



**FCS gets new CEO 'after long search'**  
Page 3



**Gender equality remains pipe dream in many communities**  
Page 6



**Commentary on International Women's Day**  
Page 8

**Page 13**

# 'NHIF life hinges on accepting packages'

By Guardian Reporter

THE sustainability of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) beyond 2025 hinges on the recently

introduced health benefit packages of 2023 being accepted and applicable in private hospitals, a top NHIF official has declared.

Juma Muhimbi, the chairman of the NHIF

TURN TO PAGE 2



Outgoing opposition ACT-Wazalendo Leader Zitto Kabwe (2nd-R), Secretary General Ado Shaibu (2nd-L) and Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Othman Masoud Othman (L), who is also Zanzibar First Vice President, wave to delegates during the party's general meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## UWASA Tanga issues 53bn/- DSE-listed water green bond

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE first ever sub-national water infrastructure green bond in East Africa, valued at 53.12bn/-, has been issued by Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Tan-

TURN TO PAGE 2

## UmojaSwitch network, NMB form partnership

*It adds significant value to efforts by the government to increase the number of people accessing formal financial services to reach 85 percent by 2025*

By Guardian Reporter

MOST local banking transactions across Tanzania will no longer need to be processed offshore after NMB Bank Ltd formed a partnership with UBX (T) Ltd, which operates the UmojaSwitch ATM network.

Ruth Zaipuna, NMB Bank CEO, made this affirmation at the launch of the partnership with UBX (T), an information technology company engaged in operations related to the financial sector since 2000.

The strategic partnership enables NMB Bank to add its 700 ATMs to the 280

ATMs operated by banks and financial institutions grouped under the Umoja Switch franchise, marking a new era of accessibility and efficiency in banking services across the country.

An online chronicler noted in an August 2021 entry that the franchise had entered a new phase of its operations after UBX (T) Ltd acquired 65 per cent stake of UBX (T) from Business Connexion (Pty) of South Africa.

Earlier The franchise was previously known as Business Connexion (T) Ltd (BCX) and facilitated the operations of

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Samia to meet ordinary people at CCM offices

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan will be setting aside one day in a month to listen to people's grievances, send messages to responsible leaders on such issues and sort them out with little delay.

Paul Makonda, the CCM Ideology and Publicity secretary, said that the president's decision is aimed at ensuring that public administrators fulfil their obligations and work for the people.

Reiterating that the president wants the party secretariat to visit the regions to listen to the people and provide solutions to various challenges, he said that President Samia will occasionally meet people at the party's offices in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Zanzibar.

President Samia has decided to meet people as part of efforts to promote good governance and ensure people's difficulties are addressed.

"Anyone who will get an opportunity to meet President Samia in our offices will be able to open up to her any challenges which the government office failed to address," he said, underlining that this is to make a follow-up on why leaders have failed to fulfil their obligation.

Another reason for coming up with the special day idea is to honour the late former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi who developed a habit to listen to people.

President Samia is also doing this as the

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SPORTS Page 20



Simba SC shifts focus back to Premier League pursuit

## Page 19



Arsenal hit Sheff Utd for six to set record scoring streak



Finance deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after gracing the launch of a partnership between NMB Bank and UBX Tanzania Ltd, the latter firm managing Umoja switch ATMs serving 17 other banks. The collaboration is meant to enable customers using Umoja switch cards to withdraw cash from NMB ATMs at no extra cost and NMB customers to do the same at Umoja switch ATMs. Flanking him are NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna (L) and UBX Board of Directors chairman Sabasaba Moshingi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





## 'NHIF life hinges on accepting packages'

FROM PAGE 1

board of directors, said yesterday that the new rates would have started being used in 2018 after reviewing prices set out in 2016 but delaying techniques by some stakeholders hindered the move.

"But we are now on equal footing," he said in his remarks at the NHIF working session with editors in Dar es Salaam.

NHIF announced new health benefit packages starting March 1, with Health minister Umyy Mwalimu affirming that the package's decision was reached following recommendations by an expert committee taking up concerns of public and private healthcare providers.

Bernard Konga, the NHIF director general, said there are more than 700 medicines in the package, where 200 drug types had their prices reduced and 200 drugs had their prices raised.

The fund will be reviewing health benefit packages each three years, on the basis of contracts entered with 9,467 health care providers, 72 percent being public health facilities.

A total of 6,852 health facilities belong to the government, 1,766 (19 percent) are privately owned and 849 are operated by religious organizations.

"We came up with the new rates considering the actual situation in relation to availability of health services in our country. Currently, the government has done major improvements in its hospitals, but also services such as CT-Scan, which were previously available at a few hospitals, are now provided at a number of health facilities country-wide," he explained.

Until the end of last year, NHIF had a total of 4.9m members, equivalent to eight percent of the country's population, he said, affirming that health facilities are providing

## UWASA Tanga issues 53bn/- DSE-listed water green bond

FROM PAGE 1

gawasa (UWASA), an autonomous water utility.

The transaction is expected to finance expansion and improvement of the water supply infrastructure and environmental conservation within Tanga city and nearby townships.

The 10 year project revenue bond is to be listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), offering an attractive interest rate of 13.5 percent per annum to be paid semi-annually.

Key stakeholders involved in preparing the water green bond includes NBC Bank as the lead transaction advisor, FSD Africa a UK-backed Africa green financing framework, FIMCO (a financial investment management company that offers professional assistance to clients looking to navigate local financial markets) and Global Sovereign Advisory (GSA), a Rockefeller Foundation linked firm advising governments on strategic, economic and financial issues which took the role of financial and investment advisory, ALN (T) a commercial law firm that acted as legal advisor, Inovex (reporting accountant), Vertex International Securities (stockbroker) and ISS Corporate Solutions (second-party opinion provider).

Water minister Jumaa Aweso said at the event that the general public, investors, institutions and individuals are welcome to visit any NBC Bank branch or authorized brokers to invest in the scheme within the offer period of six weeks.

A key stakeholder, FSD Africa in the past two years obtained a £90m commitment from the British government to initiate a new phase of financial sector development.

It said at the time that the £90m commitment from UK Aid, part of a £320m package, would help initiate an ambitious new phase of financial sector development across the African continent.

The UK Aid package includes funding for eight existing local financial sector development pro-

grammes and to set up and scale new FSDs in high-priority markets.

There is also the African Guarantee Fund (AGF), a leader in promoting financing of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Africa and FSD Africa, a pioneering development agency committed to reshaping Africa's long-term financial landscape.

The two signed a strategic cooperation agreement aimed at propelling the growth of Green SMEs by providing critical financial support, technical assistance, and capacity building.

The government adopted the Alternative Project Financing (APF) strategy in 2021 owing to the need to broaden its domestic revenue base to finance various development initiatives including water, energy, healthcare, agriculture, and other productive infrastructure projects.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango praised the financing of strategic revenue generating projects through a revenue bond such as the Tanga Bond, noting that it will reduce pressure on the government budget and provide an opportunity to focus on priority social initiatives that can't be financed via commercial windows.

He said that it was vital for the Treasury Registrar to oversee public institutions, including those serving regions, municipalities or cities to explore ways to tap long term finance via corporate revenue or municipal bond issuance.

Hamad Chande, the Finance deputy minister, noted that the bond issuance was part of the government's Alternative Project Financing strategy which needs to be used by more public entities to finance local development projects.

They should not rely on government grants, in the same manner as the private sector and corporate entities operating in the same market.

Mark Napier, the FSD Africa CEO said the successful launch of the Tanga UWASA Water Green Bond is testimony to the power of innovative financing in driving sustainable development in East Africa.

services to NHIF members universally. The fund is closely monitoring their operations to ensure its members receive the desired services, he stated, highlighting that more than 20 private hospitals briefly suspended provision of services to NHIF members.

They have all reversed their decisions and are providing services under the newly announced health benefit packages, he specified, reiterating that the process of coming up with the new rates was inclusive. Stakeholders including the Association of Private Health Sector Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA), the Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC), and the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) were fully engaged, he stated, asserting that 80 percent of private hospitals' revenues arise from NHIF card holders.

At first, NHIF was only entering into contracts with public hospitals but following members' views it was decided to include private hospitals, he said, elaborating that NHIF considers a number of criteria before entering into a contract with a hospital, like quality of service, medical equipment, availability of doctors and drugs.

APHFTA, CSSC and BAKWATA issued a joint statement announcing their decision to halt services for NHIF members, whereupon the minister directed the registrar of health facilities to take up the matter and issue a notice on the use of the new packages.

Patients already admitted were not to be removed as Section 152 of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act provides that if a hospital has admitted a patient, "it should not, under any circumstances, remove a patient from the hospital unless they have agreed themselves voluntarily."



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at Tunguu State House in Zanzibar yesterday swearing in Dr James Mataragio as Energy ministry deputy permanent secretary. Photo: State House

## UmojaSwitch network, NMB form partnership

FROM PAGE 1

UmojaSwitch Co. Ltd, which owns a shared network of 20 banks and financial institutions.

At the time of this acquisition, BCX (T) Ltd and UmojaSwitch Co. Ltd were working together to provide services to UmojaSwitch member banks and financial institutions, with the two companies bringing into synergy almost 15 years of partnership.

Hamad Hassan Chande, the Finance deputy minister who graced the ceremony, urged financial institutions to come up with more innovative solutions to facilitate timely access to banking services.

He said that it was important for banks and other financial institutions to work to stimulate inclusion, noting that the NMB-UBX partnership bolsters inclusion.

It adds significant value to efforts of the government to increase the number of people accessing formal financial services to reach 85 percent by 2025, he declared, appealing to other banks to join NMB and the Umoja Switch network.

NMB and 17 Umoja Switch partner banks under a single ATM network.

The NMB Bank sees the strategic interoperability partnership as a landmark moment for the local banking sector as it creates a broad shared system of automated teller

machines (ATMs).

"We are pleased with this partnership as it affords our customers easy access to banking services. Now our customers at their convenience can access affordable and reliable banking services at over 1,000 ATM points across the country. That is the dividend of this partnership," the CEO explained.

The partnership is also going to reduce operational costs of the participating banks, she said, while Sabasaba Moshingi, the UBX board chairman, said that when Umoja Switch took off in 2006 it had six members with 30 ATMs serving upwards of 2,000 customers.

The partnership will increase

card usage at ATMs and reduce queues at bank branches, enhancing formal financial inclusion in the country. It also uplifts bank efficiency, whereby participating banks will reach remote areas that were previously difficult for a single institution to access by deploying ATMs.

Convenience for banks is enhanced as the collaboration reduces operating costs given that transactions conducted within the country will no longer need to go through a foreign switch.

Instead, they will be completed within the NMB and UBX network, reducing the significant operating costs previously incurred, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with Home Affairs minister Hamad Yussuf Masauni (L), who called on him at his Migombani residence in Zanzibar yesterday to console him following the death of father, former Tanzanian president Ali Hassan Mwinyi, in a Dar es Salaam hospital on Thursday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Samia to meet ordinary people at CCM offices

FROM PAGE 1

party's election manifesto demands that leaders utilize their positions in the interest of the people.

An assessment conducted in 23 regions after holding 247 meetings and encountering 2,000 concerns showed that there was injustice in the land sector where wealthy people use public servants to divert entitlements, making people detest the government.

Many Tanzanians have been hurt by injustice in various sectors, he

said, underlining that the ruling party has the responsibility to stress the fight against unfairness.

Wealthy people have been using such power to exploit the poor by taking their land, he said, pointing at a wide cry of people being given fake title deeds in various parts.

"We have also seen the efforts and commitment of the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Jerry Slaa seeking to address this challenge," he said.

The party bigwig appealed to authorities to take stern action on those who oppressed and took away entitlements of other people "in order to teach them how to respect the weak and poor."

The minister has been directed to conduct an assessment of land officers cited as collaborating with wealthy people to take land from people, insisting that the punishment should not be transferring the servants to another station.

This will not address the chal-

lenge but rather shift the problem to another area, he asserted.

In the tour, party officials noticed that many public administrators do not fulfil their obligations of addressing people's concerns, noting that CCM offices in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma received 100 to 200 complaints within a short period.

The tour also noticed increasing incidents of violence on children and women and that the party has instituted a consultation framework to address the challenge, he added.





Outgoing Foundation for Civil Society executive director Francis Kiwanga (R) hands over office documents to his successor, Justice Rutenge, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is FCS board chairman Ally Hussein Laay. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) yesterday unveiled its new chief executive officer after months of rigorous search.

Dr Ally Laay, FCS Board Chairman, introduced Justice Rutenge as the foundation's new executive director at a function held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the appointee had served nearly seven-year tenure as an advisor to FCS where he contributed significantly to results management, programme and strategy development, strategic communications and resource mobilization among other areas.

Dr Laay expressed enthusiasm about the appointment, highlighting Rutenge's wealth of knowledge and expertise in local, regional and global programming.

"Following a rigorous, five-month search process, the board is fully confident in the appointment of Rutenge. He has the full support of the members and board of FCS to lead in contemporary times, cement FCS' position as a facilitator of people-centred development in Tanzania and an important voice within the global development discourse," he said.

Dr Laay also recognized the "outstanding" contributions of Francis Kiwanga, the outgoing executive director who he said had dedicated the past nine years to FCS.

## Civil society body gets new CEO following long search

He said under his leadership FCS made remarkable progress in realizing its vision and mission.

Rutenge is expected to assume his new role on May 1 this year, succeeding Kiwanga whose planned exit was announced in October last year.

Commenting on the appointment, Kiwanga expressed confidence in Rutenge's appointment, stating: "Rutenge will be charged with leading a bold vision of one of Tanzania's key civil society institutions."

He said Rutenge takes the leadership role at FCS at a critical juncture of shifting aid sector dynamics and a rapidly evolving technology landscape.

In his remarks, Rutenge expressed his deep honour and enthusiasm for the new position.

He emphasized the crucial role of collaboration with stakeholders in achieving the strategic objectives of FCS and upholding its commitment to people-centred, inclusive and

sustainable development.

"I am delighted with the opportunity to guide our organization towards achieving our strategic goals. I am deeply passionate about upholding the great legacy of FCS and I vow to lead with integrity, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to our goals," he said.

Rutenge added that collaboration is key to sustainable development, pledging to work hard to facilitate more partnerships.

## Govt to build eight IT centres for good of digital economy

By Guardian Reporter

IN a move meant to stimulate development of digital economy, the government is set to build eight information technology (IT) centres in the country to promote innovative talents.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, director general of Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) said this at the weekend during an interview with this paper.

He said the centres will be built in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Lindi, Tanga, Mwanza, Mbeya and Zanzibar.

"This is just an initial plan, but our strategy is to construct centres in all regions and districts so that citizens can use them and learn about technology and innovations," he said.

He said the centres will be built in school areas to help youth in the country to continue to develop various apps and programmes related to technology and will have capacity to accommodate 200 people at a time.

He asked various stakeholders to cooperate in establishing the centres in order to promote different talents and protect innovative technological works.

He further said that many people are afraid of Artificial Intelligence (AI) believing it can take away their employment opportunities which is not true, noting that rather, AI will bring more productivity.

He said that the commission will also build an AI centre which is expected to facilitate special training for 500 IT experts to promote the technology.

"We also expect to establish an ICT refurbishment and assembly

centre and ICT start-up innovation hubs in 10 districts," he said.

"The commission will conduct studies on ICT development in the country and conduct a national evaluation on the implementation of various IT strategies."

The Commission will also coordinate and organise workshops to attract investment and promote ICT product markets in the country and abroad.

"We will cooperate with development partners and international companies in developing ICT innovations, including facilitating the production of technological products in the country," he said.

The commission will also invest in promoting growth of the technological products market and startups by linking them to various opportunities inside and outside the country.

It also intended to coordinate and develop a system to manage implementation of ICT policy as well as conduct studies to facilitate policy improvements based on technology changes.



**The commission will conduct studies on ICT development in the country and conduct a national evaluation on the implementation of various IT strategies**

### FARM AFRICA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1987 as a non-governmental organization (NGO) under NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community-based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more, and sell for more: we help farmers not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its Global Strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission of Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture. On the 4th March 2024, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with SNV worth NOK 44,160,886 to implement a five-year project that will focus on achieving resilient food security for smallholder farmer households in key regions of Tanzania.

The expected effects for the target group (Outcomes) of the Project are:

- Increased smallholder farmer climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive productivity
- Increased and diversified food supply to and accessibility of nutritious food at local markets by smallholder farmers
- Improved utilization of household resources to provide nutritious and diverse food.

The project will be implemented in Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, Songwe, and Rukwa regions. This notice complies with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

In case of further information please email: [infotanzania@farmfrica.org](mailto:infotanzania@farmfrica.org)



A PRODUCT OF The Coca-Cola Company



Mshindi wa **SUPERBRANDS AFRIKA MASHARIKI 2022-2024**



Asanteni wateja wetu **Hii ni yetu sote**

[kilimanjaro\\_drinking\\_water](https://www.kilimanjaro_drinking_water.com) | [kilimanjarodrinkingwater](https://www.kilimanjarodrinkingwater.com) | [kdw@bbl.co.tz](mailto:kdw@bbl.co.tz)  
 +255 762628166 | +255 659785276 | +255 272754422

**LAND FOR SALE**

A registered Land measuring 428.88 hectares ( 1,072.2 acres) situated at Pangani Tanga, Tanzania is on sale.

The Land is full structured with facilities for development projects like irrigated agriculture, animal husbandry, school, hospital, etc.

