




**Tabora airport expansion costs 24bn/-**

Page 3

**Tanga port receives large ships after expansion**



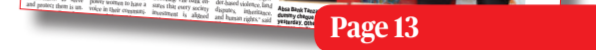
Page 4

**AfDB, research centres to alter African agriculture and improve food security**



Page 11

**Absa donates funds to support regional legal aid clinics**



Page 13

# Samia hands over 55 boats, 222 cages to fishing groups

This is clear evidence that the consumption of fishery products will double, hence opening new economic opportunities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday handed over 55 out of an expected 160 fishing boats and 222 fishing cages to 1213 youth groups in Mwanza city on the southern shores of Lake Victoria.

In remarks after the handing over, she said the delivery is part of efforts to transform the fishing industry from subsistence to commercial activity in Lake Zone regions, within the government initiative of fostering sustainable agro-based employment openings among the youth.

The fishing cages are expected to increase production of fish one cage can facilitate producing 3.0 to 5.1 metric tonnes of fish, unlike uncaged reproduction that is limited to typically low levels of fish harvests.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega pictured in Mwanza city yesterday briefing President Samia Suluhu Hassan on some of the species of fish found in Lake Victoria. It was on the occasion of the president's launch of modern fishing boats and allocation of fish breeding cages to residents of Mwanza Region. Photo: Vitus Auda

TURN TO Page 2

## Mo Report: Data quality, governance mood related

ACCRA

THE Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) yesterday launched the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) 2023 Report, highlighting the strong correlation between high-quality data and effective governance.

The report was launched in the Ghanaian capital at an event co-hosted with Afrobarometer, a research outfit preparing periodic updates on various issues in collaboration with locally based economic research groups.

Titled "The power of data for governance: Closing data gaps to accelerate Africa's transformation," the report underscored its role in driving progress, assessing government performance, setting policy priorities and ensuring trust in governments.

Noting that sound data is at the heart of Africa's governance and development agendas, it drew from the 2022 IIAG dataset, revealing a strong positive correlation between access to high-quality statistics and effective governance across African countries, cumulatively from 2012 to 2021.

He asserted all the same that Africa remains the continent most impacted by data gaps globally, possessing the lowest availability of civil registration and vital statistics.

When it comes to the basic building blocks of statistics that are key to defining public policies, such as population censuses and birth and death registration, many African countries are missing crucial data, he said in summary remarks.

Even in areas where strides have been made, critical governance data gaps persist on issues like health structures, the informal economy, the environment, violence against women, child labour and illicit financial flows, he stated.

The underfunding of data remains a serious challenge globally, with statistics receiving just 0.34 per cent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA), the report lamented, pointing out that in Africa, ODA received for data and statistics nearly halved between 2018 and 2021.

In addition to investing in data, critical strategies to enhance data impact and accelerate development progress on the continent are needed, including ensuring the independence of National Statistical Offices, the philanthropist noted.

Harnessing alternative data sources like citizen-generated data and private company data, plus leveraging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning are equally significant, he elaborated.

Mo Ibrahim, the founder and chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, stressed the importance of data for Africa in achieving key development and policy agenda.

TURN TO Page 2

## SPORTS Page 20



Simba kick start Federation Cup campaign with Tembo

Page 18



Tanzania and Ivory Coast's MoU paves way for sports growth

## MPs: NEC should be axed from supervision of civic elections

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government needs to urgently come up with an alternative body for organising and supervising local government elections due towards the end of this year, a section of the National Assembly has demanded.

Florent Kyombo (Missenyi), the vice chairman for the Legal Affairs, Administration and Consti-

tution standing committee vice chairman, raised this challenge yesterday when presenting committee recommendations on the proposed National Electoral Commission Bill, 2023.

He said that Article 11 of the proposed law makes the National Electoral Commission (NEC) the only body charged with overseeing elections.

"The committee appeals to the

government to come up with an alternative body that will organize and administer this year's local government elections instead of the Regional Administration and Local Governments department in the President's Office; he said, noting that the PO-RALG already says it had made extensive preparations for the elections.

The NEC director general should not be appointed secretary

of the electoral commission's interviewing team, he urged, citing that Article 9 (3) of the bill recognizes the NEC general director as the secretary of the NEC interviewing committee comprised of its members who must be five and thus creating a state of ambiguity.

TURN TO Page 2



AT LONG LAST, TRAVEL IS BACK: It's yesterday afternoon and, after being held up for hours, motorists slowly and cautiously resume crossing a flooded stretch of the Morogoro-Dodoma highway - at Mtanana in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region. Photo courtesy of Works ministry





## MPs: NEC be axed from supervision of civic polls

FROM PAGE 1

However, Article 18 (1) of the bill states that the NEC director general shall be appointed by the president from three submitted names by the commission, which adds more controversy, he said.

"In this case, a different person be appointed from among senior public officials to hold this position," holding out for the position to be filled through interviews for the five NEC members.

The criterion for selecting the five NEC members should be decided by the National Assembly, he said, alluding to 38 written opinions from different stakeholders that were presented to the committee.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliamentary and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) present-

ed the bill earlier in the morning, telling MPs that the National Electoral Commission Bill, 2023 is linked to Article 74 of the 1977 Constitution, a provision that also recognizes district executive directors as poll supervisors.

The bill states that the commission's chairman and vice chairman shall be appointed by the president in consideration of the rules highlighted by Article 74 of the constitution. Five members of the commission shall be proposed by the interviewing committee and submitted to the president for appointment, she affirmed.

"The source of income for the electoral commission to organize elections should come from the treasury and approved by the legislature," the minister added.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) has a word with his Works counterpart, Innocent Bashungwa, in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma yesterday. The legislative body is back in the national capital for a three-week ordinary meeting. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Deputy minister dispels rumours about BBT-YIA

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE deputy minister David Silinde yesterday urged the beneficiaries of Building a Better Tomorrow- Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) to use the opportunities to empower themselves economically.

He said the government took decisions to engage youth and women in the programme to make sure they are directly involved in agricultural activities such as fish farming, beekeeping, livestock keeping and agro-processing.

Silinde spoke after visiting BBT-YIA farms at Chinangali in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region where he said there have been a lot of misrepresentations on social media that youth engaged in the programme have been defrauded.

"This is a government activity; youth have been given the farms and are actively engaging in sunflower cultivation," he said, adding that the market is guaranteed.

"The government's intention is to empower you economically through agriculture. Ignore the spreading rumours and concentrate on your farms."

Rehema Menda from Fire and Rescue Force said the engaged youth received training on how to fight fire outbreak. She said a decision to train them was meant to protect their farms, homes and other belongings from fire disaster.

"We also trained them on proper use of fertiliser and pesticides. Proper use of agriculture inputs would prevent disasters such as fire outbreak," she said.

## DIT to increase enrolment in IT courses to meet demand

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) expects to increase the number of students it admits in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) so

as to produce enough experts in the area.

This is meant to solve the challenges immediately after the completion of the DIT competence center that is being built at Dar es Salaam main campus.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Prof James Mdoe, Deputy Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Education, Science and Technology during a visit to the construction site of the RAFIC Center at DIT to see its

progress.

"When this center is completed, we expect to train enough specialists in IT because it will have dormitories with a capacity of 300 students, laboratories and offices

with a capacity of 1000 people. With this capacity, we are sure to admit a large number thus increase experts needed to solve society's challenges," he said.

Prof Mdoe said the main goal

of establishing the center is to be able to stimulate economic growth as it is expected to make a positive contribution in solving the challenges of society and also stimulate development of the nation.

Prof Preksedis Ndomba, DIT Rector, said the institute will continue to supervise the construction work more closely to ensure that it is completed within the time agreed between them and the contractor.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday at Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma city consoling Theresia Ngowi, mother of legislator Halima Mdee (R), who is admitted there. Left is the hospital's managing director, Dr Alphonse Chandika. Photo: PMO

## Mo Report: Data quality, governance mood related

FROM PAGE 1

"Without data, we are driving blind - policies are misdirected and progress on the road to development is stunted. We must act urgent-

ly to close the data gap in Africa if we genuinely want to leave no one behind. Data is key to achieving both the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals," he declared, reasserting the view

that "what UN Agenda 2030 should have begun with is an SDG 0 - Sound Data for Governance."

From its inception, MIF has been a strong supporter of Afrobarometer, now the leading African research in-

stitution conducting public attitude surveys on the continent.

Afrobarometer is the only source of the Citizens' Voices dataset, which complements the IIAG dataset, launched following a two-day meeting

of the IIAG expert panel in Accra.

The renewed advisory body meets once a year in a different African country for in-person consultations on the IIAG, officials noted.

## Samia hands over 55 boats, 222 cages to fishing groups

FROM PAGE 1

She explained the government's role as to create a conducive environment for such activities to blossom, urging the youth groups to target high production levels while observing regulations.

A total of 300 youths had already received loans through Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) during fiscal 2023/2024, she said, noting that in future the wish is to increase numbers of young entrepreneurs in the fishery sector.

This will play a part in ensuring that fruitful occupation is a major factor in transforming their lives, she said, underlining that fishery has a bright future as statistics show that the global market is on the course to double its current demand.

The global population is projected at nine billion people by 2030 and upwards of ten billion people by 2050, while the average consumption of fish in 1990 stood at 10kg annually, rising to 20kg annually by 2010, she stated.

"This is clear evidence that the consumption of fishery products will double, hence opening new economic opportunities," she said, pointing out that Tanzania has a vast fish market which can sustain their activities. The youth groups need to observe regulations governing value chain procedures that will help to protect the market by provision of quality products.

She directed the Livestock and Fisheries ministry to allocate substantial funds to uplift efforts of fishery groups to access approved fishing nets and control illegal fishing, affirming that the ministry needs to ensure that fishing activities are conducted within the rules to ensure that fishing facilities remain sustainable. Increased awareness was vital for particular groups to change their mind sets and use of equipment or fishing technique harmful to the environment and human health, insisting that the relevant authorities need to ensure that fishing consignments are transported through the Mwanza International Airport and not smuggled via informal routes.

Abdalah Ulega, the minister, said that the cages and fishing boats have been insured to prevent the groups from suffering irreparable harm from hazards or emergencies.

The fisheries sector so far engages four million people in the value chain where 200,000 people have directly employed, he said, highlighting that the sector is a vital source of protein and foreign currency via exports.



# NMB income soars to 775bn/- for 2023

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank posted good financial results last year as profit before tax soared to a new record of 775bn/-, surging by 26 percent, while net income rose 26 percent to 542bn/-.

NMB CEO Ruth Zaipuna announced the results at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, saying that when the strategic medium term plan for

2021-2025 was being drawn in 2020, total income had reached 842bn/-, and profit before tax stood at 296bn/-.

Profit after tax was then perched at 206bn/-, she said, noting that 2023 performance included double-digit growth in profitability and income generation, considered to be impactful on individual lives and the wider economy.

Total income for 2023

reached 1.4trn/-, growing by 18 percent year-on-year, with 24 percent growth in interest income and 15 percent increase in non-interest income, she stated, emphasising that the 2023 financials reflect tremendous growth with NMB's profitability levels marking a new high for the bank and the financial services sector at large.

The strong performance was due to exponential loan book

growth and a surge in customer deposits, she said, asserting that the 2023 achievements also resulted from solid portfolio quality and significant efficiency gains.

There was an increase in new customer accounts by over 1.2m to reach an unrivalled sectoral level of over 7.1m accounts, decisively delivering the results, she explained.

"Our balance sheet continues

to be a source of strength, with total assets standing at 12.2trn/- as of end of 2023, representing an increase of 19 percent year-on-year. This growth was mainly on account of the bank's growing deposit base and loan book that grew by 12 percent and 28 percent respectively," she added.

The efficiency gains made during the year came from improvement of the cost-to-income ratio that reached 39 per-

cent from 50 percent whereas better lending management led to the non-performing loan ratio being bettered to 3.2 percent from 3.5 percent.

These efficiency and credit risk indicators were below the regulatory thresholds of 55 percent and 5 percent respectively. Also, within the regulatory benchmarks was the bank's total capital adequacy ratio at 20.17 percent, which signi-

fies solid capital levels due to strong liquidity profile and efficient capital management.

"We are proud of our performance and progress made in several strategic areas, including driving financial inclusion, advancing customer experience and accelerating strategic investments in our people, governance and technology to drive enhanced value creation," Zaipuna said.

## President Samia assents to universal healthcare bill

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has signed into law three bills that were tabled and endorsed by the National Assembly last November.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson told the august house yesterday that the bills were endorsed by the National Assembly during its 13th sitting.

She named the laws as the Legal Sector Laws Miscellaneous (Amendment) Act, 2023, the Written Laws Miscellaneous (Amendment) No.4 Act, 2023 and the Universal Healthcare Act, 2023.

The bills were tabled in the National Assembly to facilitate good management and control system for the provision of health insurance for all. The bill on health further meant to enable all citizens to access health services without financial constraints.

According to Health Minister Umy Mwalimu, a total of 15.8 million Tanzanians, an equivalent of 3.6 million households are expected to benefit from this law.

In addition, she mentioned the sources of income in the law as tax on cosmetics and alcoholic beverages.

The law, whose draft has been stalled in parliament for the last two years is also going to eliminate the complaints on treatment costs for the poor.

The Legal Sector Laws Miscellaneous (Amendment) Bill, 2023 contained proposed amendments for 23 laws covering different sectors.



Commodore Agyapal Singh (R), Resident Defence Adviser with the Indian High Commission in Tanzania, poses for a souvenir photo in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with the immediate former Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tabora airport expansion costs 24bn/-, reaches 27pc

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TRANSPORT Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has asked Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to ensure passenger building at Tabora Airport is completed within the scheduled time.

Speaking on Monday soon after inspecting the project, Prof. Mbarawa said that the government has already taken appropriate steps to ensure that the project is completed on time.

"This project was signed for a long time but its implementation started last year and that was due to various challenges that emerged. So, TANROADS should closely supervise this contractor so that they complete it within the scheduled time in order to pave way for air transport and promote the economy of the region," he said.

The minister commended TANROADS for ensuring that locals are given priority in employment opportunities which make people feel part of the implementation of the project. Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Batilda Burian thanked the government for the projects that position Tabora as transport hub, including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) which she said will stimulate development and economic activities in western part of Tanzania.

TANROADS regional manager Raphael Mlimaji assured Prof Mbarawa that challenges that can be accepted to allow for time extension must be based on reality.

Tabora Airport Manager Fadhili John said that completion of the passenger building will enable approximately 120 passengers to be served at the same time.

Tabora airport expansion project has reached 27 percent and cost approximately 24bn/- whereby along with the building, the project involves the construction and

installation of a control tower, roads to and from the airport, a perimeter wall and a weather centre.

The project is implemented by the M/S Beijing Construction Engineering Group Co. Ltd.

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## Invitation for BID

BID No. GIZ/HWC/83457722/2024

### Training & Coaching on Problem Animal Information system- PAIS

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the Tanzania Government on behalf of the Germany in achieving its development-policy objectives.

The HWC (Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflicts) programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

In the current phase of the programme (2022 - 2025), will focus on four main areas: Improving and regulating the capacity of MNRT and Wildlife division for implementing the National Human Wildlife Management Strategy, strengthen interinstitutional response to HWC, empower communities to reduce negative impact of HWC and mitigation on their livelihood and security, and enhance the capacity of education Institutions and medias to integrate content relevant to HWC into their work.

#### Requirement:

GIZ Invites bids from eligible and qualified bidders to implement a series of trainings and coaching sessions on **Problem Animal Information system- PAIS** for relevant Government authorities at national level (MNRT), and in the Districts of Namtumbo, Tunduru and Liwale.

#### Submission of Offer:

Please submit your offer to [tz\\_quotation@giz.de](mailto:tz_quotation@giz.de) latest by **Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2024**.

Interested candidates should access the documents through link or barcode provided below.

We will answer your request during office hours from 8:00 to 15:00 hours local time, Monday to Friday through [tz\\_procurement@giz.de](mailto:tz_procurement@giz.de) except public holidays.

Late Bids, Partial Bids, Bids not received, shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

GIZ is not obliged to follow any condition in nominating the supplier and has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

**This tender is intended solely for Tanzanian based companies.**

#### QR Code:



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[https://www.giz.de/en/downloads\\_els/83457722-Training-and-Coaching-on-PAIS.pdf](https://www.giz.de/en/downloads_els/83457722-Training-and-Coaching-on-PAIS.pdf)



SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

### WFP Emergency (cash or in-kind food) Response

### CSP 2022-2027 Strategic Outcome 1 – Crisis Response

#### 1. BACKGROUND

WFP Tanzania is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from competent national and international NGOs with presence and operations in Tanzania, who specialize in emergency response to populations affected by man-made or natural disasters, either in the form of emergency food assistance or emergency cash assistance.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- This EOI is open to any national and international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with appropriate authorization to operate in Tanzania as a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organisation (submission of certificate of registration).
- Provision of Cover Letter introducing the organization and its experience in the subject area.
- Letters of recommendation from last 3 donors/partners.
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further information and Due Diligence and capacity assessment, this process involves submission of several documents to WFP.

#### 3. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The prospective Partner is requested to submit using your own template for narrative proposal and for budget (in simple format) showing their experience and capacities to implement activities in all of the following areas: Setting up of the emergency food and/or cash response, Implementation and supervision and Monitoring and reporting. The proposal and budget should not exceed 15 pages.

Upon receipt of the above information from prospective partners, WFP will evaluate and pre-assess applicants. NGO that fulfills the criteria listed above will be included in the roster. Presence in the Roster does not guarantee that the NGO will be selected to implement food and/or cash transfer interventions, rather, presence in the Roster means that in the event of a major crisis in a particular geographic area requiring WFP direct intervention, NGO from the Roster will be invited to submit a detailed project proposal and budget (updating the project proposal and budget submitted in response to this EOI).



Full details of the EOI can be accessed by scanning this QR Code (Filter by Tanzania and WFP) it will direct you to download the EOI from the UN Partner Portal without login.

#### A. SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Interested organizations should submit their expressions of interest electronically to the WFP Dar es Salaam Office through, [Tanzania.partnership@wfp.org](mailto:Tanzania.partnership@wfp.org) or in the UN Partner Portal (for organizations already registered in the UNPP), specifying Expression of Interest-Emergency Response in the subject line. The deadline for submission is 19 February 2024, at 23:59 (Midnight, EAT). Only shortlisted NGOs will be contacted.





## PIC happy with the execution of 4.4bn/- water project in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Public Investment Committee (PIC) has expressed satisfaction with implementation of the 4.4bn/- Nzuguni water project in Dodoma Region which is carried out by Dodoma Water and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA).

The committee has also called upon other water authorities to learn from DUWASA, as the organization's approach in executing water projects has taken into consideration the aspect of value for money.

Speaking shortly after inspecting the project at Nzuguni ward, the committee chairman Deus Sangu said the government has invested a lot of money in the project and is expecting it to improve water services in the capital city.

He commended DUWASA for speedily implementing the project, saying when completed, it will provide a relief to city residents.

"We commend the government for disbursing funds for implementation of the Nzuguni project that will expand access to clean and safe," he added.

Sangu noted that the project is implemented at international standards, adding that technicians use information and communication technology (ICT) in pumping and distributing water as well as measuring water levels in tanks.

DUWASA Board Chairman, Ambassador Job Masima, said they take measures to ensure all city residents access clean and safe water.

DUWASA Director Aron Joseph said the project has reached 96 percent implementation, noting upon completion will benefit more than 75,000 people. He said the project will also improve water availability by 11 percent.

The current demand for water in Dodoma Region is 133 million litres per day while the production is 67 million litres, resulting in a deficit of 66.7 million litres.

He said the project is being implemented with funds collected by the local government whereas the central government has provided 3.3bn/-, equivalent to 71 percent.

Second phase implementation of the project, which will include construction of deep water wells, will cost 1.19bn/-, he said.



xxx

## Tanga port receives large ships after expansion

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Tanga

THE Port of Tanga is set to handle 1.2million tonnes of cargo for the 2023/2024 financial year, thanks to the recent expansion project.

Speaking to journalists at the weekend in Tanga city, port manager Masoud Mrisha said that the port improvement has started paying off due to increase in the number of ships surges

He said stakeholders in the shipping industry can transport various goods domestically and internationally through the northern gateway.

He said some of the improvements are the expansion of its entrance and exit channels, increase of its depth from 3 meters to 13 metres, expansion draft at the turning basin and expansion of two berths to a width of 450 metres, adding that total cost of the works is 429.1bn/-.

The first phase of the project which was implemented at a cost of 172.3bn/- involved expansion of the port's entrance channel, increase of draft at the turning basin and procurement of modern equipment.

The implementation of the second phase of the project involved construction of new 450-metre-long berths at a cost of 256.8bn/-.

Mrisha said that the improvement allows ships to offload cargo at the

berths, instead of offloading offshore.

He said Tanga Port has so far served approximately 19 large ships from different countries around the world, carrying cargo of over 100,000 tonnes.

He said that significant improvements made at the port have convinced large and modern ships that previously used competitor ports in neighbouring countries to start

bringing their ships to Tanga Port.

"Right now, there is a large ship christened BSL NODIC with a capacity of carrying 4,967 tonnes of cargo and a length of 169.26 metres being serviced at the port. We have planned to service it in five shifts. Previously, this ship would have been serviced in ten shifts," he said.

Mrisha said the port's efficiency has now increased, including using less time to service ships and reduc-

ing operating costs, which has led to an increase in the number of ships serviced at a time.

Simba Terminals Manager Awadhi Massawe said that his company convinced one of the largest and modern ships to use Tanga Port to transport its cargo from Russia to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

He said that a total of 4,900 tonnes of general cargo were offloaded at the port from the cargo ship.



