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President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks at yesterday's launch at Kenya's Nairobi State House of a campaign by one-time Kenyan prime minister Raila Amolo Odinga for the African Union Commission Chairmanship at the invitation of Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto. Photo: State House

Treasury expects 40 public firms tied to subsidy to be dissolved

The meeting will feature presentations from local and international speakers, examining how public institutions can explore investments beyond Tanzania's borders

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

BETWEEN 30 and 40 public institutions and agencies that have failed to operate sustainably without relying on government subsidies are to be dissolved during the current financial year, the government has indicated.

Nehemia Mchechu, the Treasury registrar, said this at a press briefing ahead of a workshop for board chairmen and chief executives of parastatal organisations starting today.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan will officiate at the opening of the workshop, intended to review the status of institutions that fail to contribute to government revenue, while there is a need to reduce dependency on government funds.

The Treasury Registrar's office expects to see a decrease in the number of institutions reliant on government support, for instance as regards salaries and operational costs.

This implies reducing 30 to 40 institutions, he said, noting that if the exercise is successful it will encourage contributors to budgetary funds to increase their contributions, in expectation that the government would have sufficient funds to deliver essential social services.

He explored the TR's role as custodian of public investments overseeing 248 public organisations and 58 other entities where the government also holds shares.

The total book value of public investment is estimated at Tsh 1.2 trillion.

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Arboviruses fear: WHO rooting for integrated ways against vectors

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AFRICAN countries have been tasked to use integrated approaches against mosquito-transmitted diseases now on the rise across the continent.

Raman Velayudhan, the departmental head for veterinary public health, vector control and environment unit for the Global Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) programme for the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam on Monday at an international conference on advances in surveillance and control methods for aedes-transmitted diseases.

He emphasised on the need to enhance scientific and technical knowledge on the surveillance and control of mosquito vectors of emerging arboviruses, described in an online entry as infections caused by a group of viruses spread to people by the bite of infected arthropods (insects) such as mosquitoes and ticks.

"These infections usually occur during warm weather months when mosquitoes and ticks are active," the entry

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Themes differ as Samia, Museveni uplift Odinga

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has stated that African countries have a responsibility to ensure that the African Union (AU) remains cohesive by adhering to its key goals, including constitutional reforms.

The remarks were aired in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi at the official launch yesterday of ex-Kenyan premier Raila Amolo Odinga, a veteran partner in Kenya cabinet coalitions, to take over as chairman of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The campaigns will be pursued among AU members starting up to the February 2025 session of an ordinary summit of the continental organisation, set to hold a vote on the various contenders to replace out-



We need economic doctors in our communities, and if you look at our African societies, you may wonder what the problem is... tribes and religions exist

going chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat.

The president said that African countries need to recognize their duty to strengthen accountability inwardly, such that dissident groups lay down their arms.

This will provide the African Union with an opportunity to achieve its set objectives such as advancing the 2063 development agenda, she stated.

Other EAC leaders who turned up to show support for the Kenyan statesman include the current EAC summit chairman, President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan, Ugandan leader President Yoweri Museveni.

Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca and State Minister for Foreign Affairs James Kabarebe represented Burundi

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Soda ash factory: Residents in 14bn/- compensation dues

It has completed studies on the quantity and quality of soda ash, the project feasibility study, environmental impact assessment and valuation of citizens' assets

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Arusha

THE government has set aside 14bn/- to pay compensation to the residents of Engaruka Ward in Monduli District, Arusha Region to enable the construction of a soda ash factory, expected to start soon.

Dr Selemani Jafa, the Industry and Trade

minister, made this affirmation here yesterday when visiting the project site, being conducted by the National Development Corporation (NDC).

Everyone who deserves to be compensated will be given their right amounts, he said, appealing that they avoid the temptation to cheat on the payment of compensa-

tion as the government has already verified the names of all those who deserve to be compensated.

He asked the Monduli District leadership to conduct a survey of areas surrounding the project to facilitate the construction of houses, industries and business premises in an attractive environment.

Works will be quickly engaged to build vital infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity supply lines needed in the project implementation, which demands easy transportation of materials and installation of mineral processing machinery, he elaborated.

The soda ash is important as it will be of help for factories producing glass, medicine and various other products for local

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SPORTS

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Azam seek redemption in crucial Premier League opener

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France beats Egypt 3-1 and will face Spain in the men's soccer final at Paris Olympics



Themes differ as Samia, Museveni uplift Odinga

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and Rwanda respectively, while ex-presidents Jakaya Kikwete and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria were also present.

"Despite the progress made by this African Union (AU), it is necessary to achieve the main goals by ensuring that our voices, the voices of Africans, are heard in global discussions, particularly on climate change and the shift to clean energy," she emphasised.

This is equally vital in efforts to stake Africa in the global rush to achieve advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), she said, citing these goals as contributing to Tanzania's support for Raila Odinga in his bid for the commission chairmanship, she stated.

Tanzania acknowledges that Odinga is an African leader who believes in practical cooperation among the AU member states, she said, highlighting the engineering studies background of the Kenyan statesman.

He understands that the AU needs more infrastructure to bridge the gap in this sector and achieve a strong and capable Africa, she said, underlining that Odinga can stand firm in ensuring that Africa's development priorities are addressed in various multilateral engagements in particular.

"Tanzania is assuring that it

stands with Kenyans in supporting Odinga for this position... as a father figure well positioned for that role, so let him be elected," she declared.

The Ugandan leader asserted that the major issue facing African countries is poverty, underlining that it needs to be addressed by ensuring the provision of essential social services.

"We need economic doctors in our communities, and if you look at our African societies, you may wonder what the problem is... tribes and religions exist. We have discovered that the major disease is poor development in the community, poverty.

"People need food, shelter and education, and how will they get these? Social development is required. If people produce wealth without accounting, and fail to analyze, they will not overcome poverty," he stated.

What is fundamentally needed is patriotism among people of the continent, by purchasing locally produced goods to boost market levels and domestic economies, he said.

Odinga will contest for the AUC post with Mahmoud Ali Youssouf who serves as Djibouti foreign minister, as well as Anil Kumarsingh Gayan and Richard James Randriamandranto, former foreign ministers for Mauritius and Madagascar respectively.

Soda ash factory: Residents in 14bn/- compensation dues

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and foreign markets, he said.

Festus Kiswaga, the Monduli district commissioner, said that the leadership there was ready for the project, advising local residents to take up opportunities arising from its implementation.

Dr Nicolaus Shombe, the NDC executive director, noted that the NDC has already completed preliminary arrangements to start implement-

ing the project.

It has completed studies on the quantity and quality of soda ash, the project feasibility study, environmental impact assessment and valuation of citizens' assets, he said.

Other preliminary work finished include the construction design for the factory, expected to attain the capacity to produce one million tonnes of soda ash per year, he added.

Arboviruses fear: WHO rooting for integrated ways against vectors

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affirms, while the WHO executive said that a total of 61,073 cases and 71 deaths were reported from 18 countries from the diseases this year, up to end of July

The diseases are dengue, yellow fever and zika, all vector-borne diseases, where control measures are vital to combat the diseases, he said, highlighting that the largest number of cases were recorded in Burkina Faso, accounting for 25,086 cases during the past half year.

Seychelles and Mauritius reported high concentrations of vectors, to which the WHO affirmed the need for strengthening innovation and integrated approaches to early detection, prevention, response and control of Aedes-mosquito transmitted viruses.

Empowering communities to support surveillance, prevention and sustained vector control while advancing innovation for diagnostics, medical interventions and vector control was emphasised by the health sector stakeholders.

Dr Yeromin Mlacha, a researcher with the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) department of environmental health and ecological science said that dengue, in particular, is now endemic in more than 120 countries.

Mosquitoes have invaded different countries through human activities and transportation with arboviral diseases moving to other places at an unprecedented pace, she said.

Over the past few decades, diseases transmitted by the Aedes mosquito have spread rapidly, with the relationship between the urban environment and mosquito-borne diseases remaining inadequately explored, she stated.

"We need to enhance knowledge on the relationship between the physical environment and mosquito-borne diseases," she said, pointing at the need to integrate the use of innovative vector control tools.

Dr Honorati Masanja, the IHI ex-

ecutive director, said that the conference bringing together researchers, policy makers, scientists and public health administrators was expected to advance scientific understanding on the issues.

This demands translating the findings into actionable solutions to protect and improve health and wellbeing, he said, noting that for three days the scientists will share knowledge, experience and technology, forging collaboration initiatives to enhance institutional capacity against vector transmitted diseases.

Funded by the European Union at the tune of 4.1bn/-, IHI supports 22 institutions conducting research, building capacity to come up with innovative ways to fight the diseases.

Recent WHO statistics show that over half of the global population are at risk of mosquito's borne diseases and other related vector-borne diseases tending to grow exponentially due to earth warming, he added.



Over the past few decades, diseases transmitted by the Aedes mosquito have spread rapidly, with the relationship between the urban environment and mosquito-borne diseases remaining inadequately explored



Tanzania's Chief Sheikh, Dr Abubakar Zubery bin Ally (4th-R) Mufti, with CRDB Bank Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (C) at the launch of the Charity Account the bank's headquarters yesterday. With them (L-R): CRDB Bank's Head of the Personal Banking Division Stephen Adili; Tanzania Episcopal Conference Deputy Secretary Father Chesco Msaga; President of the Prophets and Apostles, Prophet Joshua Aram Mantya; and Chief Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (Azania Front Parish, Dar es Salaam), Pastor Charles Mzinga. From-R: Rashid Rashid, Head of Islamic Banking Services at CRDB Bank; Tanzania Assemblies of God Church Vice President Archbishop Magnus Mhiche; and Dar es Salaam Region Sheikh Walid Alhad Kawambwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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ments stands at 76trn/- as the registrar closes accounts for this year, he said.

The 76trn/- public investments are central to the country's economy, he said, pointing out that managements of public investments oversee non-tax revenue, sourcing over 95 percent of non-tax revenues.

Affirming the importance of the meeting, he said the consultations

Treasury expects 40 public firms tied to subsidy to be dissolved

facilitate changes and improvements in the management of public institutions.

The number of institutions contributing dividends to the government had increased from 109 to 145 during the past financial year, while this year the registrar in-

tends to strengthen board training, new guidelines and enhanced residential support.

The meeting will feature presentations from local and international speakers, examining how public institutions can explore investments beyond Tanzania's bor-

ders, he said.

Various topics will be covered, offering participants opportunities to exchange experiences, review resolutions from last year's meeting, reaffirm government expectations and plan strategies for the current year, he added.



Kinondoni Municipality deputy mayor Michael Urrio (L) inspects a waste incineration pit at the Tandale Health Centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a visit to Tandale Ward. In white coat is the centre's officer in charge, Wilfred Barinzigo. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Chinese-built new bridge to promote wellbeing of locals

TUNIS

BIZERTE, a Tunisian city located on the Mediterranean Sea, is famous for its long and flat beach which attracts many tourists each summer. However, the local people will remind the tourists that a bridge may "affect your mood."

The bridge is the only one across the Bizerte Canal which divides the Bizerte city into two parts. Built in 1980, the bascule bridge has to be closed to road traffic regularly every day, as it has to lift the bridge deck to provide clearance for ships sailing on the canal.

During the peak tourism season, vehicles to cross the bridge have to line up in long queues. In order to save time, many locals have to detour 60 km to reach the other side of the canal. The locals have been eagerly looking forward to a new bridge to alleviate their daily traffic difficulties.

The long-held dream finally came true in March, when China's Sichuan Road and Bridge Group (SRBG) signed a contract with Tunisian Ministry of

Equipment and Housing for the construction of a new bridge in Bizerte.

The residents of Bizerte will see a new bridge in 38 months. Minister of Equipment and Housing Sarra Zaafrani Zanzri told Xinhua after the signing ceremony, noting that Tunisia chose the Chinese company in light of its excellent experience and technology, as it has built many large bridges in such countries as Norway, Türkiye and Egypt.

Now, the new bridge in Bizerte is under construction as scheduled. Chen Junfeng, the deputy general manager of SRBG's Tunisian company, told Xinhua that the new bridge is designed to be 56 meters high, the maximum span between the two piers in the water is nearly 300 meters.

The new bridge will be the largest in Tunisia, and will allow ships passing through the canal easily without frequently lifting its deck as the old bridge does, said Chen.

The employees of the SRBG from China are warmly welcomed by the local people. They served the Chinese engineers with fruits and des-

serts when they were inspecting the terrain around the project area. And when Chinese employees dressing in yellow construction vests walking on the street, the locals gave them a thumbs-up, said Chen.

Hermann Rosario Sakponou, an engineer from Benin, has been working for the new Bizerte bridge project since half a year ago.

Sakponou is very proud to participate in the project, voicing confidence that the Chinese technology and construction quality can make this bridge a landmark in Tunisia, as well as in North Africa.

Sakponou, who once studied at China's Southwest Jiaotong University, said he is happy to use the engineering knowledge he learned in China for infrastructure construction in Africa.

In Tunisia's August, with the outdoor temperature reaching over 40 degrees Celsius, Chokri Maatoug, a 55-year-old Tunisian civil structural engineer, worked together with young Chinese engineers, examining and analyzing the soil structure sam-

pled by the drill every day.

Maatoug said he understood how important the new bridge project is for the Tunisians, so he is happy to work for it no matter how hard it is.

He believed that the rich experience of Chinese companies in building large infrastructure projects will ensure the smooth progress of the project.

"What impressed me even more was the dedication shown by Chinese employees, and the pride they showed in being a global leader in the engineering industry," he added.

The design drawing of the bridge looks very beautiful, Maatoug said, noting that on top of easing traffic pressure in the area, this beautiful bridge will become a famous tourism attraction, which will bring a fresh source of income to the area.

Laamar, a cafe owner in Bizerte, said that talk among locals of a plan to build a new bridge has been going on since 2013. Now they are feeling relieved when they saw the Chinese company is here starting the new bridge project.



Tanzania Constitutional Forum executive director Bob Wangwe addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the need for members of the public to appear at the Dar es Salaam Zone of the High Court of Tanzania and follow proceedings of a case seeking the disqualification of the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) from overseeing the countrywide civic elections lined up for later this year. He is with TCF chairperson Dr Ananilea Nkya (R) and rights activist Bubelwa Kaiza. Story on Page 5. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

LHRC report shows 69.4 pct of workers have no contract

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

A new report has revealed that approximately 69.4 percent of workers in the country are employed without formal contracts from their employers.

The 10th Business and Human Rights Report launched by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday also found that women and people with disabilities are main victims of human rights violations in the business sector, particularly in accessing employment and services tailored to their needs.

The report shows a 4.8 percent increase in labour and employment opportunities compared to the 64.6 percent reported in the previous year, 2021/2022.

It indicates that only 37 percent of workers are aware of the existence of trade unions in the country. Other issues reported include unfair dismissal contrary to national procedures and laws, lack of benefits from social security funds and wages not aligned with current cost of living.

Speaking at the launch, LHRC Executive Director Dr Anna Henga noted that despite the existence of relevant policies and laws, their implementation remains a challenge and the needs of vulnerable groups are not adequately prioritised.

Regarding land ownership rights, the report found that only 16 percent of citizens are aware of community land rights, particularly for investment purposes.

"Delays in compensation payments, land valuation that does not reflect the cost of living and inadequate community participation in land acquisition for investment activities, especially in areas with extractive industries, are major challenges identified in the report," she said.

The report also identifies ongoing environmental challenges, including air and land pollution. Dr Henga noted that many companies lack effective environmental policies to preserve and restore the environment after investment activities, with approximately

46 percent of businesses having environmental conservation policies.

However, around 56 percent of community members acknowledged benefiting from companies' corporate social responsibility contributions in education and health sectors. Despite this, companies are reported to be among the worst offenders in terms of violating labour, employment and environmental rights.

The report details the status of human rights in the business sector and is the outcome of research conducted by LHRC through its human rights violation monitoring programme in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

It also examines various national and international reports focusing on the state of human rights in the business sector and companies operating in Tanzania.

Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), Judge (rt) Mathew Mwaimu, acknowledged that while there have been efforts to address human rights challenges in the business and investment sectors, issues persist.

Judge Mwaimu noted that last year, both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar tasked CHRAGG with coordinating preparation of a national action plan on human rights and business, expected to be completed by the end of this year.

He emphasised that the government was making significant efforts to create a conducive environment for business and investment, contributing to the country's rapid economic growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Katusime Kafanabo, Head of Education Department at Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (TPAWU), highlighted ongoing challenges regarding women's rights on plantations, especially in employment matters as many workers are unaware of their rights.

Kafanabo urged workers in agriculture and plantations to join trade unions to better address their rights and welfare issues.

Produce competent graduates with skills needed by employers, PM tells colleges

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and other training institutions to ensure they produce graduates with knowledge and skills required in the job market.

He made the call here yesterday when speaking during the 50th anniversary of the Construction Department at KIST.

Majaliwa stressed that improving quality of work and specialization among local professionals is crucial for reducing reliance on foreign experts.

He stated that foreign experts should primarily be used to build experience and strengthen expertise among Tanzanians.

He urged all employers to implement systems for hiring local engineering graduates, which would help build their capacity while benefiting the nation.

Majaliwa encouraged collaboration among training institutions to create opportunities for university students, highlighting the government's focus on higher education.

He urged Tanzanian youth to take advantage of opportunities for training in science and technology which are currently prioritised by the government.

The PM emphasized that engineering should adhere to high ethical standards and that engineers must ensure projects meet international standards. He called on engineers to uphold the profession's ethics to maintain Tanzania's reputation and the income generated from construction projects.

"Engineers should assist the government by accurately estimating funds needed for projects to reduce complaints about financial expenditures," he said.

He also urged registration boards to fulfil their legal responsibilities by overseeing engineering ethics, ensur-

ing proper management of the profession in line with laws and regulations.

Majaliwa acknowledged KIST's significant contribution to job creation through production of skilled science and technology graduates which helps address unemployment.

He stressed the importance of ongoing planning and strategies to ensure the institute remains a vital source of employment.

Majaliwa highlighted the substantial increase in various infrastructure projects, with engineers playing a crucial role in development. He stated that the government was working to improve its buildings to provide a better learning environment for students to excel in their fields.

Majaliwa also acknowledged the historical contributions of engineers and noted that under President Karume's leadership, the government established the Karume Technical College which thrived and fulfilled its founder's vision. He reported that KIST has produced 335 graduates since its elevation, including 108 women and 227 men.

Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahabi, KIST Director, noted that the institute was established in 1966 to train engineering professionals. Since its inception, it has produced over 2,758 engineers. Initially offering training in mechanical and electrical engineering, the institute expanded in 1975 to include civil engineering and now offers 18 programmes at undergraduate and diploma levels.

He mentioned plans to introduce a new specialization in architectural preservation, focusing on the Stone Town to help increase local expertise in preserving historical sites and boost tourism.

Zanzibar Minister for Education and Vocational Training Lela Muhamed Mussa said that engineering is a crucial field that underpins all aspects of development with studies showing that it is a fundamental pillar in the progress of any country.

Let's maintain our unity in diversity, appeals Marealle

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Chairman of traditional chiefs in Kilimanjaro Region, Frank Marealle, has urged Tanzanians to continue maintaining peace and unity, emphasising that cultural differences should not divide the country.

He said that embracing cultural differences can lead to sustainable peace, harmony and national development.

In an interview with this paper recently, Marealle urged everyone to take pride in their cultural heritage while respecting others.

"Our rich cultural heritage is something our country should be proud of despite the differences

between tribes, the cultures have been key in uniting us as a nation," he said.

Tanzania is home to over 120 tribes, each with its own language, traditions and cultural practices. Despite the differences, people from various tribes live and work together harmoniously.

According to him, their focus of traditional chiefs is instilling good

morals into the society, especially amongst youth amid challenges of globalization.

The government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is negotiating the repatriation of traditional artefacts taken away during the colonial era. These will be used for educational purposes and tourism activities.



Transport ministry permanent secretary Prof Godius Kahyarara (C-seated) poses for a souvenir photo in Dar es Salaam on Monday with stakeholders attending an August 26 to 30 brainstorming meeting on experience in the inspection of ships entering IOMOU (Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding) member countries' ports. A total of 20 countries have become parties to MOU: Australia, Eritrea, India, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Iran, Kenya, Maldives, Oman, Yemen, France, Bangladesh, Comoros, Mozambique, Seychelles, Myanmar and Madagascar. Story on Page 5. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BERLIN

GERMANY will donate 100,000 mpox vaccine doses from its military reserves to help address the outbreak in Africa, a government spokesperson announced on Monday. The donation aims to provide immediate assistance to the affected countries.

In addition, Germany will offer financial support to the World Health Organization (WHO) through various mechanisms to combat mpox and assist its African partners via the GAVI vaccine alliance, the

Germany to donate 100,000 mpox vaccine doses to contain outbreak

spokesperson stated.

Germany currently has about 117,000 doses of the Jynneos vaccine, which were acquired in 2022 and are being stored by the military.

A portion of this stock will be retained for the protection of officials travelling abroad, according

to a defence ministry spokesperson. Any decision on replenishing the stock will be made separately, he added.

The WHO has declared mpox a global public health emergency following an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that spread to neighbouring

countries. A new strain of the virus, clade 1b, has raised concerns due to its rapid transmission.

Germany is working to expedite the delivery of the vaccines to the most affected regions, primarily the DRC, Burundi, and other East African nations, a foreign ministry spokesperson noted.

Over 80 traders complete business expansion drills

By Henry Mwangonde

A TOTAL of 83 small-scale traders have completed a training offered by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) meant to expand their businesses under Africa Franchise Accelerator Project (AFRAP).

The training which took place for six days initially involved 230 traders out of which 120 were selected to participate and only 83 completed the programme.

At the certificate award ceremony yesterday, TPSF Programme Manager Gasper Mdee said that the initiative was established by the United Nations and funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

"The goal of this training is to identify small companies and provide them with guidance on understanding business systems and formalising their operations," he said.

He added that the project aims to strengthen the inclusive business system, enhance skills for local products and foster increased

economic cooperation.

James Bulenzibuto, a trainer from Uganda, said that the training was being implemented across various countries to support small traders.

"The training is meant to contribute to job creation and poverty reduction across Africa. The certificates awarded today are

merely symbolic of participation but the knowledge gained will greatly advance their businesses," he said.

Dr Amani Makirita, a participant, called on TPSF to continue offering such training to engage with more traders across the country.

"We leave with a clear understanding of what we need to do to advance our businesses and make progress. I urge TPSF to expand its outreach and connect with a larger number of businesspeople," he said.

He added that the beneficiaries will strive to innovate to expand their businesses to achieve their goals and contribute to job creation in Tanzania.

Nine men die in Zambia as gravel quarry slumps

LUSAKA

NINE men have died when a large pile of gravel collapsed on them while they were working in a quarry in Zambia, police said on Monday.

The men were operating illegally in the quarry and were loading gravel onto a truck, police spokesperson Rae Hamoonga said. The driver of the truck survived with injuries and was taken to the hospital.

The collapse happened on Sunday in a quarry in Chongwe about 50 kilometers (31 miles) east of the capital, Lusaka.

Eight bodies were recovered on

Sunday before the rescue operation was suspended when night fell. A ninth body was pulled out on Monday, police said.

Chongwe District Commissioner Evans Lupiya said the men and the truck were buried under the gravel. Police have opened an investigation.

Zambia has had several fatal accidents involving men operating illegally in quarries or mines.

In December, nearly 30 informal miners died at an open-pit copper mine in the north of the country when heavy rains triggered landslides that buried them alive inside tunnels.



We leave with a clear understanding of what we need to do to advance our businesses and make progress. I urge TPSF to expand its outreach and connect with a larger number of businesspeople



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°:

Issued on: 23 AUGUST 2024

Deadline For Application: 07 SEPTEMBER 2024

JOB TITLE: Community Development Specialist

TYPE OF REQUISITION: NPP

DUTY STATION: Loliondo

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO TANZANIA

DURATION: 12 months renewable depending on performance

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that Closure Date and Time displayed above are based on date and time settings of your personal device

- FAO is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality, background and culture
- Qualified female applicants, qualified nationals of non-and under-represented Members and person with disabilities are encouraged to apply
- Everyone who works for FAO is required to adhere to the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct, and to uphold FAO's values
- FAO, as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, has a zero-tolerance policy for conduct that is incompatible with its status, objectives and mandate, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination.
- All selected candidates will undergo rigorous reference and background checks
- All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality

Organizational Setting

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributes to the achievement of the 2030 global Agenda through the FAO Strategic Framework by supporting the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. The main aim of the FAO country offices, which are headed by an FAO Representative, is to assist governments to develop policies, programmes and projects to achieve food security, reduce hunger and malnutrition, help develop the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors, and to use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable manner. The Regional Programme in Livestock and Pastoralism for Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern/Horn of Africa is designed to contribute to the development of sustainable climate resilient pastoral systems in Eastern/Horn of Africa that could improve the livelihoods of pastoral communities. The programme aims to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of pastoralist communities. It focuses on creating income-generating opportunities based on circular economy principles, especially supporting women and youth; conserving the environment, biodiversity and promoting initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emission and sustainable use of transboundary natural resources to improve the social and living conditions of people engaged in the Pastoral Livestock Value Chains in the region.

