



BUSINESS Tanzania's economy size reaches 149trn/- in 2023

Milk producers urged to certify quality products

Tobacco farmers in five districts earn 109bn/-

ICT commission issues 1bn/- for electronics refurbishment lab

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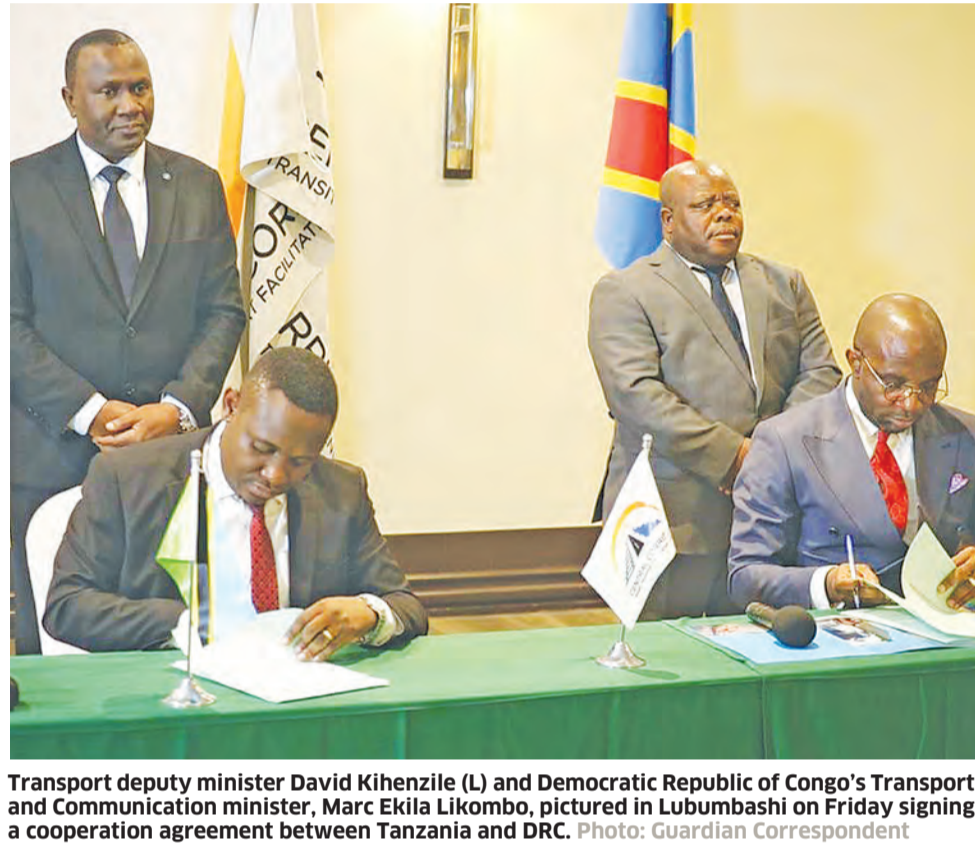
Denmark a fresh start for Tanzanian ace Kelvin John

Speaker receives Samia award from lady MPs, Oryx Energies

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson at the weekend received a clean cooking champion award on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Dodoma during the World Liquefied Petroleum Gas

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Transport deputy minister David Kihenzile (L) and Democratic Republic of Congo's Transport and Communication minister, Marc Ekila Likombo, pictured in Lubumbashi on Friday signing a cooperation agreement between Tanzania and DRC. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister: Pull out plot sale placards

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlement minister Jerry Silaa has issued a seven-day ultimatum to land officers countrywide to ensure that all placards relating to selling plots of land are removed.

He gave these instructions in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when listening to complaints from city residents seeking to rectify frauds where plots they had already purchased being sold by various companies have disputed occupancy rights.

He directed that compa-

nies or individuals who sell land plots to register such plots at the district and regional land offices as a measure to avoid cheating in that business.

"You cannot sell a plot by using a map," he said, explaining that a plot is sold with a title deed, so the government cannot remain silent when poor citizens have their money being stolen by culprits.

He asked owners of companies engaged in the plot selling business to apply for the title deed of plots they survey first before starting to find interested buyers.

The Land commissioner in the ministry needs to

speed up the process of issuing documents to people who will come to request title deeds of newly surveyed areas to reduce land frauds, he said.

The public must be educated that from all plots belonging to individuals or private companies will be sold in district land offices, saying that people are being cheated a lot.

"You may find that someone tells them that he has plots, but he has a plot that he acquired through fraud and when people go to local government offices they find that he isn't recognised as title holder to plots, so we want to stop this kind of fraud," he added.

Somalia's judges, MPs set for EAC

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

SOMALIA is soon going to send representatives to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) as well as dispatching Judges to the East African Court of Justice.

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, president of the Federal Republic of Somalia, made this affirmation at the 23rd ordinary meeting of the EAC summit, in a virtual open session late last week.

President Mohamud said that Somalia was gearing for starting to apply the customs union and common market protocols, also known as the first and second pillars of the integration process.

The summit was chaired by South Sudan President

Salva Kiir Mayardit, who said that the bloc was on the right track as intra-regional trade currently stands at 15 percent of total foreign trade.

Intra-regional trade is expected to rise further as Somalia gradually integrated into the EAC trading zone, while Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni expressed disappointment that non-tariff barriers distort the region's potential for trade.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan asked Veronica Nduva, the new EAC secretary general, to focus on improving EAC visibility, along with addressing the lack of shared perception of benefits of integration among East Africans.

Some East Africans are clearly unsure of the benefits

of integration, she said, in a meeting also attended by Burundi Vice President Prosper Bazombanza; Kenyan Foreign and Diaspora Affairs cabinet secretary Musalia Mudavadi, and Deng Alor Kuo, the EAC Affairs minister for South Sudan, also chairing the EAC council of ministers.

Others were Justice Nestor Kayobera; president of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), EALA Speaker Joseph Ntakirutimana; Annette Ssemuwemba who heads customs, trade and monetary affairs at the EAC Secretariat, and Andrea Malueth who heads infrastructure, productive, social and political affairs at the EAC head offices.

AfDB discounts 2026 targeted for Malagarasi hydro project

By Mnaku Mbani

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has urged the Tanzania Electricity Supply Co. (Tanesco) to accelerate procurement processes to avoid delay in implementing the US\$144m Malagarasi hydropower project set to be completed by late 2026.

Published mid last month, the report on implementation progress

and results (IPR) says that lessons learnt from previous projects show that if the government will not improve internal processes for approving invoices and cutting lengthy procurement processes within Tanesco, chances of completing the project on time are minimal.

It says that the mobilization of key personnel and required equipment by the contractor, payment of affected populations and other

ground works are barriers to timely implementation of the project.

IPR demanded Tanesco to make sure that M/S Dongfang Electric International Corporation is mobilizing the required equipment and key personnel as per the contract, while project affected persons are compensated along the transmission line, identified as 'lot 2' contract.

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MEGA SUPPLEMENTS



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Speaker receives Samia award from lady MPs, Oryx Energies

FROM PAGE 1

(LPG) Day marked on June 7 each year.

Oryx Energy (T) Ltd (OGTL) and women MPs worked together on the clean cooking solution award, with the Speaker remarking that there is every reason for President Samia awarded by the women parliamentarians.

The energy firm was involved as the president has championed the clean cooking energy drive for Tanzania, Africa and the world in general, she stated, affirming that current data shows that more than 80 percent of sub-Saharan Africa use dirty energy sources for cooking. This shows the need to sensitize people on the importance of shifting to clean energy sources, she stated, underlining that the president is assisting Tanzanians to make the transition to cleaner sources of energy.

Upwards of 90 percent of the country's population still use charcoal and firewood, she said, reiterating the president's target of reducing dirty energy use to 25 percent by the end of the decade.

Environmentalists say on average, each year more than 33,000 people, mostly women; die from breathing smoke caused by solid fuels used for cooking, including charcoal and firewood. Such deaths follow long periods of disease and weakness worsened by continued dependence on the same fuels, she said.

The use of dirty energy results in serious environmental impairment, with acute social effects for women and girls, spending a lot of time searching for firewood in the bush, she stated.

"President Samia is determined to relieve women and girls from searching for firewood in the bush, thus enabling them to engage in other economic activities," she told the audience.

"We congratulate our President for the steps she is taking to ensure women cook in a convenient manner but also protect them from a number of health risks including respiratory illnesses," the par-

liamentary leader declared. Data has for some years shown that Tanzania is losing 469,000 hectares of woodland per year, far higher than an estimated 300,000 hectares that use to be lost annually in the 1990s, she said. She profiled the ten-year national strategy for clean cooking energy (2024-2034) being rolled out during the new financial year, praising MPs for advisory initiatives on the government to allocate funds to support efforts by stakeholders such as OGTL. The energy firm has so far provided more than 35,000 gas cylinders and stoves to different groups countrywide, she stated, with OGTL managing director Benoit Araman stating that the award is intended for recognition of President Samia's zeal in the clean cooking energy drive.

Oryx energy facilitated arranging that award to the president in recognition of her unique leadership in promoting the use of clean energy for cooking in Tanzania and Africa, he said.

The firm has provided 35,000 gas cylinders and stoves to various groups and expect to pursue that effort to help ensure that the president's dream to see 80 percent of Tanzanians using clean energy for cooking by 2032 is achieved, he specified.

Shally Raymond, who chairs the lady parliamentarians, earlier said the MPs resolved to engage with OGTL to offer that award, being well aware of the efforts President Samia has put up in encouraging Tanzanians to use clean energy sources.

"We commended the president for coming up with the ten-year national clean cooking energy campaign," she stated, highlighting the MPs' intention to take the theme to civil society and respective constituencies.

Cooking with LPG frees a lot of time for women as they can cook quicker and in a more efficient manner, solving threats of gender-based violence arising from cooking time inconveniences, she added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (C) receives a special award bestowed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in recognition of the president's contribution to the national clean cooking energy drive. The award was presented by Oryx Energies - through Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited - at an event to commemorate Liquefied Petroleum Gas Day held in Dodoma city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB discounts 2026 target for Malagarasi hydro project

FROM PAGE 1

Irene Gowele, the Tanesco acting director of communications and corporate affairs, said in a response, that the company has already paid 116.6m/- out of 121.49m/- to 473 out of 525 people affected by the project.

About 52 affected people have not been traced or they have some challenges in documentation, she said, affirming that the remaining 4.8m/- has been placed in a special account under the Malagarasi project, waiting for completion of payment procedures.

The project contract requires that mobilization of required equipment by Dongfang and payment of affected people need be completed by the end of this year.

The response noted that the contractor has started procedures to bring in experts while some of them have obtained working and residence permits.

Some equipment is being transported to the project site, and the

contractor was reminded to send the requirements for needed equipment for the project to enable Tanesco to request for tax exemptions, she further stated.

"Preliminary design has started and some documents have been presented for review. The preliminary preparation will take six months including design for the area where the construction of a specialists' camp will take place," she said.

On 23 April 2024, advance payment from the Africa Global Trade Finance Ltd (AGTF) financing instrument amounting to 7.5bn/- (US\$3.3m) was disbursed to M/s Dongfang Electric International Corporation, the official affirmed.

Disbursement of a portion of advance payment from the AfDB financing instrument amounting to US\$18,991,010.53 was indicated to be paid on 30 April 2024, an IPR note specified.

An engineering, procurement and construction contract between Tanesco and M/s Shyama Power India

Ltd for the 132 kV, 54 km transmission line from the Malagarasi hydro site to Kidahwe substation valued at US\$8,449,128 (VAT exclusive) for 18 months duration was signed on March 2, 2023.

A kick off meeting was held on 26 April 2023 and the site handover was held the following day, with the contractor (M/s Shyama) paid advance payment of US\$1,689,825 on May 11 2023.

This marked effective day of the contract roll off and project completion date is slated for November 11, 2024, the note affirmed, showing an impression that the implementation progress rate is satisfactory, and it is likely to be achieved.

The proposed 49.5 MW grid-connected hydropower plant (with an average annual energy production of 181GWh) will mainly serve local demand in Kigoma and surrounding regions.

The route alignment, check survey and approvals for design activities have been completed, while bush

clearing, equipment manufacturing and supply are in progress.

IPR says that soil investigation was in progress but is behind schedule, while PR official said this has now been completed. The foundation construction, which the report said was behind schedule, has not started due to challenges of cargo clearance at the port of Dar es Salaam, she said.

"We are working to ensure the clearance of cargo from the port and we expect that this will complete on 10th June and the equipment will arrive in Kigoma on 14th June," she said, adding that apart from the foundation, the site installation, erection and stringing have not started and are behind schedule.

The Africa Global Trade Finance (AGTF) provides structured trade finance solutions for African countries, linked with the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF), a US\$2 billion facility sponsored by the People's Bank of China and administered by the African Development Bank.

What big business wants for South Africa's future

PRETORIA

A LEADING figure in South Africa's second biggest political party has warned that a failure to fix the economy "might end up with violence that nobody wants."

In the aftermath of the elections, Dion George, who oversees economic policy for the Democratic Alliance (DA), has told the BBC that political parties need to "set aside our deeply entrenched ideological perspectives" to get the economy growing again.

The African National Congress (ANC), the party that ended white-minority rule in 1994, came first in recent polls, but did not win an outright majority and is trying to put together a government of national unity.

South Africa's President, the ANC's Cyril Ramaphosa, has said the concerns of citizens must be the priority.

"These issues include job creation and the growth of our economy that will be inclusive, the high cost of living, service delivery, crime and corruption," he said recently.

Nearly eight million people are unemployed across the country, meaning the jobless rate is 32.9

percent.

It is one of the highest in the world and has been called a "ticking time bomb" in a UN report.

Amid ongoing power cuts that make it difficult for businesses to function, this week the statistics agency said the economy shrank in the first three months of this year - with manufacturing, mining and construction suffering in particular.

Last year South Africa's economy grew just 0.6 percent.

"A whole lot of small businesses have actually shut down" because of widespread problems with energy supplies as well as the state run transport and water networks, said Busiviso Mavuso, the chief executive of the influential lobby group Business Leadership South Africa.

Its members include local names such as the Bidvest conglomerate and Absa bank as well as international firms such as Amazon, Volkswagen and Nestle.

Mavuso says the "trading environment is not conducive" and that her members' "plea is for the government to really fix the basics".

The central bank says foreign investment fell by

a third last year, given the difficulties of trading in a country that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts will nonetheless return to being Africa's biggest by the end of this year.

French bank BNP Paribas and UK oil giant Shell are amongst the big, foreign names pulling out of South Africa.

In a recent aborted takeover bid for the mining firm Anglo-American, Australia's BHP made it clear it did not want the company's South African assets.

Despite having a presence in South Africa for more than 120 years Shell says its exit is part of a broader review of its business.

The competition for investment is fierce and Ms Mavuso said "we've really made it difficult for capital to land here."

"East Africa is eating South Africa's breakfast," she jests, while remaining hopeful that the size of the domestic market and the rule of law will ensure the return of investment once the economy is back in better shape.

For both foreign and domestic companies, Mavuso said, the government has to "create an environment that is conducive for

investment" - and that will bring the jobs South Africa so badly needs.

With so many people out of work there is widespread inequality, and she warns that means "you're never going to be able to attain social stability. So we are definitely at risk of the erosion of social cohesion".

Amongst 15 to 34-year-olds the unemployment rate is 45.5 percent and the frustration caused by a lack of jobs is easy to find amongst young people in Johannesburg.

"Business opportunities for young people" must be the new government's priority, said unemployed 23-year-old Teboggo Mokobane. "I've been looking for a job for two years as an animator and I couldn't find anything so far."

Siphiwe Masila, a 24-year-old financial analyst, agreed: "More opportunities and work for the youth" are paramount and should be "more accessible".

Constant power cuts concern her and 24-year-old student Philasande Mnguni, who said his "greatest frustration is just service delivery" at a time that is tough for "a lot of South Africans".

South Africa has been



Members of a local anti-corruption foundation hold a peaceful march in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking the second year of their "Change your behaviour of giving in to corruption" crusades. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

described as the most unequal country in the world, and there is a critique from the left that the economy simply does not work for the majority of the population.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) - the fourth largest party - has called for greater nationalisation and the expropriation of land so that the wealth of the country can be more evenly shared.

The party said that some of the more business-friendly policies of the ANC and its broad-based black economic empowerment legislation have not tackled the underlying problems the country has, which are

the legacy of the racist apartheid system that ended 30 years ago.

The difficulties many are facing in making ends meet in a stagnant economy led the government to increase a range of welfare payments in February's budget.

More than 24.5 million people, or 39 percent of the population, receive some form of financial help from the government. It is one reason why government debt has increased to 74 percent of the country's annual income and that the IMF warned in April that "decisive efforts are needed to cut spending".

South Africa's own

treasury has warned that "debt-service costs are choking the economy and the public finances". They now account for 20 percent of all government spending, more than basic education, social protection or health.

Looking at the electricity problem, the DA's Dion George said that it is "probably" important for the government to borrow money to fix the country's crippled energy network, railways and ports. But he admits that will be difficult to afford.

Another option he says is to "change the model, inject the private sector into it", which would lessen the strain on govern-

ment finances. With centre-right DA getting 22 percent of the vote, it may have some influence on future policy and also wants labour laws such as minimum wage rules relaxed to boost employment.

"It priced workers out of the market, employers are not willing to employ people at the rate of the minimum wage," said Dr George. His white-led party proposes an exemption for 18 to 35-year-olds who have been unemployed for two years.

But it is the sort of policy which puts the DA at odds with South Africa's trade unions, an important ally of the ANC.

'All animal feeds ought to be tested for quality before sale'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) has asked animal feed producers to take samples to the agency for quality tests before reaching the market to protect consumers.

Dr Stella Bitanyi, TVLA Managing Director, made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when a team of experts from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and TVLA met after the end of an inspection exercise for producers and manufacturers of animal feeds held in Arusha Region.

Dr Bitanyi said producers must take samples of their products to the agency for certification and quality testing since laws stipulate that no product should enter the market without being tested.

"All producers and manufacturers should ensure that they produce quality feeds for better outcomes for national development," she said.

Leading a team of experts, director of investigation services at TVLA Dr Zacharia Makondo said it was important for animal feeds to reach markets after being tested for quality.

Dr Makondo said they had realised that some manufacturers mix their products without abiding by the law.

He said it was illegal for manufacturers to pack animal feeds without consulting experts, adding that the malpractice is against the law.

TVLA is expected to continue offering training on proper management and manufacturing of animal feeds to increase production and profit.



Residents of Nyachenda ward in Kasulu Rural District pictured yesterday attending basic financial management and investment training conducted by Finance ministry officers. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

TCRA setting up digital clubs in schools all over the country

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is has embarked on establishment of digital clubs in educational institutions nationwide in a push to cultivate a digitally adept generation.

TCRA director general Dr Jabiri Bakari said this at a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He said that the initiative is carried out in collaboration with various education and ICT

stakeholders to ensure that there is establishment of digital clubs at every level of education.

Dr Bakari said the authority has embarked on a countrywide campaign advocating for the establishment of digital clubs in schools starting from Nursery to university level as part strategy of TCRA to propagate the growth of ICTs that paves way to the use of digital systems in all walks of life, covering various sectors.

He said establishment of digital clubs was a key foundation

for coming up with home grown creativity and innovations in mitigation of many challenges, adding that the current campaign covers TCRA's Zanzibar Office, Southern Highlands, Central Zone, Northern Zone, Eastern Zone and Lake Zone. Imelda Salum, TCRA's Lake Zone Manager highlighted the significant role the clubs play, explaining that digital clubs are pivotal in equipping Tanzanian youth with the skills needed to thrive in a digital economy.

According to Salum, the clubs

serve as vital educational platforms that bolster digital literacy and foster a new generation of tech innovators and leaders.

"Digital clubs are not just extracurricular activities," she said. "As outlined in TCRA's handbook, they are innovative platforms within educational institutions, from kindergartens to universities, that equip learners with digital skills they need to thrive in the digital economy."

She urged all education stakeholders to support the digital

clubs initiative, citing its benefit.

"These clubs are instrumental in building a community that is knowledgeable, skilled and equipped to contribute to our national objectives which are centred on crafting a digital Tanzania," she said.

The initiative also fosters deep engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, bolstering learners' critical thinking, creativity and innovative capabilities.

Salum said that the clubs are

open to all learners, not just those with a pre-existing interest in STEM, making every learner a potential participant.

"Active participation in these clubs not only keeps learners abreast of technological trends but also opens doors to career opportunities through expert coaching and mentoring," she said.

She noted that the clubs effectively bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world applications by connecting learners with industry leaders.

Black medic who saved several lives on D-Day honoured at last

By Special Correspondent

A MEDAL richly deserved but long denied to an African American combat medic wounded on Omaha Beach in the D-Day landings has been tenderly laid on the hallowed sands where he saved lives and shed blood.

U.S. First Army soldiers held a ceremony in honour of Waverly Woodson Jr. at the weekend on the beach where he came ashore and was wounded, and where hundreds of American soldiers were killed by withering fire in the June 6, 1944, landings in Normandy, northern France.

The Distinguished Service Cross is the second-highest honour that can be bestowed on a member of the U.S. Army and is awarded for extraordinary heroism. The medal was awarded posthumously to Woodson this month - just ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day - following years of lobbying for more recognition of his exploits on that fateful day.

