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DP World hasn't started operations at

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Restore school feeding programme in schools - call

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Media urged to report more on GBV

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'Keep under-fives clear of harmful technologies'

By Carlos Banda

HEALTH experts believe that the use of electronic devices by children requires maximum supervision, in which case African countries need to exhaustively discuss the use of technology for children below five years, the government has stated.

Representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Community Development, Gender, Elderly, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima, yesterday asked African countries to invest more on childcare and upbringing.

She was opening a four-day international conference on early child care, upbringing and development, themed: 'Investing in early childhood; building human capital along the life course,' underlining the need for the continent to invest in a healthier productive workforce.

A healthy workforce can help to transform socio-economic development, thus African governments need to ensure more investment is directed at childcare and upbringing.

A healthier workforce that is productive and ultimately transforms economic activity in each country is possible with increased investment in early childcare and development.

This is supposed to be spread over health, nutrition, learning and early

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Jan-Sept 2023 gross income surpasses 2022 by 15.6trn/-



Leontine Nzeyimana (R), recently named Burundi's Ambassador to Tanzania, presents her letters of credence to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Preparations are being made for a project to supply clean water from Lake Victoria to Singida and Dodoma regions for both domestic use and irrigation

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE national income grew from 124.2trn/- during January to September 2022 to 140.0trn/- in the corresponding period for 2023, the government had declared.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, highlighted this achievement in presenting the plan to a statutory extraordinary session of the National Assembly here yesterday, when presenting the National Development Plan for the next financial year, 2024/25.

He said that the plan seeks to stimulate economic growth, reduce poverty and foster collective well-being, highlighting sectors that led in growth and largely contributed to national

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'EACJ lacks support from member states'

"We effectively execute our legal mandate in compliance with the laws and the EAC treaty of establishment"

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

EAST African Court of Justice presiding judge, Justice Nestor Kayobera has appealed to the partner states to ensure that the regional judicial entity is well supported in order to execute its tasks promptly and diligently.

Gracing a media training event on judicial reporting in the East African Community zone, he said that the East African Court of Justice is accessible to all residents of the EAC partner states.

The court procedure does not require applicants to first exhaust legal procedures in their respective countries before filing cases at its Arusha seat, he said, expressing concern that the regional legal facility is yet to be fully utilized among East African people.

Hinting at how EAC member states see the court, he pointed out that EACJ is the most respected legal facility, such that so far no member state has ignored its decisions.

"We effectively execute our legal mandate in compliance with the laws and the EAC treaty of establishment," the presiding judge emphasised.

Topics being covered in the three-day session include aspects of EACJ establishment, institutional and legal framework presented by Dr Henry Onoria, a consultant with ALP East Africa, a regional law firm.

Advocate Christine Mutimura the EACJ deputy registrar, gave the members of the regional media fraternity an overview of the court and its operations, while advocate Jenerali

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SPORTS



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MATOLA CONFIDENT OF SIMBA SC'S PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE PROSPECTS

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Nine dead as bus and truck collide

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

NINE people died and three were injured following head-on collision involving a commuter bus and a sand truck at Kiroimo area in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

ing a commuter bus and a sand truck at Kiroimo area in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

ACP Pius Lutumo, the regional police

commander, said yesterday that the accident occurred on Sunday evening. A Toyota Coaster, T676 DSM driven by Juma Mackey was heading to Bagamoyo from Dar es Salaam, when it collided with the truck, T 503 DRP and trailer T 733 DUQ, heading to Dar es Salaam and driven by Apolo Mgomela.

Preliminary investigations show that the sand truck driver was reckless as he

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Some of the people who have experienced spinal cord injury and are beneficiaries of projects run by local NGO Songambe Initiative take part in a special International Women's Day walk in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region, on Friday. The idea was primarily to sensitise the public on the nature of the challenges their plight involves. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka



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Jan-Sept 2023 gross income surpasses 2022 by 15.6trn/-

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income growth for fiscal 2023.24.

He listed 162 projects and programmes to be implemented in the annual plan, geared at an economy that will generate employment and stimulate exports of value-added products.

Overall growth stood at 5.3 percent in the January to September 2023 period, inching up from 5.2 percent growth in the corresponding period for 2022, he stated.

Finance and insurance led income growth at 16.0 percent, mining and quarrying (10.2 percent), electricity (10.0 percent), arts and entertainment (10.0 percent), accommodation and food (8.9 percent), while information and communication registered 7.9 percent growth, he said.

Large contributors to the gross national product were agriculture (24.8 percent), construction (13.6 percent), mining and quarrying (9.7 percent), trade and maintenance (8.4 percent), transportation and warehousing (7.2 percent), and industry (6.9 percent).

Over 100 programmes and projects will be implemented in the next financial year that the government sees as model projects in stimulating competition and wide ranging growth infrastructure, notably the standard gauge railway (SGR) and the Julius Nyerere hydropower project.

There are other hydropower projects for Ruhudji, Rusumo and Rumakali as well as the Kinyerezi gas propelled power station, alongside solar and wind power projects.

He said the government will invest in roads, aviation, transportation in lakes and sea, as well as in environmentally friendly energy sources such as compressed natural gas (CNG) in vehicles to start reducing dependence on imported oil.

Research will be conducted for producing quality seeds especially

for strategic crops to increase agro-sector productivity, enhance crop values and strengthen food security, and promote crop markets.

Strengthening extension services, expanding irrigation agriculture by completing 25 schemes, rehabilitating 30 schemes and finishing works on 14 dams to harvest rainwater, is envisaged.

Enhancing access to farm inputs, procuring five vehicles carrying 30 tons of seeds, building two seed laboratories, purchasing research equipment and building three seed storage warehouses are also envisaged.

Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) programme will be boosted with 30 new farms in five regions, surveying land for investment in ten regions and providing training to 1000 BBT beneficiaries, the minister noted.

Providing low interest loans to youth and women plus widening extension efforts involving young people graduating from agricultural training will be pursued, he said.

Preparations are being made for a project to supply clean water from Lake Victoria to Singida and Dodoma regions both for domestic use and irrigation, he said.

The government expects to extend loans to 93,500 degree students and 10,000 diploma course students, implement new education policies and curricula, including teacher training, he further noted.

The government will pursue efforts to build communications towers in rural areas to align rural residents to foster application of IT in economic and social activities, he said.

Plans for establishing car batteries and machinery factories were being pursued, along with programmes to control and eradicate mosquito breeding sites by using pesticides, so that malaria infection is brought down to 3.5 percent prevalence by 2025, he added.



Residents of Mwanza city pictured yesterday at a meeting called by Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry officials, mainly in connection with disputes related to land ownership and use. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

Nine dead as bus and truck collide

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was speeding, trying to overtake other vehicles and switching lanes without caution, hence colliding with the bus in a horrific accident, he stated.

The deceased include seven men and two women, with the injured being two men and one woman, two of them already been transferred

to the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) for intensive attention.

Bodies of the deceased were being kept at the Bagamoyo District Hospital for examination and handing over to relatives for burial services, he said, urging motor vehicle drivers and road users generally to adhere to road safety rules to avoid causing unnecessary accidents.

Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge arrived at the scene to console those injured and relatives of the deceased, in yet another tragic event disrupting public calm.

Global traffic reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless driving, 12 percent by mechanical problems, six percent by adverse weather, and just two percent of road accidents arise from

poor road networks.

Road safety data approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicates that road traffic injuries are the leading killers of people aged 5-29 years.

Each year road accidents claim lives of more than 1.3m people and disproportionately affect the developing countries, the UN agency asserts.

'EACJ lacks support from member states'

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Ulimwengu, a seasoned journalist and media consultant, explored the role of the media in carrying out the court's decisions, along with constraints to effective judicial reporting.

He surveyed issues related to effective editing and reporting on court matters, noting that skills are

lacking in covering court proceedings among scribes of the more recent generation.

The EACJ is a judicial body that is part of the wider institutional context of the EAC, tasked to ensure adherence to law in interpretation, application and compliance with governance prerequisites tied to the East African Community Treaty of 1999.

Libyan rival leaders agree to establish unified government

CAIRO

AFTER more than a decade of political deadlock, the leaders of Libya's opposing governments have reached a significant milestone by agreeing to establish a unified government, marking a crucial step towards resolving the protracted crisis.

In a joint statement issued on Sunday, the leaders affirmed their commitment to the formation of a new unified government tasked with overseeing the much-awaited elections and consolidating sovereign positions.

The discussions, facilitated by Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit, took place in Cairo, Egypt, bringing together key figures from Libya's disparate factions.

Among them were the President of the Libyan Presidential Council, the Head of the High State Council based in Tripoli, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives representing the rival administration in Benghazi.

Hamid Dbeibah in Tripoli, and a parallel administration in the east under the leadership of military strongman Khalifa Haftar in Benghazi.

The agreement to establish a unified government represents a crucial breakthrough in Libya's tumultuous journey toward stability and national reconciliation. This development may pave the way for a peaceful transition, fostering unity and progress across the nation.



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A monitoring and evaluation officer with the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (R) holds talks with sunflower farmers from Nachingwea District in Lindi Region during a field monitoring visit at the weekend. AMDT, in collaboration with various other stakeholders including the government, have decided to support the cultivation of new crops in Lindi and Mtwara regions. Over 1,500 farmers have shown interest in venturing into sunflower farming. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Keep under-fives clear of harmful technologies'

FROM PAGE 1

stimulation, responsive nurturing, child protection and safety can help make the child smart, ready to be a productive adult, she said.

"Various studies in Africa show that investment in child upbringing and care is still low. The ratio between child care and investment is not in synchrony with the science of child care," she said.

"If this continues, we will prepare children who are unproductive and create unproductive human capital for our nations," she said, urging the

representatives of the various countries to use public funds to whatever extent possible to bolster early child upbringing.

The four-day meeting will help to chart out a roadmap for implementing agreements reached by Heads of State during the African Union's human capital summit back in July last year in Dar es Salaam, she elaborated.

Investment in bolstering human resources needs to focus on young children as the foundation, she said, appealing to conference participants come up with effective strate-

gies to strengthen interventions for early child care.

Upbringing adhering to good customs and traditions was vital, she said, laying emphasis on good customs because some of them have negative effects on children, citing female genital mutilation (FGM).

Children should not experience such practices which are detrimental to their development, she said, pointing out that child upbringing is nowadays affected by many things like family conflicts where children comes out unavoidably as victims.

"Parents and guardians have no time to care for the children as they are busy with other activities. Hence, children are left alone to look out for themselves or remain under the care of housemaids. We need to rethink and take action. These are some of the obstacles against our children's upbringing," she argued.

Information and communication technology poses many challenges such as improper and immoral use of online platforms exposing children to online child exploitation and abuse, the minister added.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker and Ilala constituency legislator Mussa Azzan Zungu (L) and Hashim Semvua (L, in tie), head teacher of Dar es Salaam's Diamond Primary School applaud yesterday's presentation of 50 desks to the school by Lions Club of Dar es Salaam - Uhuru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt all for use of NeST in all funds disbursed for its development projects

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government mulls using the National e Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) in all funds disbursed for development projects at the grassroots, it has been revealed. NeST means a system developed, hosted and operated by the government of Tanzania in 2022 for facilitation of procurement functions by means of information and communication technology. NeST is the electronic system that facilitates e-registration, e-tendering, e-contract management, e-catalogue and e-auction. Public procurement is an important economic activity involving a large part of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to the new approach, all those implementing the projects will be required to adopt the new system which is at its final stages of completion at that level.

It has therefore directed that supervisors of projects will be required to adopt the NeST in all funds disbursed to implement development projects.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Charles Msonde issued the directive in Dodoma when launching a training on NeST.

A large part of the government budget is spent on public procurement (excluding the salary budget and the national debt).

Public Procurement in the country is governed by the Public Procurement Act Chapter 410. This Act has created the PPRA with the aim of ensuring that the public procurement system in the country is fair, competitive, transparent and adheres to value for money. Speaking at the training session, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (PS) noted:

"Currently, the sixth phase gov-

ernment is planning to disburse money to projects that will be implemented at the village level especially in education and health sectors, that is why we have decided to come up with a new transparent system that will be completed any time soon."

Dr Msonde further directed Regional Administrative Secretaries, Regional and District Procurement Officers to make sure they provide training to heads of both primary and secondary schools as well as doctors in charge of all health facilities.

"A lot of funds from the government will be channelled at the grassroots level in concerted efforts to increase efficiency, therefore it is your obligation to intensify massive training so that the projects are well expedited during implementation as well as considering value for money," added Dr Msonde.

Speaking at the occasion, Training Manager from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Castor Komba, noted that the state-owned public procurement body had ensured that the e-procurement system was improved to ensure that there was smooth implementation of development projects

It has therefore directed that supervisors of projects will be required to adopt the NeST in all funds disbursed to implement development projects

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DP World hasn't started operations at Dar es Salaam Port, clarifies TPA

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has clarified that the Dubai-based DP World hasn't started operation at the Dar es Salaam port as it rumoured.

A statement from the TPA's directorate of marketing and relations availed to the media yesterday stated that all port management activities are still managed by the authority and when DPW will start operation at the port, the public will be informed officially.

It stated that even when DPW starts operating at the Port of Dar es Salaam, the wharfage fee will continue to be TPA's income in accordance with the agreement entered between the two sides.

According to the statement, the wharfage is currently collected through the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) which is

under the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and will continue to be the same even after DPW starts operating at the port.

The statement noted that for domestic cargo, the wharfage fee is charged for the value of the cargo (Custom Value) whose rate is 1.6 percent for the cargo in the container as well as the cargo that is not in the container (Loose Cargo).

It stated that the on-transit cargo, which is not in a container (Loose Cargo), is charged by weight or volume at the rate of \$3. For transit cargo in containers it is charged at \$90 dollars for a 20 feet and \$180 for a 40 feet container.

"Using the argument of our cus-

tomers who spread his complaint on social networks at the end of this week, it is clear that the cargo he is talking about was domestic (Local cargo) which is charged by value," it said.

The statement further noted that the fees are charged through the system without human intervention, so there is no possibility of making a mistake due to charging the customer more or less than the required amount according to the value of his cargo.

The authority wanted if there is a customer who has a complaint, to submit them to the Port Director's office so that a quick solution can be provided.

"TPA uses this opportunity to emphasize to customers, stakeholders and the general public that information about TPA provided without verification by TPA itself is a deliberate misrepresentation with malicious intent to tarnish the Authority's good reputation," it added. The statement claimed that there are people who want to undermine the great efforts made by the Government to strengthen the economy through the activities of the Port.

"The Authority continues with procedures to take appropriate action against all the perpetrators of such actions," read part of the statement.

CBE to introduce long-term course on corruption to bolster good governance

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE) is set to introduce a long-term course on corruption investigation that will be taught in various fields in order to help fight the challenge in the country.

Professor Edda Lwoga, CBE Rector unveiled this in Morogoro yesterday at a training for capacity building on public and private sector employees on anti-corruption issues.

The training involved participants from inside and outside the country.

Prof. Lwoga said that CBE has already started the process of providing that course and she invited people from different countries to go and pursue the course at the college.

She explained that in order to ensure that the procedures of the course are followed; they will cooperate with the National Council of Examinations NECTA to find a Curriculum that will meet the teaching

criteria. The CBE Rector said that the course will be taught at the certificate level and later the students will be given exams that will be recognized in the country and will enable the graduate to work anywhere in the world.

"Currently at CBE we offer short courses to government and private institutions on the investigation of corruption, but we are currently planning to start offering long-term courses from the certificate onwards, we are preparing the curriculum once it is completed, we will send it to NECTA for review," Prof. Lwoga said.

Stella Cosmas, CBE Lawyer and Corruption trainer, said that after starting the long-term certificate course, students will take international exams that will enable many Tanzanians to be recognized internationally.

She said that currently many institutions have hired people from outside the country to do the work while there are many youth here in

the country who, if given the education, can do good work with great competence.

The Morogoro District Commissioner, Rebecca Nsemwa, said corruption is a big challenge in the country and greatly affects access to justice in decision-making bodies including the courts and the police.

She hailed CBE for introducing the course which she said will greatly help the country heighten efforts on the war against corruption as many people will have wider understanding of the effects of corruption.

Currently at CBE we offer short courses to government and private institutions on the investigation of corruption...



VACANCY: Short Term Assignments

PATH is an international organization that drives transformative innovation to save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health.

PATH, together with Every Breath Counts Coalition with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are leading the Strengthening Oxygen Utilization and Respiratory Care Ecosystems (SOURCE) project—which builds from previous initiatives under the COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project. With a vision to provide all patients with access to the lifesaving medical oxygen they need, this project seeks to reduce maternal, child, and overall mortality from hypoxemia-related causes through improved access to high quality oxygen services at all levels of the health care system.

As part of the SOURCE grant, and upon required Government of Tanzania (GoT) approvals PATH in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) aim to co conduct a study to understand the prevalence of hypoxemia and oxygen consumption across hospitalized populations at **Amana and Tumbi Regional Referral Hospitals** in Dar es salaam and Coast regions respectively. The study findings will facilitate proper resourcing to maximize access to lifesaving oxygen when needed.

PATH is seeking to recruit data enumerators for hypoxemia and oxygen consumption study: **Technical Focus** -The Data Enumerators will be responsible for collecting study data at Amana and Tumbi hospitals. Data enumerators will have direct contact with patients and have a great bearing on the quality of data collected and ultimately on the quality of data output.

Tasks and Responsibilities- The Data Enumerators will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Obtain all the materials needed for data collection activity.
2. Follow study procedures and protocols in collecting and recording data.
3. Obtaining informed consent from all study participants.
4. Utilize electronic devices i.e. tablets to record data.
5. Observe patient confidentiality and security of data.
6. Data collection, verification for accuracy and completeness and submission per study objectives.
7. Prepare and submit daily and weekly performance-based study reports and time sheets.
8. Foster a collaborative environment within the team, promoting effective teamwork and communication.
9. Respectful communication with patients and hospital staff, minimizing disruptions to the clinical environment and maintaining a high standard of data privacy and research ethics.
10. Work closely with Principal Investigator and PATH study coordinator in planning and implementation of study activities.
11. Be willing to support data cleaning and attend debriefing meetings regarding data collection activity.
12. Be available (nearest to assigned facility), observe work schedule and flexibility including weekends/evening time (wherever required) and undertake other relevant activities as assigned by Study Team Lead (STL).

Required qualifications: Medical Officer, Assistant Medical Officer, Clinical Officer, Assistant Clinical Officer, Nursing Officer, Assistant Nursing Officer, Enrolled Nurse.

Experience: Medical research and or data collection, computer literacy (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Survey CTO use will be added advantage.

Study duration: Not more than 3 months.

Application deadline: 15/March/2024

Send your application to jmugyabuso@path.org and cc_rmageni@path.org

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
 SUMMONS BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION
 (HATI YA WITO MBELE YA TUME YA USULUHISHI NA UAMUZI)
 ((Made under Regulation 34(1)) (Imetengenezwa Chini ya Kanuni ya 34(1)).
 Labour Dispute No. (Mgogoro wa Kikazi Na.) CMA/DSM/TMK/59/2024
 Between/Baina ya
 KAMAL STEELS LIMITED.....Applicant (Mlalamikaji/Mwombaji)
 And/Na
 SACHIN PRALHAD PAWAR.....Respondent (Mlalamikwa/Mjibu Maombi)
 NOTICE TO ATTEND MEDIATION/ARBITRATION HEARING
 (TAARIFA YA KUITWA KUHUDHURIA KWENYE SHAURI LA USULUHISHI/UAMUZI)
 Take notice that the above mentioned Mediation/Arbitration has been fixed for hearing on 19 day of 03 year 2024 at 10:00AM hours, at **CMA TEMKEKE-MPINGO HOUSE 5TH FLOOR NYERERE ROAD** (Unaarifiwa kuwa shauri lililotajwa hapo juu, linalokuja kwa hatua ya Usuluhishi/Uamuzi, ilimepangwa kusikilizwa tarehe 19 Mwezi 03 Mwaka 2024 saa Nne Asubuhi mahali.....)
 You are required to appear before the Commission in person and or accompanied by an Advocate/Personal representative as instructed, and produce on that day all relevant documents you intend to rely upon in support of your defence. You are further cautioned to remain in attendance until permitted by the Commission (Unatakiwa kufika binafsi ama kwa kuambatana na wakili/Mwakilishi wako mbele ya Tume kama ulivyoagizwa. Unapaswa kuleta vielelezo/nyaraka muhimu unazo kusudia kuzitumia katika utetezi wako. Unatahadharishwa usipuzite kuti wito huu na unatakiwa kubakia kwenye majengo ya Tume mpaka utakapo ruhuswa kuondoka na Tume).
 Given under my hand and seal of the Commission, this 05 day of 03 year 2024 (Imetolewa na kugongwa muhuri wa Tume leo tarehe 05 Mwezi 03 Mwaka 2024).

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WFP urged to restore stalled school feeding programme in schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

AUTHORITIES in Arusha Region have asked the World Food Programme (WFP) and other stakeholders to restore the school feeding plan in schools in the pastoralist communities to save children from malnutrition.

Ngorongoro district commissioner, Col Wilson Sakulo made the call here at the weekend during the launch of WFP's offices in the region.

Col. Sakulo said that WFP used to provide food to schools in the periphery and to pastoral societies, a move which contributed to increase in academic performance, understanding and decrease in school pupils skipping schools.

"The current situation has worsened and contributed to the increase in malnutrition for children below five years old especially in Longido and Monduli districts after the cessation of the feeding project. This has resulted in the decline in pupils' performance and focus in their studies in the many of the schools in the periphery," he said.

Col. Sakulo said the situation is attributed to the effects of climate change which have caused drought and frequent floods that have affected crop cultivation and animal keeping which are the primary income generation activities.

"Apart from the impacts on agriculture, drought has also affected the wild animals that attract tourists and help generate income for the people in the region and the nation. I request WFP to ponder on how to restore a sustainable plan for a balanced diet in schools in these areas in collaboration with the government, stakeholders and parents," he said.

He said the government acknowledges the efforts exhibited by WFP

in collaboration with other stakeholders in addressing the challenges posed by climate change which contribute to malnutrition.

"We acknowledge the efforts you have invested to help farmers with timely quality fertilizers, access to markets for selling their crops and reducing the loss of crops harvests. We also applaud you for the launch of a plan to aid farmers and pastoralists to understand and effectively use weather information issued by the meteorological authority," he said.