### ADVERTISEMENT

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

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

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

TMA wishes to invite interested qualified firms/consortiums to participate in the following tenders:

- (Tender number: PRQ20230825) Consultancy for Standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Portfolio Evaluation.
- (Tender number: PRQ20230832) Consultancy for Sustainable and Efficient Transport Infrastructure Evaluation Portfolio Evaluation.
- (Tender number: PRQ20230833) Consultancy for Improved Trade Regulatory Environment Portfolio Evaluation.

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com)

The closing date for the submissions is **on or before 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 12.00 p.m. (Kenyan Time)**.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

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



### ADVERTISEMENT

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TMA wishes to invite interested qualified firms/consortiums to participate in the following tenders:

- (Tender number: PRQ20230714) Consultancy for Technical assistance to enhance capacity of Rwandan businesses and Implementation of market access programme.
- (Tender number: PRQ20230822) Consultancy for Enhancing market access through capacity building interventions for public sector institutions and private sector enterprises to enhance compliance to standards and SPS related requirements.

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com)

The closing date for the submissions is **on or before 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 12.00 p.m. (Kenyan Time)**.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

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





**AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**  
benki kwa maendeleo yako

# PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

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

(Amounts in millions of shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-23
<b>A ASSETS</b>		
1 Cash	12,803	15,354
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	18,125	13,763
3 Investment in Government securities	37,576	36,467
4 Balances with other banks & Financial Institutions	3,667	5,508
5 Cheque and items for clearing	(4)	14
6 Interbranch float items	27	0
7 Bills negotiated	-	-
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loans receivables	-	-
10 Investment in other securities	-	-
Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowance for probable losses)	108,072	103,254
12 Other Assets	13,529	14,810
13 Equity investments	39	39
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	14,278	14,534
16 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>208,112</b>	<b>203,743</b>
<b>B LIABILITIES</b>		
17 Deposit from other banks and financial institutions	10,790	3,441
18 Customer deposits	139,395	141,462
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-
20 Special deposits	448	200
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	-	-
22 Bankers cheques and drafts issued	1	1
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	3,290	4,807
24 Acceptances outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch float items	-	90
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	2,087	2,148
27 Other liabilities	15,845	15,769
28 Borrowings	8,350	8,635
29 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>180,206</b>	<b>176,552</b>
30 <b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>27,905</b>	<b>27,191</b>
<b>C SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>		
31 Paid up Share capital	27,797	27,797
32 Capital reserves	-	-
33 Retained earnings	(18,587)	(16,833)
34 Profit (Loss) account	399	(316)
35 Other capital accounts	18,297	16,542
36 Minority interest	-	-
37 <b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>27,905</b>	<b>27,191</b>
38 Contingent liabilities	1,111	1,241
39 Non performing loans and advances	8,131	9,756
40 Allowance for probable losses	1,483	4,936
41 Other non performing assets	73	73
<b>D PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>		
(i) Shareholders funds to total assets	13.4%	13.3%
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	7.5%	9.1%
(iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	71.2%	73.1%
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	52.3%	52.9%
(v) Earning assets to Total assets	71.7%	71.3%
(vi) Deposit growth	3.8%	10.6%
(vii) Asset growth	2.1%	2.6%

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-23	Current Year Cumulative 31-Dec-23	Comparative Year Cumulative 31-Dec-22
<b>I. Cash flow from operating activities:</b>				
Net income/ (loss) before tax	714	(503)	399	(7,030)
Adjustment for:				
-Impairment /amortization	595	570	2,196	7,194
-Net change in loans and advances	(4,818)	(2,526)	(11,512)	(18,851)
-Gain/(loss) on sale of assets	(114)	(24)	(139)	(0)
-Net change in deposits	5,531	13,911	22,637	5,201
- Net change in short term negotiable securities	(1,109)	5,120	2,025	8,535
- Net change in other liabilities	(1,538)	(8,874)	(5,580)	335
- Net change in other assets	1,255	1,138	(1,008)	10,942
- Tax paid	(150)	-	(169)	203
- Others (SMR)	277	(398)	1,759	1,476
Net cash provided/ (used) by operating activities	643	8,414	10,607	8,004
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities:</b>				
Dividends received	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(372)	(1,421)	(3,305)	(822)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	114	-	114	0
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	(7,471)
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided/ (used) by investing activities	(258)	(1,421)	(3,191)	(8,292)
<b>III. Cash flow from financing activities:</b>				
Repayment of long-term debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-	5,663	-
Payment of cash dividends	-	-	-	0
Net change in other borrowings	-	-	-	-
Others	(583)	(695)	(2,791)	(841)
Net cash provided/ (used) by financing activities	(583)	(695)	2,873	(841)
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>				
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(197)	6,298	10,289	(1,129)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter	29,753	23,454	19,266	20,395
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter	29,555	29,753	29,555	19,266

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in Million shillings)

	Share Capital	Preference Shares	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year</b>							
Balance as at 01 January 2023	27,797	5,960	2,432	(15,276)	930	-	21,844
Profit for the year	-	-	-	399	-	-	399
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	5,663	-	-	-	-	5,663
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	(3,312)	3,312	-	0
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of 31 December 2023	27,797	11,623	2,432	(18,189)	4,242	-	27,905
<b>Previous Year</b>							
Balance as at 01 January 2022	27,797	-	2,432	(12,101)	4,857	5,888	28,874
Profit for the year	-	-	-	(7,030)	-	-	(7,030)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	5,960	-	(72)	-	(5,888)	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	3,927	(3,927)	-	0
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of 31 December 2022	27,797	5,960	2,432	(15,276)	930	-	21,844

## SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements

**Name and Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Silvest Arumasi  
(Managing Director)

Mr. Arnold Makanda  
(Chief Finance Officer)

Ms. Jacqueline Kafanabo  
Ag. Chief Internal Auditor

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Ms.Catherine Nchanasaa Kimaroyo  
2. Prof. Josephat Lotto

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

(Amounts in millions of shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23	Comparative Quarter 31-Dec-22	Current Year Cumulative 31-Dec-23	Comparative Year Cumulative 31-Dec-22
1 Interest Income	6,647	5,433	27,663	25,393
2 Interest Expense	(1,999)	(1,777)	(8,098)	(6,870)
3 <b>Net Interest Income</b>	<b>4,648</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>19,566</b>	<b>18,523</b>
4 Bad debts written - off	0	-	-	-
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advances	1,429	(3,160)	738	(4,394)
6 <b>Non Interest Income:</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>7,940</b>	<b>5,655</b>
6.1 Foreign exchange income	82	96	500	384
6.2 Fees and Commission	1,150	975	4,446	4,818
6.3 Dividend income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other operating income	525	229	2,994	452
7 <b>Non Interest Expense:</b>	<b>(6,950)</b>	<b>(6,449)</b>	<b>(27,675)</b>	<b>(24,790)</b>
7.1 Salaries and benefits	(3,291)	(3,279)	(14,345)	(14,164)
7.2 Fees and commission	-	-	-	-
7.3 Other operating expenses	(3,659)	(3,170)	(13,330)	(10,627)
8 <b>Operating Income/ (Loss)</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>(4,654)</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>(5,007)</b>
9 Income Tax provision	(171)	(2,023)	(171)	(2,023)
10 <b>Net Income / (Loss) after Income Tax</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>(6,677)</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>(7,030)</b>
11 Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
12 <b>Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) For the Year</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>(6,677)</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>(7,030)</b>
13 Number of employees	335	384	335	384
14 Basic Earnings per share	26	(240)	14	(253)
15 <b>Number of branches</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
i) Return on Average Total Assets	1.4%	-14.4%	0.2%	-3.8%
ii) Return on Average Shareholders' funds	10.4%	-106.1%	1.4%	-32.2%
iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	108.5%	130.1%	100.6%	99.0%
iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	12.6%	10.9%	13.3%	14.4%





## Absa Bank Tanzania Financial Performance Highlights (Dec 2023) (Amounts in Million Tanzania Shillings)

### Absa Bank Tanzania – from Strength to Outperformance in 2023, with 132% profit growth



**Obedi Laiser**  
Managing Director

Absa Bank Tanzania is proud to announce its remarkable financial performance for the fiscal year 2023, marking a year of unprecedented growth and best ever success since its establishment in the country, attributed to exceptional execution of its Growth and Transformation Strategy. Despite the challenges posed by the global economic landscape, Absa Bank Tanzania has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to its customers, stakeholders, and the community at large, seizing the opportunities presented in the market due to an improved economic landscape, better business environment and enabling regulatory framework which continues to be a great platform for businesses to excel.

and advances of 25% from previous year reaching TZS 784billion for the first time and the ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPL) reducing to 4.5%, well within the regulatory threshold. The significant growth in customer deposits is a true reflection of trust from our customers both existing and new to the bank. The bank continues to have a strong capital position and funding base and operates well above the regulatory and internal requirements. Our prudent risk management practices, strategic investments, and unwavering focus on customer-centric solutions have positioned us as a preferred banking partner in the financial services industry.

Our outstanding financial performance in 2023 is a testament to our steadfast dedication to excellence, innovation, and sustainable growth. We have continued to leverage technological advancements, expand our product and service offerings, and foster strategic partnerships to better serve the evolving needs of our diverse customer base.

Furthermore, our commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement remains unwavering. Throughout 2023, we have continued our support for various initiatives aimed at driving positive change, fostering financial literacy, and empowering communities to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

As we look ahead, Absa Bank Tanzania remains resolutely focused on delivering value, fostering trust, and driving inclusive prosperity for all our stakeholders. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our customers, the dedication of our employees, the understanding of regulators and policy makers and the confidence of our shareholders, which have been instrumental in our success.

Our exceptional financial performance in 2023 underscores Absa Bank Tanzania's commitment to excellence, innovation, and responsible growth. We are confident that with our unwavering dedication and the strength of our collective efforts, Absa Bank Tanzania will continue to set new benchmarks and achieve greater milestones in the years to come.

In 2023, Absa Bank Tanzania achieved record-breaking financial results, reflecting robust growth across key performance indicators. Profit Before Tax (PBT) surged to an all-time high of TZS 75billion, a staggering 132% increase from the previous year, which contributed to an impressive Return On Equity (ROE) of 32% in 2023. Overall revenue recorded an excellent annual growth of 30% on the back of a 21% growth in Net Interest Income (NII) and 41% increase in Non-Interest Income (NIR), with cost registering a very modest increase of 3% year on year - well below inflation, with all these contributing to a great improvement in the Cost to Income Ratio (CIR) to 53% in 2023, well within the regulatory threshold.

Total assets surged to an all-time high of TZS 1.42trillion, a 19% growth from prior year. This is accompanied by an exceptional growth in customer deposits of 37% year on year to TZS 1.1trillion and an impressive increase in customer loans

## INCOME STATEMENT

### REVENUE



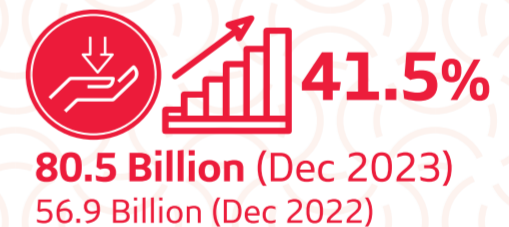
### PROFIT BEFORE TAX



### NET INTEREST INCOME

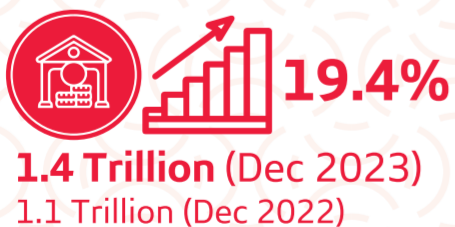


### NON INTEREST INCOME



## BALANCE SHEET

### TOTAL ASSETS



### EQUITY



### DEPOSITS (CUSTOMER)

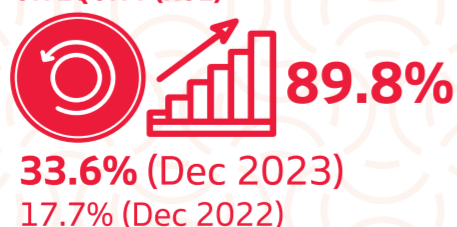


### LOANS (GROSS)



## KEY PERFORMING INDICATORS

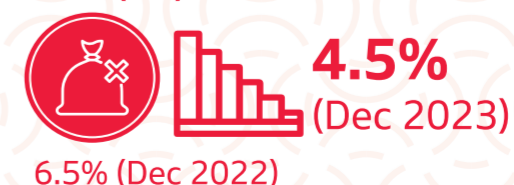
### RETURN ON EQUITY (ROE)



### COST TO INCOME RATIO (CIR)



### NON PERFORMING LOANS (NPL)





# Group seeks better environment, remuneration for domestic workers

By Guardian Reporter

EMPLOYERS of domestic workers have been urged to value contribution of the house helps by respecting and compensating them fairly.

Wagala Shungu, secretary of the Conservation, Hotels, Domestic and Allied Workers Union (CHODAWU) made the call in Dar es Salaam recently at a stakeholders' meeting called to discuss and push for the ratification of the International Labour

Organisation (ILO)'s convention number 189.

She said that domestic workers play a very big and important role in ensuring that families are safe and healthy for many years, the group is yet to be given much needed recognition.

Shungu said the union works hard to provide awareness to the society about domestic workers to help change people's negative perception about them, which leads to cruelty and other forms

of abuse.

To further enable domestic workers enjoy their roles and fulfil their dreams, Shungu underscored the need for the government to ratify the ILO's convention number 189 in order to help improve working conditions for the group.

She said the ILO adopted its convention number 189 in June 2011, which is the first time the rights of domestic workers were recognised and some countries currently take efforts to ratify it.

According to Shungu, ratifying the convention will formalise domestic work, adding that the same will give workers respect like other fields.

"In addition to being underpaid, domestic workers in the country are still not given contracts of employment, not handed payslips, not registered for injuries on duty, not registered for health insurance and not extended leave benefits, among other violations," she explained.

Zanini Athuman, national

domestic workers chairperson said: "Domestic workers do the indispensable work of caring for children, families and communities and help many meet essential household care needs. Unfortunately, many of them often face barriers to decent work such as poor working conditions, low pay, wage theft, exploitation and other violent actions."

Athuman said that ratification of the convention will be an important and welcome step to

protect the rights of all workers to be free from workplace violence and harassment.

She further said that the convention insists on the right to privacy for domestic workers which include providing the workers with a safe and private room for them to stay. Currently, she many employers put them in unpleasant places such as kitchen, corridors and sitting rooms.

"Being a woman and a domestic worker here is a double

tragedy. Despite grappling with negative attitudes and ridicule that domestic workers face from society, they also have to endure sexual harassment, demeaning name-calling and many others," she said.



**In addition to being underpaid, domestic workers in the country are still not given contracts**

## Institute starts project to support special needs students

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) is implementing a project meant to build an enabling learning environment for its students with special needs.

The initiative which focuses on attaining inclusive education at the institute is being executed with financial support from Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project as well as the institute's internal sources.

IRDP Rector Prof Hozen Mayaya told this writer in an interview recently that the institute which operates under the Ministry of Finance decided to implement the project in order to ensure that students with special needs get their rights for better education just like others.

"In our document pertaining to the institute's scheme of service, we have



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda inspects a ceremonial guard mounted by police officers in the Tarime/Rorya Special Police Zone at the weekend to mark Police Family Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

requested to recruit professionals for mentoring students with special needs. We have already dispatched it to the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance)," he said.

Through the project, he said that the institute is working to identify students with different forms of disabilities in order to assist them as per their relevant physical impairments.

"The vision is to ensure the institute becomes a better and friendly place for sheltering and providing equal quality education for all enrolled students irrespective of their physical status," he said.

Dr Sagumo Malenda, Inclusive Education Coordinator at HEET project said that there are 27 students with special needs at the fast-growing institute.

According to him, the groups include those with hearing impairment, different forms of physical disabilities, poor vision as well as albinism.

"During the first phase, IRDP received 7m/- from HEET for caring for students with special needs and the first step was to identify them at our two campuses of Mwanza and Dodoma and give them basic assistance," he said.



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# MWALIMU COMMERCIAL BANK PLC

## PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulation 7 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in million shillings)	Current Quarter 31-Dec-2023	Previous Quarter 31-Sep-2023
<b>A. ASSETS:</b>		
1. Cash	708	617
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	6,843	14,576
3. Investments in government securities	-	-
4. Balances with other banks and financial institutions	63	54
5. Cheques and items for clearing	9	(53)
6. Inter branch float items	-	-
7. Bills negotiated	-	-
8. Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-
9. Interbank loans receivables	7,372	6,371
10. Investment in other securities	-	-
11. Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of allowance for probable losses)	62,476	61,859
12. Other assets	2,555	2,050
13. Equity investments	-	-
14. Underwriting accounts	-	-
15. Property, plant and equipment (net)	1,057	962
<b>16. TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>81,083</b>	<b>86,436</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES:</b>		
17. Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	2,400	4,038
18. Customer deposits	58,709	59,320
19. Cash letters of credit	-	-
20. Special deposits	-	-
21. Payment orders/transfers payable	-	-
22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	-	-
23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable	2,503	1,844
24. Acceptances outstanding	-	-
25. Interbranch float items	607	3,287
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	-
27. Other liabilities	1,213	2,433
28. Borrowings	-	-
<b>29. TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>65,432</b>	<b>70,922</b>
<b>30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>15,651</b>	<b>15,514</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS:</b>		
31. Paid up share capital	30,912	30,912
32. Capital reserves	17	17
33. Retained Earnings	(20,302)	(20,302)
34. Profit (Loss) account	24	(114)
35. Others capital accounts (Advance towards share capital)	5,000	5,000
36. Minority interest	-	-
<b>37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>15,651</b>	<b>15,513</b>
<b>D. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES</b>		
38. Non performing loans & advances	1,111	1,200
39. Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	101.3%	96.7%
40. Loans and Advances to Total Assets	78.3%	70.9%
41. Earning Assets to Total Assets	86.1%	78.9%
42. Deposits Growth	-3.6%	-6.1%
43. Assets Growth	-6.2%	-2.4%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in million shillings)	Current Quarter 31-Dec-2023	Comparative Quarter 31-Dec-2022	Current Year Cumulative 31-Dec-2023	Comparative Year Cumulative 31-Dec-2022
1. Interest income	2,574	2,538	10,285	8,641
2. Interest expense	1,193	879	4,580	3,192
<b>3. Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>5,705</b>	<b>5,449</b>
4. Bad debts written-off	-	-	-	-
5. Impairment losses on loans and advances	77	45	283	45
6. Non-interest income:	582	480	1,915	1,996
6.1 Foreign currency dealings and translation gains/(loss)	-	-	(8)	5
6.2 Fees and commissions	537	367	1,696	1,771
6.3 Dividend income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other operating income	45	113	227	220
7. Non interest expenses	1,710	2,027	7,240	7,304
7.1 Salaries and benefits	651	755	3,028	3,113
7.2 Fees and commission	-	-	-	-
7.3 Other operating expenses	1,059	1,272	4,212	4,191
<b>8. Operating income/(loss)</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>
9. Income tax provision	(40)	(15)	(74)	(15)
<b>10. Net income/(loss) after income tax</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>81</b>
11. Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
<b>12. Total comprehensive Income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>81</b>
13. Number of employees	67	58	67	58
14. Basic Earnings Per Share	3	1	1.6	1.6
15. Number of branches	2	2	2	2
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	0.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	87.0%	94.8%	95.0%	98.1%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	2.0%	2.4%	8.2%	7.8%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in million shillings)	Share Capital	Retained Earnings	Advance towards share capital	Provision General Reserve	Total
<b>Current Year</b>					
Balance as at the beginning of the year	30,912	(20,254)	5,000	-	15,658
Profit for the year	-	23	-	-	23
Provision General Reserve	-	-	-	17	17
Others	-	(48)	-	-	(48)
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>30,912</b>	<b>(20,279)</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15,650</b>
<b>Previous Year</b>					
Balance as at the beginning of the year	30,912	(19,895)	5,000	-	16,017
Profit for the year	-	(331)	-	-	(331)
Provision General Reserve	-	(17)	-	17	-
Others	-	(11)	-	-	(11)
<b>Balance as at the end of the previous period</b>	<b>30,912</b>	<b>(20,254)</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15,675</b>

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in million shillings)	Current Quarter 31-Dec-2023	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-2023	Current Year Cumulative 31-Dec-2023	Comparative Year Cumulative 31-Dec-2022
<b>I. Cash flow from operating activities:</b>				
Net (loss)/profit before tax	233	(136)	97	96
Adjustment for:	-	-	-	-
- Impairment/amortisation/depreciation	453	496	949	1,244
- Net change in loans and advances	3,790	(5,408)	(1,618)	(23,944)
- Net change in deposits	(3,514)	(2,903)	(611)	21,459
- Net change in short term negotiable securities	-	-	-	-
- Net change in other liabilities	(3,168)	73	(3,241)	3,670
- Net change in other assets	(2,762)	2,544	(218)	(221)
- Tax paid	-	-	(34)	-
- Others	5	65	70	(300)
<b>Net cash provided (used) by operating activities</b>	<b>(4,963)</b>	<b>(5,269)</b>	<b>(4,606)</b>	<b>2,004</b>
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities:</b>				
- Dividend received	-	-	-	-
- Purchase of fixed assets	(89)	(120)	(209)	(229)
- Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
- Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
- Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
- Others	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided (used) by investing activities</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>(209)</b>	<b>(229)</b>
<b>III. Cash from financing activities:</b>				
- Repayment of long term debt	-	-	-	-
- Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-	-	-
- Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-	-	-
- Payment of cash dividends	-	-	-	-
- Net change in other borrowings	-	-	-	-
- Others	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>IV. Cash and cash equivalents:</b>				
- Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,951)	(5,421)	(4,815)	1,775
- Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter/year	5,424	10,845	5,424	6,051
- Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter/year	3,473	5,424	609	7,826

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DEC 2023		
In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements		
Name and Title	Signature	Date
Richard L. Makungwa (Chief Executive Officer)	(signed)	29 January 2024
Maulid M. Tarimo (Ag Head of Finance)	(signed)	29 January 2024
Joanitha Mashulano (Head of Internal Audit)	(signed)	29 January 2024
<b>We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.</b>		
Name	Signature	Date
1/ Francis Ramadhani (Chairman)	(signed)	29 January 2024
2/ Berthasia L. Patrick (Director)	(signed)	29 January 2024



Ada Chap Chap

Mkopo wa haraka kwa ajili ya ada ya shule kwa waajiriwa wanaotaka kujitendeleza kielimu au kwa ajili ya kulipa ada za wategemezi wao





WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Human-wildlife conflicts becoming a burden in governance, accountability

WE are told that 90 per cent of questions and complaints raised by our parliamentarians relate to cases, issues and incidents arising from human-wildlife conflicts.