CONTACT: (1) Mr Khamis Yonah Mvuntah PSSF PLAZA, Nyerere Road Arusha, Plot 15, Block 11, Wing B, 4th Floor. +255 (0)754267478 +255 (0) 786658798



## Joy as Kishapu school given hygiene, sanitation supplies

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

GIRL pupils at Busiya Secondary School in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region have expressed joy after getting new toilets and a special changing room for privacy during menstruation.

The move, according to the girls, will help improve attendance in school and boost academic performance as many won't miss classes throughout academic year like before.

They expressed their excitement at the weekend when Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) Shinyanga Branch handed over 12 latrines to the school, as well as the changing room for female pupils which was not there since 2007 when the school was established.

Mary Richard, the school's head girl, said that the girls have been going through a very hard situation due to lack of a special changing room during their menstruation, resulting in poor academic performance.

"Before, the school had six latrines: three for girls and three for boys which were also in bad condition, thus putting pupils' health in danger especially during menstruation," she said.

She said lack of water in the toilets was one of the disturbing challenges to the pupils, pushing girls not to attend school during their menstruation.

"We really thank TCB bank for constructing these new toilets as well as a special room for girls; this will help increase attendance in classes especially for female pupils," she said.

Joseph Masanja, a pupil at the school said that having new toilets in the school will enable the pupils not to relieve themselves in the bushes anymore.

Badi Mfinanga, Busiya Secondary School Headmaster, said that the school has a total of 351 pupils: 176 boys and 175 girls and they were all using six toilet holes.

He said that after the construction of new toilets and a special room for female pupils, they believe that absenteeism and school dropouts will decrease while academic performance increases.

Julius Mataso, TCB bank Shinyanga branch manager, said: "In 2012, I was invited as guest of honour at a form four graduation at the school where I witnessed lack of toilets and a special room for girls. I was touched by the challenges the pupils were going through, so the bank decided to construct two new toilets for them with 12 holes."

He said that as education stakeholder, the bank felt that it was unhealthy for pupils to continue studying in such an environment of rundown toilets and took the responsibility to give part of its profit to the community by building toilets and a special room for girls.

"The two toilets and the room for girls are worth 33.7m/-. The construction started in October 2023 and completed in February 2024," he said.

David Mashauri, Kishapu District Secondary Education Officer, acknowledged TCB bank for construction of toilets in the school which he said will help pupils to study in a friendly environment and perform well academically.

He said that secondary schools in Kishapu District face shortage of 246 toilet holes and that the government has allocated 75m/- for construction of 75 toilets to address the deficit.



**The two toilets and the room for girls are worth 33.7m/-. The construction started in Oct 2023 and completed in Feb 2024**



Dr Tausi Kida (L), Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) and Finance ministry deputy permanent secretary (Economic Management) Elijah Mwandumbya (R) consult in Harare yesterday during the opening of the Fifty-Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Tanzania Fishers Union (TAFU) has urged the government to review the Fisheries Act to enforce sustainable fishing in Lake Victoria.

The union wants the law to clearly classify the width and length of nets used for sardine fishing in Lake Victoria in order to avoid catching untargeted aquatic species as well as protecting biodiversity of the water body for a sustainable future.

Jephtha Machandalo, TAFU secretary said in an interview yesterday that the law has some loopholes, thus giving room for some fishermen to engage in unsustainable fishing which threaten the aquatic species.

He said that in recent years, nets used in sardine fishing in the lake catch every type of fish big and small,

## Fishers union wants tougher law for the benefit of fishing

even eggs and therefore negatively impacting on reproduction of fish and biodiversity of the lake.

Machandalo noted that normally, sardines follow lantern light on the surface of water, but with seine nets whose width are limitless extend deeper downwards and sometimes reach the bed of the lake, catching every kind of fish that crosses around including immature Nile perch.

He said that with the clear width of sardines' seine nets, harvest of immature Nile perch will scale down and other fish species will also be harvested sustainably on the lake.

"If we are to combat illegal

fishing and protect Nile perch, we should make sure that such seine nets are not used for fishing as they catch other fish that are not ready for harvest", he said.

He suggested the government ensures that sardines fishers are not allowed to bring immature Nile perch to beaches, noting that once they catch them they should release them back into the lake.

"Once they are found with immature Nile perch on beaches, they should also be held accountable for that as their fishing gear are not authorized to harvest such fish," he said.

He said that immature Nile perch netted in sardines seine nets are

being supplied to street markets, hindering the fish stock from increasing and negatively affecting operations of fillet processing factories.

Citing an example, he said that the law restricts sale of immature Nile perch anywhere in the country but the same fish caught with sardines seine nets are being sold all over the Lake Zone and even outside the area.

According to him, there is a move by Nile perch fishers to shift to sardines fishing as it catches different types of mature as well as immature fish at once and maximizes profit at the expense of sustainability.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Raddy Digital Solution Limited	Regional Application Services	1. Ramadhani Hassani Mlanzi -Tanzanian	20
			2. Raddy Fiber Manufacturing Tanzania Limited - Tanzanian	20
			3. Raddy Fiber Solutions Limited-Tanzanian	60
2.	Raddy Digital Solution Limited	Regional Network Facilities	1. Ramadhani Hassani Mlanzi -Tanzanian	20
			2. Raddy Fiber Manufacturing Tanzania Limited - Tanzanian	20
			3. Raddy Fiber Solutions Limited-Tanzanian	60

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

**Comments should be addressed to:**

Director General  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
P. O Box 474 | 14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
Fax: +255 22 2412009  
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Issued on 06<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O Box 474, 14414 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.  
Phone: +255 22 2199760-9 / +255 22 2412011-2 / +255 784558270-1 Fax: +255 22 2412009-10  
Email: barua@tcra.go.tz, dg@tcra.go.tz, Website: www.tcra.go.tz

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Zepson Technologies Limited	District Application Services Without Network Facilities and Network Services Licence	1. Gilbert Michael Tarimo-Tanzanian	70
			2. Pendo Benson Lema -Tanzanian	30

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

**Comments should be addressed to:**

Director General  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
P. O Box 474 | 14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
Fax: +255 22 2412009  
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Issued on 06<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O Box 474, 14414 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.  
Phone: +255 22 2199760-9 / +255 22 2412011-2 / +255 784558270-1 Fax: +255 22 2412009-10  
Email: barua@tcra.go.tz, dg@tcra.go.tz, Website: www.tcra.go.tz



# New \$1.3bn energy fund launched to connect southern African states

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

THE Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), investment advisers and climate fund managers yesterday launched a new \$1.3 billion fund to build high-voltage transmission lines linking countries in the region.

The Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF) starts with \$20 million in commitments from SAPP, and aims for a first close of \$500 million in 2025 in a bid to overcome a key obstacle constraining growth in an evolving energy sector.

Finance will be raised from public and private sector investors locally and internationally, a joint statement said.

Despite an abundance of energy sources in Africa, a lack of connections between countries has hampered integration and trade among SAPP's 12 members, which include regional economic

heavyweight South Africa and top copper exporter Zambia.

"RTIFF dismantles this by enabling the private sector to work alongside public sector utilities to roll out new transmission lines at scale," Victor Mapani, chairperson of SAPP executive committee, said in a statement.

The facility, with a fund life of between 20 and 25 years, is expected to reach a final close of \$1.3 billion within two years.

A renewable energy push, including wind, solar and hydro, has highlighted the dearth of connections across the region where projects, often in remote areas, are unable to connect to national grids.

A competitive electricity market with daily trades, SAPP is aiming to connect Angola, Malawi and Tanzania to the platform and has identified eight priority transmission projects, officials said at a press launch.

"Since Malawi is already being connected to Mozambique and Tanzania is being connected to Zambia, the next key project is the connection of Angola to Namibia," Stephen Dihwa, executive director of SAPP said.

The Angola-Namibia interconnector is estimated to cost \$356 million, he said, around a tenth of the total investment needed for transmission lines by 2040 to enhance regional integration.

South Africa's debt-ridden power utility Eskom, which requires around 350 billion rand (\$18.41 billion) over the next decade to upgrade its transmission network, is wooing the private sector for investment to overcome the country's worst electricity shortages on record. "The lack of investment in grid infrastructure is one of the reasons for ongoing blackouts in many parts of Southern Africa," Amit Mohan, head of private credit at CFM said.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (R) addresses residents of Kiru Dick village in Babati District on Monday. It was chiefly in connection with a dispute over land ownership and use pitting them against the owner of Hamir Estate. Photo: Munir Shemweta

# UN: Africa will be \$2.5trn short of climate finance by 2030

By Nyasha Chingono, Harare

AFRICA will be \$2.5 trillion short of the finance it needs to cope with climate change by 2030, a UN official has said, adding that the continent has contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions while seeing some of the worst impacts.

Africa attracts only 2 percent of global investments in clean energy but needs \$2.8 trillion of investment in the sector by 2030, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa chief economist Hanan Morsy told a conference in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, yesterday, warning against the consequences of under-funding.

"We end up in a vicious circle with investment shortfalls increasing

By Moses Gahigi

THE World Bank projects Rwanda's economy to grow 7.2 percent between 2024 and 2026, driven by global tourism, new construction projects, and increased manufacturing activities.

A report by the bank shows that "fiscal consolidation will continue, focusing on reducing subsidies, overseeing state-owned enterprises, and introducing tax policy measures to broaden the revenue base."

The report indicates that Rwanda's economy grew at 7.6 percent in the first three-quarters of 2023 despite a challenging global environment and recent floods. According to the bank, services sector, sustained domestic demand, and the rebound of the industrial sector, contributed to the growth.

"Rwanda successfully balanced inflation control, managed external deficits, and ensured fiscal prudence, showcasing a resilient financial sector, despite widening external deficits and the depreciation of the Rwandan franc," the report says.

"The World Bank encourages the country to pursue its prudent fiscal management by reducing non-essential spending and prioritising

exposure risk and worsening impact, further eroding fiscal space and raising financial costs," she said.

Despite producing low emissions compared to other continents, climate change is costing African countries 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually, Morsy said.

On average, each African produced 1.04 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2021, less than a quarter of the global average, a joint UN-African Union report found last year.

The report said the average rate of warming in Africa was 0.3 degrees Celsius per decade in the 1991-2022 period compared with 0.2 degrees in the world as a whole.

"The situation is further

compounded by heavy public debt," Morsy said, adding that African countries pay 1.7 percentage points higher interest on debt than other countries.

"Countries are spending more servicing their debt than on climate action."

Many speakers at the UNECA conference called for global financial architecture reform.

"We must address the issue of unfair risk perceptions and credit ratings that offer Africa limited borrowing options," UNECA Executive Secretary Claver Gatete said. He cited data from the UN Development Programme that estimated that the subjectivity of credit ratings was costing Africa up to \$74.5 billion.

# World Bank says tourism, key sectors to see Rwanda economy grow 7.2 pct

investment in human capital," said Peace Aimee Niyibizi, World Bank country economist for Rwanda.

This outlook is, however, subject to significant risks, including disruptions to the global economy, trade, and lower availability of concessional resources.

Experts have also noted that frequent weather-related shocks could result in a decrease in food production, and higher food prices, negatively impacting poor households.

The Rwanda Meteorological Agency has warned that the country will have unusually heavy rains between March and May.

Western and southern Rwanda, as well as Kigali City are expected to experience rains ranging between 700 millimetres and 800 millimetres, a range last experienced in 2016.

The National Bank of Rwanda has maintained its lending rate at 7.5 percent, keeping with the inflation projections and risks identified.

The central bank has said inflation is projected to remain within the band of 2-8 percent, averaging close to five percent. Annual inflation peaked at 21.7

percent in November 2022.

"We might start reducing the policy rate in the next MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) rounds depending on how these economic variables behave," central bank Governor John Rwangombwa told a news conference. "So far, what we project is positive, and if it continues like this then we might start reducing the policy rate."

Rwangombwa, however, said that several risks could affect this outlook, including geopolitical tensions such as the war in Ukraine and the disruptions in the Red Sea that may influence international commodity prices, and weather-related challenges that could affect agriculture sector performance.

To address Rwanda's lack of savings, the World Bank suggested implementation of subsidies, incentives, and educational programmes promoting the benefits of savings.

Encouraging customer-centric product development, leveraging digital financial literacy programmes, and engaging the Rwandan diaspora are other key interventions suggested for effective savings mobilisation.



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

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

### Brief of Bidding

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

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



## NGO: Gender equality remains a pipe dream in many communities

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

GENDER equality remains a pipe dream in most communities in Tanzania with women and girls getting the short end of the stick, it has been observed.

"The female child is still laden with household chores while the male one enjoys the freedom to play, study and attend entertainment functions after school hours," said Ritha Tarimo, Eastern Africa director of Trias, a non-government organisation which works to strengthen farming and trading communities in 17 countries in Africa, Latin America Asia and Europe.

Tarimo spoke in Arusha yesterday during the occasion to mark International Women's Day, which was preceded by a procession to send the message of gender equality across the city.

"We must direct all efforts to the coming generations by teaching both boys and girls the concept of gender equality right from their tender age to build respect, cohesive society and a sustainable future," she said.

The International Women Day 2024 in Arusha was coordinated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) through the USAID Kizazi Hodari activity supported by the United States Agency for International Development.

Faustina Nillan, director of ELCT Women and Children Department, said that although women can be seen actively participating in organizations, institutions and sectors, they hardly have any say in decision-making.

"That is why it is very essential for parents to equally involve boys and girls in making important decisions and even encourage them to come up with ideas at home in preparing them for future responsibility," she said.

Violet Mollel, North-Eastern deputy director of USAID Kizazi Hodari Activity, said that the project not only conducts a series of training sessions to members of

various communities in the country but also provides support to needy families.

"We empower needy families by supporting them with income generating activities so that mothers can be economically independent, something which helps to cut down cases of gender based violence," she said.

Deborah Joseph is among women beneficiaries of the USAID Kizazi Hodari initiative who admitted that the project has empowered them to start small scale but sustainable income generating ventures.

"We currently make and sell various items such as bracelets, ornaments and even soap by using locally sourced materials," she said.

The 2023 Gender Profile Report for Tanzania Mainland indicated that the male child is more favoured in accessing education than the female child.

The report which was prepared collaboratively by UN Women Tanzania, the African Development Bank and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups indicated gender parity in the enrolment of boys and girls in primary schools.

However, early pregnancy and domestic work disproportionately cause more girls to drop out of school.



**We must direct all efforts to the coming generations by teaching both boys and girls the concept of gender equality right from their tender age to build respect, cohesive society and a sustainable future**



Arusha city residents take part in a pre-International Women's Day procession coordinated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania through the 'USAID Kizazi Hodari Project' supported by USAID, whose focus is on the importance of empowering women. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Water and sanitation project targets 10000 people in Magu

By Guardian Correspondent, Magu

MORE than 10,000 residents of Magu District, Mwanza Region are set to benefit from a water project implemented by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) to address scarcity of the precious liquid in the area.

Kabila Water Project is carried out in collaboration with the Africa Community Advancement Initiative (AFRICAI), an NGO dedicated to health, education and socio-economic development in diverse Tanzanian communities.

Speaking during the inauguration of a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Bonanza here yesterday, Rispa Hatibu, SBL Communication

and Sustainability Manager said the strategic partnership seeks to provide clean and safe water to 11,927 residents of five hamlets namely Ilambu, Mlimani, Igogo, Shuleni and Majengo.

She said the project will help women who are the main victims of water scarcity to spend time in income generating projects and thus improve their lives.

"We are hosting this event to foster social cohesion and community engagement, underscoring the significance of WASH investments in the area. Moreover, it highlights the pivotal role played by women's groups in ensuring project ownership and sustainability," she said.

She reiterated SBL's commitment to enhancing women's access to WASH services in alignment with governmental initiatives to strengthen clean and safe water access in rural areas.

In its mission to accomplish this objective, SBL has sustained its integrated and inclusive projects across the country to provide people with clean water.

Moreover, recognizing the critical role of women in ensuring sustainability of such projects, SBL and AFRICAI conducted a two-day training where 25 women were equipped with essential skills and knowledge in various aspects of WASH activities, entrepreneurship, financial management, sanitation

marketing and hygiene promotion. Rachel Kassanda, Magu District Commissioner, emphasized the importance of safeguarding the project to secure livelihoods and ensure sustainability of future generations.

She commended SBL's collaborative efforts with the government, stating that it is a win-win situation for both parties.

Specifically, she highlighted the significance of empowering women in rural areas through such initiatives.

In every community where SBL implements WASH projects, a committee is established with equal representation of men and women, fostering inclusive decision-making and long-term sustainability.

Additionally, community dialogues are held to address social and cultural norms hindering women's equal access to WASH while also engaging men and boys in the process.

## Food safety stressed at regional training session

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) has called on food processors in the country to strengthen food safety management systems to safeguard public health and maintain consumer trust.

Prof Othman Chande Othman, TBS board chairman, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when launching a four-day training of trainers on food safety management system organized by ISO through its standards for sustainability project.

The training attracted participants from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mauritius India and Switzerland.

Prof Othman said food safety is essential for companies in the food industry to ensure that they comply with regulatory requirements, adding that food safety is also one of the important components in the global food security agenda.

"By strengthening food safety systems, companies can identify, prevent and address potential food hazards, reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses, lessen product recalls and avoid reputation damage," he said.

He said it was an honour for Tanzania to host the training that aims to equip African professionals in the food sector with knowledge and skills on the requirements and benefits of food safety management standards as well as support national standards bodies to deliver outreach activities on the role of standards in contributing to attainment of the UN Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs).