U.S. First Army Maj. Gen. William Ryan gently placed the World War II-era medal on the sand, close to the spot where Woodson is thought to have come ashore on the now-peaceful beach that on D-Day was raked by

German machine-gun and artillery rounds before U.S. forces finally captured it and started pushing inland.

The soldiers all saluted, still and quiet under blue skies, when U.S. First Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser gave the order to present arms. U.S. First Army historian Capt. Kevin Braafladt explained to the soldiers that the next step would be the medal's presentation to Woodson's widow, 95-year-old Joann. It will be given to his family in a ceremony later this summer.

"We want to be able to say that this medal came from Omaha Beach and was at the site of Woodson's actions," he said. The soldiers delicately passed the medal from hand-to-hand, feeling its weight and inspecting it.

The ceremony moved U.S. First Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Williams who is black to tears.

"Understanding my position as an African American and to learn about Corporal Woodson and everything he experienced here on Omaha and in Normandy is very touching to me, and to be here in the exact spot, it's just historic. It's very, very touching," he said.



Implementation of Phase III of Dar es Salaam's rapid transit road project - from New Post Office in the city's central business district to the Gongo la Mboto suburb 23 kilometres away - is said to have reached the 83 per cent stage. Our correspondent captured this scene yesterday.

Invasive shrub chocks biodiversity in Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Longido

AN alien, invasive shrub which spreads rapidly from Kenya into Northern Tanzania threatens Lake Natron and surrounding biodiversity.

Various environment and community organizations from Kenya and Tanzania gathered in Longido District at the weekend to discuss how to address the imminent danger caused by the poisonous and destructive prosopis shrubs known locally as 'Mrashia.'

The organizations include the Tanzania Forestry Re-

search Institute (TAFORI), Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Community Research and Development Services (CORDS), Ujamaa Community Resources Team (UCRT) and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) of Kenya.

Longido District Environment Officer Elimeleki Ukwai said during the meeting at Wosiwosi village that prosopis shrubs dry water sources wherever they prop up, adding that at the moment, they inch towards Lake Natron, East Africa's most important

flamingo breeding site.

So far, the most affected areas in Northern Tanzania include the Wosiwosi Village in Gelai Lumbwa Ward and Matala Ward both in Longido District, Pinyinyi Ward in Ngorongoro District and Kahe Ward in Kilimanjaro Region.

The deadly shrub has infested 2,235 hectares of land in Wosiwosi area and was still spreading fast.

With its cross-cutting toxic effect, the poisonous plant (prosopis juliflora) was also spreading fast towards the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro on the Leeward side.

In Kenya, prosopis shrubs

have tattered over 118,000 acres of land in Baringo County.

According to Wini Nunda, a researcher from CABI Kenya, the shrub has been declared a national catastrophe in the neighbouring country.

"We have been trying to destroy the deadly plant through direct uprooting, applying chemicals and encouraging people to chop the stems for charcoal," she said. Zacharia Faustini, Director of TNRF, said the deadly weed has led to destruction of large acres of grazing lands, threatening the lives of livestock.

Dickson Xavery, a re-

searcher from TAFORI, said there are national strategies to eradicate all invasive plant species in the country by at least 50 percent before the year 2029.

The spread of prosopis in Tanzania has been described to be rather accidental, mostly through strong winds blowing its seeds across the border from Kenya.

It was suggested that the donkeys used as a means of transport between the two countries would also feed on prosopis pods and spread the seeds with their dung along the way.

Recent floods have also been sweeping prosopis or

seeds and seedlings southwards and depositing them gradually.

Prosopis is an evergreen, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree with umbrella-like leaves. It can grow to reach over 10 meters in height, with its branches carrying long thorns and featuring flowers that are fragrant golden-yellow.

It was described at the meeting that prosopis inhabits a wide range of soil types. Prosopis is native to the Americas. It was initially introduced in Kenya mainly for rehabilitation of degraded landscapes and prevention of soil erosion.

It now unleashes massive impacts on land quality for livestock grazing and farming, water availability and wildlife in Longido and Ngorongoro districts in Arusha and parts of Kilimanjaro.

According to experts, the species' spread is difficult to contain, physical removal is costly and eradication of large-scale infestations nearly impossible.

Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Africa have declared prosopis a dangerous weed while South Africa and Ethiopia have already published national management strategies against the invasive plant.



Tundu Lissu, Vice Chairman (Mainland) of the opposition Chadema, addresses a rally in Singida municipality at the weekend as part of a series of meetings expected to cover all constituencies in the region. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Long jail terms for Chinese cybercrime gang in Zambia

LUSAKA

LENGTHY jail terms have been handed to 22 Chinese citizens - and a Cameroonian man - for cyber-related crimes in Zambia.

The gang's only female convict, Gu Tianjiao, reportedly cried "papa, papa" as her seven-year sentence was announced in the Lusaka Magistrates Court on Friday.

Some in the gang - including its mastermind Li Xianlin - received up to 11 years in prison.

The group's members were also fined between \$1,500 and \$3,000 (£1,180 and £2,360) each.

Victims as far afield as Singapore, Peru and the United Arab Emirates fell prey to their online scams, said Zambian authorities.

After a trial lasting several weeks, the perpetrators pleaded guilty on three charges - computer-related misrepresentation, identity-related crimes, and illegally operating a network or service.

The 22 people jailed on Friday were among a bigger group of 77 suspects arrested in April, in connection with what authorities called a "sophisticated internet fraud syndicate".

The swoop on a Chinese-run company in the capital, Lusaka, followed an alarming rise in in-

ternet fraud cases in the country, targeting people in countries around the world.

Growing numbers of Zambians losing money from their mobile and bank accounts through money-laundering schemes which extend to other foreign countries, the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) said in April.

Dozens of young Zambians were also arrested after allegedly being recruited to be call-centre agents in the fraudulent activities, including internet fraud and online scams, the DEC said during the arrests.

The 22 people convicted in Lusaka on Friday held different positions in the Chinese-run Golden Top Support Services, the company at the centre of the raid.

The company, located in Roma, an upmarket suburb of Lusaka, is yet to comment on the allegations. The Zambian nationals were charged in April and released on bail so they could help the authorities with their investigations.

Authorities said the Zambians involved had been tasked "with engaging in deceptive conversations with unsuspecting mobile users across various platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, chatrooms and others, using scripted dialogues".

Govt preparing for launch of renewable energy strategy

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government is in preparations to launch the National Renewable Energy Strategy meant to stimulate investments in the subsector.

This was said in Dar es Salaam at the weekend by the

Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy in the Ministry of Energy Innocent Luoga when opening renewable energy conference.

The meeting was held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam and brought together various energy stakeholders in

the country. He said the ministry used the conference to explain various efforts made by the government in development of renewable energy in the country, including implementation of the National Strategy for Clean Energy.

Luoga said the launch of the strategy will reflect the Nation-

al Development Vision 2025, Sustainable Development Goals and other international and national agreements on climate change.

"By moving away from the use of biofuels such as firewood and charcoal for cooking, we not only reduce pollution but also improve the climate and

the lives of millions of people. The implementation of this strategy will directly support the issue of clean energy for cooking," he said.

He said the government is also preparing a strategy and work plan for energy efficiency in Tanzania that will support the implementation of

the National Energy Policy and strategic goals of reducing the rate of dirty energy by 20 percent. He said the overall goal is to ensure access to affordable and reliable services of sustainable and clean energy for the people within the next few years.

Mathew Matimbwi, Execu-

tive Secretary of Tanzania Renewable Energy Stakeholders Association (TAREA), asked the Ministry of Energy to have a representative from the private sector to be on the board of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) to strengthen implementation of various issues on renewable energy.

giz

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Eoi No.: 83466872

Construction work in Muheza DC and Korogwe TC in Tanga, Tanzania

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is currently implementing its project Improving Health Care in Tanzania II (IHCP2) as part of the support of the German Development Cooperation in the health sector in Tanzania.

The project supports the Ministry of Health and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government to improve neonatal care unit (NCU) and adolescent and youth friendly services (AYFS) in Tanga Region. As part of this work the project intends to award a contract for the construction of extensions to the existing health facility structures in Muheza DC and Korogwe TC.

The scope of the contract will include the following:

- Korogwe Town Hospital, AYFS: Construct an extension to the RCH building to get two rooms that will be used as the waiting room and the service provider room for AYFS.
- Korogwe Town Hospital, NCU: Construction of an extension alongside the whole building, attached to the existing corridor. Extension should be wider than the present ward to create space for more beds. Rooms to be constructed: Clinic, KMC, General ward 1, sluice, store; Installation of an additional toilet in the existing room currently used as store.
- Muheza District Hospital (Teule), AYFS: To renovate a room to be used as service provider's room and to construct a waiting area attached to the existing building. Add a door in the corridor to separate the Anglican priest's office from service provider's room. Exchange the existing entrance door to connect the waiting area to the service provider's corridor.
- Muheza District Hospital (Teule), NCU: Construct an extension to the postnatal ward building including a corridor to connect the new building to the clinic room by demolishing the wall and building a door. Construct a partition to create HDU. Remove the window between sluice and HDU to create an entrance to the new part of the building. The new part of the building will include general ward, KMC ward, isolation, void leading to 2 bathrooms and 2 toilets and a corridor.

The tender procedure from invitation to tender until signing of contract is expected to take place between

01.07.2024 and 15.08.2024. Construction work is expected to be performed and completed approximately within 6 months from signing of contract.

The following information and documents for eligibility assessment are required to be submitted by the interested companies to qualify for consideration in the tender procedure:

- Official letter expressing interest.
- Company details including full company name, full address, phone, and email.
- Copy of Tax Identification Number (TIN) from Tanzania Revenue Authority.
- Copy of Certificate of incorporation or registration from Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA).
- Copy of Certificate of registration Contractors Registration Board (CRB)
- Company profile including number of employees (permanent / temporary in total) and number of professional staff qualified to perform the works, each for the last five (5) years.
- References of works of similar nature as specified above (performed within the last five (5) years)
- Total value of works of similar nature as specified above (for each of the last five (5) years)
- Annual total turnover for each of the last three (3) years

The information and documents specified above shall be submitted to GIZ in PDF format on/ before **23.06.2024** to the following email address: tz_procurement@giz.de

The subject line must be clearly marked as follows: **"83466872 - Expression of interest for construction work at health facilities in Tanga Region"**

Please do not send technical or price offer or other documents not requested. Kindly note that complete tender documents will be sent to all companies that will be assessed as eligible by GIZ based on the information and documents submitted as specified above.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Eoi No. 83466852

Renovations in 16 health facilities, Tanga, Tanzania

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is currently implementing its project Improving Health Care in Tanzania II (IHCP2) as part of the support of the German Development Cooperation in the health sector in Tanzania.

The project supports the Ministry of Health and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government to improve neonatal care unit (NCU) and adolescent and youth friendly services (AYFS) in Tanga Region. As part of this work the project intends to award a contract involving renovations of existing health facilities.

The scope of the contract will include the following:

- Minor construction work at several health facilities
- Building partitions within existing rooms of health facilities
- Renovation of existing rooms within health facilities
- Painting, minor plumbing and electrical work.

Facilities:

- Lushoto District Hospital
- Duga Maforoni Dispensary
- Duga Health Centre
- Bumbuli District Hospital (FBO)
- Handeni Town Hospital
- Kabuku Health Centre
- Kangagai Health Centre
- Kilindi District Hospital (FBO)
- Kwediboma Catholic Health Centre
- Kwediboma Public Health Centre
- Maramba Health Centre
- Mkata Health Centre
- Mombo Health Centre
- Mlaje Dispensary
- Ngamiani Health Centre
- Pangani District Hospital

Please scan QR code or follow link for detailed information about the renovation

The tender procedure from invitation to tender until signing of contract is expected to take place between **01.07.2024** and **15.08.2024**. The renovation work is expected to be performed and completed approximately within 6 months from signing of contract.

The following information and documents for eligibility assessment are required to be submitted by the interested companies to qualify for consideration in the tender procedure:

- Official letter expressing interest.
- Company details including full company name, full address, phone, and email.

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The subject line must be clearly marked as follows: **"83466852-Eoi for renovation work in Tanga Region"**

Please do not send technical or price offer or other documents not requested. Kindly note that complete tender documents will be sent to all companies that will be assessed as eligible by GIZ based on the information and documents submitted as specified above.

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'China hopes US will do something concrete for Africa's development'

BEIJING

CHINA hopes the United States will contribute real money to and do something concrete for the development and revitalization of Africa, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said at the weekend.

Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks at a regular press briefing when asked to comment on US President Joe Biden's negative comments on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Mao said the people of the BRI participating countries have the best say on the initiative. China has signed in excess of 200 Belt and Road cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations since the initiative was put forward over a decade ago.

She noted that Belt and Road cooperation has brought tangible benefits to the people of participating countries and has been widely welcomed by the international community.

Africa is one of the regions actively participating in the Belt and Road cooperation, Mao said. Thanks to the Belt and Road, many African countries have built their first highways, first sea bridges and first industrial parks, and Africa has seen the construction of its first disease control centre with complete facilities, covering the whole continent, she added.

"It is easy to criticize others in doing something, but the hard part is doing it better than others," Mao said. "We hope the United States will contribute real money to and do something concrete for the development and revitalization of Africa," she said.

We hope the United States will contribute real money to and do something concrete for the development and revitalization of Africa.



Zanzibar's Tourism and Antiquities minister, Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga (C), briefs officials stationed at one of the pavilions at an ongoing trade exhibition in Arusha city yesterday on the Zanzibar government's readiness to cooperate with other stakeholders in promoting tourism. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

EABC commends new EAC secretary general

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has applauded Veronica Nduva on her appointment and assumption of office as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) following the 23rd Extraordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

John Bosco Kalisa, EABC executive director, said in a statement issued yesterday that Nduva's appointment marks a significant milestone in the leadership of EAC as the first female Secretary General.

"With her extensive experience, dedication and commitment to serving the people of East Africa, the EABC is confident that she will provide dynamic leadership to address

pressing business and investment issues and unlock opportunities within the EAC Customs Union and Common Market for the prosperity of East Africans," he said.

"Her proven track record in championing public-private dialogue, sustainable development and gender equality brings new energy to the EAC. This fosters inclusivity, collaboration and partnerships; driving sustainable, private sector-driven growth and increasing intra- and extra-EAC trade and investment."

He added: "EABC as the voice of the private sector in the region, pledges

its full support to Hon. Nduva and looks forward to working closely with her to realize the shared vision of a prosperous and united East African Community."

Kalisa said among the policy reforms needed by private sector to fully benefit from the EAC Common Market and double intra-EAC trade include ensuring uniform application of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET), 2022 Version by EAC partner states, minimizing stays of applications and country specific duty remission, eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and expediting

the finalization of the amendment of the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act, 2017, and its regulations as well as reviewing the EAC Rules of Origin (RoO), 2015 and aligning the EAC RoO to the AfCFTA and Tripartite RoOs.

"Other issues include operationalizing the EAC Trade Remedies Committee, harmonizing EAC Standards and Technical Regulations by expediting finalization and implementation of the Standardization; Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill 2017 and Metrology Bill, and starting implementation of the

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol."

According to EABC, partner states should collectively negotiate agreements with third parties to enhance mutual trust and preserve the customs union and common policy in the field of external trade, interfacing the Northern and Central Transport Corridors, increasing uptake of the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Scheme.

Partner states also should accord national treatment to cross-border investors to boost cross-border investments in line with the National

Treatment provision in the Common Market Protocol, harmonization of domestic taxes and removal of discriminatory taxes, charges of equivalent effect and fees, liberalization of trade in services, including ensuring Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) encompass all professionals supporting businesses as well as expediting the process of harmonizing the work permit regime in line with the Common Market Protocol.

EABC is optimistic that Nduva will help to open markets in the AfCFTA and COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite free trade area for EAC businesses as well as expeditiously finalizing the development and implementation of the EAC liberalization of air transport services regulations.

Audit by RITA unearths embezzlement of 1bn/- at Mwanza city mosque

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has revealed reported embezzlement of 1bn/- at Mwanza Congregational Mosque, saying legal action will be taken against all individuals involved.

Presenting an audited report before believers here at the weekend, RITA Chief Executive Officer Frank Kanyusi said the probe committee formed to audit assets of the mosque discovered misappropriation of the said amount.

"We are here to present to you the audited report of by the probe team that was tasked to audit the assets of your mosque. We promise you that those involved in the scandal will face legal action," he said.

According to Kanyusi, in February this year, RITA formed a probe team tasked to conduct one-month thorough investigation on the mosque's assets and later the team established that the amount of money fell into the wrong hands.

He warned that members of Board of Trustees are not owners of the mosque's properties. Instead, their duties are to oversee and protect assets from misuse for the benefits of members.

Following the suspected misuse of the mosque's property and internal frictions among members, the High in Dodoma directed the formation of interim committee of Board of Trustees before June 20, 2024 to oversee the mosque's properties until the new board is elected.

"My appeal to the interim committee members is that you should be honest because the assets are not yours; you are just entrusted to oversee them," Kanyusi said.

RITA Legal Officer Emmanuela Mwingira said the agency had already worked on some changes in the constitution and picked some believers and tasked them to conduct election for members of board of trustees.

"We had a work to review their constitution and improved it to avoid repeating the mistakes in future," she said.

Speaking at the same venue, a member of the mosque Sherali Sherali asked for the law to follow its course, commending RITA for timely intervention and taking appropriate action.

"We are confident and optimistic on how the government is addressing this matter," he said.



Ijala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (3rd-L) pictured at Kivule in suburban Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting a certificate to one of 23 students who had just undergone sewing training conducted with support from a project meant to empower girls, women and people with special needs. Photo: Correspondent Halfan Chusi

South China's region sends two medical teams to Africa

NANNING

TWO medical teams departed Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region yesterday for medical aid missions in

Niger and the Comoros.

Among the 41 medical professionals selected from 12 hospitals in the region, 30 will work in Niger, while others are bound for the Comoros. They will work in the African nations

for one and a half years.

Guangxi has been dispatching medical teams to Niger since 1976 and to the Comoros since 1994. So far, 726 medical personnel in 23 teams have provided medical servic-

es to more than 1.71 million people in Niger.

A total of 161 medical workers have provided services to over 624,000 residents of the Comoros.

SA gvt calls on farmers to help curb spread of FMD

By special Correspondent, Johannesburg

SOUTH Africa's Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has urged farmers and livestock owners in all provinces to limit movement of cloven-hoofed animals as far as possible.

This comes in the wake of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) on five farms in Humansdorp and East London in the Eastern Cape.

"Cloven-hoofed animals should not be moved unless it is absolutely necessary, considering among others that the East London farm sourced animals from multiple origins. This will allow the department to find and quarantine further undetected, affected properties to prevent any further spread of the disease," the department said.

The significance of the incubation period for FMD cannot be overem-

phasised, the department added. This is the period in the early stages of infection when animals appear to be healthy but are infectious without yet showing clinical signs of disease.

"The investigation into the origin and extent of the FMD outbreak in the Eastern Cape is ongoing," the department said.

"Clinical signs of FMD were observed on the first reported farm and samples were collected immediately on April 30. Since then, clinical signs

of FMD were found on four more farms in the Humansdorp area, and one in the East London area."

The Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Laboratory in Pretoria confirmed that the samples had tested positive for the virus SAT3, in serology and PCR tests. Virus identifications by sequencing have identified the same SAT3 virus on the positive farms.

"Various steps have been taken, including placement under quar-

antine of locations confirmed to be positive for FMD by the Eastern Cape Provincial Veterinary Services. A full epidemiological investigation is under way to identify the possible origin and any other properties that could be at risk," the department said.

"Immediate neighbours and all linked locations have been placed under precautionary quarantine, pending clinical and serological investigation to determine their

FMD status. Cattle and sheep on the affected farms were vaccinated against FMD to reduce the viral load on these farms."

The department urged farmers to observe biosecurity on their farms and to protect their own herds from becoming infected, in compliance with Section II of the Animal Diseases Act, which imposes a duty on all animal owners and managers to prevent and contain disease infection.

Tanzanian young girl makes waves at SPIEF'24 in Russia

By Guardian Reporter

AN inspiring Tanzanian young girl, Salma Iddi, an advocate for women's economic empowerment and climate activism, recently made waves at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2024 (SPIEF'24) that took place in Russia from June 5-8.

Salma, who is the founder and executive director of an NGO committed to supporting women in their journey towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth, represented youth of Tanzania.

Her participation was sponsored by Friends for Leadership programme, a new-generation initiative that supports young individuals in their endeavours.

The programme is dedicated to nurturing young entrepreneurs, scientists and coordinators of youth projects by providing them with valuable advice on running businesses and developing scientific, social and youth projects.

Salma's involvement in SPIEF 2024 highlights her commitment to addressing critical issues such as economic empowerment for women and climate change. Her participation underscores the importance of including youth voices in discussions that shape the future of the world.

At the forum, Salma had the opportunity to engage with business leaders, policymakers, and fellow activists, sharing her insights and learning from others' experiences.

By participating in such a prestigious event, she not only represented the aspirations of Tanzanian youth but also showcased the vital role that young people play in driving sustainable development and economic growth.

The forum's central event was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin and attracted 17,000 participants from 130 countries worldwide. Speaking during the event, President Putin commended the forum by committing himself to support the event.

"I would like to take advantage of the SPIEF venue to tell you not only about the goals and tasks that we in Russia have set for ourselves but also about our views on the state of the global economic system.