It is noteworthy that this observation is attributed to none other than the authority on Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki, officiating at an event to install a new Tanapa (Tanzania National Parks) chief executive at the state-run agency's head offices in Arusha city.

That would imply, that of late, written or other questions raised by MPs are excessively about intrusion of wild animals into inhabited areas - and that legislators are not fully satisfied with government moves focused on educating and sensitising residents near parks on such issues.

It would also be to say that there is something awfully amiss about land use and the future of conservation in our country.

The minister is reported to have directed the new Tanapa CEO to ensure that the issues pitting humans against wildlife are addressed effectively.

It is hard to tolerate cases of humans clashing with wild animals in areas surrounding national parks and wildlife corridors.

Accordingly, it is high time these incidents were resolved once and for all and without creating new ones.

But chances are that this will be a tall order for the new appointee, as the park authorities have plans and residents of nearby locations also plans of their own, with farmers legally standing as intruders whenever found in officially designated wildlife sanctuaries.

One point that the minister raised was that one of the ways to ensure that people living near conservation areas are satisfied with governance arrangements there is to set aside more funds for community development projects and services.

While this is largely the case, it is not enough as a substitute for actually changing the border lines between conservation and farming so that there are safe corridors not just for wildlife but also for farmers.

Chances that the minister's appeal will be taken up by the respective conservation areas were visible in another remark she made, namely, that all the 21 national parks must become productive in yielding revenues.

On the basis of current figures at the government's disposal, only five parks are making profitable business and the other 16 are dependent on state subsidies.

But if the parks' most important and urgent task is to yield profit, it would be understandable were one to wonder as to how much of corporate social responsibility funding they will likely put across.

Would that still suffice for the sort of layouts needed to keep off wild animals from the farming zones?

The sort of changes that would do to actually end human-wildlife conflicts, to use the standard euphemism adopted by environmental activists, can be done either on the parks' side or on the farmers' side.

The bottom line, though, might likely be that the government will find it difficult to foster changes on either side freeing the other side from the pressure.

One would be to hand over the loss-making national parks to investors and go for part-shareholding for those making profits so that they can put up the protective layouts like electric fencing or discouraging vegetation.

Another option would be to offer freehold land titles to residents of areas near the parks so that those who keep facing the wildlife intrusion menace can sell to investors and leave.

It is clear that both options hinge on reform in that the presence of majority shareholding by well-capitalised investors permits the putting up of facilities to keep out beasts from villagers.

That would apply meanwhile as personalised land titles permit investors to buy up such areas instead of just fortifying reserved areas.

The investors could create new products like camps instead of clearing patches of wild land for the purpose. The government may wish to ask itself whether it is upon Tanapa, its parent ministry or some other authority to play ball.

## After fallout, Ecowas should learn from EAC habits, tools

THREE members of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) - Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger - have given notice of quitting the regional grouping founded in 1975.

They have given the reason for the decision as objecting to pressures to restore civilian rule on their soil over the wishes of the majority opinion.

In part, the move is intended to assist Niger, the latest to have a military coup and in a sense the weakest member of the three-country alliance.

This would also help to lessen the pressure in the three countries' own backyards from richer or more powerful Ecowas member states.

Some blame for the discord has meanwhile gone to Nigeria, an experimented democracy for many years intermittently military-led.

What is partially apparent is that economic blocs are losing their power in various areas, while sub-groups are being formed at different points depending on circumstances.

An example would be having the three countries form a coalition to defend their freedom to choose the political formats they want.

Regional communities not having that kind of compulsive attributes as to what everyone should do are likely to be more stable.

For its part, Ecowas has features in a way tailored along the lines of the European Union, where there is an explicit framework of political conduct. The idea is that such ethical maxims are good but can't always be strictly observed.

Looking at the Ecowas situation and then taking a glance at the East African Community, the Southern Africa Development Community and IGAD (the Intergovernmental Authority for Development), a

few lessons are discernible.

EAC member-states have known intermittent war of words with one another and actual flare-ups with proxy forces particularly on the western tip, while the functioning of the EAC is generally running without a glitch.

Leaders of the respective states meet at middle or upper levels, depending on the moment, their contentions or reservations notwithstanding.

The problems or challenges Ecowas is now contending with may not exactly be of its own choosing or making, as they in a sense reflect a model of tight relations with a former colonial power.

So long as there is agreement on key issues with three or four similar regional level powers, things appear to work well. However, when it comes to enforcing standards that member countries are not ready to enforce, division will likely ensue.

In that case, flexibility requires that each country has space to live and run political structures convenient for its needs - with security or such pressures overwhelming competitive politics.

But presumably owing to the limitation each country faces in striving to make it in a chaotic global economic environment, the cherished Pan-African dream of having regional unions so as to take the African continent forward is being realized in another way.

Many countries appear sufficiently satisfied belonging to an economic union as a way of discarding regional political baggage. But that doesn't at all mean that Africa has no need of common political standards based on civilian rule and observable elections.

It only could be that we lack the sort of strong economic structures permitting strict observance of such rules - which is curable, given political will.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

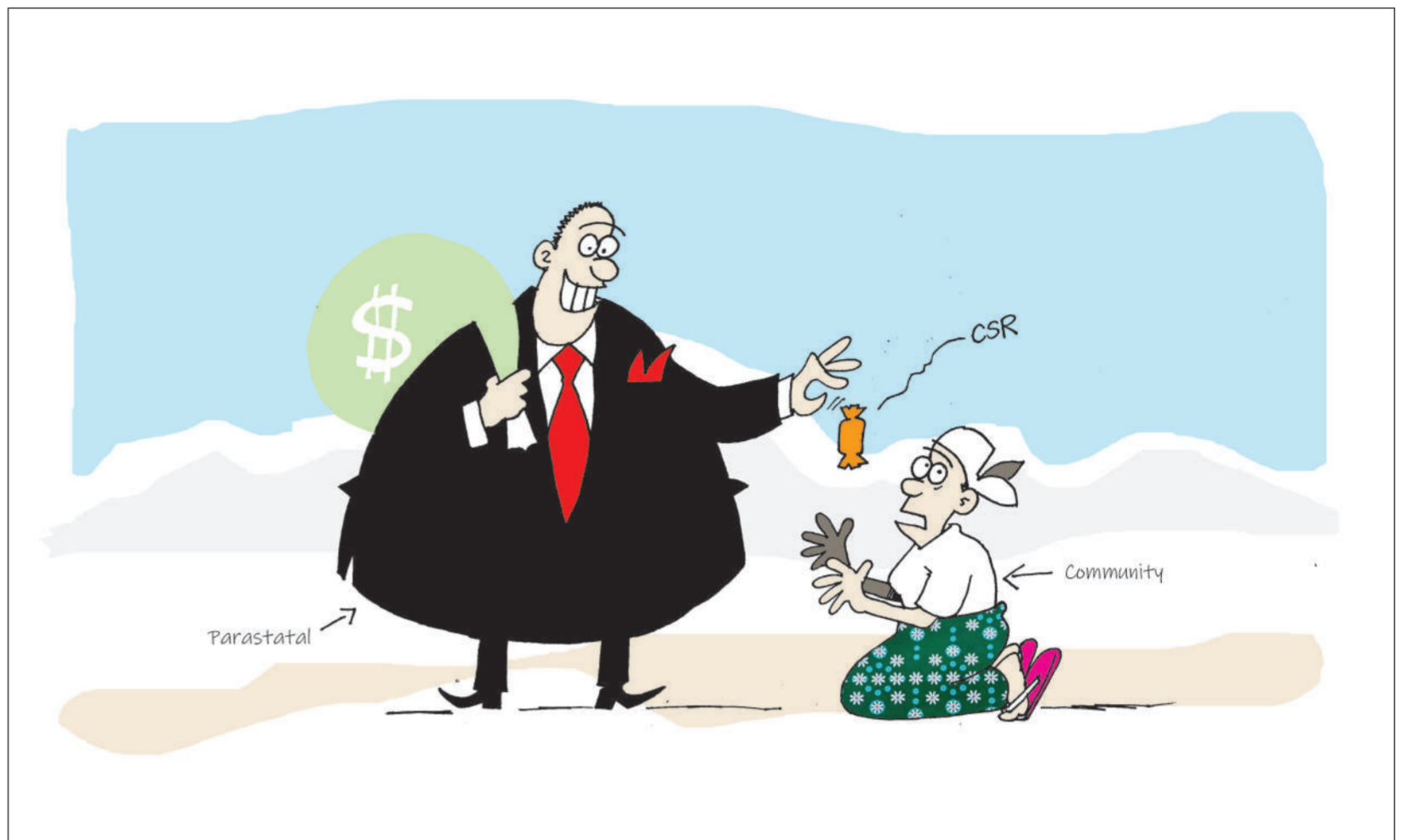
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## Platform challenges common stereotypes about Africa

By Arinze Chijioke

EVER since award-winning Nigerian-American journalist Chika Oduah started practising journalism, she has sought to cover Africa with more nuance. She readily admitted that this has proved more challenging than she expected.

"I wanted to make a difference by being a journalist reporting for Western-based media outlets," she said, elaborating: "But I realized that there is a limit to what you can do as a conscious journalist working for the Western media because the mainstream media typically wants simplistic, black-and-white stories that do not portray the nuances of the reality in Africa."

Throughout her career, Oduah has witnessed how Africa is often written about as a place full of negativity, disease and doom.

"I have been a journalist for about 20 years and over this period, I have noticed that there is typically a narrative that Western media outlets maintain when covering Africa," she says.

Determined to counter these narratives, in June 2023 Oduah launched a platform she named Zikora Media and Arts. "In Igbo Zikora means to show the world, and strive to show to the world, what it means to be unapologetically African," she said.

The platform operates six creative categories, also known as branches, to accomplish her platform's editorial goals. These include literary arts, performing arts, an initiative called "The Collective Tree", events, film and TV, and journalism.

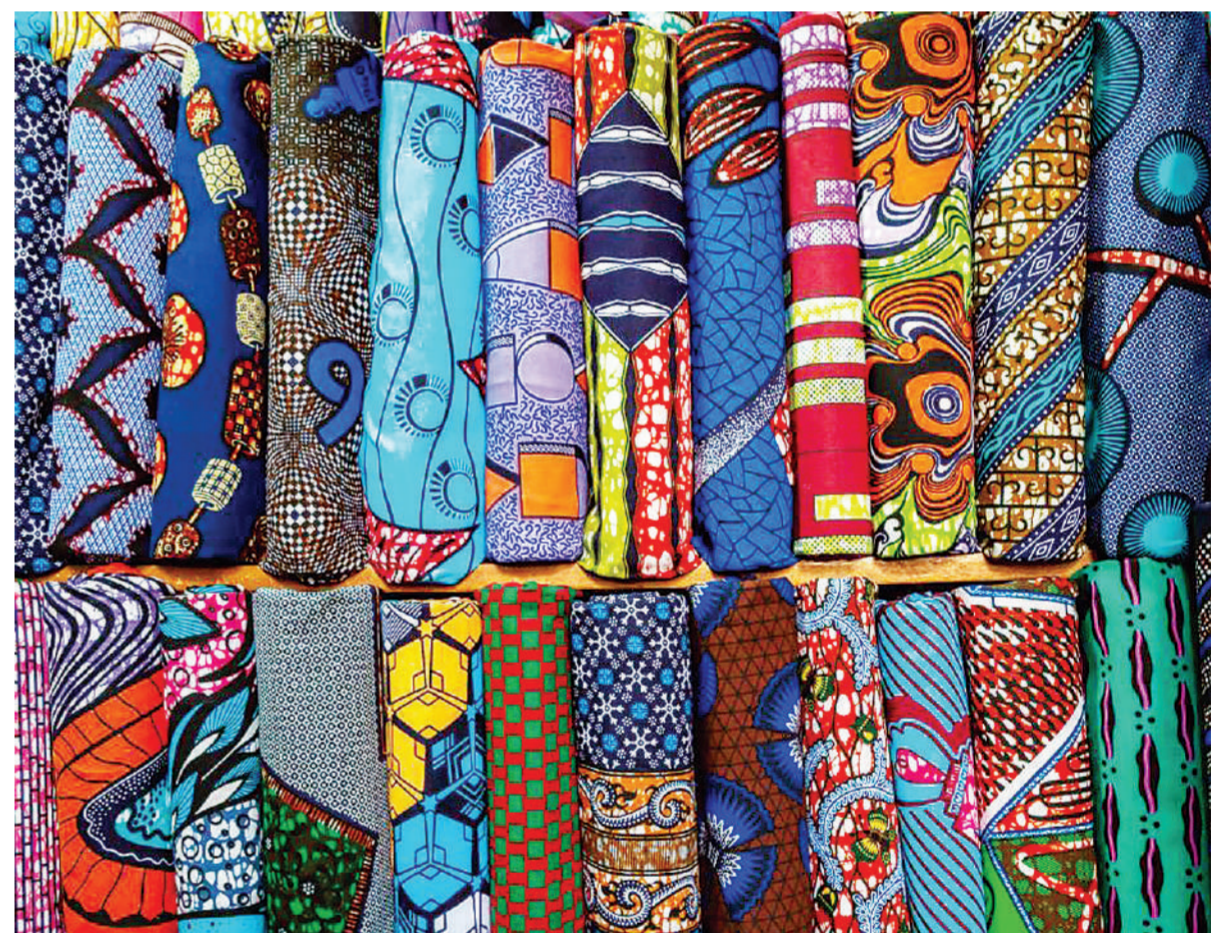
As part of its literary arts focus, Zikora calls for poets to write about Africa's rich cultural heritage and history. This branch, which is still being developed, recognizes the power of the written word and its capacity to ensure the preservation and appreciation of African stories.

"I believe that arts and storytelling are tools we can use to elevate Africa's position in the global geopolitical arena," Oduah said, adding: "We need to rise to the top and shape Africa today and tomorrow. We don't ignore the challenges, but we talk about them in an uplifting way."

The platform's performing arts branch showcases art created through movement such as dance, which is part of Africa's heritage. Under this category, the platform partners with Bakalama Danse, an award-winning Senegalese dance company, to offer West African traditional dance lessons weekly in the Senegalese capital, Dakar.

"For me, it is all about combining arts with journalism because a lot of Africans are very much intent on seeing themselves owning the media," said Oduah. Adding: "Many Africans are aware of how they have been portrayed and are eager to see these wrongs corrected."

The Collective Tree brings filmmak-



African fabrics lined up side by side. File photo

ers, visual artists, dancers, poets, sculptors, writers and more together to support one another by sharing career-related opportunities and learning experiences on how to improve their respective crafts.

Under the film and TV branch, Zikora harnesses the power of moving images and cinema to showcase the continent's culture and history.

Oduah and her team are currently producing Zikora's first film too, called Looking for Boko Haram, to be released in 2025.

The film focuses on the ongoing Boko Haram war in northeastern Nigeria, highlighting the beauty and courage of the region's people rather than the misery of the conflict.

Zikora runs two projects under its journalism branch: Diaspora and Biafran War Memories, a digital archive of first-hand accounts of the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafran War.

The Biafran War Memories project tells the stories of people who lived through the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War. Diaspora features photos, personal essays and poems that explore the cross-cultural identity of Africans living outside of the African continent.

"The writers write their own stories and we just help to shape them up," said Oduah, adding: "It gives them a sense of pride. Racism is a common theme in these stories, but themes around socialising, marriage and cultural expectations are also explored."

For instance, a Togolese electrical engineer living in Portland, Oregon, wrote a story about his experience in the US with no American friends. In another story, a corporate communications specialist working at Amazon in Seattle wrote about how she is teaching her children Bambara, a language spoken in Mali, to help them feel connected to their homeland.

Last year, a Senegalese data science consultant and entrepreneur based in Montreal wrote about the discrimination he faced during his childhood in Washington, DC.

Zikora also hosts "circles", or gatherings that bring together thought leaders, artists, community leaders, students and more to celebrate Africa's arts and cultures. Attendees discuss ideas on how to make a positive impact throughout the continent during these events.

"There is a need more than ever to not just properly tell African stories beyond the coups, famine, security challenges and bad healthcare but also for development and to tell of the continent's rich history, culture and upward trajectories," said one circle attendee, Buchi Onyegbule. These gatherings are designed to elevate underreported African stories that showcase diverse perspectives from the continent, explained Cynthia Butare, Zikora's Francophone Africa network director.

"It's all about ensuring that our platform reflects the rich diversity

of stories across Africa," she said, adding: "Working closely with the other directors, our goal is to maintain the authenticity and relevance of Zikora's storytelling."

Zikora is not yet a year old, but Oduah and her team are already making plans to expand.

"We intend to make more films and sell them to major streaming platforms like Amazon and Netflix," said Oduah.

She quickly added: "We will also collaborate with artists across the African continent under the Collective Tree. We want to have a database for different kinds of artists, which will also be a support network."

Oduah hopes to begin distributing a printed magazine globally, too, in the hope that this product will draw on stories from Zikora's Diaspora branch, and be published twice yearly.

"We want to tell stories that represent the reality of Africa in a way that does not have a negative agenda," said Oduah, adding: "There is a reawakening of consciousness about the need to own our own story and determine our future... We must identify what we value and reject as Africans."

**\* A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Arinze Chijioke is a journalist based in Nigeria, from where he covers global health, climate change, the environment, conflicts, corruption, social justice, human rights, business and the economy.**



# Sunflower value chain: BBT surely programme to scale up production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

**T**HE Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT)—a youth initiative for agribusiness (YIA) is aimed at promoting Tanzanian youth engagement in agribusiness for sustainable and improved livelihoods.

By engaging youth in the program, they are directly involved in agricultural activities such as fish farming, pro-agriculture, beekeeping, livestock keeping and agro-processing.

The program is about modernization and commercialization of productive sectors in agriculture which includes heavy investments in mechanization, irrigation, agro-processing and digital platforms for youth.

The digital platforms under BBT are meant to look for access to agricultural extension services, marketing and making it possible for smallholder farmers to access capital as well as agricultural extension services.

At the Chinangali II block farm in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, youth are expected to engage in massive cultivation of sunflower at acreage of 2,020. The vital development is projected to help curtail the shortage of cooking oil across the country. A total of 268 youth are participating in the programme at the Chinangali II block farm.

The involved youth have so far received potential skills and knowledge on how to produce the prestigious crop commercially while production at the major farm has been shelved to commence this month.

Florian Ndabagoye, is the agricultural officer at the BBT secretariat, he said the fertile farm has



Some of the youth who are involved in the BBT programme at Dodoma's Chinangali II farm in Chamwino District. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo.

been categorised into three major phases whereas the first phase comprises a total of 220 acres while the second and third phases has 400 and 1,152 acres respectively.

He said the young farmers will be supplied with quality improved sunflower seed varieties to enhance productivity, adding the parent ministry will also provide them with recommended agro-inputs, including fertilizers.

"When the sunflower cultivation season is over, youth will embark on production of other

crops including those in the horticulture sector. Last week, a total of 268 youth at the Chinangali II farm signed a special agreement for each to own five acres of land for a period of 33 years," the officer told The Guardian.

As per signed agreement, BBT beneficiaries will be obliged to ensure their block farms are producing throughout the year, and they're not allowed to lease the farms to outsiders.

The young recruited farmers will have to pay for their farm's operation costs, which

include rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, electricity, water as well as other reasonable expenses.

During his visit at the farm last week, Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe provided the youth with working gears, including gum boots and gloves in readiness to enable them to cultivate effectively. Cultivation at the major estate will involve modern farming tools such as tractors.

Ndabagoye told The Guardian that they are optimistic that the programme will fetch the much-

needed end results as the involved youth have been trained effectively.

At the farm, the government has constructed houses with 38 apartments. Each room will accommodate four people.

Asinati Mtwewe, is one of the young female farmers participating in the programme, she hailed the government for providing them with the vital economic opportunity, saying they are ready to use the opportunity profitably.

"I am happy to be part of this programme; we kindly appreci-

ate the way we are being treated. The government provides us with 150,000/- each month for our meals," said Mtwewe who is from Iringa Region.

The farm has been installed with Global Positioning System (GPS) to help farmers to locate their farms.

Sunflowers contribute to at least 68.9 percent of all edible oil produced in Tanzania, with the remaining 30.1 percent coming from other crops, including palm oil.

Tanzania ranks 10th worldwide for sunflower production, second in Africa and 1st country in East Africa. In Tanzania, the crop is cultivated in a number of regions, with major producers being Singida, Dodoma, Shinyanga as well as northern and southern eastern parts of the country.

According to the Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP), sunflower is the most likely sub-sector likely to yield investable opportunities in Tanzania.

Production of the crop which contributes to at least 68.9 percent of all edible oil produced in the country has remained low due to several factors, including challenges in availability of quality seeds. The country is currently producing 290,000MT of edible oil, forcing it to import 420,000MT annually. The demand is forecasted to increase to 700,000MT by 2030.