He said the food industry was growing rapidly due to demand and technology; therefore, food safety is of concern for human health in generations to come.

Prof Othman said participating countries were selected from ISO member countries in Eastern Africa and that their national standards body act as contact points.

"I would like to congratulate each of the 20 trainees for excelling in the selection process. The national standards bodies have entrusted you with this responsibility, believing that you can deliver what is required. I urge you to take this opportunity in a very committed manner since you will be required to transfer the acquired knowledge to your colleagues in your respective countries and the entire continent at large," he said.



**By strengthening food safety systems, companies can identify, prevent and address potential food hazards, reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses, lessen product recalls and avoid reputation damage**



Deusi Wembe, Muheza constituency chairman of the opposition NCCR-Mageuzi, fact-checks the choice of Abdallah Chekera as party's candidate in the upcoming civic election for Mkuzi ward. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Experts urge Africa to utilise AI to spur development

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

AFRICA needs supportive policies and robust infrastructure to tap into the limitless opportunities of artificial intelligence (AI) and leapfrog its development, experts have said.

The call came at a panel discussion on 'Fostering prosperity through policies on artificial intelligence in Africa' on the sidelines of the ongoing 56th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) conference of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development in

Zimbabwe, according to a press release by UNECA at the weekend.

UNECA with its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said the experts agreed that AI would present massive development opportunities for Africa if the right policies and infrastructures were in place.

"It is important to have the right policies to regulate the use of AI and also avert its risks, but Africa should not wait to have the regulations in place to embrace the technology," the statement quoted Ousman Bah, Gambian minister of communications and digital economy, as saying.

According to research presented at the panel discussion, AI

technology has the potential to contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, of which \$1.2 trillion could be generated in Africa, representing a 5.6 percent increase in the continent's gross domestic product by 2030.

Sandra Makumbirofa, a senior economist at Research ICT Africa, said AI has transformative potential to boost African economies through effective financial inclusion, employment creation, and enhanced public service delivery. Most of the market value of AI, however, is realized in the United States and China, she said, citing research by the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

"It is therefore important for

African countries to actively participate in global fora to ensure their interests are represented," she said.

Baratang Miya, chief executive officer of Girlhype Coders Academy based in South Africa, said governments should regulate and incentivize stakeholders across AI value chains, focusing on small and medium-scale enterprises to foster innovation and equitable access to AI technologies.

Miya also emphasized the need for African governments to establish ethical frameworks for the development and deployment of AI, addressing issues such as data privacy, security, transparency and accountability in AI systems.



# Two dead as two planes collide mid-air in Nairobi

NAIROBI

TWO planes collided at Nairobi National Park, leaving at least two people dead.

A total of 44 others escaped unharmed in the incident that occurred yesterday morning.

One of the planes involved was a Dash 8 owned by Safari Link, bound for Diani with 44 passengers and crew.

The other was a Cessna on a training session, carrying two people. The Cessna crashed in the park while the Dash 8 safely landed back at Wilson Airport. Both planes had taken off from Wilson Airport, according to officials, who confirmed two fatalities in the accident.

Safarilink Aviation, however, confirmed the incident and stated that none of their passengers was hurt.

"Safarilink Aviation wishes to report that this morning at 9:45 local time our flight number 053 with 39 passengers and five crew on board headed to Diani experienced a loud bang soon after take-off."

"The crew decided to immediately turn back to Nairobi-Wilson Airport for further inspection and assessment and landed safely. There were no casualties reported," the operator said.

Their statement added the relevant agencies have been notified and together with Safarilink Aviation were investigating the incident.

# Graft: US slaps Zimbabwe leaders with fresh sanctions

By Kathryn Armstrong

THE US has imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa for alleged corruption and human rights abuses.

The order also affects other senior leaders in the country - blocking their assets in the US and barring them from unofficial travel there.

The new sanctions replace a broader programme that was introduced two decades ago.

"We continue to witness gross abuses of political, economic and human rights," the White House said in a statement.

"The targeting of civil society and severe restrictions on political activity have stifled fundamental freedoms, while key actors, including government leaders, have siphoned off public resources for personal gains," it added.

"These illicit activities support and contribute to a global criminal network of bribery, smuggling, and money laundering that impoverished communities in Zimbabwe, southern Africa, and other parts of the world."

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, meanwhile cited "multiple cases of abductions, physical abuse, and unlawful killing" in Zimbabwe that had left people "living in fear."

The White House said it was "refocusing and elevating its efforts to hold accountable the individuals and entities that are responsible for this exploitation."

As well as Mnangagwa, the US also sanctioned 10 other people and three businesses.

Those on the list include First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa, Vice President Constantino Chiwenga and Defence Minister Oppah Muchinguri.

Various other senior security officials, including members of Zimbabwe's national police and Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), are also targeted - as are businesspeople found to have facilitated state corruption.

They include presidential advisor Kudakwashe Tagwirei, his wife and two of their businesses.

All other people that were previously sanctioned by the US and are not on the new list have had their restrictions lifted.

A spokesman for the Zimbabwean government, Nick Mnangagwa, described the lifting of the old sanctions programme as a "great vindication of President Mnangagwa's foreign policy and called the new tariffs "illegal."

Farai Muroiwa Marapira, a spokesman for Mnangagwa's ruling ZANU PF party said the president's "policy of being a friend to all and an enemy to none and having our doors open to all has yielded bittersweet results."

"If the president, the first lady and senior officials remain sanctioned then Zimbabwe remains sanctioned and burdened by this illegality," he wrote on X, formerly twitter.

The US first imposed economic and travel sanctions on Zimbabwe in the early 1990s - targeting then President Robert Mugabe and dozens of other high-ranking government officials, whom Washington accused of undermining democracy in the country.

Various countries including the UK and European Union members have also placed sanctions on Zimbabwe.

President Mnangagwa, who was sworn in for a second term as the country's leader last year, has in the past blamed the economic tariffs for crippling development in the country.



**These illicit activities support and contribute to a global criminal network of bribery, smuggling, and money laundering that impoverished communities in Zimbabwe, southern Africa, and other parts of the world**



Ushetu District Council director Hadija Kabojela (seated-L) pictured yesterday receiving contributions from councillors and various other people to support the construction of a maternity ward building at Sabasabini health centre. A total of 6.482m/- was collected. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

# Quality education project worth 200bn/- targeting needy students

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

CHILDREN from underprivileged backgrounds are set to access quality education, thanks to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) project.

The two-year initiative worth 212bn/- focuses on early childhood, primary, special needs education and the informal system.

Jumanne Mwankhoo, acting Ruvuma Regional Administrative Secretary, said this here yesterday while opening a GPE meeting.

He said through the project, the

government expects to employ 600 volunteer teachers who will receive a monthly stipend of 300,000/-.

"Apart from hiring volunteer teachers and providing them with a monthly stipend to support them, the project also aims to reinforce the incentive structure for teachers who work in underprivileged environments," he said.

Mwankhoo said that the government will build teachers' houses in outlying locations and provide them with various incentives as part of the project in order to improve their working conditions.

"The GPE project provides scholarships

to special education teachers in order to build their capacity and improve their performance," he said.

Dionice Lukweme, member of the organising committee from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, said the project has developed a system that would allow them to oversee teachers who will be volunteering in schools.

The official said that through the system, they will have access to all data and information regarding every volunteer teacher in every school across the nation.

Eva Moshia, Dar es Salaam Regional

Academic Officer, said the project fosters a welcoming environment for teachers and children with special needs.

Zuhura Nikata, Mfaranyaki Primary School head teacher, said the project will build teachers' houses close to their places of employment and give volunteer teachers allowances over a two-year period, thereby eliminating 90 percent of the issues they face.

Ayubu Ng'ombo, a teacher at Amani Primary School, said that the project will assist teachers in coming up with fresh approaches to help improve academic performance.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki (2nd-R) visits one of the pavilions at a World Wildlife Day (March 3) exhibition held in Babati District on Monday. Left is Babati district commissioner Lazaro Twange. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## East African Sheafra' joke came well ahead of 'April Fools' Day

JUST how much senior officials with the East African Community (EAC) secretariat would have had their ribs examined after repeated howls of laughter over a curious report on the rumoured rollout of the East African common currency is yet to be told.

What was however in no doubt was that no such thing is anywhere in the offing, even as much earlier it was projected to be realised more or less at around this time - that is, after ten years of preparations.

It is not surprising that enthusiasts of the project kept date with the envisaged event, and reminded the public of the issue rather innovatively though profoundly misleadingly.

EAC officials had to strenuously dismiss a post on X, formerly twitter, to the effect that the bloc's member countries had launched a common regional currency.

Not surprisingly, the post was shared at the weekend by a preposterous X account named 'Government of East Africa', another clever 'innovation' tied up with the matter at hand.

Without such uplift in real terms, it will not be easy to bring about actual monetary fusion implying nearly identical monetary, fiscal policies. This would significantly erode sovereignty, and consensus failed there.

Some of those who interpreted the post on social media said that the phantom currency was called the East African Sheafra, a combination of the East African shilling and the franc, the latter being a variation of the French currency.

That also appears to have been hilarious in its formulation as a strange mixture serving practically no purpose, while an EA shilling or dollar could have done better. These are terms representing well known currencies, not an oxymoron

similar to beard.

Yet, the whole project for a single currency is part of a rather eclipsed pan-African project seeking unity among small economies so that capital can be attracted to come in.

Larger zones would likely be more stable as they would function like empires where tiny rebellions would have no room to flourish. The larger markets would make it feasible to plan heavy industries.

The spanner in the works is that, as often happens, sovereignty over a piece of territory condemned to a certain stage of history to belong together as one people is hard to obliterate.

The pan-Africanists' ringing cry of being African was culturally and mentally reassuring. But the political projects of all and sundry were tied to reality, that is, what to expect from the newly independent states.

That was also the manner in which the EAC came into view first in 1967 and then in 1999, during the earlier period having become a community by diminishing numerous ties created by the colonial system.

The 'second-round' version sought to fuse certain spheres of cooperation especially with foreign assistance, and eventually bind up later.

The 2024 project for an EA common currency is a vivid example of the adage, 'tomorrow never comes', where the reason is all too common - with a less well known adage: 'the more it changes, the more it remains the same'.

EAC member states have changed a lot since the new EAC came about 25 years ago, but their political attachments or visions are little more East African now than they were at the turn of the century. And, in a way, hence the April Fools' Day joke we have just been treated to.



By Dr Anna Henga

## International Women's Day: What to celebrate?

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day, which is celebrated each March 8, is a global event dedicated to recognizing the achievements of women and advocating gender equality.

It is a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggle for women's rights. It highlights the need to address systemic barriers hindering gender equity.

Originally established in the early 20th century, IWD has become a platform for celebrating women's social, economic, cultural and political accomplishments worldwide.

It provides a crucial opportunity to honour the contributions of women across various fields, including science, politics, business, literature and the arts.

The Day also serves as a call to action, urging individuals and organisations to tackle gender disparities and promote the rights of women and girls.

This involves crusading for equal access to education and healthcare, combating gender-based violence and discrimination, and striving for gender parity in all aspects of life.

Each year, IWD adopts a specific theme highlighting challenges or achievements related to gender equality. These themes often align with global movements and campaigns to advance women's rights, with #MeToo, #TimesUp and #HeForShe standing as ready examples.

In addition to celebrating women's achievements and advocating gender equality, IWD fosters reflection and solidarity.

It encourages individuals to recognize the intersectionality of gender with

other forms of discrimination, such as race, ethnicity, class and ability, and to support efforts to address these interconnected inequalities.

Ultimately, the commemoration of IWD underscores the fact that gender equality is not solely a women's issue but a fundamental human rights imperative.

By challenging stereotypes, dismantling systemic barriers and promoting inclusive policies and practices, we can collectively work towards creating a fairer and more equitable world for all genders.

The importance of women in development cannot be overemphasized. Women contribute significantly to economic growth by participating, as an integral part of the workforce, in entrepreneurship and agricultural activities.

Additionally, as primary caregivers, women play a vital role in ensuring their families' health, education and well-being.

Empowering women through education, access to resources and equal opportunities improves their livelihoods. It brings broader societal benefits, including poverty reduction, improved health outcomes and sustainable development.

However, despite their invaluable contributions, women in Africa, including Tanzania, continue to face marginalisation.

Factors to blame for the perpetuation of this state of affairs include patriarchal social structures, discriminatory laws and policies, limited access to education and healthcare, and cultural

norms that preserve and propagate gender stereotypes.

These barriers result in disparities in employment opportunities, political representation, property rights and access to decision-making processes, leaving women disproportionately vulnerable to poverty, violence and exploitation.

Tanzania, like many other countries in various parts of the world, grapples with harmful cultural practices that hinder women's progress.

These practices, including child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), bride price and restrictions on women's mobility and autonomy, reinforce gender inequality, limit women's educational and economic opportunities, and perpetuate cycles of poverty and gender-based violence.

Addressing these harmful practices requires community engagement, education and legal reforms to promote gender equality and protect women's rights.

Despite legal frameworks, which are chiefly meant to promote gender equality, women in Tanzania face numerous legal barriers that hinder their progress.

Discriminatory laws related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, property rights and employment, as well as inadequate enforcement mechanisms and societal attitudes condoning gender-based violence, impede women's ability to exercise their rights and achieve their full potential.

Addressing these legal barriers necessitates legislative reforms,

the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms and the raising of awareness about women's rights among the public generally and legal professionals in particular.

Addressing the marginalisation of women in Africa, including Tanzania, requires a comprehensive approach that tackles social, economic, cultural and legal barriers.

Empowering women through education, economic opportunities and access to justice alongside challenging harmful cultural practices and discriminatory laws is essential for achieving gender equality and fostering sustainable development.

International Women's Day is a crucial reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and the collective responsibility of creating a more just and equitable world for all.

**\* Dr Anna Aloys Henga, a widely known Tanzanian lawyer and human rights activist, is Executive Director of the Dar es Salaam-based Legal and Human Rights Centre. This is registered as a private, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organisation. The centre works to create legal and human rights awareness among the public, in particular the underprivileged section of the society of Tanzania, through legal and civic education, provision of legal aid, as well as research, human rights monitoring and advocacy. It advocates law and policy reforms and monitors human rights violations in the country and beyond.**

## The UN can reinvent itself with bold imagination on the Middle East issue

HARDLY any issue has intrigued diplomacy more than finding a way out of the current imbroglio in the Middle East.

Two questions portend there, for which there is at least a helpful answer for one - 0 that is, sending in aid by significant amounts.

For the other, known variously as 'the day after' the war ends or 'final status', to use a more commonly used diplomatic term, there is no visible light at the end of the tunnel.

And lack of such vision clouds the sending in of aid, as there is an effort to make the place doubly uncomfortable or worse.

It is hard to figure out how much students of international politics or casual observers of the conflict realise the degree to which what is happening is tantalising, to say the least.

Thus far, the United Nations has managed to share a widely held view calming the diplomatic chasm, but the very effort not to put this assumption to the test, not by actually implementing it but by putting it into question, shows that it is a thin rope the UN tries to cling to and feel a bit happy.

It is the old literature phantasm, of 'the king is naked', where word goes around that everyone must say he is wearing colourful robes, while the opposite applies.

So, the whole of the UN is united in one voice that the two-state solution should be put into place urgently, and nearly everyone wishing to show kindness to those suffering in the relentless bombardment plaintively pleads

that this is the solution the UN must bring all concerned to accept.

One would say that it would be perfect if it was that simple, for there has been an outline of two Palestinian states, one for 30 years since 1993 and the other since the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005. Anger remained.

There is another parameter that would especially paralyse UN sensibility if they attempted to look at it squarely. It is the fact that most of the demand for a two-state solution arises from the 1967 war where Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

The consequences of the outcome were hardly appropriately observed in the UN Security Council resolution demanding that Israel pull back its troops to boundaries as accepted by the UN in 1948 and thus recognised internationally.

They forgot that there were sides that did not accept the partition and launched themselves into war to destroy the fledgling state and failed, as they did again in 1967 and in 1973.

The UN, seeking a compromise, sought that two states be created. Trouble is that the political parties ranged against the Israeli state just don't want a two-state solution except as a ladder, after which they would finish the job in a manner of their choice.

The UN could go on and vote on turning the Sinai into an immigrant land for the stateless of the various embattled countries in the Middle East. But, as things stand, the imbroglio remains as intact as it has always been.

## CDC officials in US investigating nervous system disorder in new vaccine recipients

By Jack Phillips

OFFICIALS of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have said they are investigating a link between a neurological disorder in older American nationals and newly approved vaccines.

They told a CDC Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practices and reporters mid last week that vaccines for the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) might have caused cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS).

The officials said that data suggest that about two cases out of 100,000 people who have received the RSV vaccine developed the condition. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last year approved Pfizer's Abrysvo and Glaxo-Smith-Kline's Arexvy shots for the virus.

Media reports said that, specifically, the CDC said that as of this February 16, it had detected 23 cases of GBS occurring within weeks of the RSV vaccination. Fifteen cases occurred in those who got the Pfizer RSV shot and eight were linked to the Arexvy shot.

"At this point, given the uncertainties and limitations, these early data cannot establish if there is an increased risk for GBS after vaccination in this age group," Dr Thomas Shimabukuro, the head of the CDC's Immunisation Safety Office, told the meeting.

The doctor, however, said it may be too early to see if there was an increased risk for the condition after vaccinations for RSV.

