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# Samia unveils ten year clean cooking energy shift process

*The 10 year strategy will be a tool for collective efforts in mitigating climate change and ensuring the use of clean cooking energy among Tanzanians*

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday launched a \$1.8bn (4trn/-) 10-year national clean cooking energy programme.

At an event in the commercial capital, the president directed key agencies to facilitate the proper implementation of the programme, aimed at mitigating the main effects of climate change.

She expressed concerns over the intensity of harmful effects of unsafe cooking energy like firewood and charcoal, especially on women, demanding that the strategy be included in the envisaged National Development Vision 2050.

The government needs to establish a specialised fund to facilitate the mobilisation of funds for accessing clean cooking energy, she said, hinting that the performance of regional commissioners will partly be evaluated in relation to this agenda.

"Clean cooking energy access should be part of the performance grading criteria to ensure the agenda reaches the majority of the population," she said.

In the next three months the Vice Presi-

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan listens to Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, shortly before launching the national strategy for the use of clean energy for cooking in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

## SPORTS

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**Azam host Simba in a battle for CAF Champions League football**

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**Hummels stuns Mbappe and PSG to take Dortmund to Champions League final**

## Diseases, crocodile attacks feared as Lake Victoria water level rises

*The average flow of water from the Kagera River had increased from 198.28 cubic meters per second to 325.19 during the past month on average*

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

RISING water levels in Lake Victoria are causing a vast impact on the Lake

Zone regions, with 519 households left without shelter after floods engulfed hundreds of houses.

The situation also triggered fears of

disease outbreaks and invasion of crocodiles from the edges of Lake Victoria as its vegetated wetlands hold a large population of Nile crocodiles, with recent reports affirming that 19 people were killed by crocodiles in the past five years.

The areas exposed to danger stretch numerous inroads of Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions, as the average water level in the lake has increased from 1,134ft above sea level to 1,134.86ft at the

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## WHO signs MoUs with 11 city non-state actors

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with eleven non-state actors to advance health services countrywide.

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, the WHO

country representative, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the MoUs signify commitment to working hand in hand with various organizations and entities to advance public health needs.

NGOs signing up were listed as the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), the Catholic Relief

Services, Doctors with Africa-CUAMM, Sikika and Mzombe University, while others are Tanzania Health Summit, African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF), International Health Institute (IHI), Raising-Up Friendship Foundation (RUFFO) and the Muhim-

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## 'City primary school pupils sleep in class due to drugs'

By Guardian Reporter

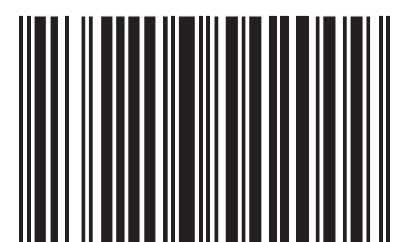
THE National Assembly yesterday instructed the government to make a follow up on claims that up to half of the pupils at Ukombozi Primary School in Saranga Ward, Ubungo District in the city of Dar es Salaam sleep during classes due to drug use.

Session chairman Deodatus Mwanyika issued these instructions yesterday after Kibamba MP Issa Mtemvu declared that there is a problem with children in his constituency and in the school.

He said the school has 1,400 children where at around 11 am, more than 70 percent of the pupils habitually fall asleep in their classrooms, citing the reason for this situation as repeated use of intoxicating drugs.

'This situation is bad for the upbringing of the children and the entire community, the MP stated, noting that it is a good school built at a

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## Diseases, crocodile attacks feared as Lake Victoria water level rises

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moment, with the water level taken by meteorologists on April 24, 2024.

The water level rise has caused damage to roads and houses are being invaded by water, where in Simiyu Region about 413 households made uninhabitable after being surrounded by water.

Athumani Saidi, a Busega District resident in the region, said his house is located more than 600 meters from the lake edge but water has reached the residence pushing out people while igniting foot diseases since April 28.

Faidha Salim, the district commissioner, said that the district authorities had instructed the displaced people to move to schools, citing the Anthony Mtaka Secondary School. There are hopes that the water will be receding, she said, asking people to take extra precautions when planning to build houses or relocating from their present homes.

Abeid Mussa, a local leader in the area, said that on the lake shores, 34 houses have been surrounded by water and 82 people have fled to safer places, while another resident, Grace Jumanne described the situation as appalling.

If nothing is done disease outbreaks will be in the corner as toilets are equally in bad shape, a

## 'City primary school pupils sleep in class due to drugs'

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cost of more than 400m/-.

Wrapping up the morning session, he referred to "a statement made by the Kibamba MP that could cause trouble about the morals of our children.

"We're told that hundreds of children are drunk at 11 am. I think the government should follow up and bring information to Parliament," he instructed

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) took up those instructions, saying the matter has shocked the government.

A school with more than 1,000 children has 600 pupils sleeping in classrooms after using drugs, she

situation also noticed in other communities on the edge of the lake in other districts.

Nyasahungu Island in the lake is among islets said to have been temporarily submerged, with 20 households largely submerged.

Musoma district commissioner Dr Halfan Haule acknowledged the reports, noting that the district authorities were taking steps to evacuate residents of the island, with no deaths or injuries reported so far.

At Rubuka, one among 12 islands in the district, four households were submerged and the household members are being kept at the Rubuka Health Centre and a number of them are being sheltered by neighbours.

In Chato District, Geita Region, rising water levels had disrupted life in homes, damaged roads and hindered activities of the Beach Management Unit (BMU), now largely under water.

Gerald Itimbula, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) head of communications and public relations, said the increase in Lake Victoria water level was the highest in more than 50 years.

The average flow of water from the Kagera River had increased from 198.28 cubic meters per second to 325.19 during the past month on average, he added.

exclaimed, affirming that the government has worked hard to fight the use of drugs.

Special efforts have been made with regard to children in primary and secondary schools, she said, informing the MPs that in the current education systems if there is a deficiency in failing to identify the issue early, it can only be unfortunate.

"On behalf of the government, I am receiving instructions from the chair and we will follow up to save the children from the said epidemic," he declared.

The government shall follow up on how the education system works and how it fails to manage this or that educational institution so that the children are redirected towards the right values, she added.

## AstraZeneca withdraws its Covid-19 vaccine from sale

By Special Correspondent

Giant pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca has formally asked the European Medicines Agency to withdraw its COVID-19 vaccine authorization.

In an update on the European Medicines Agency's website yesterday, the regulator said that the approval for AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria had been withdrawn "at the request of the marketing authorization holder."

The vaccine, initially approved in January 2021, faced safety concerns over rare blood clots, prompting various countries to halt its use temporarily.

ily.

While the EU regulator determined that the overall risk was low, doubts lingered. Additionally, limited data on its effectiveness in older adults led to initial restrictions.

Billions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were distributed to poorer countries through a U.N.-coordinated program, as it was cheaper and easier to produce and distribute. However, studies later suggested that the pricier messenger RNA vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna provided better protection against COVID-19 and its many variants, and most countries switched to those shots.

## Kenya continues with demolition of informal settlements in Nairobi

NAIROBI

KENYA'S government has continued the forceful eviction of people living in most of the informal settlements in Nairobi that are next to rivers.

On Tuesday, President William Ruto ordered the evacuation of all homes along the nation's waterways.

The announcement came a day after a torrent of water swept away scores of people in an area some 50 kilometres east of the capital.

Tensions were high in Nairobi's settlements on Tuesday with residents saying they were caught unawares, despite the 48-hour ultimatum to move lapsing five days ago.

As anguished residents watched the demolition of their homes, many directed their pain at President William Ruto saying his government had failed them.

"Ruto we voted for you because you said you will safeguard the poor, now are you helping the poor or you are actually finishing them. If you plan to finish poor people then just bomb us all and get it done with," said resident Elizabeth Katana.

As excavators and bulldozers pulled down structures, some residents watched helplessly as others tried to grab iron sheets, timber, and anything of value they could get their hands on.

The death toll in weeks of flooding and landslides caused by torrential rain has risen to over 200.

The Interior Ministry said earlier this week that 164 people are still missing, with a total of 42,526 households displaced by the ongoing flooding, affecting over 210,000 people. It also said it has begun setting up camps in various parts of the country to host those displaced by the flooding.



Drivers of cars and motorcycles negotiate their way on the damaged road at the sparkling shopping area at Mwenge in Kinondoni municipality, Dar es Salaam yesterday, posing plenty of inconvenience to traders and customers interacting in the area. Photo: John Badi

## Samia unveils 10 year clean cooking energy shift process

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dent's Office will have ensured that all institutions that serve more than 100 people have stopped using firewood and charcoal in cooking, she stated.

In 2022, President Samia called for the formulation of a clean cooking energy strategy, citing research findings that 90 percent of the population uses unsafe domestic fuels.

Clean cooking energy offers opportunities for employment and room for collaboration among stakeholders, she said, urging the private sector to be involved in its

implementation.

"Clean cooking energy is a cross-cutting issue needing all stakeholders to work together," she asserted, underlining that the strategy will help the government to mitigate climate change effects.

Data shows up to 466,000 hectares of woodland are lost annually for firewood and upwards of 33,000 people die due effects of unsafe cooking fuel, she said, insisting that this situation cannot be allowed to continue.

The population needs to be protected from hazards of the lack of clean cooking energy, she said, elaborating that Tanzania's devel-

opment journey cannot be realized without the change, urging concerted efforts among stakeholders.

New technologies enabling prepaid gas connections to households will facilitate access to clean cooking energy, she said, noting that the private sector needs to use available strategies to promote the shift from traditional cooking fuel.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said Tanzania is among countries that are highly affected by climate change effects, where unsafe cooking energy is part of the problem.

The 10 year strategy will be a

tool for collective efforts in mitigating climate change and ensuring the use of clean cooking energy among Tanzanians, he stated.

The strategy document offers policy direction on how to execute plans for clean energy cooking nationwide, he stated, noting that government institutions have already started using clean energy.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, said the strategy is geared to ensure that the public as a whole finishes the shift to clean energy in ten years' time, with only about 10 percent of Tanzanians using clean energy at present.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (L) exchanges views with Isimani MP William Lukuvi outside the debating chamber of the National Assembly yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## WHO signs MoUs with 11 city non-state actors

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bili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

He said the partnerships will enable WHO to leverage the expertise, resources and networks of these organizations to address the health challenges the country faces, with the signing of the MoUs signifying shared commitment to strengthening health systems.

This includes disease prevention and control, health promotion and education, research and innovation, he stated, explaining that WHO will collaborate with the various actors to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of health systems in Tanzania.

This relates to key priorities such

as improving access to quality healthcare services, strengthening health workforce development and promoting the use of innovative technologies in healthcare delivery, he stated.

Signing of the MoUs was remarkable in initiating a huge step in Tanzania, where the critical role of partnership to the overall health for all agenda cannot be overemphasised, he said, noting that by signing the MoU, WHO was not only formalising the partnership but also committing to a shared vision of improving public health in the country.

Ambele Mwakilango, the National Public Health Laboratory manager, commended WHO for introducing this initiative, affirming that

the Ministry of Health was working hard to address various service delivery challenges.

These include human resources, health financing, quality healthcare services, non-communicable diseases, plus public-private partnership and community health workers, he explained, asserting that the Ministry of Health seeks to ensure that what is available is distributed across the country.

Rachel Chagonja, chairperson of the National Council of Non-Government Organisations (NaCONGO) said the partnership marks a significant step towards enhancing public health services.

It will similarly promote healthcare access and improve the overall well-being of the people, she said,

lauding the UN agency for recognizing the critical role that NGOs play in delivering healthcare services.

This is particularly the case for under-served communities where governmental resources may be limited, she stated, with MUHAS vice chancellor Prof. Apolinary Kamuhabwa asserting that the university was privileged to be part of the non-state actors group to advance health services in the community.

MUHAS as an academic institution has its role of training human resources as well as conducting research and providing consultancy, he said, while the DUCE principal, Prof Stephen Maluka said that the institution was ready to implement a range of priorities with a view to improving healthcare services.



# Budget extension bolsters road network in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

BUDGET for infrastructure maintenance in Dodoma Region has increased from 12.7bn/- in 2020/2021 to 66.2bn/- in the current budget, it has been said.

Edward Lemelo, regional manager for Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) said this here yesterday when speaking to journalists about the success of his office in the past three years.

Lemelo said the increase in the budget is from the 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 financial year which has increased by 412.77 percent.

He stated that the increase in the budget has helped increase the road network from 171.29 kilometres in 2020/2021 to 309.71 kilometres in 2022/2023.

"Gravel roads have increased from 1,258.65 kilometres in 2020/2021 to 1,827.5 kilometres in 2023/2024, 19 bridges, 45 culverts and 73,822.24 meters long trenches have been built," he said.

"About 470 traffic lights have been installed, new roads with a length of 544.60 kilometres have been opened which did not exist at all; this reflects our slogan that we open roads to the unreachable."

He said that the network of roads in good condition has increased from 10 percent in February 2021 to 34.70 percent in March 2024, noting that roads in bad condition have decreased from 60 percent in February 2021 to 31 percent in March 2024.

According to him, during the past three years, Tarura in Dodoma region increased work tools and improved the working environment for employees.

"Eight new vehicles have been purchased and distributed to offices of district and regional managers; road construction equipment have also been purchased and handed over to Chamwino District manager. The purchase of work tools eased

the work and increased efficiency of the agency's work," he said.

He said that the number of employees has increased from 69 in 2021 to 84 in 2024, including cadres that previously did not exist such as the internal auditor, economist and community development.

The agency has also implemented some projects, including construction of tarmac roads in the government city measuring 12.6 kilometres, construction of Mwangi - Kisasa - Medelii tarmac road measuring 10.7 kilometres and construction of Swaswa - Mpamaa - Arusha road at tarmac level measuring 8.2 kilometres.

He said that the agency has built at tarmac level the Mlimwa roundabout measuring 1.55 kilometres as well as Machinga Market road of 0.6 kilometre and road around Prime Minister's Residence measuring 2 kilometres.



**Eight new vehicles have been purchased and distributed to offices of district and regional managers; road construction equipment have also been purchased and handed over to Chamwino District manager. The purchase of work tools eased the work and increased efficiency of the agency's work**



Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulid Sumburu (R) exchanges greetings with Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Jerry Silaa at Tanga Airport yesterday. The minister is also chairman of a committee of eight ministers charged with the resolution of a total of 975 land-related disputes reported in different parts of the country. The minister, Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Dunstan Kitandula (in blue shirt) and the Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), Khamis Hamza Khamis (3rd-R), were at the start of a one-day visit to Mkinga District for the purpose. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

# Officials mull turning Lake Babati into tourism hotspot

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Manyara

AUTHORITIES in Manyara Region are planning to make Lake Babati a new tourist attraction by clearing invasive plants currently choking the water body.

Faraja Ngerageza, assistant Manyara Regional Administrative Secretary, said here recently that Babati is one of the few lakes in East Africa located near towns, adding that it has a considerable number of hippos to complement its tourism value.

For years Lake Babati has been

a base for water activities such as boat rides, fishing and hiking along the perimeters of its shores.

"A lake within a town is just as interesting as Kenya's Nairobi National Park near the city," Ngerageza told environment journalists on a working visit under the auspices of the 'Protect Natural Resources' activity supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Ngerageza, investors have already expressed interest to invest in tourist facilities on the shores of Lake Babati, only that some environmental interventions

need to be applied onto the water body to rescue it from disappearing. Lake Babati is Tanzania's only declared hippopotamus reserve. Water horses are usually found during the day on the lake shore amongst the reeds and grasses.

Siltation caused by irresponsible farming activities upstream the rivers that flow into the lake has caused water levels to diminish. Also, the mounds of soil washing into Lake Babati are also a source of weeds and other invasive plants currently covering a large percentage of its water surface.

Members of the Journalists Envi-

ronment Association of Tanzania discovered that human activities, including agriculture and settlements have blocked the passage-way through which hippos migrate between Lake Babati and Lake Hanang' in the neighboring Hanang District.

Ecological experts here say that the hippo route between Babati and Katesh should also be considered as an important wildlife corridor.

During the 1997-1998 heavy El-Niño rains, Lake Babati flooded, sending gushing waters into the adjacent Babati town at a time when Manyara was still part of Arusha Region.

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## SGR train ticket rates to be reviewed further - minister

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TRANSPORT Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has said that the current fare for the standard gauge train will be further reviewed downward so that all groups can choose the class they can afford.

Speaking in Dodoma at the weekend, the minister said that the mandate to announce the final fare rates is vested upon the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

"The review process for the fares proposed initially is still under way and when it is over, the public will be informed," he said.

According to the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), the fare of a ticket depends on the distance and the type of train class one chooses. For instance, the adult fare from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma is set for 59,494/- for the standard class. On the other hand, a child fare is 29,747.2/-

During recent trial rides between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, some Tanzanians raised concern that ordinary people might not afford the tickets.

Masanja Kadogosa, TRC managing director, said that all preparations to start services are going well, adding that they are expected to commence in July this year as directed by the government.

Selemani Kakoso, chairman of the parliamentary committee on infrastructure commended the allocation of 10trn/- for the implementation of the SGR project.

Kakoso said the SGR project is very important in fast-tracking development and economic growth of the country.

He called on the government to finalise the process of getting investors for the Mtwara-Mbamba bay railway via Mhuchuma and Liganga.

Kakoso urged TRC's management to pay contractors promptly and invest in human resources.

The leaders spoke at the conclusion of a capacity building workshop organised by TRC on the SGR project for the members of parliament.



Dr Tatu Nyange, the East Africa representative of the International Community of Women Living With HIV (ICWEA), speaks at a capacity building seminar for student champions to become ambassadors to other students to protect themselves from AIDS, organized by the Dignity and Wellbeing For women Living With HIV in Tanzania (DWWWT), at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Workforce shortage worsens public health emergencies in Africa - CDC

By Guardian Reporter

A CRITICAL shortage of health workforce has worsened the recurrent public health emergencies on the continent, the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has said.

Jean Kaseya, director-general of Africa

CDC, said in a statement at the May 6-8 Africa Health Workforce Investment Forum that while Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for approximately 24 percent of the global disease burden, it is home to only three percent of the world's health workers.

The Africa Health Workforce Investment Forum is now underway in

Windhoek, the capital of Namibia.

The Africa CDC said that in 2023, the continent recorded 166 disease outbreaks, a trend likely to persist in 2024.

The statement said that the shortage of health workers in Africa is projected to reach about 6.1 million by 2030.

Kaseya urged African countries to join

forces to realise the 2017 African Union decision to recruit, train, and deploy two million institutionalised community health workers by 2030.

Noting that investments in the health sector would yield substantial economic returns, Kaseya warned that Africa "will go nowhere if we do not have appropriate health workforce."



**The review process for the fares proposed initially is still under way and when it is over, the public will be informed**



### ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organization that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations, and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organizations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

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TradeMark Africa (TMA), wishes to invite interested qualified, and reputable firms/consortiums to participate in the following tender opportunities:

- CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PROVISION OF TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY (TRA) NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION (NII) TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT [PRQ20231160]

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The closing date for submission is indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified, and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**



### TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE (TIC) RE-ADVERTISEMENT

#### CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND TOURISM INVESTMENT AT KIMANDOLU IN ARUSHA

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), has allocated 47,324 square metres of land for investment in commercial building and tourism investment development opportunity at the Kimandolu, Arusha site.
- Kimandolu is located approximately 5 Km from Arusha City centre, accessible through old Moshi tarmac road and it is situated alongside the Old Moshi Road. With ideal tourism climatic conditions, high demand of commercial building infrastructure and tourism facilities, Arusha City is well positioned to serve the growing demand of tourist hotel beds, residential apartment and office accommodation demand-supply gap in the Northern tourist/ Commercial circuit.
- Through the Tanzania's five years strategic development plan initiative commercial developers do also stand to gain from complimentary investments opportunities by private investors in infrastructure, and tourism sector.
- Kimandolu investment site for commercial building and tourism investment land allocation process will be guided by the Tanzania Investment Centre approved land allocation manual.
- TIC is now inviting Concept Notes from Investors/ Developers who are interested to invest in commercial building and tourism investment to submit their concepts notes to invest and develop Kimandolu TIC site.
- The following investment site is available-Plot No. 144/2/1 Block "GG" situated at Kimandolu in Arusha Municipality with 47,324 square meters.
- The preliminary evaluation criteria for the Concept Notes are as follows:
  - Quality of the concept note and proposed project/investment;
  - Alignment to national priorities: Vision 2025 and the 5-year development plan;
  - Value for money in terms of benefits to TIC (including but not limited to land lease rental and concession fee), surrounding community and the Government of Tanzania at large including jobs, government revenues etc;
  - Financial capacity for the prospective investor; and
  - Investor track record or experience in undertaking similar projects; and
  - Project development plan, timelines and proposed land lease period.
- Preferred Developer who meets evaluation criteria will be obtained inline within TIC land bank allocation procedures and guidelines;
- Applicants who had earlier on submitted their proposal prior issuance of this notice are required to submit their application in-line with this notice requirements;
- The deadline for Concept Note submission shall be on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 02:00pm (EAT)**. The hard copy of the proposal should be submitted to

**Executive Director**  
Tanzania Investment Centre (Head Office)  
Golden Jubilee Tower, 1st Floor, Ohio Street,  
P.O.Box 938, Dar es Salaam,  
Tanzania.

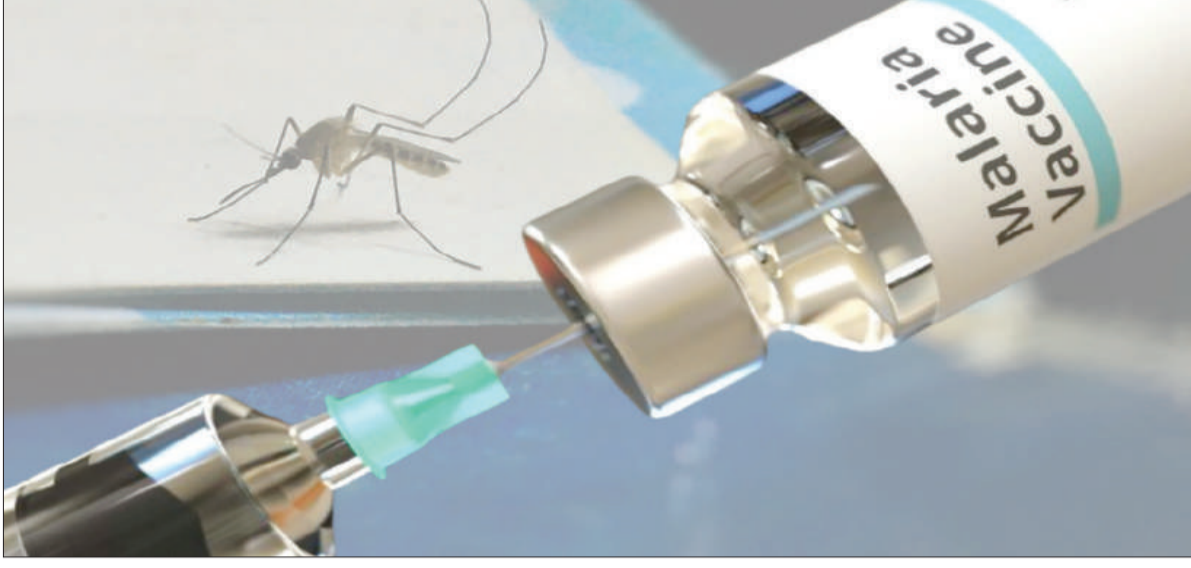
Please note that, late submission will not be accepted.