Reporting Lines

The programme will be implemented under the overall supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)/Chief, Animal Health Service (AGAH), the functional and administrative supervision of the FAO Representative in Tanzania, the direct supervision of the ECTAD Country Team Leader in Tanzania, immediately guidance of Programme Coordinator and with additional technical backstopping of the SFE Resilience Team for Eastern Africa.

Technical Focus

The Community Development Specialist will focus on work related to community development and engagement. This role will involve working closely with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure engagement of all actors in pastoral livestock value chain particularly the pastoral communities for equitable access to and sustainable management of rangeland resources.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Oversee the design and implementation of outcome 3 of GCP/INT/1051/EC (PLACE) project, in collaboration and coordination with relevant FAO Tanzania
- Coordinate field-level activities of implementing partners related to outcome 3, including developing their workplans, ensuring that delivery is met, and any challenge is addressed
- Be the technical focal point for matters related to community development, including needs assessments agro-pastoralist livelihood support interventions, inclusion, gender and youth, dialogues and conflict sensitivity and prevention of resource-based conflict
- Lead capacity building efforts for beneficiaries, and implementing partners where necessary, related to pastoralist livelihood development, inclusion, gender and youth, community dialogues, conflict sensitivity and prevention of resource-based conflict
- Support community development initiatives and action plans, guide communities through the project development initiatives
- Provide inputs to annual reporting, MEAL, adaptive management, communication and advocacy and other required data collection efforts, relevant for outcome 3 (but not limited to)
- Act as a liaison for communities, (local) partners and (local) government representatives with regards to outcome 3 thematic areas (but not limited to)
- Organize and conduct field work, workshops and events when required
- Perform other related duties as required.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced degree in community development, anthropology, social studies, agribusiness, mobilization and or business management.
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience in public / private service or academic/research setting
- At least 5 years of experience in pastoral community mobilization and pastoral projects management.
- Working knowledge of English and Kiswahili.
- National of Tanzania

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication

- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Excellent technical report writing and communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to develop and adapt tools and frameworks for resource management.
- Clarity in understanding the community social issues within the cluster.
- Ability to interpret and present data and knowledge
- Creative thinking and problem-solving ability
- Capacity to lead and manage multi-stakeholder platforms and processes.
- Knowledge of climate change adaptation strategies in pastoral systems.
- Proficiency in project management and coordination.
- Commitment to gender equity and inclusive practices. Political social and negotiating skills

Selection Criteria

- Proven experience in working with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Experience in community-government-private sectors cohesion and collaboration initiatives
- Experience in capacity building and participatory management practices.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in remote and challenging environments.
- Knowledge in community development is essential
- Experience in pastoralism/pastoral production systems is essential

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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HOW TO APPLY

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°:

Issued on: 23 AUGUST 2024

Deadline For Application: 07 SEPTEMBER 2024

JOB TITLE: ECTAD Focal Point in Zanzibar

TYPE OF REQUISITION: NPP

DUTY STATION: Zanzibar

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO URT (UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA)

DURATION: 12 months renewable depending on performance

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that Closure Date and Time displayed above are based on date and time settings of your personal device

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Organizational Setting

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Reporting Lines

The ECTAD focal point in Zanzibar reports to the ECTAD Country Team Leader at FAO in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Technical Focus

The overall objective of ECTAD work is to support countries to build sustainable animal health systems and One Health capacities to mitigate risks and threats caused by emerging and re-emerging zoonoses, endemic zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Tasks and responsibilities

Coordinate the implementation of the USAID-funded FAO ECTAD global health security programme (GHSP) in Zanzibar.

- This includes but not limited to:
 - Support GHSP planning and implementation through regular consultations with relevant One Health stakeholders in Zanzibar.
 - Facilitate capacity building on access and use of the digital animal health surveillance system in Zanzibar.
 - Support development of animal health surveillance strategy for Zanzibar.
 - Support active surveillance for selected Priority Zoonotic Diseases (PZDs) Zanzibar.
 - Coordinate implementation of the Multisectoral AMR National Action Plan M&E framework in Zanzibar.
 - Prepare and facilitate GHSP field missions, trainings, workshops by/with the government, FAO and USAID
 - Facilitate preparation and completion of GHSP monitoring and learning activities as outlined in the GHSP result framework.
 - Prepare and submit GHSP six-monthly reports to the ECTAD Country Team Leader.

Support FAO's efforts to improve disease intelligence, early warning and One Health in Zanzibar

- Design and coordinate implementation of surveillance activities relevant to emerging and re-emerging PZDs non-zoonotic diseases and AMR to mitigate the high (current/potential) impact of diseases in Zanzibar.
- Coordinate the relevant stakeholders to improve surveillance, diagnostics, One Health approaches in Zanzibar targeting innovative approaches addressing national and regional priority diseases.
- Coordinate and participate in One Health initiatives, meetings, workshops in Zanzibar as guided by the Country Team Leader.
- In close consultation with relevant sectors and stakeholders, initiate zoonotic disease control program to serve as an entry point for a functional inter-sectoral One Health collaboration
- Coordinate linkages of the FAO program relevant to One Health with Ministries responsible for Animal, public and environmental health and other relevant Ministries, technical and funding partners in Zanzibar.
- Provide regular updates of TADs epidemiology situation project activity updates and prepare web articles on technical accomplishments as needed.
- Prepare weekly epi-lab reports shared to the ECTAD national epidemiologist as guided by the Country Team Leader
- Ensure coordination enhancing synergies and complementarity with other projects and programmes implemented by FAO in Zanzibar.
- Perform other duties as required

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- University degree in Veterinary Medicine, Animal Health, Agriculture or other related subjects and with a Master's or PhD in Epidemiology or related field.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in livestock and animal health management.
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience in public / private service or academic/research setting on animal health or production in various disciplines within the sector.
- Working knowledge of English and Kiswahili.
- National of Tanzania.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Demonstrated work experience and skills in project management including familiarity with the development of results frameworks, logical framework, and results-based project work plans and budget.
- Strong skills in organizing and leading consultative processes involving various stakeholders.
- Demonstrated analytical skills and ability to write clear and concise reports is considered a strong asset.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills and experience working in multicultural environment.
- Good communication, writing and presentation skills in English

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Stanley Kafu (C), Exim Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications in Tanzania, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the upcoming Exim Bima Festival 2024 scheduled to take place in the city this September 28. He is flanked by senior manager for marketing and communications Kauthar D'Souza (R) and insurance department manager Tike Mwakyoma. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt promises to strengthen maritime transport at Indian Ocean safety meet

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pledged to invest heavily in maritime transport for the subsector to contribute significantly to the country's socioeconomic development.

Prof Godius Kahyarara, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during the opening of the 27th meeting of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) on Port State Control (PSC).

The meeting is aimed at discussing and sharing experiences on the inspection of cargo ships entering the ports of member countries.

The five-day meeting which kicks off on Monday and is to end on Friday involves participants from 13 countries namely Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, India, Iran, Japan, Comoros, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Australia.

Prof Kahyarara said that the government has substantially invested in the ports, leading to significant reforms.

"The reforms have notably reduced the number of ships waiting to dock from 40 to 18 per day," he said, adding: "For us in Tanzania, the Indian Ocean is crucial because 98 percent of our foreign trade passes through it."

Mohamed Salum, Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) director general, noted that the corporation coordinated and organised the international meeting for Indian Ocean region.

The conference provides a platform for member countries to exchange experiences regarding ship inspections at their ports.

"Experts from around the world have come together to enhance cooperation on inspection of international ships entering our ports. The aim is to strengthen security control, protect transport vessels and maintain the aquatic environment," he said.

IOMOU also marks its 25th anniversary since establishment of the agreement. Tanzania was among the first six countries to sign the agreement, which now includes 20 member states.

It was created to identify and eliminate substandard ships from the Indian Ocean.

TBS urges SMEs to use SIDO to boost quality of products

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to register and seek education on best production practices through the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to enhance their competitiveness.

Francis Mapunda, acting manager of TBS in the Eastern Zone, made the call at the weekend here during a meeting with operators of SMEs.

He told producers of various products to ensure that they certify their products because the process is free of charge. He noted that many traders have begun to recognise and

take advantage of the free service following recent outreach efforts.

"Many traders fail to meet criteria needed to certify their goods as they are unaware of some procedures. So, it is important for them to liaise with SIDO for an introduction letter before coming to TBS," he said.

"To achieve this, the government through SIDO and TBS implements a plan to ensure that SMEs improve quality of products to meet required standards."

Mapunda underscored the risks associated with producing substandard products, including potential health hazards for consumers and harm to the reputation of Tanzanian goods both locally and internationally.

He also said that inferior

products often compromise market competitiveness due to their lower prices compared to higher-quality alternatives.

He said since production of various products increases globally, it is important for producers to be creative for them to produce quality products to enable them compete in the international market.

He said TBS continues to test a range of products, including agricultural, livestock, fishery and cosmetics to ensure they meet required standards.

"The bureau is also committed to providing training for producers, and processors to help them produce safe and high-quality goods that comply with regulatory standards," he said.

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE High Court in Dar es Salaam is today set to start hearing a case in which three individuals challenge the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government)'s role in overseeing the upcoming local government elections scheduled for November 27 this year.

The challenge is based on a request for the Court to bar the office from overseeing the elections, arguing that the 2024 Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Act and Article 76 (6) (e) of the 1977 Constitution designate the Commission as the responsible body for managing elections.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, applicants Bob Wangwe, Bubelwa Kaiza and Dr. Ananilea Nkya said that President's office involvement in elections is unfair as it undermines rights, transparency and leads to distrust in the election process.

Dr Nkya stated that it is contrary to the country's laws for President's Office to oversee local government elections. She explained that Section

High Court to start hearing petition against local gvt polls management

10 (1) (c) of the INEC Act No. 2 of 2014 assigns the duty and authority to oversee local government elections to the omission, not the President's Office.

"We have initiated this legal action recognising that citizens are the sovereign authority of the country according to the constitution. Article 8 (1) (a) states that citizens are the foundation of all authority and the government derives its powers and authority from the people," she said.

She added that the legal basis of the case is questioning President's Office's role in overseeing elections as it poses a risk to the fairness and transparency of the electoral process. Their objection aims to protect Tanzanian citizens' constitutional rights to participate in a democratic process.

Wangwe said that according to Article 26 (2) of the constitution, everyone has the right to take legal action, adding that their decision is

in line with safeguarding democracy in the country. He stated that INEC is the body with the authority to oversee elections according to laws enacted by parliament. "Article 74 (6) (e) states that the Independent National Electoral Commission will perform all duties assigned by parliament hence President's Office does not have legal authority to oversee elections," he said.

Kaiza said that previous election had several issues, including some candidates declared winners without contest, others being excluded and a lack of freedom and fairness in the process of electing leaders. He said they decided to file the case to address the issues and ensure that this year's election is free, fair and aligned with democratic principles.

The court is scheduled to begin hearing arguments from the Attorney General. Judge Wilfred Dynsobera will preside over the case.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

RESIDENTS of Tanga Region have been urged to embrace the 'Strengthen the Economy with Mama Samia' programme which aims to empower women, youth and special groups to actively engage in the national economy.

Implemented by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), the programme reaches the groups with training and support to enable them fully utilise available economic opportunities.

Sophia Mjema, Presidential Advisor on Women's Affairs, made the call on Monday here when speaking to various groups of women, youth and special need groups during the inauguration of the programme in the region.

She said the initiative seeks to integrate the groups into economic platforms to foster socioeconomic development across the country.

"To benefit from this programme, the groups need to be given access to available opportunities in the region to enable them engage more

Grab economic empowerment opportunities, residents urged

effectively in the national economy," she said.

Mjema suggested that the groups could explore opportunities in road maintenance, catering for conferences and symposiums as well as other activities that could improve their livelihoods.

She explained that the programme is in the process of registering and creating a database for the groups, with the goal of supporting them in starting or expanding agricultural activities, adding value to their produce and poultry farming among other economic activities.

She said the programme aims at helping groups to eventually engage in larger-scale ventures such as owning big businesses like hotels as the region and the country undergo economic transformation.

Tanga Regional Commissioner Dr Batilda Burian said the region was prepared to ensure that groups

across all wards and villages benefit from the programme.

"Registration will continue in the areas to ensure that every group has access to the programme," she said, noting that the region is committed to utilising its opportunities to help groups start businesses and support their families.

She said since the region had many opportunities, they would ensure the groups utilise them to start businesses and ensure they meet needs of their families.

Nifa Hassan, one of the traders, shared her positive experience, saying that the programme's entrepreneurship training had helped increase her capital and provided her access to loans.

"I want to become a big businessperson and I hope this programme will enable me to fulfil my dream as it is instrumental in boosting low-income earners," she said.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°:

Issued on: 23 AUGUST 2024

Deadline For Application: 07 SEPTEMBER 2024

Job Title: Animal Health and Animal Production Specialist

Type of Requisition: NPP

Organizational Unit: FAO TANZANIA

Duty Station: Loliondo

Duration: 12 months renewable depending on performance

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Organizational Setting

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Reporting Lines

The programme will be implemented under the overall supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)/Chief, Animal Health Service (AGAH), the functional and administrative supervision of the FAO Representative in Tanzania, the direct supervision of the ECTAD Country Team Leader in Tanzania, immediately guidance of Programme Coordinator and with additional technical backstopping of the SFE Resilience Team for Eastern Africa.

Technical Focus

The incumbent will ensure that workstreams and activities related to livestock production and health are implemented adequately and contribute to meeting the target indicators and overall objectives of the project, Regional Programme in Livestock and Pastoralism for Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern/Horn of Africa (GCP/INT/1051/EC (PLACE).

Tasks and responsibilities

- Contribute to enhancing the production and animal health capacities of pastoral value chain actors.
- Support transboundary animal pest and disease surveillance and control.
- Support development of community-based breeding programs to improve the productivity of breeds adapted and resilient to local conditions.
- Support harmonized animal disease surveillance (including sero-monitoring) in the target clusters.
- Conduct mapping, predictive modelling, characterization, GIS training, and implement push-pull approach for control of vectors and important pests and diseases in the clusters.
- Train community-based animal health service providers and conduct harmonized PPR vaccination campaigns including support to cold chain systems.
- Establish and/or strengthen veterinary lab diagnostic capacity with clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Sanitary Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) at cluster level.
- Identify and facilitate livestock and products certification in support of internal and cross-border trade and compliance with IGAD transhumance protocol and SPS standards.
- Support the assessment of existing LIS and pilot a simple /or build on an existing livestock identification system and identify lessons and recommendations for replication and upscaling.
- Facilitate annual national and regional pastoral association experience-sharing meetings.
- Providing inputs to annual reporting, MEAL, adaptive management, communication and advocacy and other required data collection efforts, relevant for livestock related work.
- Act as a liaison for communities, (local) partners and (local) government representatives with regards to livestock related work.
- Perform other related duties as required.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Master's degree Animal/Livestock production, Veterinary Science or related fields.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in animal health, production and health, and sustainable pastoral value chain development.
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience in public / private service or academic/research setting in animal health and or production.

- Working knowledge of English and Kiswahili.
- National of Tanzania.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Excellent report writing and communication skills
- Proven experience in engagement of pastoralist communities and training in simple livestock health and production methods.
- Strong understanding of circular economy principles and their application in the pastoral value chain.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Able to work in a multicultural and multidisciplinary team.
- Knowledge on climate smart livestock practices and experience in pastoral value chain development is essential.
- Knowledge in community engagement and development is essential
- Experience in pastoralism/pastoral production systems is essential

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FAO IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT

Latra fetes leading long-distance bus operators for road safety compliance

By Getrude Mbogo

IN efforts aimed at promoting efficiency in provision of public transport services, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) has come up with an arrangement to recognise long-distance bus operators with outstanding performance.

On Monday, during the opening ceremony of National Road Safety Week in Dodoma, Latra conferred awards to the top-performing and safest long-distance bus operators.

The awards were presented by

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango whereby various companies emerged winners, including those with more than 30 buses.

Speaking during the occasion, Habibu Suluo, Latra Director General, said the race to identify the best and safest operators started from June 2023 to July 2024.

He explained that Section 6(a) of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Act, Cap 413, mandates Latra to promote efficient competition among regulated service providers and that the award ceremony for best

and safest operators was part of the authority's effort to fulfil the mandate.

Suluo said that the winners were selected based on their adherence to LATRA's regulations, including issuing electronic receipts, proper use of Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), maintaining low accident rates and adhering to fare regulations.

Operators were disqualified if they had frequent accidents, issues with VTS, insufficient insurance, licence suspensions, customer complaints, failure to provide electronic tickets, loss of

passenger cargo, or overcharging, provided such issues affected at least 10 per cent of their fleet.

He said 15 operators per category (large, medium and small) were then featured in a digital questionnaire distributed via Latra's website and social media platforms, allowing stakeholders and service users to vote.

He named the winners in various categories where in the large operators group (those with more than 30 buses), the top three were Shabiby Line (first place), Happy Nation (second place) and

ABC Upper Class (third place).

For the medium operators group (those with 11 to 30 buses), the winners were Tilisho (first place), Satco Express (second place) and Ngasere Co. Ltd (third place).

In the small operators group (those with 3 to 10 buses), the top performers were Sama Luxury Coach (first place), Achimwene Business (second place) and Ratco Express (third place).

"These awards aim to promote effective and innovative practices in passenger transport, particularly through technological

advancements. They are designed to encourage healthy competition among bus operators and enhance service quality," he said.

Priscus Joseph, secretary general of Tanzania Bus Owners' Association (Taboa), commended Latra for its efforts, stating that the awards serve as a significant acknowledgment of the operators' hard work and will strengthen their relationship with the authority.

He urged the upcountry bus operators to increase creativity and continue providing good services.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°:

Issued on: 23 AUGUST 2024

Deadline For Application: 07 SEPTEMBER 2024

Job Title: Rangeland and Natural Resources Management Specialist

TYPE OF REQUISITION: NPP

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO TANZANIA

DUTY STATION: Loliondo

DURATION: 12 months renewable depending on performance

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Reporting Lines

The programme will be implemented under the overall supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)/Chief, Animal Health Service (AGAH), the functional and administrative supervision of the FAO Representative in Tanzania, the direct supervision of the ECTAD Country Team Leader in Tanzania, immediately guidance of Programme Coordinator and with additional technical backstopping of the SFE Resilience Team for Eastern Africa.

Technical Focus

The Rangeland and Natural Resources Management Specialist will oversee the implementation of activities aimed at improving the management of pastoral ecosystems, enhancing access to water resources, and restoring rangelands to ensure they are resilient to climate change. This role will involve working closely with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to secure land tenure, manage water resources sustainably, and promote the equitable use of communal rangelands.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Oversee the design and implementation of outcome 1 of GCP/INT/1051/EC (PLACE), in collaboration and coordination with relevant FAOTZ colleagues
- Be the technical focal point for matters related to rangeland and natural resource management, land tenure and water management
- Coordinate field-level activities of implementing partners related to outcome 1, including developing their workplans, ensuring that delivery is met, and any challenge is addressed
- Lead capacity building efforts for beneficiaries, and implementing partners where necessary, related to rangeland and natural resource management, land tenure and water management issues
- Provide inputs to annual reporting, MEAL, adaptive management, communication and advocacy and other required data collection efforts, relevant for outcome 1 (but not limited to)
- Act as a liaison for communities, (local) partners and (local) government representatives with regards to outcome 1 thematic areas (but not limited to)
- Organize and conduct field work, workshops and events as necessary
- Perform other related duties as required.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced degree in rangeland management, natural resource management, agricultural engineering, or a related field. Environmental science is an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of experience in rangeland management, water resources management, or related areas.
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience in public / private service or academic/research setting on rangeland restoration or natural resources management in various disciplines within the sector.
- Working knowledge of English and Kiswahili.
- National of Tanzania.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in remote and challenging environments.
- Knowledge in community development is essential
- Experience in pastoralism/pastoral production systems is essential
- Excellent technical report writing and communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to develop and adapt tools and frameworks for resource management.
- Capacity to lead and manage multi-stakeholder platforms and processes.
- Knowledge of climate change adaptation strategies in pastoral systems.
- Proficiency in project management and coordination.
- Commitment to gender equity and inclusive practices.

Selection Criteria

- Proven experience in working with local communities in rangelands, government agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Strong understanding of natural resources – water and land tenure policies and frameworks.
- Experience in participatory rangeland resources mapping and management is essential.
- Experience in capacity building and participatory management practices.

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing)
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Please note that FAO only considers higher educational qualifications obtained from an institution accredited/recognized in the World Higher Education Database (WHED), a list updated by the International Association of Universities (IAU) / United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The list can be accessed at <http://www.whed.net/>
- For additional employment opportunities visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>
- Appointment will be subject to certification that the candidate is medically fit for appointment, accreditation, any residency or visa requirements, and security clearances.

HOW TO APPLY

- To apply, visit the recruitment website at [Jobs at FAO](http://Jobs.at.FAO) and complete your online profile. We strongly recommend that your profile is accurate, complete and includes your employment records, academic qualifications, and language skills
- Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile
- Once your profile is completed, please apply, and submit your application
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments and authorization to conduct verification checks of past and present work, character, education, military and police records to ascertain any and all information which may be pertinent to the employment qualifications
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Personal information provided on your application may be shared within FAO and with other companies acting on FAO's behalf to provide employment support services such as pre-screening of applications, assessment tests, background checks and other related services. You will be asked to provide your consent before submitting your application. You may withdraw consent at any time, by withdrawing your application, in such case FAO will no longer be able to consider your application
- Only applications received through the FAO recruitment portal will be considered
- Your application will be screened based on the information provided in your online profile
- We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°:

Issued on: 23 AUGUST 2024

Deadline For Application: 07 SEPTEMBER 2024

Job Title: National Project Coordinator and Business Development Specialist

TYPE OF REQUISITION: NPP

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO TANZANIA

DUTY STATION: Loliondo

DURATION: 12 months renewable depending on performance

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- FAO is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality, background and culture
- Qualified female applicants, qualified nationals of non-and under-represented Members and person with disabilities are encouraged to apply
- Everyone who works for FAO is required to adhere to the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct, and to uphold FAO's values
- FAO, as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, has a zero-tolerance policy for conduct that is incompatible with its status, objectives and mandate, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination.
- All selected candidates will undergo rigorous reference and background checks
- All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality

Organizational Setting

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributes to the achievement of the 2030 global Agenda through the FAO Strategic Framework by supporting the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. The main aim of the FAO country offices, which are headed by an FAO Representative, is to assist governments to develop policies, programmes and projects to achieve food security, reduce hunger and malnutrition, help develop the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors, and to use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable manner. The Regional Programme in Livestock and Pastoralism for Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern/Horn of Africa is designed to contribute to the development of sustainable climate resilient pastoral systems in Eastern/Horn of Africa that could improve the livelihoods of pastoral communities. The programme aims to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of pastoralist communities. It focuses on creating income-generating opportunities based on circular economy principles, especially supporting women and youth; conserving the environment, biodiversity and promoting initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emission and sustainable use of transboundary natural resources to improve the social and living conditions of people engaged in the Pastoral Livestock Value Chains in the region.

Reporting Lines

The programme will be implemented under the overall supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)/Chief, Animal Health Service (AGAH), the functional and administrative supervision of the FAO Representative in Tanzania, the direct supervision of the ECTAD Country Team Leader in Tanzania, immediately guidance of Programme Coordinator and with additional technical backstopping of the SFE Resilience Team for Eastern Africa.

Technical Focus

The incumbent will ensure that workstreams and activities across the outcome areas of the Regional Programme in Livestock and Pastoralism for Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern/Horn of Africa project (GCP/INT/1051/EC (PLACE)) are operationalized and implemented in a desirable manner, and that the programme objectives and deliverables are met. This includes managing and coordinating the respective team members and implementing and ensuring that their delivery is adequate, and where not, necessary adaptation is provided.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Provide leadership to project staff and ensure smooth implementation of GCP/INT/1051/EC (PLACE).
- Coordinate and manage the programme's inception phase activities, including the context analysis, investment mapping, revision of project work plan and strategy, as well as the set-up of the necessary implementation structures and processes.
- Lead the implementation of the project (overall), preparation of project work plans, timely provision of inputs, organization of workshops, training programmes, and liaison with responsible officers at national and sub-national levels for effective coordination and successful delivery.
- Facilitate participatory program planning processes to develop workplans together with key stakeholders to ensure coordination with other networks, programmes, and initiatives, and in line with government policies.
- Lead in budgeting and budget monitoring to ensure required financial resources are properly allocated for project activities implementation.
- Technical lead for the implementation of the economic pillar of the project, focusing on creating income-generating opportunities across agro-pastoral value chains with a focus on supporting women and youth in particular. The specialist will be responsible for day-to-day field activities implementation for this pillar.
- Conduct a gender, youth, and conflict-sensitive pastoral value chain assessment in targeted clusters.
- Establish value chain stakeholders, engagement, learning, and innovation platforms for networking and information sharing.
- Establish and support pastoralist production groups (feed, milk, meat, honey, hides, and skins) and conduct tailored training and coaching.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, especially within the District Councils and community leadership structures and ensure to engage the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and target communities to ensure that communities and local authorities targeted by the project activities participate receive pertinent, accessible, and timely information.
- Directly liaise with the respective cluster focal point in Kenya, being the counterpart for the Mara-Serengeti cluster implementation under the EU programme, under supervision of the ECTAD Country Team Leader
- Develop and share regular annual, periodical, field mission reports, as per FAO reporting guidelines, and provide inputs to MEAL, communication and advocacy documents where necessary.
- Organizing and conducting field work, workshops and events as necessary
- Perform other related duties as required.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Master's degree or PhD in development-related sciences, Agricultural Economics, Animal/Livestock production, Veterinary Science and/or rangeland resource, environmental science, Communication Development, or related fields.
- At least five years of progressively responsible experience with at least 5 years in management position(s)
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience in public / private service or academic/research setting on animal health or production in various disciplines within the sector.
- Working knowledge of English and Kiswahili
- National of Tanzania

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Excellent technical report writing and communication skills
- Knowledge on climate smart livestock practices and experience in pastoral value chain development projects

Selection Criteria

- Experience in participatory rangeland resources management is an added advantage.
- Knowledge in community development is essential
- Experience in pastoralism/pastoral production systems is essential

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- For additional employment opportunities visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>
- Appointment will be subject to certification that the candidate is medically fit for appointment, accreditation, any residency or visa requirements, and security clearances.