Increased human population and sunflower processing industries as well as economic growth are among the factors that push for the increased demand of edible oil in the country.

Championed by the ministry of agriculture, BBT - YIA aims to promote Tanzanian youth and women engagement in agribusiness for sustainable food systems and improved livelihoods.

It is a tool for contributing to the attainment of the Agenda 10/30 that envisages increasing the youth employment by 1.5 million and obtaining the growth rate of the agricultural sector by 10 percent in 2030.

# Italy unveils plan to further Africa's development and restrain migration

By Nicole Winfield

**I**TALIAN Premier Giorgia Meloni has unveiled Italy's big development plan for Africa at a summit of the continent's leaders, aiming to stem the numbers of migrants, diversify sources of energy and forge a new, non-predatory relationship between Europe and Africa.

Meloni declared the summit a successful first step, and top European and United Nations officials said the Italian plan, with an initial endowment of 5.5 billion euros, would complement initiatives already under way focusing on climate adaptation and clean energy development in Africa.

But African Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat was more cautious, telling the summit that African countries would have liked to have been consulted beforehand and didn't want more empty pledges.

"We need to pass from words to deeds," Faki, the former prime minister of Chad, told the summit. "You can understand that we cannot be happy with promises that often are not maintained."

Two dozen African leaders, top EU and U.N. officials and representatives from international lending institutions were in Rome for the summit, the first major event of Italy's Group of Seven presidency.

**AP AUDIO:** Italian leader Meloni opens an Africa summit to unveil a plan to aid develop-

ment and curb migration.

In a speech, European Commission Ursula von der Leyen calls for wider laws to prevent illegal migration from African nations.

Italy, which for decades has been ground zero in Europe's migration debate, has been promoting its development plan as a way to create jobs and opportunity in Africa and discourage its young people from making dangerous migrations across the Mediterranean Sea. The plan involves pilot projects in areas such as education, health care, water, sanitation, agriculture and energy infrastructure.

In her opening, Meloni outlined projects from Morocco to Mozambique that she said would enable Africa to become a major exporter of energy to Europe, to help wean it off its dependence on Russian energy following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Italy, which under fascism was a colonial ruler in North Africa, would stand to benefit as a hydrogen pipeline would pass through the peninsula, she said.

She said the plan envisaged an initial endowment of 5.5 billion euros in loans, gifts and guarantees. It wasn't immediately clear if the amounts represented new investments or monies previously earmarked for development.

"We want to free up African energy to guarantee younger generations a right, which to date has been denied," Meloni told the summit in an opening



**It's a cooperation of equals, far from any predatory temptation, but also far from the charitable posture with Africa that rarely is reconciled with its extraordinary potential for development.**

address. "Because here in Europe we talk a lot about the right to emigrate, but we rarely talk about guaranteeing the right to not be forced to emigrate."

Meloni, Italy's first hard-right leader since the end of World War II, has made curbing migration a priority of her government. But her first year in power saw a big jump in the numbers of people who arrived on Italy's shores, with about 160,000 last year.

As the summit got underway, the International Organization for Migration reported that nearly 100 people had died or gone missing in the Mediterranean so far this year, twice as many as in the same period of last year, which was the deadliest since 2016.

The government's plan, named after Enrico Mattei, founder of state-controlled oil and gas company Eni, seeks to

expand cooperation with Africa beyond energy and amounts to a new philosophy and method, Meloni said.

"It's a cooperation of equals, far from any predatory temptation, but also far from the charitable posture with Africa that rarely is reconciled with its extraordinary potential for development," Meloni told the leaders.

Asked at a closing press conference about the lack of consultation with African leaders, Meloni acknowledged she may have "erred" in being too specific in describing pilot projects in her introductory speech. But she said the summit provided African leaders with a preliminary outline of Italy's philosophy backed by concrete examples, which will be brought forward in a shared partnership.

As the summit got underway, Italian green and opposition law-

makers held a counter-conference at Italy's lower chamber of parliament to criticize the Mattei Plan as a neocolonial "empty box" that seeks to again exploit Africa's natural resources.

Cristiano Maugeri of Action Aid Italia lamented that the government had excluded any consultation with civil society groups active in African development to formulate the plan, and said that it regardless represented something of a repackaging of existing projects.

"We are talking about initiatives that have already been presented in other contexts, only with a new stamp on them," he said.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed praised Italy for focusing on the key pillars of energy and food systems, saying they complement an approach already mapped out by the African Union. But she lamented

that overall, the 2030 targets of the globally-approved U.N. Sustainable Development Goals are "falling woefully short."

"I urge the government of Italy to make such deep, effective, and equal partnerships a reality, and to use its presidency of the G7 to work with other countries to do likewise," she said.

Alongside the Mattei Plan, Meloni's government has forged controversial deals with individual countries to try to mitigate the migration burden on Italy. An EU-backed deal with Tunisia aims to curb departures through economic development projects and legal migration opportunities, while a bilateral deal with Albania calls for the creation of centers in Albania to process asylum applications for Italy-bound migrants rescued at sea.

Albania's Constitutional Court on Monday cleared the deal to be voted on by parliament.



# Letshego Faidika Bank

## Unaudited Quarterly Report as per 31st December, 2023

### REPORT OF CONDITION OF BANK ISSUED PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS 7 AND 8 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS {DISCLOSURES} REGULATIONS 2014

**Letshego Faidika Bank**

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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DEC 2023			
	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23 TZS '000	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-23 TZS '000	
<b>A. ASSETS</b>			
1 Cash	78,698	854,388	
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	1,380,527	4,030,914	
3 Investment in Government securities	0	0	
4 Balances with other banks	13,833,014	5,411,678	
5 Cheques and items for clearing	123,961	3,094	
6 Inter-branch float items	0	0	
7 Bills negotiated	0	0	
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	0	0	
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	0	0	
10 Investments in other securities	0	0	
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	74,686,943	72,741,952	
12 Other assets	18,668,654	23,168,109	
13 Equity Investments	0	0	
14 Underwriting accounts	0	0	
15 Property, plant and equipment (net)	1,476,505	1,784,729	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>110,888,301</b>	<b>108,004,664</b>	
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>			
17 Deposits from other banks	0	0	
18 Customer Deposits	9,699,270	9,309,855	
19 Cash letters of credit	0	0	
20 Special deposits	0	0	
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0	
22 Bankers' cheques and draft issued	0	0	
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	22,029	116,048	
24 Acceptances outstanding	0	0	
25 Interbranch float items	0	0	
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	0	0	
27 Other liabilities	74,420,481	72,721,934	
28 Borrowings	0	0	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>84,141,780</b>	<b>82,147,846</b>	
<b>30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>26,746,521</b>	<b>25,856,818</b>	
<b>C. CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
31 Paid up share capital	57,088,892	57,088,892	
32 Capital Reserves	783,314	783,314	
33 Retained earnings	(31,842,822)	(31,842,822)	
34 Profit/(Loss) account	717,137	(172,566)	
35 Other capital accounts	0	0	
36 Minority Interest	0	0	
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>26,746,521</b>	<b>25,856,818</b>	
38 Contingent liabilities	0	0	
39 Non Performing loans & Advances	15,001,419	14,768,676	
40 Allowances for probable losses	9,616,496	8,988,008	
41 Other non performing assets	0	0	
<b>D. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>			
i Shareholders funds to total assets	24%	24%	
ii Non performing loans to total gross loans	18%	18%	
iii Gross loans and advances to total deposits	869%	878%	
iv Loans and advances to total assets	67%	67%	
v Earning Assets to Total Assets	80%	72%	
vi Deposits Growth	4%	9%	
vii Assets growth	3%	21%	

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used a those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)

Signed by:   
 Baraka Munisi Chief Executive Officer 30-Jan-24  
 Isaac Chaha Ag. Head of Finance 30-Jan-24  
 Rashid Sendora Internal Auditor 30-Jan-24

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Attested by:   
 Simon Jengo Board Chairman 30-Jan-24  
 Noel Sangiwa Director 30-Jan-24

Note: On 01st July 2023, Letshego Bank Tanzania Limited and Letshego Tanzania Limited (Trading under the name of Faidika Microfinance) completed the merger of the two institutions to form Letshego Faidika Bank; the transaction was accounted for in accordance with IFRS3-Business combinations.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DEC 2023				
	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23 TZS '000	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-22 TZS '000	Curr Yr P & L cumm TZS '000	Previous Yr P & L cumm TZS '000
1 Interest Income	6,445,012	5,478,868	13,963,501	3,200,121
2 Interest Expense	(25,935)	(146,791)	(261,375)	(116,396)
<b>3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)</b>	<b>6,419,077</b>	<b>4,017,077</b>	<b>13,702,127</b>	<b>2,083,722</b>
4 Bad debts written off	(139,744)	-	(139,013)	(35)
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advances	(1,139,773)	585,564	(265,116)	(707,354)
<b>6 Non Interest Income</b>	<b>233,009</b>	<b>161,623</b>	<b>547,366</b>	<b>487,161</b>
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	24,150	(1165)	(6,962)	46,409
6.2 Commissions and fees	197,802	161,041	614,388	408,836
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	11,257	1,747	(60,059)	31,917
<b>7 Non Interest Expense</b>	<b>(4,475,322)</b>	<b>(1,677,249)</b>	<b>(13,039,391)</b>	<b>(6,556,758)</b>
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(1,703,667)	(759,693)	(6,119,374)	(3,108,730)
7.2 Fees and Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.3 Other Operating expenses	(2,771,655)	(917,556)	(6,920,017)	(3,448,028)
<b>8 Operating Profit/(Loss) before Income Tax</b>	<b>897,248</b>	<b>(527,985)</b>	<b>751,872</b>	<b>(4,693,584)</b>
9 Income Tax Provision	(7,546)	-	(34,835)	-
<b>10 Net Income/(Loss) after Income Tax</b>	<b>889,702</b>	<b>(527,985)</b>	<b>717,137</b>	<b>(4,693,584)</b>
11 Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>12 Total comprehensive income/(Loss) for the year</b>	<b>889,702</b>	<b>(527,985)</b>	<b>717,137</b>	<b>(4,693,584)</b>
13 Number of Employees	61	76	61	76
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	1.56	(0.99)	1.26	(8.77)
15 Number of Branches	5	5	5	5

**SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

(i) Return on average total assets 1% 2% 1% -18%

(ii) Return on average shareholders' funds 3% 5% 3% -30%

(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income 67% 83% 92% 178%

(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets 15% 24% 33% 18%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DEC 2023				
	Current Quarter 31-Dec-23 TZS '000	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-23 TZS '000	Current Yr Cumulative 31-Dec-23 TZS '000	Previous Yr Cumulative 31-Dec-22 TZS '000
<b>I Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</b>				
Net (loss)/Income	889,702	1,317,148	717,137	(4,693,584)
<b>Adjustments for non cash items:</b>				
-Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
-Depreciation of property and equipment	360,707	331,859	1,162,380	1,034,597
-Amortization of Refurbishment	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
-Expected credit loss IFRS 9	1,139,773	(420,251)	265,116	(707,354)
-Loan written off	139,744	53,270	193,013	-
-Amortization of Intangible assets	0	0	0	0
<b>2,529,926</b>	<b>1,282,026</b>	<b>2,337,646</b>	<b>(4,266,341)</b>	
- Change in Statutory minimum reserve (SMR)	67,818	5,495	-	(52,079)
-Net change in loans and advances	(1,944,991)	(59,957,067)	(61,227,211)	5,444,951
-Net change in other assets	(4,499,455)	(10,899,767)	(16,704,355)	(761,667)
-Net change in deposits	389,406	792,639	53,072	(542,000)
-Net change in placement with other bank	6,893,355	-	5,102,012	-
-Net change in other liabilities	1,604,529	71,433,594	73,910,767	1,100,400
<b>2,510,658</b>	<b>1,474,894</b>	<b>1,134,284</b>	<b>5,189,605</b>	
-Tax paid	(42,774)	(9,301)	(70,677)	(28,000)
<b>Net cash flows/(used) from operating activities</b>	<b>4,997,810</b>	<b>2,747,619</b>	<b>3,401,253</b>	<b>795,264</b>
<b>II Cash Flow from Investing Activities:</b>				
Dividend Received	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(50,519)	(91,460)	(177,510)	(21,833)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase of Intangible assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchases of Non Dealing securities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds from sale of Non-Dealing Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Net cash provided (used) by investing activities</b>	<b>(50,519)</b>	<b>(91,460)</b>	<b>(177,510)</b>	<b>(21,833)</b>
<b>III Cash Flow from Financing Activities:</b>				
Repayment of long term Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,000,000)
Proceeds from issuance of long term debts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds from issuance of paid up capital	0.00	-	3,600,000	5,657,992
Payment of Cash Dividends	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net change in other borrowings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>	<b>1,657,992</b>
<b>IV Cash and Cash equivalents</b>				
Net increase (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	4,947,292	2,645,170	6,823,743	2,431,424
Cash & equivalents, beginning of quarter	10,531,315	7,886,145	9,232,456	6,801,032
Cash & equivalents, end of quarter	15,478,607	10,531,315	16,056,199	9,232,456

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DEC 2023						
	Share Capital	Preference Share	Retained Capital Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others Total
<b>Fourth Quarter ended 31 Dec 2023</b>						
<b>Balance as at 01.10.2023</b>	<b>48,568,992</b>	<b>8,519,900</b>	<b>(32,015,388)</b>	<b>783,314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 25,856,819</b>
Profit for the year	0.00	0.00	889,702	0.00	0.00	0.00 889,702
Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Transactions with owners	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Dividends Paid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Regulatory Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
General Provision Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Issued during the year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
<b>Balance as at 31.12.2023</b>	<b>48,568,992</b>	<b>8,519,900</b>	<b>(31,125,685)</b>	<b>783,314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 26,746,522</b>
<b>Previous Quarter ended 30 Sep 2023</b>						
<b>Balance as at 01.07.2023</b>	<b>48,568,992</b>	<b>8,519,900</b>	<b>(33,305,247)</b>	<b>783,314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 24,566,959</b>
Loss/Profit for the year	0.00	0.00	1,289,859	0.00	0.00	0.00 1,289,859
Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Transactions with owners	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Dividends Paid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Regulatory Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
General Provision Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
Issued during the year	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 -
<b>Balance as at the 30.09.2023</b>	<b>48,568,992</b>	<b>8,519,900</b>	<b>(32,015,388)</b>	<b>783,314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 25,856,818</b>





# Toyota union seeking higher wages, bonus

**TOKYO**  
**T**OYOTA Motor Corp.'s workers' union is seeking a bonus of 7.6 months worth of salary, an increase of almost a full month's worth of wages, as it prepares for annual compensation negotiations with the Japanese carmaker.

The bargaining group, which has not yet put forth demands for average salary increases, said on Monday it will make a final decision on what it expects based on job categories and rankings at a council meeting on Feb. 9, before informing the company.

Manufacturers are likely to face tough demands from unions during annual spring wage talks, with prices picking up over the past two years. The big question for the Japanese economy is whether there will be enough signs of sustained inflation, and corresponding wage increases, for the Bank of Japan to end its policy of negative interest rates.

"The union members' efforts and hard work to improve productivity over the past year are evident in the numbers, and reflected in Toyota's financial results," said Keisuke Kito, chairman of the union's executive committee. The demands also reflect rises in consumer prices, he added.

The amount sought by the union will rise significantly from last year, which was the highest per capita wage increase since 1990.

The automotive industry, including parts suppliers, dealers and maintenance companies, employs about 5.5 million people in Japan. As a result, any wage increases by Toyota and other carmakers will be seen as a bellwether for the rest of the manufacturing sector and economy.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and top union leaders are calling for more robust wage growth ahead of the annual pay negotiations.

The Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the collective bargaining group known more colloquially as Rengo, has set a target of a 5 percent increase in wages, and at least 3 percent in terms of base pay.

# AfDB and research centres out to alter African agriculture and improve food security markedly

**ABIDJAN**

THE African Development Bank Group and the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) committed on Thursday to strengthen their collaboration to increase food production and provide better nutrition for Africa's growing population.

With 65% of global uncultivated arable land, the African Development Bank believes that the continent can feed itself and the rest of the world.

African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina received Africa-based Directors General of CGIAR at the bank headquarters in Abidjan on Thursday to forge ways of scaling up food and agricultural productivity on the continent.

CGIAR centres are located across African countries and focus on enhancing food and nutrition security, reducing poverty, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. They are critical to achieving food security on the continent, just as their counterparts in Southeast Asia and Latin America were also key to accelerating agricultural growth and food self-sufficiency.

Thursday's meeting was the first coordinated group visit by the four directors-general/regional directors and one deputy director general of CGIAR for Africa to a financing partner and came two days after Dr Adesina hosted a visit from United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during which the head of US diplomacy praised the bank for the exceptional efforts it is undertaking to help Africa feed itself and the rest of the world.

The leaders focused on securing long-term financing for research activities and for CGIAR to enhance its effectiveness across the continent. They also discussed capacity build-

ing for country-based national agricultural research services partners, young scientists and extension workers, and private-sector seed growers to produce certified seeds.

The Bank played a key role in the process of reforming CGIAR to make its work relevant and sustainable in Africa.

The Bank President, Dr Adesina, said: "I was pleased with the reforms at CGIAR, and we must ensure that it is held accountable for results which must be at scale. We must unlock Africa's agricultural potential and deploy technologies to millions of African farmers. CGIAR is central to that."

"I have made agriculture central to the work of this bank and central to the future of our continent," Dr Adesina added that the African Development Bank, with the approval of its board of directors, could consider including CGIAR in its long-term lending programme to countries: "CGIAR leaders have local knowledge, experience and networks and are better placed to work with national institutions to combat climate change and increase productivity and food security."

The Bank is also keen to work with the consortium to expand its work on capacity development for young scientists and farmers.

The delegation expressed their readiness to assist the Bank's regional member countries to implement the outcomes of the Dakar 2 Food Summit (link is external), which the Bank, the African Union, and the government of Senegal jointly convened. The January 2023 summit was attended by 34 Heads of State and Government, 75 ministers, and heads of development partners. To date, it has mobilised over \$70 billion in an unprecedented global effort.



## Letshego Faidika Bank

### Minimum Disclosure of rates and Charges

Charge Type	Product / Service	TZS	USD
Minimum Opening Balance	Letshego Flexi - Business Account	50,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Duka/Shop Account	20,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Group Account	50,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - HES Account	20,000	N/A
	Letshego Personal Account	20,000	20
	Letshego Business Account	100,000	100
Minimum Operating Balance	Letshego Missional Account (Entrepreneur)	15,000	N/A
	Letshego Missional Account	5,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Business Account	30,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Duka/Shop Account	5,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Group Account	20,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - HES Account	5,000	N/A
Monthly Maintenance Fee	Letshego Personal Account	5,000	10
	Letshego Business Account	50,000	50
	Letshego Missional Account (Entrepreneur)	5,000	N/A
	Letshego Missional Account	5,000	N/A
	Letshego Flexi - Business Account	2,000	2
	Letshego Flexi - Duka/Shop Account	1,000	1
Cash Deposit Wakala	TZS 1,000 - 5,999,999	Free	N/A
	From TZS 1,000 - 4,999	400	N/A
	From TZS 5,000 - 9,999	700	N/A
	From TZS 10,000 - 19,999	1,200	N/A
	From TZS 20,000 - 39,999	1,500	N/A
	From TZS 40,000 - 49,999	1,800	N/A
Cash Withdrawal Wakala	From TZS 50,000 - 99,999	2,200	N/A
	From TZS 100,000 - 199,999	3,500	N/A
	From TZS 200,000 - 299,999	4,700	N/A
	From TZS 300,000 - 399,999	5,800	N/A
	From TZS 400,000 - 499,999	6,900	N/A
	From TZS 500,000 - 799,999	8,500	N/A
Money Transfer	Teller Money Transfer (Intra-bank same customer)	-	-
	Teller Money Transfer (Intra-bank different customer)	-	-
	Alternative Channels Money Transfer (Intra-bank same customer)	300 + Government Levy	TZS equivalent
	Alternative Channels Money Transfer (Intra-bank different customer)	300 + Government Levy	TZS equivalent
	Money Transfer (Umoja Banks)	1,300	TZS equivalent
	Money Transfer (TBS)	10,000	TZS equivalent
Money Transfer TBS	Money Transfer (Western Union)	from TZS 40,000	TZS equivalent
	Money Transfer (TBS)	192.95	USD 95
	All Incoming Transfers	Free	Free
	Teller Money Transfer	100 - 4,999 = 800	
	From Letshego Bank Account to other FSPs	5,000 - 49,999 = 1,000	
	50,000 - 299,999 = 2,200		
Interest Rates	MEI - Loans	125 2mth-SME = 125 50mth-36%	N/A
		125 50mth-SME = 125 100mth-36.5%	
		125 100mth-SME = 125 200mth-28.4%	
		125 200mth-SME = 125 300mth-22.2%	
	SP	14% pa	N/A
	Personal Lending	25.42%	N/A
Account Closing Fee	Saving accounts	5,000	5
	Current accounts	10,000	10

Charge Type	Product / Service	TZS	USD
Balance Enquiry Fee	Umoja ATM	300	N/A
	Other Local Banks ATM (Within the country)	700	N/A
	Other Bank ATM outside the country	2,000	N/A
Account Statements Fee	My Statement Other Bank ATM outside the country	2,000	N/A
	My Statement Letshego	300	N/A
	Statement of the Branch (per page)	1,000	N/A
Cash Withdrawal ATM and Over the Counter	ATM Withdrawal at Umoja ATM	100 - 95,000 = 1,000	N/A
	ATM Withdrawal at other domestic banks	1,000	N/A
	ATM Withdrawal outside Tanzania	5,000	N/A
Card Fee	Annual Card Insurance	10,000	TZS equivalent
	Annual Card Maintenance Fee	5,000	TZS equivalent
	Annual Card Replacement	10,000	TZS equivalent
Loan Processing Fee	Processing fee for loans below 50M	2%	N/A
	Processing fee for loans above 50M but less than 200M	2.5%	N/A
	Processing fee for loans 200M and above	3%	N/A

Charge Type	Product / Service	TZS	USD
Deposit Products	Flexi Duka/Shop	0-499,999 = 0%	
		500,000-999,999 = 3%	
		1,000,000-2,000,000 = 5%	
Information Search, Auditor Confirmation and Certificate of Balance Fee	For information up to past 12 months	30,000	TZS equivalent
	For information of 1-3 past years	50,000	TZS equivalent
	For information of over 3 years	100,000	TZS equivalent
Loan Processing Fee	Processing fee for loans below 50M	2%	N/A
	Processing fee for loans above 50M but less than 200M	2.5%	N/A
	Processing fee for loans 200M and above	3%	N/A



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# Major global political challenges awaiting action by African Union

By Eddy Maloka

THE 37th ordinary session of the Summit of the African Union (AU) will soon convene in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. One reality this gathering will need to reflect on is the new global order that is unfolding before our eyes, an order that some have characterised as multipolar.

