



## LANDUSE



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# Kidnap horror: Prime Minister tasks RCs, DCs on PWAs' lives

*“Local officials and state agencies must work to arrest all those mentioned in the recent issue and in any similar suspicions so that the entire network of these criminals is brought to book”*

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed local government authorities to carry out special operations to enhance security for people with albinism.

Responding to MPs in the weekly spot questions hour in the National Assembly yesterday, with MPs concerns arising from the kidnapping and brutal murder of a child with albinism.

Asimwe Novath (aged two) met with the horror in Muleba District, Kagera Region late last month, whereas unidentified individuals came to the victim's household in Bulamula village, Kamachumu ward.

Assailants snatched the child from the mother, Kebyera Richard by strangling her and disappearing with the toddler, and nearly three weeks later Asimwe's body was found wrapped without limbs, hands, tongue and eyes.

In the wake of widespread fear and anxiety among residents of Lake Zone regions in particular, the premier said that in order to address such killings, there was a need for local government authorities to take up specific responsibilities.

Regional and district commissioners must immediately launch operations to

protect people with albinism, he said, explaining that such operations must involve security agencies.

They must take a leading role in the exercise, while local government authorities need to involve the society in protecting the rights of people with albinism, he stated.

He urged religious leaders to unreservedly condemn evils in society, especially the killing of people with albinism, intoning that it was sad a preacher in the village was cited among the suspects to be enabling the crime.

“This act must be condemned by all and I use this opportunity to ask our religious leaders to help in the fight against this malpractice,” he appealed, asking clerics to use their platforms to insist on the right to live of people with albinism.

He tasked the Council of Traditional Medicine and Alternative Medicine to register traditional healers and their centers in line with the type of service they provide to their clients, suggesting that this will control arbitrary services discounting principles of personal dignity and human rights.

The council needs to reject and exclude healers who use superstitious methods, contradictory fortune-telling, including providing conditions for killing people with

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**Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Dodoma city yesterday having an audience with representatives of persons with albinism. To his right is Deogratius Ndejemi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability). Photo: PMO**

## Sweden backs TAHA on diets, nutrition compass

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

THE Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has embarked on a relentless campaign to augment the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Anthony Chamanga, the TAHA chief development manager, made this announcement here yesterday at a nutrition day event hosted by Laghangesh village in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, explaining that the campaign is intended to complement government initiatives to combat malnutrition.

The event which attracted more than 300 people from within and outside the region is designed to rotate regionally to

promote nutritional awareness, he said, noting the importance of dietary choices in mitigating risks for chronic illnesses.

These range from heart disease and cancer, while changing dietary habits can enhance life expectancy, he stated, stressing that what you eat and don't eat can reduce your risk of medical conditions, at present or later in life.

Over five million individuals have been exposed to nutrition education through diverse platforms, including media outlets, social networks and assorted publications last year alone, he stated.

Over 11,000 urban and rural individuals were imparted with conceptual exposition and nutritional advice, while regional commissioner Queen Sengida

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# 26 banks pay out 3.9trn/- corporate tax in 3 years

By Henry Mwangonde

COMMERCIAL banks grouped in the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) contributed 3.9trn/- to the economy in taxes in the past three years, an 18 percent share of total corporate tax revenues.

Theobald Sabi, the NBC Bank managing director and TBA chairman, unveiled the report covering January 2021 to December 2023, noting that TBA was confident that the report will be a valuable resource for informed policy dialogue.

This will help in shaping future policies that support the continued growth and development of the Tanzania

## REPORT INDICATES

**Corporate tax revenues increased dramatically in the period, reaching 537bn/- in 2022 and rising to 718bn/- in 2023**

banking sector, he said, elaborating that the study provides valuable resources on the banking sector for the government and other stakeholders such as employees and investors.

“It facilitates the banking sector to demonstrate by quantifying its contribution to public finances in taxes, analysing the contribution trend over time,” he said, intimating that it further serves the government to assess contribution from the sector as it changes over time “to inform policy discussions over bank taxation.”

TBA prepared an inaugural report, ‘Contribution beyond profits,’ launched yesterday in the presence of Sauda Msemu, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) deputy governor for financial stability and financial deepening.

She said that the central bank was satisfied with the performance of the banks, affirming that the government intends to maintain a conducive envi-

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## SPORTS

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**Skipper Mbwana Samatta confirms request to retire from national team**

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**More Musiala magic sees Germany beat Hungary 2-0 and reach Euro 2024 knockout stage**

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**Azam keep faith with Youssef Dabo and back him in the transfer market**



## Guinea Bissau leader expected in Dar today

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

PRESIDENT Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embaló of Guinea-Bissau is expected to arrive in the country today for a two-day working visit.

Dr Samwel Shelukindo Permanent Sec-

retary in the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ministry, said at a press conference yesterday that the visiting Head of State is expected to tour the standard gauge railway (SGR) along with export processing zones (EPZ).

Upon arrival as the Julius Nyerere Inter-

national Airport (JNIA), the Guinea-Bissau leader will be received by Foreign minister January Makamba, then proceed to the State House for formal talks with President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In priority the talks will be centred on

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# Kidnap horror: Prime Minister tasks RCs, DCs on PWAs' lives

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albinism in order to meet the needs of their clients, he stated.

"Similarly, give information to the relevant authorities so that strict legal measures are taken against them," he said.

He said due to their unique position, traditional leaders, who are on every corner of Tanzania can actively participate in condemning the killing of people with albinism.

"I am asking our traditional leaders to work with the government by providing information to the securi-

ty agencies when they find rumours of plans or acts of killing people with albinism in the areas where they live," he further appealed.

"Local officials and state agencies must work to arrest all those mentioned in the recent issue and in any similar suspicions so that the entire network of these criminals is brought to book," he stated.

The responsibility of parents is to give their children the best upbringing that will enable them to become good people in the society, the premier added.

# Guinea Bissau leader expected in Dar today

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the cashew nut crop as Guinea Bissau is doing well in marketing the crop and Tanzania wishes to learn from them, he said.

Other issues slated for discussion include malaria prevention under the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), the ministerial executive stated, noting that the visit is set to strengthen collaboration between the two countries and innovate on strategic collaboration.

The trade volume between two countries was low at \$200,000 from 2016 to 2021, he said, expressing

the view that the visit will facilitate higher trade activity between them.

President Embaló has been in office since February 27, 2020 after having served as prime minister from 2016 to 2018, a senior member of the Movement for Democratic Alternation (MADEM-G15), graduating in political science and international relations.

Observers say that his presidency has been marked by efforts to stabilize the political landscape of Guinea-Bissau, which has experienced significant political turbulence in the past.

# New initiative set to increase Africa's vaccine production

By Lauren Chadwick

GLOBAL leaders gathered in Paris on Thursday to launch a new initiative to increase vaccine production in Africa and address the large inequities that came to light during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) is a new financial mechanism that will provide nearly €1 billion over ten years to support African vaccine manufacturers.

It was officially launched at a global forum co-hosted by France, the African Union and the international vaccine organisation Gavi.

The new funds will contribute to the African Union's goal of manufacturing at least 60 per cent of the continent's required vaccine doses by 2040, according to Gavi.

It is also meant to address the large inequities of the COVID-19 pandemic, where African countries struggled to access vaccines bought by richer countries.

While African countries represent nearly 20 per cent of the world's population, according to Gavi they produce just 0.2 per cent of the global vaccine supply.

The new funds will offset the high vaccine production costs, with higher incentives for manufacturers that produce priority vaccines such as those against malaria, cholera, and measles.

The European Union said on Thursday that member states would contribute more than €750 million to the AVMA, including nearly €220 million from the EU budget. This makes EU countries the largest contributors to the financial instrument. Uganda hospitals have hundreds of unused yellow fever jabs due to vaccine hesitancy.

"Our decisions today and in the months ahead...will be deciding factors in determining whether we can look back from the vantage point of 2030 with pride and satisfaction or whether we will look back in anguish at missed opportunities and squandered potential," said

José Barroso, chair of Gavi's board and former European Commission president in his opening speech at the forum on Thursday.

Barroso said the forum was an opportunity to "come together for a common cause" and contribute to a "new era of immunisation and equity."

Moussa Faki, chairperson of the African Union Commission, said in an opening speech there was a "multiplicity of crises" in Africa.

"Our strength is to unite our voices and efforts to change this intolerable situation," he said, adding that COVID-19 and other crises showed that "African resilience is not enough".

Faki said that the African continent was highly reliant on expensive imports of vaccinations and that local manufacturing would save money for countries.

A pandemic treaty to avoid COVID mistakes has been 2 years in the making. Why can't countries agree?

He said the new funding mechanism would help accelerate access to and distribution of vaccines, with the new mechanism being a "catalyst for the pharmaceutical industry in Africa."

The forum comes shortly after countries failed to agree on a pandemic agreement by the World Health Assembly in May due to disagreements over sharing technology and how to address global health inequities.

But diplomats and experts told Euronews Health this month that they were motivated to continue discussing a possible treaty and hoped that countries would be able to bridge their differences.

According to the European Commission, the AVMA funds will purchase more than 800 million vaccine doses produced in Africa over the next decade.

"The initiative will diversify the set of global vaccine suppliers with a target of at least four African vaccine manufacturers entering the market in a sustainable way," the commission said.



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Constitution and Legal Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini a report on a study Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) conducted last year on the level of users' satisfaction of users of services rendered by Tanzania's courts. Photo courtesy of C & LA ministry

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ronment for financial sector development.

Thabi said the report provides an in-depth analysis of contributions of the 26 TBA member banks to the national economy through various tax channels, showing that corporate tax was the most significant component of the contribution, accounting for 18 per cent of overall corporate tax countrywide.

Corporate tax revenues increased dramatically in the period, reaching 537bn/- in 2022 and rising to 718bn/- in 2023, the report indicates, pointing out that VAT and excise duty charged on fi-

# 26 banks pay out 3.9trn/- corporate tax in 3 years

ancial services were also on the rise.

It showed a significant increase to 313bn/- in 2022 and 375bn/- in 2023 while banks' Pay As You Earn (PAYE) contribution from 2021-2023 amounted to 673bn/-, being 8.4 per cent of total PAYE collections, while TBA members' employment taxes, comprising the Skills and Development Levy

(SDL) and the Workers Compensation Fund, amounted to 121.1bn/-, aside from employer social security contributions, the report affirms.

Other taxes cited are service levy, stamp duty, property tax and customs duty, where the 26 TBA member banks paid service levy totalling 23.3bn/-, stamp duty reaching 2.48bn/-, property tax at

0.77bn/-, and customs duty 0.4bn/-, the report indicates.

"This demonstrates the sector's participation in broadening the tax base and supporting indirect tax revenues," it stated. "TBA remains committed to fostering a conducive environment for the banking sector to thrive and enhance its contribution to economic prosperity," it added.



Implementation of Dar es Salaam's rapid transit bus infrastructure project in progress along downtown's Ohio Street yesterday, despite a downpour. Photo: John Badi

# Sweden backs TAHA on diets, nutrition compass

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highlighted the significant health and economic repercussions of malnutrition.

Noting that the impact of malnutrition extends beyond individual health and adversely affects families, communities and the nation, the RC pointed at the link between rising cases of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer, to poor dietary habits.

These habits often exclude essential food groups like vegetables and fruits, she stated, expressing dismay with forgetting the group of vegetables and fruits in regular meals.

Poor nutrition can lead to anaemia, vitamin A deficiency and folate deficiency, she said, highlighting the detrimental effects of poor nutrition on children's physical and mental development, hampering classroom performance.

This can result in irreversible

health complications, impairing the physical and mental development of children, reducing the ability to do well in school and also reduces effectiveness in adult life, she implored, specifying that it can also lead to permanent health problems.

She assured the audience of collaborative efforts between the government and organizations like TAHA to educate the masses on nutritional best practices.

Overall, Sendiga's address was a call to action for improved dietary habits and enhanced public awareness to combat malnutrition and its wide-ranging consequences.

Marking the day is meant to diminish stunting, alleviate micronutrient deficiencies and curb the prevalence of non-communicable diseases through well-coordinated sensitization efforts and effective nutritional interventions, TAHA says in its presentation.

TAHA's efforts resonated through national agricultural shows like

Nane-Nane and Sabasaba exhibitions, reaching more than 150,500 individuals with vital nutrition information.

Schools across the nation have also benefited significantly, with an estimated 75,481 pupils exposed to nutritional activities, including the creation of vegetable gardens and the provision of nutrition education.

TAHA disseminated 35 comprehensive nutrition articles, advocating the benefits of a balanced diet enriched with horticultural products.

The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey of 2022 revealed that around 30 per cent of children aged up to three years are already stunted, while 12 per cent are underweight and four per cent are overweight.

Similarly, findings by the Tanzania National Nutrition Survey in 2018 highlighted that 31.7 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 are overweight, 7.3 per cent are under-

weight, 1.7 per cent emaciated and 28.8 per cent anaemic in Manyara Region, officials noted.

Regionally, a staggering 32 per cent of children are stunted, 18.9 per cent underweight and 4.7 per cent thin on the basis of 2022 statistics, meanwhile as in acknowledging the sobering data, TAHA in collaboration with regional and district nutrition offices, drew up the wide ranging nutritional undertaking in Mbulu District.

The effort involves identifying areas with high malnutrition rates to strategically implement interventions aimed at addressing these nutritional challenges.

Certain analysts see the spirited campaign as representing a bright spot amidst the dark clouds of fashionable eating with nutritional deficiencies.

By empowering communities with education and access to nutritious fruits and vegetables TAHA is lighting the path towards a healthier future, the RC affirmed.

## Five villages in Longido get 372m/- from carbon trading

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Longido

FIVE villages in Longido District, Arusha Region, have earned at total of 372m/- from carbon credits sold through the Soils for the Future Tanzania Limited.

Longido District Commissioner Marco Ng'umbi presented a cheque of 372,326,135/- to the recipient communities, lauding Soils for the Future Tanzania for the initiative that led to rewarding the villages' efforts in conservation.

"This will encourage local communities to come up with proper land-use plans, dedicating ample land for environmental conservation as well as rangelands for grazing," he said.

The cheque was presented to Kimokuwa, Ngoswak, Sinonik, Loondolwo and Noondoto villages with the money set to fund the areas' proper land use plans, environment protecting initiatives and other local programmes.

The money is for altering grazing practices and beginning implementation of a soil carbon credit.

"Today, the Soils for the Future Tanzania signs carbon project implementation and benefit sharing

agreements with five villages in Longido District," said the Carbon Project Coordinator, Richard Ndaskoi.

He said that the villages qualified for joining a soil carbon credit project after signing memorandum of understanding, agreements, developing and submitting proposals on how to spend the earned monies.

The communities also developed new 'Rapid Rotational Grazing' arrangements for livestock that are necessary to join the Longido and Monduli Rangelands Carbon Project (LMRCP).

The five villages signed formal agreements with the Soils for the Future to collaboratively implement the plans and launch a new soil carbon project in their respective rangelands.

The total size of rangelands the five villages have committed to the soil carbon credit project is 71,656.30 hectares, which is the total amount of communal grazing areas in all five villages.

It was said that each of the five recipient villages will be paid the equivalent of \$2 per hectare for the grazing area they are committed to the project.



Help comes the way of a Dar es Salaam resident (L) moving to cross a flooded stretch of Pamba Road in the city's central business district yesterday. The situation was blamed largely on several hours of heavy rain. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

BRITISH International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution (DFI) and impact investor, yesterday signed an agreement to provide \$15 million with the potential to increase this to \$25 million, to renewable energy platform Rift Valley Energy (RVE), owned and managed by Meridiam.

The funding will support part of RVE's ambitious investment and development plan for future renewable energy projects in Tanzania.

The DFI's support will contribute to the financing and installation of new wind and hydropower capacity - increasing the national grid's supply of sustainable and affordable electricity to businesses and communities in low-income areas in rural Tanzania.

The projects will sit alongside RVE's existing run-of-river hydros

## New \$15 million agreement to increase access to renewable energy in Tanzania

as well as the only operational wind farm in Tanzania - Mwenga Wind.

RVE, a Tanzania-based renewable energy infrastructure development company, is wholly owned by Meridiam, an independent investment Benefit Corporation and an asset manager that specialises in the development, financing, and long-term management of sustainable public infrastructure. Meridiam acquired RVE in 2023 with a view to grow its generation assets.

RVE owns, operates and is developing a portfolio of 30MW of renewable energy generation alongside its subsidiary Mwenga Power Services, which operates two rural distribution networks (460 km

long); all of which are located in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

Beyond RVE, Meridiam recently invested in 100MW of wind assets in Kenya reinforcing its regional footprint in renewable energy. BII has partnered with Meridiam over several years, investing in past and current funds, which have successfully developed major Greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects in Africa.

National electrification rate in Tanzania is 37 percent and as low as 24 per cent in rural areas. With the financing from BII, RVE is expected to support an additional 7.6MW of new renewable energy assets which will provide power to about 170,000 people per year and connect 4,000

businesses and households to the grid for the first time.

The provision of clean and affordable power to local industries including factories that process tea, veneer, timber as well water and pole treatment plants is expected to create 1,800 jobs.

BII's Chief Executive Officer, Nick O'Donohoe, during his week-long visit to East Africa including Tanzania, said: "Millions of people in Tanzania do not have access to energy and this greatly impacts on their ability to access essential services and opportunities. This agreement with Meridiam to support Rift Valley Energy will improve the lives of thousands of people in rural Tanzania as the

energy it will provide will empower many sectors which will help to enhance educational opportunities, healthcare services, job creation and industrial productivity."

Meridiam's Deputy CEO and Africa Head, Mathieu Peller said: "Rift Valley Energy is an investment which is true to Meridiam's mandate and purpose, and we are pleased to partner with BII to grow the renewable energy projects being developed by the company. This facility affirms our confidence in Tanzania as a market, where the government has clear and ambitious economic development plans which we look forward to supporting through sustainable investment."

BII has a strong track record of investing in East Africa as a long-term partner, supporting private sector growth through projects, strategic partnerships and innovative financing solutions that help to shape businesses and economies. Its portfolio in East Africa is currently valued at \$1.4bn.

BII made commitments of over \$355m in 2023 across critical sectors including clean energy, infrastructure, telecoms, and financial services.

Recent highlights include \$30m investment in TowerCo of Africa Tanzania to build 200 additional telecoms sites throughout Tanzania which will link previously isolated populations and help to improve the lives of up to 600,000 people, \$30m anchor investment to Helios Towers as part of its \$700m public bond offering to mobilise private capital to support Africa's digital transformation.

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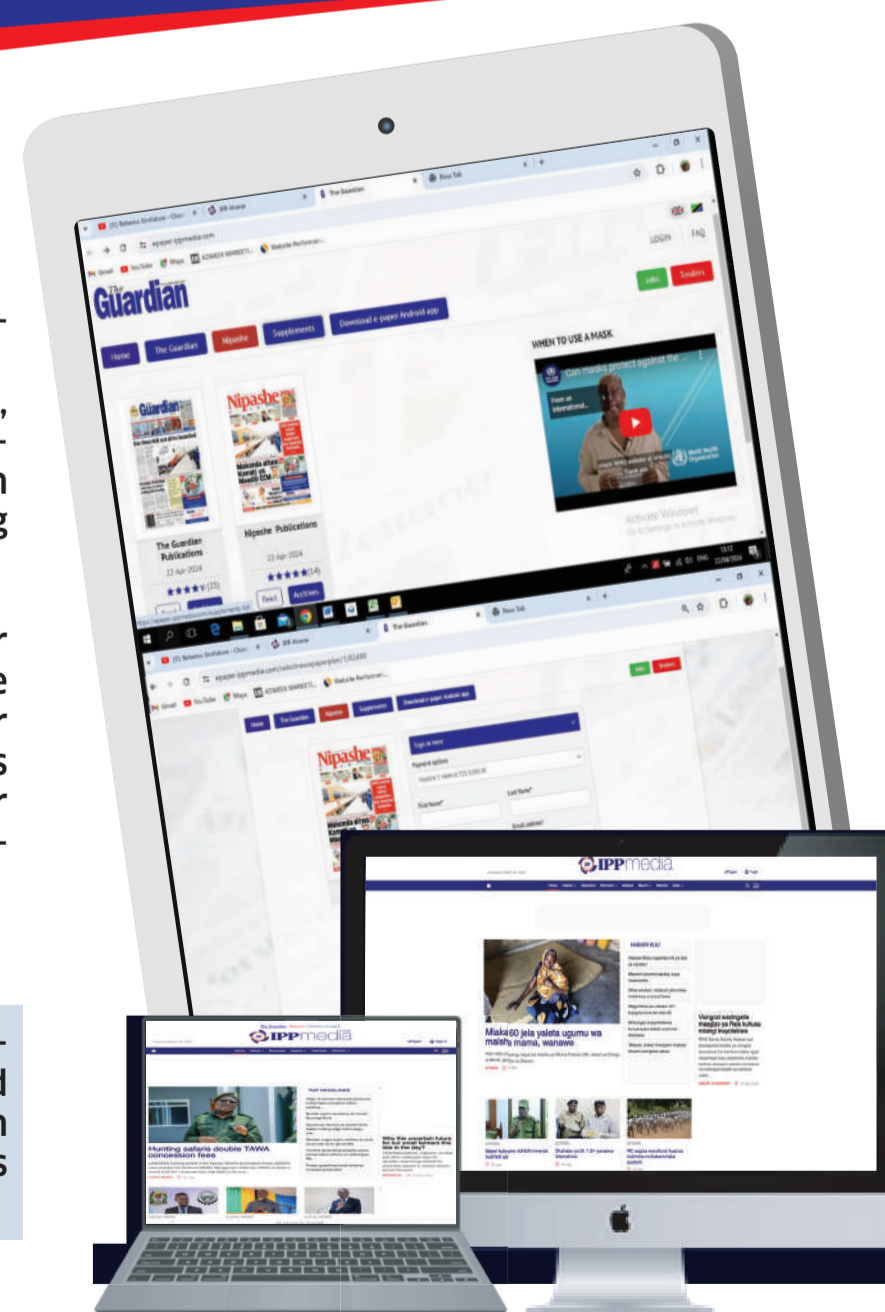
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# Public Service Week: TASAF ready for views, complaints

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA Social Action Fund (TASAF) has appealed to its beneficiaries with complaints to submit the same at the ongoing Public Service Week exhibitions for action to be taken.