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- Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile
- Once your profile is completed, please apply, and submit your application
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments and authorization to conduct verification checks of past and present work, character, education, military and police records to ascertain any and all information which may be pertinent to the employment qualifications
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FAO IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

JKCI, Chinese cardiologists stage free heart screening camp for pupils in Dar

A TOTAL of 965 pupils from Hananasifu and Msasani primary schools in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region, have undergone heart screening, with six of them found to require specialised treatment.

The screening took place at the weekend in Dar es Salaam at a camp that brought together cardiologists from the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) and Yunnan Fuwai Hospital in China.

Dr Theophyl Ludovick, a paediatric cardiologist at JKCI, told reporters that the aim of the camp was to identify children suffering from heart diseases

and provide needed support, including specialised treatment.

He noted that on the first day, 743 pupils were screened for heart disease indicators at Hananasifu Primary School and other 222 were screened at Msasani

Primary School.

"At Hananasifu, we identified three children with heart problems, one of whom needs a heart defect closure. We have already admitted the latter and expect to perform the procedure tomorrow (Sunday)," he said.

"Similarly, three cases were identified at Msasani, and we will schedule their treatment. Both JKCI and Fuwai will provide services free of charge. The child we have admitted appears to have been born with the condition."

He explained that symptoms of heart problems in children include frequent coughing and poor growth. The condition of the admitted child is due to an unclosed heart defect, which should close naturally within 24 to 72 hours after birth.

Dr Mo Xuming, President of Nanjing University Children's Hospital in China, who was among the experts examining the pupils, praised the camp's success due to high turnout.

Halima Bakari, a resident of Morocco area in Dar es Salaam, expressed gratitude to the government for providing the free service, which aids in early detection of heart conditions in children.

Edward Mollel, headteacher at Msasani Primary School, thanked JKCI and partners for organizing the camp which helped identify heart challenges to children.

He said that pupils from the school came forward for screening, with some anticipating further treatment.



Simanjiro district commissioner Faki Lulandala (facing camera) speaks at a recent meeting on forest harvesting and ways to address grievances related to land ownership and use. It was held at Orkesumet village. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Over 15,000 residents of two wards in Mpwapwa eager to get health facility

By Polycarp Machira, Mpwapwa

AT LEAST 15,151 people from 3,590 households at Wangi and Wotta wards in Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region, will soon be able to access health services easily, thanks to Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

The construction of a health facility with a total of four buildings is at 75 percent of construction, eliciting hope amongst 7,389 women and 7,763 men in the wards.

The community has long endured the devastating impact of inadequate health facility, travelling for over 25 kilometres to the nearest dispensary. This was said yesterday during a tour by Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Simbachawene to the area.

In her report to the minister, TASAF Mpwapwa District Coordinator Francisca Mloka said the district council received a total of 587,547,289.70/- from the fund in September 2023 and construction started in November 2023.

She explained that before the start of the project, residents had the opportunity to decide what kind of project they wanted and they chose to have a health facility.

Mloka observed that the total cost for the project

was 834,011,540.91/- where 754,923,340.91 was from TASAF and other 79,088,200/- being contribution from the community.

The coordinator added that the project was initially set to be completed in April, 2024 but was delayed mainly due to bad weather during rainy season and unavailability of some building materials among others.

"Upon completion of the project, it will serve some 3,590 households with a total of 15,152 residents, 7,389 being women and 7,763 men in the two wards with six villages" she said.

Speaking after inspecting the construction, Simbachawene expressed satisfaction with the quality

of work on the project, applauding the villagers for their contribution.

"This is one of the biggest projects ever to be undertaken in this area and it is going to touch lives of people since it is in the crucial sector," he said.

Simbachawene who is also the area Member of Parliament thanked TASAF for the gesture, noting that it is part of the government initiatives to improve provision of health services in the country.

Julius Mwakalebela, an engineer with TASAF expressed gratitude on how the project was undertaken. "As a construction engineer, I am convinced that the project is well implemented", he said.

BBC MEDIA ACTION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: A National Conversation Project (NC5)

BBC Media Action

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international development organisation. We work with partners around the world to provide impartial, impactful, trustworthy media to people in need so that they can make informed choices to transform their lives. Established in 1999, we use media and communication in developing and transitional countries to help deliver stronger democracies, a safer, more habitable planet, and inclusive societies.

A National Conversation Phase 5 (NC5) is a governance project delivered by BBC Media Action in Tanzania, funded by the Embassy of Ireland. The project began in September 2021 and was co-funded by the Embassy of Belgium from December 2021 to June 2023. Under the Embassy of Ireland funding, the project focused on climate change adaptation, governance, and gender equality, while funding from the Embassy of Belgium focused on civic space and governance, with all thematic areas integrated into the project during this period. BBC Media Action intends to conduct the evaluation of A National Conversation project from the inception period to the beginning of year four of implementation. The objective of the independent external evaluation is as follows:

- To assess the overall performance impact of the project based on the approved PMF and ToC.
- To examine the project and evaluate its overall adaptation to date. Decisions made resulted in changes in the project outputs in year three and the PMF.
- To examine the capacity-strengthening approaches in editorial, commercial, and digital media in relation to the evolving media sector.
- To look at the project approach of integrating three themes (climate change, gender equality, and democratic governance) in the radio shows and digital platforms and provide recommendations to ensure increased impact.

As part of the independent external evaluation, BBC Media Action would like to conduct an evaluation across 8 regions in Tanzania where the partner radio stations have been operating. Data from this evaluation will measure the project's impact in the past three years in terms of increased knowledge, attitude changes, and action taken in the areas of governance, climate change, and gender. Findings will also be used to identify gaps to be addressed by our programming strategy.

Interested candidates should request for the Terms of Reference (ToR) through this email: catherine.maita@bbcmediation.org

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS SUBMISSION: 15th Sept 2024
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

Victoria Finance Plc
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Telephone +255 22 277 4577
Fax: +255 22 277 4500
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2	ADIN HODLAM MSANYA	HOUSE	SALES AGREEMENT-KLOSA MOROGORO	J&J RECOVERIES	10/09/2024
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Local experts happy with EACOP, unlike EU peers

MANY African academic and other experts ordinarily take persuasions or research outlooks and findings of their peers in Europe and the United States or rather North America as a reliable beacon of accuracy.

However, as is the case in many electoral situations in Europe and rather vehemently in the US as well, 'green dikta' is being rejected. It raises the cost of living, which is part of what explains why nationalists repeatedly confront liberals on the issue.

A limited survey of expert sentiments at the start of the week indicated that there is no shred of doubt among our experts of the viability and usefulness or relevance for development needs for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

They were near unanimous that the project complies with the breadth of international standards for such outlays and is beneficial to local communities, while their counterparts in the EU have done what they can to blacken the project.

They have demonstrated, passed resolutions in the EU legislature and even proceeded to file a court case to stop it.

One wonders at the feelings of EU legislators and diplomats representing those countries here when told that the oil pipeline project has been implemented professionally enough.

They have no doubt whatsoever that communities on its banks or next to its reserved path of land would benefit significantly.

A range of academics, often also doing administration, have additionally credited the project as unique and said it has met required international standards.

One of them, who boasts long experience as a researcher in a number of projects worldwide, has said that EACOP is among the best

projects whose implementation has the highest standards of quality, starting with feasibility.

Incidentally the scholar and administrator hails from the Kagera Region where the project has its starting point in Tanzania, following a trail from northern Uganda.

While European legislators and activists vehemently object to just about everything EACOP is tied up with, even claiming that people are being removed by force without compensation, the scholar reports not having heard of such families of communities in the region.

He swears that, for Tanzania, people living along the project understand the socio-economic benefits of the mega project.

Were it that there are elements of force or lack of compensation, how would this fail to be registered while the pipeline passes through eight regions encompassing 24 districts where 134 wards and over 180 villages are involved?

Various other scholars feel much the same, pointing at prospects of the project's completion and the multiplier effect in the socio-economic sphere.

This is chiefly because compensation money enables a breadth of new rural and urban investments, a sort of empowerment for small-scale farmers.

But EU scholars think differently; they believe Africans are tied to ancestral lands and should never be 'forced' out. EU activists have meanwhile by and large failed with raising a storm over EACOP.

The World Bank has frozen a whole one-third of total funds remaining on account of the government removing intruders coming in with vast herds of cattle. And this lies at the centre of raging debate over the pros and cons of what is happening on the ground, with hardly any indication of how the divergence of standpoints will end.

Working closely with NGOs is what local authorities often do, cautiously

THERE are new appeals from a number of stakeholders among civil society organisations for government agencies to come up with work methods enabling them to work closely with NGOs.

The reason is simply that there is no reason to hinder volunteer-based self-funded organisations out to make life better for people in rural areas and marginalised urban areas from changing things there.

It is also true that NGOs have brought development gains and positive impacts in the areas they work, while in many spheres many are seen as an extension of public services.

What is rather unclear in some of the recent appeals, now that civil society organisations are bracing for weeklong bonanza in less than ten days from now, is the proper objective of NGOs and the role of local authorities in that regard.

One activist has lately formulated the issue in terms like NGOs transforming communities; it is partially true as they can't really touch some basics.

It is hard to say how they express the need for government agencies to see how to empower them to scale up good projects in other parts of the country.

What people know is that NGOs usually reflect the wishes of social reformers in various countries with a certain image of society or of Africa in particular, and that is why they work on a single problem at a time - to solve an aspect of negative reality.

Being facilitated by local

government agencies is one thing, while implying the need to obtain permits, waive levies, etc., or asking for empowerment is different as it could be directed to the private sector.

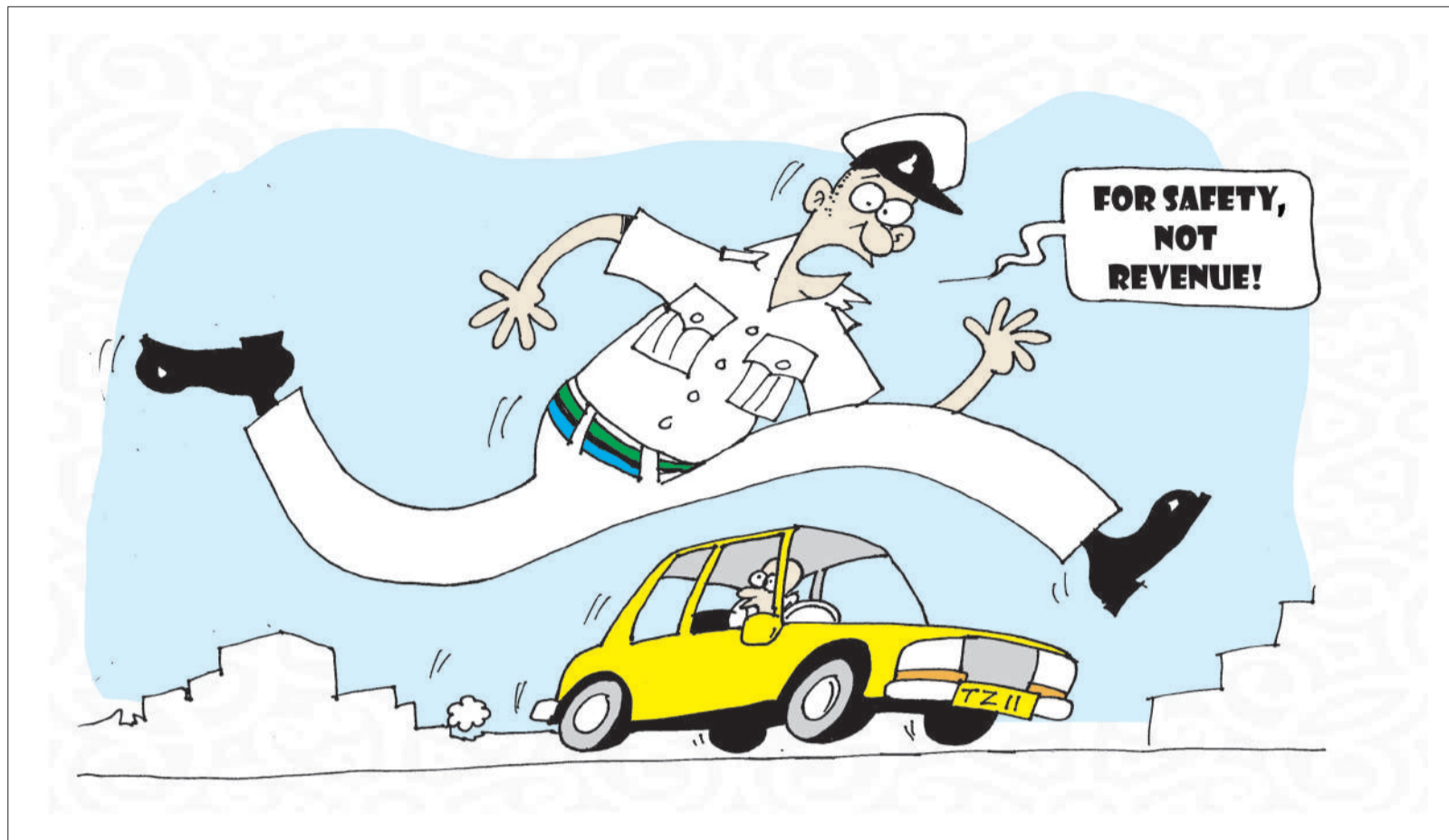
In similar manner, it is clear that NGOs do not expect that the government or authorities at the local level will take it easy with every project they bring up, as each major project seeks to extensively alter social attitudes in a particular direction.

For example, there was a meeting organised by Counsenuth, itself said to be an indigenous women-led NGO seeking to improve the quality of life for adolescents, youths and members of vulnerable groups. They demanded that the government find a way of partnering with such result-oriented organisations or agencies.

But what NGOs have on their fingertips as 'to do' things contain elements of excessive tolerance for deviation, and at times even seem to cultivate it, since someone could have started a 'happiness' movement somewhere and obtained leagues of followers.

Sometime in 2017 or thereabouts scholars were baffled at an international NGO report scaling happiness around the world but with Tanzania near the bottom, even with the chaos in numerous areas around the world.

The problem might not have been sampling methods as one scholar told this newspaper at the time but, whatever the explanation, getting to the true bottom of the issues would promise handsome dividends.



Why top employees really keep leaving their jobs...

By Kettie Chipeta

MANY companies are struggling to understand why their top employees are leaving. Even with competitive salaries, generous benefits and contemporary and attractive benefits, staff continue to depart.

The real problem often lies not in the compensation or the job titles but in the work environment. Employees are frequently leaving because their workplaces have become draining, stressful or even toxic.

The assumption that employees leave mainly for higher pay overlooks a deeper truth. Most people want more than just money from their jobs. They need to feel valued, respected and part of something meaningful.

When a workplace fails to provide these basic needs, even the most lucrative salary cannot make up for the lack of satisfaction and fulfilment.

Employees are more inclined to stay in roles where they feel a strong connection with their colleagues, trust their leaders and receive acknowledgment for their efforts. Without these elements, even the most committed employees may start looking elsewhere.

Research has consistently shown that poor management is a leading reason for people to decide to leave their jobs.

A 2019 study by Gallup found that about 50 per cent of employees left their jobs to get away from their managers and improve their overall lives at some point in their career.

Leaving is often not solely because of the presence of a bad boss; it is the broader culture of feeling undervalued, ignored and trapped in a negative environment that drives them away.

No salary can compensate for the stress and dissatisfaction of feeling unseen and unappreciated. People desire workplaces where their efforts are acknowledged, where they are treated with dignity, and where growth is possible.

A toxic workplace can take many forms. Some organisations create a culture that pits employees against each other, promoting competition over collaboration.

Others have rigid hierarchies that stifle fresh ideas and discourage feedback. In these environments, even a high salary cannot counterbalance the daily grind of feeling undervalued and replaceable. No one wants to feel like just another cog in a machine.

Conversely, companies that sustainably retain their talent create environments where employees feel valued and motivated. These organisations understand that fostering a sense of belonging, trust and respect is crucial.

Employees are more likely to stay where they feel that they can grow

both personally and professionally and where their contributions are seen and appreciated.

Engaged employees are more productive, creative and dedicated to their roles. A 2020 study by Harvard Business Review found that employees who feel recognised are more engaged and have higher levels of job satisfaction. This has a direct impact on business performance.

Companies with high levels of employee engagement often outperform the competition - or their 'rivals'. A positive work environment encourages people to contribute more ideas, collaborate effectively and go above and beyond. The result is a dynamic workplace that not only reduces turnover but also drives business success.

Creating a supportive work culture demands a genuine commitment to understanding what employees need. Building trust within a team does not happen overnight; it requires ongoing effort and dedication from leaders at all levels.

Employees should feel safe sharing their thoughts and concerns, knowing that their input will be valued rather than punished. This openness leads to greater collaboration and innovation.

Recognition is fundamental to employee satisfaction. Everyone wants to know that his or her hard work is noticed and valued.

This acknowledgment does not have to come in the form of bonuses or pay rises. Often, a simple gesture such as a sincere 'thank you' or recognition in a team meeting can significantly boost morale.

A 2018 study by the O. C. Tanner Institute found that 79 per cent of employees who quit their jobs cited a lack of appreciation as a key reason for leaving. When employees feel appreciated, they are more likely to remain engaged and committed to their work.

Opportunities for growth are essential for keeping employees motivated. People are seeking more than just a job. Instead what they want is a career that offers opportunities to learn new skills, take on challenges and build a future within the organisation.

Going by a 2017 LinkedIn Workplace Learning Report, 94 per cent of employees would stay at a company longer if it invested in their career development.

Companies that focus on professional development show a commitment to their employees' long-term success, fostering loyalty and a stronger connection to the company.

Work-life balance has become a priority for today's workforce. Many employees seek flexibility in their jobs, hoping to balance their professional responsibilities with personal commitments.

Organisations that offer flexible work arrangements, such as remote

work options or adjustable hours, demonstrate trust in their employees' ability to manage their own time and responsibilities.

This kind of flexibility acknowledges that employees have lives outside of work, contributing to higher satisfaction and retention rates.

Inclusivity and diversity are vital components of a healthy work culture. Employees thrive in environments where diverse perspectives are valued and everyone feels included.

According to a 2018 study by McKinsey and Company, companies with more diverse workforces are 35 per cent more likely to have financial returns above their industry medians.

Companies that embrace diversity benefit from a wide range of ideas and experiences, leading to greater innovation and adaptability. Promoting a culture where all voices are heard and valued helps build a strong, cohesive team that is engaged and motivated.

Psychological safety is also critical in fostering a productive workplace. Employees need to feel secure when expressing their opinions, sharing their ideas, or challenging the status quo without fear of negative consequences.

Google's Project Aristotle, a study conducted between 2012 and 2017, found that psychological safety was the most important factor in building successful teams.

When psychological safety is present, people are more likely to take risks and explore new ideas, which fosters creativity and growth. This environment supports learning and development for both individuals and teams.

Purpose plays a significant role in employee engagement. Many employees today want to know that their work contributes to a larger mission.

A 2019 study by Imperative and LinkedIn found that employees who find purpose in their work are more likely to stay longer and be more satisfied.

Companies with a clear purpose and values that resonate with their employees' beliefs are more likely to retain top talent. When employees feel aligned with their company's goals, they are more motivated and engaged.

Leadership is key in shaping workplace culture. Leaders who are transparent, communicative and supportive foster an environment of trust and respect.

A 2015 study by Zenger and Folkman found that employees with inspiring leaders were more committed and willing to put in extra effort.

Leaders set the standard for the organisation by exemplifying the values and behaviors they want to see in their teams. When leaders

genuinely care about their employees' well-being, it creates a positive ripple effect throughout the company.

Mentorship and coaching are crucial for employee development. Access to mentors and coaches provides employees with guidance, support and a sense of belonging.

A 2019 survey by the Society for Human Resource Management found that employees who receive regular mentoring are more satisfied with their jobs and more likely to stay at their current company.

Companies that prioritise these relationships demonstrate a commitment to their employees' growth, leading to greater loyalty and reduced turnover.

To keep their best people, companies need to go beyond offering competitive salaries and perks. The real key is to create a workplace where employees feel valued, respected and part of a meaningful endeavour.

Fostering a culture that emphasizes trust, recognition, and opportunity encourages employees to stay and grow. When employees feel that they are more than just a number, when they see their contributions matter, and when they envision a future within the company, they are far more likely to remain loyal and engaged.

For employers trying to understand why their best people are leaving, examining the culture is crucial. Are they building an environment where employees feel valued and heard, or are they inadvertently driving people away?

Are they listening to their employees, recognising their contributions, and investing in their development?

The answers to these questions will determine not only employee retention but also the long-term success of the organisation.

By focusing on what employees need, such as respect, growth and a supportive environment, companies will be able to retain their best talent and attract new employees eager to join their workplace. In an increasingly competitive job market, companies that prioritise employee well-being will indeed stand out.

Remember: employees do not leave jobs; they leave places where they do not feel valued. Thus, building a culture that supports and values them will encourage them to stay and contribute to the company's success.

Kettie Lomaquila Chipeta is a freelance writer and management consultant with expertise in Results Based Management, strategic planning, leadership development, coaching, governance, change management and data analysis. She is an avid reader of *The Guardian* newspaper. For inquiries, she can be reached at kettieloma@gmail.com or +255 692 108 677.

The solar eclipse of 2016 and the enduring power of ancient beliefs

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a rare celestial event that has fascinated humanity for centuries, a total solar eclipse unfolded on September 1, 2016, as the moon passed between the Earth and the sun, momentarily plunging daylight into darkness.

Such phenomena, once seen as omens or divine messages, continue to captivate observers worldwide, blending ancient myths with modern scientific discovery. The eclipse that swept across Tanzania on that day serves as a powerful reminder of this enduring fascination, offering a unique perspective on how different cultures interpret these cosmic events.

For much of human history, eclipses were interpreted as messages from the gods or harbingers of doom. Solar eclipses were meticulously recorded in ancient Mesopotamia, with the earliest known observation dating back to 1223 BCE.

These records, etched on clay tablets, were not merely astronomical—they were imbued with deep cultural significance. Kings and emperors often viewed eclipses as forewarnings of their downfall, a belief echoed across various civilizations.

Fr. Renatus Rwechungura, a noted geographer who taught this author Geography at Bwabuki Secondary School in 1995, Misenyi District, Kagera Region, reflects on the cultural weight of such events: "Eclipses were seen as reflections of the divine will, influencing the fate of entire empires. In Tanzania, the 2016 eclipse was similarly regarded by many as an event of significant political and social import."

The intrigue surrounding solar eclipses extends across cultures and continents. Ancient Greek scholar Thucydides, in his History of the Peloponnesian War, described an eclipse as an ominous sign at the onset of conflict.

In China, eclipses were seen as dragons devouring the sun, and royal astronomers who failed to predict these events faced severe punishment. The Rig Veda, an ancient Hindu text, recounts how the sun was once swallowed, only to be freed by the divine intervention of Rishi Atri. These myths underscore the universal impact of eclipses on human thought and culture.

In contrast, some indigenous cultures viewed eclipses more positively. The Southern Paiute people of North America, for example, regarded eclipses as times for introspection, love, and generosity. Others, like the Ho-Chunk and Crow, saw eclipses as symbols of renewal and new beginnings. These varied interpretations highlight the eclipse's profound influence on human societies, reflecting both fear and reverence for the unknown.

However, the link between solar eclipses and traditional beliefs in many African societies is particularly intriguing. In some Tanzanian communities, eclipses were seen as battles between celestial beings, with the sun's temporary disappearance viewed as a sign of impending disaster.

Elders often recounted tales of mythical creatures attempting to devour the sun, and in response, rituals were performed to protect the community. These beliefs passed down through generations, shaped

the cultural fabric and influenced how such natural phenomena were perceived.

