)," the high-level conference runs from Nov. 21-24 at the African

Union (AU) headquarters in the Ethiopian capital. The UNECA chief underscored the importance of investing in research institutions to develop models of appropriate and sustainable agro-processing, technological innovations and implementation of land and agriculture policies. "Inclusive digital technologies can support land and trade policy-making processes through data driven decision-making. They can identify opportunities for reform, job creation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and food needs," he said.

The UNECA chief said the AfCFTA, if well implemented, holds the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, boost Africa's income by 450 billion U.S. dollars, while connecting 1.3 billion people. Noting that Africa is committed to agro-industrialization for value addition and economic diversification, he said the youth can



"tap into the growing agriculture and agribusiness sector, projected to be 1 trillion U.S. dollars by 2030." The UNECA chief regarded sound land governance systems as essential to promoting secure access to land and creating an enabling

environment for investments to unlock the productive capacities of Africa. "Good land governance will support agro-industrial parks, infrastructure and renewable energy, all needed ingredients for industrialization and trade," Gatete said.

He further called for concerted efforts in seeking solutions that impact the livelihoods of youth, women and smallholder producers, which he said constitute Africa's largest private sector and an integral part of the continent's

quest to find climate smart solutions. This conference is organized biennially by the African Land Policy Centre, which is a joint initiative of the UNECA, the AU, and the African Development Bank

China trials visa-free travel for six countries

BEIJING

CHINA is trialling visa-free travel for citizens from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Malaysia for a year, its foreign ministry said.

From December to 30 November 2024, ordinary passport holders from these countries can do business or travel in China without a visa for up to 15 days.

This is to help "promote China's high-quality development and opening up", spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Friday.

Currently, most travellers need a visa to enter China.

The rare examples of those exempt include citizens of Singapore and

Brunei, who are entering China for business, tourism, family visits and transit for no more than 15 days.

It was only in March that China began issuing all types of visas again. In March 2020, it had imposed strict travel restrictions in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. For three years, China had some of the world's strictest Covid curbs, with travel restrictions, numerous lockdowns and frequent testing requirements.

Its zero-Covid policy, which hit the economy hard, was only lifted last December.

Tens of millions of international visitors came to China each year prior to the pandemic.



Currently, most travellers need a visa to enter China

Rwanda marks World Children's Day with launch of parenting guides

KIGALI

Rwandan and UNICEF officials on Monday urged parents and childcare givers to recommit to playing their roles to ensure all Rwandan children fully enjoy their rights, during national celebrations to mark World Children's Day.

The day was marked under the theme of "For Every Child, Every Right" in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, with the attendance of children from across the country. The activities included a presentation on early learning and development standards as well as a presentation of new national parenting guides for Rwandan parents. Valentine Uwamariya, the Rwandan minister of gender and family promotion, said the parenting guides highlight proper child upbringing behaviors among other things. Uwamariya called for collective responsibility to secure children's rights to health, education, nutrition and protection from violence. "Parents and other childcare givers have a big responsibility to bring up Rwandan children. It is a responsibility that requires a careful approach as well as different up-to-date knowledge and skills," she said during the event.

Julianna Lindsey, the UNICEF Rwanda Country representative, said the parenting guides expected to be distributed widely across the country, were "excellent resources for new parents." "Most importantly I hope they will be used by both mothers and fathers," she said. Clarisse Akanyana, a child representative, called on parents to respect their children's rights to education by enrolling them in school. Akanyana said while children are not more knowledgeable than their parents, they need to participate in making decisions about interventions intended for children.

Assumpta Ingabire, the head of the National Child Development Agency, said parents and childcare givers should be keen to register children in the national registry in order to secure every child's right to identity and nationality. She emphasized the importance of raising children from families to protect them from violation of their rights.

Nissan to lead £2bn investment in UK electric car plant

LONDON

NISSAN and its partners have announced a £2bn plan to build three electric car models at its Sunderland factory.

The Japanese firm will build electric Qashqai and Juke models at the plant alongside the next generation of the electric Leaf, which is already produced there. The scheme could help preserve the jobs of about 6,000 workers directly, and thousands more across the UK.

Nissan said that alongside this, a major new battery plant known as a "gigafactory" will also be needed.

This is in addition to the current factory adjacent to the car plant, and a further gigafactory already being built by its partner, AESC.

Nissan will spend £1.12bn on preparing its UK facilities and supply chain for the new models and training its workforce.

Alongside the gigafactory the total new investment will be up to £2bn, according to the company.