"We're still in the early uptake phase of these new RSV vaccines," Dr Shimabukuro, who is the one who presented the RSV data at the CDC meeting, said.

"Some of these data and findings are based on small numbers of cases and relatively small numbers of doses administered," he said in the interview.

"And given uncertainties and limitations, based on these early data we can't establish if there is an increased risk for GBS after RSV vaccination in these individuals 60 and older," he added.

The CDC official said the agency would soon conduct a different analysis on the vaccine, adding that "better risk estimates will be forthcoming in the coming weeks and months".

Amadea Britton, of the CDC's RSV group in Atlanta, meanwhile also cautioned that it's too early to make a conclusion. She told the meeting: "Given uncertainty and limitations in these early data, there is currently insufficient evidence to confirm whether RSV vaccination is associated with increased risk for GBS in older adults, or to estimate the magnitude of any increase in GBS risk after RSV vaccination."

"Any increase in potential risk of GBS should be placed in the context of the benefits of RSV vaccination," she added.

The official later said that, despite the apparent GBS risk, the agency "continues to believe that the estimated benefits of RSV vaccination outweigh potential risks when vaccination is implemented using the current recommendation".

There were concerns in the year just ended that the RSV vaccines present an elevated risk of GSK after several cases were found among those who got the vaccine during clinical trials from Pfizer and GSK before the FDA approved them both.

The CDC has said that patients should talk to their doctors about the RSV vaccines and then decide

whether to get them.

Previous data from the US Food and Drug Administration also showed an above-expected number of GBS cases being reported in RSV vaccine recipients, with more among Pfizer shot recipients.

"Taken together, these data suggest a potential increased risk" in RSV vaccine recipients aged 60 and older, Dr Shimabukuro said at midweek's meeting.

An estimated 3,000 to 6,000 people develop GBS in the US each year, more commonly in older people, according to the CDC. The condition can result in a person's immune system damaging nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and paralysis.

Most people fully recover from the syndrome, but some have permanent nerve damage. It is reported that GBS Guillain-Barre can occur in people after they are infected with a virus, but in some instances cases have been linked to vaccinations.

Pfizer and GSK officials said at the recent meeting that it is difficult to monitor the GBS safety signal. "Pfizer is committed to the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the safety of Abrysvo" and is conducting four safety studies, Reema Mehta, a Pfizer vice president, said.

RSV is a virus that often leads to common cold symptoms, but officials say it can go on to cause health problems in infants and elderly people. It can progress into symptoms including high fever, trouble breathing, a wheezing cough, and shortness of breath.

Officials have meanwhile said that, for this season, RSV vaccine uptake is low with about 22 per cent of older adults having taken them.

\* Agencies



By Adonis Byemelwa

# Shinyanga shattered: Unrelenting rain and winds leave over 200 villagers homeless, appeal for aid

**I**N a heart-breaking turn of events, the quiet villages of Bugayambebele and Bujinge, nestled in the Kizumbi Ward of Shinyanga Municipality have become the epicentre of a devastating natural disaster.

More than 200 residents are grappling with the aftermath of relentless heavy rain and ferocious winds that struck with unyielding force on Sunday, March 3, 2024. The ensuing chaos has left over 70 houses in ruins, forcing families into a state of homelessness and prompting a desperate plea for immediate government assistance.

The personal narratives of those affected paint a grim picture of survival and loss. John Songolo, one of the victims, recounts the heart-stopping moment when his house crumbled around him, bricks and walls collapsing. Miraculously rescued, he now stands among the displaced, urging the government to extend a helping hand in the form of food, shelter, and support.

In Bugayambebele village, Neema Rukibanzi shares a heart-wrenching account of salvaging 700 out of 1,000 chickens from her coop, as the remaining 300 perished in the wake of the merciless winds.

Emmanuel William, Bugayambebele Village Chairman, aptly describes the disaster as severe, with numerous households losing their homes and becoming destitute. Reuben Kitinya, the Kizumbi Ward Councillor, reports the grim statistics—eight households in Bugayambebele and eleven in Bujinge are currently without shelter. A total of 72 homes now lie in ruins, a testament to the ferocity of the natural elements.

Revocatus Lutunda, Shinyanga Regional Disaster Coordinator, steps into the fray, highlighting on-going efforts by district and ward disaster committees to gather data on the affected individuals. Lutunda underscores the urgency of humanitarian assistance, urging those with the means to provide shelter to step forward. Despite the dire circumstances, there is a glimmer of relief—no fatalities have been reported as a direct result of the rain-induced disaster.

This calamity thrusts the need for robust early warning systems into the spotlight, emphasizing the critical role of modern weather monitoring technologies, river gauges, and advanced communication infrastructure.

Timely alerts, as exemplified in the recent disaster, provide a crucial window for the evacuation of vulnerable areas, ultimately reducing the risk to human lives. The call to action is clear—the proper utilization of forecasted weather data from the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) is more crucial than ever.



Beyond immediate relief efforts, the foundation of resilient infrastructure emerges as a crucial pillar in the battle against floods. The construction and maintenance of well-designed drainage systems, river embankments, and flood barriers can effectively manage excess water during heavy rainfall. Infrastructure planning should also encompass climate-resilient housing and sustainable urban development practices to minimize vulnerability to floods.

Afforestation and effective watershed

management stand out as potent strategies in flood prevention. Trees and vegetation serve as natural barriers, absorbing excess rainwater and stabilizing soil. The maintenance of healthy watersheds contributes to the natural regulation of water flow, mitigating the risk of flash floods.

The economic opportunities embedded in afforestation and watershed management are vast, as illustrated by the success of projects such as the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project and Makame Savannah project, generat-

ing substantial revenue through the protection of community-owned, endangered forests.

Empowering communities with knowledge about climate change, flood risks, and appropriate response strategies is indispensable. Education campaigns should disseminate information on early warning signs, evacuation procedures, and sustainable farming practices. Fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience at the community level engenders a collective response to climate-related challenges.

Given the profound impact on farmland, the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture practices is paramount. This involves encouraging the cultivation of drought-resistant crops, implementing effective water management techniques, and adopting sustainable farming methods. Diversifying agricultural practices can help communities withstand the unpredictable weather patterns associated with climate change.

Crucially, formulating and enforcing policies that address climate change adaptation and mitigation is paramount. Governments should prioritize sustainable land use planning, enforce building codes that consider flood risks, and incentivize the adoption of eco-friendly practices. Comprehensive policies can guide long-

term strategies for climate resilience.

Recognizing that climate change transcends borders, fostering collaboration with international organizations, neighbouring countries, and global climate initiatives is essential. Shared knowledge, resources, and technology can contribute to a more effective response to climate challenges.

The recent floods in the Katesh District serve as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact of climate change-induced disasters. By investing in early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, afforestation, community education, climate-resilient agriculture, government policies, and international collaboration, Tanzania can build a more resilient future.

The collective effort of communities, governments, and global partners is crucial in creating a sustainable and adaptive response to the evolving challenges posed by climate change.

The path to resilience requires a holistic approach that integrates local, national, and international strategies, fostering a future where Tanzanians can withstand and thrive in the face of climate uncertainties.

# The African resurgence: From conflict to economic stability

By Vijay Eswaran

**C**LEARLY, the horses have changed. There is a whole new breed of countries surging forward with stellar economic growth patterns; geographically, while there are some countries that have more or less retained their positions through the years, the spotlight has shifted from the Far East and Central Asia towards the African continent.

For comparison: In 2014, a full decade ago, South Sudan and Mongolia topped the list of projected fastest growing economies, with exports of South Sudan's oil and Mongolia's mineral commodities powering their economic uptick respectively.

On that same list are Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, and Libya, with iron ore, gas, oil, and copper bolstering their positions. These countries were closely followed by oil-rich Iraq, with foreign investment inflows expected after the US troop exit, and then Laos, Timor-Leste, Eritrea, and Zambia.

As we look at today's projected fastest growing economies, one fact remains true: Even after all these years, it's clear that advanced economies are not the ones driving global growth. And while African economies have been historically portrayed as volatile, recent reports from the IMF and other economic think tanks demonstrate that the region is set to shift these stereotypes for good.

## The rising economic stars of 2024

While some countries like Vietnam and the Philippines have retained their position on the International Monetary Fund's fastest growing GDP list, the top 15 are dominated by unexpected underdogs. There's Guyana and Palau, and then a large contingent from Africa: Niger, Senegal, Rwanda, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

It's interesting to note the presence of Guyana, a small sovereign state in mainland South America. With oil exploration yielding massive finds, Guyana is a surprising dark horse on the horizon with a rich resource under its belt. In fact, the World Bank has reclassified Guyana as a high-income country by virtue of Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

There's also tiny Palau taking the top 3 spot; despite inflation increasing to historical highs during the last two fiscal years, their tourism efforts and the renegotiation and renewal of their long-term Compact of Free Association agreement with the United States may just be the key to this expected economic uptick.

Macau, for obvious reasons, is in the number one spot as the primary destination for the Chinese masses to indulge in their favourite pastime: gambling! It's arguably a vent in the pressure cooker of the Chinese economy - a necessary vent, if I may say. Hong Kong could have followed suit, if not for geopolitical shifts and wage-price disparities that make neighbouring Shenzhen a more appealing destination.

And while the rest of the world is basically coming to a standstill, if not stumbling or stuttering, Africa is showing its true potential. Heightened mobile phone penetration and a booming creative and digital services industry filled with inspired young Africans are at the forefront of the digital revolution.

Increased regional integration with more members joining the Afreximbank's Pan-African Payment and Settlement System is another positive marker to be recognised. The mining industry also remains highly attractive to foreign investors; China in particular has invested billions of US dollars through the years, given the country's raw material demand for its



The Port of Dar es Salaam

electronics manufacturing industry.

However, while it's quite fascinating to note these promising projections for African nations, we must also consider the various geopolitical challenges they have been faced with such as internal coups and rivalries. There is also the matter of crippling debt that has caused Niger to miss several loan interest payments, put Ethiopia in default, and Ghana in debt restructuring mode - scenarios that seemingly contradict these growth projections and may hamper their economic progress.

## Growth vs Regression

The truth is, economic growth is something that even the best of pundits can rarely predict accurately, due to the various geopolitical influences that can come into play. As we come out of this interesting enigma facing the rising stars of the African continent and the world at large, one thing comes to mind: The lack of governance and economic policies to steer countries in the right direction.

Vietnam has done remarkably well, despite the 2023 dip in its export performance and issues with public investments. Then there's Cambodia, set to graduate from 'least developed' status within the next few years as per the World Economic Forum, largely due to their deliberate pursuit of equitable development and free trade agreements. And Ghana, despite being in debt restructuring, is a much more intelligently managed economy that clearly needs to be emulated.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) could have made it onto this list; they are a mineral-rich country with high biodiversity, which could lead to an incredibly healthy economy if they could simply get their act together and address the prevalent corruption and mismanagement keeping their poverty rate at the 62.3 percent mark.

It's key to mention Chinese infrastructure contributions to the African continent via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); while there is something to be said about high-interest repayment issues on BRI-financed infrastructure projects in different countries, the fact remains that these developments have contributed largely to the outstanding growth of African countries - something that western allies have failed to do within the last century or so.

If these countries were aided in a way that let them stand on their own feet in terms of infrastructure, they may just as well have surged ahead a long time ago.

But as we all know, growth is never a linear journey. Which begs the question: What else do these countries really need to stay on track?

## From conflict to stability

Vietnam and the Philippines are likely to continue their trajectory due to the arguably more stable economic policies in place, and Ghana's debt restructuring may just spell a brighter fiscal future for the West African nation. But the other countries who are leading this resurgence may be top-

pled from their positions if the lack of professionalism required for a government and its economy to stay in shape persists.

What this really boils down to is the need for versatile, conscious, professional governance that can capably address the imbalances and corruption brought about by years of conflict. People who prioritise good governance, invest in their people, and embrace innovation are the kinds of leaders that can bring countries back from the brink and prevent an economic collapse.

When thinking of the kind of leader that can sustain and elevate Africa's current momentum, some prominent examples are Nelson Mandela, the late peacemaker who had an impact beyond South Africa, or Rwanda's Paul Kagame, one of Africa's most remarkable transformation stories. Good leadership will determine whether success is short-lived or long-lasting.

As the world map of power and influence continues to be redrawn, all of us - pundits and general populace alike - may just find ourselves surprised by what the future holds for the new breed of economic superstars on the horizon.



By Special Correspondent

# Red Sea attacks: Experts' opinions about rise in shipping disruptions

THE Red Sea is wedged narrowly between Africa and the Middle East and connects the Indian Ocean to the Suez Canal and Mediterranean Sea. For centuries, the waterway has been vital for moving goods between Europe and Asia.

Yet since last fall, the Houthi group in Yemen has been attacking shipping vessels in the Red Sea, causing turmoil in one of the world's most important waterways. In response to the assaults, which were launched following the outbreak of war in Israel and Gaza, a coalition of Western countries has retaliated against Houthi targets and deployed naval forces to protect commercial ships.

The Red Sea attacks, however, have already caused disruptions to commercial shipping operations. In the following statements, four trade experts detail how the attacks are impacting the shipping industry and the global economy.

Zera Zheng, Global Head of Business Resilience Consulting, Maersk said: "The Red Sea has become a hotspot of geopolitical tension due to Houthi militants targeting commercial vessels, with over 33 attacks reported since 19 November 2023. These disruptions threaten a key maritime route essential for a significant share of global container traffic and over \$1 trillion in annual merchandise. In response, the US and EU spearheaded Operations Prosperity Guardian and Aspis to safeguard navigation and trade flows, yet challenges from the Houthis' deployment of drones and missiles and vessel tracking capabilities remain. This situation has led to an immediate contraction in market capacity and a surge in shipping rates."

"The Suez Canal/Red Sea, vital for around 30% of the world's container traffic, has seen disruptions leading companies to reroute around the Cape of Good Hope. This situation has led to an immediate contraction in market capacity and a surge in shipping rates, with significant impacts on global trade networks and economic stability.

"In light of these challenges, businesses are seeking greater flexibility and resilience in their supply chains. Maersk is responding to this need by adjusting its network and providing alternative solutions to support its clients during these turbulent times. These measures emphasize the need for agile and innovative supply chain strategies. In an era marked by escalating geopolitical uncertainties, the capacity for resilience is paramount in maintaining the continuity and stability of global supply chains."

Simon Evenett, Founder, St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade said: "Citing Ambrey Analytics data, The Financial Times reports there have been 80 'incidents'—likely attacks on shipping—in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden between 19 November 2023 and 9 February 2024. US and UK naval ships began bombarding Houthi launch sites on 11 January 2024 and since 26 January 2024, few new attacks on ships have taken place.

"However, it's too soon to declare victory. Several Western container shipping lines won't journey through to the Suez Canal. Instead, ships are being diverted round the Cape of Good Hope, adding two weeks to journeys and unnecessary expense.

"To date, the harm to the global economy is modest. Chinese shipping lines haven't given up on the Suez Canal route. Although shipping rates have risen, they remain well below pandemic-era peaks. The New York Fed's index of Global Supply Chain Pressure has barely moved. Important as it is, just 11% of global trade flows through the Red Sea. On its own, this isn't enough to disrupt the world economy.

"What's harder to assess is whether yet more upheaval in trade routes further undermines policymakers' and corporate trust in long-distance sourcing. A further nudge towards national and regional sourcing can be expected."

Marion Jansen, Director, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD said: "Commercial shipping has historically been a hazardous and dangerous activity. After a few decades of relative peace and stability on international waters, we are back to a situation where key routes for international maritime traffic are held hostage by violent attacks. Black Sea transit has been heavily affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for a while, and it is now the turn of Red Sea



A cargo ship is surrounded by Houthi boats in the Red Sea in November 2023.

shipping to suffer from geopolitical tensions. On top of this, climate change is affecting another important maritime route with low freshwater levels in the Panama Canal responsible for a 36% reduction in transit when compared to last year.

"It is now the turn of Red Sea shipping to suffer from geopolitical tensions," said Jansen, adding: "To date, shipping cost increases - though important in size - remain significantly lower than those witnessed in the final phases of the COVID-19 crisis. Yet with Red Sea shipping responsible for 12-15% of global trade and 20% of global container shipping, repercussions are likely to become more severe as uncertainties continue. OECD estimates suggest that a doubling of global shipping costs, if persistent, would add 0.4 percentage points to consumer price inflation in OECD countries after about a year.

"Renewed international co-operation is critical to keep international waters open and to keep markets open on the foundation of a rules-based trading system."

"We are already seeing a wave of supply chain disruptions, some

severe enough to force factory shutdowns, particularly in the automotive sector. Shipping costs have spiked, sometimes doubling or tripling, and needless to say, missiles being fired into a primary global trade route dramatically raises risk and uncertainty, which dampens business activity. Logistics managers are operating in crisis mode, diverting their attention from normal operations, as they try to keep multiple balls in the air. As if all of this wasn't enough, the situation is being further exacerbated by bad luck. A primary alternative route - the Panama Canal - is being restricted due to drought conditions. This episode provides yet another graphic illustration of how tightly intertwined trade and geopolitics have become," Stephen Olson, Senior Adjunct Fellow, Pacific Forum International.

"All of these disruptions inevitably translate into higher costs. Whether they ultimately have a significant impact on global inflation will largely be a function of the duration and intensity of the attacks. Some estimates suggest that if these disruptions continue for a year, they could produce a 2 percent increase in goods infla-

tion. We'll see.