Japhet Boaz, TASAF Director of Knowledge Management and Advocacy, made the appeal yesterday at Chinangali grounds in Dodoma where the exhibitions take place, adding that it is an opportunity for public awareness

on the fund's activities.

He said TASAF usually identifies its beneficiaries through village general meetings in rural areas and Mtaa meetings in urban areas.

They thereafter assess the identified people's living conditions in terms of the energy they use, types of houses they have, land ownership, size of the family and livestock owned among others.

The figures are processed in a special App by using Proxy Means Testing (PMT) and that also determines a household's eligibility

to benefit from basic cash transfer.

"Unfortunately, there are some members of the public who are not aware of the process hence complaints. The exhibitions here offer an opportunity to get to understand the system," he said.

One of the beneficiaries, Kuruthum Abdallah, who got entrepreneurship skills training through TASAF and attended the exhibitions to showcase her goods, thanked the government for the support.

"Without this programme some

of us could not have reached this far and been able to take care of our families," she said.

The 27 years old mother of one who hails from Kondoa District, Singida Region, said she received training in 2019 and thereafter given a total of 400,000/- as a

business capital.

Established in the year 2000 as part of the government's strategy to reduce poverty, TASAF's journey has been fighting poverty in phases, focusing on improving social service delivery, capacity enhancement for communities,

including overseeing 1,704 community-run sub-projects such as construction and rehabilitation of healthcare facilities, schools and other small-scale infrastructure and a public works programme component with 113,646 direct beneficiaries.



Majala Majala (L), a Majey Smart Vision eye care specialist, attends to a resident of Shinyanga Region at a free health camp held at a Shinyanga municipality hospital on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
WIZARA YA NISHATI  
MAMLAKA YA UDHIBITI WA  
HUDUMA ZA NISHATI NA MAJI  
(EWURA)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414 and Rule 20(4) of the Petroleum (Wholesale, Storage, Retail and Consumer Installation Operations) Rules, GN No. 150 of 2022)

**NOTICE** is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application seeking approval on the transfer of a licence of a petroleum retail outlet with the particulars set out hereinafter below:

**The current name of the Station:** Halima Samli Selemani T/A,

Nakapanya Filling Station

PRL-2021-071

**Licence Number:**

**Physical Location:**

Nakapanya Area, Tunduru District  
in Ruvuma Region

**Proposed change of name:**

Oilplus Tanzania Limited

**Transferor:**

Halima Samli Selemani

**Transferee:**

Oilplus Tanzania Limited

Any person who wishes to make any representations or objections with respect to the application should do so in writing and submit it to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice. All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

Issued by  
Director General

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)

Jengo la EWURA, 3 Mtaa wa EWURA, 41104 Tambukareli, S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania  
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## MP wants new revenue sources to lighten burden on taxpayers

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja,

Dodoma

GEITA Rural MP Joseph Musukuma has advised the government to stop what he termed as "copying and pasting" during preparation of the national budget and instead find new revenue sources to lighten burden on the few taxpayers.

According to him, the government has a tendency of adding more taxes to various services every year, something which continues to be a burden few people.

He made the call yesterday in the National Assembly when contributing to the debate on the state of the nation's economy and national development plan as well

as national budget estimates for the financial year 2024/25.

Musukuma challenged Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba and Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo to be innovative by looking for new sources of revenue.

"Government leaders are paid to support development and welfare of the people and not initiate multiple taxes that hurt businesses," he said.

The lawmaker also wanted the two ministers to invest time to listen and address challenges facing traders, arguing that by doing so, they will leave a big legacy in the country.

He said traders face a lot of challenges which if the government

is committed, can be addressed by conducting regular meetings.

"Kariakoo Market alone is a very big source of revenue but the government closes its eyes to the traders' challenges. Let us be serious, learn where we go wrong and fix it. I am sure that through dialogue, things will go well," he said.

He said that traders at Kariakoo Market have been facing "brutal" treatment from revenue collection authorities, a situation which may scare others from establishing businesses there.

Muleba North MP Charles Mwijage urged the government to put efforts in creating conducive investment environment to attract more businesses and hence expand tax base.

## Authorities kill stray lions that necessitated closure of schools

LUSAKA

ZAMBIAN authorities have killed two stray lions that caused fear in the western Zambezi region, prompting plans to close nearby schools.

The two lions, said to have escaped from the nearby Kafue National Park, killed 16 cows in a span of two weeks.

One resident told state broadcaster ZNBC that some people were worried about leaving their homes.

The authorities had announced a plan to close some schools in the area as a precaution.

"There is a real danger that pupils could be attacked on their way to school," the district commissioner, Simeon Machayi, was quoted as saying.

"To protect human life, some schools [in the area] will be closed as a precautionary measure," he said.

While the lions had only attacked livestock, the authorities said they posed a risk to human life.

Local newspaper the Lusaka Times said the most recent incident was an attack on an oxcart carrying a patient to Zambezi District Hospital on Tuesday.

There was said to have been a sense of relief when police and wildlife authorities moved in to address the matter on Wednesday. "Our hearts now have calmed down," the district commissioner said.

The state broadcaster on Wednesday showed carcasses of the big cats, and an excited big crowd that had gathered around.

A teacher said they were now happy to resume their lives without fear, saying pupils and teachers had been "so scared to make movements" in the area.

Conflicts between people and wildlife are common in the country, especially among communities living near parks and wildlife reserves.

The situation has been exacerbated by a drought which has reduced the source of food for both people and animals.



### THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF HALOPESA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	NOTE	2023 (TZS)	2022 (TZS)
Operating expenses	6	(19,719,264)	(19,252,292.00)
Operating loss		(19,719,264)	(19,252,292.00)
Finance income	7	4,077,451,943	3,150,701,194.00
Finance costs	7	(3,653,388,279)	(2,843,996,200.00)
<b>Profit before tax</b>		<b>404,344,400</b>	<b>287,452,702.00</b>
Income tax expense	8	(404,344,400)	(287,452,702.00)
<b>Loss for the year/period</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Other comprehensive income		—	—
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year/period, net of tax</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	NOTE	2023 (TZS)	2022 (TZS)
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and bank balances	9	110,959,347,606	114,400,588,199
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>110,959,347,606</b>	<b>114,400,588,199</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated profit		—	—
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Amounts due to customers	10	110,947,443,606	114,388,934,749
Other liabilities	11	11,904,000	11,653,450
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>110,959,347,606</b>	<b>114,400,588,199</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	2023 (TZS)	2022 (TZS)
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Profit before tax	8	404,344,400	287,452,702
<b>Working capital changes</b>			
Increase in amounts due to clients		(3,441,491,143)	47,398,212,104
Increase in other liabilities		250,550	(22,977,056)
Increase in restricted bank balances		3,441,240,593	(47,375,235,048)
Income tax paid		(404,344,400)	(287,452,702)
<b>Net cash flows used in operating activities</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year/period		—	—
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	9	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



Sonia Mkumbwa (R), Central Zone manager with the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority, pictured at Dodoma city's Sanga Prison yesterday presenting to Prisons Assistant Commissioner Zefania Neligwa medical supplies worth 24m/- for use at the facility. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Govt for advanced diplomas in mental health, midwifery and anaesthesia to plug gap

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is set to start offering advanced diploma in mental health, midwifery and anaesthesia to bridge the gap and trickle-down services to primary health level this financial year.

Asnath Matunga, representative from the Ministry of Health said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday ahead of the National Human Resources for Health Conference scheduled to take place for two days consecutively from July 29th to July 30th this year.

The conference is organized by the government in collaboration with Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF).

She admitted that despite investment made in the health sector, the country still faces an estimated shortage of 65 percent of healthcare workers in health facilities.

Matunga said the government has also issued loans to students pursuing different courses at diploma levels, adding that 4,000 have so far benefited.

She said that the government in collaboration with stakeholders has directly employed 13,187 health workers and 4,000 contractual workers.

"The government's decision is to ensure people access services at primary level and get treatment on time," she said.

Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro, CEO of BMF

said that the conference brings together over 500 participants to discuss the country's human resources in health.

She said the conference will be a platform for all stakeholders to share experience and knowledge, identify domestic and overseas opportunities for in-service and pre-service training.

"Our role as foundation is to collaborate with the government to complement its efforts in ensuring people get access to quality healthcare services," she said.

According to her, the foundation has employed a total of 13,000 health workers, adding that this year alone, it has employed 2,097.

She said that the foundation works closely with the government in bridging the gap of health workers, especially at primary level.

Rahel Sheiza, Director of Programmes and Business Development at BMF, said that the conference, among others, will bring together employers and employees in the health sector.

Furthermore, she said the conference will be a platform for researchers to present and share their experience and expertise.

*"Our role as foundation is to collaborate with the government to complement its efforts in ensuring people get access to quality healthcare services"*

## MP dropped for spewing racial slur against blacks

JOHANNESBURG

A SOUTH African lawmaker has been suspended by his party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), after a series of old clips resurfaced online of him spewing violent racist language against black people.

Renaldo Gouws initially insinuated one of the videos was doctored and denied it but a statement issued by the DA on Thursday said it was "genuine and not a fake".

In the video, Gouws who was sworn into parliament last week, uses a local slur typically reserved for black Africans repeatedly along with the n-word, and calls for black people to be killed.

This could hardly have come at a worse time for President Cyril Ramaphosa as he thrashes out a new coalition government with the DA.

After being sworn in for a second full term as president on Wednesday, he now has to agree on the distribution of ministerial posts between his own African National Congress (ANC) and the DA, along with three smaller parties.

The ANC failed to win a majority in last month's election for the first time since the end of the racist system of apartheid in 1994.

The centre-right DA the country's second-biggest party, has faced accusations of racism from critics who say the party wants to protect the interests of the white-minority population - a charge it denies.

The DA has said Gouws will face "disciplinary charges."

Earlier this week, another old video clip re-emerged, in which Gouws makes racially charged remarks.

In the video he implied that white people were subject to reverse apartheid.

He said: "If Africa had to disappear off the face of the earth, no one would [expletive] notice."

More than 40,000 people have signed an online petition calling for his removal as an MP.

On Monday, after the first clip came out, the 41-year-old claimed he wasn't racist and apologised on X, saying he had spoken in a "crass" and "hostile" way.

"I refute any claims of racism or being a racist. I can however see how my message was distorted in the way it was delivered by me and I take full responsibility for the actions of my younger and immature self," he said.

DA leader John Steenhuisen previously defended Gouws, but it is unclear if he has seen the latest video where Gouws calls for black people to be killed.

Senior DA official and former party leader Helen Zille on Wednesday told local media: "Such language is unjustifiable and unacceptable. I don't see how such offensive language can be justified."

Gouws is a former councillor in Nelson Mandela Bay's ward two and popular figure on social media, who has been known to stir controversy.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said it would take legal action against Gouws "for the alleged racial utterances relating to online media posts."

In a statement shared on X, SAHRC concluded that the comments made by the suspended MP "constitute hate speech and/or harassment."

"Given Gouws's position as a Member of Parliament, his alleged actions carry even greater weight and responsibility."

The coalition between long-time rivals the ANC and DA, officially called a Government of National Unity, has been harshly criticised by some since it was announced last week.

Julius Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), who formed the party after he left the ANC in 2013, lambasted the agreement.

"We do not agree to this marriage of convenience, to consolidate the white monopoly power over the economy and the means of production in South Africa."

Former President Jacob Zuma and founder of uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), which came third in the recent election, shared the same sentiments.

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## CTI appeals for scrapping of multiple charges after study recommendations

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has asked the government to remove multiple fees charged by councils, arguing that the same act is an obstacle to prosperity of businesses and investment in the country.

The concern was aired in Dar es Salaam yesterday by CTI executive director Leodegar Tenga at a capacity-building workshop for food and beverage stakeholders following a study that was conducted by the CEO of the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development, Dr Donath Olomi.

The study highlighted how the fees hinder progress of traders and industrialists in various areas of the country.

Tenga said the study identified many issues and recommended steps to follow to remove the obstacles, stressing that the goal is to give opportunities to local traders and outsiders who wish to come and invest in the country.

Tenga said the effect of the influx of fees has a commercial effect, including the increase in product prices, thus causing consumers to buy a low-priced product at a high cost.

"For example, a person who has harvested crops in Mbeya who transports the produce to Dar es Salaam is charged multiple fees by different councils along the way," he said.

"Once a certain fee is charged, let's say in Mbeya, the consignment should not be charged elsewhere; we should have a procedure that recognises if a consignment has already been charged," he said.

Dr Olomi said that from the research he conducted, he suggested that there should be transparency on the charges,

explaining that in almost all the councils he visited, the charges are not declared anywhere.

"This means that someone who wants to invest cannot know the exact amount of charges and whether they are in accordance with the law or not," he said.

He also recommended that the government should look at how to remove charges that conflict with development initiatives, citing an example that if a person brings a truck to Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo to load or unload goods, that truck is charged a parking fee.

He said confusion is the fees charged by the council and others by the central government.

"For example, the fee for health screening in factories is charged by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) but local governments through councils check for infectious diseases and non-infectious ones are screened by OSHA and the fee they charge for one person is 70,000/-," he said.

Karoline Valerian, Chief Industrial Engineer, Ministry of Industry and Trade, said the government will work on the recommendations to create a friendly environment.

She said that the ministry had already started amending some policies and laws to eliminate the complaints aired by stakeholders.



**This means someone who wants to invest cannot know the exact amount of charges and whether they are in accordance with the law or not**



Lamine Diallo (C), Head of Natural Resources with the European Union Delegation in Tanzania, joins a traditional dance at the launch of the inaugural Tanzania Honey Exhibition held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

By Correspondent Gideon

Mwakanosya, Songea

TUNDURU district commissioner Simon Chacha has urged residents living near national parks and other protected areas to take part in environmental conservation initiatives to improve nature and reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

According to Chacha, if residents living near protected areas do not take time to learn about the nature of the areas and what they need to do to live peacefully, human-wildlife conflicts will not end.

He made the call here yesterday during recognition of organizations that strive to improve lives of people near protected areas as well

## 'Take part in environmental conservation initiatives to end human-wildlife conflicts'

as promote conservation.

"Despite efforts of the government and stakeholders to heighten conservation and reduce human-wildlife conflicts, residents themselves have a role to spend time and learn more on conservation issues as well as wildlife," he said.

Chacha said residents, especially farmers, should learn methods such as the use of chilli fences, which is a non-aggressive method to dissuade elephants from entering populated and cultivated areas.

"We must continue to advocate for

stronger environmental protection and sustainable practices at local, national and international levels. By working together, sharing our knowledge and supporting each other's initiatives, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone," he said.

Kaloko Kassim, a teacher at Liganga Secondary School in Kalulu Village, said that awareness on wildlife protection and environmental conservation has greatly increased among pupils and the school community in general,

thanks to contributions of non-state actors collaborating with the government.

Siwema Matete, a resident of Rahaleo Village in the district thanked efforts of the government and stakeholders which helped reduce human-wildlife conflicts in the village.

"Currently the situation has stabilised; incidents of wild animals invading our settlements and farms have declined hence enabling us to increase crop production and improve lives," she said.



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### BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 55km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of "Gap Assessment and UG training and Document Development".

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-05-05	Gap Assessment and Under Ground training document review and document development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company/firm profile.</li> <li>List of history and clients that similar works have been conducted.</li> <li>Company accreditation as certified training intuition and list all accreditations with certificates.</li> <li>List of experienced trainers and document developers and CV's detailing trainers experience in the UG mining industry and technical fields and qualifications and certifications.</li> <li>Trainers' certification as Assessors, Moderators and training facilitators.</li> <li>Demonstrate the ability to utilize the Immersive simulator and software and training equipment.</li> <li>Demonstrate the ability to develop SOP's Manuals and training material based on world best practice on all Mining activities.</li> </ul>

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualifies as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest 1800hrs on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-06-01	Construction of Prefab Building with Poly Urethane Injected Panels (Combined Admin Unit, Change House and Lam Room Unit).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor specialised in supply and/or install prefab units, must have proven experience with different projects, Building CRB certificate class 5 or equivalent.</li> <li>Experience working with similar works in last 3 years.</li> <li>Proficiency in the areas of supply, fabrication, application, transportation, unloading, and receiving, installation, construction, assembly, testing, evaluation, and quality control to fulfill the work's detailed scope, as well as complete awareness of the risks and safety precautions associated with working in the extractive industry.</li> <li>Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&amp;QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health &amp; Safety acts.</li> <li>List of equipment's and tools - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).</li> </ul>

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

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# EU to support initiatives that engage women in apiculture

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE European Union (EU) has expressed commitment to support initiatives that foster gender equality and provide opportunity for women participation in beekeeping and honey value addition in Tanzania.

This was said on Wednesday evening by Head of Natural Resources at the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania Lamine Diallo in his remarks at the opening of the maiden honey exhibition dubbed Tanzania Honey Show 2024.

He said that gender inclusion in the beekeeping sector, especially empowering women beekeepers to venture more into professional honey processing and value addition was necessary for sustainable development of the apiculture industry in Tanzania.

Diallo said Tanzania is renowned globally for high quality honey which is exported to various international markets, contributing significantly to the economy of the country, but efforts must be made to attract more women into the sector.

"It is for this reason that the EU is a committed partner in supporting the beekeeping industry in Tanzania," he said.

According to him, EU has availed a total of 10 million euros, equivalent to 28bn/- for implementing

Beekeeping Value Chain Support (BEVAC) project in Tanzania, the initiative dedicated to enhancing beekeeping value chain in Tanzania.

"BEVAC is being implemented by the Belgian Development Agency Enabel and it operates under coordination of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and it has already impacted more than 4,000 beekeepers in Tanzania, including women beekeepers," he said.

In her remarks to grace the three-day event taking place at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) under the theme 'Beyond Hives, Beyond Borders', Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Angellah Kairuki hailed the EU for the continued support for the sector.

She said beekeeping employs over 2 million people in the country and despite offering numerous socioeconomic benefits, its players lack needed financial assistance.

"The government values the support given by different stakeholders to beekeepers to transform their lives," she said.

The minister added that the event organized by Tanzania Honey Junction in collaboration with BEVAC serves as a podium for the country to prepare to host the 50th edition of the International Apicultural Congress to be held in 2027 in Arusha.

## Stringent EU asylum rules push people across channel

LONDON

WITH the rising tide creeping above their waists, soaking the children they hugged tight, around a dozen Kurds refused to leave the cold waters of the English Channel.

It was a futile attempt to delay the inevitable. French police had just foiled their latest attempt to reach the United Kingdom by boat.

The men, women and children were trapped again on the last frontier of their journey from Iraq and Iran. They had hoped that a rubber dinghy would get them to better lives with housing, schooling and work.

Now it disappeared on the horizon, only a few of its passengers aboard. Police in the quiet northern French town of Ambleteuse, pleaded with them to leave the freezing water.

"The boat is go. It's over," shouted an increasingly irritated officer.

Finally, the asylum-seekers give up and come ashore. Defeated for the moment, but with no doubt that they will try again.

They know they will not find haven in France or elsewhere in the European Union. Europe's increasingly strict asylum rules, growing xenophobia, and the hostile treatment of migrants is pushing them north.

While the British government has been hostile too, many migrants have family or friends in the UK and a perception they will have more opportunities there.

"The violence is occurring increasing close to shore because people are rushing to escape law enforcement. They are not inflating the boats properly, they are overcrowding them to try and leave as soon as possible," said Salomé Bahri, a coordinator with the organisation Utopia 56, which helps migrants stranded in France.

In recent months, the normally quiet beaches in north-western France have been disturbed by cat-and-mouse games and sometimes violent clashes between the police and smugglers.

EU rules stipulate that a person must apply for asylum in the first member state they land in, overwhelming countries on the

edge of the 27-nation bloc.

"Some have been rejected by several European countries. They know very well that in France with the Dublin Regulation, they won't be able to apply for asylum. So, it's their last hope, they don't have a choice but to go to England," said Bahri.

While boat crossings across the Channel represent only a tiny fraction of migration to the UK, France last year agreed to prevent migrants from crossing to England in exchange for hundreds of millions of euros.

But, while many have been stopped by police, they are not offered alternative solutions, leaving them in a sort of no-man's land, which leaves them with no alternative but to try crossing again.

About 10,500 people have reached England in small boats in the first five months of the year, some 37 per cent more than the same time period last year, according to data published by the Britain's Home Office.

The heightened border surveillance is increasing risks and ultimately leading to more deaths. At least 20 people have died so far this year trying to reach England, said Bahri.

That is nearly as many as died in all of last year, according to statistics published by the International Organization of Migration. Sitting around a fire in an abandoned warehouse-turned-migrant camp in Calais, Mohammed Osman contemplated his limited options.

The 25-year-old Sudanese man was studying medicine in Moscow when the civil war broke out in his home country a year ago.

Forced to flee the fighting, his family could no longer afford to pay for his university fees and Osman was forced to leave Russia, where his visa only allowed him to study, not work.

He crossed to Belarus and then to Poland, before eventually making it to Germany where he tried to apply for asylum, but was ordered to return to Poland, as per EU rules.

All he wants now is to finish his medical studies in the UK, a country whose language he, like many other Sudanese people, already speaks.



Women cotton farmers at Butuyu village in Binambiyu ward, Kishapu District, are gifted khangas yesterday as an incentive to drive them into enhanced production of the crop. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria in collaboration with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights host a two-day conference on the implementation of the decisions of the African Court.

The Conference is held today and tomorrow alongside the 73rd ordinary session of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha.

Organisers said in a statement released yesterday that the objective of the conference is to provide a platform for intellectual engagement between human rights scholars, practitioners, state

## Rights bodies review application of decisions by continental court

actors, African Union human rights bodies and the African Court to improve compliance with and implementation of the decisions of the African Court.

