



### National Pg 3

Govt reviews performance of transport sector



### National Pg 4

Tanzania to benefit from \$18bn funding



### National Pg 6

Ministry in new HWC reporting, management system



# 'Geothermal energy vital for fair electricity access'

*Acknowledging the high initial costs associated with geothermal development, which can be a formidable barrier to exploration and utilization in many countries in Africa*

By Getrude Mbagu

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called on potential investors to explore the vast opportunities in Tanzania's geothermal energy sector, emphasizing the government's commitment to facilitating investments in the area.

Speaking at the official opening of the 10th African Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-CIO) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the VP underlined the country's favourable investment climate, political stability and ongoing reforms aimed at promoting sustainable energy development.

Local and international investors need to consider geothermal energy as a key sub-sector that supports energy security, economic growth and job creation, he stated, asserting that investing in geothermal projects is vital at the moment.



**This positive trajectory has been recognized by international credit rating agencies, affirming our debt sustainability and strengthening investor confidence...**

Such investments will be making a crucial contribution in advancing the country's energy transition and enhancing its overall energy landscape, he stated, emphasizing that Tanzania is in dire need of diversifying its electricity mix.

It has a target of increasing generation capacity to over 5,000 megawatts by 2030, placing particular emphasis on expanding renewable energy, including geothermal, he explained.

Underscoring the potential of geothermal energy as a clean, sustainable source that could significantly reduce dependence on fossil fuels, he cited that several promising sites have been identified, including Ngozi in Mbeya and Songwe regions, Kiejo-Mbaka in Mbeya, Natron in Arusha, and Luhoi in the Coast Region.

The country has completed initial exploration stages on five geothermal sites and commenced drilling at Lake Ngozi to confirm commercial scale resources, while surface exploration is ongoing at flagship projects in Kiejo-Mbaka, Luhoi and Natron, he further noted.

"Tanzania has enjoyed peace and stability since gaining independence in 1961, which has fostered a politically stable environment and an attractive investment climate," he said. "Our

TURN TO PAGE 2



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba participates in the African Caucus meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors, which included World Bank President Ajay Banga, in Washington DC, yesterday. The minister is leading Tanzania's delegation at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Photo: Benny Mwaipaja

## Centre hands over 100 local kernel genes to global 'bank'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Genebank at the World Vegetable Centre in Arusha has just deposited more than 100 accessions of vegetables and other crops at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Maarten van Zonneveld, head of genetic resources at the World Vegetables Centre, said in a briefing here yesterday that the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a secure backup facility for the world's crop diversity in the remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago. He said that less than 10 percent of ac-



**This is a crucial contribution given that rice feeds more than half the world's population**

cessions conserved in genebanks are taken from the more than 1,100 vegetable species around the world with the Tanzanian deposit reported to be filling a critical gap.

"The World Vegetable Genebank in Tanzania has a direct line to farmers, who grow and sell these crops to supermarkets," The World Vegetable Centre's seed kits contain a variety of vegetable seeds, including leafy amaranth and okra.

"There's an urgent need to rescue and conserve vegetable diversity to address

TURN TO PAGE 2



Coffins carrying the bodies of five choir members from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Tegeta Parish, who lost their lives in a tragic accident at Kirinjiko, Same District, being delivered at the ELCT Tegeta church in Dar es Salaam yesterday for a funeral service. Photo: EATV

## Dar city: Govt to install security lights, cameras

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has begun installing security lights and cameras in various parts of Dar es Salaam city to enhance security and enable businesses to operate 24 hours a day where relevant.

Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila described this move yesterday while embarking on a five-day night tour in the city to inspect the progress of this project and several others.

He visited construction sites of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT III), being readied to run from the city center Posts Station to Gongo la Mboto, as well as locations like Azania and Jangwani secondary schools, plus the Kariakoo Market.

Numerous locations will be equipped with lights and security cameras to identify anyone committing a crime, allowing for swift legal action as a deterrent to others, he stated.

He recalled a foreign visit lately where a woman's wallet was stolen, and after seven hours she was contacted, shown the thief, and her wallet was returned. "Now, ask yourself, if someone steals a wallet here in Kariakoo, would it be found that easily?" "That's why we want to beautify the city of Dar es Salaam by installing lights and security cameras so that visitors from other regions immediately recognize they've arrived in Dar es Salaam. There's a company with the ability to install these lights, and if you are satisfied with their work, give them the tender."

TURN TO PAGE 2

## 'Progress backslides as coups, civil wars persist'

LONDON

NEARLY half of Africa's people live in a country where governance has worsened over the past decade, as deteriorating security erodes progress, a new annual index asserts.

This year's report for the Ibrahim Index of African Governance found that despite positive movement in 33 countries, overall governance was worse in 2023 in 21 countries, accounting for just under half of Africa's population, compared with the 2014 baseline survey results.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation, devoted to good governance and democratic progress in Africa, says in its current annual report that for several countries, including densely populated Nigeria and Uganda, the deterioration in overall governance had worsened over the second part of the decade.

The Sudanese-British philanthropist states in the report that analysts really see a huge arc of instability and conflicts. "This deterioration, and security and safety of our people, is the biggest driver of deterioration and governance... putting everything down in general," he stated.

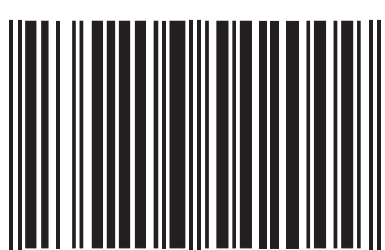
Pointing to the coups in West Africa and the war in his native Sudan, he said poor governance also fostered violence and instability. "If there is deterioration in governance, if there is corruption, if there is marginalization... people are going to pick up arms," the report observed.

Infrastructure - from mobile phone access to energy - and women's equality, were better in 2023 for roughly 95 percent of Africans, the report affirmed, elaborating that health, education and business environment metrics had also improved continent-wide.

Still public perceptions on progress were grim even when the corresponding governance dimensions showed progress in measured indices, as all public perception indicators, apart from those tracking women's leadership, were in clear decline.

The worst drops were in perceptions of eco-

TURN TO PAGE 2



## 'Geothermal energy vital for fair electricity access'

FROM PAGE 1

commitment to policy and structural reforms is guided by President Samia's 4Rs philosophy—reconciliation, resilience, reform, and rebuilding—which addresses contemporary social, political, and economic challenges," he further affirmed.

He specified that Tanzania is signatory to various domestic and international agreements that facilitate the resolution of investment disputes, "further enhancing investor confidence."

"In the post-COVID period, our economy has demonstrated robust growth, consistently exceeding 5 percent. This positive trajectory has been recognized by international credit rating agencies, affirming our debt sustainability and strengthening investor confidence. As we move forward, we remain committed to leveraging these strengths to attract investment, particularly in sectors like geothermal energy, to drive sustainable development," he told the gathering.

Acknowledging the high initial costs associated with geothermal development, which can be a formidable barrier to exploration and utilization in many countries in Africa, he emphasized the need for cooperation across Africa for coordinated efforts in exploration and investment.

"As we urge African Geothermal - ARGeo member states to devise and undertake regional exploration programmes, let us seize the opportunity offered by this conference to expedite geothermal development and hasten our transition from costly fossil fuels," he stressed.

## 'Progress backslides as coups, civil wars persist'

FROM PAGE 1

economic opportunities and of safety and security, the report specified, suggesting this could be due to higher expectations in countries that were making progress "and also a tendency to focus on what is

## Dar city: Govt installing security lights, cameras

FROM PAGE 1

he directed.

The city's municipalities have already begun installing lights in some areas, in which case the work needs to be completed swiftly to ensure that traders can operate safely and confidently, he stated.

Kariakoo Market renovation, costing 28bn/-, is well over 90 per cent complete, with the list of traders set to occupy market slots being reviewed for the third phase, he said, indicating that once verification is done, the names will be entered into the market management system.

This will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Governments to expedite the opening and start of operations at the market, he specified.

He praised the National Housing Corporation (NHC) for its decision to demolish old buildings and partner with private investors to construct buildings with more than ten floors for residential and commercial use.

High-rise buildings modernize the central business district, provid-

Meseret Teklemariam, the head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) office for Southern Africa, commended the government for its support, noting that the event's preparations involved experts from various sectors.

She highlighted that geothermal energy could be a game-changer for the region, enabling equitable electricity distribution and addressing energy access disparities.

Zlatan Milisic, the United Nations resident coordinator, emphasized that accelerating geothermal energy deployment would not only address Africa's energy challenges but contribute significantly to global carbon reduction targets.

He noted that the conference theme aligns with global climate efforts and supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for affordable and clean energy for all.

Judith Kapinga, the Energy deputy minister, underscored the immense potential of geothermal energy as a region-specific resource, pointing out that its integration into national grids could help address spatial inequalities in energy access, supporting balanced economic growth.

"Given the importance of this resource, I am confident that this gathering will not only provide valuable insights but also propose practical solutions to overcome the barriers currently hindering geothermal development. Together, we can unlock the full potential of this sustainable energy source and drive equitable growth across the region," she added.

not working."

All the same this problem of expectation is a matter of serious concern, since if public dissatisfaction is high that obviously can lead to unrest, it can lead to increased migration as well as armed conflicts, the report added.

ing more space for tenants than the current outdated structures. The new buildings will include shops and residences, making it easier for traders from other regions and abroad to find temporary accommodation while collecting their goods, he said.

"Buses are currently operating 24 hours a day plying routes to various regions. The question is, where will passengers go when they arrive, especially those coming to pick up goods in Kariakoo?" he quizzed.

He cited remarks from President Samia Suluhu Hassan who mentioned that since bus routes, flights and the standard gauge railway (SGR) are operational 24/7, it is vital that Kariakoo operates around the clock.

Ilala mayor Omar Kumbilamoto said that the council would approve plans to improve the city by installing security cameras and lights for immediate implementation.

He expressed satisfaction with the government for providing 28bn/- for the renovation of Kariakoo Market after it was engulfed in fire, as well as 100m/- to build temporary quarters for traders affected by the incident.



Fred Msemwa, the Watumishi House Investments chief executive officer, holds the award for 'most affordable housing in Africa,' presented by the African Union for Housing Finance (AUHF) and recognized by the African Union (AU). The award was given recently during the AUHF annual general meeting held in Zanzibar. On the left is operations director Sephania Solomon, and on the right are Raphael Mwabuponde, head of marketing and communication, and Joel Maeda, head of legal services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

malnutrition. Growing more vegetables, especially in Africa, also means more jobs and resilient farms," he stated.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault received a deposit of more than 30,000 new seed samples from 23 depositors across 21 countries, including seven international genebank.

This marks the largest number of depositors since the seed vault received samples from a record-breaking 35 genebanks in 2020, underscoring the urgent global effort to conserve crop diversity in the face of escalating climate change, conflict and other crises.

It is similarly reported that yields

## Centre hands over 100 local kernel genes to global 'bank'

of the main cereals in sub-Saharan Africa are less than half of the world average, even as the genetic material is deposited for global access and use.

Apart from kernels from Tanzania, other noteworthy October 2024 deposits to the global seed vault include those from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), an Indian institution.

ICRISAT, an international genebank is depositing 2,950 seeds of 56

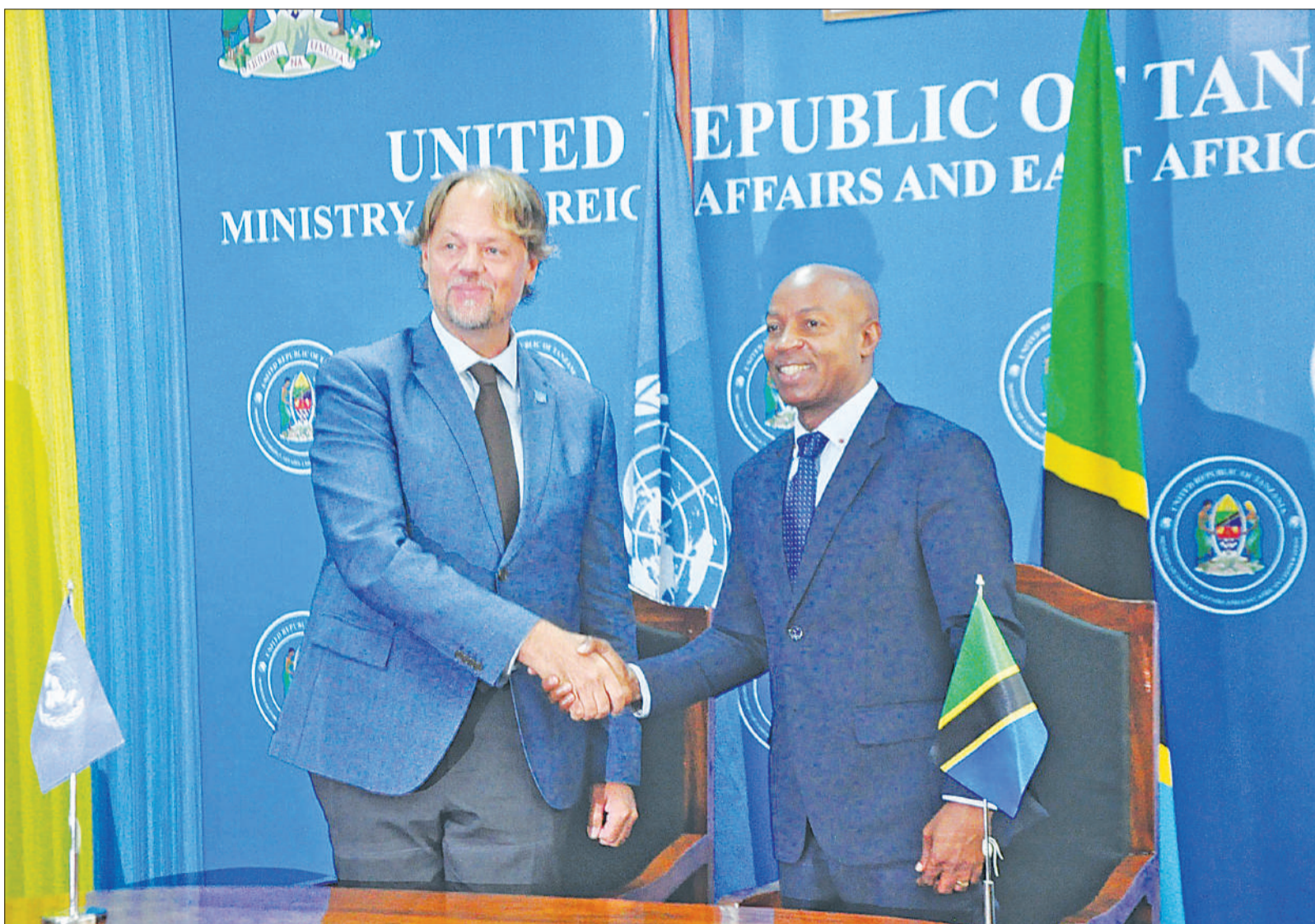
species, including pearl millet, sorghum and 28 different arachis, wild relatives of the peanut (groundnut), nine of which are new to the seed vault.

Some of these wild relatives provide high-protein feed for livestock and a nitrogen source in some farming systems, the expert noted, affirming that in addition, ICRISAT is sending seeds that will become part of a 100-year experiment, where six partners deposit seeds of food staples and periodically evaluate their

viability.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) of Philippines is depositing over 7,000 rice samples, the largest number of samples in this deposit. This is a crucial contribution given that rice feeds more than half the world's population, he stated.

In addition, the country's national gene bank - National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory - is depositing nearly another 1,000 seeds of 14 crops, the briefing indicated.



UN Resident Coordinator Mark Bryan Schreiner (L) bids farewell to Kosato Chumi (R), the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister after their meeting with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The meeting discussed the commemoration of United Nations Day, taking place today in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

GLOBAL warming intensified the rainy season in many African countries in 2024, sparking deadly floods, according to scientists.

The World Weather Attribution (WWA) network said on Wednesday that human-driven climate change, caused by the use of fossil fuels, had made seasonal downpours across the Niger and Lake Chad basins 5-20 percent worse this year, unleashing a humanitarian catastrophe.

"These results are incredibly concerning," said Izidine Pinto, a re-

## Global warming worsening deadly flooding in Africa, scientists warn

searcher at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute and one of the study's authors.

He pointed out that "spells of heavy summer rainfall" had become the "new normal" in Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad. "With every fraction of a degree of warming, the risk of extreme floods will keep in-

creasing," Pinto added, calling for the United Nations COP29 climate summit to "accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels" when it meets in Azerbaijan next month.

Floods killed about 1,500 people and displaced more than one million in West and Central Africa this year, according to UN aid agency OCHA.

The rains also overwhelmed dams in Nigeria and Sudan.

Such downpours "could happen every year" if global temperatures increase to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, warned WWA. It forecasts that this could happen as early as the 2050s.

The network's scientists focused on war-torn Sudan, where millions of displaced people have been uprooted by conflict and driven into flood-prone areas.

They used modelling to analyse current weather trends, comparing them with patterns in a world without human-induced warming, finding that

month-long spells of intense rainfall in parts of Sudan had become heavier as a likely result of climate change.

"Africa has contributed a tiny amount of carbon emissions globally, but is being hit the hardest by extreme weather," said Joyce Kimutai, researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College in London.

The role of climate change in the floods was compounded by other human-made problems, said scientists, calling for better maintenance of dams and investment in early warning systems.



Board members for the Kahama Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Authority visit a water production site at Lake Victoria shores in Ihelele village of Misungwi District, Mwanza Region, yesterday. This facility is operated by the Kahama-Shinyanga Water Authority, distributing Lake Victoria water to Singida, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Tabora and Geita regions. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

## SGR brings new impetus in transport sector review

The government has started reviewing performance of transport sector by taking stock of challenges and how to address them.

“But for this year, Tanzania has something to be proud of: the standard gauge railway which so far connects Dodoma with Dar es salaam, cutting down travel time and in a few days we will commission new speed trains on the route,” said Transport Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa.

Speaking in Arusha yesterday at the 17th Joint Transport Sector Review Meeting, he said the government was also reviewing laws

and regulations on the country’s railway transportation, this time allowing the private sector to operate carriages on the SGR.

Mbarawa added that the two governments of Tanzania and Zambia were working with China to revamp the historic Tanzania-Zambia Railways (TAZARA) after it came to their attention that its performance had started to drop.

In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zambian

President Hakainde Hichilema witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on revitalization of the project.

The MoU for revitalization of TAZARA railway was inked during the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

Mbarawa pointed out that, economically, TAZARA has been instrumental in the development of Southern Africa by providing a direct link to the sea, facilitating trade and accelerating economic

growth for both Tanzania and Zambia.

Mbarawa added that Beijing has chosen China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation to negotiate a concession to operate the 50-year-old Tazara line, bringing its performance up to modern standards.

The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is a subsidiary of the China Railway Construction Corporation.

By Henry Mwangonde

## Tanzania to stress global peace at 79th UN day commemoration

TANZANIA will use the 79th United Nations Day commemoration as a platform and opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to global peace and prosperity.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday ahead of the commemoration today, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Cosato Chumi said Tanzania has respected and participated in efforts to uphold UN values for more than 60 years.

“We have implemented this noble cause during various periods, including during the cold war caused by rivalry between East and West and we have done it at a cost of losing our heroes during peace-keeping,” he said.

He said that Tanzania will always support the idea behind the establishment of the UN charter which is to foster better future for all.

He added that Tanzania will continue to collaborate

with UN in the adoption and use of technology and innovation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by creating employment opportunities and alleviating poverty

Acting UN Resident Coordinator Mark Bryan said it is time for Tanzania to showcase its contribution and development aspirations to the world.

On the digital revolution, he said Tanzania has made progress in the digital sector which is evident in the demographics, adding that if the country can put trust in the youth, things can change for the better.

The ceremony will involve raising the

UN flag at its offices along Sam Nujoma Road in Dar es Salaam, a ceremony which the envoy said will cement Tanzania’s commitment to multilateralism.

The UN Day on 24 October marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of the founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

The day, celebrated every year, offers the opportunity to amplify common agenda and reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter for the past 79 years.

**fhi360**  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FHI360 Tanzania are currently seeking for a qualified candidate to fill in a Director of Finance and Administration position in Dar es salaam or Dodoma for the anticipated USAID Tanzania Foundational Skills Activity. This position is contingent on funder approval and award to FHI 360. The (DFA) is responsible for supporting the Chief of Party (COP) in staff, operational, and financial management. In close coordination with the COP, the DFA will oversee administrative, operational, finance, and HR teams and will be responsible for effective utilization of resources including staff with a diverse range of capabilities. Additionally, they will provide operational oversight on financial and human resources management, efficient procurement and logistical services, contracts and grants, asset management, ICT, general administration, and will lead efforts to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations as well as timely and effective delivery of program activities.

**How to Apply:** To apply and for more details on the positions, please visit the FHI 360 Career Center at <http://www.fhi360.org/careers>. We offer competitive compensation and a package of exceptional benefits. FHI 360 is an employer with equal opportunity and affirmative action. FHI 360 is committed to providing equal employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status in policies, programs, or activities. **Deadline is 15 November 2024. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.**

**Knight Frank**

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**WE ACCEPT BID (S) FOR ONE OR MORE PROPERTIES**

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- PLOT NO.458 CHARAMBE ROAD UPANGA
- APARTMENT NO.143 ON 14TH FLOOR RICHMOND TOWER, MINDU STREET

Interested buyers are invited for inspection towards submission of his/her sealed bid at our Head office as per the address below.

Further details are available upon request. Viewing dates will be every Thursday & Friday to be arranged through Knight Frank. Please call: +255 2113300, +255 717145273

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- All bids must be accompanied with a deposit of TZS5 Million refundable to unsuccessful bidders.
- The successful buyer will be notified and required to deposit 15% of the quoted bid amount within ten working days to Client account. The amount paid shall form part of the agreed purchase price once the sale agreement is signed.

All persons or institutions whose offers are rejected by the vendor will have the 15% deposit returned to them.

- Each offer must clearly indicate the contact person, his/her e-mail, physical and postal address and his/her telephone numbers.

**OFFER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 8TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 14:00HRS**

Offers, clearly marked **“OFFER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES ON PLOT NO.72 ALLY HASSAN MWINYI & KINONDONI RD /PLOT NO.458 CHARAMBE STREET/ APARTMENT NO.143 RICHMOND TOWER, MINDU STREET”**, and a bid has to be submitted to:

**The Managing Director  
Knight Frank (T) Ltd.  
International House 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 9333,  
Dar es Salaam.**

**The Nature Conservancy**

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy’s Lake Tanganyika Program (LTP) is making significant strides in advancing its fisheries co-management initiatives within the Nkasi District. This program has successfully established 13 fully operational Co-Management Institutions (CMIs), which play a crucial role in the protection and conservation of the fisheries and freshwater biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika.

In line with its commitment to expanding its impact, the Lake Tanganyika Program is planning to extend its reach into new geographical areas, specifically targeting the Kala and Fulwe regions. The goal is to establish an additional 11 CMIs in these areas, further enhancing the collaborative management of fisheries and promoting sustainable practices among local fishers.

To support the implementation of these ambitious initiatives, the Lake Tanganyika Program intends to procure a high-performance speedboat equipped with two Yamaha 150HP outboard engines, along with essential accessories to ensure the safety and comfort of personnel operating in remote and challenging environments. The vessel must be delivered to Kipili in the Rukwa region, fully operational and ready for immediate use. Additionally, the contractor shall provide one year of after-sales service to ensure ongoing support and maintenance.

Interested and qualified contractors are encouraged to contact TNC for the complete Request for Quotation at [procurement.lake@tnc.org](mailto:procurement.lake@tnc.org).