Proposal must be clearly marked: **Concept Note for commercial building and tourism investment at TIC Kimandolu Arusha Site.**

Further enquiry should be communicated by E-mail on [info@tic.go.tz](mailto:info@tic.go.tz)



# Stakeholders meet to learn malaria vaccination experience from Ghana



By **Special Correspondent, Accra**

AS part of efforts to support wider introduction and rollout of malaria vaccine, the World Health Organization (WHO), PATH and other partners convened stakeholders from other African countries to learn from Ghana's malaria vaccination experience.

Participants came from Nigeria, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia to for a meeting that took place from 16th to 18th April in Accra which meant to ensure adequate preparation towards new introductions and rollout across the countries.

Drawn from ministries of health, WHO and UNICEF, participants also benefitted from the experience of other countries that have already introduced the vaccines such as Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Sierra Leone.

Since 2019, Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have been rolling out malaria vaccines, with over 2.5 million children already received at least one dose.

In 2024, more than 20 countries in Africa have already introduced the vaccine into routine immunization, with Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Benin, Liberia and Sierra Leone leading the way. The scale-up of malaria vaccines in Africa will increase access to malaria prevention and save tens of thousands of young lives every year.

"Having been delivering malaria vaccine to children across seven regions, Ghana's experience and lessons will be key to the introduction and rollout of the vaccine in countries that are yet to introduce," said Dr Frank Lule, officer-in-charge of WHO Ghana.

Participants gained insights into vaccine introduction, risk communication, readiness monitoring, supervision and data management among others. Additionally, a field visit to malaria vaccination centres was organized to provide participants with first-hand experience in Ghana's vaccination process.

"In workshops like this, when we exchange information, the result and the impact tend to be greater efficiency with the resources that we have to reach children and

to vaccinate," said Evan Simpson, Director of Vaccine Implementation at PATH.

As Africa continues to shoulder 94 percent of the global malaria burden, the WHO and its partners strengthen malaria control efforts with vaccines being the latest in the control toolbox.

In January 2024, WHO Regional Office for Africa established the Accelerating Malaria Vaccine Introduction and Rollout in Africa (AMVIRA). This initiative aims to strengthen the provision of state-of-the-art technical support to Member States in their efforts to introduce and roll out malaria vaccines while strengthening partners' coordination at national, regional, and global levels effectively and efficiently.

WHO and partners also leveraged the workshop to address information gaps and share lessons

and best practices to ensure successful vaccine introduction and rollout in countries that are yet to do so.

For participants, the knowledge gained from the country peer learning workshop will help shape their strategies towards effective malaria vaccine rollout. "One of the key lessons I have picked up from Ghana's experiences is the role of effective coordination and collaboration. Though we have a coordination team, we are going to strengthen this team through the addition of more stakeholders, including communities and civil society organizations," said Dr Yao Kossia, Deputy Manager, and Expanded Vaccination Programme in Côte d'Ivoire.

Highlighting the significance of the knowledge gained, Dr Garba Ahmed-Rufai, Director for Disease Control and Immunization

of Nigeria noted: "What we have learned is programming in terms of the rollout, and the timing of the doses, and the lessons learnt. And knowing what the problems are from the other countries, we would just adjust accordingly, so that we can overcome all of that".

In addition to facilitating cross-learning, WHO through the AMVIRA initiative is enhancing the capacity of countries to ensure effective introductions and rollout. There has been the deployment of experts in immunization, data management, risk communication, and external communication to assist 5 countries in efficiently planning and delivering vaccines.

A similar workshop has been held in Cameroon, with more countries expected to participate in other workshops in Benin and Malawi.



## Braeburn International School Arusha

### INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR HEAD OF SERVICES

Braeburn International School Arusha is a co-educational day and boarding school catering for both the international and Tanzanian community. Accredited by the Council of International Schools, we have earned a reputation for high academic standards, a rich extra-curricular programme and a supportive, friendly environment.

Braeburn International School, Arusha wishes to invite applications for the position of **Head of Services**.

The Head of Services (HS) is the focal point for assuring the quality and timeliness of all non-academic and non-administrative, operational functions. The HS is an integral part of the school management team. This position is responsible for providing primary oversight, day-to-day management and hands-on support in projects, facilities and grounds, logistics, transportation, security and risk management.

To Line Manage: transport, procurement, grounds & facilities supervisors, grounds staff, workshop staff and contracted services within operations e.g. security, catering.

The post will be based in the Kisongo campus, but will have oversight of the Njiro campus.

Previous experience of working as (HS) in a school, familiarity with building projects, inventories, transport, security and experience of managing people will be an advantage.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum of 5 years experience in management, with a background in business, logistics and management.
- Proven organizational, analytical and project management skills, including the ability to manage internal and external relationships: vendors, donors, customers, international and national.
- Meticulous attention to detail and accuracy.
- Proficiency in Office software, finance database software, asset management software. Good knowledge of google suites.

The successful candidate will be dedicated to providing the highest standards of work. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Please address your CV and letter of application to: [recruitment@braeburn.sc.tz](mailto:recruitment@braeburn.sc.tz)

**Closing date: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**



**MANTRA TANZANIA**  
ROSATOM

**Mantra Tanzania Limited**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Masaki iKon, Bains Singh Avenue, Masaki  
P.O Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania  
Registration No: 29785  
Tel: +255 764 700 440  
e-mail: [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz); [www.uranium1.com](http://www.uranium1.com)

## PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR A URANIUM PLANT IN LIKUYU WARD, NAMTUMBO DISTRICT, RUVUMA REGION.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One Group, Joint Stock Company, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible suppliers and service providers to express their interest (EOI) for the below list.

Package No.	Description
0371_M015	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BELT MAGNET FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M016	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF METAL DETECTORS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M017	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SOLUTION PUMPS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M024	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SPIRAL CLASSIFIER FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M025	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SPIRAL FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M028	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WEIGHTOMETER FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M029	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ROM ORE FEEDER FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M032	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONLINE MINERAL ANALYSER FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M033	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONVEYOR TAKE-UP WINCHES FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M036	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PONTOON (TSF RETURN WATER) FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M037	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WEIGHBRIDGE FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M038	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PREGNANT LEACH SOLUTION PLANT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT

**Interested Companies and business entities are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:**

- Detailed Company Information with an Organization Structure, list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
  - a) Brief scope of work
  - b) Value of work in USD
  - c) Contractual Duration
  - d) Clients name
  - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the Client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services.
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to the Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

Interested bidders for one or more of the packages are required to submit their EOI documents separately indicating the Title and Number of the Tender Package as per Package Number provided in the table above and submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz) and [mantraprocurement@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantraprocurement@uranium1.co.tz) and the hard copy to the below address **31<sup>st</sup> May 2024** at 16.00 hours.

**Managing Director**  
**Mantra Tanzania Ltd**  
**Plot No. 1520, Masaki iKon, Bains Singh Avenue-Masaki**  
**P. O. Box 23451**  
**Dar es Salaam.**  
**Tel +255764700440**



## World Intellectual Property Day: BRELA on awareness campaign

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) has started a campaign to provide education on intellectual property to various groups including higher learning institutions in the country.

Loy Mhando, Brela intellectual property director, said this yesterday when speaking to journalists about World Intellectual Property Day which is marked by Tanzania in Dar es Salaam today.

Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji is scheduled to open officiate the event whose theme is Intellectual property: Building our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity.

She said that Brela has decided to come up with the campaign after realising that many people are not well aware of intellectual property issues hence the need to reach out to people in groups so that they understand in large numbers.

"We have gone to universities; we have talked with investors and traders and we are collaborating with the Commission for Science and Technology COSTECH to reach innovators of various technologies because the commission looks at technology and creativity," she said.

Mhando said that through the collaboration they have identified technologies invented by youth in different regions whereby they have identified 25 youth technologies and Brela has advised them to improve the same in a way that can solve social problems.

"But we make sure their innovators are protected and we prevent other people from using them without their consent. This gives innovators the courage to continue innovating more tools because they know their works will be protected by the agency," she said.

She said that another strategy of the agency is to educate journalists so that they can recognize the rights of innovators, adding that so far they have trained 160 journalists from various media houses.

Regarding the celebrations, she said the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was established with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights of innovators and protecting marks placed on products or services, intellectual property and copyright.

"Tanzania is one of the member countries of WIPO. So, it has been supporting and participating in the efforts by ensuring that it promotes understanding of intellectual property issues as well as protecting them legally," she said.

She said that in this year's celebrations, Brela invited various stakeholders as well as institutions that manage intellectual property issues in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, public institutions and private ones to discuss opportunities, successes and existing challenges.

Mhando said that towards the celebration, BRELA officials provided education about intellectual property in various media houses and encouraged innovators to develop and protect their innovations to benefit them personally and the nation as a whole.

"There will be a discussion about intellectual property involving the private and public sectors who together will discuss opportunities, successes and challenges they encounter and we will sign a cooperation agreement with some institutions involved in intellectual property to ensure that intellectual property becomes useful in technological and economic development," she said.

## Namibia makes impressive step in fight against HIV transmission

By Special Correspondent, Windhoek

NAMIBIA has become the first country in Africa - and the first high-burden country in the world - to reach a key milestone in eliminating mother-to-child transmission of both HIV and viral hepatitis B, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

It said that eastern and southern Africa are home to more than half the world's HIV burden, and the continent accounts for two-thirds of new hepatitis B infections globally.

Namibia is home to more than 200,000 people living with HIV and new infections disproportionately impact women.

"In many countries we are failing our children by not reaching them with the same treatment with which we reach their mothers and other adults," said UNAIDS Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, Anne Githuku-Shongwe.

"Namibia has fought against this injustice and we are proud to celebrate their immense effort to leave no child behind. They serve as a beacon for the entire region," she said.

HIV testing among pregnant women is almost universally available across the country and access to treatment has led to a 70 percent reduction of vertical transmission in the last 20 years.

In 2022, only 4 percent of babies born to mothers living with HIV acquired the virus. And almost 80 percent of infants received a timely birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine, one of the key metrics of success on the path to elimination.

Namibia has integrated primary healthcare with antenatal, child health, and sexual and reproductive health services, and free clinical services and support are widely available.

Based on specific criteria, the WHO has awarded Namibia "silver tier" status for progress on reducing hepatitis B and "bronze tier" for progress on HIV.

"This is a landmark achievement that demonstrates the life-saving possibilities of committed political leadership and effective implementation of public health priorities," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The WHO's Triple Elimination Initiative, to curb the transmission of hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis, aims to safeguard the health of mothers and children and affirm the rights of every child to be born free from the burden of these viruses.



Loy Mhando (C), the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) intellectual property director, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the World Intellectual Property Day being marked today. Left is BRELA chief information officer Theresia Chilambo and on the right is the acting head of the patent section, Neema Kitala. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# WMA nabs, fines 150 traders for tampering with measures

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Mwanza Region last year fined a total of 150 unscrupulous traders who were found tampering with measurements.

Speaking to this paper yesterday in an interview, Hilolimus Mahundi, manager of WMA in Mwanza Region said that 70 of them were impounded in Mwanza city's Nyamagana and Ilemela districts.

Mahundi said that the rest were impounded in other districts forming the region namely Magu, Sengerema, Kwimba, Ukerewe and Misungwi.

He explained that WMA in the region always conducts operations in different business areas to ensure proper use of weights and measures to protect the interest of consumers.

Mahundi asked consumers to make sure that they have knowledge on weights and measures to avoid being exploited by untrustworthy traders who want to maximize profit at the expense

of customers.

Also, he said people should report traders who are suspected to default on proper use of weights and measures to WMA for follow up and legal action.

He noted that sometimes untrustworthy traders exploit people in weights and measures after knowing that some of them want low price items.

"You may find that some traders in a certain area sell items at low prices to attract customers while weights or measures are not correct and therefore exploiting people," he said.

He said that with the agency making efforts to ensure that traders cannot exploit people, it is better if consumers are aware of weights and measures as one of the ways to fight the malpractice by untruthful businesspersons.

WMA was established under the Executive Agency Establishment Order No. 194 of 2002 and charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all measurements involved in trade transactions are accurate, fair and just and remain to be so throughout their use.



Rikizi Pembe Juma (C), the Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister for Zanzibar, listens to Abdallah Kombo (L), a member of the children's consultation board when she met with the board to discuss methods to avoid acts of humiliation and sexual violence yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Regional administrative secretaries from five regions implementing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) nutrition project, namely Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe and Njombe posing with Dr. Festo Dugange, the Regional Administration and Local Governments deputy state minister in President's Office (PO-RALG) at an MoUs signing event in Dodoma yesterday for the project implemented from August 2023 to July 2028. The project targets women of productive age and children under five. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Project targets Aids orphans with houses

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

ORPHANS who lost their parents due to HIV/Aids in Kilimanjaro Region have been given 142 residential houses, thanks to donations from development partners in the past 12 years.

The beneficiary orphans are from Moshi Municipality as well as Moshi Rural, Siha and Hai districts from the year 2012 to date.

The houses have been built by Moshi-based charitable organization Tanzania Women Research Foundation (TAWREF) in collaboration with other development partners.

Dafrosa Itemba, TAWREF managing director told this reporter yesterday that the ongoing Orphans/vulnerable children shelter support (OVC-shelter support) is supported by a Scottish charity organization Vine Trust and implemented since 2012.

She said that Vine Trust will continue supporting projects that aim at helping the needy and in this year, they expect to construct six more residential houses for orphans and vulnerable children in Hai and Moshi District Council.

"During the implementation of our OVC-Shelter support project, some volunteers from Scotland will be here with us for manual work for two weeks between June and July this year," she said.

She commended the role played by Vine Trust for the support which is vital for the welfare of the marginalized children in Tanzania, including orphans and vulnerable children.

"The supported orphans and vulnerable children must be under 16 years who lost their parents to HIV/Aids," she said.

According to Itemba, apart from OVC-shelter support project, her organization is also implementing early childhood development project in some remote areas in Kilimanjaro Region by constructing early child classrooms to make sure that children under eight years get early childhood education, protection, health services and care in good environment.

"Through our research, we learnt that there is no good early childhood education in most of the remote areas for children under eight years as some schools are located more than four kilometres from their homes thus they cannot walk to school," she said.

# Cholera cases surge in Kenya amidst flooding

FLOODING in Kenya's Tana River County has escalated the threat of cholera, with 44 reported cases highlighting concerns about the spread of water-borne diseases.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in a statement on Tuesday emphasized the collaborative efforts between Kenyan authorities, WHO and other agencies to monitor and respond

to health issues exacerbated by the floods nationwide.

"Forty-four cholera cases have been reported in Tana River County, one of the most flood-affected areas. The government of Kenya has mounted a multisectoral emergency response led by the Kenya Disaster Emergency Operations

Centre in the country's capital, Nairobi," Dr Pius Mutuku, medical epidemiologist in the Ministry of Health said.

He confirmed the impact of the floods has caused the closure of 14 health facilities and a shortage of major water treatment plants, "leading to a shortage of potable water for 3,000 people".

Though Tana River County is among the hardest hit by the deluge, local media reported that the impact of the flooding extends beyond Tana River, affecting over a quarter-million individuals across Kenya, with a staggering 238 reported deaths.

Kenya's Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni issued a

stark warning about the looming crisis posed by waterborne diseases if not addressed promptly. Alongside health officials, she distributed water purification supplies in Nairobi, emphasizing the dual threat of contaminated water sources and foodborne illnesses exacerbated by the floods.

The WHO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the government's emergency response efforts, underscoring the importance of swift containment to prevent the escalation of disease outbreaks. To bolster these efforts, the WHO has procured cholera, inter-agency, and pneumonia kits for distribution to key counties, with the capacity to treat approximately 10,000 individuals.



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### BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

**BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of "LOM Ventilation Review".**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 55km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-04-03	<p><b>Bulyanhulu Gold mine- Life of Mine Ventilation Review</b></p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct Ventsim models for the key transition times in the LOM.</li> <li>Evaluate the LOM heat loads for Bulyanhulu and apply these to the Ventsim models.</li> <li>Model ramp temperatures and cooling requirements in the snapshot years at the design surface wet season temperatures.</li> <li>Model the typical temperature rise on levels during the bogging cycle and back-calculate the appropriate design temperatures required to avoid stop job conditions.</li> <li>Provide budget estimate of LOM ventilation and cooling system capital and operating costs.</li> <li>Model the impact on airflow requirements based on fleet size.</li> <li>Calculate airflow requirements.</li> <li>Analyse LOM surface fan requirements</li> <li>Incorporate recommendations into ventilation and refrigeration review report based on all the above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company/Firm profile</li> <li>Detailed &amp; proved history of conducting LOM Ventilation reviews (airflow &amp; heat modelling) in large deep mines across the world for more than 10 years.</li> <li>Consultancy's recent experience with this type of work (include 3 referees that BGML can contact directly)</li> <li>Names of the consultants who will work on this project and their relevant experience with this type of work (include resume)</li> <li>Timing for work to be completed.</li> <li>Detailed breakdown of the work, including methodology and costing</li> </ul>

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualifies as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest 1800hrs on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.


Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of Interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.


Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED



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### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

#### BUL-RFQ-24-04-01 – SUPPLY OF UPPER WEST MAIN SUBSTATION

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

**Main Substation Specifications:**

1 x 33kV outdoor switch yard that will consist of Interlocked line isolator; Outdoor VT's and CT's; Interlocked breaker isolator; 33kV Breaker and Interlocked Transformer isolator.

1 x 33kV/6.6kV Transformer, Apparent Power 10MVA; MVA Base 10MVA; Configuration (Vector Group) Dyn11; Cooling ONAN/ONAF; Voltage Regulation Motorized OLTC (On-load tap changer); Temperature Rise 55/55 Celsius; Impulse withstand Voltage 75kV rms; Lightning Impulse withstand 170kVp; Nominal short circuit level 31.5Ka (Primary side); Nominal short circuit level 25KA (Secondary side); Input voltage 33KV AC; Output voltage 6.6KV AC; 33KV/6.6KV Termination Terminal connector of Primary and Secondary shall be vertical takeoff type and suitable for ACSR Hare; Frequency 50HZ; Impedance Z% +- 7.5%; Phase -3; Conform to Standard IEC 60076; Class 1; Rated Current (Primary) 174.95 Ampere; Rated Current (Secondary) 874.79 Ampere; Type of Dielectric Oil; Surge arrestors (36KV Rating) Transformer mounted-Primary; Surge arrestors (7.2KV Rating) Transformer mounted Secondary.

**1 x Feeder 1 for 800kVA 6.6kV/400V Surface minisub**  
**1 x Feeder 2 for 1500kVA 6.6kV/550V minisub**  
**1 x Feeder 3 for 1500kVA 6.6kV/550 minisub**  
**1 x Feeder 4 for Future Ventilation fans (1000kW)**  
**1 x Feeder 5 for Future Ventilation fans (1000kW)**  
**2 x Spare Feeder (Underground)**

**Key documents**

- Clear and detailed Quotation with all technical specifications, drawings and SLD's
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- BRELA detailed search document indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

**Submission of Quotes:**

- Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com).
- The reference "BUL-RFQ-24-04-01 – SUPPLY OF UPPER WEST MAIN SUBSTATION" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your bid/quote unsuccessful.

**Key Dates:**

- Last date to submit quotes: **16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



THURSDAY 9 MAY, 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Dual system of secondary schooling rises as technical training draws level

INSTEAD of pursuing changes in all secondary education to make it pliable with a technical or practical skills orientation for everyone, as in that case there are dangers of systematic 'deconstruction' of secondary schooling in the accepted sense of the term. News that the government will in the next financial year proceed with the construction of 100 technical and vocational training secondary schools is welcome, to lay the basis of proper technical secondary school as a wide path for that level of education, not one which every student follows. We could even split the secondary education leaving certificate by creating a technical education leaving certificate, and other education levels.

For one thing, it has always been clear that technical orientation is something that can be done after secondary education, and even after university education for that matter, though it will be a different sort of technical orientation depending on job openings or commerce skills. The problem is that there is a hurry to change the curriculum since the breadth of policy makers have struck a thematic convergence that there is no problem of unemployment if people have skills to employ themselves. They want young people out of school to become crafts, stop asking the government for jobs, etc.

At that point the matter takes a social or class parameter, that as a country we have an interest in retaining secondary education, high school and college education as it has always been and even improving it, but the curriculum format explained at the start of the year as being rolled out is different. It says that academic content has been cut down to make way

for practicals and skills building lessons, which means it is improved primary school, and college soon becomes fairly improved secondary school. Current weaknesses that were already clear will steeply get worse.

That is one reason why the Ministry of Education needs to apply skills oriented education to the technical and vocational training schools or colleges that exist or are being built, and they specialize in that area. This implies that pupils who ordinarily would be selected for secondary school will have to choose between secondary school as such and technical secondary school, as vocational training per se is for primary school leavers. One aspect is the pupil finishing primary school making a selection but also the parent, as he may choose ordinary schooling and bring up capital for some business, where the only skill vital would be computer applications, related to the particular sphere of commercial liking.

The ministry's 2024/25 budget estimates pegged at 1.97trn/- postulate that 26 schools will commence enrolment next January, but the crucial issue is that this should not be transformation of schooling to a skills-oriented education system but adding a skills element. Some will join right from primary school while those failing to get sufficient marks for high school selection could opt to 'repeat' not in the same academic content secondary schools but in technical training or vocational orientation. This plethora of schools should be seen as social facility for skills training, to lessen complaints on jobs.