The two-day event features paper presentations from selected participants as well presentations from representatives of regional human rights institutions, and state focal points.

"Judges of the African Court, representatives from the Court's Registry and other participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the presentations made at the conference. This will facilitate

an open and constructive dialogue between the African Court, the presenters, and other participants. The papers presented at the conference will be further developed based on the feedback received and will then be published as a special issue of a journal," reads the statement.

"The papers to be presented will focus on the below thematic areas—conceptual discussion on assessment of decisions of international human rights bodies, the role of state focal points in the implementation of decisions of African human rights bodies, comparative analysis of the

challenges of implementation of decisions of international human rights bodies."

Others include the role of the African Court in monitoring the implementation of its decisions, perspectives on implementation of decisions of African human rights organs from African Union organs, the role of other actors in the implementation of decisions of the African Court, case study discussion on the influence of decisions of the African Court and an analysis of the African Court's jurisprudential impact on the rights of women and opportunities to enhance women's rights.



Members of the CCM women's wing in Muheza District pose for a photo shortly after a meeting held in Muheza town yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA regional administrative secretary Dr John Mboya has asked civil servants and residents of the region to take advantage of investment opportunities in capital markets and other recognised institutions to carry out legal investment activities.

Dr Mboya made the call here on Wednesday when he met members of a team of experts from the Ministry of Finance who are in the region to provide financial literacy education to people of various groups, including civil servants and traders.

## Invest in recognised institutions only, Tabora residents implored

"Let's wake up, make good use of the financial literacy we received, especially in the investment area so that we can make the right decisions in investing," he said.

He lauded the Ministry of Finance for continuing to provide financial education in various regions and encouraging citizens to use official financial institutions recognized by the government.

Cledus Mbawala, Uyui District Community Development Officer,

said that his office has been monitoring and ensuring that all institutions involved in financial matters have a license from the central bank and follow rules and procedures in carrying out their activities.

Limi Bulugu, Financial Management Officer, Financial Sector Development Department in the Ministry of Finance, said that they have been providing financial literacy education to

people from various groups in Uyui, Urambo Sikonge districts as well as Tabora Municipality.

"I commend the people of Tabora for continuing to show up in large numbers to get financial literacy education which helps them plan proper use of the money they get," said Bulugu.

The Ministry of Finance provides education about micro financial services in Tabora, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions.

## Africa may be short of funds but not the potential to fund its development

EXPERTS are being put to work on an old theme that has varying answers, but it now appears that there is a sense of urgency among a section of development authorities.

One notable elder in that area is Sir Mohammed Fathi Ahmed Ibrahim - the 78-year-old Sudanese-British billionaire businessman popularly known as Mo Ibrahim, chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

No, Mo Ibrahim has lately insisted that Africa has the resources to finance its own development but lacks the processes it needs to ensure the effective allocation of resources needed for purpose.

At least on this much, many analysts on the African scene will likely concur - though it is unlikely that they will have mapped how to solve it any time soon.

As a think tank, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation is emphatic that Africa has resources that are lying dormant or misused while political will would see the continent properly manage those resources to attain the aspired objectives. There is also a note on what needs to change in the way Africa works within the international financial system, appealing for the 'updating' of the continent's debt structuring.

There is an effort to appeal for more favourable risk assessment and mitigation inputs, where loan 'conditionalities' are trimmed, all of it not quite practicable as the global lenders also borrow.

It is not clear where the Mo Ibrahim Foundation takes its preliminary thinking when it sees development in terms of the piling up of large amounts of money but with certain prerogatives.

The report, "Financing Africa: Where is the Money?", is credited with providing "a comprehensive view of what is deemed necessary for Africa to meet its development and climate goals and the resources that are currently available".

There is minimal correlation between needs and the funds available

so long as there is a shift in attitude, "a complete change of paradigm".

The lyric or sentiment at the centre of this formulation is viewed as admittedly familiar, and it isn't surprising that the activist wants a change in that direction.

Mo insists that the key issue is not about Africa approaching the developed world with a begging bowl and developed countries considering how much more they can pledge.

"This is about smarter money, not just more money. As this report outlines, the money is already there," he surprisingly declares, then pointing at a familiar alibi, as the report is blunt that the continent must stop squandering its own assets but must take proper ownership and responsibility.

If it was again in the past, someone could possibly have argued that the development philanthropist was taking up some revolutionary sentiments.

That would have amounted to call to stop squandering resources and start being patriotic, and thus using national income in such a way as to realise national development objectives!

It would sound much like the sweet late 1960s when we thought we had the answers: the political will of selfless leaders plus strong political parties. Still the radicals were wrong - leader can't constantly fire at their own feet.

Revolutionary economics is a situation where collective aspirations willed by an authoritarian leadership take precedence over individual wishes or expectations, as demonstrated in any tolerably democratic environment.

Thus, when one says people must apply good governance to ensure that these assets are adequately leveraged for the best interests of our people, it is from a leadership position. Bring in discussion, free choice or representation and even organised opposition and free elections, and we have our Africa as it is.

Systematic reform also needs to be an integral part of the game for the kind of development many will be yearning for - and expecting.

## 'Situation Room' idea plausible, if other resource parameters are right

MULTILATERAL efforts appear to be at the core of the inauguration of the first Emergency Operation and Communication Centre (EOCC) situation room, part of a regional multi-hazard early warning and early action systems project.

The idea behind the programme is unquestionably urgent, and this is that governments, the public and other stakeholders need to know as early as practicable when danger is lurking or possibly how serious it could be. This would elicit quick responses.

Reports say that an event of that sort took place during the recent festive season and marked a milestone in the country's journey towards building disaster resilience mechanisms.

The EOCC Situation Room, as it is called, harbours the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the main backing for the International Centre for Environmental Monitoring (CIMA) non-profit research organisation and works in collaboration with related organisations.

One stakeholder is the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), also busy with monitoring efforts.

While the term 'disasters' generally refers to climatic disorders and one-off situations like earthquakes, combining real-time data on current and emerging risks with information and other details on past disasters before issuing timely forecasts and bulletins can be a bit complex.

This work is geared at collecting information that is largely seasonal even if varying in intensity from one point to another or from one moment to another.

There are other important aspects of monitoring not included in the list though it also matters considerably. Among these are unregulated border posts or ports, traffic of people across

seas, etc.

With Europe faced with relentless flooding of refugees and governments busy moving to control the flow of migrants, the setting up of such units in various African countries could also see a variety of specialisation in what each UNDRR unit looks for, seeks to monitor in a real time sense.

How far global coordination and early warning systems can lead to finding similar answers to emerging challenges is unclear, as often there are often sharp divergences in what UN members countries and activists feel.

While European countries seek to return immigrants or make it difficult for them to make perilous journeys across seas, activists want these countries to believe the thousands of distressed would-be migrants that they are seeking asylum.

Yet the local 'situation room' will be less about transcontinental monitoring than helping the Prime Minister's Office trigger protective actions meant to save lives, protect livelihoods and safeguard economic sectors if the signal is given early enough.

Still, enhanced predictive capacity is dwarfed by low reaction capacity, as a really efficient monitoring system ought to operate an efficient reaction format.

Compared with various usable monitoring systems, the setting up of systems to look at disasters relating to flooding, food and drought looks fairly straightforward. However, as often officially admitted, it is one thing to be able to monitor and plan strategies on preventing disasters and a completely different matter how to react and eventually recover after disaster actually strikes.

Poverty will prevent the laying of even the best of strategies, with public resources often rather too constrained to make a difference.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

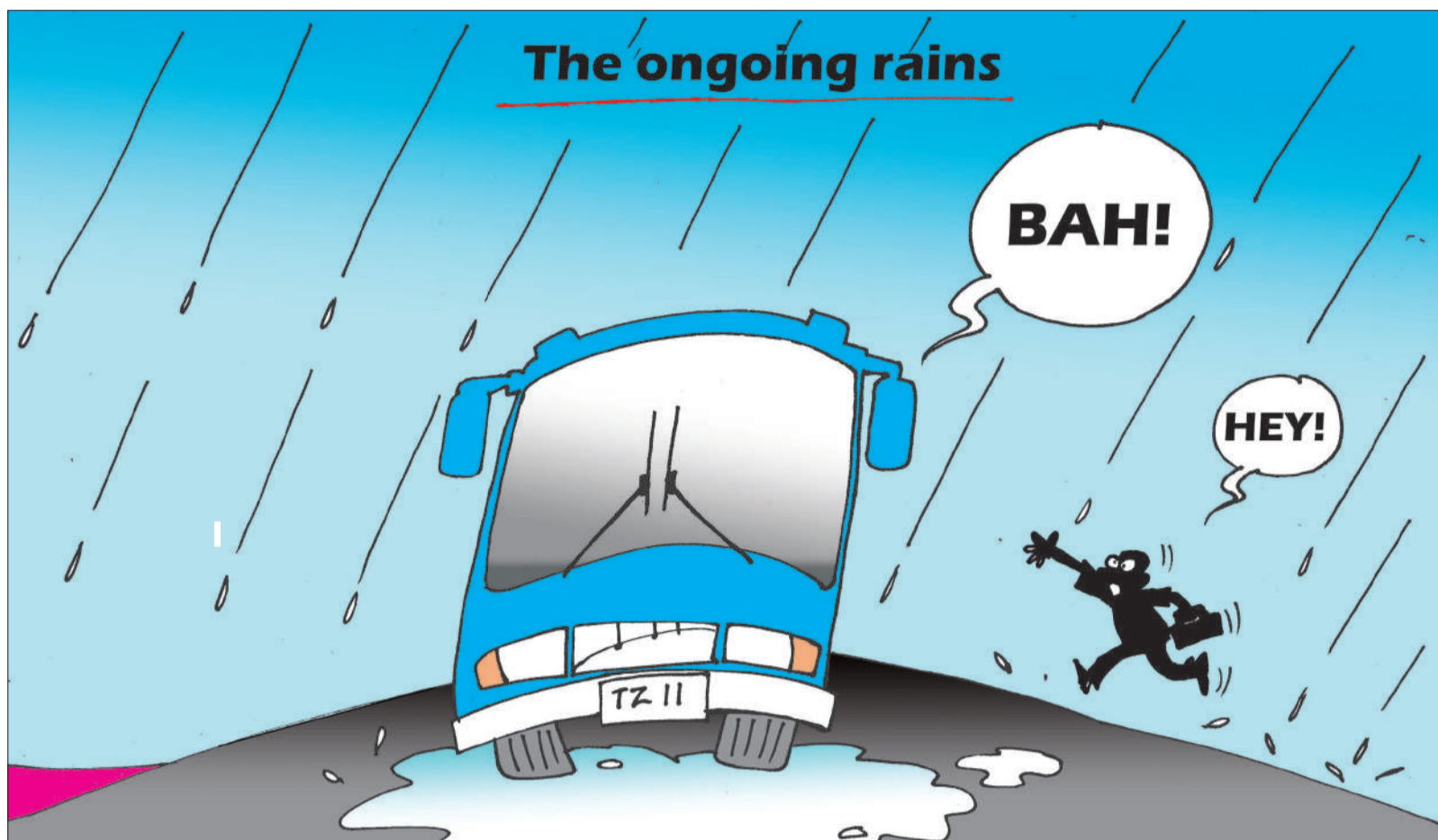
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KATHMANDU.

THE global public opinion research on climate change reveals that 80 percent, or four out of five, of people globally want their governments to take stronger action to tackle the climate crisis.

According to the Peoples' Climate Vote 2024 (PCV2024), 86 percent want to see their countries set aside geopolitical differences and work together on climate change.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) collaborated with the University of Oxford in the UK and GeoPoll on the study, which involved asking 15 questions about climate change to more than 75,000 people in 77 countries who spoke 87 different languages. The report released today (Thursday, June 20, 2024) claims to be the biggest ever standalone public opinion survey on climate change and questions were designed to help understand how people are experiencing the impacts of climate change and how they want world leaders to respond. The 77 countries polled represent 87 percent of the global population.

"The People's Climate Vote is loud and clear. They want their leaders to transcend their differences, to act now and to act boldly to fight the climate crisis," said UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner. "The survey results - unprecedented in their coverage - reveal a level of consensus that is truly astonishing. We urge leaders and policymakers to take note, especially as countries develop their next round of climate action pledges, or 'nationally determined contributions' under the Paris Agreement. This is an issue that almost everyone, everywhere, can agree on."

### Globally, climate change is on people's mind

Regardless of differences, people across the world reported that climate change was on their minds. According to the report, globally, 56 percent said they were thinking about it regularly (daily or weekly), and some 63 percent of those in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), who are on the frontlines of the climate change impact, are waiting for external support to adapt and mitigate.

The report shows worry around climate change is growing: 53 percent, or more than half, of people globally said they were more worried than last year about climate change. Again, worry is higher in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where 59 percent of people experience climate change-related fear. On average, across the nine Small Island Developing States (SIDS) surveyed, as many as 71 percent said they were more worried than last year about climate change.

Climate change has an impact on people's major decisions. According

## Peoples' climate vote shows global support for stronger climate action



A Himalayan settlement in the Everest region of Nepal. The impact of climate change is more intense in the mountain region than in others. Photo: Tanka Dhakal/IPS

to the report, 69 percent of people worldwide said that climate change was having an impact on their major decisions, like where to live or work. The proportion so affected was higher in LDCs at 74 percent but notably lower in Western and Northern Europe at 52 percent and Northern America at 42 percent.

### People are in favor of fossil fuel phaseout

The survey results also show overwhelming support for a faster transition away from fossil fuels. For a few years now, whenever leaders meet for climate summits, their major disagreement is the phaseout of fossil fuels, but people are not only calling for bolder climate action; they also want a transition to "green energy."

The survey shows support by a global majority of 72 percent in favor of a quick transition away from fossil fuels. This is true for countries among the top 10 biggest producers of oil, coal, or gas, including majorities of 89 percent in Nigeria and Türkiye, 80 percent in China, 76 percent in Germany, 75 percent of people in Saudi Arabia, 69 percent in Australia, and 54 percent of people in the United States. Only 7 percent of people globally said their country should not transition at all.

People are in support for stronger climate action in 20 of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters, with majorities ranging from 66 percent of people in the United States and Russia, to 67 percent in Germany, 73 percent in China, 77 percent in South Africa and India, 85 percent in Brazil, 88 percent in Iran and up to 93 percent in Italy.

Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the United States - in these five big emitters, women were more in favor of strengthening their country's commitments by 10 to 17 percentage points. This gap

was biggest in Germany, where women were 17 percentage points more likely than men to want more climate action (75 percent vs. 58 percent).

Additionally, a majority of people in every country surveyed said rich countries should give more help to poorer countries to address climate change. The poorest countries - those most immediately in need of international support to address climate change - were more likely to be in favor of rich countries giving more help to poorer countries - by upwards of 30 percent - than the world's wealthiest countries - 94 percent in Bhutan and 64 percent in the United States of America. Globally, around eight in ten people said they wanted rich countries to give more support to poorer countries.

### Support for climate change education in schools

The survey results showed that people want climate change-related courses in schools; four in five people or 80 percent globally, called for schools in their country to teach more about the topic related to it. The report says education is a critical part of addressing the issue of climate change. In schools, especially, young people need to be taught the impact of our changing climate and given the opportunity to learn how to adapt to it and help identify future solutions.

Large majorities in all countries want schools in their countries to do more to teach people about climate change. Significantly higher proportions of people in LDCs (93 percent) supported more education on climate change compared to 74 percent support in G20 countries. In Haiti 99 percent people want more education on climate change in schools. But support is low in some countries, with only 29 percent in the USA, 26 percent in

Indonesia and 21 percent in Papua New Guinea.

### Evidence to develop climate action

This is the first time the public has been asked about climate change in a way that relates to their day-to-day lives, and according to experts, this is important for upcoming discussions.

The first Peoples' Climate Vote took place in 2021 and surveyed people across 50 countries through advertisements in popular mobile gaming apps.

Prof. Stephen Fisher, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, said, "A survey of this size was a huge scientific endeavor. While maintaining rigorous methodology, special efforts were also made to include people from marginalized groups in the poorest parts of the world. This is some of the very highest quality global data on public opinions on climate change available."

As world leaders decide on the next round of pledges under the Paris Agreement by 2025, these results seem to have an impact as evidence that people everywhere support bold climate action.

"The Peoples' Climate Vote has enlisted the voices of people everywhere, including amongst groups traditionally the most difficult to poll. For example, people in nine of the 77 countries surveyed had never before been polled on climate change," Cassie Flynn, Global Director of Climate Change, UNDP, said.

"The next two years stand as one of the best chances we have as the international community to ensure that warming stays under 1.5°. We stand ready to support policymakers in stepping up their efforts as they develop their climate action plans."

IPS UN Bureau Report



# Maternal mental health: Need for more information and adequate funding to expand workforce, services

By Jenifer Gilla

MARIA Gregory still remembers feeling overwhelmed by the never-ending cries of her newborn. After a pregnancy characterised by morning sickness, loss of appetite and fainting spells that led to hospitalisation, she had imagined that the baby's birth would mark the end of the difficulties. However, the baby wouldn't stop crying and her husband had moved from their bedroom, opting to sleep in another room to escape the baby's cries.

Recovering from the post-operative wound after a Caesarian section while nursing a colicky infant, Maria felt helpless.

"At night I was exhausted. I had no help. I cried alone, and at one point, I even contemplated suicide to end the suffering," she says.

Maria's story highlights a hidden struggle for Tanzanian mothers - the suffocating loneliness of postpartum depression.

Despite being crucial to the health and well-being of mothers and their children during pregnancy and after birth, maternal mental health remains a largely neglected issue, not just in Tanzania, but globally.

During Tanzania's first-ever mental health dialogue held on October 10, 2022, Minister for Health Umyi Mwalimu admitted that mental health is neglected.

"Inadequate financing for mental health continues to be the biggest limitation, negatively impacting efforts to expand health workforce and services," she said.

While domestic health spending in Africa has more than doubled in absolute terms between 2000 and 2018, donor funding has outpaced it, driven largely by investments in HIV/Aids, TB, malaria and maternal and child health. However, since 2018, these investments have stagnated.

Mwalimu noted that government spending on mental health of well below the recommended \$2 (5,000/-) per person, left patients seeking care in primary and community health facilities 'critically underserved.'

A neglected health concern

Research conducted in Tanzania indicates the gravity of the issue: A 2018 study by the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, following 1,128 mother-child pairs in Moshi Region, found that one in 10 (12.2 percent) of the mothers showed signs of postpartum depression. Another study from 2015 done at the antenatal clinic of the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, showed that out of 1,180 women interviewed, nearly eight in 10 (78.2 percent) women with pre-eclampsia and eclampsia (high blood pressure during pregnancy and just after birth) had symptoms of depression.

A similar number of these women also had symptoms of anxiety (78.2 percent) and a few (4.9 percent) had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. These numbers shed light on the urgent need for improved maternal mental healthcare.

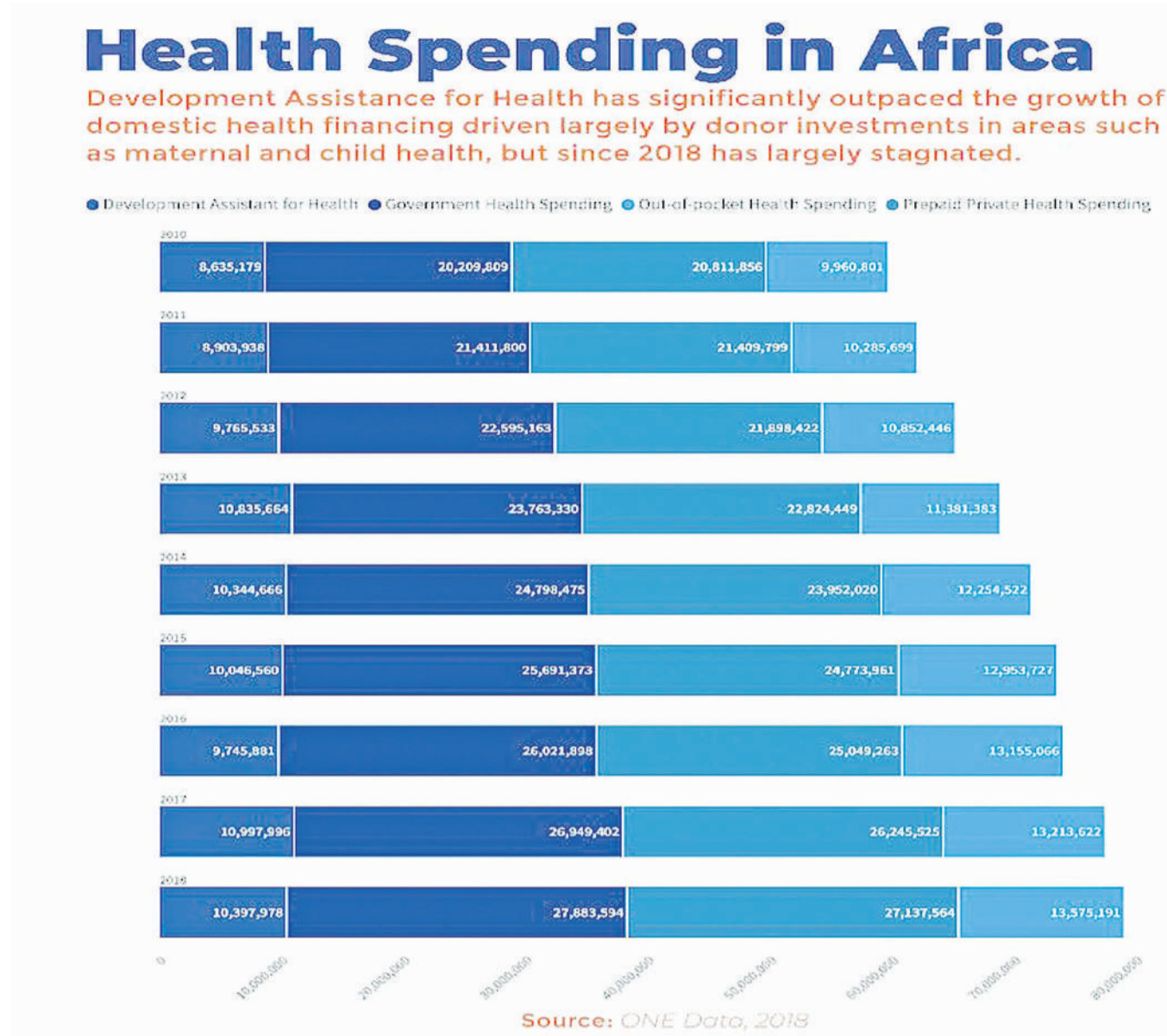
At the Muhimbili National Hospital, Dr Benny Kimaro, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, encounters three to four cases of postpartum depression every month, with severe cases warranting referral to the psychiatric ward.