"On the other - and somewhat more optimistic - hand, if the situation does begin to settle down and operations return to at least quasi-normalcy, these disruptions will only amount to a minor blip for the global economy and a footnote in corporate reports. And as a point of reference, the current level of supply chain disruption has not - at least for now - approached the levels we endured during the pandemic.

"In any event though, this episode provides yet another graphic illustration of how tightly intertwined trade and geopolitics have become."

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Luban Workshop lauded for cultivating students' practical skills in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

INSIDE the Luban Workshop in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, Yonas Akele, a 39-year-old Ethiopian educator, explains the operation of an assembly line to students with the help of an automation control platform from China.

Akele, currently a faculty member at the FDRE (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) Technical and Vocational Training Institute, is engaged in the Luban Workshop's training program. This initiative integrates theoretical knowledge with practical applications, providing students with a unique opportunity to translate classroom teachings into tangible skills.

This photo taken on Feb. 15, 2024, shows a classroom of Luban Workshop in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Technical and Vocational Training Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (Xinhua/Li Yahui)

The Luban Workshop in Ethiopia, a collaborative effort between the FDRE Technical and Vocational Training Institute and China's Tianjin University of Technology and Education, was inaugurated in 2021.

Offering specialized courses in industrial robotics technology, mechatronics technology, industrial control technology, and industrial sensor technology, the workshop aims to foster the cultivation of modern industrial technology talents much needed in Ethiopia's evolving industrial landscape.

Over the past five years, more than a dozen workshops in the name of Lu Ban, a craftsman in ancient China, have emerged across the African continent. Providing high-level vocational education for young Africans, these workshops symbolize an integral facet of Sino-African cooperation in talent development.

opment.

"Young people in Ethiopia are fortunate to study here, and I anticipate more Luban workshops will be established in Ethiopia in the future," Akele said.

Yonas Akele shows a photo of him attending a graduation ceremony when he was studying in China, in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Technical and Vocational Training Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 15, 2024. (Xinhua/Li Yahui)

Akele's journey as an advocate for the Luban Workshop began in 2018 when he pursued his master's degree at Tianjin University of Technology and Education. It was over there that he encountered the EPIP teaching model developed by the Luban Workshop. EPIP stands for engineering, practice, innovation and projects, which integrates theoretical learning with hands-on engineering applications.

"The most difficult part of my study was the practical part at the beginning, but under the guidance of my fellow Chinese classmates, I gradually improved through a lot of efforts," said Akele.

Upon his return to Ethiopia, Akele volunteered to join the teaching team at the Luban Workshop. Keen to advancing this innovative approach, he believes it will significantly enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning. "Four teachers are working at the Luban Workshop to guide students through practical training courses. I'm the only Chinese teacher," said Jiang Jiang, head of the workshop, adding that the long-term goal is to train enough Ethiopian talents that will eventually be able to teach Ethiopian students. Yonas Akele (R) and Jiang Jiang, head of the Luban Workshop in Addis Ababa, work together in the Federal Democratic



Mahlet Tsegaye in class teaching some of her students.

Republic of Ethiopia Technical and Vocational Training Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 15, 2024. (Xinhua/Li Yahui)

In collaboration with partners such as the African Union headquarters, the Ethiopian Luban Workshop extends its impact beyond Ethiopia's borders.

Through the East Africa Skills for

Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), a joint initiative by the World Bank and African governments to improve the quality of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs, the workshop has organized five training sessions so far, benefiting nearly 200 TVET talents from Ethiopia,

Kenya, Tanzania, and other nations.

"The workshop is not only dedicated to boosting our local strength and industrial capacity but also serves as a center of capacity building for the wider East African region," said Haftom Gebregziabher, deputy director-general of the FDRE Technical and Vocational Training Institute.

# Digital space incomes grow for Kenyan youth

By Charles Mwaniki

NEARLY half of entrepreneurs and youth in Kenya who have received digital literacy training over the past four years have reported a rise in income after venturing into e-commerce, online marketing and other online jobs, with those without an income dropping by a quarter after the training.

A survey of youth and entrepreneurs trained under the DigiTruck digital literacy skills programme shows that the upward mobility in earnings was accompanied by a rise in both part-time and full-time employment, including among those who previously listed themselves as self-employed in low earning jobs.

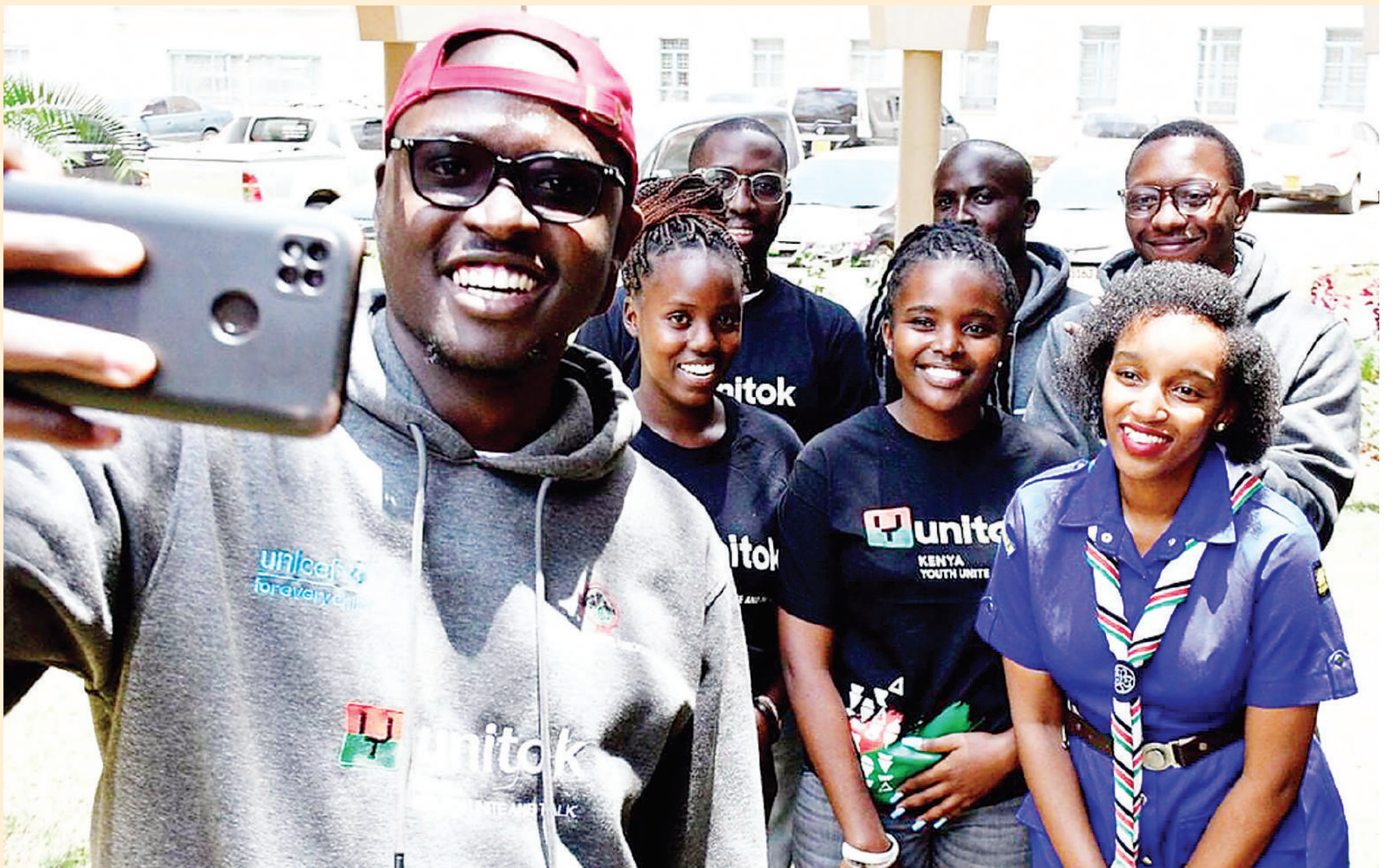
The findings of the survey, which was carried out on youth who have been trained under the DigiTruck public-private partnership programme that has run since October 2019, reflect a shift in employment opportunities beyond the traditional formal jobs market, whose growth has stagnated in recent years.

DigiTruck, a global digital inclusion initiative from Chinese tech company Huawei, is run in Kenya jointly with the ministry of information, communications and the digital economy, the ministry of youth affairs and creative economy, Safaricom, and global mobile network association GSMA.

The programme has trained about 4,000 participants for 40 hours each on digital skills which include use of smart devices, coding, marketing, website creation, avoiding online fraud, creating documents and presentations and finding online jobs.

The survey, covering 800 of the 4,000 trainees, found that those whose income was below Ksh10,000 a month before training fell from 32 percent (250 persons) to 25 percent (195). It was released jointly by Huawei and the ICT Authority on the sidelines of the ongoing Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

"Thirty-five percent of the respondents reported that their change in income was due to starting a business with their new business skills," read the survey findings in part.



"They also mentioned the ability to apply for online jobs such as transcribing, online writing, database management, running cyber-related enterprises, and online marketing among others indicating an expanded job market beyond traditional employment settings."

The number reporting that their income rose to between Ksh10,000 and Ksh20,000 from less than Ksh10,000 previously went up by 27 percent to 172.

Meanwhile the number whose income jumped to the Ksh20,000-Sh30,000 bracket went up by 44.3 percent, from 39 to 70.

Those whose earnings increased into the Ksh30,000 to Ksh40,000 range went up fourfold to 31, from seven previously, while those now reporting income above Ksh40,000 doubled from 15 to 31 individuals.

In terms of employment status, the ratio of respondents of those who were unemployed dropped from 37 percent before training to 31 percent after being trained. Those employed on part-time basis rose from nine to 13 percent, and those on full-time employment from six to 11 percent.

In a tough economy, a growing number of youths has been turning to the digital economy to seek out

work opportunities, but many lack necessary digital skills that would enable them compete favourably in what is essentially a global race for opportunities.

In the past four years, job opportunities in the formal sector have been curtailed by a mix of local and global shocks. The most notable setbacks to jobs were brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced the closure of businesses across sectors, and a drought that impacted the agriculture sector, the country's biggest source of employment.

Businesses have also struggled with higher costs of doing business

due to higher energy and input costs, as well as impaired demand for their goods and services due to reduced consumer spending power on high inflation.

The most recent employment data published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), shows that the number of Kenyans without jobs increased to 2.97 million by the end of 2022, from 2.7 million a year earlier.

Young people below the age of 29, mainly secondary school and college graduates, were the hardest hit by joblessness, where more than half of those without jobs (1.54 million people) were aged between 20 and 29

years. he unemployed persons comprise those actively looking for jobs and those who have despaired and quit searching for work, according to the KNBS.

Years of strong economic growth have created jobs in Kenya, but they are mostly low-paying, informal and coming at a rate that economists say is too low to absorb the rapidly growing youth population.

In terms of distribution of workers by wage levels in the private sector, 42.5 percent or 882.5 million workers out of a total workforce of 2.08 million earned less than Sh50,000 per month by the end of 2022.







## BUSINESS

## Prof Mkumbo calls for investment surge in 60 million strong market

By Sabato Kasika

EMBARCKING on a call to action, the government passionately urges individuals, institutions, and companies with an eye for investment to seize the moment, propelled by the allure of a burgeoning market boasting nearly 60 million potential consumers.

This clarion call is underscored by the government's steadfast commitment to fortifying policies, laws, and systems within the sector, heralding a new era of opportunity and prosperity.

During the 25th anniversary celebration of ICEA Lion General Insurance in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the State Minister in the President's Office responsible for planning and investment, emphasized Tanzania's advantageous position.

He highlighted the nation's abundant human capital, with a population of 60 million, and its strategic location, surrounded by neighboring countries. Mkumbo emphasized that Tanzania offers a conducive environment for investment, making it an ideal destination for potential investors.

"The nation boasts a favorable environment, underpinned by the peace and stability that ensures investor safety. These factors, among others, have enabled ICEA Lion to thrive in Tanzania for 25 years. Today, the government takes pride in this achievement, highlighting its contribution to job creation for Tanzanians," remarked Mkumbo.

The minister expressed confidence in the government's efforts to foster conducive investment environments across various sectors, including insurance, paving the way for sustained investment by companies like ICEA Lion for years to

come.

"We assure continued government support to facilitate business operations and deliver top-notch insurance services in the country. Therefore, I urge more individuals, companies, and institutions to explore investment opportunities here," he emphasized.

The minister elaborated on the government's ongoing efforts to enhance policy and legal frameworks, ensuring the longevity of investor ventures while extending a warm invitation to potential investors.

"We actively encourage investments across diverse sectors, leveraging our expansive market and favorable relations with neighboring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda, with whom we have enjoyed longstanding partnerships," he concluded.

Furthermore, the State minister emphasized the abundance of investment opportunities in the country, emphasizing that the Investment Center (TIC) serves as an accessible gateway for all prospective investors.

Dr. Baghayo Sagware, the Commissioner of Insurance (TIRA), highlighted untapped investment areas, citing the establishment of an agricultural insurance program for key crops as an example.

"Given that 70 percent of our population is involved in the agricultural value chain, there is a pressing need for insurance coverage within this sector," Sagware emphasized.

Edward Mpogolo, the District Commissioner for Ilala, pledged governmental support to ICEA Lion and other insurance providers in disseminating knowledge to prevent business losses.



## CRDB stock price gain stimulates indices at DSE on week's opening

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER closing last week in red, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices opened the week high, pushed by the appreciation of CRDB Bank stock price.

The Monday's daily report shows the share price of the largest bank, in terms of assets, climbed up by 1.92 percent by closing at 530/- compared to 520/- recorded at the end of last week.

The report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 4,409.05 points on Monday, an increase of 9.86 points, when compared with the end of last week, while the Banks, Finance & Investment (BI) was also up by 32.67 points, after closing at 4,874.42 points.

DSE all share index (DSEI), also appreciated during the day, after closing at 1,773.33 points, which is the increase of 3.31 points, when compared with the last session of the past week.

A total turnover of 124.8mln/- was recorded, following the transaction of 207,717 shares traded in 126 deals, and the trading activities involved only local investors.

Top mover was TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL) counter, which recorded the transaction of 108,317 shares valued 20.6mln/-, traded at a price ranging from 190/- to 195/- per share in 14 deals through normal trade.

CRDB Bank counter emerged as the second top mover, after trans-

acting 82,969 shares valued 43.6mln/- traded at a price ranging from 520/- to 540/- per share in 84 deals, followed by Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) counter, which transacted 6,331 shares valued 27.4mln/- traded at a price ranging from 4,300/- and 4,340/- per share in five deals.

NMB Bank counter was also active after transacting 6,300 shares valued 29.9mln/- traded at a price ranging from 4,740/- to 4,760/- per share in three deals.

Other active counters during the day were Vodacom Tanzania (VODA), which transacted 1,010 shares, Swissport (500 shares), NICO (581 shares), Maendeleo Bank (1,000 shares), Mkombozi Commercial Bank (50 shares), DSE (649 shares) and DCB (10 shares).

With exceptions of cross listed companies, NMB and Swala, all counters recorded number of outstanding shares on offer, led by Vodacom counter with 377,895 shares, followed by CRDB counter, which closed the day with outstanding offers amounting to 315,713 shares.

Other counters which recorded the largest number of outstanding offers include TICL with 52,337, followed by NICO with 32,295 shares and Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) counter followed with 31,983 shares.

Largest numbers of outstanding bids were recorded on CRDB Bank counter with 379,713 shares, followed by TPCC with 32,069 shares.

## EABC pledges support to CEBU across key areas

By Dotto Charles

THE East Africa Business Council (EABC), committed its support to the Central Equatorial Business Union (CEBU), across three pivotal domains, as outlined in the sideline discussions: waste management/circular economy, investment attraction, and capacity building.

EABC statement issued yesterday and made available to this Journalist, indicated that her delegation, seized the opportunity to engage in several sideline meetings with CEBU during the highly successful 2nd edition of the Juba economic forum held recently.

The statement has that the meetings served as a platform for the leadership of CEBU to

provide exclusive insights into their ongoing activities, strategic plans, and areas of engagement where they sought collaboration with EABC.

It was particularly notable that the CEBU leadership expressed their keen interest in joining the membership of EABC, underscoring their dedication to regional cooperation and economic integration.

The EABC team warmly acknowledged and applauded the resounding success of the Juba forum, extending its appreciation to CEBU for organizing such a pivotal platform, which brought together key stakeholders, including business leaders,

and experts, to deliberate on vital economic matters, explore investment op-

portunities, and nurture regional collaboration.

EABC Executive Director, John Bosco, conveyed his excitement regarding the fruitful discussions and the potential inclusion of CEBU as a member of EABC.

He underscored the manifold benefits of such a partnership, emphasizing: "The integration of CEBU into EABC's network will not only amplify our collective voice but also bolster our endeavors in advancing regional economic integration, facilitating trade, and cultivating a conducive business environment in East Africa."

Both EABC and CEBU are steadfast in their commitment to fostering robust partnerships, promoting investment,

and driving sustainable economic growth across East Africa.



**It was particularly notable that the CEBU leadership expressed their keen interest in joining the membership of EABC, underscoring their dedication to regional cooperation and economic integration**



Prof Kitila Mkumbo (C) Minister of State in President's office (Investment and Planning), officiates at the 25th anniversary of ICEA LION General Insurance in Dar es Salaam; joined by senior members of the firm's management team. Photo: Guardian Photographer

## Singapore's PEY to gets \$320m for Magnis' Tanzania graphite project

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

AFTER four months of diligence, Singapore-based PEY Capital has entered into an exclusivity period with Magnis Energy Technologies to source \$320-million in funding for the Nachu graphite project, in Tanzania.