For us, this is not an abstract conversation, nor an academic discussion. Russia's development, simply by virtue of its size, history, culture, the human potential and economic opportunities cannot take place outside the global context, without the correlation of the domestic, national and global agendas," he said.

Over the last 24 years, the forum has become a leading global platform for members of the business community to meet and discuss the key economic issues facing Russia, emerging markets and an avenue where opinions are exchanged and cooperation ties are established, making it an ideal stage for young leaders like Salma to voice their perspectives and contribute to global dialogues.

SPIEF is a unique event in the world of business and economics that has been held since 1997, and since 2006, it has been held under the auspices of the President of the Russian Federation, who has also attended each event which has grown into a premier global platform for discussing international development issues.



Fredrick Ibrahim Kibuta (R), Tanzania's Ambassador in Russian Federation and also accredited to Belarus, Georgia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, pictured with Salma Iddi on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2024 (SPIEF'24) held from June 5 to 8 in St. Petersburg. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Alert from scientists: Coral reefs experiencing bleaching

By Special Correspondent

CORAL reefs around the world are experiencing global bleaching for the fourth time, a result of warming ocean waters amid human-caused climate change according to scientists.

Coral reef bleaching across at least 53 countries, territories or local economies has been confirmed from February 2023 to now, scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and International Coral Reef Initiative reported in April.

In order for bleaching to be declared on a global scale, significant bleaching had to be documented within each of the major ocean basins, including the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Bleaching happens when stressed coral expel the algae that are their food source and give them their colour. If the bleaching is severe and long-lasting, the coral can die. Bleaching has been happening in various regions for some time.

In the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, bleaching affected 90% of the coral assessed in 2022.

In March 2024 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority announced a mass coral bleaching event following aerial surveys.

Scientists observed coral bleaching on 73 per cent of surveyed reefs within the Marine Park according to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website.

"The reality for what's happening in the Great Barrier Reef unfortunately isn't a surprise, and it's a consequence of rising global temperatures, and we're very certain of that, partly because of the science, but also because of what we've seen across the whole of the last 12 months," says Roger Beeden, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chief Scientist.

The reef has experienced "unprecedented temperatures, widespread coral bleaching seen in all the areas, likely to be at least on par with the substantial events that we saw in 2016 and 2017," adds Beeden.

The world is experiencing the second global bleaching event in the last 10 years.

The last one ended in May 2017. Brought on by a powerful El Nino climate pattern that heated the world's oceans, it lasted three years and was determined to be worse than the prior two bleaching events in 2010 and 1998.

This year's bleaching follows the declaration that 2023 was the hottest year on record.

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Here are African countries expected to suffer most from hunger in 2024

By Special Correspondent

ALTHOUGH many hunger hotspots are in Africa, fears of famine persist in Gaza and Sudan, where ongoing conflict exacerbates the regional risk of new hunger emergencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have warned.

Acute food insecurity is expected to rise in magnitude and severity across 18 hunger "hotspots." According to the report Palestine and three African countries - Mali, South Sudan and Sudan remain at the highest alert level and require the most urgent attention.

Haiti was added to the list due to escalating violence and threats to food security. Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen are hotspots of very high concern, with a large number of people facing critical acute food insecurity, coupled with worsening drivers that are expected to intensify life-threatening conditions in the coming months.

Since the previous edition of the Hunger Hotspots report (October 2023), the Central African Republic,

Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zambia have joined Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe in the list of hunger hotspots, where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate further during the outlook period.

Conflict, climate extremes, and economic shocks continue to drive vulnerable households into food crises.

This edition of the report reveals the lingering effects of El Niño and the looming threat of La Niña, which poses further risks of climate extremes that could disrupt lives and livelihoods.

The shift in climate could have major implications for several hotspots, including the risk of floods in parts of South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, as well as the Sudan.

According to Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director, "Once a famine is declared, it is too late - many people will have already starved to death. In Somalia in 2011, half of the quarter of a million people who died of hunger perished before famine was officially declared."



Mtwara regional commissioner Col Patrick Sawala (R) pictured on Saturday handing over the Uhuru Torch to his Ruvuma counterpart, Col Ahmed Abbas, ready for the annual cross-country Uhuru Torch Race to begin in the latter region. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

HIV risk high as climate disasters push African women into sex work

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

IN Nairobi's informal settlement of Kawangware, Kenyan vegetable seller Beverly confronts a grim reality - her one-room corrugated iron home and everything she owned has been destroyed in the worst floods in years.

Since March, torrential rains linked to climate change have inundated parts of East Africa, destroying homes and livelihoods, and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

Now, with hunger knocking, the mother-of-two contemplates a dangerous exchange - sex for food.

"I know others who had to do it,"

23-year-old who did not want to provide her full name, told Context.

"I know about risks like AIDS. But I have lost everything and I still have to feed my children. At this moment, I am just praying," she said.

Amidst the turmoil of Africa's climate crisis, an unseen threat is unfolding where hunger is pushing women and girls into sexual exploitation and increasing the risk of HIV, health experts and aid workers warned.

The continent is on the frontline of the impacts of climate change. This year has already seen floods in east Africa, heatwaves in the west and drought in the south.

As a hotter planet produces more intense and frequent weather-related events, communities already teetering on the brink are being hit the hardest, their livelihoods, often based on farming, destroyed. Many are forced to migrate to survive.

This is not only exposing girls and women to exploitation in the form of transactional sex and sexual violence, but is also raising the risk of increased HIV infection.

Health experts are now sounding the alarm, cautioning that this neglected crisis might reverse years of advancements in the fight against HIV, potentially undoing hard-won gains.

Research conducted by Frontline AIDS last year found that if temperatures continued to rise as predicted, sub-Saharan Africa could see an additional 16 million cases of HIV by 2050.

"We were really shocked with the results of modelling data from the study," said David Clark, head of programmes at Frontline AIDS, a global network of 60 charities tackling HIV.

"We are really concerned that the impacts of climate change could wipe away decades of progress on HIV," he said.

Sub-Saharan Africa has made great strides in tackling HIV since it was discovered more than 40 years

ago. In east and southern Africa, for instance, new infections have dropped by 57 percent since 2010.

The region however remains the world's most affected - accounting for 25.6 million of the 39 million people living with virus globally, the United Nations AIDS programme (UNAIDS) says.

Adolescent girls and young women make up more than 77 percent of new infections among people aged 15-24 years in sub-Saharan Africa, and are more than three times more likely to acquire HIV than their male peers.

"Many of these young women are highly vulnerable," said Pasquine

Ogunsanya, executive director of the Kampala-based charity Alive Medical Services.

"They don't have economic power or a proper education so it's very difficult for them to even negotiate for a condom," she said.

Yet only about 42 percent of districts with high HIV incidence in sub-Saharan Africa have dedicated HIV prevention programmes for adolescent girls and young women, UNAIDS data shows.

At the same time, Africa is heating up at a faster rate than the rest of the planet and enduring more severe and frequent disasters such as droughts, floods, heatwaves and storms.

CITES trains over 100 rangers to monitor, report information on elephant mortality

HOEDSPRUIT

RANGERS from across the Southern African region have now established a new community of practice for monitoring and reporting on elephant mortality.

Accurate and consistent data on elephant deaths is crucial for understanding and effectively addressing the threats faced by nature's gardeners, which include human-elephant conflict, habitat loss and the illegal killing for ivory.

Reliable data allows for informed decision-making and effective conservation measures to ensure the long-term survival of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in their natural habitats.

In April, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme, in partnership with the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), successfully delivered a training session for 39 rangers at the SAWC campus, located in Greater Kruger National Park, Hoedspruit, South Africa.

CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero said: "This partnership highlights the importance of regional co-operation and shared knowledge in tackling the challenges faced by conservationists. Beyond imparting knowledge and skills, the CITES MIKE Programme builds capacity for accurate data collection, thus providing evidence-based strategies for the conservation of elephants and increasing their resilience against the various threats to biodiversity."

Participants were trained on the MIKE Programme's framework, data collection techniques and documentation processes, ensuring consistency and accuracy in monitoring efforts across different sites. The Training of Trainers (ToT) approach aimed to further empower these officials to share their knowledge and train more personnel within their home countries, amplifying the impact of the training programme across borders.



Kahama district commissioner Mboni Mhita (L) checks stones for mineral content during a tour of a mining site at Mwabomba in Ushetu Council yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Here are African countries expected to suffer most from hunger in 2024

By Special Correspondent

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According to Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director, "Once a famine is declared, it is too late - many people will have already starved to death. In Somalia in 2011, half of the quarter of a million people who died of hunger perished before famine was officially declared."

The world failed to heed the warnings at the time and the repercussions were catastrophic. We must learn the lesson and act now to stop these hotspots from igniting a firestorm of hunger."

She noted that there are proven solutions to stop these crises in their tracks, but stressed the need for resources and political will to implement them at scale before more lives are lost.

MONDAY 10 JUNE 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
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Congressional team stands to improve US assessment of conservation efforts

FEW would likely have expected to see a group of lawmakers from the United States in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area for a visit that looked anything between tourism and a fact-finding mission.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority officials said the team was there to view conservation sites, seeing that initiative as likely to attract many foreign tourists as their whereabouts would definitely be widely publicised in the US and elsewhere.

But that isn't the big issue as a group of US entertainers would have done as much, if not even more, without members of Congress chipping in.

A leading figure in the team is reported to have said that the House committee on natural resources will examine how US conservation policies contribute to conservation and tourism development in Africa.

Yes, indeed, and definitely look at the ground, talk to officials to see which view of displacements of indigenous people makes sense, that of radical publicists or what they will hear from Tanzanian officials and scores of other persons in the vicinity.

They say in an English idiom that two is company and three is a crowd, and that is what is visible in local tourism and environment issues placed before legislators in the US.

There was first the dispute about the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, though it has ignited less heated debate in the US than in the European Union legislature.

Yet they would no doubt have an inkling of it, as last month US\$50 million in support for our southern circuit agricultural sector and tourism development project was frozen over some form of differences of opinion.

What is more at issue in the visit appears to be the ecosystem in the

conservation area concerned and the justification for displacing thousands of people to non-conservation areas.

There an auxiliary issue of the manner in which they left or were persuaded to live. It is in this context that some observers believe the visit will be a boon to the government as what will be said about Ngorongoro is likely to reflect on what is being done at Udzungwa conservation zone, the now suspended project.

There were preliminary indications that the visiting congressional team was on the whole exuding positive impressions on efforts geared at sustainable conservation.

Preliminary awareness of increased numbers of major wildlife attractions like rhinos, lions, leopards, elephants and buffalos was a good start. The lawmakers are understood to have lauded the conservation authorities for the care and protection of rare wildlife, most notably 'the big five'. A few watchers in the know might be at hand to ascertain that if indeed the US 'delegates' have a positive impression of the care extended to rhinos in their natural habitats, it makes it easier to appreciate the wider picture.

The radical groups that heavily influence policy in major Western countries are more interested in intact conservation of ecosystems of indigenous people rather than wildlife as such.

They largely don't look at the balances of wildlife and cattle grazing as by definition these are in harmony. It's a paradigm they likely were taught about in anthropology classes at university - and it stays.

As to how whatever assessment the US legislators decide to come up with at the end of its all, the best advice would possibly be that we wait until the dance is, indeed, over.

It's inspiring seeing maternal, neonatal death rates declining

THOSE with recollections will remember the agony besetting activists and how broadly public authorities kept agonizing over the high levels of deaths of mothers and newborns for most of the past three decades.

A new tendency has been noticed at least for the past five years or less, with officials saying that the number of women delivering in health facilities has increased and hence the drop in the frequency of maternal and neonatal deaths registered.

The key seems to lie in the state of health sector facilities added since the late year 2021's Covid-19 recovery credit funds.

This factor is not hard to appreciate for it is recent and the decline in maternal and newborn deaths is largely recent as well, even though the credits from the International Monetary Fund need to be set against a rising development budget from the 2016 restructuring of expenditure.

When recurrent expenditure in the total budget fell from 74 per cent to 61 per cent, and development expenditure rose from 26 per cent to 39 per cent within six months of the start of a new phase of government in 2015, the health sector gained plenty at the particular time. That may have been lost in part owing to inability for most people to appreciate developments when they happened.

We also need to know the part democracy played in the imbalance between recurrent and development expenditure, and indeed if we are taking the highway to the same situation.

Efforts made by the government and various other stakeholders to improve health sector infrastructure, equipment and services

had its cost in taming contrasting demands that may seem less important but are made by powerful sections of society.

That is why when top medical authorities attended a recent stakeholders' meeting called to discuss initiatives to further improve access to quality health services it was a truly important event. Even if improvements aren't made fast enough, the mere fact of avoiding decline matters.

Currently, 81 per cent of women deliver in health facilities, which a number of participants said relates to a change in people's mindsets triggered by major investment in the health sector.

That was somewhat baffling as health sector investments help expedite access to dispensaries and health centres. This implies having mindsets related to distance from health facilities, even if not frankly presumed resistance of hesitation to use such facilities.

Yet the progress made is not conclusive, and negative tendencies have a way of resurfacing after lots of effort to combat them.

It pays to appreciate this as maternal deaths have reportedly decreased by over 70 per cent in Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Tabora and Manyara regions where an innovative method known has been put to use. This relates to innovative clinical and training tools for better maternal labour care, newborn resuscitations integrated with new strategies for quality improvement to reduce newborn deaths, stillbirths and maternal deaths.

From 14 hospitals in 2018 that had newborn wards to 241 today, plenty has been done even as nursing has to improve further for even better performance.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

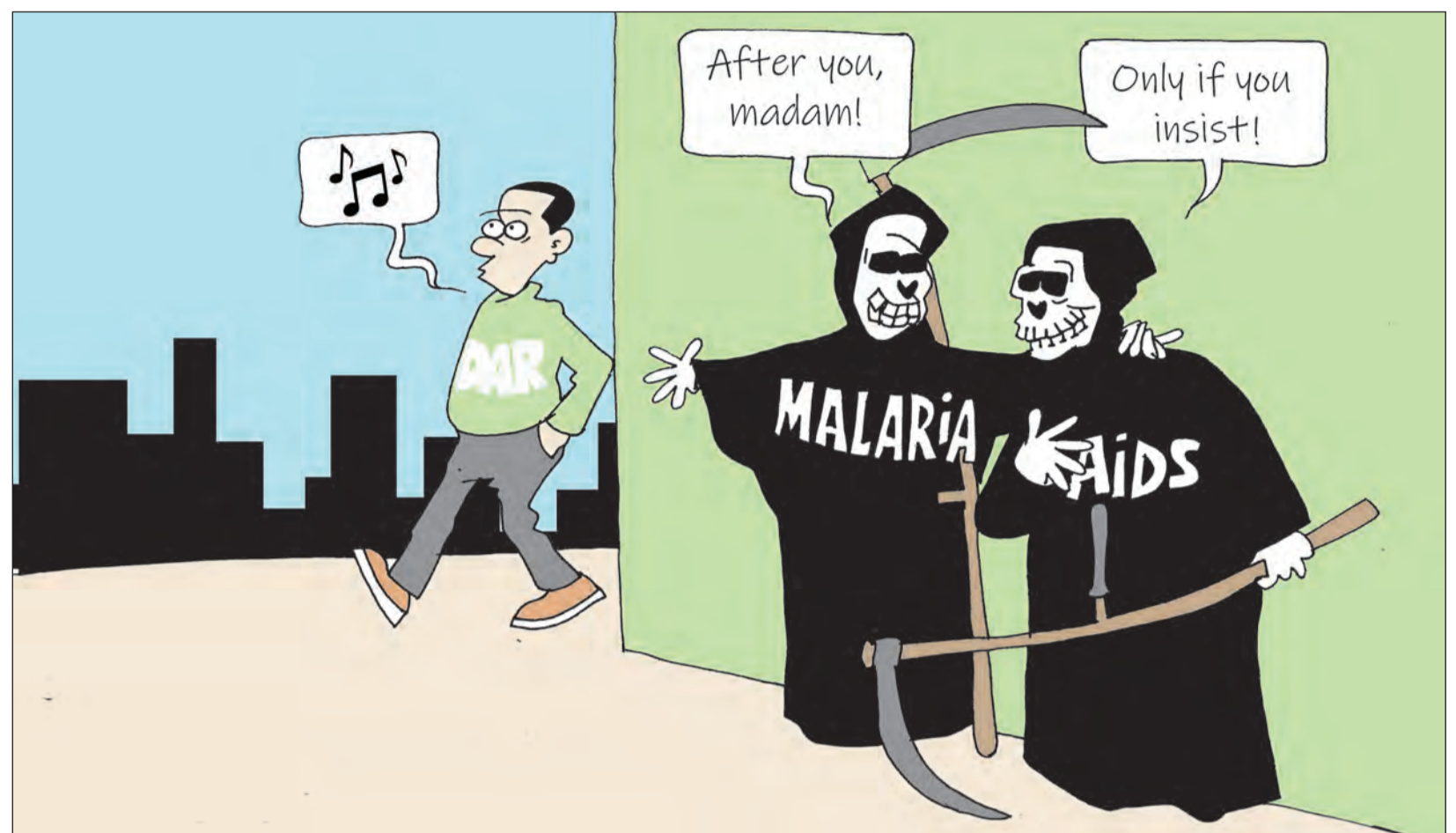
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Are we equipping women or merely filling the gender gap?

By Ashley Malepe

IN the expansive field of groundwater resource management, a pressing question often emerges: are we truly equipping women with the necessary tools and opportunities to thrive, or are we simply attempting to fill in the gender gap without tackling the root causes?

Despite significant progress in gender equality across various sectors, including science and technology, the underrepresentation of women in groundwater-related fields remains alarmingly high.

Recent statistics reveal that women make up only 22% of the global groundwater workforce, a stark indication of a persistent gender gap that demands immediate attention. This gap suggests that while there may be efforts to increase women's representation, there may still be systemic challenges and barriers that hinder true equity and inclusion in the field.

While progress has been made in bridging the gender gap in recent years, the statistics present a stark reality of the hurdles that women still encounter in entering and thriving in groundwater-related professions.

Despite their equal capabilities and potential to contribute to the field, systemic barriers such as limited opportunities for career growth, and pervasive gender biases persist, impeding their full participation. In addition to these structural hurdles, women in groundwater often face cultural norms and stereotypes that reinforce the idea of male dominance in scientific and technical fields.

For instance, women have been believed to be suited for lighter duties, while more physically demanding duties, such as drilling or engineering work, are often associated with men.

Even when women are hired in these fields, they encounter resistance in being acknowledged and respected for their authority and expertise. In some cases, individuals may refuse to follow directives issued by women, viewing them as less authoritative solely because of their gender.

This resistance not only undermines women's contributions but also perpetuates the belief that women have no place in positions of leadership or decision-making.

Reflecting on her experiences, Alina Kadhila, a hydrogeologist at Namibia Water Corporation, notes, "While progress has been made in recognizing the importance of gender diversity, there's still a long way to go." Societal norms and cultural beliefs greatly shadow efforts to promote gender equality.

Entrenched stereotypes perpetuate the notion that certain professions are inherently male domains, "To address



Alina Kadhila, a hydrogeologist at Namibia Water Corporation, operating a mud rotary drilling rig.

these challenges truly," she asserts, "we need to challenge stereotypes, dismantle systemic biases, and create pathways for women to thrive. Alina emphasizes."

Phera Ramoeli, Executive Secretary at the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), echoes Kadhila's sentiments, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach to gender equality and equity.

"Gender equality is not just about promoting the interests of one gender over another," he emphasizes. "It's about creating a level playing field where everyone has equal opportunities to succeed." Ramoeli advocates for empowering both a girl and boy child, nurturing a culture of inclusivity that transcends traditional gender norms.

Furthermore, Ramoeli highlights the importance of recognizing diversity's inherent value to the groundwater sector. "Diverse perspectives foster innovation and drive progress," he asserts.

By embracing gender diversity, organizations can tap into a broad-

er talent pool, resulting in more creative problem-solving and sustainable solutions to complex challenges. Encouragingly, as awareness grows regarding the benefits of diversity, there is a growing momentum towards fostering inclusive environments where all individuals, regardless of gender, can thrive.

Addressing the challenge of societal norms and cultural beliefs that perpetuate gender disparities requires a paradigm shift and multifaceted strategies. In the groundwater field, tackling the challenges rooted in societal norms and cultural beliefs demands a targeted approach.

It begins with reshaping perceptions from the ground up. Implementing gender-sensitive educational programs within hydrogeology and related disciplines can debunk stereotypes and instill values of inclusivity early on. Integrating these programs into academic curricula will pave the way for a future generation of hydrogeologists who understand and

champion gender equality.

Within the professional sphere, initiatives aimed at creating inclusive environments are paramount. Groundwater organizations must adopt policies that accommodate the diverse needs of their workforce, particularly women.

Flexible work arrangements tailored to the demands of fieldwork and family responsibilities can remove barriers to entry and retention. Mentorship programs that pair women with experienced professionals offer guidance and support, nurturing talent and fostering career advancement.

Equally essential is ensuring equitable opportunities for pay and progression, underlining the value of every individual's contribution irrespective of gender. By cultivating a culture of inclusivity and support, groundwater institutions can heighten the collective expertise of all professionals, driving innovation and progress in the field.