Note: The deadline for proposal submissions is set for **November 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM EAT.**

## Minister urges ethical conduct at launch of workers' council

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister for works Godfrey Kasekenya has urged employees of the National Construction Council (NCC) to uphold professionalism and ethics by refraining from corruption and other malpractices.

Speaking at the launch of NCC Workers' Council yesterday, Kasekenya noted that effective workers' councils can significantly reduce conflicts between management and staff by collaboratively addressing grievances.

"It is evident that where workers' councils are valued and operate effectively, conflicts between management and employees do not arise," he said.

He encouraged the council to work closely with management on key issues such as planning and budgeting to meet the goals of NCC employees.

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works Mrisho Malipula emphasized the importance of professionalism and integrity among NCC employees, urging them to adhere to public service ethics to prevent misconduct.

He emphasized that the council should advocate for employee interests and that management should heed its advice to strengthen the institution's accountability.

NCC Board Chairperson Dr Fatma Mohammed promised that the council would always respect employee rights and that management would support initiatives to boost productivity and efficiency.

NCC Workers' Council Chairman and CEO Dr Matiko Nturi expressed gratitude to the Trade Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE) for their guidance in establishing the council, calling for continued cooperation to achieve its goals.

The launch of the NCC Workers' Council follows directives from Minister of Works Innocent Bashungwa for all ministry institutions to create such councils to enhance workplace productivity.



**It is evident that where workers' councils are valued and operate effectively, conflicts between management and employees do not arise**

## 'Mozambique election results being doctored'

MAPUTO

ELECTION observers working for the European Union (EU) have said some voting results have been doctored in Mozambique, as unrest in the country continues to grow.

Thousands of people joined opposition protests on Monday that were called by independent presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane.

He blames security forces for gunning down his lawyer Elvino Dias and another political official called Paulo Guambe in the same car last Friday - but they deny any wrongdoing.

Official results from the general election held on 9 October are due to be announced by tomorrow.

Evidence has been found of "irregularities during counting and unjustified alteration of election results at polling station and district level", said the EU observer mission in a statement on Tuesday.

It is now urging "the electoral bodies to conduct the tabulation process in a transparent and credible manner, ensuring the traceability of polling station results."

Vote-buying, inflated voter rolls in strongholds of the governing Frelimo party and voter intimidation have all been reported by the US-based International Republican Institute, which also sent a multinational election observer mission to the southern African nation.

Mozambique's national results are meant to be published on the electoral commission's website for all to see, but last month the body said its website had suffered a cyber-attack. The website remains inactive.

Fifty-year-old presidential hopeful Venâncio Mondlane, who has the backing of opposition party Podemos, has already claimed victory and alleges that the killing of his aides on Friday night was politically motivated.

"This was a crime committed by the defence and security forces. There's no doubt about it. The special forces killed Elvino [Dias]," he has said.

Mondlane rallied people in cities across Mozambique to protest against the killings and against what he says is the theft of the election.

On Monday, police used live

rounds, tear gas, armoured vehicles and police dogs to push back protesters from the site in the capital city Maputo where Dias and Guambe were shot dead.

Demonstrators also blocked roads with burning tyres and barricades.

Footage shows Mondlane, and journalists running for cover after shots were fired in their direction.

Across the cities of Maputo, Beira and Nampula, local media reported that there were multiple arrests and at least 16 people were wounded and taken to hospital.

Shops and businesses closed on Monday but began reopening their doors on Tuesday.

The funeral for Dias is set to take place on Wednesday. Mondlane has called for further protests today and tomorrow.

There is growing pressure on the Mozambican authorities to identify the killers and bring them to justice following strong condemnation from former Mozambican President Armando Guebuza, the African Union, the UN, the US and the EU.

Celebrated Mozambican author Mia Couto has called the killings a "crime against the nation".

Mozambique has only ever been governed by one party - Frelimo - which has ruled since independence from Portugal.

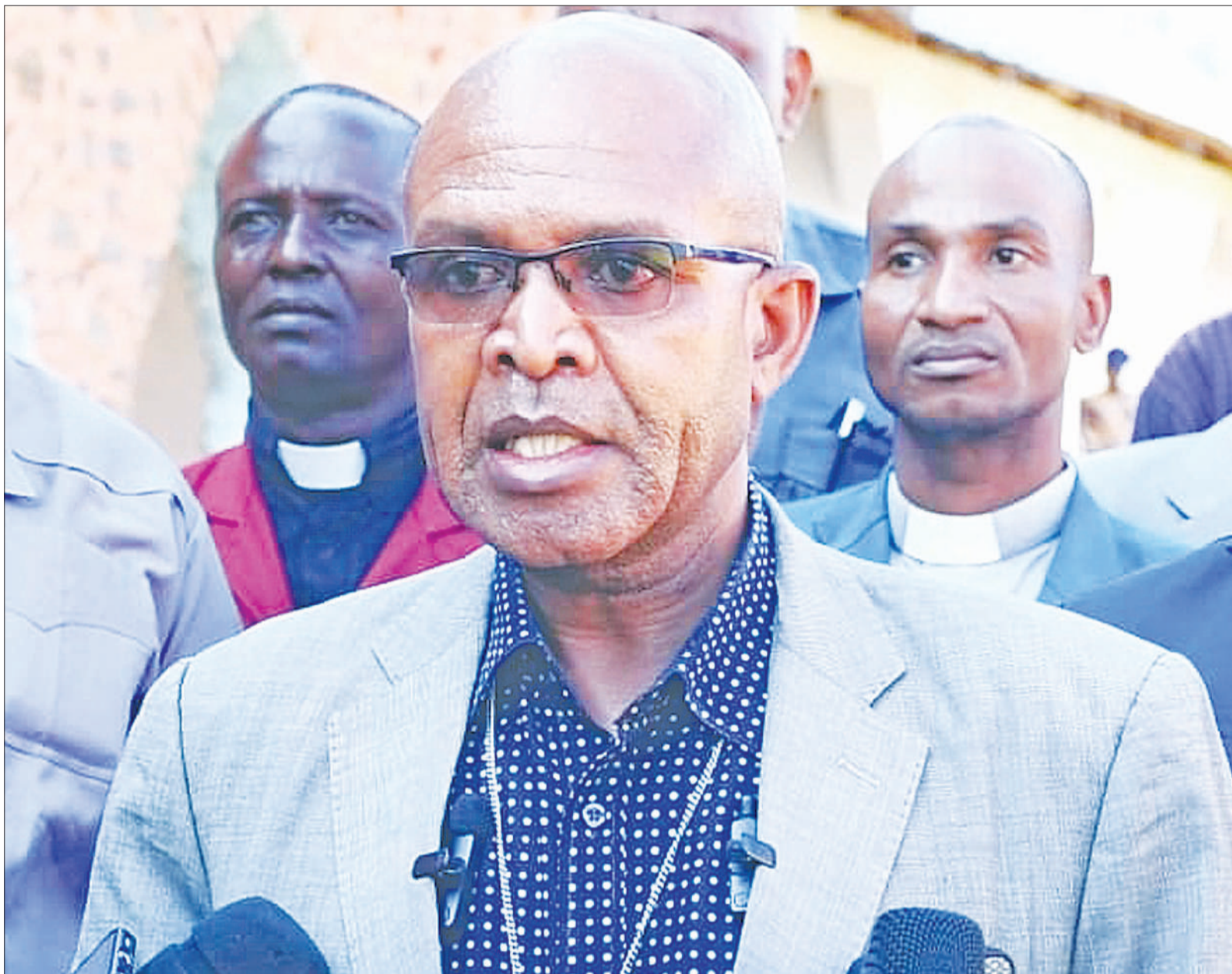
The country is guaranteed a new president because President Filipe Nyusi is stepping down after serving the two-term limit.

The Frelimo candidate is 47-year-old Daniel Chapo.

His rivals in this election are Mondlane, Ossufo Momade - the former rebel commander-turned-leader of the main opposition party Renamo - and Lutero Simango from the Mozambique Democratic Movement.



**...the electoral bodies to conduct the tabulation process in a transparent and credible manner, ensuring the traceability of polling station results**



Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa of the Anglican Church Diocese of Tanga speaks to journalists about the church's organization of a commemoration day for the 100th anniversary of Bishop Frank Weston's death. Bishop Weston was the local initiator of the Boy Scout and Girl Guides movement and vocational training system. The commemorative event is scheduled for November 17 at the Church of the Holy Cross in Magila, Muheza District, Tanga Region, where Bishop Weston was buried in 1924. This event will highlight his contributions to the community and his work in youth development through education and training. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Reporter

## Tanzania set to benefit from \$18bn fund for renewable energy projects

TANZANIA is set to benefit from \$18 billion funding for renewable energy projects, thanks to the launch of the Africa Clean Cooking Energy Programme Secretariat for Women which aims to create jobs in the country.

Christina Mndeme, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Environment) unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during a working session for experts preparing for the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP

29) set to take place from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The projects in Tanzania will be financed by the World Bank, Africa 50 Fund and the African Energy Agency in partnership with China Renewable Energies.

Mndeme mentioned that the Norwegian government and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have committed \$1 million to support Tanzania's

climate initiatives, especially in implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to combat climate change.

She attributed the progress to the outcomes of COP28 held from November 30 to December 12, 2023 in Dubai where Tanzania was represented by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Mndeme noted that Tanzania's involvement in COP28, including

exhibitions, helped elevate the country's profile in environmental conservation and climate adaptation.

The working session brought together over 60 participants from various sectors, including government ministries, development partners and civil society organizations from both mainland and Zanzibar to discuss preparations for COP29.



South Unga Regional Commissioner Ayoub Muhamed Mahmoud hands over a life jacket to seaweed farmer Ng'ambwa Fatma Khamis during a distribution event for equipment provided to entrepreneurs in the region yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 31,282,331 Tanzanians, equivalent to 94.83 percent of eligible voters, have registered to vote in civic elections slated for November 27 this year.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said in a statement yesterday that the voters were registered in 10 days from October 11 to October 20.

## Registration for pending civic polls at 94.83pc, says minister

"This is a big turnout of registered voters and the target was to enrol over 32.988 million voters," he said.

He further said that out of the 31.282 million registered voters, 15.237 million, equivalent to 48.71 percent, are men while 16.046

million, equivalent to 51.29 percent, are women. The minister also noted that all 26 regions in Tanzania Mainland did an excellent job of registering voters.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the registration process

when she registered at Sokoine Village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, urging Tanzanians to register in big numbers ahead of the polls to enable them to participate in the democratic process.



Azania Bank Ltd senior business manager Jackson Lohay speaks to a delegation of businesspeople, its customers, after their arrival from China at the Julius Nyerere International Airport late on Tuesday, after attending the Canton Fair. Around 40 customers were sponsored by the bank to attend the two-week event as part of the lender's efforts to build the capacity of its clients. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# SMS recording in TCRA's new measures to tackle online fraud

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has announced new measures to identify phone lines used for online fraud, including recording of all SMS messages.

Felician Mwesigwa, TCRA Director of Sector Affairs, made the announcement during a media briefing in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday where he presented the Tanzania Communications Assessment Report for June to September.

He said the problem of unscrupulous agents registering SIM cards through unauthorized means has exacerbated the issue of online fraud.

The report indicated that Rukwa and Morogoro regions had the highest rates of fraud attempts despite a 28 percent decrease in incidents in other areas compared to the previous report.

"The two regions have consistently ranked highest throughout the year. Some individuals intentionally register SIM cards to exploit fraudulent opportunities. Despite being aware of the legal consequences, they persist. Our mission is to make it harder for them to obtain SIM cards," he said.

He noted that service providers have adopted technologies to detect and block fraudulent SMS messages and investigate those responsible for registering illicit SIM cards.

The latest TCRA report, published quarterly, revealed that Rukwa and Morogoro accounted for one-third of all mobile phone fraud attempts via text messages. Typical scams include messages asking recipients to send money to specific numbers.

Another prevalent tactic in the two regions involve scammers

impersonating network service providers over the phone, instructing individuals to take actions that ultimately lead to their financial loss.

In response, mobile network providers educate customers, stressing that official communications only occur through the designated number 100 and advise them to ignore requests from private numbers.

"Each year, our reports show Rukwa and Morogoro with the highest number of fraud cases. In Rukwa, the leading districts are Sumbawanga (5,198 cases), Nkasi (250) and Kalambo (122). In Morogoro, the most affected districts are Ifakara (3,922) and Kilombero (1,306)," he said.

He added that regions following Rukwa and Morogoro in terms of fraud attempts are Mbeya (1,112), Dar es Salaam (959) and Arusha (351), with incidents varying between 1 percent and 10 percent.

**“The two regions have consistently ranked highest throughout the year. Some individuals intentionally register SIM cards to exploit fraudulent opportunities”**

By Guardian Reporter

# New bridge earmarked to end traffic jam in Mbagala

FREQUENT traffic congestion at Mzinga area of Mbagala in Dar es Salaam may become a thing of the past following the government's decision to construct a new bridge.

Works Minister Innocent Bashungwa made the announcement yesterday during a tour to inspect various development projects in Coast Region, including road construction.

He noted that the government is currently selecting a contractor to build the bridge, which will help ease traffic jams affecting residents of Mbagala, Kongowe, Kisemvule, Mwanambaya and those travelling to the southern regions.

Bashungwa commended the government's initiative, mentioning

that once the bridge is completed, there are plans to expand the road from Mbagala Rangitatu to Mwanambaya to further reduce congestion.

During his visit to Mkuranga-Kisiju road, the minister directed the acting CEO of Tanroads to secure funds to complete a one-kilometre stretch leading to Kisiju, which has been stalled for over nine months. He emphasized the importance of the road, stating that Mkuranga is one of the industrial districts and the ministry WAS committed to

classifying it as a strategic route to facilitate access to investment areas.

He added that upon completion of the one-kilometre stretch-materials for which are already on-site-funding will be sought for the remaining 38 kilometres of the 45-kilometre road.

Baraka Mwambage, Tanroads Regional Manager for Coast Region, reported that six kilometres of Mkuranga-Kisiju road have been completed, with one kilometre awaiting funding for finalization.

He noted that if the contractor

proceeds as planned, a total of seven kilometres will be paved, with the overall cost of the project reaching 7.17bn/- since its inception.

Mwambage also highlighted that once the entire road is paved, it will significantly improve transportation to Kisiju Port and stimulate economic activities in the area.

Mkuranga District Commissioner Hadija Nasri urged the government to allocate funds for the strategic road leading to the industrial cluster designated for investment.

## BARRICK

NORTH MARA

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

**Ball Mill and SAG Mill Relining Works**

**Tender Ref: NM028/2024**

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Prequalification Criteria
1	NM028/2024	<b>Ball Mill and SAG Relining Works</b>	i. Company profile with proven experience and had successfully executed Mill Relining task over 15x for different mills to at least 3 different operations for both SAG Mill (Steel lined) and Ball Mills (rubber/Polly Met liners). <b>Need to provide PO references, COC and specific site contact (Site Reline Lead) for references</b>  ii. Reference of mill reline work accomplished for SAG mill reline using 7-axis liner handler machine, 1500 rated thunderbolt with power pack machines; and 7000.0 Nm Torque wrench  iii. Proposed reline duration (hours) based on the below SOW: - • Full reline and rubber lining for the North Mara SAG Mill. • Full Reline and rubber lining for each of North Mara Ball Mill. • Partial Reline and rubber lining for North Mara SAG Mill.  iv. Reline Team Structure. v. Submit the available copies of certified Liner Handler Machine operators (Tanzanians) who could be contacted in case of emergency. vi. Provide the safety, health, and environmental ISO compliance certificates. vii. Local Content Regulations compliance.

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

If your company meets the prequalification criteria and would like to be considered for the trial, send your request along with your company profile to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

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

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

Qualification of any company submitting an 'Expression of Interest' shall be at the sole discretion of NMG.

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

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit EOI **29 October 2024**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

## EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**PROVISION OF PPE, ELECTRICAL MATERIAL AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

**Ref: MST-TZ-20241009-001/002/003**

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage & Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing various services in the description to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

**There are THREE (3) planned packages for Terminal as follows,**

**Package-1: PROVISION OF PPE (Ref: MST-TZ-20241009-001)**

**Brief Description of the Scope of the Materials:**  
The scope of the PPE shall include helmet ISO 3873; Work uniform ISO 13688: EN 1149; Safety shoe ISO 20345, Goggle EN 166: EN 167; Gloves, Respirator and reflective vest EN 149, the items shall conform to related international standards.

**Package-2:PROVISION OF Electrical materials for camp maintenance and tools for equipment installation (Ref: MST-TZ-20241009-002)**

**Brief Description of the Scope of the Materials:**  
The scope of the materials shall include electrical materials and tools for installation of equipment, including but not limited to micrometer, dial indicator, jack, electrical cable, Junction box, Distribution panel, Switch and other tools. All items Shall meet the requirements of BS EN standards.

**Package-3:PROVISION OF Construction materials (Ref: MST-TZ-20241009-003)**

**Brief Description of the Scope of the Materials:**  
The scope of the materials shall include construction consumption materials, Material including but not limited to: Shape steel material, Steel plate, Cutting discs, Measure materials, means materials and small machinery and tools and etc.

**Minimum Requirements for all Packages**  
Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- a. Company Profile;
- b. An experience list for similar services supplied in the last five (5) years;
- c. Confirmation that they can supply equipment as new, advanced, mature, High automation, complete and safe and reliable equipment;
- d. A copy of their own and main suppliers ISO and OHSAS current certification or equivalent;
- e. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- f. Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- g. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- h. Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to [zhaoning@docgi.cn](mailto:zhaoning@docgi.cn); [renhulin@docgi.cn](mailto:renhulin@docgi.cn); [tiany@docgi.cn](mailto:tiany@docgi.cn) (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on **6/Nov/2024**. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ-20241009 EOI -** [COMPANY NAME].

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

**Note:** Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

## VACANCY RE-ADVERTISED



### ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in Denver, USA. AGA has operations in more than ten countries across four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of Northwestern Tanzania, only about 120 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's Southeast of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its main office and operations in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

<b>Position</b>	: <b>Engineer 3 – UG Mine Planning</b>
<b>Contract type &amp; Duration</b>	: <b>Unspecified Time Contract</b>
<b>Department</b>	: <b>Technical service</b>
<b>Reporting to</b>	: <b>Superintendent 2 – UG Mine Planning</b>
<b>Number of Positions</b>	: <b>One (1)</b>

**GGML is an equal opportunity employer.**

### PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The role focuses on long-term planning and development options for the optimal growth of Geita Gold Mine. It involves producing schedules, forecasts, and budgets for the underground mine to meet physical targets in alignment with the Company's Vision and Values.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree in Mining Engineering or relevant discipline possession of relevant professional certification or licenses.

### EXPERIENCE:

- At least 7 years operational experience in an underground mine.
- Experience in mine design and scheduling software (Deswik, Studio UG, EPS Ventsim, Vulcan, mine stope optimizer (MSO)).
- Broad range of skills spanning resource and reserve estimation, underground mine design, infrastructure specification, mine scheduling, equipment selection, cost estimation, planning, discounted cash flow analysis, budgeting, contractor, and consultant management.

### MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Contribute towards systems within the Mine planning Section within mining technical service. Department which delivers mine schedules for execution and maximize the value of the underground orebody Under direction of the Planning superintendent, deliver physicals schedule and the underground mine with accuracy commensurate with the confidence of the reserve or resource for the full asset life.
- Aid in building organizational capability within the Mine Technical Services Department to successfully deliver the Mining Department budget and Life of Mine Plan.
- Resource identification and evaluation to optimize development of the Geita Gold mine asset potential.
- Identify options to enable step changes to the mining process to deliver productivity and/or cost improvements.
- Authorize and oversee creation of the mine physicals schedule, created by the Planning Engineer II, with accuracy commensurate with the confidence of the reserve or resource for the full asset life.
- Develop and contribute towards systems for the Mine planning section to provide effective planning of work, efficient, and safe work practices, and monitoring of work practices. Create standards, procedures, guidelines for all tasks carried out by the planning department and ensure they are document controlled.
- Support Operational Excellence initiatives, helping to drive value creation within the Mine Scheduling Department Provide a safe work environment, comply with SHE&C plans and procedures, management systems and processes within the Mine Planning team.
- Develop and maintain constructive relationships with colleagues, business partners, and other stakeholders, utilizing these relationships to successfully resolve issues if, or when, they arise.
- Accountable for applying Management and People Practices within the Mine technical UG Department
- Report performance to plan, identify and rectify variances.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Good communication skills (MS Excels, MS world)
- Good report writing skills.
- Ability to work in a team environment.

### MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please apply through our recruitment portal by following the link below. Please click the link or type the URL address on a website browser to access the application portal.
- On the portal you will be required to upload your detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e-mail and telephone contacts, names, and addresses of three referees. Please do not attach certificates that are not related to the qualifications stated above.
- You will also be required to upload a cover / application letter addressed to "Senior Manager Human Resources", Geita Gold Mining Ltd". Subject should be "**Engineer 3 – UG Mine Planning**"

**Application Link:** <https://careers.anglogoldashanti.com/job-invite/25302/>

- If you struggle to apply via the link provided, please head over to our website <https://www.geitamining.com/en/people/> for a step-by-step guide on how to apply for jobs on our recruitment portal (SuccessFactors).
- You will be required to present original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
- Internal Applicants (those currently employed by AngloGold Ashanti) must have their application letter endorsed by their Head of Department (HOD) or Manager once Removed (MoR).

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications should reach the above on or before **01<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at 5:30 PM**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

**Beware of Conmen! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing [speakupAGA@ethics-line.com](mailto:speakupAGA@ethics-line.com) or use the internet at [www.tip-offs.com](http://www.tip-offs.com)**

## RC commends stakeholders for supporting women engagement in economic activities

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

UNGUJA South Regional Commissioner Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud has commended development stakeholders for supporting women's engagement in economic activities.

His remarks came during an event where he presented equipment to local traders, including seaweed farmers, donated by the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) as part of a project supporting women's economic participation.

Mahmoud explained that the burden of childcare, compounded by poor economic conditions, often prevents women from fully engaging in income-generating activities.

He praised UN Women for partnering with FAWE to establish childcare facilities, enabling mothers to safely leave their children while they engage in seaweed farming at Muungoni and Uzi villages.

He called for the establishment of similar childcare centers in other villages to enhance

women's economic engagement and reiterated the regional government's commitment to the initiative.

Mahmoud emphasized that the donated equipment must be used for its intended purpose, cautioning against misuse which has hindered past efforts.

The region's development strategy focuses on economically empowering citizens, particularly women and youth in agriculture, including seaweed farming.

Noting that 55 percent of the region's population relies on agriculture, he said that supporting this demographic will boost local economy.

"Empowering a woman empowers the entire family," he stated.

Mahmoud encouraged residents to utilize clean energy to protect the environment, urging them to avoid deforestation for firewood and charcoal. He also mentioned the Zanzibar government's establishment of a special empowerment fund offering interest-free loans, encouraging the community to seize the opportunity

for improved livelihoods.

Addressing challenges in seaweed pricing, he announced the government's efforts to construct a processing factory and a facility for storing and processing seaweed in collaboration with the World Bank. The initiative aims to add value to the seaweed industry.

He further noted that many women lack swimming skills, limiting their ability to access deeper waters for cultivating high-value seaweed. To combat this, the government will provide small boats to facilitate safe access to the areas.

Winnifred Yatuwa Mamawi, FAWE Zanzibar Coordinator, detailed the challenges seaweed farmers face, including low prices and climate change impacts. She highlighted that the project aims to educate women on forming savings and loan groups and establishing childcare centers, allowing them more time to engage in seaweed farming.