## Signs of perinatal and postpartum depression

Dr Kimaro told The Guardian that depression afflicts pregnant women either during pregnancy or after giving birth. Postpartum depression is the mental distress after birth. Symptoms typically emerge three to five days following childbirth, wherein the mother experiences negative emotions such as loneliness, frequent crying, lack of affection for her newborn, and in severe cases, potential harm to the child.

Saldin Kimangale, a psychologist at Samedics Healthcare in Upanga, Dar es Salaam adds that women suffering postpartum depression also experience persistent sadness, loss of joy, sleep disturbances, changes in appetite, negative self-perception and intense emotional pain. Suicidal ideation and attempts may also occur, alongside irritability, anger and other distressing emotions.

According to Dr Kimaro, the condi-



tion is precipitated by a variety of factors, including significant hormonal fluctuations during pregnancy and a subsequent sharp decline after childbirth. Other contributing factors may include unplanned pregnancies, birthing complications, pre-existing health conditions like hypertension and inadequate support during the early months of childcare.

Maria, who holds a teaching degree, says the trigger was the lack of a supportive spouse. Her husband accused her of being extravagant with money spent on her care during pregnancy.

"My husband constantly criticised me, saying I was always sick and money was being wasted on treatment. Even my relatives distanced themselves, seeing me as a burden. Most of the time I suffered alone, even going to the hospital by myself," she narrates.

Despite experiencing distress and feeling suicidal, nobody thought she needed psychological help. Her mother advised her to persevere because it was part of womanhood. She said no woman would hate her child unless she was demon-possessed.

At the postnatal clinic, Maria told the nurse how she felt, and the nurse told her to take long breaks, but this was impossible because Maria had no one to help her.

When the baby turned three months old, fearing she would die, leaving her children suffering, she went online and researched her condition and how to cope with it. She devised a schedule to rest during the day when her mother was around, hired a nanny to help with nighttime childcare, and sought spiritual support from pastors. After three months, she began to see changes and eventually fully recovered.

Similarly, Tatu Athumani was overwhelmed by household chores while having a newborn and two young children who required her close attention, including a one-and-a-half-year-old child who wouldn't accept care from anyone else. Besides the children, she also had to manage her eight-year-old's school routines as her husband was absent primarily due to work.

This made her exhausted and constantly angry, and sometimes she locked herself in a room crying and feeling lonely until her husband returned in the evening, giving her some relief.

"My husband's help was minimal because he was always at work, coming home at 10:00 at night and leaving in the morning. So, the time he helped me compared to the time I spent at home with these young children was minimal," she told The Guardian.

The depressive symptoms lasted about eight months, and she did not know what to do. When she told her friends, they said it would pass with time. The feelings only dissipated when she found a helper.

For Farhat Rashid, stress from marital conflict was the contributing factor. Constant quarrels with her husband during pregnancy led to their separation. She suffered stress as a result, and when the baby was born, she didn't want him anywhere near her, even though she had reconciled with her partner. She felt no

love for the baby, so her husband spent more time with the baby.

"After about six months, my husband found a psychiatrist, who helped me regain love for my child. Now I love him dearly, but he doesn't have time for me; he loves his father so much that I feel jealous," she says.

## Solutions

Postpartum depression catches many women off-guard as they don't have much information about the condition. Kimangale says that giving priority to maternal mental health begins before pregnancy. He recommends that women prepare physically and psychologically for pregnancy with a healthy diet, getting enough rest and acquiring coping skills to deal with stress and various challenges.

Dr Kimaro adds that support from men throughout the pregnancy and postpartum period would go a long way in promoting maternal mental health. He advocates that men actively participate in prenatal and childbirth experiences, even encouraging their presence during labour and delivery.

There's also a need to close the gap in information on maternal mental health because it often means that women don't get the support they need early enough. Dr Luzango Maembe, a specialist obstetrician at Mwananyamala Referral Hospital, reports a significant annual caseload in his department, primarily comprising individuals in advanced stages requiring treatment for mental health concerns.

He says that communities can play a pivotal role by promptly referring affected individuals to healthcare facilities upon detecting early signs, such as repetitive behaviours that endanger the safety of the mother and child.

To improve maternal mental health, Dr Maembe emphasises the necessity of col-

laborative intervention involving partners, the community, healthcare professionals, psychologists, and social workers. This means noticing the initial symptoms referred to as "postpartum blues" which could progress to postpartum depression if left untreated, and potentially escalate to postpartum psychosis, characterised by severe confusion.

## Treatment and recommendations

Upon admission to the hospital, patients undergo diagnostic evaluations. Those in the early stages often receive counselling and guidance on childcare practices. However, if symptoms worsen, referral to a psychiatric facility is advised.

Kimangale, the psychologist from Samedics Healthcare, adds that treatment entails medication to stabilise brain chemicals and hormones, complemented by talk therapy to address maladaptive thought patterns and behaviours and restore hope and confidence. He notes that while postpartum depression predominantly affects women, research suggests it can also affect new fathers.

Improving maternal mental health would also involve fighting stigma. Dr Kimaro advises communities to view perinatal and postpartum depression as any other illness and to quickly take a pregnant woman or mother who has just given birth to a health facility for further examination if they notice behavioural changes. In cases of teenage pregnancy, Dr Kimaro advises parents to handle the girls in ways that don't put them at risk of mental health challenges.

## Traditional wisdom

Agnes Shayo, a 72-year-old retired nurse from Arusha Region, says tapping into traditional support practices could also help. She says that modern parents are overwhelmed by

heavy workloads which lead to excessive fatigue, and subsequently, mental health problems.

Agnes, who worked as a nurse in a private hospital for 25 years, says that 20 years ago, a woman who was about to give birth would travel to the village to her parents or in-laws for help for the entire maternity leave.

"In the past, when a woman was about to give birth, she would go to the village to her in-laws or her mother, give birth there, and get help in raising the child for three months. That has changed. Now, the woman's mother follows her to the city, but she cannot stay for three months because she also has her own duties in the village, such as farming. She leaves when the new mother's body is not yet fully recovered," she says.

While mothers in Tanzania get at least 84 days of maternity leave as prescribed by the Employment and Labour Relations Act, they are often bogged down by household chores and other forms of unpaid care work, while caring for the newborn.

Inadequate paternity leave

The paternity leave policy is also inadequate for the postpartum support needed. Shabani Mwyniheri, a resident of Temeke, Dar es Salaam, says that the short paternity leave contributes to the mother's burden during childcare as it does not give the father enough time to help with childcare.

The law provides at least 3 days of paid paternity leave during a 12-month leave period, which Shabani says is not fair, considering that even the child's nighttime disturbances affect men by causing sleep deprivation and affecting their ability to perform optimally at work.

"I recommend that the government review this clause and improve it so that fathers are given a month to help mothers with childcare. Sometimes relatives have commitments and cannot provide the necessary help, but when the father is there, it adds strength," he says.

## Alliances and collaborations

Besides interventions in homes and communities, Kimangale recommends forming and joining local and international alliances that promote maternal mental health. One such alliance is the African Alliance for Maternal Mental Health (AAMMH) which is part of the Global Alliance for Maternal Mental Health. It includes Malawi, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire/Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, and Zambia.

The AAMMH emphasises the need for multi-level action to tackle the causes of poor maternal mental health to ensure the success of efforts to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to health, nutrition, and gender equality. In Malawi, for example, various organisations work under the umbrella of the AAMMH to address maternal mental health issues, advocating for prioritisation in national strategies and policies.

Kimangale says that joining these alliances would keep Tanzania updated on advancements in maternal mental health, and provide expert assistance and modern equipment from more developed member countries. Such alliances also come with training to enhance the skills of local healthcare staff and benefit from projects involving research, writing, or funding to improve mental health services.

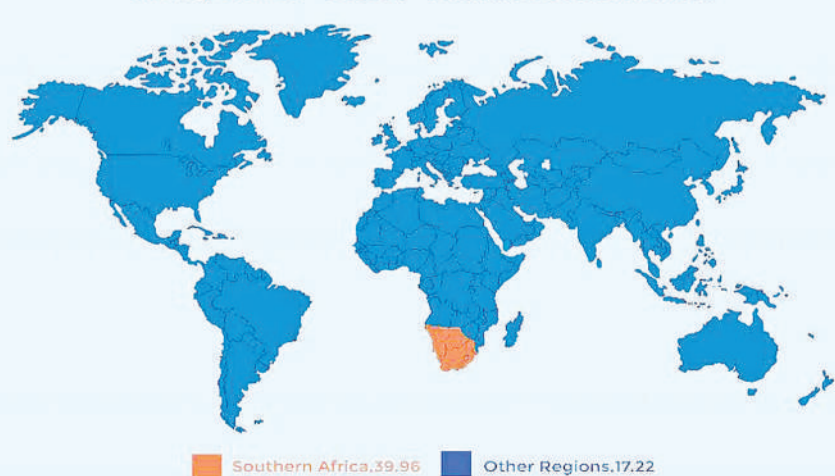
"For example, psychologists from Tanzania have joined the Global Psychology Alliance, an alliance of approximately 70 psychological associations worldwide, where we gain knowledge and benefit from projects aimed at improving this issue," he said.

Improving maternal mental health would include policy changes to support mothers and their families, such as with enhanced paternity leave. Mothers would also benefit from support from fathers, other family members and their communities. Better maternal health would also call for more funding towards maternal mental health, as well as alliances to push for improvements in the holistic care of mothers, including their mental health.

## Shedding Light on Postpartum Depression

What is postpartum depression? It is a depressive state some mothers experience two to eight weeks after giving birth but can happen up to a year after the baby is born.

17.22% of the world's population suffers from postpartum depression with the highest rate - 39.96% - found in Southern Africa.



In a 2019 study, 12.2% of mothers in Moshi, Tanzania showed signs of postpartum depression.

Source: UNICEF, Nature, 2021 and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 2019

# Discovery in Chile highlights role of fungi in preventing climate change

By Orlando Milesi

THE rediscovery of the large puma fungus in the Nahuelbuta mountain range in southern Chile has drawn attention to the key role fungi play as carbon reservoirs and their vital role in preventing climate change.

There are many types of fungi on the planet, and although they play a significant role in human life and biodiversity, only about 148,000 species have been cataloged, while it is estimated that there are over two million.

Human history is linked to fungi such as *Ganoderma australe* and *Fomes fomentarius*, used by hunter-gatherer peoples who inhabited Europe 5,300 years ago and also by

the Chilean Mapuche people.

However, many people are unaware that fungi are important for producing a variety of products such as bread, cheese, chocolate, wine, and beer. All these require yeasts, which are unicellular fungi.

Despite its name, the large puma (*Austroomphaliaster nahuelbutensis*) is only five centimeters in size. It was first recorded by science in 1982 thanks to Chilean mycologist Norberto Garrido.

An expedition led in May 2023 by Daniela Torres, head of the Chile office of Fundación Fungi, found two specimens in the subsoil of Nahuelbuta National Park, located between the Bío Bío and Araucanía regions, about 600 kilometers south of Santiago.

After careful collection



Daniela Torres photographs specimens of the large puma fungus found by an expedition that retraced the steps of the one carried out in 1982 by Chilean mycologist Norberto Garrido, the first to record this species in southern Chile.

with the participation of the local community, the specimens were sent to Argentine mycologist Francisco Kuhar, who conducted a comparative analysis with the original sample found by Garrido and stored in the herbarium of the

German city of Munich, which has a large fungarium.

Thus, the discovery of the large puma, a brownish-grey species that lives underground associated with the roots of oak (*Nothofagus obliqua*) and raulí (*Nothofagus*

dombeyi) trees, typical of Andean forests, was confirmed.

The key role of fungi

Fundación Fungi is an international organization that works to conserve fungi, their habitats, and the people who depend on them. It was created in 2012 in Chile as the first organization dedicated exclusively to the fungal kingdom. Since 2020, it has been headquartered in New York, with projects and programs also in the United States and India.

This independent foundation confirms that trees are the oldest living organisms on earth but emphasizes that “without the underground support of their fungal relatives, they would not be able to store carbon in their trunks and create oxygen.”

Fungi have a mutualistic

relationship with trees, from whose roots they receive carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that helps them grow and develop.

In an interview with IPS from the seaside city of Viña del Mar, mycologist Torres commented that “fungi are a very good source of carbon reservoirs. This network of roots and mycelia (fungal bodies comparable to plant roots) that exists underground helps to conserve carbon and prevent it from entering the atmosphere.”

A biotechnologist by profession, Torres, 35, highlighted the degradative power of some fungi, among many other benefits.

“They decompose organic matter naturally, have some adaptations to consume different types of plastics and

waste like diapers and cigarette butts, which are significant pollutants in society,” she asserted.

She also recalled that fungi accompany various stages of human development.

“They are present in pharmaceuticals, in biotechnologies with fermentations, with bioprocesses. All of this adds up and indicates that fungi do have something to say and should be part of conversations on conservation and also in facing the challenges of climate change,” she indicated.

Fungi play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of plants, enriching the soil, and conserving water. They are not only a decisive part of the life cycle but also have the potential to contribute to a more sustainable future.



## REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FOR

### “APPLYING BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TO PARENTING INITIATIVES USING MIXED METHODS RESEARCH IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA”

#### BACKGROUND

- The National Agenda for Responsible and Parenting Care, was launched by the Tanzanian Government in 2019, calling for stakeholders' actions to effectively engage in parenting interventions. This was followed by the launch of the National Multisectoral ECD Programme 2021/22 - 2025/26 in 2021. The government is leading a plan to support responsible parenting on a national scale, covering all aspects of children's lives from pregnancy to 18 years.
- The public health impact and policy success will require parents and other primary caregivers to consistently access these services in good numbers and be supported in their caregiving practices. This includes integration of parenting support in routine services and participation in structured parenting interventions and programmes. Uptake and retention are likely to be affected by the following behavioural influences: i) parent factors such as psychological motivation, social influences, and environmental barriers of time, transport, and money; and ii) provider invitations, which directly affect uptake, and provider service provision, which affects user experience and intention to complete the interventions and programmes; as well as circulating social perceptions of the interventions and programmes that affects the uptake of others.
- Overall government leadership for parenting policy and programmes and interventions is provided by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MCDGWSG). Additionally, the Ministry of Health (MoH) leads the provision of health sector provided parenting interventions and programmes in Tanzania.
- WHO is supporting the MCDGWSG and MoH to assess the implementation of healthcare provided and community-based parenting interventions and programmes in part, using the behavioural sciences. Community based parenting interventions and programmes such as Furaha Teens and Skilful Parenting will also be examined as they are aligned to the Familia Bora, Taifa Imara - the government's national agenda.
- The behavioural sciences are integral to the wider WHO technical assistance and form a workstream focused on:
  - Improving parents' uptake and retention in healthcare provided and community-based parenting interventions.
  - exploring healthcare provided and community-based parenting interventions and programmes' roles that have substantial impact on uptake and retention;
  - the behaviours, barriers and enablers of healthcare provided and community-based interventions and programmes to increase uptake by parents.
- In relation to the above, WHO is also commissioning a behavioural evidence review of global literature on the influences on uptake and retention and interventions that have been effective to address them. The results of the global review will feed into and supplement the body of knowledge that will be generated by the behavioral insights study that will be done in Tanzania.

#### PURPOSE

Conduct mixed-methods research to: (1) characterise the parent target population and their barriers and enablers to the uptake of, and retention in, universal, intensive and targeted healthcare provided and community-based parenting interventions and programmes; (2) characterise service providers and their barriers and enablers to the effective delivery of parenting interventions and programmes; (3) explore the behaviours, barriers and enablers of community-based organisations that provide parenting programmes in Tanzania and 4) provide evidence-based

recommendations on which barriers and enablers should be targeted for interventions.

#### TIME FRAME

**Start date:** 1 September 2024 – 28 February 2025  
**Total duration:** 6 months from date of commissioning

#### KEY COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

##### Mandatory

- Experience in conducting pragmatic document analysis in public health.
- Experience of qualitative and survey research methods to characterise populations and determine behavioural barriers/enablers.
- Experience of population segmentation and development of personas.
- Experience of related work (ideally in Tanzania, and secondly, in the region).
- Experience working in the field of public health.
- Experience in scientific writing/writing of protocols and reports.
- Proven project management capability to deliver on time.
- Fluency in Kiswahili and English.
- Lead institution must be registered in the United Republic of Tanzania.

##### Desirable

Experience of working for WHO or UN agencies

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN

To ensure ownership of the process and that it is country-led, we are looking for an institution registered in Tanzania and will work closely with the key representatives, nominated by the government; the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MCDGWSG) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO Country Office - in collaboration with the Regional Office and Headquarters, development partners and other international organizations.

The institution appointed will be required to attend an inception meeting, methodology approach approval, mid-term report, and end of project meetings at WHO CO or MCDGWSG offices. Ethics clearances will need to be sought in-country as well as from the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Due to the lengthy nature of ethics clearances, sufficient time should be allocated to obtain such clearances from the local ethics review board and at the headquarter level, in collaboration with WHO staff.

All team members that are appointed will need to do a mandatory WHO Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Course before the work commences.

#### HOW TO REQUEST FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE

Prospective bidders shall request for a detailed Terms of Reference from [afwotzprocurement@who.int](mailto:afwotzprocurement@who.int) cc [kileon@who.int](mailto:kileon@who.int)

Requests must be submitted through the email address mentioned above with the subject clearly stated: **Request for TOR: “APPLYING BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TO PARENTING INITIATIVES USING MIXED METHODS RESEARCH IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA”**

The bidders must follow the instructions in this RFQ in the request for TOR and submission of queries. A prospective bidder requiring clarification on technical or contractual matters may notify WHO via email at the following address no later than 12:00 hours on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 (EAT)**:

Email for submissions of all queries is [kileon@who.int](mailto:kileon@who.int) and cc [martinsa@who.int](mailto:martinsa@who.int)

A consolidated document of WHO's responses to all questions (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of enquiry) will be sent to all prospective bidders who have received the TOR.



## Request for Proposals

**RFP Title:** Procurement of Tablet and Provision of Insurance Cover Services

**RFP Number:** 2024-PACT/06/01

**Date of Solicitation:** June 21, 2024

**Closing Date and Time:** July 4, 2024, 11:30 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

**Questions and Clarifications:** Due by June 28, 2024

**Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date:** October 1, 2024

#### Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries, building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact. Since 2001, we have been working in Tanzania to help people and communities build their own capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources around them to benefit future generations. For more about Pact, visit [www.pactworld.org](http://www.pactworld.org)

ACHIEVE is a seven-year (2019-2026) USAID-funded global project whose primary goal is to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. To reach this goal, ACHIEVE supports OVC and DREAMS service delivery, provides technical assistance to strengthen social welfare systems, and supports capacity development for local partners to sustain services at the community level. In 2023, USAID added global health security to the project's scope of work. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER. ACHIEVE's countries of implementation include Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. To learn more about ACHIEVE, visit [www.pactworld.org/achieve](http://www.pactworld.org/achieve)

#### Overall Objective:

Lot	Description	Specifications
Lot No. 1	Provision of Staff Medical Insurance and their legal dependents for the financial year 2024/25	Available in the TOR
Lot No. 2	Provision of Life Insurance to Pact Tanzania staff for the financial year 2024/25	Available in the TOR
Lot No. 3	Procurement of Tablets	Available in the TOR

#### Scope of Work

Interested vendors should download the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through <https://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania/procurement>. All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) with the subject line "Request for Clarification: Tablet OR Medical insurance OR Life Insurance: (Name the LOT, Eg: LOT 1)" before COB **June 28, 2024**

#### Eligibility

The service provider must be currently legally operating in Tanzania and the proposal must clearly express ability of the Provider to meet or exceed the Requirements/ Specifications outlined above.

- Ability to deliver the required services.
- Ability to deliver the required goods.

Submission Instructions (In accordance to individual Terms of Reference)

Interested bidders should submit their bids physically to Pact Tanzania, addressing to: -


**The Tender Committee,  
Pact Tanzania,  
Masarani Peninsula  
Plot 1486  
P. O. Box 6348,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

#### Note:

- Pact will open all bids on Thursday, July 4, 2024, at 12:00 pm in the presence of Bidder's Representatives who choose to attend.
- Quotes must be in Tanzanian Shilling and must include taxes separately.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically to Pact Tanzania.
- Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted.
- As mentioned above, all quotations and delivery dates shall be valid for at least 60 days following submission.

#### Terms and Conditions - Disclaimers

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers value for money, shall be considered for the competition.
- Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
- Pact may reject any or all responses received.
- Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on the offer or failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact will not compensate Vendors for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact may choose to award only part of the required items in this solicitation or to issue multiple awards for the same Lot.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**USAID Heshimu Bahari Activity  
Request For Proposal  
Heshimu Bahari RFP 6/2024  
Media Training in Marine Biodiversity Reporting, Advocacy and Media Content Services**

The USAID/Tanzania Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Project is a five-year project that aims to improve the ecological resilience and productivity of Tanzania's high marine biodiversity areas. Tanzania's coral reefs are among the world's fifty most climate-resilient reefs based on biological and oceanographic characteristics, and Tanzania's marine and coastal ecosystems support a diverse range of coral reefs, seagrasses, open-ocean pelagic habitats, and mangroves. Not only do the ecosystems support species such as dugongs, sea turtles, and sharks and rays, but they also support a variety of livelihoods such as artisan fishing, aquaculture, and marine/coastal-related tourism activities. Overfishing, poorly planned infrastructure projects, and climate change all threaten not only these ecosystems and their fauna and flora, but also livelihoods and food security. These obstacles, together with the lack of a functional marine management area (MMA) framework, underdeveloped governance systems, insufficient funding, and an unincorporated private sector, severely limit effective management and measurable impact in marine biodiversity conservation.