The journey toward true equity involves more than just providing access; it requires dismantling systemic barriers and fostering an environment where every individual, regardless of gender, can thrive. It demands efforts to challenge ingrained biases, reshape societal norms, and advocate for inclusive policies and practices.

As we navigate this path, it becomes clear that actual progress lies not in isolated initiatives but in a holistic, systemic change. It entails equipping women with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to excel while simultaneously addressing the underlying structures perpetuating gender disparities. It requires a commitment to fostering an inclusive culture that values diversity and empowers individuals to reach their full potential.

Ultimately, the goal of gender inclusivity is not simply to bridge the gender gap but to create a professional ecosystem where gender is no longer a factor that impedes anyone's ability to succeed.

It is crucial to proactively address gender biases, promote mentorship and networking opportunities, and ensure that contributions from women are recognized and valued equally. Only then we can honestly say that we are not just filling the gender gap but actively equipping women, forging a future where equality and equity is not just a goal but a lived reality.

Ashley Malepe is Communication Intern at the SADC-Groundwater Management Institute

By Thomas Lyimo

Individuals' different perspectives must lead to socio-economic transformation

YOU may expect someone to agree with you in some issues but the results become contrary to the expectation and this is when you will agree that human beings are of different origin. Sometimes the disagreement is on issues which are urgent and decisions have to be made quickly but due to valuing freedom of expression disagreement come in.

Individuals come from different geographical areas with different conditions and opportunities. They therefore engage in different activities that led to them having different experiences. The types of activities that individuals deal with make them to have certain perspectives which vary from other individuals doing different activities. We have the common goals but different opinions and yet we have to move.

What an individual does for a long time becomes part of their perspectives. Accomplishing something builds a belief for someone and they convince others to follow the suit. In this way perspectives spread to different individuals. Human beings are relational beings who interact in the course of facing life challenges in order to improve their lives. There are some individuals whose perspectives are hereditary. They think in a certain way because of the thinking of the people they have lived with. Their inclination to certain perspectives has made them absorb them and become part of what defines them in terms of thinking and reasoning.

With different perspectives in the society it becomes important to tolerate one another so that life may move on smoothly. Whatever we introduce to others let us expect a different opinion. The presence of different opinions is what makes life to be more meaningful. These different perspectives lead to socio-economic transformation which makes life much better. What is important is to learn how to live together harmoniously with our differences while slowly and carefully trying to convince others to change in those aspects we are assured that they are not doing right.

Different perspectives in the society are not something bad but what matters is how to go about them while maintaining peace and harmony among individuals. In achieving the state of peace and harmony in the society, some individuals believe that tolerance is of much importance. There are times when not all that someone desires can be done. What is believed to have many benefits to the entire community is what will be given a priority. For tolerance to exist and increase in the society to maintain peace and harmony the knowledge of reasons for presence of different perspectives can help. Individuals differ in perspectives due to the following reasons.

One is parental upbringing. The way an individual behaves is the result of guidance of parents when they were growing up. Words spoken and actions taken may contribute to shape the perspectives of an individual. It is difficult for someone to do something that their parents did not use to do. Even if they try to do they will have less confidence. This shows that parental upbringing has much effect on the perspectives of an individual.



dividual.

The second reason is religions teachings. The perspectives of an individual can greatly be affected by religions teaching. In religious teachings people are made to believe without questioning. What they are taught becomes the base of their perspectives and it is not easy to change them.

Knowing the impact of religious teachings on individuals' perspectives some countries such as Rwanda has put into place strict terms for someone to be a leader of a religions group whereby for instance someone needs to retain a Bachelor of Theology before they can lead a church.

The third reason is the kind of schools that someone has attended, schools are with different philosophies, cultures and teachers who cannot have the some perspectives. Therefore the school environment can shape the thinking of someone.

It becomes easy for someone to identify an individual coming from a certain school by looking at their conducts. School leave marks on our lives. The fourth reason is the types of books that someone reads. Learning should not be confined only to schools but should be a lifelong process. There are individuals who have built a culture of reading books. This practice may shape their thinking. Reading makes individuals change in perspectives. They start believing in what in the past they didn't. This is to justify the assertion that knowledge is power. Therefore if an opportunity to read is granted in the society we should prepare for emergence of new perspectives.

In the society, there are people we associate with and we have given them an opportunity to be close to us; this can change us positively or negatively. People we stay with for a long time get an opportunity to tell us a lot of things which can be of value

or harm. Those individuals come from different backgrounds and have different experiences and knowledge all of which can change our perspectives and hence affect one's conducts.

Human beings are multi-dimensional beings. Their behaviour and stands are results of contributions of different factors. For a society or country to develop there must be laws to be followed which are independent factors that shape the personalities of individuals. We may agree to disagree in some issues but for those which define our common goals, there should be no compromise.



GENESIS SCHOOLS

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Shape Young Minds at Genesis Schools!

TEACHER VACANCIES ANNOUNCED

Genesis Schools, established in 2002 and renowned for its Cambridge International Schools at Oysterbay and Kisota Kigamboni campuses in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, is seeking qualified and dedicated educators for the upcoming academic year starting in August 2024. Our school offers a rigorous Cambridge curriculum and maintains high standards for education and student development.

Available Positions:

- Lower & Upper Primary Teachers
- Lower Secondary Teachers (Geography/History, Science, Math)
- Preschool & Special Needs Teachers
- School Nurse (2 Positions)
- Administrative Secretary

Desired Experience

- Experience teaching the Cambridge curriculum.
- Proven track record of improving student outcomes.
- Familiarity with integrating technology into the classroom.
- Background in fostering inclusive and supportive classroom environments.

Desired Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Education or relevant field (Master's or PhD preferred).
- Certified Teaching Credential.
- Specializations in specific subjects (English, Math, Science, Geography, History, Special Needs).
- Additional qualifications in special education for Special Needs Teacher.

Expectations

- Commitment to maintaining high educational standards.
- Ability to create engaging and interactive lesson plans.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.
- Willingness to participate in extracurricular activities and school events.

Responsibilities

- Design dynamic, tech-integrated lessons for diverse learners.
- Foster inclusive classrooms with insightful feedback.
- Collaborate for curriculum enhancement and professional growth.
- Engage in extracurriculars, upholding school values.

Why Should You Work With Us?

At Genesis Schools, we believe in creating an environment where educators thrive both personally and professionally. Here's why Genesis should be your workplace of choice:

- Transport:** Convenient transportation options to and from the school.

- Mid-Morning Tea:** Complimentary mid-morning tea to help you recharge.
- Lunch:** Healthy and delicious lunch provided daily.
- Professional Development:** Continuous opportunities for professional growth and advancement.
- Conducive Environment:** Work in a serene and ambient environment close to the Indian Ocean, providing a refreshing and inspiring atmosphere.
- Supportive Community:** Be part of a supportive and welcoming community that values collaboration and mutual respect.
- Modern Facilities:** State-of-the-art classrooms and facilities equipped with the latest educational technology.
- Cultural Diversity:** Experience a rich cultural environment with students and staff from diverse backgrounds.
- Work-Life Balance:** Encouragement and support for maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

School Nurses (2)

As a Nurse at Genesis Schools, you will play a crucial role in promoting and maintaining the health and well-being of our students. Responsibilities include providing medical assistance, managing health records, and collaborating with parents and staff to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

Qualifications:

- Registered Nurse with relevant experience
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work effectively in a school setting
- Commitment to promoting health and safety practices

Administrative Secretary


Our Administrative Secretary will be responsible for providing administrative support to the school's leadership team and ensuring efficient office operations. Tasks include managing correspondence, organizing meetings and events, and maintaining accurate records.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience as an administrative secretary or similar role
- Proficiency in office software and communication tools
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Ability to multitask and prioritize tasks effectively
- Positive work attitude, Excellent meet and greet presentation.

At Genesis Schools, you will find a fulfilling career, a welcoming community, and the resources you need to succeed. Join us in shaping the future of education!

Application Process: Please send your applications to hr@genesisschools.co.tz by Friday, June 14, 2024, with the subject line "Teaching Vacancy."



WWF for a living planet®

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

Tel: 255 22 2700077
Fax: 255 22 2775535
procurement@wwftz.org
wwf.or.tz

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP

PROVISION OF HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES TO WWF TANZANIA STAFF FOR FY 2024/25

- WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:
 - conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- WWF TCO now wishes to engage a highly experienced firm in medical insurance industry, reputable and well established to provide Health Insurance services to WWF Tanzania staff. The qualities needed will be but not limited to:
 - Proven to be able to offer comprehensive best services offered on both in-patients, outpatients, local emergency evacuations as well as international referrals (Coverage/Benefits of Proposed Policy) & Internation emergency related covers
 - Evidence of wider Geographical coverage of the firm both local and international (providers network)
 - Associated costs for the services rendered (Premiums/Pricing)
 - The listed range of Group Medical Insurance & Packages offered
 - Any other value-added services deemed to be above other competitors within the industry
 - Maternity, Dental & Optical service
 - Chronic disease related services and premiums
 - Any other service niche competitive compared to the rest
- All registered, eligible and reputable firms are advised to submit both technical proposal (in term of services offered) and financial section in terms of premiums and services pricing and forwarded to procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org – Tender application heading should read 'application – proposal for provision of Health Insurance to WWF Tanzania staff
- Each applicant should attach current License from TIRA and other related Licenses and certificates from recognized Authority and will be verified by WWF during evaluation process.
- The Application prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and currency used shall be Tanzanian Shilling – TZS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the Applicant may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of Interpretation of the Application, the translation shall govern.
- Interested applicants may also be able to access this advert through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/
- Interested applicants are requested to submit only their electronic full proposals (both technical and financial) through procurement emails provided in para 3&8 and addressed to:

Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices
White Star Street, Plot 252 Mikocheni – Off Mwai Kibaki Road
P. O. Box 63117; Tel: 255 22 2700077
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
email: procurement@wwftz.org website: wwf.or.tz
- Deadline; electronic proposals to be submitted through the procurement: e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org to reach us by or before 10am, Thursday, 20th June, 2024 EAT Local time
- Evaluation will be done based on WWF procurement procedures and that, WWF Tanzania Country Office - TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason. Late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org
- Only successful applicant will be contacted...

Africa can turn its poverty, unemployment and inequality challenges into opportunities

By Telesphor Magobe

ALTHOUGH sustainable development goal (SDG) 1 states ending poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030 - that is in six years' time from now - the number of people living in poverty, especially in Africa, is still increasing. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2023 suggests that about half of poor people across the world live in sub-Saharan Africa, which translates into about 534 million people (47.8 per cent).

The MPI 2023 also shows the number of poor people living in other parts of the world, but which is less than that of Africa - South Asia: 389 people (34.9 per cent), East Asia and the Pacific: 106 million people (9.5 per cent), Arab states: 53 million people (4.7 per cent), Latin America and the

Caribbean: 33 million people (3.0 per cent) and Europe and Central Asia: 2 million people (0.2 per cent).

The report says in sub-Saharan Africa the intensity of poverty is particularly serious. "The region is home not only to the highest number of poor people, but also to the poorest of the poor." Furthermore, it suggests that 54.1 per cent of poor children live in sub-Saharan Africa, making poverty reduction for these 306 million children a vital focus for the region.

When it comes to unemployment, which aggravates poverty, a recent report of International Labour Organisation (ILO) titled "World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024" says in 2023, about a third of employed persons in sub-Saharan Africa were living in extreme poverty (in households subsisting on less

than \$2.15 per day per person).

The report goes further saying (as it cites World Bank data) "in sub-Saharan Africa alone, in 2023, 145 million people were in extreme working poverty (at the \$2.15 per day threshold, in purchasing power parity terms), equating to a third of the employed population. Per capita incomes are expected to grow less than 1 per cent in 2023-24, and 40 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's population live in countries (including the three largest economies) where per capita incomes will be lower in 2024 than at the start of the pandemic."

It says unemployment has remained slightly high since the pandemic and the youth are particularly at risk. Citing IMF data of 2023, the report says limited fiscal space affects African countries' abilities to respond to external shocks.

"Of continuing concern is the ability of these countries to be resilient to and rebuild from events resulting from climate change, such as prolonged droughts, crop failure, and storms, which can disrupt key economic drivers such as mining activity and agricultural production."

Furthermore, the report says an additional concern is that much existing growth in GDP is not accompanied by an increase in per capita incomes, which rise too slowly to reduce extreme poverty and working poverty (earning less than \$2.15 per day per person).

Another challenge the report cites is a security threat to some African countries, namely, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania, saying "continuing security risks have the potential to depress growth. Such conflict impacts on livelihoods as well as diverting public funds away from growth-enhancing investment."

A UN report titled "Economic Report on Africa 2024: Investing in a Just and Sustainable Transi-

tion in Africa" too acknowledges that despite the progress being made across Africa there are still some challenges which interfere in Africa's economic growth. This observation was made by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (EAC) Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary Claver Gatete who says "Africa faces persistent hurdles to its inclusive and sustainable development."



Despite several pockets of excellence in the continent's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the number of SDG targets that require acceleration or reversal exceeds those that are on course."

Gatete says poverty, inequality, food insecurity, and unemployment contribute to poverty intensity as from 2019 to 2023 the number of people vulnerable to poverty rose by 28 per cent. However, as a solution he proposes Africa to enhance its climate resilience and embark on

a greener growth path to generate decent jobs and contribute to global efforts to fight against climate change and conserve nature.

While it states that Africa is projected to have 476 million people living in poverty in 2024, the UN report suggests "turning the tide on poverty, unemployment, and inequality in an equitable and sustainable way will require focusing on job-rich and green growth, including strengthening human capital (health and education), leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and closing the food and energy gaps."

The UN report suggests Africa's generous endowment in natural resources, arable land and youthful populations and a shift to renewable (clean) energy are crucial for sustainability transition. "Making the most of them will require not only a fundamental shift in countries' policy and planning processes, but also much greater and more effective involvement of the private sector and development partners."

REQUEST FOR TENDER

RISING MAIN PROJECT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

SCADA System Supply for the Rising Main Project

Tender Ref: NM014/2024

| Qualification Criteria | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| No | Reference no | Description of work | Qualification Criteria |
| 1 | NM014/2024 | <p>Supply SCADA system components for the GOKONA Rising Main Project as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Main PLC inclusive of PLC, PLC Power Unit; Ethernet Module SCADA Server Operator Station including displays; keyboard, mouse; dual screen stand, rack mounted chassis etc. Camera Terminal including display, mouse, keyboard, HDMI Extender; Desk, Chairs etc. Rockwell, Windows and Dallmeier Software 6No Rio panels inclusive of Rockwell Automation inputs and outputs; chassis, power supply; IP66 Panel; Schneider earth leakage; Rockwell E300 intelligent Motor relays; Terminals, UPS, Fiber patch panels etc. Fibre Cables. Instruments <p>Panel Supply Requirements Details for the PLC-Panel can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0003 CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0004 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0004 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0004 CC0296-100-CI-NTW-0002 <p>Panel Supply Requirements Details for the RIO-Panel can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0005 CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0006 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0005 <p>Instrument Requirements Details for the Supply of instruments can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-DAT-0008 CC0296-100-CI-INL-0001 <p>BOQ A BOQ with reference CC0296-100-ELE-BOQ-0007 - SCADA System Supply BOQ must be completed by the Bidder and submitted for adjudication.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Company Profile and capability statement. Completed Bill of Quantities (BOQ) with reference CC0296-100-ELE-BOQ-0007 - SCADA System Supply BOQ Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications or requirements detailed in the BOQ as listed in point ii above. Class two, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ready for Shipment Ex-works. Number of weeks after placement of PO for the following BOQ Schedule Items for electrical cables: a) Rio Panels b) Fibre Cables and fixings; c) Camera Terminal; d) Operator station and f) Main PLC Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions. Local Content Regulations Compliance. |

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.



NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a request through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

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

Key Dates
• Last Date to Submit RFP Package request 16 June 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

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North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

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|------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| No | Reference no | Description of work | Qualification Criteria |
| 1 | NM014/2024 | <p>Supply SCADA system components for the GOKONA Rising Main Project as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Main PLC inclusive of PLC, PLC Power Unit; Ethernet Module SCADA Server Operator Station including displays; keyboard, mouse; dual screen stand, rack mounted chassis etc. Camera Terminal including display, mouse, keyboard, HDMI Extender; Desk, Chairs etc. Rockwell, Windows and Dallmeier Software 6No Rio panels inclusive of Rockwell Automation inputs and outputs; chassis, power supply; IP66 Panel; Schneider earth leakage; Rockwell E300 intelligent Motor relays; Terminals, UPS, Fiber patch panels etc. Fibre Cables. Instruments <p>Panel Supply Requirements Details for the PLC-Panel can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0003 CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0004 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0004 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0004 CC0296-100-CI-NTW-0002 <p>Panel Supply Requirements Details for the RIO-Panel can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0005 CC0296-100-CI-SCM-0006 CC0296-100-CI-GAD-0005 <p>Instrument Requirements Details for the Supply of instruments can be confirmed by the following references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CC0296-100-CI-DAT-0008 CC0296-100-CI-INL-0001 <p>BOQ A BOQ with reference CC0296-100-ELE-BOQ-0007 - SCADA System Supply BOQ must be completed by the Bidder and submitted for adjudication.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Company Profile and capability statement. Completed Bill of Quantities (BOQ) with reference CC0296-100-ELE-BOQ-0007 - SCADA System Supply BOQ Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications or requirements detailed in the BOQ as listed in point ii above. Class two, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ready for Shipment Ex-works. Number of weeks after placement of PO for the following BOQ Schedule Items for electrical cables: a) Rio Panels b) Fibre Cables and fixings; c) Camera Terminal; d) Operator station and f) Main PLC Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions. Local Content Regulations Compliance. |

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.



NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a request through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

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

Key Dates
• Last Date to Submit RFP Package request 16 June 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Auger Drilling Program

North Mara Gold Mine, 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 Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Auger Drilling Program

Tender Ref: NM013/2024

| Pre-qualification Criteria | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|
| No | Reference no. | Description of work | Pre-qualification Criteria |
| 1 | NM013/2024 | Auger Drilling Program | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant to submit Company profile with proven experience in drilling works. Applicant to provide a list of high Performing drilling crew comprised of qualified drill Operators (drillers) and experienced driller assistants. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, experience of Auger drilling should be not less than one year. Applicant to provide a proof of relevant drilling equipment's i.e Modern Auger Rigs (Two Auger rigs). Local Content Regulations compliance and other statutory compliance Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, drilling capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations. Applicant to submit active safety policies and environmental management plan. |

Expression of Interest
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

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

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

Key Dates
• Last date to submit EOI 16 June 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Bashe charts new course for agricultural growth corridors

By Correspondent Elizabeth Shumbusho

ON April 19, this year, Dodoma city was the setting for a significant advancement whereby the government through the Ministry of Agriculture and many stakeholders, participated in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) 3rd National Consultation on its journey toward transforming entity into the Agricultural Growth Corridors of Tanzania (AGCOT).

This critical event emphasised the nation's dedication to rejuvenating and advancing its agricultural sector through strategic and well-coordinated national agricultural corridor initiative.

The meeting served as a platform for strategizing the implementation of the AGCOT rollout, building upon the knowledge and achievements gained from the about ten years of implementing SAGCOT initiative.

Tanzania plans to expand corridor initiatives beyond the SAGCOT areas, focusing on the Mtwara, Central, and Northern Corridors. The new corridors will follow a similar approach to the SAGCOT area, taking into account the specific agricultural zones in each corridor. Existing agribusinesses and previous research findings will be considered in the design and implementation of AGCOT, with a focus on leveraging existing infrastructure and investments in roads, ports, airports, and electricity. The goal is to improve productivity, enhance Tanzania's competitiveness in domestic and international markets, and facilitate access to inputs and capital to support agribusiness development. The initiative will also prioritize compliance with Tanzania's commitments to sustainable use of natural resources and inclusivity especially that of women and youth, and will incorporate climate-smart production practices.

Hussein Bashe (pictured), Minister for Agriculture, stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive strategic approach to developing agricultural corridors in Tanzania. He emphasised the need for strategic alignment to leverage their economic potential fully, proposing a well defining the corridors based on ecology, economic activity, and export potential.

He also underscored the necessity of financial investment in these corridors.

"We must openly discuss how we will finance these corridors," he stated, adding: "We must explore opportunities for intelligent financing mechanisms to support

their development and sustainability."

Bashe urged stakeholders to adopt a forward-thinking perspective, envisioning the trajectory of agricultural corridors over the next several decades.

"We must not only focus on the present," he urged. "We must develop a roadmap that guides our actions for the long term."

Highlighting the potential of high-value commodities, Bashe encouraged a shift in focus towards crops such as avocados and mangoes, which have a higher market value.

He emphasised the importance of comprehensive planning and investment in seedlings and technology to support these crops highlighting the potential of high-value commodities.

Bashe encouraged a shift in focus towards horticultural crops including fruits as avocados and mangoes, which have a higher market value, stressing the importance of comprehensive planning and investment in seedlings and technology to support these crops' cultivation effectively.

Bashe highlighted Tanzania's agricultural corridor's competitive advantage and emphasised the importance of aligning agricultural production with economic activities.

"We must recognize the competitive advantage of Tanzania's agricultural corridors," Bashe asserted, "and align them with our economic objectives. Viewing these corridors solely through the lens of food security is no longer sufficient. We must consider the broader economic activities they support." Emphasising collaboration, the minister urged SAGCOT to work closely with Cereals and Other Produce Regulatory Authority (COPRA) in corridor development.