Even in contemporary times, these traditional beliefs persist. During the 2016 eclipse, some Tanzanians resorted to traditional practices, such as banging pots and pans to scare away the "creatures" believed to be attacking the sun. Such actions demonstrate the deep-rooted nature of these beliefs and how they continue to coexist with modern scientific understanding.

Despite advancements in astronomy and the availability of information, the blend of science and tradition remains a powerful force in interpreting natural events.

The 1600s marked a turning point in our understanding of solar eclipses. The famous astronomer Johannes Kepler theorized that the corona—a radiant ring visible around the sun during an eclipse—was an integral part of the sun.

This insight was later confirmed with the advent of photography in the 1800s, allowing scientists to capture and study eclipses in unprecedented detail. Today, solar eclipses continue to play a crucial role in scientific discovery, providing opportunities to test theories such as Einstein's general relativity and to make groundbreaking discoveries, such as the identification of the element helium.

Dr. Steven Charles, a leading geographer and solar scientist from the University of Nairobi, notes that ancient eclipse records have been instrumental in understanding the Earth's rotation. "Eclipse data, some dating back thousands of years, suggest that the Earth's rotation has remained relatively stable over millennia," says Dr. Charles.

"These records, including those from ancient Mesopotamia and China, allow us to track subtle changes in our planet's motion, offering invaluable insights into geological events and the Earth's long-term behavior."

For those who missed the 2016 eclipse in Tanzania or the most recent one in 2024, the next total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States won't occur until 2045. However, the opportunity to witness this rare phenomenon sooner exists for those willing to travel. Regardless of when or where it occurs, a total solar eclipse remains an awe-inspiring event, connecting us with the long history of humanity's fascination with the cosmos.

As Professor Njoki Mbutia from the University of Nairobi aptly puts it, "Eclipses not only remind us of the grandeur of the universe but also our shared heritage as human beings, united by our curiosity and wonder at the mysteries of the sky." From the ancient kings of Mesopotamia to modern scientists, the solar eclipse continues to be a source of inspiration, discovery, and reflection.

Solar eclipses have captivated humanity for millennia, symbolizing both fear and enlightenment. Professor John Ndunguru from the University of Dar es Salaam, an expert in cultural astronomy, asserts that "in many African societies, solar eclipses were often seen as omens or divine messages. They were events that united communities in ritual and reflection, reinforcing social cohesion through shared

beliefs and practices." Ndunguru's research highlights the intricate ways in which eclipses were integrated into the spiritual and social fabric of ancient civilizations, often viewed as celestial events that held profound significance for rulers and priests alike.

Similarly, Professor Eliza Thompson from Sydney University, a renowned astrophysicist, emphasizes the role of solar eclipses in advancing scientific understanding. According to Thompson, "The observation of eclipses has led to groundbreaking discoveries in astrophysics, including the confirmation of Einstein's theory of general relativity."

Her work underlines how eclipses have been pivotal moments in the history of science, allowing astronomers to test and refine theories that have shaped our understanding of the universe. The solar eclipse of 1919, for instance, provided crucial evidence supporting Einstein's prediction that light bends in the gravitational field of a massive object, a discovery that fundamentally altered the course of modern physics.

In the context of global heritage, solar eclipses serve as a reminder of our shared human experience. Professor Ndunguru's study at the University of Dar es Salaam reveals that eclipses were historically used as markers for significant events, such as the coronation of kings or the launch of major initiatives. These celestial events were recorded in oral traditions and later transcribed into historical texts, becoming part of the cultural memory that continues to influence contemporary societies. Ndunguru findings suggest that these ancient practices still resonate today, as people across the world gather to witness eclipses, fostering a sense of global unity and shared wonder.

Thompson's research at Sydney University further explores how modern technology has transformed our ability to observe and understand solar eclipses. With the advent of sophisticated telescopes and satellite imagery, scientists can now study these phenomena with unprecedented precision, unlocking new insights into the behavior of the sun and its interactions with the Earth. "Solar eclipses," she notes, "are no longer just fleeting moments of awe; they are windows into the workings of the cosmos, offering us clues about the fundamental forces that govern our universe."

As we continue to explore the mysteries of the sky, solar eclipses remain a powerful symbol of our collective curiosity and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. From the ancient rituals of Mesopotamia to the cutting-edge research conducted by modern scientists, these celestial events have always been more than just astronomical occurrences—they are moments that connect us to our past, present, and future.

As Professor Njoki Mbutia so eloquently reminds us, eclipses are a testament to the enduring wonder that binds humanity together, a reminder that we are all part of the same cosmic story. And as we look up to the sky, we are reminded that in the vastness of the universe, we are united by our shared quest to understand the mysteries that lie beyond.



ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISITION OF 100% ASSETS OF SHORT PALMS RESORTS (SMC PRIVATE) LIMITED (TARGET FIRM) BY EMMA BAY COMPANY LIMITED (APPLICANT)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 5(1), 49 and 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (Z FCC) is an independent Government institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No.5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumer from misleading market conducts.

The same Act, gives a mandate to the Z FCC to review, investigate and prohibits any proposed Merger and Acquisition which is contrary to the requirement of section 49 and 50 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and regulation 32 of the Fair Competitions Regulations 2019.

The Z FCC has received merger notifications to the effect that Emma Bay Company Limited (**The Acquiring Firm**) at Michamvi, Unguja, Zanzibar intends to acquire **Assets of Short Palms Resorts (SMC PRIVATE) LIMITED (Target Firm)** at Bwejuu-Dongwe.

Emma Bay Company Limited as an applicant, is incorporated and existing under the laws of Zanzibar, with its business address at Michamvi Area, South District, Zanzibar.

Short Palms Resorts (SMC PRIVATE) Limited as a target firm, is a holding company of the assets incorporated under the laws of Zanzibar, with its business address at Bwejuu-Dongwe, Zanzibar.

The Acquiring Firm and Target Firm are collectively referred to as the "Merging Parties"

Based on Sales of Real Estate Agreement (SREA) entered between Short Palms Resorts (SMC PRIVATE) Limited (**Vendor**) and Emma Bay Company Limited (**Purchaser**), the Vendor agreed to Sell and the purchaser agreed to purchase the real estate located at Bwejuu-Dongwe Zanzibar subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Z FCC is currently investigating the intended acquisitions in line with the provisions of the Fair Competition Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Regulations, 2019. Pursuant to Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019, parties (both legal and natural) who deem themselves as having sufficient interest in this merger, or, if the merger is not objected to, they will have or are likely to have material effect on their interests, are hereby, **NOTIFIED** to **Director General** their interests and or objections (if any) or file any information that will assist the Z FCC in reaching just and reasonable decisions with regard to **Acquiring Firm's** notification of the intended merger.

All such parties shall file and register such interest(s) or information by way of written submissions to the Z FCC within Fourteen (14) days, starting from the first day of publication of this public notice. Submission filed after the said deadline shall not be accepted.

Registration of the said interests or objections or information should be accompanied by a duly filled Form Z FCC No. 10 of the Fair Competition Commission Regulations, 2019. Failure to fill in Form Z FCC. No 10 will deny a party the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and the presence of that party in the proceedings will be as an observer only.

Parties should take note that pursuant to Regulation 10 (4) of the Fair Competition Regulation, 2019 as applied to this Public Notice, Z FCC shall not entertain a subject of the petition where: (a) it does not fall under Act or Regulation (b) it has no material effect on competition; and (c) the same in whole or in part is before any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body or was previously determined by any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body

Form (Z FCC NO 10) can be collected at Z FCC office.

Submissions must be submitted to the Z FCC at the address below.

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission,
Darajani,
P.O. Box 1066,
Telephone No: 0242232013,
E mail: info@zfcc.go.tz,
Zanzibar.



Mohammed Sijamini Mohammed,
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION
ZANZIBAR



In 2016, former Mbeya Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla led a diverse crowd of citizens in witnessing the awe-inspiring solar eclipse event.

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By Abigail Kalandula

S. Sudan's long-delayed election will be a landmark moment but economic decline and political conflict put vote at risk

ELECTIONS are pivotal milestones in post-conflict countries - and nowhere is voter anticipation felt more keenly than in South Sudan, the world's youngest nation.

The country, which won independence in 2011 after a long conflict with Sudan, has not seen an election since.

A date has been set for a national vote: Dec. 22, 2024. Yet the timing remains in question, with the United Nations and others doubting whether adequate preparations have been made.

The proposed vote follows years of delays: An election was due to take place in 2015 but was postponed after the young country descended into civil war.

The 2024 vote was poised to shape the future of a country still grappling with the challenges of peace-building and governance - South Sudan entered a post-civil war transitional period in 2018, yet sporadic, mainly intercommunal violence continues. A national vote offers a critical opportunity to consolidate a hard-won peace and chart a course toward a more stable and democratic future.

But the country has failed to establish a robust electoral framework crucial for fair and credible polls - including constitutional, legal, financial and political conditions to ensure the feasibility of holding a credible national ballot. Moreover, entrenched disagreements among political leaders threaten to exacerbate the situation.

As a scholar focusing on global governance and human security in Africa, I share the concern that failure or delay in these electoral processes could lead to a perilous regression into conflict.

Lack of funding for elections

Successful elections could elevate South Sudan's international reputation by demonstrating political maturity and a commitment to democracy after years of instability. Both regional and global actors have urged the government to hold elections promised under the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan. Amid implementation delays, a road map was endorsed in August 2022 to guide the peace process and elections.

In December 2022, the government reconstituted key bodies, including the National Constitutional Review Commission and the National Electoral Commission, as a precursor to elections. However, both entities face financial challenges, with the National Constitutional Review Commission yet to receive any funding.

These financial problems are a major obstacle. While the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Council, a body tasked with promoting political dialogue and cooperation, have received some funding, it is insufficient for full operations. International stakeholders, including the United Nations, the African Union and the EU, had expected the government to finance the elections, but ongoing delays have left international bodies advising and encouraging the government from the sidelines, concerned about the lack of progress.



South Sudanese voters are slated to go to the polls in December. But will they?

Oil revenue decline, economic hardships

Rich in oil resources yet extremely poor, South Sudan is currently confronted with a significant decline in its capacity to finance electoral processes. This decline stems primarily from a sharp reduction in oil revenues, compounded by economic hardships and the diversion of resources by the ruling elite.

At independence in 2011, and prior to the conflict that began two years later, South Sudan's daily oil exports stood at 300,000 barrels. However, ongoing conflict and infrastructure damage have led to a steady decline in production, with current exports reduced to approximately 150,000 barrels per day. Projections indicate a continued halving of production roughly every five years. Factors exacerbating South Sudan's oil revenue decline include volatile global oil prices, internal instability and poor-quality crude oil.

Prospective investors are further deterred by war-damaged oil wells and the logistical and political complexities associated with exporting oil through neighboring Sudan. Major oil export disruptions were noted after a disastrous rupture on the crucial

pipeline responsible for ferrying landlocked South Sudan's crude oil to the Red Sea hub of Port Sudan for global export. The rupture occurred during fighting between Sudan's warring parties: the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The payment structure for oil proceeds dictates that private oil companies claim nearly 60% of production as their share, while neighboring Sudan also takes a significant portion based on agreements made during independence. Consequently, South Sudan receives revenue only from approximately 45,000 barrels out of the total daily production ranging from 150,000 to 170,000 barrels. It is from this limited allocation that the government funds 98% of the national budget.

Returnees, refugees pose humanitarian challenge

Additionally, the return of over 1 million South Sudanese since the signing of the 2018 peace agreement, along with thousands of refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan, has further stressed the humanitarian challenges that the young country faces amid economic hardships.

This includes South Sudanese who have been severely affected by the ongoing conflict in Sudan since April 2023. Moreover, alongside this humanitarian burden, there are still thousands of South Sudanese who remain in internally displaced persons camps awaiting a safe return to their communities.

While funding the elections is a

challenge, the true crisis lies in a profound lack of trust and confidence between the parties to the peace agreement.

Divisions among political kingpins

President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar - who represent the two main parties that would be competing in any election - share a complicated history and entrenched mistrust of each other that threatens the integrity of the entire electoral process.

The two have clashed and have been on opposing sides off and on since 2013, leading to civil war. Their complex relationship now threatens the integrity of the electoral process amid fears of ethnic tension.

Critical tasks such as the training and deployment of 33,000 security personnel remain unfinished, risking national stability. Ensuring nationwide election security is paramount; however, the absence of unified national security forces raises concerns about voter safety.

Unlike other post-conflict African countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the international community facilitated elections, South Sudan's transition depends solely on its current transitional government, mandated to lead until December 2024.

Despite South Sudan's political and security challenges, immediate steps can facilitate peaceful elections. Leadership dialogue, expedited funding and enhanced security mechanisms are essential. Meanwhile, regional and international stakeholders can be engaged to secure robust financial support and complete critical tasks. If a rumored joint ticket between Kiir and Machar materializes, it could potentially reunite the country and set a course for stability.

Eating seaweed might help prevent Parkinson's disease

By Marine Krzisch

EATING the seaweed *Ecklonia cava* may be able to slow down or prevent Parkinson's disease, according to a 2024 study.

Researchers found that antioxidants in the seaweed - which is often used in soups and salads in Asian cuisine - may protect our neurons from free radicals to prevent this debilitating disease.

Parkinson's is a condition that affects the nervous system, causing symptoms like shaking, stiffness and difficulty moving. It happens when neurons that produce dopamine - a chemical that helps control movement - start to die off in the brain. While Parkinson's is not itself fatal, it causes serious complications that can lead to death. Unfortunately, there is no cure yet.

But researchers have previously found links between dietary antioxidants and Parkinson's prevention. For

example, research has found that resveratrol - which is in many plants and fruits including red grapes, berries and peanuts - protected the neurons producing dopamine in the brain from death in several mouse models of Parkinson's disease.

Ellagic acid, -lipoic acid and myrtenal all improved learning and memory performance as well as neuromuscular coordination in mouse models of Parkinson's. Ellagic acid is found in many fruits and vegetables including grapes, pomegranates, berries and nuts.

Myrtenal is found in various plants, such as hyssop and sage. And -lipoic acid is found in red meat, spinach and broccoli.

Several studies have suggested that drinking tea can help prevent Parkinson's disease. Although we don't really know how it works, some research suggests it is due to the antioxidants that tea contains.

Fighting free radicals

Our body produces harmful free radicals in response to environmental insults such as ultraviolet rays and air pollution. Free radicals are also a natural byproduct of normal processes in cells. Antioxidants are like bodyguards, protecting cells from the damage caused by free radicals. Our body naturally produces antioxidants but some foods, like *Ecklonia cava*, are rich in antioxidants and can supplement our naturally produced antioxidants to help our bodies battle free radical damage.

For the most recent study, based in Japan, researchers induced Parkinson's disease in mice using the pesticide rotenone. Rotenone kills the neurons that produce dopamine in the brain, which causes the mice to develop a disease that looks like Parkinson's, with similar symptoms, such as slower movement and impaired gastrointestinal motility (when there are problems moving food and waste through the digestive

tract).

Once the researchers induced Parkinson's in the mice, they fed some with antioxidants from *Ecklonia cava* and some with a regular diet. They found that the neurons producing dopamine in the brain of the mice fed with antioxidants seemed to be protected. Also, those mice had fewer Parkinson's symptoms than the mice fed with the regular diet.

The researchers also looked at the effect of antioxidants in cells grown in a dish and exposed to rotenone. Rotenone increases the production of free radicals, killing the cells.

The researchers found that antioxidants decreased the production of free radicals induced by rotenone in the cells, preventing cell death. This research opens up the possibility of using *Ecklonia cava* polyphenols - plant compounds with antioxidant properties - to develop new treatments and prevention methods for Parkinson's.

Lost in translation?

Unfortunately, results from studies on animal models and cells are not always translatable to humans. For example, despite the protective action of another antioxidant, vitamin C, found in cells and animal models to protect against Parkinson's, it does not seem to have the same effect in humans.

This is because animal and cell models do not completely mimic Parkinson's disease in humans. Animals have different brain structures and functions compared to humans, which means the way the disease develops and progresses can be different. On the other hand, cell models, even if researchers use human cells, lack complexity.

Swimming, sailing, even just building a sandcastle - the ocean benefits our physical and mental wellbeing. Curious about how a strong coastal connection helps drive marine conservation, scientists are diving in to investigate the

power of blue health.

Parkinson's disease affects the entire brain and body, involving many different types of cells and interactions. Cell models usually focus on a single type of cell, missing out on this complexity.

Parkinson's disease develops over many years, with symptoms changing over time. Cell and animal models cannot easily replicate this long-term progression. For example, the maximum lifespan of most laboratory mice is two years, whereas Parkinson's is thought to develop over decades.

In conclusion, robust large-scale clinical trials are needed to validate the efficacy of *Ecklonia cava* in preventing or slowing down Parkinson's. However, because *Ecklonia cava* is already available in food supplements, it probably does no harm to take it on a regular basis.

Will it prevent you from getting Parkinson's? Maybe, but so does regular exercise.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

In SA, patriarchal law cuts some women off from owning homes

By Nkateko Mabasa, Johannesburg

FOR more than a decade, Johanna Motlhamme has been fighting to get her family home back after it was sold from under her, leaving her and her four children without their rightful inheritance.

The 74-year-old's plight is one that has its roots in the racist laws that prevented Black people from owning land in apartheid South Africa, housing activists have said - a plight inadvertently worsened at the start of democracy when legislation seeking to repair the racial injustices created gender barriers instead.

"Thirty years after the end of apartheid, hundreds of thousands of Black families living in South Africa's urban townships are facing the same tenure insecurity and the threat of homelessness as they fiercely contest the ownership, occupation, control and rights to access so-called 'family homes'," legal rights group the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) said in a recent report (PDF).

Motlhamme's story goes back to 1977, when the then-27-year-old married her husband in community of property, meaning spouses share everything equally.

They moved into a small two-bedroom house in Soweto, a sprawling township southwest of Johannesburg, where Motlhamme lived until their divorce in 1991.

At the time, Black people in cities could at most secure long-term leases of their homes as the law sought to keep the country's majority population landless.

By the time apartheid was defeated in 1994, the government had introduced new legislation, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act 112 of 1991, which "aimed to provide a more secure form of land tenure to Africans who, under the apartheid regime, had precarious land rights", according to SERI.

The act upgraded the property rights of Black long-term leaseholders, allowing them to finally own their homes. But there was a caveat. "By legislative provision, only a man, considered the head of the family, could hold the [property] permit," SERI said.

In a decision housing activists have said was rooted in "patriarchal customary succession norms", the new law effectively pushed wives, sisters, mothers and daughters out of inheriting.

For Motlhamme, although she owned 50 percent of her township home by right and according to the terms of her divorce, the

Upgrading Act did not enable a way to reflect that. So when her ex-husband registered the house in 2000, sole ownership went to him.

Three years later, he remarried and his new wife moved in. Motlhamme, who had not lived in the house since the divorce, did not manage to discuss the ownership details with him before he died in 2013. Then everything changed.

"My three siblings and I were kicked out when our father died. His second wife later sold the house," Motlhamme's eldest son Elliot Maimane, 50, told Al Jazeera.

"When it first happened it caused a commotion."

As a result of the property laws, Motlhamme did not have the title deed and the property permit did not list her as an owner - so the family could not stop the sale.

"[Motlhamme] was excluded from being the bearer of occupation rights in terms of the permit on the basis of her sex," court papers filed by SERI said.

The legal group, which is helping Motlhamme fight for her home in court in Johannesburg, believes "discrimination was perpetuated" by the adoption of the Upgrading Act.

Placing women outside the law In 2018, South Africa's Constitutional Court came to a similar conclusion when it ruled over a separate case regarding women's insecure land rights in the townships.

The Court declared section 2 (1) of the Upgrading Act relating to gender and property inheritance to be "constitutionally invalid" and "without government purpose".

It noted that when the legislation first came into force in 1991, it assumed a man headed any household and therefore had a right of ownership - which is a violation of women's rights - and it ordered amendments to the act.

The Court also ordered parliament to add an adjudication process whereby affected women or people already living in a house could make submissions even if their names were not on the property permit or title deed.

As a result, on the eve of this May's general election, the government gazetted the Upgrading of Land Rights Tenure Amendment Act of 2021, to come into effect a week after the polls. But people who have lost their homes still face a long road to justice.

In Johannesburg, social services continue to be inundated by people struggling with housing



issues.

Busisiwe Nkala-Dlamini, the head of the School of Human Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, which offers free social work and therapy services in the city, said most clients seek out their services for housing disputes in the townships.

Such disputes have become "very common" and usually involve "women who face evictions" and prolonged court disputes, she said.

Nkala-Dlamini often refers her clients to the legal clinic at the university for assistance.

"Women's property rights are not sufficiently recognised by the state for both single or married women in family homes," said Nerishka Singh, a gender specialist and legal researcher at SERI Women's Spaces project.

"Customary law has placed women outside the law" and "many in the townships are often surprised when they receive an eviction notice from a family member to vacate a family home they've lived in their whole lives," she added.

"Not for sale" Thirty-nine-year-old Lebo Baloyi was also blindsided by the loss of her family home more than a decade ago.

The property - a government-issued two-bedroom home in Soweto - was previously registered to her father.

Baloyi was expecting to inherit the house from her mother, who should have shared ownership with him.

"My husband, Paul, and I had even started renovating the

house. We had added back rooms to live in the time we were living with my mother," she told Al Jazeera.

But when her mother passed away in 2009, "my half-sister moved into the house and later, we fought", about who legally gets to inherit the property, she said.

After a series of what seemed like endless court litigations, Baloyi decided to bow out. "I decided to leave rather than fight with my sister," she added, now living some 20km (12 miles) away in the Johannesburg suburb of Melville.

Motlhamme's son Maimane bemoaned the change of the law decades ago, which, despite giving Black people more rights, has caused many problems in families and communities, he feels.

"When the law changed, then people started having issues with title deeds," he said.

"If you walk around Soweto, you'll see houses written 'Not for Sale' because of the title deeds issue. The system caused this era we are living in where family members fight about a house."

There are "quite a number of people going through the same problem in Soweto," he added.

SERI's August report, A Gendered Analysis of Family Homes in South Africa, highlighted cases where customary law succession is in dispute with the right to equality.

"Women and children are disproportionately at risk of losing their tenure security or being rendered homeless in evictions," the report said.

The Upgrading Act essentially "subjected black families to a 'crude version of customary suc-

cession' in terms of which inheritance in black people was determined largely through 'a blanket rule of male primogeniture'," it added.

The result of this has been a system that "edified and bolstered the rights of men over family homes, largely to the detriment of women", the report said.

"We want our childhood home" The Land Rights Restitution Act of 1994, which legislated a Land Commission to adjudicate land claims, has been the government's major policy lever to redistribute land.

In a government newsletter, the newly separated Department of Agriculture and Department of Land Reform and Rural Development reported 3.8 million hectares (9.4 million acres) of land to have been returned to beneficiaries between 1998 to 2024.

Mzwanele Nyontso, the Land Reform and Rural Development minister, announced in a recent budget speech that the government had processed 83,205 land claims, benefitting more than 2 million people.

According to the minister, the department has spent 58 billion rand (\$3.2bn), between land transfers, financial compensation and grants, affecting more than 465 000 households.

However, rights groups, like civil organisation-Land Access Movement of South Africa (Lamosa), have previously taken the Land Commission to court over delays in processing land claims.

Inequality in Cape Town Under apartheid, Black South Africans were not allowed to own land [Nic Bothma/Reuters]

Confronted with historic restitution claims for marginalised groups who were displaced decades ago, the government now also faces gendered land tenure claims in the townships.

According to Carlize Knoesen, the chief registrar of deeds at the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, the Deeds Registries Amendment Bill, which is waiting to be signed into law by the president, will resolve current challenges.

The bill, which proposes an online deeds recording system, will assist people "who simply want their property rights recorded down somewhere before they pass," she said.

"We already have a transformative policy but it takes time," added Knoesen, highlighting that on average it takes five years for a bill to become law in South Africa.

Meanwhile, while the government and the courts deliberate, families who have lost their homes are disheartened and growing impatient.

Maimane wants the court to settle the matter of Motlhamme's ownership of the family house as soon as possible.

"The system was not fair, it was one-sided. It gave all authorisation to my dad and excluded my mother," he said. "If it had been equal, then things would not have turned out this way."

As for his mother, Maimane says that "she wants to see her kids living in the house and for the house to be returned to its rightful owner."

"We just want everything back to normal. We want to have our childhood home back."