Such systemic changes in the global order are not new. The last time such a similar transformation occurred was at the end of the Cold War, at the beginning of the 1990s. At that time, Africa, through the erstwhile Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and its then secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, responded by convening a summit in July 1990 which adopted the historic "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World."

The deliberations at this summit were informed by a report prepared by Salim on "Fundamental changes taking place in the world and their implications for Africa: Proposals for an African response."

To the OAU, in its declaration, the epochal changes of that time were characterised – among others – by a rapprochement between East and West as part of a move away from the Cold War; the socioeconomic and political transformation of Central and East Europe following the collapse of the USSR; the accelerating trend towards globalisation and establishing regional economic blocs like the European Union; and technological advances that would result in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

On the continent, the OAU viewed the independence of Namibia and the unbanning of the ANC in South Africa, both happening in 1990, as positive developments, signalling that the end of Africa's decolonisation era was imminent.

Flowing from this analysis, the OAU concluded in its declaration that "these, we found, constitute major factors which should guide Africa's collective thinking about the challenges and options before her in the 1990s and beyond in view of the real threat of marginalisation of our continent."

Therefore, the OAU needed to respond by refashioning itself and repositioning its machinery and our continent to confront what was then the

unknown world of the 1990s.

The Algerian diplomat Said Djinnit, who worked with Salim for 12 years, including as his chief of staff, penned his recollections. In a July 2020 article that he co-authored commemorating the 30th anniversary of this summit, he wrote that "the adoption of the July 1990 Declaration on Fundamental Changes marked a turning point in the trajectory of the OAU."

Thanks to this initiative, "Africa was able to articulate a comprehensive response and to roll out an agenda that laid the ground for the initiatives taken thereafter to address the many pressing issues confronting the continent."

All in all, according to him, "in submitting his report to the policy organs in July 1990, secretary-general Salim sought to advance a specifically African and strategic response to the challenges then confronting the continent."

For Djinnit, Salim's "approach rested on two complementary pillars: owning the analysis of the problems at hand and proposing context-specific solutions." And there was a strategy behind this approach: "The endorsement, by the policy organs of the proposals contained in Salim's report, while qualified, nonetheless provided him and the Secretariat with the political cover needed to take forward the agenda that had been outlined."

## Push for reform

Salim's other goal was to reform the OAU institutionally. "For the OAU to face the new challenges and deliver its mandate", Djinnit reminded us, "Salim realised that the OUA Secretariat needed to be reformed and suggested a set of measures".

In another paper by Djinnit, written to celebrate Salim's 80th birthday, he provides this important context: "Soon after assuming his role as secretary-general, Salim realised that, as the decolonisation process was coming to an end, the OAU needed a new agenda that could continue to bring together the African countries and their peoples in addressing common challenges."

Therefore, the July summit enabled the OAU to approach the 1990s strategically and prepare Africa for the post-Cold War era. We can pick three examples to illustrate its historic significance.

On the agenda of African regional integration, two years after this sum-

mit in 1992, the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community entered into force. As we know, without this treaty, the African Union (AU) would not have come into being, at least in its current form, as it was birthed in debates on how best to implement the roadmap to establishing an African Economic Community.

On the governance front, Salim initiated what we take for granted today as the AU's "shared values", a body of norms, standards and principles adopted over the last three decades that have enabled our continent to embrace good governance, democracy, and human rights.

It should be said however, that in 1990 African leaders were not ready for a frank conversation on democracy, this being viewed as sensitive, an irritation, an intrusion and an external imposition. But Salim skillfully found a way to kick-start this conversation and introduced the practice of deploying OAU election observer missions as an innovation.

Achievements on peace and security are also worth highlighting. The July summit occurred when Africa was confronted, all over, with intrastate conflicts. Salim acted boldly and convinced his member states to allow the OAU to be actively involved in finding African solutions to these conflicts, something which was unknown at the time.

"The 1990 Declaration has also provided the political framework for the revamping of the OAU conflict prevention and management tools," recalled Djinnit. Soon after its adoption, Salim "moved quickly to establish, as early as 1991, a conflict management division within the then Political Affairs Department."

All these small steps became the forerunner to the peace and security architecture that the AU has today.

## New world, new juncture

I am recalling this history because, once again, the AU is at a similar historical juncture. If it is to respond strategically, to prevail as an organisation and lead our continent and its people in this new era, it will need to emulate Salim, especially his foresight and innovation he deployed to take the OAU to a higher level, coupled with his boldness and the courage he mastered to win over and mobilise his member states behind his vision.

The starting point should be to achieve conceptual and ideologi-

cal clarity as Africans at a collective level in how we characterise the emerging global order. What do we see out there? Certainly not the rapprochement of the opening years of the 1990s, but rather conflict and an unmasked hostility among the big powers.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine War is one reminder of some of the contradictions the end of the USSR did not resolve. The optimism of the 1990s about regional economic blocs has since faded away and the excitement about globalisation has been replaced by disenchantment with today's world affairs.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is here, but so is the decoupling and fragmentation that is caused by superpower rivalry over, for example, who should lead and control the chip technology. If anything, the monopolies that the West used to possess for centuries are no longer tenable.

Breakthroughs achieved by China's Huawei are just one example on the technology front. The same is happening in the financial sector: de-dollarisation and the increasing preference for the use of multiple currencies in international trade. In a word, the West's monopolies that Africa's eminent political economist, Samir Amin, wrote about back in the 1980s seem to be under threat due to the push and competing advances in the Global South.

There is no consensus on how we all view the emerging global system. Let me single out four perspectives for now.

The first sees this multipolar era in a positive way, as an opportunity to strengthen the world's multilateral dispensation. UN secretary-general António Guterres echoed this view in his address to the general assembly, in September 2023: "For much of the Cold War, international relations were largely seen through the prism of two superpowers. Then came a short period of unipolarity. Now we are rapidly moving towards a multipolar world. This is, in many ways, positive. It brings new opportunities for justice and balance in international relations."

The UN is already emulating what Salim did in 1990. This year in September it will convene a "Summit of the Future" whose intended outcome will be an ambitious, action-oriented "Pact for the Future" to tackle core global challenges through a reformed and revitalised multilateralism.

The second perspective is a bit different. It looks back to the unipolar, post-Cold War period in nostalgic terms, as the golden age of a "rules-based" order. A rising China and a resurgent Russia are perceived as a threat.

To proponents of this view, the emerging multipolar world is a step into an era of uncertainty, full of dystopic possibilities. World War 3 is imminent, we are told. Everywhere, countries are arming themselves, citizens are advised to prepare for war.

"The EU should prepare for war by end of decade, German Defence Minister warns", read a Euronews headline. "Is war coming to the Korean peninsula?", asked Russia Today. "Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump Wednesday delivered a chilling message at a 2024 campaign rally in Iowa, cautioning that World War 3 is imminent, with the possibility of global destruction", Livemint reported. Time magazine headlined an explainer article, "Why So Many Politicians Are Talking About World War III".

## Multipolar system

The adherents of a third perspective, primarily Russia and China, have enthusiastically embraced the multipolar system as a necessity for existential reasons, while dismissing the nostalgia for a "rules-based" past.

In addition, they have taken measures to disentangle themselves completely from the West to achieve full sovereignty in all domains. Russia believes that the "collective West" wants to inflict a "strategic defeat" on her and dismember the country.

China is also talking in similar existential terms, believing that it is being "contained" by the West through different means, including sanctions imposed on its technology sector. Both countries vehemently dispute the narrative that they are a "peer competitor", a "threat" or an "enemy".

The fourth perspective should come from Africa's voice about this multipolar world – what we see as a potential threat, the opportunities within our reach, and what we should do to end the 21st century on a high note.

What would Salim do? We should ask ourselves. Here we may find the answer by paying heed to what he said in October 1999 in his address titled "The Challenge to Africa of the New Millennium: The Perspective of the OAU".

"As we prepare to enter the new century, and given the challenges and prospects that are concomitant with the drastically changed international situation, the imperative need for our continent to reposition itself is self-evident. Such a repositioning, a priori, requires that we organise ourselves in such a way that we are able to confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, and make full use of the opportunities that lie ahead in the globalising world."



## BUSINESS

## China faces growing pressure by markets

BEIJING

China's stock and bond markets are giving a clear signal to policymakers that they need to take more steps to revive investor confidence.

Stocks fell for a third day on Tuesday, paring last week's rebound that was driven by optimism over a market rescue package. The benchmark 10-year bond yield dropped to the lowest level in more than two decades, as traders bet the People's Bank of China will deploy more monetary stimulus to boost growth.

The gloom over the world's second-biggest economy has deepened this week as the liquidation of debt-ridden China Evergrande Group – once the nation's largest developer – intensified concerns about the embattled real estate sector. Investors see few reasons to be optimistic as earnings from major companies disappoint, while geopolitical risks resurface before the US presidential election later this year.

"This pattern of new lows in bond yields and resumption of declines in equities highlights to us that the market is concerned that stimulus is not sufficient to address the current deflationary environment," Morgan Stanley strategists including Jonathan Garner and Laura Wang wrote in a note. "Our economists continue to argue that a major fiscal package targeting the consumer is needed."

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index, a gauge of Chinese stocks listed in Hong Kong, slid 2.5 percent on Tuesday to be the worst performer in Asia. BYD Co. was one of the biggest drags on the gauge after the EV giant's profit missed estimates. The CSI 300 Index closed down 1.8 percent even as overseas investors bought about 1.7 billion yuan (\$243 million) of mainland shares on a net basis.

China's benchmark 10-year bond yield slipped to 2.46 percent, the lowest since 2002, as demand for

haven assets rose amid expectations the economy will remain pressured by weak consumption and a property downturn.

The renewed slide in equities shows investors are more likely to sell into any gains unless Beijing takes bolder steps. While investors initially cheered last week's report on a stock-market-rescue package and the PBOC's decision to cut the reserve requirement ratio, the rebound has proved short-lived.

A Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of Chinese developers tumbled more than 4 percent on Tuesday and is already down almost 16 percent so far in 2024. Monday's ruling on China Evergrande Group from Hong Kong Judge Linda Chan is the latest twist in a saga that saw the firm amass more than \$300 billion of liabilities during China's debt-fueled property boom, before turning into the poster child of a market bust that shows few signs of ending.

"Our view is that investor confidence cannot return until the property sector is finally fixed. Ongoing newsflow confirms that the property crisis is still hot and not easy to resolve," said Kieran Calder, head of equity research for Asia at Union Bancaire Privee. "Valuations are clearly cheap but for good reasons including self-inflicted damage to the tech and real estate sectors."

Beijing faces an uphill task in luring back investors after a rout that has wiped out more than \$6 trillion from the market value of Chinese and Hong Kong stocks since a peak reached in 2021. The slump is reinforcing a structural shift that's seeing everyone from active money managers to passive funds turn their back on the world's second-largest stock market.

Sentiment toward China stocks trading in Hong Kong was dealt a further blow on Tuesday as the city announced details about a planned national security law – a move that will have wide-ranging implications for Hong Kong's status as an international financial center.



## CRDB Group gets 424bn/- after-tax profit in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed CRDB Group Plc profitability has continued to grow, after recording a net profit amounting to 424bn/- for the year ended in December, 2023, an increase of 21 percent when compared to 351bn/- recorded in 2022.

Unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year show strong growth of the group's financial indicators whereby total assets increased by 14 percent, after reaching 13trn/- last year, compared to 11.6trn/- recorded during the previous year, maintaining its position as the largest bank.

Customer deposits increased by eight percent to 8.9trn/-, while lending to various sectors of the economy expanded by 23 percent to 8.5trn/-.

CRDB Bank Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela said he was impressed by strong financial performance by saying: "We are happy to announce another year of strong growth by maintaining our position as largest financial institution. These



CRDB Bank Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela

results show our continued commitment to build the strong bank by offering sustainable value to our stakeholders".

Nsekela insisted that the implementation of the new medium term strategic plan (2023-2027) has remained the catalyst for reaching breakthrough financial results.

"The implementation of our strategic plan has enabled us to achieve exceptional growth, which demonstrated 35 percent expansion of our lending to Small and

Medium businesses, the development of inclusive sustainable financing in different sectors and social groups including women, youths and farmers," he insisted.

He said the bank's strategic investment in digital transformation has brought great achievements, which resulted into 11 percent growth in non-interest income, contributed by the increased use of digital services.

"Our innovative solutions have helped to solve social challenges

as well as improved the lives of our customers and the economy, including our innovative affordable insurance product to community groups including boda-boda ad bajaj riders, has strengthened our financial management," he said.

Fredrick Nshakanabo, the chief finance officer, gave the highlights of the bank's financial statement by saying: "Our views in strengthening credits services has been shown on the rate of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) of 2.8 per-

cent. Ratio of expenses to income continued to remain in controllable level, reaching 49.5 percent, apart from increased operating expenses, caused by weak global economy."

Nshakanabo said strong bank's performance has resulted into an increase of 26.7 percent of earning per share, which went hand in hand with an increase of 14 percent of the share price, reaching 460/-, as at the end of December 2023. Our bank will continue to strengthen its capital and we are proud of having sufficient capital adequacy ratio.

He said during last year, the bank continued to expand its financial services by establishing a subsidiary in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and establishment of CRDB Insurance Company, which have strengthened the scope of the bank, not only in Tanzania, but also beyond borders in East Africa.

However, he said, the establishment of CRDB Bank Foundation has also expanded the scope in the community with the aim of empowerment, specifically women and youths, showing its commitment to bring positive changes through banking services.

## DSE Group earns 12.3bn/- revenue in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

The self-listed Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) Group cumulative total revenue increased to 12.36bn/- last year an increase of 2bn/- compared to 10.1bn/- recorded during the previous year.

According to the group's financial statement for the fourth quarter of last year the growth of revenue resulted from increased listing fees, transaction fees, registry and CDS fees, investment income and other revenue.

The statements show listing fees went up to 4.6bn/- last year, compared to 3.9bn/- recorded during the previous year, while registry & CDS fees grew to 1.6bn/-

compared to 926.2mn/- respectively.

Transaction fees also increased to 1.78bn/- compared to 1.7bn/- in 2022 while investment income and other revenue expanded to 3.39bn/- and 766.8mn/- respectively in 2023, higher than 3.1bn/- and 481mn/- recorded during the previous year.

Both diluted earnings per share also recorded considerable growth after reaching to 256/- last year, compared to 193/- in 2022.

According to the statements, cumulative pre-tax reached 6.2bn/- last year, compared to 4.6bn/- recorded during the previous year.

The statement shows the group's total asset amounted to 34.04bn/- at the end of December



last year, an increase from 31.73bn/- recorded during the previous year resulted from increased current assets, amid slight decline of non-current assets.

Non-current assets slightly declined to 13.2bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 13.4bn/- recorded during similar quarter of

2022, following the slight decrease of investment in government debt instruments, loan to DSE SACCOS, leasehold land as well as property and equipment.

The statements shows the group's current assets went up to 21.7bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 31.7bn/-

recorded during similar quarter of the previous year, due to increase in trade receivables, prepayment and other receivables, investment in short term deposit-amortized cost and cash.

Total shareholders' fund also went up to 31.6bn/- during the last quarter of 2023, higher than 28.3bn/- recorded in Q4, 2022.

## Absa donates funds to support regional legal aid clinics

By Guardian Correspondent

Absa Bank Tanzania has donated 10mn/- to Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) to equip legal aid clinics in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha, Tanga and Dodoma to provide free and quality legal aid services to women and children victim of gender-based violence.

Speaking at the hand-over occasion in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Aron Luhanga said that, "Our passion for our communities is as strong as ever and our commitment to serve and protect them is unwavering. Therefore,

we continue to invest in people's wellbeing while ensuring we play a role in the society we exist in and serve".

Luhanga also added by saying that the GBV victims are of no difference from all other women and children but there is a special need for their legal support and a proper welfare support while at the legal aid clinics.

"Legal aid clinics for these women and children is very key for us at Absa considering these children have a greater impact into our country tomorrow and it will raise the families hope in taking care of the children but also empowers women to have a voice in their communities and the children to

have something better to look unto everyday as they aim to achieve their dreams," said Luhanga.

Absa maintains a strong relationship with organizations such as TAWLA with purpose of bringing change to the community and providing support to the ongoing efforts the government still plays in developing the country at all levels.

Luhanga concluded by saying that Absa is a key role player in advancing several sectors in the country some of them being health, education, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, environment, and social wellbeing. The bank ensures that every society investment is aligned with strengthening our

relationship with the community, the organization we work with and the government.

Speaking at the event, the TAWLA's Chief Executive Director, Tike Mwambipile, expressed gratitude to Absa Bank, stating that the assistance provided would help the organization reach communities in need of legal aid, especially women and children.

"This support from Absa Bank will also enable us to actively participate in Mama Samia's Legal Aid campaign, which focuses on providing legal assistance on issues related to gender-based violence, land disputes, inheritance, and human rights," said Tike.



Absa Bank Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Aron Luhanga (R), hands over a 10mn/- dummy cheque to Tanzania Women Lawyers Association CEO, Tike Mwambipile (L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are TAWLA Head of Programmes, Mary Richard (2nd L) and Absa Bank citizenship manager Hellen Siria. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



# DTB Bank's cumulative net profit hits 18.7bn/- in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

DTB Bank cumulative net income after income tax slightly increased to 18.7bn/- last year, compared to 17.9bn/- during the previous year, unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter, 2023 have shown.

The statements shows both interest and non-interest incomes grew during the reported periods, with operating income reaching to 81.8bn/- last year, compared to 62bn/- recorded in 2022.

Net interest income amounted to 93bn/- at the end of last year, compared to 81.1bn/- during the previous year, of which 25bn/- were earned during the fourth quarter of last year, while non-interest income increased to 45.1bn/- higher than 32bn/- respectively.

The growth of non-interest income caused by the increased earnings from foreign currency dealing and transac-



tions gains, which heightened to 21bn/- last year compared to 11.5bn/- in 2022 as well as fees and commission, which amounted to 21bn/- compared to 20.4bn/- respectively.

According to the statements, the cumulative earn-

ings per share more than doubled to 1,123/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 543/- earned in Q4, 2022. On annual basis, eps slightly increased to 749/- last year, against 712/- earned in 2022.

The bank's also managed to

build its strong balance sheet after total assets slightly expanded to 1.78trn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, higher than 1.75trn/- during the third quarter, due to increased cash, balance with the central bank, balances with other banks, loans, amid

decrease d interbank loans receivables.

The statements show the amount of cash went up to 28.5bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 20.8bn/- in the third quarter, while the balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) amounted to 163.5bn/- against 142.6bn/- respectively.

Loans, advances and overdraft also went to 959bn/- during the last quarter of 2023, higher than 897bn/- loans issued during the third quarter.

The statements show total liabilities also increased to 1.53trn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 1.51trn/- during the third quarter due to slight increase of customer deposits, which increased to 1.48trn/- compared to 1.46trn/- respectively.

Total shareholders' fund amounted to 248.6bn/- during the end of last year, compared to 242bn/- recorded at the end of September, 2023.

The statements show the bank also managed to reduce the rate of non-performing loans to total gross loans to 7.6 percent at the end of December, compared to 9.5 percent at the end of the third quarter ended in September.

# Global rating firm names Vodacom as top employer

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has been certified as a top employer of the year 2024 for the seventh year in a row.

The recognition comes after a rigorous evaluation of various Global HR Best Practices that look at people's practices based on six domains—steer, shape, attract, develop, engage, and unite.

Commenting on the matter over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Vodacom's Director of Human Resources, Vivienne Penessis, emphasized that the certification is evidence of the company's emphasis on having in place better working environment where employees can believe, belong, thrive, and make a difference.

"We're delighted to receive this exciting news. It is in working together as a Vodacom team irrespective of seniority that has led us to this significant achievement," she said, adding:

"The decision to participate in this certification is a reflection of the confidence we have in our strategy, employee value proposition (EVP), policies, tools, and structures that create an enabling environment underpinned by our Spirit Culture to be future-ready. Our people are at the heart of everything that we do, and we take pride in their diversity, development, and growth hence our partnership with Harvard, Skill Soft, and MIT in delivering various trainings and learning."

Vodacom leverages this program to review, verify, and align its HR practices with industry best practices.

Among the criteria that have allowed Vodacom to stand out are its Business and People Strategy, Leadership, Digital HR, Organization and Change, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Performance Management, Learning, Career Growth, Reward & Recognition, Engagement, Diversity & Inclusion, Ethics & Integrity, Well-being and Sustainability.

In 2024, the Top Employers Institute has certified more than 2,300 organizations in 122 countries/regions that create HR best practices and benefits for their people. Vodacom has also been recognized as the No.1 Top Employer in Africa, with its other markets certified as Top Employers. These are DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, and South Africa.