Bashe urged stakeholders to adopt a forward-looking approach, envisioning the trajectory of agricultural corridors over the next several decades. "We cannot afford to think only about the present," he urged. "We must craft a roadmap that guides our actions for the long term."

Bashe also called for clarity on the required public sector investment and the development of models to demonstrate the economic benefits of investing in agriculture.

He emphasised the need for collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and other government agencies to ensure the success of agricultural corridor development initiatives.

Geoffrey Kirenga, SAGCOT chief executive officer, led a comprehensive

review session attended by various stakeholders representing the governmental and private sectors. The one-day meeting, which delved into an in-depth analysis of SAGCOT's progress since its inception, was facilitated through the Zoom platform to ensure broad participation and expert insights. Kirenga highlights the collaborative synergy between governmental bodies and private enterprises in driving the agricultural agenda forward. With a strong focus on tangible achievements, Kirenga emphasized the transformative impact that SAGCOT has had on Tanzania's agrarian landscape.

Directing attention to untapped opportunities beyond the current scope of operations, Kirenga identifies corridors such as Mtwara, Central, and Northern as prime locations for agricultural development initiatives. This strategic shift towards expansion aligns closely with the directives issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, demonstrating a broader commitment to elevating Tanzania's agricultural sector.

Prominent stakeholders at the meeting include representatives from government ministries overseeing agriculture, livestock, and fisheries and private sector entities such as ASTA and the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA). Their collective contributions underscore the collaborative ethos driving Tanzania's agricultural agenda.

Kirenga and other stakeholders stressed the need for stakeholders to take action on the matters discussed during recent engagements. Moreover, it was affirmed that the Agriculture Growth Corridors of Tanzania is already underway, with plans to formally introduce it to the public.

Since its inception in 2011, SAGCOT has been at the forefront of agri-development across the Southern Highlands region. Tailored to the ecological nuances of the respective areas, SAGCOT has thrived on partnerships between the government, the private sector, civil society, and the international community. Through these collaborations, SAGCOT has streamlined value chains for priority crops, ensuring improved access to inputs for farmers, technology adoption, enhanced market penetration, and climate-smart agriculture.

SAGCOT has facilitated the streamlining of value chains for priority crops, ensuring improved access to inputs for farmers, technology adoption, enhanced market penetration, and climate-smart agriculture.



P.O. BOX 16520
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
Tel / Fax: 255 27 2544568
E-mail: info@taha.or.tz
Website: www.taha.or.tz

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TAHA is an apex private sector member-based organization mandated to develop and promote horticulture (flowers, fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs and horticultural seeds) in Tanzania. TAHA's goal is to improve the growth and competitiveness of horticultural industry in the country for social and economic gains. TAHA is a unified voicing platform for Tanzania horticulture, representing farmers at all levels, processors, exporters and service providers in the horticultural industry in Tanzania.

Activity background

TAHA is currently implementing a 5-year USAID funded project called "Tuhifadhi Chakula". The purpose of the Project is to reduce food loss and waste and resultant climate effects for improved food security and livelihoods. The project is focusing on reducing food loss and food waste by addressing post-harvest handling issues within key value chains with major contribution to Tanzania food security basket. The project will implement interventions around four (4) main thematic areas, which are improve food handling, storage and value addition at producer and commercial levels, facilitate market access to ensure agricultural goods reach consumers, inform, and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste and strengthen local organizations capacity to lead on post-harvest management.

TAHA is seeking for a motivated and experienced Tanzanian to fill the position as described below.

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Position : | Finance Manager |
| Reporting to : | Chief of Party |
| Duty station : | Arusha, Tanzania |

Position summary.

The Finance Manager will oversee the financial functions of the USAID-Tuhifadhi Chakula project and will provide financial leadership to ensure effective and efficient management of project resources. The Finance Manager will work closely with the technical and operations teams to ensure that financial policies and procedures are in place and adhered to.

Scope of work

- Ensure accurate and timely financial reporting, analysis and forecasting of project funds.
- Develop and manage budgets, financial systems, and controls in line with USAID rules and regulations.
- Develop and implement financial and administrative policies and procedures to ensure compliance with USAID rules and regulations.
- Develop and maintain appropriate financial management systems to ensure timely and accurate recording and reporting of all financial transactions.
- Oversee the payment process to ensure timely payment of vendors, suppliers, and other project-related expenses.
- Oversee the procurement process, ensuring compliance with USAID regulations and procedures.
- Ensure compliance with all USAID rules and regulations.
- Work closely with the Chief of Party to ensure compliance with all project requirements.
- Ensure compliance with all local tax and legal requirements.
- Prepare and submit monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports to USAID.
- Develop and maintain appropriate systems for reporting and analysis.
- Ensure timely and accurate financial reporting to the Chief of Party and other members of the project team.
- Work closely with project partners to ensure financial compliance and proper documentation of all transactions.
- Provide support and guidance to project partners on financial management.

Qualifications and skills

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Degree Level | Master's or bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, Business Administration or a related field. Must be a Certified Public or Chartered Accounting qualification. |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least nine (9) years of experience managing finance, contracts and/or procurement related matters for international development activities of similar dollar value. • Experience in managing donor funded procurements and subcontracts/ grants. • Working knowledge and experience with USG -funded program management, policies, regulations, and procedures |
| Key Skills | Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, strong attention to detail and ability to work in a fast-paced environment, presentation, management, and leadership skills, goal-oriented, flexible, and creative under pressure, budgeting, strong computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel and accounting software. |

Application Procedure

Interested and qualified individuals should send their applications enclosing detailed:

- Application letter.
- Curriculum vitae (not exceeding 4 pages).
- Copies of qualification certificates.

The cover letter to be addressed to:

Human Resources and Administration Manager,
TAHA,
P.O. Box 16520,
ARUSHA.

Application Instructions.

1. Submission: All applications must be submitted via email to the following address: recruitment@taha.or.tz.
2. Subject Line: In the subject line of your email, clearly state the position you are applying for. For example: "APPLICATION FOR FINANCE MANAGER POSITION."
3. Deadline: The deadline for submitting your application is Sunday, 23rd June 2024. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
4. Adherence: Please carefully adhere to all instructions provided above. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in your application not being reviewed.

Remuneration

The successful candidate will be remunerated according the TAHA salary scale, and in alignment with the candidate's qualifications and professional experience. Other employment benefits will be as per the organization's policy.

Please note: TAHA is an equal opportunity employer that welcome all qualified candidates to apply for the open positions. TAHA is committed to create a diverse and inclusive workplace where all employees feel valued and respected.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

OUR VISION: "A vibrant, prosperous and sustainable horticultural production in Tanzania".

OUR MISSION: To develop and promote the Horticultural sector in Tanzania to become more profitable and sustainable while participating effectively in the development of the country



Devil's Breath: The world's 'scariest' drug

By Muntakim Saad

IMAGINE walking down a quiet street, minding your own business, when a stranger approaches. They offer you a seemingly harmless business card, and you take it without thinking twice. Little did you know that the card was soaked in a drug, which would be absorbed by your skin within minutes.

Or someone might just blow the powdered drug directly in your face, and after inhaling that, within minutes you find yourself in a "Zombie-like state", unable to control your actions or resist their demands.

"Devil's breath" can render victims suggestible and disoriented, causing them to lose all willpower and readily give up their belongings to criminals. It takes effect within 10 minutes of inhalation, and the victim's memory and brain can't function normally.

The drug leaves victims with no ability to control their actions. According to worldwide urban legends, the victims will do anything for their attackers, from

giving up all their belongings to even going as far as killing someone for them.

The drug is scopolamine, derived from nightshade plants. Scopolamine, also known as hyoscyne, is a natural or synthetically produced tropane alkaloid and anticholinergic drug which has a few legitimate medical uses, such as treatment for motion sickness, postoperative nausea and for the tremors of Parkinson's disease.

It is said to be one of the first "truth serums" which was used during WWII to obtain information from unwilling targets. However, it's mostly known for its darker sides.

It is popularly known as "devil's breath", and is globally recognised as "the world's most dangerous drug".

Criminals, particularly in Colombia and Ecuador, have used it to render victims helpless, robbing them blind, stealing their belongings, or even committing more heinous crimes such as murder or rape.

The scariest thing is that the drug has found its way to criminals in Bangladesh.



Brugmansia, from which scopolamine is extracted

Fatema Begum, a resident of Chattogram, fell victim to such a crime on May 22.

While returning from a local market, two men posing as charity workers approached her, and when she turned around to talk to them, one of the individuals blew some powder in her face, leaving her disoriented.

Under the drug's influence, Fatema lost control over herself and unknowingly complied with the criminals' demands. They stole her valuables, including jewellery worth Tk 80,000, cash, her phone, and a shopping bag.

The incident was captured on CCTV. Bystanders mistook the interaction for a usual encounter.

Double Mooring Police Station Officer-in-Charge Fazlul Kader Patwari said under scopolamine's influence, Fatema did what the criminals told her to do. When Fatema regained her senses after some hours, she realised she had been robbed.

"Scopolamine is made from the Borrachero plant. Known as "devil's breath" in its powdered form, this substance can render victims suggestible and disoriented, causing them to lose all willpower and readily give up their belongings to criminals," Dr Dulal Krishna Saha, chief chemical examiner of the Department of Narcotics Control, said.

By putting it on a visiting card, paper, cloth, or mobile phone screen, it's brought within four to six inches of the target's nose.

"It takes effect within 10 minutes of inhalation, and the victim's memory and brain can't function normally. Some take an hour to return to normal, while many fail to fully recover within three to four hours," he said.

In recent years, robberies using scopolamine have been reported in various parts of the country, including Dhaka, Jashore, Khulna, Rajbari, and Bogura.

Narayanganj Police first recovered 10 grammes of scopolamine from a gang in September 2023 while investigating the murder of a teacher of Northern University.

The gang used to sell scopolamine, potassium cyanide, and chloroform through online groups.

Police do not have exact figures for crimes related to scopolamine, but

they found some Iranian nationals' involvement in them, along with local culprits.

On January 21, 2023, Jisan, an employee at a travel agency in the capital's Pallabi, fell victim to such a crime when two Iranian men visited the agency and took Tk 4.5 lakh from Jisan's cash box.

Despite watching them and talking with a smile, Jisan did not realise he was being robbed until they left with the money. Later that month, police detained one of the culprits.

In April last year, law enforcement arrested five individuals -- including three Iranians, in Dhaka and Jashore -- following a robbery in Abhaynagar, where a shopkeeper handed over Tk 6 lakh to the perpetrators.

Later in August, two more Iranians were detained in Shibganj of Bogura, following a similar incident.

Contacted, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media) of Police Headquarters, said, "It is a different modus operandi than regular crimes. We have already arrested several individuals. Whenever such crimes with unusual methods come to light, we take action."



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is among the leading conservation organizations working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. TNC addresses the most pressing conservation threats at the largest scale. Thanks to the support of our more than 1 million members, we've built a tremendous record of success since our founding in 1951.

TNC, in a partnership with a wide range of partners, is working to support the conservation of Lake Tanganyika basin while providing livelihood benefits to communities that rely upon the lake. On the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika, TNC works in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania (Districts, government institutions and communities around the lake) to conserve Lake Tanganyika biodiversity hotspots.

Additionally, there is a need to protect and conserve community-managed fisheries areas (fish breeding sites and temporarily closed areas) and to promote greater participation in Co-Management Institutions (CMI) to ensure sustainable fisheries management. This Request for proposal outlines the requirements for developing and implementing an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) strategy to raise community awareness about these issues.

This strategy will be implemented in 10 villages of Nkasi District as follows:

- Mkinga ward (Kalungu, Mkinga, Manda Uhuru, Ntanganyika, Majengo mapya),
- Kirando ward (Mtakuja, Kichangani)
- Kipili ward (Manda Kerenge and Kipili)
- Itete ward (Isasa)

It is in that context that TNC wishes to hire a Vendor whose responsibility will be to Develop Information, Education, and Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan for Community Awareness on fisheries Co-Management and biodiversity protection in Nkasi District.

The deadline for submission of proposals is set on 24th June 2024 at 11:59 pm EAT.

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal via the e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BUSINESS



Milk producers urged to certify quality products

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PRODUCERS of milk and its products in the country have been advised to confirm the quality of their products to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), a move that will enable them to be reliable and withstand competition in the market.

Neema Mtemvu, TBS public relations officer made the advice recently when speaking at National Milk Week in Mwanza, themed: "Drink Safe Milk for Better Health and Sustainable Economy," which coincided with the climax of the World Milk Day.

Mtemvu said that TBS participated in the celebrations to provide services to milk producers and their products by providing them with education so that they can come to TBS to prove that their products can compete domestically and abroad.

She explained that the countries of the East African Community have agreed, where once the products have been certified for quality by the stand-

ards organizations of those countries, when they cross the borders to other countries, they do not have to be tested again, so this is an important opportunity for milk producers and their products to reach domestic and foreign markets of the country without facing commercial obstacles.

Mtemvu said the service to verify the quality of products for entrepreneurs is provided free of charge by TBS, as every year the sixth-phase government under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan allocates funds for the purpose.

"We've been providing that education to all producers so that they can get a quality mark," Mtemvu said, adding that through the celebration they provided education to the people regarding the responsibilities of the organization.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Said Mtanda, encouraged the people to increase the speed of drinking quality certified milk, as it is safe for the health of consumers.

ICT commission issues 1bn/- for electronics refurbishment lab

By Francis Kajubi

THE Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Commission has extended 1bn/- to the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) to establish a technological laboratory for refurbishing electronic devices.

Speaking at the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held last Friday in Dar es Salaam, Dr. Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General ICT Commission said that the laboratory will also be a center of excellence for training youth on innovative matters to invent and capacitate new technologies.

He said the investment budget is likely to be increased according to the scope of production which shall be made public later.

According to him, the electronic devices to be refurbished at the laboratory among others include smartphones, printers and laptops.

"The laboratory will play a critical role towards realizing the government's vision of attaining a competitive digital economy. All electronic devices that are about to meet the lifetime deadline shall be collected and bought from the owners for refurbishment in an organized manner," said Dr. Mwasaga.

According to him, the initiative will en-

able more people to own smartphones and other electronic devices through affordable purchasing prices.

"The laboratory shall also be used for assembling new electronic devices from imported materials for the purpose of supplying the local market," said Dr. Mwasaga.

He asserted that a guideline for all procedures and prices of the refurbished items will be developed.

Dr. Mwasaga said that the laboratory will also be used for practical training for young people who are talented but without formal expertise in the ICT sector.

The annual refurbishment capacity shall be known after the ongoing study on the scope of work has been finalized.

Professor Mkumbwa Mtambo said that the refurbished electronic devices will be reintroduced to the market in a specified lifetime and shall be sold at affordable prices with consideration of consumers' rights protection.

"The laboratory will be a center of excellence for young innovators to improve their innovative skills. A lot of imported electronic devices these days don't last longer;

This refurbishing of the devices is of great importance for people to have more options on purchasing," said Prof. Mtambo.

Tanzania's economy size reaches 149trn/- in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

The size of the Tanzanian economy at 2015 constant market price amounted to 149trn/- last year, an increase of nearly 8trn/- compared to 141.8trn/- in 2022, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) quarterly statistics have shown.

The increase resulted in expansion of all economic activities including agriculture, industry and construction, services and taxes on products.

The size of agriculture activity, which employs the majority of Tanzanians, increased to 35.7trn/- last year, compared to 34.7trn/- in 2022, while size of construction, the second largest slightly went up to 21.7trn/- compared to 21.1trn/- respectively.

The central bank data show that, at 2015 constant prices, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by an average of 5 percent last year, compared to 4.5 percent in 2022.

Other largest economic activities which recorded the expansionary trends during the reported years were transport and storage, mining and quarrying, financial and insurance services, real estate, trade and repair, public admin-



istration and manufacturing.

However, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) highlights quarterly GDP reports that show the size of the economy, at current market prices in absolute terms, amounted to 202trn/- last year, compared to 170.3trn/- in 2022.

The tertiary economic activities accounted for the largest share during last year with an average of 40 percent, while secondary and primary activities accounted for 22 and 38 percent respectively, according to NBS quarterly reports.

The expansion of the tertiary sector, which

includes services and businesses, indicates progressive economic development of the country as greater income from the secondary sector opens up new opportunities.

In 2022, the share of agriculture in Tanzania's gross domestic product was 24.27 percent, industry contributed approximately 27.7 percent and the services sector contributed about 30.64 percent.

According to the World Bank's Tanzania economic update, the economy has been resilient; growing by 5.2 percent in 2023, compared to 4.6 percent in 2022, but growth contin-

ues to have minimal impact on poverty reduction in part because of high population growth.

"The country's fundamental challenge remains how to make growth more inclusive and generate more opportunities and better jobs for all Tanzanians," said the World Bank.

Tanzania is currently ranked by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the tenth largest economy in Africa, behind South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria, Ethiopia, Morocco, Kenya, Angola and Cote D'Ivoire.

The Washington-based institution projects that South Africa, Africa's most

industrialised country, will become Africa's biggest economy with a GDP of \$373 billion—a position the IMF expects it to retain until 2027.

Egypt, which held the top position in 2023, is expected to drop to second place behind South Africa, primarily due to a series of currency devaluations.

Nigeria, once dubbed Africa's largest economy, is set to relinquish its crown and slide to fourth place this year for similar reasons.

According to the IMF, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, and Nigeria will remain the top four economies in Africa until 2030.

Tobacco farmers in five districts earn 109bn/-

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

Thousands of farmers in Urambo, Kahama Sikonge, Kigoma and Kaliua districts have pocketed a total of 10bn/- after selling their tobacco leaves to the crop buying firm in four months.

The leaders of Twende Pamoja Amcos located at Kalunde in Tabora municipality confirmed that they were happy with tobacco prices they were getting from the crop buying company under contractual arrangement.

"We greatly congratulate the government for ushering in more competition in the sub sector, which is now driving tobacco prices upwards continuously, hence we farmers are expanding our fields every year," said Chairman

of the Amcos Ramadhani Kisenja.

He said because of good prices for crops, their Amcos has managed to produce more than 700,000 kilograms this crop season, and out of the total, they have sold 240,000 kilograms and have been paid more than 1bn/- for the same.

Speaking of the previous crop volumes, he said, in the 2021/22 crop season, members of their Amcos produced 350,000 kilograms, while in the 2022/2023 crop season they produced a total of 580,000 kilograms.

He said their success stories mainly revolved around the farmers' readiness to absorb extension services education provided to them by their contracting partner, Alliance One.

"I should mention that these good prices offered to us and timely payment from the crop buying firm, are driving forces towards growing more volumes of the good quality tobacco crop," he said.

Twende Pamoja Amcos Secretary Cum Manager Subira Salum said currently, they have received all the monies for the sold 240,000 kilograms, adding that their members were still sending more tobacco bales to the markets.

"The average price for this crop season is \$2.4 per kilogram, and on top of that the company pays another 102/= per every kilogram as motivation for every grower for the job well done," he said.

He said, because of the glad tid-

ings brought about by the buyer in their village 350-member Amcos, they were now receiving many requests from other village members, so that they also become members of the Amcos and join tobacco farming like them.

The tobacco buying firm's spokesperson Advocate John Magoti said the amount was payments for the crop bought from the growers for the period covering 29 April 2024 to date.

He further stated that the company expects to pay anywhere between US\$74.25 million and US\$90 million depending on whether growers would be able to deliver the company's contracted volume or not during this current crop season.

Unlike other cash crops, Tobacco is purchased from Tanzania growers in United States Dollars and it is therefore a major foreign currency earner for the nation.

By law, tobacco buying companies are obliged to pay for the tobacco purchases within 14 days of the sale date.

He said his firm continued to strive to pay its growers within 5 days of the sale date for the current and past three seasons in order to assist its grower base to pay off their bank loans in a timely manner and reduce their interest burden.

"We are happy to announce that we will continue to pay our contracted farmers as quickly as possible to reduce their interest burden to the banks and therefore ensure that they maximize their profits and improve their livelihoods," he said.

The company spokesperson also added that the company acknowledges that this 2023/2024 growing season was an extremely challenging season for the average farmer due to the incessant rains or Eli Nino conditions that prevailed.

Ephraim Mapoore, the company's managing director said; "We hope this positive gesture will create a good and long term working relationship with our growers and subsequently enable the Tanzania tobacco sector and economy in general to flourish".



The tobacco buying firm's managing director (L) pays a visit at the Tabora Amcos warehouse. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African countries boost tax revenues by \$2.4bn

By Guardian Reporter

African nations grappling with substantial financial losses from tax evasion and other illicit financial flows have ramped up their efforts in tax information requests.

In 2023, African countries significantly bolstered their capacities to mobilize national revenues through information exchanges for tax purposes.

According to the latest report from the Africa Initiative on Transparency in Taxation, these efforts resulted in over €2.2 billion (\$2.4 billion) in additional revenues (taxes, interest, and penalties), primarily collected by seven countries leveraging received information.

Unveiled alongside a joint summit on tax transparency held in Lomé, Togo, the report highlights exceptional developments in the use of information exchange among the continent's nations.



The report notes that in 2023 alone, this additional mobilization surpassed the cumulative total of extra revenues collected

between 2009 and 2022, which amounted to €1.6 billion.