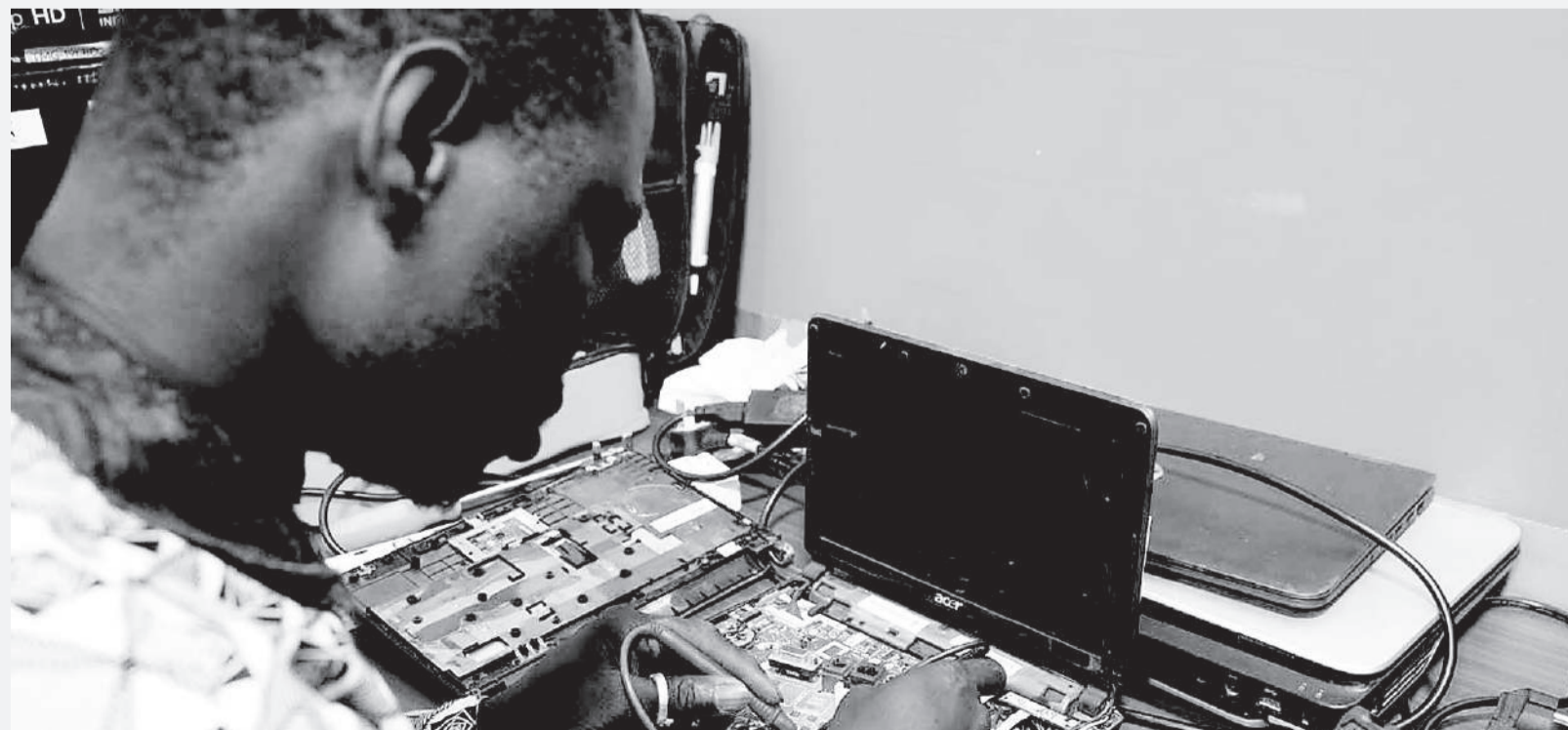
Programme names 30 SMEs to get aid to scale up circular economy solutions

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB)-supported AfriCircular Innovators Programme has selected 30 small and medium enterprises to receive financing and technical assistance to scale up circular economy initiatives. This inaugural cohort, drawn from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Rwanda, participated in an online onboarding event on August 9, 2024.

The AfriCircular Innovators Programme, funded by the African Development Bank's Africa Circular Economy Facility (ACEF) and being implemented in partnership with the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA), aims to support innovative circular economy solutions that foster sustainable and inclusive growth. MSMEs represent 80 percent of Africa's businesses, while the circular economy in Africa has the potential to generate 11 million jobs.

The 30 selected enterprises will receive support to scale their circular initiatives within the five "big bets", the sectors identified by ACEA for their high potential in job creation and economic growth: packaging, food systems, built environ-



Upcyclers, a web-based marketplace digitalizing the e-waste value chain, is a Ghanaian enterprise selected as one of 30 beneficiaries in the first cohort of the African Development Bank-supported AfriCircular Innovators Programme

ment, electronics, fashion and textile.

Among the beneficiaries are enterprises developing smart energy metering, reimagining the construction industry using coconut husks, transforming plastic waste into durable construction blocks, and digitalizing the collection and process-

ing of e-waste.

Ndintambwe Feeds Limited, a Rwandan company that produces affordable animal feeds using insects and maggots as an environmentally-friendly alternative to soybean and fishmeal, is one of the selected businesses. Speaking at the event, the

founder, Jean Bosco Nshutiimana said, "As an SME, we face numerous challenges. The biggest ones include limited financial capacity to fully implement our project, and the lack of required skills to sustain a profitable recycling business without harming the environment."

Koumbem Fatou Emilienne, representative of Siboré Luxury Hair, another beneficiary, said, "Joining AfriCircular's Innovators Programme offers a valuable opportunity for Siboré Luxury Hair, aligned with our commitment to sustainability. Through this program, we will benefit from the expertise and resources needed to optimize our production processes, and reduce waste and improve energy efficiency. Financial support and access to cutting-edge technologies will strengthen our production capacity and positive environmental impact."

The AfriCircular Innovators Programme aligns with the African Development Bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa (JfYA) Strategy. With Africa's youth population set to double to over 830 million by 2050, harnessing this demographic dividend is vital for economic growth, against a backdrop of persisting high unemployment and underemployment.

ACEF, as the sole Multi-Donor Trust Fund dedicated to mainstreaming the circular economy in Africa, strategically finances initiatives that drive inclusive and green growth, optimize resource efficiency, foster innovation, and create sustainable job opportunities.

Rhino population crash: African parks embark on critical conservation to protect 2,000 of the species

By Simon Espley

AS I scraped the early morning winter frost from my tent, I could not help but wonder if this was a suitable place for white rhinos. And yet, here, a short drive from Johannesburg, resides the world's largest private herd of white rhinos. The 2,000-strong herd of Ceratotherium simum on a farm on South Africa's highveld represents 12 percent of the remaining wild population.

One hour later, I was staggering backward across a tussocked grass paddock, hauling on a thick rope attached to a blindfolded 2.2-ton rhino. Muscles screaming and short of breath, I kept a keen eye on this beast as he tottered unsteadily a few meters away.

Thirty minutes earlier, our team of eight had watched from the back of a bakkie (pickup truck) as a vet darted the rhino with an immobilizing drug cocktail from a hovering helicopter. Then, a horseback rider herded the rhino to a clear area while the tranquilizer took effect. The rhino's indignant trot turned to a slow, determined walk with comical goosesteps before he stumbled onto his side. Then it was "Go, go, go!" as we sped to the scene and clambered out.

I watched as the experienced team sprang into action, administered a partial antidote, tested vitals, lubricated his eyes, and wrapped a blindfold over that massive head. Clipboards were rapidly filled up with data specific to our rhino. Within minutes, the horns (one large and one small) were removed with a chainsaw and signed for by an armed guard for safekeeping and subsequent secure offsite storage.

Why the rhino population crash?

It's worth spending a few moments contextualizing the worldwide rhino population crash at the hands of humankind, the backstory to my tale. Following the publication of naturalist William John Burchell's drawings of the southern white in 1817, European hunters, armed with increasingly effective rifles, decimated the species across Southern Africa.

"That the mortality due to man was not negligible is made quite clear by the very few hunters who put pen to paper recording for instance, the destruction of eighty animals by two men in one hunting season alone, or the slaughter of eight at a water hole in a single day," celebrated rhino conservationist Ian Player wrote for the Natal Parks Service magazine in 1960. By the early 1900s, there were fewer than 100 left.

In 1895, Umfolozi Junction Reserve, today known as Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, was established specifically to save the white rhino from hunting. By the 1950s, the population had grown to more than 400. In 1960, Player began translocating groups of white rhinos to protected areas throughout their historic Southern African range. "Operation Rhino" was a spectacular success, seeing the population grow to about 20,000 by 2010.

But by 2012, a new wave of poaching threatened the species. Rhinos living in national parks were worst affected, with private landowners being better-resourced to protect their rhinos. Rhino deaths started outnumbering births, and the current population estimate of white rhinos is 16,803.

The killings are driven by rhino horn being consid-



The translocation team leads a sedated rhino to a crate and its journey to a new home.

ered a status symbol by wealthy Vietnamese and Chinese citizens, leading to hyped-up prices and stockpiling. In traditional Chinese medicine, rhino horn is often touted as a cure for cancer and other life-threatening diseases – all medically unproven claims. Rhino horn consists of keratin, the same stuff as nails and hair.

A coterie of underground criminal syndicates (drugs, terrorism, weapons and human trafficking) have jumped on the bandwagon to benefit from the poaching and trafficking operations. The inevitable result of this is the eradication of rhinos over much of their historic range and the significant reduction in recent years of the stronghold populations in Southern Africa.

The growing role of private rhino owners, who likely now conserve more than 50% of Africa's rhinos, is an important one. Their contribution has been enabled by a supportive policy and economic environment, but this arrangement is becoming more difficult to sustain as costs associated with protecting rhinos against poaching skyrocket and revenue-generating options become insufficient.

The world's largest rhino-breeding farm

The precarious status of rhinos prompted wealthy property developer John Hume to establish a large rhino-breeding operation on a highveld farm. He planned to sell their horns (which can be regularly harvested without harming the animal), with the hope that this would displace the demand for poached rhino horn.

This extremely successful breeding operation had a few flaws that ultimately

drove Hume to financial ruin. The straight-line logic of Hume's model was naive in the face of today's rampant illegal wildlife trafficking industry that uses legal channels to launder animal parts. But Hume's biggest gamble was that CITES, the global wildlife trade convention, would permit international sales of rhino horn. This didn't happen, despite enormous pressure being brought to bear on CITES by his legal team, alongside an active "sustainable use" lobby and rhino owners who have faced mounting security costs directly as a result of poaching. After hanging in there for as long as possible, Hume sold his farm and rhinos to African Parks, a South Africa-based nonprofit that manages protected areas across the continent. Under the deal, Hume retains ownership of a large store of harvested horns.

African Parks has now launched a project to rewrite the farmed rhinos. Some will go to reserves managed by African Parks itself, and others will go to other well-managed reserves, such as those in the Greater Kruger region of South Africa.

Back to my first rhino of that day: the next procedure was to notch his ears to make it easier to identify him. Of course, blood was involved, but I was assured the procedure is relatively painless – a bit like human ear piercing. Finally, small tracking devices were attached to his ears to keep tabs on his movement.

Once all 32 rhinos were successfully crated that day, ownership was transferred from African Parks to the new owners for the road trip of a lifetime: to freedom in the wild. The new owners fund the rhino translocation, with African Parks donating the rhinos. In this case, the rhinos were destined for the Greater Kruger, a coalition of private nature reserves sharing the unfenced western border of the massive Kruger National Park.

Will the rhinos be safe in their new home?

The predictable question for these rhinos is: Will they be safe from poaching? These private nature reserves maintain expensive and effective anti-poaching operations, with excellent results.

Rhinos usually don't move far from a good source of food and water, so most of these translocated rhinos aren't expected to wander too far into the adjoining Kruger National Park, which has a higher poaching rate. Despite immense dedication from the rangers and management of the national park, this is a vast wilderness with multiple entry points, making it challenging to secure.

Also, arrested poachers often walk free due to endemic corruption at all levels, including in South Africa's law enforcement agencies. The white rhino population in Kruger has declined from an estimated 10,621 in 2011 to 1,850 in 2022 – a massive crash of 83% in 11 years. There's little doubt that some of these translocated rhinos will be poached; it's a reality that stares us all in the face as pragmatic conservation decisions are made in the interest of the species.

So we headed out in convoy from the farm: four large trucks carrying 32 rhinos, and several escort vehicles with contracted security personnel bristling with weapons.

Seventeen hours later, we reached a private nature reserve in the stunning Greater Kruger bushveld with an excellent anti-poaching record and suitable white rhino habitat.

The rhinos were released into a boma, a small, fenced-off area that would serve as the rhinos' home for a period of recovery and habituation while a team monitored their health. After that close surveillance period, the boma walls would be dropped and the rhinos released into the wild. As the last rhino left its crate and explored the boma in the warm lowveld, there was a collective sigh of relief and appreciation by all present at the sight of 32 content rhinos ambling around.

"Our aim is to de-risk rhinos by establishing up to 20 subpopulations across the continent, each with no fewer than 50 rhinos," said Don Jooste, manager of African Parks' Rhino Rewild project, whose framework was developed with external rhino specialists to determine the requirements for potential recipient areas.

"To be rhino-ready, potential recipient areas submit a proposal that is reviewed by African Parks and the Rhino Rewild Advisory Committee. The proposal has to cover habitat assessment, security measures and assessment, country regulatory support, and the recipient's financial and management ability. Approved areas are subjected to a site visit, after which translocation logistics are planned and implemented."

"Of course, some of the introduced rhinos will die from one or more of the above threats. But the majority will survive and, in so doing, play a vital role in ensuring the ongoing survival of white rhinos in the wild," Haussmann said.

"From my perspective, Rhino Rewild satisfies two different objectives with vastly different implications and requirements. Firstly, the welfare of these farmed rhinos is important. It's no secret that funding for the farm had dried up and that the previous owner was cutting corners. When African Parks took over this farm, its experts assessed each rhino and had to implement strict measures to improve the herd's health.

"Secondly, this private herd represents vital genetics and significant numbers to bolster the wild rhino population. I see Rhino Rewild as marrying those two objectives. Yes, there will be deaths once these rhinos are released into the harsh world governed by Mother Nature, but the benefits far outweigh the risks. It's the same with all rewilding projects. Lessons will be learned from this pioneering project that will power African conservation. This is about hope. Hope for open ecosystems, rhino populations and these individual rhinos."

The tale of one of the younger rhinos released into the Greater Kruger a few weeks earlier demonstrates the seriousness with which Greater Kruger and African Parks treat the welfare of the rhinos in their new destinations. During the final inspection before release, she was found to have lacerations around her eyes. The vets were not sure of the cause of the damage, but they stitched her up shortly before her release. Within days, she was separated from her mother, cornered and attacked by a clan of hyenas, and then subsequently also attacked by a dominant wild rhino bull.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 162 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 9794 // felixmagezin@gmail.com

16. an edible starchy tuber
17. a builder and worker in stone
18. one's father
19. begin a voyage
21. having no legs
23. Hebrew word "forever"

Down:

1. system of words or symbols used to represent others
2. said at the end of prayers by Christians
3. a member of nomadic people of Siberia
4. whichever of a specified class might be chosen
5. Accept 6. a fruit shaped like an elongated melon, with edible orange flesh and small black seeds
7. Opposition leader in South Africa
12. the members of a household
13. headlands
15. flowers
17. the natural satellite of the earth
18. request made in an urgent and emotional manner
20. unwell
22. shilling

Across:

1. Largest country in North America
8. an event regarded as a portent of good/evil
9. military commander during Ottoman
10. refuse to admit the truth
11. east-north-east
12. a threat or danger
14. a woody perennial plant

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

PESETA	CRAPE	NEUTER
RIOTERS	AIDE :ALL	OLD
ASHRAM	NOISES	ASK
ETE	TEETH	AMEN
AGO: GE	ADIEU	CAN

Yesterday's solution

M	A	I	S	L	O	W	H	O	T	H	O	M	E		
O	V	E	R	T	A	K	E	A	O	L	I	V	E		
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E	E	T	O	C	A	E	R	S	L	Y					

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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BUSINESS

Private equity investments in Africa drop significantly

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN and international private equity players invested \$900 million in African companies during the first half of 2024, the African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (AVCA) reported.

This amount marks a 66 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. However, West Africa saw a 3 percent increase in investments.

From January 1 to June 30, 2024, there were 182 transactions across the continent, representing a 17 percent decline from the previous year.

The "Q2 2024 Private Capital in Africa Report" attributes the decline in both value and volume of transactions to ongoing macroeconomic uncertain-

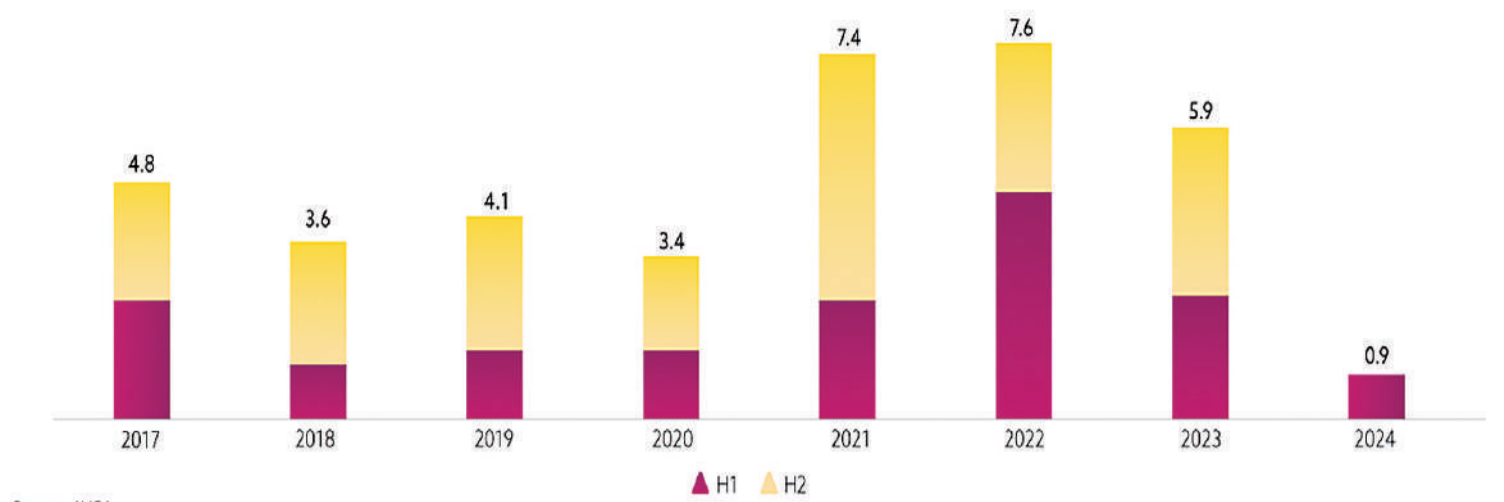
ties. These include persistent restrictive monetary policies, high inflation, and geopolitical tensions, which have led many industry players to adopt a more cautious approach and make smaller investments.

"In the first half of 2024, African economies braved through yet another challenging macroeconomic environment, a global trend that has been persistent in recent years," the report notes.

In this context, the African private capital industry recorded 182 deals with a cumulative value of US\$0.9bn, representing a 17 percent YoY decline in volume and a 66 percent YoY decline in value.

While deal volumes kept the pace at 83 percent of H1 2023 levels, the value

Figure 2b: Total Value of Private Capital Deals in Africa, by Year, H1 vs H2, US\$bn



Source: AVCA

of these deals fell short of the levels reported in H1 2023. Q1 2024 kicked off to a slow start, recording US\$0.5bn in deal values, which declined further by 27 percent in Q2 2024.

Notably, transactions over \$100 million fell by 91 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2024. Conversely, transactions under \$50 million accounted for 88 percent of the total investment value. Consequently, the average transaction size decreased from \$20 million in 2023 to just \$8 million in the first half of 2024.

In terms of regional investment distribution, West and East Africa together received 60 percent of the transaction value, with each region accounting for 30 percent. Southern Africa followed with 10 percent, North Africa with 9 per-

cent, and Central Africa with just 1 percent.

Additionally, 20 percent of investments were made in companies operating in Africa but based in other regions of the world.

The sectoral breakdown shows that the financial services sector captured 39 percent of the total transaction value, followed by the industrial sector (12 percent), consumer staples (10 percent), information technology (10 percent), communications services (7 percent), and utilities (6 percent).

The report also notes that Africa-focused fund managers raised a total of \$1.3 billion in the first half of 2024. This amount includes \$1 billion from final closes and \$300 million from interim closes. This period proved particularly challeng-

ing for new fund managers entering the African market, with none achieving a final close.

In addition, private equity firms in Africa executed 22 exits in the first half of 2024, compared to 17 exits during the same period last year.

In a cooling market, fund managers have relied on established exit strategies. The most common exit route remains sales to trade buyers, followed by asset sales to other private equity firms, management buy-outs, and initial public offerings (IPOs).

CRDB calls on churches, mosques to mobilise deposits

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to mobilise deposits, CRDB Bank has launched a special account product aimed at making it easier for members of religious organizations to remit donations, tithes, offering and contributions directly.

This initiative allows individuals to support their religious institutions without needing to donate through churches, mosques, or other religious entities, streamlining the process of giving.

This new service targets religious organizations as part of CRDB's broader strategy to boost deposits, recognizing the significant financial role these institutions play within their communities.

Speaking at the product launch yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Chesco Msaga, Deputy Secretary of the Tanzania Episcopal Council (TEC), emphasized the importance of donations in religious practice.

He noted that this initiative serves as a reminder to believers to give to God as a way of supporting the global spread of their faith.

"Human life is incomplete without worship and giving, as directed by the Bible. I commend the bank for this innovative solution," Msaga said.

He also highlighted the need for Christians to embrace technological advancements, such as this initiative, to strengthen their connection to God through donations and contributions, which are fundamental to religious practice.

Sheikh Halal Shaweji, repre-

senting Mufti Dr. Abubakary Zubery Bin Ally, echoed similar sentiments on behalf of the Muslim community.

He stated that the innovation would make it easier for Muslims to fulfill the religious obligation of giving, which is one of the pillars of Islam.

"We are commanded to give to those in need and to support the spread of Islam. This innovative solution will simplify our ability to meet these fundamental obligations. There is no need to distance ourselves from God," Sheikh Shaweji said.

CRDB Bank Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela reiterated

the bank's commitment to innovation and meeting the needs of customers from all sectors, including cultural and faith-based communities.

"The scriptures tell us that humans were created to glorify their Creator. This is our lifelong responsibility, and we are continually reminded to give thanks. Our goal at CRDB is to meet the diverse needs of our customers. To achieve this, we have been developing innovative financial solutions that support investment and savings," Nsekela said.

He added that the bank had already established the Al Baraka, the Shariah-compliant financial product, which serves the needs of all religious followers and institutions.

"The growth of digital technology has

significantly reduced the reliance on cash. CRDB Bank recognizes the importance of entering churches and mosques by offering believers alternative channels for giving donations," he said.

Nsekela emphasized that, given the important role religious institutions play in the community and in safeguarding businesses, the new product is designed to cater to people of all faiths.

"A church or mosque that opens this account will provide its members with a simple way to make donations or contributions by transferring funds from their accounts to the religious institution's account. There will be no charges or fees, and receipts can be sent directly to the church or mosque," he explained.

EU launches 'green', smart cities programme in Pemba

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

THE European Union (EU) and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar have officially launched the Green and Smart Cities SASA Programme in Pemba.

The 190bn/- (EUR 75 million) programme, funded by the EU, is part of the broader Team Europe Initiative, which also includes member states and their institutions.

The programme aims to boost green infrastructure investments and stimulate local economic growth across Mwanza, Tanga, and Pemba, in order to improve living standards by enhancing environmental sustainability and creating economic opportunities.

The launch ceremony took place in Pemba, with Zanzibar's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resource and Livestock Shamata Shaame Khamis and EU Ambassador to Tanzania, Christine Grau, in attendance.

The event was also graced by senior government officials from various ministries, including the main partner ministry, the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), as well as local authorities.

In Pemba, the Green and Smart Cities SASA Programme focuses on three key projects including KI-JANI PEMBA, PURE, and INCLU-CITIES.

These projects, with a combined budget of 17.5bn/-

(EUR 6 million) are being implemented by the NGOs LVIA and OIKOS, alongside the Belgian development agency ENABEL.

The projects aim to enhance urban infrastructure, improve basic services such as water and waste management, and create economic opportunities for youth, women, and small businesses in sectors like seaweed farming and waste recycling.

"I am very happy to officially celebrate with you all the start of these initiatives and reaffirm our commitment to achieving tangible results soon. We aim to improve the work of your institutions, the environment where you live, and the lives of your families, children, youth, and women," said



The EU's Ambassador to Tanzania, Christine Grau speaks at the launch of a smart cities programme in Pemba. Photo: Office of EU Delegation in Tanzania

Ambassador Grau.

"In one or two years, we expect to see schools with better conditions for your children, communities with improved public spaces, less waste, better water supply and sanitation, reduced flooding, and safer,

more efficient markets."

The projects under this programme will support the development of urban infrastructure, including schools, markets, and public spaces, while also enhancing essential services like water supply and waste

management in selected urban areas of North and South Pemba.

Additionally, the initiative will help create economic opportunities in key sectors, empowering local communities, especially youth and women.

As part of the launch activities, Ambassador Grau will visit several EU-supported sites across Pemba, including schools, training and processing facilities, and the Ngezi forest reserve.

These visits will provide an opportunity to witness firsthand the positive impacts of EU-funded projects on local communities.