# Mkombozi Commercial Bank records 9.2bn/- pre-tax profit

By Guardian Reporter

MKOMBOZI Commercial Bank (MKCB) has increased its profitability after recording a cumulative pre-tax profit of 9.2bn/- last year, an increase from 5.1bn/- earned in 2022.

Unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year show the growth of profitability resulted from increase of non-interest incomes, reduced impairment losses on loans and advances, amid slight decrease of net interest income.

According to the statement, net interest income amounted to 17.8bn/- last year, compared to 18.3bn/- recorded in 2022.

On quarterly basis, net-interest income grew to 4.8bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 4.3bn/- in Q4, 2022.

The growth of non-interest income caused by increased earnings from foreign currency dealing and transaction gains, which more than doubled to 2.3bn/- compared to 1.03bn/-, as well as fees and commissions, which went up to 5.5bn/- compared to 2.9bn/- respectively.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed bank also managed to reduce impairment losses on loans and advances to 946mn/- last year, compared to 2.9bn/- recorded

during 2022. It managed to recover 474mn/- impairment losses during the fourth quarter of last year.

The statement shows basic earnings per share improved to 330/- last year, compared to 239/- recorded in 2022.

The bank also managed to increase number of branches to 13 from 11 respectively, pushing up the number of employees to 185 last year, compared to 167 recorded in 2022.

The bank also managed to expand its total assets base to 250bn/- during the fourth quarter, compared to 242bn/- recorded during the previous quarter, following the increased lending to various

sectors of the economy, investment in government debt instruments, balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and cash.

Cash closed at 7.3bn/- during the fourth quarter, compared to 6.4bn/- during the previous quarter, while balance with the central bank climbed to 17.2bn/- compared to 14.2bn/- respectively.

The amount spent on investing in government securities amounted to 53.4bn/- during the last quarter of last year, compared to 49.5bn/- recorded during the third quarter, while lending increased to 133bn/-, higher than 126.9bn/- respectively.

Total liabilities slightly increased to 218bn/- compared to 211bn/-, mostly caused by increased customer deposits and other liabilities.

Customer deposits grew to 203.6bn/- in Q4, 2023, compared to 196.1bn/- recorded during the previous quarter, while other liabilities amounted to 5bn/-, against 3.6bn/- respectively.

The statement shows total shareholders' fund grew to 31.8bn/- during the fourth quarter, from 30.5bn/- recorded during the third quarter due to increase of profit account, which amounted to 7.7bn/- in Q4, 2023, compared to 6.5bn/- in Q3, 2023.



Tanzania's Goodwill Ambassador for Tourism based in the US, Macon Dunnagan, in a special acclimatization exercises at the Mweka area within the Kilimanjaro National Park at the weekend, ahead of his 51st Mount Kilimanjaro Climb scheduled from February 12. He will be accompanied by 15 trekkers from the US in a drive aimed at promoting Tanzania tourism. Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

# Morogoro villagers to participate in carbon trade

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

RESIDENTS of Lulongwe village in Morogoro District will benefit from a 30-year project dubbed: 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) aimed at supporting villagers to participate in carbon trade business and conservation.

Aklei Albert, Village Climate Solutions limited (VCSL)'s Operation manager said yesterday that the Nature Conservancy and Switzerland based Foundation-UBS Foundation have injected USD777,000 to Tanzania Forest conservation Group (TFCG) for the implementation of the project.

Currently, REDD project is being implemented by Village Climate Solutions limited (VCSL) in collaboration with TFCG in 63 forest managing authorities, including 61 village land Forest reserves and 2 Local Authority Forest Reserves in Lindi Municipality, Kilosa, Mvomero, Morogoro rural, Mtama, Nachingwea and Nanyumbu District Councils.

The project aimed at helping every village implementing Community Based Forestry, to participate in carbon trade through REDD mechanism.

The member of TFCG



staff teamed up in Lulongwe village to provide introductory training to Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) and village councils members so that can engage in this project.

Under the programme, members were trained on REDD approach and its registration process, how to produce carbon credit and reach market, forest conservation and other issues relating to REDD mechanism.

During the implementation, participating villagers in forest conservation will be paid for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in their village land forest reserve.

A total of 61 village councils and village Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) members in those districts have been trained on REDD process, how to produce carbon credit and reach market, how to reduce deforestation, how to use GPS technology to identify areas with new deforestation and take legal actions against culprits to stop deforestation.

Also the company has been able to offer introductory training in 61 village general assemblies and at the end of the meetings each of the 61 villages issued consent letter for VCSL to register the project.

"As a result, the project idea is now registered in the National carbon Monitoring center (NCMC) as required by the Government Regulations published in the GN 636/637; of 28/10/2022; and amendments GN 721 of 6/10/2023," he said.

Also VCSL has been so far introduced new patrol technology to the 61 villages, which applies cloud-based platform called mergin maps.

VCSL provided each of the 61 villages with a smart phone and trained the patrol teams on how to use the technology to identify areas with new deforestation.

The project is projected to start 2024/25

financial year, where by the participating managing authorities will be paid for reducing deforestation and forest degradation as a result of Certified emissions reductions (CERs) generated and sold by VCSL.

Lulongwe Village Chairman, Aziz Suka lauded the government, district council to allow TFCG to implement the project in the village.

"We have been trained on tree conservation and environmental conservation in general to reduce deforestation and forest degradation that in turn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cope with climate change," he said.



# Exporters feel heat of EU retailers airfreights 'ban'

NAIROBI

FRESH produce exporters in Kenya are starting at higher costs and delayed market access as retailers in the European Union (EU) step up bans on air freight to cut their carbon emissions.

Several giant retailers in the EU bloc, including Lidl have cut back on air freight to source stocks such as fresh fruit and vegetables for their stores—a measure aimed at reducing the carbon emissions associated with the transport of fresh produce.

Okisegere Ojepat, chief executive at the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) on Monday said exporters are, how-



Workers at Equator Flowers Farm in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County pack flowers for export. Photo: NMG

ever, struggling to meet the tighter checks due to a lack of locomotives to transport their goods through the standard gauge railway.

"We are not ready to meet this requirement at the moment. First, we do not have ready aggregation centres and there are no locomotives equipped with the requisite cold storage to transport our produce to the port for sea export," he said.

This comes at a time when the Kenya Railways Corporation is financially struggling with official records showing its losses stood at Sh33.56 billion in the fiscal year ended June 2023—ranking it as the highest loss-making parastatal.

The shift to sea exports deals a blow to fresh produce exporters who rely on air transport to quickly reach the market.

According to a 2021 study by the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, some 98 percent of Kenya's fresh produce is shipped by air.

"It is critical for Kenya Railways to get enough financial support to help them purchase enough locomotives that are equipped to transport fresh produce. The government should also expedite the creation of centres to aggregate produce," said Ojepat. Major European retailers, which buy the largest share of Kenya's fresh produce, have started to restrict the transportation of the produce by air in favour of sea.

In 2022, the UK's largest food services company, Compass Group UK & Ireland, banned the use of air freight to transport fresh fruits

and vegetables as part of its efforts to cut its carbon footprint by 2030.

Other retailers from major importers of Kenya's fresh produce such as the Netherlands have also put in place similar restrictions with other retailers expected to follow suit amid the rising pressure on firms to cut their carbon footprint.

Ojepat said the State should accelerate the establishment of aggregation centres that are accessible to the SGR to allow quick rail access to the Mombasa port for shipping.

"With the establishment of aggregation centres, farmers from regions such as western, Nyanza, and central will consolidate their produce on the meter gauge railway before connecting to the SGR."

Fresh produce such as cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables are a major source of foreign exchange for Kenya, generating Sh152.3 billion in earnings in 2022.

## Air France-KLM planning to strengthen services in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

AIR France-KLM has started strategies to strengthen its services in African countries, by expanding its commercial scope in the continent.

In its statement issued yesterday, the Director General for East and South Africa, as well as Nigeria and Ghana, Marius van der Ham, stated that in 2024, the largest airline aims to increase its investment in modern technology, to ensure the provision of highest levels of security.

The company said that it is currently working on 31 routes in Africa, and the plan is to increase its range of trips.

"We will continue to innovate and raise our standards, ensuring an unparalleled travel experience that prioritizes passenger well-being and satisfaction",

said Marius van der Ham.

"We are also interested in reducing our carbon emission while traveling, to continue taking care of the environment for the benefit of all and that is why we regularly review our aircraft strategically choosing to retain only those which will be environmental friendly with low carbon emissions," he said.

In addition, he said that the organization will continue to cooperate constructively with the communities of the native countries where they carry out their activities by starting various joint programs to help the communities.

"For this year, Air France-KLM will participate in implementing various social activities in taking care of the environment, and we will also be involved in community sports activities," said van der Ham.

ITV	AFCON 2023	19:30 Soap: Laws of love	00:30 Al Jazeera	16:00 Dw News Africa rpt
<b>WEDNESDAY 31 JAN</b>	11:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari		16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	12:00 Al Jazeera	21:05 Kipima Joto		17:30 Meza huru
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	23:00 Jiji letu		19:00 Rev rpt
6:00 HABARI		23:30 The Base		19:00 Out & About Rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	12:55 Habari za saa	00:30 Al Jazeera		20:00 Aibu Yako
7:30 HABARI	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT			20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	13:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing	<b>SATURDAY 3 FEB</b>		20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana
8:55 Habari za saa	13:45 Ripoti maalum rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi		21:30 Capital Prime News
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	13:55 Habari za saa	6:00 HABARI		22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	14:00 Ripoti maalum rpt	6:40 Kumekucha		00:00 Al Jazeera
9:55 Habari za saa	14:25 Art and Lifestyle rpt	7:00 Habari		
10:00 Watoto wetu	14:45 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera		<b>SAT 03 FEB</b>
10:30 Igizo: Filimbi rpt	15:00 Meza huru	9:00 Watoto wetu		08:00 Al Jazeera
10:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5		09:00 Rev rpt
11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023	17:00 The Base	10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt		09:30 Jagina rpt
11:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Hapa na Pale	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt		10:00 Culinary delight rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera	18:15 Mapishi	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo		10:30 Innovation rpt
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:30 Jagina	12:50 Art and lifestyle		11:00 Out n'about rpt
12:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Usafiri wako	13:20 Shamba lulu		11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	19:30 Soap: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love		12:00 Innovation rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe		12:30 Shamba Lulu rpt
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:05 Malumbano ya hoja	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen		12:30 Our Earth rpt
14:40 Mapishi rpt	23:00 Jiji letu	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		13:00 Business edition rpt
14:55 Habari za saa	23:30 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale		13:30 Al Jazeera
15:00 Meza huru	00:30 Al Jazeera	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt		14:30 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
16:30 Watoto Wetu		19:00 Jungu kuu		17:15 Eco@Africa
17:00 Music: The Base	<b>FRIDAY 2 FEB</b>	19:30 Shika Bamba		17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:00 Hapa na Pale	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	20:00 Habari		18:15 Capchat rpt
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen		19:15 Mizengwe
18:30 Jarida la wanawake	6:00 HABARI	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen		19:30 The Decor
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	6:40 Kumekucha	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		20:00 Ripoti Maalum
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	7:30 HABARI	18:00 Hapa na Pale		20:30 Tomorrow Today
20:00 Habari	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	18:15 Mapishi		21:00 Out n' About
21:05 Aibu Yako	8:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Jungu kuu		21:30 Capchat Rpt
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo	19:30 Shika Bamba		23:00 Al Jazeera
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Ripoti maalum:	9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	20:00 Habari		01:00 Al Jazeera
22:00 Soap: Uzalo	10:00 Watoto wetu	21:40 Art and Lifestyle		
23:00 Jiji letu	10:30 Usafiri wako	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt		<b>SUN 04 FEB</b>
23:30 Music: The Base	11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo		08:00 Al Jazeera
00:30 Al Jazeera	11:55 Habari za saa	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt		09:00 In good shape
	12:00 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera		10:00 Capchat rpt
	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco			11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
<b>THURSDAY 1 FEB</b>	12:55 Habari za saa	<b>SUNDAY 4 FEB</b>		11:30 Dw
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi		12:00 Jagina rpt
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama	6:00 HABARI		12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
6:00 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa	6:40 Kumekucha		13:00 In good shape rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama	7:00 Habari		15:15 Aibu yako
7:30 HABARI	14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt	8:00 Al Jazeera		15:30 Rev rpt
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:55 Habari za saa	09:00 Watoto Wetu		16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru:	10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love		16:45 Mizengwe rpt
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	16:30 Watoto Wetu	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:		17:00 The Decor rpt
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	12:45 Mjue zaidi		17:30 Meza huru
9:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Kiislam	13:30 Usafiri wako		19:00 Eco@Africa
10:00 Watoto wetu	18:00 Hapa na Pale	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo		19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
10:30 Shamba lulu	18:15 Top ten	15:30 Mwangacha		20:00 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt		20:30 Out & About rpt
11:00 Kipindi maalum:		17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo		21:00 Dw News Africa
		18:30 Matukio ya wiki		21:30 Capchat rpt
		19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen		22:15 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
		20:00 Habari		14:00 Culinary rpt
		21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko		14:30 Ripoti Maalum
		21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe		15:00 Dk 45 rpt
		21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot		
		21:40 Mjue Zaidi		
		22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt		

## Egyptian Sawiris urges currency devaluation

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN billionaire Naguib Sawiris criticized delays in enacting a long-awaited devaluation of the pound, suggesting authorities match the spiraling black market rate to end the nation's chronic foreign-currency shortage.

Postponing reforms is "a disaster that will increase the extent of the critical situation we are in," Sawiris said in an Arabic-language post on social media platform X. Egypt's pound has plunged on the parallel market to 68-70 per dollar in recent days, leaving it more than 50 percent weaker than the official rate of about 30.9.

"The right way is to start from the black market rate and then it will go down gradually, so everyone would agree on selling their dollars through the official channels if the two rates became equal," Sawiris said.

Most analysts expect Egypt to carry out what would be its fourth devaluation since early 2022 in the first quarter of this year. But Sawiris, who's ranked as Africa's seventh-richest person on Bloomberg's Billionaires Index, suggested Egypt needs more than gradual adjustments to resolve the crisis.

"Any attempt to solve the dual exchange rates by offering the dollar at a lower rate than the black market won't be successful," Sawiris said.

The previous run of devalu-

ations has already slashed the pound's value by half, roiling businesses and consumers alike in the Middle East's most populous nation. Another move would fuel a further painful surge in inflation, which recently began cooling after hitting a record 38 percent in mid-2023.

To hedge themselves against the devaluation-inflation spiral in the country, local investors have been flocking to the stock market. The benchmark EGX30 index rose more than 18 percent in January in dollar terms, making it the world's third best-performing stock exchange, after Argentina and Nigeria. Derivative traders have meanwhile been ramping up their bets on a devaluation through short-term non-deliverable forwards.

Sawiris, who owns stakes in gold mines via La Mancha Resources, is known for sharing blunt opinions with his 8.3 million followers on X. Still, his comments mark a relatively rare intervention from him on the currency, one of Egypt's hottest economic topics.

Egypt secured a \$3 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund more than a year ago. But the Washington-based lender has delayed two reviews of the pact, waiting for authorities to allow a more flexible exchange rate and make good on other promised reforms before handing over more funds.



## WORLD



A woman walks past a banner advertising the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Center on Aug 20, 2023, in Johannesburg, South Africa. File photo

## Russia set to propose measures to boost BRICS financial ties

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will propose key initiatives to enhance cooperation among the BRICS countries in 2024 when it assumes the chairmanship of the bloc, the country's central bank governor, Elvira Nabiullina, said yesterday.

"We would like to promote the topic of mutual recognition of ratings. This is very important for mutual trade and investment," Nabiullina said.

Noting that the idea of creating supranational rating agencies has been discussed both within BRICS and within the Eurasian Economic Union, she said the idea is promising but involves "a lot of complex issues", including who should be the founder, how to ensure the financing, and how to guarantee the independence and professionalism of the agency.

"In our view, mutual recognition of ratings will be faster and more practical," Nabiullina said.

Another initiative that Russia plans to put forward in BRICS is to combat the money laundering of illicit funds. Russia has experience in creating an anti-money laundering platform called "Know Your Customer", which it is willing to share.

"We want to see what common platform solutions in this area can be developed at the level of BRICS. This would greatly simplify the cooperation of business of our countries," Nabiullina added.

Russia also plans to build a settlement-depository infrastructure and create a common platform for training and exchange of experience for the BRICS countries, she said, noting the final agenda will be formed by the end of February.

Russia took over the rotating chairmanship of BRICS for 2024 on Jan 1.

Xinhua

## France launches special international programme on French for Indian students

NEW DELHI

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron announced the launch of a special programme for Indian students to learn French for a year in France before pursuing the degree of their choice.

The decision comes after French President Macron attended the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi as a chief guest.

The classes are designed to help India's brightest high school graduates access France's rich, diverse, and world-renowned educational offerings without being limited to English-taught programmes alone, the French Embassy in India said in a statement.

Under the programme, regardless of already being a French language learner or a complete beginner, a student can now be admitted to French-taught undergraduate programmes of French higher education institutions after successfully completing a foundational year of immersive language training at that institution.

The decision is seen as a significant step towards India-France ties as PM Modi and President Macron have agreed to support the initiative of setting up international classes which will enable, from September 2024 onwards, Indian students to be taught French as a foreign language, methodology and academic contents in highly reputed

French universities in France during one academic year, before entering their chosen curricula in France.

During President Macron's visit to India, he visited the Amber Fort in Jaipur where he met Indian students from Alliance Francaise de Jaipur, the French departments of Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, and alumni back from France after graduation.

The President stressed France's commitment to opening up more opportunities for Indian students, exemplified by initiatives such as International Classes, 5-year short-stay Schengen visa for alumni and the fact that India is now the largest beneficiary of French academic scholarships.

He reiterated, "We want to welcome 30,000 Indian students to France by 2030" and added that, if this goal is met, "I would be the happiest President".

The French embassy said in a statement that the programme is open to all Indian students, irrespective of their current level of French.

Academic excellence is the only prerequisite and offers access to world-renowned French higher education institutions across all fields, universities, grandes écoles, engineering, management, sciences, humanities, arts, and other specialised schools.

The students will be immersed in French culture and language and can partake in the student activities of the institution like all other students.

ANI

## Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to build world-class airport cluster

IN 2023, the cumulative passenger traffic at the airports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) reached approximately 180 million, and various indicators such as flight frequencies and cargo throughput have fully recovered.

In particular, Hong Kong International Airport handled 39.5 million passenger trips, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport 63 million, Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport 52.73 million, Zhuhai Jinwan International Airport 11.457 million, and Macao International Airport 5.15 million.

As the GBA sees faster and faster

Industry insiders predicted that the project is expected to serve around 500,000 passenger trips annually. Vivian Cheung Kar-fay, Chief Operating Officer of the Airport Authority Hong Kong, noted that the "Fly-via-Zhuhai-Hong Kong" service not only provides travelers with more options of international travel, but also fully utilizes the connectivity of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

In terms of logistics, Hong Kong has leveraged its position as an international shipping hub to establish new mechanisms for the flow of goods with various cities in the GBA.

In April of last year, the Dongguan-Hong Kong International Airport Logistics Park was officially launched, and it has since served over 300 foreign trade enterprises in the GBA, with a total import and export value exceeding 1.7 billion yuan (\$239.99 million).

"The airport cluster in the GBA will further strengthen its integration and collaboration across air and ground operations in all

aspects, based on the principles of complementary development, competitive cooperation and benign interaction. This will better facilitate the integrated development between the world-class airport cluster and urban clusters," said an official of the Shenzhen municipal bureau of transport.

Developed aviation transportation capacity and airport economy are one of the core growth drivers of world-class bay areas. Currently, the GBA has seven transport airports with 11 runways, including three international

aviation hubs - Hong Kong International Airport, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, and Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport.

Additionally, there are two trunk airports, Macao International Airport and Zhuhai Jinwan International Airport, as well as two feeder airports, Foshan Shadi Airport and Huizhou Pingtan Airport.

According to estimates by the International Air Transport Association, air travel demand in the GBA is expected to increase

significantly by 2030. The projections indicate there will be 387 million passenger trips and 20 million tons of air cargo traveling through the area in 2030. However, the major airports in the GBA are already operating at or near full capacity.

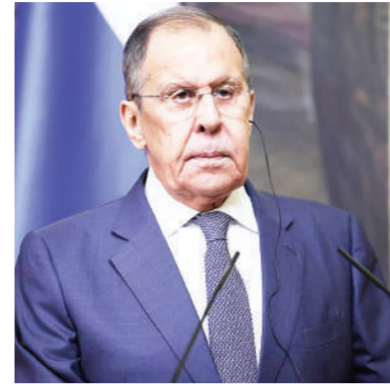
To facilitate more frequent movement of people and goods in the GBA, multiple airports in the area are undergoing expansion and accelerated development. In the coming years, there will be significant progress and breakthroughs as these airports strive to meet the growing demand. **People's Daily**

## Western-provided weapons sent to Ukraine now turning up in Northern Europe, Gaza - Lavrov

MOSCOW

KIEV is "doing [land-office] business" on death as many of the weapons that the West provided to Ukraine have already turned up in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands, as well as in the Gaza Strip, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"These weapons are spreading all over the world. The Kiev regime is infamous for being able to do [land-office] business on anything at all, including death. The weapons that the West is sending to the Ukrainian regime have already turned up not



only in conflict zones in the Middle East but some illegal shipments of weapons have also been reported in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the

Netherlands and the Gaza Strip," the top Russian diplomat pointed out at a roundtable discussion with the heads of foreign diplomatic missions concerning the situation surrounding Ukraine.