Sarah Gordon, WFP Country Director and Representative said the presence of the organization's office will help in the implementation to help youth in agriculture in commercial agriculture and animal keeping hence elevating their individual economies.

"Through this project, we must unite our efforts from the government, development stakeholders, the private sector, innovators and WFP in order to reach the sustainable goal which is to alleviate hunger and ensure food security, improve balanced diet and enhance sustainable agriculture. Investment in youth is paramount, especially women empowerment through knowledge, skills and tools that will help them meet the needs of the market and contribute to Tanzania's economy," she said.

She added: "Investing in these groups is vital because they will become beneficial to the society as well as ensure food is available, balanced diet and food security which will improve the endurance of the family and the society."

Gordon said it was important for stakeholders to empower and give voice to women and youth to influence lasting change in their lives so that Tanzania can attain sustainable inclusive development.



A team deployed by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency moves to install speed humps at a Kitunda suburb section of a road in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Police in Mbeya get vehicles to enhance patrols along highways

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE police force in Mbeya Region has received two vehicles and as many motorcycles from the region's safety committee to enhance efficiency in its daily operations.

The donated vehicles are also expected to improve patrols along the Mbeya-Kyela Road and the Tanzania and Zambia Highway (TANZAM), thus ensuring safety of motorists and other road users.

Speaking at the handover event at the weekend, Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Benjamin Kuzaga commended the regional safety committee for providing the force with the vehicles, saying they will help lessen the shortage of working equipment.

He said as the police force strives to enhance its operations and patrols around the region to bolster security, a major hindrance has been the shortage of equipment.

"I would like to express my gratitude to our stakeholders for their assistance. The vehicles will help us address the issue of equipment shortage, thus increasing productivity," Kuzaga said.

The RPC added that the donated vehicles are meant to be used for patrolling along highways that connect Mbeya Region with neighbouring countries and regions. The roads to be patrolled include the Mbeya-Kyela Road and Tanzania

and Zambia Highway (TANZAM).

Eng Rajabu Ghuliku, Chairman of Mbeya Region Road Safety Committee, said that it is part of the committee's obligations to support the police force in performing their responsibilities.

"The committee is determined to support the police force in Mbeya Region with vehicles and motorcycles to improve their effectiveness in performing their tasks, particularly in the area of road safety," Ghuriku said.

He asked other stakeholders to chip in and support the force with equipment for purposes of enhancing efficiency in its operations.

Miner pledges to continue equipping women in the country's mining sector

By Guardian Reporter

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti has reiterated its commitment to continue to support positive changes in women's participation, gender equality at workplace as well employee relations.

Simon Shayo, AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President for Sustainability & Corporate Affairs (Africa) made the remarks during the weekend at the Rising Women Forum in Dar es Salaam.

The forum, held in parallel with the celebration of International Women's Day, highlighted the statement 'Invest in women, increase the speed of development.'

Shayo said that the company appreciates efforts of the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan to promote women rights.

He urged stakeholders and other companies to collaborate with President Samia, who was an official guest at the forum, to elevate Tanzania as a country that sets an example in addressing gender inequality and making history.

"We thank you for continuing to show the way, we are very grateful to the Government for deliberately showing how women can participate in leadership positions, we have seen this in the cabinet, heads of regions, heads of districts, institutions and defence and security agencies," he said.

He stated that Canada, a leading country in mining, has 16 percent female representation in the sector. Tanzania has also made progress in promoting women's participation in mining through similar initiatives.

AngloGold Ashanti of which GGML is a subsidiary of, has a female Group Chair, and three out of seven top leaders are women, holding important positions such as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief People Officer.

He also mentioned that GGML is committed to promoting gender diversity in mining, with women making up 13% of the workforce.

Shayo explained that despite facing challenges, we are fortunate to be following in the footsteps of countries that have made significant progress in increasing female representation in the mining sector. Our objectives include promoting gender equality by providing women with opportunities to hold positions that are traditionally held by men, rather than just support roles.

GGML aims to achieve gender equity and even does this when selecting participants for its year-long internship programme, which welcomed its latest cohort in February this year, ensuring a 50/50 split between male and female participants with the caveat that where candidates are equally qualified, preference will be given to female applicants."

Shayo stated that there were no women in management positions for a period of three to four years. However, thanks to the Female Future Programme run by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), GGML has now appointed two women to management positions.

Additionally, GGML has launched two major campaigns: one discouraging inappropriate behaviour and the other raising awareness to eliminate sexual violence in the workplace. Any employee found guilty of such behaviour will be immediately dismissed.

Regarding the International Women's Day, the Head of State encouraged women to participate in both local government elections later this year and the general election to be held next year.

"Ahead of forthcoming elections, I would like to encourage women to show up and participate in big numbers, this would help them to communicate their concerns," she underlined.

President Samia expressed the government commitment to attain the 50/50 threshold but was quick to warn that such a goal will never come on a silver plate, insisting that delivering to the expectations of the public would always be the key.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam presenting an award to Geita Gold Mining Limited legal counsel Elizabeth Karua in recognition of the firm's sponsorship of the fourth edition of The Citizen Rising Woman Initiative and Awards Gala held in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has pledged to continue providing skills training to Tanzanians and support different social and economic projects.

Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania Yasushi Misawa made the pledge over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when gracing the JICA Alumni Association of Tanzania (JATA) annual general meeting (AGM).

The AGM provides its members opportunities to look back and value the association's performance over the past year and chart out the way forward for the coming years and even beyond.

He said since its inception up to 2022, a total of 147,863 Tanzanian students have benefitted from JICA's scholarships in different countries.

Ambassador Yasushi said that Japan continues to support projects

JICA vows to continue supporting Tanzania's socio-economic efforts

through students financially supported including 'Hatua' project.

"JICA has contributed to economic development and social embarking on training to human resources adding that knowledge can enable them to contribute a lot to the community," he said.

He said stakeholders from Japan and Tanzania have discussed social and economic challenges and how students can use their knowledge and skills to transform the lives of surrounding communities.

Prof Zachariah Mghanilwa, JATA Chairman said that the association members have been able to contribute to the country's economy.

He said the knowledge acquired

in Japan has contributed a lot to development progress including infrastructure.

"We assure you that JATA will be vibrant to ensure Tanzania becomes one of the developed countries in the Africa continent," he said.

Godfrey Christopher, Seaweed Value Addition Project Coordinator in Jibondo Island, Mafia district in Coast region said that projects implemented by JATA have registered a remarkable success including increase in people's income.

The coordinator said farmers' income had double increased compared it was before.

He said currently a farmer earns up to 300,000/- from one

kilogramme of processed seaweed compared to before where the same weight a farmer could earn is between 3,000 and 8,000/-.

"Community engagement to sea weed farmers on value addition practices has helped to curb the post-harvest losses," he said.

He said also the community engagement has helped to promote income-generating activities and introduction of good agronomic practices. JICA's support to Tanzania primarily focuses on; nurturing driving forces of economic growth, infrastructure development conducive to economic and social development, improvement of governance and the public service delivery.

Women journos called on to reflect on the emerging media ecosystem

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has challenged women journalists to reflect on the emerging media ecosystem in Tanzania and globally and take full advantage of its opportunities.

Nancy Angulo, Head of the Communication and Information Programme at UNESCO Dar es Salaam made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at an event to commemorate the International Women's Day (IWD).

Meeting under the auspices of Kike Africa, an emerging female-owned tech and media company that seeks to tell women's stories in innovative ways, the event attracted over 100 participants including practitioners in the media industry and students in various colleges.

Angulo emphasised the importance of journalists investing in knowledge and skill acquisition, saying it is only through such a process that journalists, especially women, can overcome their barriers.

"The digital ecosystem has unleashed a flood of competing content and turned large internet companies into the new gatekeepers. The traditional business models underpinning media sustainability are in crisis," she said.

She noted that the UNESCO World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Global Report 2021/2022 highlights that audiences and revenue continue to move online, placing news media's traditional business models in crucial danger. Global newspaper ad revenue dropped by half in the last five years and by two-thirds in

the last ten years.

Social media users nearly doubled from 2.3 billion in 2016 to 4.2 billion in 2021. This has allowed for greater access to content and more voices—but not necessarily that with the distinctive value-add of journalistic content.

"As local newsrooms disappear, we as the public and communities lose our local news sources and our identity, civic engagement, and knowledge suffer from the prevalent misinformation, harmful abuse and harassment on online platforms, and fading accountability," Angulo noted.

She added: "We are in a new era, defined by the power of data, the influence of the media and the imperative of inclusion."

Kike Africa co-founder Khadija Mahanga said the occasion sought to honour the achievements and contributions of women in Tanzania's media industry, particularly through the transformative power of data and technology.

Our initiatives [at Kike Africa] focus on harnessing the power of technology, advocating for creativity, and fostering entrepreneurship skills through our coding and data hub," Mahanga, a software developer, said.

She added, "We firmly believe that by empowering the next generation of tech and media professionals, we can drive innovation, diversity, and excellence in these fields."

Data is the lifeline of the digital age. It holds within it the potential to transform lives, communities, and entire societies. It is not just numbers, but the faces and lives behind the statistics, a true reflection of our collective experiences, aspirations, challenges and opportunities.

She further said that in Tanzania,

there is a data crisis in the media sector. The health of the news system on issues like ownership, pluralism, independence, and viability often remains "a black box".

To keep up with the trends, we must invest and harness the data-driven approach. Using data to inform policies and solutions must first overcome significant gaps in availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability," she said.

"In this digital age, the media is the storyteller of our times. It is, faster and stronger than ever before, shaping perceptions, influencing opinions, driving change (good or bad). It has the power to amplify voices, challenge norms and foster understanding across borders and barriers. However, with this power comes a responsibility to ensure that the stories we tell reflect the richness and diversity of who we truly are as a people. Our local stories, the local content we continue to produce are an opportunity to create place-based initiatives, driven by the specific information needs of their communities," she detailed.

She however said gender still greatly shapes the likelihood of success in the media in Tanzania, with women carrying the biggest burden of its challenges.

Maphosa Banduka, Co-Founder at Nukta Africa urged women and girls to realise power within them, utilise education opportunities and work hard to reach their full potential.

During the event, women journalists shared opportunities available in the digital space, encouraging each other to grasp them both in the process of telling their stories and those of their communities and in increasing their personal income.



College of Business Education rector Prof Edda Lwoga pictured in Morogoro municipality yesterday making remarks during training on ways to tame corruption. She is with Morogoro district commissioner Rebecca Nsemwa and the college's deputy rector, Dr Nassib Mramba. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Fulfil your duties before advocating equality issues, Tawla urges women

By **Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma**

THE Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) has urged women to be careful when advocating for equality in the society by ensuring that they fulfil all their required responsibilities at family level.

Iabela Nchimbi, TAWLA advocate made the call at the weekend here speaking during the commemoration of the International Women's Day.

Nchimbi said a number of women have been forgetting their roles when claiming for their rights, something which raises conflicts in families.

"Due to the on-going campaigns to fight for equality in the society, some women have started to misuse education by claiming rights which in reality are not theirs," she warned.

According to her, there are some roles which basically need to be played by women and there is no way the group can evade them.

The lawyer advised that more education should continue to be given to women so that they can seek justice in a good way that does not cause conflicts in the family.

"After being empowered of their rights, some of us (women) return home, we leave our basic responsibilities under the pretext of justice, it is true that we are campaigning for equality but we need to be careful how we deserve it," Nchimbi said.

Mpunguzi ward councillor, Innocent Nyambuya acknowledged that they have been receiving a lot of complaints on women forgetting their roles in families thus causing conflicts.

According to him, it seems that the word equality is wrongly

translated by some women who have sometimes been leaving their key responsibilities to their husbands in the name of equality.

"The 50/50 campaign has advantages but also its adverse impacts, as some women are now competing with their husbands at home, dividing roles even those should be done by men, this isn't right and causes a lot of conflicts," she explained.

Rehema Wami, resident at Mpunguzi ward said women in rural areas were still deprived of their rights and many of them do not know how to claim them.

She said that during the harvesting period, men have been taking the lead in auctions writing their names to receive the payments which truly, their wives are required to receive because they are the ones who work hard in farms.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: **06 Mar 2024 (Wed)**
 Invitation No.: **KOICA-TZ-SM-1**

1. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Tanzania Office invites foreign and local eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.

Brief of Bidding

. Bid No.	KOICA-TZ-SM-1
. Bid Title	Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.
. Scope of Service	Solar power equipment supply, conveyance and installation Solar power system repair including electric works Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center
. Item	Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items) Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Procurement	Supply of required equipment with the same or higher specification listed in Requirements (Section 4.5), User manual in English or Swahili, Quality assurance are required
. Delivery	Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor) - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA. - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment. - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation. - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
. Inspection, installation and repair	Equipment inspection by KOICA Office, Construction Manager hired by KOICA office and TANAPA before and after installation. Solar power system repair including electric works
. Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Defects Liability Security	Defects Liability Security 2 year after KOICA's Inspection on Installation, Rehabilitation and Repair
. Duration	total contract period : 6 months from the date of signing the contract Delivery of the solar power system items : within 4 months from the contract signing date Installation of the solar power system : within 1 month from the date of delivery.
. Project Budget	USD 152,545 (excluding value-added taxes and other fees)
. Projected Estimated Price	refer to (f) Estimated Price below

- ① **Goods for procurement :**
 - Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items)
 - Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center
 - * For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
- ② **Delivery :** Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor)
 - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA.
 - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment.
 - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation.
 - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
- ③ **Bid Type :**
 - Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA)
 - Qualification and Cost Based Selection
- ④ **Selection of the Successful Bidders**
 - Selection by Two-Stage Bidding (Technical Proposal and Price Quotation)
- ⑤ **Bidder's qualification requirement :**
 - (a) Those who have submitted the application for the participation in this bid by the deadline.
 - (b) A legitimate and lawful entity legally established by the relevant laws and regulations of Tanzania
 - Must be a legally registered company;
 - Has no impediments to tax refunds and fulfill their tax obligations.
 - Bid applicant must possess the necessary documents, including the latest three years' tax payment certificates and social insurance payment confirmation.
 - Bidders with outstanding payment records will be disqualified
 - (c) Anyone with licenses to perform required services in designated places
 - ① Have a valid registration by Tanzania Government to perform procurement, installation and operation of equipment including solar power system in Tanzania at least for 5 years or more
 - ② Have a valid work permit, resident permit and any legal permit to perform procurement of equipment in Tanzania
 - (d) Anyone not sanctioned or penalized by international organizations or governments as ineligible entities.
 - Pledge (Such pledge shall contain the bidder's declaration that it has never been subject to any sanction prior to participating in this bid and it will not raise any objection against the termination and nullification of the contract if its declaration is found to be untrue)
 - (e) (In case of Korean firms) Anyone not sanctioned by the Korean government as ineligible (or such sanction is expired) in accordance with Article 27 of the National Contract Law (Law on Contracts to Which the State is a Party), Article 31 of the Local Government Contract Law or Article 39 of the Management of Public Institutions Law
 - (f) Anyone never been punished by any government on the charges of bribery.
 - ODA Project Anti-Corruption Pledge
 - (g) Direct or indirect provision of cash or entertainment in exchange for a favor in this procurement procedure is prohibited.
 - Anti-Corruption and Integrity Contract
 - (h) The Bidders will not offer or receive money, goods, entertainment, or any other benefit directly or indirectly in the course of making or accepting a bid or signing or performing a contract (and even after the completion of the relevant project or the delivery of goods).
 - Integrity Pledge
 - ※ Whenever required by the Employer, the Bidders shall be able to present their ligitibly in manners that are satisfactory to the Employer.
- ⑥ **Details of the work scope :** kindly refer to the Bid Data Sheet
- ⑦ **Bidding explanation :** None
 - In order to provide the same information to all bidders equally and fairly, KOICA Tanzania Office will not respond to telephone inquiries.
 - Email to tzkoica@gmail.com
 - Inquiry deadline : **13 Mar (Wed)-15 Mar (Fri) 2024 11:00am**
 - Response will be posted on KOICA Tanzania Office website on **18 Mar 2024 (Mon)**.
- ⑧ **Application for bidding**
 - Those who intend to participate in this bid shall submit the application via email tzkoica@gmail.com.
 - When the application is submitted, the title of email shall be the name of this bid.
 - Deadline : by **13 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
 - Email address : tzkoica@gmail.com
 - Required documents : Application (in the prescribed form)
- ⑨ **Submission Place :**
 - Submission: Visit
 - Deadline (date) : **by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
 - Place (address) : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
 - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- ⑩ **Time, date of closing**
 - Submission: Visit
 - Deadline : by **20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
 - Place : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
 - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- ⑪ **Time, date of opening :**
 - Time, date of opening : **21 Mar 2024 (Thu) 10:00**
 - Place of Opening : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - ※ All bid participants are strongly recommended to attend such bid opening.
 - This may be attended by Bidders or their representatives.
 - ※ In accordance with Article 11.1. of the Regulations for Procurement and Contract in Grant Aid Projects, the bid limit is equals to the expected price.
2. The available budget for this procurement assignment is **152,545USD** and Bidders' Proposals should not exceed this budget. Any bid exceeding the project budget may result in rejection of its bid.
3. The Bidding Documents include the following documents: Documents for Submission (refer to the attached Section 3 Bidding Forms)
 - ① Bid Application Form
 - ② Bidder's information sheet
 - ③ Form of Bid
 - ④ Experiences Form
 - ⑤ Financial Statement
 - ⑥ Declaration of anti-Corruption in ODA Business participation
 - ⑦ Integrity Pledge
 - ⑧ Bid security
 - ⑨ Eligibility Pledge that the Bidder is not on the Lists of Sanction and Penalty
 - ⑩ Joint Venture Summary (if applicable)
 - ⑪ Joint Venture Agreement (if applicable)
 - ⑫ Letter of Certified Copy Confirmation (if applicable)
 - ⑬ License & Registration : one set of documents evidencing the applicant's eligibility to participate in the Bid
 - written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder
 - Latest/valid Certificate of business Registration.
 - Copy of valid registration issued demonstrating bidder is eligible/authorized to provide works (procurement of solar power system equipment) in Tanzania
 - a certificate from the tax inspectorate on the absence of debt;
 - a certificate from the social fund on the absence of debt;
 - latest three years' tax payment certificates, social insurance payment confirmation
 - ⑭ Power of Attorney : documents evidencing the authenticity of the applicant's signature or seal power of attorney (not required if representative submit the application)
 - ⑮ Original Letter for Submission
 - ⑯ Materials of Qualification Examination
 - 1) List and value of contracts for the last five years of similar works plus client's contact details (name and email address) who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
 - * The company should provide the performance certificate of similar projects in the past five years (2019-2023)
 - 2) CV, certificate & proof of employment of the technical personnel has to be attached along with the bid document.
 - * CV of the technical personnel has to indicate the project area, scale and financier of each project
 - ※ Evaluation and Qualification Criteria must be duly completed and signed and in accordance with Annex 1
 - ⑰ Any other documents specified in the Bid Data Sheet.
 - ⑱ Sealed bid price duly completed and signed
4. **Language of Proposal:** English
5. KOICA Tanzania Office requires that bidders and contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:
 - (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
 - (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA.
6. The KOICA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries.
7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at KOICA Tanzania Office webpage, tzkoica@gmail.com for inquiry and issuance of bidding documents and cable/telex/facsimile numbers.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five per cent (5%) or higher of Total Bid Price or stated fixed amount, and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or prior to the bid date until after 30 days or more of the bid opening date.
 - Types of bid security: Bank guarantee, irrevocable credit, cash, certified check, or equivalent.
 - ※ The bid security will be surrendered to KOICA if the bidder who has been awarded the contract fails to conclude and sign the contract within the set period of negotiation or withdraws from the bid after the notification of award.
9. KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders

Media urged to report more on GBV, women empowerment

By Carlos Banda

MEDIA outlets have been called on to report more on women issues to help address gender-based violence and promote women empowerment.

The call was made at the weekend in Zanzibar by media stakeholders who attended Champion Data Journalism Award 2024 themed 'My pen, my contribution to women development', an event hosted by Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) which brought together various government, non-government organizations, the media and private sector stakeholders.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA Zanzibar director, said that the positive and continual reportage on women affairs by the media has a significant role in the creation of trust that women can play active roles in leadership.

"When we see more issues about women and leadership reported by young journalists, it is evident such news will spread further and contribute towards women's recognition," she said.

Veteran journalist Salim Said said that negative feature articles, stories and news reports have been used to humiliate women, emphasising that focus should be on positive stories about women.

"Defending women's rights is a noble duty. Therefore, it is better to utilize our opportunity as journalists to do this," he said.

Husna Mohammed, an editor with the Corporation of Government Newspapers in Zanzibar, said the theme of the event reflects more on the task at hand for journalists to contribute towards women empowerment on various issues.

"There is a need for journalists to go into the society and identify the root causes of the problem of low status of women compared to men. Doing so will help strengthen gender equality," she said.

Dr Abubakar Rajab, a Lecturer at Muslim University of Morogoro, challenged TAMWA-Zanzibar to make efforts to address misconceptions held by some individuals in the society that

women are incapable of taking leadership roles, adding that it is crucial for women to speak about issues affecting them.

Salum Kassim Ali, Zanzibar Chief Statistician said statistics for the year 2023 on gender abuse were high compared to 1994, adding that it is everyone's responsibility to protect women.

Hijja Suleiman, a representative from German International Development Agency (GIZ) said that equality must be measured on the aspect of respect so as to have equal rights in security and education, adding that every aspect must impact women.

"Defending women's rights is a noble duty. Therefore, it is better to utilize our opportunity as journalists to do this"



Gloria Kasanga, a human resources officer with Sotta Mining Corporation Limited, pictured at the weekend sensitising female residents of Igalula ward and members of the firm's staff in Sengerema, Mwanza Region, on various aspects of development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

30 new cholera cases reported in Manyara

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

THIRTY people have reported to have contracted cholera in Babati District, Manyara Region where some of them are in critical condition.

Suten Mwabulambo, Manyara Region Health Officer made the statement on Friday in Babati when presenting a report before the Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga.

He said that so far a total of 26 people have got treatment and discharged from hospitals but four were still hospitalised.

He said that the disease erupted on January 26 at Mirerani town in Simanjiro District before spreading to other areas of the region.

"So far, there is no recorded death and experts are doing all their efforts to fight the spread of the disease which include offering treatment on time and educating the public to take precautionary measures," he said.

He said in Babati Town Council, eleven cases have been reported, one case in Simanjiro Districts, and nine cases in Babati District.