Lei Zhang, chairman of AESC, said the firm had launched a feasibility study on expanding its gigafactory operations in Sunderland. The plan is expected to receive government support, though it is



not clear what form that will take. Nissan has confirmed it will receive £15m in funding for its research centre in Bedfordshire.

The Unite union said the plan "secures the long-term future of the site and the thousands of skilled well-paid jobs it supports", but called for more government support for the car industry.

Earlier this year, Nissan's chief operating officer Ashwani Gupta, who has since left the firm, said that the UK would struggle to remain competitive with other car-making countries because of higher manufacturing costs, elevated by energy bills and inflation.

Alan Johnson, Nissan's senior vice

president of manufacturing and supply chain, told the BBC's Today programme that the UK "can be a competitive place for car production, but everything needs to be right".

"Not just the plant itself, but the surrounding environment: energy costs, infrastructure, local government [and] national government support, needs to be right for it to work," he said.

The UK government has provided support for Nissan through the Automotive Transformation Fund, which received a £2bn top-up in the Autumn Statement on Wednesday.

Mr Johnson declined to comment on how much funding the company

has received from UK taxpayers.

He said: "The support we have received in the past has been excellent and we're very grateful for the support we do receive."

"The truth is discussions are ongoing with the government, not concluded, and therefore I'm not in a position at the moment to make any announcement or any comment about any numbers."

The government's contribution to Nissan's project is understood to be about £100m, and if the gigafactory goes ahead, the funding for that will also be about £100m.

Nissan's announcement comes as an "investment zone" for North East England was confirmed by the government. The government said it will create more than 4,000 jobs over five years.

In the summer, Mr Gupta also warned that the UK's largest car manufacturing plant in Sunderland would be "unsustainable" without a post-Brexit trade deal on tariffs.

Rules due to take effect in January next year mean there will be a 10% tariff on cars sold between the UK and EU unless carmakers have sourced at least 45% of their components by value from the UK or EU.

Batteries are the most expensive part of an electric vehicle, and some manufacturers in both the UK and EU have said they will struggle to meet the requirements, and have called for the rules to be deferred.

Mr Johnson said that Nissan exports 80% of the vehicles made at its Sunderland plant, "so of course exportation is critical to our success".

"In terms of the Brexit deal, we're just getting on with it," he said, adding that the key to Nissan's strategy is "having your major investments like battery production in the UK".

Other car makers have also expressed concerns about the tariffs.

In May, Stellantis, which owns Vauxhall, Peugeot, Citroen and Fiat, said it may have to close UK factories if the government did not renegotiate the Brexit deal.

The firm has made a commitment to making electric cars in the UK, but said that if the cost "becomes uncompetitive and unsustainable, operations will close".

The AESC plant in Sunderland is the only one in the UK currently making electric vehicle batteries, but Jaguar Land Rover owner Tata plans to build a £4bn factory in Somerset.

Tanzanian ace now tipped to excel in FKF Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward Oscar Adam Paul is backed to excel at Kakamega Homeboyz by the squad's head coach Patrick Odhiambo and prove his doubters wrong after he endured a rocky start to life at the club and the Kenyan top flight.

Paul joined Homeboyz in July from Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League side, Tanzania Prisons FC, but he has yet to open his goal account at his new club, unlike other forwards.

His move to Homeboyz has

seen him reunite with Odhiambo, who previously worked for Prisons between January 2022 and January this year.

Paul has yet to enjoy regular game time since setting foot in Kakamega, as Odhiambo has been preferring Kenyan international Moses Shumah to lead the attacking line, whereas Ugandan Davis Kasirye is offering options.

In the FKF Premier League, Shumah is Kakamega Homeboyz's leading goal scorer with five goals, while Kasirye, a former Sofapaka FC forward who joined the club before the season began, has a goal thus far.

Despite the limited appear-

ances, Odhiambo believes that Paul will be an asset to the club once he settles in fully.

The tactician noted: "I have confidence having worked with him before. I have seen him score goals, and I am sure he will do so in the Kenyan league."

"He might have struggled to kick in, but I am sure he will be a goal machine when he adapts to the demands of the league," Odhiambo added.

The former Gor Mahia assistant coach suggested patience for the former Tanzania's national U-23 squad attacker, who managed minutes in Homeboyz' barren draw against Al Hilal

Benghazi in the first leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round and a couple of second-half appearances in league matches.

The gaffer pointed out: "We have to be patient with him just the way we have been with the Kenyan players. I have 30 players at the camp who cannot play all at the same time."