To help address these challenges, Heshimu Bahari aims to establish an enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable MMA and wild-caught fishery co-management by government, communities, and the private sector. The Activity has four integrated objectives:

1. Strengthen an enabling framework for a network of MMAs and fishery replenishment zones (FRZs) for resilient biodiversity conservation, climate resilient communities, and enhanced wild-caught fisheries production.
2. Community co-management of MMAs/wild-caught fisheries and climate resilience strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MMAs and wild-caught fisheries expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science to MMA and fisheries policy and management improved.

**Objective.**  
To meet its objectives, Heshimu Bahari aims to 1) expand and capacitate the voices of journalists and other media actors on marine biodiversity conservation, and (2) the project seeks to engage said actors to produce visual content that will be published on social media or printed and displayed at activity sites in order to amplify the Project's message to a wider audience. Therefore, a subcontractor will support USAID Heshimu Bahari by developing and participating in capacity building trainings, and providing photos, videos, and graphic designs to promote its work under an Indefinite Quantity Subcontract (IQS) mechanism, which will allow Heshimu Bahari to request services rapidly as needs arise.

Chemonics anticipates issuing an award to one or more qualified suppliers. The award(s) will be in the form of an indefinite quantity subcontract (IQS) with sub-task orders (STOs) issued and priced on a firm fixed price basis (hereinafter referred to as "the IQS"). While the IQS will contain the main terms and conditions and the pricing methodology to be used in negotiating STOs, each STO will contain specific information regarding the services being requested by USAID Heshimu Bahari, including the period of performance, deliverables, and other details about the specific work ordered. Chemonics will not reimburse the Offeror for any costs associated with managing the IQS; each STO must stand on its own.


**Eligible Recipients:**

- (i) Companies or organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit, must be legally registered under the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania upon award of the subcontract.
- (ii) Firms operated as commercial companies or other organizations or enterprises (including nonprofit organizations) in which foreign governments or their agents or agencies have a controlling interest are not eligible as suppliers of commodities and services.
- (iii) Companies or organizations must have a local presence in the United Republic of Tanzania at the time the subcontract is signed.
- (iv) Companies or organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit, shall be requested to provide a UEI number if selected to receive a subaward valued at USD\$30,000 or more, unless exempted in accordance with information certified in the Evidence of Responsibility form included in the required certifications in Annex 3.

**Application and Submission Information.**  
Interested agencies are invited to request for full RFP through the mail address [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com)

The deadline for submitting of Request for proposals **05 July 2024, 5.00p.m.** All interested agencies must submit their proposals in electronic version through [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com). with subject clearly marked **RFP 6/2024**.

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an engagement or commitment on the part of Heshimu Bahari, nor does it commit Heshimu Bahari to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal. Further, Heshimu Bahari reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants.



**MANTRA  
TANZANIA  
ROSATOM**

Mantra Tanzania Limited  
2nd Floor, Masaki Ikon, Bains Singh Avenue, Masaki  
P.O Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania  
Registration No: 29785  
Tel: +255 764 700 440  
e-mail: [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz); [www.uranium1.com](http://www.uranium1.com)

**PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF A DOZER TO MKUJU  
RIVER PROJECT SITE.**

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.


Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites eligible Mobile equipment suppliers to express their Interest (EOI) for the supply of one Dozer with Blade capacity of more than 5.0CBM, Horse Power more than 150KW and operating weight from 17,000Kg to 25,000Kg, to our site in Mkuju River Project.

**Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:**

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
  - a) Brief scope of work
  - b) Value of work in USD
  - c) Contractual Duration
  - d) Clients name
  - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail addresses; [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz)/[mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz) and the hard copy to the below address latest on **27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 16.00 hours.**

**Managing Director  
Mantra Tanzania Ltd  
Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki  
P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255764700440  
Dar es Salaam.**



**JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE TANZANIA**  
Jane Goodall Institute  
TANZANIA

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**"THE COPY – EDITING AND DESIGNING LAYOUT OF PROJECT DOCUMENTS"  
JGITZ- RFP No. USAID-TKV/JGITZ/03/2024'**

1. The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural World we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The JGI Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), The President's Office Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PORALG) and its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, works closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania has received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of a 5-year USAID Hope Through Action/ Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo Project. USAID Hope Through Action
2. JGI-TZ under USAID Hope Through Action Project has set aside funds for operations during the year 2023 -2028. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for Consultancy work of the "Copy-editing and Designing layout for Project Documents."
3. JGI-TZ now invites proposals from Eligible Consultants to offer professional services for the Copy – editing and Designing layout of the Project Documents. Interested Consultants are encouraged to request for a full Request for Proposal Document with the Terms of Reference through an email address [applications@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:applications@janegoodall.or.tz)
4. JGI-TZ will send the RFP documents via email, no charges will apply for the bid documents. Consultants must confirm receipt of the documents and participation. JGI-TZ will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the RFP documents. ALL inquiries for clarification should be addressed to the application email address provided, phone calls are strictly not unallowed.
5. ALL consultants proposal application documents should be submitted electronically to the applications email address [applications@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:applications@janegoodall.or.tz) Attn: Tender Board Secretary, Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with a captioned subject: **"RFP No. USAID-HTA/JGITZ/03/2024'**. The deadline for submission acceptance is **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 5PM EAT.**
6. Late and portion applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**Tender Board Secretary  
Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania  
Plot No. 375, Serengeti Road- Mikochoeni  
P.O.Box 70723 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**



**AFRIPISE  
INVESTMENT PLC.**

20th, June, 2024

Dear stakeholders,

**RE: CHANGE OF NAME AND LOGO OF TCCIA INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY.**

We are pleased to announce that **TCCIA INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY** has officially changed its name to **AFRIPISE INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**.

Effective immediately, our new name and logo will be reflected in all official communications and documentation. We want to assure everyone that this rebranding will not impact our product and service delivery, whether domestically or internationally.

This change represents our commitment to growth and our dedication to providing exceptional service to all our stakeholders. We deeply value the support and trust you have placed in us over the years, and we are excited to continue our journey as **AFRIPISE INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**.

Please be assured that our business operations will continue seamlessly across all touchpoints. There will be no changes to the existing terms and conditions of any contracts previously established under **TCCIA INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

  
  
 Peter W. Kifunguomali  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AFRIPISE INVESTMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**

**AFRIPISE INVESTMENT PLC (Formerly) TCCIA INVESTMENT PLC**  
 Flap Millennium Tower II, 24th Floor, Opposite Makumbusho Village, P.O. Box 72678, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
 Mobile: +255 753 701 802 | Email: [info@afriprise.co.tz](mailto:info@afriprise.co.tz) | Website: [www.afriprise.co.tz](http://www.afriprise.co.tz)  
 (f) (t) (e) @afriprise\_tz



# TIMBER: THE ECO-FRIENDLY BACKBONE FOR MODERN-DAY COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

By Robbie Reynolds

Commercial construction often brings to mind visions of sleek buildings made of concrete and steel. However, timber plays an important role in commercial construction. Heavy timber construction is one of the oldest known forms of construction and offers a wealth of benefits, including cost-effectiveness, durability, and sustainability.

Below, we explore the basics of heavy timber construction, including the benefits, disadvantages, and cost breakdown.

## What Is Heavy Timber Construction?

Heavy timber construction is a building method that incorporates the use of large, portions of milled logs. Using this style of construction, pieces of timber are joined together by mortise and tenon joints or metal joints to create the frame and structure of a building.

To be considered a mass-timber construction project, the building's primary load-bearing component must be made of solid or engineered wood. If the building simply uses wood as an accent, or the primary structure is comprised of another material, it is not considered a heavy timber construction project.

What Is the History of Heavy Timber Construction?



The 'nature' of wood - enables designers to utilise timber well. File Photo

Heavy timber construction has existed for centuries and was used to create structures in Ancient Rome, Greece, and early Native American settlements. While timber construction was initially used primarily for floor and roof assemblies, the first all-timber frame structure is thought to have been built in the 10th century.

Eventually, European settlers brought the construction method to the U.S., where it was commonly used well into the 19th century to create all types of buildings.

Eventually, the construction style lost some traction as it became more expensive and was found to be more vulnerable to environmental hazards like earthquakes.

However, advancing technology, such as computer numerical control (CNC) machines, and design improvements have allowed a resurgence of the construction style. financial tools for construction subcontractors Advantages of Heavy Timber Construction Using heavy timber construction, you can create beautiful and strong buildings. Below, we out-

line a few of the major advantages of heavy timber construction:

**Strength and stability:** Heavy timber members offer incredible strength and stability - much more than traditional light-frame construction projects.

**Fire resistance:** While wood is commonly seen as a fire hazard, heavy timber actually offers some protection from fires. Because of their size, large timber members can retain their load-carrying ability longer than smaller wood members. Even if the outer layer chars, the interior remains struc-

turally sound. This makes it ideal for floor and roof framing, walls, and more.

**Aesthetics:** Because pieces of timber can be extremely long and stable, timber construction can create projects with long, clean lines and an open feel - a desirable look for many commercial construction projects today.

**Sustainability:** Wood is a renewable resource that can be naturally replenished, so it is considered a more sustainable building material, especially compared to energy-intensive materials like concrete and steel.

**Long-term durability:** Because of the sheer size of the wood members used, timber-framed construction projects are extremely durable. In addition, timber doesn't corrode like steel and other building materials. In fact, there are many timber-framed buildings in Europe more than 500 years old that are still standing today.

**Disadvantages of Heavy Timber Construction**

Of course, every construction method comes with both pros and cons. Building professionals consider the following to be major disadvantages of heavy timber construction:

**Structural limitations:** Building codes place certain limitations on heavy timber construction. In 2021, the International Code Council expanded its guidance

to allow timber structures up to 18 stories and 270 feet; however, other building materials allow you to build much higher.

**Wood rot:** When left untreated, timber is susceptible to wood rot and is more likely to bend, crack, and decay than other materials. However, it can be treated with certain preservatives to help prevent these issues.

**High labor and material costs:** Timber prices fluctuate with supply and demand, so it can be a costly building material. Timber construction is also a labor-intensive process and requires more skilled craftsmanship to install, which adds to the cost of a project.

**Cost Considerations:** How Expensive Is Heavy Timber Construction?

Heavy timber construction offers both cost advantages and disadvantages. In general, the cost of timber as a building material can be comparable to other construction materials, depending on your geographic location. However, as previously mentioned, the cost of raw timber fluctuates based on supply and demand, as well as other factors including competition, seasonality, and imports to and from other countries.

*Robbie Reynolds is the Vice President of Business Development at Bildl, he can be reached via LinkedIn*

## Architectural alchemy: Exploring the harmony of landscape design

By Esme Brink

LANDSCAPE design is an artistic endeavour that marries the creativity of architecture with the allure of the natural environment. It is a harmonious dance between human-made structures and the surrounding nature, resulting in breathtaking outdoor spaces that captivate the senses and enrich our lives. In this blog post, we explore the art of landscape design and the delicate balance between architecture and the environment that gives birth to stunning landscapes.

### Embracing the genius loci

At the heart of landscape design lies the concept of "genius loci," or the spirit of a place. Understanding and embracing the unique essence of the location is fundamental to creating a design that feels authentic and harmonious. By recognising the site's characteristics, such as its topography, climate, vegetation, and cultural heritage, landscape architects can craft spaces that blend seamlessly with their surroundings, enhancing the natural beauty instead of overshadowing it.

### Architecture as the frame

Incorporating architectural elements is akin to framing a masterpiece. The built environment acts as a canvas, enhancing the beauty of the landscape while providing structure and functionality. Carefully designed pathways, pergolas, terraces, and outdoor structures serve as thoughtful compositions that guide the flow of movement, highlight focal points, and frame scenic views. Architecture becomes an integral part of the overall composition, contributing to the sense of place and creating a cohesive narrative within the landscape.

### Lines and form

The interplay of lines and form in landscape design is an artistic expression that shapes the visual experience. Soft curves and flowing lines can evoke a sense of tranquillity and serenity, while sharp angles and bold forms con-



Landscaping is an artistic expression that harmonizes beauty and nature, emphasizing the importance of preserving Mother Earth. File Photo

vey a modern and dynamic atmosphere. Blending these elements thoughtfully within the landscape allows for the creation of diverse spaces, from intimate retreats to grand vistas that delight the eye.

### Nature as the master artist

While architecture brings structure, nature acts as the master artist, imbuing landscapes with colour, texture, and life. Native plants, seasonal blooms, and lush greenery all play a pivotal role in infusing the design with vibrancy and authenticity. Sustainable landscaping practices, like rainwater harvesting and the use of drought-tolerant plants, honour the environment and ensure the longevity of the living canvas.

### Ecological stewardship

The art of landscape design extends beyond aesthetics; it is also a re-

sponsibility to the environment. Sustainable practices, such as green roofs, permeable pavements, and wildlife-friendly landscaping, promote ecological stewardship and contribute to a healthier planet. By nurturing biodiversity and conserving natural resources, landscape architects become ambassadors of sustainability, leaving a positive legacy for generations to come.

### Inviting human interaction

Landscape design is not just about beauty; it's about creating spaces that inspire human interaction and connection. Thoughtful seating areas, interactive sculptures, and sensory gardens all invite people to engage with their environment, fostering a sense of community and well-being. A successful landscape design beckons people to explore, relax, and forge meaningful memories

within its embrace.

### Conclusion

The art of landscape design lies in the seamless fusion of architecture and environment, transcending aesthetics to become a harmonious symphony between the human-made and the natural. Through an understanding of genius loci, architectural framing, lines, and form, landscape architects weave enchanting outdoor spaces that celebrate the spirit of each place. Embracing sustainability and inviting human interaction, these designs not only captivate the eye but also enrich our lives, reminding us of our profound connection to the natural world.

*Esme Brink is a landscape architecture technician from Green Planet Landscapes, can be reached via social media.*

## AI: Embrace innovation for productivity, global growth

By Francis Kajubi

IN both public and private sectors, employees are being encouraged to view generative artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool to boost efficiency, foster networking, and unlock new business possibilities, rather than as a threat to human jobs.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability, shared the narrative yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he graced the 65th Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) annual general meeting which entailed the topic 'Artificial Intelligence and Future of Work Exploring Tanzania's Readiness.'

Katambi said that the government perceives AI as an opportunity for people to widen the scope of the businesses, talent, innovation, up-scaling digital skills that boost ordinary productivity capacity by individuals and enterprises.

"Generative AI creates information according to what is fed by human beings. Robots can perform certain tasks but not complete job packages or duties. Misinformation is dragging some of the employees into unnecessary fear," said Katambi.

According to him, AI is a remedy to donkey jobs but not of professionalism and those requiring reasoning and changing places.

"Things that we should take into consideration is how knowledgeable and skillful today's graduates are in the wake of AI. We are aware that application of AI among students of all levels is taking a shape as a helping tool for doing assignments," said Katambi.

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, ATE Chief Executive Officer said that the inception of ChatGPT marks technology advancement in the public exposure to AI tools.

She said the new wave of technological transformation calls for the public and the private sectors to set up reskilling and upskilling programmes by employers for employees.

"Personal data protection is a likely threat as AI takes shape globally. However, mental health related issues are likely to affect people who are worried to be left behind," said Doran.

Hery Mkunda, Secretary General Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) said that

within the current initial stages of AI taking shape in Tanzania, employers should invest in empowering their employees to gain digital skills for timely task handling efficiency and reasonable productivity.

The Judge of the High Court of Tanzania Labour Division, Dr. Yose Mlyambina, said that AI is still a work in progress in the country's judicial system.

He said in embracing technology the judiciary has developed ten ICT systems including the e-Case Management system.

"Generative AI through automatic transcription is going to reduce the judges' and magistrates' burden of working with papers. Their relief is embedded in listening and making judgments," said Dr Mlyambina.

Caroline Mugalla, ILO Country Director was of the view that the future of work is being threatened by globalization, digitalization and AI alongside climate change.

She asserted that there is a risk of deteriorating working conditions and inequality at the workplace. Policies should address setbacks that come with AI in the employment sector.

"We need to prioritize social protection for affected workers in the wake of technological advancements and address gender aspects particularly on women employment opportunities," she said.

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) study 2023 dubbed 'Generative AI and Jobs: A global analysis of potential effects on job quantity and quality', suggests that Generative AI is more likely to enhance jobs by automating specific tasks rather than replacing entire roles.



Generative AI

## Guardian Reporter &amp; Agencies

The construction industry is constantly evolving to meet the growing demands for modern and innovative housing solutions. As populations expand and resources become scarcer, the need for sustainable and cost-effective construction methods has become crucial. One such method that has gained traction in recent years is the use of interlocking bricks. These bricks, unlike traditional construction materials, offer a range of advantages that have revolutionized the way homes are built.

**History and Evolution of Interlocking Bricks**

The concept of interlocking bricks dates back to ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, where clay bricks were used to construct sturdy and durable buildings. Over time, advancements in technology and engineering led to the development of more sophisticated interlocking brick systems.

In the 20th century, the introduction of hydraulic presses and automated manufacturing processes paved the way for the mass production of interlocking bricks. These developments made interlocking brick systems more accessible and affordable for construction projects around the world.

Interlocking brick technology has gained recognition for its efficiency and versatility. Numerous success stories showcase the strength and durability of interlocking brick structures. Notable projects, such as schools, hospitals, and residential buildings, have utilized interlocking bricks to create sustainable and aesthetically pleasing structures that stand the test of time.

## THE SMART WAY TO BUILD: HOW INTERLOCKING BRICKS ARE RE-DEFINING HOME CONSTRUCTION



A house built using interlocking brick system. File Photo

**Understanding Interlocking Brick Systems**

A standard interlocking brick system is composed of interlocking brick units, that are designed to lock together without mortar. The interlocking bricks are designed with grooves and ridges that allow them to lock together, eliminating the need for extensive mortar joints. This feature not only simplifies the construction process but also enhances the overall strength and stability of the structure.

Interlocking bricks come in various types and designs, catering to different construc-

tion needs and architectural preferences. Common types include compressed earth blocks (CEBs), clay interlocking bricks, and concrete interlocking bricks. These bricks can be further customized with different surface finishes and colors, allowing for unique and eye-catching designs that suit any project.

The strength and durability of interlocking bricks rely on the geometric design and interlock pattern. The interlocking mechanism redistributes the load across a wider area, minimizing stress concentration and improving the overall

structural integrity of the building. Additionally, the use of high-quality materials and precise manufacturing techniques further enhance the longevity and resilience of interlocking brick structures.

**Benefits of Interlocking Bricks**

One of the key advantages of interlocking bricks is their cost-effectiveness. Compared to traditional materials such as concrete blocks or fired bricks, interlocking bricks require less labor, time, and resources for installation. The reduced construction time translates to low-

er labor costs, making interlocking bricks a more affordable option for both individuals and large-scale construction projects.

Interlocking bricks offer inherent energy-efficient properties due to their thermal insulation capabilities. The air gaps within the interlocking system act as insulation, reducing heat transfer and minimizing the need for artificial cooling or heating systems. Additionally, interlocking bricks can be produced using environmentally friendly materials, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint throughout the construction process.

The interlocking brick system allows for a faster and more efficient construction process. The interlocking mechanism eliminates the need for skilled laborers to lay mortar joints, reducing the potential for errors and delays. This streamlined process significantly shortens the construction timeline, enabling homeowners and businesses to occupy their newly built structures in a shorter amount of time.

Interlocking bricks contribute to sustainable home construction practices. The manufacturing process for interlocking bricks requires fewer resources and generates less waste compared to traditional brick production. Additionally, interlocking brick structures can easily be disassembled and reused in different projects, minimizing material waste and promoting a circular economy within the construction industry.

Interlocking brick systems pro-

vide enhanced earthquake resistance and structural integrity. The interlocking mechanism distributes the forces generated during seismic events, preventing the collapse or severe damage of the structure. This makes interlocking brick buildings a safe and reliable choice, particularly in regions prone to earthquakes or other natural disasters.

**Interlocking Bricks in Action**

Interlocking bricks have gained popularity in residential construction due to their affordability and durability. Homeowners across the globe have embraced this innovative building method, resulting in the construction of aesthetically pleasing and sustainable homes. From single-family houses to apartment complexes, interlocking brick structures offer a wide range of design possibilities without compromising on quality or cost.

The advantages of interlocking bricks extend beyond residential applications. Commercial and public structures, such as offices, schools, and hospitals, have also incorporated interlocking brick systems in their construction. The durability and versatility of interlocking brick structures make them ideal for large-scale projects that require sustainable and long-lasting solutions.

The flexibility and customization options offered by interlocking bricks have sparked a wave of innovative architectural designs. Architects and builders are experimenting with intricate patterns, textures, and colors to create unique and visually stunning structures. From contemporary designs to traditional aesthetics, interlocking bricks have opened up new possibilities for architectural expression.

*This article is a product of the Star & Shine Interlocking Bricks*



A construction worker uses controller for robotic arm on jobsite

## The benefits of AI in construction-II

By Sumana Rao

GLOBALLY, individuals and businesses spend over \$10 trillion per year on construction-related activities. Part of this enormous amount of spending is on, and enabled by, rapidly-moving technological advancements that touch all areas of the ecosystem.

Last week, we delved into several issues regarding AI's impact on modern construction, focusing on off-site construction. We highlighted how construction companies are turning to off-site factories with autonomous robots piecing together building components that are later assembled by on-site human workers. Now, let's conclude this two-part series by exploring how AI systems continuously learn and enhance themselves through exposure to vast amounts of data every day.

**AI and big data in construction**

At a time when a massive amount of data is being created every day, AI systems are exposed to an endless amount of data to learn from and improve every day. Every job site becomes a potential data source for AI. Data generated from images captured from mobile devices, drone vid-

eos, security sensors, building information modeling (BIM), and others have become a pool of information. This presents an opportunity for construction industry professionals and customers to analyze and benefit from the insights generated from the data with the help of AI and machine learning systems.