Additionally, Ambassador Grau will meet with Members of Parliament from the region, civil society representatives, NGOs, religious leaders, and the private sector to discuss the EU's partnership with Tanzania and Zanzibar and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

The EU supports Tanzania and Zanzibar development plans through the Global Europe MIP (2021-2027), with a €426 million allocation for the initial period, with three priority areas including green deals, human capital and employment and governance.

VP urges bank to spread insurance coverage to road users

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

VICE President has urged NMB Bank to extend its reach to a larger audience to provide education on insurance, particularly targeting operators and users of motor vehicles.

Dr. Mpango made the directives on Monday during his visit at the bank's exhibition booth as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the National Road Safety Council held at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

In collaboration with Sanlam and Reliance Insurance Company Tanzania Ltd, the bank served as the main sponsor for the celebrations, marking the third consecutive year of their sponsorship.

The VP emphasized the impor-

ance of insurance for motor vehicle users, noting that many people lack adequate knowledge about its significance.

He stated that the bank has the capacity to reach more Tanzanians as it is a trusted institution.

"Many people don't see the value of insurance. If nothing happens in the first to fourth year, they tend to drop it. The bank can effectively handle this task. I urge you to take it on because the protection of a motor vehicle lies in insurance, and nothing else," said Dr. Mpango.

He pointed out that some perceive that insurance primarily benefits banks and companies, which is not true. He urged for more educational initiatives, particularly targeting motorcycle operators known as



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango presents an award to the NMB bank's head of Bancassurance, Martine Massawe (2nd-L) in recognition to its contribution towards the success of the Road safety week exhibition and 50 years commemoration of the National Road Safety Council. Left is the Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bodaboda, declaring the bank as an appropriate partner for this effort.

Martine Massawe, bank's head of Bancassurance, explained that the bank offers a system enabling motor vehicle users to purchase insurance at affordable rates.

Massawe mentioned that the bank offers insurance starting at as little as 200/- per month, with motor vehicle users encouraged to take up policies from 10,000/- -- a feasible amount for this group.

According to Massawe, the bank has engaged in discussions with driver associations in the country, with positive outcomes as many have already enrolled in vehicle and life insurance policies. He affirmed the bank's commitment to intensifying its education efforts.

Massawe also highlighted the priority given to Road Safety Week, which underscores their continued sponsorship for three years.

The role of mobile money in reducing remittance costs

By Stephen Chege

IN an increasingly interconnected world, multi-currency and multinational remittances play a crucial role in the financial ecosystem of many countries. According to the World Bank, remittances to low and middle-income countries reached US\$669 billion in 2023 with one billion people involved as remittance senders or receivers.

With the high cost of living and macroeconomic climate, these funds are a lifeline for migrants and their families, supporting essential needs, such as healthcare, education, and housing, allowing recipients to weather economic shocks.

Despite the significant impact of remittances, the cost of sending remittances remains high, percent of the amount sent. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most expensive region to send money to, at 7.39 percent.

This is more than twice the target set by the United Nations'

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries by lowering remittance costs to less than 3 percent by 2030.

Traditional remittance channels, such as banks and money transfer operators (MTOs), although safe, often involve high transaction fees and unfavourable exchange rates. These costs disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations who rely on remittances for their daily needs.

High fees and unfavourable exchange rates discourage financially vulnerable persons from using formal remittance means and resort instead to informal means which are often unsafe.

Furthermore, the process of using traditional remittance channels can be time-consuming and inconvenient, requiring recipients to travel to physical locations to collect money.

Mobile money services have gained traction in many parts of



the world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, where many people don't have access to traditional banking services. For example, over the past year, M-Pesa processed 33.7 billion transactions, worth US\$381.2 billion. Leveraging remittance services as part of this mobile money ecosystem has become a game-changer, offering a streamlined, cost-effective solution.

With mobile money, remittances can be transferred directly between individuals' mobile wallets, making it more efficient and affordable. This method is not only faster but also significantly cheaper.

The World Bank highlights that when sending US\$200 to low- to middle-income countries, mobile money providers remained the least costly at

3.45 percent - aligning more closely with SDG 10, compared to banks at 11 percent.

Additionally, the accessibility of mobile money makes it easier for those living in rural and underserved areas to receive remittances safely in lieu of receiving the remittances through informal means.

This reduction in costs translates directly into tangible benefits for remittance recipients. More money reaches its intended destination, empowering individuals and families, who can save and invest in education, healthcare, and small business ventures.

Moreover, lower remittance costs can stimulate economic activity at a local level, driving consumption and fostering entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction and socioeconomic development.

In many African countries, there has been a significant uptake of mobile-enabled remittances. In Kenya, for example, M-Pesa processed more than 90 percent of all remittances into the country in FY24. In Lesotho, remittances are an important contributor to the economy, making up 23.7 percent of the country's GDP (World Bank, 2022).

Mobile money services such as M-Pesa are increasingly becoming the preferred means of receiving remittances in Lesotho. Despite this potential, challenges remain. Enabling people and small and medium sized businesses on the continent to "roam" with their wallets and transfer money seamlessly across borders from one wallet to another, is crucial for maximising the advantages of mobile money.

Harmonising regulations across different jurisdictions can facilitate cross-border remittances and reduce costs for marginalised communities. There is an opportunity for the private sector to work together with govern-

ments and regulators to create a supportive environment that encourages innovation and competition while ensuring consumer protection against risks, such as cyber fraud.

We cannot ignore that a digital divide still exists in Africa. Only 37 percent of the population had access to internet services in 2023, according to a report by the International Telecommunications Union, and smartphones are unaffordable for many.

Investments in digital infrastructure, driving down the cost of devices and expanding financial literacy programmes are essential to drive inclusion so that mobile-enabled remittances can reach all segments of society, including those in remote and marginalised communities.

In addressing these challenges, a collaborative effort is needed. Policymakers, financial institutions, and technology providers must work together to unlock the full potential of mobile money, enhancing sustainable development and improving the lives of millions worldwide.

In South Africa, for example, strides are being made by the Reserve Bank to accelerate the pace of adoption and use of digital payments through high-level action plans, such as achieving interoperability in partnership with MTOs and digital payment providers.

Mobile money is a powerful tool that can make remittances more affordable, accessible, and efficient, ensuring that more money reaches those who need it most. As we strive to create a more equitable and inclusive digital economy, embracing mobile money is not just an option but an imperative.

Stephen Chege (pictured) is the chief regulatory & external affairs at Vodacom Group

Project backs farmers on sustainable rice farming adoption

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbalali

IT has been stated that the estimated average amount of rice consumed by a Tanzanian is about 25.8 kilograms per year, according to statistics provided by the Agriculture Trust Institute.

Speaking at a meeting of rice farmers from the Madibira Scheme in Mbeya region, the Acting Director of Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT), Geoffrey Rwiza, said that in East Africa, rice is an important crop for food security and a popular dish at every celebration or important event.

He stated that in Kenya, the average consumption of rice per person is 14 kilograms per year, while in Uganda an average is 8 kilograms per year.

He explained that rice consumption in East African countries exceeds local production, with Kenya and Uganda being major importers of rice, and the demand for rice is increasing.

In Tanzania, the agricultural sector is a significant driver of economic growth, poverty reduction, and ensuring national food security. The economic impact due to climate change effects on agriculture is estimated at US\$ 200 million annually.

The rice sector has production systems that largely contribute to climate change. For example, flooded rice paddies produce methane gas, while rice straw and husks also emit this gas when they decompose.

Additionally, burning straw and husks emit carbon dioxide.

"Excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides has been applied beyond recommended levels, causing environmental impacts. Therefore, farmers should use pesticides at the correct quantities and standards," Rwiza advised.

"The increase in climate-smart agriculture methods offers opportunities to reduce such impacts, build resilience in the agricultural sector, improve production and farmers' incomes, and contribute to combating climate change," Rwiza added.

He explained that the Rikolto organization, in collaboration with the Tanzania Research Institute (TARI) and the Rice Council of Tanzania, is implementing a project to mobilize rice farmers and stakeholders in the Madibira Scheme, under Madibira AMCOS.

The project, funded by DGD, aims to help farmers adopt sustainable rice production principles based on the global rice production platform standards.

Rwiza stated that the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) is promoting



Mvomero district executive director Linno Mwangeni (2nd L) and other officials inspect rice-based items made by Mvomero farmers. Left Geoffrey Rwiza, acting director of the Rice Council of Tanzania. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

the consumption of rice that adheres to good agricultural practices by highlighting the health and environmental benefits. Producers are also encouraged to market the qualities of the rice they produce.

Irene Shobe, from the Rikolto organization in Madibira, Mbalali district, Mbeya region, said that Rikolto is involved in promoting sustainable rice farming practices that take into account environmental conservation for rice farmers.

She mentioned that they work with the Rice Council to help farmers find markets by connecting farmers who follow good and resilient production practices with buyers who value environmental conservation.

Irene said one of the strategies is to encourage the correct use of fertilizers in the Madibira agricultural scheme, where every farmer has tested their soil's health. As a result, each farmer knows how many bags of fertilizer their land requires.

"We emphasize good agricultural practices and the proper use of pesticides according to expert advice to meet the standards of good farming practices, ensuring that the crops produced are marketable," she added.

Revocatus Mpembelele, a farmer from the Madibira primary society, said he has benefited from the training provided by Rikolto, under the supervision of the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT).

He was trained on the importance of growing rice using quality seeds accepted in the market and was taught how to produce good seeds for his farming.

Recognizing the market demand for rice that uses minimal or no fertilizers, the program aims to meet this market need by producing rice through acceptable practices.

This approach not only brings marketable rice but also reduces production costs, protects the environment, and reduces greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, thereby slowing climate change.

"Our responsibility is to improve food security, income, employment, and nutrition while protecting the environment, ensuring sustainable production, and using the right amounts of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides," he said.

The rapid population growth, which is reducing the availability of land and water resources, must be offset by increasing rice production on the same land that

is being protected from salinity by draining excess water, using chemicals and fertilizers correctly, and following good production practices.

Project stakeholders are educating farmers about the dangers of improper or excessive use of production inputs, which can cause environmental pollution, environmental degradation, and reduce biodiversity in agricultural areas.

"The use of nitrogen fertilizers (CAN, SA, UREA, etc.) in rice production remains below 40 percent," he said, highlighting the need to apply the right amount of fertilizer, at the right time, in the right soil, and at the right season.

The imbalance in the use of nutrients remains a problem in many areas, reducing the ecological resilience of rice and its ability to naturally control rice pests.

Meeting specific market requirements for rice crops, while providing opportunities to increase farmers' income, offers new opportunities for sustainable management of rice production environments.

In Madibira, several steps have been taken, including soil health testing to determine what nutrients are needed, seed production and distribution using the UM-BEGU system, and buying seeds

from ASA agents to obtain quality crops.

Farmers are now leveling their fields to enable proper irrigation and drainage. Modern seedbeds, like the mat seedbed, are being used to increase the efficiency of transplanting crops in the fields.

At a meeting between farmers and a rice trader from Mbeya, the trader demonstrated the different types of rice available in the market and how consumers choose their rice.

He urged farmers to focus on the quality of their rice, especially harvesting at the right time and drying it properly.

He informed them that they already have a rice dryer in their cluster to help during the rainy season, preventing their rice from changing color.

He also mentioned that rice that breaks easily is often the result of improper fertilizer use. Therefore, farmers should apply fertilizers together in blocks or furrows to allow the rice to mature uniformly.

He encouraged farmers to own rice partnerships to maximize their profits.

Despite the popularity of Kamsamba rice, most of the rice in the market comes from the Usingu Valley in Mbalali, Mbeya region, giving Madibira farmers a significant

opportunity.

Leoncia Salakana, policy and advocacy officer, Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT), urged farmers to have a business plan to increase the promotion rice consumption.

"The quality of rice considered in the market is well-matured rice without broken grains. This is a characteristic of rice that has not used fertilizers since it matures uniformly.

In fragmented markets, how the rice is produced is increasingly becoming an important criterion. Through this program, the market will continue to receive quality rice that meets the standards for unbroken rice and without a chalky appearance.

Other criteria that Rikolto and TARI have taught farmers include the use of a farming calendar, the correct use of quality seeds, soil health and nutrients, testing for unwanted minerals in crops, harvesting and post-harvest services, workers' health in the fields, decent employment, and continuous education for farmers to address challenges and adopt emerging technologies.

Promoting the quality of rice and how it is produced will give consumers the assurance they always expect from the market for clean and safe rice products."

EAC to register veterinary ectoparasiticides under single procedures

By Guardian Correspondent, Edinburgh

VETERINARY pharmaceutical companies can now register veterinary ectoparasiticides (pesticides) within the East African Community (EAC) under the Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP).

This follows decision number EAC/CM45/Decision30 of the 45th EAC Council of Ministers held in June 2024 that approved the EAC guidelines for registration and testing of veterinary ectoparasiticides, and directive number EAC/CM45/Directive68 that instructed the EAC Secretariat and urged EAC Partner States to implement the approved guidelines in line with article 108 (e) of EAC Treaty.

This article calls for the EAC Partner States to adopt common mechanism to ensure safety, efficacy and potency of agricultural inputs including chemicals, drugs and vaccines.

Until recently, obtaining approval to place veterinary medicines on the market required a marketing authorisation (licence) from the National Regulatory Authority in each country where the product is to be sold.

This involved applying for a licence separately in each country. The EAC's MRP submission pathway has improved accessibility to quality veterinary medicines in shorter timelines, resource sharing and the process has become more predictable within the region.

The MRP system was first developed in 2014 and the first marketing authorization certificates were issued in 2018. Veterinary ectoparasiticides were not included in the initial scope of products for harmonisation - immunological and pharmaceutical veterinary products.

In September 2019, the 13th EAC Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFS), the organ responsible for setting out priorities and implementing programmes in the agriculture sector, expanded the mandate and scope of MRP to include veterinary ectoparasiticides and medical devices.

With support from GALVmed and other partners, the EAC Secretariat have now developed harmonised guidelines for registration of veterinary ectoparasiticides in the region.

The guidelines and other technical documents were approved in June 2024, thereby allowing companies to submit these products for registration through the MRP.



"Registering veterinary ectoparasiticides under the MRP is another milestone in creating a functioning and harmonised regulatory environment for veterinary medicines that will make much needed quality products available to livestock keepers sooner thereby improving animal health and livestock production." Said Dr Lois Muraguri, GALVmed's Senior Director, Enabling Environment & Part-

ner Engagement. Since 2010, GALVmed and its partners, AU-PANVAC and HealthforAnimals, have been supporting the EAC to implement the MRP in the EAC Partner States. The first product was submitted for registration in 2017. Since then, a total of 37 products have been submitted through MRP; seventeen (17) products have been evaluated and

released to respective regulators for registration. Fahari Marwa, Principal Agricultural Economist at the EAC said "the MRP initiative has achieved significant progress, and we are looking forward to having veterinary pesticides products registered through this innovative MRP regional system. We will also be sharing knowledge and best practices across countries."

Pound gains more than two-year high

SINGAPORE/LONDON

THE pound climbed to its strongest level against the US dollar in more than two years on Tuesday and other major currencies also gained as a pause in rising oil prices helped investors reverse the previous session's shift towards the dollar.

Trade remained shaped by the prospect of upcoming US rate cuts, which has pressured the dollar in recent weeks. Investors see a rate cut at the Federal Reserve's September meeting as all but certain, with debate now focused on the possibility of a 50-basis-point cut instead of 25.

Sterling has been one beneficiary of the weakness in the US currency, and on Tuesday the pound hit its highest since March 2022, and was last up 0.25 percent at \$1.32195.

It got support from the contrast between Friday's remarks by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, which underscored market pricing for meaningful US rate cuts starting next month, and the more cautious comments of Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey.

"(Bailey's) comments stand to keep a wedge between US and UK rates, where money markets continue to price a shallower and slower easing cycle for the BoE," said Chris Turner, global head of markets at ING, in a note to clients.

"It looks like we'll have to revise our medium-term sterling profile higher," he said. The euro was up a whisker on the dollar at \$1.1166, just off Monday's 13-month top.

"After a strong rally since early August, it looks like euro/dollar could be due some consolidation," Turner said. "The run-up in oil prices on the back of increased Middle East tension and Libyan supply challenges will not be helping."

Minister urges Tanzanians to support local industries

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzanians have been urged to support domestic industries by purchasing and using locally manufactured products to help boost production, create jobs, and stimulate the economy.

This appeal was made by the Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jafo (pictured), during his weekend visit to Kilimanjaro, where he toured factories and engaged with traders and business officials.

During his visit, Dr. Jafo observed production activities and listened to the challenges faced by traders, promising to address them in collaboration with various government institutions.

He also emphasized the importance of protecting industries by working with integrity, professionalism, patriotism, and a sense of responsibility to avoid any potential setbacks.

This, he noted, is crucial as significant investments have been made to revive and sustain these industries.

The Minister visited several key establishments, including A One Product and Bonite Bottlers Ltd, Kilimanjaro Leather Products Factory, KMTC Spare Parts and Machinery Factory, the Serval Wildlife Park Investment Zone, and Moshi Sugar Factory (TPC).

At the Serval Wildlife Park investment area, Dr. Jafo encouraged Tanzanians to engage in domestic tourism to promote the sector and attract more business investments.

In his discussions with businessmen and industrial owners in Kilimanjaro, the Minister called on civil servants in the region to support the business community. He also reaffirmed his commitment to collaborating with other institutions to resolve their challenges.

Dr. Jafo further urged the implementation of Tanzania's Industrial Plan, which aims for each region to establish three large industries, five medium industries, 20 small industries, and 30 micro-industries. This initiative is expected to boost employment and increase national income.

Roomba District Commissioner Raymod Mwangala assured that Kilimanjaro Region will continue to revive old, non-functional industries and establish new ones to drive employment and regional economic growth.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY 27 Aug	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Aija ya jamaa</p> <p>12:30 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Usafiri Wakio rpt</p> <p>13:30 Shikabamba</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:20 Igizo rpt: Hakikufuma</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>19:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:35 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>22:00 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Jiji letu</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
WEDNESDAY 28 Aug	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Aija ya jamaa</p> <p>12:30 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Usafiri Wakio rpt</p> <p>13:30 Shikabamba</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:20 Igizo rpt: Hakikufuma</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Sema na Mahakama</p> <p>19:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:35 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>22:00 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Jiji letu</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
THURSDAY 29 Aug	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Ripoti maalum: TMDA</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT</p> <p>13:30 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shambani za pwani rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA</p> <p>19:30 Soap: Laws of love</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Malumbano wa hoja</p> <p>23:00 Jiji letu</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
FRIDAY 30 Aug	<p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p>
SATURDAY 31 Aug	<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>8:55 Meza Huru</p> <p>9:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>12:50 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>13:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love</p> <p>15:45 Igizo: Mzee</p> <p>16:10 Igizo: Hakikufuma</p> <p>17:00 Shambani za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>19:00 Jungu kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Igizo: Hakikufuma</p> <p>21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Min. Jackpot</p> <p>21:45 Art and Lifestyle</p>
SUNDAY 25 Aug	<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>7:40 Usafiri wako</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>8:20 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>8:55 Soap rpt: Laws of love</p> <p>11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt.</p> <p>12:45 Mjuzi zaidi</p> <p>13:30 Usafiri wako</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Hapa na Pale</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Hakikufuma</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Igizo: Mzengwe</p> <p>21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot</p> <p>21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi</p> <p>22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p>
Sun 25 Aug	<p>09:00 Aljazeera</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:00 DW</p> <p>12:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Dw</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mzengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 EcoAfrica</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Jagina</p> <p>20:30 Out & About rpt</p> <p>21:00 Dk News Africa</p> <p>21:30 Capchat</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
Mon 26 Aug	<p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>06:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:00 DW</p> <p>12:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Dw</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mzengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 EcoAfrica</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Jagina</p> <p>20:30 Out & About rpt</p> <p>21:00 Dk News Africa</p> <p>21:30 Capchat</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
Tues 27 Aug	<p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>06:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:00 DW</p> <p>12:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Dw</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mzengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 EcoAfrica</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Jagina</p> <p>20:30 Out & About rpt</p> <p>21:00 Dk News Africa</p> <p>21:30 Capchat</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
Wed 28 Aug	<p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>06:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:00 DW</p> <p>12:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Dw</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mzengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 EcoAfrica</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Jagina</p> <p>20:30 Out & About rpt</p> <p>21:00 Dk News Africa</p> <p>21:30 Capchat</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>



WORLD

New mpox strain changing fast, African scientists 'working blindly' to respond

LONDON/CHICAGO

SCIENTISTS studying the new mpox strain that has spread out of Democratic Republic of Congo say the virus is changing faster than expected and often in areas where experts lack the funding and equipment to properly track it.

That means there are multiple unknowns about the virus itself, its severity and how it is transmitting, complicating the response, half a dozen scientists in Africa, Europe and the United States told Reuters.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, has been a public health problem in parts of Africa since 1970, but received little global attention until it surged internationally in 2022, prompting the World Health Organization to declare a global health emergency. That declaration ended 10 months later.

A new strain of the virus, known as clade Ib, has the world's attention again after the WHO declared a new health emergency.

The strain is a mutated version of clade I, a form of mpox spread by contact with infected animals that has been endemic in DR Congo for decades. Mpox typically causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions and can kill.

DR Congo has had more than 18,000 suspected clade I and clade Ib mpox cases and 615 deaths this year, according to the WHO. There have also been 222 confirmed clade Ib cases in four African countries in the last month, plus a case each in Sweden and Thailand in people with a travel history in Africa.

"I worry that in Africa, we are working blindly," said Dimie Ogoina, an infectious diseases expert at Niger Delta University Hospital in Nigeria who chairs the WHO's mpox emergency committee. He first raised the alarm about potential sexual transmission of mpox in 2017, now an accepted route of spread for the virus.

"We don't understand our outbreak very well, and if we don't understand our outbreak very well we will have difficulty addressing the problem in terms of transmission dynamics, the severity of the disease, risk factors of the disease," Ogoina said. "And I worry about the fact that the virus seems to be mutating and producing new strains."

He said it took clade IIb in Nigeria five years or more to evolve enough for sustained spread among humans, sparking the 2022 global outbreak. Clade Ib has done the same thing in less than a year.

Mutating 'more rapidly'

Mpox is an orthopoxvirus, the same family that causes smallpox. Population-wide protection from a global vaccine campaign 50 years ago has waned, as the vaccinating stopped when the disease was eradicated.

Genetic sequencing of clade Ib infections, which the WHO estimates emerged mid-September 2023, show they carry a mutation known as APOBEC3, a signature of adaptation in humans.

The virus that causes mpox has typically been fairly stable and slow to mutate, but APOBEC-driven mutations can accelerate viral evolution, said Miguel Paredes, who is studying the evolution of mpox



Children suffering from mpox wait for a treatment at a clinic in Munigi, Eastern Congo, Aug 19, 2024. AP

and other viruses at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle.

"All the human-to-human cases of mpox have this APOBEC signature of mutations, which means that it's mutating a little bit more rapidly than we would expect," he said.

Paredes and other scientists said a response was complicated by several mpox outbreaks happening at once.

In the past, mpox was predominantly acquired through human contact with infected animals. That is still driving a rise in DR Congo in clade I cases - also known as clade Ia - likely due in part to deforestation and increased consumption of bushmeat, scientists said.

The mutated versions, clade Ib and IIb, can now essentially be considered a sexually transmitted disease, said Salim Abdool Karim, a South African epidemiologist and chair of the Africa CDC's mpox advisory committee. Most of the mutated clade Ib cases are among adults, driven at first by an epidemic among female sex workers in South Kivu, DR Congo.

The virus also can spread through close contact with an infected person, which is likely how clusters of children have been infected with clade Ib, particularly in Burundi and in eastern DR Congo's displacement camps, where crowded living conditions may be contributing.

Children, pregnant women and peo-

ple with weakened immune systems may be at greater risk of serious mpox disease and death, according to the WHO. Clade I has typically caused more severe disease, with fatality rates of 4-11 percent, compared to around 1 percent for clade II. Ogoina said data from DR Congo suggests few have died of the new Ib version, but he feared some data is being mixed up.

More research is urgently needed, but three teams tracking mpox outbreaks in Africa say they cannot even access chemicals needed for diagnostic tests.

Planning a response, including vaccination strategies, without this is difficult, the scientists said.

Karim said around half of cases in eastern DR Congo, where Ib is particularly prevalent, are only being diagnosed by doctors, with no laboratory confirmation.

Getting samples to labs is difficult because the healthcare system is already under pressure, he said. And around 750,000 people have been displaced amid fighting between the M23 rebel group and the government.

Many African laboratories cannot get the supplies they need, said Emmanuel Nakoune, an mpox expert at the Institut Pasteur in Bangui, Central African Republic, which also has clade Ia cases.

"This is not a luxury," he said, but necessary to track deadly outbreaks.

UK's Starmer says things will get worse before they get better

LONDON

PRIME Minister Keir Starmer said yesterday it would take a long time to rebuild Britain and rid it of the rot he says took hold under the previous Conservative government, warning "things will get worse before they get better".

Starmer, elected in a July landslide election victory, has vowed to rebuild the fabric of British society, saying this month's anti-migrant riots reflected the divisions that built up during the Conservative Party's 14 years in power.