According to him, a team of experts has been deployed in various areas to help control spread of the disease.

Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga wanted health experts to be open about the disease in order for the public to know what they should do to fight it.

Sendiga directed authorities to supervise and ensure that households and public places have quality and clean toilets, urging residents to ensure that their surroundings are clean to avert cholera, the deadly diarrheal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated.

The RC further encouraged them to ensure they drink clean and safe water while using proper toilet facilities.

As per experts, the widespread epidemic

is exacerbated by heavy rainfall due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, overwhelming wastewater systems and other infrastructure, particularly in densely populated areas.

According to the 2015 Cholera Situation Report, the outbreak started in Dar es Salaam, in late August 2015, and progressively extended to nineteen regions of Tanzania, stretching local capacities and resources, with high risk in terms of lives and economic impact.

Cumulatively, 10,984 cholera cases (both Mainland and Zanzibar) and 166 deaths were recorded (as of December 6). Over 42 percent of the cases were reported from Dar es Salaam.

Since September last year, the Ministry of Health has reported cholera outbreak in 13 regions, namely Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Kagera, Singida, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Tabora, Ruvuma, Dodoma, Mwanza and Geita in Tanzania Mainland.



Dr Jasmin (with microphone), a gynaecologist with Medinova Specialised Polyclinic, makes remarks during a Tanzania Women Running Club health fitness event held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The others include Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) CEO Justina Mashiba and Medinova Business Development manager Evelyn Auguste. Photo: Correspondent Pilly Kigome

IWD: Hospital gets medical equipment, supplies

By Guardian Reporter

KIGAMBONI District Medical Officer Dr Lucas Ngamtwa has called upon stakeholders to support government endeavors towards improvement of health services by donating medical equipment to health facilities.

Dr Ngamtwa made the call at the weekend when speaking at an event to receive assorted medical equipment and wheel chairs worth 6.5m/- donated by Puma Energy Tanzania to Kibugumo hospital in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam. The donation was part of the company's scheduled events to celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD) marked every March 8.

"Our hospital has just started to operate; we have a number of challenges including

shortage of medical equipment. We commend your efforts to improve provision of health services as well as ensuring the safety of pregnant women who give birth at our facility," he said.

Dr Eva Sambaya, the facility's acting Doctor in Charge, commended the energy firm for choosing to support Kibugumo hospital since there are many public health facilities in Dar es Salaam.

"The equipment will help in improving provision of health services to expectant mothers and other patients," she said, calling upon other public and private companies to do the same.

Fatma Abdallah, Puma Energy managing director, said: "It is our belief that the donated equipment will bring relief to both patients

and healthcare providers. We have decided to celebrate this year's IWD by giving back to the community."

She added: "We wanted to celebrate the day in different way by ensuring pregnant women enjoy giving birth at Kibugumo hospital as most of the equipment will be used in the maternity ward."

She said the company has a total of 48 women employees (16 percent), a number that has increased from 9 in 2023. She said that the company continues to improve working conditions as well as empowering employees to genuinely improve their wellbeing and contribute to the county's development.

"We will continue to support government efforts in different sectors such as health and education," she said.

DTB

DIAMOND TRUST BANK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Sunday Banking and Extended Hours

Dear Customer,

In view of enhancements in our agency banking business and increased functionality in our digital channels, we have reviewed the business hours in select branches effective from April 1st, 2024.

The following table indicates the changes:

Branch	Monday - Friday	Saturday
Uhuru	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Mlimani City	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Arusha City	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Mwanza	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Masaki	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Upanga	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Mbezi Chini	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Mwanza Main	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9:30 am - 1:00 pm

NB: All our branches will be closed on Sundays and Public holidays.

Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania PLC has further developed a robust network of Wakala around our branch network, to support customers beyond the normal operational hours of the branches. All our customers can also enjoy seamless banking through Internet banking and Mobile banking 24 hours.

Thank you for banking with us.

Ravneet Chowdhury
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It's pineapple season in earnest - with the retail price per piece standing at between 1,000/- and 1,500/- at this Chamazi Mbande market in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region, as Correspondent Jumanne Juma found out during a visit there yesterday.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Universities to do research on rare diseases' treatment

MUHIMBILI University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in collaboration with other universities are set to start conducting research to get permanent solutions to rare diseases.

Professor Bruno Sunguya, MUHAS acting Vice Chancellor said that recently in Dar es Salaam at the commemoration of the Rare Disease Day (RDD), to provide chances to raise awareness to the public to eliminate stigma to the patients.

He said the research findings will only give solutions to the rare diseases and give advice on policy and guidelines to end the diseases.

Prof Sunguya admitted that one of the big challenges is lack of scientific knowledge and credible, quality information on rare diseases.

He said that some diseases are so rare, adding that there is often not much information already available about it.

Sharifa Mbarak, founder of Ali Kimara Rare Disease Foundation said that it was only through research the solution can be obtained.

Mbarak said that rare diseases occur when the immune system, which normally helps protect the body from infection and disease, attacks its own tissue.

She said many rare diseases have very common symptoms that can make it harder not only to identify the issue, but move further beyond

common causes or diseases.

"It is our hope that detailed research may help to diagnose the disease and get the right treatment," she said.

Mbarak called on the government and partners to consider supporting home schooling for children suffering rare diseases such as Lupus and supply of enough medicine at affordable prices.

"Children suffering from this type of disease cannot attend class sessions as normal. Therefore, home schooling support is important to help them learn and do examinations while at home," she said, also challenging universities

and colleges to incorporate rare diseases in the curriculum to enable new emerging doctors to know it.

According to her, studies have shown that doctors are often taught to first consider a common diagnosis and not a rare one.

Prof Karim Manji, paediatrician said that increased awareness to the public is very important to eliminate stigma and segregation to patients suffering the diseases including right support.

He said most children born with disease do not get proper treatment and eventually die fearing stigma from the community and lack of awareness.

Over 100 Mufindi youth benefit from entrepreneurship training

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Iringa

A TOTAL of 140 young people from vulnerable communities in three wards of Ihanu, Luhunga and Mdadulo in Mufindi District, Iringa Region have benefited from special training on how to initiate economic projects and thus improve their income.

Provided under the Youth Agency Mufindi (YAM) project, the training involved youth from 15 villages within the three wards, and through the training sessions, they will become catalysts for other youth and families to not lose hope in life due to economic hardships.

Alfayo Mwalongo, University of Iringa's entrepreneurship trainer asked the youth to make good use of the available resources to improve their livelihoods.

"However, I am sure that for these YAM project youth, many of whom showed despair in life due to the poor economic situation in their families, after these training sessions, they will be different from their peers who have not been reached by the project. These training sessions will open doors for them to seize the opportunities surrounding the land," he said.

He said that many youth have given up hope in life due to the difficulty of life, due to lack financial capital to sustain their lives, forgetting that money is not the only capital, but land is a sure capital in life.

"Through these training sessions, they will be able to identify the vast opportunities around them and how to utilize them towards economic success, as well as to overcome fixed mind-sets and cultivate positive mind-sets to enable them to be self-reliant," he said.

He said that the YAM project has been a great help to these youth, who have always been living amidst

opportunities while their lives continue to be poor, despite living in a land of opportunities.

"When examining the roots of youth facing hardships, it is found to originate from within families, with a major cause being families giving up hope and considering enduring poverty as a family's right, even when they have fertile land suitable for farming, which is unjust," he noted.

Naturally, land is a greater asset than any other, as it allows for significant and rapid progress unlike having money without land.

"By utilizing the available land opportunities, one can be born into a poor family but become extremely wealthy," he added.

Edina Mwangala, one of the beneficiaries, thanked the organisers for bringing them in the training which is going to transform their lives.

"When I was selected to participate in these free training sessions, I did not realize that I would have a broad perspective and dream of starting a journey to economic empowerment through the opportunities that surround me," she said.



When examining the roots of youth facing hardships, it is found to originate from within families, with a major cause being families giving up hope and considering enduring poverty as a family's right, even when they have fertile land suitable for farming, which is unjust



Agnes Mwangala of Mdadulo village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, a beneficiary of the local CSO Youth Agency Mufindi, dries her baby's clothes in the sun at the weekend when attending entrepreneurship training for 160 youths living in difficult conditions. Among the participants were girls from Mdadulo, Ihanu and Kuhunga villages who had dropped out of school owing to pregnancy. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Experts hope on China-Africa think tanks to speed up economic growth

By Guardian Reporter

PARTICIPANTS of the 13th Meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum in Dar es Salaam have described the meeting as a springboard for the continent's economic and industrialization agenda.

More than 300 participants from 50 countries, including scholars, experts, representatives of international organizations in Tanzania, diplomatic envoys, government officials, and entrepreneurs, participated in the forum through a combination of online and offline means.

The forum focuses on exploring China-Africa cooperation mechanisms, strategic initiatives, and practical actions in the fields of industrialization, agricultural modernization, and human resources training, said James Mdoe, deputy permanent secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and

Technology.

Mdoe said the meeting has fostered a positive atmosphere in academia and society for stronger Africa-China relations.

He added that Africa and China must figure out ways to deepen cooperation and seek to demonstrate the instrumental role that education can play in building strong societies.

Deputy vice chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Dr Nelson Boniface called for increased cooperation between Tanzanian and China on academic and research projects in various fields, including science, education, humanities and social sciences, engineering, and technology, to meet the two countries' demands.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, said China and Africa have a shared desire to explore development paths independently and work together to build a high-quality China-Africa community with a shared future.

The forum released a document on the consensus of China-Africa think tanks on deepening cooperation on global development. It also released an initiative on building a China-Africa think tank cooperation network, which is in Chinese, English, and French, calling for the strengthening of China-Africa think tanks' cooperation and the building of a cooperation network to promote mutual understanding and common development between the two sides.

The forum was jointly organized by Zhejiang Normal University in east China, the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Zhejiang Provincial People's Government, and the Jinhua Municipal People's Government in east China's Zhejiang Province. It was supported by Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau, the University of Dar es Salaam, and the China-Africa Fund for Industrial Cooperation.



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More firms could support clean cooking drive if it is above CSR

SHIFTING to clean energy is definitely going to preoccupy portions of the public authorities for quite a while.

This is even as the fortunes and possibilities of the drive seem to be one thing for those more forthcoming on the drive and as a different item altogether for the more skeptical.

To a certain extent, the positive-looking side feels - and they are largely on the right track - that it is more costly to buy charcoal than gas for a month of cooking.

When this sort of margin in the ability to refill on request would touch well over 70 per cent of households, there would likely be difficulties in ensuring that many families make the move quickly enough.

As a matter of fact, the shift would be more rapid if charcoal was not available on the market, but just slapping a ban would have exaggerated social implications including that the well-off are tired of the cooking habits of the poor.

There are locked-out options, among them cheap locally installed biomass sourcing of energy, as it would find it hard to cross regulatory controls, and dirty briquettes tied to coal dust.

While the broad emphasis on clean energy can be grasped from various angles, it has a non-negligible cost aspect.

This is in that the project is part of wider global action on climate change adaptation, where the fossil fuel bit is left out in preference for the notion of clean energy.

It isn't as clean as renewable energy, though, as the latter no trace in the atmosphere even as the rare metals needed for renewable energy outlays especially solar energy will eventually be recognized as carry

risk of relatively environmentally tolerable level.

The question is what can be done right away to permit, support or facilitate more corporate entities to take up clean cooking solutions as a number of appeals have been made and taken up by some gas cylinder marketing firms.

For other companies to take up the clean cooking energy drive, it would imply they would be looking for long-term customers for the same gas firms, which can scarcely be approved by governing boards.

That means that the ball is in the court of the regulatory authorities - that is, as to how clean energy can be more attractive as an agenda item targeting communities and not merely as vendors of gas cylinders.

There are two relatively simple ways to widen this appeal, one being a move by the government to absorb gas cylinder costs and slightly subsidizing prices, hence banning charcoal and obtaining the change from global climate funds.

This would enliven the gas cylinders take-up pace with community groups coming in to train women on safety in use, beefing up savings and credit cooperative societies to lend for gas refilling from time to time within a locality, etc.

The other way is roll back regulatory controls on electricity generation and the placing of meters in households or institutions as Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) business by law.

That would presumably, or hopefully, open the way for hundreds of start-ups in biogas investments, with all sorts of institutions taking up the matter in an effort to develop new sources of energy. Indeed, as founder president Mwalimu Nyerere once said, to plan is to choose.

WFP offices in ex-ICTR premises sort of alters Africa's brand image

THERE was some excitement in Arusha at the end of the past week on account of the fact that the premises of the international residual mechanism for the former International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to the west of the city will now house the offices of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Apparently the happiest portion of the range of stakeholders in the food industry was the horticultural group, which is directed targeted by WFP's new preoccupation.

How far the opening of the particular WFP offices or branch is likely to alter the horticultural situation isn't but an additional issue.

A development manager with the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) was visibly elated about the return of the WFP office to the heart of the horticultural industry, seeing it as an opportunity for reinforced dynamism in the industry.

The key element in that optimism was that TAHA and WFP are collaborating in running a youth support programme in Arusha and Manyara regions that is meant to elevate participation in the horticultural value chain.

There is in fact an enhanced portrayal of what the project is expected to achieve in both in this case and in the wider agro-sector inclusion mechanism.

Some worry that enhanced description of these projects as commercial agriculture or, as TAHA and others wish, as an agribusiness push where youths learn good farming practices and seek out market opportunities.

So far, the projects are focused on imparting skills or really introducing

them from the start if one is talking about graduates, and expect them to proceed to be real farmers. As long as they are adequately facilitated, it can be done.

It is largely unlikely that the WFP project in the two northern regions will be as amply facilitated as the specialised UN agency's cattle fattening and resale initiative for a start.

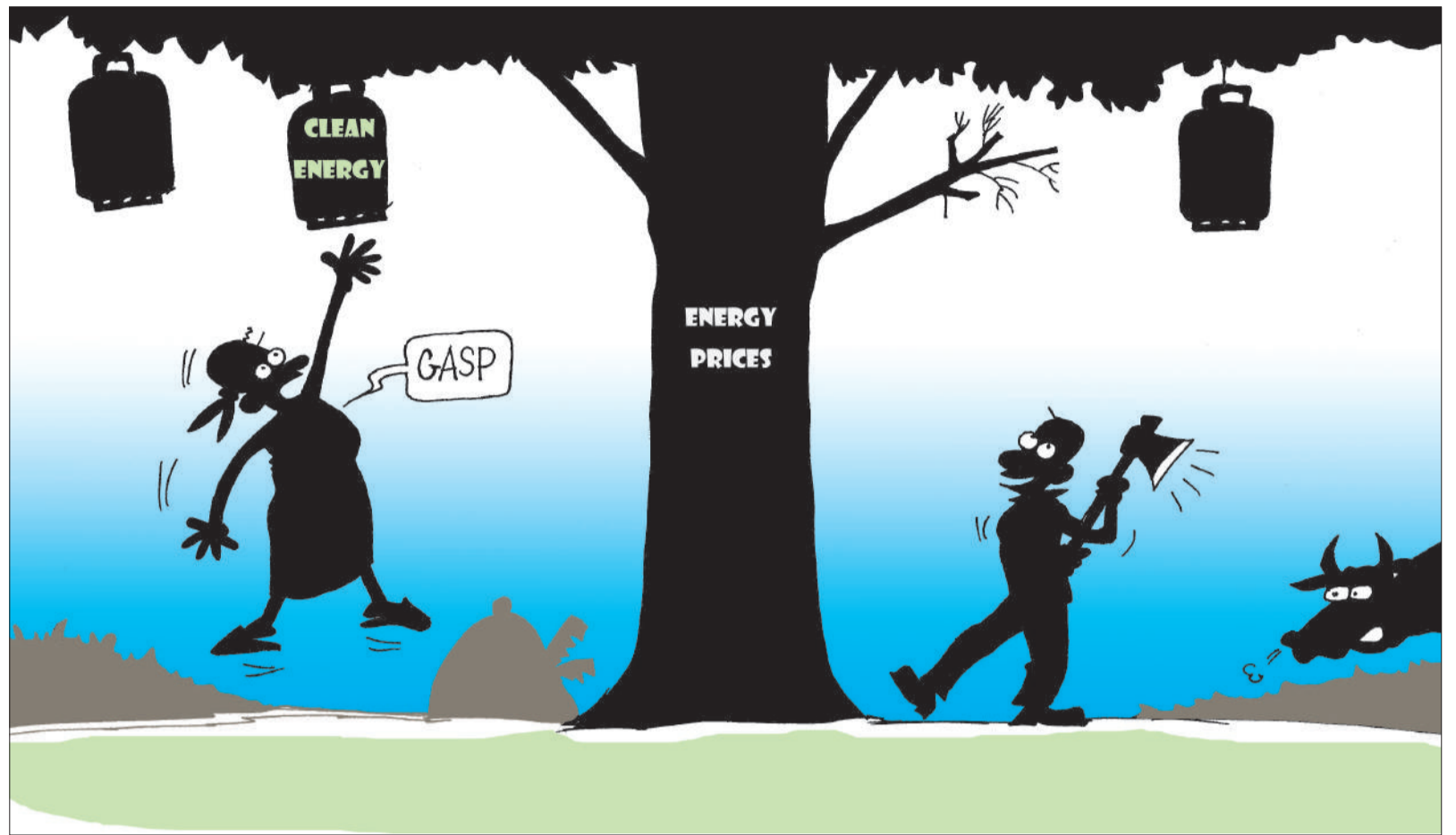
It is a question of forming agro-sector cooperatives anchored in the private sector, where each youth brings into the project a portion of land either inherited or purchased within the vicinity as project land.

The land in question is then registered to obtain a title deed where each original participant has a specific share portion in the lot. It then thus can be used to borrow money from banks for working capital when its quality and market aspects are clear to bank analysts looking at the issue.

In both the WFP-TAHA initiative in the northern regions and in the wider skills training project for a semblance of commercial agriculture, plenty of donation financing is expected which limits the scope of take-up and success of such projects.

Thus, the very idea of business in agriculture as a preoccupation of the state and UN agencies is a welcome novelty for those with long memories of what the government has been doing in agriculture for well over 60 years.

Optimism comes in handy here: time will come when the horizon will clear up - and hence the need to hope that having weak agribusiness will one day prove better than having no agribusiness at all.



African Union action to reinforce elections on the continent should be driven from the top

By Maram Mahdi and Enoch Randy

Aikins

TWENTY-ONE African countries are expected to hold elections in 2024, according to the African Union's (AU) calendar. Already, the first two scheduled polls in Comoros and Senegal - which each held the last two AU chairships - have been marred by irregularities.

Voter apathy characterised the presidential and island assemblies election in Comoros, where President Azali Assoumani's victory - based on a paltry 16.3% voter turnout - was disputed by the opposition, who alleged ballot rigging.

In Senegal, President Macky Sall's domination of the electoral process and postponement of the polls initially scheduled for February were met with widespread protest in a traditionally stable state. Although the Constitutional Council has overturned the postponement and elections are now set for 24 March, Sall's tampering with the process jeopardised the credibility of the polls and increased the likelihood of electoral violence.

Both instances suggest that AU member states don't respect the principles and norms of the organisation they are members of, and in Comoros and Senegal's cases, have recently led. As immediate past AU chairs, countries at the helm of the union should be setting a better electoral example.

Other than rotating among Africa's regions, there are no selection criteria for choosing the AU chair. Even so, an unwritten rule is that the chair must comply with and foster the organisation's norms and principles. When AU chairs conduct poor elections in their own countries, does this misgovernance at the top trickle down?

Voter apathy and suppression

Africa's electoral landscape is now characterised by voter apathy, mistrust in election management bodies and destructive power contestation among political elites. Elections in 2023 highlighted a reversal of the democratic gains made in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Prime examples were the polls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe, which witnessed sustained voter suppression amid a persistent loss of confidence in the electoral process. Since 2011, African



AU Commission chairman, Moussa Mahamat Faki

citizens' support for the ballot box has dwindled by an average of eight percentage points across 29 African countries.

Although the delivery of free and fair elections is the responsibility of member states, the AU and regional economic communities can influence election quality at a supranational level. A tripartite relationship exists between the AU Commission, AU chair and member states, requiring all parties to respect and enforce instruments such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Have all three arms fallen short on electoral norm enforcement, and if so, how can this be fixed?

Troublesome AU chairs

The choice of AU chair is likely to have a bearing on how member states and incumbents running for re-election perceive the AU's role and influence on polls and good governance more broadly. So far, the electoral record of several African governments chairing the AU is questionable.

Apart from the recent Senegal and Comoros cases, Egypt - while serving as the 2019-20 AU chair - implemented electoral reforms against the spirit of AU norms and values. Egypt's Constitution was amended to allow third terms, and the presidential term limit was extended from four to six years.

The reforms allowed President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to stand for a third term in the December 2023 elections and extend his stay in power until 2030.

The 2024-25 AU Chair, Mauritania, will hold presidential and senate elections in June this year. The country has a history of military coups, and only experienced its first peaceful transfer of power in 2019. It now faces a litmus test to determine whether its path towards democratic consolidation can be maintained. Mauritania's electoral process should be closely watched, as it could have implications both domestically and across Africa.

Although the AU prides itself on the principle of non-indifference, a chasm exists between AU norms and the practice of its member states - and the gap is widening when it comes to the conduct of elections.

Irregularities during Comoros' elections - while its president chaired the AU - were a prime reflection of how many African countries and the AU Commission undertake, observe and report on polls. The commission congratulated Assoumani on his re-election, approving the results and the electoral process, and calling for dialogue to ease political divisions. This is despite the meagre voter turnout and widespread local rejection of the outcome.

Countries must improve

their reporting on progress in implementing AU instruments like the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Only Rwanda and Togo have so far submitted reports. This process is a key tool that allows the AU's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security and member states to assess electoral and governance performance.

More sober assessments by AU election observer missions are also needed. The AU Commission's elections report to the Peace and Security Council on 24 January highlighted challenges and painted a worrying outlook for 2024 polls. This comes amid mounting criticism from civil society and opposition parties that the AU rubberstamps elections.

The AU Commission's report is a positive step, but more stringent enforcement mechanisms are needed to ensure compliance with its recommendations. One measure could be to use the implementation rate of previous observer missions' recommendations to determine whether future missions are sent.

Selection of the AU chair should also be guided by the extent to which the nominated member state complies with the organisation's instruments on governance, peace and security. The history and pattern of governance in a country should be considered when selecting the AU chair.