Building 65 vocational training colleges while 29 vocational colleges up and running is right on time.

## FCT needs to defend competition, not seeking popularity with clients

MAKING fair rulings to win clients' trust is a mission demanded on the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT), which handles appeals brought before it from the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), where a senior regional administration official saw it as tied to winning the trust of its clients. That was definitely true but it is unclear if it is also helpful in other regards, for instance what sort of spirit to uphold in its work, as trust is multifaceted in how it is won. There is no need to repeat the well-known judicial feature that a client is happy when he or she wins the case, which waylays the issue of trust.

As a matter of fact, there is a difference between the spirit of an organ like FCT and courts in general, despite that in the final analysis they resemble the courts, namely to stick to the facts of the case and make the most reasoned judgments based on the evidence provided.

Nevertheless the tribunal has been formed with a specific agenda in mind, as well as the commission with which it works in tandem rather than above it, namely to uphold competitive statutes and behaviour not just among economic entities but also on the part of public agencies. The trap is that competition is often not at the heart of what any of these entities may be doing, whether it is private firms or public agencies, organisations.

Clients have a way of looking closely at the behaviour of regulatory agencies to see where their minds are, and at the same time there are pressures at the state level for reading statutes for instance on regulating competition in such a manner that a public agency or commercial entity always wins. Were that to be the case, it is

likely that some public officials or sector bigwigs would take to explain that the tribunal is doing excellent work in providing education for private sector 'learners' of some sort that FCT is there to ensure 'win-win' competition. Duplication is often a sign the state has won, 'too.'

This sort of expectation could indeed win the 'trust' of a whole section of clients, those arising from the state-led part of economic activity, less for operating firms than for regulatory bodies.

In that case raising the issue of trust needs to be pegged directly to earning the trust of the private sector, where it is indifferent if it is the local or foreign private sector, as competition is what underlines private sector activity. State owned commercial bodies often wish to believe they represent the national interest, making it somewhat ludicrous that they lose a case at FCT; at that point the tribunal may lose 'trust.'

Looking at the event organisation and themes emerging in its activities, one notices that it was a seminar aimed at raising awareness among traders especially at the city centre business zone at Kariakoo and the Machinga Complex, a somewhat extended zone. It was not clear what sort of issues can arise from these sources for they are traders, retailers in the main, and not manufacturers (seeking protection of goods) or importers (feeling the pain of protection).

At times the city centre traders squirm at the presence of foreign traders and wish they were not there, whereas they purchase space from local traders, giving them large sums of money to set up shop elsewhere. The foreigners wish to be in city centre vicinity for social purposes, to meet more of those they socialize, and do some work.

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## Do our online media deserve 'right of way' on freedom of expression?

By Neema Mhina

IN today's digital age, online media platforms have become indispensable channels for global communication, offering individuals the unprecedented ability to express their thoughts and opinions freely.

In this connection, it is crucial to explore the intricate relationship between online media and the fundamental human right of freedom of expression, examining both its empowering aspects and the challenges it presents.

Freedom of Expression (FoE) constitutes the fundamental right for individuals to communicate their ideas, opinions and beliefs without government censorship or restraint.

It encompasses various forms of expression, including speech, writing and art. This right is enshrined in Article 9(2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and Article 18(a) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (CURT).

The term 'online media' refers to platforms accessible via the internet that provide information and facilitate communication. These include social media platforms, blogs, online forums and streaming services.

The proliferation of online media has increasingly democratised the dissemination of information, allowing for diverse voices to be heard globally.

While online media have empowered individuals to express themselves and share information, they however also present challenges to freedom of expression. Issues such as online censorship, surveillance, algorithmic biases and misinformation relentlessly threaten to suppress dissenting voices and undermine the quality of online discourse.

The regulatory landscape governing online media in Tanzania is complex and lacks clear guidelines. For instance, Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations GN No. 136/2022 require licensing for online media services, but there are exemptions with regard to certain types of content. This regulatory ambiguity creates challenges for both content creators and consumers.

Comprehensive strategies are needed if we are to safeguard freedom of expression in the digital realm. This includes enhancing legal frameworks to protect individual liberties while also addressing the negative consequences of online media.

Additionally, promoting digital literacy and responsible online behaviour can help mitigate the spread of misinformation and cases of online harassment.

The relationship between online media and freedom of expression is complex and multifaceted. While online media offer unprecedented opportunities for communication and expression, they also present various challenges that ought to be addressed.

By fostering dialogue and

implementing effective policies, we can uphold the principles of free speech while promoting a safe and inclusive online environment.

Phrased a bit differently, online media platforms have become ubiquitous channels for communication, enabling individuals worldwide to express their thoughts and opinions literally without let or hindrance.

The proliferation of social media platforms and digital communication tools has democratised the dissemination of information, amplifying diverse voices and facilitating grassroots activism.

However, this digital landscape is not without its pitfalls as online censorship, surveillance and algorithmic manipulation can stifle or even subdue dissenting voices and disclosures.

The prevalence of misinformation and online harassment undermines the quality and inclusivity of online debates, raising concerns about the possibility of erosion of trust in digital communication channels.

Accordingly, there is every need for compressive strategies to safeguard freedom of expression in the digital sphere by balancing the imperative to uphold individual liberties with the responsibility to mitigate the negative consequences of online media.

An elementary question: What is freedom of expression (FoE)? FoE encompasses the basic human rights to communicate individual ideas, opinions and beliefs without censorship or restraint from the government or other authorities. It entails various forms of communication and expression, including speech, writing and the arts.

Article 9(2) of ACHPR gives every individual the rights to express and disseminate their ideas and opinions within the boundaries of the law.

Under the laws of Tanzania, Article 18(a) stipulates that every person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression of ideas.

The CURT talks about FoE - that is, the right to individuals to give their opinions on certain information and the right to express their feelings concerning certain information.

It is worth noting that FoE cannot be distinguished from basic human rights because all people are equal before the law and so every individual is free to get information and express his or her opinions.

What are 'online media'? To have a clear enough picture about online media one needs to know about a number of terms or issues in the context of Tanzania as the host country.

'Online' relates to a networked environment under which content is accessible to the public whether for a fee or otherwise, with such content originating from Tanzania and intended for consumption in Tanzania.

'Online content host' means any server that hosts or provides access to online accessible content, including file transfer protocol servers, telnet servers, webhosting companies and

web servers.

'Online content service' refers to the broadcasting of content to the public through internet websites, application software, forums, blogs, weblogs, microblogs, public account, instant messaging tools, online live streaming, aggregators and other related platforms.

'Online forum' means an online discussion site where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages or journals. Most forums allow anonymous visitors to view forum postings but require the creation of an account from and to which to post messages on new topics known as "threads" - and to receive replies within existing threads.

'Online platform' means any internet outlet where people can get news, entertainment, education and diverse kinds of information. It could be online television, online radio, social media or blog.

'Online radio', web radio, net radio, streaming radio, e-radio, or webcasting means an audio service whether licensed or not licensed which transmits services online.

'Online television', which is alternatively known as web television, is the digital distribution of television content, short programmes or videos created by a wide variety of companies and individuals - whether licensed or not licensed - which transmits services online through web streaming intended for consumption by citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations GN No. 136 of 2022, as amended, define 'online media services' as online content services provided for the purpose of news and current affairs in a manner similar to, or in a manner that resembles, service providers licensed under the Act.

'Online content aggregators' are defined as a content service providers who collect content from various sources and pack the content into baskets of channels to facilitate access to users for free or upon payment of a prescribed fee.

Online media platforms conduct their activities through the internet. Therefore, to have access to these media, one must have access to internet services.

In recent years, the world has been experiencing an increase in the number of online media, among them blogs, online channels and various other applications.

There are various ways in which people can practise FoE, arguably the easiest and most accessible being through the media - the traditional and most established ones (print and electronic) and the social media.

The relationship between online media and FoE can be complex and tricky indeed. These platforms provide unprecedented opportunity for individuals to express themselves and share information globally.

Online media doubtless democratise

the dissemination of ideas, empower marginalised voices and facilitate public discourse.

However, this FoE must be handled very carefully, responsibly and cautiously to circumvent challenges including spreading of misinformation and hate speech as well as inducing or fuelling online harassments.

It is often a daunting challenge for these platforms to need to see the importance of FoE with the need to maintain an inclusive and generally safe media environment.

This relationship is, thus, symbiotic in a way. The online media landscape presents challenges to freedom of expression that can hinder individuals ability to freely express themselves.

It is crucial to underline this: To have proper and responsible FoE, the views or opinions expressed need to relate to true information.

Tanzania's own Access to Information Act aptly refers to information as any material which communicates facts, opinions, data or any other matter relating to the management, administration, operations or decisions of the information's holder regardless of its form or characteristics.

In practice, sadly, many online media practitioners seldom comply - chiefly because they do not conduct enough research on the information they run before upload and thus disseminating it.

In Tanzania, the operations/services of online media are governed by Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations GN No. 136/2022, courtesy of licensing by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

But recent amendments an exemption has been given to mainstream media licensees for broadcasting on an online platform or republication of content through the internet.

There is no main policy about online media as such, with TCRA relying on the National Postal Policy of 2003, the National Telecommunication Policy of 1997 and National ICT Policy of 2016 to cover online media services. This creates a loophole to online media platforms.

This could see online media going wrong, many times owing to professional ignorance, as evidenced in the rise in incidence of cases of some practitioners infringing FoE.

The relationship between online media and the need to promote FoE definitely calls for relentless efforts to uphold both the principles of free speech and the responsibility to mitigate harm and promote constructive discourse.

The government and other stakeholders would be well-advised to extend focused support to our online media so that they can appreciate the need to place a premium on professionalism as they go about enjoying the freedom of information.

\* Neema Mhina is an advocate of the High Court of Tanzania.



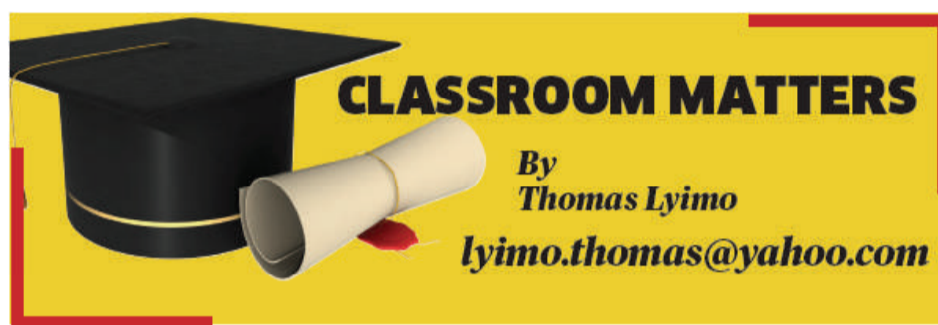
# Setting standard tests crucial in ensuring effective teaching and learning processes

**C**ONTENTS taught for years must be measured in two to three hours using just a few questions. It then becomes possible to give out the best performers according to the examination. In this way the examination becomes the quick method of assessment.

Learners are always reminded by their teachers to be ready for exams by studying hard during their course of study. Those who study by understanding are always bold to face exams than those who cling to cramming. Some questions may be slightly changed and made to reappear in examinations causing some candidates to run into confusion. The challenge becomes attempting a question without knowing what it wants.

Examinations must retain their value because for years they are treated as means of deciding what step to be taken after someone has finished a certain course of study. When examination results show that someone has passed or failed, the performance indicated must be valid. This is because examination performance has been connected with achievement in life.

There are individuals who commit suicide due to failure in examinations. This shows how the society has placed much hope on examinations. There-



fore examinations must be set in a way that provides the correct picture of a candidate's performance. Teacher on the other side should prepare well candidates to face examinations and make them ready for any results. They should help them to separate be-

tween failure in examination and failure in life.

Someone may question the validity of examinations regarding the few questions in a question paper. They sometimes argue how can things that have been taught in years measured in days or just a week?

These claims by some individuals propose that examination setting is not just putting questions together to form an examination paper. There must be professional standards which are taken into account when setting examinations. Experts put it clear that

individuals' capacity in learning different aspects of studies are different. Someone may be weak in one area but strong in another area. Therefore examination setting should favor every candidate regarding their ability. Examinations should portray candidates' performance in a better and clear way that can give a reliable direction on what should be the further step regarding one's performance. For examinations to be reliable they need to possess the following qualities.

Broad coverage; for an examination to be valid and reliable it must cover as many topics as possible. In this way examination results can be reliable. If examination has many questions from one topic or competence it cannot be regarded as standard examination because its results won't show the achievement of the objectives of the syllabus in a broader way.

If a candidate performs well in an examination which is well spread in terms of content coverage there is a huge possibility of that candidate performing well again when given a different exam. This is what manifests competence mastery.

Use of a clear language; a candidate may fail to answer a question because of the language used in an examination. The construction of questions must take into account grammatical rules to avoid any kind of ambiguity. The language problem may sometimes be the result of literal translation especially when a statement is translated from Kiswahili to English by someone who is not competent in those two languages.

When the candidate fails to answer the question because of lack of clarity in the language used in the examination justice is not administered. Language experts should be involved in setting exams.

Time factor; in setting examinations the issue of time should be prioritized. Time for an examination should not be less or more than the required. Less time than the required regarding the nature of examination questions may produce results which do not show the real picture of candidate's performance.

This is because some candidates may fail to complete the exam and hence increasing chances of failure. Also if more time than the required is given to candidates the quality of exam-

inations may be reduced in the sense that examinations aim at measuring ability of an individuals to solve problems in limited time.

Problems which face human beings do not give unlimited time for their solutions. Again when more time is given than the required candidates may be tempted to communicate in examination causing other problems which also will reduce the credibility of exams.

Regarding the six levels of Bloom's taxonomy; most of our exams are theoretical and hence done in classrooms by candidates writing answers in answer sheets. To make these examinations valid as they measure cognitive domain, taking into account Bloom's taxonomy ensures validity of these examinations.

Benjamin Bloom came up with six levels of assessment which for years are outstanding. These levels are, remembering, understanding, application, analysis, evaluation and creation.

Examinations should be valued and respected because they decide who to go for further studies. The entire society needs to be educated on the importance of examinations. Individuals should feel proud of passing examinations by their own ability. Standard examinations are our pride in our education system. Teaching is setting standard examinations.

# President Samia keen on development of tourism in Arusha

By Correspondent, Emmanuel Onyango

**A**S the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan clocks three years' of reign, the government has been keenly looking at various economic development from the grassroots to national level.

The government has also shown firm commitments while cherishing various national mega infrastructural development projects taking place in various places in the country.

These have been moving ahead in high pace as per contractual agreement under the slogan titled; 'Kazi tendelee' literally meaning the work continues.

Among the most development initiatives currently being spearheaded by the government is linked to tourism potentials found in all six city councils across the country.

These are Dodoma (capital city), Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza, Tanga and Arusha which are driven for people's development status as part of its program called, "Cities Developments".

Taking into account the importance of these cities in the country and their potentials in every aspects of human development, the government also takes care with keen interest to appoint hard-working leaders who could stand firm to bring the needed developments closer to the majority citizens.

Tourism value chain stands as main criteria in this development focus as it defines a key component of the country's

economy bearing in mind the fact that the sector contributes to an estimated 17 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In addition, tourism builds the country's third-largest source of employment by directly employing over 850,000 workers in entire country.

Opportunities for investment are immense including hotels' construction, leisure parks, ground golf courses, conference tourism, air/ground transport, wildlife farming and tour operations.

Others are trophy hunting, sea and lake cruising, deep sea fishing, development of eco-tourism facilities, beach tourism, cultural and many others alike including accommodation for visitors.

From the findings of various studies, it's clear that there are a number of challenges ranged from lack of government support linked to lack of education and training as well as poor infrastructure.

Others includes poor marketing strategies, lack of community support, insecurity and poor customer care service, these stands as constraints to the entire development of the sector in order to grow.

But if these are well maintained, the contribution of tourism development becomes the leading job creator to enable citizens strengthens the local economy, and reduces poverty and inequality among people in local communities.

Tanzania is proud to have maintained its most tourist destination centres in various places which are so attractive to visitors especially at this time when tourism business is peaking up.



The Arusha clock tower

Though the size and scale of Tanzania may be overwhelming, people usually make it an easy-going place to visit for a holiday. Small towns and bigger cities do offer good connections to the main natural attractions that make visitors become enjoyable.

In order to accomplish the need one might decide to make use of the holiday to fulfill the need of visiting some of the most attractive places in Tanzania with intent to see its historical importance and how useful have those places been for the economic development of the country.

It is for these reasons that, President Samia recently appointed former CCM party Ideology and Publicity Secretary Paul Makonda to hold the post of a Regional Commissioner at Arusha city.

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania has given her the mandate as the Head of State to nominate and provide appointment to selected individuals with relevant professions to fill key positions within the jurisdiction of the government's administrative units.

These ranges from districts level up to ministerial posts that includes district commissioners, regional commissioners, permanent secretaries, cabinet ministers, heads of government agencies and many others alike including judges and even ambassadors.

The appointment of Makonda by the Head of State is expected to make

Arusha city known in the history of modern Tanzania and international community as it is the centre of Northern tourism circuit in the country.

President Samia issued directives after he had just appointed him to take on the responsibilities. The Head of State gave him all these directives at the swearing in ceremony held at State House in Dar es Salaam on April 4th this year.

Among other important directives the President gave to Makonda is to ensure that he collaborates with private investors as well as making sure there is enough accommodation facilities for visitors coming in the region.

"Arusha is famous with a number of international organizations therefore go and supervise all that can bring good fame to the country and the city itself", "Her Excellency the President told the 43 year old CCM cadre who seem to be the youngest RC in the country.

Two days thereafter, the youngest RC arrived in Arusha in a fantastic style and held a meeting after having been handed office tools from his predecessor John Mongela and detailed at least six targets that he intended to closely monitor while in office.

These includes laying the groundwork for justice, accountability, tourism, the economy, stability and security as well as addressing public concerns and deal with corrupt

workers, lazy workers, those who snatches people's properties and those who are not diligent while performing their duties.

Geographically, Arusha is the third largest city and the main base for the northern tourist circuit in Tanzania and is close to Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

It is in Arusha Region whereby the famous tourist cultural group in Tanzania comes from. These are the Maasai and the Mang'ati ethnic groups.

Perched under Mount Meru which stands on the eastern edge of the Great Rift Valley, the city is surrounded with a temperate climate that is flourished by coffee plantations and flower farms.

Many people do travel on their way to the wildlife conservations and national parks such as the famous Serengeti, Tarangire and Ngorongoro national parks, or climbing up Africa's tallest mountain Kilimanjaro any view many other natural features.

Among the best national parks out of these is the famous Serengeti which has acquired an international accolade for being home to more than one million species of large mammals. It's also a World Heritage Sites and also has the honour of being named the seventh world wonder.

Arusha is also known to be called 'The Geneva of Africa' since it's the de facto capital of the East African Community (EAC), hosting it as well. The city was the host of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda since 1994.

The city has historically served as a venue of choice for the negotiation and signing of various peace agreements. This process was spearheaded by the Government of Tanzania due to the city's historical and strategic diplomatic role.

Arusha is seen as a major international diplomatic hub as it hosts the African Court of the African Union and in 1967, it was chosen as a most convenient site for the allocation of the administrative headquarters building for East African Community (EAC) partner states.

The current constructed building is located along the Makongoro Road at the centre of the roundabout and is adorned with national

flags of eight member states which currently include Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia which joined the community in February this year.

The construction of the new headquarter building which is located adjacent to the Arusha International Convention Centre (AICC), was financed by the Federal Republic of German for a total of 37 million Euros in grants between 2016 and 2018.

The building covers a total of 15,000 square meters and comprise of three twin buildings of four storeys each, with provisions for future extensions.

It accommodates three organs of the regional body, namely, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), the Secretariat and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

In recent years, Arusha city gained its reputation as a most famous for the international community from 1994 to 2015 when the UN Security Council decided by its Resolution in November 1994 that it should host the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Among the most remembered is the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi which was signed on 28 August 2000 as part of a process in that country through power sharing and establishing a transitional government.

Within the city center, there are some of the most significant landmarks such as Independence Tower and Arusha Declaration Museum building which are located at Kaloleni area. Until 1967, this building was used as a social welfare hall.

It is in this building whereby official documents ceding independence to Tanganyika were signed by the United Kingdom way back in 1961 as well as that one of the Arusha Declaration of 1967, thus making Arusha a crucial city in the history of modern Tanzania.

In January 1967 the building hosted the historical meeting from which Tanzania's Political and Economic Policy of Socialism and Self-reliance was drawn. On February 1977 the building was converted into a small political museum.



# Agritech services can help farmers meet global food demand

By Pooja Chhabria and

Michelle Meineke

As a young boy in northern India, Himanshu Gupta's grandmother would often dilute the milk with water to ensure there was enough to feed their lower-middle-class family of sixteen. Rising prices for milk meant the family couldn't afford to buy more.

"Back then, we didn't have time to understand the nuances of why or what was happening," he says. "But many of these problems, like food inflation... climate change is one of the significant factors playing into it."

Fast-forward a few decades, and Gupta co-founded ClimateAi from his dormitory room at Stanford University, United States, one of the world's most prestigious universities. He now wants to help more than 500,000 mil-

lion farmers globally in just six years.

Leveraging today's rapid advancements in 'agritech' - the use of digital tools and technology in farming - is crucial to helping farmers adapt to the climate crisis and strengthen global food security. It also makes good business sense, as Gupta says climate adaptation across all sectors is a \$1 trillion opportunity.

"This year, we see an inflexion point in adaptation, going from a philanthropic agenda to a corporate agenda," Gupta told the World Economic Forum.

ClimateAi works with more than 50 corporations in food, agriculture, and beverage supply chains. Companies are now more engaged because they "appreciate that today's level of volatility in the value chains because of climate change is unprecedented."

How can AI help?



Learning how to harness the value of data from farming methods can help strengthen farmers' crops in coming years.

One-third of the Earth's soils are already degraded, with the equivalent of one football pitch of soil being eroded every five seconds, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) points out.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to help relieve this pressure by reshaping the world's \$5 trillion agriculture business - for the better.

Firstly, timing in farming is essential. When will the heatwave end? How long until the next big storm? When will the

floods start? Finding answers to these pressing questions determines farmers' ability to know when to buy seed, what seed to buy and when to plant and harvest it.