After receiving equipment, beneficiaries committed to using the tools effectively to improve their economic conditions.



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila, speaks to Tanzania Roads Agency officials last night on the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT III) project during his night tour of various areas of the city to inspect development projects. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Seek leadership positions in civic elections, women told

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TANZANIAN women have been encouraged to step forward and contest for various leadership positions at village, mtaa, and ward levels in the upcoming local government elections scheduled for November 27 this year.

Frank Marealle, Chairman of traditional chiefs in Kilimanjaro Region made the call yesterday in an interview with this reporter.

He praised the high turnout in Kilimanjaro, where many people registered at voter registration centres ahead of the elections.

Marealle emphasized the importance of participation, highlighting that it reflects the

significance of exercising the constitutional right to vote for leaders.

The voter registration exercise took place from October 11 to 20, 2024.

"I sincerely thank everyone for coming out in large numbers. I trust voting will be completed on time, allowing everyone to return to their regular activities," he said.

He further urged the government to supervise and ensure that the elections are free and fair.

Reflecting on Tanzania's legacy, Marealle added: "This week, we celebrated the special day of our nation's father, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, on October 14. I urge all Tanzanian leaders to uphold the

values Nyerere left us, including strong patriotism."

Major (rtd) Zwahiri Msangi, Chairman of Zilipendwa Village in Makuyuni Ward, and John Karakara, a resident of Makuyuni ward in Moshi District, commended the people of Moshi for their active participation in the registration process.

They urged citizens to encourage others to register and exercise their democratic rights.

"Let us continue to motivate our neighbours to register as voters. Adequate registration centres have been established to ensure all eligible citizens can take part in this important activity," Msangi said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has introduced Problem Animal Management Information System (PAIS) for management of human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs)

PAIS includes components for incident reporting, damage claims submission, verification and fund disbursement, allowing residents to quickly report dangerous or destructive wildlife in their areas.

The new system streamlines the process for residents to submit claims for wildlife-related damages, verifying them and processing payments much faster than in previous years.

Speaking in Babati District, Manyara Region on Tuesday at a training session for government leaders in the Manyara-Tarangire Ecosystem, Babati District, Commissioner Emanuela Kaganda emphasized the potential of the system to significantly reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

"I commend the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

## Ministry introduces new HWC reporting, management system

for the initiative which allows us to manage crop damage or wildlife harm before it escalates," she said.

Kaganda noted that the system also simplifies compensation for citizens affected by wildlife incidents, stressing its effectiveness will depend on leaders understanding it and educating rural communities.

"The government aims to end human-wildlife conflicts, and we believe this system will greatly assist in achieving that goal," she added.

Kelvin Mtei, Senior ICT Officer in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism described the system as user-friendly and beneficial to all stakeholders.

He highlighted its integration with key organizations, including the Director of Wildlife in the ministry, the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Authority (NCAA).

"This system allows citizens to quickly send information via mobile phones, enabling prompt action by wildlife management authorities," he said.

Hamisi Ashery, Babati District Wildlife Officer noted that the system ensures urgent compensation payments.

"When you log in, you get access to everything you need, significantly reducing the workload for wildlife and agriculture officers in assessing damages and filing claims," he said.

Maingo Ole Kili, a Good Neighbour Officer at Lake Manyara National Park, expressed optimism about the system as a viable solution to the conflicts between wildlife and humans.

The training was sponsored by Chemchem Association, a stakeholder in conservation and tourism activities in the Burunge Wildlife Management Area in Babati District.

## EABC empowers young East African traders on AfCFTA export readiness

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC), in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) successfully rolled out a training boot camp to equip youth with the essential skills and knowledge needed to take advantage of export opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The boot camp funded by the European Union was organised as part of the EU-East African Community Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) II.

The three-day training titled 'Export Readiness for Youth-Led SMEs under the AfCFTA' convened trainers from East African business support organizations to enhance their capacity to support young traders in trading across borders under AfCFTA. The training covered various key topics such as navigating the AfCFTA protocols, understanding export procedures, leveraging digital platforms for exports and utilizing trade information resources.

ITC estimates that if all African countries fully liberalise tariffs, there is an untapped intra-African export potential of \$22 billion waiting to be tapped by Africa's business community.

However, many African businesses remain unaware of its opportunities; An ITC survey showed that over 50 percent of MSMEs were unaware of the AfCFTA Agreement, let alone empowered to take advantage of it. To support the AfCFTA, ITC launched the "One Trade Africa Initiative" to empower African MSMEs, women, and youth entrepreneurs to fully capitalize on the agreement, in partnership with the AfCFTA secretariat.

"This training addresses this gap by enhancing the capacity of BSOs to equip African youth-led SMEs with the necessary tools to seize the benefits of intra-African trade," said

Richard Adu-Gyamfi of ITC in his remarks.

"Africa's young entrepreneurs are the backbone of economies and hold the key to unlocking the potential of AfCFTA. By equipping them with the right tools, we can create a new era of cross-border trade that drives sustainable economic growth and integration."

Frank Dafa, EABC's Trade in Good Manager said: "Due to infrastructure challenges, Africa has a low level of intra-trade which sits at just 18 percent of total goods traded in the region."

He added that according to the African Union, the continent is home to more than 400 million youth and, thus, prime for investment and social development.

Dafa noted that the AfCFTA has the potential to boost intra-Africa trade by 52.3 percent by eliminating import duties and to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced."

Noting the importance of the training, he informed that a recent ITC survey on Small and Medium-sized African enterprises found that between 60 and 70 percent reported the availability of trade-related training and information as being either low or very low.

Dafa stated: "This training aligns perfectly with EABC's mission to promote trade across the EAC region. By empowering young entrepreneurs to leverage the AfCFTA, we are driving economic integration and supporting the next generation of business leaders."

The programme is part of a broader initiative to prepare Africa's next generation of entrepreneurs for success in regional and global markets.

*"Due to infrastructure challenges, Africa has a low level of intra-trade which sits at just 18 percent of total goods traded in the region."*

## Renovated Africa Hall inaugurated amid call for pursuing Africa's transformation

ADDIS ABABA

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has inaugurated the renovated Africa Hall, the birthplace of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor of the AU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with a call for embracing common aspirations and advancing the cause of Africa's transformation.

The Africa Hall, which was originally unveiled in 1961 by the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, served as a place where African leaders had been deliberating on pressing issues including independence, freedom, development and a brighter future for the continent.

Speaking at the event, Guterres said the renovated building symbolizes renewed hope and unity for Africa, which will serve as a bridge between Africa's past and future, honouring shared struggles and achievements while embracing common aspirations.

"This hall is where Africa came together to give life to the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union," Guterres said, acknowledging the transformation of the continent from its early days of independence to the present. "I also see it as an invitation for everyone to cooperate in pursuit of a better future for Africa and for the world," he said.

He said the Africa Hall has been a symbol of collective aspirations of the continent, a testament to its resilience, and a beacon of hope for entire generations, noting that the renovated facility preserves the grandeur and history of the continent.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission

for Africa Claver Gatete said the renovated Africa Hall is an important investment that positions Ethiopia for greater tourism growth while celebrating Africa's collective history and future.

Noting that some of the world's iconic landmarks such as China's Great Wall provide practical examples of how history and culture can draw millions of visitors annually, and also contribute to shared prosperity, Gatete said Africa is waiting to share its rich history with the world through its over 130 world heritage sites.

He said the refurbished Africa Hall is meticulously preserved with the materials from the original 1961 construction, blending the past with the present to create a rejuvenated space that reflects Africa's proud heritage. "The hall now stands as a modernized facility, equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, including a visitors' center, and permanent exhibition space and conference hall to host high-level meetings, while maintaining its architectural and historical significance," Gatete said.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who inaugurated the renovated Africa Hall along with Guterres and Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the AU Commission, said the renovated building preserves artistic heritages that honour Pan-African history and celebrate Africa's collective history and commitment to transforming the continent.

"We must place home-grown ideas and initiatives at the forefront for the well-being of our people. It is vital that African solution continues to make precedence in addressing African challenges guided by the wisdom of our forefathers," Abiy said.



Prof Leonard Fweja, the Open University deputy vice-chancellor, speaking at the opening of an academic forum marking the 30th anniversary of the OUS School of Business Management. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Coalition targets over 300,000 youth with capacity building in agribusiness

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

OVER 300,000 youth from 13 regions in the country are set to be equipped with essential skills to enable them to utilize opportunities in agribusiness.

This is through implementation of a project dubbed 'Youth Entrepreneurship for the Future of Food and Agriculture (YEFFA)' implemented by Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC).

In an interview with this reporter recently here, YEFFA project manager Ernest Renatus

said the initiative launched in July is supported by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

He named the regions as Kigoma, Kagera, Singida, Katavi, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Rukwa, Dodoma, Manyara, Morogoro and Ruvuma.

The project's primary goal is to enhance the capacity of youth to engage effectively and profitably in agribusiness.

"The project also aims to empower youth to influence policies, laws and practices that create a more conducive environment for their participation in agri-business," he

said.

He highlighted the initiative's commitment to showcasing how agriculture can offer employment opportunities for young people, including those with disabilities.

"Apart from reaching thousands of young people directly, YEFFA will also reach over one million youth through activities designed to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and connectivity within food and agriculture systems," he said.

"We utilise digital platforms to share accurate information on agribusiness and market opportunities with youth while

also raising awareness about job creation potential in the agriculture sector."

The project aims to enhance understanding, coordination and involvement of youth-led institutions in agribusiness.

He noted that the government's role includes creating an enabling environment for youth engagement, providing subsidies and services and delivering timely information on weather conditions and opportunities through local government authorities, extension officers and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority.



Dr Fani Mussa (R), the Muheza District medical officer, leads specialist doctors from the Samia Suluhu Group in inspecting facilities. The team arrived in Muheza District to provide specialized medical services to the community with a six-day camp starting last Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Steven

## Kenya to pause avocado, macadamia nuts exports

NAIROBI

KENYA would suspend the export of avocados and macadamia nuts to prevent undesired produce from entering the market, authorities announced on Tuesday.

Andrew Karanja, cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, said in a statement released in Nairobi, Kenya that the ban on macadamia exports and harvests would start from Nov. 2, 2024 to March 1, 2025.

"Dealers must submit their current stock for inspection, verification, and clearance by November 15," Karanja said.

He added that harvesting, processing and export of immature macadamia nuts lead to poor performance of the produce from Kenya in the global market.

To ensure farmers are not exploited during the period, Karanja said the government would introduce a minimum guarantee price on the produce sold in the

local market.

Bruno Linyiru, director general of the Agriculture Food Authority (AFA), said that the suspension of avocado exports would help sustain and grow Kenya's international market, and minimize interruption of the crop cycle occasioned by harvesting of immature fruits.

He noted that while the AFA would allow the export of small quantities of fruits by air, shipment by sea would not be allowed, with the suspension to take effect from

October 25.

He said that the AFA would continue to monitor avocado maturity trends and review the suspension in the first week of December.

Linyiru warned exporters against mixing avocados and mangoes to make up for the shortage of the former during the period.

Kenya mainly exports the bulk of the nuts and fruits to the Middle East and Europe as well as China. Avocados are the major fruit export.

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## Sorting tax collection inputs, grievances needs 'paradigm'

FINALLY stakeholders will start providing views on voluntary tax compliance, as well as on expanding the tax base and addressing public grievances on tax collection methods. The team of mostly retired top level officials will in the coming weeks The Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms held a maiden State House press conference in the city to set speaking or presentation schedules for academic associations, private sector operators and individual experts to deliver reasoned viewpoints. The commission will gather those inputs over the next two to three months, and then draw up proposals.

As its chairman pointed, by establishing the commission the president demonstrated the political will to tackle existing challenges, thus the need to analyse the current tax system "to establish a foundation for necessary changes." Just how far a foundation will come out of this exercise, and thus point at clear 'necessary' changes is largely hypothetical, as too many contrasting viewpoints will clash on the subject. Were it by and large evident what changes are needed it would be relatively straightforward for the Treasury to work out those changes and present a cabinet paper for that purpose.

One illustration of the difficulties involved was an observation by the commission chairman that tax revenue averages 12.1 percent of GDP at present, significantly below the 15 percent of GDP in tax collection required for sub-Saharan countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Even without saying so, it is clear that it is implied that there is a collection problem, with intent to formulate tax collection designs where this GDP percentage ideal is realised here as well. That implication arises out of a managerial outlook on the issue, instead of an economic approach to it.

Levels of tax collection, assuming

that sensitivity to taxation is comparable across countries, has to do with levels of sophistication of economies. A sophisticated economy taxes less in terms of GDP to attain better results than a non-sophisticated economy and attain comparable or better results. Tanzania has always had a higher tax level compared our neighbours, which explains the smuggling problem, meanwhile as spending on education amounts to 20 per cent of their budgets for many years, while we scarcely attain half of that spending level. Our total estimates stand at 60 per cent that of our northern neighbours, and decades of reform have left the comparison intact.

Using an adage of the late Mwalimu Nyerere, when it comes to attaining what the Bretton Woods institutions set out as the right tax revenue ratio to GDP it means we would have to run while others walk. The implication is that having attained that level they can afford to walk while we need to run, and that is where the issue of a proper paradigm comes up.

If one takes up the matter in a managerial context, the answer comes up at tagging informal sector traders so that 'everyone' pays taxes. But in an economic formulation of the issue, it is a matter of enhancing the sophistication of the formal sector, by dismantling sector monopolies to create hundreds of tax liable private entities in the sector value chain that is now shielded from tax due to state ownership.

So there is a problem of approach where it appears that the panel will be under heavy bureaucratic pressure to formalise tagging the informal sector and take the country down to more conflicts with sensitive itinerant traders. Alternatively portions of the public sector can be compressed to regulatory functions, and many new firms come up to add to the tax basket. It will almost be a miracle if the panel privileges reforms, first.

## It is indeed time for chest thumping for key policy advisers over Dar port

NO surprise that the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office was brimming with satisfaction over investments so far made by DP World at Dar es Salaam port, as initial results and their implication as annual cost cutting gains had already been aired. With the reduced waiting time on account of the new arrangements charges at the container terminal by major shipping lines have been reduced, expected to save up to \$600m in a year. It is a hefty amount of savings that was hard to imagine.

By that reduction alone the shift to a new arrangement has been legitimized, despite that for a while some leveraging artists had seen the change in wide ranging areas of port management as a crowd puller issue, airing suspicions of corruption, etc. Yet, in examining some of the minister's remarks during his working visit to the port it is hard to say if this is a one-off policy success or a component of a reform course that looks like yielding similar gains elsewhere. The minister talked about ongoing improvements across various sectors, citing revenue collection, projecting the next 25 years horizon.

As most policy experts or observers are aware that by estimations of a number of United Nations agencies the country is off course or mildly performing in relation to realization of the 2030 sustainable development goals,

the tone of the remarks was in a different direction from this realism. It was an illustration of success, and implicitly this is what is taking place in most other sectors, whereas this falls far short of what it takes to attain goals like food security, universal health care, decent jobs, etc. Nor was it evident that policy enthusiasts learned that greater private sector involvement is best.

While the case for the port has been made and DP World involvement has proved to be a game changer, little has been achieved so far in mapping out the public-private partnership model except for new projects or initiatives. As in most such initiatives the earnings mechanism will be tied up with public sector prerogatives it will not work unless the public sector entity is merged into the market. So the strategy as a whole has problems taking off earnestly, and the whole of the public sector is shielded by the DP World example to celebrate the fact that policies are indeed working revenue miracles!

In other words neither the remarks about shaping up revenue collection nor indeed about Vision 2050 figure out what the country needs to do with regard to the 2030 goals, first. Skipping these objectives and shifting the focus to Vision 2050 is recipe for lethargy, as by implication it is to testify that the background work has been done, to complete satisfaction. It is easy to warm up to that feeling, but caution is advisable.



By Jesus Quintana, Asuncion

CLIMATE change has thrown our food systems into chaos. Extreme weather events and dramatic climate variations are hammering food production and supply chains across the world. As global leaders gear up for COP29, there's plenty of buzz about climate action. But can we really expect these slow-moving, bureaucratic negotiations to deliver tangible and swift results to decarbonize and insulate our agri-food systems? Most likely not. But do not despair. While the COP29 talks unfold, crucial climate solutions for transforming food systems are already taking root on the ground.

In the exhilarating, Oscar-winning movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once", the leading characters are surrounded by overwhelming chaos and complexity. Yet, within this confusion, small actions, and the determination of people behind them, spark powerful change. In stunning similarity, the climate crisis—particularly in food systems—feels like an insurmountable challenge with everything, droughts, floods, storms, hunger and other interlocked crises, striking everywhere, and all at once. Urgent action is needed. Where do we turn? COP 29 will likely be stuck in slow-paced discussions. Meanwhile, transformative solutions are taking shape on the ground. Across the globe, communities, farmers, sponsors and innovators are quietly building resilience in their food systems, demonstrating that true progress often emerges from the margins, not the center of chaos. Just like in the metaphoric film, finding purpose and action amid disorder is where meaningful change begins.

While world leaders talk and officials try to turn decisions into workable policies, local communities are already acting. Across the Global South, where the effects of climate change are being felt most acutely, smallholder farmers and grassroots organizations are implementing innovative practices that build resilience to climate shocks. In regions like Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America, agroecology is gaining traction as a powerful tool for both mitigating and adapting to climate change. This farming approach, which draws on traditional knowledge and emphasizes sustainable, low-emission methods, is helping communities adapt to changing weather patterns while improving food security. Agroecology promotes biodiversity, improves soil health, and reduces

## Grassroots solutions for climate-resilient food systems

dependency on chemical inputs, all of which enhance the resilience of agricultural systems to climate impacts and helps decarbonize them.



Jesus Quintana

dependency on chemical inputs, all of which enhance the resilience of agricultural systems to climate impacts and helps decarbonize them.

## The private sector's role in transforming food systems

Community movements and local governments are playing a vital role, but the private sector is also increasingly driving climate solutions in food systems. Market forces are pushing companies to innovate in ways that reduce agriculture's climate footprint. The plant-based food revolution is an example of how the private sector is responding to the need for more sustainable diets that lower greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, alternative protein food-tech startups are leading the way towards a sustainable and tasty food future. These unconventional

## The future of food security lies beyond COP29's negotiation tables



substitutes for traditional livestock farming offer a glimpse of how innovation can drive systemic changes in food production.

In addition to product innovation, there is growing corporate investment in regenerative agriculture—a practice that rebuilds soil health, captures carbon, and improves biodiversity. Large food companies, driven by consumer demand for sustainable products, are making commitments to source ingredients from regenerative farms, contributing to both climate mitigation and long-term food security.

## Climate finance outside the COP processes

One of the most significant barriers to transforming food systems in the face of climate change is the lack of adequate financing. While COPs have made important commitments, such as the creation of the Green Climate Fund, the flow of funds has been slow and insufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable communities. In response, philanthropy and private finance are stepping in.

Some patrons and foundations are funding initiatives that help smallholder farmers adapt to climate change, while impact investors are supporting agri-tech innovations that boost productivity in a sustainable way. These

efforts, although outside the COP framework, are critical in scaling climate-resilient food systems and achieving global net-zero targets.

## Real solutions are happening now

While COP29 will no doubt produce important global agreements, the truth is that many of the solutions to the climate crisis—especially when it comes to food—are already in motion. Farmers, local communities, philanthropies and private companies are building a food system that is more resilient, sustainable, and low-carbon.

Global leaders must take notice. Yes, we need ambitious targets and international commitments. But we also need to support and scale the grassroots movements and private-sector innovations that are already leading the way. Real food security in a climate-challenged world will not be achieved through top-down solutions alone—it will come from empowering those on the frontlines.

As COP29 approaches, let's not lose sight of what is happening beyond the negotiation tables. The future of food security depends on action today, led by those who can't afford to wait.

Jesus Quintana is Senior Advisor on Sustainable Food Systems and former Director General, CIAT



# Entrepreneurship education: Fostering creativity, ability to identify untapped opportunities among young people

Entrepreneurship has become a central theme in government discussions across the country. Leaders often emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship, driven by the reality that while talent and skills are abundant, job opportunities are limited. It is the responsibility of these leaders to inspire citizens and guide them toward solutions that can improve their livelihoods. Despite the abundance of natural resources in our country, economic development remains sluggish. This is why leaders promote entrepreneurship as a way to harness these resources for the country's advancement. Proper utilization of resources can significantly elevate living standards and help eliminate poverty.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Tanzania's working population exceeds 32 million people. If this workforce commits to diligent effort, it can generate wealth that will support not only themselves but also those unable to work due to various challenges. However, instilling a strong work ethic is a process that begins with education.

Schools are the primary environment where behaviors and attitudes are shaped. Just as we teach subjects like math and science, we must also teach entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is a mindset that needs to be developed early, as adults are often more resistant to adopting new ways of thinking. The earlier children are exposed to entrepreneurial concepts, the more likely they are to embrace them as a natural part of their lives.

## The Role of Education in Preparing Entrepreneurs

The main goal of education should be to equip individuals to thrive in their environments. This means fostering creativity and the ability to identify untapped opportunities that lead to economic success. Citizens who lack entrepreneurial skills tend to rely too heavily on the government, often blaming leaders for their challenges. However, with creativity and innovation, citizens can take initiative and help the



government achieve its goals.

For entrepreneurship to become ingrained in society, the foundation must be laid early—starting in primary school. If students grow up with entrepreneurial skills, by the time they graduate, self-employment becomes a natural progression. Schools can foster this mindset through entrepreneurial projects that offer the following benefits:

### Bridging Theory and Practice

For any lesson to truly resonate, theoretical knowledge must be paired with practical experience. Recognizing this, the government has periodically re-

vised curricula to make education more relevant to the country's challenges. Introducing entrepreneurial projects in schools allows students to practice what they learn, giving them hands-on experience that enhances their understanding. This practical learning ensures that graduates are better equipped to drive the country's socio-economic development.

### Access to Nutritious Food

Fruits and vegetables, rich in vitamin C, are essential for a balanced diet and help strengthen the immune system. When students are healthy, they can

focus better on their studies, leading to improved academic performance. School-based entrepreneurial projects like vegetable and fruit gardens not only provide healthy food but also reduce reliance on external funding, as the produce is grown on school grounds.

### Promoting Physical Activity

Some students come from households where domestic chores are handled entirely by hired help, leaving them with little exposure to manual labor. However, physical activity is crucial for building strength and skills. Entrepreneurial projects give these students

the chance to engage in manual work, such as gardening, which strengthens their bodies and teaches them valuable skills. A nation's strength lies in its energetic youth, and schools are the ideal place to nurture this energy.

### Preparing Students for Real-World Challenges

Students should experience real-life situations while still in school so that they are not overwhelmed when they enter the workforce. Entrepreneurial projects help them develop the skills necessary for post-graduation life. Preparation is key to success, and these projects train students to become hardworking members of society who can contribute to the nation's socio-economic development.

### Instilling Economic Thinking

Economic development requires a certain mindset—one that entrepreneurial projects can help cultivate. By managing projects that involve record-keeping and analyzing profits and losses, students learn the basics of economic thinking. These lessons will carry over into their future endeavors, helping them make efficient use of resources, minimize costs, and maximize profits.

### Building a Strong Future Through Schools

Schools are ideal environments for shaping behaviors and values that society desires. Students should participate in both academic and practical activities to excel in life. They must also understand the unique opportunities and economic conditions of their country. Entrepreneurial projects offer a way for students to engage in real-life work, preparing them for both office and manual labor, which are common in today's job market.

Incorporating entrepreneurial education is about preparing versatile individuals who can adapt to various challenges and seize opportunities. By giving students the tools to succeed in both business and life, schools can help create a future where self-reliance and innovation thrive.