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzania ranked among top global inland fish producers

ATanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) report of 2023, citing FAO (2022), shows that “Tanzania is ranked 8th among the top 25 inland fish producers in the world, and is second only to Uganda in Africa and East Africa.”

TAFIRI, which conducts research and monitoring on fisheries resources in Mainland Tanzania, says Lake Victoria's productive fisheries are dominated by Nile perch (Sangara), cyprinids (Dagaa) and haplochromines (Furu). According to the Fisheries Sector Master Plan (2021/22-2036/37), Lake Victoria produces about 80 per cent of all inland fish production and hosts one of the most significant export commodities, which contribute considerably to the country's fisheries export earnings.

It indicates that the fisheries sector is dominated by capture fisheries and aquaculture and is characterised by small-scale fishers and aquafarmers, who contribute more than 95 per cent of the country's total catch. Furthermore, the sector contributes about 1.7 per cent to the GDP. “The per capita fish consumption is 8.5 kg, and about 30 per cent of animal protein consumption in Tanzania is from fish and the sector is a source of foreign earnings, with an average of 10.5 per cent of annual fish landings exported to various regional and international markets.”

The master plan says a big share of these products comes from inland waters and the main export product is Nile perch from Lake Victoria. “Fishing in inland waters is dominated by small-scale fishers and fish from inland waters is estimated to be 384,356 metric tonnes (equivalent to 78.63 per cent of the total weight of fish captured in Tanzania).”

Fish is an important source of nutrients. It provides protein, fatty acids and minerals, particularly in areas with high fish consumption. The sector plays a significant role in socioeconomic development, foreign exchange and employment. According to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF, 2020), the fisheries sector provided direct employment to fishers, with the number increasing over time, from 133,197 in 2005 to 195,435 in 2020. “About 200,000 people (0.35 per cent) are full-time small-scale fishers and about 4.5 million Tanzanians (6.89 per cent) are indirectly employed in the fisheries sector in Mainland Tanzania.”

The master plan states that over the past 10 years, fish catches from inland and marine waters ranged from 375,533 tonnes in 2005 to 473,592 tonnes in 2020 (MLF, 2020), about 85 per cent of the production coming from



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with Livestock and Fisheries minister, Abdallah Ulega when she launched the distribution of fish cages and modern fishing boats to fishermen in the Lake Zone region in January this year.

inland capture fisheries, 14 per cent from marine capture fisheries and 1 per cent from aquaculture. “Major commercial species include Nile perch, Tilapia and Lake Victoria sardines, while commercial marine fish includes both territorial and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) species.”

It shows that in 2020, 473,592 tonnes of fish (Sh2.37 trillion) were harvested compared to 362,645 tonnes (Sh1.48 trillion) harvested in 2015. Out of the 2020 harvest, 409,828.31 tonnes were harvested from inland waters and 63,763.93 tonnes from marine waters compared to 470,309.5 tonnes harvested in 2019, of which 409,333

tonnes were harvested from inland waters and 60,976.51 tonnes from marine waters. The increase in the harvest is attributed to a decline in illegal fishing activities.

Statistics show that it is mainly Nile perch fillets which are exported to international markets (mainly to the European Union, Japan and the United States), dried Lake Victoria sardines are exported to regional markets, mainly to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia, Malawi and Burundi.

Other fisheries export products include crabs, prawns, fish maws, octopus, seashells, live lobsters, squid, seaweed

and ornamental fish.

Increased fisheries export products from an average of Sh379 billion (equivalent to \$164,782,608.7 per annum in 2008/09) to Sh691 billion (equivalent to \$300,434,782.6 in 2018/19) registered an increase of 82.3 per cent, which depicts a significant increase that enabled the country to earn more foreign exchange, according to a United Republic of Tanzania (URT) Report of 2020.

Based on fish stock assessment surveys conducted in different water bodies and in different years (1970s, 1994, 1998 and 2019), the abundance of fish in terms of biomass (standing stock) shows that Lake Victoria is leading (1,109,932 tonnes), followed by Lake Tanganyika (295,000 tonnes), Lake Nyasa (168,000 tonnes) and marine territorial waters (100,000 tonnes), according to TAFIRI report of 2019.

Other contributions come from small water bodies. However, the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for Nile perch in Lake Victoria could be as high as 315,844 tonnes per year.

According to TAFIRI Mwanza and the Fisheries Department Catch Assessment Survey (CAS) conducted in 2017, Nile perch, Dagaa, Furu and Tilapia are the major commercial fish species from Lake Victoria. Dagaa contributed more to the total catch by weight (41.9 per cent), although its contribution in monetary value was low (21.5 per cent) when compared to that of the Nile perch (28.4 per cent).

The CAS shows that Tilapia was among the species that had low catches and a very low contribution to the total catch (2.0 per cent, but highly preferred by people in the Lake Zone and its market price was second to that of the Nile perch.

Gender inclusion is an imperative for future-ready workplaces

By Bob Moritz

THIS International Women's Day, I have been reflecting on how fortunate I am to work with so many incredible women within PwC and beyond. I see it daily on the personal side with my wife, daughter, step-daughters, daughters-in-law and many nieces, as well as the many talented women at PwC and from the broader stakeholder groups we interact with.

But today is also a timely reminder of how much more must be done to create equitable workplaces worldwide where women and men have equal opportunities to advance their careers. It is an issue of inequity, not talent.

New insights from our Workplace Inclusion Indicator Index - which draws on findings from PwC's annual survey of close to 54,000 workers across 46 countries and territories - show there remains a gender inclusion gap in the workplace that is holding women back.

The index measures the extent to which workers feel they are experiencing belonging, fairness and inclusive decision-making in their current work environment, and it finds that men experience higher levels of inclusion than women.

Closing this gap is critical to advancing gender equity in the workplace. Women with inclusion scores in the top quartile were 1.5 times more likely to ask for a promotion and 1.7 times more likely to seek opportunities to learn and develop new skills than those with lower inclusion scores.

Inclusion is particularly important in today's rapidly changing environment, where technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping the world of work and businesses have to transform their organization to remain viable.

Inclusion in a transforming world

People need to understand the changes and prepare for what's to come. The findings point to some further concerning gender gaps but also suggest that inclusion supports women's greater readiness to try to future-proof their careers.

Women with higher inclusion scores foresee greater benefits to their jobs from AI (+6 points), have a clearer sense of how the skills their jobs require will change in the next five years (+14 points) and are, on average, 21% more confident their employers will support them with upskilling on key skills such as digital, leadership, critical thinking, and green skills.

It's up to all of us as leaders and citizens of the world to do all we can to build inclusive workplaces where everyone has equal opportunities to develop the skills they need and reach their full potential - now and in the future.

This levelling of the playing field isn't just good for people and society but also for business. Those transforming their organization to respond to pressures such as technology, climate change and other megatrends will need the engagement and support of their entire workforce to succeed.

Focusing on inclusion can also help businesses plug talent gaps - those existing today and those we see on the horizon. Our research found that women who report higher levels of inclusion are 2.2 times more likely to recommend their employer as a good place to work and are 1.2 times less likely to change employers than women with lower inclusion scores.

So what should employers be doing now to build a more inclusive workplace?

Building an inclusive workplace culture

Based on what we learned from our own experience at PwC, here are four key areas to hone in on.

Use data to understand where you need to focus and make



Inclusion and equal opportunities at work can help businesses face global challenges.

sure there is leadership commitment to and accountability for inclusion and diversity.

Help leaders understand and counter how unconscious biases can distort their decision-making, including those bedded in gender stereotypes and perceptions that often hold women back.

Encourage empathy, appreciation and respect for every individual's unique lived experience and foster an environment of psychological safety in which everyone feels empowered to speak up.

Establish critical inclusion and diversity interventions throughout the talent lifecycle. Without tackling the systemic challenges that arise at all stages of the talent process, organizations will continue to face the same diversity gaps in the succession pipeline at the top.

At PwC, we are taking action in these areas as part of our ongoing journey to foster a culture of belonging and equity across our network. But we should also be humble and ac-

knowledge there is always room to improve.

Cultivating the right culture

We pride ourselves on having a community of solvers - our diverse teams of specialists who work together to bring their unique capabilities and perspectives to meet client challenges. For that community to deliver its best, we must make sure all our people experience a sense of belonging and equity at work. To help build this culture, we are using data to shape our approach and drive leadership accountability, and key performance indicators to deliver results in the moments that matter, such as hiring, promotion and succession planning. We've made inclusive leadership a key focus of our global upskilling efforts.

We are helping our people at all levels develop inclusive leadership skills through programmes such as our Inclusive Mindset knowledge badge, which has engaged close to 150,000 PwC people across 140 countries. We are also making allyship and similar practices a formal part of the frame-

work that sets out the conduct expected from all of us at PwC.

While we are proud of our progress, we recognize that we still have a long way to go. We are committed to listening to all of our people and continuing to take the actions needed to foster a truly inclusive workplace across our network, learning lessons along the way and using inclusion as a key enabler for gender equity and, indeed, equity for all underrepresented groups.

As global megatrends like technology continue to change the world of work, it has never been more important to focus on creating equitable and inclusive workplaces worldwide. Let's all work towards that goal - on International Women's Day and every day.

By Katherine Estrada

Nicaraguan feminists join 'resistance', 'solidarity' march

EXILED and migrant women, plus those banished by the regime of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, united in a march of "resistance" and "solidarity," held in Costa Rica on March 8th, in commemoration of International Women's Day.

The demonstrators, a key component of San Jose's national march, issued an urgent call to the democratic governments of Latin America and the world to adopt conclusive measures to stop the Nicaraguan government repression.

Beginning at 4 pm, a diverse group of Nicaraguan women gathered at San Jose's Central Park in response to a call from the group Nicaraguan Feminists Exiled in Costa Rica. The group is made up of women's collectives and organizations, plus independent feminists residing in the country. This is the sixth year they've marched in Costa Rica, since all non-government demonstrations have been prohibited in Nicaragua since 2018, when a de facto police state was imposed there.

"We demand justice, and we persist in the struggle for our rights in the face of the escalation of state violence we've faced in Nicaragua since 2007, violence that intensified during the crisis of 2018. Marching in this country [Costa Rica] is an act of resistance," declared Diana Herrera of the La Corriente Feminist Association, one of more than 200 women's organizations shuttered by the Nicaraguan dictatorship and reestablished in Costa Rica in 2023.

Nicaraguan women at the head of the Costa Rican march

The organizing commission for the March 8 march in Costa Rica opted to place the Nicaraguan bloc at the head of the demonstration, right after the initial banner that opened the march, which began at 5 pm.

The Nicaraguan feminists held signs with the faces of the 19 female political and student activists, feminists, and human rights advocates that are still being held as political prisoners in Nicaragua.

"It's impossible for the Ortega-Murillo government to speak about women's rights in a country where they don't guarantee minimum conditions to live with dignity and access to justice. Marching here signifies resistance, and our determination to continue fighting for our rights and for the women who are still in Nicaragua, with no access to a decent life," commented "Cosette," an independent feminist who lives in Costa Rica. She asked to remain



Migrant, exiled, and banished Nicaraguan women took to the streets of San Jose, Costa Rica on March 8th, to commemorate International Women's Day. Photo: Katherine Estrada

anonymous out of fear for the safety of her family still in Nicaragua.

The La Corriente Feminist Association also created a music video to commemorate International Women's Day, in collaboration with Guatemalan feminist singer-songwriter Rebeca Lane. The song, en-

titled "Vamos a Volver" "We will return", could be heard throughout the march.

The demonstration ended in front of Costa Rica's National Assembly building where the Nicaraguan Feminists Exiled in Costa Rica

group took a moment to read their official statement.

Feminists in exile have organized In October 2023, the group Nicaraguan Feminists Exiled in Costa Rica was organized, with the participation of over 65 women.

"During the past five years, we've actively committed ourselves to processes of social transformation, strengthening our networks of solidarity among the Nicaraguan feminists in exile, maintaining firmly the fundamental feminist principle that the struggle is collective," Herrera stated.

To these women, this space is critical. Aware of the violence that women in Nicaragua, as well as migrant women in Costa Rica face, it allows them to organize to promote changes.

The group has held camps, forums, recitals, and other events to make visible the reality of Nicaraguan women, within as well as outside of Nicaragua. They hope to continue strengthening the networks and alliances, offering opportunities to become fully educated about their rights.

Despite the many attempts of the Ortega-Murillo regime to disarticulate the feminist organizations and make them disappear, they continue working from outside the country on behalf of those who are within Nicaragua.

They continue denouncing the violent acts in Nicaragua and demanding justice for all women, including the political prisoners, the victims of femicide and sexual abuse, and those suffering generalized violence in exile.

Great Barrier Reef: New mass bleaching event posing threat to famous world heritage site

By Tiffanie Turnbull

AUSTRALIA'S iconic Great Barrier Reef is suffering another mass bleaching event, officials have confirmed.

Bleaching occurs when heat-stressed corals expel the algae that give them life and colour.

It is the fifth time in eight years widespread damage has been detected at the Unesco World Heritage site.

Only two mass bleaching events had been recorded until 2016, and scientists say urgent climate action is needed for the reef to survive.

"The frequency and scale at which these mass bleaching events are now occurring is frightening - every summer we're holding our breath," said Greenpeace Australia's David Ritter.

"Claims that Australia is taking the health of the Great Barrier Reef seriously ring hollow when we continue to expand and subsidise the coal and gas industry to the tune of billions every year."

"It's literally cooking the Reef," the Climate Council's Simon Bradshaw added.

Stretching over 2,300km (1,400

miles) off Australia's north-east coast, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral system and one of its most biodiverse habitats.

An aerial survey of 320 reefs - from the tip of Australia to the city of Bundaberg - showed most are experiencing prevalent bleaching, after a summer of heightened sea temperatures.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority said in-water examinations are underway to determine the severity and depth of the damage - which likely varies greatly across the reef.

The body's Chief Scientist Roger Beeden told the BBC that bleaching in the southern zone though, was the worst in almost 20 years, and could become "unprecedented".

"It's too early to say what the full consequences of this event is," he said. "If the conditions cool, we could see a lot of what's bleached recover."

Over the past decade the reef has rebuilt itself from other mass bleaching events, severe tropical cyclones, and crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, he added.

Record-breaking global sea temperatures have recently triggered similar bleaching events in the northern hemisphere, and this week



A recent photo of the bleaching damage on the Great Barrier Reef

bleaching was also spotted on the world's southern-most reef at Lord Howe Island - which too lies in Australian waters.

The Great Barrier Reef has been heritage-listed for over 40 years due to its "enormous" importance, but Unesco says the icon is under "serious threat" from warming seas and pollution.

Successive Australian governments have fought to keep

the body from declaring the tourist drawcard "in danger", which could see it lose heritage status. The decision will be reviewed again in July.

Calling climate change "the biggest threat to coral reefs worldwide", Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said her government has increased funding for reef conservation and introduced stronger emissions-reduction targets.

"It's essential we do everything we can to protect this

amazing place for our kids and grand-kids," she said.

The UN's most recent climate change report found the prevalence of future mass bleaching events depends on how quickly the world cuts emissions.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

It's Africa's time to shine, says UN Under Secretary Claver Gatete

VICTORIA FALLS

WITH 20 percent of the global population and vast untapped natural resources, not forgetting its human capital, it is time Africa had its rightful seat at the global table, the United Nations Under Secretary and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Claver Gatete (pictured) declared.

Decrying that Africa has been on the back foot on the global stage when key political and economic decisions are made, Gatete says it is time Africa claimed its voice. Gatete told a recent conference of African finance ministers in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, that Africa is in a financial and fiscal crisis because a global financial system does not have the interests of the continent at heart.

Africa Must Be Heard

"So, what will it take for African countries to really feel heard? Gatete asked.

"It is okay for us to say that 80 years ago, Africa was not at the table. It is probably acceptable to say that when the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, we were also at the periphery," he said, adding, "But we will not be forgiven today if we do not occupy centre stage as architects of a new global financial architecture that works for us."

Africa, he noted, was facing multiple crises that it was not directly responsible for but bore the worst impacts from the Ukraine-Russia war, COVID-19, and high indebtedness to climate change.

The financial difficulties that Africa is currently facing are not solely the result of COVID-19 or recent conflicts but also have their roots in an inadequate global financial architecture and a multi-lateral financial system that does not adequately serve Africa's needs, Gatete said.

Referring to the creation of the UN in 1945, Gatete pointed out that the five permanent members of the Security Council—China, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Russia—made up almost 50 percent of the world's population then,

but today that figure is just 26 percent.

"While Africa now represents nearly 20 percent of the global population, it is not represented at the G7, whose proportion of the global population is only 9.7 percent. So how do you solve today's problems with outdated 80-year old structures that do not reflect the global shifts that have occurred?"

Africa has long pushed for a seat on the UN Security Council, calling for the reform of the United Nations in line with the Ezulwini Consensus, agreed in 2022. The Ezulwini Consensus is a position on international relations and UN reform agreed upon by the African Union. Africa wants at least two permanent seats and five non-permanent Security Council seats chosen by the African Union.

Addressing the third summit of a group of developing countries (G77) in Uganda in January this year, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres said there is agreement for Africa's representation on the Security Council.

"So for the first time, I'm hopeful that at least a partial reform of the UN Security Council could be possible for this flagrant injustice to be corrected and for Africa to have at least one permanent member in the Security Council," Guterres said.

A Green Transition Good for Africa

Highlighting that a productive green finance system in Africa has the potential to generate USD 3 trillion by 2030, Gatete urged that Africa needs to move from 'potential' to tangible actions with bankable regional projects.

Innovative instruments like debt-for-nature swaps, regional blue bonds, natural capital accounting, and regional carbon markets can provide financing that addresses debt issues and fosters environmental action, he noted, emphasizing that Africa wants a fair price for carbon trading.

"It does not make sense for African countries to earn less than USD 10 per ton of carbon while countries in Europe earn over USD 100."

'Tanga Water Green Bond a superb way to address water scarcity, climate change'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

ON February 22, 2024, an event of historic significance unfolded in the city of Tanga, as the launch of the Tanga Water Green Infrastructure Bond (Tanga Water Green Bond) took place.

Under the presence of Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and other dignitaries including Theobald Sabi, NBC Bank managing director who delivered a speech that showcased the bank's pivotal role in selling the bond, positioning the lender as a reliable partner for stakeholders seeking to achieve their investment projects responsibly.

The 10-year Tanga Water Green Bond is to raise 53.12bn/- to enhance water production and improve water infrastructure in Tanga Region.

The innovative bond not only aims to address the pressing issue of water scarcity but also contributes to tackling climate change, increasing efficiency in various industries, creating employment opportunities, boosting financial transactions, and supporting the nation's overall development vision.

As the lead transaction advisor, the bank played a crucial role in facilitating the success of the bond issuance, whereby with over 55 years of experience in the market, it led a team of advisors who efficiently coordinated and managed the entire issuance process.

This involved developing a strategic plan, conducting comprehensive financial analysis, and preparing a project report, or Information Memorandum, to attract potential investors.

The bank also played a vital role in obtaining project approvals from regulatory institutions such as the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA), National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), among others.

In this matter, the bank serves as the primary trustee for bond investors, embodying the bank's commitment to safeguarding their investments and fostering trust. This role positions NBC Bank as an essential member of the Steering Committee, allowing them to actively participate in critical decision-making processes.

It also includes market management and public education. This recognizes the importance of public awareness, whereby the bank has actively contributed to the development of a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote the bond through various media outlets. Additionally, the bank has organized visits to potential investors in their workplaces and businesses, ensuring widespread engagement in achieving the project's objectives.

In its capacity as a project bank, as it will manage all project accounts, including collection, operating, and sinking fund accounts for bond payments. This responsibility reflects the bank's commitment to efficiently execute the financial aspects of the project.

The Tanga Water Green Bonds will be readily available at all NBC Bank branches and Stock Exchange Agents for a ten-year period, offering investors an attractive set of benefits including highly competitive

returns as investors can expect the highest market return, with an annual interest rate of 13.5 percent. It will make the bondholders will receive returns every six months, ensuring consistent and predictable income generation.

The new drive will make investors enjoy the added benefit of no withholding tax and by investing in the Tanga Water Green Bond, stakeholders are actively contributing to environmental improvement and climate change mitigation efforts, making a tangible impact on the planet.

The success of this milestone project would not have been achievable without the unwavering support and collaboration of key stakeholders. Sabi extended heartfelt gratitude to the Tanzanian government, specifically the Ministry of Finance and that of Water, for facilitating the Alternative Project Financing Strategy. Their guidance and support paved the way for the implementation of this critical initiative.

Acknowledging the crucial contributions of project partners, Tanga Uwasa and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Sabi emphasized the trust placed in NBC Bank by these esteemed organizations. By leading this transformative project, NBC Bank has demonstrated its ability to excel in the sustainable development landscape.

Sabi said that by extending an open invitation to all stakeholders present, encouraging them to collaborate with NBC Bank as their trusted partner in pursuing their investment projects.

With their extensive market experience and a team of competent professionals, NBC Bank stands ready to provide effective, responsible, and dependable support in achieving shared goals.

The launch of the Tanga Water Green Infrastructure Bond serves as a testament to NBC Bank's commitment to sustainable development and responsible investing.

By positioning themselves as a reliable partner, NBC Bank is primed to contribute to the realization of investment projects while fostering a greener future for Tanzania and the world at large.



A Call to Change the Global Financial Architecture

It is estimated that Africa spends nearly USD 100 billion on debt repayments annually, forcing many governments to defer investments in social spending on health, education, and food security.

ECA Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, Hanan Morsy, weighed in, saying there is a need to reduce the debt burden on African countries to enable them to allocate more resources to critical sectors like healthcare and education instead of high debt service costs.

"It is imperative to enhance Africa's voice and representation, shifting from being rule takers to rule makers," said Morsy, adding, "This involves bolstering international cooperation on taxation and combating IFFs, including reducing tax evasion and profit shifting."

Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Monique Nsanzabaganwa, said Africa's potential to reclaim its long-overdue rightful treatment was materializing as the global landscape took multi-polar shapes and the African Union became a full member of the G20.

"Africa is stronger together," Nsanzabaganwa said, adding, "I will argue that the value proposition of the African Union is indeed to foster coherence in our strategies and amplify our common voice."