"I have been rotating the team to give each player a fair chance and get results. Paul's time is coming," he assured.

Homeboyz had, last weekend, been slated to lock horns with Ulinzi Stars at the Lang'ata Sports Complex.



(L-R) Lions District 411c Club Tanzania's Governor Happiness Nkiya, coordinator of the Run For Sight race Vikash Shah, Rotary e-Club of Masaki's president Leena Kapadia, Asas Company's representative Abdul Twalib, Travelport Company's Manager Sarfarazali Chagani, Creative Director of 78 Inc. Reena Pandya, and the coordinator of Run For Sight race Rashma Shah, pose for a photo during a press conference, held in Dar es Salaam last weekend, for the showdown penned for January 2024 in the city. Masaki Rotary e-Club has organized the race, termed 'Run For Sight', to raise funds to back the provision of eye treatment. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Azam FC defender reflects on lessons learned with Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC right-back Lusajo Mwaikenda has revealed that he can handle pressure better after featuring for the senior national football squad, Taifa Stars, as the side locked horns with Niger and Morocco in the African qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

Mwaikenda was drafted into Taifa Stars' final squad that played the two matches in Dar es Salaam last week and at Stade de Marrakech, Morocco on November 18.

Taifa Stars won 1-0 against Niger in Morocco before suffering a 2-0 loss in Morocco at the home venue, Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. The defender could not get the opportunity to debut against Niger as he was not featured even on the bench but played 90 minutes against Morocco at home.

Mwaikenda will have a debut to forget after scoring an own goal to give Morocco the second goal following his attempt to clear fullback Achraf Hakimi's shot.

The ice cream makers' ace revealed watching his colleagues play the first match and thereafter take the pitch in the second competitive match opened him to new ideas about handling pressure.

Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche paired Yanga defenders Bakari Mwamnyeto and Ibrahim Hamad at center back, while Mwaikenda was the right fullback, and Novatus Miroshi, who plies his trade in Ukraine with Shakhtar, was at left fullback in the match against Morocco.

Mwaikenda said he learned from Haji Mnoga, who played at right midfield, as well as the defenders - that have experience



Azam FC fullback, Lusajo Mwaikenda.

in big games and the rest of the team - how they conducted themselves when under pressure from opponents.

"I drew lessons from the two matches. I feel I can handle pressure and defend better than I used to a few weeks ago," he highlighted as one of the benefits of being on the nation-

al team," the defender noted.

The 20-year-old also revealed that Amrouche shared with him tips for improving his game, adding he intends to work on such instructions during league assignments.

The Azam FC academy graduate, who was also briefly on loan at Kinondoni Municipal Council

FC last season, said he will capitalize on the playing time at his club and polish himself so he can be ready for next year's national team assignments.

"The coach helped me see some of the areas I need to improve on. He spent time with me, highlighting my strengths and weaknesses," he added.

Artist Harmonize releases fourth album 'Visit Bongo'

By Guardian Correspondent

POPULAR Tanzanian artist Harmonize has once again captivated global audiences with the release of his highly anticipated fourth studio album, titled 'Visit Bongo'.

This 14-track masterpiece, showcasing a fusion of Bongo Flava, Afrobeat, Rnb, and Amapiano sounds, invites fans on a musical journey through the diverse landscapes of Tanzania.

The tracklist for an album by the musician, whose original name is Rajab Abdul Kahali, includes songs - 'Personal Trainer', 'Hallelujah', 'Best Woman', 'Side Nigga', 'Sijalewa', 'Boss', and 'Wangu Mimi'.

'Zanzibar' (feat. Bruce Melodie), 'Sjji', 'Tena', 'Hawaniwezi', 'Dear X', 'Single Again Remix' (feat. Nkosazana Daughter), and 'Single Again' wrap up the album.

The album's title, 'Visit Bongo', serves as a beckoning call to Harmonize's global fanbase, encouraging them to explore the richness of Tanzania's wildlife and culture.

The track 'Best Woman' holds a special place in Harmonize's heart as a dedication to his beloved mother, Mama Konde (Mama Harmonize), and all the beautiful mothers around the

world. It is a heartfelt homage to the strength, love, and resilience embodied by mothers globally.

The 'Visit Bongo' album features collaborations that transcend borders, including the soulful partnership with Rwanda's Bruce Melodie on the track 'Zanzibar' and a magnetic remix of 'Single Again' with South Africa's Nkosazana Daughter.