By Correspondent Zuvena Shame

## Improved nutrition: Building a healthier nation towards sustainable development

ACCORDING to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), improving nutrition is essential to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Tanzania, chronic malnutrition, particularly stunting, severely hampers development progress in key areas such as food security, education, and maternal and child health.

Poor nutrition is the leading cause of death among children under the age of five, and it is estimated to cost the Tanzanian government 2.6 percent of its national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually.

This economic loss is most pronounced in the agricultural sector, where malnutrition impairs both mental and physical development, limiting productivity.

The 2015-2016 Demographic and Health Survey revealed that around one-third of children under five are stunted, and 14 percent are underweight. Contributing factors include limited access to diverse and adequate nutrition, poor healthcare services, lack of clean water and sanitation, and inadequate nutritional practices.

In response to these challenges, a collaborative initiative involving the Italian government, the National Networks of Farmers Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), Lay Volunteers International Association (LVIA), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and Doctors with Africa (CUAMM) has launched a three-year integrated nutrition program in Dodoma. This program is being implemented in the districts of Bahi, Chamwino, and Kongwa, aiming to strengthen food security and improve nutrition through the cultivation and use of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs). In addition to enhancing nutrition, the project also seeks to improve the economic status of local residents.

Addressing malnutrition through indigenous vegetables

The program focuses on AIVs, which are familiar and widely consumed by local communities. By promoting the



Some members of MVIWATA who are beneficiaries of a three-year integrated nutrition programme being trained on how to prepare and dry indigenous vegetables. Photo: Correspondent Zuvena Shame.

use of these vegetables, the project specifically targets the nutritional needs of children and pregnant women in 70 villages across Bahi, Chamwino, and Kongwa districts. These districts have been identified as having high rates of malnutrition and stunting among children under five.

Through this initiative, the National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), is helping to organize small-holder farmers into groups and networks to advocate for improved practices.

These groups are sharing knowledge about agroecology, strengthening collective eco-

nom systems, and improving access to financial resources and markets.

### Community impact

During a visit to the districts of Bahi, Kongwa, and Chamwino, The Guardian had the opportunity to observe the effects of the program on local communities. Farmers in these areas shared their experiences of how indigenous vegetables have transformed their livelihoods and improved health outcomes.

Anna Mkiyu, a farmer and MVIWATA member from Mapinduzi village in Bahi District, explained that indigenous vegetables like chipali, mlenda, safwe, and mzimwa have be-

come vital resources, especially for pregnant women and young children.

However, one of the key challenges has been finding efficient methods to dry these vegetables while retaining their nutritional value. The traditional method of drying them on the ground often resulted in contamination with sand, reducing their quality.

Anna noted that during the short rain season and long rain season, they harvest the naturally grown indigenous vegetables using inherited knowledge. However, heavy rains limit their ability to harvest and negatively affect the taste and quality of the

vegetables.

She emphasized that these vegetables are highly nutritious and grow without the need for chemicals or pesticides, making them a healthier option for the community.

Through training provided by MVIWATA, the community has learned to cultivate and preserve AIVs more effectively, ensuring their availability year-round. Anna's group has established demonstration plots and developed processes for AIV production, preparation, and marketing, which has attracted people from outside the village. They have also started selling dried vegetables at the MVIWATA market center, thus getting an additional income.

Another farmer, Boaz Sebai, from Ngh'umbi village in Kongwa District, highlighted the importance of vegetables like mgangani, muhille, and cowpea leaves in ensuring food security for the village. After a laboratory study confirmed the high nutritional value of AIVs, the community has increased their production and processing to preserve these nutrients for year-round consumption.

Sebai pointed out that indigenous vegetables from Dodoma are gaining popularity beyond the region. Events like the Nanenane agricultural exhibitions organized by MVIWATA have

showcased the benefits of AIVs, leading to increased demand.

He added that there was a time when indigenous vegetables were considered outdated and were associated with lower social status. However, the community has since realized their nutritional importance, and more households are now stocking these vegetables.

In Chamwino District, Zainab Mwinidadi from Manyemba village shared that stunting has been a major issue in her community. Many children were born with stunted growth due to a lack of nutrient-rich foods, including vegetables.

With the knowledge gained through the project, families have learned to dry and preserve these vegetables, ensuring a reliable supply of nutritious food throughout the year. This practice has significantly improved the health of local children and provided a source of income for many households.

The integrated nutrition programme in Dodoma Region is not only addressing malnutrition but also transforming the economic and social welfare of local communities.

By promoting the use of indigenous vegetables, the initiative is helping to combat stunting, improve health outcomes, and empower farmers with sustainable livelihoods. Through continued collaboration and education, the program aims to create a healthier and more prosperous future for the region.

# Syrian displaced children go hungry, stunting their growth

DLIB, Syria

Children in northern Syria are suffering from hunger, illness, and malnutrition as a result of poverty, poor living conditions for most families, and the collapse of purchasing power amid the soaring prices of all essential food commodities. Displacement and a lack of job opportunities make this worse.

Nour al-Hammoud, a 5-year-old girl whose family was displaced from Maarat al-Numan, south of Idlib, to a makeshift camp in the northern countryside of Idlib, near the Syrian-Turkish border, suffers from acute malnutrition. She is extremely thin.

"My daughter's immunity is very weak; she suffers from stunted growth and constant illness. We cannot provide her with the nutrients she needs due to our poverty. My husband is unemployed because of a war injury, and humanitarian aid in this camp is almost nonexistent," her mother, who did not want to be named, says.

The mother indicates that she took her daughter to a pediatrician at a health center more than 5 km from the camp, and the doctor confirmed that the girl was suffering from malnutrition and prescribed medication and supplements, but these haven't yet made a difference. The mother confirmed that her daughter's condition is deteriorating day by day, and she is helpless to do anything for her.

Samah al-Ibrahim, 33, from the city of Idlib, northern Syria, is also unable to afford formula milk for her 9-month-old baby, which has affected his growth and health. She says, "My husband works in construction all day for USD 3. We can barely afford our basic necessities, so we can't buy milk on many days, especially since I can't breast-feed due to malnutrition myself."

Al-Ibrahim confirms that she relies on cooking starch with sugar or boiling rice to feed her son, as milk is not available daily.

As for Sanaa al-Barakat, 35, she has been living in a state of severe anxiety after discovering that her 2-year-old daughter, Rim, is suffering from acute malnutrition and stunted growth and it is critical she gets care immediately.



Samah Al-Ibrahim is unable to provide milk for her child. Babies born to internally displaced families in the camps in the northern countryside of Idlib are desperate for a regular supply of food and milk supplements for their children. Credit: Sonia al-Ali/IPS

"The doctor diagnosed her with severe malnutrition, which caused brain atrophy and delayed the acquisition of motor skills. She also suffers from difficulty speaking as well as lethargy and refuses to play like other children. Additionally, she is introverted," al-Barakat.

She said her daughter Rim is not the only one suffering from malnutrition, but all of her four children are as well, because she finds it very difficult to provide her children with the necessary food supplies. She often only manages to feed them one meal a day.

Dr. Nour Al-Abbas (39), a pediatrician from Sarmada, north of Idlib, speaks about malnutrition, saying, "It is a serious health condition where children suffer from

a deficiency in the essential nutrients their bodies need, causing them symptoms and signs that vary in severity and danger."

She confirms that a quarter of children in Idlib suffer from malnutrition due to not getting enough nutritious food due to a lack of and of dietary diversity, which makes them susceptible to disease and weakens their immune systems."

The doctor explains that the number of children she receives at the health center where she works is increasing. Al-Abbas says the mothers are also often suffering from malnutrition. The conditions the families live in are a result of poverty as a result of displacement due to war, the large number of children in one family, and the in-

ability of mothers to breastfeed.

The spread of infectious diseases among children and reliance on contaminated and unclean drinking water exacerbate the situation. Often the mothers continue attempting to cope without consulting a doctor and when they do finally seek health, the children's condition is poor.

Al-Abbas points out that the groups most at risk of malnutrition are children after the breastfeeding period, i.e., from the age of 6 months to 6 years. However, some mothers are reluctant to breast-feed their children for several reasons, the most important of which is the mother's suffering from malnutrition as well.

"Malnutrition has different

symptoms, the most important of which are severe weakness and feeling constantly tired, in addition to the child not gaining weight and height with pale skin and yellowing, or the appearance of edema or continuous inflammatory conditions such as dermatitis or peeling around the lips or abdominal distension (bloating)," Al-Abbas says.

The doctor called for additional support from charities and NGOs in an effort to provide food and medicine through field visits to camps.

According to UNICEF estimates, 9 out of 10 children in Syria do not consume minimally acceptable diets, leading to stunting and wasting. As many as 506,530 children under the age of five in Idlib, Syria, and northern rural Aleppo urgently need treatment for acute malnutrition, and nearly 108,000 children suffer from severe wasting. Disease prevalence, a lack of food, and inadequate sanitation services all make the situation worse.

In addition, over 609,900 children under the age of five in Syria suffer from stunting, according to UNICEF estimates. Stunting results from chronic malnutrition and causes irreversible physical and cognitive damage in children. This impacts their ability to learn and their productivity in adulthood.

According to the "Syria Response Coordinators" team, which specializes in statistics in northwestern Syria, the percentage of families below the poverty line is 91.18 percent, while the percentage of families below the hunger line has reached 41.05 percent. All families residing in the region's widespread camps have been classified as entirely below the poverty line.

Poverty, displacement, and inflation have increased the prevalence of malnutrition among Syrian children, stunting their growth due to the lack of sufficient essential nutrients for their bodies to grow, negatively impacting them and depriving them of their most basic rights.

IPS UN Bureau Report

WASHINGTON DC

## The IMF just made the case for its own irrelevance



The 2024 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) are taking place Monday, October 21 to Saturday, October 26, with the main ministerial meetings and events taking place between October 22-25.

On Friday the 11th, the IMF announced policy changes that will save developing countries \$1.2 billion per year. Despite the self-congratulations and fanfare, these reforms are only a tiny fraction of what campaigners had been asking for – and an even smaller share of what the Global South needs.

This month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had an opportunity to end one of its most reviled policies and lift billions of dollars of debt off the backs of crisis-stricken developing countries. It chose not to. The IMF's ostensible mission is to promote financial stability by providing loans to countries facing economic challenges or crises. These loans must be repaid, with interest, and typically come with harmful conditions of austerity, privatization, and deregulation.

Since 1997, the IMF has also levied fees called surcharges, on top of the regular costs of a loan, on countries whose debt to the Fund exceeds a certain threshold. By the IMF's logic, these highly indebted countries – like Pakistan, which is still recovering from unprecedented natural disasters, and Ukraine, which is in the midst of a war – surcharges provide an incentive to deter prolonged reliance on the Fund.

In reality, surcharges exacerbate already onerous debt burdens, siphoning scarce resources from countries in need of relief rather than punishment. As a result of the pandemic, the global economic shocks sparked by the war in Ukraine, climate change, and rising interest rates – circumstances well beyond any individual country's control – the number of countries forced to pay surcharges to the IMF has nearly tripled in the past five years. Clearly, surcharges do not work as claimed.

As the burden of surcharges has grown, so has their opposition. In recent years, researchers have uncovered the profound harms caused by the policy, members of Congress have passed legislation demanding their reassessment, and civil society groups have organized discussions and letters pushing for their elimination.

Ultimately, a clear global majority – including every developing country, leading economists, UN human rights experts, and hundreds of organizations like Oxfam and the International Trade

Union Confederation – stood on the side of discontinuing the policy.

Given this near-consensus, the policy's clear harms, the fact that the IMF has no need for surcharge income, and the historical precedence for their elimination, many assumed that ending surcharges was a low-hanging fruit. Following years of pressure, the IMF initiated a formal review of surcharges this summer.

The outcome of that review, announced last week, provided a welcome measure of relief, but ultimately fell short. Rather than ending the counterproductive policy, the Fund raised the threshold at which surcharges must be paid, and slightly reduced their charge. The Fund also decreased its current non-surcharge lending rate from 4.51 percent to 4.11.

Because of the increased threshold, fewer countries will pay surcharges, though the number could still grow significantly in the coming

years, as climate disasters and other external shocks force more countries to take on higher levels of IMF debt.

By the Fund's measurements, these changes will reduce the costs paid by all borrowers, combined, by \$1.2 billion annually. While this is better than what would have occurred without concerted external efforts, the Fund has ultimately doubled down on its pro-cyclical logic while conceding only enough to alleviate pressure.

Inside reports indicate that the United States, which has the largest vote under the Fund's undemocratic governance structure, was the primary blocker of more substantive reform, proposing instead to use the income from surcharges to cover for wealthy countries' own funding shortfalls.

For many highly indebted countries, including Ecuador, Argentina, Ukraine, Egypt, and Pakistan, the failure to discontinue surcharges

means a multi-billion dollar bill will soon come due, making it harder to reduce debts to sustainable levels or to finance development, climate action, and other critical needs.

This, in turn, adds fuel to the fire of an already vicious cycle of debt, underdevelopment, and climate change; nearly 80 developing countries are already in or at risk of debt distress, three quarters of which are highly climate vulnerable.

This is hardly the first time the IMF has imperiled the Global South. The IMF is perhaps best known for its role during the debt crises of the 1980s and 1990s, in which emergency loans were used to force developing countries to adopt neoliberalizing reforms that resulted in lost decades of economic growth.

In response to these evident harms, mounting global protests, and decreasing reliance on Fund lending, the IMF in the 2000s began to adopt

better rhetoric, established new fora for civil society participation, and eventually even owned up to many of its failures. But while these cosmetic changes defused opposition, the Fund did not fundamentally alter its approach.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, and accelerating during the pandemic, developing countries have once again been forced to accumulate a powder keg of debt. The IMF's response has not only been insufficient, but, in the case of surcharges and the continued insistence on austerity, actively harmful. Meanwhile, attempts to democratize the IMF's governance structure and give greater voice to countries of the Global South have repeatedly faltered.

But while the IMF long ago revealed its true face, developing countries have had nowhere else to turn. In today's increasingly multipolar world, that may soon change. China's emergence as the world's largest bilateral creditor, the establishment of the BRICS+ New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Agreement, efforts to build alternatives to the US dollar and its attendant monetary constraints – countries across the Global South are seeking to reduce dependence on the IMF.

While these alternatives remain nascent, the fact that the Fund has proven unresponsive to even the simplest of reforms should only hasten this process.

Civil society groups, meanwhile, who hoped that directly engaging with the IMF would lead to substantive change, may yet become disillusioned. If all this time, resources, and energy could not even end surcharges, perhaps the prospects of "change from within" should be abandoned – and the era of mass protest from outside the security perimeter, re-vitalized.

Discontinuing surcharges alone would not have solved the many crises facing the Global South. But the failure to do so has made clear that the solutions do not lie within the IMF. When even the low-hanging fruit is out of reach, perhaps all that is left is to strike at the root.

**Michael Galant is a Senior Research and Outreach Associate at the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) in Washington, DC. He is also a member of the Secretariat of Progressive International. Views are his own. He can be found on X at @michael.galant.**

# Zimbabweans adopt traditional crops to fight hunger

HARARE

**A**S Zimbabwe grapples with a drought that has been declared a state of disaster, traditional grains such as sorghum and millet are providing a sustainable solution to food insecurity.

Unlike the main staple maize, which needs lots of water to thrive, traditional grains are tropically adapted crops due to their structural characteristics.

"They just grow like grass," said Diana Sedze, a small-scale farmer from Nyanga District in Manicaland Province. "If you grow traditional grains, you are guaranteed a harvest."

Sedze said growing traditional grains and consuming traditional foods is in line with food sovereignty, a concept that allows communities to control the way their food is produced, consumed, and traded.

Sedze is a member of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF), an organization that envisions improved livelihoods of organized and empowered smallholder farmers practicing sustainable and ecological agriculture.

She joined other farmers recently to mark World Food Day at an event organized by ZIMSOFF at Shashe Agroecology School in Masvingo Province. The school aims to empower local farmers by promoting the exchange of experiences and disseminating agroecological and sustainable agriculture practices.

Traditional grains were grown in Zimbabwe for generations, but maize became the preferred cereal as colonization influenced and disrupted conventional agricultural practices. Despite being drought-resistant, traditional grains are often allocated a small portion of land and are not given the same value as maize by many Zimbabwean farmers.

As rainfall patterns become increasingly unpredictable, maize yields are declining. The bulk of the 2023/2024 rain-fed maize crop was declared a complete write-off due to an El Nino-induced drought, leaving more than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's population food insecure.

A shift to locally adapted traditional grains is now in motion, helping smallholder farmers ensure the constant availability of food.

In Zimbabwe, traditional grains are ground into flour, which is used to cook



Women prepare a traditional Zimbabwean meal in Shashe, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

a thick porridge known in the Shona language as Sadza. Sadza, the primary source of starch, holds cultural significance to the local cuisine and is served with meat and green vegetables.

"In addition to their nutritional value, traditional grains are cheap to produce.

For example, crops like sorghum and millet do not require supplementary fertilizers. We just cultivate them using manure, so it's cost-effective," said Sedze.

Even health professionals encourage people to eat traditional grains due to their nutritional value. "I am a cancer survivor, and I was recommended to eat traditional grains because they are more nutritious," she added.

The production of traditional grains is in line with the Zimbabwean government's goal of achieving food and nutrition security at the household level. Farmers in

regions with below-average rainfall are encouraged to grow traditional grains because of their drought tolerance.

Statistics show that the hectare put under sorghum increased by 27 percent in the 2023/2024 season from the previous season, and that of

pearl millet increased by 7.5 percent.

Janet Simbini, a farmer from Checheche in Manicaland Province, said people are beginning to notice the benefits of traditional grains.

"They take less time to mature. This shields us from vulnerabilities," Simbini said. "A lot of people are coming to inquire about traditional grains because they are witnessing their resilience."

Simbini follows agroecological food production practices that rely on sustainably utilizing resources readily available on the farm, such as the use of manure. This protects the environment and makes farming more resilient, she said.

Elizabeth Mpfu, a farmer from Shashe and a member of ZIMSOFF, emphasized the importance of food sovereignty.

"The issue of sovereignty is very important. We want to have control over our food, how it's grown, and its distribution using the locally available resources," she said.

The Zimbabwean government is also pushing for the adoption of traditional food systems.

"As a nation, we have an identity. We have the food that defines us as a people of Zimbabwe," Masvingo District Development Coordinator Kenneth Madziva said, adding that the type of food that is consumed should be determined by the locals.

"We don't want a situation whereby you go to a market and buy something because that's what is there. We are saying we need our locally produced food," he said.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

**T**HE move by the East African Community (EAC) towards a seamless airspace is a significant step with the completion of Phase-I, which enables interoperability of the air navigation systems in the region, senior officials have stated.

Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors made the remarks on Tuesday when speaking at the ongoing 19th Meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Sectoral Council on Transport, Communications and Meteorology in Mombasa, Kenya with the liberalisation of the Upper Airspace and reduction of air fares in the region high on the agenda.

Also on the agenda of the five-day meeting are the consideration of the status of regional programmes and projects under the railways, roads, maritime, communications and meteorology

Partner States are already in agreement to operationalise the EAC Upper Airspace Seamless operations to enable interoperability of their upper air navigation systems.

The Upper Air Space is that space above Flight Level (FL) 245 (24,500 feet). Article 92 (3e) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC states that Partner States shall "establish a Unified Upper Area Control system."

Liberalisation of air transport services within the region means that nationally registered carriers will be allowed to operate freely within the EAC region.

Ariik urged Partner States to move with speed to complete the remaining phases to ensure the full liberalisation of the air transport sector in the region.

"We commend Partner States for continuing with the improvements to the airports infrastructure and note that several projects are either planned or ongoing. These include international airports at Hoima, Dodoma, Bugesera,

## EAC to liberalise air transport services



Melchior Ndadaye, Juba and N'djili. We particularly congratulate South Sudan for developing their Civil Aviation Act which now awaits Cabinet approval," said Hon. Ariik.

"The region is also making progress towards reducing air fares and countries continue to present their views on this issue, which we hope to conclude soon. Related to this, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) being promoted at the African Union level will further ensure that air travel within the continent is made easier," he added.

He however, said that so far, only three countries in our region have joined the SAATM and urged the remaining countries to expedite the process of joining this important facility.

On maritime transport, Ariik said that whereas sea maritime transport is doing very well, the region's inland waterways are only minimally being utilised.

"This has resulted in a lot of pressure on our road transportation systems, yet maritime transport is far more efficient, cost effective and climate friendly. However, apart from lack of sufficient investment in the equip-

ment, a lot needs to be done to improve maritime safety," said the DSG.

Ariik commended the Partner States for their relentless push to actualise the East African Railways Network connected through the standard gauge railway and hailed the United Republic of Tanzania for the recent launch of services between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

The DSG said that to achieve seamless connectivity of the railway system, Partner States need to build synergy in resource mobilisation to ensure there are no gaps that would render the pro-

gramme ineffective.

"Concurrently, efforts must also be put in the development of an inter-modal transport system, in particular maritime transport, to support the SGR programme. In this regard, the need for a regional maritime transport policy and strategy become pertinent," he said, adding that the Sectoral Council will discuss these matters in detail.

He also informed the meeting that the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania have since joined the EAC One Network Area, signalling a new era in the region's push towards

the digital economy.

"We urge the other countries to on board the two new members in order to make the roaming framework fully effective. Countries are also called upon to support the Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project, which aims to advance digital market integration in the Eastern Africa region by increasing affordable access to regional broadband connectivity and strengthening the enabling environment for cross-border digital services," said Ariik.

"We need to remove barriers to regional telecoms infrastructure and services and expand access to connectivity if our region is to remain competitive in the global arena," he added.

On meteorology, Ariik said that there is urgent need for the region to appropriately equip itself with automatic weather stations and to adopt quality management systems, the ISO 9001:2015 for Aeronautical Meteorological Services, in order to cope with climate change and improve safety of air transport.

"The modernisation of meteorological services also depends on the institutional frameworks and currently, only three countries have autonomous agencies responsible for meteorological and hydrological services. It is important that the region moves as one in this respect," he said.

Ariik disclosed that the participation of Partner States in the programmes of the International Civil Aviation Organization is poor. As an example, the volcanic ash exercises prepare the region for events such as happened in Iceland some years back when the entire airspace in the Northern Hemisphere was covered in volcanic ash.

# Amid fraud allegations, Mozambique's election results spark opposition outcry and calls for reform

By Borges Nhamirre

On 9 October 2024, Mozambique held its seventh general election since 1994, cementing its status as an electoral democracy. Multiparty polls have taken place for 30 consecutive years without fail, but unless they are free and fair, elections won't reverse the democratic backsliding in the southern African nation.

The final outcome of the presidential, legislative and provincial elections will be announced by 24 October. But preliminary results show yet another landslide victory for the ruling party - the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) - and its new presidential candidate Daniel Chapo.

A Frelimo victory would extend the party's reign beyond 50 years, having been in power since independence from Portugal in 1975.

More than 11,000 election observers were accredited at over 25,000 polling stations across the country, in which more than 17 million people were registered to vote. As in previous polls, allegations of fraud have been rife, with domestic and international observer missions reporting evidence of fraud, including ballot box stuffing.

In its preliminary statement, the European Union Election Observation Mission Mozambique noted the "tainted credibility of the electoral process."

It said its "observers reported stacks of folded ballot papers in (10) counting processes that were followed, indicating possible ballot stuffing, and in one-third of the counting process observed, the figures in the protocols did not reconcile".

Domestic observers had earlier warned of the existence of ghost voters, which artificially inflated votes in Frelimo strongholds in favour of the party and its candidates.