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP Title: Provision of Various Consultancy Services

RFP Number: 2023-TCP/03/01

Date of Solicitation: March 12, 2024

Closing Date and Time: March 22, 2024, 11:00 am (Arusha, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by March 19, 2024

Introduction to TAHA, TARIC and Tuhifadhi Chakula Project

TAHA is an apex member based private sector organization that advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticulture industry in Tanzania. Since its inception in 2004, TAHA has been an effective voicing platform for producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products mainly; flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds, and spices. The Association safeguards the interests of industry stakeholders and ensures industry issues are well represented within national and international agendas. Visit us at <https://www.taha.or.tz/taha/about>

TARIC, a powerful digital resource, meant to serve information and data to all the stakeholders and aspirants of the horticultural industry. TARIC is available as a Web App, accessed via: <https://www.taric.co.tz/> and as a mobile Apps, available in play store as TARIC. TARIC was launched by TAHA in November of 2022. TARIC contains three information dissemination products, namely: data, learning and reports and publications. The data product contains key statistics and information on all the value-chain actors and its' stages. The learning product has various learning materials and tools which has targeted to build capacity to farmers and buyers in the horticultural industry. The reports and publications contain various reports, articles, and information briefs about the industry.

USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula Project (USAID - TCP) is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by TAHA. The overarching objective of the Project is to reduce food loss and waste and resultant climate effects for improved food security and livelihoods.

The project has been co-created to improve food handling, storage, and value addition, facilitate market access, inform and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste, and strengthen local organizations' capacity to lead in post-harvest management. Overall, the project will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses from 30-40% for horticulture to 15% and from 13% to 7% for cereals by the end of the project.

TAHA through USAID TCP has set aside a budget to solicit and engage eligible and qualified consultants to provide the following services:

- i. Digital content streamlining services for the purpose of optimizing and simplifying the creation, management, distribution, and delivery of digital content across various channels and platforms.
- ii. Technical software advisory services for the purpose of ensuring a smooth operation and maintenance of a TARIC.
- iii. Conducting a review of the current status of the market support facilities in USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula Project regions.
- iv. Assessment of the Compliance Capacity to Regulatory and Private Sector Standards of the Horticultural Cottage Industry (MSMEs) in Tanzania

A. High Level Scope of Work

Digital Content Streamlining Consultant:

A digital content streamlining consultant, will be responsible for optimizing the content creation, management, and distribution processes of TARIC, ensuring efficiency, consistency, and effectiveness in delivering valuable information to the target audiences while maximizing user experience and stakeholder engagement.

Consultant for Technical Software Advisory Services:

The consultant shall be responsible for ensuring a smooth operation and maintenance of TARIC. This involves overseeing the technical infrastructure, software development and maintenance, troubleshooting technical issues, ensuring security and data privacy, implementing software updates and performance optimization, managing backups and disaster recovery, documenting technical information, and collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure the optimal functioning of TARIC.

Conducting a Review of the Current Status of the Market Support Facilities:

To assess the existing market support facilities in the project regions which are Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya, Njombe, Tanga, Pwani and Zanzibar; analyzing their current status to inform the needed areas for improvement, determining the capacity in terms of volume and the number of stakeholders they are serving.

Assessment of the Compliance Capacity to Regulatory and Private Sector Standards of the Horticultural Cottage Industry (MSMEs) in Tanzania:

To conduct a comprehensive institutional capacity assessment of the Cottage Industry of Tanzania, specifically Micro, Small Scale to Medium Horticultural Processors, for purposes of establishing a clear understanding of the compliance capabilities of MSMEs. Further the findings will inform implementation initiatives, capacity building interventions and support bolstering of the MSMEs compliance to regulatory and private sector standards.

B. Submission Instructions

Interested consultants or firms should download the terms of references through the link: <https://shorturl.at/iyEW4>

C. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFP shall be made in English.
- Each consultancy opportunity should be responded to separately.
- Should there be any uncertainty, the Bidder shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: procurement@taha.or.tz
- Any clarification sought by the bidder in respect to the RFP shall be titled **CLARIFICATION - (Insert Consultancy Name)**.
- TAHA will only respond to requests for clarification received no later than **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**.
- Copies of TAHA's response will be forwarded to all registered participants (registration form on Appendix 1), including a description of the inquiry, but without identifying its source.



Why does investing in the Tanga water green bond matter?

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Empowering future: Self leads charge into digital frontier

Page14



Bank group reports resilient earnings amid tough environment

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Horticulture keeps its spot in 1trn/- industry club

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

HORTICULTURE sub-sector, which employs at least four million people, has maintained its slot on 1trn/- industry club, after doubling its exports earnings over the last five years, which is nearly half of the amount generated from traditional exports.

According to the provisional data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations, earnings from exported horticultural products amounted to US\$44.8 million (1.04trn/-) during the year ending in January, 2024, compared to US\$212 million (526bln/-) recorded in 2020.

The amount was higher than the exports earnings from cashewnuts, cotton, sisal and tea combined, and was nearly a third of earnings from exported manufactured goods.

Currently, the horticulture industry contributes 38 percent of the total agricultural sector's foreign exchange earnings.

Provisional data show the edible vegetables accounted for three quarters of total earnings from exported horticultural products, which amounted to US\$312 million in January this year, more than doubled of US\$145 million recorded in 2020.

However, the amount of earnings from exported edible vegetables was lower than US\$313.3 million recorded in 2022, whereby the total earnings from exported horticultural products amounted to US\$381.1 million.

The BoT's monthly economic review for February has shown that the earnings from exported horticulture amounted



to US\$26.6 million during the year ending in January, 2024, lower than US\$31.9 million recorded during similar period in 2020.

Exports earnings from fruits increased four times to US\$43.2 million during the year ending January 2024, from US\$10.6 million recorded in 2020, while other horticultural products fetched US\$32.3 million, an increase from US\$23.7 million, according to TRA data.

With the purchase of Air Tanzania Limited's new cargo plane, stakeholders say they expect further increase of exports of horticultural products, as it has solved the long term logistic challenges, specifically air transport to move perishable products to overseas market.

According to the International Trade Centre (ITC), major Tanzanian trading partners for fruits and vegetables include European Union, the Middle East, East African Community (EAC)

and SADC member countries.

Tanzania is among the 20 largest producers of fresh horticultural produce globally, while the leading countries are Mexico, Vietnam, the Netherlands, the United States, Spain, Germany, Canada, China, Peru, and Turkey.

According to Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), the major regions in Tanzania where horticultural crops are grown include Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, and Ruvuma in the Southern highlands; Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara regions in the Northern corridor and Coast region, Zanzibar in the Coastal zone (usually dominated by small-scale farmers).

Looking forward, the government plans to unlock the full potential of horticulture as it seeks to make the industry the largest source of foreign exchange by targeting US\$2 billion by 2030.

According to TAHA appropriate infrastructure, right skills to farm-

ers to produce required quality and volume to meet the standards of overseas markets, and investment-friendly policies to attract Foreign Direct Investments are necessary to spur growth of the industry.

In 2021, the government published the National Horticulture Development Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2031 to guide a horticultural sub-sector in the next ten years (2021-2031) towards a vibrant and sustainably competitive in the domestic, regional and international markets.

The total cost of implementing the National Horticulture Strategy is expected to be around 4.7trn/-, according to the ministry of agriculture.

The strategy envisages transforming horticulture into a competitive industry capable of contributing significant generation of foreign income and reducing poverty through the sustainable supply of high quality produce to domestic, regional and international markets.

Indian diaspora propose for Zanzibar-India direct flight

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN Diaspora have called upon Indian government to introduce an additional direct flights from India to Zanzibar at least twice a week to enable businesspersons, tourists, Indian diaspora, students and patients to go to India on time as well as boosting trade and tourism.

Lourenco Gonsalves, Architects, Engineers and Quantity Registration Board of Zanzibar, board member made the statement last week when speaking to Indian Diaspora who attended a seminar on contribution of Indian Diaspora in Developmental journey of Tanzania and shaping of India-Tanzania relations.

The event took place at the India High Commission to Tanzania.

"As Indian Diaspora in Zanzibar, we don't have direct flight from Zanzibar to India so far although we have good beaches, organic spices, we need an additional direct flights to promote tourists attractions that we have and meet growing demand for travel in Zanzibar," he said.

Currently there are a lot of passengers in Zanzibar who want to go in India for business, education, medical treatment and leisure purpose.

"Indian government can sit together with Tanzanian government to see how they can add more direct flights from Zanzibar to India or Dar es Salaam to India because there is enough passenger demand to support the route and make it profitable," he said.

Considering that India is an emerging market, therefore direct flight will attract many tourists and businessperson from India who are look-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

ing for the direct flight to Zanzibar.

He made the statement when discussing about rebooting India-Tanzania Partnership and role of Indian Diaspora.

Gonsalves was in Dar es Salaam Region to attend the seminar and representing the general community of Zanzibar of Indian origin.

The seminar was meant to discuss India's cultural and historical linkages with Tanzania, moving through histories- Indian Diaspora in Tanzania/ East Africa and rebooting India-Tanzania partnership and role Diaspora.

"We need Indian government intervention on this area because the routes which has been introduced by Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) to India is not enough, sometimes people they don't go in India on time because of the routes that are now available for passengers," he said.

Also he called on India to join the Security Council of United Nations to

maintain peace and security, "I believe my government in Tanzania will support," he said.

In general, Indian community in Zanzibar is living harmoniously with other fellow citizens. No discrimination, racial or religious is reported.

Some have no more connection with India and our population is much less now, about 35% of what was 40 years ago.

"We cherish the efforts by the Indian government to foster the India-Tanzania relation and the general Indian diaspora globally. A seminar like this is a vivid witness to such efforts.

Elaborating on the contribution of the Indian Diaspora in the Development Journey of Tanzania and Shaping of India-Tanzania Relations, he said Indian community in Zanzibar has a long history.

It has a strong impact in trade, architecture, education, law, finance, music,

cuisine, etc. The rupee was the currency of Zanzibar from 1908 to December 31, 1935.

Also Indian community was actively engaged in all aspects of life in Zanzibar.

In health, they managed to build Dr. Patel dispensary, located at Arya Samaj temple, Ithnaasher Khoja dispensary, currently Agakhan hospital and Dr. Mehta hospital still operating by his grandchild Dr. Amesh.

In education sector, most Indian communities had their own educational institutions which were nationalized after 1964 revolution. They were: the Ismaili Agakhan school (Kidutani, SUZA), Bohora school (Hamamni), Hindu Union (Ministry, hotel), Ithnaasher school (Kiponda) and Saint Joseph Convent school (Tumekuja, hotel). Nowadays new schools like Sunni Madressa, High View are owned by Indian.

Also Indian community was actively engaged in all aspects of life in Zanzibar.

In politics, Rystam Sidhwa, a legislator was a committee member representing Zanzibar at Lancaster House, England to negotiate the independence of Zanzibar.

Some had served as Member of Parliament within the past 30 years, he named them as Moh'd Ibrahim Sanya served for 10 years, Parmukh Singh Hoogan - for 10 years, Bagwanji Mensuria - for 5 years and Haroun Suleiman - a Zanzibar Minister since 2000.

Also Indian community played a big role in building construction in Zanzibar. They designed and erected iconic buildings which contributed in the Stone Town of Zanzibar to be listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The famous Old Dispensary was owned by Taria Topan.

Among the buildings designed by architect Ajit Singh are the Forodhani Band Stand and garden landscape, Karimjee hospital (Mnazi Mmoja), Darajani school, Arab school (Vikotoni) and Muslim Academy (Forodhani orphanage). He was also an artist.

African women agripreneurs to compete for 750m/- cash prize

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN agripreneurs across Africa will have a chance to win US\$300,000 (about 750mln/-) cash prize following the launch of the Women Agripreneurs of the Year Awards (WAYA).

Launched during the commemoration of the International Women's Day in Abuja, Nigeria by AGRA, applications is now open for the continental prestigious gender award.

WAYA is a prestigious award scheme that recognizes female agripreneurs demonstrating remarkable innovation and business excellence in agricultural value chains.

To be eligible, businesses must operate within an agricultural or agribusiness value chain, be legally registered in an African Union country, and be at least 51 percent owned and managed by women who are citizens of one of the 55 African countries.

Since 2021, the awards have been distributed across 3 categories Young Female Agripreneur (for those under the age of 35 years and have demonstrated innovation and leadership in business), Female Agriculture Tech Innovator (those championing technological advancement in agribusiness) and Outstanding Value Adding Enterprise (for female-owned agribusinesses that are increasing the economic value and/or consumer appeal to agricultural products), and the coveted

However, beginning 2024, AGRA said in a statement over the weekend that has introduced regional winners in the Young Female Agripreneurs category, and added two exciting new categories.

They include Women Empowerment Champion (recognizing female agripreneurs who exhibit a deliberate commitment to creating opportunities for other women to grow their own agribusinesses) and a Resilient & Inspirational Leader (recognizing female agripreneurs from marginalized communities or vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas who, despite facing significant challenges demonstrate unwavering determination, strength, and perseverance to excel in agribusiness).

Applications will close on 31 May 2024, with the winning agripreneurs being unveiled during the Africa Food Systems Forum (formerly AGRF) to be held in Kigali Rwanda from 2nd to 6th September 2024.

Speaking at the event, AGRA's Acting Head of the Youth, Gender, and Inclusivity division, Winnie Osulah, said, "We received 1,478 applications for WAYA from women in 38 African countries in 2023.

We look forward to receiving additional applications from women in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors of Africa this year as we open applications again, and to honoring their unrelenting efforts, creative ideas, and outstanding leadership." AGRA, Synergos, UN Women, and LAWN Gender Consortium leveraged the Abuja IWD event to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration.

They recognized the significance of the occasion in bringing together stakeholders from diverse sectors, including government, civil society, and the private sector, to address gender equality and women's empowerment issues.

Juliette Lampoh-Agroh, Country Program Lead for AGRA in Nigeria stated, "Today we are gathered recognize the leading role of women actively advocating for economic empowerment of women, and to set the stage for driving advocacy agendas, conversations and targeted policies essential to ensure women in Africa agribusiness have equal opportunity to access finance and thrive."



KCB Bank Tanzania's head of finance, Willis Mbatia (2nd L), presents a gift to the Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Isaac Njenga at the Kenya diaspora forum held at the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Empowering future: Self leads charge into digital frontier

By Francis Kajubi

SELF Microfinance Fund is on the brink of a transformative leap forward, with a resolute commitment to progress, the fund is primed to broaden its influence and effectiveness by integrating cutting-edge digital tools into its operations.

This was disclosed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Mudith Cheyo, the firm's chief executive officer in a meeting with the media saying the strategic move is poised to revolutionize the lending process, heighten accessibility, and drive unparalleled efficiency.

Cheyo was of the view that by harnessing the power of technology, SELF is not merely adapting to change; it is leading the charge towards a future where financial empowerment knows no bounds.

The CEO emphasized the fund's commitment to bolstering operational efficiency by leveraging digital tools to provide timely and high-quality services. Additionally, he highlighted the fund's aim for robust financial sustainability, aiming to yield substantial profits.

"Since its establishment in 2015, the fund has extended credit to over 200 micro-financial institutions (MFIs), supporting microfinance endeavors as well as self-employed individuals in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including smallholder farmers," he disclosed.

He further explained: "As of December last year, the fund has facilitated the creation of 37,024 direct and indirect employment opportunities through disbursed loans. Additionally, it has successfully provided financial education to 1,519 borrowers."

Highlighting the fund's pivotal role in fostering financial inclusion among low-income earners, Cheyo emphasized that by the end of 2023, the fund had disbursed loans totaling 324.51bn/- while maintaining a non-performing loan rate of seven percent.

The loan disbursements have reached 314,055 borrowers, of whom 166,449 were women, representing 53 percent, and 147,606 were male borrowers. These beneficiaries hail from all 30 regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The Fund extends loans to microfinance institutions at an interest rate ranging between 16 and 18 percent per annum.

However, smallholder farmers,



micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs can access loans at rates ranging between 15 and 22 percent.

Petro Mataba, the fund's director of business development and marketing outlined that loans are disbursed through two channels; wholesale lending and direct lending and that it commenced its operations in July 2015 with a working capital of 56bn/-.

According to him, December last year, the said capital had grown to 62bn/- and that they initially they started with only three branches, but now boasts a network of 12 branches nationwide, with plans to expand to 20 branches by 2026.

On the other hand, Mataba highlighted that the fund, initiated dividend payments to the treasury in 2019.

"During the financial year 2019/20, dividends totaling 200m/- were furnished to the treasury. This was followed by dividends amounting to 250m/- in 2020/21 and 247m/- in 2021/22.

Commenting on SELF's digital initiation, Racheal Mwambigija, local finance expert said: "It is a good move to reach the unreached community, but also recognizing the transformative potential of technology."

According to Racheal, by embracing digitalization, the fund seeks to overcome traditional barriers to financial inclusion and empower more individuals, particularly those in underserved communities, to access financial services.

"I think they will need to employ various strategies to deepen their outreach, one of which is the adoption of mobile banking solutions. Through mobile banking, clients can conveniently access a range of financial services, including loans, and insurance products," he said.

For him, the said approach not only reduces the need for physical branch visits but also enables greater flexibility and convenience for clients, especially those in remote areas where traditional banking infrastructure may be lacking.

Furthermore, the financial expert emphasized the importance of harnessing the power of data analytics and digital platforms to gain deeper insights into the needs and preferences of the fund's clients.

"By leveraging data insights, the organization can tailor its products and services to meet the specific requirements of different customer segments, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and retention," he affirmed.

Adding: "Through these innovative initiatives, I am sure the fund is poised to deepen its impact on financial inclusion and contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of individuals and communities across Tanzania."

A LETTER TO INVESTORS:.

Why does investing in the Tanga water green bond matter?

By Godwin Semunyu

TANGA, a city brimming with potential, faces a pivotal challenge—providing its growing population with the necessity of clean water. Currently, only a fraction of Tanga's residents have access to clean water and sewage networks, underscoring the urgent need for infrastructure upgrades.

In response to this pressing challenge, the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA) has devised an ambitious plan for the refurbishment of aging facilities, expansion of treatment plants, and implementation of advanced metering systems. TangaUwasa aims to meet current demands and prepare for future growth.

To finance these crucial initiatives, TangaUwasa has forged a partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to introduce the "Tanga Water Green Bond"—an innovative financial instrument aimed at raising 53.12bn/- to foot the demands.

Why invest in the Tanga water green bond?

This bond offers investors a compelling opportunity. With a 10-year duration and a competitive interest rate of 13.5 percent, it promises attractive semi-annual returns.

Available through all NBC Bank branches and agents of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange Countrywide, it symbolizes dedication to sustainable development while ensuring lucrative financial gains for investors.

Where will your investment go?

Proceeds from the Tanga Water Green Bond will fuel impactful initiatives. These include expanding water production and treatment capacity, bridging the demand gap, reducing Non-Revenue Water through infrastructure rehabilitation, extending water service coverage, and installing prepaid metering systems for equitable distribution.

Investing for sustainability

Investing in the Tanga Water Green Bond transcends mere financial returns—it represents a commitment to



sustainability. By supporting environmental conservation, climate action, and water generation for industrial growth, this bond aligns with Environmental, Social, and Governance commitments and United Nations millennium development goals. It's not just an investment; it's a statement in favor of responsible planet stewardship.

Join Us in Shaping the Future

In an era where sustainability is paramount, the Tanga Water Green Bond presents a unique opportunity to invest in a brighter future. By combining economic benefits with community well-being and environmental goals, this bond represents the promise of financial instruments crafted for tomorrow. Join us in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Invest in the Tanga Water Green Bond and be a part of the solution.

Godwin Semunyu is the Head of Corporate Affairs at NBC Bank. The Bank (NBC) is also the Lead Transaction Advisor of the Tanga Green Bond proceedings. He can be reached through: Godwin.semunyu@nbc.co.tz

Firm benefits villagers through its PPP project

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi Rural

WHEN properly planned, organized and well implemented, the Public Private Partnership (PPP) can bring about gains not only to the investor but also to the surrounding community where's the project is being implemented.

A very good example of such a PPP project is in Dakau village, Okaoni Ward, Moshi rural district, in Kilimanjaro region where Vasso Agroventures Limited, a Dutch company, has formed a lease agreement with Kibosho Central Rural Cooperative Society.

Through the partnership, Vasso Agroventures Limited has leased a eighty (80) hectares estate for 35 years, belonging to the respective society.

Vasso Agroventures Limited Managing Director of, Fons Nijenhuis said the company has invested a total of Euro 2.5 million, equivalent to 6.9bn/- to produce rooted green plants, hybrid vegetable seeds, hybrid flower seeds and off late the new varieties of bean and soya seeds: all for export market in Europe, Asia and Far East countries like Thailand.

"Our company pays to the Tanzanian government various taxes, which includes PAYE and SDL totaling to 153m/- annually, while also remitting contributions of 252m/- annually to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) the same to benefits the many local's employees upon reaching the retirement age" he said.

"Apart from this his Company through its constructed thirteen (13) kilometers water pipeline having a total of nine (9) reservoirs in between supplies water for irrigation purposes to local farmers and to Sangiti Secondary School, with good water, so the students can wash their clothes on the weekend."

He also said during this year 2024 his Company has ploughed a total of sixty-five (65) acres of land belonging to Sangiti Secondary School later to be planted with maize and beans at a cost of Tshs 3.25 million the same meant to provide food to respective school students all of this being policy of his Company to implement Corporate Social Responsibility.

Concluding he said having realized the problem of shortages of proper benches for the students to study at this nearby primary school in Mango village, his Company is currently concentrating in producing a total of fifty (50) desks to cost a total of 6.5m/- the same later to be handled to the community at this Mango Primary School to ease these desks shortages.

Pound beats 92pc of global currencies on UK economic rebound

LONDON

THE British pound is beating more than 90pc of the world's currencies this year on signs the nation's economy is holding up better than expected, keeping interest rates higher for longer.

Only 11 currencies—including those of Kenya, Zambia and Sri Lanka—have outperformed sterling in 2024, according to a universe of more than 140 global foreign-exchange rates tracked by Bloomberg.

The reason is simple, according to analysts: Britain's economy is looking more resilient than feared. That's set to encourage the UK to keep interest rates at their current levels for longer than many of its largest counterparts, including the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank.

While the Fed and ECB are seen cutting in June, traders only expect the Bank of England to begin easing in August.

"Last year the UK had the worst growth-inflation mix in major economies. Now, the economy seems to be recovering, while inflation is coming down," said Athanasios Vamvakidis, head of G-10 currency strategy at Bank of America, who sees the pound rising to \$1.37 by year-end. "The data mix is getting better, which supports GBP, particularly given a bearish consensus."