A government official from West Africa said African countries understand the seri-

ousness of the problem with more advanced tax evasion and more illegal money moving around. The report further underscores that in 2023, a record number of 20 African countries submitted requests. In total, African countries made the highest number of information exchange requests ever recorded, marking the continent as a net sender (where total requests sent exceeded those received) for the second time since the Initiative's inception in 2014. In practice, states formulated a total of 888 requests, marking a 40% increase.

Albert M. Muchanga Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals African Union Commission said commitment to the tax transparency agenda is also increasing with four new members joining the Africa Initiative in 2023, bringing the total number of African countries committed to using tax transparency and EOI to combat IFFs from Africa to

38 as at December 2023.

He said since then, the Africa Initiative has welcomed its 39th African member. In addition, the number of countries actively requesting information from foreign partners to support their domestic tax investigations and audits and the number of countries committed to start automatic exchange of financial account information by a specific date are also rising in Africa.

African countries are also taking steps to participate in the automatic exchange of information on crypto assets.

"This progress is crucial to equip African tax authorities with the tools and knowledge to effectively tackle classic and new forms of tax evasion. This strong and growing commitment by African countries to tax transparency will certainly help reduce tax non-compliance and illicit behaviours, and increase the tax revenues for the continent as a whole," said Muchanga.



Youth urged to grab job opportunities in tourism industry

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Arusha

Tanzanian youths have been urged to grab abundant employment opportunities available in the tourism industry.

The call was made here by Florenso Kirambata, the director of the local tourism firm, during the opening of East Africa's largest tourism exhibition, KILIFAIR 2024.

He said that the sector has many employment opportunities that can create both direct and indirect, and if youths decide to engage in the sector, would help them to generate employment opportunities.

"Tourism industry has ample employment opportunities from hospitality industry, mountain climbing, wild safaris, cultural tourism as well as entailed cultural activities brought by the sector, this provides a wide scope of employment," stated.

"So far, if more youth decide to step into the sector, it will also help to promote the country's tourist attractions and destinations domestically and internationally," said Kirambata.

The exhibition that took place at Magereza grounds in Arusha city, brought together about 406 both national and international exhibitors from over 42 countries across the globe, was officially graced by Tourism minister, Angela Kairuki.

According to data, the youth unemployment rate in Tanzania was 3.48 percent in 2022, from 3.81 percent in 2021, a decrease of 0.33 percent.

Data also shows that the youth unemployment rate continues to drop by reaching 2.6 percent last year, while the travel and tourism industry represented a share of 5.3 percent of the country's total employment in 2021.

The sector also contributed to 17 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and built the country's third-largest source of employment by directly employing over 850,000 workers.

In 2023, tourist arrivals to Tanzania increased by 24.3 percent to a record breaking 1,808,205, from 1,454,920 tourists in 2022, and 922,692 in 2021 and 616,491 in 2020.

With that trend, Tanzania tourism receipts reached a record high USD3,368.7 million in 2023, compared to USD2,527.8 million in 2022 as well as USD 1,310.3 million in 2021.

Over 100 participate in beach cleaning

By Francis Kojubi

OVER 100 workers from three organizations in the private sector gathered on Saturday with their families at Msasani beach in Dar es Salaam to voluntarily clean the beach as part of marking this year's World Ocean Day.

The World Ocean Day comes three days on June 8th of every year after the commemoration of the World Environment Day which this year went under the theme: 'Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience.'

The theme resonates with human daily life that puts more emphasis on environmental protection including the oceans.

The Msasani beach cleaning event was jointly organized by workers from

Nipe Fagio, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania and Recycler Limited in collaboration with the Mzimuni street local government authority.

Speaking during the cleaning exercise at the beach, Herman Kasekende, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania said that if the oceans are not safe they are most likely to lead into climate change related crises.

"Environment protection is at the center of our operations. We are here with our families to lead by example, especially to children that oceans should be kept clean for their sustainability and protection of nature," said Kasekende.

According to him, keeping oceans clean saves the lives of creatures beneath them that survive on clean water. Collecting dirt that compromises ma-

rine life is vital and should be done regularly by every responsible person.

"Cleaning of oceans also aligns to sustainable development goal number 14 which focuses on conserving and sustaining the oceans," he said.

Tajaeli Masaki, Nipe Fagio Data Coordinator said that people ought to live in harmony with nature.

He said that the organization is dedicated to collecting all kinds of waste in some district councils across the country.

"We are running a marine monitoring project that is intended at identifying different kinds of waste along the oceans, collecting them and recycling them for recyclers. We have been also sensitizing the public on the importance of protecting the oceans," said Masaki.

Peter Emmanuel, Administrator the Recycler Limited said that waste recycling smart technologies are crucial if the oceans are to be kept clean and sustained. He said plastic water bottles, cans and even glass bottles should be kept away from the ocean because they pose threats not only for ocean creatures but also human beings.

Raiya Nassor, Chairperson Mzimuni Street in Msasani ward said that her office has been working closely with the institutions in ensuring that the whole Msasani beach is kept clean.

"It's about ten years we have been working with Standard Chartered, Nipe Fagio and the Recycler in keeping this beach clean. They have been supporting my office with cleaning facilities and other facilities," said Nassor.

Three tech giants' market caps rival Africa's total GDP

By Adetunji Tobi

Microsoft, Nvidia, and Apple, in corporation individually possessed a market capitalization worth in value more than the 54 countries combined GDP.

According to the United Nation Organization, there are 54 countries in Africa today, home to 1.39 billion people but with \$3.1 trillion GDP.

Microsoft Corporation, an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Redmond, Washington, boasts of US\$3.16 trillion Market capitalization.

Microsoft's best-known software products are the Windows line of operating systems, the Microsoft 365 suite of productivity applications. Apple Inc also has US\$2.98 trillion market capitalization.

Apple is also an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Cu-

pertino, California, in Silicon Valley.

More profoundly, Nvidia (NVDA), a software and fabless company, also based in America, two days ago hit a market capitalization of US\$3 trillion becoming the third U.S. company to do so after Apple (AAPL) and Microsoft (MSFT). Nvidia stock has been on a tear lately.

Nvidia reached the \$3 trillion milestone just 66 trading days after notching a \$2 trillion value.

By contrast, it took Apple and Microsoft 719 and 650 trading days, respectively, to climb from \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion, according to Dow Jones Market Data.

Nvidia is a software and fabless company which designs and supplies graphics processing units (GPUs), application programming interfaces (APIs) for data science and high-performance computing, as well as system on a chip units (SoCs) for the mobile computing and automotive market.

Earlier in February this year, Nasdaq in its analysis theme "Zacks Earnings Trends Highlights: Tesla, Microsoft, Apple and Nvidia" noted that the quarterly results from the Magnificent 7 companies reconfirm why these companies have been market leaders over the past year.

Except for Tesla TSLA, each of the other 6 companies has a market capitalization in excess of a trillion dollars, with Microsoft MSFT at more than \$3 trillion and Apple AAPL right in that vicinity. But it isn't just their size; they are very profitable and still enjoying plenty of growth.

Accordingly, it noted that "We still have Nvidia's NVDA report to come, but combining estimates for Nvidia with the actual results for the other 6 members of the group, total Mag 7 earnings for Q4 are on track to increase +48.5 percent from the same period last year on +14.5 percent

higher revenues, which would follow the group's +54.2 percent higher earnings on +12.9 percent higher revenues in 2023 Q3.

"The Mag 7 companies combined are on track to account for 23 percent of all S&P 500 earnings in Q4; they account for 29.3 percent of the index's total market capitalization. Had these 7 stocks been a sector, they would have the second biggest weight in the S&P 500 index, behind the Tech sector, which currently accounts for 37.3 percent. The Finance sector, which at one time was the biggest sector in the index, currently accounts for 12 percent.

Importantly, the Mag 7 earnings outlook is steadily improving. The +30.4 percent earnings growth expected for the group in 2024 Q1 is up from +25.7 percent last week, with estimates for the following quarters also going up.

Beyond Mag 7, Q4 earnings for the S&P 500 index are currently expect-

ed to be up +4.9 percent above the year-earlier period on +3.1 percent higher revenues. This would follow the +3.8 percent increase in index earnings in 2023 Q3 on +2.3 percent higher revenues.

Meanwhile African countries or Africa as a whole has abundant natural resources, but much of its economy has remained predominantly agricultural, and subsistence farming still engages more than 60 percent of the population.

According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook, South Africa with a GDP of \$373 bn, is solidifying its status as Africa's most industrialized economy, followed by Egypt, Egypt commands a GDP of US\$347 bn, leveraging its strategic geographical position as a bridge between Africa and the Middle East.

Historically, Egypt has served as a pivotal hub for trade and commerce. Its economy thrives on a robust tourism sector, agriculture, manufactur-

ing, and a burgeoning ICT industry, cementing its significance in the regional and global economic arena.

Others are; Algeria, Algeria has a GDP of \$266 bn, primarily fueled by its abundant natural resources, notably oil and gas, which drive its economy through hydrocarbon exports.

Nigeria often hailed as the "Giant of Africa," holds the fourth position on the list, and has a GDP of \$252 billion.

With its expansive population and rich endowment of natural resources, particularly oil, Nigeria harbours the potential to ascend as one of the globe's foremost economies. Ethiopia, Ethiopia commands a GDP totalling \$205 bn.

Morocco with a GDP of \$152 bn, Kenya boast of a GDP of US\$104 bn, Angola has a GDP totalling US\$92 bn, Cote D'Ivoire/Cote D'Ivoire has a GDP of \$86 bn, while Tanzania concludes the list with a GDP totalling US\$79 bn.

WORLD

UN chief urges international community to save oceans

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday called on the international community to take urgent actions to save the troubled oceans.

"The ocean sustains and enhances all life on Earth, but our ocean is in trouble. And we only have ourselves to blame," the top UN official said in a message for World Oceans Day, observed annually on June 8. Guterres highlighted the impact of "climate change triggering rising seas," which not only threatens "the very existence of small island developing states and coastal populations," but also "are sparking extreme weather events that affect us all."

Other challenges include "ocean acidification destroying coral reefs," which risks marine biodiversity and local tourism, and "unsustainable coastal development, overfishing, deep-sea mining, unchecked pollution, and plastic waste wreaking havoc on marine ecosystems across the globe," he said.

Guterres described the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction," adopted in June last year, as "the most significant new treaty on ocean governance in decades."

Noting the critical opportunities of this year's Summit of the Future and



next year's UN Oceans Conference in France, Guterres called on governments, businesses, investors, scientists and communities to "commit to action that can restore and protect our precious marine and coastal ecosystems."

Xinhua

Xi Story: Safeguarding the Great Wall

BEIJING

BRAVING the scorching summer sun, Liu Hongyan, 44, wearing an orange vest and carrying a litter picker, treks through waist-high bushes across rugged terrain for about 20 minutes to reach her destination: a 10-km stretch of the Great Wall.



Liu and her fellow villagers in Shixia Village, located at the foot of the iconic Badaling section of the Great Wall, are among thousands of Great Wall rangers across the country dedicated to protecting this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

They pick up trash along the Great Wall and inspect bricks for cracks caused by weathering or damage from human activities.

Recently, Liu and her fellow villagers wrote to Chinese President Xi Jinping, telling what they had done to protect the Great Wall and the changes taking place in their village.

In his reply, Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said he was pleased to learn about the villagers' commitment over the years to protecting the Great Wall, passing on the Great Wall culture, and leveraging its resources on their way to prosperity.

Protecting the Great Wall is a long tradition in Shixia. The baton of Great Wall protection was passed on to Liu from her 80-year-old uncle, who had devoted himself to the cause as a volunteer since four decades ago.

The Great Wall is the largest-scale existing cultural heritage in China, consisting of walls scattered across 15 provincial-level regions, with some sections dating back 2,000 years.

In China, safeguarding the Great Wall is a collective responsibility that spans from the top leadership to citizens at the grassroots level.

"When people mention China, they think of the Great Wall, and when they talk about Chinese civilization, they also think of the Great Wall," Xi once said.

It embodies the great resilience of the Chinese nation, which is united as one, like a fortress, and ceaselessly pursues self-improvement, he added.

Since assuming the Party's top office in late 2012, Xi has paid close attention to activities that celebrate and protect the cultural value of the Great Wall, and issued multiple instructions to guide the establishment of a Great Wall national cultural park.

In 2019, a plan to build the cultural park was approved at a leadership meeting chaired by Xi.

During an inspection tour to the northwestern province of Gansu in the same year, Xi visited the Jiayu Pass, the starting point of a Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) section of the Great Wall.

He ascended to the rostrum of the pass to view the layout and terrain of the fortress, which underwent a major renovation in previous years. "We must salute efforts to keep our history and culture alive and strong and strive to preserve our roots for a prospering Chinese spirit," Xi said.

Over the years, new progress has been made in the conservation of the Great Wall. In Beijing, an all-encompassing system that includes regular repair, emergency reinforcement, preventive measures and daily maintenance has been established.

In addition, high-tech means, such as drones and satellite images, have played an important role in discovering damage with greater speed and accuracy.

For the Great Wall rangers, their endeavors in preserving this iconic cultural heritage also benefit them and fellow villagers. Leveraging its resources related to Great Wall culture, Shixia Village, like many other villages nestled near the wall, has transformed into a popular destination for rural tourism with homestay and restaurants.

In his letter to villagers in Shixia, Xi expressed the hope that they will continue to protect the Great Wall with the same dedication as they protect their own homes. He emphasized the importance of passing on this precious heritage to future generations.

"We will double down on our efforts to protect the Great Wall, promote its culture and better tell its captivating story as required by General Secretary Xi," said Liu the villager.

Xinhua



Israeli forces rescue 4 hostages in Gaza, at least 210 Palestinians killed during operation

JERUSALEM/GAZA

ISRAELI forces on Saturday rescued four hostages from the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, where, according to Palestinian sources, a bloody Israeli assault took place, killing at least 210 people and wounding more than 400 others.

Khalil Al-Dakran, director of al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, told Xinhua that many wounded Palestinians were sent to the hospital, with some of them later confirmed dead.

In a statement on Saturday, Hamas armed wing Al-Qassam Brigades denounced the Israeli assault in the Nuseirat area as "a complex war crime."

Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas political bureau, also condemned the deadly Israeli strike, stressing that the Palestinian people "will not surrender, and the resistance will continue to defend their rights."

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said this hostage rescue operation had been planned for weeks and was jointly carried out by the army with the police's elite unit and the intelligence body Shin Bet, noting that a police officer was killed during the operation.

The rescued hostages were identified as Noa Argamani, 25, Shlomi Ziv, 40, Almog Meir Jan, 21, and Andrey Kozlov, 27, all of whom were abducted last October by Hamas while attending the Nova festival, an outdoor music event, in a rural area near the Gaza-Israel fence.

IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari said the four were located in two buildings at the heart of the Nuseirat camp. In videos released by the government, Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Argamani over the phone.

Following the rescue of the four, 120 Israeli hostages remain held in Gaza, including 43 feared dead, according to the Israeli army. "We will do everything to get them back," Hagari vowed.

In the wake of the operation, Israel's wartime cabinet minister, Benny Gantz, postponed his expected resignation announcement planned for Saturday evening.

On May 18, Gantz threatened to resign from Netanyahu's government on June 8 if the cabinet did not



This photo taken on June 8, 2024 shows buildings and vehicles damaged during Israeli attacks in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Xinhua

formulate an action plan to secure Gaza war goals, including the return of hostages and the elimination of Hamas.

In a statement on Saturday evening, Netanyahu urged Gantz not to step down, stressing, "We must remain united in the face of the great tasks ahead of us."

Gantz replied in a video, saying, "The challenges Israel faces remain as they were, and therefore, I say to the prime minister and the entire leadership, even today, we must look responsibly at how it is right and possible to continue from here."

Meanwhile, on Saturday night, tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Israel's Tel Aviv for the release of the remaining hostages and against the government.

The police declared the demonstration illegal and announced the arrest of 10 protesters on suspicion of violating public order, according to a police statement.

Earlier in the day, Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that the Israeli wartime cabinet approved a

pilot plan presented by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to replace the rule of Hamas in Gaza.

According to the plan, the Israeli army will "protect" several areas in northern Gaza and allow the presence of local leadership and the entry of humanitarian aid trucks.

The deadly conflict between Israel and Gaza-ruling Hamas has raged for eight months since its start on Oct. 7, 2023. It erupted as Israel launched a large offensive in Gaza after Hamas militants stormed southern Israel from Gaza in a surprise attack, killing around 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages back to the Palestinian enclave.

The Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks in the enclave has risen to 36,801, with 83,680 people injured, as updated by the health authorities in Gaza on Saturday.

Xinhua

ADDIS ABABA

FAO appeals for support to vulnerable Ethiopians

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Friday called for urgent agricultural support to vulnerable Ethiopians facing extreme weather events and conflicts.

Noting that the East African country faces major humanitarian challenges, mainly driven by climate and economic shocks, armed conflicts and food chain threats, FAO, in its latest Ethiopia hu-

manitarian response plan report that was issued on Friday, said climate-related shocks have left the country particularly vulnerable.

"The combination of these extreme weather events, conflicts and other shocks is deteriorating the food security situation in the country. An estimated 21.4 million people are in need of humani-

tarian assistance across the country, of whom 13 million require agricultural assistance," said the latest FAO report.

FAO said the challenges are underlined by economic and physical constraints that hinder access to key food commodities, even when adequate production has been achieved at the national level. It stressed that restoring

livelihoods is fundamental to the humanitarian response, as over 80 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas and rely on agriculture to feed and provide for themselves.

According to FAO, timely agricultural assistance will enable households to produce enough food to feed their families for at least six months and reduce any further increase in food insecurity that could peak from October 2024 into 2025, if no help is provided.

Genuinely secure world should be one featuring deep integration, interdependence

SECURITY is a common need for countries around the world, but there are always some individuals who, under the guise of safeguarding security, deliberately create risks.

They view the interdependence formed among nations due to economic globalization as a threat and use the pretext of security to create scientific and technological barriers and sever industrial and supply chains, which causes impacts on global economic development and stability.

The mindset of zero-sum game characterized by binary opposition has long been a thing of the past, and a genuinely secure world should be one featuring deep integration and

interdependence. Creating division and confrontation with the zero-sum mentality goes against the goal of maintaining security and only leads to collective insecurity.

In 1996, American columnist Thomas Friedman proposed the theory of "Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention," suggesting that two countries that were sufficiently developed to support a McDonald's would not fight each other because the benefits brought by economic globalization would outweigh the desire for war.

At that time, economic globalization was widely seen as a positive force beneficial to global development and security. However, today, with the trend

of economic globalization, some individuals have developed an unfounded "cooperation phobia," constantly seeing imaginary threats.

In this world shaped by economic globalization, goods, capital, people, and information flow around the world ceaselessly, and interdependence among nations has become the norm. Viewing the world through the mindset of zero-sum game and baselessly hyping so-called security threats are severely disconnected from realities and deviate from the historical trend of development.

Every country has security needs, but abusing the concept of security will only harm a country's own security in the

long run. Once obsessed with the so-called absolute security, and arbitrarily expanding the scope of security, country would incline to closed-door policies and exclusion, resulting in misallocation and waste of development resources. Externally, it is prone to creating "imaginary enemies" and getting caught in zero-sum games, undermining normal international cooperation.

Past and current experiences show that countries engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation based on market principles not only contribute to each other's development but also help foster healthy and stable relationships.

Over the past few decades,

the international system has maintained overall stability and order, which is to a large extent attributed to the continuously improving mutually beneficial cooperation amidst the tide of economic globalization.

Distorting and undermining mutually beneficial cooperation between countries in the name of so-called security will only exacerbate misunderstandings, erode mutual trust, disrupt international relations, and create security risks.

From a long-term perspective, a world influenced by unilateralism and protectionism will be even more insecure.

In today's world, the interests, prosperity and security of countries are closely intertwined.

The world will never return to isolation. When considering security issues in the context of economic globalization, one must maintain an objective and dialectical perspective.

Firstly, it is important to abandon the misconception of absolute security and adhere to the concept of common security. Adopting a double standard of demanding other countries to open up while closing one's own doors in the name of "de-risking" will only hinder both development and security, and ultimately lead to backfiring.

Secondly, all parties should recognize that seeking security and promoting cooperation are not contradictory, and that absence of cooperation is the

biggest risk and lack of development the biggest insecurity. Risks should be reasonably defined and prevented, without equating interdependence with insecurity. Major economies that have a significant impact on the world economy, in particular, should balance security and open development with a rational attitude.

Thirdly, in the face of problems that arise in economic and trade cooperation, it is important to stop turning business relations into political, security or ideological issues. Instead, countries should strengthen dialogue, manage and resolve the issues in accordance with relevant international rules.

People's Daily

Cooperation with China helps Africa realize blue economy aspirations

NAIROBI

AT midnight, fishers in Shimoni, a port village in southeastern Kenya's Kwale County, started their day by setting wooden canoes afloat from the shore. They turned on fish-attracting lights to lure in their catch, then relied on luck for the rest.

Three or four hours later, as dawn broke, they hauled in their nets and returned to shore, either jubilant with a bountiful catch or disappointed with a sparse one. Buckets of small pelagic fish, mainly anchovies, kept in ice, were given to the fish processing factory workers waiting on the shore.