Farmers need these answers several months in advance, sometimes even six months ahead, to guarantee their crops. This is even more important today as the severity of unpredictable weather patterns is accelerating. However, Gupta says most weather forecasts are still only two weeks ahead.

Farmers also need agritech

to help them understand how viable their soil - the core of their livelihood - will be in decades' time as climate patterns evolve faster than anticipated.

Overall, farmers need far more notice, both for the 'here and now' and the 'what's next?'. AI-based technologies have the potential to provide that clarity, giving more accurate, detailed and frequent forecasts.

Understanding the difference between weather and climate is vital for farmers as they adjust their operations to

keep pace with a changing world.

Understanding the difference between weather and climate is vital for farmers as they adjust their operations to keep pace with a changing world.

Secondly, AI and other agritech can increase the supply of urgently needed climate-resistant seeds, accelerating the time it takes to get from the laboratory to the soil. It currently takes 10 to 15 years to launch a new seed, but Gupta says weather patterns can shift significantly in that time. Seeds can become less resilient and crops can fail.

This puts considerable stress on the farming community, sometimes making it difficult to attract new talent. While working with the Government of India, Gupta "saw examples where a lot of cotton farmers either committed suicide, left cotton farming altogether or moved to work as labourers in big cities". This is not an isolated problem, with 95% of young farmers saying poor mental health is the biggest hidden danger in farming today.

Building data banks for farmers

The effectiveness of AI - both in weather forecasting and shaping climate-resistant seeds - heavily relies on the data 'fed' into the system. The quality, volume and application of data from farms and other parts of the agricultural supply chain must improve worldwide, though there are already clear differences between developed and developing nations.

In developed nations, a lot of available data can be better gathered, shared and used to increase the accuracy of weather forecasts. Instead of farmers in Spain being told to prepare for a heatwave, for example, AI can determine that tomato farmers in a localized part of Spain should buy a particular type of seed later than plan to protect that specific crop. Gupta says this sort of detail "drives action", safeguarding harvests, farmers and seed companies.

There is little data in developing countries, however, which can put the communities most vulnerable to food instability at an even greater risk. The head of a village in India would often record the estimated rainfall in that area in a notebook, for example, which Gupta warns can bring unintended bias. In turn, this feeds weaker data into AI systems for that area. His team is now investigating ways to create higher-resolution weather forecasts with little data.

AI enables a range of advanced systems to elevate the efficiency, quality and economic potential of farming worldwide. Image: World Economic Forum

AI and augmented reality (AR) for crop management, advice on crops, pests, plant diseases and nutrients are also some of the key methods in smart farming that are already making an impact on the ground, the report details. Agerpoint, which creates 3D models of crops and trees, uses thousands of laser beams pointed at a plant simultaneously to create a digital twin of the plant, so farmers extract knowledge from the sensors rather than the live plant.

Robotics is another game changer for smart farming. Being able to programme a robot to sow and remove weeds automatically across many acres of fields - some tools can kill 300,000 weeds per hour - saves farmers considerable time, stress and physical strain, for example.

Leveraging technologies - on the ground and in space - to give farmers and seed companies greater visibility vastly improves efficiency and quality.

Leveraging technologies - on the ground and in space - to give farmers and seed companies greater visibility vastly improves efficiency and quality. Image: World Economic Forum

planning, smart farming, farmgate-to-fork, and data as an enabler.

The power of applying agritech services in agriculture was illustrated by the Saagu Baagu pilot project, which the Forum conducted with the government of Telangana in southern India. Four agritech services were introduced to 7,000 chilli farmers, whose absolute profits climbed by 18%. The project is now being scaled up to support 500,000 farmers planting 5 crops in 10 districts. Here's a deeper look at each of the four categories:

**Intelligent crop planning**

In this context, AI helps create a 'crop plan' that considers forecasts for the changing climate and customers' nutritional needs. It can also correct minor errors in real time, stopping them from magnifying into a bigger challenge months later during the harvest.

Soil testing at the early stages of crop planning is also imperative, the report notes, and AI-based models mean tests that used to take a few weeks now happen in real time.

Farmers can then act immediately if they choose to. They can also benefit from the gene editing of seeds using predictive AI tools, which achieves higher yields while using similar resources - the ultimate goal in the future of agriculture.

**Smart farming**

Farmers must juggle multiple unknowns every week, from weather to wildlife to price volatility. Smart farming uses technologies to help remove some uncertainty from farmers' weekly load by focusing on precision. The report explains how soil stress, efficiency of operations and detecting and avoiding risks early on are part of this new approach to farm management.

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Leveraging technologies - on the ground and in space - to give farmers and seed companies greater visibility vastly improves efficiency and quality.

Leveraging technologies - on the ground and in space - to give farmers and seed companies greater visibility vastly improves efficiency and quality. Image: World Economic Forum



## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

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

	2023 TZS 000	2022 TZS 000 Restated
Insurance services revenue	42,954,450	36,828,180
Insurance services expenses	(27,240,550)	(28,380,046)
<b>Net insurance service results before reinsurance contracts held</b>	<b>15,713,900</b>	<b>8,448,134</b>
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts held	(9,365,859)	(6,120,406)
<b>Net insurance services results</b>	<b>6,348,041</b>	<b>2,327,728</b>
Investment income	4,108,582	4,059,162
Exchange gain	115,286	48,632
Fair value gains on quoted shares	147,676	154,042
Other income	434,238	359,511
<b>Total income</b>	<b>11,153,823</b>	<b>6,949,075</b>
Insurance finance expenses	(1,453,795)	(896,397)
Insurance finance income	585,941	446,176
<b>Net insurance finance expenses</b>	<b>(867,854)</b>	<b>(450,221)</b>
IFRS 9 Impairment movement	(710,612)	(611,225)
Operating and other expenses	(4,238,492)	(3,242,645)
Other finance costs	(107,039)	(57,439)
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>(5,056,143)</b>	<b>(3,911,309)</b>
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>5,229,826</b>	<b>2,587,545</b>
Taxation	(1,344,297)	(761,284)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>3,885,529</b>	<b>1,826,261</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income (OCI)</b>		
Loss on fair valuation of Government Securities AFS	(700,116)	184,686
Gain on fair valuation of equity investment	120,829	35,276
Deferred tax thereon	173,786	(65,989)
Total change in fair value of equity investment	(405,501)	153,973
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the owners of the company	<b>3,480,028</b>	<b>1,980,234</b>
Earnings per share-basic and diluted	694	326

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

	2023 TZS 000	2022 TZS 000 Restated	2021 TZS 000 Restated
<b>CAPITAL EMPLOYED</b>			
Share capital	5,610,000	5,610,000	5,610,000
Capital reserve	1,412,632	1,412,632	1,412,632
Contingency reserve	10,607,664	9,264,588	8,044,682
Revaluation reserve	(101,174)	304,327	150,354
Retained earnings	1,155,123	(966,573)	(1,011,928)
<b>18,684,245</b>	<b>15,624,974</b>	<b>14,205,740</b>	
<b>REPRESENTED BY ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant, and equipment	1,588,992	574,445	598,962
Right-of-use assets	574,033	196,542	457,575
Intangible assets	158,098	173,813	284,632
Investment in subsidiary	629,102	629,102	629,102
Equity investments at fair value through Profit & I	1,453,161	1,000,781	846,739
Equity investments at fair value through OCI	745,589	613,164	549,734
Reinsurance contract Assets	6,636,970	7,029,888	6,076,677
Other receivables	2,013,779	1,101,356	1,251,910
Loan to Subsidiary	454,493	546,759	626,715
Current tax	903,074	1,369,055	802,664
Deferred tax	2,434,615	1,840,542	2,324,842
Corporate bonds	2,983,179	1,956,208	200,000
Government securities at amortised cost	15,383,988	12,551,298	14,851,613
Government securities at fair value through OCI	8,296,497	6,609,888	-
Deposits with financial institutions	12,257,606	13,917,595	15,418,940
Cash and bank balances	1,419,487	3,160,257	2,400,275
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>57,933,163</b>	<b>53,270,693</b>	<b>47,320,380</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Insurance contract Liabilities	31,936,252	31,646,654	26,967,652
Bank overdraft	177,412	-	304,057
Current tax	1,024,622	323,940	505,374
Deferred tax	86,283	193,295	73,750
Other payables	5,495,173	5,349,402	4,858,697
Lease Liabilities	529,176	132,428	405,110
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>39,248,918</b>	<b>37,645,719</b>	<b>33,114,640</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>18,684,245</b>	<b>15,624,974</b>	<b>14,205,740</b>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Share Capital TZS 000	Capital Reserve TZS 000	Contingency Reserve TZS 000	Revaluation Reserve TZS 000	Retained Earnings TZS 000	Total TZS 000
<b>2023</b>						
As previously stated,	5,610,000	1,412,632	9,264,588	304,327	318,850	16,910,397
Impact of initial application of IFRS 17	-	-	-	-	(1,285,423)	(1,285,423)
As at 1 January 2022 (restated)	5,610,000	1,412,632	9,264,588	304,327	(966,573)	15,624,974
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	3,885,529	3,885,529
Other comprehensive Income	-	-	-	(405,501)	-	(405,501)
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	1,343,076	-	(1,343,076)	-
Dividend Paid	-	-	-	-	(420,757)	(420,757)
Total changes	-	-	1,343,076	(405,501)	2,121,696	3,059,271
<b>At 31st December</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>10,607,664</b>	<b>(101,174)</b>	<b>1,155,123</b>	<b>18,684,245</b>
<b>2022</b>						
As previously stated,	5,610,000	1,412,632	8,044,682	150,354	528,679	15,746,347
Impact of initial application of IFRS 17	-	-	-	-	(1,540,677)	(1,540,677)
As at 1 January 2022 (restated)	5,610,000	1,412,632	8,044,682	150,354	(1,011,928)	14,205,740
Profit for the year (as previously stated)	-	-	-	-	1,571,077	1,571,077
Impact of IFRS 17 application	-	-	-	-	255,184	255,184
Restated profit for the year	5,610,000	1,412,632	8,044,682	150,354	1,826,261	18,264,261
Other comprehensive Income	-	-	-	153,973	-	153,973
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	1,219,906	-	(1,219,906)	-
Dividend Paid	-	-	-	-	(561,000)	(561,000)
Total changes	-	-	1,219,906	153,973	45,355	1,419,234
<b>At 31st December</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>9,264,588</b>	<b>304,327</b>	<b>(966,573)</b>	<b>15,624,974</b>

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 TZS 000	2022 TZS 000 Restated
<b>Cash used in operations</b>	<b>(3,138,634)</b>	<b>(1,257,382)</b>
Interest received	3,989,293	3,942,714
Income tax paid	(704,933)	(971,253)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>145,726</b>	<b>1,714,079</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property plant and equipment	(1,494,317)	(217,227)
Purchase of intangible assets	(125,535)	(9,619)
Repayment - loan to subsidiary	167,296	169,352
Dividends received from equity	119,289	116,448
Proceeds from disposal of equipment	26,158	5,869
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities</b>	<b>(1,307,109)</b>	<b>64,823</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Payment of the lease Liabilities	(336,042)	(153,863)
Dividends paid to company shareholders	(420,757)	(561,000)
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities</b>	<b>(756,799)</b>	<b>(714,863)</b>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,918,182)</b>	<b>1,064,039</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	3,160,257	2,096,218
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>1,242,075</b>	<b>3,160,257</b>

SIGNED BY:

NAME	DESIGNATION
Mr. Leonard Mususa	Board Chairman
Mr. Ravi Shankar	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Flora Makule	Chief Finance Officer

**TUPO**  
KARIBU NAWE



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By Correspondent Deoda-  
t Mfugale, Sumbawanga

# Raising women's access to land to scale up natural resources conservation, protection

**W**OMEN ownership of land.

These are the three words that men, particularly those in the rural areas, don't want to hear. The words do not only portend a challenge to their superiority over women and advocate gender equality but also threaten to dismantle the age-old system of life in which the power of men was omnipotent. True to the system, men were, and still are in some parts of the country, the ultimate power and authority, the supreme owners of wealth and the infallible dictators of all systems of life with women and their children, girl children in particular, required to be subservient to the rule of men.

For women, however, ownership of land is the foundation of their economic independence, social status, and participatory governance. It is a tool for their emancipation. The foundation has long existed but shrouded in secrecy and guarded by men and, due to ignorance, fear and unwillingness to change, women have never pursued these rights. But, now things are changing, particularly so in the rural areas where women have taken to demand from men their right to own land and other property and, in due course, gain economic and social independence.

The current wave of raising the status of women in society by promoting ownership of land and other property has reached Sumbawanga Rural and Nkasi District Councils in Rukwa Region. Women from a total of 18 villages have been exposed to a new awakening, the right to own land and other property, through education and awareness campaigns thanks to Usimamizi Elendelevu wa Maliasili Project that is being implemented by Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Rukwa Sustainable Development Organisation (RUSUDEO), village governments as well as districts and regional governments.

The project focuses mainly on environmental conservation as a means to attaining climate and economic resilience of



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

communities and women have been the driving force in project implementation. They are also the major beneficiaries. This is a group that suffers most when there is depletion of natural resources but it is also the group whose voices are never taken into consideration in decisions about how resources should be used because they don't own any property, let alone land. No one listens to a person who owns nothing!

"When women don't own land they do not engage in any meaningful conservation of the environment and natural resources. Men look upon them as inferior and second tier members of the public. In the long run efforts to conserve the environment and adapt to climate change cannot succeed," says Ignasy Weluka, Programme Officer for RUSUDEO.

Like in many rural communities in Tanzania, traditions and culture did not allow women Sumbawanga and Nkasi Districts to own property. It was an unwritten law that men would

own all property on behalf of the family. Boys were second in command to men and women and girls featured nowhere in the "land ownership hierarchy."

The process to help women own land started with the formation of land use plans to ensure that pieces of land in villages were earmarked to specific use. Then individual land parcels were surveyed, mapped and certificates of occupancy were issued for the owners. Alongside this process, education and awareness campaigns were conducted to make women realize they too had the right to own land just like their male counterparts, breaking down the barriers of tradition and culture, in due course. Four years of project implementation has changed the situation and now many women own land individually or with their spouse.

"Now we know that land is not the property of men alone. Men and women have equal rights to own land," says Grace Abel, a resident of Kizungu village in Sumbawanga Rural Dis-

trict.

Through implementation of the project, seven villages in Nkasi District and 11 villages in Sumbawanga Rural District have had their land surveyed and mapped. In Nkasi District land use plans have been prepared for six of them. The seven villages are Nkomolo2, Malongwe, Kisula, Swaila, Tambaruka Lyele and Itindi. Villages in Sumbawanga District that have land use plans are Kizungu, Mbwilo, Mnazi Mmoja, Mnazi Asilia, and Ilanga. Others are Katoto, Nkwilo, Kalumbaleza A, Kalumbaleza B, Mpete and Mtapenda.

Individual land parcels have also been surveyed and mapped. Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy (CCROs) have been issued to individuals, including many women. "The traditional barrier of excluding women from land ownership has been broken as women now own land. Their ownership is protected and security of tenure is guaranteed through provision of CCROs. About 50 per cent

of women in the project areas own land and have legal evidence through CCROs," explains Frederick Odhiambo, Senior Land Officer for Nkasi District.

Land ownership has led to economic empowerment of women and has elevated their social status. They now have the courage to question village government leaders and the confidence to vie for leadership posts in the village governments. There are more opportunities for women to raise incomes as they engage in petty businesses selling various items particularly foodstuffs such as fish, millet, and maize flour. Others have learned new skills like sewing, all through project implementation.

"Most of the items that women sell come from the land they own. Community conservation banks have helped women earn income, with some fetching about 500,000/- annually. Those who have CCROs can use them as collateral to access farmers' loans from financial institutions. Land ownership has led to economic emancipation for women," says Florence Magambo from Nkwilo village.

As more women own land and realize tangible benefits, the demand for land ownership is now on a new high. Education and awareness raising campaigns have made women and community members in general understand the importance of owning and conserving land while reaping natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Land use planning and issuance of CCROs has put in place secure tenure and protects ownership. This has reduced gender violence and empowered women economically while raising their social status. There are more women owning land now than ever before.

"Women who own land have also better lives because they can engage in other income generating activities. They also feel free to take part in decision making processes in village government, village councils and village assemblies and their opinions count in making final decisions.

In previous years rarely did women participate in meetings and on the few occasions that they did, their views and opinions were not considered," says Mary Ernest Shauri, a member of the Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) committee in Nkomolo 2 Village of Nkasi District.

With training in entrepreneurship, women are operating small businesses independently. "Now we know how to invest and do business even with small capital. Land ownership has motivated us and provided a range of opportunities for women. The most important thing is that we believe in ourselves; we believe we can make positive change in our lives," explains Ms. Shauri, adding that about 75 percent of women in the village own land and have been provided with CCROs. "The value of land has increased and there is more circulation of money in the village due to numerous petty businesses conducted by women," she notes.

Now that many villagers have secure ownership of land, they don't invade public lands where they would open up farms or encroach into the Lyambalya Mfipa Forest to make timber, charcoal or illegally harvest forest products. Women also don't have to fetch firewood from the forest because they have trees in their compounds and, in any case, they know the forest is out of bounds for human activities according to land use plan which they fully participated in creating.

They know the boundaries and understand the importance of land use plans. After all they now have their own pieces of land for which they have evidence of legal ownership. At the end of the day they play an important role in conserving natural resources and the environment in general so that they may continue to benefit from the same.

Beyond promoting women's land ownership, land use of land use plans have gone a long way towards resolving conflicts. Whereas four years ago land based conflicts were rampant, some of which were violent, now there

are few such cases. Land has been surveyed and mapped, land use plans have become operational and people have evidence of ownership and secure tenure. Infringement and trespass are rare incidents.

However some community members have not received well the land survey, mapping and creation of land use plans and the ultimate issuance of CCROs. "We have surveyed, mapped and prepared land use plans for about 25,000 hectares. At the beginning of the exercise, we met resistance from some villagers who feared that it was a government's ploy to take away their land or register it for some kind of taxation or levy. However in the long run people have understood why it is important to have land use plans and to get legal evidence of land ownership. The government has neither plans to grab their land nor to subject them to a kind of land tax of levy," says Nkasi District Senior Land Officer Frederick Onyango.

But all this has not gone down well with some villagers. "With all the benefits that we get from land use plans and CCROs, some people are still worried that land use planning is a means of land grabbing even if CCROs are issued. The fear is unfounded. Some people will never change even when they stand to enjoy the benefits," says Ngusa Ntejo, a resident of Mtapenda Village in Sumbawanga Rural District.

Land use plans have become operational in 17 out of 18 villages where the project is implemented. The process is yet to be completed in one village.

At a global scale women's access and ownership of land has been catalyst to family and community welfare. For women, land ownership has paved the way for more participation in conservation of natural resources and the environment in general. It has also granted them economic freedom and elevated their social status that is free from gender violence. In due course they have earned respect in the family and the community in general. Together, these positive shifts in women's empowerment have a far reaching effect on conservation, climate change adaptation and the welfare of families.

# Chinese cars gain popularity in Botswana



A visitor asks about the Chery brand during the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, Botswana

GABORONE

**A**T the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, the Botswanan capital, Chinese auto brands such as Haval, Chery, Tank, and JAC generated interest among local car enthusiasts.

Over the last five years, Chinese-made vehicles have entered the competitive landscape of Botswana's automotive industry.

Chinese brands such as Chery, Haval, JAC, and BAIC are gaining popularity among Botswanan consumers, who value the vehicles' build quality, durability, and reliability.

Bellson Othomile, sales executive at Motor Holdings Botswana, said Haval is a popular brand in Gaborone and across Botswana.

"The brand has a lot to offer in terms of cost, technology, automotive design, and comfort. Chinese cars are starting to become a good alternative to brands that previously dominated the southern African automotive markets," he said dur-

ing the May 3-4 motor show.

Many decided to buy Haval cars because "the price is totally different and below what you can usually expect... when you look at the interior of the car, the technology of the car, how it drives, and how it looks in general," he said. "That was the more compelling aspect of the product."

According to Othomile, excluding those that are purchased in bulk, about 23 units are sold in a month. The most popular unit is Haval Jolion, whose Chinese equivalent, Chulian, means "first love."

With an expanding dealer service network across the country, the Jolion is expected to build on the success of previous Haval products, such as the P series, Haval H1, H6, and H9, and now the Tank 300, he said.

Star Motor Group is another company in Botswana that sells Chinese automobile brands such as JAC and Chery.

Peter Kabelo, sales executive of the group, said that one of the important elements of Chery's success

is its offer of warranty for its engines for 1 million kilometers' mileage or 10 years, including the transmission.

Compared to traditional foreign brands, Kabelo said, Chinese cars have also brought lots of high technologies and comfort to Botswana customers, like voice command, remote start, wireless charging, big screens and autopilot.

Isaac Pheko, a Botswana motorist journalist, sits in a Chery Tiggo 8 Pro Max during the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, the Botswanan capital, May 3, 2024. (Photo by Tsheliso Tebalo/Xinhua)

Isaac Pheko, a Botswana motorist journalist, said he is "a huge fan of Chinese-made cars because their build quality and durability have improved astronomically over the past 10 years."

The pricing point by Chinese manufacturers make the cars accessible as they are more affordable than German, Japanese and American-made cars, Pheko said.



# S. Africa's opposition parties may struggle to unseat the ruling ANC

By Qaantah Hunter

FOR the first time in 30 years, South Africa's governing party faces an electoral crisis with expectations that its support will dramatically reduce and it may lose its parliamentary majority in this month's election.

But even as the African National Congress (ANC) - which has been in power since the end of apartheid in 1994 - struggles to attract voters, it has one key advantage that could help it stay in power, analysts say.

A splintered, disorganised opposition

With 70 political parties and 11 independent candidates contesting the May 29 national and provincial elections, the opposition is fragmented, according to Mcebisi Ndletyana, professor of political science at the University of Johannesburg.

He said both the ANC and the official opposition are at the risk of declining support.

The ANC received 57 percent of the vote in the last general elections held in 2019 but its support is expected to plummet given rising unemployment, a persisting power crisis and allegations of growing misgovernance.

According to a recent opinion poll by market research firm Ipsos, the ANC's support now sits at 40.2 percent.

A series of opinion polls have also predicted that the ruling party may lose the majority needed to form a national government.

However, despite an expected decline in the ANC's performance, analysts have also pointed at possible stagnation in support for its main rivals.