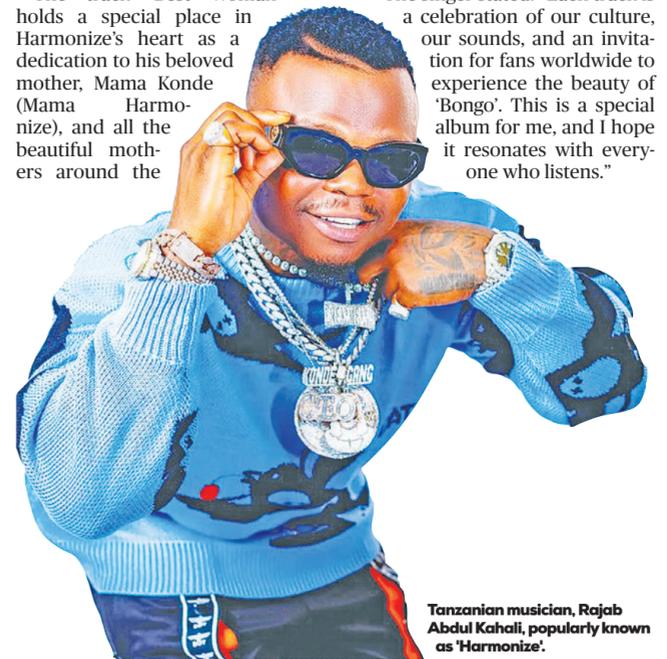
This release marks Harmonize's fourth studio album, following the success of 'Afro East', 'High School', and 'Made for Us'.

With 'Visit Bongo', Harmonize aims to deliver a musical tapestry that resonates with his home fans, offering a blend of their favourite genres.

Anticipation is already building for Harmonize's upcoming project, which promises a more diverse lineup and an inclination towards a wider global market.

Speaking about the album, Harmonize said: "With 'Visit Bongo', I wanted to create an album that represents the heart and soul of Tanzania."

The singer stated: "Each track is a celebration of our culture, our sounds, and an invitation for fans worldwide to experience the beauty of 'Bongo'. This is a special album for me, and I hope it resonates with everyone who listens."



Tanzanian musician, Rajab Abdul Kahali, popularly known as 'Harmonize'.

Tanzania U-18 team's coach optimistic ahead of CECAFA Championship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Tanzania U-18 Boys team's head coach Habibu Kondo is delighted with the readiness shown by his players ahead of the CECAFA U-18 Championship slated in Kakamega, Kenya.

The squad travelled last weekend as it readied for the opening game against Uganda, with both slotted in Group B.

The competition, which runs in a span of two weeks till December 9, will see eight teams from the East African region battling for supremacy in youth football in the Kenyan cities of Kisumu and Kakamega.

Kondo's charges camped in the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Technical Center in Tanga one week after the conclusion of the CECAFA U-15 Championship which ended with Zanzibar triumphing.

The gaffer stated: "After one week of training at TFF Technical Center, everything has gone according to the plan, I am pleased with the readiness of my players ahead of this competition as we are slated to station in Kakamega."

"We are aware these competitions are tough especially that the youth level has a lot of talents that want to have a breakthrough at senior level with that nature. The boys are motivated and ready to write history," Kondo disclosed.

CECAFA president Wallace Karia,

who is also TFF president, visited the Mainland Tanzania U-18 Boys squad training sessions before jetting off to Kenya as he expressed his expectations heading into the competition.

"I had to grace the training sessions and have the words with the boys to motivate them before they head for the tough competition," the TFF president disclosed.

He stated: "We saw how competitive these competitions were at the U-15 level, and we expect the same intensity at the U-18 Championship."

"Teams that played the semi-finals of the U-15 showdown are all in the same group of four teams and two clusters in this tournament, the nature of the competition is expected to be tough but, with the readiness of the players, I expect them to be ruthless and ambitious in this tournament," Karia noted.

Group A is made up of Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan whereas Group B consists of Mainland Tanzania, Zanzibar, South Sudan, and Uganda.

After the group stage encounters, four teams will qualify for the semi-finals which will take place on December 5 at Kisumu.

The final-scheduled for December 9- will also be played at the Kisumu Sports Stadium. Mainland Tanzania will be aiming to lift the showdown's trophy and use the competition as a means for grooming the junior footballers.

Liverpool hold Man City as Arsenal go top

LONDON

TRENT Alexander-Arnold's late equaliser rescued Liverpool in their 1-1 draw at title rivals Manchester City, as Arsenal snatched top spot in the Premier League with a dramatic 1-0 win at Brentford on Saturday.