According to Lavrov, the West is creating numerous international platforms "for promoting a policy that is not so much dedicated to the Ukraine crisis as much as they are targeted against Russia," while "taking advantage of the good manners of many countries in the Global South," which are often uncomfortable about declining an invitation to attend a conference.

## Sunak wins 1st vote in upper house on Rwanda asylum bill

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak won the first vote in the upper house of parliament on his legislation to revive a plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda despite lawmakers spending hours attacking the bill as unethical and unworkable.

Under the Rwanda plan, which has yet to be carried out, asylum seekers who arrive on England's southern coast in small, inflatable boats would be sent to Rwanda to live.

After more than six hours of debate on Monday, unelected members of the House of Lords, largely made of former politicians and government officials, defeated an amendment that would have killed off the legislation by 206 votes to 84.

The legislation then passed its so-called second reading without a formal vote, meaning it will now face days of line-by-line scrutiny.

In the Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the spiritual leader of the global Anglican communion, warned the government was "leading the nation down a damaging path" and warned it was "damaging for this country's reputation".

Although there was widespread condemnation of the plan, the



A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaking during the weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons, in London, on Jan 24, 2024. AFP

main opposition party was reluctant to vote against the legislation at this stage over fears lawmakers could overstep their constitutional role by voting down a bill approved by the elected House of Commons, rather focusing on scrutinizing it.

With his Conservative Party trailing in the opinion polls before an election expected later this year, Sunak has invested large amounts of political capital in the Rwanda policy in the hope it will allow him to meet a promise to "stop the boats".

More than 1,000 asylum seek-

ers have arrived in Britain on small boats so far this year after more than 300 made the journey at the weekend.

Britain has already paid Rwanda about 240 million pounds (\$305 million) to take asylum seekers, but nobody has been put on a plane to the African country because of legal challenges.

The Lords are expected to weaken the legislation at later stages in the parliamentary process next month, when they start debating and voting on amendments.

## Guterres to meet UNRWA donors to ensure continued relief work

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is scheduled to hold a meeting with key donors to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) yesterday, to ensure continued support for relief work for Palestinian refugees, his spokesperson said on Monday.

The UN chief has also engaged in discussions with the head of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the highest investigative body within the UN system, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said during the routine noon briefing on Monday.

The discussions aimed to ensure the expeditious and effective execution of the investigation into allegations that several UNRWA personnel were implicated in the attacks that occurred on Oct 7 in Israel, he said.

"We have a process of accountability that is going on. While that is going on,



people need to survive and we need continued support for UNRWA and all our humanitarian work," he said.

The secretary-general, while deeply troubled by the accusations, has a vital message for donors, particularly those who have suspended their contributions: "To at least guarantee the continuity of UNRWA's operations, as we have tens of thousands of dedicated

staff working throughout the region," the spokesperson said.

"The dire needs of the desperate populations they serve must be met," he stressed.

In addition to its operations in the Gaza Strip, UNRWA plays a crucial role in delivering humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Within the Gaza Strip, the agency is engaged in delivering life-saving aid to more than 2 million civilians, managing shelters for over 1 million individuals, and providing essential services such as food, water, and healthcare.

Also on Monday, a coalition of leading international aid agencies and NGOs jointly called upon countries that have suspended funding for UNRWA due to allegations of staff collusion "to reaffirm support for the vital work" carried out by the UN agency.

Xinhua

## PM Modi pays Floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 76th death anniversary

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 76th death anniversary at Rajghat in Delhi.



In a post on X, PM Modi (pictured) said, "I pay homage to Pujya Babu on his Purnya Tithi."

"I also pay homage to all those who have been martyred for our nation. Their sacrifices inspire us to serve the people and fulfil their vision for our nation..." the tweet added.

With Prime Minister, other dignitaries were also present among which were, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary at Rajghat in Delhi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also took to X and paid his tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

"Salute to Mahatma Gandhi ji on his death anniversary who awakened the spirit of Swadeshi in the hearts of the countrymen by following the path of truth and non-violence. Gandhi ji's messages of peace and harmony are relevant even today and his thoughts will continue to inspire countrymen to sacrifice and dedicate themselves to the nation," he said.

BJP National President, JP Nadda while paying his tribute said that the paths shown by Babu are relevant in every era.

"I pay my tribute to the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the priest of truth and non-violence, who paved the way for India's independence through Swadeshi and self-reliance, on his death anniversary. The paths shown by Babu are relevant in every era. His ideals and thoughts will always inspire us," Nadda said on X.

In his message Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said "I pay homage to Pujya Babu on his Purnyatithi. The nation will always remain grateful for his contributions. Also, on this day, we pay our tributes to all those who laid down their lives in service to the nation."

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, in Lucknow

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi pays floral tributes to Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, in Chennai.

India observes Martyrs' Day every year on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to honour his contribution towards the freedom of the country.

On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in Birla's house, months after India's independence.

ANI



# ANC suspends ex-President Jacob Zuma after rival party launch

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has been suspended from the party he once led, after refusing to vote for it and launching a rival organisation.

The governing African National Congress (ANC) announced its decision on Monday.

"Zuma and others whose conduct is in conflict with our values and principles, will find themselves outside the African National Congress," said Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula.

Zuma's nine years as president, from 2009, were dogged by scandal.

An official inquiry said the former president placed the interests of corrupt associates ahead of those of his country, in a process known as "state capture". After he left office, he was jailed in 2021 for not appearing at the inquiry.

He also faces corruption charges over a 1999 arms deal. He denies wrongdoing in all cases.

Despite these issues, the ANC had tolerated Zuma, but the creation of a



new party that may pose a threat was deemed a step too far.

The party, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), meaning "spear of the nation", shares a name with the ANC's former armed wing he once served in.

In a scathing letter, Zuma's former ANC bedfellows accuse him of debasing the "proud history of armed struggle against the apartheid regime" through the "opportunistic use of military symbolism".

They also say MK only exists to "erode the support base

of the ANC".

South Africa's current President, Cyril Ramaphosa, replaced then-President Zuma in 2018 and promised to clean up government. He now leads an embattled ANC into this year's general election.

'Rescue' mission

At MK's official launch in December, a statement was read on Zuma's behalf saying he would "die a member of the ANC" but not vote for it, adding that some of its leaders behave in an "un-ANC manner" and it was now his mission to "rescue" the "once-great movement".

Zuma has also launched highly personal attacks on his successor, and former deputy, Mr Ramaphosa.

The BBC's Daniel de Simone in Johannesburg says many South Africans see Zuma as representing what is wrong with the recent past, and as having tainted the ANC.

Yet he commands huge loyalty from some quarters. Thousands of South Africans rioted in protest

at his 2021 jailing for contempt of court, and a recent poll estimates that almost one in three South Africans approve of him.

It is not yet clear how far this will translate into popular support for his new MK party at the ballot box, but it is likely to cost the ANC votes.

The ANC, which had its roots in the liberation struggle against apartheid, has governed South Africa ever since white-minority rule ended in 1994.

Zuma, 81, had been a lifelong member of the ANC.

He joined aged 17 with no formal schooling and soon rose through the ranks of the ANC's military and intelligence wings, followed by top posts in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal and ultimately the deputy presidency and presidency.

Correspondents say this year's election is viewed by many as the most competitive since the ANC came to power in 1994.

Agencies

# Party says former Pakistan PM Imran Khan gets 10-year jail term

ISLAMABAD



A Pakistan court handed former Prime Minister Imran Khan a 10-year jail term yesterday for leaking state secrets, the former premier's media team said, his second conviction in recent months and just 10 days before the country's general election.

The case pertains to allegations that Khan had made public the contents of a secret cable sent by the country's ambassador in Washington to the government in Islamabad.

Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said both Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had been sentenced to 10 years each by a special court.

It said the party would challenge the decision and called it a "sham case".

"We don't accept this illegal decision," Khan's lawyer Naeem Panjutha posted on social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

It is the second conviction for the embattled former cricket star in recent months. He was previously sentenced to three years in a corruption case. While his jail term was suspended as he challenged the corruption conviction, it had already ruled him out of the country's general elections next week.

Despite being ruled out of the election, Khan's legal team was hoping to get him released from jail, where he has been since August last year away from the public eye.

The latest conviction means that is unlikely even as the charges are contested in a higher court.

Khan has been fighting dozens of cases since he was ousted from power in a parliamentary vote of no confidence in 2022.

Khan says the cable was proof of a conspiracy by the Pakistani military and US government to topple his government in 2022 after he visited Moscow just before Russia's conflict with Ukraine. Washington and the Pakistan military deny the accusations. The former prime minister has previously said the contents of the cable appeared in the media from other sources.

Agencies

# How Kenya's judges stood up to President William Ruto

NAIROBI

FOLLOWING weeks of bitter rows and mud-slinging between President William Ruto and Kenya's judges, two separate courts have ruled against the government, both on matters close to the president's heart.

Firstly, a court on Friday ordered the government to stop taking payments for a new housing levy and just an hour or so later, a different court said the president could not send 1,000 police officers to Haiti, as Mr Ruto had promised the UN.

Analysts see this as a sign that Kenya's judges remain fiercely independent despite what they see as the president's attempts at intimidation.

Ruto has recently launched a series of extraordinary attacks on the judiciary, accusing unnamed judges of corruption, while criticising those who went to court to stop government projects. He was responding to a previous series of rulings against his administration, one of which was last week overturned.

Before Friday's rulings, a lawyer who was in the team that designed the current constitution told the BBC that Kenyans would, in light of the continued criticism of the judiciary, "be keen on seeing whether now, we are going to see decisions which are more favourable to the state".

Bobby Mwangi said the rhetoric against the judges had been "engineered towards achieving an outcome where the judiciary will fall to the weight of the executive".

But this does not seem to have happened.

Law Society of Kenya president Eric Theuri told the BBC after the ruling on the housing levy that while the criticism was "in a way intended to intimidate the court", the outcome of the case was "not surprising" as the government had presented a "very weak case".

"We expected and were hope-

ful that the court would be able to look at the law and make the decision on the basis of the law and not anything else," he said.

In recent weeks, the president's attacks on the judges triggered a backlash from Kenyans, including politicians and civil society.

Mwangi said the "executive and presidency leading the onslaught" had created "pressure" against judges, adding that it remained to be seen whether this would translate to favourable rulings.

He said "the judiciary did indeed feel the pressure and felt commanded by the pressure" to request an unprecedented meeting linked to matters live in court between the chief justice and the president.

But he also mentioned the "philosophy of leadership" of Chief Justice Martha Koome, who requested the meeting, adding that this was bound to arouse suspicion.

The meeting on Monday became a subject of intense national debate, amid a perception that the judiciary was giving in to the executive.

Chief Justice Koome herself had warned that the "threats and declarations" against the judiciary were "extremely serious".

She said they were an "assault against the constitution, the rule of law and the very stability of the nation and can lead to chaos and anarchy in our motherland".

But her request to meet the president and her subsequent attendance raised questions.

Theuri, the LSK president, told the BBC the outcome of the meeting appeared as if the judiciary had gone to the executive with a "begging bowl... Ultimately it goes towards undermining judiciary's independence and autonomy."

Ekuru Aukot, the leader of the opposition Third Way Alliance, told a local television station that the chief justice had allowed herself "to go into dialogue with



Chief justice Martha Koome swore in William Ruto as president in 2022. File photo

the person intimidating them".

The BBC contacted the government spokesman's office and the presidency for comment on the accusations of undermining the judiciary.

After the meeting, statements by both the chief justice and the presidency maintained that they were committed to upholding the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

The chief justice said they had agreed that specific measures would be presented to speed up corruption cases.

It was also resolved that MPs and the government would support increased funding for the judiciary, including to hire more judges.

Despite the meeting, the criticism of the judges continued.

On Thursday, the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) said it had "noted with deep concern the continued atavistic attacks against the judiciary, individual judges and magistrates by the political class even after the tripartite meeting".

It said the courts would now consider taking legal action

against individuals attacking the judiciary, individual judges, and magistrates.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court took the extraordinary step of indefinitely barring prominent pro-government lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi from appearing before it, after accusing him of "running a campaign aimed at scandalising, ridiculing and out-rightly denigrating this court".

Abdullahi said it was a "badge of honour" on X, and later said that he would file a petition against the ban at the East African Court of Justice in neighboring Tanzania rather than "waste time in Koome's corrupt court".

The rift between the judiciary and the political class is only expected to widen, as each side stands firm.

Despite the rulings, Mr Ruto has vowed to continue with the government's projects, which may result in further confrontation with the judiciary.

There are fears that this could set the stage for other Kenyans to disobey court rulings, caus-

ing "anarchy" as the chief justice had warned.

The KMJA noted on Thursday that in the western town of Eldoret, "an elected political leader had mobilised and led a gang to destroy a property which is still the subject of litigation before the courts".

As the court ruled on Friday, Ruto said he had enough public support to continue with the housing projects, which he said was creating many jobs for young Kenyans.

"The will of the people of the people is the will of God," he said, speaking in Swahili to a crowd at a town in central Kenya, adding that the plan would continue despite the temporary setback.

The president said the government would appeal against the ruling and parliament would work on a new housing fund act that would allow the programme to continue.

One can only imagine Mr Ruto's reaction if that were then to be challenged in court.

Agencies

# International community's prevailing consensus on upholding one-China principle will become more solid

and territorial integrity, their opposition to any form of "Taiwan independence" and their support for China's cause of national reunification.

This represents the call for justice and peace from the international community, and reflects the extensive consensus of the international community in firmly upholding the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations.

Taiwan has never been a country and will never be one. Those who seek Taiwan's independence to split the Chinese territory will surely be severely punished by history and the law. Any country that violates the one-China principle, interferes in China's

internal affairs and infringes on China's sovereignty will be jointly opposed by all the Chinese people and the international community as a whole.

China and Nauru see vast prospects for cooperation after their resumption of diplomatic relations, which will benefit Nauru's economic development and improve people's livelihoods. It will also contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Pacific island countries.

China's policy toward Pacific island countries is founded on the "four fully respects." First, China fully respects the sovereignty and independence of Pacific island countries, and upholds the equality of all countries, big or small;

second, China fully respects the will of Pacific island countries and follows the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits, and win-win results; third, China fully respects the cultural traditions of Pacific island nations, and pursues harmony without uniformity and the common development of diverse cultures; fourth, China fully respects Pacific island countries' efforts to seek strength through unity, and supports them in implementing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, so as to contribute to the building of a peaceful, harmonious, secure, inclusive, and prosperous Blue Pacific.

Under the guidance of the "four

fully respects," China's exchange and cooperation with Pacific island countries have been continuously expanding, bringing immense benefits to the people of both sides.

In recent years, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati have successively chosen to establish and restore diplomatic relations with China, removing political barriers for cooperation with China. China started vigorous exchange and cooperation with the two countries in various fields and at all levels. They signed Belt and Road cooperation documents and have achieved many early fruits in mutually beneficial cooperation.

After restoring diplomatic relations, China and Nauru will

engage in practical cooperation in various fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, which will open up a brighter future for Nauru's development.

China will achieve national reunification and Taiwan will inevitably return to the embrace of the motherland. Standing up for the one-China principle is the right thing to do and a trend that no force can hold back.

It is believed that more members of the international community will recognize the trend of history, and establish or restore diplomatic relations with China. The international community's prevailing consensus on upholding the one-China principle will become more solid. The Chinese people's just cause of opposing "Taiwan independence" separatism and external interference and striving for national reunification will win more understanding and support. **People's Daily**

CHINA and Nauru signed a joint communique on the resumption of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level on Jan. 24, which made Nauru the 183rd country to have diplomatic ties with China.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between China and Nauru once again proved that the one-China principle is where global opinion trends and where the arc of history bends.

There is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China. This has been clearly recognized by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and widely recognized by the international community.

As an independent sovereign country, the Republic of Nauru announced that it recognizes the



# Tanzania and Ivory Coast's MoU paves way for sports growth

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

A significant meeting involving Tanzania's Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Damas Ndumbaro, and his Ivory Coast counterpart Adjé Silas, took place in Ivory Coast on January 26.

The two ministers' discussions centered on fostering cooperation in the sports sector through a special Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This MoU, once signed, will pave the way for talent development initiatives between the two nations. Recognizing the ongoing African Cup of Nations (AFCON) and Ivory Coast's impressive infrastructural advancements, particularly stadiums and roads.

Ndumbaro commended their efforts. He further highlighted Tanzania's intent to learn from their experience, as Tanzania, along with Kenya and Uganda, prepares to co-host the AFCON in 2027.

The meeting, held in a spirit of collaboration, also saw the participation of Ally Mayai, Tanzania's Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, and other key officials from both countries' sports ministries.

This exchange underscores a shared commitment to nurturing sporting talent and promoting regional cooperation in the field of athletics.

The potential MoU between Tanzania and Ivory Coast signifies a promising step towards talent development and knowledge exchange.

As both nations look ahead to hosting the AFCON, this collaboration holds immense potential to benefit athletes, infrastructure, and the overall sporting landscape in the region.

In essence, the meeting between Ndumbaro and Silas marks a significant development in Tanzania-Ivory Coast sporting relations.

Their focus on collaboration and mutual learning paves the way for a brighter future for sports in both countries and the East African region as a whole.



Tanzania's Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro (L), and Ivory Coast's Minister of Sports, Adjé Silas, are pictured holding jerseys of the two countries' national football teams shortly after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaboration in sports development programs in Ivory Coast recently. AGENCIES

Hosting the AFCON is a prestigious honor for any nation, and Tanzania, along with Kenya and Uganda, is gearing up to co-host the event in 2027.

As Tanzania prepares for this exciting event, there's much to learn from experienced nations like Ivory Coast, which is currently hosting the 2023 AFCON.

Ivory Coast invested heavily in upgrading its infrastructure in preparation for the 2023 AFCON.

This included the construction and renovation of several stadiums, ensuring they met the high standards required for international competition.

Tanzania can learn from Ivory Coast's approach to infrastructure development, focusing on not only stadiums but also transportation networks, hotels, and other facilities that will cater to the influx of players, fans, and officials during the 2027 AFCON.

The AFCON is not just about the players on the field; it's also about celebrating African football and uniting communities.

Ivory Coast successfully engaged fans and local com-

munities throughout the 2023 tournament, creating a festive atmosphere that enhanced the overall experience.

Tanzania can emulate this approach by incorporating cultural events, fan zones, and community outreach programs into the 2027 AFCON, fostering a sense of national pride and inclusivity.

Organizing a major sporting event like the AFCON requires meticulous planning and execution. Ivory Coast's experience in hosting the 2024 tournament provides valuable insights for Tanzania.

From volunteer recruitment and training to security measures and crowd control, Tanzania can learn from Ivory Coast's best practices to ensure a smooth and successful AFCON 2027.

Tanzania's national performance at the 2023 AFCON, while not enough to advance them to the knockout stages, still offered valuable lessons and insights for improvement. Tanzania can learn from African powerhouses like Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Morocco.

Individual skill and technical refinement Powerhouses possess players with superior

dribbling, passing, and finishing skills.

Tanzania needs to invest in youth development and training programs to improve individual technical prowess.

Tactical flexibility and game management as Teams like Morocco showcased the ability to adapt formations and strategies based on opponents and game situations.

Tanzania needs to develop tactical diversity and improve their decision-making on the pitch.

International experience Powerhouse players often feature in top European leagues, gaining invaluable experience against world-class players.

Tanzania needs to encourage its players to pursue professional opportunities abroad. Competition against quality opponents Regular matches against strong teams expose weaknesses and accelerate learning.

Tanzania could benefit from more international friendlies and participation in regional tournaments.

Leadership and organization since Strong squads boast vocal leaders who can motivate and organize teammates.

Tanzania could benefit from identifying and nurturing natural leaders within the team.

Team spirit and unity Powerhouse teams exhibit a strong sense of camaraderie and collective responsibility. Tanzania needs to foster a positive team environment and build trust among players.

Investing in youth development: Powerhouses prioritize grassroots development, building a strong talent pipeline. Tanzania needs to invest in coaching, facilities, and equipment at the youth level.

Financial and organizational support Strong national federations provide resources and infrastructure for the team. Tanzania can learn from successful models in other countries to improve their support system.

Learning from Ivory Coast's experience in these key areas, Tanzania can ensure a successful and memorable AFCON 2027.

The tournament can be a catalyst for infrastructure development, economic growth, and national pride, leaving a lasting legacy for the East African nation.

## Musa Mgosi hails Simba Queens' tactical switch

By Correspondent Nasir Nchimbi

SIMBA Queens assistant head coach Musa Mgosi had hailed his side's tactical switch that earned a 7-0 victory over Alliance Queens at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The Msimbazi Street women's side squandered various clear scoring chances in the first half without scoring a goal but tactical restructuring from Mgosi changed the second half into a rain of goals.

Mgosi said Simba Queens ballers are now suffering from match pressure due to dominating the league for so long with now due to competition the pressure is on to retain their lost glory.

The gaffer noted: "We have dominated the league for quite some time. I understand players want to dominate games but once things aren't going our way they tend to lose focus, once I understood that I had to make various tacti-

cal switches."

"I realized that Alliance Queens pressed us in the midfield and we did not counter press them to force them into errors that would give us goals because we failed to turn the chances that we created into goals," the former Simba SC striker revealed. "Once we pressed them on the center area of the pitch everything changed and scored many goals," Mgosi pointed out.

The gaffer noted: "I also told my players we should not draw or lose any match but once a win doesn't happen we shouldn't lose our focus because in football you win some, lose or draw some games, we have to live according to that formula but push ourselves hard to achieve our goals."

Jentrix Shikangwa scored thrice as her club Simba Queens beat Alliance Queen 7-0 in a Serengeti Women's Premier League.

The goals were her first since the Kenyan attacker rejoined the club earlier

this month. The first half ended goalless before the goals rained in the second half.