"There were times when the market for anchovies was not good," said Abdi Dura, who has been fishing since the age of 15. "I managed to catch great quantities of anchovies but found no market. I used to take my catch to ladies who sold grilled anchovies on the street, and they always bid for a lower price."

Things have changed since Dura, along with hundreds of other fishers in Kwale, started working with China's Jinzai Food Corporation two years ago.

WIN-WIN COOPERATION

In 2022, Chinese Customs authorized the import of Kenyan aquatic products. Soon after that, Jinzai Food registered as an importer and established a processing factory in Kwale.

Every morning, after being delivered from the shore, anchovies are cleaned, sorted and boiled in salt water for two minutes to stay fresh for storage. Depending on the sunlight, they are then dried for four to six hours. When their weight is reduced to one-third of the fresh fish, workers manually sort the qualified ones for shipment to China.

The first batch of Kenyan anchovies for import to China was showcased at the third edition of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo held in 2023.

"Fishing is a rewarding vocation that has enabled me to educate my children, feed them, and pursue other businesses on the side," said Mohamed Chamira, a fisherman with 57 years of experience.

Chamira said over the past two years, he had partnered with a Chinese company, which helped him acquire advanced fishing techniques.

As the Chinese company inked partnerships with local fishermen and provided them with modern fishery facilities, Dura and his fellow fishermen perceived more opportunities.

"I aspire to own a large boat equipped with sophis-



Fishermen catch fish in east Kenya, June 22, 2023.

ticated fishing gear. It is my prayer that Kenyans understand and appreciate the vast resources in the ocean. The ocean is a blessing for us and could provide employment to the youth," Dura added.

According to the African Union's Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the total gross value-added of fisheries in Africa is estimated to be 1.26 percent of the GDP of all African countries. The scale of Africa's blue economy is projected to increase to 405 billion U.S. dollars by 2030, and 576 billion dollars, creating 78 million jobs, by 2063.

The African Union's 2063 Agenda identifies the blue economy as a strategic development priority for its members. However, challenges such as immature fishery technology, a lack of professional talents, insufficient investments and backward infrastructure remain to be addressed.

China's marine economy has maintained rapid growth, leading the world in fisheries processing and production, shipbuilding, marine engineering equipment manufacturing, shipping, and port construction and operation.

China has been carrying out fishery cooperation with nearly 20 African countries and their partnerships hold huge potential.

TALENT TRAINING

At the Aquaculture Research and Development Centre in Kajansi, a town in central Uganda, Chinese expert Chen Taihua was crouching by a fishpond, checking on the brood as a local fish breeding technician fed the fish.

The Chinese-built agriculture center is an achievement under the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations-China South-South Program, now in its third phase in Uganda.

In November 2022, Chen, along with eight other Chinese experts, arrived in Uganda to implement a three-year experience-sharing project. They applied advanced techniques tailored to local conditions, such as implementing a 1,215-square-meter rice-

fish system. The rice provides the fish with shelter and shade, while nitrogenous waste from the fish benefits the rice and reduces insects. Currently, the rice and fish form a mutualistic relationship, and 695 kg of rice has been harvested.

"Uganda is rich in aquatic resources. The problem is the locals' lack of professional knowledge. We compiled 400 copies of manuals on Ugandan aquatic species and their marketing skills to train local farmers," said Chen.

By March 2024, Chen's team had carried out pond farming technology and market sales training in 10 regions in Uganda, benefiting hundreds of people.

Situated off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar is blessed with abundant fishery resources and is renowned for its shrimp grounds. In 2009, China National Fisheries Corporation (CNFC) acquired the poorly managed Madagascar Fisheries Company. It now exports about 1,000 tons of wild shrimp and about 4,000 to 5,000 tons of fish to China and the EU every year.

Sun Shengkang, a representative of the CNFC's Madagascar office, said the project has remained profitable over the past 10 years. It has paid a total of 9.2 million dollars in taxes and 1.9 million dollars in resource management fees to Madagascar's government, creating an average of 450 jobs each year, with more than 90 percent of its employees comprised of locals.

"After I completed my studies in accounting, CNFC recruited me in 2015. Over the years, I have gained valuable work experience, and my salary is sufficient to support my family," said Razanadravaoarimanga Annissah, an accountant at CNFC's Madagascar Fisheries Company.

"The company even funded my further studies, and I've obtained my master's degree in management. I would never have had that opportunity without my company's support," said Annissah, who also met her sailor husband at CNFC and now has a happy family.

MODERN PORTS

Shipping activities and modern port cooperation between China and Africa are also rapidly developing.

Jamestown, a traditional fishing community on the shore of the Gulf of Guinea in Accra, the capital of Ghana, has relied on fishing for hundreds of

years. In August 2020, a China-aided Jamestown Fishing Port Complex project commenced construction.

With a fully functional dock, spacious fish market and a fish processing plant, the modern fishing port is expected to be handed over soon. It will become a complex where fishermen can dock their boats, unload, maintain facilities, store fish, and conduct trading and additional processing activities.

"I cannot wait to see the port put into practice. It will not only improve the working environment and living standards of fishermen but also make Jamestown a neat community," said Paul Owusu, a resident of Jamestown.

According to Jin Xiaodong, general manager of the fishing port project, the modern fishing port will undoubtedly bring new impetus to Ghana's development in fishery. "We are very happy to contribute to the local economic and social development. It is a fruitful result of the friendship between China and Ghana."

In 2016, China Road and Bridge Corporation completed the expansion and reconstruction project of the old Bata port, helping Equatorial Guinea maximize its regional competitiveness in the Gulf of Guinea.

In 2023, Tanzania's first modern fishing harbor, Kilwa Harbor, constructed by China Harbor Engineering Company, was launched. As a flagship project of the Tanzanian government's third five-year plan, it is expected to become an engine for economic growth.

Earlier this year, Nigeria's first deep seaport, Lekki Port, developed by a Chinese enterprise, welcomed its largest container ship in history, making Nigerians' longtime dream a reality.

"China has not only supported us in port construction but also provided valuable help in agricultural and fishery technologies. Through the introduction of advanced technology and equipment, our agricultural and fishery output has increased substantially, and the earnings of farmers and fishermen have also seen a notable increase," Abdallah Ulega, minister of livestock and fisheries of Tanzania, told Xinhua.

"I believe that under joint efforts, China and Africa will continue to work together to achieve common prosperity in the vast sea," he said.

Xinhua

Barrick, Zijin donate \$1m to support Papua New Guinea landslide victims

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea

BARRICK Gold Corporation and JV partner Zijin Mining Group announced that they would jointly contribute US\$1 million to help communities in Papua New Guinea's Enga province in the wake of a landslide in Muli-taka that has claimed an estimated 600 lives.

A team of senior Barrick executives has spent the week in PNG visiting the disaster site and working with the provincial and national governments as well as officials from the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, Australia, New Zealand and the United States to coordinate relief and recovery activities.

In addition to monetary and in-kind contributions, the Barrick-operated Porgera gold mine is supporting the Enga Provincial

Government with manpower at the disaster operations center in Wabag. Five New Porgera Limited (NPL) employees have been seconded to advise and assist the operations center with logistics, inventory, community relations and media.

The mine delivered its second donation of relief supplies to the Muli-taka disaster site last Friday, including food, medical items and tarpaulins for temporary shelter. It has also sourced eight shipping containers to store relief supplies and dispatched construction personnel to scope the installation of additional structures and water tanks.

NPL has mobilized an excavator and a bulldozer to assist with clearing operations and has converted a truck to be capable of pulling a float to help transport equipment. The

mine is also looking at the viability of using radar to help with monitoring at the slip site.

Additionally, NPL is working with the Enga provincial government on temporary measures to bring much needed food and fuel to the Porgera valley communities, which depend on the Highlands Highway for essential supplies.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow says NPL is working closely with the Enga Provincial Government to continue the relief efforts on the ground with key stakeholders from the donor agencies, government and other resource companies. "Porgera stands ready to provide additional relief and assistance to support impacted families and communities during this time of need," he said. Agencies

Political violence surges in Europe amid rising polarisation

BRUSSELS/BUCHAREST

THE attack on Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (pictured) on Friday serves as the latest indication of a troubling surge in political violence sweeping Europe, amid the ongoing European Parliament (EP) elections.

Over the past few months, attacks or threats on politicians in Germany, Spain, Ireland, and other European nations, notably including the attempted assassination of the Slovak prime minister and threats against leaders in Poland and Hungary, have further emphasized the growing violence in European politics. Analysts predict that this wave of political aggression is unlikely to dissipate quickly after the elections, as the underlying causes of these violent acts are deeply complex and multifaceted.

SURGING VIOLENCE IN POLITICS

Days after the shooting of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on May 15, the German Interior Ministry released a report showing that politically motivated crimes in Germany rose by 1.9 percent year-on-year in 2023, reaching a record high of 60,028 cases.

Both Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SPD) and its coalition partner, the Greens, as well as the opposition right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD), have been affected, sparking concerns in the coun-

try. German sociologist Wilhelm Heitmeyer noted that the AfD's nationalist rhetoric has shifted public discourse towards the extreme right, while left-wing extremists respond with equally radical positions. These tit-for-tat exchanges have escalated social conflicts, creating a political environment inclined to exert violence.

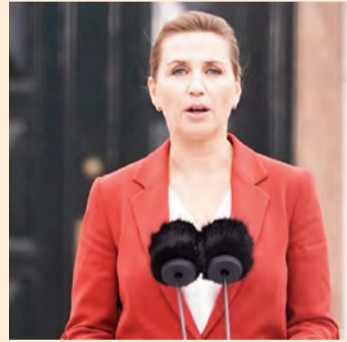
In France, the Interior Ministry recorded 2,387 reports of physical or verbal offense against political representatives in the first three quarters of 2023, some of them violent. Igor Mekina, editor-in-chief of Insajder.com, a Slovenian news website, contextualized the recent violence within Europe's long history of tensions between nations.

He said opposing centers of power and their disputes have been Europe's greatest strength, as well as a curse, from ancient times to medieval city-states and modern Europe. Political events, such as elections, campaigns and protests, can act as catalysts, bringing underlying tensions and grievances to the fore.

A week ago, a German policeman was stabbed to death during an attack on a right-wing demonstration. The attacker also severely injured six others with a knife.

POLARIZATION & INSECURITY

According to exit polls in the Netherlands on Thursday, the first of the 27 European Union (EU) member states to vote for



the EP elections on June 6-9, the far-right Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) is projected to make big gains, in line with pre-election predictions of a rise in populist right sentiment across Europe.

Eric Maurice, an analyst at the European Policy Centre, noted a rise in the political extremes, on both the right and the left, ahead of the EP elections, characterized by increasingly pointed language, and even verbal violence or ad hominem attacks, during political debates.

Political polarization plays a significant role in the recent spate of violence. As political camps exchanged debates in their campaigns, a more aggressive political environment has been widening divisions on vital issues such as the Russian-Ukraine conflicts, immigration, ecology and security.

Mekina argues that Europe is increasingly becoming an extension of U.S. influence following the Cold War, particularly in its stance on the Russian-Ukraine conflicts.

This conflict on Europe's bor-

ders has mounted pressure on the continent, exacerbating internal disputes and fostering a black-and-white political mindset where extreme actions become more conceivable.

Economic instability is another critical driver of political violence. Unlike Asia and the United States, Europe's post-pandemic recovery has been sluggish. The combined impact of the energy crisis and high inflation has further increased insecurity in Europe.

Geopolitical tensions, economic challenges and disputes over migration cannot be easily solved by the upcoming European Parliament, at least in the short term, but these issues will still erode the public's trust in political institutions.

Such public distrust can also explain why some individuals resort to violence to radically express their ideological stance. A Bertelsmann Foundation study released in February showed that 52 percent of young adults (aged 18-30) expressed distrust in the Federal Government and 45 percent have little confidence in the parliament.

A similar report by the Netherlands Institute for Social Research highlighted increasing public dissatisfaction with the Dutch government, with one-third of citizens advocating for more severe actions against the government and nearly 20 percent believing the system should be overthrown. Xinhua



Lavrov slams Paris' claims about absence of French instructors in Ukraine as lies

MOSCOW

THE statements of the official Paris that there are no French instructors in Ukraine are nothing but lies, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"Look how our French colleagues have become active, the French Prime Minister [Gabriel Attal] suddenly started saying that we (France - TASS) have no instructors there. This is not true, and they know it," he told reporter Pavel Zarubin.

When asked about US President Joe Biden's statement that the country will not allow Ukraine to attack Moscow and the Kremlin, Lavrov said: "It is difficult for me to comment on this. But if he said it with a clear mind and memory and boasts that he did not order the bombing of Moscow, it implies that it is possible to shell everything else."

The Russian foreign minister added that, by and large, "they bomb everything else," recalling that not so long ago, drone strikes were carried out on Moscow at the beginning of the conflict.

"Then no one then stopped the regime of [Ukrainian President] Zelensky. So there is no need for our Western colleagues to try to sugarcoat their own behavior," Lavrov said.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) was being held on June 5-8. This year's theme was "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World." The event was organized by the Roscongress Foundation. TASS was the information partner of the event. Agencies

West understood Putin's words about possible arms deliveries to other regions

The West has heard and understood Russian President Vladimir Putin's words about possible deliveries of Russian weapons to other regions of the world in response to the delivery of weapons to Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"I have no doubt that they have heard it. I have no doubt that they understand it. There are still people there who know how to analyze and not just engage in escalation to please their radical electorate every day before another election campaign. I think they have understood and will draw conclusions," the top diplomat told reporter Pavel Zarubin.

"This is absolutely, as they say, a symmetrical response. If you arm our enemy, we will decide for ourselves how to respond to your hostile actions," he said of the signal Moscow is sending to the West.

Speaking at a plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Putin said that Russia has not yet supplied long-range weapons to the West's enemies, but reserves the right to do so in response to the arming of Ukraine.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum was being held on June 5-8. This year's theme was "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World." The event was organized by the Roscongress Foundation. TASS was the information partner of the event. Agencies



Keko Magurumbasi Primary School pupils performing traditional dance at the just-ended one-day sports and games event at the school's grounds to promote psychosocial therapy.

Festival for vulnerable children to promote psychosocial therapy

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 1,400 vulnerable children who live in slums in Temeke, Dar es Salaam were participating in sports and games festival to improve their self-esteem, social skills, build confidence as well as promote psychosocial therapy.

Vaileth Godwin, Women in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE)'s Program Manager, made the statement recently when speaking to journalists about a sports festival that took place at Gwambina sports grounds located in Temeke Municipal Council, Keko Mwanga and Keko Magurumbasi primary schools.

The event involved several teams from Keko Mwanga B Ward who take part in different sports and games that included football, acrobatics, volleyball, sack race, chicken racing, tug of war sport, drums, lemon, spoon game, and others.

The event was organised by WISE with funding from a South Korean-based Charity organization - Holt Children's Services Incorporation.

"We have decided to come up with this programme after identifying that vulnerable children also need sports and games as one of psychosocial therapy," she said.

According to her, if children feel good about themselves, they can learn better. Sports give children confidence and a sense of worth and when a child does better at sports should be also supported and appreciated.

"As WISE will continue to support them because participating in sports and games helps children to improve their physical fitness, release stress and anxiety levels, make them feel happy and valued in the community, overcome their challenges, provide children with chances to develop problem-solving skills, manage emotions and behavior and inspire positive social change," she said.

Also helps them to cooperate> Students who have strong social skills develop more positive relationships with peers and are more likely to succeed academically and in life.

These skills include communication, cooperation, and problem-solving, she said.

According to her, children who are under pressure at home or school when participating in sports and games forget about the burdens of life and get better social interaction than those who don't.

They also have a more positive attitude towards life and are less likely to engage in bad things like drugs, suicide, and unplanned pregnancy, she added.

Sports and games help them to open up new opportunities in the future and a pupil who is excellent in physical activities will have a bright future and children who are into sports can turn it into a career.

This has been possible through a three-year project dubbed: "To Improve Welfare of Most Vulnerable Children Lives in Slums in Temeke Municipal Council".

During the event, children got a chance to show their talents and win the best prizes that included exercise books and pens, while others went away with hens to attract other vulnerable children to participate in other upcoming sporting events.

According to her, family challenges such as divorce, financial issues, and conflicts have been cited as key factors that prevent children in Keko Ward from participating in sports and games and affect a child's performance in school.

These challenges can put stress on a child's emotions and contribute to loss of focus or acting out at school that is why WISE has decided to introduce a new programme that will make them happy and reduce the stress they have within their localities and school as well.

According to her, when household chores are poorly organized and planned by parents, it reduces the rest period of children and prevents them from having sufficient time to play with their peers.

Parents were also gathered to watch the event to enable them to understand children have a right to play sports with their peers.

Denmark a fresh start for Tanzanian ace Kelvin John

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER having a three-year stint with Belgium's KRC Genk, Tanzanian striker Kelvin John recently secured another chance to redeem himself after sealing a move to Danish side, Aalborg, which has recently made its way back to Denmark's top-flight football.

John arrived at KRC Genk with so much hope as Tanzania's soccer fans hoped he would prosper for the Belgian club, as was the case for the outfit's former striker and Taifa Stars' captain Mbwana Samatta- who now plies his trade in Greece with Greek Premier League champion PAOK Thessaloniki.

Per KRC Genk history, many players have used the team as a platform for a move to one of the other Europe's top leagues.

Samatta is a vivid example - given he moved to England's Premier League club, Aston Villa, after impressing in Belgium's Jupiler League and UEFA Champions League with the Belgian outfit.

After Samatta, it means if John had met the expectations of KRC Genk, the Belgian outfit would have exhaustively monitored many players in the Tanzania football scene but, after John failed to impress, eventually the club would not trust our country's soccer players.

KRC Genk's trust in Tanzania's footballers was in John's hands, I am not sure if the youthful striker knew he was in Europe for that reason, if he knew this reason, he would have had an extra push to strive for greatness.

In Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, Mali, and Nigeria players might not get this push because there are many players in Europe, and every player can be replaced, unlike Tanzania which has extremely few players in Europe.

Tanzania's soccer enthusiasts might have questions to ask, one of which is, is this a huge move for John or a step back for him? When one looks at his age, he still has many years ahead of him to excel, now that he is 20.



Tanzanian striker Kelvin John. (Agencies)

He can grow and become a top player.

In analytics, John's career has gone backward and the youngster knows it. His soccer role model, Samatta, elevated his game and went on to ply his trade in England's Premier League, he did not move to any of the European lower leagues.

Aalborg might be one of the oldest teams in Denmark but the outfit's development in terms of players and battling it out in top levels is questionable.

Denmark has top teams including FC Copenhagen, which keeps battling it out in the UEFA Champions League. For that matter, signing for Aalborg is somehow not a bad move but is, to a great extent, a challenge for John.

KRC Genk is a good sign of team development in Belgium. The European country's other clubs like Gent, Royal Antwerp, Anderlecht, and Standard Liege have also become a bridge for players from various parts of the world to secure a move to Europe's top five leagues.

Belgium is behind Spain, England, France, Italy, and Germany in European countries with top leagues where most of Belgium's players go.

KRC Genk believed it would cash in some good money from selling John when the club signed him as a youthful player from Tanzania, a fee of around 12-16 million euros was reasonable for KRC Genk to sell John.

They had signed a young footballing ace from Tanzania who had proved his worth in national team ranks through his ex-

traordinary talent. He was nicknamed 'Mbappe' because many soccer followers believed he had what it takes to play at the top level of European football.

KRC Genk was the only club that had confidence in John to become a top player in Europe because Samatta had already opened doors and proved that there are Tanzania players that can generate profit.

However, John could not live up to the expectations of KRC Genk and Tanzanians. Once he arrived in Europe at the right age with the ability to score goals, they were qualities that were enough to convince everyone that he was a top player in the country at his age.

Many believed he was the next Samatta, if not better than Samatta, what Tanzanians saw in John is exactly what Genk saw in the youthful striker.

His development has though gone backward since he arrived at KRC Genk, many also saw him play when he was called up for the senior national team. At KRC Genk, he was sent to the club's junior team, Jong Genk, to improve his performance.

The striker should also be careful with disciplinary issues. In the senior national team, he was said to have fallen out with the then-head coach, Belgo-Algerian Adel Amrouche, due to misconduct the forward committed. The misconduct is yet to be disclosed, which is good for the player when preserving his image.

With the nature of Tanzania football fans, such misconduct should remain a secret, given the majority of them do not know how to forgive and forget once a player does something wrong.

What is painful to many fans about John's move to Denmark is that Tanzania has few players in Europe and Asia and, when it comes to Europe's top leagues, the country has no player in such leagues.

Tanzania needs the prowess of players like John in the senior national team, which has seen local players dominate in call-ups due to a lack of top players abroad.

His experience would be vital in the senior national team, especially in high-profile continental competitions like the Africa Cup of Nations.

Tanzania, moreover, needs foreign-based players' community development initiatives like what Samatta has continued to do with this foundation, which is focused on changing people's lives.

The East African country needs players that will make the next generation believe football is a reliable source of income and wealth so that more players can be used as a case study, the country needs many of its players to excel in Europe.

It is not a surprise that the country is still relying on Samatta, despite the player slowly inching closer to the twilight of his career, because many believed John would excel and what is happening to him is not something that Tanzanians are happy with.

Many wanted to see him light up the UEFA Champions League with one of the outfits in Europe's top five leagues. A move to Denmark's Aalborg is a chance for John to review his three-year stint with KRC Genk and know what went wrong for him during his stint in Belgium.