**AI for post-construction**

Building managers can use AI long after construction is complete. By collecting information about a structure through sensors, drones, and other wireless technologies, advanced analytics and AI-powered algorithms gain valuable insights about the operation and performance of a building, bridge, roads, and almost anything in the built environment. This means AI can be used to monitor developing problems, determine when preventative maintenance needs to be made, or even direct human behavior for optimal security and safety.

**The future of AI in construction**

Robotics, AI, and the Internet of Things can reduce building costs by up to 20 percent. Engineers can don virtual reality goggles and send mini-robots into build-

ings under construction. These robots use cameras to track the work as it progresses. AI is being used to plan the routing of electrical and plumbing systems in modern buildings. Companies are using AI to develop safety systems for worksites. AI is being used to track the real-time interactions of workers, machinery, and objects on the site and alert supervisors of potential safety issues, construction errors, and productivity issues.

Despite the predictions of massive job losses, AI is unlikely to replace the human workforce. Instead, it will alter business models in the construction industry, reduce expensive errors, reduce worksite injuries, and make building operations more efficient.

Leaders at construction companies should prioritize investment based on areas where AI can have the most impact on their company's unique needs. Early movers will set the direction of the industry and benefit in the short and long term.

*Sumana Rao is the Global Product Marketing Leader for Buildings Content. She can be reached through social media*

## PGM market set to soar by 2029

By Guardian Reporter

THE global market for platinum group metals (PGMs), which include platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, will record a 4.47 percent increase between now and 2029, according to market research firm Mordor Intelligence.

In part, market growth will come from growing demand for PGMs in green technologies, including hydrogen energy technologies, in turn generating opportunities across Africa's mining and hydrogen value chains.

The Critical Minerals Africa (CMA) Summit, taking place on November 6-7 in Cape Town, will unpack the nexus between PGMs and green hydrogen and their evolving role within the African and global energy transition.

The continent is home to the world's largest PGM reserves, with South Africa alone possessing over 80 percent of global resources and Zimbabwe also holding substantial reserves. These metals play a vital role in fuel cell technology, enabling the production of electricity from hydrogen and oxygen.

As African countries - including Namibia, South Africa, Mauritania and Egypt - intensify their green hydrogen activities, long-term PGM demand is expected to grow substantially, powering a wide range of applications from hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to stationary power generation to industrial processes.

**Africa's green hydrogen potential**

The African continent holds substantial potential for green hydrogen production given its abundance of co-located renewable resources. According to the European Investment Bank, Africa has the potential to produce 50 million tons of green hydrogen per annum by 2035, which could

help meet power, transportation and industrial energy needs, decarbonize heavy-polluting industries, as well as be used for global export.

Namibia represents a pioneer of green hydrogen on the continent, having secured billions in investment for green hydrogen projects from various investors, including the USAID, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Japanese investment firm ITOCHU.

Green energy firm Hyphen Hydrogen Energy is implementing a \$10-billion project, with the capacity to produce 350,000 metric tons per year using 7 GW of renewable energy and 3 GW of hydrogen electrolyzers. Last May, Belgian port operator Antwerp Bruges partnered with the Namibian Ports Authority to develop a EUR 250-million hydrogen and ammonia storage facility at Walvis Bay Port to facilitate the transport of hydrogen to regional and global markets.

Realizing the potential of green hydrogen to drive regional energy security, South African tourism, trade and investment agency Wesgro signed an agreement last month with the Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency, Namibia's Environmental Investment Fund and infrastructure company Gasunie and Climate Fund Managers.

The agreement paves the way for the parties to assess the feasibility of developing a green hydrogen corridor connecting the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces of South Africa with Lüderitz in Namibia.

Furthermore, green energy companies Hive Energy UK and Genesis Eco-Energy are developing a R105 billion green hydrogen and ammonia project in the Coega Special Economic Zone in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

The project will add 14,400 MW of electricity to the grid and produce 900,000 tons of green ammonia for export to global markets, increasing the country's export revenue. South Africa has also established a \$1-billion fund in partnership with the Netherlands, aimed at accelerating the deployment of green hydrogen projects to feed growing demand in Europe.

Private and public sector entities in South Africa are demonstrating the potential for synergy between PGMs and green hydrogen, specifically in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Last October, mining firm Anglo American entered into a partnership with automotive firm BMW South Africa and international energy firm Sasol to develop South Africa's PGMs and green hydrogen value chains. Anglo American will provide PGMs used in hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles, while Sasol will provide the green hydrogen and BMW the vehicles.

As global demand for green hydrogen rises due to carbon emission reduction policies and growing energy needs, a parallel surge in PGMs demand is also anticipated. Given that Africa is home to the overwhelming majority of these critical minerals, CMA 2024 will explore the latest policies, projects and developments ensuring that the continent capitalizes on green hydrogen as a key growth driver.

Organized by Energy Capital & Power, CMA is the largest gathering of critical mineral stakeholders in Africa, the event positions Africa as the primary investment destination for critical minerals.

This year's edition takes place under the theme Innovate, Enact, Invest in African Critical Minerals to Sustain Global Growth, connecting African mining projects and regulators with global investors and stakeholders to untap the full potential of the continent's raw materials.

## CONSTRUCTION

# FOUR COMPELLING REASONS FOR PEOPLE TO SEEK FINANCING - EVEN WHEN WITH CASH IN THE BANK

By Travis Mayor

**B**EING financially stable is all about your cash flow, how you manage risk, and the working capital options you use to run your business.

A working capital stack that includes cash, lines of credit, material financing, and supplier terms allows you to pull from different sources of capital based on your business's specific needs and goals. Additionally, having these options in place before you need allows you to be proactive and gives you financial flexibility if you hit unexpected cash flow problems.

Relying on cash alone might seem ideal because it looks like a "no-cost option," but there are costs to using cash. Where else could you spend those dollars if you had them in your hand today or tomorrow? While there's no interest associated with spending your cash, you'll get the biggest return on investment if you use it to fuel your business growth instead of covering all your expenses.

When used strategically, financing can help you accomplish the following, better relationships with suppliers and General Contractors (GCs), diversification and access to capital - before you need it, increased operational efficiency and risk management, and profitable business growth.

Here's an overview of what financing can help you achieve that can't be done with a cash-only working capital strategy.

Construction is all about relationships. Building trusted two-way relationships with GCs, vendors, and even with your own internal team is incredibly



Material financing helps you focus on quality work, not cash flow gaps from unexpected delays. File Photo

important.

When it comes to working with suppliers, paying upfront and in full with cash can get you discounts, but material financing can also help you unlock these cash discounts while keeping cash available for other areas of your business.

Material financing can help you with material purchases that are outside your normal buying patterns or with vendors you may not have substantial terms or credit limits with. It can also help you with large strategic purchases, allowing you to negotiate on the front end with upfront payment. Any of these tactics can help you build relationships with new suppliers while preventing you from putting your cash on the line.

Whether they explicitly say it or not, GCs prefer subs who use financing.

What GCs really want is to trust that their subs are performing on the project and managing finances effectively.

Using material financing al-

lows you to focus on delivering great work instead of scrambling to cover any cash flow issues that might arise from unexpected project delays.

Every financing option - lines of credit, material financing, and cash, to name a few - has optimal and suboptimal ways to be deployed. Ideally you'd rely on your least flexible financing option first with the most flexible being your last resort. For example, because material financing can only be used for materials, use it as a first resort for purchases. Reserve your more flexible options, like cash, for emergencies. Maintaining a mix of financing options prevents you from leaning on your safety net, first.

Additionally, you want to have options available before you need them. Working capital options take time and effort to acquire, but cash flow challenges can quickly turn to disasters. This is why you want to secure additional options well before you need them. If subcontractors who are healthy enough to

secure financing fail to have a capital stack in place and later get hit with steep project or payment delays, these delays can strain their cash flow and deeply affect their long-term growth goals.

As a sub, you are expected to manage an unpredictable payment cycle and act as the bank, funding the project. Having a capital stack that includes financing can help you increase operational efficiency because you will no longer be subject to long, sometimes unpredictable payment timelines or have to redo your financial planning if something unpredictable affects your business. You'll know when you can pay vendors, buy new equipment, and onboard new hires for larger projects.

Because subcontractor receivables are subject to project conditions (i.e. the owner is slow to pay the GC, schedule delays, etc.), payment can not only be slow but, on occasion, not guaranteed at all.

With every project comes the potential for payment delays,

schedule disruptions, unexpected costs/margin erosion, undercompensated change orders, strung out retainage and much more.

To mitigate these risks, a sub can try to negotiate better terms upfront in their contract. But, financing can also help manage some of these risks by giving subs more options for finding financial flexibility.

Responsible financing provides subcontractors with the capital needed to grow. (The emphasis needs to be on "responsible" as there is a big difference between good debt and bad debt.) If you were able to get a \$1.50 return for every \$1 you invested, would you only invest how much your cash would allow? Or would you want to find additional financing that would allow you to make a larger investment? It's common for businesses to use financing to accelerate their growth. Here's how responsible financing can help you do the same.

Your growth plan, which is built by delivering great work for GCs and using those relationships to get more projects, will eventually demand a higher capital investment in the form of materials for larger, more complicated projects, new or additional equipment, higher labor expenditures and increased overhead.

As expenses increase and you continue to wait on accounts receivable, your working capital and cash flow are strained, making it difficult to cover immediate expenses let alone invest into resources for the business. After all, your cash serves as a "speed limit" to your growth - you never know what opportunities lie ahead and what cash you may need available to accept them. But with more options in your capital stack, you have more financial flexibility.

Plus, you can worry less about covering the upfront costs related to taking on more projects and focus on delivering your best work (and using that to get more).

You might be concerned about the cost of financing cutting into your margins. The cost of financing, or any other working capital, should be accounted for in your bids, a strategy that can help insulate your bottom line. This concept is similar to a tactic GCs might use to include an interest charge on their invoices if payment from an owner falls outside of the payment terms included within their contracts. As a GC said during one of our roundtables, "This country was built off of people making money with other people's money so I wouldn't have a problem with it. I think it's about the way you run your business and how it makes sense for your cash flow. If financing is something you can use to help your situation, I don't have a negative view of it at all." You should account for the proper costs to perform on the job, manage your risk, and maintain your margins.

In fact, many of our most successful clients include the cost of financing within their bids, a strategy that makes them 11 percent more profitable than subcontractors who don't include this cost, according to the latest findings from our 2024 National Subcontractor Market Report. While this isn't industry standard yet, 48 percent of subcontractors surveyed are including the cost of capital in their bid.

There's a saying, "Contractors don't starve, they eat themselves to death."

Subcontractors need to be discerning about the projects they take on and the sources of funding they use. Thinking strategically about financing and maintaining a mix of working capital options can help you grow your business, mitigate risks, and improve operational efficiency in a way that cash alone can't. By understanding the benefits of financing and using it strategically, subcontractors create a more predictable payment environment that gives them the flexibility to invest back into their businesses.

## Washington DC

WITH the Federal Reserve making no clear commitment to when an interest rate cut may come, homebuilders are scaling back.

In May, privately owned housing starts fell to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1.277 million units, down 5.5 percent month over month and 19.3 percent compared to a year ago, according to data released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

An annualized decline of 51.7 percent in multifamily housing starts, which fell to a pace of 278,000 units, is largely to blame for the sizable yearly decrease in total starts. But single-family housing starts also declined to 982,000 units, a 1.7 percent year-over-year decrease.

Industry experts attributed the large yearly decline in multifamily starts to the already high number of apartment buildings being completed, which leading to an easing of rent price growth.

"Builders are in an 'if you build them, they won't come,' market, as continued high mortgage rates keep more potential buyers out of the market," Robert Frick, a corporate economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, said in a statement.

The number of building permits issued in May also posted monthly and yearly declines, falling to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.386 million units, down 3.8 percent month over month and 9.5 percent year over year.

Again, the multifamily sector is largely to blame, as it dropped to 382,000 units, down 6.1 percent from April and 31.4 percent from a year ago. The multifamily sector's large yearly decline was partially offset by a 3.4 percent annual increase in the single-family sector (to 949,000 units), but this was down 2.9 percent from April.

One bright spot in the report was the number of completions, which rose 1 percent year over year to 1.514 million units. Despite the increase, this was still down 8.4 percent from a month prior. The single-family (1.027 million units completed) and the multifamily sectors



Construction worker working on single-family home. File Photo

## Housing starts dropped 19.3 pc in May as builder confidence continues to slide

(479,000 units completed) each recorded similar trends, with the single-family segment posting an 8.5 percent monthly decrease and a 2 percent annual increase, while the multifamily segment was down 7.2 percent month over month and up 0.8 percent year over year.

"Builders continue to add to the inventory count. In May, single-family home completions were still roughly 1 percent higher than a year ago," Orphe Divounguy, Zillow senior economist, said in a statement. "With more homes coming on the market and no equally large uptick in housing sales, total for-sale housing inventory is higher than

it was a year ago."

On a regional level, the Midwest posted the largest monthly decline in housing starts, dropping 19 percent to 149,000 units. The Northeast (77,000 units) and South (733,000 units) also recorded month-over-month declines of 2.5 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. The West posted the only monthly increase, jumping 10.4 percent from April to 318,000 units. Year over year, all four regions recorded declines, with the Midwest posting the largest drop at 43.1 percent and the West reporting the smallest at 9.4 percent.

The decline in housing starts comes as homebuilder senti-

ment fell to its lowest reading since December 2023. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) fell two points month over month to a reading of 43 in June. This is the second consecutive month of declines.

The report attributes the decline to "persistently high" mortgage rates that are keeping buyers on the sidelines.

"Home builders are also dealing with higher rates for construction and development loans, chronic labor shortages and a dearth of buildable lots," NAHB Chairman Carl Harris said in a statement.

## Financing Africa: Where is the Money?

By Guardian Reporter

THE Mo Ibrahim Foundation's latest report, "Financing Africa: Where is the Money?" provides a comprehensive analysis of both the financial needs deemed necessary for Africa to meet its development and climate goals and the resources that are currently available.

The report makes the point that the resources mostly exist, but either lack the relevant processes to be effectively allocated where needed, or, significantly when it comes to domestic resources, are either dormant or misused.

Commenting on the release of the report, Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "We need a complete change of paradigm. This is not about Africa coming to the developed world with a begging bowl and developed countries considering how much more they can pledge. This is about smarter money, not just more money. As this report outlines, the money is already there."

Adding: "But current processes prevent resources from being used to properly address the challenges. Steps must be taken to reform the international financing system and update African debt structuring, risk assessment and mitigation and aid conditionalities. Even more, our continent must stop squandering its own assets and take proper ownership and responsibility. In short, we must apply good governance to ensure these assets are adequately leveraged for the best interests of our people."

The report first identifies the substantial but often incoherent numbers associated with Africa's development and climate goals. While the task of assessing financial needs is complicated by inconsistent data from multiple sources, the figures all point to staggering numbers. And whatever the numbers,

the report underscores the critical need to ensure climate finance does not crowd out development finance, forcing African nations to choose between development for their population and environmental sustainability.

The report then analyses financial contributions from non-African sources. Official Development Assistance (ODA) accounts for nearly 10 percent of the continent's financial resources. But ODA from western donors remains primarily directed towards health and education, and often comes with specific conditionalities.

Meanwhile non-DAC countries commitment to Africa is growing steadily and addresses the demand. Debt cannot be the way out, as stock and servicing costs have tripled since 2009, and its increasingly complex structure renders traditional relief efforts obsolete. Other key issues include inadequate African risk assessment and mitigation, the IMF's specific surcharges, and dormant ODA funds.

But the main source could well be Africa's domestic resources, which, according to the African Union, should on average cover between 75 percent and 90 percent of the needs to finance Agenda 2063. However, most of those resources appear to be potential or dormant at best and are too often misused.

Preventing leakages through Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) could bolster resources by up to \$100 billion annually, surpassing both ODA received (\$81 billion annually) and remittances sent back to the continent (\$97 billion annually). With the average tax-to-GDP ratio in Africa still at 15.6 percent - half the OECD average - strengthening tax systems appears a quick win.

Indeed, Africa lost \$46 billion in corporate taxes due to tax incentives in 2019, more than half of ODA received.

## WORLD

## UK PM Sunak's Conservatives set for heavy election defeat, polls forecast

LONDON

THREE opinion polls on Wednesday predicted a record defeat for British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives at a July 4 election, forecasting the Labour Party would comfortably win a large majority after 14 years in opposition.

Polling by YouGov showed Keir Starmer's Labour was on track to win 425 parliamentary seats in Britain's 650-strong House of Commons, the most in its history. Savanta predicted 516 seats for Labour and More in Common gave it 406.

YouGov had the Conservatives on 108 and the Liberal Democrats on 67, while Savanta predicted the Conservatives would take 53 parliamentary seats and the Liberal Democrats 50. More in Common forecast 155 and 49 seats respectively.

Chris Hopkins, Political Research Director at Savanta, said its projection put Labour on course "for a historic majority".

The three polls were so-called multilevel regression and post-stratification (MRP)

surveys, an approach that uses voters' age, gender, education and other variables to predict results in every British voting district. Pollsters used the method to successfully predict the 2017 British election result.

They are largely in line with previous surveys predicting a Labour victory, but show the scale of the Conservatives' defeat could be even worse than previously thought.

YouGov's forecast of 108 seats for the Conservatives was around 32 lower than its previous poll two weeks earlier.

Both Savanta and YouGov predicted that the party of Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher could be left with the lowest number of seats in its near 200-year history contesting elections.

## Missteps

Sunak, who in a final throw of the dice last week pledged to cut 17 billion pounds of taxes for working people if re-elected, has failed to turn the polls around so far in



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks to farmers as he campaigns on a farm near Barnstaple, England on Tuesday. AP

a campaign littered with missteps.

His task has been made harder by the surprise mid-campaign return to frontline politics by prominent Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage, a right-wing populist, whose Reform UK party threatens to split the right-of-centre vote.

Britain has a first-past-the-post electoral system, meaning Reform could pick up millions of votes across the country without winning any individual seats.

YouGov predicted Reform would win five seats and Savanta none. More in Common did not give a figure for Reform.

The Savanta poll, published by the Telegraph newspaper, said Sunak could even lose his own parliamentary seat in northern England, once considered a safe Conservative constituency, with

the contest currently too close to call.

Sunak has acknowledged that people are frustrated with him and his party after more than a decade in power, dominated at times by political turmoil and scandal.

All three surveys projected several senior government ministers, including finance minister Jeremy Hunt, were on course to lose their seats.

Most opinion polls currently place Keir Starmer's Labour about 20 percentage points ahead of the governing Conservatives in the national vote share.

Other polls in recent days have also presented a grim picture for Sunak, with one pollster predicting "electoral extinction" for the Conservatives.

## Putin calls Vietnam one of Russia's most reliable partners

HANOI

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has called Vietnam one of Russia's most reliable partners, relations with which have come a long way and withstood many tests with honor.

"It is a pleasure to be in hospitable Vietnam, on the hospitable soil of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. One of our long-standing and reliable friends and partners. Russian-Vietnamese relations of trust and mutual understanding have come a long way and withstood the trials of war with honor," he said at a meeting with Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

Putin noted that the Soviet Union had provided effective assistance in the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against the French and US invaders and later contributed to the postwar reconstruction of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

"It is important that Vietnam also remembers this and cherishes the memory," the Russian leader stated.

Agencies



## Momentum grows for ban on smartphone use in US schools

LOS ANGELES

A nationwide movement to ban smartphone use in U.S. schools is gaining traction, as the nation's second-largest school district has approved a "phone-free" policy during school days to support students' academic success and well-being.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) voted on Tuesday to implement the ban, which will take effect in January next year, according to the district's news release.

Citing research findings, the LAUSD, which enrolls more than 429,000 students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, blamed smartphones and social media for distracting students from learning, harming their mental health, and stifling in-person social connections.

"Cell phone use in schools has gotten out of control," said Board President Jackie Goldberg in a statement. "It's gotten to the point that students don't talk face to face, but instead text one another when they're sitting right next to each other." Board Member Tanya Ortiz Franklin, who co-sponsored the resolution, said it broke her heart seeing "students sitting alone, isolated on their phones instead of engaging and learning with their peers."

The board is considering several options to implement the ban, including providing cell phone storage such as locked pouches or cell phone lockers. Other options under consideration include using technological means to restrict access to social media platforms.

The school district's action reflects the growing campaigns in California to restrict or eliminate cellphone use at schools amid reports about the rising anxiety and other harms that students are experiencing.

On Monday, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy warned that social media use has become so prevalent and potentially damaging among young people that Congress should require warning labels on online platforms. In 2019, the California Assembly introduced a bill, AB 272, encouraging school districts to develop and adopt policies that limit or prohibit student use of smartphones during school hours.

In February this year, the state assembly introduced another bill, AB 3216, which would require school districts to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit student use of smartphones while at school or under the supervision of a school employee.

The law would go into effect on July 1, 2026. The campaign has the support of California Governor Gavin Newsom. Also on Tuesday, Newsom called for a statewide ban on smartphone use in California schools to curb cyberbullying and classroom distraction by limiting access to smartphones.

He said he planned to work this summer with state lawmakers to dramatically restrict phone use during the school day in the nation's most populous state, according to a report by the New York Times. This initiative in California aligns with a growing national effort to limit smartphone use in schools. Districts and schools across the country have adopted policies restricting student smartphone use during the school day.

Starting in 2023, public schools in Florida began prohibiting student phone use during instructional time and blocking students' access to social media on district Wi-Fi. Florida became the first state in the nation to mandate a ban on cell phone use in classrooms.

## Fossil fuel use, emissions hit records in 2023, report says

LONDON

GLOBAL fossil fuel consumption and energy emissions hit all-time highs in 2023, even as fossil fuels' share of the global energy mix decreased slightly on the year, the industry's Statistical Review of World Energy report said yesterday.