As part of the financing process, PEY has recently engaged its related Tanzanian entity, Tantel, to provide local financial and operational support services.

"Our financing discussions with PEY and Tantel continue to progress in a positive manner," said chairperson Frank Pullas.

"In recent months Magnis has been in discussions for the offtake of significant volumes of graphite concentrate," he added.

The funding will allow for the full development of Nachu to produce 240 000 t/y of graphite concentrate.

First production is expected to start in early 2025, bolstered by an off-take agreement with Tesla and plans for a gas-to-power plant. The project represents one of the largest mineral resources of large flake in the world.

Through the deal signed with Tesla early last year, Uranex will supply between 17,500 to 35,000 tonnes of graphite of Anode Active Material (AAM) by February 2025.

"The deal comes at a critical juncture for both companies while Tanzania as a country is set to benefit tremendously in terms of investment, new revenue, technology transfer and creation of well paying, high quality employment to Tanzanians due to the inher-



Nachu graphite project area in Ruangwa District

ent level of an extended value chain," according to Peter Tsegas, resident director, Magnis Energies.

Magnis Energy Technologies through its Tanzanian subsidiary Uranex Tanzania Limited owns a 100 percent interest in the project located in Ruangwa district, south-east of Tanzania.

The project is approximately 220km away from the port of Mtwara is estimated to have a production life of roughly 40 years.

The Nachu Project demonstrates sig-

nificant potential due to its large size, an orebody with very low variation in lithology and mineralisation and low-cost operational model.

Magnis Energy Technologies subsidiary, Uranex was granted a Special Mining Licence SML No. 550/2015 by the Government of Tanzania on 9th September, 2015 after graphite mineral exploration.

The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) in 2017 granted Magnis a licence to operate within a Special Export Zone (SEZ) in Tanzania with a 10-year

SEZ licence. The license was renewed in May-2021.

Key benefits of the SEZ license include allowing Magnis to apply the advanced technologies to produce value enhanced graphite products.

The legislation provides incentives for companies to create value addition and advance employment and development of the country.

The company also benefits from exemption from payment of corporate tax for up to 10 years, the exemption of

taxes and duties for machinery, equipment and construction materials for the development of SEZ infrastructure and the exemption from payment of withholding tax on rent, dividends and interest for 10 years.

Graphite is one of the most stable allotropes of carbon having unique physical and chemical properties.

Due to graphite's excellent heat and electricity conducting ability and chemical inertness, it is widely being used as a versatile engineering material in a range of end-use applications.

Traditionally, graphite has been in demand for a long time in steel-making and as refractory materials in metallurgy due to its high temperature stability and high thermal conductivity.

Graphite is also found in a range of industrial and technology applications such as, automotive components, inks and coatings, paints, high strength composites, lubricants, seals, brake linings and grease, modern nuclear reactors, fuel cells, brushes for electrical motors, drilling fluids, steel pipes, tubing, fire retardants and many



## Govt to enhance financial inclusion to rural women

By Carlos Banda

A deputy governor with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Saida Kassim Msemu, said the government has put in place various efforts to ensure an increase of financial inclusion among Tanzanians, specifically women living in rural areas.

Speaking during the launching of Absa Bank's women business account yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Msemu said despite of accounting the large number of entrepreneurs compared to men; women are facing many challenges including financing and business management skills.

The deputy governor therefore called on financial institutions to invest in technology effectively and reach more people especially women who have less access to financial services to boost their businesses and help them achieve their dreams and desired goals.

Msemu urged women to utilize opportunities vested in the new product to acquire more knowledge and understanding so as to thrive in their businesses.

"Women hold an important part in the economic progress of this continent which is ordained with limitless opportunities. Although the population of women who engage and benefit from these opportunities is high, they are still faced with many challenges and obstacles. Challenges such as lack of business expertise, skills, knowledge and experience, play key roles in the inaccessibility of financial capital hence they cannot realize their dreams," she said.

She said the newly launched financial product will play a crucial role in women's growth and the development for all Tanzanians.

"The sixth phase government has placed considerable efforts to ensure many Tanzanians have access to financial services especially people living in rural areas with very little access to such services. Several measures have been taken to enable financial inclusion especially for women," she said.

"The establishment of this account goes hand in hand with the government efforts and at the right time to empower Tanzanian women.



Bank of Tanzania deputy governor, Saida Kassim Msemu (L) presses a button to launch Absa Bank Tanzania Business account at a function held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second right is Absa Bank Tanzania Managing Director, Obedi Laiser and other senior officials from Absa and BoT. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

And I am informed the structure of this account has been tailored to enable women entrepreneurs or businesswomen."

The deputy governor stated that the absence of account maintenance charges and money transfer fees will help women to conduct transactions and transfers without fear of fee deductions and costs of operating a bank account, adding that they will instead use the money for savings. "If you look at the 2023 Finscope Survey, you will see that financial services for adult people in Tanzania stood at 76

per cent last year as compared to 65 per cent which was recorded in the preceding year. This is data for adult Tanzanians alone," she said. The government therefore expects that through the launched Financial Inclusion Framework which will be functional until 2028, the extent of people accessing financial services will rise from 76 per cent to 85 per cent in five years.

"If it surpasses our expectations, it will be better. Therefore, collaborative efforts between the government and the private

sector are important to ensure such services are accessible to all Tanzanians," she said.

Obedi Laiser, the Bank's Managing Director, said "Businesswomen or women entrepreneurs face a unique set of challenges compared to businessmen or male entrepreneurs. Among the challenges that women experience are less-established business networks, limited business knowledge, limited access to finance, and social and traditional constraints that restrict women's participation in busi-

ness. Laiser asserted that the new solution dubbed Absa She Business Account is not a usual bank account, but a comprehensive set of financial and non-financial solutions that are uniquely packaged together to address the many challenges businesswomen face, to accelerate their growth businesswise particularly those in the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

"Absa She Business Account is structured in a way that it will attract neither monthly charges nor transactional fees and therefore drive-up financial inclusion especially for small and micro businesses that were deterred from operating a business bank account due transaction fees involved," he said.

Laiser linked the new solution to the upcoming International Women's Day and DEI which is central to the ESG framework that Absa has fully embedded into its operations, citing that while the world over is waiting to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women on March 8th through the International Women's Day, Absa is celebrating women in advance by introducing a new solution that shows its commitment to the agenda of progress for women.

Melvin Saprapasen, the bank's Head of Business Banking, said unlike other business accounts which have monthly maintenance fees and hefty transactional charges, Absa She Business Account will have neither of these charges and will also be available in both domestic and foreign currencies to offer our clients access to forex at competitive rates.

## Paris forum to showcase progress in EACOP project

By Dotto Charles

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is poised to showcase opportunities for financing, supply, and advancement at the upcoming 'Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum to be held in Paris.

A statement issued yesterday by Energy Capital & Power, indicated that a representative one of the most transformative projects on the continent, Cheick Omar Diallo, TotalEnergies Spokesperson for the EACOP, will share project updates at the event scheduled in May this year.

Developed by TotalEnergies, Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and China National offshore Oil Corporation, the EACOP represents the largest sin-



gle investment in both Uganda and Tanzania, having secured US\$2 billion in global

financing to date. From 2025, the pipeline will transport oil

from Uganda's Tilenga and Kingfisher fields to Tanzania's Port of Tanga for global export, thereby enabling landlocked Uganda to monetize its hydrocarbon resources, estimated at over one billion barrels.

IAE 2024 is an exclusive forum designed to facilitate investment between African energy markets and global investors.

The event promises two days of intensive engagement for delegates with industry experts, project developers, investors, and policymakers.

The pipeline also stands to benefit neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is in discussions with Uganda to transport its own oil through EACOP once it starts commercial production from oil fields in the Albertine Graben.

The 1,440-km pipeline will not only de-

liver new oil and gas resources to market, but also open a new chapter in East African trade and cooperation. EACOP is currently in its EPC phase and seeking another \$3 billion in debt financing, reflecting the financing gap within Africa's midstream sector.

"Africa has unparalleled oil and gas resources, yet lacks the requisite infrastructure to develop, transport and bring these resources to high-demand markets. EACOP bridges this gap by uniting global stakeholders and showing that capital-intensive projects can be delivered on this continent," said Sandra Jeque, Event and Project Director at Energy Capital & Power.

Adding that: "With TotalEnergies' participation, the upcoming forum will showcase opportunities to finance, support and advance this transformative project."

## Women set to lead next generation of South Sudan's oil, gas industries

By Dotto Charles

WHILE South Sudan aims to boost oil production to 230,000 barrels per day (bpd) by 2026 and construct a 60,000-bpd refinery to fulfill domestic needs, the nation is concurrently laying the groundwork for the next era of energy, with a focus on oil, gas, and infrastructure development.

A statement issued by Energy Capital & Power yesterday and obtained by The Guardian emphasizes that achieving these objectives will necessitate increased investment in exploration and heightened focus on human capital development.

As South Sudan prepares for the future of energy, women are positioned to bring forth significant innovations to the sector.

Recognizing the growing importance of women in the industry, South Sudan is advancing programs and initiatives to enhance their participation in oil and gas.

At the 2023 edition of South Sudan Oil & Power (SSOP), the nation's official energy conference, a dedicated Women in Energy luncheon delved into ongoing initiatives aimed at bolstering women's participation in the sector.

SSOP returns in 2024, with the topic of women in en-



Women attending a summit in Juba, South Sudan, leading discussions on advancing female participation, fostering capacity-building opportunities, and igniting innovation in African energy through gender diversity and inclusivity. Photo: File

ergy becoming a more integrated part of the conference program.

SSOP 2024 positions the country at the center of investments and partnerships in the East African energy landscape.

Taking place in Juba on June 25-28, 2024, the conference and exhibition invites investors to explore and

engage with opportunities across the hydrocarbons, renewable energy and power sectors.

The 2023 Women in Energy lunch was sponsored by South Sudanese energy company Triple A Petroleum and featured speakers from the Ministry of Petroleum, national oil company Nilepet, and South Af-

rica's Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.

Beyond participation in the industry, speakers drew attention to the need to increase the number of women in leadership positions in South Sudan's energy market, citing diversity as a strategic way for strengthening capacity while driving economic growth.

"To enhance the presence of women in leadership positions, it is important that mentorship programs and platforms are prioritized and that women are in places where they have access to opportunities," stated Triple A Petroleum Founder & CEO, Atong Amos Agook.

Triple A Petroleum, Nilepet and the Ministry of Petroleum all have programs in place to promote knowledge transfer and increase opportunities for women in the industry.

As Dr. Labanya Margaret Mathya, DG Administration and Finance at South Sudan's Ministry of Petroleum, stated during SSOP 2023, "Women need to be given the space to participate."

While Triple A Petroleum held a mentorship forum in 2023, Nilepet offers programs to connect women to employment and leadership opportunities across the company.

"Women are the backbone of this nation

and Nilepet believes that giving women training, work and connecting them to the world is part of the growth of the company," stated Amb. Martha Nyamal, Deputy CEO/MD at Nilepet.

Similarly, the Ministry of Petroleum offers internship and training opportunities for women in the industry.

According to Dr. Mathya, women join these programs "as new entrants, creating diversity, creating new wealth and creating innovation. New challenges need new ideas and innovation. We should look at women as the drivers of the economy. The female gender are the future role players in the sector."

The SSOP conference returns for its seventh edition in official partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum.

For the first time since the event's inception, SSOP has expanded to four days, offering a human-resources driven agenda alongside the South Sudan Mining Forum. A vital part of South Sudan's economy, women in energy has become an integrated feature of the 2024 program.

Energy Capital & Power's Women in Energy series celebrates the women shaping the future of the African energy sector.

From projects to companies to programs and community development, the Women in Energy series underscores the integral role women play in developing the sector.

## Nigeria battles to halt spiralling currency crisis and rising food insecurity

Lagos

NIGERIA is battling to contain a historic currency crisis and soaring inflation, with the International Monetary Fund on Monday warning that almost one in 10 people are facing food insecurity.

Inflation hit an annual 29.9 percent in January, driven by soaring food prices that have triggered a cost-of-living crisis in Africa's largest economy.

The naira currency, meanwhile, plunged to an all-time low of around 1,600 against the US dollar in late February.

President Bola Tinubu's government came to power in May 2023, inheriting a highly precarious economic situation, characterized by anemic growth, rising inflation, low revenue collection and import-export imbalances that had accumulated over many years.

His administration promptly launched a raft of economic reforms aimed at liberalizing the economy, such as the removal of fuel subsidies and the relaxation of currency controls.

Though welcomed by foreign investors, the short-term impact has been an uncorking of the various macroeconomic issues that had been artificially contained by the interventionist policies.

IMF staff completed a mission to Nigeria in February and noted on Monday that although economic growth reached 2.8 percent in 2023, this falls slightly short of the level needed to support the country's rapid population growth.

"Improved oil production and an expected better harvest in the second half of the year are positive for 2024 GDP growth, which is projected to

reach 3.2 percent, although high inflation, naira weakness, and policy tightening will provide headwinds," the Washington, D.C.-based organization said in its report on the country.

"With about 8 percent of Nigerians deemed food insecure, addressing rising food insecurity is the immediate policy priority."

However, the IMF welcomed Nigeria's approval of an "effec-

ive and well-targeted social protection system" along with the government's release of grains, seeds and fertilizers and introduction of dry-season farming.

Mission staff noted recent improvements in government revenue collection and oil production as "encouraging," along with the Central Bank of Nigeria's recent decision to hike interest rates by 400 basis points to 22.75 percent,

in a bid to contain inflation and ease pressure on the naira. This has triggered a slight strengthening of the currency in recent days.

"The interest rate announcement received a cautious welcome from investors, with the naira gaining some ground against the dollar in the official and parallel markets," said David Omojomolo, Africa economist at Capital Economics.



# Housing developers, financiers urged to streamline processes, cut red tape

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has called upon the private sector to streamline terms, conditions, and bureaucratic processes related to housing finance.

This request aims to bolster the government's initiatives in providing improved housing opportunities for the populace.

Rahma Kassim Ali, land and housing minister, issued this call during a housing finance stakeholders meeting convened by CRDB Bank. The meeting aimed to facilitate the sharing of experiences, identify available opportunities, and explore effective solutions to challenges within the sub-sector.

"I understand that there are challenges which need to be solved by the government, but many are concerning about you stakeholders. Last year, the average mortgage debt size was 100mln/-. This is the huge amount for many Tanzanians to afford. By using your experiences, I urge you to revisit to see if there are possibilities of having a one stop shop centre which will involve all stakeholders for services," she said.

The minister said, currently there are land evaluators, town planners, financiers which create barriers to people to access mortgage finance because there is long queue of procedures before accessing financing.

"When you calculate these costs, you will realize that they are expensive and become burdens to normal Tanzanians. If you will combine all stakeholders in one stop shop, will reduce costs and simplify Tanzanians to access mortgage finance," she said.

Speaking before the opening of the meeting, Stephen Adili, the acting director of retail banking, CRDB Bank said the financial institution is aware of the shortages of three million residential housing units in Tanzania and there has been an increase of 200,000 housing demands each year, that is why they have put in place strategies to enable solve the challenge.

"During 2023 alone for example, the report by Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC) shows a total of 587,244mln/- have been borrowed by 5,855 customers from 31 commercial banks offering mortgage financing. The amount would have increased if Tanzanians will have title deeds for the land they own. We ask the government to fast tracking the issuing of title deeds, which is the main requirement for housing finance," he said.

According to the population and housing census of



Zanzibar's Lands and Human Settlement minister Rahma Kassim Ali, addresses a mortgage financing stakeholders' meeting in Unguja. Seated are CRDB Bank officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

2022, Tanzania mainland has 13.9 million properties of which 12,717,893 are residential, which is 91.4 percent, other 470,076 residential and commercial properties, which is 3.4 percent and properties for other uses are 719,582 or 5.2 percent.

The distribution of the said properties shows 4.1 million or 29 percent are based in cities and 9.7 million are based on rural areas. Out of the number, 0.6 million properties are still in developing stages.

"For various reasons, many Tanzanians are still living in rented houses and those who own houses have spent a lot of time to complete the construction of their houses due to financial challenges they are facing during their journey. CRDB Bank has the role of participating in offering solutions," he said.

For the mortgage financing issued to Tanzanians in 2023, CRDB Bank issued 202.35bn/-, which is equivalent to 34 percent stake, which benefited 1,606 borrowers, of 28 per-

cent of total mortgage financing clients.

Presenting a paper during the meeting, the mortgage finance manager, CRDB Bank Janerose Mwombela said there are few companies and institutions involved in houses constructions, despite of growing demands.

"Apart from few houses, the constructed houses and sold in higher price for normal Tanzanians to afford. I urge builders to find ways to start building low cost houses which will be affordable for many Tanzanians," she said.

## CFM to oversee \$1.3 billion regional financing facility

By Dotto Charles

CLIMATE Fund Managers (CFM) appointed to oversee Southern African Power Pool's (SAPP) USD\$1.3 billion Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF), aiming to enhance energy transmission within and between the 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states and other power pools.

According to a press statement issued yesterday by CFM, the initiative aims to bolster long-term energy supply security, foster economic growth, and promote climate resilience by integrating sustainable energy sources.