He made his speech in the Rose Garden at Downing Street, where former prime minister Boris Johnson held one of many parties during COVID lockdowns, events that Starmer said shattered the trust between the public and its politicians.

"We have inherited not just an economic black hole but a societal black hole and that is why we have to take action and do things differently. Part of that is being honest with people about the choices we face and how tough this will be," he said.

"Frankly, things will get worse before we get better."

Addressing an audience of people he met during this year's election campaign such as apprentices, teachers, nurses and small business owners, Starmer said change would not happen overnight.

But, speaking a week before Britain's parliament returns from a summer break, he said his government was determined to tackle a multitude of problems ranging from overflowing prisons to a shortage of housing and long waiting lists for health services.

The former director of public prosecutions was forced to cancel his summer holiday this month to tackle far-right riots that targeted Muslims and migrants. The riots began after the killings of three young girls in northern England was wrongly blamed on a Muslim migrant based on online misinformation.

Starmer said the Conservative government's failure to tackle problems, and its focus on the "snake oil" of populism, had widened cracks in society, divisions that would take time to heal.

Xinhua think tank sports report released

BEIJING

A think tank report titled "The Road to Becoming a Sports Powerhouse - The Value and Inspiration of Xi Jinping's Important Discourses on Sports" was released here yesterday.

Authored by Xinhua Institute, a high-end think tank of Xinhua News Agency, the report is divided into four sections. It comprehensively explains the core concepts of Xi's important discourses on sports, reviews the achievements of Chinese sports under this guidance, and clarifies its contemporary significance and global influence.

Addressing the report launch ceremony, Fu Hua, president of Xinhua News Agency and chairman of the academic committee of Xinhua Institute, said that Chinese President Xi Jinping, from the strategic perspective of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, has made a series of important expositions on sports, providing fundamental guidelines for advancing the high-quality development of China's sports cause.

This think tank report "provides an innovative interpretation of the scientific theoretical framework that supports the development of China as a strong sporting nation," said Fu.

The core essence of Xi's important discourses on sports involves building a sports powerhouse to shape "complete personality" at the individual level, develop a 'creative society' at the social level, cultivate a 'confident nation' at the national level, promote 'Chinese wisdom' at the civilizational level, and construct a 'colorful world' at the international level, according to the report.

The report highlights the global impact of Xi's ideas on sports, suggesting that China's modernization and sports development model provides a reference for other countries and regions.

"While absorbing advanced global experiences, Chinese sports have combined local culture to form a development path with Chinese characteristics. The cross-cultural appeal of sports has brought hope to the world, and through sports, China promotes peace, development, and unity, actively contributing to the creation of a better world," reads the report. Speakers who shared their insights at the launch event included Gao Zhidan, director of China's General Administration of Sport, and Yang Yang, China's first Winter Olympic gold medalist.

Gao noted that under President Xi's guidance, sports have become an important symbol and component of national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's well-being. This report systematically reviews President Xi's important discourses on sports and deeply explores the strategies and pathways for transforming China into a global sports powerhouse in the new era, he said. **Xinhua**

Somalia's Lido Beach regains its carnival spirit after terrorist attack

MOGADISHU

LIDO Beach in the Somali capital of Mogadishu used to be a popular hangout spot surrounded by striking beach hotels and restaurants, which were a favorite for many Somalis who spent time with family and friends and enjoyed the beauty of the Somali coastline.

The beach was also a place where families congregated to unwind, friends met to play football, and the community came together to enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

On Aug. 2, the serene shores of Lido Beach View Hotel were marred by violence when the al-Shabab extremist group launched a deadly assault.

The attack began with a suicide bomber detonating himself at the entrance gate of the hotel. As panic ensued, several armed militants with guns and bombs stormed the hotel building and started opening fire on beachgoers, many of whom were enjoying a peaceful Friday.

"More than 30 civilians died in this attack and about 63 others were wounded, some of them critically wounded," police spokesman Abdifitah Adan Hassan said after the deadly attack.

The al-Shabab has long sought to destabilize Somalia, particularly Mogadishu, as part of its broader goal to overthrow the central government for over 17 years. The armed group has carried

out numerous attacks in the capital and other parts of the country. Recent years, however, have witnessed the Somali government, along with local armed militias known as Ma'awisley, intensify its efforts to root out the terrorist network, forcing al-Shabab fighters to retreat from key towns in central and northern regions.

The people of Mogadishu refuse to be cowed in the face of the relentless aggression by the terrorists. Barely one month after the devastating terrorist attack that claimed the lives of nearly 40 innocent people on Lido Beach View Hotel, residents are reclaiming their cherished coastline, demonstrating resilience.

Kassim Abdi, who tragically lost his best friend Kamil Mohamed, a 20-year-old student, in the attack, has returned to the beach despite the traumatic memories. "The terrorist group al-Shabab targets Lido Beach with the intent to instill fear and drive people away from this beautiful coastline," said Kassim in a recent interview with Xinhua at Lido Beach.

"However, their efforts will never succeed in making this beach desolate. We will keep coming back until our last breath because to stop is to give them what they want," Kassim added, his determination reflecting the collective will of the community. Similarly, Guhad Mohamed, a 22-year-old regular beach-



A Somali displays the country's flag at Lido Beach in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, Aug. 5, 2024.

goer who survived the attack, remains undeterred. "Lido is my favorite hangout place in Mogadishu; it's my hometown. How can I be stopped from coming and enjoying life in this place?" Mohamed asked, his tone defiant.

As the sun sets over Lido Beach, casting a warm glow on the waves, families, children, and friends gather once more, showing the resilience of the Somali people.

Despite the terrorist attacks, Mogadi-

shu residents continue to reclaim their beloved beach, proving that life and hope triumph over fear.

Lido Beach, now lively and vibrant again, stands as a symbol of Mogadishu's unbreakable spirit -- a place where the community comes together not just to relax, but to assert their right to live freely in their homeland. "We should show the murderers that we won't be afraid of them. This is our land, and they cannot restrict our rights," Mohamed said.

Biden commends PM Modi's Ukraine visit for his message of peace

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden, during his telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra, commended the latter's "historic visits" to Poland and Ukraine as well as his message of peace, the White House said in a statement.

The two leaders discussed PM Modi's trip to two European nations and the upcoming United Nations General Assembly meetings in September.

"The President commend-

ed the Prime Minister for his historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in decades, and for his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support for Ukraine, including its energy sector," the statement read.

PM Modi and President Biden affirmed their continued support for a "peaceful resolution" of the conflict "in accordance with international law, on the basis of the UN Charter."

The leaders also emphasized their continued com-

mitment to work together, including through regional groups like the Quad, to contribute to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office said that Prime Minister Modi briefed Biden on his recent visit to Ukraine and reiterated India's consistent position in favour of dialogue and diplomacy.

PM Modi and Biden held discussions on various regional and global issues. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to further strengthen the cooperation

in multilateral fora, including the Quad.

"While discussing the situation in Ukraine, the Prime Minister briefed President Biden on his recent visit to Ukraine. He reiterated India's consistent position in favour of dialogue and diplomacy and expressed full support for early return of peace and stability," the statement read.

The conversation took place days after PM Modi's visit to Poland and Ukraine. PM Modi visited Ukraine on Friday last, the first by an

Indian PM to the European nation.

During the bilateral meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, PM Modi emphasised India's position of peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

"India was never neutral, we have always been on the side of peace," PM Modi told Zelenskyy. He said that India was ready to play an active role in the path to peace and progress.

Russia and Ukraine have been engaged in war since

2022. India has always advocated "peace and diplomacy" for resolving the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

Later on Monday (local time), the White House said they discussed peace prospects "in accordance with President Zelenskyy's plan for a just peace."

White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby reiterated that Washington would welcome any country that wants to help President Zelenskyy work towards just peace.

"Any country that's willing

to come at that discussion by starting with President Zelenskyy's perspective, by hearing him out, by signing on to that proposal -- and I won't speak for India and what they're signing on to or not; that's for the Prime Minister and his team to talk to -- but we certainly welcome any nation that is willing to be helpful and to start that conversation by ascribing to President Zelenskyy's just peace proposal and getting his perspectives," Kirby said at the briefing.

ANI

To write new chapter in building China-Africa community with shared future

By He Yin

THE 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing from Sept. 4 to 6. The theme of the summit is "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future."

The FOCAC meeting this year will be the fourth time the forum is held in the form of a summit. Leaders of FOCAC's African members will attend the summit at the invitation of the forum. Representatives of relevant African regional organizations and international organizations will attend relevant forum events.

At the summit, Chinese and African leaders will discuss friendly cooperation and jointly outline a bright blueprint for the development of both China and Africa. This summit is expected to open up new horizons for the development of China-Africa relations and write a new chapter in building a China-Africa community with a shared future.

China is the largest developing country in the world, and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries. Shared past experiences and similar aims and goals have brought China and Africa close together.

The spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation characterized by sincere friendship and equality, win-win for mutual benefit and common development, fairness and justice, and progress with the times



Photo shows the laboratory building of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. (Photo by Huang Peizhao/People's Daily)

and openness and inclusiveness, truly captures the relations of China and Africa working together in good and hard times over the past decades, and provides a source of strength for the continuous growth of China-Africa friendly relations.

China always regards developing solidarity and cooperation with African countries as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. It always follows the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith when developing relations with Africa. China is a reliable friend and sincere partner for African countries in their efforts to safeguard independence, and promote development and revitalization.

Taking the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC as an opportunity, both

China and Africa will continue to uphold the spirit of friendship and cooperation, and forge ahead together on the path of win-win cooperation and common development. This will further strengthen the bond of the China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

Since its establishment in 2000, the FOCAC has been dedicated to achieving common prosperity and sustainable development for the people of China and Africa. Adhering to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, it has evolved into a crucial platform for collective dialogue and an effective mechanism for practical cooperation between China and Africa.

Chinese President Xi Jinping in

2015 attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC, and three years later, he presided over the Beijing Summit of the FOCAC and delivered a keynote speech. In 2021, Xi attended the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC and delivered a keynote speech.

From the "ten cooperation plans" to the "eight major initiatives" and to the "nine programs of China-Africa cooperation," China and Africa have been assisting each other on the path to economic development and national rejuvenation, continuously expanding cooperation into new areas. This has played a positive role in guiding international cooperation with Africa



Photo shows the Chinese-built Karuma Hydropower Plant in Uganda. (Photo by Wang Jian)

in the right direction. China and Africa have always focused on cooperation and worked together to implement the outcomes of the FOCAC. This has effectively promoted the common development of China and Africa, bringing tangible benefits to the people of both sides, and laying a solid foundation for building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

The mechanism and outcomes of the FOCAC have been widely welcomed by Africans and highly praised by the international community.

Some said that based on friendship, mutual respect, trust, and mutual benefit, both sides actively promote the development of China-Africa relations, and the fruitful cooperation achievements have proven that the FOCAC is a united, stable, and

efficient cooperation mechanism. Some said the FOCAC has facilitated the vigorous development of China-Africa relations. China and Africa, hand in hand, actively pursue the goals of the FOCAC: Equal consultation, enhancing understanding, expanding consensus, strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation. It is believed that more achievements will be reached and benefit the people of both China and Africa.

African countries and people are advancing modernization along the path they have independently chosen. On this path to modernization, China has all along been a firm supporter, and walking side by side with Africa.

At the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue held last August, China announced to launch the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Indus-

trialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development. These three major initiatives cover the areas urgently needed for Africa to achieve modernization, demonstrating China's sincere support for Africa's development through concrete actions.

China and Africa, through their creative explorations for modernization, are giving their answers to the questions of the times, and making joint efforts to advance the great endeavors of win-win cooperation, harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity of civilizations. They will deliver a better future for the Chinese and African people, and set a fine example in the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Low-altitude economy widely applied across industries in China

By Qiu Chaoyi, Yao Xueqing, You Yi

IN recent years, China's low-altitude economy has flourished, with applications continually expanding and becoming increasingly integrated into people's work and life.

Aviation operations such as agricultural and forestry protection and power line inspections have seen steady growth. New consumption models like air touring and aviation sports are rapidly emerging. Novel drone scenarios, including emergency rescue and meteorological detection, are being introduced one after another. Drone-based last-mile logistics delivery is being applied on a large scale.

Now, China is home to more than 14,000 drone companies holding valid civil unmanned aircraft operation certificates, while the number of licensed drone operators has surpassed 225,000 in the country.

In the first half of this year, nearly 608,000 new drones were registered, representing a 48 percent increase compared to the end of last year. The cumulative flight hours by drones exceeded 9.81 million, 134,000 hours more compared to the same period last year.

Gong Yang is a photo photography enthusiast from southwest China's Sichuan province who has been using drones for aerial photography for many years.

"These were all taken with my drones," he told People's Daily, pointing to photos of the clear and enchanting wa-



Employees of the drone center of the Huaibei branch of State Grid in east China's Anhui province join a training session of drone operation. (Photo by Wang Wen/People's Daily Online)

ter of the Tuojiang River, as well as the steep cliffs reaching into the clouds of the Yunding Mountain.

"Photos I once had to climb a mountain to get can now be quickly captured by a drone, and the perspective is even more expansive," Gong said.

In his view, as drone products have become increasingly sophisticated, they've lowered both the equipment costs and technical barriers for aerial photography, attracting an increasing number of photography enthusiasts to make purchases.

In recent years, many regions have

been encouraging the development of featured projects such as low-altitude flying, air touring, and aviation exhibitions to create more commercial opportunities.

Low-altitude aviation passenger transport has also become a regular service in multiple areas, with over 100 short-haul routes established. The peak annual passenger traffic has reached about 70,000, meeting specific transportation needs.

Qin Rui, a professor at the Civil Aviation University of China, believes that as relevant technologies are refined and

more widely applied, low-altitude flight scenarios will see further expansion.

Beyond the consumer sector, the low-altitude economy is empowering numerous industries, seeing into logistics, agriculture, as well as surveying and mapping.

"It's even faster than I imagined!" exclaimed Zhang Xin, who works in Liangxi district of Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu province. He had just received a contract delivered by another company in the city's Xinwu district via a drone delivery service by SF Express.

Li Zhiyuan, head of SF Express's Baolong business unit in Xinwu district, told People's Daily that the drones mainly transport lightweight items such as documents, keys, and medicines. Compared to conventional delivery methods, direct drone delivery can save about half the time.

An official from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) explained that in recent years, the CAAC has successively introduced relevant standards and regulations to facilitate the implementation of urban lightweight drone logistics applications.

The Suining hydrological and water resources survey center in Sichuan province has employed a multi-rotor drone to collect data on both banks of

the Fujiang River.

According to Peng Jian with the survey center, drone operations cover a large survey area with minimal manpower and higher efficiency. Compared to traditional surveying methods, this approach can save about 2/3 of the cost.

"These image data will be used to build a digital base for a digital twin platform of the river basin, providing fundamental support for smart water conservancy operations," Peng explained.

"The low-altitude economy represents a deep integration of the real economy and the digital economy," said Wu Qihui, vice president of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

"It not only directly serves agriculture, industry, and the service sector, but its production and innovative applications can also drive the development of industries such as new materials, finance, communication technology, and artificial intelligence, continuously spawning new industries, new professions, and new growth drivers," Wu noted.

Moreover, from emergency rescue and medical care to law enforcement, drones are being used in an increasing number of public management and service scenarios.

By Luo Shanshan

AT 8:30 a.m., local time, container trucks were lining up in front of a Chinese overseas warehouse in Dusseldorf, Germany, waiting to be unloaded.

About an hour later, the first truck was ready to depart. "The goods on this truck will be sent to different parts of Germany and its neighboring countries through transfer centers," said Shi Lei, manager of the warehouse. Overseas warehouses are important logistics nodes connecting the Chinese and international supply chains, he noted.

With the booming development of cross-border e-commerce, consumers are demanding faster and more reliable shipping services. Setting up warehouses close to end markets allows for pre-stocking, which facilitates the distribution and turnover of Chinese goods in overseas markets and enhances the efficiency of last-mile deliveries in cross-border e-commerce.

According to statistics, China has established over 2,500 overseas warehouses so far, covering a total area of over 30 million square meters.

Overseas warehouses can greatly reduce the shipping time. For instance, businesses used to stock up in China before shipping them to German customers once orders were placed. Even with air freight, it would take 5 to 10 days for the goods to reach Germany.

Overseas warehouses bolster Chinese foreign trade enterprises in global markets



Photo shows an overseas warehouse in Lichfield, the United Kingdom. (Photo provided by the interviewed enterprise)

Now, by pre-stocking items at overseas warehouses, packages can reach Berlin within one day or two, similar to the efficiency of Chinese domestic logistics. Besides, overseas warehouses can lead to a significant drop in overall logistics costs. "Cross-border logistics for overseas warehouses typically involves three stages: shipping between ports, storing goods abroad, and delivering them to customers overseas," said Shi.

According to him, the first stage is usually covered by container sea freight, known for its high capacity that lowers the cost per unit of transportation. For the second stage, overseas warehouses can cut costs by

enhancing operational efficiency and inventory turnover with refined operations and customized and professional services.

When it comes to the third stage, with products located closer to consumers, distribution costs are lower, especially when using combined shipping from multiple warehouses. Moreover, large overseas warehouses have stronger negotiating capabilities with local last-mile delivery service providers, which also helps reduce overall operational costs.

More importantly, the service chain of overseas warehouses is becoming more complete. Handling returns has been a major challenge for foreign



Photo shows employees of an overseas warehouse in the Middle East owned by an e-commerce company in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang province. (Photo provided by the interviewed enterprise)

trade companies, but this obstacle has been effectively addressed by overseas warehouses. Consider the case of clothing exports, which often involve a high number of returns and exchanges. Without overseas warehouses, returns would be complex and time-consuming due to the need for cross-border shipping; but now, products can be returned to overseas warehouses and redistributed as needed.

In recent years, as overseas warehouse companies continuously make innovations and improve their services, overseas warehouses have evolved from basic storage locations

to multi-functional foreign trade service facilities, playing a crucial role in the foreign trade supply chain. Some overseas warehouses can even provide multiple services such as exhibitions, after-sales support, and maintenance for companies venturing into global markets.

For example, the Yiwu-based Zhejiang China Commodity City Group Co., Ltd. has established overseas warehouses in Dubai, Mexico, and other locations around the world, which serve as both exhibition halls and warehouses. Besides, some Chinese overseas warehouse companies have expanded their services to in-

clude first-mile logistics services from Chinese domestic origins, creating a complete service cycle for exporters and importers.

Nowadays, Chinese overseas warehouses have formed a network around the world, opening up new routes for exports. According to the latest data released by China's General Administration of Customs, the trade volume of China's cross-border e-commerce reached 1.22 trillion yuan (\$170.22 billion) in the first half of 2024, up 10.5 percent year on year, 4.4 percentage points higher than the overall growth of China's foreign trade during the same period. The trade volume of China's cross-border e-commerce has grown by 1.2 times over the past five years, from 1.06 trillion yuan in 2018 to 2.38 trillion yuan in 2023.

To improve logistics efficiency, many Chinese overseas warehouse companies are speeding up their shift toward digitalization and automation.

With information-based intelligent platforms, product information can be collected, transmitted and processed in real time. Combined with big data analysis, the platform can predict sales trends and inventory demands, enabling proactive inventory allocation and replenishment.

SPORT



Dar es Salaam City Council's Culture Officer, Ally Lugendo (front row, left), hands over sports equipment to Korogwe Town Council's Culture Officer, Minaeli Mjema (front row, right), in Tanga recently. The donated items included eight footballs, which were subsequently distributed to various secondary schools in the township. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

Mariah Carey's mother and sister die on the same day

By Nadine Younis

MARIAH Carey's mother Patricia and sister Alison died on the same day over the weekend, the US singer has said in a statement.

"My heart is broken that I've lost my mother this past weekend," Carey (pictured) said on Monday. "Sadly, in a tragic turn of events, my sister lost her life on the same day."

The Grammy-winning singer said she felt blessed to have spent time with her mother in the week before her death and asked for privacy.

She gave no further details about either woman's cause of death.

Patricia, 87, was a former opera singer and vocal coach of Irish-American descent.

In Carey's 2020 memoir, *The Meaning of Mariah Carey*, the five-time Grammy Award-winning singer detailed her complicated relationship with her mother, saying it had caused her "so much pain and confusion".

Carey, 55, said competition had come between them. Professional jealousy "comes with the territory of success, but when the person is your mother and the jealousy is revealed at such a tender age, it's particularly painful", she added.

But she also spoke of the deep love she had for her mother, writing in the dedication: "To Pat, my mother, who, through it all, I do believe actually did the best she could. I will love you the best I can, always."

In an interview with Gayle King in 2022, the

singer said she had "definitely" been affected by criticism from her mother when she was growing up.

She added that she had always credited her mother with exposing her to music.

Carey's sister Alison, 63, had been receiving hospice care before her death, according to a friend quoted by the *Times Union*, a newspaper in New York State.

The friend did not provide a cause of death. The two sisters also had a complex relationship.

In her memoir, Carey wrote of being estranged from Alison, as well as her brother Morgan, saying it was "emotionally and physically safer for me to not have any contact".

Alison sued Carey for \$1.2m (£909,780) following the release of the memoir for "immense emotional distress", calling it "vindictive".

The singer's father, Alfred, died in 2002 of cancer at the age of 72.

Carey is regarded as one of the most successful singers globally.

Her holiday single *All I Want For Christmas Is You* is the best-selling Christmas song by a female artist of all time.

She holds the record for the most Billboard Hot 100 number-one singles by a solo artist at 19 songs, has sold over 220 million records worldwide, and served as a judge on the competition show *American Idol*.

BBC

Tanzanian football's rise and the challenges facing Young Africans

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIAN football has experienced a remarkable surge in recent years, with the country's main league now ranked sixth in Africa and number one in the East African region. This rapid ascent reflects not only the competitive spirit of Tanzanian clubs but also their growing impact on the continental stage. Clubs like Simba Sports Club and Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga) have played a pivotal role in this development, showcasing the potential and talent present in Tanzanian football.

Simba SC have been a standout performer, reaching the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League for five consecutive years and earning a spot in the 2023 African Football League. Their consistent performance has put Tanzanian football on the map, placing them alongside other elite African clubs like Al Ahly, Mamelodi Sundowns, and Wydad Club Athletic.

Young Africans have also made significant strides. The club's remarkable journey to the final of the CAF Confederation Cup in 2023 was a testament to their growth and ambition. Despite narrowly losing to USM Alger on the away goals rule, Young Africans' performance in domestic and continental competitions has demonstrated their potential. Reaching the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League for the first time in their history further underscores their progress.

However, alongside these accomplishments, Young Africans have faced considerable challenges related to player registration and contract management. These issues not only tarnish the club's reputation but also reflect broader concerns that could impact the future of Tanzanian football.

Recent years have seen a series of high-profile cases involving Young Africans and player registration issues. One of the earliest and most notable cases was the dispute involving Burundian player Gael Bigirimana. In 2022, Young Africans canceled Bigirimana's registration, leading to a contract dispute. Despite his initial inclusion in the first team under Coach Nessredine Nabi, the club failed to honor the contract, resulting in a registration ban in August 2023 until the owed payments were settled.

Another significant case arose on April 12, 2024, when Young Africans faced a registration ban due to an undisclosed player dispute. This was followed by a case involving former player Lazarous Kambole, where Young Africans lost the case and were required to pay Kambole a substantial amount.

The financial disputes continued, with FIFA demanding Young Africans pay Tsh: 216 million to Ghana's Bechem United for the registration of Augustine Okrah. Similarly, issues with players such as Hafiz Konkoni and Mamadou Doumbia, among others, have further complicated Young Africans' standing.

These recurring problems have not



Young Africans president Engineer Hersi Said. Photo: YASC

only affected Young Africans' reputation but also have broader implications for Tanzanian football. Prospective international players may be deterred from joining Tanzanian teams due to concerns about financial stability and contractual disputes. Such issues risk undermining the progress and investment in Tanzanian football, potentially stalling the momentum that has been built in recent years.

For Young Africans, it is crucial to address these challenges to maintain their competitive edge and enhance their professional standing. Improving management practices and legal procedures are essential steps toward resolving these ongoing issues. Here are several key recommendations for Young Africans to consider:

1. Strengthening Legal and Administrative Systems:

Establishing a robust legal team to handle contractual disputes and registration issues is vital. This team should ensure that all contracts and payments are managed efficiently and that the club adheres to all regulatory requirements. Investing in legal expertise will help prevent future disputes and enhance the club's reputation for professionalism.

2. Enhancing Scouting and Recruitment Processes:

While Young Africans have successfully identified and signed talented players such as Fiston Mayele, Stephane Aziz Ki, and Pacome Zouzoua, it is essential to refine the scouting process. This will involve better vetting of players to avoid issues related to their registration and integration into the team. Ensuring that new signings align with the club's needs and long-term plans will minimize complications.

3. Improving Financial Management:

Transparent and efficient financial management is crucial for maintaining the club's credibility. Young Africans should ensure that all financial obligations, including

player salaries and transfer fees, are met promptly. This will not only prevent legal issues but also build trust with players and stakeholders.