The same poll done by Ipsos shows marginal growth for three of the country's top opposition parties - the Democratic Alliance (DA), Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

The ANC has fashioned itself as a centre-left party while the DA is right-leaning. The EFF is a left-wing party that promotes for wholesale nationalisation of land. On the other hand, the IFP has risen on the back of Zulu nationalism and leans to the right.

The Ipsos poll estimated that the DA, which is the ANC's nearest rival, was at 21.9 percent - a slight increase in support since the 2019 vote.

The EFF and IFP showed similar stagnation, polling at 11.5 percent and 4.4 percent respectively - just above one percentage point better than how they each fared in the last election.

"There is fragmentation of the opposition because even with the



African National Congress supporters, one holding a portrait of Nelson Mandela, gather at a stadium in Durban, South Africa as the party launched its 2024 election manifesto

ANC losing support, the DA and the EFF are not showing significant growth," Ndletyana explained, attributing it to a litany of new political entrants attracting pockets of support in the constituencies of established political parties.

"They are supposed to be consolidating but there is further fragmentation among the opposition," he said.

At least 31 new political parties have registered to contest the upcoming elections, the country's Electoral Commission (IEC) said.

Emeritus professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Susan Booysen, said "the greatest irony" of the South African elections was that the decline in the ANC's support was not leading to a massive increase in support for the top opposition parties.

"This is one of the riddles of South African politics," she said. "There is a lot of splintering happening. This explains a bit of it. At the same time, much of the discontent with the ANC still goes back to voting for the ANC because there are no sufficient alternative parties."

"Also, the ANC has delegitimised the opposition as a viable alternative."

The ANC, as the main lib-

eration movement that fought and helped end apartheid, has sought to downplay the role and relevance of the opposition in South Africa.

Booyesen said voters cannot imagine the opposition becoming a viable government nationally, before turning to Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci's famous comment - made in the context of neoliberalism.

"The old is dying but the new is not ready to be born. It is a cliché but it speaks of the current reality in our political landscape," she said.

Opposition coalition Ndletyana said there was all indication that no single party would receive a majority and that a government would be formed through a coalition.

"The ANC will remain the largest party after the elections because its main rivals are not showing significant growth," he added.

Ndletyana said he did not believe efforts to arrange a pre-election coalition led by the DA, called the Multi-Party Charter (MPC) had real prospects of success.

"I don't think they have a real chance of becoming the government," he said.

The MPC is an 11-member

party formation seeking to remove the ANC from power nationally and to block an ANC coalition deal with the leftist EFF.

Besides the DA, the MPC includes the IFP, the centre-right ActionSA, a breakaway of the DA, and the conservative Freedom Front plus - as well as a number of micro-parties.

These parties accounted for about 25 percent of the vote in the 2019 election. Several opinion polls suggest that support for the MPC, at its best case, hovers at between 35 percent and 37 percent this election - not enough to form a majority to unseat the ANC.

However, William Gumede, an associate professor at the Wits School of Governance at the University of the Witwatersrand and chair of the MPC, disagreed, saying it has never been more possible for the opposition to form a majority and unseat the ANC.

"When we started the conversation about the Multi-Party Charter, we said the ANC's majority would slip to below 50 percent. Now we are looking at the ANC slipping to 40 percent. The MPC has a real chance to fight," he said.

The block of opposition parties aimed at unseating the

ANC have agreed-upon principles which include upholding the South African Constitution, the rule of law and equality before the law.

It also includes decentralising the power of government, creating a transparent government and zero tolerance towards corruption.

The MPC committed to efficient spending of public money by the government, an open market economy, as well as the promotion of nonracialism.

"The Multi-Party Charter has communicated its policies and showed South Africans how it could be an alternative government," said Gumede, who has negotiated between party leaders to form the pre-election pact.

On a provincial level, the MPC has its eyes set on winning KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, two of the largest provinces where they expect the ANC's support to plummet. In those provinces, analysts say the opposition are more likely to form a minority coalition.

Booyesen said while there was hope for the MPC, it did not hold the prospects of becoming an alternative to the ANC government as projected.

"It's an initiative whose time has not come yet. Its success is

based on the possibility that it can beat the ANC but they have not gathered enough parties or support to be a formidable opposition," she said.

"In concept, it is very good but in practice, it has not pulled together the necessary support."

Despite predictions of the ANC's decline, it has remained bullish about its prospects given the disorganisation of opposition parties.

"Polls are polls. We know, as the ANC, how well we are going to do, and our people, in their hearts, know how well the ANC is going to do," President Cyril Ramaphosa said on the sidelines of the election campaign on Sunday.

New threat

Among the new entrants to the political sphere is the uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party led by former South African president Jacob Zuma. The Ipsos poll predicted this party may garner up to 8.4 percent in support.

The ANC is losing support to Zuma's new political party mainly in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Zuma has said he would not vote for the ANC for the first time in 30 years because the party has "lost its way".

The MK, which is proposing more radical socialist policies, has relied on the star power of the former head of state to attract supporters ahead of the elections.

"The emergence of the MK Party has affected both the ANC and the EFF," Booysen noted, further adding that the full extent of the MK's influence would be seen at the elections.

EFF leader Julius Malema, whose party is also losing support to the MK, tried to downplay recent opinion polls.

"Stand tall, leaders of the EFF, you can't be intimidated by Ipsos. Ipsos didn't say anything wrong, it just tells you where you need to work hard. Use that to motivate yourself," he said to supporters on Sunday.

Both Booysen and Gumede agreed that while the polls are not a final indicator of election results, they give a strong indication of how parties will perform.

"There are still many undecided voters who will decide to vote for in the days before the election," Gumede said.



# 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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# Lending rates show upward trends in March

By Guardian Reporter

**B**orrowers paid more to obtain loans in commercial banks and financial institutions in March, when compared with February this year, although the rates were still lower than those recorded twelve months before.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Monthly Economic Review for April shows that the overall lending rate, short term lending rate and negotiated lending rates experienced the upward trends during March, when compared to the previous month.

This is being experienced as the government is currently implementing reforms to reduce impediments to the stickiness of lending rates include increase of financial inclusion and improve business environment.

Only agriculture sector, which is benefiting from aggressive financing mobilization from both local and international sources, is en-

joying the single digit lending rate, which has spurred the sector to record the highest annual credits growth than any other activity of the economy.

According to the BoT report, the overall lending rate increased by 0.7 percent to 15.51 percent in March, compared to 15.44 percent recorded in February, ahead of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) for the second quarter of this year, which was announced on April 4th.

Data by the central bank computation and banks also indicate that the lending rate for short-term loans of up to one year slightly increased to 16.17 percent compared to 16.10 percent respectively, but lower than 16.67 percent recorded in March last year.

"During the month, the short-term interest rate eased to an average of 16.17 percent, while the 12-month deposit rate increased to an average of 8.94 percent. As a result, the spread between the one-year lending and deposit in-



terest rates narrowed to 7.23 percentage points from 8.73 percentage points in March 2023," BoT says.

Negotiated lending rate also showed similar trend as it increased by 0.6 percent to 13.46 percent in March, compared to 13.40 percent recorded in February, although was lower than 13.59 per-

cent recorded in March last year.

Banking analyst expect the lending rates to remain stable owes to improvement in credit risk, as reflected by a decrease in the ratio of non-performing loans which was 4.3 percent in March 2024, below the BoT tolerable threshold of 5 percent.

In its Monetary Policy Statement,

Mid-Year Review 2023/2024 published in February, BoT maintained that interest rate will continue to be determined by market forces.

The adoption of the interest rate-based monetary policy framework will contribute to the determination of interest rates by financial institutions, it said, noting that, the adoption of the policy framework does not imply fixing or capping interest rate.

"The Bank will continue engaging stakeholders in implementing reforms to remove factors contributing to the stickiness of lending rates and limiting the monetary policy transmission," said the MPS.

"The strategic focus areas include enhancing consumer protection, financial literacy, and financial inclusion, as well as reducing the risk profile of borrowers."

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), at its meeting on 3rd April 2024, increased the central bank rate (CBR) from 5.5 percent to 6 percent in the second quarter of 2024.

The MPC determines the policy rate, and the Bank of Tanzania strives to steer the 7-day interbank interest rate (the operating target variable) along the policy rate.

The decision for increasing the CBR was based on the macroeconomic forecast made in March 2024, which requires an increase in the scope of monetary policy actions to contain the spillover over effects of global economic challenges on inflation.

"The MPC noted with satisfaction the implementation of monetary policy in the first quarter of 2024. The level of liquidity in banks was adequate, leading the 7-day interbank interest rate to evolve within the band of +/-200 basis points of the CBR of 5.5 percent at 3.5-7.5 percent," said MPC statement issued by the central bank governor in April 4th.

The 7-day interest rate remained within the CBR band of 3.5-7.5 percent, easing to 7.16 percent in March 2024 from 7.28 percent registered in the preceding month.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

# EAC monetary committee lists regional economic challenges

THE 27th Ordinary Meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Monetary Affairs Committee (MAC) has deliberated the global economic outlook, as well as the impact of persistent inflationary pressures, climate change ramifications and geopolitical tensions on the region.

Convened in Juba, South Sudan recently the meeting brought on board governors and senior officials of the EAC Partner State Central Banks, along with representatives from the EAC Secretariat, against a backdrop of complex global economic dynamics.

Reflecting on the economic performance of the EAC region in 2023, the Committee acknowledged a range of growth rates ranging from 2.8 percent to 8.1 percent, largely attributed to advancements across key sectors and commitment to implementation of policy reforms that has promoted private and public investment in some Partner States.

Looking forward, the Committee foresees continued regional growth outpacing global and Sub-Saharan Africa benchmarks, supported by sustained public investment, enhanced export performance, and pro-private sector measures.

However, the region grapples



with challenges, including adverse global financial conditions, geopolitical turmoil, and climate change ramifications, resulting in amplification of challenges like high fuel and food import prices, market access costs, and currency and reserve pressures.

A focal point of deliberation centered on inflation trends, which, while having escalated in

2022 and 2023, have since eased following the implementation of appropriate monetary policies and the easing of global commodity prices.

Moreover, discussions delved into the strides made towards the establishment of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU), emphasizing commitments to harmonize monetary policies, financial regu-

lations, and crisis management frameworks.

The Governors pledged to continue working with the relevant authorities to advance the regional integration agenda.

Significant achievements were noted, including the adoption of price-based monetary policy frameworks, harmonization of macroeconomic and financial statistics, and

the promotion of cross-border payments systems.

However, the Committee reaffirmed its dedication to fulfilling remaining objectives outlined in the East African Monetary Union roadmap, with a renewed focus on convergence criteria review to meet the revised 2031 deadline.

During its meeting held in March last year, the committee

noted that Partner States' Central Banks have made significant strides towards the establishment of key institutions of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU), particularly the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI); harmonization of monetary and exchange rate policies; harmonization of regulatory frameworks; implementation of measures to strengthen regional payments systems; enhancement of cybersecurity frameworks; capacity building in AML/CFT and Risk Management for Partner States Central Banks; and promoting cross-border payments.

The Committee noted that a lot of work still needs to be done in the area of cross-border payment systems and agreed to continue rolling out interoperability initiatives at national level, enhancing the East African Payment System (EAPS), while engaging other stakeholders at continental level on further integration of cross-border payment systems.

In a gesture of inclusivity, the Committee extended a warm welcome to the Central Bank of Somalia as the newest member of the EAC Monetary Affairs Committee, underscoring the collective commitment to supporting Somalia's integration into the EAC.

The 27th MAC meeting underscores the EAC's resolute commitment to navigating economic challenges, fostering regional cooperation, and advancing towards a unified monetary future.

# Bank partners firm to bringing home-based financial literacy

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank has entered into a partnership agreement with SILABU APP, a company that provides supplementary education (tuition) services for pupils and students at home and through the internet.

The collaboration aims to leverage SILABU's network of teachers to deliver financial education and promote various banking services offered by NBC to their students. The initiative is expected to significantly improve students' knowledge and understanding of financial matters, as well as the importance of savings from an early age.

The signing ceremony of the agreement took place yesterday in Dar es Salaam, involving special training for the teachers of SILABU conducted by officials from NBC to provide them with sufficient knowledge about the bank's services and programs specifically designed for teachers and students. The training session was expected to effectively help the teachers deliver the education to their target audience when performing their duties.

Yoabu Ndanzi, bank's education services manager, emphasized the importance of the partnership in reaching students and teachers more effectively.

"This collaboration will provide us with a valuable platform to introduce our tailored services, such as the 'Chanua Account' and 'Students Account' for children and students, as well as the 'Mwalimu Account' for educators," Ndanzi explained.

Adam Duma, SILABU Co-founder expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating that it will complement the company's existing training package with the crucial addition of financial education. "We are delighted to see that our students will now have the opportunity to learn about savings, the use of financial institutions, and proper financial management,"

Duma said.

As part of the agreement, SILABU will provide monthly deposits of five thousand shillings to juniors' Chanua Accounts, further strengthening the partnership and supporting their educational journey.

Teachers who participated in the training sessions expressed their gratitude to NBC for the valuable knowledge and opportunities provided, including access to the Mwalimu Account, Malengo Account, and the bank's loan facilities.

In another development, the bank also took the same opportunity to launch the second season of its children's sports program



NBC's Education Services Manager, Yoabu Ndanzi (R), and Adam Duma, Co-founder of SILABU APP, a company that provides supplementary education (tuition) services for pupils and students at home and through the internet, congratulate each other after signing the agreement of partnership between the two institutions on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

known as "Chanua Football Clinic", which will take place at the Gymkhana grounds in Dar es Salaam on June 1st this year.

"Through the Chanua Football Clinic, all children with Chanua Accounts will be eligible to participate in this sports program. The criteria for new

account holders is to have an initial deposit of one hundred thousand shillings, while those with existing accounts should maintain a balance of at least two hundred thousand shillings."

"The participants (children and parents) will have the op-

portunity to enjoy various sports and training activities, receive jerseys and both general and special prizes, have lunch together, and also participate in sports with famous players from the NBC Premier League," said the bank.



# Africa's soil health crisis demands immediate attention



By Dr Agnes Kalibata

Soil serves as the foundation of life on our planet, yet the demands humans place on this vital resource are rapidly approaching critical thresholds.

The cost of land degradation due to poor soil health is estimated to be between USD 850 and 1,400 per year for every individual, with a global cost of US\$6.3 to 10.6 trillion annually.

Soil fertility decline not only

reduces crop yield, but also exacerbates the impacts of climate change by reducing the land's resilience and capacity to adapt. Since the 1960s, land degradation in Africa has led to a significant expansion of agricultural land by about 300%, compared to 25% elsewhere.

This has happened at the expense of forests, wetlands and other fragile systems. This expansion is driven by the need to compensate for the loss of productivity caused by soil fertility decline. It is imperative to mini-

mize or eradicate significant soil degradation in Africa to preserve the services rendered by all soils, which is significantly more cost-effective than rehabilitating soils post-degradation.

This week, the African Union and Government of Kenya hosted AFSH Summit in Nairobi Kenya to delve into the importance of soil health and fertilizer use in African food systems.

Five pivotal policy imperatives emerged, demanding the attention of African governments:

Firstly, policy incentives and investments must pave the way for a paradigm shift towards sustainable farming practices. Smart subsidies, tailored to usher farmers into this new era, are paramount. Investment in land restoration, concurrently, promises not just enhanced productivity but also beckons the dawn of a greener, more resilient agriculture.

Secondly, the imperative of land tenure policies cannot be overstated. Empowering farmers to safeguard their land will foster a culture of stewardship, vital for the sustainable use of this finite resource. There is a lot of evidence that shows that farmers protect land from erosion and other physical damage when the incentives are right—there is no question that land titling to farmers would be such an incentive and would reduce the high rate of ecosystem degradation and erosion.

Thirdly, a robust investment in fertilizer systems is indispensable. African governments should invest in improving access to both organic and mineral fertilizers to enhance soil health. This includes promoting domestic production, distribution, and intra-regional trade of fertilizers and increasing the production and use of lime for managing soil acidity. Ensuring the affordability and availability of fertilizers is essential for soil nutrient replenishment and maintaining agricultural productivity. Nitrogen inputs should increase at least fourfold to close the yield gap in Africa. Liming of acid soils increase crop

yield by 35 to 50%, and its effect could be pronounced by an additional 20-25% when integrated with sources of carbon including green manuring and composting.

Fourthly, the last mile delivery systems must be fortified. Governments must invest in functional extension systems and create capacity for availing locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies and practices. Providing advisory services to smallholder farmers and establishing regional networks for knowledge exchange will empower farmers to make informed decisions and adopt best practices for soil health and fertilizer use. Empowering farmers through farm level innovation is crucial for promoting soil health and fertilizer use.

AGRA's and partners have demonstrated that it is possible to reduce the farmer extension ration from 1:3000 to 1:500 and the last mile from over 22 kilometers to less than 8 on average across 11 countries. This strengthens the last mile and allows farmers to have access to both information and technologies. Today, farmers that produce 5 metric tonnes per hectare can be found in each of these countries but it must be scaled and anchored in a sustainable private sector ecosystem.

Lastly, research and innovation must be championed. Governments should support local research capacity and infrastructure, including functional soil labs. They must also enable and leverage private sector organizations, facilitating integration between research institutions, universities, extension services, so that new technologies can be developed/available faster to address the challenges of soil health. An assessment of investments on research in the CGIAR found that over the past 50 years there had been a 10-dollar return on every dollar invested in research and development.

The Abuja Declaration, endorsed by the Heads of State and Governments of the African Union in 2006, highlights the importance of managing soils to

address the challenges of soil fertility decline.

African leaders have recognized the multifunctional roles of soils in agriculture and the need to increase fertilizer use and complementary inputs to stimulate sustainable agricultural productivity growth and economic development. It set a target of increasing fertilizer use from 8 kilograms of nutrients per hectare to at least 50 kilograms of nutrients per hectare by 2015. However, uptake remains low at an average of 18kg per hectare and as a result, productivity and income of small holder farmers have marginally improved.

Climate change and externalities such as the Ukraine-Russia war and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the challenges faced by African farmers. These external factors have further hindered or reversed the early gains of crop yield enhancement, posing additional obstacles in the path of agricultural development in Africa.

Nonetheless, there has been significant progress in certain areas: the African continent now produces approximately 30 million metric tons of fertilizer each year, which is twice as much as it currently consumes.

This increase in local fertilizer manufacturing is the result of over \$15 billion of investments by the private sector, primarily focused on local production.

Second, public-private partnerships have been formed to address challenges related to fertilizer and nutrient use efficiency, research and development, and improved research infrastructures such as soil labs.

Third, average fertilizer use at the farm level has more than doubled in the last 18 years since the Abuja declaration. To address all these challenges, opportunities and more, the African Union and its partners have organized the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit 2024, which took place from May 7-9th, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The summit brought together relevant stakeholders to high-

light the crucial role of fertilizer and soil health in stimulating sustainable pro-poor productivity growth in African agriculture.

The Summit goal was to achieve a negotiated Africa-focused Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, offer policy directions and concrete recommendations for African governments in the coming decade, establish an implementation roadmap for the action plan, mobilize policymakers, development organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance soil health and fertilizer use, and strengthen the private sector while addressing challenges related to landscapes and systems for efficient nutrient and water resource utilization.

By endorsing the action plan to improve soil health and fertilizer use in African agriculture, leaders and stakeholders will show their commitment towards the implementation. The action plan will guide policy decisions and interventions in the next decade.

Sustainable pro-poor productivity growth and economic development in the agricultural sector will only happen when leaders are committed and are prepared to be bold about the necessary commitment and changes the continent must undertake. Finally, it is my hope that the summit will pave the way for increased collaboration, knowledge sharing, and investments in soil health and fertilizer use, ultimately unlocking the potential of African agriculture.

We are constantly reminded of the need to balance human needs and ingenuity with environmental needs, fragility and finiteness. For Africa, let's be deliberate and let's do what is right for us today but also for future generations of this continent.

The good news is that we have a lot to learn from and we are trying to do this when there are incredible new tools in research, predictive analytics, AI etc. if well harnessed can make our economic transformation journey so much less painful.

Dr. Agnes Kalibata (pictured) is the President of AGRA

By Correspondent Rachel Mkundai

A collaborative effort led by the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has been launched to enhance tobacco taxation policies in Africa.

The project aims to reducing tobacco-related mortality, enhancing domestic revenue mobilization, and aligning with global development goals.

With 43 African countries having ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, there is a clear commitment to utilizing taxation as a means to curb tobacco use.

One of the most compelling arguments for increasing tobacco prices through taxation is its potential to save millions of lives.

A recent report estimated that a 50 percent rise in tobacco prices could prevent a staggering 27.2 million premature deaths globally over 50 years.

This highlights the life-saving impact of robust tobacco taxation policies, reinforcing the urgency of action.

Furthermore, tobacco taxation plays a pivotal role in domestic revenue mobilization, particularly in Africa where the tax-to-GDP ratio is significantly lower than the OECD average.

By optimizing tobacco tax policy and administration, African countries can not only generate much-needed revenue but also promote public health and economic development.

The project aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063, which prioritize healthier lives and well-being for African citizens.

During a recent workshop in South Africa aimed at exploring the significance of tobacco taxation in generating domestic revenue, Antony Munanda, the Acting Senior Manager for Domestic Revenue Mobilisation at ATAF, emphasized that evidence supports the notion that increasing prices via taxation is the most

## Tobacco taxation to be enhanced to combat Africa's public health crisis



effective strategy for reducing tobacco consumption. However, he noted that implementation of this measure has been sluggish in many nations.

Munanda highlighted the importance of this project for African countries, particularly considering the lagging tax-to-GDP ratio compared to global standards.

He underscored that beyond financial benefits, the initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goals and AU Agenda

2063, promoting healthier lifestyles for African citizens by encouraging positive behavioral changes through elevated tobacco costs.

"With the tax-to-GDP ratio in Africa trailing behind the global benchmarks, this project presents important opportunities for countries to consider. Beyond fiscal gains, the initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goals and AU Agenda 2063, championing healthier lives for African citizens by in-

fluencing positive behavioural changes through increased tobacco costs", Munanda highlighted.

The initiative, supported by the BMGF, underscores a shared commitment to promoting citizen welfare by reducing the negative impact of tobacco on public health while simultaneously increasing domestic revenue mobilization in Africa.

By addressing key policy and tax administration issues, such as developing effective tax struc-

tures and combating illicit trade, the project aims to create a more prosperous and healthier Africa.

The scope of the project extends beyond tobacco taxation, with plans to cover other harmful products such as alcoholic beverages and sugar-sweetened beverages under the excise tax regime.