One of the best ways an individual can develop is by realizing where it all went wrong for either him or her. If he/she does that, there is room for him/her to bounce back, many players have done that after being left by their clubs at either a young age or mature stage and flourished in other clubs.

With John now aged 20, I believe Denmark can be a place where he can build his confidence with less pressure and expectations since there is a sense of being written off by fans. A change in attitude and focus on the game will elevate the youthful forward's game.

Football is on his legs, if he plays for his country, he will develop into a top player the way Samatta did - putting the country's interest first- because he knew the merits of such an attitude.



Simiyu Cultural Chairperson Buhimila Shala (3rd L) leads guests in launching the Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. With him are (from left) Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Managing Director, Christina Emmanuel, the company's Director Mohamed Hatibu, the National Arts Council (BASATA) Director for the Department of Nurturing and Development of Arts, Edward Buganga, Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) Marketing Officer Nassor Garamatatu and Bariadi DC District Cultural Officer Yohana Misese. Photo: Correspondent

Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival launched in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

THE much-awaited Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival has been launched in Dar es Salaam in a bid to reach more participants.

The launch comes when hardly a month is left before the festival of its kind will be held in Bariadi, Simiyu Region.

The event, which was launched by Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Ltd, was attended by various stakeholders, including the National Arts Council (BASATA), the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), culture stakeholders from Simiyu, and journalists.

Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Managing Director, Christina Emmanuel, said it was the first time for the company involved in cultural and tourism

issues to organise the festival which would arouse a great response from Simiyu residents and those from neighbouring regions.

"This festival is expected to take place in July and I am happy to inform you that it will be held for three consecutive days, that is from July 5, 6 and its peak will be on July 7 where, among other things, we expect to have various cultural and tourism exhibitions at the Municipal Council Stadium and will attract over 7,000 participants and spectators for these three days," she said.

She added that it would include dances and performances from Gika and Gulu tribes, variational games and different food-stuffs.

The company's director Mohamed Hatibu used the occasion

to call on businesspeople, companies, institutions and organisations to support the fascinating event as a way of helping the government in the promotion of culture and tourism in Simiyu Region.

"We are well-prepared and we are sure that this festival will be successful and will be held every year," he said, adding that the festival was expected to attract tourists from within and outside the country.

Director of the Department of Promotion and Development of Arts from BASATA, Edward Buganga hailed organisers for promoting culture and tourism in the country, calling on other stakeholders to support the festival morally and financially.

"It is a big festival of its kind that we, as Tanzanians, should be proud of, that it is our festi-

val for the development of our culture and tourism," he said, stressing that BASATA would cooperate well with organisers to ensure the event is successful.

TTB Marketing Officer Nassor Garamatatu congratulated the organizers for seeing the importance of connecting culture and tourism as the two were inextricably linked and could not be separated.

"Right now, we, as TTB, are very focused on promoting cultural tourism, that's why we are ready to support this international event to promote cultural and tourist attractions in Simiyu Region," said Garamatatu.

Among the partners and sponsors of the festival include Tigo, NMB Bank, Z&M General Traders, Widescope Enterprises Limited, and Carehealth and Hospitality Services.

Bond between Celtics' Joe Mazzulla and Manchester City's Pep Guardiola's on display at NBA Finals

BY TIM REYNOLDS

JOE Mazzulla watches as many Manchester City matches as he can, and there's a clear symmetry there between that English soccer powerhouse and his Boston Celtics.

They had games on the same date 10 times during the Celtics' regular season. When Man City prevailed, Mazzulla was thrilled and the Celtics – for whatever reason – just happened to go 9-0 in their games on those days. When Man City didn't win, the Celtics were 0-1.

He's struck up a friendship with Man City manager Pep Guardiola; the two exchanged jerseys when Mazzulla visited his team over the NBA All-Star break, and Guardiola had court-side seats for Game 1 of the NBA Finals in Boston. It's part of what makes Mazzulla tick. He truly believes that coaches can help other coaches whether the games are the same or not.

"I think as you get into this, you start to realize, once you're in a position, nobody can really relate to you other than people in those positions," Mazzulla said Saturday in Boston, where the Celtics will play host to Game 2 of the NBA Finals against Dallas on Sunday night. "So, you develop a bond with other coaches, and you know what they are going through, and you know what the challenges are and the opportunities and the situation you're in. I think it's really important that we all stick together."

He has relationships with Boston's other pro coaches: Red Sox manager Alex Cora, Bruins coach Jim Montgomery and new Patriots coach Jerod Mayo, someone Mazzulla has been close with for a while.

"Jerod and I got close as assistants, just how would you do things when it's your opportunity, what have you learned from the head coaches that you've worked for," Mazzulla said. "And now that we are in this position, it's helping each other with the transition and the different experiences."

Mazzulla visiting Man City and talking to players there, that was big news. Guardiola being at Game 1, that commanded much attention. Boston coaches supporting one another, obviously that's going to be very well-received by the city's sports-mad fanbase.

But there's plenty of coach-to-coach talking that Mazzulla doesn't do publicly as well.

A few months ago, he got on a Zoom call to talk to players at Division II's Gannon University – because he knew the coaching staff. Mazzulla has Division II roots as well, from his time as a coach at Glenville State and Fairmont State. It generated no attention, probably because Mazzulla didn't do it to seek attention. He just wanted to pass along some words of encouragement.

"Joe, it's phenomenal what he's done," said former Gannon coach Jordan Fee, now an assistant at Florida Atlantic – where the new head coach, John Jakus, is very close with Mazzulla as well.

"But it's not a surprise to me. For those of us that knew Joe from Glenville State or Fairmont State, it's not a surprise for us that he's where he's at. Some things fell his way, maybe, but greatness is greatness. People recognized it in him."

AP: "Jerod and I got close as assistants, just how would you do things when it's your opportunity, what have you learned from the head coaches that you've worked for," Mazzulla said. "And now that we are in this position, it's helping each other with the transition and the different experiences."

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AP

Foden, Wirtz and Yamal among the players who could light up Euro 2024

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

THE Associated Press takes a look at some of the players expected to light up the European Championship in Germany which kicks off on June 14.

PHIL FODEN (ENGLAND)

Nurtured with care by Pep Guardiola, Foden has taken some time to break through to world-class level. He's there now – and the Manchester City forward is heading into a major international tournament as a certain starter for England for the first time and as the Premier League's best player this season. While defenses occupy themselves with Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham, it might be Foden who benefits the most with his quick feet and eye for goal. Where he starts – as an attacking central midfielder or on one of the wings – will be interesting to see. But he will start, and that's exciting for England fans who have been waiting for Foden to blossom.

FLORIAN WIRTZ (GERMANY)

A player in the mold of Foden – and maybe another Man City player in Jack Grealish because of his low-slung socks – is Wirtz, who has established himself as a stand-out in the German league at newly crowned champion Bayer Leverkusen. At age 21, Wirtz is a No. 10 with amazing balance, technical ability and creativity who dovetails



FILE: England's Phil Foden in action during the Euro 2024 Group C qualifying soccer match between England and Malta at Wembley stadium in London, Friday, Nov 17, 2023. AP Photo

that with a relentless pressing game – something demanded of attacking players in the modern era. Once the youngest scorer in Bundesliga history (at age 17), he was one of the youngest ever players for Germany and scored against France after seven seconds in March. It was thought to be the fastest international goal ever before that record was broken later that day. This is his first major international tournament – a knee injury ruled him out of the 2022 World Cup – and surely won't be his last.

LAMINE YAMAL (SPAIN)

The old saying "if you're good enough, you're old enough" certainly applies to Yamal, the Spain winger who was 15 years, 9 months and 16 days when he made his debut for Barcelona and will still be 16 when Euro 2024 begins. Ya-

mal, born near Barcelona to a mother from Equatorial Guinea and a father from Morocco, is the latest prodigy to come out of Barcelona's famed La Masia academy and he hasn't stopped breaking records. The youngest player to debut – and score – in the Spanish league, the youngest to start in the Champions League, the youngest to score for Spain's national team and the youngest to score in a European Championship qualifier. Fast and direct, Yamal already has quite a presence despite his age.

RAFAEL LEO (PORTUGAL)

Portugal will one day arrive at the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era and the team will need an attacking star to build around. Leao has the ability to be that player, even if his standout performances have been rarer

than many at AC Milan would have wanted this season. Leao's talent is clear – he is one of the world's most exciting wingers and few are able to run with the ball with such pace, power and athleticism. A reported release clause of 175 million euros (\$190 million) is testament to that but there's certainly room for improvement with Leao, particularly when he hasn't got space to run into and he is tasked with breaking down packed defenses.

KHVICHA KVARATSKHELIA (GEORGIA)

Georgia's success at its first major tournament might boil down to the performances of a winger whose playing style and status at Napoli is such that he has gained the nickname "Kvaradona" – in homage to the late Diego Maradona, who also played for the Italian club. A relative unknown when he joined Napoli in the offseason of 2022 from Georgian club Dinamo Batumi, Kvaratskhelia is now one of Europe's most exciting attackers and the poster boy of the Georgia national team that qualified for the Euros through the playoffs. Listen to the decibel levels rise among Georgia's fans whenever he gets the ball.

LUKA MODRIC (CROATIA)

Now 38, Modric finished the season at Real Madrid largely as a substitute who entered in the second half to bring more control and see out games. Don't worry: for Croatia, he

is still the main man. Modric might no longer be the force he once was but his technique, vision and game-management is still at a level that will set him apart from most central midfielders at Euro 2024. It was only 18 months ago that Modric, the guy who in 2018 broke the decade-long Ballon d'Or hegemony of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, was one of the best players at the World Cup as Croatia upset the odds to reach the semifinals. Football fans are savoring the opportunity to see him at another – perhaps final – major international tournament. Make the most of it.

HEORHIY SUDAKOV (UKRAINE)

A European Championship can be a shop window for young talents to secure a big-money move to a top club, and Sudakov could fit into this category. The 21-year-old Ukraine midfielder has grown up fast these past few years. Off the field, he got married, had a daughter who is now aged 2, and seen his country get invaded by Russia to start a war that's ongoing. On the field, he has established himself as a star at nomadic Ukrainian team Shakhtar Donetsk, made his debut in the Champions League – even scoring against Barcelona – and is set to play in the Euros and the Olympics this summer. He says he is happy to be developing at Shakhtar, but expect Sudakov to be the subject of some sizeable offers this offseason.

AP

Doku leads new Belgium generation in Euro 2024 as Ukraine's young players aim to bring hope

BY JAMES ELLINGWORTH

AGE is a factor in Group E at the European Championship as Belgium grapples with how to move on from its 'Golden Generation' and Ukraine looks to its young players for inspiration during wartime.

Just getting to Euro 2024 has been a victory for the Ukrainians, more than two years after Russia's invasion. Ukraine neighbors Romania and Slovakia are also in the group.

Here is a closer look at Group E:

BELGIUM

The Golden Generation is over. Can a new generation step up? Two years ago, Kevin De Bruyne plunged Belgium's World Cup plans into turmoil when he claimed the team was "too old" to win in an interview with The Guardian. That Belgian squad had 10 players aged over 30 and the highest average age of any European team at the tournament. A group-stage exit and just one goal at the World Cup put Belgium on course for a rebuild. Coach Domenico Tedesco has overseen a tactical shakeup and a gradual exit for some of the oldest players. Experienced leaders do remain, not least the 37-year-old Jan Vertonghen in defense, the 32-year-old De Bruyne himself in midfield and 31-year-old Romelu Lukaku up front. Still, younger players like De Bruyne's Manchester City teammate Jérém

Doku are bringing fresh energy to the team. Qualifying unbeaten with just four goals conceded from eight games was a welcome sign of getting back on track under Tedesco.

UKRAINE

Many of Ukraine's players come from the national league, where games are sometimes interrupted to let those on the field – there are no fans – head to air-raid shelters. Keeping the national team going is a symbol of resilience to fans at home. Two comeback wins in the playoffs to qualify for Euro 2024 showed plenty of grit. Players also believe they have a duty to spread the word about Ukraine internationally. "It's not only about football now," defender Illia Zabarnyi said in a recent interview. "For Ukrainian people, I think it's more important." Zabarnyi has played every minute of every game in the English Premier League



Ukraine starting players at the beginning of the international friendly soccer match between Germany and Ukraine at the MaxMorlock Stadium in Nuremberg, Germany, Monday, June 3, 2024. AP Photo

this season for Bournemouth and is one of a group of exciting young Ukrainians who could make the difference at Euro 2024. Chelsea forward Mykhailo Mudryk has had a tough start to life in the Premier League but has tended to perform better internationally, while Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder Heorhiy Sudakov is an up-and-coming talent who set up two goals against Iceland for Ukraine to qualify. Matching the run to the quarterfinals

three years ago will be challenging but possible.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia might make more of an impact off the field than on it. The country's populist prime minister Robert Fico is a strong opponent of military aid for Ukraine, and the teams play in Duesseldorf on June 21. It's the third European Championship in a row for Slovakia. While Czechoslovakia won the title back in 1976, Slo-

vakia's best result since its split with the Czech Republic was getting to the last 16 in 2016 before a one-sided 3-0 loss to Germany. This will be the first time Slovakia has played at a major tournament without midfielder Marek Hamsik, whose retirement last year left a big hole in the squad. Results since then have been mixed, but there's still plenty of experience in the squad, led from defense by captain Milan Skriniar of Paris Saint-Germain, along with two 37-year-olds, right back Peter Pekarik and midfielder Juraj Kucka.

ROMANIA

The only other team in Group E besides Belgium to qualify unbeaten, Romania impressed by winning a group that also contained Switzerland and Israel. Still, Euro 2024 will test a squad sorely lacking in top-level experience. Tottenham defender Vlad Dragusin is the only member of the squad playing regularly for one of Europe's top clubs this season – and even he played only nine Premier League games since signing in January. Goalkeeper Horatiu Moldovan is a backup at Atletico Madrid. There's a connection to the glory days of Romanian soccer with midfielder Ianis Hagi, son of Gheorghe Hagi, who helped the team to the quarterfinals of the 1994 World Cup and Euro 2000.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Foden, Wirtz and Yamal among the players who could light up Euro 2024

PAGE 19



Taifa Stars skipper Mbwana Samatta. (Agencies)

Mbwana Samatta's resignation request puts TFF in a bind

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) is facing a dilemma after receiving a letter requesting the resignation of national team captain Mbwana Samatta.

While acknowledging the letter, the TFF has emphasized its desire to retain Samatta's leadership and has called for a meeting to discuss the situation.

Wilfred Kidao, the TFF General Secretary, expressed the federation's reluctance to accept Samatta's resignation.

"A player with a resume as impressive as his doesn't simply walk away," Kidao stated. "We, the TFF leadership, are not prepared for that. We will sit down and talk to him first."

Kidao went on to highlight Samatta's exceptional achievements, both on the continental and international stages. He lauded Samatta's past success at TP Mazembe, his league titles with KRC Genk and PAOK, and his historic stint with Aston Villa, the first Tanzanian to feature in the English Premier League.

"Samatta has made our country incredibly proud. As leaders, we cannot take this lightly," Kidao emphasized.

Beyond his individual accolades, Kidao recognized Samatta's invaluable contribution as captain, leading Taifa Stars to two Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals (2019 and 2023) and the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. He further commended Samatta's leadership during the most recent AFCON tournament.

Kidao highlighted another impressive feat - Samatta's participation in all three major European club competitions: the Champions League, Europa League, and the newly introduced Europa Conference League. This achievement solidifies Samatta's status as a trailblazer for Tanzanian footballers on the European stage.

The general secretary also detailed Samatta's trophy cabinet, which includes two league titles - with KRC Genk in 2018/19 and PAOK in the recently concluded Greek season. He didn't forget to mention the Carabao Cup runner-up medal Samatta earned with Aston Villa in 2019/20, where he even scored Villa's only goal in the 2-1 loss to Manchester City.

Samatta's pre-European career further emphasizes his dedication to Tanzanian football.

Samatta's formative years playing for Mbagala Market, African Lyon, and Simba SC, demonstrating his journey from local talent to international star.

The reasons behind Samatta's resignation request remain unclear. While speculation may run rampant, the TFF's swift response indicates a strong desire to retain his leadership.

The upcoming meeting between TFF officials and Samatta will be crucial in determining the future of Taifa Stars' captaincy. Understanding Samatta's concerns and addressing them head-on could lead to a positive outcome, ensuring Samatta's continued guidance for the national team.

However, if the discussions prove unsuccessful, the TFF will face the significant challenge of identifying a suitable successor who can replicate Samatta's on-field contributions and inspiring leadership.

Samatta's potential departure would be a significant blow to Tanzanian football. The TFF's proactive approach in seeking a resolution demonstrates their understanding of his importance and their commit

Yanga promise major signings, dominance next season



Young Africans Sports Club president Eng. Hersi Said speaks during the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held yesterday at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YASC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans Sports Club held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, the gathering that was marked by a detailed discussion of the club's future strategies and a review of the previous season's performance.

The AGM saw the attendance of key figures including club leaders, government officials, board members, the executive committee, and dedicated club members.

Young Africans SC president Eng. Hersi Said laid out the club's plans for the upcoming season, emphasizing the need for economic strengthening.

"Towards the next season, our club needs to be built economically. Our work as leaders is to ensure that we get sponsors who will help with our main sponsor GSM. But our fans also have a big contribution to make sure that through member fees we get income to run our club," said Eng. Said.

Reflecting on the previous season, Eng. Said highlighted the club's impressive return to the group stage of the CAF Champions League after 25 years.

"Many people thought that we would not be able to reach the quarter-finals because we were in a very difficult group. But we surprised those who doubted us. We managed to reach the quarter-final stage and were defeated by the champion of the African Football League and football giant in South Africa, Mamelodi Sundowns.

elodi Sundowns.

"However, we scored a legitimate goal, which the President of the Confederation of African Football Dr. Patrice Motsepe, acknowledged as legitimate," said Eng. Hersi Said.

The meeting also featured remarks from Gerson Msigwa, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, who praised Young Africans for their significant achievements and professional management.

"With all my heart, I congratulate Young Africans SC for their great success within and outside the country's borders. Young Africans have developed a professional manner of team operation. We, as the Government, want clubs to behave calmly so that Tan-

zaniaan football can grow," said Msigwa.

"Sports currently involves science, Right now, if you look at Young Africans you see 'Pure Science.' I wish to see other clubs imitating this way of running football," he added.

Msigwa also emphasized the importance of avoiding conflicts within clubs.

"What I emphasize to Young Africans is to avoid conflicts. I know that Young Africans does not have conflicts, but I insist other clubs abandon conflicts. What makes Young Africans free of conflicts is their professional management. Careful leaders are not arguing but looking for solutions," he concluded.

The meeting also underscored Young Africans SC's commitment to economic

stability, strategic growth, and professional management. As the club prepares for the next season, the leadership's focus on securing sponsorships and increasing member contributions is seen as pivotal for sustaining their competitive edge.

Eng. Said's promise of major signings and a robust pre-season, with international invitations already on the table, has further fueled excitement among fans and members.

Young Africans' performance in the CAF Champions League has reinstated their reputation on the continental stage, demonstrating resilience and capability against formidable opponents. The acknowledgment of a controversial goal by Dr Motsepe added a

layer of credibility to their achievements.

The Government's endorsement, articulated by Msigwa, reinforces the club's strategy of professional and conflict-free management. This approach is poised to serve as a model for other Tanzanian football clubs, promoting growth and stability in the national sports arena.

As Young Africans move forward, the emphasis on scientific management and economic fortification promises to bolster their position both domestically and internationally.

The AGM not only highlighted past successes, but also charted a clear and ambitious path for the future, ensuring that Young Africans remain at the forefront of Tanzanian football.

...record significant revenue increase but end with loss

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans have reported record revenue of Tsh22 billion for the financial year 2023/24.

The figure is 22% up on the previous 12 months, but the club still reported a deficit of Tsh 1.1 billion.

The club celebrated another successful campaign in the just ended season, completing a third successive domestic double as well as reaching the CAF Champions League quarter-finals where they got eliminated by South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns via a penalty shootout.

The figures were revealed at the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday, at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC).

The wage bill has dramatically increased, thanks in part to the big signings of Pacome Zouzou among other new names and contract renewals, soaring to a whopping Tsh 7.4 billion from Tsh 5.4 billion, an increase of 27%.

At the same time, Matchday revenue fell 29% to Tsh 1.5 billion while income from membership fees fell by 27%, failing to match the success

enjoyed by the club.

Signings made at the start of the season also led to an increase in players' acquisition and registration fees, from Tsh 2.4 billion to Tsh 3.5 billion, a staggering 45% increase.

The club also announced a budget of Tsh 24 billion for the coming financial year. President Hersi Said reiterated their commitment to bolster the squad with new additions.

He also revealed pre-season arrangements that will see the club play international friendlies in South Africa and Kenya as they look to defend their Premier League and

Federation Cup titles.

"I promise the fans and members we will do heavy recruitment next season. Next season we will do big things starting from within and outside the Tanzanian borders. We will do a good pre-season. We have already received invitations from various places including South Africa."

"Kaizer Chiefs have sent us an invitation and Mr. Raila Odinga has asked us to join them at the launch of their stadium in Kisumu as well as one European country" said Engineer Said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF MONTHS WERE ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER...

April
August
December
February
January
July

June
March
May
November
October
September