4. Fostering a Professional Culture:

Developing a culture of professionalism within the club will help in managing internal and external relationships more effectively. This includes adhering to ethical standards, honoring contracts, and maintaining open communication with players and other stakeholders.

By addressing these areas, Young Africans can enhance their operational efficiency and strengthen their position in Tanzanian and African football. The club's success on the field is undeniable, but it is equally important to ensure that administrative and management practices support and sustain this success.

Tanzanian football has shown impressive growth and potential, and Young Africans are at the forefront of this transformation. However, to continue advancing and avoid setbacks, it is essential for the club to learn from past mistakes and implement strategic improvements.

By focusing on professional management, effective legal practices, and robust financial systems, Young Africans can not only enhance their own reputation but also contribute positively to the growth of Tanzanian football on the global stage.

Simba delighted with strong start to 2024/2025 season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC have expressed satisfaction with their performance after securing victories in their first two matches of the 2024/2025 Premier League season. Determined to reclaim the league title that has eluded them for the past three years, the club is off to a strong start.

Following their convincing 4-0 victory over Fountain Gate FC at the KMC Stadium on Sunday, Simba have continued to demonstrate impressive early-season form. This dominant performance, building on their earlier 3-0 win against Tabora United, has solidified their position at the top of the league table.

While they are tied on six points with Singida Black Stars, Simba hold a narrow lead based on goal difference.

This promising start to the league season marks a positive rebound from their recent loss to Young Africans in the Community Shield mini-tournament earlier this month.

Simba's Media and Information Manager, Ahmed Ally, expressed his enthusiasm regarding the team's rapid integration of new players. He highlighted how the newcomers have quickly gelled with the existing squad, forming a formidable unit.

Under the guidance of new head coach Fadlu Davids, Simba have made significant additions to their roster this season, signing thirteen new players. Davids has given ample playing time to most of his new recruits, fostering a competitive team dynamic.

Several of the recent signings have already made a notable impact on the team's scoring prowess. Che Fondoh Malone, Awesu Ally, Edwin Balua, Jean Charles Ahoua, Steven Mukwala, and Valentino Mashaka have all contributed goals in the league matches.

Ahoua, in particular, has been instrumental in creating scoring opportunities. With three assists to his name, his combined goals and assists (G/A) tally now stands at four.

Captain Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe have also provided valuable assists, demonstrating the team's overall offensive capabilities.

"We're pleased with the team's progress and individual player development. Our goalkeeper, Moussa Camara, has maintained a clean sheet in two matches. Defender Abdulrazack Hamza continues to mature and improve, showing growing confidence. This highlights the positive impact of bringing new talent into the league," said Ally.

Ally also praised the team's striking options, noting that both strikers have contributed goals this season. Mashaka has scored in consecutive matches, while Mukwala has also found the net. Cameroonian striker Lionel Ateba has yet to make his debut for the club but is expected to do so against Libya's Al Ahly Tripoli in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup tie.

The match is scheduled to take place between September 13 and 15 in Libya, with the return leg in Dar es Salaam between September 20 and 22. The aggregate winner of this two-legged series will advance to the Confederation Cup group stage.

Goalkeeper Aishi Manula has been making steady progress in training, although he is still a few weeks behind the rest of the squad. The team has already completed a six-week training program, and Manula is currently in his second week.

Davids opted to maintain the same starting lineup for the match, with only Awesu Ally replacing the injured Joshua Mutale. Yusuph Kagoma made his debut as a substitute.

Coach Davids has emphasized the importance of consistent practice and analysis. He noted that the team's improved movements on the flanks, defensive lines, and between the lines are a direct result of the hard work put in during training sessions.

The gaffer also has been tasked with ending the dominance of Young Africans after being part of the historic invincible domestic double alongside Josef Zinnbauer at Raja Athletic Club last season.



Juventus earns 2nd straight 3-0 win and Fabregas-coached Como gets first Serie A point in 2 decades

VERONA, Italy

JUVENTUS became the only Serie A team to win both of its opening two matches of the season after Dušan Vlahovic scored twice in a 3-0 victory over Verona on Monday.

Right-back Nicolò Savona also scored on his full debut as Juventus earned a second straight 3-0 win. Vlahovic put the visitors ahead after 28 minutes when he found space in the Verona backline and fought off the attention of three defenders to steer the ball home from 12 yards.

Savona doubled the lead with a header 11 minutes later and Vlahovic rounded off the scoring from the penalty spot eight minutes into the second half.

Verona is ninth with three points. Como gets first point. Como earned its first Serie A point in more than two decades when Cesc Fabregas' team came back from a goal down to draw 1-1 at Cagliari.

Fabregas, the former Arsenal and Barcelona midfielder, helped guide Como back into the top flight last season after a 21-year absence, but the Lombardy-based club lost its opener 3-0 to Juventus.

However, it showed resilience on a sunny evening in Sardinia.

Roberto Piccolo put the host ahead when he stole in between a hesitant defender and goalkeeper to nod home after 44 minutes.

The goal marked the fifth season in a row that the 23-year-old striker has scored for a different Serie A club, after previous stints with Lecce, Empoli, Atalanta and Spezia.

Como equalized eight minutes into the second period. Alberto Dossena headed down a corner kick from the right and Como-born Patrick Cutrone was on hand to dispatch the ball high into the net.

Both goalkeepers made good saves in the last 15 minutes to maintain the stalemate.

AP

Villarreal scores with last-gasp penalty to beat Celta 4-3 and go top of la Liga

MADRID

DANI Parejo scored in the 10th minute of injury time to give Villarreal a 4-3 win over Celta Vigo on Monday in one of the most entertaining and eventful games of the Spanish league season so far.

Parejo saw his late penalty saved by Iván Villar but converted the rebound to secure the win in a game where the home side twice came from behind and then gave up the lead before snatching the victory at the very end.

The result lifts Villarreal to the top of La Liga with seven points from three games, one ahead of Celta and Barcelona, which has played one match less.

Celta was one of only two teams to win its first two league games and went ahead after 11 minutes when Borja Iglesias took advantage of sloppy goalkeeping, but Sergi Cardona equalized 15 minutes later by slamming home a corner that was nodded across goal by Gerard Moreno.

Oscar Mingueza continued his recent fine form by putting Celta back ahead after half an hour with a low 30-yard free kick.

Then new signing Thierno Barry, who joined last week from FC Basel, headed home with his first touch of the ball only a minute after coming on as a substitute.

An own goal from Jailson gave Villarreal the lead until Carl Starfelt made it 3-3 with 10 minutes remaining.

Both sides pushed for a winner and Celta hit the post before the referee awarded a penalty to Villarreal for a foul on Barry.

"If you have to lose then that's the way," Iglesias said. "The fans must have enjoyed that game."

AP

Colombian soccer official Ramón Jesurún has charges from Copa America arrest dropped

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla.

RAMON Jesurún had charges of battering a security guard at the Copa America final dropped on Monday, more than a month after the Colombian soccer federation president and his son were arrested at the match where hundreds of fans forced their way into Hard Rock Stadium.

Michael Band, an attorney for the 71-year-old Jesurún, said prosecutors decided to drop the felony battery charges after carefully considering the evidence. Charges remain against Jesurún's son, Ramon Jesurún Jr., who is scheduled to go on trial in November.

"I appreciate the state attorney's review of this matter," said Band, who represents both men. "Hopefully we can reach an agreement in terms of resolution" for the younger Jesurún as well, he added.

Jesurún and his son both faced three counts of felony battery on an official after being accused of fighting stadium security guards after Argentina defeated Colombia in the Copa final on July 14.

Arrest records said both men tried to go onto the field through a tunnel where media was gathering after the match. They got into a verbal altercation with stadium security who stopped them after being instructed to not allow guests in while players were coming on or off the field at the same time.

The verbal altercation eventually turned physical with a guard placing an "open palm" on Jesurún Jr.'s chest to "guide him back" and the younger Jesurún grabbing the guard "around his neck" and pulling him to the ground before throwing "two punches that impacted" the guard, the arrest report said.

Video evidence did not show that the elder Jesurún made any physical contact with stadium security or any other employees during the melee, Miami-Dade assistant state attorney Charles Heinemann wrote in the close-out memo.

Heinemann wrote that one of the security guards involved who told officers that Jesurún had battered him did not appear at pre-file conferences scheduled by the state and "has not returned our phone calls or emails."

Without the guard's "sworn statement and clarification of his role in the incident the state will not be able proceed with any charges," Heinemann wrote.

Chaos broke out before the Copa America final when crowds of fans – some without tickets – forced their way into Hard Rock Stadium. Crowds jumped over security railings and ran inside past police officers and stadium attendants.

Jesurún has been president of the Colombian soccer federation since 2015 and is a vice president of CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing organization that puts the Copa America tournament together.

The stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, which is home to the NFL's Dolphins, will be the site of seven World Cup matches in 2026, including a quarterfinal and third-place match.

AP

'Forever grateful' - Beckham leads Eriksson tributes

LONDON

DAVID Beckham paid tribute to "true gentleman" Sven-Goran Eriksson and said he will be "forever grateful" to the former England manager, who has died aged 76.

Eriksson, the first non-British England manager, named Beckham as his captain after being appointed in 2001.

The Swede was manager for all but two of the 59 matches Beckham captained England.

"Sven, thank you for always being the person you have always been, passionate, caring, calm and a true gentleman," said the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder.

"I will be forever grateful for you making me your captain."

Beckham posted his message on social media alongside a video of the pair from his visit to see Eriksson earlier this year.

Eriksson revealed in January he had been diagnosed with cancer and given "at best" a year to live.

"We laughed, we cried and we knew we were saying goodbye," Beckham said.

"I will forever hold these last memories of this day with you and your family."

"Thank you Sven and in your last words to me 'It will be OK'."

"Rooney continues tributes to 'special man'."

Eriksson led the Three Lions to the quarter-finals at three major tournaments during his five-year spell in charge between 2001 and 2006.

He also managed 12 clubs, including Manchester City, Leicester, Roma and Lazio, winning 18 trophies.

Striker Wayne Rooney made his England debut under Eriksson as a 17-year-old and described him as a "special man".

"Rest in peace, Sven," Rooney said.

"Thanks for the memories and all your help and advice. Thoughts and prayers with all his family and friends."

England's current captain Harry Kane said: "I didn't have the privilege of playing under Sven but I know how well liked and respected he was by those who played under him as England manager."



Beckham had previously been interim captain under Peter Taylor but was given the role permanently by Eriksson. Agencies

"My thoughts are with his family and friends at this time."

Tributes have been played by a number of England players who were part of the so-called 'Golden Generation' under Eriksson's management.

Striker Peter Crouch said: "What a great person he was."

"Sven gave me my England debut when plenty doubted it. I will forever be grateful to him. He will be missed."

John Terry, who was also given his debut by Eriksson, described him as a "great manager and superb man-manager".

Midfielder Frank Lampard said Eriksson was "always there for you on and off the pitch".

"I will always be grateful to him for the trust and support he gave me in my England career," he said.

"He taught us to live while he was dying."

Defender Micah Richards made his England debut shortly after Eriksson left the England job in 2006 but played under the Swede when he took charge of Manchester City a year later.

"His man-management was as good as I ever experienced and it meant I could play my best football

under him," Richards, now a pundit on the BBC, said.

"Thank you for everything, Sven." Goalkeeper Joe Hart, who did not play for England under Eriksson but became the first-choice goalkeeper under him at Manchester City, said he was "so lovely to be around".

Hart told the Monday Night Club: "He was just a lovely, lovely man with so much power and so much influence. He just had this beautiful way about him. I was probably too young to appreciate him."

He added: "This guy cared, this guy had a passionate interest in how we were as human beings."

"He was an absolute superstar everywhere he went and he just owned it, just oozed class and it didn't look like effort. These are the things I think about when I think of him."

Former Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel said "we have lost an incredible man to whom I owe a great deal".

Schmeichel was given his Premier League debut by Eriksson at Manchester City and was signed again by the former England boss during his spells at Notts County

and Leicester.

Schmeichel would go on to win the Premier League title with Leicester in 2016.

"Sven was the first manager to truly believe in me and give me a chance at the highest level," Schmeichel said.

"He was the first manager to call me world-class and he made me feel 10 feet tall."

"He gave me my Premier League debut, brought me to Notts County, and finally to Leicester where I enjoyed the best time of my career."

"It is a great loss to football and the world. I want to thank him for everything he did for me."

Inter Milan manager Simone Inzaghi won the Serie A title under Eriksson with Lazio in 1999-2000.

He said his passing is a "a great pain for me".

"He was fundamental in my growth as a footballer and as a man," the Italian said.

"I admired his calm, his education, the great respect he had for everyone. For me he was a source of inspiration."

"Sven was a great man, an example for everyone. He taught us to live while he was dying."

BBC

How Gundogan came to reunite with Guardiola at Man City - and what might come next

By Richard Jolly

ILKAY Gundogan was the creator who became captain. Now he is the confidant who could become a coach. Pep Guardiola rarely resigns players but he broke a personal rule to be reunited with the German. They are the neighbours who may be found side by side in a dugout in the future.

Gundogan was Guardiola's first signing for Manchester City; should the manager leave when his contract expires next summer, he may prove his last, as well. But even then, their alliance could be renewed.

They were separated for a year when Gundogan joined Barcelona. Perhaps it gave Guardiola a mole in the Catalan camp. Certainly each had a sounding board. And it meant that, when Gundogan mooted the idea of the summer's most sensational comeback, he was confident of the answer. "We were in touch throughout last year," Gundogan said. "We had more than a couple of phone calls. I went to his childhood club and he's still a big fan of FC Barcelona, he doesn't make a secret out of it because he's from there and it's the club he loves."

"He rang me up a couple of times, I rang him, we spoke a little bit so the contact was never really gone. So when you have such a good relationship, you can be honest and direct and this is exactly what I said to him. And when I put it out there, the idea, he loved it, and he said, 'let's try to do it'. From there, everything happened very quickly."

His second debut came as a substitute against Ipswich, a day after his transfer was ratified. It seemed a seamless affair. "It honestly felt like I've never been away," Gundogan



Ilkay Gundogan directs the traffic on his return to the City side (Getty)

added. "It's always the people that make a place as well and in the football club and outside the football club, we've met amazing people in Manchester during the seven years I was here."

It helped that, serendipitously, he still had the apartment next to Guardiola's. "I didn't really have much time and much energy to spend on trying to rent or sell it so I just thought, 'OK, keep it for now, Manchester is also growing, it is not a bad place to be,'

he explained. An investment property then became a home again. "It looks like it was meant to be because when I arrived a couple of days ago, it was so easy to just step back through the doors."

And to step back on to the pitch. The initial glimpse of Gundogan came as he reprised his role as an attacking midfielder, reviving his relationship with Erling Haaland. "He is also enjoying playing with me, close to each other, because there is a certain understanding

between us," said the 33-year-old.

It helped that, as Gundogan said: "Not so much has changed. There are a few new faces inside the team." But when he came on, only Josko Gvardiol of his 10 teammates on the pitch was not at City in his first spell.

Guardiola, of course, will always tinker in his bid to be one step ahead of everyone else. "I spoke with Pep and he showed me a few images, a few sequences, a few videos. But I love the challenge," Gundogan added.

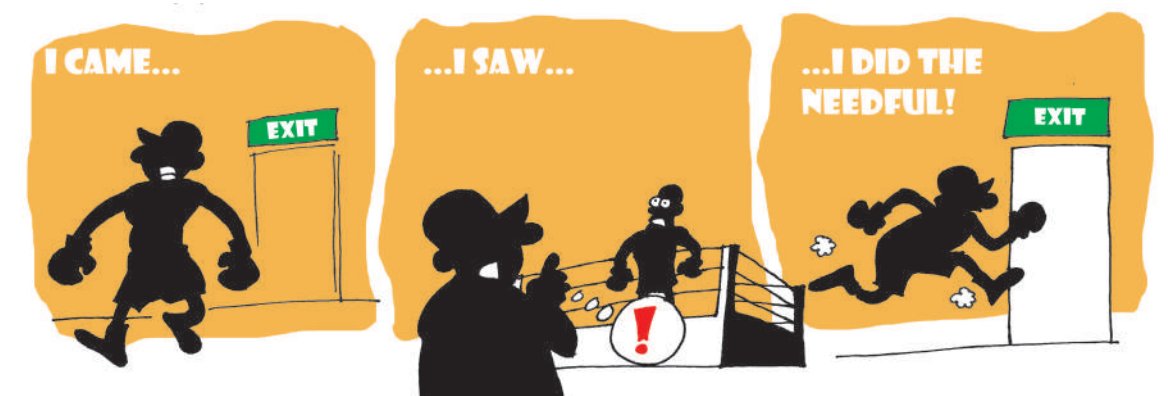
He has long seemed a smiling figure but seemed particularly content on Saturday. Gundogan said: "I think there's no better team in world football, in my opinion, that has so many players on such a high level."

And if that made Barcelona a frustration, a year at a historic superpower was enough to persuade him to pick up the phone to Guardiola.

There was no discussion of the captaincy, the treble-winning skipper insisted. And yet he has the footballing intelligence to implement the manager's ideas on the pitch and a character Guardiola likes.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Forever grateful' - Beckham leads Eriksson tributes

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Simba and Al Hilal set for high-stakes friendly ahead of CAF campaigns

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a move that underscores the continued cooperation between Simba SC and Sudanese side Al Hilal, the two powerhouse clubs are scheduled to face off in a friendly match on August 31 at the KMC Stadium Complex in Dar es Salaam.

This match is part of both teams' preparations for their respective CAF championship playoff campaigns.

Simba head coach Fadlu Davids has emphasized the importance of this high-stakes friendly to gauge his team's readiness ahead of the crucial fixtures in the Tanzanian Premier League and the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup.

Davids is keen to use this match to fine-tune his squad during the international break, as national teams gear up for the AFCON 2025 qualifiers.

Simba, who have not lifted the Premier League title or the Federation Cup in the last three consecutive seasons, are under significant pressure to deliver better results both domestically and internationally.

The club's leadership and supporters are hopeful that Davids, who has been at the helm, can bring a turnaround in fortunes. The upcoming friendly against Al Hilal will provide a litmus test for the new signings and the tactical approach that Davids has been implementing.

Al Hilal, on the other hand, are already in Tanzania, where they have set up a preparatory camp. The Sudanese giants are also in the midst of their CAF Champions League campaign. In the first round of the preliminary stage, Al Hilal secured a 2-1 aggregate victory over Al Ahly Benghazi. Their next challenge will be against San Pedro, with the first leg of the tie scheduled for September 13.

Simba's CAF journey this season will see them face Al Ahly Tripoli in the CAF Confederation Cup playoffs. The first leg is set to take place in Libya between September 13 and 15, with the return leg a week later in Tanzania.

This two-legged tie will determine whether Simba can secure a spot in the group stage of the Confederation Cup, a competition where the club has set its sights on making a deep run.

The friendly against Al Hilal is seen as an ideal preparation for Simba ahead of this crucial tie. Al Hilal, with their recent success in the CAF Champions League qualifiers, are expected to provide a stern test for Simba, helping them identify and rectify any weaknesses before they face Al Ahly Tripoli.

This isn't the first time that Simba and Al Hilal have met in a friendly context. The two teams last clashed in 2023 in a pre-season friendly that ended in a 1-1 draw. In 2021, Simba emerged victorious with a 4-1 win over Al Hilal in the opening match of the Simba Super Cup tournament, held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

That emphatic victory in 2021 is still fresh in the minds of Simba supporters, who are hoping for a repeat performance this time around.

For Simba, the match against Al Hilal is more than just a friendly; it is a critical part of building momentum for the season. The club has invested heavily in new signings, and there is a renewed sense of optimism among fans and members. The match will allow Davids to assess his squad's depth, test new formations, and give fringe players a chance to stake their claim for a place in the starting eleven.

Moreover, this friendly provides an opportunity for both teams to strengthen their ties and exchange valuable insights as they prepare for their respective CAF campaigns. The ongoing cooperation between Simba and Al Hilal highlights the importance of building strong relationships between top clubs in Africa, as they all strive to raise the level of competition on the continent.

As August 31 approaches, anticipation is building among fans of both clubs. The match promises to be a thrilling encounter, with both teams eager to showcase their strengths ahead of the critical fixtures in September. For Simba, a victory in this friendly would not only boost morale but also send a strong message to their upcoming opponents in the CAF Confederation Cup.



Yanga are hungry to go far in Africa, says Miguel Gamondi

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has expressed his team's relentless hunger and desire to go far in the CAF Champions League this season.

The Argentine coach (pictured), who guided the club to the Champions League quarter-finals last season - 25 years after their first group stage appearance - believes that Young Africans have proven they can compete with the best teams in Africa's premier club football competition.

Speaking to CAFONLINE, Gamondi emphasized the club's ambition to excel on the continental stage.

"Our will to succeed in Africa is strong. We want to elevate Young Africans to the top level of continental competition, and we have the teamwork and support to achieve that," he said.

Reflecting on their continental run last season, Gamondi highlighted the valuable experience gained from facing top African clubs like Al Ahly, CR Belouizdad, and Mamelodi Sundowns.

"We learned a lot from that experience. We faced teams like Al Ahly, CR Belouizdad, and Mamelodi Sundowns - some of the biggest teams on the continent - and we competed face-to-face. It was a very rich experience," he said.

"We realized that we are on the same level as the top teams and can compete. Our goal was to compete at the highest level in Africa, and we did that. Now, it's much more important to believe in ourselves."

Gamondi stressed the importance of self-belief and incremental progress.

"We have the will to succeed and to go as far as we can in this Champions League. It's possible to improve our performance, but we will take it step by step. The first step is to qualify for the group stage, but we are hungry for more."

"We want to succeed and are confident in what we can achieve. It's our will, our wish, and our philosophy to try to win and go as far as possible. We need to be united - fans, management, technical staff, and players - as a team," he said.

After narrowly missing out on the semi-finals last season, following a penalty shootout loss to South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns, Gamondi believes Young Africans can advance even further this time around.

"Yes, I believe we can go further. It's all about our mindset and having a winning mentality. The players must believe, just as we believe, that we can reach the top level in Africa. But we must stay grounded. Football can be cruel sometimes, so we must be ready for everything," he added.

Young Africans have started this season's campaign strongly, comfortably defeating the Burundi champions Vital'O with a 6-0 win in the return leg of the preliminary round, advancing to the second round with a 10-0 aggregate victory.

Gamondi's side will now face Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in the second preliminary round. The aggregate winner will progress to the lucrative group stages of the continent's biggest club competition.

The CAF Champions League group stages are scheduled between October and December 2024, with the knockout phase and final set to take place between March and May 2025.

Gamondi remains focused on the immediate challenge but is clearly driven by a long-term vision for Young Africans in the Champions League.

His confidence in the team's ability to make a significant impact on the continental stage is a testament to the progress and potential of Tanzanian football.

“

Yes, I believe we can go further. It's all about our mindset and having a winning mentality. The players must believe, just as we believe, that we can reach the top

Azam FC seek redemption in crucial Premier League opener

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC will kick off their Premier League title chase this season against JKT Tanzania at the Isamuhyo Stadium this afternoon. With both teams eager to make a strong start, this opening fixture promises to be a fascinating encounter.

Azam will be hoping for a better campaign, especially after failing to progress beyond the first preliminary round of the CAF Champions League.

Youssouph Dabo's side was defeated over the two legs by Rwandan champions APR, having lost 2-0 in the second leg on Saturday after only managing a 1-0 draw in the first leg on home turf.

The Chamazi side, who fell short in their bid to dethrone rivals Young Africans last season, will be determined to successfully challenge for the title once again.

The under-fire Senegalese coach, Dabo (pictured), will be under pressure to restore belief in his squad. He knows that anything less than three points against JKT Tanzania will invite intense scrutiny.

Dabo will be relieved to have a fully fit squad at his disposal. Against APR, Dabo opted for a 4-3-3 formation, with Colombian striker Jhonier Blanco leading the attack and James Akaminko playing alongside Adolf Mutasingwa and Feisal Salum in midfield.

Franck Tiesse appears to be the chosen replacement for Kipre Junior, who was sold to Algerian side MCA, and his performance will be key to Azam's hopes this season.

Meanwhile, JKT Tanzania head into the new season with a lot on the line. After a disappointing 13th-place finish last term, the army side is looking for redemption.

The home side sacked coach Malale Hamsini at the end of the 2023/24 season and replaced him with former Tanzania Prisons boss Hamad Ally.

Expectations are high following significant investments in the transfer market. JKT Tanzania have bolstered their squad by signing experienced striker John Bocco, among others.

In eight recent meetings be-



tween both sides in the league, JKT Tanzania has lost six times and drawn twice.

Azam completed a league 'double' over the Barracks Boys last season, winning 2-1 at home thanks to goals from Sospeter Bajana and Iddy Selemani and 2-0 in the return fixture played at Isamuhyo.

With both teams determined to start their campaigns on the right foot, today's match promises to be an exciting contest.

JKT Tanzania will look to capitalize on their home advantage and depth of talent, while Azam aim to defy the odds and secure a positive result to set the tone for

Flexibles by David Chikoko