These efforts are essential for achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063, as they promote positive behavioral changes and contribute to overall well-being.

Key activities of the project include research and analysis of existing tobacco taxation policies, capacity building through training programs and technical assistance, and knowledge sharing to disseminate best practices and lessons learned.

By engaging stakeholders such as policymakers, tax administrators, and civil society organizations, the project seeks to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change.

Therefore, the tobacco tax project represents a vital step towards addressing the dual challenges of public health and revenue mobilization in Africa. By harnessing the power of taxation to deter tobacco use and promote economic growth, the initiative holds the promise of creating a healthier and more prosperous future for African citizens.

Tobacco tax covers all the taxes applicable to tobacco products and the tobacco industry including indirect taxes such as excise taxes, value added taxes, customs taxes, other levies, and direct taxes such as income taxes.

Of the different types of taxes levied on tobacco products, excise taxes have the most significant impact on the prices of these products and hence have the potential to have more impact in domestic revenue mobilisation as well as health. As such, significant attention has been given to excise taxes.

However, the key issues that the project will address include development of effective tax structures, tax rates and other tax policy related issues.

The structure of taxes (especially excise tax) adopted by a country has huge impact on the effectiveness of the tax itself and whether the tax will achieve the intended purposes.

Through this project, ATAF will assist tax administrations in designing effective tax structures through toolkits that enable countries model optimal tax structures and tax rates.



# French bank exists to spur growth of pan-African banks

TUNIS

Fitch Ratings is forecasting that the exit of French bank, Societe Generale (SG) from Africa, will give pan-African banks significant space to grow, either organically or through mergers and acquisitions.

"This should stimulate competition and benefit local banking sectors despite some short-term challenges", Fitch said.

Already, there are reports SG is moving out of Ghana due to issues of profitability and high regulatory demands in the financial sector by the regulator.

SG has announced the sale of Societe Generale Marocaine de Banques (SGMB) and its subsidiaries to the Moroccan conglomerate Saham Group on 12 April.

This follows several African disposals by French banks in recent years.

In the past six months SG has also agreed the sale of some other smaller African subsidiaries, and launched a strategic review to dispose of its 52.34 percent stake in Tunisia-based Union Internationale

de Banques.

BNP Paribas, BPCE and Credit Agricole's African presence has also decreased over the last 10 years and is now very limited.

"We expect further divestments in the next 12-24 months, especially if valuations are attractive to the selling banks," said Fitch.

"In addition, the exit of highly rated foreign shareholders is often credit negative for subsidiaries. We placed SGMB's National Ratings on Rating Watch Negative, signalling that upon completion of the sale we will no longer factor in potential support from SG, which is likely to result in a downgrade."

A lower rating, or the exit of a foreign shareholder, could make access to the global financial system and correspondent banks more difficult, potentially disrupting cross-border remittances, payments and trade finance activities.

In many sub-Saharan markets where FX liquidity is tight, it could also make access to hard currencies more difficult without the FX liquidity lines that French parent banks typically provide to support



trade finance activities.

However, these are short-term hurdles and banks typically have good access to funding from development finance institutions.

"We see significant opportunities for local and regional banks in Africa despite the challenges. Some banking groups with pan-African ambitions should eventually gain enough scale to compete with long-established institutions. Vista Group agreed to acquire several subsidiaries (including some of

SG's) in sub-Saharan Africa in 2023, which would increase its African presence to 16 countries," it says.

Coris Bank, present in 11 African countries, finalised the acquisition of SG's Chadian subsidiary in January, and is awaiting regulatory approval to acquire SG's Mauritanian subsidiary.

Vista and Coris are emerging as credible competitors for the well-established South African, Nigerian and Moroccan pan-African banking groups.

Fitch says increasing competition among pan-African banking groups should boost credit growth.

French-owned African subsidiaries are often unable to target certain segments of the economy due to their parent bank's conservative risk appetite, and they follow more stringent loan classification and provisioning policies than locally owned banks.

This can act as a drag on growth and profitability. Stricter capital management,

with higher buffers over local minimum regulatory requirements, has also constrained subsidiaries' lending.

Fitch Rating expects credit growth to accelerate with the exit of French banks, albeit mainly in lower-risk segments, which will help preserve asset-quality metrics.

"The French banks' exit from African retail and commercial banking is slightly credit positive for them," the rating agency says.

"They are refocusing on more mature retail banking markets in Europe and on activities such as insurance, leasing, and corporate and investment banking, where they can realise higher synergies."

Reduced presence in Africa also aligns better with their conservative risk appetite and efforts to optimise risk-weighted assets under European banking supervision, which is tighter than the local supervision for their African peers.

Increasing economic uncertainties and heightened geopolitical tensions in some African countries are also influencing their strategic reassessment, Fitch concludes.

## Namtumbo farmers trained on the use of improved seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

A CROSS section of farmers in Ruvuma region have been trained on recommended agronomic practices for the professional cultivation of maize and sunflower, as well as certified seed varieties.

The useful training, rolled out by the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) through a tailor-made 'Farmer's Field Day' (FFD) focused to ensure the farmers in the country's fertile agricultural landscape region are realizing improved yields.

Speaking during the key event held at the ASA's Namtumbo seed estate, Dr Sophia Kashenge, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for ASA, said the state-owned Agency was

working concerted efforts to ensure the farmers from across the country adopt certified seeds.

"As the government seed agency, our general role is produce enough seed varieties to ensure the farmers across the country are equipped with improved seeds, but along with the effort, we're also working to educate them on how best to adopt use of other necessary practices in order to have the certificated seeds thriving accordingly," she briefed.

She added, the Agency has decided to stage the FFD at the major farm in order to capacitate the farmers within district, especially those engaging into growing of maize and sunflower to be aware, and start use the certified seeds that are produced



Ruvuma Regional Commissioner (RC), Colonel Ahmed Abbas plant a tree at the Namtumbo seed farm in Ruvuma during a farmer's field day. Assisting him left is ASA's CEO, Dr Sophia Kashenge. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

by ASA.

She similarly urged the farmers in the district to make full use of the presence of the Agency's seed estate in their areas to get improved seeds for sunflower and maize, the development which will automatically assist them to yield bumper.

On his side, speaking during the event, the Director of Crops Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nyasebwa Chimagu said the government was working strategies and efforts to improve capacity of local seeds production in order to discourage a long-standing trend of seeds importation in the country.

He informed that, the parent ministry was continue setting aside enough budget to facilitate installation of modern irrigation schemes at all ASA's seed farms in order to allow the farms to remain productive throughout the country, and not rely on rain seasons.

On his remarks, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner (RC), Colonel Ahmed Abbas challenged the people of Namtumbo District in the Region to refrain from raiding the areas that have been earmarked for public seed estates.

He said the government has decided to establish the seed farms for patriotic will of elevating performance of

the Agriculture sector, the vital stage which has positive impact to the nation's economy, but also for improving livelihoods among millions households across the country.

Currently, the government is working on a robust process to ensure all of the 17 state-owned seeds estate are installed with modern irrigation schemes by 2025.

Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) was established under the Executive Agencies Act No.30 of 1997. The Agency was launched in June 2006 as a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives.

## Lack of certifiers denies farmers' in entering into export markets

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

SMALLHOLDER farmers engaged in organic farming in Kisarawe District, Coast Region have called upon the ministry of agriculture to help them to obtain organic inspectors or certification agencies to help them to export their organic crops in Ireland, Germany, the UK and India markets and reduce cost of organic certification.

Lydia Jacob, Upendo Food Processing Group's chairperson made the statement yesterday when speaking to journalist about the main challenges they encounter in farming and what assistances they need from the government.

"To obtaining organic certification for their organic crop is quite challenging because is very expensive to get inspectors from abroad," she said.

She said the ministry can enter into partnership with international certification agencies and later on allow farmers to benefit from what they grow.

"Just look if we want to export our organic crops, we need to hiring organic inspectors from abroad to

Tanzania to inspect our organic products and confirm that our products and businesses we do adhere to the organic that is very expensive," she said

Apart from that, farmers are required to pay flight ticket for going and return or a round-trip flight ticket, accommodation facilities and other issues that is very expensive," she said

"We need organic inspectors who will help us to conduct inspection in our farms, examine records of material application used in farming activities, harvest, yields and samples for residue testing," she said

According to her, organic inspector is a representative of the certifier because after inspection, he normally writes a report and sends it to the certification agency to enable the agency reviews the inspection report and decided whether the farm meets the requirements of the organic regulations and later on issue organic certification.

Also while in Tanzania, the organic inspectors inspect how they cultivate the crops, quality, safety, authenticity of the organic products and other issues.

BANKING & FINANCE

## Angola, Chinese state bank agree to ease debt crunch



LONDON

Angola is using an unusual deal with China to relieve a debt crunch in Africa's second-biggest oil producer by unlocking cash from a Chinese-controlled account to pay interest on a crucial loan, its finance minister said.

Vera Daves de Sousa told the Financial Times the southern African nation had agreed with the China Development Bank, the country's largest single creditor, to release cash held as collateral for a multibillion-dollar loan.

Her comments on the deal offer a rare window into behind-the-scenes efforts by Chinese banks to provide payment support short of outright debt relief to poor countries that are struggling

to pay them back.

China has in recent years provided other forms of support, from currency swap lines to loans, to emerging market borrowers from Argentina to Pakistan.

Chinese creditors had granted Angola a three-year moratorium on its debt payments after the coronavirus pandemic. But the resumption of those payments in 2023 exacerbated a sharp economic downturn in Angola's economy and hit its currency, the kwanza. Angola had been required to continue other payments such as on US dollar bonds throughout the pandemic.

Angola owes about \$17bn to China – just over one-third of its total debt – mostly in the form of loans backed by oil.

The nation is Beijing's biggest borrower on the continent.

State-owned CDB's lending required Angola to top up cash collateral in a special escrow account as security, to a minimum amount of \$1.5bn. Daves de Sousa said Angola had been required to pay in extra money when the oil price was more than \$60 a barrel.

The new deal "will allow us to release the funds [for interest payments]... \$150mn to \$200mn will be available monthly", she said.

The arrangement avoids a broader debt restructuring. "We understand that it is not restructuring, because we didn't ask for a change of maturities and we didn't ask for a change of payments," Daves de Sousa said. On the contra-

ry, she said, in order to keep servicing the debt without defaulting, "we are asking to pay this debt quicker".

Asked about the arrangement, China's foreign ministry said Chinese financial institutions had made "significant contributions to the development and revitalisation of Angola and the improvement of people's livelihoods".

"Recently, Chinese financial institutions have had friendly and in-depth communications with Angola regarding the loan issues between the two sides, reaching a consensus that satisfies both parties," the ministry said, without giving details.

Crude oil accounts for almost all Angola's export earnings, but production fell from 1.5mn barrels a day in 2018 to

just over 1.1mn b/d last year, straining the country's finances. President João Lourenço's government quit the Opec cartel last year after disagreements over quotas limiting output.

Cash escrow accounts have become "a particularly important safeguard in China's bilateral lending portfolio", AidData, a research lab on international development at William & Mary college in the US, said last year.

Although international markets have reopened to many African borrowers as an alternative to Chinese loans after high global interest rates kept them away for several years, Daves de Sousa said Angola was yet to decide whether to issue a US dollar bond in 2024.



## WORLD

## US probe finds widespread sexual misconduct at FDIC

WASHINGTON

THE Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation must make sweeping changes to address widespread sexual harassment and other misconduct, according to an independent report released on Tuesday that raises questions about the future of the banking regulator's leadership.

The report, prompted by a Wall Street Journal investigation, cited accounts from more than 500 people, including some who alleged FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg had engaged in bullying and verbal abuse.

Overall, the report by law firm Cleary Gottlieb paints a picture of an agency at which sexual harassment, racial discrimination and bullying were pervasive at every level and tolerated by senior leaders for years, while complaints about misconduct were met with retaliation.

"For far too many employees and for far too long, the FDIC has failed to provide a workplace safe from sexual harassment, discrimination, and other interpersonal misconduct," said the report, adding that those accused of misconduct were frequently reassigned new roles.

Underscoring the agency's toxic culture, officials tasked with addressing the problems exposed by the WSJ reports were

themselves the subject of misconduct claims, the Cleary Gottlieb report found.

The findings sparked renewed calls for the ouster of Gruenberg, a Democrat who has been a senior leader at the agency for nearly two decades.

Representative Patrick McHenry, a Republican who chairs the House Financial Services Committee, called for Gruenberg's resignation following the report, saying it made clear the agency needs new leadership.

"The FDIC needs to be fixed. The women and men who work there deserve better," Sherrod Brown, chair of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, said in a statement. "Chair Gruenberg must accept responsibility and must immediately work to make fundamental changes to the agency and its culture."

Some employees described Gruenberg as "harsh" and "aggressive", as well as prone to losing his temper, the report said. In speaking with investigators, Gruenberg said he never recalled acting inappropriately. The report said some employees reported positive interactions with him and saw his nature as more "prosecutorial."

In a statement to staff, Gruenberg said the report was "sobering" and he vowed to implement its recommendations.



US acting Comptroller of the Currency Michael Hsu speaks with Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Martin Gruenberg during a meeting of the Financial Stability Oversight Council at the US Department of Treasury on Dec 14, 2023 in Washington, DC, US. AFP

He said he was ultimately responsible for everything that happened at the agency and apologized for any shortcomings. "I again want to express how very sorry I am," he added.

## Leadership cloud

The report recommends the appointment of new officials devoted to changing the FDIC's culture and hiring an independent third party to assist in the transition, although it did not consider whether top leaders should resign.

It also called on the agency to establish an anonymous hotline to report misconduct and abuse, develop a more timely and transparent process for handling complaints, and take steps to ensure victims are protected and supported.

While the report found that Gruenberg's aggressive conduct was not a root cause of the more severe issues at the agency, it was skeptical of his ability to oversee the necessary dramatic overhaul.

"As the FDIC faces a crisis relating to its workplace culture, Chairman Gruenberg's reputation raises questions about the credibility of the leadership's response to the crisis and the 'moral authority' to lead a cultural transformation," the report stated.

The departure of Gruenberg, who was appointed by President Joe Biden in 2022, could imperil the administration's efforts to impose stricter financial rules, including a pending regulatory proposal on bank capital requirements, which has sparked a backlash from Republicans and industry representatives.

A White House spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

If Gruenberg steps down or is removed, agency bylaws stipulate that FDIC Vice-Chair Travis Hill, a Republican, take over, and the agency's board would be evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.

Agencies

## TikTok sues US govt to block potential ban

WASHINGTON

TIKTOK, an online video entertainment platform, and its Chinese parent company ByteDance on Tuesday filed a legal challenge against the U.S. government over a law forcing ByteDance to sell off the ultra-popular app or face a nationwide ban in the country.

U.S. President Joe Biden signed a TikTok ban bill into law last month after it was passed by both houses of U.S. Congress.

"Congress has taken the unprecedented step of expressly singling out and banning TikTok: a vibrant online forum for protected speech and expression used by 170 million Americans to create, share, and view videos over the Internet," said TikTok in the petition filed in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, adding that "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide."

TikTok pointed out in the petition that the law - the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act - is unconstitutional.

"Banning TikTok is so obviously unconstitutional, in fact, that even the Act's sponsors recognized that reality, and therefore have tried mightily to depict the law not as a ban at all, but merely a regulation of TikTok's ownership," said TikTok.

The law only gives ByteDance 270 days to sell TikTok to a non-Chinese buyer, with the possibility of a 90-day extension if the U.S. President determines it necessary.

"But in reality, there is no choice," said TikTok, noting that the "qualified divestiture" demanded by the Act to allow TikTok to continue operating in the United States is simply not possible: not commercially, not technologically, not legally.

The TikTok ban, citing unfounded national security concerns due to its Chinese ownership, has drawn widespread criticism from various quarters both within and outside the United States, with people questioning the motivations behind Washington's suppression of the popular app, and raising concerns about constitutional rights and the principle of fair competition being violated.

## African experts highlight soil degradation, climate impacts on crop yields

NAIROBI

AGRICULTURE experts from Africa on Tuesday attributed low crop yields to land degradation, soil acidity and the unfolding climate crisis on the continent.

The experts who spoke on the sidelines of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, said that acute land degradation has undermined efforts to feed the continent's growing population.

Oluwale Fatunbi, the acting director of research and innovation at the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, noted that 65 percent of crop land is degraded hence leading to low yield. Fatunbi said that land degradation costs farmers on the continent 68 billion U.S. dollars annually in their attempts to prepare land for farming.

"We need to increase extension services and adopt farming practices that help reduce the effects of climate change," Fatunbi said, stressing the need for African farmers to apply fertilizer and sustain themselves. Manyewu Mutamba, acting head of agriculture at the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, said that the continental body has developed an action plan to guide member states on soil initiatives that target improving productivity.

Mutamba noted that the action plan is in line with the African Unions Agenda 2063 and envisions managing the soil for the benefit of producing food for trade among the citizens of the neighboring countries.

Eyasu Elias, state minister for natural resource management in the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia, said that acidity in the soil is blamed for 50 to 100 percent of yield losses in most parts of Ethiopia.

Elias said that despite the loss, 96 percent of farmers have opted for the use of fertilizer, which has led to improved yields of maize and teff. He said that Ethiopia has also developed compost centers where the youth are employed to produce compost manures that are sold to farmers.

Paul Ronoh, principal secretary at the State Department for Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, said that Kenya has developed a soil plan to help farmers learn how to treat their land. Ronoh added that the East African nation has also developed a handbook to provide guidance to farmers on acidic soil management.

TARBES, France

ON the last day of Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to France, his engagement with French President Emmanuel Macron took on a more personal tone.

In Tarbes, nestled in the Hautes-Pyrenees Department of France, a locale dear to Macron from his childhood, the two heads of state, wearing no ties, on Tuesday enjoyed a traditional folk dance performance, shared a meal, and chatted in a relaxing and cordial atmosphere.

Such amicable interactions between Xi and Macron, arranged after the fully-packed previous day of talks and meetings, allowed the two leaders more time for deeper understanding of each other as well as the country and people they represent.

## PERSONAL INTERACTIONS

The French hospitality in the Pyrenees was reminiscent of the informal talks between Xi and Macron in April 2023 in Guangzhou, the capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

The two leaders then strolled through a southern Chinese garden, had tea by the water, and listened to a live performance of the ancient Chinese music piece "High Mountains and Flowing Water," which represents cherished friendship in Chinese culture.

Macron on Tuesday recalled his visit to China last year, es-

## Xi ends France visit with no-tie diplomacy



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group photo with French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron at the Col du Tourmalet in Hautes-Pyrenees Department of France. Xi on Tuesday arrived in Tarbes, Hautes-Pyrenees Department of France, as part of his state visit to the European country. Xinhua

pecially the meeting at the Pine Garden in Guangzhou which left him with a deep and wonderful impression.

He said that through in-depth exchanges with Xi, he learned more about China's history, culture, philosophy, and development process and gained a deeper understanding of China's position on important issues.

The Chinese and French leaders had a similar interaction in March 2019 in the French city of Nice, where Macron received Xi at Villa Kerylos, a century-old house overlooking the Mediterranean and seen as a microcosm reflecting European civilization.

Later that year, in November, Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, met with Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron, in the Yuyuan Garden in Shanghai, China. The location was chosen so that the Macrons "can

appreciate the beauty of Chinese gardens and traditional Chinese culture," Xi said then.

## BOOKS AS GIFTS

On Monday, the two leaders exchanged gifts before having a discussion at the Elysee Palace, the office and residence of the French president.

Both leaders selected books as gifts for the other. Macron gave Xi rare volumes by Victor Hugo, and a copy of "Linguage Sinarum Mandarinicae hieroglyphicae grammatica duplex," a Chinese language grammar book published in 1742 by French scholar and Orientalist Etienne Fourmont. The Chinese president gifted Macron Chinese translations of French novels.

At the welcoming banquet hosted by Macron Monday evening, Xi underscored the significance of cross-cultural exchanges in fostering mutu-

al respect and understanding between China and France.

"The China-France relationship is special in that we appreciate each other. Representing Eastern and Western civilizations, China and France have a fine tradition of mutual appreciation and mutual attraction," Xi said.

Former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius echoed this opinion, noting that China and France appreciate each other's rich culture and history.

"There are, of course, differences between China and France, but there are also many points in common. We are great civilizations ... (and) we are permanent members of the Security Council. On many points, even though our systems are different, our views are similar, if not identical," said Fabius.

French writer Jean-Pierre Page rejected the view of the "superiority of Western civilization as a definition of progress and development."

"There should be no single model imposed from the outside," Page said, adding that "what we need is a community of destiny, win-win relations based on mutual respect."

## CLOSE PARTNERS FOR WORLD PEACE

Among the gifts exchanged on Monday, three Olympic torches were particularly

eye-catching, which stood side by side on an off-white marble table in the brightly lit Portrait Room of Elysee Palace.

Xi presented to Macron the Olympic torches of the Beijing 2008 Olympics and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. In return, Macron gifted Xi an Olympic torch of the coming Paris Olympic Games. Paris will host the 33rd Summer Olympic Games from July to August.

Upon arrival for the state visit to France on Sunday, Xi said that he hopes China and France will light up their way forward with the torch of history. France is a sporting power and China will send a high-level delegation to France to participate in the Games, Xi said with a smile, wishing the Paris Olympic Games every success.

During their meetings over the past two days, both leaders emphatically voiced their opposition to bloc confrontation and reiterated their commitment to multilateralism, with Xi calling on China and France to uphold independence and jointly prevent a "new Cold War."

France was the first major Western country to establish diplomatic relations with China, and has done a great deal to help China develop, said Eric Alauzet, president of the France-China Friendship Group of the French National Assembly, noting that France has for long advocated strategic autonomy for Europe.

Xinhua

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's state visits to France, Serbia, and Hungary mark a major diplomatic move by China towards the European Union (EU).

China and the EU are two major forces advancing multipolarity, two major markets in support of globalization, and two major civilizations championing diversity. The development of China-EU relations is crucial to the direction of the world development.

China and the EU do not have conflicting fundamental interests between them, or geopolitical and strategic conflicts. Their common interests far outweigh their differences. In the context of China-EU relations, the two sides should be characterized rightly as partners. Cooperation should be the defining feature of the

## China, EU to work together to enhance stability of China-EU ties

relationship, autonomy its key value, and win-win its future.

China always regards the EU as a strategic force in the international landscape, and takes the development of China-EU relations as a priority in its diplomacy.