Protesters burn a Frelimo flag during a nationwide strike on 21 October 2024 called by Mozambique presidential candidate Venancio Mondlane to protest against the provisional results of the 9 October 2024 election in Maputo, Mozambique. (Photo: Reuters/Sipiwe Sibeko)

"There was a notable lack of confidence in the reliability of the electoral register, given that in several provinces it reflected a higher number of voters than the overall voting age population derived from the national census," the European Union Election Observation Mission Mozambique said.

The election happened on an uneven political playing field that favoured Frelimo, with the country's mainstream media giving governing party candidates more airtime.

Such issues hinder free and fair elections and violate Mozambique's constitution, electoral laws and the Southern African Development Community Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021).

But the community is unlikely to have an informed opinion on the election, considering its superficial observation mission. The regional bloc's 53 observers from 10 member states observed only voting and results counting, covering just 288 of

25,000 polling stations (just over 1%).

By comparison, the European Union Election Observation Mission Mozambique observed the entire electoral process, from voter registration to campaigning, voting and counting. It visited 729 polling stations on election day - about three times as many as the Southern African Development Community mission.

The community's electoral observation mission's preliminary declaration highlights no major problems, raising questions about its credibility. It also doesn't assess whether Mozambique adhered to the community's election guidelines and principles. The local press questioned the mission's integrity - especially its leadership by Amani Abeid Karume, Zanzibar's former president. Karume's past is marred by allegations of electoral fraud and violence in his own country.

Based on fraud allegations, the mainstream opposition has rejected the results. Venancio Mondlane, who officially received the second highest number of votes, has declared victory and threatened to mobilise the youth in a popular revolt if the electoral bodies

declared victory for Frelimo and its candidate.

Mondlane is a prominent former parliamentarian for the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), which fought against the Frelimo-controlled government from 1975-92. He organised 40 days of protest marches in Maputo to contest electoral fraud in the October 2023 local elections. He had run for mayor of Maputo and lost to the Frelimo candidate despite parallel counting data indicating that he won about 55% of the vote.

Secret deals Mondlane claimed that Renamo's president Ossufo Momade made secret deals with Frelimo to accept electoral fraud in the 2023 polls. Having left Renamo, Mondlane promises to go to any lengths to achieve his self-proclaimed victory. He is challenging this month's results in electoral courts, but because the judiciary lacks independence, the opposition will also stage protests.

On Monday, Mondlane called his supporters to a general strike to contest the results and the murder of his lawyer and a party official on 19 October.

The police responded with violence against the demonstrators. More clashes could break out in

urban areas, where levels of poverty, inequality and youth unemployment are high, and government support is low.

On 15 October, the Attorney-General's Office said it had instructed Mondlane to "refrain from practices that violate the constitution, electoral legislation and other norms". These include his "pronouncements to divulge information about the election results that have not been confirmed by the electoral bodies, to proclaim himself president, claiming to have created a power transition commission and to incite the population to acts of violence and public disorder, with the allegation that power should be seized".

The attorney-general's statement could fuel the fire rather than dampen spirits since there is a general perception that public institutions benefit Frelimo in electoral disputes.

According to International IDEA's Global State of Democracy Initiative, the absence of credible elections is one of the main causes of Mozambique's decline in democracy. Likewise, due to election rigging, Mozambique has been classified as an authoritarian regime in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index since 2019. Afrobarometer surveys show declining levels of confidence in the election process and institutions.

While the final results of the 9 October polls are still uncertain, it's clear that organising regular multiparty elections is not enough for Mozambique to become a liberal democracy. The manipulation of elections by electoral management bodies in favour of the governing party is crippling democracy, eroding the credibility of institutions and generating post-election violence.

Although the African Union has condemned the violence, both that body and Southern African Development Community should have acted earlier by properly observing Mozambique's polls and urging the government to abide by the law and constitution - and the community's election principles and guidelines on free and fair elections.

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 190 00 -

Crossword grid with numbered squares and a section for 'Yesterday's Solutions' containing words like CORMORANT, STRIPES, HONSHORE, URANIUM, ABUSEMAG, DIRTY, CODEM, DEERFLY, EDEMANDERSTAE, ISEMENN, SCENARIOS, TINGE, EUDNA, and ALE.

- Across:
1 skoal
6 Angel in Kiswahili
8 having knowledge of something
9 former Speaker who resigned
11 nice or pleasing
13 reprimand sharply
18 founded vaults
19 largest country in East Africa
20 enquire
Down:
1 Islamic law
2 Native of Oman
3 a room for storing food
4 Capital city of Peru
5 Unhappy
7 former basic monetary unit of Romania
10 affirmative response
12 country in West Africa
14 a round Dutch cheese
15 get hurt in Kiswahili
16 Parrots in New Zealand
17 Insane

Word puzzle section with a 5x5 grid of black and white squares. Below the grid, it says 'In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.' Words listed include STAIN, TAHS, STRIDE, EID, ERIN, VANE, LEEWARD, EIRENIC, SOLVENT, DEA, RHENISH, EAR, WENT, DD. Contact info: Felix: 0789437309 / felixmagezi@gmail.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. A large promotional banner for Radio One featuring the station's logo, the program name 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI', and a detailed weekly program schedule from Monday to Sunday with specific time slots and program titles.



# Generative AI uptake promising in E Africa, says survey

By Francis Kajubi

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) in East Africa are placing significant bets on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) amid economic uncertainty, according to the 2024 KPMG East Africa and Africa CEO Outlook Survey report.

Alexander Njombe, Country Managing Partner at KPMG in Tanzania, stated in Dar es Salaam yesterday that CEOs identify five key benefits of Generative AI, including its potential to increase profitability.

Twelve percent of CEOs in East Africa view Generative AI as a means to enhance profitability, compared to 16 percent of CEOs across Africa and 10 percent globally.

"CEOs believe that Generative AI boosts efficiency and productivity by automating routine tasks. Other benefits include improved fraud detection and cyber-attack response, personalized customer engagement, and opportunities for new product and market growth," Njombe noted.

Despite ongoing economic challenges, the outlook reveals that 48 percent of CEOs in East Africa prioritize Generative AI investments, along with 46 percent of their African counterparts and 65 percent of CEOs worldwide.

"Tanzania is making significant strides in adopting Generative AI, with substantial investments made during President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration. We have seen advancements in robotic technologies and related staffing," Njombe added.

However, CEOs also outlined six challenges in implementing Generative AI within their organizations: ethical dilemmas, technical capability and skills shortages, a lack of regulation, employee adoption, implementation costs, and the spread of misinformation.

"According to the outlook, 90 percent of CEOs in East Africa face ethical challenges when implementing Generative AI. This figure drops to 44 percent in Africa and 61 percent globally," Njombe said.

Seventy-six percent of organizations in East Africa encounter gaps in technical capability and skills for AI implementation, with 60 percent reporting the same challenge across the continent and 48 percent globally.

A lack of regulation is the third challenge, affecting 64 percent of CEOs in the region, 56 percent in Africa, and 51 percent worldwide. In East Africa, only 44 percent of CEOs believe their organizations are adequately equipped to upskill employees to fully leverage the benefits of Generative AI, compared to 46 percent in Africa and 64 percent globally.

The outlook also indicates that 34 percent of CEOs in East Africa are reevaluating their training and development strategies due to Generative AI, with similar sentiments expressed by 31 percent of African CEOs and 56 percent globally.

Furthermore, 28 percent of East African CEOs are reconsidering the skills required for entry-level positions, with 33 percent reflecting this sentiment at the continental level and 57 percent globally.

"CEOs are optimistic that the impact of Generative AI on organizations will become apparent in the next three to five years. In East Africa, 78 percent believe it will not

fundamentally change job numbers but will necessitate upskilling and redeployment of existing resources. This view is shared by 81 percent of African CEOs and 76 percent globally," Njombe stated.

About 22 percent of CEOs in East Africa are confident that Generative AI will create more jobs than it eliminates. This belief is echoed by 19 percent of African CEOs and 23 percent globally.

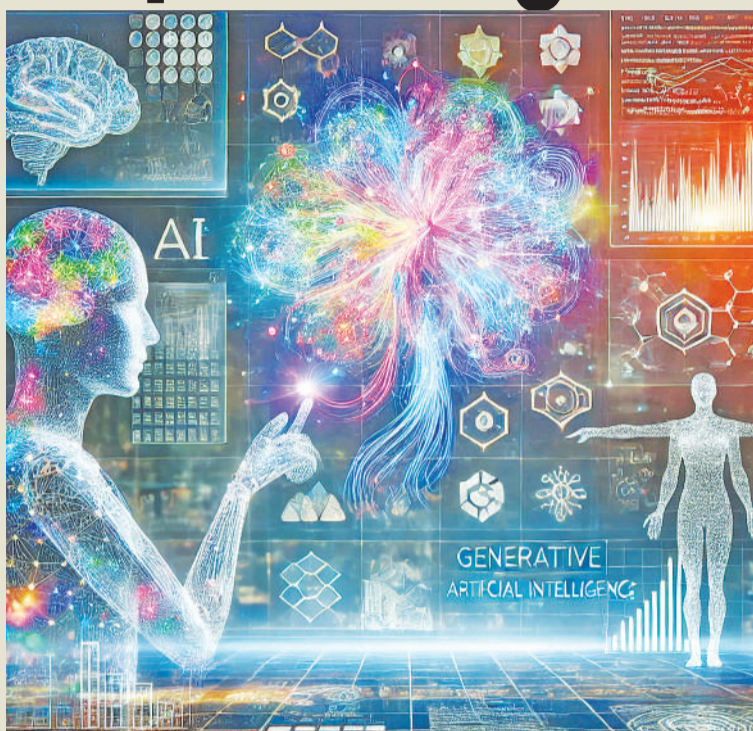
The report highlights three functional areas where CEOs plan to invest in Generative AI over the next three years: information technology, sales and marketing, and finance and accounting.

Regarding preparedness, 40 percent of East African CEOs feel confident that their organizations can access suitable cybersecurity talent and solutions to counter AI threats, compared to 43 percent in

Africa and 59 percent globally. Only 12 percent of CEOs in the region are confident that their organizations' cybersecurity measures can keep pace with rapid AI advancements, with figures of 23 percent in Africa and 55 percent globally.

The KPMG 2024 CEO Outlook provides an in-depth perspective from 1,325 global chief executives regarding enterprise and economic growth, including 50 CEOs from the East African region. The report covers eleven sectors: technology, insurance, life sciences, manufacturing, telecommunications, asset management, automotive, banking, consumer and retail, energy, and infrastructure.

This perspective aligns with efforts in both public and private sectors to promote Generative AI as a tool for boosting efficiency, enhancing networking, and unlock-



ing new business opportunities, rather than a threat to human jobs.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State for Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities, shared this narrative recently. He stated that the government views Generative AI as an opportunity to expand business scope, enhance talent, innovate, and upskill digital capabilities, ultimately boosting productivity for individuals and enterprises.

"Generative AI generates information based on human input. While robots can perform specific tasks, they cannot handle complete job packages or duties. Misinformation is leading some employees to unnecessary fear," Katambi explained.

He emphasized that AI serves as a remedy for menial tasks but not for professions that require reasoning and adaptability.

"It's crucial to assess how knowledgeable and skilled today's graduates are in the context of AI. We recognize that AI is increasingly being applied as a helpful tool for students at all educational levels," he added.

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, Chief Executive Officer of ATE, noted that the emergence of ChatGPT signifies a technological advancement in public awareness of AI tools.

She urged both public and private sectors to implement reskilling and upskilling programs for employees to adapt to this new technological landscape.

"Data protection is a potential threat as AI evolves globally. Moreover, mental health issues may arise for those concerned about being left behind," Doran warned.

Hery Mkunda, Secretary Gen-

eral of the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), emphasized the importance of empowering employees to acquire digital skills to improve efficiency and productivity during this early stage of AI implementation in Tanzania.

Dr. Yose Mlyambina, a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania's Labour Division, indicated that AI is still developing within the country's judicial system.

He mentioned that the judiciary has implemented ten ICT systems, including an e-Case Management system, to embrace technology.

"Generative AI can significantly reduce the workload of judges and magistrates through automatic transcription, allowing them to focus on listening and making judgments," said Dr. Mlyambina.

Caroline Mugalla, ILO Country Director, warned that the future of work faces threats from globalization, digitalization, AI, and climate change.

She pointed out the risks of deteriorating working conditions and inequality in the workplace, urging policies that address the challenges posed by AI in the employment sector.

"We must prioritize social protection for affected workers amidst technological advancements and address gender disparities, particularly concerning employment opportunities for women," she asserted.

The International Labour Organization's 2023 study, titled "Generative AI and Jobs: A Global Analysis of Potential Effects on Job Quantity and Quality," suggests that Generative AI is more likely to enhance jobs by automating specific tasks rather than replacing entire roles.

# EABL regains position as top valuable on DSE

By Guardian Reporter

East African Breweries Limited (EABL) has regained its top position as the largest listed company on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), pushing down the long position holder Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) into second.

The DSE market report shows that this came after the cross listed EABL jumped to 3.3trn/- on Tuesday this week, from 2.7trn/- recorded on Monday due to increase of the counter's share price by 21 percent in just one day to 4,200/- from 3,470/-.

Data obtained from the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), East African Breweries PLC set a new 52-week high during Tuesday's trading session when it reached Ksh204.00. Over this period, the share price is up 36.36 percent.

The EABL's market capitalization is therefore equivalent to nearly 15 percent of DSE's total market capitalization and when it is combined with second largest TBL, makes brewery firms to hold a combined

30 percent of the market capitalization.

In Uganda, East African Breweries Limited is currently the third most valuable stock on the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) with a market capitalization of UGX 3.93 trillion, which is about 15.4 percent of the entire Uganda Securities Exchange equity market.

The increase of EABL market capitalization, has also expanded the DSE's market size as it closed at 18.7trn/- on Tuesday this week, from 18.6trn/- at the end of Monday.

According to the market report, the rise of EABL has also pushed NMB counter, which held the second largest position to third position, as its market capitalization is 2.6trn/-, while KCB bank, one of the largest banks in East Africa remains at the fourth largest.

The fifth position is held by Vodacom Tanzania, with the market capitalisation of 1.724trn/-, which is close followed by CRDB Bank counter with the market capitalization of 1.723trn/- as at the end of Tuesday this week.



Absa Bank Tanzania, Managing Director, Obedi Laiser (R), hands over a certificate of appreciation to the vice president of Mohamed Enterprises Tanzania Limited (MeTL), Vipul Kakad (2nd L) during a ceremony to conclude the bank's customer service week in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Bank spearheads use of digital banking services for Tanzanians

By Guardian Correspondent

Absa Bank Tanzania has significantly invested in its digital banking services to support the government's efforts to make banking more accessible and affordable for all Tanzanians.

Ndabu Lilian Swere, the bank's Head of Retail Banking, announced this on Tuesday during the first draw of the ongoing "Spend & Win" campaign, which is aimed at encouraging customers and the public to use cards or digital banking services for their transactions.

"This three-month campaign is designed to reward our customers who use ATM cards or digital platforms for banking transactions. Our systems allow custom-

ers to access services quickly and conveniently, helping them achieve their financial goals," said Ndabu.

"We have enhanced our digital services to align with the government's initiative to expand banking services to the underserved, while continuing to support traditional banking methods."

She added, "Our digital systems are fast and secure, with enhanced measures that meet international standards. We assure our customers that they can conduct their transactions safely through our digital platforms without worry."

Aron Luhanga, the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, emphasized that the campaign aligns with Absa's mis-

sion to empower the future of Africa and Tanzania, following the bank's brand promise, "Your Story Matters."

"As we present these rewards to our customers and enhance services through digital channels, we believe we are contributing to success stories for our customers and winners. We are also supporting the government's mission to extend banking services across Tanzania," said Luhanga.

The "Spend & Win" campaign will run for three months, with a new winner announced each month, who will receive a brand new Subaru Forester valued at over 40m/-. To qualify, customers need to regularly use cards or online banking services. Rashid Nassoro Said, a Dar es Salaam

resident, was the first to win, taking home one of the cars.

Meanwhile, Absa, has honoured its esteemed customers with an appreciation breakfast as a token for loyalty of long-served customers.

The event held yesterday in Dar es Salaam brought together some of the bank's long-standing customers and offered the bank an opportunity to express its gratitude for their continued support.

In his opening remarks, Managing Director Obedi Laiser highlighted the central role customers play in shaping the bank's operations and strategies.

"Our customers are the heart of everything we do. This breakfast is a small gesture of our appreciation for the trust and loyalty you have shown us;

As a bank, we are fully committed to walking the talk by anticipating and meeting your needs at every step. Your continued support has been the cornerstone of our success, and we will continue striving to exceed your expectation," he told the invited customers.

The breakfast coincided with the conclusion of International Customer Service Week, which was celebrated under the theme "Above and Beyond".

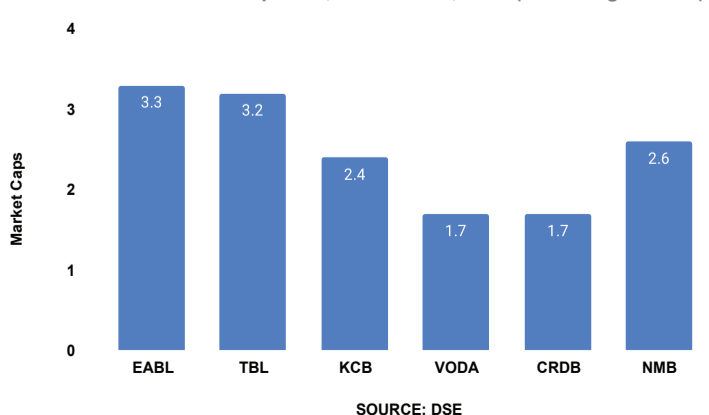
This theme resonates deeply with Absa Bank Tanzania's commitment to surpassing customer expectations and providing exceptional service.

Laiser reaffirmed the bank's dedication to delivering customer experiences that are seamless, efficient, and human-centered, going above and beyond to meet both current and future financial needs.

"At Absa, we are committed to providing the highest standards of service. Responsiveness, efficiency, privacy, and integrity are the key pillars that drive our customer experience. Our people are at the core of this mission. We invest in their development to ensure we consistently deliver exceptional service. We work as one team, keeping our customers at the center of everything we do," he said.

He further emphasized that the bank strives to provide a service that is effortless, consistent, seamless, and error-free, while ensuring customers are kept informed at every step.

DSE's Most Valuable Companies, as at Oct 22, 2024 (in Shillings Trillion)



# Don't just fill the shoes—own them: The art of owning the acting role

By Godwin Jaha Semunyu

The HR letter lands on your desk with a thud. Congratulations! You've been appointed as the acting Head of Sales—temporarily, of course. You pause and stare at the word “acting.” It feels like a placeholder, doesn't it? Something interim, fleeting, until the real leader steps in. But what if I told you that “acting” is nothing more than a label, and your opportunity to lead could be just as real as any permanent role?

My late mother, Odilia, would have said: Why not? She was right. Too many people see acting roles as stepping into someone else's shoes, just to keep them warm. But the truth is, this is your moment to make those shoes yours—to turn a temporary role into a permanent leap in your career.

You see, acting roles are often misunderstood. They're viewed as transitional, a way to maintain the status quo until a permanent replacement comes in. But that view

couldn't be more wrong. In reality, acting positions are golden opportunities to showcase your leadership potential. You have the chance not just to manage the current state of things, but to elevate them. You're not filling a gap; you're proving you belong in the seat for good.

Consider the data. A Korn Ferry study shows that 60 percent of interim leaders go on to secure the permanent position. And according to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), 70 percent of leadership roles are filled internally. The numbers are on your side. If you approach the role with the right mindset, the title of “acting” could be the beginning of your permanent journey as a leader.

## The story of Tim Cook: From acting to owning

Let's rewind to 2009. Steve Jobs, the iconic CEO of Apple, took a leave of absence for health reasons. Who stepped in? Tim Cook, the then-Chief Operating Officer. At that moment, Cook could have played



it safe, kept the wheels turning, and simply maintained the status quo. But that's not what he did. Instead, Cook took the reins fully, making

bold, strategic decisions, positioning Apple to continue its growth trajectory. He didn't just fill the role—he made it his own.

## Taking the leap

Let me share a personal story. Early in my career, I was thrust into a situation that felt daunting at the time. I was working as a Marketing and Research Officer, minding my own business, when I was asked to step into the role of Public Relations Manager—temporarily. It was a significant shift, not just in title, but in responsibilities and expectations. I hesitated. But then, I thought about my mother's words—Why not? What was the worst that could happen? The rest, as they say, is history.

## How to stand out in an acting role

You might be wondering: How do I make sure I'm not just filling a gap? The answer lies in three key principles that separate those who thrive in acting roles from those who simply survive.

1. Own the Role: The moment you're appointed to an acting position, let go of the idea that you're just “filling in.” Step into the

role as if it's already yours permanently. Take ownership of the responsibilities, and act as though the title is already confirmed. This is not just a test of your competence—it's a chance to demonstrate your confidence in leading.

2. Drive Results: Leadership isn't about treading water. It's about making waves. Identify key areas that need improvement and start making decisions that lead to measurable success. Whether it's increasing revenue, streamlining operations, or boosting team morale, show that you're not just keeping things running—you're making them better.

3. Build Relationships: People will remember how you led, but they'll also remember how you made them feel. Strengthen relationships with your team, peers, and senior management. Acting roles provide a unique window to prove your influence

and ability to build trust. These relationships will not only help you secure the role permanently but will also shape your long-term success.

## The Power of Perception

Let's address the elephant in the room. You may think the title of “acting” diminishes your authority. But the truth is, how others see you begins with how you see yourself. If you approach the role with the mindset of a temporary caretaker, that's how others will treat you. But if you step into the role as a leader—decisive, confident, and forward-thinking—people will start to view you as the real deal.

## Seizing the opportunity

Whether you're in an acting role for a few weeks or several months, see it as the opportunity of a lifetime. It's not just about keeping things running—it's about stepping up and leaving a mark.

If you ever find yourself in an acting role, don't just view it as a temporary assignment. See it for what it truly is—an opportunity to showcase your leadership potential, to prove that you're more than capable of making the role your own. The title may be temporary, but the legacy you create can be permanent.

Don't just fill the shoes—own them.

Godwin Jaha Semunyu

# The future of customer service in digital world

By Joseph Mwaipasi

AMERICAN technological research and consulting firm Gartner predicted that 80 percent of customer service and support organizations will be applying generative AI technology in some form to improve agent productivity and customer experience.

In an age defined by rapid digital transformation, the landscape of customer service in banking has undergone a remarkable evolution. As customers increasingly seek seamless experiences and personalized interactions, banks must adapt to this changing landscape.

Today's customers are not just looking for products; they desire experiences that cater to their specific needs. According to a 2023 report by McKinsey, over 70 percent of customers expect personalized interactions, and banks that leverage data to tailor their services can improve customer satisfaction by 20 percent.

In Tanzania, the adoption of digital solutions is gaining momentum. By the start of 2024, there were 21.82 million internet users in Tanzania, with an internet penetration rate of 31.9 percent. The country's mobile cellular connections have grown to 67.72 million this year, equivalent to 99 percent of the total population.

Moreover, there has been a concerted effort to enhance internet accessibility. This commitment underscores Tanzania's dedication to developing a robust digital economy and ensuring that a substantial portion of its population can access both the internet and mass media, facilitating widespread connectivity and information access.

However, the adoption of digital solutions brings forth challenges. Concerns over data privacy and security have become para-



mount.

A study by Privacy Engine, a data privacy management platform and consultancy, revealed that 60 percent of consumers believe their personal data is routinely misused by companies, and 68 percent are concerned about the amount of data collected.