By employing a blended finance mechanism, RTIFF facilitates the involvement of both private and public capital on a significant scale. This initiative aims to enhance access to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy across the 16 SADC member states.

Energy transmission infrastructure projects are notoriously high-risk and capital-intensive, making them challenging to fund independently through sovereign capital alone. RTIFF's blended finance model overcomes this by utilizing public capital to balance risk and enable private capital to enter.

The facility, which launches with USD 20 million in commitments from SAPP, targets a first close of USD 500 million in 2025 to be raised from public and private sector investors locally and internationally and a final close of USD 1.3 billion within 24 months. The facility will have a fund life of up to 20-25 years.

RTIFF will prioritize projects that focus on connecting currently unconnected SAPP members, help relieve congestion bottlenecks to regional electricity trading, promote inter-continental power trading through transmission corridors, and support the adoption of new generation renewable energy space in the region.

SAPP is a cooperation of 12 Southern African countries represented by their national power utilities and some private utilities under the auspices of the SADC.

SAPP members include Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have created a common power grid between their countries.

RTIFF will provide power companies and project developers working to tackle transmission issues with access to patient capital and development expertise to establish strategic interconnections that allow for increased electricity trade. Victor Mapani, Chairperson of the SAPP Executive Committee said: "The provision of sustainable power can be distilled into three activities: generation, transmission and distribution. While generation receives the lion's share of attention, the importance of delivering that power to where it is needed is equally critical."

Adding: "Access to capital is the number one barrier facing developers of energy transmission infrastructure. RTIFF dismantles this by enabling the private sector to work alongside public sector utilities to roll out new transmission lines at scale."

He further mentioned that: "We are delighted to have appointed CFM with their strong track record in the African energy sector to establish and manage this innovative facility and to help our member states finally secure a sustainable, resilient energy supply."



TUESDAY 16 Jan		WEDNESDAY 17 Jan		THURSDAY 18 Jan		FRIDAY 19 Jan		SATURDAY 20 Jan		SUNDAY 21 Jan		MONDAY 22 Jan	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi
5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwaja wa Mazoezi	5:30	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI
8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo
9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:30	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI
9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	Wato wetu	10:00	Wato wetu	10:00	Wato wetu
10:00	Wato wetu	10:00	Wato wetu	10:00	Wato wetu	10:00	Wato wetu	10:00	Uzalo	10:30	Uzalo	10:30	Uzalo
10:25	Jajina	10:25	Jajina	10:25	Jajina	10:25	Jajina	10:25	Uzalo	11:00	Uzalo	11:00	Uzalo
10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	Uzalo	11:55	Uzalo	11:55	Uzalo
11:00	Chetu ni chetu	11:00	Chetu ni chetu	11:00	Chetu ni chetu	11:00	Chetu ni chetu	11:00	Uzalo	12:00	Uzalo	12:00	Uzalo
11:40	Igizo: Mizungwe	11:40	Igizo: Mizungwe	11:40	Igizo: Mizungwe	11:40	Igizo: Mizungwe	11:40	Uzalo	12:30	Uzalo	12:30	Uzalo
11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	Uzalo	13:00	Uzalo	13:00	Uzalo
12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Uzalo	13:30	Uzalo	13:30	Uzalo
12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Uzalo	14:00	Uzalo	14:00	Uzalo
12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	Uzalo	14:30	Uzalo	14:30	Uzalo
13:00	Jungu Kuu	13:00	Jungu Kuu	13:00	Jungu Kuu	13:00	Jungu Kuu	13:00	Uzalo	14:55	Uzalo	14:55	Uzalo
13:30	Shikabamba	13:30	Shikabamba	13:30	Shikabamba	13:30	Shikabamba	13:30	Uzalo	15:00	Uzalo	15:00	Uzalo
13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	Uzalo	15:30	Uzalo	15:30	Uzalo
14:00	Shikabamba	14:00	Shikabamba	14:00	Shikabamba	14:00	Shikabamba	14:00	Uzalo	16:00	Uzalo	16:00	Uzalo
14:10	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	14:10	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	14:10	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	14:10	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	14:10	Uzalo	16:40	Uzalo	16:40	Uzalo
14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	Uzalo	17:00	Uzalo	17:00	Uzalo
15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Uzalo	17:30	Uzalo	17:30	Uzalo
16:30	Wato wetu	16:30	Wato wetu	16:30	Wato wetu	16:30	Wato wetu	16:30	Uzalo	18:00	Uzalo	18:00	Uzalo
17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Uzalo	18:15	Uzalo	18:15	Uzalo
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Uzalo	19:00	Uzalo	19:00	Uzalo
18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Uzalo	19:30	Uzalo	19:30	Uzalo
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	18:30	Uzalo	19:55	Uzalo	19:55	Uzalo
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Uzalo	20:00	Uzalo	20:00	Uzalo
20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	Uzalo	20:30	Uzalo	20:30	Uzalo
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Uzalo	21:30	Uzalo	21:30	Uzalo
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Uzalo	22:00	Uzalo	22:00	Uzalo
21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Uzalo	22:30	Uzalo	22:30	Uzalo
22:30	Soap: Uzalo	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	22:30	Uzalo	23:00	Uzalo	23:00	Uzalo
23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	Uzalo	23:30	Uzalo	23:30	Uzalo
23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Uzalo	23:55	Uzalo	23:55	Uzalo
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Uzalo	24:00	Uzalo	24:00	Uzalo





Delegations from Uganda and Tanzania attend the valedictory ceremony of CLEA-Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CAGSC-24), in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

## Tanzania's ruling party youth delegation visits India for KNOW BJP initiative

NEW DELHI

AS part of BJP's global outreach program "KNOW BJP", Tanzania ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi's young delegation led by Emmanuel John Nchimbi visited India. BJP's foreign affairs department's in-charge Vijay Chauthaiwale welcomed the Tanzanian delegation.

During the meeting, the Tanzanian leaders were apprised of the working, concept and features of the NaMo app as a tool for communication.

The Tanzanian delegation held talks with members of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and IT and social media cells about the communication strategies of the BJP during elections.

In a post on X, BJP's Foreign Affairs Department stated, "A youth Delegation of Tanzania's ruling party @ccm\_tanzania headed by Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi, Sec Gen. CCM, visited India in continuation of the global outreach program "KNOW BJP" launched by BJP Nat. Prez Sh @JPNadda. Delegation was welcomed by Dr. @vijai63 @BJP4India."

"They were apprised about working, concept and features of the NaMo app as a tool for communication. Also held discussions

with members of BJYM and IT & social Media cell about communication strategies of BJP during elections," it added.

The meeting is a part of the "Know BJP" campaign, which was announced by JP Nadda on April 6, 2022, the 42nd foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Earlier on Sunday, BJP National President JP Nadda met with a delegation from Denmark comprising the Speaker of the Danish Parliament, Soren Gade, deputy speakers, and Ambassador Freddy Svane. The discussions on Sunday primarily focused on the upcoming elections in India and various initiatives undertaken by the PM Modi government.

According to the office of BJP National President JP Nadda, the meeting delved into a range of topics, providing an opportunity to exchange views on the democratic process and governance strategies. The delegation from Denmark expressed keen interest in understanding the intricacies of the Indian political landscape, particularly in the lead-up to the forthcoming elections.

"Today, BJP National President Shri @JPNadda ji met a delegation from Denmark comprised of speaker of Mr Soren Gade, deputy speakers and Amb @svane\_freddy. They discussed about upcoming elections in India. BJPs org. and various programs of Modi govt," said the office of BJP National President, JP Nadda in a post on X.

ANI

## PM Modi congratulates Shehbaz Sharif on being sworn-in as Pakistan's PM

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on being sworn-in as Pakistan's PM.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Congratulations to @CMShehbaz on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan."

PM Modi (pictured) extended wishes after Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif was on Monday sworn in as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The swearing-in took place amid protests in different parts of country by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which has alleged rigging in the general elections on February 8. Pakistan President Arif Alvi administered oath to Shehbaz Sharif at the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's oath-taking ceremony was attended by PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, former Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan Peo-

ple Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and the chief ministers of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan, according to Dawn.

Shehbaz Sharif was elected as Pakistan's PM after he secured 201 votes in the National Assembly on Sunday defeating his rival Omar Ayub Khan who was backed by PTI. The government formation in Pakistan has taken place after PML-N held talks with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and other parties, including MQM-P, PML-Q, BAP, PML-Z, IPP.

Pakistan held its 12th national general election on February 8, amid allegations of rigging and the shutdown of cellular and internet services. Following the elections on February 8, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has on multiple occasions held nationwide protests against the alleged rigging in the polls.

ANI

## GCC reaffirms unwavering support for Morocco's sovereignty over Sahara

NEW YORK

THE Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries reiterated their unwavering support for the Moroccanness of the Sahara and the Kingdom's territorial integrity, during the C24 annual meeting.

In the statement, read out by the representative of the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia,

the GCC countries reiterate "the importance of the special strategic partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco and of implementing the joint action plan, as well as the positions of the GCC and its steadfast decisions in support of the Moroccanness of the Sahara and the preservation of Morocco's security, stability, and territorial integrity."

In that regard, the GCC welcomed the latest UN Security Council resolutions on the Mo-

roccan Sahara.

The GCC states expressed their support for all the efforts made by Morocco and the international community to reach a political solution to this regional dispute, recalling the importance for all parties to display wisdom, realism, and a spirit of compromise.

The GCC also stressed that resolving this dispute would contribute to peace and stability in the region. **Agencies**



Russia sees cooperation within BRICS as major foreign policy feature - Kremlin aide

MOSCOW

COOPERATION within BRICS is seen as a major vector of Russia's long-term foreign policy, Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov said in an interview with TASS.

"Cooperation within BRICS is undoubtedly one of the key features of Russia's long-term foreign policy," he said.

"Interaction with the association's members meets the fundamental national interests of our country and fits in well with our systematic policy of forming a fair multipolar world order and creating equal opportunities for all countries to develop," he said.

**About Russia's Presidency of BRICS**

He noted that that during its BRICS Presidency in 2024 Russia plans to focus its efforts "on promoting the entire range of partnership and cooperation within the framework of the association on three key tracks - politics and security, the economy and finance, and cultural and humanitarian ties."

"All these three guidelines are of fundamental and equal importance. They have been identified as the priorities of the Russian Presidency, which will be held under the common motto: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security," Ushakov said, adding that Russia "is approaching the BRICS Presidency with great enthusiasm and diligence."

In this context, he recalled that Russia has approved a comprehensive Concept of the Russian Presidency. Apart from that, an interdepartmental Steering Committee for Preparing and Ensuring Russia's BRICS Presidency in 2024 has been established under a presidential decree.

**About Steering Committee's work**

According to the Kremlin aide, the committee "is responsible for coordinating the participation of Russian federal and regional authorities, parliamentary, business and non-governmental organizations in the BRICS mechanisms, and, in general, all issues related to the Russian Presidency, including the preparation of meetings at various levels and, of course, the BRICS summit."

"The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis. Working groups have been set up within its framework to oversee foreign policy, financial and organizational issues," he said. "All government ministries and agencies, non-governmental organizations and other structures promptly report to the Steering Committee on the progress made and results achieved." **Agencies**

## Rape likely occurred during Hamas attack on Israel, says UN

WASHINGTON

UNITED NATIONS - A team of United Nations experts reported on Monday that there were "reasonable grounds to believe" sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, occurred at several locations during the Oct 7 attack on Israel by Hamas militants.

The team - led by UN special envoy for sexual violence in conflict Pramila Patten - visited Israel between Jan 29 and Feb 14 on a mission intended to gather, analyze and verify information on sexual violence linked to the Oct 7 attacks.

"Credible circumstantial information, which may be indicative of some forms of sexual violence, including genital mutilation, sexualized torture, or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, was also gathered," read the 24-page UN report. Palestinian militant group Hamas has repeatedly rejected accusations of sexual violence.

Hamas fighters attacked Israel on Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing 253 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's retaliation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip has since killed around 30,000 Palestinians, health authorities in the Hamas-run enclave say.

"The mission team found



A Palestinian woman stands in her home after an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Dec 24, 2023. AP

clear and convincing information that some hostages taken to Gaza have been subjected to various forms of conflict-related sexual violence and has reasonable grounds to believe that such violence may be ongoing," the UN report said.

The team said a "fully-fledged investigation" would be required to establish the overall magnitude, scope and specific attribution for the sexual violence.

The UN team said it also received information from institutional and civil society sources and direct interviews, about "sexual violence against Palestinian men and women in detention settings, during house raids and at checkpoints" after Oct 7. The detention centers were in Israel.

The UN team said it raised the allegations with the Israeli Ministry of Justice and Military Advocate General, which said no complaints of sexual violence against mem-

bers of the Israeli Defense Forces had been received.

Israel has been critical of the UN response to the Oct 7 attacks. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said late last year that sexual violence committed on Oct 7 "must be vigorously investigated and prosecuted," stressing: "Gender-based violence must be condemned. Anytime. Anywhere."

"The UN claims to care about women, yet as we speak right now Israeli women are being raped and abused by Hamas terrorists. Where is the UN's voice? Where is your voice?" Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan told the 193-member UN General Assembly earlier on Monday.

"Hamas must face unrelenting pressure to end their sexual violence and release all of the hostages immediately," he said.

## UK's Sunak suffers parliament defeat over Rwanda plan

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak suffered his first defeat over his legislation to send asylum seekers to Rwanda after the upper house of parliament demanded greater protections to be introduced before deportation flights can take off.

Under the Rwanda plan, which has yet to be carried out, asylum seekers who arrive on England's southern coast in small, inflatable boats would be sent to live in Rwanda, but so far no one has been deported because of ongoing legal challenges.

In an effort to overcome resistance from the courts, Sunak's government is passing legislation through parliament that would block further legal challenges by declaring Rwanda a so-called safe country for asylum seekers.

Unelected members of the House of Lords, largely made of

former politicians and government officials, voted in favor of one amendment that would mean flights could only take off when a treaty - that would implement legal safeguards in the Rwandan asylum system - had been fully implemented.

The Lords also voted for an amendment that said the legislation must be fully compliant with international and domestic law, and another that requires proof that Rwanda is safe for refugees before flights can leave.

However, the more powerful elected House of Commons can overturn the changes at later stages in a process known as "parliamentary ping-pong" and the legislation could still enter the statute book unamended.

Some Lords complained that

the legislation as currently drafted would require Rwanda to be treated as a safe country regardless of the evidence.

Christopher Tugendhat, a Lord for the governing Conservatives, accused the government of behaving like the ruling party in George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984".

"If this bill goes onto the statute book in its present form, Rwanda will be a safe country regardless of reality," he said.

Sunak has said he wants the first deportation flights to leave in the next few months - ahead of a general election expected in the second half of this year - so he can meet a pledge to "stop the boats".

More than 2,500 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain on small boats so far this year. A seven-year-old girl died over the weekend trying to reach Britain after a small boat carrying her capsized off the coast of France.

the legislation as currently drafted would require Rwanda to be treated as a safe country regardless of the evidence.

Christopher Tugendhat, a Lord for the governing Conservatives, accused the government of behaving like the ruling party in George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984".

"If this bill goes onto the statute book in its present form, Rwanda will be a safe country regardless of reality," he said.

Sunak has said he wants the first deportation flights to leave in the next few months - ahead of a general election expected in the second half of this year - so he can meet a pledge to "stop the boats".

More than 2,500 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain on small boats so far this year. A seven-year-old girl died over the weekend trying to reach Britain after a small boat carrying her capsized off the coast of France.

## Trump wins N. Dakota caucus ahead of Super Tuesday vote

DONALD Trump won the North Dakota Republican presidential caucuses on Monday, according to a projection by Edison Research, ahead of a slew of contests known as Super Tuesday when he is expected to further strengthen his grip on the party's presidential nomination.

In North Dakota former president Trump (pictured) easily defeated Nikki Haley, his last remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomi-

nation. Trump is expected to dominate Tuesday's elections, when 15 states and one US territory vote in the biggest day in the primary calendar.

Former UN ambassador Haley won her first nominating contest on Sunday, the Washington, DC, primary, but has no clear path to the nomination in a primary season where Trump has won the first eight contests and is expected to carry almost all the remaining races going forward.

Trump is focused on a likely general election rematch in November with US President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

On Monday, US Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Trump can remain on the primary ballot in Colorado, rejecting the state's disqualification and potentially setting national wide guidelines.

The nine justices, three liberal and six conservative, all agreed with the ruling.

By deciding that states



lack the authority to remove Trump from the ballot due to his involvement in the events preceding the Capitol riot on Jan 6, 2021, the Supreme Court

delivered a significant victory to the former president, who is the frontrunner in the Republican presidential race.

The US Supreme Court declared that the Colorado Supreme Court had made an incorrect assumption that states possess the authority to decide whether a presidential candidate is disqualified under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits individuals who have engaged in insurrection from

holding public office.

"Because the Constitution makes Congress, rather than the states, responsible for enforcing section 3 against all federal officeholders and candidates, we reverse," the ruling said.

The latest ruling makes it clear that it is Congress, rather than individual states, that is responsible for establishing regulations regarding the enforcement of the 14th Amendment provision. Therefore,

this decision applies to all US states, not just Colorado.

"BIG WIN FOR AMERICA!!!" Trump posted on his social media shortly after the Supreme Court's decision was released.