The pound rose to around \$1.29 last week, its highest level in seven months, recording its best week since November versus the dollar. Data in coming days could help reinforce those gains and bolster the narrative that the UK economy is making a comeback.

Average weekly earnings are forecast to show the job market in the UK remains robust, with wages rising 5.7 percent. Monthly gross domestic product data will likely show the economy growing again in January after a mild contraction in December, while industrial production is set to post a 0.7 percent

annual advance, a slightly faster pace than the month prior.

The UK avoided the sharp downturn that many had predicted for 2023, but aggressive interest rate hikes that took the key rate to 5.25 percent still left the economy stagnating. Consumers came under immense pressure as the cost of food, energy and mortgage payments all soared, crimping spending, and business confidence plunged to its lowest since the global financial crisis.

But Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey last month said there had been "encouraging signs" on the key indicators in the jobs market and services prices, even as he stressed that policymakers are looking for evidence that progress can be sustained. And there's ample reason to remain cautious: UK consumer confidence for example slipped back in February, suggesting households are not ready to splash out.

Bailey's "assertion that the worst is already over for the UK economy is finding a little traction," said Jane Foley, the head of FX strategy at Rabobank. "This will be tested next week with the release of key data."

The rally also comes as the market leaves behind the uncertainty surrounding the UK budget announcement last week.

Some investors had been worried the government could announce big giveaways before elections later this year—especially given the Conservatives are trailing in the polls by a wide margin to opposition Labour. Markets went into a tailspin in 2022 after Liz Truss' government tried to stimulate growth with unfunded tax cuts.

"The fact that the pound has risen and bond yields have fallen in a Budget week is a sign of how far we have moved on from the ill-fated Truss era," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB. "The pound's rally is also a sign of confidence in the UK, after a fairly dismal few years."



Bank group reports resilient earnings amid tough environment

By Carlos Banda

ABSA group reported a resilient set of results for 2023, delivered in an operating environment that was weaker than expected, particularly in South Africa where continued electricity supply disruptions, supply chain logistic issues and sticky inflation along with a higher interest rate environment weighed on growth prospects for customers and clients alike.

However, Africa regions reported very strong growth, well ahead of South Africa.

Within this context, normalised headline earnings increased 1 percent as pre-provision growth of 6 percent reflected continued momentum in the business, offset by higher credit impairments, particularly in South Africa, Absa's largest market by revenue.

Strong revenue growth of 8 percent to R104.5 billion meant that the Group crossed the R100 billion revenue thresholds for the first time, with stronger growth being generated within Africa Regions.

"Despite a challenging climate, Absa remains resilient and the underlying franchise is strong and growing," said Arrie Rautenbach, Absa Group Chief Executive Officer. "We are seeing the benefits of the strategic choices we made in 2018, as is evident from our diversified business, growing customer franchise and engaged workforce," he said yesterday when presenting the performance for 2023.

The Group's customer base expanded 4 percent to 12.2 million in 2023 from 11.7 mil-

lion a year earlier and customer experience scores, which measure the quality of service experienced by customers, increased across all business units.

Absa is driving organisational health gains through a journey that commenced with a strengthened leadership team and a reorganised business model in 2022. In 2023, the Group rallied behind a co-created corporate purpose and a refreshed set of values as it drives a culture shift in order to promote sustainable outcomes.

Employee net promoter score, which indicates the likelihood of employees recommending Absa as a bank of choice, increased materially, signaling enhanced organisational health.

The Group's broad-based black economic empowerment transaction, which placed 7 per cent of Group shareholding (equivalent to R11.2 billion at the time) in the hands of employees and communities, is anticipated to further support this culture shift.

In addition to its investment in the B-BBEE transaction, Absa invested in other areas for future growth, recruiting additional front-line staff, acquiring new technology and refreshing its brand.

These were among costs that contributed to a 10 percent increase in operating expenses.

Absa expanded its employee base and at the same time invested more in new digital capabilities to enhance customer experience both in branches and online.

The number of digitally active customers



Arrie Rautenbach, Absa Group CEO

increased from 3.4 million to 3.8 million.

Absa also invested in updating its brand identity and positioning during 2023, culminating in the launch in February 2024 of its repositioned brand, signaling a shift to being a more deliberately customer-centric business with the new brand promise of 'Your Story Matters'. The new brand promise commits Absa to demonstrating empathy and offering seamless customer experience.

"We have made significant strides in the last five years in strengthening our business," said Chris Snyman, Absa Group interim Financial Director. "We have strengthened our balance sheet, enhanced diversification and we continued to grow, while focusing on efficiency," he said.

The Group achieved 7 percent compound growth in revenues since 2018, while cost-to-income ratio improved to 52 percent from 58 percent in 2018.

Absa's results showed the benefit of diversification and

Africa regions grew to 29 percent of total Group pre-provision profit, compared with 20 percent in 2018.

The Group's Corporate and Investment Banking arm now contributes a third of Group pre-provision profit, compared with 28 percent in 2018.

Absa acquired HSBC Mauritius' Wealth, and Personal Banking and Business Banking businesses, pending regulatory approvals, during the year. Further afield, the Group has established an office in Beijing as it looks to be a facilitator of trade flows into Africa through a strategic presence in the North, West and East of the globe.

"This expansion is testament to our ambition to grow in strategic markets, as we look to further diversify our operations," said Rautenbach.

Based on these assumptions, and in the absence of unforeseen events, Absa expects high single-digit revenue growth in 2024, driven by both net interest income and non-interest income growth.

8 Kenyan universities to get tech training from WB-funded project

NAIROBI

EIGHT universities have been selected by the Strengthening of Kenya's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (SKIES), for a tech training program.

In a statement, SKIES stated that Moi University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Mama Ngina College, and Open University of Kenya are going to benefit from the initiative.

Others are the University of Mombasa, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenyatta University, and Kibabii University.

"This initiative is part of the Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Program (KIEP)

funded by the World Bank and Implemented with the State Department of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) with the support of the management firm- Spineberg-E4Impact JV," SKIES said.

According to State Department for Industry Principal Secretary Juma Mukhwana, the initiative will play a pivotal role in providing job readiness skills such as cyber security, software engineering, data science, entrepreneurship, and soft skills to the 532 students across the selected universities.

"The objective of the SKIES Rapid Tech Skills program is clear: to implement a Job Readiness Program for 532 students with 267 selected students for phase 1 and equip them with essential rapid tech skills by the 8

universities," he stated during the grant signing ceremony.

According to SKIES, 267 students from 40 counties have been selected for the first phase of the program, with all their expenses covered, including their tuition fee.

The SKIES initiative commenced with a call for applications that drew responses from 1,167 rapid tech skills students, showcasing a significant demand for such programs.

The PS asserted that the skills that will be pumped to the students will enhance their adaptability in the highly demanding modern job markets and, in turn, mend the gap between traditional education and industry demands.



Principal Secretary, Juma Mukhwana (2nd-L), hands over a partnership agreement to Technical University of Mombasa Vice Chancellor Laila Abubakar at the launch of a three-month innovation and entrepreneurship academic program. Photo: File.

Uganda Airlines seeks renewal of operation licence

KAMPALA

OFFICIALS at the national carrier this week defended their application to renew their licence of operations before the Board Air Service Licensing Committee of Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

This comes after the civil aviation conducted a public hearing to interact with stakeholders from the aviation industry to consider deferent applications and renewal of licence by the regulators.

Uganda Airlines chief executive Jenifer Bamuturaki said the airlines has registered 66 percent of internally generated funds to facilitate its operations away from government support and this is attributed to its newly opened routes and increase in number of passengers.

"The government supports us with almost 34 percent," she said, "our vision is to be completely independent and instead support the government as Uganda Airlines."

She added the national carrier is set to fly to China. "We are looking at the route to Guangzhou, the teams have already submitted all requirements needed by the Chinese authorities," Bamuturaki revealed.

Two air operators, including Aero Maintenance Company Ltd, joined Uganda Airlines, seeking to operate a non-scheduled passenger and cargo service and eagle air seeking to operate aerial work including survey and photography in the air space are part of the licence applicants.

The Board chairperson of Air Service Licensing Committee, Justice Steven Kavuma, said: "I'm so glad that Uganda airlines and CAA are working together to improve the operations within the aviation industry."

The applicants have to be approved by the regulators in a period of 30 days to start their operations.

Last year, the civil aviation authority successfully passed the Universal Safety Audit Oversight (USAO) under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with over 72.2 percent, a best performance on safety.

Deputy Director General, CAA, Olive Birungi Lumonya said the stakeholders meeting aimed at discussing regulations, strategic plans, challenges among others across the aviation industry.

In January 2024, Entebbe recorded 99,216 arriving passengers and 96,995 departing passengers, a total of 196,211 passengers, which is an average of 6,329 per day.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

US stocks-Wall St slips as investors brace for inflation data

NEW YORK

WALL Street's main stock indexes dipped on Monday, as investors awaited key inflation data this week that could provide cues on the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy path after a mixed job report last week.

All three major US stock indexes had ended the week lower on Friday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq coming off record highs as high-flying

chip stocks fell and a labor market report showed more new jobs than expected, while the unemployment rate rose unexpectedly.

The mixed report bolstered bets of the Fed cutting interest rates in June. Friday's data even prompted some traders to bet on a May rate cut.

This week's February data, including consumer prices (CPI), will offer more clues on whether inflation has eased enough for policymakers to

lower borrowing costs in the coming months.

"I would expect a hotter number to drive the market down unnecessarily," said Peter Andersen, founder of Andersen Capital Management in Boston. "Though there is still a narrative that the Fed will cut rates as soon as possible."

Sticky inflation data for January and signs of a robust economy halted the AI-led rally last month, leading traders to push back bets on

the timing of the first interest-rate cut to June from March.

Federal Reserve officials are in a media blackout ahead of their latest rate-setting meeting next week.

At 9:39 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 75.72 points, or 0.20 percent, at 38,646.97, the S&P 500 was down 9.74 points, or 0.19 percent, at 5,113.95, and the Nasdaq Composite was down 21.81 points, or 0.14 percent, at 16,063.31.

Information technology led losses across the major S&P 500 sectors, down 0.4 percent, while communication services fell 0.2 percent.

Megacap stocks such as Microsoft and Amazon.com eased 0.8 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively, and were among the biggest weights on the S&P 500.

AI-darling Nvidia fell 0.7 percent in volatile trading following a 5.5 percent drop

on Friday, as chip stocks lost some momentum.

Chip peers Advanced Micro Devices and Broadcom slid close to 2 percent each, while the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index lost 1.3 percent after touching record highs last week.

Boeing fell 2.2 percent after Alaska Airlines said on Saturday it was cooperating with the US Department of Justice in a criminal investigation into a Boeing

737 MAX blowout on one of its flights in January.

Cryptocurrency and blockchain-related firms, including Coinbase Global, Riot Platforms and Marathon Digital, climbed between 2.7 percent and 2.9 percent, as bitcoin hit a fresh record high.

Equitrans Midstream rose 1.8 percent after EQT Corp said on Monday it had decided to buy back its former unit in an all-stock deal. EQT shares slid 9.8 percent.

WORLD



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a ceremony to seal the right to abortion in the French constitution, on International Women's Day, at the Place Vendôme, in Paris, on Friday. AFP

Macron backs 'end of life' bill, aims for parliament debate

PARIS

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron said on Sunday for the first time that he backed new end-of-life legislation that would allow what he called "help to die" and wanted his government to put forward a draft bill to parliament in May.

France's neighbors Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands have adopted laws that allow medically assisted dying in some cases. But France has resisted that step, in part under pressure from the Catholic Church.

The Claeys-Leonetti law on the end of life, adopted in 2016, authorizes deep sedation but only for people whose prognosis is threatened in the short-term.

In an interview with Liberation newspaper, Macron said he did not want to call the new legislation euthanasia or assisted suicide, but rather "help to die".

"It does not, strictly speaking, create a new right nor a freedom, but it traces a path which did not exist until now and which opens the possibility of requesting assis-

tance in dying under certain strict conditions," he said.

Macron said those conditions would need to be met and a medical team would assess and ensure the criteria for the decision was correct.

It would concern only adults capable of making the decision and whose life prognosis is threatened in the medium-term such as final-stage cancer, he said.

Family members would also be able to appeal the decision, Macron said.

The bill builds on the work of a group of 184 randomly appointed French citizens who debated the issue.

They concluded their work last year with 76 percent of them saying they favored allowing some form of assistance to die, for those who want it.

The decision to push ahead with the end of life legislation comes after the right to abortion was enshrined into the French constitution, following an overwhelming vote by lawmakers earlier this month.

Macron has sought to bolster his image as a social reformer just three months before June's European parliamentary elections. His party is more than 10 points behind the far-right Rassemblement National in polls.

Agencies

AU expresses deep concern over security threats to Africa's development

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has expressed its "deep concern" over prevailing security threats across Africa as major impediments to the socio-economic development of the continent.

The statement was made by the AU's Peace and Security Council in a communique issued Saturday that followed its recent meeting, which dwelt upon the current situation in the conflict-hit eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Reiterating its deep concern over the scourge of conflicts across different parts of Africa, the council said these conflict and insecurity situations are obstructing the socio-economic development of the continent.

Against this backdrop, the council underscored the 55-member continental organization's strong commitment to realizing its 50-year continental devel-

opment blueprint, Agenda 2063, with particular emphasis on its flagship peace and security aspirations, including silencing the guns in Africa by 2030.

It further stressed the need to realize African leaders' recent pledge to achieve the goal of a conflict-free continent, to make peace a reality for all of Africa's citizens and not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to future generations.

Addressing the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU last month, AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat expressed similar concern over peace and security challenges in Africa.

Faki specifically highlighted recurrent conflict situations, unconstitutional changes of governments and political and institutional instability as factors jeopardizing the continent's stability, peace and development.

Xinhua

IN the early spring dawn, the white lotus distribution center in Guangchang county, east China's Jiangxi province, is already bustling with activity, with buyers and sellers bargaining among mounds of white lotus seeds.

Guangchang has been cultivating lotus since the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and planting the aquatic plant on a large scale since the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Today, a specialized white lotus market has taken shape here, with thousands of agricultural brokers engaging in the trade and transportation of white lotus seeds and the average daily trading volume of white lotus seeds reaching about 50,000 kilograms. The county has become a distribution and pricing center for white lotus seeds in China.

So far, Guangchang's white lotus has been promoted nationwide with a growing area of

Space lotus leads county in China's Jiangxi to prosperity

20 million mu (1.33 million hectares). In addition, the county has established a white lotus industrial chain with an annual comprehensive output value of more than three billion yuan (\$416.8 million). Behind the thriving white lotus industry are magic space-bred seeds.

Established in 1984, the Guangchang White Lotus Research Institute strived to cultivate new varieties of lotus seeds. However, no matter how hard researchers tried, the yield per mu of lotus seeds remained at around 50 kilograms.

To break through the bottleneck problem, the institute had to take a different approach. In 1994, Liu Guangliang, the then head of the institute, attended a meeting in Beijing and learned that China was conducting space breeding to mutate genes

of seeds in the special mutagenesis environment in space, so as to create new varieties.

That year, researchers sent 442 lotus seeds selected from over 10 lotus varieties into space by a retrievable satellite. The lotus seeds were subjected to space mutation for 14 days and were then mailed back to the institute. After categorizing and numbering the seeds by variety, staff members sowed each seed in a separate breeding container.

Unexpectedly, over 180 lotus seeds failed to germinate initially. After extensive consultations and research, researchers realized that cosmic rays in space were strong enough to result in the failure of germination of some weak seeds.

To ensure that the remaining lotus seeds would sprout, Liu and team members got to the

institute early and stayed late. Lacking temperature-controlled incubators, researchers got up at 5 a.m. to put seed trays in the sun. Several months later, they achieved encouraging results: some varieties showed early ripening, with flowers being more than that of ordinary varieties, which indicated a very high yield potential.

These unique varieties were then propagated several times. After four years of careful breeding, a new variety named "No. 36 space lotus" was created, with longer growth duration, more flowers, larger lotus seedpods, higher ripening rate, and better quality. The per-mu yield of seeds of the new variety exceeded 120 kilograms.

In 1999, Guangchang started the experimental planting of the No. 36 space lotus in over 20

planting bases. At first, farmers who used to grow traditional lotus varieties were not interested in the new variety. Encouraged by technicians from the institute, Xie Changjun, the then head of Xialan village in Xujiang town, Guangchang, took the lead to plant the space lotus on four mu of land.

When summer arrived, the space lotus grew beyond Xie's expectations, with the average yield of lotus seeds per mu of farmland reaching 130 kilograms that year. This made a splash in the whole town as crowds of people lined up in the fields to purchase Xie's lotus seedlings.

In just a few years, the planting area of the space lotus in Guangchang exceeded 100,000 mu. Since then, the No. 36 space lotus has made its

name and has been promoted to production areas of lotus seeds across China.

"A number of lotus varieties bred using the space lotus as the main breeding material have become the top choices for aquatic landscaping in China, driving the development of the country's lotus tourism," said Jie Zhihui, director of the white lotus industry development center in Guangchang.

Jie added that the No. 36 space lotus has been promoted across the country with a growing area of more than 20 million mu, accounting for over 80 percent of the total cultivation area of lotus seeds nationwide.

In Guangchang alone, the annual output of dried white lotus seeds reaches 9000 tons, generating an output value of

800 million yuan. In addition, the county receives 2.7 million tourist visits annually, with its tourism revenue surpassing 700 million yuan.

Guangchang is now home to several manufacturers of automatic lotus seed processing machinery, over 20 white lotus product processing enterprises, and more than 130 white lotus cooperatives, with the annual comprehensive output value of the white lotus industry exceeding three billion yuan.

To continue expanding production and strengthening brand building, Guangchang has placed importance on attracting talents and promoting innovation.

Zheng Xingwen, a genetics PhD student at Wuhan University's College of Life Sciences in central China, is one of the outstanding talents introduced to Guangchang.

People's Daily

Russian diplomat calls on NATO to stop denying presence of its military in Ukraine

MOSCOW

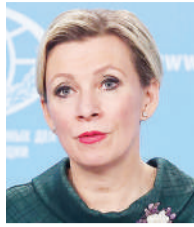
RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said that there is no sense for NATO to deny the presence of its forces in Ukraine.

"No point in denying it any longer," she told the Izvestia newspaper, commenting on Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski's statement.

Earlier, Sikorski told a conference on the 25th anniversary of Poland's NATO membership that the NATO military are already in

Ukraine. He did not say however which country these troops are from.

After a conference on Ukraine in Paris on February 26, Macron said that the participants had considered sending ground troops to Ukraine. Although no consensus was reached on this topic, he left the door open to such a



scenario in the future. After the conference, most of the participating countries stated that they have no plans to send troops to Ukraine to fight against Russia.

Commenting on Macron's statements, Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said that a direct military conflict between NATO and Russia will be inevitable if Western troops are sent to Ukraine.

He also said NATO countries "should also assess" the consequences of such actions and be aware of them. Agencies

Libyan leaders agree to form new unified government

BENHAZI

THREE key Libyan leaders said on Sunday they had agreed on the "necessity" of forming a new unified government that would supervise long-delayed elections.

A political process to resolve more than a decade of conflict in Libya has been stalled since an election scheduled for December 2021 collapsed amid disputes over the eligibility of the main candidates.

The leaders are the president of the Presidential Council (PC) Mohamed Menfi, the head of High State Council (HSC) Mohamed Takala, who are both based in Tripoli, and Aguila Saleh, speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) in Benghazi.

In a joint statement, the three leaders also called on the UN Mission in Libya and the international community to support their proposals.

They said they had agreed to form a technical committee to "look into controversial points".

They met in Cairo at the invitation of Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

"The measures that were



Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya Abdoulaye Bathily speaks in a press conference in Tripoli on March 11, 2023. AFP

agreed upon today, we believe, are a very important beginning. They are results that live up to the ambition of Libyans to hold elections," Menfi told the media after the meeting.

Menfi came to power when the Government of National Unity (GNU) under Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah was installed through a UN-backed process in 2021, but the parliament no longer recognizes its legitimacy.

Dbeibah has vowed not to cede power to a new government without national elections.

The House of Representatives was elected in 2014, while the High State Council was formed as part of a 2015 political agreement and drawn from a parliament elected in 2012.

Last week, Central Bank governor Sadiq Kabir wrote to parlia-

ment asking it to approve a new unified government and a national budget over GNU extent spending.

International diplomacy to resolve the conflict in Libya has focused on pushing for parliamentary and presidential elections to replace the interim political institutions, including the HoR, HSC and GNU.

While all major political players in the country have called for elections, many Libyans doubt they genuinely seek a vote that could remove most of them from power.

Libya has had little peace since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising, and it split in 2014 between eastern and western factions, with rival administrations governing in each area.

Xinhua

Loulo-Goukoto delivers another value-creating performance

LOULO, Mali

THE Loulo-Goukoto complex in Mali, one of the world's largest gold producers, has contributed more than \$1 billion to the Malian economy over the past 12 months, maintaining its long record as one of the country's largest and most consistent revenue generators.

The complex is on track to meet its production guidance for the current quarter and the year. There have been no lost time injuries or major environmental incidents during the quarter to date.

Speaking to media and stakeholders at the mine yesterday, Mark Bristow, president and chief executive of opera-

tor Barrick Gold Corporation, said the complex showed that a world-class mining business, developed by international investors but run entirely by Malians, could deliver real value to the state and the people.

"In our 29 years in Mali, we have seen multiple changes in government and administration. We have worked with each of these administrations for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders and, in the spirit of partnership, we continue to invest in the extension of Loulo-Goukoto's life.

It is worth noting that, in line with Barrick's policy of supporting local businesses, Malian contractors have been appointed to extend Gara West

and re-open the Baboto open pit where drilling has confirmed a potential high-grade extension of the mineralized structure," he said.

"We are also looking for fresh growth opportunities within the Loulo region, among other things through a high-resolution airborne magnetic geophysical survey designed to complete the next generation of high-impact targets."

The commissioning of Phase 2 of the complex's solar power plant extension to 60 megawatts and its new battery storage system marked another stage in its transition to renewable energy.

Agencies

US presidential election enters new phase as Biden, Trump ratchet up fight

WASHINGTON

THE 2024 U.S. presidential election has entered a new phase as both U.S. President Joe Biden, the Democratic incumbent, and former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, held campaign rallies in the swing state of Georgia recently to step up their reelection effort.

The two launched attacks against each other while having deep political grievances. They also have significant differences in their major policy positions.