This trepidation underscores the need for banks to balance innovation with security while assuring their clients of safety. Transparency in data usage and robust cybersecurity measures can alleviate these concerns, fostering trust in a digital-first approach.

One of the most significant milestones in this transformation is the rise of digital banking platforms. With mobile apps and online banking, customers can manage their finances anytime, anywhere. Standard Chartered Bank, for instance, has invested in innovative digital solutions like the SC Mobile app, which includes features that promote sustainable banking practices, aligning with a broader commitment to environmental and social governance. As we advance toward a more digitized financial

landscape, banks need to lead the charge in sustainable innovation, ultimately contributing to a healthier planet and a more equitable society.

Furthermore, the emergence of chatbots and virtual assistants has revolutionized customer support. These AI-driven tools offer immediate assistance, answering queries 24/7 and freeing human agents to focus on more complex issues. This shift has led to reduced waiting times and enhanced customer satisfaction.

The Tanzanian government has recognized the potential of the digital economy and is actively working to enhance digital infrastructure.

Initiatives such as the National ICT Policy and the Digital Tanzania initiative aim to promote internet accessibility, boost digital literacy, and encourage the adoption of technology across various sectors, including banking. By 2025, the government targets an 80 percent internet penetration rate and aims to ensure that 70 percent of the population is digitally literate. These efforts are essential in fostering an environment where digital

banking can thrive, making financial services more accessible to citizens.

As we reflect on customer service this month, it is crucial to acknowledge the role of empowered employees in this evolving digital landscape. Training staff to use technology effectively is key. When employees are equipped with the tools and knowledge to assist customers, they become crucial agents of positive change, enhancing customer loyalty and satisfaction.

The future of customer service in banking lies in a seamless integration of technology and human interaction. While AI and analytics will drive efficiency and insights, the human element will remain invaluable. As we navigate this digital era, banks must prioritize transparency, security, and employee empowerment to build strong, lasting relationships with key stakeholders.

The transformation of customer service in banking is not merely a trend but a necessity. By embracing innovation, financial institutions can set the stage for a future where customer service consistently exceeds expectations and fosters enduring loyalty.

Adopting sustainable digital practices—such as paperless transactions and energy-efficient technologies—can meet customer demands for responsible banking while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach not only improves customer experiences but also positions financial institutions as significant contributors to sustainable development. As banks commit to these innovations, they cultivate long-term loyalty with clients who share their vision for a sustainable future.

Joseph Mwaipasi (pictured) is a marketing expert based in Dar es Salaam.



## US rolls out 'open banking' rules to make sharing financial data easier

LONDON

The top US consumer finance watchdog has finalised long-awaited “open banking” rules that it hopes will inject more competition into a market with more than 4,000 lenders and make it easier for customers to link their bank accounts to newer apps.

The rules announced on Tuesday by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau bring the US more in line with the UK and Europe, which had previously codified rules around how financial data is to be shared.

“Too many Americans are stuck in financial products with lousy rates and service,” said CFPB director Rohit Chopra. “Today's action will give people more power to get better rates and service on bank accounts, credit cards and more.”

But in a sign of opposition from large US banks, one of the industry's main lobby groups swiftly announced a lawsuit challenging the rule on the grounds that it would jeopardise the safety of customers' data.

“If left unchallenged, technology companies subject to little to no oversight will have access to very sensitive information, like how much is in your account and where you spend your money,” said Greg Baer, head of the Bank Policy Institute which is challenging the rule.

The CFPB has been working on the so-called Section 1033 reforms for eight years, which stem from a provision in the 2010 landmark financial regulation Dodd-Frank act. Since the law was passed third-party apps that are linked to an individual's bank account have proliferated, without clear rules on how information should be best shared.

The information can be shared through an API (application-programming interface) that allows two websites to easily communicate with each other. But “screen scraping” — where consumers share their bank log-in details for bots to copy their financial information, a practice that regulators have taken a dim view of — is also still used in the US.

The CFPB's rules will compel banks to put in place systems that will facilitate consumer access to their financial data such as transaction history, account balances and payments details. The CFPB said it was requiring this data be made available for free, and that it hoped these rules would deter the use of screen scraping.

The issue of whether banks could charge a fee to third parties for data sharing had been an area of contention. Banking lobbyists had argued that banks should have the option to charge a fee given the costs of building systems to facilitate the data sharing. One aim for the rules is to make it easier for customers to use third-party apps and also stimulate more competition among banks. The US has about 4,000 banks, which range from behemoths such as JPMorgan Chase with more than \$2tn in deposits to local lenders with tens of millions of dollars in deposits.

Banks with more than \$850mn in assets and fintech companies will be subject to these new data sharing rules.

Advocates for open banking also argue that it could pave the way for greater adoption of direct account payments in the US, known as pay by bank, as a viable alternative to credit and debit cards that typically charge higher fees.

# Govt to maintain sustainable investment laws, regulations

By Correspondent Zuzena Shame

The government has attributed favorable investment policies and international exhibitions as key factors drawing investors to various sectors in Tanzania.

Speaking at the Automotive and Spare Parts, Oil and Gas, and Industrial Tools, Equipment, and Machinery Exhibition held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, James Maziko, the Director of Promotion and Investment at the Export Processing Zone Authority, emphasized that the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has developed sustainable investment laws and policies that have made the country an attractive destination for foreign and local investors alike.

Maziko highlighted that international exhibitions play a significant role in showcasing Tanzania's investment potential, giving foreign investors a chance to learn about the country's conducive environment while allowing local businesses to gain exposure to new technologies and practices.

"The combination of cost-effective international exhibitions and favorable policies and regulations has been a major draw for investors. Many participants from abroad not only bring expertise but also take home valuable insights into Tanzania's investment land-



The Director of Promotion and Empowerment at the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), James Maziko (L), listens to an explanation from exhibitor Stephano Mmari (R) during the 25th AUTOEXPO AFRICA 2024, an exhibition of industrial products, oil, and gas, held at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Miraji Msala

scape," Maziko said.

He cited the oil and gas sector as an example, where local players can learn from international participants, particularly those from non-African countries, who view Tanzania as a strategic marketing hub. Through such interactions, local investors can adopt modern technologies in the value chain, thus enhancing competitiveness.

Maziko also pointed to tire manufacturing as a promising area for local development.

He mentioned Superdoll Tanzania, a key player in this sector, which stands to benefit from competition

and innovation spurred by foreign exhibitors. This competition leads to the production of better-quality and more affordable products for the domestic market. "Our doors are open to investors from around the world, including Russia, a major rubber producer that exports to China for tire production. By encouraging such investors to establish operations here, we can capitalize on raw materials like rubber and manufacture high-quality, cost-effective tires locally," Maziko added.

He further noted that international exhibitions provide a unique opportunity

for Tanzania to promote itself to global investors, allowing them to witness firsthand the potential the country holds. The knowledge gained from these exhibitions can often exceed that acquired from overseas study tours.

"These exhibitions are cost-effective and have a tremendous impact on the nation. Tanzania's political and social stability has also encouraged more international participation, allowing foreign investors to observe and experience the conducive environment themselves," Maziko remarked.

He stressed that many in-

vestors who come to Tanzania comply with the country's regulatory framework, including environmental, health, labor, and immigration laws, which has further facilitated smooth investment processes.

Duncan Njage, the Regional Marketing Director for Expogroup, noted that the three-day exhibition brought together key decision-makers, technical experts, and professionals from leading global companies involved in automotive, spare parts, oil and gas, industrial tools, equipment, and machinery.

"This exhibition is the ideal platform for exploring the latest technologies from world-leading companies. It allows foreign exhibitors to showcase their products and services to a highly qualified audience of industry decision-makers and experts in the region," said Njage.

He added that the event offers opportunities for local and foreign investors to form partnerships, which could result in increased job creation and economic growth for Tanzania.

Superdoll's Marketing Officer, Stephano Mmari, echoed this sentiment, stating that the exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for local manufacturers to connect with key industry players and demonstrate their expertise in producing durable and high-performance automotive products.

# African countries urged to balance foreign investment with national interests in mining

By Henry Mwangonde

Charles Robertson, a UK-based international investment expert, has advised African countries to adopt multifaceted strategies focused on education, stable legislation, and strategic resource management to navigate the complexities of foreign investment and national interests in the mining sector.

In an online interview with this publication, Robertson stressed the importance of educating citizens about the value of mineral resources.

He argued that an informed public can promote greater political stability and reduce resentment toward foreign investments, citing Botswana's successful model as an example.

He also pointed out significant disparities in mineral revenue per capita among nations, noting that



countries like Zambia and Nigeria are lagging behind, which has negatively impacted their infrastructure and education systems.

Robertson's insights shed light on the challenges and opportunities that countries face as they strive to foster economic growth while protecting local resources.

"When prices rise, governments often increase taxes, but during down-

turns, they leave investors unsupported," he cautioned, warning that such volatility can deter foreign investors seeking stability.

He emphasized the need to align foreign investments with national priorities, referencing Tanzania's historical challenges with foreign mining operations as a case in point. Robertson stressed the importance of clear and stable legislation that can attract investment

while safeguarding natural resources.

"Regulations should attract investment while ensuring our natural resources are protected," he asserted, urging governments to strike a balance that benefits both investors and citizens.

Job creation was another focal point of Robertson's discussion. He noted that the mining and oil sectors often fail to provide substantial employment opportunities.

Given Africa's rapid population growth, limited job prospects have heightened public frustration over foreign companies perceived as extracting resources without providing adequate local benefits.

"Educating girls leads to smaller families and increased savings," Robertson explained, emphasizing how empowering women can drive long-term

economic benefits. For countries like Tanzania, improving access to education is crucial to effectively harnessing their natural resources.

He also suggested that countries should carefully evaluate trade-offs before signing agreements that could jeopardize their resource sovereignty. "It's all about priorities," he said, advocating for thorough scrutiny of such decisions.

Robertson underscored the importance of involving local communities in discussions about foreign investments, calling for frameworks that promote genuine participation beyond basic corporate social responsibility initiatives.

"Transparency in investment approval processes is essential for building trust and ensuring that local communities truly benefit from resource exploitation," he concluded.

BANKING & FINANCE

# Bank, brewery firm partner to empower retailers, distributors

By Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) and Stanbic Bank Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly empower Tanzanian retailers and distributors through the Growing Retailers Innovatively Together (GRIT) and Resilient, Inclusive, Sustainable Enterprises (RISE) programmes.

This strategic partnership aims to foster local business growth by providing comprehensive business training, financial support, and mentorship, designed to ensure long-term sustainability and economic empowerment for those within TBL's value chain.

The GRIT programme is an outreach initiative aimed at equipping TBL retailers with entrepreneurial skills, such as business promotion and operational efficiency.

The programme seeks to boost sales, improve performance, and prepare retailers to meet market challenges and seize opportunities.

By upskilling retailers, GRIT aims to enhance their businesses, benefiting their families and broader communities while promoting shared growth. The initiative also focuses on increased investment in education to spur economic growth.

The RISE programme, driven by Stanbic Bank's Biashara Incubator, offers an ecosystem of financial inclusion, enterprise development, and market linkages to help microenterprises thrive, with a particular focus on women- and youth-led businesses.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania CEO, Manzi Rwegasira, underscored the significance of this approach: "Our role is to empower micro-enterprises by providing more than just financial support.

Through our RISE programme, we have reached over 1,000 businesses, and this partnership with TBL allows us to extend that impact even further."

Rwegasira emphasized that retailers and microenterprises form the backbone of Tanzania's economy. He noted that the partnership's focus on financial inclusion, enterprise growth, and business mentorship would ensure that participating retailers are well-positioned for sustainable growth, contributing to the country's broader economic development.

TBL Managing Director, Michelle Kilpin, expressed the company's commitment to economic empowerment: "This MoU with Stanbic Bank is a key component of our strategy to equip retailers with the skills and financial resources they need to thrive. Through the GRIT programme, we're promoting sustainable business practices that will ensure long-term success for our partners and contribute to Tanzania's economic growth."

As part of the agreement, TBL will develop a comprehensive retailer registration application and oversee the identification and registration of retailers within its database. The company will conduct outreach meetings and workshops to inform retailers of the training opportunities available to them.

Additionally, TBL will collaborate with its sales team to engage retailers and establish a streamlined registration process that includes eligibility verification and documentation collection.

The sales team will receive specialised training to provide effective advice to retailers, while a data collection system will be implemented to track training activities and outcomes.

Evaluations will be conducted to assess the programme's impact and identify areas for improvement.

Together, the GRIT and RISE programmes provide a holistic framework for business empowerment in Tanzania.

This partnership aligns with TBL's goal of supporting over 25,000 entrepreneurs by 2025, with a special focus on women-led businesses.

It also supports Stanbic Bank's vision of contributing to enterprise development, job creation, and sustainable economic growth, particularly for youth and women in business.

# Nigerian banks race to raise capital after order to bolster balance sheets

LAGOS

Nigerian banks are racing to find new sources of capital after the country's central bank ordered them to strengthen their balance sheets to protect themselves from the country's worsening economic situation.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, which supervises the country's 25 commercial banks, has given them until March 2026 to meet new capital requirements.

Those with international operations are expected to have at least N500bn (\$314mn) in capital. For banks with operations around the country the figure is N200bn and

for smaller regional operators it is N50bn.

"Bigger banks with [a] larger capital base and capacity can underwrite larger levels of credit which is critical to lubricate and catalyse the growth of the economy," the bank said.

The CBN is looking to promote stability in the industry while Nigeria struggles with a deteriorating economy.

Since June last year, there have been two devaluations of the naira as part of market friendly reforms to encourage overseas investment. As a result, the currency has lost almost 70 per cent of its value and inflation has risen past 30 per cent

to levels not seen since 1996.

Africa's largest economy as recently as two years ago, Nigeria has dropped to fourth place this year, driven by the volatile currency and declining productivity.

According to a Deloitte report, the total capital base of its banks had shrunk to \$1.8bn by earlier this year from \$5bn in 2022. For comparison, South Africa's Standard Bank, Africa's largest lender, has tier-one capital of \$11.9bn alone.

Nigerian banks are being encouraged to meet the new rules in three ways: rights issues and offers for subscription, mergers and acquisitions, or downgrading

their licences. They cannot use retained capital, debt or other assets already on their balance sheets to meet the new targets. Only paid-up capital and share premiums will count.

No bank currently has enough capital to meet the requirements and there have been blanket television, radio, online and billboard advertisements urging people to buy shares. The total shortfall for the industry is estimated at N4.8tn.

However, industry watchers do not expect the bigger ones to struggle with the new requirements. Some mid-tier lenders could find it harder and opt for mergers, or to downgrade their licences.

Oyinkansola Aregbesola, an investment research analyst at asset manager ARM, believes the new capital requirements will prompt at least three mergers among the smallest banks. Ngozi Odum, a financial services analyst at investment management company CardinalStone, agrees that some mergers are inevitable, but that this would be a "last resort".

Aregbesola also said there had been "positive sentiment" about share offers that had already been completed or announced. "There are subscriptions from different investors and it's not far-fetched given the performance of these banks...they have good fundamen-

tals that will attract investors."

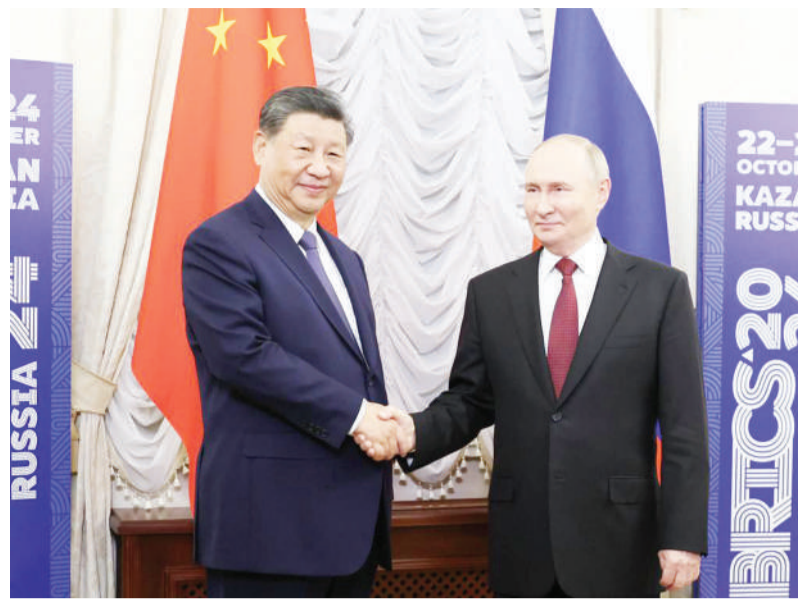
"Most of the investment will come from international investors," said Bolatito Bickersteth, a senior financial services analyst at research firm Stears.

Central bank boss Olayemi Cardoso previewed the higher capital requirements at the industry's big annual dinner last year. He said that while the banks were stable, they lacked the financial muscle to build the \$1tn economy envisioned by President Bola Tinubu by 2030.

Banks were given a month to submit their recapitalisation plans to the central bank – a deadline that passed in April. The plans are now being reviewed.

## WORLD

# Xi underscores BRICS' role in building multipolar world, driving globalisation



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan, Russia on Tuesday. Xinhua

**KAZAN, Russia,**

THE BRICS mechanism is a pillar in promoting a multipolar world and fostering an inclusive economic globalization, said Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday as leaders gathered in Kazan for the 16th BRICS Summit.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin ahead of the leaders' formal meetings. He noted that BRICS is the world's most important platform for solidarity and cooperation between emerging markets and developing countries.

He also voiced his hope to have in-depth discussions with Putin and other leaders participating in the summit on the future development of the BRICS mechanism, so as to secure more opportunities for the Global South.

Putin thanked China for its support during Russia's presidency of BRICS, stressing that Russia is ready to closely cooperate with China to ensure the success of the first BRICS Summit after its expansion and bolster BRICS cooperation.

Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan and the fifth-largest city in Russia, holds historical and cultural significance. Xi told Putin during their meeting that around 400 years ago, the Great Tea Road that connected the two countries went past Kazan, through which tea leaves from China's Wuyi Mountain region found their way into many Russian households.

The city is also home to Kazan Federal University, where notable figures like the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy and Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin studied.

Russian fighter jets escorted Xi's plane before its landing at the Kazan International Airport around noon on Tuesday. Guards of honor lined both sides of a red carpet to

lude Xi, while Russian youths in traditional attire offered him a warm welcome.

Kazan Mayor Ilсур Metshin, one of the Russian officials who greeted Xi at the airport, told Xinhua that the city is honored to host the Chinese president.

During the three-day summit, Xi will attend small- and large-scale leaders' meetings and the BRICS Plus leaders' dialogue. He will also have in-depth exchanges with leaders of other countries on the current international situation, BRICS cooperation, the development of the BRICS mechanism and important issues of common concern, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning.

## GREATER BRICS

Observers see the BRICS Summit as an opportunity for Global South countries to voice their needs.

Victoria Fedosova, deputy director of the Institute for Strategic Research and Forecasts of the Russian Peoples' Friendship University, said the very dynamic development of BRICS and the growth in its membership reflect a demand for a platform to address global issues.

"The BRICS mechanism has enormous potential in adjusting the imbalances in global development accumulated over the last 80 years," said Fedosova.

The New Development Bank (NDB) is a flagship project of BRICS cooperation. As the first multilateral development bank established by emerging economies, the NDB, headquartered in Shanghai, provides financing support for infrastructure development, clean energy, environmental protection, and the building of cyber infrastructure across BRICS countries.

Dilma Rousseff, president of the NDB who is also in Kazan, told Putin during a meeting on Tuesday that the summit is "very impor-

tant."

BRICS has emerged as "the core of this multipolar world" alongside other global and regional organizations, said British author and political commentator Carlos Martinez. "It is essential to move away from the dominance of Western voices and allow countries from the Global South to have a meaningful say in international relations," he said.

"BRICS, with its focus on inclusivity and equality, serves as a shining star of this new type of international relations," he said.

Zukiswa Robo, a researcher at Walter Sisulu University in South Africa, said that BRICS has "undoubtedly made notable strides in recent years," offering emerging economies easier access to financial resources and better opportunities for trade, investment and development.

Experts also highlighted China's role in BRICS cooperation and development. Timirkhan Alishev, vice rector for International Affairs at Kazan Federal University, told Xinhua that all initiatives introduced by China are rooted in multilateralism, fostering communication and dialogue on multiple levels.

"We see China puts a lot of efforts into developing BRICS," said Alishev, adding that there are no preconditions for BRICS cooperation as one can begin dialogue on equal footing with everyone.

## STRONGER APPEAL

The term BRIC was initially coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill, former chief economist at Goldman Sachs, as an investment concept referring to emerging market economies of

Brazil, Russia, India and China. With South Africa's inclusion in 2010, BRICS officially took shape.

Following last year's expansion, the BRICS grouping now represents approximately 30 percent of global GDP, nearly half of the world's population, and one-fifth of global trade.

"Measured by GDP, the BRICS countries have already surpassed the G7 in importance," said Rousseff in a recent interview with Xinhua.

One of the key priorities of Russia's BRICS chairmanship is integrating the new members into the BRICS framework, according to the official website. Other areas of practical cooperation include boosting trade and direct investment, as well as fostering a balanced and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy.

As BRICS' influence grows, its appeal has strengthened. Over 30 countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Türkiye and Azerbaijan have either formally applied for or expressed interest in its membership, while many other developing countries are seeking deeper cooperation with the group.

"Joining BRICS will benefit Thailand in many ways, including advancing cooperation with other developing countries and increasing its influence in the international arena," said Tang Zhimin, director of China ASEAN Studies at the Bangkok-based Panyapiwat Institute of Management.

BRICS "has become an engine of growth for the world economy and plays an important role in global policymaking," Tang added.

Xinhua

## Ecuador suspends recognition of Polisario's self-styled Sahrawi Republic

**DOHA**

ECUADOR has announced its decision to suspend recognition of the self-proclaimed "Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic" (SADR), a breakaway political entity established by the Polisario Front, which claims to represent the Western Sahara region in southern Morocco.

Ecuador had previously recognized this entity in 1983 and opened an "embassy" in 2009.

Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld informed her Moroccan counterpart, Nasser Bourita, of this decision during a telephone conversation, in which she also communicated the notification letter sent to the Polisario Front's representation in Quito.

Ecuador's decision aligns with the ongoing momentum initiated by King Mohammed VI in recent years to consolidate Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara and promote the 2007 Autonomy Plan as the sole basis for resolving this regional dispute.

This move marks a new chapter in relations between Morocco and the Latin American nation.

Prior to this development, Ecuador had expressed support for a mutually acceptable political solution to the Western Sahara issue during the 77th session of the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee in October 2022.

At the time, Ecuador's representative at the UN stated that the Western Sahara issue "requires a mutually acceptable political solution," in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2602 adopted in October 2021.

The significance of the bilateral relationship between Morocco and Ecuador was further underscored in July, when Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld met with Moroccan Ambassador to Colombia and Ecuador, Farida Loudaya, in Quito.

During the meeting, Sommerfeld emphasized her country's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Morocco in various fields, including political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and academic partnerships.

Ecuador's decision to suspend recognition of the Polisario Front's self-styled SADR is part of a broader trend in Latin America, a region that was once a stronghold of support for the separatist movement.

In recent years, an increasing number of Latin American countries have come to recognize that they had been misled by the Polisario Front's ideological propaganda and are now reassessing their positions on the Western Sahara issue.

Morocco's proactive and multidimensional diplomacy has played a crucial role in this shift, particularly in strengthening ties with strategic partners such as Brazil.