Alexander-Arnold struck 10 minutes from the end of a tense summit meeting at the Etihad Stadium after Haaland's landmark strike looked like extending City's record home winning run.

City had won their previous 23 games on home turf in all competitions, but Liverpool's escape act gave Arsenal the chance to leapfrog both of them into pole position.

Haaland converted Nathan Ake's pass with a fine finish from just inside the area in the 27th minute, reaching his half-century of Premier League goals in record time in his 48th appearance.

Pep Guardiola's men went flat after that and Alexander-Arnold made them pay, drilling his shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area before celebrating by putting a finger to his lips the City fans.

"It's a tough place to come. If we'd played really well today, we could have won, but we didn't. We played OK," Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said.

"For the moment we're in, we should take the point as a success. I have nothing to complain about."



Manchester City's Erling Braut Haaland in action with Liverpool's Wataru Endo at Etihad Stadium, Manchester, Britain - November 25, 2023. REUTERS

Guardiola was involved in a heated exchange of words with Liverpool forward Darwin Nunez at the final whistle, with Klopp having to lead his player away from the confrontation.

"That was an excellent performance. I'm really proud that after eight years we are still playing that way. We were really good in all departments and needed to be against an incredible team," Guardiola said.

Arsenal made the most of that

result, taking first place thanks to Kai Havertz's late goal in west London.

Havertz was a Champions League final hero for Chelsea in 2021, but he has endured a torrid time since crossing London to join Arsenal in the close-season.

The 24-year-old midfielder finally gave a glimpse of why Mikel Arteta splashed out £65 million (\$80 million) to sign him when he met Bukayo Saka's cross with a close-range header in the 89th

minute.

- 'Soft' Chelsea -

Havertz's second goal for Arsenal was his first in his last 10 appearances, moving his team one point clear of second placed Manchester City.

"You can see how much they love him (Havertz) and what he brings to the team. The goal was at the perfect time and it was perfect execution, as big players do," Arteta said.

At St James' Park, injury-hit New-

castle crushed Chelsea 4-1 as Blues boss Mauricio Pochettino labelled his side "soft".

Sixth placed Newcastle were stretched so thin that Eddie Howe had to name three goalkeepers among his substitutes.

But they ignored their fitness issues to bounce back from successive defeats against Bournemouth and Borussia Dortmund.

Newcastle striker Alexander Isak fired home from Lewis Mi-

ley's pass to open the scoring in the 13th minute.

Chelsea's Raheem Sterling equalised with a superb free-kick 10 minutes later, but Jamaal Lascelles restored Newcastle's advantage with a header on the hour.

And less than 60 seconds later, Joelinton punished Thiago Silva after the Chelsea defender mis-controlled Cole Palmer's pass.

Chelsea right-back Reece James was sent off for a second booking in the 73rd minute and Newcastle rounded off their demolition 10 minutes later when Anthony Gordon slotted home.

It was the heaviest defeat of Pochettino's first season in charge and the second successive game that Chelsea conceded four goals.

"We were so soft in every single challenge. We didn't show that we were playing for something important. That's what makes me angry and disappointed," Pochettino said.

Fourth bottom Luton secured their first home league win this season as Crystal Palace were beaten 2-1 at Kenilworth Road.

West Ham staged a late fight-back to steal a 2-1 win that added to rock bottom Burnley's relegation fears.

Brighton won for the first time in seven league games as Joao Pedro inspired a 3-2 victory at Nottingham Forest.

Marcus Tavernier scored twice as Bournemouth won 3-1 at third bottom Sheffield United.

AFP

Mauricio Pochettino threatens to cancel Chelsea's day off after defeat by Newcastle

By Mike McGrath

Mauricio Pochettino threatened to cancel the day off for his Chelsea players, such as his anger and disappointment at their spectacular collapse at St James' Park.

Watching from the directors' box while serving his touchline ban, Pochettino's saw his defence lose its shape and players lose their discipline. The mini-revival during the past month is over.

Conceding four against Manchester City before the international break was forgivable, even if it exposed some of their weaknesses. Conceding four here felt different altogether. Pochettino did not hold back at criticising his players, calling them "soft" and lacking maturity. Worryingly, he did not see enough fight from them.

Alexander Isak, Jamaal Lascelles, Joelinton and Anthony Gordon were on the scoresheet on one of the best afternoons of Newcastle United's season, although their goals were also gift-wrapped, with Chelsea's back-line guilty of lapses in concentration. The errors came at the back, but Pochettino's entire team were to blame. Seeing their captain Reece James dismissed added to the manager's fury.