In the spring of 2014, Xi visited the EU headquarters, where he proposed to jointly forge four major China-EU partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization. This vision remains unchanged and holds even greater practical significance under current circumstances.

As the world today is becoming increasingly uncertain and unstable, it is crucial for both China and the EU to maintain close communication and focus on mutually beneficial co-

operation, whether in driving their respective development or addressing global challenges.

Facts have repeatedly proved that as long as China and the EU work together to set the right direction and tone for China-EU relations, they can achieve development that meets the interests of both sides and the expectations of the people.

Currently, China is one of the most important trading partners of the EU, and vice versa. Despite the adverse effects of the global trade downturn, the total trade volume between China and the EU reached a remarkable \$783 billion in 2023, with the stock of two-way investment exceeding \$250 billion.

China is ready to be Europe's key

partner for business cooperation, priority partner for cooperation in science and technology, and trustworthy partner for cooperation in industrial and supply chains. The two sides have the potential to achieve mutual success and shared prosperity.

China has been continuously expanding high-level opening-up and fostering a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized. Multinationals in European countries such as BMW, Volkswagen, Stellantis, and BASF, and SMEs such as Groupe SEB, a producer of small domestic equipment, are strengthening cooperation with their Chinese counterparts to seize new opportunities.

Cooperation between China and the EU is steadily moving forward in emerging sectors such as digital economy, green development and environmental protection, new energy, and artificial intelligence.

According to the Business Confidence Survey 2023 released by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC), more than 90 percent of the surveyed European companies plan to make China their investment destination. The 2023 Annual Report by the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) shows that more than 80 percent of surveyed Chinese companies plan to enhance their business in Europe. Both China and the EU should do more to increase the breadth and depth of

cooperation and tighten the bond of shared interests.

China's development and progress present opportunities for the EU, and a healthy and stable China-EU relationship will help the EU address its challenges. More and more Europeans are recognizing that China is an important partner for the EU to address energy and inflation challenges and enhance competitiveness.

Both the EU and China are firm practitioners of world multipolarity, economic globalization, and multilateral governance. Cooperation between the two sides serves their common interests and directly affects global stability and prosperity, said Yves Leterme, former prime minister of Belgium, highlighting the global significance of EU-China cooperation.

People's Daily



## India, EU hold 2nd consultations on security and defence

NEW DELHI

THE European Union and India held their second consultations on security and defence in New Delhi and exchanged views and respective assessments on international and regional issues in Europe, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as developments in South Asia and the Middle East.

In consultations held on May 6, they also discussed security and defence policy developments.

The EU informed on the implementation of the EU's Strategic Compass and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, including the European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS), as well as new EU operations, such as the

EUNAVFOR Aspides.

They also discussed and agreed to deepen engagement in existing areas of bilateral cooperation, such as cyber, maritime security and crisis management, including by making full use of the possibilities offered by the EU project Enhancing Cooperation in and with Asia (ESIWA).

They also agreed on the need to explore new areas of cooperation, including space security.

The consultations were co-chaired by Joanneke Balfourt, Director for Security and Defence Policy of the European External Action Service, and by Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) of India's Ministry of Defence.

ANI

## World's record-breaking temperature streak extends through April

BRUSSELS

THE world just experienced its hottest April on record, extending an 11-month streak in which every month set a temperature record, the European Union's climate change monitoring service said yesterday.

Each month since June 2023 has ranked as the planet's hottest on record, compared with the corresponding month in previous years, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said in a monthly bulletin.

Including April, the world's average temperature was the highest on record for a 12-month period - 1.61 degrees Celsius above the average in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period.

Some of the extremes - including months of record breaking sea surface temperatures - have led scientists to investigate whether human activity has now triggered a tipping point in the climate system.

"I think many scientists have asked the question whether there could be a shift in the climate system," said Julien Nicolas, C3S Senior Climate Scientist.

Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels are the main cause of climate change. In recent months, the natural El Nino phenomenon, which warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, has also raised temperatures.

Scientists have already confirmed that climate change caused some specific weather extremes in April, including a heat wave in the Sahel linked to potentially thousands of deaths.

Hayley Fowler, a climate scientist at Newcastle University, said the data showed the world is perilously close to breaching the 2015 Paris Agreement's goal to cap global warming at 1.5°C.

"At what point do we declare we've lost the battle to keep temperatures below 1.5? My personal opinion is we've already lost that battle, and we really need to think very seriously about keeping below 2°C and reducing our emissions as fast as we can," she said.

Countries agreed the 1.5°C goal at a UN climate summit in 2015. It is the level scientists say would avoid the most disastrous consequences of warming, like fatal heat, flooding and the irreversible loss of ecosystems.

Technically, the 1.5°C target has not yet been missed, as it refers to an average global temperature over decades. But some scientists have said the goal can no longer realistically be met, and have urged governments to cut CO2 emissions faster to limit overshoot of the target.

C3S' dataset goes back to 1940, which the scientists cross-checked with other data to confirm that last month was the hottest April since the pre-industrial period.

## Gaza truce talks with Israeli delegation in Cairo 'positive', say sources

CAIRO/GAZA/JERUSALEM

THE talks held with the Israeli negotiators in Egypt on Tuesday for a truce with Hamas were "positive" and could lead to an imminent end of the current Israeli military operation in the southernmost Gaza city of Rafah, Egyptian sources told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

"Today's meeting with the Israeli delegation addressed some of the six points of disagreement between Israel and Hamas and made progress in the discussions," the sources added.

Among the points of disagreement between Israel and Gaza-ruling Hamas is that Israel seeks the release of three Israeli hostages every three days, while Hamas agrees to release three every week.

The two sides also failed to reach a consensus on Hamas's request to release a list of Palestinians, the sources said.

Israel doesn't want Hamas to control the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing and the negotiating sides are discussing a different Palestinian body, according to the sources.

Earlier on Tuesday, Egypt hosted delegations from Hamas, Israel, Qatar, and the United States to reach a comprehensive truce in Gaza.

In a video statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had instructed the delegation to "continue to stand firm on the conditions necessary for the release of our hostages, continue to stand firm on the essential requirements to ensure Israel's security".

He noted that the ceasefire proposal, brokered by Egyptian and Qatari mediators and approved by Hamas on Monday, fell short of Israel's essential requirements.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant warned that if the ongoing ceasefire negotiations in Cairo fail, Israel will escalate its military assault on Rafah.

He said that Israel "is ready for compromise in order to bring the hostages

back home". However, he added that if no progress is made, "we will deepen the operation throughout the Gaza Strip".

Benny Gantz, a member of Israel's wartime Cabinet, also emphasized the urgency of reaching a deal. "The delegation not only has the mandate to listen but also the obligation to act for an agreement to free the hostages," he stated.

### Ongoing attacks on Gaza

Gallant's warning came hours after Israeli tanks and warplanes stormed Rafah, where about 1.4 million displaced people have sought refuge from bombardments elsewhere, according to estimates by the United Nations.

Residents reported heavy bombardments. According to the Palestinian official news agency WAFA, at least 20 Palestinians were killed. The Israeli army said that those killed were militants.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army wrote on social media platform X that four mortar shells and two rockets were launched from Rafah toward Israeli territory, triggering sirens in the Kerem Shalom area. However, no injuries or damages were reported.

The Israeli army announced on Tuesday it had attained "operational" control over the Palestinian side of the Rafah Crossing, following what it described as a "precise counter-terrorism operation" in the eastern area of Rafah during the night.

Video footage circulating on social media, recorded by soldiers, showed the raising of the Israeli flag near the Rafah Crossing. The area appeared deserted, following Israel's warning to civilians in the densely populated eastern Rafah to evacuate to tents in Al Mawasi and Khan Younis.

The General Authority for Borders and Crossings in Gaza said in a brief statement that operations at the Rafah land crossing were suspended following the entry of Israeli tanks into the crossing facilities from Palestinian territory.

Agencies

## AI reunites 9-year-old and his beloved late brother

HONG KONG

NINE-YEAR-OLD Morris Kwok Yat-chun couldn't hold back his tears when he unexpectedly found himself engaging with a life-like AI replica of his late beloved brother, Yat-lai.

"I missed him a lot," Kwok said on Sunday during a press conference which introduced a project utilizing AI and virtual reality technologies to reconnect people with lost relatives.

In 2020, when Kwok was five, his seven-month-old brother, Yat-lai, was in hospital suffering from a rare autoimmune disease and struck with pneumonia, Kwok's mother said during the conference.

After exhausting various medical interventions, including injections and medications, doctors informed Kwok's family that the only hope of saving Yat-lai was through a cord blood transplant from his brother. Cord blood is the blood that remains in the placenta and umbilical cord after the birth of a baby.

Years earlier, when Yat-chun was born, under medical advice, the family preserved his cord blood in the hospital as it could potentially be crucial for other people's treatment in the future.

Incredibly, years later, the cord blood was a potential cure for his brother.

However, on the very day the cord blood treatment plan was proposed, Yat-lai passed away, which became an enduring regret for his family.

Last year, Kwok's family enrolled Yat-chun in a voluntary program operated by the non-profit organization Love Our Kids Foundation, which aims to grant children's wishes.

When volunteers asked Kwok what he wanted, he said he missed his brother a lot and wanted to see him again.

Yat-chun's mother, a 41-year-old former piano teacher, said that she wished to witness Yat-lai experiencing the joyous milestone of learning to walk, the next natural progres-



Nine-year-old Morris Kwok Yat-chun engages with a life-like replica of his late brother in the virtual world.

sion in his life had he survived.

The volunteer team thought AI technology may be a good way to realize Kwok's wish, and reached out to local start-ups and technology firms.

After months of efforts by technicians and volunteers, Yat-lai reappeared via the virtual world, taking shaky steps and playing with toys.

"Witnessing his presence in the virtual world felt like having him by my side once again", Yat-chun said.

"I want to play hide and seek, basketball, and swim with him within the virtual world."

His mother said she never expected the reunion could be made possible by technology.

She was deeply touched at the moment Yat-chun shed tears upon seeing Yat-lai. She had not anticipated he still had such a profound emotional response after his life had restored normalization for a long time.

The recreation allowed Yat-chun to release his love and longing for his late brother, his mother said.

In addition to the efforts in creating the

portrayal of Yat-lai, the voluntary team also used AI to reconstruct a deceased mother from another family.

The volunteers initiated the process by asking the three daughters to write a letter to their late mother.

Using the letter as a basis, the volunteers created a video in which the reconstructed AI version of the mother replied to her children. This involved reconstructing her appearance and replicating her voice, with the volunteers crafting a script that captured the essence of her personality, expressing her feelings to her daughters.

Lee Tan, an associate dean of education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's engineering faculty, was in charge of reconstructing the mother's voice, and Tom Tong Kwun-wah, co-founder of a technology start-up Softmind, created the mother's facial expressions.

Tong said that he took on this project because it was meaningful. He said he came across some challenges in accurately synchronizing mouth movements with Cantonese pronunciation, as most AI software and materials are predominantly designed for English speakers.

Tong had to record additional videos featuring people speaking Cantonese, capturing their unique mouth movements to achieve satisfactory results.

Lawrence Cheung Cheong-ming, the head of customer and product support for the virtual reality division at smartphone brand HTC, constructed the virtual reality living room where the mother was located for the filming.

Cheung said that his main task was compiling the materials he had gathered from Lee and Tong and integrating them into the virtual space station, which was relatively straightforward and uncomplicated.

Lee said that he had to produce a fluent minutes-long speech based on only a few seconds of voice recordings of the deceased mother.

## The Great Victory: The shared history we cannot afford to forget

By Andrey Avetisyan

THE 9th of May 2024 marks the 79th anniversary of the Great Victory, a day of deepest significance for all world nations. We commemorate the heroic joint effort of the multinational people of the USSR and the anti-Hitler coalition allies that liberated the world from the genocidal "brown plague" of the Third Reich.

The painful lessons of the past and the sacrifices of the generations before us must not be forgotten lest history repeat itself. We have to remember how the threat of Nazism was allowed to reach its magnitude and how it was stopped and draw the right conclusions from our shared history.

The templates for the genocidal practices applied by the Nazis in Europe were forged in Africa by German colonial forces. Many in the Nazi leadership had direct connections to the deliberate systemic extermination of African tribespeople.

The word "untermensch", meaning sub-human, has come to underpin the Nazi hatred for Jews, Roma and Slavs, but it was coined in Southwest Africa. The very term for concentration camps came to the German language from the African continent, written down on the pages of history with the blood of the Nama and the Herero people. The barbaric studies in eugenics were first performed on the prisoners of Shark Island and other African concentration camps like it. Then, tried and tested without any outside interference, these and other savage practices and misanthropic ideas were transferred to Europe and applied to any persons dubbed "sub-human".

The citizens of the USSR experienced this in full force, as Nazi executioners and their collaborationist henchmen spared neither women, nor children, nor the elderly in their attempt to exterminate most of the Soviet population and enslave the rest. It is well-documented that the treatment of Soviet prisoners of war was especially brutal compared to other captured soldiers. There was no mercy to be expected, no humanity to rely upon, so for the Soviet people the fight against the Nazis meant much more than mere politics.

There is no family in modern Russia that has not been affected by the Great Patriotic War. 27 million



of our compatriots lost their lives in that war, almost half of them - civilians. We still remember the tragedy and honor the heroism and selflessness of the great generation that gave everything to not only save our Motherland, but to liberate Nazi-occupied territories, freeing hundreds of thousands of victims of concentration camps.

The allied victory over Nazi Germany didn't just save Europe, but served as a push towards the political liberation of African nations. Former colonial powers were exhausted, inhumane ideas of inequality came under intense scrutiny and Pan-Africanism and anti-colonialism were on the rise right after the war. Holding sacred the contribution of all anti-Hitler coalition members, we must remember that it was the USSR and its people who broke the backbone of Nazism, making new positive social and political tendencies possible.

Yet today there is an increasing campaign not only to diminish the role of the USSR in these historic events, but to present it as a culprit of the war alongside Nazi Germany. Facts are being twisted or withheld altogether. This is especially evident in information surrounding the Munich Conference of 1938. The agreement signed then by the leaders of Great Britain, France, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy divided Czechoslovakia between Germany, Poland and Hungary and completely eliminated it as an independent state.

Archived documents help restore the objective historic truth. Following London's lead Europe met Hitler's expansionism with the policy of "appeasing" the aggressor. The concept of "neutralizing" Czechoslovakia was put forth by Great Britain, who openly demonstrated that it will not stand in the way of the Third Reich's eastward expansion in hopes of a clash between Germany and the USSR.

During that period the USSR actively argued in favor of a collective security

system in Europe that would be able to prevent armed conflicts in the region. As Czechoslovakia was facing annihilation from Germany and immense pressure from Great Britain it pleaded with the Soviet Union to provide military support. Unfortunately, the Red Army was not given permission to cross the borders of Romania and Poland. Poland and Hungary declared that they will begin advancing on Prague at the same time as Germany. The Czechoslovakian army had no resources to hold off three enemies simultaneously until Soviet reinforcements would arrive.

Poland, a country that today tries to present itself as a peaceful victim of totalitarian regimes, played a particularly unseemly role in the events following the Munich conference. Not only did it not oppose the decisions of the Conference, but took full advantage of them, robbing Czechoslovakia of a large part of its territory. Today the fact that Poland was among the first to sign a non-aggression pact with the Nazis is unfairly overlooked.

Only when it became painfully obvious that the leading Western nations were not interested in collective security and would act against the interests of the USSR was the latter forced to try normalizing relations with Germany. Great Britain and France maintained an evasive stance on mutual military assistance in case of Nazi attack and so the USSR had to find a temporary political compromise. The USSR was the last one to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany. By then similar documents had already been signed by France, Great Britain, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia etc. That made such a political step necessary to prepare for the now inevitable clash with the Third Reich.

The Munich Agreement was the prelude to World War II. It caused division between potential allies in the fight against Nazism, leading to mutual

distrust and suspicion. The actions of its participants confirm the impossibility of establishing an effective collective security system without the involvement of all parties concerned, including Russia.

Luckily, then the world was able to overcome differences and unite in the face of an enemy to defeat it together. Yet relatively soon after the Great [Victory this unity deteriorated and former allies returned to thinking in blocks. What's worrisome is that today the memory of World War II itself is being purposefully erased, its lessons minimized. The West, including Germany, openly supports those who proudly wear Nazi insignia and praises the memory of Nazi collaborators.

In a changing world where we all face new challenges that call for a collective counter-effort such as terrorism, pandemics and global climate change, do we really have to wait for another "brown plague" to unite us? Or are we able to foster new connections instead of drawing new divides? Hopefully, no longer having to bow to the colonial yoke, the now free, independent and increasingly active African states can make their voices heard loud and clear in a call for peace and unity.

Andrey Avetisyan is the Russian Ambassador to Tanzania





Yanga's midfielder Shekhan Hamis. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## 'Left-footed players a valuable asset in NBC Premier League'

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

DEFENDERS and midfielders now featuring for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League clubs should be alert when seeking to keep left-footed players in check because such performers are very skillful.

A football coach, Athumani Juma, alias 'Nageeza', revealed to The Guardian in Tanga recently left-footed players have, worldwide, proved to be skillful given they have lots of techniques on the pitch.

Juma, who is also a soccer referee and a teacher, had tutored at Mwanza's Butimba Teachers Training College.

He was assigned at the institution by the then Football Associations of Tanzania (FAT) to serve as an instructor for referees and coaches between 1985 and the early 1990s.

The instructor recently shared his experiences in soccer, disclosing naturally persons who mostly use either their left hand or left leg are talented, adding they have mathematical skills and hence many of them can solve mathematical calculations.

"Left-footed players can execute accurate passes and have dribbling skills," Juma revealed.

The coach said: "Many left-footed strikers have more techniques and can excellently dribble past defenders and, if the latter are tormented, they end up making unnecessary fouls that give the former's clubs an advantage."

According to Juma, the other unique qualities that left-footed footballers have are that their legs are very strong and they have what it takes to execute fierce long-range strikes.

The coach remarked: "These players can open up opponents' defenses and even score goals from long distance, approximately over 18 meters from the goal line".

He issued examples of some left-footed players now playing in the NBC Premier League, who seem to be excellent footballers.

They are Yanga's Burkinabe midfielder Stéphane Aziz Ki and his

teammate, youthful defensive midfielder Shekhan Hamis, Simba SC's winger Edwin Balua and left-back Mohamed Hussein, and Geita Gold FC's forward Nassoro Saadun.

Juma noted: "Let's come to a real example, although Yanga has a squad boasting depth, meaning almost every number has two competent footballers, Aziz Ki's absence in tough clashes is always visible, a situation that can prompt the coach to work hard to come up with better tactics for his players throughout the ties."

"Aziz Ki has great footwork, I think everyone has witnessed some tough matches Yanga has played, for instance, the CAF Champions League quarterfinal matches against Mamelodi Sundowns, an NBC Premier League match versus Tabora United and the CRDB Bank Federation clash against the same opponent, as well as the league clash against long-time rival Simba SC, he did a good job in the duels," the coach remarked.

Commenting on Balua, the tactician pointed out that the Simba SC new signing, who joined the outfit from Tanzania Prisons during the mini-transfer period, will prove to be a dependable player that will make it to the starting lineup if his new club's coach gives him chance to showcase his potential.

Juma noted: "(Former Simba SC coach) Benchika did not give him many chances like other players but, in the few games he has played, a good coach needs to give the winger few directives, the footballer can show what the club's fans dreamed of."

"Hussein is the only player who has stayed at Simba SC for almost a decade, having played under many coaches, but I did not hear he has been out of action because of injuries. He does not hold the ball for a long time and lets opponents easily tackle him," Juma said.

The tactician remarked: "This experience is pure because during my time as an instructor- I have seen that many talented players are the left-footed ones."

## Bank now presents NBC Championship trophy to Kengold



Chairman of the Tanzanian Premier League Board (TPLB) Steven Mnguto (2nd R) presents the First Division League (NBC Championship) trophy to Kengold captain Charles Masai in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Also present were the Chunya District Commissioner, Mbaraka Batunga (R), the NBC Bank Business Director, Elvis Ndunguru (C), and other bank officials. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a display of talent and determination, Kengold, a football club based in Chunya District, Mbeya Region, has emerged victorious in the 2023/2024 season of the First Division League, also known as the NBC Championship.

The remarkable achievement not only brings pride to the people of Chunya but also secures Kengold's place in the prestigious NBC Premier League for the upcoming 2024/2025 season.

The trophy presentation ceremony, held yesterday at the

Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam, was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Kengold team.

The event was graced by dignitaries and football enthusiasts, including the Chunya District Commissioner, Mbaraka Batunga, and the Chairman of the Tanzanian Premier League Board (TPLB), Steven Mnguto, who represented the President of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Wallace Karia.

In a display of sportsmanship, the trophy presentation was preceded by a friendly match between Kengold and

Mwanza-based Pamba FC, another team that has earned a

spot in the upcoming NBC Premier League. The match ended in a thrilling 1-1 draw, showcasing the high level of competition that will be seen in the Premier League.

Speaking at the ceremony, DC Batunga expressed his pride in Kengold's achievement, stating: "Today, as the people of Chunya, we are proud to be champions of a league that has demonstrated such quality, and through this competition, we believe we will pose a challenge to the teams we will encounter in the NBC Premier League."

The sponsorship from NBC Bank has played a crucial role in the league's development, as

emphasized by Elvis Ndunguru, the NBC Bank Business Director.

Ndunguru stated that the bank's commitment to supporting sports, including football, golf, and athletics, has been instrumental in creating employment opportunities and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the league.

The bank, which sponsors three important leagues in the country, will continue to enhance these leagues to achieve positive outcomes in line with the objectives of the sponsorship, including the generation of employment, as a total of 7,000 direct jobs have been created through the sponsorship.

"We congratulate all participants of the Championship League, but especially Kengold for emerging as champions of this league. We also congratulate Pamba FC for being the runner-up and, therefore, going to participate in the NBC Premier League next season," said Ndunguru.

Kengold captain Charles Masai expressed his gratitude to the stakeholders and the sponsor for creating an environment that allowed the team to excel.

He promised that Kengold will prepare diligently to provide even more competition in the upcoming NBC Premier League season, stating: "We will prepare ourselves from the squad to the coaching staff to better position ourselves for the NBC Premier League."

The Kengold victory not only showcases the talent and potential of the team but also highlights the positive impact of NBC Bank's sponsorship on the development of football in Tanzania.