The goal-getter's compatriot Vivian Corazone Aquino, also a teammate in Kenya's women's national team, was also on target for Simba Queens in the game.

Three minutes into the second half, Shikangwa got onto the scoresheet with her first of the game. Three minutes later, Aisha Mnunka made it 2-0.

Asha Djafar grabbed a double in the 54th and 67th minutes before handing the mantle to the Kenyan striker to complete her hat trick with goals in the 77th and 80th minutes.

Vivian, who was skipping Simba Queens, completed the rout for the former SWPL champions in the 90th minute.

After six league games, Simba Queens have collected 16 points from five wins, one draw and no loss while scoring 23 goals and allowing five goals in the process.



Mara Regional Commissioner, Said Mtanda, is pictured taking a shot to officially launch the netball tournament, which is one of sporting disciplines organized for the Police Family Day celebrations in Tarime/Rorya Special Zones, held at Tarime Secondary School's venue recently. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## Award-winning Tigo bankrolls Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon 2024 for ninth consecutive year

By Guardian Correspondent

IT is a metanarrative of resilience, consistency, durability and sustainability. Tigo Tanzania's support for the enduring Tigo 'Kili Half-Marathon' for the last eight years in a row has been a story of a lasting odyssey, a roller-coaster journey of almost a decade of regaling enthusiastic runners from Tanzania and the entire East African region as they savor the famous marathon that's held in Moshi in northern Tanzania, every year.

Tigo, Tanzania's 'digital lifestyle company', which has relentlessly been sponsoring the 21-km run, fondly referred to by its enthusiasts as the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon for those momentous eight years, is at it again, stepping in for the ninth year to back the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2024's half-marathon circuit.

The Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon is the 'mid-slice' of the great 42-race Kilimanjaro Marathon which is eminently described as 'The Original and Still the Best' and which, according to the Forbes Magazine, is the 'Number 4 Best International Adventure Marathon'.

The marathon's participants include perennial athletes, budding runners and other enthusiasts who enjoy running as an adventure. These 'heroes of the sport' are the ones that Tigo relishes to support because they are part of its over 18 million subscribers across the country.

According to Tigo's Northern Zone Territory Manager, Daniel Mainoya, the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon, which is scheduled to take place under the watchful and protective glare of Mt Kilimanjaro on February 25, is expected to gather over 6,000 participants this year.

These participants have been registering for the great race through Tigo Pesa, the telecom company's mobile money transaction platform.

"We are thrilled to sponsor the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon 2024 for the 9th consecutive year, hosting over 6,000 runners, including top-tier athletes from Africa, with an increased price tag," says Mainoya, adding: "Tigo's substantial TZS 1 trillion investment in network modernization and cutting-edge technology is creating waves, earning us local and international recognition, including the Ookla Speedtest Award."

In 2022, Tigo embarked on a five-year massive network evolution project called 'Sky is the Limit', whereby the telecoms giant invested 1 trillion shillings which mainly aims at extending coverage footprint with the best-in-class mobile technology countrywide.

The massive investment has hugely modernized Tigo's entire network and service platforms with state-of-the-art hardware, enabling it to deliver superior voice quality, high-speed mobile internet up to 5G speed, and seamless access to mobile financial services in Tanzania and cross-border transactions across the East African region.

Furthermore, Tigo's mammoth investment has led to its winning scores of local and international accolades, among them the prestigious Ookla Speedtest Award that the company won in 2024 as the Fastest Mobile Network in Tanzania.

"We have upgraded our 4G network in the northern region, ensuring, fast, reliable internet and an unforgettable experience that runners will be enjoying as they maneuver the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon," Mainoya assures.

For her part, Woinde Shisael, Tigo Communications Manager, speaking about the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon, said: "Tigo has been at the forefront of supporting the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon for over eight years now; our continued presence in championing the half-marathon category further cements our commitment to nurture talents and support sporting activities in Tanzania."

Besides, says Shisael, Tigo's sponsorship of the half-marathon underscores the telecom services provider's commitment as a worthy partner to the government in its efforts to boost the development of the sports sector in the country.

She adds: "We understand the important role that sports play in bringing people together and our sponsorship of the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon attests to this. Further, the sponsorship not only demonstrates Tigo's love for sports, especially athletics, but also considers the significant role that sports play in the empowerment of youth in particular and in the nation's socio-economic development."

While encouraging runners to register early for the Tigo Half-Marathon 2024 edition using Tigo-Pesa to 'avoid last minute inconveniences', Shisael congratulates the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon for 'achieving twenty-two years of coordinating and supporting the national event which brings together professional and non-professional athletes across the globe'.

Other sponsors for this year's edition of the Kilimanjaro International Marathon led by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor), include Gee Soseji - 5 km Fun Run, and water table sponsors Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, CRDB Bank and TPC Sugar. Official partners are Garda World, CMC Automobiles, Sal Salinero Hotel and suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

The event is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Tigo's Northern Zone Territory Manager, Daniel Mainoya





Ivory Coast players celebrate after the match. - REUTERS

# Ivory Coast stun AFCON holders Senegal

ABIDJAN

**H**OSTS Ivory Coast stunned Senegal at the Africa Cup of Nations on Monday, knocking out the reigning champions on penalties in the last 16 to keep their hopes of winning the title on home soil alive.

A week ago it looked as if the Ivorians were set for a humiliating group-stage exit from their own AFCON, but now they are into the quarter-finals after beating Senegal 5-4 on penalties following a tie that finished 1-1 at the end of extra time.

The Elephants scraped into the knockout phase with the worst record of the four best third-placed sides to advance, after finishing the first round with a humiliating 4-0 loss to Equatorial Guinea, their heaviest ever home defeat.

They followed that by sacking veteran French coach Jean-Louis Gasset and trying unsuccessfully to bring in former boss Herve Renard on a short-term deal.

But instead former player Emerse Fae was appointed on an interim basis, hoping to rouse a shell-shocked team for a daunting tie against the

holders.

It looked like being a trying evening for Ivory Coast in Yamoussoukro as Senegal went ahead in the fourth minute when Habib Diallo brought down Sadio Mane's cross from the left and finished emphatically.

Mane then escaped with a yellow card for a dangerous challenge on Ibrahim Sangare soon after, although Senegal also felt hard done by early in the second half.

Ismaila Sarr went down in the box in a tangle of legs with Odilon Kossounou, but no penalty was given and the referee did not come across to review

the incident on the pitch-side monitor.

- Kessie the hero -

Instead, it was the Ivorians who won a late penalty of their own, a VAR review showing that Nicolas Pepe was chopped down by Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.

Franck Kessie of Saudi club Al Ahli, who was dropped to the bench at kick-off, converted the penalty to force extra time.

With no further scoring, it came down to penalties, and Senegal's Moussa Niakhate was the only player to miss, seeing his effort strike the post.

Kessie then netted the decisive kick to take Ivory Coast through to a last-eight tie against Mali or Burkina Faso in the central city of Bouake on Saturday.

Neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso clash in the last 16 in the northern city of Korhogo on Tuesday.

"We are feeling a lot of emotion," Ivory Coast striker Sebastien Haller told broadcaster Canal Plus Afrique.

"The last few days have not been easy but we had to believe in ourselves."

Senegal go out after being the only team to win all three games during the group stage, and their elim-

ination means no reigning champion has made it beyond the first knockout round of a Cup of Nations since Egypt won a third consecutive title in 2010.

- Mauritania run ended -

Earlier on Monday, Cape Verde won an AFCON knockout tie for the first time in their history as a late Ryan Mendes penalty gave them a 1-0 victory over Mauritania in Abidjan.

The tie was drifting towards extra time when Cape Verde won a spot-kick as substitute Gilson Tavares Benchimol was brought down in the box by Mauritania goalkeeper Babacar Niasse.

Captain Mendes then converted with just two minutes of the 90 remaining to break the resistance of a Mauritania side appearing in the knockout phase for the first time.

Cape Verde advance to a quarter-final on Saturday in Yamoussoukro against either Morocco or South Africa, who meet in the last 16 on Tuesday in San-Pedro.

The tiny Atlantic Ocean island nation had got out of their group in two of their three previous appearances at the AFCON, but had never before won a knockout tie.

"We are proud of every-

thing we have done up to now. We always tried to win the game and we thoroughly deserved the victory," said Cape Verde coach Pedro 'Bubista' Brito, who believes his side can go further still in the tournament.

"We have our objective, which from day one has been to get to the semi-finals.

"We are one step away from that now and we are going to keep going, while obviously staying humble and respecting our opponents, but we believe. That is our focus and we are going to try and get there."

AFP

## From title triumph to stepping down, how Xavi's dream soured

BARCELONA

**O**NLY a few months after lifting the Spanish title, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez dramatically announced he would walk away from the club at the end of the season.

The 44-year-old, who excelled in Barcelona's midfield during 17 years as a player, described the job as his "dream" in the years before he was appointed in November 2021.

After a 5-3 collapse against Villarreal on Saturday which left the champions 10 points adrift of league leaders Real Madrid, Xavi said coaching Barcelona was a "cruel and unpleasant" experience.

Real Madrid thrashed Barcelona 4-1 earlier in January to win the Spanish Super Cup and Athletic Bilbao hammered the Catalans 4-2 on Wednesday to eliminate them from the Copa del Rey, paving the way for Xavi's decision.

Xavi took over in one of the toughest moments of Barcelona's history, a few months after their greatest ever player Lionel Messi left, with the club in dire economic straits.

The coach, who won 25 trophies with Barcelona as a player in 767 appearances, led the team from ninth in the table to second in his first season at the helm, securing Champions League qualification.

Xavi followed that by winning the

Spanish Super Cup in January 2023 and then Barcelona's first league title since 2019, with his project gathering speed.

Humiliating consecutive group stage Champions League exits blotted his copybook, but Barca appeared to be improving after largely dismal spells under Quique Setien and Ronald Koeman.

Despite winning La Liga, some media and supporters grumbled that the team was not playing good football.

Xavi, the symbol of Barcelona's possession game as a player under Pep Guardiola, was expected by supporters to deliver that kind of dominant football -- and he insisted it was his aim.

Yet Barcelona won the title on the basis of their superb defence, conceding just 20 times in 38 La Liga matches. This season they have already let in 29 in 21 games.

The collapse of that defensive strength and worsening performances have led Xavi to walk away, he says to change a "negative dynamic" around the team he loves.

### - Defensive woes -

Several factors have played into Barcelona's struggles at the back this season.

Perhaps stung by criticism of his team's dutiful but drab performances, Xavi brought in full-back Joao Cancelo on loan to play a more at-

tacking brand of football.

Last season the defence featured three centre-backs -- Jules Kounde, playing on the right, Ronald Araujo and Andreas Christensen, with Alejandro Balde at left-back.

This season Xavi started with Balde and Cancelo and two centre-backs, foregoing stability for attacking thrust on the flanks.

Kounde had also tired of playing at right-back, often telling media he would prefer to play in the middle.

Veteran holding midfielder Sergio Busquets departed at the end of last season, leaving a yawning chasm in the pivot role he made his own for 18 years.

"We have to find that player if we want to compete well next season -- it's the key," said Xavi in May.

However Barcelona could not afford their prime targets and settled for former La Masia player Oriol Romeu, signed cheaply from neighbours Girona.

Romeu struggled and Xavi dropped him, playing with an even more attacking line-up without a natural defensive midfielder.

Tenacious box-to-box player Gavi suffered a cruciate ligament injury in November, further damaging the team's capacity in that regard.

"We are playing with Pedri, (Ilkay) Gundogan and Frenkie (de Jong)," said Xavi last week.

"Before we had Busquets and Gavi ... Busquets steals 20 to 30 balls for you, Gavi steals 20 to 30 balls."

AFP

## Pride, patriotism win for African soccer fans and players in club vs. country debate

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast

**F**OR African soccer fans and players, there's no doubt which takes priority in the club vs. country debate.

There's little to no sympathy for European clubs missing star players in the middle of the season because of the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast.

Victor Osimhen cannot play for Napoli when he's trying to steer Nigeria to its first title since 2013; Mohamed Salah was injured in his second game for Egypt in a blow for Liverpool; and Bayer Leverkusen's Bundesliga challenge has been complicated by the absence of four players.

Leverkusen forward Victor Boniface is out for months to recover from a thigh injury sustained in Nigeria's tournament preparations.

Stuttgart is without Serhou Guirassy, who scored 17 goals in 14 Bundesliga games before joining his Guinea teammates. Now he's trying to guide the Elephants past the quarterfinals.

"You don't have much better than playing for your country," Guirassy told The Associated Press after Guinea's late win over Equatorial Guinea on Sunday.

For African fans, it's a rare chance to see their stars at home, demonstrating the pride and commitment they feel representing their countries, the biggest calling in a soccer player's career.

"It's difficult for the poor Europeans. But we are happy," Ivory Coast fan Ibrahim Koulibaly told the AP. "We're happy because the players have come to



Guinea fans cheer before the start of the African Cup of Nations Round of 16 soccer match between Equatorial Guinea and Guinea, at the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024. AP Photo

raise the level of the tournament. Everyone has their own interests. We bring the children, enjoy life a little, it's always a joy for us."

Armand Kouassi, an Ivorian who was supporting Cameroon against Nigeria, also considered country more important than club.

"When you have the honor of being called up for selection, you don't think of money," Kouassi said. "For me, it's not a lack of respect (for the

clubs), it's a patriotic act."

Marina Bouho, an Abidjan native who was supporting Cape Verde against Mauritania on Monday, said African players were obligated to return to help their countries.

"It's a huge competition for Africa and everyone has to come and play," Bouho told the AP. "It hurts a lot if they're not allowed. It's bad if obstacles are put in the players' way."

FIFA regional director for Africa, Gelson Fer-

randes, said the clubs should make allowances for African players to represent their countries at the Africa Cup, and they can also benefit when players return after a good tournament.

"They come back with a lot of energy to the club, positive energy. And it represents a lot for the continent," Fernandes told the AP. "I understand that it's difficult to lose a player, but I also understand that the player is as proud as a bride to represent his

country."

Senegal captain Kalidou Koulibaly previously said he could not understand why some give more respect to the clubs than their countries.

"My choice is to play for my country. If (the club) are not happy, I will find another club," Koulibaly told the AP.

Geuky Coulibaly (no relation to Ibrahim), who was supporting Ivory Coast, said African pride was of greater importance than clubs' financial concerns.

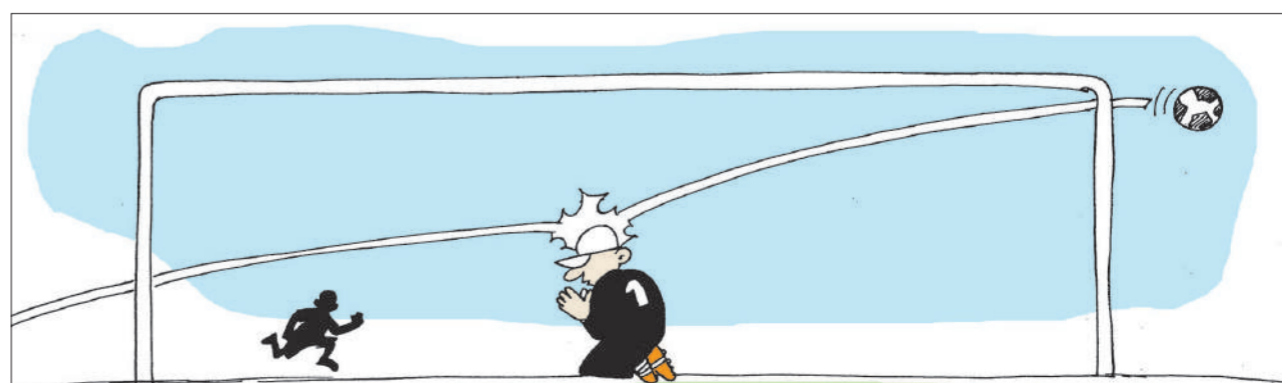
"We must not abandon our origins, even if that means financial sacrifices. We must always keep our love for our country and respond when the country calls," Geuky Coulibaly said. "It shows that there is a little change in the consciousness of Africans, and that makes me happy."

Ivorian worker Issouf Traore suggested it was a small sacrifice for clubs to release players.

"The country needs them," Traore told the AP. "Afterward, by the grace of God, if God gives us the cup and we win in the end, everyone will return to their clubs with joy."

AP

### Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

From title triumph to stepping down, how Xavi's dream soured

PAGE 19



## TFF: Taifa Stars selection now needs overhaul

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has called for a comprehensive evaluation of native footballers playing abroad before bringing them into the national team, Taifa Stars.

The statement has come about following Taifa Stars' performance in 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which is taking place in Ivory Coast.

The TFF Technical Director Oscar Mirambo (pictured) sparked the discussion after observing inconsistent performances from some overseas players who were called up to the national team.



Haji Mnoga and Charles M'bombwa are the overseas-based players that had a good performance in the competition while others did not receive any minutes in the AFCON showdown.

"We need a thorough assessment of how these players are faring in their respective leagues before considering them for Taifa Stars," Mirambo stressed.

"This comparison with existing players will help us build a balanced team. Naturally, we expect overseas players to be at a higher level than those in the domestic league."

Mirambo revealed a long list of 186 players of Tanzanian origin playing abroad.

"This list goes to the head coach for scouting, if he sees potential, he calls them up," he said.

On the program's success, Mirambo offers a nuanced view: "We've seen what the called-up players can do, allowing us to make informed decisions about their national team suitability."

"But not all have had playing opportunities, making it hard to fully assess their capabilities. Regardless, we must be rigorous in scouting for Taifa Stars."

Mirambo further said they hardly know the outcome of calling overseas players into the national team squad but calls for more seriousness in scouting for the national team.

"We are now in a position to decide fairly as to whether they have the standards of playing in the national team or the opposite," Mirambo revealed.

"As such, we hardly know if they have what it takes to battle for the country's flag or not, but we should be serious whenever scouting players for national team duties," the TFF Technical Director noted.

# Simba kick start Federation Cup with Tembo FC



Saleh Karabaka. Agencies

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA will hope to avoid being on the wrong end of one of the Federation Cup's greatest giant killings when non-league side Tembo FC pay a visit to Chamazi Complex this evening.

The Msimbazi Reds were semi-finalists in the last two editions of the tournament, while the non-league visitors have not made it past round one.

Not since the 2018/2019 season have Simba exited the Federation Cup in the second round, and the coach Abdelhak Benchikha will want to ensure that a similar fate does not occur here.

The Algerian gaffer will undoubtedly hand opportunities to new signings as well as a couple of fringe players.

Simba made six signings in the mini-transfer window. The new players, Edwin Balua, Fredy Kouablan, Babacar

Sarr, Ladaki Chasambi, Saleh Karabaka and Pa Omar Jobe, are all available for selection.

Centre-back Henock Inonga Baka is with DR Congo for the Africa Cup of Nations, while five other players who were with Tanzania and Zambia national teams only reported this week and are also unlikely to feature in this match.

Even without the first-choice players, the Tabora side's resistance will be put under the ultimate challenge in the capital.

A mixture of fringe and youthful Simba players should still get the job done convincingly.

Tembo deserve immense credit for reaching this stage while not featuring in any competitive league, but the Federation Cup journey will likely come to an end for head coach Ramadhan Kilobi and company here.

Coach Kilobi admits given the gulf in class between the two sides, they are well prepared for whatever happens.

For them playing against Simba is history in itself and they are motivated to fight to get something to proudly talk about.

"The game will be difficult. We know very well that

Simba are bigger than us in everything and we are ready for any result, but we want to beat them so that we have something to talk about. They have quality players like Willy Onana and Fabrice Ngoma, but we must challenge them," said Kilobi.

The Federation Cup tournament is played on a straight knock out basis from the Round of 64 (Round Two), Round of 32, Round of 16 before the quarterfinals, semifinals take place leading to the final.

Winners from the Round of 64 will take on each other in the Round of 32 in February, 2024.

The Round of 16 will take place in March while the quarterfinals are set for April. The semi-finals will be played in May, followed by the final in June, 2024.

In addition to a trophy, medals for players and the technical bench and Tsh50m prize money, the winners of the Federation Cup earn a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Young Africans are the defending Champions of the Federation Cup after a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Azam on Monday, June 12, 2023.

## Arusha working to form the region's first basketball team

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha



Dar es Salaam's junior basketballers take part in a training which took place at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

MORE than 40 young children from various primary, secondary and colleges in Arusha have been placed under special basketball training programs here as the region envisages creating its own team for national and international games.

Organized by the Arusha Basketball Coaches Association, a total of 38 youth attended the inaugural sessions held at the Don Bosco Center, located within the Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics and Computers (KIITEC) premises at Suye Hills.

Bariki Kilimba is a basketball coach based in Arusha, who also heads the City basketball team and says the initiative aims at grooming young players in the region because there is a new trend in which many institutions, parastatals and organizations in Tanzania are employing sports personalities.

"Sports, such as basketball, are becoming a new employment opportunity because the army, public and private institutions, colleges and government agencies are seeking talented young people to play in their respective teams," explained Kilimba.

"The Institute of Accountancy in Arusha (IAA) as well as the University of Dar-es-salaam (UDSM) are also granting scholarships to young basketball players," added the coach.

According to the coach, the local umpires have launched basketball clinics for pupils, students, street children and college scholars to recruit, groom and train potential players aged between 5 and 18 years.

"We are also using the occasion to announce that the Don Bosco KIITEC center will be the ultimate base for the basketball training," pointed out Kilimba.

The Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics and Computers on the other hand, will be providing basic and auxiliary Information Communications Training for the young basketball players who may want to join the digital sector, including earning scholarships at the campus.

On his part, Martin Stephen, another basketball coach in the program, said after the clinic they plan to start serious training and warm-up sessions that will also lead to the creation of an official regional basketball team for Arusha.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



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