However, challenges remain in garnering support from some Latin American countries. As Morocco deepens its outreach to Latin America, overcoming these lingering challenges will require a renewed and pragmatic diplomatic approach that adapts to each country's specificities while countering the ideological and historical narratives propagated by Morocco's adversaries.

**Sinwar's death could aid hostage release, war goals: Israeli PM**

**JERUSALEM**

THE killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar could positively affect the release of Israeli hostages and help achieve the Israeli war's objectives, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday.

Sinwar's death could "positively influence the return of the hostages, the achievement of all war goals, and the post-war reality," said Netanyahu when meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to a statement released by the prime minister's office.

The "friendly and productive" meeting in Jerusalem, in which the two discussed the "governance framework in Gaza for the day after the war," lasted two and a half hours, the statement said. A press release by the U.S. Department of State showed that Blinken "reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security" during the meeting.

Following the meeting, Blinken wrote on social media platform X that he and Netanyahu "talked about the importance of seizing this opportunity to end the conflict in Gaza, return all hostages, and chart a path to lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike." Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and around 250 others taken hostage.

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip has risen to 42,718, the Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Tuesday. Sinwar was killed in an Israeli attack on southern Gaza in mid-October. Xinhua



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other world leaders, pose for the BRICS family photo, at Kazan Expo Center, BRICS Summit venue, in Kazan yesterday. ANI

# BRICS provides alternative funding, diplomacy options for developing countries, says expert

**JOHANNESBURG**

BRICS has provided more funding options to support development in emerging economies and strengthened the voices of the Global South in international relations, said a South African expert.

Emmanuel Matambo, research director of the Center for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johannesburg, made the remarks during a recent interview with Xinhua.

Economically, Matambo noted, BRICS has provided alternative funding options for emerging markets and developing countries, allowing them to address issues like infrastructure development, energy crises, and climate change.

"This is crucial as these countries often face stringent conditions from Western institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," he said.

He noted that the most crucial

development in this regard was the establishment of the New Development Bank in 2015, which offers more favorable loans than those from the IMF or the World Bank.

The expert said BRICS pushes for the establishment of a more just and stable international order based on economic cooperation, political security and cultural exchanges.

He noted that BRICS convened an extraordinary joint summit last November to address the situation in Gaza. Leaders attending the summit expressed grave concern over the Palestinian-Israeli situation and condemned all acts of violence against civilians.

"This unified diplomatic front strengthened BRICS' international voice," he said.

In 2006, foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China held a meeting marking the beginning of BRIC cooperation. In response to the 2008 International financial crisis, leaders of the four countries held a meeting in

Russia in June 2009, and officially launched the BRIC cooperation mechanism.

In December 2010, the four countries formally admitted South Africa to the grouping, turning BRIC into BRICS. At last year's summit, the group made a landmark decision on further expansion.

"This expansion enhances BRICS' geographical representation," Matambo said.

BRICS "treats each member equally in decision-making," and

countries are attracted to this egalitarian structure, said the expert. Xinhua



**This unified diplomatic front strengthened BRICS' international voice**



## NATO membership no obstacle to joining BRICS, says Kremlin

KAZAN

NATO membership is not an obstacle to joining BRICS, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"From the point of view of BRICS and the main approaches of BRICS, there are no objections here," the spokesman told the NTV channel, answering a question about Turkey's chances of becoming a member of the association.

Earlier, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that he "sincerely wants to develop cooperation with the association." Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also confirmed Ankara's interest in joining BRICS.

Being an EU member state will not be an obstacle to joining BRICS either. Peskov pointed out that BRICS in principle does not set conditions for its participants and partners. "These are the conditions that they like setting in NATO, in the EU: 'either you're with the EU or with Russia,' 'either you're in BRICS or in NATO.'" But in BRICS no one says such things, and this makes the organization even more attractive," he said.

The Kremlin spokesman recalled that BRICS has no statutes or binding treat-



ties. "But what is the most important thing?"

There is a political will that unites countries that share the same vision of development prospects. Be it political development, economic development, cultural development and so on.

It is an atmosphere in which each other's interests are taken into account. It is an atmosphere where there are no hegemonic aspirations. There is no country that claims to be the backbone of the organization," Peskov added.

## IMF maintains 2024 global growth forecast at 3.2 pct, warns of geopolitical tensions

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday maintained its global growth forecast in 2024 at 3.2 percent, consistent with its projection in July, according to its newly released World Economic Outlook (WEO).

The level of uncertainty surrounding the global economic outlook is high, the report noted. "Newly elected governments (about half of the world population has gone or will go to the polls in 2024) could introduce significant shifts in trade and fiscal policy," the report said.

"Moreover, the return of financial market volatility over the summer has stirred old fears about hidden vulnerabilities. This has heightened anxiety over the appropriate monetary policy stance – especially in countries where inflation is persistent and signs of slowdown are emerging," it further said.

The report also noted that a further intensification of geopolitical rifts could weigh on trade, investment and the free flow of ideas. "This could affect long-term growth, threaten the resilience of supply chains, and create difficult trade-offs for central banks," it said.

In response to a question from Xinhua, IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said at a press conference that rising geopolitical tensions are "something that we are very concerned about," noting that there are two dimensions of the impact.

"One is, of course, if you increase tariffs, for instance, between different blocks, that will disrupt trade, that will misallocate resources, that will weigh down on economic activity," said Gourinchas.

"But there is also an associated layer that comes from the uncertainty that increases related to future trade policy, and it will also depress investment, depress economic activity and consumption," he

continued.

The chief economist noted that the IMF has found an impact on global output levels of approximately 0.5 percent in 2026. "So it's a quite sizable effect of both an increase in tariffs between different countries and an increase in trade policy uncertainty," he said.

According to the latest WEO report, global growth is projected to hold steady, but there are weakening prospects and rising threats.

The growth outlook is very stable in emerging markets and developing economies, around 4.2 percent this year and next, with continued robust performance from emerging Asia, the report said.

Noting that the return of inflation near central bank targets paves the way for a policy triple pivot, Gourinchas said that the first pivot – on monetary policy – is under way already.

The second pivot is on fiscal policy, he noted. "After years of loose fiscal policy in many countries, it is now time to stabilize debt dynamics and rebuild much-needed fiscal buffers," Gourinchas said.

The third pivot – and the hardest – is toward growth-enhancing reforms, he said. "Much more needs to be done to improve growth prospects and lift productivity," he said.

The IMF chief economist noted that while industrial and trade policy measures can sometimes boost investment and activity in the short run, especially when relying on debt-financed subsidies, "they often lead to retaliation and fail to deliver sustained improvements in standards of living."

"Economic growth must come instead from ambitious domestic reforms that boost technology and innovation, improve competition and resource allocation, further economic integration and stimulate productive private investment," he added.

## Renovated Africa Hall inaugurated amid call for advancing Africa's transformation

ADDIS ABABA

UNITED Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, along with African Union (AU) officials, on Monday inaugurated the renovated Africa Hall, the birthplace of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor of the AU, in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with a call for embracing common aspirations and advancing the cause of Africa's transformation.

The Africa Hall, which was originally unveiled in 1961 by the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, served as a place where African leaders had been deliberating on pressing issues including independence, freedom, development, and a brighter future for their continent.

Speaking at the event, Guterres said the renovated building symbolizes renewed hope and unity for Africa, which will serve as a bridge between Africa's past and future, honoring shared struggles and achievements while embracing common aspirations.

"This hall is where Africa came together to give life to the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union," Guterres said, acknowledging the trans-

formation of the continent from its early days of independence to the present.

"I also see it as an invitation for everyone to cooperate in pursuit of a better future for Africa and for the world," he said.

He said the Africa Hall has been a symbol of collective aspirations of the continent, a testament to its resilience, and a beacon of hope for entire generations, noting that the renovated facility preserves the grandeur and history of the continent.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa Claver Gatete said the renovated Africa Hall is an important investment that positions Ethiopia for greater tourism growth while celebrating Africa's collective history and future.

Noting that some of the world's iconic landmarks such as China's Great Wall provide practical examples of how history and culture can draw millions of visitors annually, and also contribute to shared prosperity, Gatete said Africa is waiting to share its rich history with the world through its over 130 world heritage sites.

## Zimbabweans adopt traditional crops to fight hunger

HARARE

AS Zimbabwe grapples with a drought that has been declared a state of disaster, traditional grains such as sorghum and millet are providing a sustainable solution to food insecurity.

Unlike the main staple maize, which needs lots of water to thrive, traditional grains are tropically adapted crops due to their structural characteristics. "They just grow like grass," said Diana Sedze, a small-scale farmer from Nyanga District in Manicaland Province. "If you grow traditional grains, you are guaranteed a harvest."

Sedze said growing traditional grains and consuming traditional foods is in line with food sovereignty, a concept that allows communities to control the way their food is produced, consumed, and traded.

Sedze is a member of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOF), an organization that envisions improved livelihoods of organized and empowered smallholder farmers practicing sustainable and ecological agriculture. She joined other farmers recently to mark World Food Day at an event organized by ZIMSOF at Shashe Agroecology School in Masvingo Province.

The school aims to empower local farmers by promoting the exchange of experiences and disseminating agroecological and sustainable agriculture practices.

Traditional grains were grown in Zimbabwe for generations, but maize became the preferred cereal as colonization influenced and disrupted conventional agricultural practices. Despite being drought-resistant, traditional grains are often allocated a small portion of land and are not given the same value as maize by many Zimbabwean farmers.

As rainfall patterns become increasingly unpredictable, maize yields are declining. The bulk of the 2023/2024 rain-fed maize crop was declared a complete write-off due to an El Niño-induced drought, leaving more than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's population food insecure.

A shift to locally adapted traditional grains is now in motion, helping smallholder farmers ensure the constant availability of food. In Zimbabwe, traditional grains are ground into flour, which is used to cook a thick porridge known in the Shona language as Sadza. Sadza, the primary source of starch, holds cul-



Women prepare a traditional Zimbabwean meal in Shashe, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe, on Oct. 16, 2024. (Photo by Tafara Mugwara/Xinhua)

tural significance to the local cuisine and is served with meat and green vegetables.

"In addition to their nutritional value, traditional grains are cheap to produce. For example, crops like sorghum and millet do not require supplementary fertilizers. We just cultivate them using manure, so it's cost-effective," said Sedze.

Even health professionals encourage people to eat traditional grains due to their nutritional value. "I am a cancer survivor, and I was recommended to eat traditional grains because they are more nutritious," she added.

The production of traditional grains is in line with the Zimbabwean government's goal of achieving food and nutrition security at the household level. Farmers in regions with below-average rainfall are encouraged to grow traditional grains because of their drought tolerance.

Statistics show that the hectareage put under sorghum increased by 27 percent in the 2023/2024 season from the previous season, and that of pearl millet increased by 7.5 percent.

Janet Simbini, a farmer from Checheche in Manicaland Province, said people are beginning to notice the benefits of traditional grains.

"They take less time to mature. This

shields us from vulnerabilities," Simbini said. "A lot of people are coming to inquire about traditional grains because they are witnessing their resilience."

Simbini follows agroecological food production practices that rely on sustainably utilizing resources readily available on the farm, such as the use of manure. This protects the environment and makes farming more resilient, she said.

Elizabeth Mpfu, a farmer from Shashe and a member of ZIMSOF, emphasized the importance of food sovereignty. "The issue of sovereignty is very important. We want to have control over our food, how it's grown, and its distribution using the locally available resources," she said.

The Zimbabwean government is also pushing for the adoption of traditional food systems. "As a nation, we have an identity. We have the food that defines us as a people of Zimbabwe," Masvingo District Development Coordinator Kenneth Madziva told Xinhua in a recent interview, adding that the type of food that is consumed should be determined by the locals.

"We don't want a situation whereby you go to a market and buy something because that's what is there. We are saying we need our locally produced food," he said.

## Year-long Gaza war has set development in Palestine back nearly 70 years - UN report

UNITED NATIONS

THE impact of the year-long war in the Gaza Strip, alongside with escalations in the West Bank, has set development in Palestine back by about 69 years, with poverty possibly rising to 74.3 percent in 2024, according to a UN report published on Tuesday.

"Without lifting economic restrictions, enabling recovery, and investing in development, the Palestinian economy may not be able to restore pre-war levels and advance forward by relying on humanitarian aid alone," said the report released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

The report, titled "Gaza war: Expected socioeconomic impacts on the State of Palestine," presented three recovery scenarios for Palestine. Given that the recovery will be a long-term process, the report assessed both the immediate impact

projected for 2025 and the long-term impact anticipated by 2034, a decade after the start of the conflict.

Projections estimated that gross domestic product (GDP) for Palestine will contract by 35.1 percent in 2024 compared with a no-war scenario, with unemployment potentially rising to 49.9 percent.

Building on findings published in November and May, the report estimated that poverty in Palestine will rise to 74.3 percent in 2024, affecting 4.1 million people, including 2.61 million people who are newly impoverished.

The assessment also examined the extent and depth of deprivation, employing multidimensional poverty indicators and including recovery prospects for Palestine after a ceasefire is reached.

According to the analysis, the non-restricted early recovery scenario sees restrictions on Palestinian workers lifted and withheld clearance revenues restored to the Palestinian authority.

In addition to 280 million U.S. dollars in humanitarian aid, 290 million dollars is allocated annually for recovery efforts, resulting in an increase in productivity by 1 percent annually, enabling the economy to recover and putting Palestinian development back on track.

The assessment suggested that a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction plan, combining humanitarian aid with strategic investments in recovery and reconstruction along with lifting economic restrictions, could help put the Palestinian economy back on track to realign with Palestinian development plans by 2034.

However, this scenario can only play out if recovery efforts are unrestricted, said UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner. "Projections in this new assessment confirm that amidst the immediate suffering and horrific loss of life, a serious development crisis is also unfolding – one that jeopardises the future of Palestinians for generations to

come."

Steiner said the assessment indicates that "even if humanitarian aid is provided each year, the economy may not regain its pre-crisis level for a decade or more."

As conditions on the ground allow, the Palestinian people need a robust early recovery strategy embedded in the humanitarian assistance phase, laying foundations for a sustainable recovery, he said.

"Our assessments serve to sound the alarm over the millions of lives that are being shattered and the decades of development efforts that are being wiped out," UNESCWA Executive Secretary Rola Dashti noted.

"It is high time to end the suffering and bloodshed that have engulfed our region," Dashti highlighted. "We must unite to find a lasting solution where all peoples can live in peace, dignity and reap the benefit of sustainable development and where international law and justice are finally upheld."



People flee from Jabalia, northern Gaza Strip, after the Israeli army asked them to leave a school where they had sought refuge, on Oct. 19, 2024.

## SGR out to boost sports promotion in Lake Zone, Coast Zone regions

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

**T**RANSPORT and sports share deep connections beyond either mere coincidence or spelling similarities.

Transport also plays a crucial role in community development by bringing people together for local sports events, fostering social cohesion, and having a sense of belonging.

Once a regional pursuit, football's transformation into today's lucrative industry owes much to transport infrastructure - roads, airlines, and the railway networks - with the country having lately delved into investing in Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

These developments have created an opportunity for Tanzania to effectively host various tournaments, ranging from local to international.

The country can lately host CAF and FIFA tournaments, thanks to the presence of standard sports facilities and modern infrastructure.

The relationship between transport and sports is multi-faceted, influencing accessibility, economic dynamics, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, health, and operational logistics.

The obvious starting point is the actual and perceived lack of access to sports, whether it has to do with participating or spectating.

An efficient transport network enables athletes, fans, and support staff to access sports facilities and events.

Public transport, roads, and parking facilities are essential for accessing regular training sessions, matches, and competitions.

Soccer fans and the remainder of sports stakeholders now can hardly think of spending eight hours to trav-

el from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma to watch a league game and plan another budget for accommodation in either lodges or hotels, given Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) came with a solution.

Since the SGR line began its operations, with the train hauling passengers from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and later Dodoma, it has significantly cut time spent on the road from eight to three hours of travelling with the express electric multiple-unit train.

Reduction in transport expenses for those who were booking airlines is also an aspect brought about by investing in the SGR.

The SGR is an economic and time-saving solution.

Simple improvements to the transport network and infrastructure can increase participation in sports, making it easier for people from various regions, including rural and perceived underserved areas, to access sports facilities and events.

Partnership is key to increasing inclusivity as demonstrated, this initiative enables residents facing travel challenges to participate in sporting activities that will take place between Lake Zone and Coast Zone regions.

This service, a collaboration between TRC and sports and entertainment stakeholders, facilitates the transportation of participants from their homes to the leisure centres.

An economist, Sophia Mhando, simply highlighted the transformative impact of this service in addressing inequalities by removing travel barriers.

She said previously, many potential participants in sports were unable to attend various events due to financial constraints, mobility issues, or the inability to travel inde-



Tanzania's senior national soccer side's forward, Clement Mzize (R), negotiates his way past Ethiopia's Abinet Demissie (L) and Yared Baye in the Group H match of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers in Dar es Salaam on September 4, this year. It ended in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

pendently.

Sophia disclosed: "This first-ever electric train has alleviated these obstacles. It has not only reduced social isolation and promoted physical activities but also boosted the development of sporting opportuni-

ties."

"In recent years, the rise of budget airlines has also facilitated the development of many economic as well as social issues, including reducing time - a potential factor in produc-

Sophia stated: "Fans can now travel into the hinterland, and once the other TRC railway line reaches Mwanza and Kigoma, the fanatics will smoothly and cheaply travel to watch their teams play and return to their homes. The match between

Dodoma Jiji FC and Simba SC was a good example."

Transport has undoubtedly fuelled the development of sports in Tanzania and travelling sports fans have significantly contributed to the profits that TRC and airlines enjoy.

## LeBron and Bronny James make history as the NBA's first father-son duo to play together

By GREG BEACHAM

LEBRON James gave his 20-year-old son a pep talk before they rose from the Lakers bench. Amid rising cheers, they walked together to the scorer's table - and then they stepped straight into basketball history.

LeBron and Bronny became the first father and son to play in the NBA together Tuesday night during the Los Angeles Lakers' season opener, fulfilling a dream set out a few years ago by LeBron, the top scorer in league history.

"That moment, us being at the scorer's table together and checking in together, it's a moment I'm never going to forget," LeBron said. "No matter how old I get, no matter how my memory may fade as I get older or whatever, I will never forget that moment."

Father and son checked into the game against Minnesota simultaneously with four minutes left in the second quarter, prompting a big ovation from a home crowd aware of the enormity of the milestone. The 39-year-old LeBron had already started the game and played 13 minutes before he teamed up with his 20-year-old son for about 2 1/2 minutes of action.

LeBron James is one of the greatest players in NBA history, a four-time champion and 20-time All-Star, while LeBron James Jr. was a second-round pick by the Lakers last summer. They are the first father and son to play in the world's top basketball league at the same time, let alone on the same team.

"Y'all ready? You see the intensity, right? Just play carefree, though," father told son on the bench before they checked in, an exchange captured by the TNT cameras and microphones. "Don't worry about mistakes. Just go out and play hard."

Their time on court together was fast and furious, just as LeBron promised.

LeBron, who finished the night with 16 points, missed two perimeter shots before making a dunk. Bronny had an early offensive rebound and missed a tip-in, and his first NBA jump shot mo-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) passes to guard Bronny James (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

ments later was a 3-pointer that came up just short. He checked out one possession later with 1:19 left in the second quarter, getting another ovation.

Bronny didn't play again in the Lakers' 110-103 victory over the Timberwolves.

"(I) tried not to focus on everything that's going on around me, and tried to focus on going in as a rookie and not trying to mess up," Bronny said. "But yeah, I totally did feel the energy, and I appreciate Laker Nation for showing the support for me and my dad."

After the final whistle on the Lakers' first opening-night victory in LeBron's seven seasons with the team, father and son also headed to the locker room together - but not before stopping in the tunnel to hug Savannah James, LeBron's wife and Bronny's mother. The entire family was in attendance to watch history - on little sister Zhuri's 10th birthday, no less.

Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey

Jr. also were courtside at the Lakers' downtown arena to witness the same history they made in Major League Baseball. The two sluggers played 51 games together for the Seattle Mariners in 1990 and 1991 as baseball's first father-son duo.

The Jameses and the Griffey family lines met during pregame warmups for some photos and a warm chat between two remarkable family lines.

LeBron first spoke about his dream to play alongside Bronny a few years ago, while his oldest son was still in high school. The dream became real after Bronny entered the draft as a teenager following one collegiate season, and the Lakers grabbed him with the 55th overall pick.

"I talked about it years and years ago, and for this moment to come, it's pretty cool," LeBron said. "I don't know if it's going to actually hit the both of us for a little minute, but when we really get to sit back and take it in, it's pretty crazy. ... But in the

moment, we still had a job to do when we checked in. We wasn't trying to make it a circus. We wasn't trying to make it about us. We wanted to make it about the team." LeBron and Bronny joined a small club of father-son professional athletes who played together. The Griffey family made history 34 years ago, and they even homered in the same game on Sept. 14, 1990.

Baseball Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum and his namesake son also accomplished the feat with the Baltimore Orioles in 2001.

In hockey, Gordie Howe played alongside his two sons, Mark and Marty, with the WHA's Houston Aeros and Team Canada before one NHL season together on the Hartford Whalers in 1979-80, when Gordie was 51.

While the other family pairings on this list happened late in the fathers' careers, LeBron shows no signs of slowing down or regressing as he begins his NBA record-tying 22nd season.

LeBron averaged more than

25 points per game last year for his 20th consecutive season, and he remains the most important player on the Lakers alongside Anthony Davis as they attempt to recapture the form that won a championship in 2020 and got them to the Western Conference finals in 2023.

Bronny survived cardiac arrest and open heart surgery in the summer of 2023, and he went on to play a truncated freshman season at the University of Southern California. He declared for the draft anyway, and the Lakers eagerly used the fourth-to-last pick in the draft on the 6-foot-2 guard.

LeBron spent the summer in Europe with the gold medal-winning U.S. team at the Paris Olympics, while Bronny played for the Lakers in summer league. They started practicing together with the Lakers before training camp.

The duo first played together in the preseason, logging four minutes during a game against Phoenix just outside Palm

Springs earlier this month.

"It's been a treat," LeBron said at Tuesday's morning shoot-around. "In preseason, the practices, just every day ... bringing him up to speed of what this professional life is all about, and how to prepare every day as a professional." The Lakers were fully aware of the history they would make with this pairing, and coach JJ Redick spoke with the Jameses recently about a plan to make it happen early in the regular season.

The presence of the Griffey family likely made it an inevitability for opening night, even though Redick said the Lakers still wanted it "to happen naturally, in the flow of the game."

The Lakers have declined to speculate on how long Bronny will stay on their NBA roster. Los Angeles already has three other small guards on its roster, and Bronny likely needs regular playing time to raise his game to a consistent NBA standard.

Those factors add up to indicate Bronny is likely to join the affiliate South Bay Lakers of the G League at some point soon. LeBron and Redick have both spoken positively about the South Bay team, saying that player development is a key part of the Lakers organization.

Miami forward Kevin Love, who knew all the James children - Bronny, Bryce and Zhuri - from his time as LeBron's teammate in Cleveland, said it was "an unbelievable moment" to see father and son playing together.

"I grew up a Mariners fan, so I got to see Griffey and then Griffey Sr. But this is different, because LeBron is still a top-five player in the league," Love said. "This game, man. It's why we have that (\$76 billion) TV deal. The storylines and the things that happen like this, it's an unbelievable story. This is really cool to see."

AP

## Man U make contact with Xavi about replacing Erik ten Hag

Football Espana

Barcelona manager Xavi Hernandez did not leave the club in the most ideal fashion, sacked just weeks after the club had given him a public show of confidence, and he stepped back from his resignation.

He did break a three-year La Liga drought with Barcelona though, and he has said he felt that his work was valued more elsewhere - it appears that is the case.