As the team prepares for their debut in the NBC Premier League, football enthusiasts eagerly await to see how Kengold will fare against the top teams in the country.

## Mbeya runners garner betting company's sponsorship for Mbeya Tulia Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH Tanzania's athletes gearing up for the seventh season of the Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon, slated for tomorrow and Saturday in Mbeya, the marathon's main sponsor Betika Tanzania has paid participation costs for the region's athletes that have turned up for the showdown.

A total of 420 athletes based in Mbeya yesterday took part in a build-up, which served as preparations for the race that will be held at the Sokoine stadium.

The build-up - which has never happened in many races that have taken place in the country - started at the Ruandanzovwe area to the office of Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa, who handed over the 'Twende Kibingwa' flag to the region's athletes whose participation costs for one of the biggest marathons in the country have been paid for by Betika Tanzania.

The build-up - which featured a special race targeting to raise funds for improving health and education infrastructure in Mbeya and neighbouring regions - has been held in various parts of the region for four consecutive days.

Other regions which hosted similar build-up include Morogoro where Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro led the event.

The build-up was, in



Mbeya athletes participate in a build-up race as they prepare for the seventh edition of the Betika Tulia Marathon which will take place tomorrow and Saturday at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya. Photo: Correspondent

Dodoma, graced by National Assembly Speaker Tulia Ackson, and, in Dar es Salaam, the event was led by Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamis Mwinjuma, popularly known as 'Mwana FA'.

Other regions where the build-up took place are Rukwa, which saw Sumbawanga District Commissioner Nyakiya Chilukile lead the build-up, Newala, where Municipal Mayor Hamis Namata led the event, and Iringa had Municipal Mayor Ibrahim Gwada leading the occasion.

Athletes who did well in the build-ups that took place in the regions have had their participation costs for the Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon paid by the marathon's main sponsor.

Betika Tanzania's Information Officer, Rugambwa Juvenalius said

they will, from today, start welcoming participants from outside Mbeya to join the region's 460 athletes, with 420 of the athletes being based in Mbeya.

The company will cover all of the athletes' costs for participation in this season's marathon.

"We have, among others, decided to come up with this incentive for the participants to allow them to showcase their talents," Rugambwa noted.

The athletes will battle it out in road races of 42km, 21km, and 10km slated for Saturday. They will be preceded by track races of hose of 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m slated for tomorrow.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will lead more than 5000 runners to challenge for medals in the marathon (42 km),

half marathon (21 km), and the 10km race tomorrow.

This season, many top athletes also featuring for the national squad have registered for the showdown.

They are, among others, women's long races phenomenon Sarah Ramadhan who, according to her coach Amani Ngoka, will - apart from chasing a gold medal - use the race to prepare for battling for qualification for future world races.

Ngoka said the athlete who could not attain qualification for the 2024 Summer Olympics because of injuries - has returned to the field to prepare for the world races.

He noted that Sara will use the Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon to seek improvement, adding she will compete in 800m, 1500m, and 10km races. Sarah is slated to come

up against other top domestic female athletes who are also national athletics team members including the country's nation's 800m race star Siwema Julius.

Other prominent local athletes set to participate in the showdown are Angel John and Hamis Misai, the national athletics team stars who finished in the top five of the 2022 Commonwealth Games which took place in Birmingham.

Tulia Trust Institute's Information Officer Joshua Edward said preparations for the showdown are in the final stages and some participants have already started arriving in the city.

He said the first to 10th-place finishers in both men's and women's categories of the marathon will walk away with cash prizes.



## Mbappe denied dream PSG farewell after Champions League exit

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappe will not get his dream farewell from Paris Saint-Germain after their shock Champions League exit at the hands of Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday deprived him of playing his last game for the club in the final at Wembley next month.

The 2018 World Cup winner will leave PSG after seven years when his contract expires at the end of this season, with Real Madrid his likely next destination.

He had hoped to sign off by leading the Qatar-owned club to Champions League glory for the first time in their history, and they were the favourites to see off Dortmund at the Parc des Princes in the semi-final second leg.

But they failed to overturn a one-goal first-leg deficit, with Mats Hummels scoring the only goal on the night to give Dortmund a 2-0 aggregate victory.

Mbappe was one of four PSG players to hit the woodwork in the second half, and coach Luis Enrique complained his side -- who had 31 attempts on goal -- had been "unlucky".

"I don't really like to talk about bad luck," Mbappe said a short while later. "When you are good, you don't hit the post, you score. I tried to help the best I could. When I say we needed to be more clinical, I am the one who has to be scoring. But this is life, we need to pick ourselves up."

It will be hard for PSG to do that, given how close they were to reaching the final for the second time, four years on from their defeat against Bayern Munich in Lisbon.

That will forever remain as close as Mbappe came to lifting the European Cup with his hometown team, for whom he is their all-time top scorer with 255 goals.

A total of 42 of those have come in Europe's elite club competition, but he could not add to that tally across the two legs against Dortmund.

"The end of his dream" was the headline in sports daily L'Equipe, which gave a scathing assessment of the France captain's performance, awarding him a mark of two out of 10.

Being knocked out by the team who sit fifth in the Bundesliga looks like a disaster for a club who have invested as much as PSG over the years since the Qatari takeover of 2011. It is the latest in a long line of huge disappointments in the Champions League knockout rounds, still headed by their 6-1 defeat by Barcelona in the last 16 in 2017 after they won the first leg 4-0.

"PSG hit their heads against the glass ceiling on a night when the sky seemed to be the limit," reflected Vincent Duluc in L'Equipe. "The truth is that this elimination is quite the collapse given the gigantic opportunity that was on offer."

AFP

## 'No one expected us', says Reus as Dortmund return to Wembley

PARIS

BORUSSIA Dortmund veteran Marco Reus said "nobody expected us to make it" as his side booked a return to Wembley's Champions League final by beating Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday.

Dortmund will return to the site of the 2013 Champions League final, when the then Jurgen Klopp-coached side lost 2-1 to German rivals Bayern Munich.

Dortmund won this year's semi-final second leg 1-0 at the Parc des Princes thanks to a header from Mats Hummels, who also played for Dortmund in the 2013 final. They go through 2-0 on aggregate, having won the first leg by the same scoreline.

"Tomorrow nobody will ask how we did it. They will just see the name Borussia Dortmund in the final at Wembley," Reus said to Amazon Prime.

"Today it was clear that we needed to suffer and that we needed some luck, but what the lads did was crazy, crazy."

The 34-year-old, who announced on Friday he will leave his boyhood club at the end of the season, said the feeling of returning to European football's showpiece event was "indescribable".

"Now we better win it, otherwise that would really suck," said Reus.

Reus re-joined Dortmund in 2012 having come through the club's junior system before moving first to Rot-Weiss Ahlen aged 15 then to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"What a week for me personally. To finish in the Champions League final, where it all started for me in 2013 -- more than 10 years later!" A re-match with Bayern remains on the cards, with Thomas Tuchel's side playing at Real Madrid in the other semi-final on Wednesday. Bayern and Real played out a 2-2 draw in the first leg.

Dortmund rode their luck in both semi-finals, with PSG hitting the woodwork six times -- including four times on Tuesday.

Despite needing assistance from the goal frame, Dortmund's central defensive pairing of Hummels and Nico Schlotterbeck kept PSG's ace attacker Kylian Mbappe under check.

AFP

# Hummels stuns Mbappe and PSG to take Dortmund to Champions League final

PARIS

MATS Hummels headed in the only goal as Borussia Dortmund stunned Kylian Mbappe and Paris Saint-Germain in their Champions League semi-final second leg on Tuesday, winning 1-0 on the night and advancing 2-0 on aggregate to next month's final at Wembley.

Hummels struck five minutes into the second half at the Parc des Princes and PSG were unable to muster a response, the home side all out of luck as they hit the woodwork four times in total.

Dortmund, who sit fifth in the German Bundesliga, were never expected to go so far and will be underdogs in the June 1 showpiece regardless of whether they face their old rivals Bayern Munich or Real Madrid, who meet on Wednesday.

It will be their first final since 2013 when, remarkably, the match was also played at Wembley and Jurgen Klopp's Dortmund lost to Bayern.

Hummels played in that final and here, 11 years later, he was the hero as Dortmund built on the advantage given to them by Niclas Füllkrug's goal in the first leg.

"It'll take us a bit of time to realise that, but we're looking forward to it extremely," Dortmund coach Edin Terzic told broadcaster Amazon Prime of getting to the final.

"We did it somehow, making



Mats Hummels' headed effort earned Dortmund the win in Paris. (AFP)

it to London."

The story of this semi-final, however, is as much about PSG's failure in another crunch knockout tie in the competition.

They have still never won the trophy despite all the money invested by their Qatari owners since the 2011 takeover, and there will be no dream send-off for Mbappe.

He will leave when his contract expires after this season and had been hoping to play his last game for the club in the June 1 final.

Instead PSG will be left to reflect on how they failed to get their hands on the biggest trophy of all during Mbappe's seven years at his hometown team.

"We were not clinical enough. They scored two goals, one from a corner

and one from a long ball. We created lots more chances, many more than them, but we didn't take them," PSG captain Marquinhos told Canal Plus.

"We got so close and we wanted to get to the final. But we had to win tonight and be more clinical, and we were not."

PSG's last two semi-final appearances both came during the pandemic, meaning this was the first time they had hosted a match at this stage of a European competition with fans in 29 years, since losing to AC Milan in 1995.

- Woodwork to rescue -

Luis Enrique's team had won 2-0 at home against Dortmund in the group stage and were safe in the knowledge that a repeat of that performance would be enough.

The PSG coach made one major selection decision, dropping Bradley Barcola and bringing in Portuguese striker Goncalo Ramos. That meant moving Mbappe from the middle onto the left wing.

Dortmund would have been bracing themselves for an onslaught from kick-off, but that did not transpire.

Mbappe took only seven minutes to produce his first attempt, yet his volley was easily saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel.

The hosts had most of the possession but struggled to get Mbappe into the game, the France captain often looking isolated on the wing.

In fact it was Dortmund who had the best chance of the first half, when Karim Adeyemi led a counterattack

before seeing his shot saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma.

It felt as though the hosts needed to change something or risk going out with a whimper.

They should have been ahead two minutes after the restart, when Ramos touched on a ball driven into the box by Mbappe, but Warren Zaire-Emery contrived to hit the post from close range.

That was to prove crucial as Dortmund struck moments later.

PSG cheaply conceded a corner, and Julian Brandt's delivery from the Dortmund right was headed in by Hummels.

Ramos swept a shot over on the hour mark before Nuno Mendes became the second PSG player to strike the right-hand post, this time with a powerful shot from distance.

It was starting to look as if it would not be PSG's night, and Luis Enrique realised he had to act as he sent on Barcola and Marco Asensio for Ramos and Fabian Ruiz, moving Mbappe through the middle.

Dortmund sent on an extra defender in the hulking Niklas Sule and they withstood everything PSG threw at them while also being helped by the frame of the goal.

Kobel turned Mbappe's shot onto the bar on 86 minutes and Vitorinha also rattled the woodwork but Dortmund hung on to book their date in London.

AFP

## How Borussia Dortmund stood up to football's superpowers and won

By Richard Jolly

THIS wasn't supposed to happen. Not in a Champions League dominated by the same familiar faces, by the superpowers and the Premier League's moneyed elite. Not for the club who sold Jude Bellingham and Erling Haaland or the team many expected to perish in the group of death or the side who blew the Bundesliga on the final day of last season. Not for Edin Terzic, the nice-guy manager who has spent parts of his reign seemingly in danger of being replaced.

But Borussia Dortmund are in the Champions League final. Perceived as the weakest side in the last eight, seen as the outsiders in the semi-finals, they will now be underdogs at Wembley on 1 June. They have got there against the odds - financial and footballing - but with an ethos that makes them look an outlier in the 21st century. This was a triumph for the people's club against the Qatari project as well as yet another missed opportunity for Paris Saint-Germain, who find new ways to not win the Champions League.

The heartwarming stories instead belonged to the visitors. To the boyhood supporter Terzic, who joins Ottmar Hitzfeld and Jurgen Klopp in taking Dortmund to a Champions League final. To the match-winner Mats Hummels, a survivor of

the 2013 final, a player who admitted he thought his last chance of reaching another had gone. To the departing Marco Reus, whose final game for Dortmund will be the biggest of his life. To Jadon Sancho, too, whose season involved four months training with the Under-18s at Manchester United and could end with the most prestigious medal of all.

So much for the supposed predictability of the Champions League. Kylian Mbappe will have to go to Real Madrid to try and win it. There will be no fairytale farewell in the colours of his hometown club. Mbappe and co were denied a goal by Dortmund, though they may long wonder how.

Fortune scarcely favoured them. They struck the woodwork six times across the tie, four of them in Paris. They had 45 shots over the two legs, 30 of them in France. After a host of misses in Germany last week, there were further cases of poor finishing. Yet there were even more instances of wonderful defending. PSG encountered a yellow wall: not the huge bank of fans in the Signal Iduna Park but a defence in which Hummels and Nico Schlotterbeck were outstanding.

Terzic got his tactics right, too. When PSG mounted an onslaught midway through the second half, he brought on Niklas Sule as a third centre-back. Part of the plan



Edin Terzic

at the start involved doubling up on the flanks: Sancho was charged with helping Julian Ryerson against Mbappe, for instance.

And while Dortmund were long known for their heavy-metal football, they instead had a defensive structure behind the ball. This was about patience

more than pressing. It required a rearguard action, bodies in the box blocking shots. But Dortmund were willing. There is a resilience and a resolve to a team with a lone defeat in their last 11 Champions League games. This was an epic triumph of teamwork.

Ultimately, PSG could rue their ineffectiveness

before the break when the brightest opening came Dortmund's way: Karim Adeyemi, with Mbappe-esque speed, embarked on an electric burst, scything through the hosts' defence before Gianluigi Donnarumma blocked his shot.

The goalkeeper was helpless, though, when Dortmund struck five minutes after the interval. An unmarked Hummels headed in Julian Brandt's corner. Only one footballer has ever made more appearances for Dortmund than Hummels. Now few have scored a more important goal.

It gave PSG an added reason to regret a miss: just before the climactic moment, Warren Zaire-Emery hit the outside of the upright from close range after Goncalo Ramos had somehow hooked the ball in his direction. The teenager probably should have scored, the

same upright was then rattled in rather different fashion, when Nuno Mendes drove a 25-yard shot against the post.

Having hit the post twice, PSG had another unwanted double when they were twice denied by the bar. Once again, the first effort was more wasteful, the second struck cleaner. Mbappe miscued an effort that Gregor Kobel did wonderfully well to tip onto the woodwork. Vitorinha unleashed a ferocious effort from long range but with the same outcome.

PSG could reflect on the moment when Ramos skied a shot after an hour. He was soon substituted as Luis Enrique reshaped his attack. Kobel saved from Mbappe. In injury time, he claimed a penalty. But his European career with PSG only had minutes to run.

Dortmund, exhausted but ecstatic, saw their unexpected run carry them to the Champions League final and perhaps to a glory that would be all the greater because it really wasn't supposed to happen.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Hummels stuns Mbappe and PSG to take Dortmund to Champions League final

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**5 EATV THURSDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**SALAMA NA**  
Meet Salama with her renowned friends who share their relatable stories on her one on one interviews to inspire fellow Tanzanians

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kisi Za Wana  
14:00 Kilimo Plus  
14:30 Ujenzi (I)  
15:00 Funzika  
15:30 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:30 Kurasa  
18:30 Kisi Za Wana  
18:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
18:30 Bongo Hits

18:58 Dokeza Atya  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
20:58 Dokeza Mambo Ya Pesa  
21:00 SALAMA NA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
21:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
21:47 Zote Kuntu  
22:00 Bongo Hits  
22:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
22:17 Bongo Hits  
22:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
22:47 Bongo Hits  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (I)

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Mtibwa Sugar, Tabora United in relegation six-pointer

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar and Tabora United will meet for an NBC Premier League relegation six-pointer at the Manungu Stadium in today's early kick-off game at 2 PM.

Hosts Mtibwa Sugar are currently in the 16th position in the NBC Premier League table, 10 points from the safety of the 12th position, while Tabora United occupy the 15th spot, five points ahead of their opponents.

Mtibwa Sugar will enter this match off the back of a 2-0 home loss to Azam, which made it four back-to-back defeats.

Zuberi Katwila's side have not managed to triumph in the league since the start of March, and they are currently rock bottom, five points from second-bottom Tabora United.

They need to pull off something special if they are to escape the bottom two, and there is no getting away from the fact that it has been a hugely disappointing campaign for the 2000 champions.

The Turiani outfit have only managed to win four times in the league this season, while they have the worst defensive record in the division, conceding 43 times.

Mtibwa Sugar also have the worst home form in the league this season, only picking up 11 points from 12 matches.

Head coach Katwila has remained defiant that they are still in the mix to at least avoid direct relegation but he knows that only victories will suffice in their bid for survival.

With the relegation battle heating up, every point is precious, and Mtibwa Sugar will be eager to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the visit of struggling Tabora United.

After gaining promotion to the NBC Premier League just last term, Tabora United's primary goal this season would likely have been to secure their top-flight status, but they still have plenty of work to do to achieve that target.

With five games still left to play, Tabora United are staring down the barrel of immediate demotion back to the Championship owing to a six-game winless run.

Defeats at the hands of Simba, Kagera Sugar and KMC have only deepened their predicament, underscoring the urgent need for a change in fortunes if they are to salvage any hope of retaining their top-flight status.

With time running out and the prospect of relegation looming large, Tabora United under Masoud Djuma must summon all their resolve and determination as they seek to upset the odds and survive.

Their biggest challenge is the inability to find the back of the net.

Tabora United have the league's joint-worst attack with 16 goals scored.

They have not scored in their last three games including a 3-0 home loss to Kagera Sugar.

They were held scoreless in seven of their matches while they failed to find the back of the net in 14 games this season.

# Azam host Simba in a battle for CAF Champions League football



Azam FC striker Prince Dube dribbles the ball past Simba SC defender Shomari Kapombe during their first-round NBC Premier League match at Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on February 9, 2024. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. Photo: Courtesy of Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**A**ZAM FC will be bidding to keep their NBC Premier League title hopes alive, mathematically at least, when they host city rivals Simba for an intriguing contest this evening.

Youssouph Dabo's side are second in the table, 11 points behind leaders Young Africans and just four points clear of third-placed Simba who have a game in hand.

Both sides are intent on claiming a place in next season's CAF Champions League, but neither has secured their spot just yet.

Azam have been excellent on home soil this season, picking up 32 points from 13 matches in front of their fans, but they will be welcoming a Simba side that have lost just once on the road this term.

They have managed to stay in the title race thanks to their incredible 18 consecutive

league matches without a defeat.

This evening, they are aiming for a 19th straight match without a loss in the league.

Indeed, Azam need to win to keep their slim title hopes alive, but not too many at the club will seriously believe that winning the championship is possible at this stage.

As for Simba, they claimed a 2-0 victory over Tabora United on Monday, courtesy of goals from Freddy Kouban and Edwin Balua.

They have now won two of their previous five matches, scoring four goals across those victories, with a 2-1

defeat to Young Africans coming last month.

However, Simba are 15 points behind table toppers Young Africans with six games left, so their focus is on securing the second spot in the table in order to play CAF Champions League next season.

They were eliminated from the CAF Champions League in early April courtesy of a 3-0 aggregate defeat to Al Ahly in the quarter-final, and the Msimbazi Street outfit then suffered a 6-5 penalty loss to Mashujaa four days later to crash out of the Federation Cup.

Simba actually beat Azam 1-0 in the Union Cup final on April 27 while the points were shared in a 1-1 draw when they locked horns at CCM Kirumba in February.

That said, Simba have managed to win just one of their last seven league meetings with Azam, who have also claimed a single victory in this fixture since 2021.

There are no further fitness problems for the Msimbazi Street visitors, and head coach Juma Mgunda is expected to largely stick with the same XI that took to the field for the first whistle last time out.

## Mgunda vows to lead Simba back to continental stage through Azam clash

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's interim head coach Juma Ramadhan Mgunda has raised the stakes for today's NBC Premier League match against rivals Azam FC scheduled for 6:15 PM at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, declaring it a 'final' encounter in their pursuit of a CAF Champions League spot next season.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Mgunda acknowledged the difficulty of the match but expressed unwavering confidence in his team's ability to secure victory.

"We face Azam FC in a very crucial match," Mgunda declared. "We can call it a final because it heavily influences our chances of finishing second, which is crucial for CAF Champions League qualification next season."

He acknowledged the challenge: "It won't be easy, but I have full faith in my ability to guide Simba SC back into continental competition. These young players are mature and understand how to maintain the team's competitive edge. My focus is on building their mentality and morale - that's the key to success."

The NBC Premier League title race is currently a two-horse affair. Young Africans lead the pack with a commanding 65 points, followed closely by Azam FC at 57 points.

Simba SC sit in third place with 53 points but with a crucial advantage - a



Simba SC interim head coach Juma Mgunda. Photo: Courtesy of Simba SC.

game in hand. Winning their remaining six fixtures would propel them to a final tally of 71 points.

Azam, hosting Simba today, also have everything to play for. Victory in their remaining five matches would take them to 72 points, solidifying the importance of this clash for all teams involved.

NBC Premier League offers two coveted Champions League spots.

Finishing first guarantees entry into the prestigious group stage, while the second-placed team enters the qualification rounds.

For Simba, a historic club with a dominant record in Tanzanian football, missing out on Champions League qualification would be a significant setback. Their sights are firmly set on reclaiming their position among Africa's elite.

Despite the pressure, Mgunda's comments highlight a strategic shift within Simba SC. His focus on building the mental resilience and morale of his young players suggests a long-term vision for the club's future.

While securing CAF Champions League qualification remains a top priority, nurturing the talent of the younger generation paves the way for sustained success in the years to come.

The encounter between Simba and Azam is more than just a crucial league fixture; it's a clash between two Tanzanian giants with a long history of fierce competition.

Both teams boast passionate fan bases, and the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium is expected to be electric today.

The stakes are high, and the outcome will have a significant impact on the final standings of the Tanzanian Premier League.

The coming days will be filled with anticipation as both teams make their final preparations.

Tactical strategies will be analyzed, key players will be scrutinized, and the atmosphere in Dar es Salaam will undoubtedly buzz with excitement.

This match is a turning point in the NBC Premier League title race.

Only time will tell who emerges victorious and secures their place in the prestigious CAF Champions League competition.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