Analysts believe that as the election campaign unfolds, it may further intensify political disputes and public divisions in the country, potentially leading to more chaos.

"Trump and I have a very different value set," Biden told supporters in Atlanta, Georgia, noting that if Trump returns to the White House, the United States will be filled with "resentment, revenge and retribution."

Additionally, Biden criticized Trump's positions on issues such as abortion, taxes, and immigration.

On the same day, Trump held a rally in Rome, Georgia, where he attacked Biden on immigration and border security, accusing him of allowing illegal



Former President Donald Trump (L) and President Joe Biden

immigration from the southern border, saying Biden's "crime" will never be forgiven.

At the rally, Trump also mocked Biden's mannerisms. Georgia, located in the southeastern United States, was won by Trump in the 2016 presidential election. Four years later, Biden narrowly claimed victory in the state.

According to the RealClearPolitics website, Georgia is one of the swing states this year, which typically has a critical impact on the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Before they visited Georgia, two signifi-

cant milestones occurred in the U.S. presidential election this year: one being the "Super Tuesday" primaries in multiple states, where both Biden and Trump achieved considerable victories in their respective party primaries, thereby expanding their lead and essentially securing their parties' presidential nomination.

The other important event is Biden's State of the Union address, in which he indirectly criticized Trump during this nationally televised speech, accusing "his predecessor" of undermining American democracy as he braces for a

rematch.

Trump reacted and labeled Biden as a threat to American democracy. U.S. media predicts that Trump could clinch the Republican presidential nomination as early as March 12.

On that day, four states -- Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi, and Washington -- will hold Republican primaries. Meanwhile, Biden is expected to secure the Democratic presidential nomination as early as March 19.

"A rematch means the stakes are high for America," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua. "The visions Trump and Biden have for the country are radically different," he said.

In recent national polls, Trump is slightly ahead of Biden, and he leads in most swing states' polls. Biden has stated that these polls don't mean anything, and it is too early to conclude.

An analysis by Politico suggests that Trump is "gaining momentum," but he faces issues such as campaign funding, party unity, and a series of legal troubles.

Trump is embroiled in four criminal cases, facing a total of 91 felony charges, and has recently been fined hundreds of millions of dollars in two civil cases. He denies all charges and accuses Biden and the Democratic Party of ongoing "political witch hunts" against him.

Xinhua

China's top political advisory body concludes annual session, pooling strength for modernisation

BEIJING

THE Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, China's top political advisory body, concluded its annual session on Sunday, calling on political advisors to contribute to great unity and solidarity and pool strength for advancing Chinese modernisation.

Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, and Han Zheng attended the closing meeting of

the second session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, which gathered more than 2,000 political advisors.

The meeting was presided over by Wang Huning, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee.

A resolution on a work report of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, a resolution on a report on how the proposals from political advisors had been handled since the previous annual session, a report on the examination of new pro-

posals, and a political resolution on the second session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee were approved at the meeting.

The meeting called on all the participating organizations of the CPPCC, its committees at all levels, and political advisors to rally more closely around the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core and open up new prospects for the CPPCC's endeavors in the new era. Over the past year, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jin-

ping at its core united and led the whole Party and the entire nation to work hard and march forward bravely, successfully achieving the main goals for economic and social development, and leading the great ship of China to navigate through waves and move forward courageously.

Wang said in his address. These achievements received high praise from all CPPCC National Committee members, he added.

The year 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

and the CPPCC's establishment. Wang said that over the past 75 years, the CPPCC, under the leadership of the CPC, has traversed a glorious course in its efforts toward founding and developing the People's Republic of China, exploring the path of reform, and realizing the Chinese Dream.

Wang emphasized the need for the CPPCC to enhance its capacity for political consultation, democratic oversight, and participation in and deliberation of state affairs.

Xinhua

'Negotiations on tariff cuts, investment chapter, human rights took time'

NEW DELHI

NORWAY Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre on Sunday informed that tariff cuts; a pivotal human rights clause, and an investment chapter took significant time and effort during the negotiations for the India-EFTA trade agreement.

India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on Sunday. The European Free Trade Association is a trade organisation and free trade area consisting of four European states- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Speaking to ANI, Vestre said, "This is the first time India has included a chapter on human rights in a free trade agreement and it is the first trade agreement globally where an investment chapter has been included."

As part of the agreement, EFTA has committed to promote investments to increase the stock of foreign direct investments by USD 100 billion in India in the next 15 years, and to facilitate the generation of 1 million direct employment in India, through such investments.

Notably, India has been working on a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA countries comprising Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein for several years.

On being asked what were contentious issues that consumed the maximum time, the minister said, "We have three issues we spent some time on. Of course, it was about the tariff lines, which products and services should be included in the duty-free commitments and... we found good solutions on that, quite fast."

"Second was about the chapter on sustainable development, which also refers to human rights and obligations there, which refers to international convention, that's new to India to do so. And I admire India for doing this. Of course, the third big issue was the investment chapter, simply because it doesn't exist any kind of chapters like this in any free trade agreement globally, as far as I know," he said.

The Norwegian minister further termed the agreement fair, balanced, and which gives equal opportunities.

ANI

GAZA

AMINA Al-Ashi, a mother of six in the Gaza Strip, has never been as scared of a holiday as she is ahead of this Ramadan.

For millions of starving Palestinians like her, the raging Israel-Hamas conflict and bloodshed seem to render any thought of festivity utterly absurd.

"Last year, on days like these, I was busy hanging Ramadan decorations and preparing for suhoor (pre-dawn meal) and breakfast for several days," the 44-year-old woman recalled.

Ramadan is scheduled to begin on Monday for Palestinians, but Al-Ashi was not even in the mood to welcome the Muslim holy month. "My children and I starve most of the time due to lack of food.

I do not know how to encourage them to fast when they only find the slightest amount of food," she lamented, referring to practices of Islamic traditions during the holy month.

The nightmare started months ago when heavy Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City took away her job and all her property and shattered her peaceful life.

Before Oct. 7, 2023, Al-Ashi had lived in her own

Palestinians in Gaza observe joyless Ramadan under shadow of bloodshed

house in the al-Rimal neighborhood in central Gaza City and worked in a women's clothing store.

But after the conflict broke out on that day, she was forced to flee again and again, first to the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, then to the city of Khan Younis, and finally to the southernmost city of Rafah, where she lived in a makeshift tent near the border with Egypt.

Recalling all the joyful moments in Ramadan in previous years, the thin woman said she "began to wish that it would not come this year as there is no food or any other aspect of celebration."

"Even the canned goods that we are supposed to receive as aid are stolen and sold in local markets at exorbitant prices, which I cannot afford," she said.

Social order is collapsing in Gaza as millions of desperate Palestinians struggle to make a living amid heavy Israeli strikes, paralysis in public services, and overwhelming humanitarian needs.

Al-Ashi stressed that she does not intend to celebrate Ramadan or even encourage her children to fast for fear that their health will deteriorate if they become



Palestinians walk past stalls set up in a street in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday, as Muslims prepare for the holy fasting month of Ramadan amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. AFP

malnourished and dehydrated. In addition, she does not want to see any decorations related to Ramadan anywhere in Gaza, believing that "everyone here is dying without any mercy."

Not far, Emtethal Abu Ramadan has lived with her family in a tent set up by herself shortly after the conflict began.

In recent days, she has been preparing Ramadan decorations from scratch. Despite the difficult circumstances, the woman wants to show the grit of Palestinians.

"For more than five months, we have been living in an atmosphere of fear due to the continuous Israeli bombing and destruction of our city ... but we (the Palestinians) want to prove to the world that we are a people who love life even under these tragic circumstances," the 33-year-old mother of three told Xinhua.

The young woman made Ramadan lanterns from cardboard while putting small light bulbs inside them to create a joyful atmosphere for her children in the tent.

"Even on such days, we must remember that life is worth fighting for ... Despite all the pain and sadness that we are experiencing, we can rebuild our homes and city as long as we remain alive," the woman said. In Rafah, hundreds of street vendors touted goods on small stands, trying to make some money before the holy month.

Agencies

Guizhou transforms its bridges into catalysts driving regional development

GUIZHOU in southwest China is the only Chinese province that comes with no plain. Though the special geographical environment has brought development bottlenecks there, it also makes the province a perfect place for building world-class bridges.

So far, more than 30,000 bridges have been constructed or under construction in Guizhou, and nearly half of the world's highest 100 bridges are built there. The bridges spanning mountains and valleys have dramatically improved transportation in the province, which was once largely impassable due to its extreme mountainous terrain.

The bridges built in the province have further improved its road network. Today, Guizhou is home to over 200,000 kilometers of highways, including 8,000 kilometers of operational expressways. The province has become a real transportation hub in southwest China, which sees prosperous flow of people and goods.

"What a delight it is to enjoy the delicious food while admiring this magnificent bridge!" exclaimed Zhang Jing, a tourist who drove all the way to Guizhou from Shanghai, and had breakfast at a restaurant

in the service area of Pingtang grand bridge, also known as the "Sky Bridge."

Outside the window stood the majestic Pingtang grand bridge, towering in the mountains and surrounded by the morning mist. The bridge officially opened in 2019, spanning across the Caodu River. With its main tower reaching 332 meters in height, it is currently the world's highest three-tower cable-stayed bridge, lauded as the "Sky Bridge" for its record-breaking height and graceful design.

The "Sky Bridge" sightseeing service area where Zhang had breakfast is just 1.3 kilometers away from the bridge, which is an ideal point to admire this world-class bridge.

In addition to the usual parking, refueling, and dining services expected of a service area, it also houses a gift shop, hotels, a lodge on the cliff, a shopping mall, photo spots, an RV park, an off-road racing field and other novel tourism facilities.

Sightseeing is one of the key considerations when Guizhou builds bridges. For instance, viewing platforms were built when the Liuzhi grand bridge along the Nayong-Qinglong Expressway was constructed, so



Tourists visit the Pingtang grand bridge in southwest China's Guizhou province. (People's Daily Online/Jia Zhi)

that it would be convenient for people to appreciate the grand sceneries.

Known as the "Museum of world Bridges", Guizhou is making full use of its bridge resources, with scenery and the bridges complementing each other. The fusion of bridges and tourism is becoming a new driver of tourism growth

in Guizhou.

Driving along the expanded six-lane Banqiao to Xinpu section of the Lanzhou-Haikou Expressway in Guizhou province, one could get a sense of time travel while passing through the many tunnels and bridges. Along this 37-kilometer stretch, there are 13 bridges and seven tunnels, which make up 65.8

percent of the section's total length. The Tuanze Service Area along the section is where the first expressway logistics park in southwest China locates. Goods can be directly distributed in the park without leaving the expressway system.

Song Meng, general manager of the service management company under Guizhou Ex-

pressway Investment Group, told People's Daily that building logistics parks in service areas gives play to expressways' advantages in location, traffic flow and transportation, and is thus beneficial for creating new business models and operations.

"This is a proactive attempt for us to explore developing

road economy along the expressways and promoting economic growth across the expressway network," Song said.

The bridges have not only boosted logistics, but also spawned clusters of B&B hotels. Located halfway up a hill in Manzhai village, Baishui township, Guanling Buyei and Miao autonomous county, the internet-famous B&B hotel Ji-anglu · Yueshan is known for its views of the Baling River Bridge. Since this Spring Festival, the hotel has been fully booked every day.

The popularity of the hotel has further unleashed the tourism value of the Baling River Bridge, with many boutique high-end B&B hotels clustering in Manzhai village, which generate over 16 million yuan (\$2.22 million) annually.

Guizhou has cleverly capitalized on its bridges to stimulate economic growth across multiple industries, including tourism, local specialty processing, and catering.

By building on its inherent assets and strategically expanding roads and bridges, Guizhou has transformed tourism appeal and logistics capabilities into catalysts that drive regional development.

People's Daily

SPORT



Chief of the Air Force, Major General Shabani Mani (4th L), and CRDB Bank's Head of Consumer Banking Stephen Adili (2nd R) are pictured handing over a trophy to Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club captain Fred Laiser after the club emerged as the overall winner of the golf tournament, termed 'CRDB Bank Inter-Clubs Competition', held at Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Lugalo modern golf center's establishment garners boost

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S Air Force Chief, Major General Shaban Mani, has supported the efforts to establish a modern golf center at the Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam to groom children who have a passion for the sport.

He stated when he graced the closing ceremony of a golf tournament, termed 'CRDB Bank Inter-Clubs Competition', held at Lugalo Golf Club's course recently.

Mani said the army recognizes the great contribution made by the Lugalo Golf Club alongside other golf clubs in the country in representing the nation.

He claimed that the army would not hesitate to support all efforts to make the game grow in the country.

"I support the efforts made by the Lugalo Golf Club, we will not hesitate to support those efforts to promote the game," he disclosed.

Lugalo Golf Club's Chairman, retired Brigadier General Michael Luwongo, congratulated the Dar Gymkhana Club for winning the 'CRDB Bank Inter-Clubs Competition'.

The veteran golf administrator moreover asked Lugalo Golf Club's players to prepare themselves for

the next competition.

"I urge the Lugalo golf players not to be disappointed by the results they got and prepare for the next competition," Luwongo disclosed.

CRDB Bank's Head of Consumer Banking, Stephen Adili, disclosed the institution thanks the Lugalo Golf Club's management for offering the institution the opportunity to sponsor the tournament.

The officials noted the institution has distinguished itself by collaborating with the government to sponsor various sports.

The 'CRDB Bank Inter-Clubs Competition' came to a close on Saturday- with Dar Gymkhana Club emerging as the champion, beating Morogoro Gymkhana Club and the host Lugalo Golf Club to the silverware.

The showdown involved three golf clubs, Dar Gymkhana Club, Lugalo Golf Club, and Morogoro Gymkhana Club.

Ouma pleased with Coastal Union's development

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union head coach David Ouma states his squad deserved to lose to Simba SC despite the former showcasing a wonderful performance at CCM Mkwakwani, Tanga on Saturday evening.

The 2023/24 NBC Premier League match culminated with Simba SC commanding a hard-fought 2-1 over Coastal Union.

Midfielder Lucas Kikoti equalized for Coastal Union in the first half to cancel Freddy Kouablan's goal but it was not enough to secure the Tanga-based team a point after winger Essomba Onana scored the winning goal for Simba SC in the 72nd minute.

It ended as a good reaction by the Msimbazi Street giant that had conceded a surprising 2-1 loss to Tanzania Prisons in a previous league game.

The Kenyan gaffer said his side's lack of accuracy in front of goal led to their loss- with midfielder Ibrahim Ajibu missing an open scoring chance to put Coastal Union in front before Simba SC's winner was netted by Onana.

Ouma (pictured) revealed: "First, I want to congratulate my players for the wonderful performance, we didn't deserve to win after wasting multiple chances, we planned to win

this game and, if Ajibu scored, we could have been 2-1 up and Simba SC's equalizer would have made it 2-2."

"It has been three months since I took the team, but the improvement has been massive, and something positive I take from today's match," the coach noted.

Ouma added: "We want to finish in the top four and challenge Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC but, to do that, we have to change our logistics, football has to come first from the beginning."

The Kenyan tactician dismissed the absence of in-form striker, Maabad Maulid, leading to his squad wasting clear-cut opportunities but went further to laud his players for the growth they have shown since his arrival.

"We controlled our opponents, we played a team that is in the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, we had an opportunity to win this match or at least get a point, we played a team that wanted to win this match," Ouma stated.

"We move forward into the next match, review our mistakes, and make amends in our upcoming games, our goals are understood by the players and we aim to achieve our plans," he disclosed.

The Tanga-based outfit remains sitting fourth in the Premier League log with 27



SPORTS

Matola confident of Simba SC's Premier League title prospects

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC last weekend rebounded impressively with a crucial 2-1 away victory over Coastal Union FC at Mkwakwani Stadium, Tanga.

Selemani Matola- Simba SC's assistant coach- expressed his thoughts on securing the win, which came after the side had conceded a surprising 2-1 loss to Tanzania Prisons in Morogoro last week.

The gaffer noted: "First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate our team for clinching three points away from home. Getting those three points was paramount, considering the challenge of facing Coastal Union."

The former Simba SC midfielder revealed: "Whenever these two teams meet, the game is always tough. Despite their resilience, we managed to edge them out. Moreover, the frequency of our matches- with a game taking place every two days- adds to the difficulty."

Addressing the issue of missed opportunities, particularly by his squad's attackers, Matola acknowledged: "It's undeniable that our players, especially the attackers, squander numerous chances that could have resulted in goals."

"The tight schedule, with matches every two days, allows us the opportunity to rectify our mistakes. We'll diligently work on improving our finishing to return stronger," Matola noted.

Regarding the NBC Premier League title race, Matola commented: "Looking ahead, despite this game, there are still many matches left in the season."

He noted: "We firmly believe in our capacity to clinch the title and emerge as champions. We acknowledge that it's the minor errors that we address on the training ground that will ultimately



Simba SC's assistant coach, Selemani Matola.

determine our success."

Previewing the upcoming match against Singida Fountain Gate FC scheduled for today, the coach remarked: "The forthcoming match poses a significant challenge, and playing at Azam Complex Stadium would certainly be advantageous. We're confident in our ability to secure a victory."

The crucial win over Coastal Union propelled Simba SC to 39 points after 17 matches, keeping them in the title race despite remaining seven points behind league leaders Yanga.

The visitors wasted no time asserting their dominance in last weekend's duel. In the 11th minute, Simba SC's Ivorian attacker Freddy Kouablan capitalized on a well-placed corner by Clatous Chama, heading the ball powerfully into the Coastal Union net.

However, the lead proved short-lived. Buoyed by their home crowd, the hosts- Coastal Union- responded 13 minutes later with a stunning strike.

The Tanga side's Midfielder Lucas Kikoti unleashed a spectacular volley from a dropping ball, leaving the Simba SC goalkeeper with no chance.

The remainder of the first half witnessed a tightly contested midfield battle, with both teams canceling

each other out.

After the break, Simba SC continued their relentless pursuit of the lead, and their persistence paid off in the 72nd minute when substitute Essomba Onana found the back of the net, securing a vital three points for the Msimbazi Street giants.

This victory serves as a significant response for Simba SC, who suffered a disappointing 2-1 defeat to Tanzania Prisons in their previous encounter.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union, despite a valiant effort, remains sitting fourth on the league table with 27 points after playing 20 matches.

Simba SC ought to give Kennedy Juma more playing time

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBAS SC's defensive woes in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League have prolonged, with solutions being found within the squad.

The outfit's technical bench should decide on how to use the first defensive pair Henock Inonga and Che Malone and how to rotate them.

In recent days, the absence of either Malone or Inonga has seen Simba SC fail to either get good results or leak in goals because of 'schoolboy' defending, with a match against Tanzania Prisons being a prime example.

This may result from a lack of game time among some defenders in the central defensive area. I have a difficult time understanding why center-back Kennedy Juma is not getting many minutes in either the NBC Premier League or CAF Champions League.

The Msimbazi Street squad needs to give Juma more game time given the footballer is a senior defender who is still at his peak.

Youthful central defender Hussein Kazi has more playing days- he still has a lot to learn, given he is still young.

When a soccer supporter traces Juma's senior national team call-ups done by coaches that have led Taifa Stars, the defender makes the finals squad cut but ends up on the bench.

Juma has played alongside Joash Onyango at Simba SC and he played at the top level at the back- with the former having the ability to either execute long balls or play cutting passes which break zones of the offensive teams.

The former Singida United captain has played alongside Inonga from last season to this season and he played a top-notch performance for the club but, in all seasons, he has been a fringe player at Simba SC.

In Tanzania's senior national soccer team, Juma has largely been sitting on the bench.

In Taifa Stars' recent games, he did not receive a call-up and it is easy to know why because he does not get enough playing time at Simba SC.

Simba SC's technical bench needs to understand that no player will become reliable if he largely sits on the bench.

In the world, all the best defenders play week in and week out, whereas Juma always plays in the absence of either Malone or Inonga.

The good aspect is, he always showcases a memorable performance once he plays with either Inonga or Malone.

If he plays with either of the two and he makes no mistakes, why should the club's technical bench not start him against a



Simba SC's central defender, Kennedy Juma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

native defender like Kazi in the central defense?

In the NBC Premier League, Juma has neither cost Simba SC a goal nor committed a mistake that led to a goal.

He as well hardly done so with the senior national team, it is probably because he does not get enough playing time in the squad but that is not the case.

For Simba SC to have healthy competition and defensive prowess, they have to make sure their defenders are all getting enough playing time and there should be a better rotation.

Such a plan will see to it the outfit keeps the competition level up in an area that has seen many woes in defensive transitions especially when defending counterattacks.

The 29-year-old Juma brings height to Simba SC's defense, efficiently dealing with long balls and set pieces the club has been struggling to deal with of late.

He adds calmness from the back with his ball-playing ability and good decision-making from each pass he makes.

He has played both domestic and international games for clubs and country and he seems like a commanding leader from the back.

Wasting his talent on the bench is what costs Simba SC due to lacking straight options that are sharp once either Malone or Inonga is missing.

Some may wonder why Taifa Stars' coaches are calling him up in either a provisional or actual 25-man squad,

much as he is a fringe player at his outfit.

If he was not a good defender he would not have been getting senior national team call-ups and, with Inonga facing fitness issues lately, Juma should play more games in the Congolese center-back's absence and should keep on playing when Inonga returns.

In his six years at Simba SC, if Juma was not a top defender the club would have released him a long time ago, sometimes it is all about having trust in a player. Simba SC seems to be lacking trust in Juma as the side's starter.

At Yanga, the squad's central defenders- Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Hamad, and Dickson Job- also feature for the senior national team.

Rotation lies between them, while Uganda Cranes defender Gift Fred fails to break into the Yanga starting team.

Simba SC fullbacks, Shomari Kapombe and Mohamed Hussein, are native players who have played for many years at the club, as it has had trust in them.

Unlike Yanga which boasts competent native central defenders, Simba SC's central defensive pair of Inonga and Malone has leaked in many goals.

The two sides' defenses are good in launching attacks and moving up forward, but Simba SC has allowed many goals from counterattacks.

Simba SC should have a ball-playing central defender- who has pace and is good at launching attacks- qualities that Juma possesses.

Juma moreover offers calmness in defense when the team is under pressure, he provides balance in central defensive play.

US down Brazil to win CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup

SAN DIEGO

LINDSEY Horan scored the only goal as the United States defeated Brazil 1-0 on Sunday to win the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in California.