Growing demand for fossil fuel despite the scaling up of renewables could be a sticking point for the transition to lower carbon energy as global temperature increases reach 1.5C, the threshold beyond which scientists say impacts such as temperature rise, drought and flooding will become more extreme.

"We hope that this report will help governments, world leaders and analysts move forward, clear-eyed about the challenge that lies ahead," Roman Debarre of consultancy Kearney said.

Overall global primary ener-



A driver carrying empty plastic containers pauses on his way to buy fuel from Angola and sell it back in Muanda, western Democratic Republic of Congo, Dec 23, 2023. AP

gy consumption hit an all-time high of 620 Exajoules (EJ), the report said, as emissions exceeded 40 gigatonnes of CO2 for the first time.

"In a year where we have seen the contribution of renewables reaching a new

record high, ever increasing global energy demand means the share coming from fossil fuels has remained virtually unchanged," Simon Virley of consultancy KPMG said.

The report recorded shifting trends in fossil fuel use in

different regions. In Europe, for example, the fossil fuel share of energy fell below 70 percent for the first time since the industrial revolution.

"In advanced economies, we observe signs of demand for fossil fuels peaking, con-

trasting with economies in the Global South for whom economic development and improvements in quality of life continue to drive fossil growth," Energy Institute Chief Executive Nick Wayth said.

Industry body the Energy Institute, together with consultancies KPMG and Kearney, has published the annual report since 2023. They took over from BP last year, which had authored the report, a benchmark for energy professionals, since the 1950s.

Fossil fuel accounted for almost all demand growth in India in 2023, the report said.

China accounted for over half of global additions in renewable energy generation last year.

"China adding more renewables than the rest of the world put together is remarkable," KPMG's Virley told reporters.

Agencies

## Canada lists Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as terrorist entity

OTTAWA

CANADA on Wednesday listed Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code after years of mounting pressure. Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, Dominic LeBlanc announced the decision.

In a press release, the Canadian government said, "Based on their actions, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the IRGC has knowingly carried out, attempted to carry out, participated in or facilitated a terrorist activity, or has knowingly acted on behalf of, at the direction of, or in association with an entity that has knowingly carried out

terrorist activity. Listing the IRGC means that they are a terrorist group."

It said that the decision to designate the IRGC through the Criminal Code listing regime sends a strong message that Canada will use all tools at its disposal to combat the terrorist activity of the IRGC, "conducted both unilaterally and in knowing association with listed terrorist entities such as Hizballah and Hamas."

In a press release, the Canadian government said, "As a now-listed entity, the IRGC meets the definition of a 'terrorist group' under Canada's Criminal Code. As an immediate consequence of this listing, Canadian financial institutions, such as banks and brokerages, are required to immediately freeze the

property of a listed entity. It is a criminal offence for anyone in Canada and Canadians abroad to knowingly deal with property owned or controlled by a terrorist group."

In a statement, Dominic LeBlanc said that the Iranian regime has demonstrated a complete disregard for human rights, both inside and outside Iran.

LeBlanc said, "The Iranian regime has consistently displayed a complete disregard for human rights, both inside and outside Iran, as well as a willingness to destabilize the international rules-based order."

"Listing the IRGC builds on the Government of Canada's broader efforts to ensure that there is no impunity for Iran's unlawful actions and its support

of terrorism. Our government will always promote human rights and take action against those seeking to disrupt our way of life, here in Canada and around the world," he added.

This latest development comes after years of pressure on the federal government to designate the IRGC as a terrorist entity. According to a CBC News report, the IRGC is a branch of the Iranian armed forces that reports directly to Iran's supreme leader.

Earlier in 2020, the IRGC shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 above the skies of Tehran, claiming the lives of 175 passengers, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents, CBC News reported.

ANI

## China expects bumper summer harvest, contributing to world food supply

JINAN

OVER a dozen operators drove harvesters in an orderly manner through a vast wheat field in east China's major breadbasket province Shandong. In just 10 minutes, large areas of golden wheat are reduced to short stubble.

"The granaries are already full, yet there's so much grain that the trucks haven't finished unloading," said Guo Bobo, manager of the field and a major grain producer in Wenshang County. Guo's field reaps a record average yield of 9,750 kg per hectare.

Now is the busiest and most rewarding time for farmers like Guo, as China is in its peak summer harvest season, which usually spans from

May to late June.

## BUMPER HARVEST

Statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs indicated that as of June 15, China had harvested around 310 million mu (around 20.68 million hectares) of winter wheat, with harvest progress surpassing 90 percent.

The wheat harvest in southwest China's Sichuan Province and central China's Hubei Province, two agricultural powerhouses, has concluded. Shandong, the country's second-largest wheat producer, has harvested 98.2 percent of its 60.54 million mu of wheat as of Sunday.

Shandong's total grain production

has remained stable at over 55 billion kg for three consecutive years. This year, wheat yields and total production are expected to reach new heights, said Yang Wujie, an official from the provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.

This summer, the main winter-wheat-producing provinces across the country have maintained stable or slightly increased planting areas, with overall wheat growth conditions better than usual, laying a solid foundation for a good summer harvest, according to the ministry.

Behind this progress lies China's commitment to summer grain production by enhancing rural infrastructure, developing high-standard

farmlands, and investing in the grain seed industry alongside scientific and technological research.

In Shandong, nearly 76.43 million mu of high-standard farmland have been developed, covering about 80 percent of the province's total cultivated land and 90 percent of permanent basic cropland, according to Yang.

"The strategy of 'storing grain in the field and technology' is fundamental to China's efforts to secure food production capacity," said Li Genying, a researcher at the Crop Research Institute, Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

China now has around 299 million mu of saline-alkali arable land. Sig-

nificant progress has been made in salt-tolerant wheat technology, with over 700 new lines and 52 approved varieties undergoing testing for salt-alkali tolerance, said Liu Luxiang, a researcher at the Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

Some of these new varieties have demonstrated promising potential for achieving higher and stable yields, which could significantly enhance grain production capacity, Liu said.

## WORLD FOOD STABILIZER

According to a report released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on June 7, the FAO Food Price Index continued

its upward trend in May for the third consecutive month.

This increase, driven by rising global export prices of wheat, reflects concerns over potentially lower yields due to poor crop conditions in some major producing regions including North America and Europe.

The FAO Cereal Price Index rose by 6.3 percent in May compared to the previous month, contributing significantly to the overall rise in the international food price index.

Food supply in China, the world's largest food producer and third largest food exporter, is significant to global food security and prices.

Xinhua



# Tailoring, craft making help refugee women in Uganda heal from war trauma

KAMPALA

IN the hustle and bustle of Kampala, the Ugandan capital, a group of Congolese refugee women are trying to fit in, hoping to heal from the war trauma they faced back home in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and stand on their own feet in a foreign country.

As the world marks World Refugee Day on June 20, Grace Kashama, 38, a Congolese refugee said in an interview with Xinhua in a crowded tailoring classroom in Makindye, a Kampala suburb, that she is keen on learning the skill so that she can open a tailoring shop someday in the future.

Kashama is part of a small group of 16 women, composed of Congolese and Somali refugees learning tailoring here at People for Peace and Defense of Rights (PPRD), a refugee-led non-governmental organization.

Kashama's group, named "Princess," is part of a larger group of about 300 refugees acquiring various skills like art and craft making, music, fashion and design at PPRD.

"I decided to take on tailoring because I know in future it can take care of me and my children. When I start this (tailoring), even if I get little money, I can survive," Kashama said. Kashama fled her hometown in Beni, a city in northeastern DRC after her husband was murdered in 2017.

Florencia Mwavita Bitonde, 68, another Congolese refugee, is already out on the streets after acquiring skills in making arts and crafts. In a small house, living with her eight children, Bitonde uses her premises as a workshop.

Bitonde fled to Uganda in 2015, after rebels attacked her home in Rutshuru, leaving her husband dead. Bitonde said that she has been making crafts for the past five years and has turned her life around. Every morning, Bitonde wakes up to make craft bags and hand-knitted scarves.

With the help of her children, the bags are sold to neighboring communities. She is now even passing on her craft-making skills to other refugee women and host communities. Kashama and Bitonde are part of a group of



about 5,000 refugee women who are skilled by PPRD to become self-reliant.

Joyeux Mugisho, the head of PPRD, said making the refugees active and engaging in income-generating activities helps them heal from the trauma that they faced back home. "We believe that trauma always comes back when people are suffering."

When we give them these skills, it helps them focus on business and earning an income that is helping them take care of their children, (helping children) to go to school and have food," Mugisho said.

PPRD is not alone in providing these skilling packages to refugees. In February this year, the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Uganda launched a 15-million-USD Self-Reliance Model targeting 100,000 refugees and host communities to progressively sustain themselves and reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance.

According to the food aid agency, as global funding of refugee programs dwindles and the increasingly unpredictable weather con-

ditions, the Self-Reliance Model will support refugees and host communities to meet their own food needs by promoting income diversification and alternative livelihoods as well as digital financial inclusion.

Due to funding shortages, the WFP program reduced the food ratio given to the refugees. Only those in critical need are given food relief. Other refugees like Bitonde and Kashama stopped receiving food aid from the agency long time ago. Uganda is host to more than 1.6 million refugees, making it one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Most of the refugees come from neighboring South Sudan, DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia among others. Hilary Onek, Uganda's minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugee, said in February that as a country that hosts the highest number of refugees in Africa, there is a need for comprehensive development approaches that go beyond immediate humanitarian support.



EAM Dr S Jaishankar being received by Senthil Thondaman, Governor of Eastern Province, on his arrival in Colombo yesterday. ANI

## EAM Jaishankar arrives in Sri Lanka, to hold discussions with leadership

COLOMBO

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Colombo yesterday as he embarked on his first visit after the beginning of the new term. He will hold meetings with the leadership of Sri Lanka.

EAM Jaishankar also thanked Sri Lankan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tharaka Balasuriya and Eastern Province Governor Senthil Thondaman for their warm welcome.

The External Affairs Minister noted that Sri Lanka is central to India's Neighbourhood First and SAGAR policies.

"Landed in Colombo for my first visit in the new term. Thank Minister of State @TharakaBalasuri

and Governor of Eastern province @S.Thondaman for the warm welcome. Look forward to my meetings with the leadership. Sri Lanka is central to our Neighbourhood First and SAGAR policies," Jaishankar said in a post shared on X.

During his visit, the External Affairs Minister will hold meetings with the

leadership of Sri Lanka on wide-ranging issues on the partnership between the two countries.

"This will be EAM's first bilateral visit after the formation of a new Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the MEA said in an official release on Wednesday.

Jaishankar's visit marks India's continued commitment to Sri Lanka, being its closest maritime neighbour.

"Reaffirming India's Neighbourhood First Policy, the visit underlines India's continued commitment to Sri Lanka as its closest maritime neighbour and time-tested friend. The visit will add momentum to connectivity projects and other mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors," the Ministry said.

Jaishankar, a prominent BJP leader who steered India's diplomatic course during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term took charge as External Affairs Minister once again in the new government and resumed his duties at the Ministry of External Affairs in South Block last week.

ANI

## Xi stresses PLA's political loyalty at crucial meeting held in old revolutionary base

YAN'AN

CHINESE President Xi Jinping emphasized the armed forces' political loyalty as a crucial meeting on the political work in the military was held in Yan'an, an old revolutionary base in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), demanded efforts to ensure a solid political guarantee for building a strong military, as he addressed the CMC Political Work Conference, held from Monday to Wednesday.

The Yan'an conference, which Xi personally decided to convene, took place 10 years after a similar meeting was held in Gutian, east China's Fujian Province.

The participants discussed and made arrangements for promoting political work in the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Xi emphasized the need to uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the military and to build a high-quality cadre team that is loyal, clean, responsible, and capable of fulfilling the mission of strengthening the military.

On Monday afternoon, Xi led CMC members and heads of various departments and units to visit the revolutionary relics at Wangjiaping, where the CMC's headquarters were stationed from August 1937 to March 1947. Xi visited the former residences of late revolutionary leaders including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De in Yan'an to honor the memory of their revolutionary struggle.

The Yan'an conference marks a return to the roots of the military, Xi said. He called on senior military officers to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted by the Party and the people to keep strengthening the armed forces.

Xi delivered an important speech at the conference, noting that after the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee held the 2014 military political work conference in Gutian and improved political conduct through rectification initiatives.

Measures to govern the military with strict discipline have been

comprehensively implemented with unprecedented determination and intensity, achieving historic accomplishments in enhancing political loyalty in the military, according to Xi. Xi stressed that political work is always the lifeline of the country's military.

The armed forces must always be led by those who are reliable and loyal to the Party, and there must be no place for corruption within the military. Noting that China's military is confronted with complicated challenges in the political work, Xi said it is necessary to continuously enhance political loyalty in the military to ensure that the people's armed forces always uphold their core values, maintain purity, and strictly adhere to discipline.

He also analyzed the deep-seated problems that need to be addressed in military political work, emphasizing that a root cause of these problems lies in the lack of ideals and beliefs. Xi called on relevant personnel at all levels, especially senior cadres, to introspect, engage in soul-searching reflections, and make earnest rectifications.

Xi highlighted key work to enhance political loyalty in the military, urging efforts to arm the military with the Party's new theories and improve the leadership of Party organizations, as well as their capabilities of organization and implementation. The Party leadership must be upheld in all the fields and the whole process of enhancing combat readiness, Xi noted.

Xi urged efforts to nurture a contingent of high-caliber officers, eradicate the breeding ground for corruption, and enhance the comprehensive oversight of high-ranking officers in terms of their performance of duty and exercise of power.

Officers at all levels, especially those in the higher ranks, should lead by example and serve as pioneers and models, Xi said.

Xinhua



## PM Modi meets US Congressional delegation, including former House speaker Nancy Pelosi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday met with a bipartisan United States Congressional delegation led by Congressman Michael McCaul, which is currently on a visit to India.

Former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is part of the delegation that called on PM Modi today.

The delegation had yesterday met with the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamshala.

After the meeting Pelosi took to X to post: "Today, it was my honor to join a bipartisan Congressional delegation to meet with His Holiness, the 14th @DalaiLama, in Dharamshala, India. In our meeting, we strongly reaffirmed Congressional support for the people of Tibet."

US Representatives - Gregory Meeks, Mariannette Miller-Meeks,

Nicole Malliotakis, Ami Bera and Jim McGovern are the other members of the visiting delegation.

The bipartisan delegation also met with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar along with Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Wednesday night.

Jaishankar appreciated their "strong and continued" support for the strategic partnership between India and the US.

In a post on X, the EAM stated, "Pleasure to meet with the bipartisan US Congressional delegation led by @RepMcCaul. Thank @SpeakerPelosi, @RepGregoryMeeks, @RepMMM, @NMalliotakis, @RepBera and @RepMcGovern for joining. Appreciate their strong and continued support for the strategic partnership."

The US Congressional delegation had arrived in India on Tuesday and was received by officials of the Central Tibetan Administration at Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Airport.



Upon arrival, the US lawmakers headed to Dharamshala to meet Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama.

Representative McCaul presented Dalai Lama with a framed copy of "The Resolute Tibet Act", a bipartisan bill passed by the US Congress to enhance US support for Tibet.

Last week, the US Congress passed the bill urging Beijing to re-engage with

the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan leaders to peacefully resolve their dispute over the status and governance of Tibet.

Before meeting the Dalai Lama, the US delegates attended a public felicitation programme at the main Tibetan temple. Children performed and displayed Tibetan culture at the felicitation ceremony in the courtyard of the Tsuglagkhang Complex in Dharamshala.

The Dalai Lama presented Buddha Statue to Pelosi at the end of the meeting with the US Congressional delegation, the office of the Dalai Lama said.

ANI

## UN-backed school lights path of hope for vulnerable refugee girls in Kenya

TURKANA

FOR Iraqi Akilimali, living in one of the largest refugee camps in Kenya has not diminished her dreams of becoming a doctor, a feat many of her peers would consider difficult.

The 18-year-old student of Lifeworks Tumaini Girls Secondary School fled war in her native Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with her family in 2016 in search of a brighter future in Kenya and ended up at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya's northwestern county of Turkana.

The sprawling refugee camp, which is located about 750 km northwest of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, is the country's second-largest, hosting about 288,000 refugees from nine countries, including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi and the DRC.

Akilimali said her pursuit of academic excellence is driven by the fact that she currently lives with her father, who is unemployed, while her mother is a tailor at the refugee camp.

She said during an interview with Xinhua at the refugee camp Tuesday that her quest to become



Students line up for food at Lifeworks Tumaini Girls Secondary School at Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana, Kenya on Tuesday. Xinhua

a doctor is irresistible despite the odds against her.

"I feel very fortunate that I am a student in a school that offers quality education and other amenities despite being a refugee," Akilimali said.

She added that her favorite subjects are science courses because they will offer her a pathway to study medicine at the university.

Akilimali, who has two younger siblings, said life as a young female refugee means facing challenges daily. She observed that teenage pregnancy is now

a growing trend in the refugee camp as most parents are unable to provide basic needs for their daughters.

Josephine Nguta, principal of Lifeworks Tumaini Girls Secondary School, said her institution, which hosts refugees from nine countries and Kenyan learners, has emerged as a beacon of hope for vulnerable girls.

The boarding school, which was established in 2014, also acts as a safe space for refugee girls who have encountered any form of gender-based violence. Cur-

rently, all the 376 girls enrolled in school are on full scholarship. Nguta said the school graduates at least 70 girls annually who are empowered both academically and talent-wise so that they can transform their lives as well as those of their families.

"Our intention is to expand access to quality education for more refugee girls so that they can transform their communities," Nguta said.

Nanduri Sateesh, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR-Kenya) sub-office in Kakuma, said each refugee child deserves access to basic education and lifelong learning to secure a better future.

Sateesh disclosed that there are a number of programs by the UNHCR that are designed to enhance access to education for both refugees and host communities.

Another beneficiary of the school is Alakir Bior Kongor, a South Sudanese Kenyan-born refugee who dreams of becoming either an architect or a computer programmer.

Xinhua

The Guardian

## SPORT



Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) A's Vikeshkumar Kerai (R) is presented with the Player of the Match prize by former Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Premji Pindoria, after the completion of the 2024 TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup's Division B semi-final pitting the club against Estim A recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

## SKLPSC A now set to face Gymkhana in TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup Division B final

By Guardian Correspondent

THE quest for the top honour in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 30 Overs Cup's Division B has gained pace as Gymkhana Cricket Club and Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) A have sailed through to the showdown's final following victory in their respective semi-final encounters.

Gymkhana Cricket Club made short work of Patel Brotherhood A in the first semi-final, notching a comprehensive seven-wicket victory at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club venue early this week.

Patel Brotherhood A ended with 84 runs all out in 20.3 overs once they batted first and, needing a mere 85 runs from 20 overs to emerge victorious, Gymkhana Cricket Club wasted no time - reaching the target for the loss of three wickets in 13.5 overs.

In the other semi-final played at the same venue in the afternoon, SKLPSC A outfit's cricketers maintained their fairytale run having garnered a 21-run victory over Estim A.

Estim A cricketers won the toss and chose to bowl but their efforts to frustrate SKLPSC A's efforts to end with an imposing total ended in vain, given the latter made the most of their innings having notched 153/7 in the allotted 30 overs.

Chasing 154 runs to secure victory turned out to be a tall order for Estim A, considering they ended up posting 132 runs all out in 28.2 overs.

Vikeshkumar Kerai (2-18 in 4.2 overs) and Arjan Rabadiya (2-32 in six overs) successfully led SKLPSC A's bowling attack - which tamed Estim A's batting unit.

Gymkhana Cricket Club and SKLPSC A have made a remarkable comeback this season after being relegated from Division A last year.

Their journey to the final of the first tournament in Division B marks their strong determination to return to the top tier.

The TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup's Division B winner, to be decided in the final scheduled for this weekend, will secure qualification for the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup that began early this week.

Patel Brotherhood A made it to the semi-finals of the TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup's Division B tournament following the squad's comprehensive six-wicket defeat of Union SC in the quarterfinal clash.

The encounter, which took place at Annadiil Burhani ground, had witnessed Union SC register 148/7 in 30 overs once the side had the chance to take the crease first.

Veteran cricketers led by Danish Unia made their experience count, battling to ensure Union SC finished their turn with the bat with a better

total.

Unia, who came in as one of the opening batsmen, was the top-run getter with his 38 runs, and fellow senior players, Sameer Zaidi and Abdulrahman Akida made their way back with two-digit figures given they notched 22 runs apiece.

The other opener Abdallah Jabir was also in the list of cricketers with two-digit figures for the batting squad, chipping in with 15 runs.

The batting side was somewhat buoyed by 25 extras given away by Patel Brotherhood A outfit's bowling unit, consisting of three byes, as many leg byes, 18 wides, and one no-ball.

Veteran leg spinner Athuman Kakonzi was the pick of Patel Brotherhood A outfit's bowlers, notching impressive figures of 3-17 in six overs, and was ably assisted by youthful Acrey Paschal who took 2-27 in six overs.

Despite a competitive score of 148/7 posted by Union SC, Patel Brotherhood A squad realized the 149-run target with ease, securing the win with six wickets in hand.

Senior player Kashif Anwar led the successful chase after nailing 38 runs to propel the determined Patel Brotherhood A to the semi-finals.

There were moreover notable contributions by Dhavalkumar Patel (32 runs), skipper Harsh Patel (28 runs), and Kakonzi (24 runs).

Seif Khalifa's 2-30 in three overs turned out to be a significant contribution to Union SC's bowling unit. Ahmed Virjee and Akida chipped in with one wicket apiece for the squad.

The other quarterfinal game had seen Estim A deliver a strong performance to advance to the semi-finals after walloping Aces B by six wickets.

Aces B were bowled out for 101 runs in 27 overs once they had taken the crease first and, in response, Estim A chased down the target efficiently, losing just four wickets.

The SKLPSC A cricketers gallantly commanded a 22-run defeat of Caravans B in a quarterfinal tie played at Leaders Club ground.

Gymkhana Cricket Club wrapped up the list of the tournament's semi-final challengers with a seven-wicket thrashing of Gupta Upanga SC B.