There have been rumblings of interest in Xavi over recent months when it looked as if he wouldn't be continuing at Barcelona, and now Manchester United have reportedly made contact with the Catalan over potentially taking over at Old Trafford.

As per DM (via Sport), United have made contact with Xavi twice over the last couple of months, and he is open to accepting a new challenge.

A four-person delegation traveled to Barcelona last week, including Sporting Director Omar Borrada, but this is not believed to be related to Xavi.

Clearly he is not the only candidate, and assistant Ruud van Nistelrooy would take over in the interim were ten Hag to lose his job.

Another of the top targets, Thomas Tuchel has taken over England, but Ruben Amorim and Edin Terzic are mentioned as alternatives.

Reportedly turning down Roma and Qatar as potential opportunities in recent months, Xavi has publicly declared that he would be interested in managing elsewhere, but would be taking a year off to relax after a stressful 2.5 years at Barcelona.

He has maintained that line so far, keeping a low profile in recent weeks, and speaking little publicly.

## Duran now 'on fire' but under Emery's 'control'

By Neil Johnston

JHON Duran has made a habit of coming off the substitutes bench and scoring for Aston Villa this season.

On Tuesday, the Colombia forward made his first start at Villa Park for 11 months and marked it with his side's second goal against Bologna in the Champions League.

Duran's celebrations were cut short when he was immediately replaced by Ollie Watkins, and he showed his displeasure by kicking the back of one of the dugout seats in frustration.

Unai Emery is not too upset with Duran's reaction, however.

Duran now has seven goals in all competitions while Watkins has five - two forwards delivering goals as Villa enjoy one of their best starts to a season for years.

"Duran got a goal again and he's on fire," former England defender Matt Upson told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"Villa have great competition for that centre-forward role, with him and Watkins capable of scoring goals."

"Duran is 'really funny'"

Rewind three weeks and Duran was the goal hero against Bayern Munich, coming off the bench to score the only goal of the game on a special night under the Villa Park floodlights.

His only previous start this season came in the Carabao Cup win over League One Wycombe Wanderers.

Against Bologna, Duran had five of his team's 16 attempts - including two on target, with his second beating Lukasz Skorupski from close range after an assist from the impressive Morgan Rogers.

"Duran has everything - he has technique, he can hold the ball and can flick on. He is an all-round striker," Villa midfielder Youri Tielemans told TNT Sports.

On Duran's reaction to being substituted, Tielemans added: "He is really funny. The manager does not care. He knows everyone wants to play. It is part of the game."

Villa have scored five goals in the Champions League this season with Duran, signed in an £18m deal from Chicago Fire in January 2023, netting two of them.

"Under my control"

Victory over Bologna came as Emery prepares to celebrate his second anniversary in charge of Villa.

Under the Spaniard, Villa have gone from Premier League strugglers to enjoying their best start to a Premier League season for 26 years.

Duran is clearly a big part of the club's future plans, with Emery brushing off the player's reaction when he came off, saying he had "no problem" with it.

Asked if he had any issues with Duran's reaction, Emery said: "No. I am managing everything and the reaction of players.

"We are sending a message in the dressing room: respect our values and try and be mature and be responsible. It's not only Jhon Duran, some other players react.

"But it's under my control."

"Watkins or Duran - who will start next?"

Who will start up front when Villa next play in the Champions League away to Club Brugge on 6 November?

"He played very well and he scored a good goal," added Emery about Duran's performance.

## 'Extraordinary' Vinicius Jr 'will win Ballon d'Or'

By Joe Rindl

**M**INUTES after Real Madrid fans were singing for Vinicius Jr to win the Ballon d'Or, the Brazil forward insisted he wanted to "stay at the club forever".

Vinicius Jr scored a sensational hat-trick against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday to help his side come from 2-0 down to win 5-2 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

He could not have timed his treble better with the Ballon d'Or, widely regarded as football's most prestigious individual trophy, awarded on Monday, 28 October.

After the match, Real manager Carlo Ancelotti called Vinicius Jr "an extraordinary character" and insisted he "will win the Ballon d'Or" based off his performances last season.

The talk is that the 24-year-old is the favourite to win the prestigious accolade having led Real to a La Liga-Champions League double last season, scoring in the Champions League final and also later being named as the competition's best player.

Off the pitch Vinicius Jr won the second ever Socrates Award last year, giv-



Vinicius Jr scored his first Champions League hat-trick and became the third Brazilian to net a Champions League hat-trick for Real, after Ronaldo (April, 2003) and Rodrygo (November, 2019). Agencies

ing to the footballer who has performed the best humanitarian work worldwide.

Many on social media feel the race for the Ballon d'Or has already been won after rumours emerged that Nike are to release special Mercurial Vinicius Jr golden boots two days after the ceremony.

Either way, Vinicius Jr's performance against Dortmund in the Champions

League phase can only help his cause.

**\*How did Vinicius Jr score his hat-trick against Dortmund?**

After starting with a tap-in to level the scores, Vinicius Jr's last two strikes against Dortmund were something special.

At 3-2, with the threat of a Dortmund equaliser hanging over Real Madrid, he picked

up the ball in his own half, raced down the left beating Emre Can with pure pace and fired a shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

He completed his hat-trick in stoppage time, this time running from 40 yards out, beating three defenders, and hammering a strike into the roof of the net.

He then celebrated by re-

moving his shirt, sprinting to the home fans who chanted "Ballon D'Or - Vinicius Ballon D'Or".

After the match, Vinicius Jr told Spanish news outlet Movistar: "It's a dream made reality when our fans chant my name, I want to keep rewarding them with more and more goals.

"I'm 24 and I want to stay with Madrid forever. I want to give everything back to a club which has given me so much."

**\*Who could rival Vinicius Jr for Ballon d'Or?**

There are 30 names on the Ballon d'Or's shortlist, including Englishmen Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka and Cole Palmer.

His closest challenger appears to be defensive midfielder Rodri who helped Manchester City win the Premier League title and Spain lift the European Championship last campaign.

But, according to the UK bookies, Vinicius Jr is the odds-on favourite.

He scored 26 goals and made 12 assists in 51 appearances for club and country last season, and would become just the third person not named Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to win the Ballon d'Or since 2007.

The others are team-mate Luka Modric in 2018 and Karim Benzema in 2022. Not bad company that.

BBC

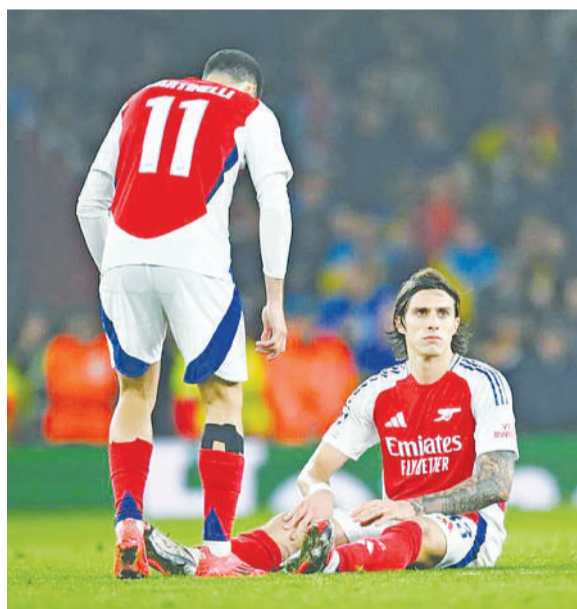
## Arsenal's Champions League win comes at a cost to increase injury headache

By Jamie Braidwood

IF there is a sense of apprehension around Arsenal at the moment, it went up a level late in the second half of this nervy 1-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League. The sight of Riccardo Calafiori hobbling off after an awkward slip and becoming the latest addition to their lengthy injury list gives Mikel Arteta another headache ahead of facing Liverpool on Saturday. "He felt something," Arteta said afterwards. "I don't know the extent of it so in that sense that's not great news."

His side had to dig in here to claim another three points in the Champions League against a resolute Shakhtar team. There was a dip in energy after Calafiori's injury, another after Leandro Trossard's penalty was saved in the 75th minute. Not for the first time in this Champions League, Arsenal were indebted to David Raya, whose strong arm kept out a dipping shot from Pedrinho in the 92nd minute. It denied what would have been a famous point for the Ukrainian side.

Calafiori's injury, though, had already added to Arsenal's concerns. In defence alone, Arteta will also be without the suspended William Saliba against Liverpool while Jurrien Timber was again sidelined, along with Oleksandr Zinchenko and Takehiro Tomiyasu. Arsenal finished the game here with Thomas Partey and Miles Lewis-Skelly as their full-backs, after Ben White was replaced on a booking at half time. White, at least, was not injured. Arteta did not want to risk a fourth red card of the season. There was another



Riccardo Calafiori added to Arsenal's injury list. Agencies

positive. Gabriel Martinelli seized control of Arsenal's attack and directed its flow through him, almost as if he was determined to prove a point after his costly miss at 0-0 in the defeat at Bournemouth on Saturday. The Brazilian was back close to his irreplaceable best here and forced Arsenal's only goal of the night, itself an unfortunate deflection off Shakhtar goalkeeper Dmytro Riznyk, but provided much more of his devastating speed and dribbling besides. "He looked really sharp, really fresh," Arteta said. "He offered another level of threat."

How Arsenal needed it. Once again without Bukayo Saka, Martinelli's directness pulled Arsenal's patterns down his left side. With Arsenal's play so often dominated by Saka and Martin Odegaard on the opposite flank, Arteta has long craved the same effectiveness on his left. With a fit and firing Martinelli restored and partnered with Calafiori, he may have found it, but another solution is likely to be required for the arrival of Liverpool this weekend in what is a must-win game following the Bournemouth defeat.

penalty spot but his effort, sent straight down the middle, was saved by Riznyk.

At least that was a moment for the visiting fans to celebrate. Shakhtar were representing Ukraine as much as themselves in London. With its domestic league heavily impacted by the ongoing Russian invasion of their homeland, Ukrainian clubs have unimaginable hurdles to overcome to compete on the continental stage but Shakhtar were determined to fight for their nation. The away section was coloured by the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag.

Yet it felt like it could be a long evening for Shakhtar in the opening stages. Their inaccuracy in possession when playing out from the back invited pressure and allowed Arsenal to dominate without looking particularly sharp themselves. But without Saka, it was difficult to escape the sense that Arsenal were missing something, especially so as Trossard took corners with his left foot in an attempt to replicate Saka's inswinging delivery.

Although that did lead to an early chance, blazed over by Calafiori seven yards out. There

were long-range shots from Calafiori and Declan Rice, neither at all troubling, and a near-post flick from Trossard, again harmlessly wide. The creator was Martinelli, Arsenal's liveliest spark. The breakthrough arrived as the Brazilian cut into the penalty area and onto his right foot, shifted it a further step, and fired low towards the near post. Riznyk may have made the save if Martinelli's shot had not taken a touch on the way through. Instead, it rebounded off the post and went in off his back.

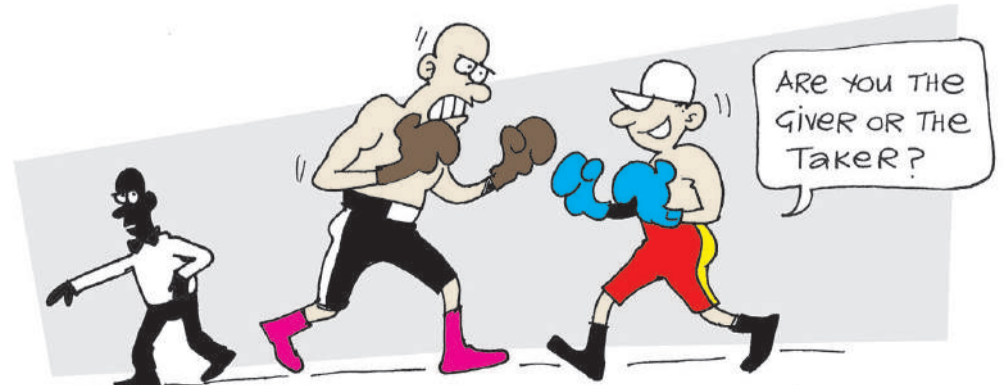
Arsenal stepped it up in the closing stages of the half. Martinelli's cross found Jesus at the back post and it took an excellent clearance from Matvyenko to deny Kai Havertz on the goalline. Riznyk was then forced into an important block with his feet as Havertz set up Jesus with a clever lay-off. Martinelli then resumed Arsenal's intensity after half time, firing in a cross that was headed wide by Trossard. Again, the instigator had been Calafiori, turning well between two Shakhtar players on half-way. Martinelli continued to torment Riznyk, harrying the goalkeeper until he was forced to clear for a throw-in.

But Arsenal lost their way, allowing Shakhtar to creep back into it. Raya was not required to make a save until the very end but there were flashes of Arsenal players looking jumpy on the ball. Trossard, whose back-pass led to Saliba's red card against Bournemouth, almost played Arsenal into trouble again but Eguinaldo's shot was blocked. Calafiori was caught just outside his box, barged into by Eguinaldo, but Shakhtar found themselves offside.

Calafiori landed awkwardly, his leg slipping from underneath him. He attempted to continue but became the latest addition to Arsenal's injury pile-up ahead of Liverpool. Arsenal were handed the opportunity to put the game to bed when Mikel Merino's arm struck the hand of Valerii Bondar in the box. As if to sum up Arsenal's night, Trossard went down the middle and the diving Riznyk saved with his feet, making amends. Arsenal shouldn't have needed another moment from Raya after the goalkeeper's double-save in Atalanta, but it was required to deny Pedrinho.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



BBC

**'Extraordinary' Vinicius Jr 'will win Ballon d'Or'**

PAGE 19

## Gamondi prioritizes energy management in Yanga's sixth consecutive win



Young Africans midfielders Maxi Nzengeli (L) and Clatous Chama celebrate after the Zambian scored their side's second goal during their Premier League match against JKT Tanzania held at Azam Complex on Tuesday. Young Africans won 2-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Michael Mwebe

**D**EFENDING NBC Premier League champions, Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga), continued their impressive start to the 2024/25 season with a 2-0 victory over JKT Tanzania on Tuesday at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

The win marks Young Africans' sixth consecutive triumph, underlining their title aspirations as they rise up the league standings and reaffirm their dominance in Tanzanian football.

The victory was a display of Young Africans' maturity and tactical awareness.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi emphasized the importance of maintaining control and managing the game, especially after a pivotal moment in the 39th minute when JKT Tanzania's goalkeeper, Dennis Richard, was sent off for handling the ball outside the box.

The red card gave Young Africans a numerical advantage, but rather than pushing for an aggressive scoreline, Gamondi's side focused on preserving energy while securing the win.

"After the red card to the opponent's goalkeeper, I expected

them to press more, but they didn't," Gamondi explained in his post-match interview. "Some might ask why we didn't score more goals, but it's not always about that. We needed to manage our energy and control the game, which we did effectively."

While the coach acknowledged the team's ability to create several scoring opportunities, he stressed that the primary objective was to secure three points. The Argentine tactician said: "JKT Tanzania were in a low block, holding the ball at the back, and we let them. For us, the most important thing was getting the win and keeping another clean sheet. We've won 15 of our last 16 games and kept 12 clean sheets. What more can I say?"

The match saw Young Africans' forward line capitalize on their numerical advantage in the first half. Ivory Coast striker Pacôme Zouzou opened the scoring with a well-placed shot in the 23rd minute, his third goal of the season. Young Africans doubled their lead just before half-time through Zambian playmaker Clatous Chama, who executed a clinical finish in the 44th minute, capping off a slick team move. Chama, known for his creative brilliance, has been instrumental in Young Africans' impressive run, pulling the strings from midfield and adding vital goals.

Despite the setback of losing their goalkeeper, JKT Tanzania displayed resilience. The team regrouped, adopting a defensive approach and implementing a low block to stifle Young Africans' attacking prowess.

Gamondi, however, praised JKT Tanzania for their tactical discipline and sportsmanship.

"Tactically, I congratulate their coach," Gamondi noted. "They minimized the damage by playing with a low block and showed great resilience after the red card. They held the ball and didn't let us create many more clear opportunities."

JKT's ability to remain composed and organized after going a man down impressed both fans and Young Africans' coaching staff. The tactical adjustments made by their coach demonstrated that, even when faced with a numerical disadvantage, JKT could be difficult to break down.

Young Africans, on the other hand, maintained their control of the game, focusing on ball retention and preventing any counter-attacks from JKT.

With a busy fixture list ahead, Gamondi emphasized the importance of managing energy levels, especially with challenging matches on the horizon.

"The three points are what matter most. We have another game coming up soon, so energy management was crucial. I'm happy because the players need game time, but we also have to rotate to keep them fresh for the difficult games against Coastal Union, Singida Black Stars, and Azam FC," said the gaffer.

The win propels Young Africans to 18 points from six games, reclaiming second place on the league table, just one point behind Singida Black Stars, who lead with 19 points from

seven matches.

Young Africans' defensive record continues to be a highlight of their season, with 12 clean sheets in 16 games, making them one of the most formidable defensive units in the league.

Gamondi's long-term strategy is evident in his decision to rotate the squad and ensure that players remain fresh throughout the season.

With a congested schedule, including CAF Champions League matches and domestic league fixtures, squad depth and rotation will be crucial for Young Africans to maintain their momentum.

For JKT Tanzania, the loss leaves them with 10 points from eight matches, placing them seventh in the standings. While their solid start to the season has shown promise, they have struggled for consistency, particularly against the league's top teams.

Despite the defeat, JKT's disciplined approach after going down to 10 men highlighted their resilience and ability to adapt tactically.

With continued focus on defensive organization, they remain a side capable of troubling opponents in the league.

The upcoming fixtures will be critical for both teams. Young Africans are set to face Coastal Union, Singida Black Stars, and Azam FC in what promises to be a testing run of matches.

For JKT Tanzania, their next matches will be an opportunity to regroup and solidify their mid-table position while aiming to climb higher in the standings.

**5 EATV THURSDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**SALAMA NA**  
Meet Salama with her renowned friends who share their relatable stories on her one on one interviews to inspire fellow Tanzanians

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Kilimo Plus  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Dondoo Za Michezo  
15:30 Ubongo Kids  
15:58 Dokezo Za Michezo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:17 Zote Kuntu  
16:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:47 Zote Kuntu  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:30 Kali za Wana  
18:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
18:17 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 Bongo Hits

18:58 Dokezo Atya  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
20:58 Dokezo Mambo Ya Pesa  
21:00 SALAMA NA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
21:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
21:47 Zote Kuntu  
22:00 Bongo Hits  
22:15 Dondoo Za Michezo  
22:17 Bongo Hits  
22:45 Dondoo Za Michezo  
22:47 Bongo Hits  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## New-look Knicks blown out by defending NBA champion Celtics

BOSTON

THE new-look New York Knicks were no match in their first test against the defending NBA champion Boston Celtics.

After a pair of big offseason moves that landed them Karl-Anthony Towns and Mikal Bridges, the Knicks fell behind early and were blown out by the Celtics 132-109 on Tuesday in Boston's banner-raising night.

Looking to reach the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2000, the Knicks had trouble keeping up with Boston's barrage of 3-pointers as the Celtics tied an NBA record with 29 made 3s.

It started early and didn't get any better for New York.

"Defensively, obviously, we've got to be a lot better than we were," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

"They put a lot of pressure on you. ... Sometimes the initial shot we were able to get to, then the (rebound) went long over our heads."

Towns finished with 12 points and seven rebounds in his New York debut. Bridges, brought in to help bolster their defense against Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, added 16 points.

New York trailed by 19 after one quarter and the deficit ballooned to 26 after three quarters, setting up a long stretch of garbage time.

"They tied an NBA record in 3s," New York guard Josh Hart said. "You have like three to four games a year where the team shoots the ball at an absurd clip, and sometimes there's not much you can do about it."

The Celtics finished 29 for 61 on 3-pointers and New York was just 11 for 30.

"You've got to give them credit," Hart said. "Ring night and they came out."

Hart even joked that Boston's performance was unreal.

"The NBA needs to drug test all of them," he said, smiling. "I've never ever seen nothing like that before."

New York's defense left Boston's shooters wide open on numerous occasions. The Celtics moved the ball quickly around the perimeter and the Knicks seemed out of position many times.

"Personally, I've got to be better," Knicks guard Jalen Brunson said. "We can dissect everything, or whatever, but they made a lot of 3s. We have to be better on both sides of the ball. I have to be better on both sides of the ball."

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club clinched a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Tanzania Prisons FC in their NBC Premier League clash on Tuesday.

The game, played at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, showcased Simba's tactical discipline and resilience, allowing them to secure all three points in difficult conditions.

The only goal of the match came in the fifth minute, courtesy of central defender Che Malone Fondoh. His decisive strike followed a free-kick delivered by Kibu Denis, which Tanzania Prisons goalkeeper Mussa Mbisa mishandled, allowing Malone to pounce and put Simba ahead.

After the match, Simba's head coach, Fadlu Davids, shared his thoughts on the team's performance, focusing on their ability to control the game despite the challenging conditions.

"We were in total control. This match was about the basics because the field was not in the best condition. One

## Fadlu Davids laments tight fixture schedule as Simba edge Prisons

cross, one second ball, one mistake in midfield could have created a chance for the opponent, but we didn't give them any chances, so that is really good," Davids said.

Davids also addressed the physical toll on his squad, noting the fatigue among key players like Mohamed Hussein 'Tshabalala' and Kibu Denis, who have had little rest since the start of the season.

"It was a difficult game. You saw Mohamed Hussein and Kibu Denis, playing for the national team since the beginning of the season with no break. Every three days, they're playing. They need rest. Now, we have another game in two days," said the South African coach.

The coach voiced his frustration with the tight fixture schedule, particularly what he saw as an unfair advantage for their rivals, Young Africans.

"You know, Young Africans

had 20 days to play their six games, while we only have 18 days. They get extra two days, but we will go through. It's about getting the basics right in such games, coming away from home, getting the points, and preparing for the next home game," he said.

Despite his frustrations, Davids praised his team's ability to adapt to the difficult playing conditions and emphasized the importance of grinding out results.

"A fantastic performance. It wasn't about playing combination football or keeping possession on this field; it was about creating clear-cut chances, and we did that."

"Their goalkeeper, Mussa Mbisa, was fantastic, making some great saves. Sometimes, in such conditions, it's not going to be pretty. It's about the fight," he added.

Davids also underlined the significance of collecting the

three points under difficult circumstances.

"Collecting the three points was crucial, and huge credit to the players today. One down, four to go before the FIFA break. I hope we can move that game closer to the end of the FIFA break," he concluded.

The victory propelled Simba to 16 points, placing them in third on the NBC Premier League table after seven matches. While the win was narrow, it demonstrated Simba's ability to secure results even under unfavorable conditions.

Simba dominated much of the game, pressuring the Tanzania Prisons defense and creating several scoring opportunities. However, they were thwarted time and again by Mbisa, whose outstanding goalkeeping kept the home side in the match, especially during the second half when Simba ramped up their efforts

to extend the lead.

After the match, Simba immediately returned to Dar es Salaam to prepare for a packed schedule. Their next game is against Namungo FC tomorrow at the KMC Complex, followed by another home fixture on Sunday, October 27, against JKT Tanzania.

With two critical matches coming up in quick succession, Simba's title challenge will be tested as they look to close the gap on the teams above them. Following these encounters, Simba will travel to face Mashujaa FC before returning home to play KMC FC on November 5.

As October comes to a close, Simba's endurance and squad depth will be pushed to the limit, but their strong performance against Tanzania Prisons provides them with a boost as they continue their push for the top of the table in the NBC Premier League.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