US skipper Horan headed home in first-half injury time at San Diego's Snapdragon Stadium to settle a largely lacklustre finale to the 12-team tournament.

"I'm very very proud of the team right now," Horan said afterwards.

"We grinded out that win, again. It was a difficult game, Brazil challenged us in a different way.

"I'm really proud of us finding a way to get a goal and finishing out the game and getting a trophy."

Horan meanwhile said the US would take heart from the tournament victory as they build towards this summer's Olympics, noting the contributions of several younger players who have been drafted into the squad following last year's Women's World Cup last 16 exit.

"You see some of them playing in their first final tonight, and it was an amazing tournament for them," Horan said.

"Going into the Olympics we're going to see what they can do. I'm so proud because it looks like they're not young and inexperienced."

The Brazilians failed to register a single shot on target in the first half, with their best efforts a 10th minute free-kick from Dudi Sampaio that sailed over.

Gabi Nunes also saw a speculative 15th-minute strike from the edge of the area go soaring into the stands.

The American women were

similarly off-target in the first half, struggling to create much in the way of goal-scoring opportunities from open play.

Horan had signalled her aerial threat in the 40th minute, stooping to direct a header that Brazil goalkeeper Luciana saved as it threatened to creep in.

At that stage, Horan's near-miss was the only US shot on target of the half.

But the breakthrough finally came on the stroke of half-time.

Trinity Rodman broke down the right flank before passing back to right-back Emily Fox in space.

Fox swung in an inviting deep cross to the back post and Horan was waiting to nod the header back across the goal to give Luciana no chance.

The second half continued in much the same vein, with both sides creating little of note.

US interim coach Twila Kilgore overhauled the US attack with a flurry of substitutions, bringing on Sophia Smith, Lynn Williams, Jaedyn Shaw and Midge Purce.

Those changes appeared to have delivered a second goal on 79 minutes when Williams pounced on a defensive mix-up to tuck away a confident finish.

But Williams had strayed just off-side and the goal was chalked off.

Brazil triggered alarm bells in the US defence on 85 minutes when Geysse's clever flick from a free-kick floated just wide of Alyssa Naehner's post.

Debinha sent a Brazilian free-kick just over the bar in stoppage time, while at the other end, Luciana saved a Korbin Albert shot.

AFP

Arsenal pain pushing Leverkusen title run, says Xhaka

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka said Sunday he has harnessed the pain of losing last year's Premier League title with Arsenal in this season's Bundesliga bid.

Leverkusen beat 10-man Wolfsburg 2-0 at home to restore their lead over second-placed Bayern Munich to 10 points with nine games remaining, putting Xabi Alonso's side on course for a first-ever top-flight title.

Xhaka (pictured) joined Leverkusen from Arsenal in the summer. Last season, Arsenal at one point had an eight-point lead atop the Premier League table but were eventually caught by Manchester City.

"It is honestly difficult to describe the feeling in words, when you're in front for so long but then still get caught, like last year with Arsenal," said Xhaka.

"I hope it doesn't happen again -- we've got nine games, we haven't won anything yet. We need to keep working, stay ready.

"We know that the coming weeks will be brutally important for us."

Xhaka has been a steadying force for Alonso's young Leverkusen team. The Switzerland captain misplaced just two of his 165 passes on Sunday.

Xhaka came off the bench with Leverkusen 2-0 down away against Qarabag in the Europa League on Thursday and helped his side snatch a draw to keep their unbeaten record alive this season.

England captain Harry Kane scored a hat-trick as Bayern thrashed Mainz 8-1 on Saturday, but Xhaka said his side did not feel the pressure.

"We've had pressure since our first game. Whether the others win or not, we need to do our job," he added.

"There's nine games to go, today we took the first step. Now, we'll turn our focus to Thursday and Freiburg."

Leverkusen host Qarabag in the Europa League on Thursday, knowing victory would send them into the quarter-finals.

AFP

Man City survive Liverpool 'tsunami' to leave title race on knife-edge

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Manchester City survived a second-half "tsunami" from Liverpool to secure a 1-1 draw that leaves three sides separated by just one point at the top of the Premier League.

Arsenal lead the way on goal difference from Liverpool with defending champions City just one point back in third.

Guardiola is still to win in front of a crowd at Anfield as City's only victory stretching back to 2003 remains in a behind closed doors clash in 2021.

However, the visitors were the happier to escape with a point after Liverpool laid siege to the City goal after Alexis Mac Allister's penalty cancelled out John Stones' first-half opener.

The final Premier League clash between Jurgen Klopp and Guardiola did not disappoint as Liverpool roared back in a breathless second half despite being depleted by injury.

Klopp's men could have regrets if they do not go on to break City's run of three consecutive titles, though, as they missed a plethora of chances to secure a crucial win and were controversially denied a second penalty deep into stoppage time.

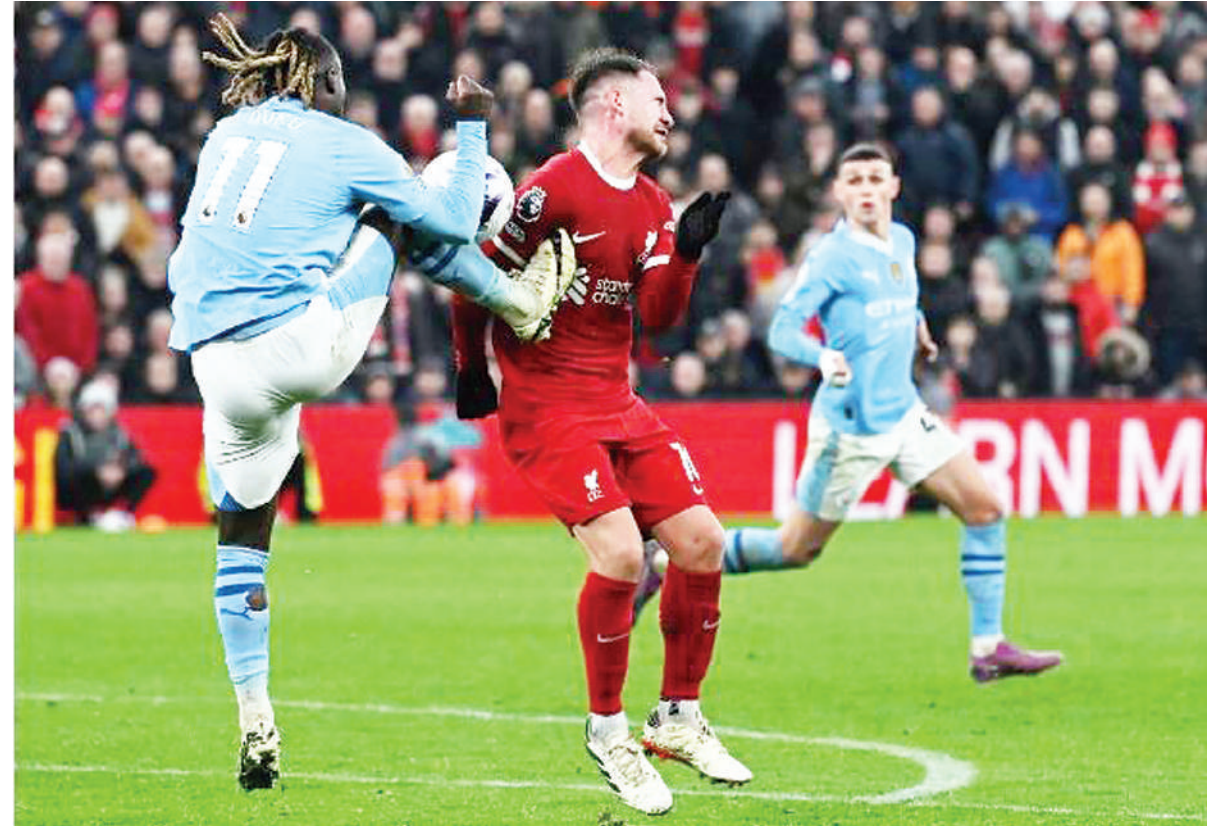
"I think that is a game that defined what both clubs have been for many years," said Guardiola. "Sooner or later in this stadium it is like a tsunami!"

A share of the spoils leaves Arsenal as the winners of the weekend as eight consecutive league victories have taken the Gunners top, but they travel to City in their next league match on March 31.

But Klopp is confident his side will emerge infused with more belief they can deliver the title in his final season after leaving City hanging on after the break.

"Today I saw the best 53 minutes (second half) we had against Manchester City. It was exceptional how we played," said Klopp.

"They were some of the best mo-



Liverpool were denied a late penalty for Jeremy Doku's challenge on Alexis Mac Allister. Agencies

ments of my coaching career that we were able to do that against them.

"The only thing I need at the moment is that we are really in that race. On our performance today, I saw a team that is in the right position - now let's see what we can do."

Mohamed Salah was only fit enough for a place on the Liverpool bench alongside Andy Robertson, while Alisson Becker, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Ibrahima Konate and Diogo Jota were absent through injury.

For a much-anticipated clash between two of the world's best teams, both goals came from simple defensive errors.

Liverpool were caught napping from a Kevin De Bruyne corner on 23 minutes and Stones' effort had too much power for Caoimhin Kelleher.

The Reds recovered impressively after also receiving a gift-wrapped equaliser from the visitors at the

start of the second half.

Darwin Nunez pounced on Nathan Ake's short backpass and was cleaned out by Ederson.

Mac Allister was cool despite a long delay for Ederson to get treatment, that eventually forced him to be replaced by Stefan Ortega, and fired his penalty into the top corner.

- City cling on -

Liverpool then poured forward as City were left clinging on.

Salah and Robertson were introduced on the hour mark and the Egyptian nearly had an instant impact.

Luis Diaz sliced a glorious chance wide when played clean through by Salah's pass.

Kyle Walker's last-ditch intervention denied Diaz once more before Salah flashed a shot wide.

Ortega then had to be quick off his line to smother a shot from Nunez.

Guardiola responded by sacri-

ficing Julian Alvarez and Kevin De Bruyne, much to the chagrin of the Belgian who made his feelings known to his manager.

"I like it if he's upset, it's good," said Guardiola. "The game was not in our hands and I wanted something to give the game back to us a little bit."

The introduction of Mateo Kovacic and Jeremy Doku steadied the City ship and could have even gone on to snatch it.

Erling Haaland was kept exceptionally quiet by Virgil van Dijk, but he picked out Doku who fired off the inside of the post in the final minute of the 90.

Liverpool were screaming for a second penalty deep into eight minutes of added time when Doku's high foot caught Mac Allister.

But neither referee Michael Oliver nor VAR were interested and the title race was left tantalisingly poised.

AFP

How the Premier League title race stands with 10 games to go

LONDON

THE Premier League's top three are separated by a single point with 10 games remaining as a thrilling battle between Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester City looks set to go to the wire.

AFP Sports looks at where each of the contenders stand and how their run-ins compare.

*Arsenal - 64 points

The Gunners are the most in-form of the three contenders with a run of eight consecutive league wins in 2024, including a crucial 3-1 victory over Liverpool in January.

Mikel Arteta's men have smashed in 33 goals in those eight games to also open up a healthy goal difference advantage over their rivals, which could prove decisive.

Arsenal are not in league action again for another three weeks and their trip to City on March 31 is the acid test of how much they have improved over the last 12 months.

Arteta's young side were thrashed 4-1 at the Etihad last season as they stumbled down the home straight in the title race after leading for much of the season.

A year on they look more mature and have a deeper squad to cope with the pressure of trying to win a first title in 20 years.

Summer signings Declan Rice and Kai Havertz were the goalscorers for a nervy 2-1 win over Brentford on Saturday that tested their mettle as Havertz's winner arrived just four minutes from time.

But a series of tough away games lie ahead, even after their daunting trip to City.

Arsenal are still to face north London rivals Tottenham, Manchester United, Brighton and Wolves on

the road.

Fixtures to come:

March 31: Manchester City (A)
April 3: Luton (H)
April 6: Brighton (A)
April 13: Aston Villa (H)
April 20: Wolves (A)
April 27: Tottenham (A)
May 4: Bournemouth (H)
May 11: Manchester United (A)
April 19: Everton (H)

*Liverpool - 64 points

Jurgen Klopp's men failed to make their second-half supremacy count in a pulsating 1-1 draw against City on Sunday.

However, the Reds have on paper the kindest run-in as they aim to send off their manager in style at the end of the season.

Klopp has kept Liverpool on track for a potential quadruple despite an injury crisis that would have derailed a title challenge at other clubs.

Alisson Becker, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Diogo Jota remain sidelined, but Klopp is beginning to get some of his other key players back.

Mohamed Salah has come off the bench in the last two games, while Dominik Szoboszlai and Darwin Nunez started against City.

But Liverpool have to balance their title challenge with a deep run into the Europa League and FA Cup.

They travel to Manchester United next weekend in the FA Cup quarter-finals and face another trip to Old Trafford in the league next month.

A local derby away to Everton could also prove tricky, while they also Champions League chasing Tottenham and Aston Villa in two of their final three games.

Fixtures to come:

March 31: Brighton (H)
April 4: Sheffield United (H)
April 7: Manchester United (A)
April 14: Crystal Palace (H)
April 20: Fulham (A)
April 27: West Ham (A)
May 4: Tottenham (H)
May 11: Aston Villa (A)
May 19: Wolves (H)
TBC: Everton (A)

*Manchester City - 63 points

City are aiming to become the

first side to ever win four consecutive English top-flight titles and have know-how on their side of getting over the line.

Pep Guardiola admitted his side had survived a Liverpool "tsunami" to escape Anfield with a point that leaves them still well in the hunt.

The defending champions are midway through a defining month with fourth-placed Villa to visit the Etihad three days after Arsenal.

But should they remain in striking distance in early April, City will be confident of reeling in the leaders with a trip to Tottenham on paper the only tricky fixture in their final eight games.

Fixtures to come:

March 31: Arsenal (H)
April 3: Aston Villa (H)
April 6: Crystal Palace (A)
April 13: Luton (H)
April 20: Tottenham (A)
April 27: Nottingham Forest (A)
May 4: Wolves (H)
May 11: Fulham (A)
May 19: West Ham (H)
TBC: Brighton (A)

AFP



Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City survive Liverpool 'tsunami' to leave title race on knife-edge

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam's youths are pictured taking part in football at Kitunda Primary School's ground in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Matampi, Gamondi scoop Premier League monthly awards for February

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COASTAL Union goalkeeper Ley Matampi has won the 2023/24 NBC Premier League Player of the Month award for February, with Young Africans SC boss Miguel Gamondi scooping the Coach of the Month prize.

Congolese international Matampi has been one of Coastal Union's most consistent players this season.

In February he picked three clean sheets as Coastal Union rode out 1-0 wins against Mtibwa Sugar and Dodoma Jiji as well as a goalless result on the road against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The Coastal Union's leading goalkeeper now boasts the cleanest sheets of all goalkeepers across the NBC Premier League and is two ahead of the duo of Tabora United's John Noble and Constantine Deusedith of Geita Gold FC in second.

The former TP Mazembe and DR Congo senior national team shot-stopper has kept nine clean sheets in 16 league appearances for his outfit, alias 'Wagosi wa Kaya'.

He took the number one spot from Burundian international Justin Ndikumana who moved to Mtibwa Sugar during the December-January transfer window.

Matampi beat Young Africans SC attacking midfielder Mudathir Yahya and Tanzania Prisons' striker Samson Mbangula to claim the gong and is the first Coastal Union player to win it this season.

Coach Miguel Gamondi has been named NBC Premier League Coach of the Month for the second time this season, after being awarded February's award.

The Young Africans SC boss once again came out on top of the voting after guiding his side to four wins from five during the month, collecting 13 points from matches.

The Argentine guided his outfit to victories over Dodoma Jiji FC, Mashujaa FC, Tanzania Prisons, and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, as well as a goalless draw against Kagera Sugar.

That saw him edge out Simba SC's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha and Tanzania Prisons' head coach Ahmad Ally to see him add to his triumphs in August.

The Tanzania Premier League Awards Committee has also chosen the Azam Complex Stadium Manager, Amir Juma, to be the Best Stadium Manager for February, due to his exemplary performance of various ground management duties as well as issues related to the infrastructure in the stadium.



Coastal Union's goalkeeper, Ley Matampi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Simba SC and Yanga set to know CAF CL quarterfinal opponents today



Tanzania's Yanga players are pictured celebrating when the outfit grabbed a goal in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D game against Algeria's CR Belouizdad that took place in Dar es Salaam on February 24. Yanga cruised to a 4-0 drubbing of CR Belouizdad. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimi

TANZANIA's envoys in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, and Yanga, are set to discover their opponents for the showdown's quarterfinals with the draw slated to take place in Egypt today.

The quarterfinals' first leg matches have been staged to take place from March 29-31 and the second leg clashes are set for April 5-7.

Simba SC and Yanga made history for the first time in the Tanzania football scene as both teams advanced to the last eight of the CAF Champions League.

The draw will be conducted in Cairo, Egypt starting with the CAF Confederation Cup at 14h00 Cairo time (12h00 GMT) and the CAF Champions League at 15h00 Cairo time (13h00 GMT).

The teams that will participate in the quarterfinals of the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League and TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup are known following the

conclusion of the Group Stage earlier this month.

Simba SC advanced for the second time in a row and third time in the last four years- and five times in CAF inter-club competitions in a row- as they aim to advance to the semi-finals for the first time.

Yanga advanced to the final of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup and ended as the showdown's runners-up after losing to Algeria's USMA Algiers by an away-goal rule.

The teams were locked to a 2-2 aggregate result after the two-leg final and USMA Algiers won the title given the squad defeated Yanga 2-1 in the first leg that was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The second tier of continental club showdowns' rematch that was played at Stade Juliet in Algeria culminated in a 1-0 victory for Yanga.

This year, Simba SC will have to beat either Petro de Luanda, Mamelodi Sundowns, or Al Ahly if the Tanzanian club draws one of the trio in the CAF Champions League last-eight matches to advance into the semi-finals of the competition.

Al Ahly is the defending champion of the

competition while Mamelodi Sundowns won the maiden African Football League played this year after beating Al Ahly.

Petro de Luanda advanced to the premier continental showpiece's quarterfinals with six clean sheets from six Group Stage games.

Yanga will have an uphill task in its pursuit of progression to the semi-finals, as the club has to beat either ASEC Mimosas, Mamelodi Sundowns, or Petro de Luanda if the NBC Premier League defending champion draws any of the trio.

TotalEnergies CAF Champions League quarterfinals qualified teams:

Al Ahly (Egypt), ASEC Mimosas (Côte d'Ivoire), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Atletico Petroleos (Angola), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), Simba SC (Tanzania), Esperance Sportive de Tunis (Tunisia), and Young Africans SC (Tanzania).

Other teams that are expected to be drawn against in TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup Quarter-Finals teams:

USM Alger (Algeria), Zamalek (Egypt), Dreams FC (Ghana), RS Berkane (Morocco), Modern Future (Egypt), Abu Salem (Libya), Rivers United (Nigeria), Stade Malien (Mali).

Abdihamid Moalin relieved as KMC FC ends winless run

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC relieved the pressure on head coach Abdihamid Moalin after ending their nine-match winless run.

The club's striker Waziri Junior inspired a victory that only heightened Tabora United's troubles.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC secured their first three points in the NBC Premier League since early December by beating Tabora United 4-2 at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam, with Junior ending as the hero for the hosts.

The councilors utterly dominated the early stages of the game but only got the breakthrough goal a minute to the half-time whistle through Daruwesh Saliboko.

The Moalin side's dominance of proceedings would continue into the second half. Four minutes after the restart, Junior tapped a rebound to make it 2-0. He added a third at the hour mark with a well-connected header.

Junior completed his hat-trick six minutes later with yet another simple tap-in to put the game beyond Tabora United's reach. However, Daniel Lukandamila scored two consolation goals for Tabora United in the dying minutes of the game.

Postmatch, Moalin expressed his relief after a difficult period of back-to-back games that saw his side lose ground in the top-four race.

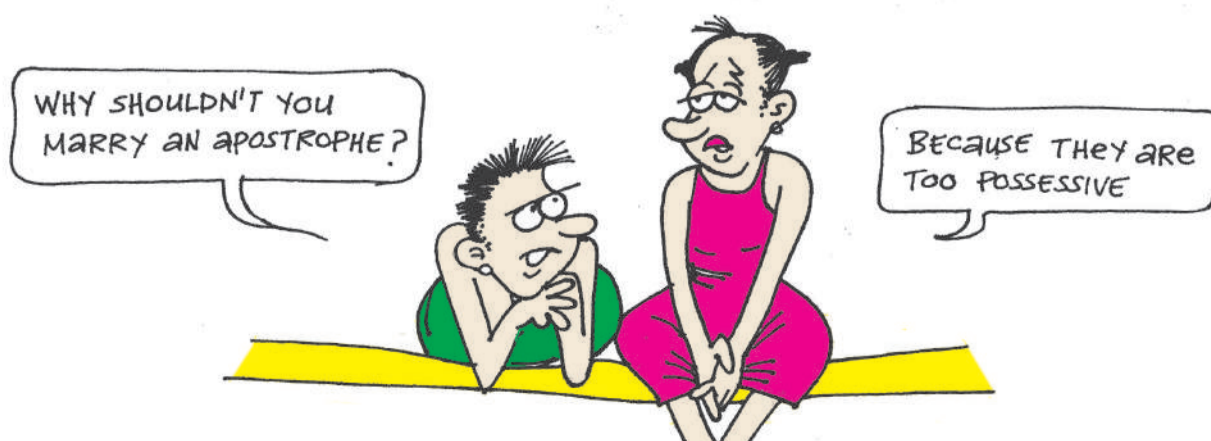
The tactician said: "It was a difficult game, Tabora United is a good team. I am very happy with scoring four goals but I am a little bit upset with the way we finished the game but these are the things that we need to continue improving on."

"Until the last 15 minutes I was very satisfied with the performance, I thought we followed the game plan, the guys worked very hard and we scored good goals," Moalin revealed.

Moalin said: "But in the last fifteen minutes we lost the focus and gave away two cheap goals, this is the only thing that I am not happy with. It is part of the game and part of the learning process."

"We keep going and now we get a bit of FIFA window break and we get to breathe a little bit. It has been a very difficult period of back-to-back games so I am very happy to finish this round of games with a win," the gaffer noted.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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Until the last 15 minutes I was very satisfied with the performance, I thought we followed the game plan, the guys worked very hard and we scored good goals

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kati Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SILENT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kati Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

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