"We were talking in the dressing room after the game, we should go directly to the hotel and sleep, and start to train early in the morning and not have a day off," said Pochettino. "We shouldn't just blame the players, we need to blame altogether and this is the process of learning and understanding that we want to compete at the level people think we should compete at. We have a very talented squad but to compete is different to playing."

It is back to the Cobham training pitches this week for Pochettino. Those results against Arsenal, Tottenham and City raised hope of a corner being turned but this was a huge blow. He was suspended from the technical area for his yellow card against City and could only watch on as the afternoon unravelled.

The work must start with the back-line, as they looked likely to concede whenever Newcastle attacked. Thiago Silva, as glittering as his career has been,

looked his 39 years when he gifted Joelinton's goal. Benoit Badiashile's positioning had a hand in two of the goals.

"I'm disappointed and angry. It is normal to blame yourselves after this type of performance and we need to blame ourselves," Pochettino said. "We conceded so easily, that is why I am so disappointed but it is not just our defensive line. It was our worst game of the season and we have to blame ourselves."

"I am not talking about mistakes, I am talking about energy and we were not prepared in the best way to compete today, that is my concern. We were so soft in every single challenge. We didn't show that we were playing for something important."

"It is about showing personality and character. We need to be more solid in this idea that my team-mate will help me if I made a mistake. We have to be ready to compete. We can all play football but to be ready to compete, we weren't ready. Against Manchester City we were focused and fought to the end. The big teams perform this way every three days and that is what we need to do."

The first signs of Chelsea's back-line getting dragged out of shape came in the 13th minute when Isak opened the scoring on his return to action after a groin problem. Newcastle simply worked the ball around the penalty area until Isak became free, helped by Badiashile being on one frequency and Marc Cucurella on another.

With Isak played on-side, Lewis Miley found him with a neat pass between the out-of-position Chelsea defender, with Isak finishing confidently. Miley,

17, was starting his first Premier League game at St James' Park.

Like they needed to do against City, Chelsea launched a fightback and got themselves back into the game through Raheem Sterling's equaliser. He won the free-kick from from which he scored, racing towards the penalty area and getting a shove from Kieran Trippier. "He's falling over," Trippier could be seen saying to referee Simon Hooper. Sterling took full advantage, curling his set-piece over the wall and into the top corner.

With the game in the balance, it came down to those lapses of concentration that meant Chelsea collapsed in such spectacular fashion. Newcastle worked another free-kick in front of Pochettino's defence, getting Gordon on the ball. Lascelles was left unmarked to time his run and plant a header past Robert Sanchez.

Thiago's mistake created the third goal. He was under little pressure when Joelinton ambled towards him, but one slip and his fellow Brazilian was through, with the whole of the goal to aim for as Sanchez had no time to position himself.

James got his second yellow card of the afternoon when he hauled back Gordon after a mistake saw the Newcastle winger in a dangerous position. And it was Gordon who added the fourth, carrying the ball into the penalty area and getting around Badiashile again before finishing.

The only negative for Newcastle was that it emerged Joe Willock has suffered a recurrence of an Achilles injury, adding to the injury problems for Eddie Howe, whose squad is so stretched that he named three goalkeepers in the bench.

"It was such an important win for us with the position we are in and the stretched resources," said Howe. "It says a lot about the character of the team and facing what is in front of us." **THE TELEGRAPH**

Havertz is Arsenal's hero, but under-pressure Ramsdale fails to impress

By Sonia Twigg

KAI Havertz stole the headlines with a late winner to lift Arsenal to the summit of the Premier League, but Aaron Ramsdale will be left relieved to walk away with a clean sheet after an unconvincing performance at Brentford.

Brentford remained determined in their tactics and press, forcing the game to almost grind to a halt at times. It looked to be heading for a goalless draw before Havertz headed into the back of the net from close range to secure all three points for the Gunners in the 89th minute and ensure they finish the weekend top of the table for the first time this season.

Lengthy stoppages accompanied every set piece and neither side imposed themselves on the match until the inspired decision to swap Gabriel Martinelli with Havertz paid off in the final minutes.

Before the winner, much of the focus surrounded Ramsdale who had not started in goal since 7 September, but with David Raya ineligible to face his parent club, was handed a rare opportunity to impress.

However, it was clear throughout the game that the pressure has been mounting on the shot-stopper, especially after



Gareth Southgate's statement saying that should he not establish himself for the Gunners, he may find himself out of the Euro 2024 squad.