In the match held at Leaders Club ground, Gupta Upanga SC B amassed 128/9 in 30 overs and, in response, Gymkhana Cricket Club - led by Arman Khan - embarked on a successful chase having notched 131/3 in 18.3 overs.

The impressive Khan deservedly walked away with the Player of the Match prize after ending with impressive innings - which witnessed him grabbing an unbeaten 80 runs.

## Azam keep faith with Youssouph Dabo and back him in the transfer market

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE writing had appeared to be on the wall for coach Youssouph Dabo following Azam's embarrassing defeat at home to Namungo in October.

The defeat was preceded by another painful one against title rivals Young Africans. A change of coach was recommended by some influential leaders and although that was not a final decision, it set the wheels in motion for Dabo to be replaced.

Dabo's saving grace was the club's hierarchy failing to reach a consensus that a change was necessary at that stage of the season.

He was new to the Premier League and there were question marks over his CV, which according to Tanzania Premier League Board regulation did not allow him to be recognized as the head coach instead his assistant Bruno Ferry had to be the front face of the technical bench.

Despite that regulatory challenge, Azam still acknowledged Dabo as their head of the technical bench and he had a pretty decent season.

The Senegalese usurped Simba to secure CAF Champions League football. Azam qualified for the CAF Champions League by finishing second despite having to do without a recognized centre forward for the last part of the campaign.

There was an early exit in the CAF Confederation Cup, Federation Cup, and Union Super League heartaches. Bumps on the road.

Dabo was never going to be a magic wand, but rather an important cog in a project that needs time to get Azam back to the top. He is still moulding a squad capable of meeting his demands though, and it is crucial he is backed for next season.

The general consensus is that extra quality is needed in key areas of the squad while tough decisions need to be made on the futures of certain players.

Perhaps and more likely is that Dabo might have not achieved all the club's short-term goals, but continuity is important and it is encouraging to see the club sticking to long-term plans for once.

For many seasons, Azam have tended to go through at least two



Azam FC head coach Youssouph Dabo. Agencies

coaches in a season. Changes were quickly made whenever there was a blip in form to the detriment of continuity and

long-term targets.

Dabo going into his second full-term season clearly shows the club appear to have modi-

fied their approach and perhaps have even learned from previous mistakes.

Azam have acted unusually quickly in the transfer market to reward Dabo for the progress made, which could leave them at an advantage next season.

The arrival of the Ivorian duo of attacking midfielder Franck Tiesse and defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Colombian midfielder Ever Meza from Leones and another Colombian striker Jhonier Blanco indicates that the club is giving Dabo such early and committed support.

It is a clear indication Azam are aiming for success. There is an optimism within the club that they will do better next season.

The former Teungeuth coach ideally wants the entire squad present and ready to absorb his new tactics in a bid to hit the ground running and start the season strongly.

Moving early in the transfer market means there is a chance to get the work done on the training ground early to start the season strongly.

It's important to try to take advantage of pre-season. Getting the business done early is good for the coach, good for the team, and good for the club.

It is good for all the clubs to prepare in the best way. The pre-season is a key moment for any club wishing to do well, and, of course, they are going to try to take advantage of it.

Always in pre-season the aim is to achieve your best level physically and tactically and to know all the details that we will translate to the team. And, of course, these kinds of matches help you to put the points across.

Obviously, it is going to be important to have demanding matches in the pre-season to achieve these levels.

The club's transfer window activity suggests Azam have a well defined calendar and goals for the 2024/25 season. With Champions League ambitions and the need to stay ahead of those reinforcing below them

While there is little chance they can compete with the likes of Al Ahly and Esperance at the continental stage, winning the league is a reasonable target, as is qualifying for and emerging from the Champions League group stages.

## Aurobindo AKSC trounces Econo Lodge Lions in Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

AUROBINDO AKSC cricketers have opened their campaign in this year's Petrofuel TCA Caravans' T20 Cup grandly, cruising to a 77-run defeat of Econo Lodge Lions in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The clash's winners, runners-up of the 2023 edition of the tournament, came out with all guns blazing against Econo Lodge Lions as they took on each other at Leaders Club ground.

Having won the toss, it was no surprise that Aurobindo AKSC would opt to bat considering the form of their top-order batsmen.

Abhik Patwa set the foundation with his unbeaten 109 runs in 63 deliveries, scoring the maiden century of the tournament and earning the Colourflex Orange Cap for the top runs-getter of the tournament thus far.

Patwa's batting partner, Jumanne Mohamed, also scored a commendable 55 runs (46) to ensure that Aurobindo AKSC registered 180/3 in their 20-over quota.

In return, Econo Lodge Lions fell short of the target by over 77 runs - scoring 103/8 in their 20-over quota.



Abhik Patwa of Aurobindo AKSC (R) is presented with the Ras Logistics Man of the Match Award by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice chairman, Ashish Nagewadia, following the former's side's win over Econo Lodge Lions in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup match played last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB.

While opener Dylan Manish was the top run-getter for the Econo Lodge Lions with 21 runs (24), so far two other batsmen managed to cross the two-digit mark which resulted in the eventual downfall.

There was no doubt that Patwa, for his stupendous century, earned the Colourflex Man of the Match award.

Ajith Augustin's wicket of the Lions' top run-getter Manish was adjudged the Medinova Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 Cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Autotark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

## Lionel Messi could be playing in his final tournament with Argentina at Copa America

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

IT'S sad but true, Copa America could mark Lionel Messi's final chapter with Argentina's national soccer team.

The World Cup winner will turn 37 during the tournament in the United States, which was to kick off later yesterday. He's clearly past his peak at Inter Miami after two decades of playing at the highest level in Europe.

Messi has not set a date for his retirement and has kept the door open to playing in a sixth World Cup in 2026 to defend his title from Qatar. But he already recognizes his shortcomings.

"I don't think about that yet. The moment I feel that I am not going to help my team, I will retire," Messi said in March in an interview with Saudi broadcaster Riyadh Season. "I always ate well, trained. But as I grew I became aware that the physical effort we make is getting harder. As you grow old, things become more difficult."

Last year, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner struggled with muscular injuries while playing in MLS and for Argentina. That didn't change much in 2024.

Messi has shown he enjoys going out at night with his wife, Antonella, and his friends in Miami. He spends time with his three children, starts new businesses and lives as if soccer is slowly becoming a smaller part of his life.

Still, he has 12 goals and 13 assists for Inter Miami this season.

"I have a good time at the club. I am lucky to have teammates and friends (Luis Suárez, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, all former Barcelona players) by my side," Messi told ESPN. "I have a good time in the national team, where I have teammates and friends, too. And I enjoy the little details that I know that when I don't play anymore, I'm going to miss."

Ángel di María, a 36-year-old winger who has played alongside Messi for years with the national team, is sure to bid farewell to international soccer after the Copa America. That has also brought more questions about whether the team's biggest star will remain on the squad.

"As long as I feel like I'm fine and I can continue contributing, I'm going to do it. Today, the only thing I think about is getting to the Copa America well and being able to compete in it," Messi told the Star Plus platform in December. "Fighting for it again, as we always did, trying to be champions."

Argentina's all-time top scorer and the national team's leader with 26 World Cup appearances is also seeking records in the continental competition.

Messi, who won the South American championship in 2021, wants to become the Copa America's leading scorer. He has 13 goals in six editions, four behind Norberto Méndez of Argentina and Zinho of Brazil with 17.

AP

## UEFA fines Albania, Serbia \$10,700 each for nationalist fan banners at Euro 2024 games

FRANKFURT, Germany

UEFA fined the Albanian and Serbian soccer federations 10,000 euros (\$10,700) each on Wednesday for fans displaying banners with nationalist maps at European Championship games.

Each federation was charged with "transmitting provocative messages not fit for a sports event" because they are responsible for the conduct of their fans at stadiums.

Albania fans displayed a banner with a map of their country extending its borders into the territory of neighboring countries. It was shown during the 2-1 loss against Italy on Saturday in Dortmund.

Serbia fans' banner included the independent territory of Kosovo and a slogan "No Surrender" at a 1-0 loss against England in Gelsenkirchen. A case was prosecuted by FIFA at the 2022 World Cup when players were photographed with a similar banner in their locker room ahead of a game against Brazil.

UEFA also opened a separate investigation into alleged discrimination by Serbia fans. The Kosovo soccer federation filed a formal complaint with UEFA.

The Albanian federation was fined a further 27,375 euros (\$29,400) for fans lighting flares and fireworks, throwing beer cups and a fan who went on the field.

Fans invading the playing area have been a regular feature in the first week of games at Euro 2024.

UEFA announced the sanctions of its disciplinary panel hours after Albania drew 2-2 with Croatia in their second Group B game.

Serbia's federation must pay 4,500 euros (\$4,800) more for fans throwing beer cups.

AP

## More Jamal Musiala magic sees Germany beat Hungary 2-0, reach Euro 2024 knockout stage

STUTTGART, Germany

JAMAL Musiala is lighting up the European Championship and showing just why his teammates think the 21-year-old forward can go on to become one of the best players in the world.

Musiala scored his second goal of the tournament on Wednesday to help Germany beat Hungary 2-0 and book its spot in the knockout stage.

"For me it's incredible to play with him, he can do the unexpected in every single situation," Germany captain İlkay Gündoan said. "Maybe he's the most important one at the moment for us and at such a young age as well."

"And, I love him. He's such a complete player and such a nice guy as well. Very humble. And if he keeps doing his thing, the way he's doing right now, he can be one of the best."

Musiala opened the scoring in the 22nd minute with a goal that was furiously protested by Hungary. Gündoan had set that up and got on the scoresheet himself in the second half.

Musiala had netted Germany's second goal in the 5-1 opening victory over Scotland on Friday to kick off Euro 2024. Hungary lost 3-1 to Switzerland on Saturday and now faces an uphill challenge to advance.

"He did brilliant in both games," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said. "Not only the two goals, I think every situation or offensive proposition is pretty tough for the op-



Germany's Jamal Musiala, third left, scores the opening goal during a Group A match against Hungary at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, Wednesday, June 19, 2024. AP Photo

ponent to defend.

"I think it's important for him not to deal with the pressure, just to deal with his capability to solve any offensive one-on-one situations ... He should not think about the pressure, because he's brilliant in just playing soccer."

Hungary plays Scotland in the final Group A match on Sunday, when Nagelsmann's team takes on Switzerland.

Germany is definitely into the next round at least as a best third-place team. It will be confirmed in the top two if Scotland fails to beat Switzerland later Wednesday.

Hungary was unbeaten in its previous three matches against Germany and it put up a good fight against the host nation in Stuttgart.

Coach Marco Rossi said his players paid the price for what he felt was unbalanced refereeing.

"Throughout my career, first as player and then as coach, I have never looked for alibis," Rossi said. "But what the referee did tonight ... I think even the Germans saw that he used two different measurements."

"Germany would have still won, it's stronger and it would have won, but the referee was the worst on the field."

Rossi's side started aggressively and stunned Germany by almost taking the lead inside 20 seconds. Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer had to be quick off his line to slide to the ball to stop Roland Sallai.

The noise level ramped up every time Musiala had the

ball and the Stuttgart-born forward opened the scoring in chaotic fashion.

Musiala tried to set up Gündoan but Hungary defender Willi Orbán got to the ball first. However, he stumbled - following what Hungarian protested was a shove by Gündoan - and as shotstopper Péter Gulácsi tried to help him, Gündoan poked it on to Musiala, who smashed it into the net with the goalkeeper still on the ground.

"I was quite surprised that the Hungarian player and his teammates were angry about it," Gündoan said. "I played in the Premier League for seven years and if you gave that in the Premier League as a foul I think everyone would have been laughing on the floor."

Hungary almost leveled immediately but Neuer did brilliantly to parry Dominik Szoboszlai's free kick and then keep out a follow-up with his foot. The crowd celebrated the save almost as loudly as it had done the goal. The loud home fans thought Musiala had doubled his tally at the end of the half but his shot was deflected, hitting the side netting and making it ripple so that even Nagelsmann appeared to think it had gone in.

Germany was seemingly in control in the second half and did get a second in the 68th minute when Maximilian Mittelstädt rolled the ball across from the left and Gündoan drove it into the bottom right corner.

AP

## Xherdan Shaqiri scores stunning goal in Switzerland's 1-1 draw with Scotland

COLOGNE, Germany

"SHAQ" did it again. At the age of 32 and having left top-flight European soccer behind to play in MLS, Xherdan Shaqiri is back on the international stage and back scoring again.

His stunning first-half strike secured a 1-1 draw for Switzerland against Scotland at Euro 2024 on Wednesday.

It is the sixth-straight major international tournament in which Shaqiri has scored, dating to the World Cup in 2014.

That's three World Cups in a row and now three European Championships for the Chicago Fire forward. According to UEFA he is the first player to achieve that feat.

"He proved tonight that he lives and breathes for moments like these," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said.

Shaqiri rolled back the years with a first-time curling effort from about 20 meters out at Cologne Stadium.

Scotland led from the 13th minute when Scott McTominay's shot took a wicked deflection off Fabian Schar to beat Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

But Shaqiri pounced on Anthony Ralston's loose pass in the 26th to even the match with a left-footed shot into the top corner and past Scotland keeper Angus Gunn.

"If that chance falls to any other player in the



Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri scores his side's opening goal during a Group A match against Scotland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany, Wednesday, June 19, 2024. AP Photo

Swiss team, it's not a goal," Scotland manager Steve Clarke said. "You knew when it was rolling towards Shaqiri it was destined for the back of the net. He's a top, top player, so you don't give top, top players that kind of chance."

Shaqiri's career has seen him play for some of Europe's most iconic teams, including Bayern Munich, Inter Milan and Liverpool. He joined the Fire two years ago, but in that time has continued to produce for his country on the biggest stage.

"Shaq always gives everything in training," Switzerland defender Manuel Akanji said. "I don't know how many other players are able to score that goal."

The draw leaves Switzerland on four points, second in Group A behind Germany and likely

to advance to the round of 16.

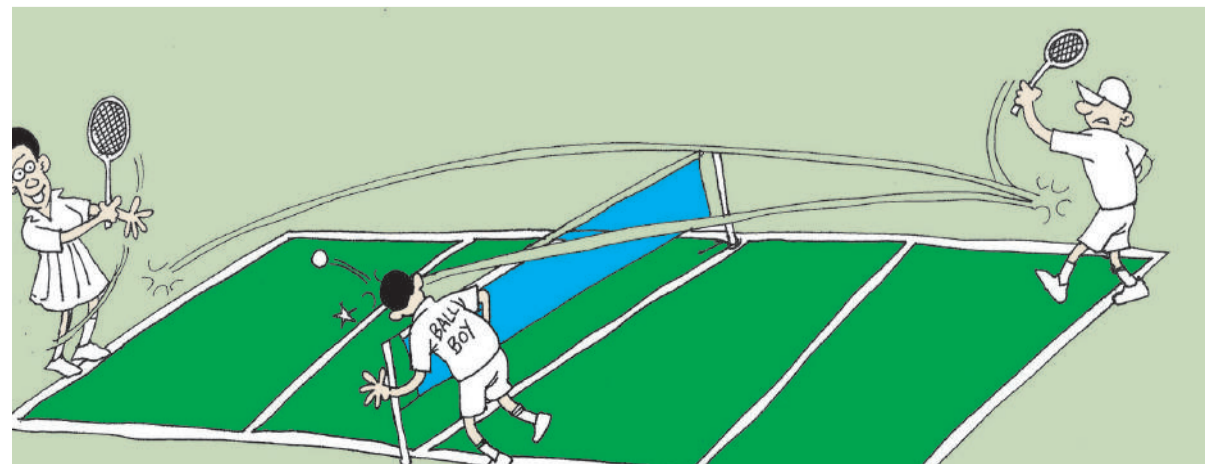
Germany became the first nation to advance after a 2-0 win over Hungary earlier in the day.

Scotland's hopes of making the knockout

round depend on its final game against Hungary on Sunday and results elsewhere. No team has failed to advance from the group stage with four points.

Both teams had chances to win the game.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Skipper Samatta confirms request to retire from national team



Tanzania's national football team (Taifa Stars) skipper Mbawana Samatta. Agencies

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

**M**BWANA Ally Samatta, the captain of Tanzania's national football team, Taifa Stars, has confirmed that he has written a letter to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) requesting to retire from international duty, citing age as the primary factor in his decision.

In an interview with one of the sports media outlets in the country, Samatta said: "It's true that I've done that. As the years go by, I've been working hard to serve the team. I love my fans and ask that they continue to support me. Without them, I couldn't have reached this point. I also ask that they support the young players who have emerged and are fighting for the nation."

Samatta, a pivotal figure in Tanzanian football, expressed his gratitude to the

fans who have supported him throughout his career.

"There is a certain weariness that comes with age. I need time to rest. The fans have raised me, most have watched me grow from a young player, and their support has been crucial to my success," he said.

In his heartfelt address,

Samatta urged current and upcoming players to continue the legacy he has helped to build.

"What we have achieved since I started serving Taifa Stars should be continued by the current players. I ask them to do a great job with the aim of developing the quality and history of our team. Let's support

them and not let them down. They are fighters, and I have great faith in them. I believe they will continue to move the wheel and finally achieve their goals," he added.

Despite Samatta's intentions, the country's soccer governing body is reluctant to accept his resignation. TFF general secretary Wilfred Kidao recently addressed the issue, indicating that the federation is not prepared to let such a valuable player go without further discussion.

"We cannot let a player with a CV as impressive as his resign so easily. We, as TFF leaders, are not ready for that. We will sit down and talk to him," he said.

Samatta's contributions to Tanzanian football are well-documented. He has been a beacon of talent and dedication, inspiring both teammates and fans. His leadership on and off the field has been instrumental in the team's achievements and in raising the profile of Tanzanian football on the international stage.

Born on December 23, 1992, in Dar es Salaam, Samatta began his professional career with Simba SC. His exceptional skills and relentless drive soon earned him a move to TP Mazembe in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he became a key player, and led the team to several victories, including the CAF Champions League title in 2015.

His performance in Africa caught the eye of European

scouts, and he subsequently joined Belgium's KRC Genk, where he continued to excel.

Samatta's journey did not stop there. He made history as the first Tanzanian to play in the English Premier League when he signed with Aston Villa in January 2020.

Although his time in England was short-lived, he left an indelible mark, demonstrating the potential of Tanzanian footballers on the world stage. He later moved to Turkey, where he continues to play at a high level.

Throughout his career, Samatta has been a symbol of perseverance and excellence. His decision to step back from international football marks the end of an era for the Taifa Stars, but his influence will undoubtedly endure.

The federation's refusal to accept his resignation outright reflects the high regard in which he is held and the hope that his experience and leadership can continue to benefit the team.

As discussions between Samatta and the TFF unfold, the football community in Tanzania watches closely. Regardless of the outcome, Samatta's legacy is firmly established, and his contributions to the game will be remembered for years to come.

His call for continued support for the team and emerging talents highlights his enduring commitment to Tanzanian football, even as he contemplates stepping away from the national spotlight.



Coach Mecky Mexime. Agencies

## Dodoma Jiji appoint Mecky Mexime as head coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

DODOMA Jiji have announced the appointment of Mecky Mexime as their new head coach.

The 47-year-old Tanzanian coach arrives from Singida Black Stars to replace Francis Baraza, who left Dodoma Jiji by mutual consent at the end of the 2023/24 season.

Mexime has signed a one-year contract, with Dodoma Jiji holding the option of an additional year. He will begin his new role immediately.

A former Mtibwa Sugar defender, Mexime also played for Taifa Stars in a nearly 20-year career.

His first taste of a coaching role came at Mtibwa Sugar. He then moved to Kagera Sugar where he spent five seasons.

Kagera Sugar and Mexime parted ways in October 2022 paving the way for his move to coaching Cambiasso Academy while also working as Ngorongoro Heroes assistant coach.

A year later Mexime returned to Kagera Sugar to replace Baraza during the 2022/23 campaign.

A series of poor results in the 2023/24 season saw him show the exit door once again. He moved to Ihefu which later was rebranded to Singida Black Stars.

"I have arrived in Dodoma and I am now in the capital city of Tanzania. The country's heartbeat is here right now. I believe I will work well. The people of Dodoma can expect good things from me because they want football and they also want results.

"I cannot succeed on my own, so you should give me cooperation. When you feel that you have something to advise please feel free to come. Your advice will be received. I believe we will work well together because I am at home in Dodoma. I'm married in Dodoma, so this is my town too," he said.

Mexime is Dodoma Jiji's fifth coaching appointment since the club gained their top-flight promotion in the 2020/21 season.

Dodoma Jiji are aiming to build upon a poor season, which saw them avoid the relegation playoffs by a mere goal difference on the last match day of the campaign under Baraza.

## Delaware Upanga SC downs Balakrishna Aces in TCA Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

YELDA Reddy showcased a solid batting display to catapult Delaware Upanga SC to a 16-run win over Balakrishna Foundation Aces in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup duel held in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The clash of the weekend had seen Balakrishna Foundation Aces win the toss and elect to field first.

Whilst Vikram Rathore and skipper Asuri Rajendra had to depart early, Reddy's 57(34) and Maker Mukesh's 59(33), ensured that Delaware Upanga SC scored 185 runs for the loss of seven wickets at the end of the 20-over quota.

In return, Balakrishna Foundation Aces' openers started well, with Asif Butt and Arun Yadav scoring 32(22) and 54(34) respectively.

However, the team could, thereafter, not maintain a partnership, with wickets falling at regular intervals thanks to some smart bowling by Delaware Upanga SC's skipper Rajendra.

However, the match was not at all one-sided,

with Balakrishna Foundation Aces falling just 16 runs short of the target. For his all-round exploits, Mukesh was adjudged the Ras Logistics Man of the Match.

Muhammad Sohail's catch, which dismissed the explosive Yadav and might have been pivotal in changing the match's results, was awarded the Medinova Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colouflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Sealiff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.



Delaware Upanga SC's Maker Mukesh (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award from Basit Raza of Harab Motors upon culmination of the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tie pitting the squad against Balakrishna Foundation Aces last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