With less than 15 minutes on the clock, Ramsdale almost gifted Brentford their opening goal. He paused taking a goal kick, tried to let Gabriel Magalhaes take his place, but the defender fed it back to the goalkeeper who made an error. With Yoane Wissa closing him down and blocking the clearance it was only Declan Rice's quick-thinking to race to the line and make a crucial block that kept the score level.

Arguably Brentford should have pounced, but Bryan Mbeumo took slightly too much time setting up his curled effort and the follow-up from Wissa was wide of the target.

Ramsdale had already been under pressure since the start of the match and made a slightly risky clearance early on that only spurred on the

fans, who taunted him from the outset, comparing him unfavourably to Raya.

That only increased pressure on the goalkeeper, who looked nervous every time he was called on to do something as straightforward as clear the ball. He made another error inside the first half, when he failed to release a throw, hurling the ball down at his toes and having to track backwards immediately as Brentford looked to capitalise.

They consistently put up to six players surrounding Ramsdale any chance there was a corner which only put more stress on the 25 year old. Arsenal thought they had released the pressure on their goalkeeper when Leandro Trossard was on hand to nod the ball over the line, only for it to be ruled offside following a lengthy VAR debate.

Trossard had squandered a couple of opportunities already but was in the right spot when Gabriel Jesus's

header was palmed upwards rather than away by Mark Flekken, but the fourth official ruled the Belgian offside and the scores were level at the break.

In the second half, it was clear even Mikel Arteta was at least slightly concerned when his former number one was called upon, like making hand gestures for Ramsdale to calm down when he had to take a goal kick. But he looked to have settled down, at least slightly, while the game meandered along without any significant chances for either side, coming off his line to clear the ball in a decisive manner.

Ramsdale's opposite number almost repeated his first-half error, when he was almost caught in possession by Eddie Nketiah, but was just able to play a risky pass across the face of goal and the score remained goalless.

The game which had been a drab affair, sparked into life in the final 15 minutes. Oleksandr Zinchenko had to repeat Rice's first half effort, making a key block to deny substitute Neal Maupay's header from crossing the line before Havertz's winner.

Arsenal will walk away at the top of the Premier League, but it was far from a complete performance.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Mauricio Pochettino threatens to cancel Chelsea's day off after defeat by Newcastle



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TPA athletes shine in 2023 SHIMMUTA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) team emerged as the overall winners of this year's edition of the Inter-Parastatal and Non-Parastatal Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

Speaking after the final games, TPA Human Resources Manager, Mussa Saidi Msabimana, hailed all TPA teams for emerging the overall winners, adding the win was a result of good preparations the teams embarked on ahead of the games.

"Let me congratulate all athletes from our teams, you have done Tanzania Ports Authority proud. We are very happy with this success," Msabimana revealed.

"This has been achieved due to the good preparations we had before the games. Next year, we hope to continue from where we stopped," he said.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule, the guest of honour during the closing of the games, hailed the TPA team for emerging as the overall winners of the games.

She appealed to all parastatal and ministries to prepare well for next year's event and she assured all teams that the government is committed to backing sports development in the country.

To emerge as the games' overall winners, the TPA basketball team outclassed the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) squad 66-25 in the sport's final.

In netball, the TPA side beat the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) team 53-36 while in tug-of-war, the TPA women's and men's teams overpowered the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) team and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) team respectively.

In the draft game's women's category, TPA outfit's player Celina Simon settled for third position and the team also won the sack race. In men's 200m and 100m events for athletics, the TPA team emerged as champion and runner-up respectively.

The TPA team had the last laugh in athletics' men's 400m showdown, whereas the squad ended second in the women's category of the race. In the 800m event, the team took second position.

In athletics' 1500m showdown, the TPA women's team emerged in third position while the men's team was in second position, the men's team was also third in the 5000 meters category.

Overall, the TPA's athletics squad secured the top position in the men's category and third position in the women's category, and TPA's senior athletes' team also emerged victorious.

The SHIMMUTA Games help staff from parastatal organizations and ministries have a healthy body and mind, bringing positive performance in institutions and development in the country.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (R) hands over a certificate of participation to Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) Human Resources Manager Mussa Saidi Msabimana after the institution's team ended as the overall winner of this year's edition of Inter-Parastatal and Non-Parastatal Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games which took place in the region last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY

Simba coach angry after CAF CL draw with ASEC Mimosas



Simba SC's winger, Said Ntibazonkiza, negotiates his way past ASEC Mimosas player when the clubs met in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B clash in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC interim head coach Daniel Cadena felt angry after the club had fumbled a 1-0 lead for the 1-1 draw with ASEC Mimosas in the opening CAF Champions League Group B game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Said Ntibazonkiza gave Simba SC the lead with a well-taken penalty in the 44th minute, but Serge Pokou leveled 13 minutes from time to earn the Ivorian football giants a share of the spoils.

In the first half, Simba SC dominated possession from the off and every attack seemed to build up through Dennis Kibu but was let down by poor decision-making in the final third. ASEC Mimosas were happy to sit back and look to counter-attack.

After the break, ASEC Mimosas came out strongly and surged forward to keep Simba SC under pressure. Indeed, their first foray into Simba SC's penalty area almost led to an opportunity for Moise Kabore to score in the 51st minute.

Four minutes later, Beugre Gbakre's right-footed shot from outside the box forced Simba SC goalkeeper Ayoub

Lakred into a fingertip save that resulted in a fruitless corner kick for ASEC Mimosas.

To contain ASEC Mimosas' increasingly dangerous attacks, Cadena made tactical changes as Sadio Kanoute and Luis Miquissone replaced Che Malone and Fabrice Ngoma.

However, the substitutions only emboldened ASEC Mimosas to venture to keep attacking.

A well-orchestrated build-

up ended with Pokou's left-footed shot from the center of the box beating goalkeeper Lakred for a deserved equalizer. The results stretched Simba SC's winless run to three games.

In his post-match reaction, Cadena acknowledged ASEC Mimosas was the better team in the second half though he was angry with the mistake that led to the equalizer.

"We started well, had several chances but did not score. In the second half

ASEC Mimosas played well," Cadena told reporters after the game.

"I wanted to win, to score goals but it is football, everything is possible," the interim head coach disclosed.

The gaffer stated: "We had a plan but we needed good decision-making. Normally if you want the player to do what I need then you need time. We made one mistake and conceded one goal. I am very angry."

Cadena admitted Simba

SC has a lot to do but believes the results are not pivotal, with five games still to play.

Simba SC will look to redeem itself in the squad's next Group B encounter when the squad travels to Botswana to face Jwaneng Galaxy FC on Saturday.

Jwaneng Galaxy FC knocked Simba SC out of the CAF Champions League in 2021 and won 1-0 away to Moroccan giants Wydad AC in their opening game.

Singida Fountain Gate FC in search of first Tz PL home victory, hosts Coastal Union

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC supporters will be confident of witnessing the club registering its first home win in the NBC Premier League this season when the outfit confronts Coastal Union at Liti Stadium.

Singida Fountain Gate FC, aiming to get into the top four, is winless on home soil this season after playing five games.

They came very close to getting all three points for the first time at Liti Stadium, in a tie that culminated in a 2-2 draw with Ihefu SC last time out, fumbling a 2-0 goal lead in the second half.

On the other hand, despite the winless home record, Singida Fountain Gate FC is now on a two-game winning streak.



Singida Fountain Gate FC's head coach Ricardo Ferreira.

They have won at Lake Tanganyika Stadium against Mashujaa FC and defeated Dodoma Jiji FC at Jamhuri Stadium in their last two away outings.

As a result, the ambitious home side is currently sitting fifth in the table, a point outside the CAF Confederation Cup spot.

They seem to have shrugged

off their slow start and will be confident of putting to the sword Coastal Union for their first three points at home. It has been another mediocre start to the season for perennial strugglers Coastal Union.

Currently, the club is in 11th spot and with 10 points, staying just two points above the relegation zone. However, it is worth noting that Coastal Union is undefeated in four of the club's last five matches, including draws with Namungo FC (home) and Ihefu SC (away).

Moreover, despite Coastal Union's poor record on the road, a 1-0 victory at Tanzania Prisons last time out ended an eleven-game winless away run for the former in the league. The victory over Prisons in Mbeya means Coastal Union has now won two of the squad's last five games.

With the exit of Congolese tactician Mwinyi Zahera, it was a winning start for new head coach David Ouma who led Coastal Union for the first time against Tanzania Prisons.

A win here for Ouma's men could bring them to as high as eighth in the table and above Namungo FC, as the former trailed the ninth-placed squad, nicknamed 'Southern Killers', by just one point and Kagera Sugar (eighth) by three points. However, they also need a few results to go in their favour.

In head-to-head, this will be the third top-flight meeting between the two sides. Their first-ever game ended with a Coastal Union 2-1 victory on the road in December.

The reverse fixture, held at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga in March, was a one-all stalemate.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