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold expressed disappointment in the court's decision. "Colorado should be able to bar oath-breaking insurrections from our ballot," she said on X, formerly known as Twitter. **Agencies**



# China's thriving outbound tourism contributes to global economic recovery

By Zhang Jinruo, Huang Peizhao, Xu Hailin

THE past Chinese New Year holiday just witnessed a surge in China's outbound tourism. According to statistics released by China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, around 3.6 million overseas trips were made by Chinese tourists during the holiday.

International observers said that this increase has not only contributed to the growth of the international tourism industry, but also provided a boost to the global economic recovery.

On the second day of the Chinese New Year, the Siam Square, a shopping mall in Bangkok, Thailand, was crowded with tourists. Xiaolan, a tourist from Shanghai, told People's Daily that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people travelling to Thailand ever since Thailand announced a five-month visa-free policy for Chinese tourists last September.

"I am planning a trip to Malaysia in a few days. It's much easier to travel abroad nowadays," Xiaolan said.

To attract more Chinese tourists, several Southeast Asian countries have successively implemented visa-free policies.

Starting from Dec. 1, 2023, Malaysia has implemented a 30-day visa-free policy for Chinese citizens. On Jan. 28 this year, China and Thailand signed an agreement on visa exemption for holders of ordinary passports, which will officially take effect on March 1.

On Feb. 9, an agreement be-



Chinese tourists experience the charm of Antarctica. (Photo by Natalia Sabrina)

tween China and Singapore on visa exemption for holders of ordinary passports officially took effect. On that day, many Chinese tourists entered Singapore, experiencing the convenience brought by the visa-free policy. During the Chinese New Year, Singapore's landmark Gardens by the Bay specifically hosted a special lantern fair, attracting many Chinese tourists.

Egypt was one of the main destinations for Chinese tourists during the Chinese New Year holiday. On Feb. 10, a special ceremony was held at the Cairo International Airport to welcome Chinese tourists spending the Chinese New Year in Egypt.

Ibrahim, marketing manager of a travel agency in Egypt, said that Chinese outbound tourism

has brought tremendous benefits to his company.

"Compared to the same period last year, the number of Chinese tourists we received from late January to early February has surged four-fold. Everyone in our company was happy to see the sudden increase," he noted.

In mid-January, China announced unilateral visa-free treatment for Switzerland, and Switzerland also provided visa convenience for Chinese citizens and companies investing in Switzerland.

Hannah, a coach at a skiing school in Davos, Switzerland, said that Davos attracts many Chinese skiing enthusiasts every year.

"Chinese skiing enthusiasts are friendly, kind, and passionate about skiing," Hannah said. With

the increased convenience of travel between the two countries, she looks forward to experiencing ski resorts in China.

According to the World Travel Market Global Travel Report, the value of China's outbound tourism is projected to increase by 131 percent from 2024 to 2033.

Thai government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke said that with the Thailand-China visa exemption agreement set to take effect on March 1, it is expected that more Chinese tourists will choose Thailand as their destination. This will further boost the growth of Thailand's tourism industry and bring more vitality to the country's economic development.

Bojan Lalic, director of the In-



Chinese tourists visit the Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Photo/Shirraaz)

stitute for Belt and Road Studies in Belgrade, noted that since the visa exemption policy between Serbia and China came into effect in 2017, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Serbia has been continuously increasing, promoting economic development and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

He said China ranks among the top in terms of outbound tourism, and has contributed to the economic development of relevant countries.

"Since last year, China's outbound tourism has been steadily recovering. This is a clear testament to the vitality of the Chinese economy and adds momentum to the global tourism industry and economic recovery. We look forward to

more Chinese tourists visiting our country," Lalic said.

In recent years, Chinese tourists have become more diverse and individualized in their outbound travel preferences and demands. They now place greater emphasis on experiencing the natural environment, cultural history, and local lifestyle of their destinations.

Li, who traveled to Egypt from China's Sichuan province during the Chinese New Year holiday, said she spent two days at the Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

Liu, who works in Beijing, chose to have a trip to France during the Chinese New Year holiday and spent the entire vacation in Paris.

"I saw the romantic Seine

River and experienced history at the Palace of Versailles and the Arc de Triomphe," Liu said. This trip allowed him to feel a resonance between Chinese and French cultures, making it an unforgettable cultural and artistic journey.

Harry Hwang, director of the Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations World Tourism Organization, noted that in recent years, Chinese tourists have placed a greater emphasis on travel experiences. Chinese tourists are now more interested in exploring the attractions, cultural heritage, and history of different countries and regions, which indirectly contributes to the preservation of local cultural heritage.

## Hainan's Wenchang achieves big success in space-themed tourism

By Zhao Peng, Sun Haitian

AT 22:27 on Jan. 17, a Long March-7 Y8 carrier rocket soared into the sky in Wenchang, south China's Hainan province, carrying cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-7.

The rocket shot straight into the clouds, capturing the attention of thousands of people. On the beaches, streets, and rooftops of residential buildings, space enthusiasts pressed the shutter button, capturing this unforgettable moment.

"Me and my family drove all the way from Jianguo, and I was particularly excited at the moment when the rocket took off," said a tourist surnamed Chen.

The Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site is the youngest space launch site in China and the first open coastal space launch facility. Leveraging the space launch base, Wenchang is developing space-themed tourism to promote the deep integration of space and tourism industries.

Wenchang is located on the northeast corner of the Hainan Island, with three sides facing the sea. The Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site is closer to the equator compared to other launch sites, which gives rockets a higher carrying capacity under the same conditions.

The sunshine and beaches in the city are attractive to not only tourists, but also a large number of "rocket chasers."



Tourists watch a rocket launch in Wenchang, south China's Hainan province. (Photo by Yuan Chen/People's Daily Online)

The Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site is situated on the outskirts of Longlou township. In the past two years, this township with a permanent population of less than 30,000 received over 1.5 million visitors. Since 2016, the number of hotels in Longlou township has grown from five to over 50, and the number of restaurants from 230 to over 900. The regional GDP has also surged from 589 million yuan (\$81.83 million) to over 4 billion yuan in the past decade.

Zhang Zuoxing, who runs a youth travel organization, told People's Daily that "rocket chasing" tourism routes in Wenchang are very popular, attracting tourists from various age groups.

"We have organized 11 events so far, with over 300 participants," Zhang said.

At 10:30 am, a tourist surnamed Zhang arrived at the entrance of the Hainan Commercial Spacecraft Launch Site in Wenchang with her daughter for a newly launched "spacecraft launch site tour".

When arrived at the No. 1 launch pad by taking a shuttle bus, they could see

No. 2 launch pad under construction not far away.

"As China's first commercial spacecraft launch site, Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site plans to achieve regular launches this year. Currently, the planned capacity of the No. 1 and No. 2 launch pads is 16 launches per year," a guide explained.

Later, tourists on the bus proceeded to a space exploration base to visit a 1:1 model of the Long March-8 Y2 carrier rocket and experienced space exploration with virtual reality equipment.

In the future, once regular launches are achieved, the launch site will have viewing platforms, including a general viewing area and a professional photography area, where visitors can witness the entire process of rocket launches up close.

"In the past, the development of space-themed tourism in Wenchang mainly focused on providing observation sites and supporting facilities such as guesthouses and agritainment. Tourists often came to 'chase rockets' and would leave after that. In the future, the launch site will achieve frequent launches under a new commercial space model, possibly with rocket launches happening every month or even every week. We are ex-

ploring new tourism models that deeply integrate with space science education," said Fan Nanhong, director of the brand promotion department of Hainan International Commercial Aerospace Launch Co., Ltd.

At the Hainan Aerospace Engineering Breeding Research Center, engineer Yao Tong was introducing aerospace fruits, vegetables, and melons to middle school students from Beijing. The center has selected 37 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and flowers from 128 aerospace breeding experiments for cultivation and is open for public visits.

At the Wenchang aerospace supercomputing center, which is a national industrial tourism demonstration base, a digital exhibition cluster has recently started trial operations.

"Wenchang's aerospace tourism is not just about sightseeing. It also has a technological aspect," said Ye Shiyang, chairman of Wenchang Aerospace Supercomputing Intelligent Management Co., Ltd.

In addition to space-themed tourism, Wenchang is actively exploring local tourism and cultural resources, launching various "one-day trips" and "deep travel" projects to leverage the enthusiasm for space travel and promote tourism across the region.

# Hong Kong makes new highlights in external interactions

By Jiang Yichu

SINCE the new-term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government took office in July 2022, a series of new measures have been taken to actively expand external interactions in various fields, injecting strong impetus into the promotion of Hong Kong's prosperity and strengthening the connectivity between China and the world.

These new measures have created new highlights. Over the past year, Hong Kong's external interactions have become increasingly active, and international cooperation and communication have been continuously strengthened, revealing new features and advantages.

The HKSAR government has recognized the growth potential and vast opportunities in the ASEAN and Middle East markets, making them a key focus for expanding its external interactions.

Chief executive of the HKSAR John Lee led a high-level delegation to visit ASEAN countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia, as well as Middle East countries including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

During the visit, nearly 50 cooperation agreements were signed, promoting collaboration in areas such as finance, trade, talent, and energy.

ASEAN countries have expressed clear support for Hong Kong's accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The HKSAR has established institutions like the Hong Kong-Middle East Business Chamber and hosted events like the inaugural Asia Future Investment Initiative (FII) PRIORITY Summit. It plans to open more economic and trade offices and consultancy offices in Belt and Road partner countries in ASEAN and the Middle East, to continuously promote opportunities in Hong Kong and foster mutually beneficial cooperation, thus creating a wave of collaboration.

With advantages in both traditional and emerging sectors, Hong Kong has further expanded its scope of cooperation.

It has continuously consolidated its external interactions in traditional areas of strength such as finance, shipping, and trade. Efforts have also been made to deepen institutional cooperation in financial regulation, international taxation, and shipping.

Hong Kong has updated its free



Photo shows a night view of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor. (Photo by Wang Gang/People's Daily Online)

trade agreement (FTA) with ASEAN and pushed for FTA negotiations with countries like Peru. It has concluded investment promotion and protection agreements with Türkiye and other countries, and signed comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreements with Croatia and others. These efforts aimed to enhance Hong Kong's international attractiveness and competitiveness.

In 2022, Hong Kong attracted a total of \$117.7 billion in inward direct investment, ranking fourth globally. At

the same time, it has witnessed rapid development in its international cooperation in emerging fields such as technology innovation, climate change, intellectual property rights, and dispute resolution.

Leveraging its advantages in professional services, Hong Kong has signed memorandums of understanding with multiple countries on cooperation in intellectual property rights and legal services, introducing a number of leading high-tech companies from home and abroad.

The HKSAR has also significantly promoted its policies on attracting professionals, aiming to attract global innovation and technology enterprises as well as outstanding talents to settle in Hong Kong. These efforts have yielded notable results.

In addition, the HKSAR government has actively built platforms for communication and cooperation, attracting people from various sectors around the world.

Hong Kong has hosted international conferences and events such as the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit, Hong Kong's Belt and Road Summit, and the Asian Financial Forum, which enhanced its international influence. The Preparatory Office of the International Organization for Mediation was inaugurated in Hong Kong.

Moreover, officials of the HKSAR government have proactively participated in conferences such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, and the United Nations Human Rights Council meetings. The Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption of the HKSAR has assumed an

important position in the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, making Hong Kong's voice louder in external exchanges and cooperation.

These positive changes indicate that Hong Kong is gradually building a new pattern of high-quality external interactions. Building on its traditional strengths, Hong Kong is expanding its "circle of friends" to include developing countries and emerging economies. Cooperation areas are continuously deepening and expanding, with a stronger momentum.

Hong Kong is also better integrating and aligning with major national initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area strategy. Under this new pattern, Hong Kong's external interactions are more balanced and diverse, allowing its advantages and potential to be further utilized. Its resilience is continuously improving, providing greater space and more opportunities to contribute to the overall development of China while maintaining its local prosperity and stability.



# SPORT



A motorcycle rider operating at Kiboriloni in Moshi, Kilimanjaro precariously performs a stunt whilst carrying a passenger in the district recently. The duo was hardly concerned about the act which endangered their lives. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Zambian player triumphs in 2024 Advent Squash Open tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZAMBIA Kabwe Kalele won this year's edition of the Advent Squash Open Tournament at Colosseum Gym in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Zambian beat Kenyan Bruce Jusa 3-1 in a highly competitive and entertaining final. Kalele was awarded Im/- while the runner-up went home with 700,000/- . The third-placed competitor received 500,000/- .

Tanzania Squash Federation (TSF) secretary-general Marwa Busigara hailed all players who took part in the tournament and attributed the success of the tournament to their participation.

"This was one of the best squash tournaments. I thank all players who competed in this tournament, I also thank all stakeholders who made this tournament a success," he said.

Meanwhile, TSF said it has been impressed with the level of competition shown by local players in the Advent Squash Open Tournament which culminated last Sunday, bringing together more than 32 players.

Busigara, speaking yesterday, said Tanzania's players have shown a lot of improvement in the tournament.

The tournament attracted players from Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique, France, and the host Tanzania.

Three local squash players- Ali Rehemtulah, Robert Sulubonde, and Busigara- qualified for the quarterfinals of the tournament.

"This year local players have proved their worth and TSF is happy with this progress, we encourage our players to work hard," he said.

In the previous interview, Busigara said the Advent Squash Open Tournament is the second high-profile event to be held this year, the first being the one that was held at Maisara Club in Zanzibar in January.

Busigara thanked Advent Construction and Colosseum Gym for bankrolling the tournament.

Meanwhile, the TSF official disclosed that the

federation is focusing on attracting many women and youths to play the game as there is a shortage of players in the categories.

During the launch of the Advent Squash Open Tournament, Advent Construction firm's official Sue Van Zyl stated that the firm is passionate about squash.

Sue revealed three of the firm's top directors, including Dhruv Jog, are ardent squash players, thus, the firm decided to sponsor the showdown to give back to the community through sports.

Fatma Somji, one of the showdown's organizers, on behalf of Colosseum Gym, expressed the fitness center's excitement about co-sponsoring the prestigious event this year. Professional squash players from various countries battled it out in the money-spinning event.

Squash is played by around 20 million people in 185 countries worldwide. It is a racket and ball sport, played by two players on a four-walled court with a small hollow rubber ball.

Players take turns to hit the ball with their rackets onto the playable surfaces of the four walls of the court.

The object of the game is to hit the ball so that the opponent cannot hit an effective return.

There are few courts for the sport in Tanzania but there are plans to construct more courts and take the game to all parts of the country.

## Arusha Gymkhana golfer holds sway in Lina PG Tour tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

ARUSHA Gymkhana Club's golf player, Nuru Mollel, and Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s Fadhil Nkya have triumphed in the Lina PG Tour Golf Tournament which took place at the TPC Club course in Moshi yesterday.

The tournament was organized by the Nkya family, in cooperation with Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU), to honour former national women's golf team player, Lina Nkya, who passed away on January 19, 2021.

The showdown involved many professional and amateur performers to honour the late DGC golfer who further served as a TLGU official during her life.

Mollel and Nkya were tied on points and had to play a one-hole showdown to decide the winner. Mollel was ultimately the winner by one stroke.

The victory has witnessed Mollel lay his hands on a cash prize totaling 6.8m/-. The runner-up-Nkya-walked away with 4.3m/- .

Another winner was Frank Mwinuka of Lugalo Golf Club who was presented with 2.7m/- , as was the case with Isaac Wanyache of Arusha's Kili Golf.

Professional golfers Hassan Kadio who garnered 1.2m/-, Rajabu Idd (480,000/-), John Said, Salum Dilunga, and Elisante Lembrice were the other winners.

Ally Isanzu was the tournament's overall winner and received 2.2m/-, second-placed George Sembi walked away with 1.3m/-, Isiaka

Daud garnered 900,000/-, Ibrahim Gabriel grabbed 700,00/-, Victor Joseph and Elisha Fadhil were presented with 570,000/- apiece.

Speaking at the closing of the tournament, the Nkya family's leader Said Nkya (Lina's husband) thanked all golfers who turned up for the showdown and congratulated those who did not win.

He encouraged them to participate in the showdown's other editions slated to be held in Morogoro in April.

"We also thank the TPC Club located here in Moshi for allowing us to hold this competition at its course, I thank the whole team- led by my daughter Yasmin Chali- that ran this competition... we have certainly succeeded," Said noted.

Kadio, the DGC professional golf player, said that the competition has been extremely competitive because there were professional golf players who were tied on points by the time it was coming to a close.

Jafari Ally, a TPC Club golfer, said that the tournament went well and various talents were on show.

He opined that if the golfers keep on featuring in competitions, they will do well in international competitions.

"The Nkya family has done a commendable job, first of all, it has presented good prizes to the winners, this makes golf more competitive and brings in more players," the golfer said.

"I have high hopes, great faith, the next tournament, many more players will show up," he added.

## SPORTS

# Tanzanian's football giants make history as CAF CL quarterfinal draw looms

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS the dust settles on an electrifying 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage, Tanzania's football giants are now eagerly awaiting the draw for the premier continental tournament's quarterfinals.

With most of the continent's top teams securing their spots in the next round, anticipation is at an all-time high as fans eagerly anticipate the matchups that will define the next phase of the tournament.

In a commanding display of skill and determination, Tanzania's soccer powerhouse Simba SC secured a ticket to the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League quarterfinals with a resounding 6-0 victory over Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy on Saturday.

Simba SC joined local rivals Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals after trouncing Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Said Ntibanzokiza, Pa Omar Jobe, Kibu Denis, Clatous Chama, Ladaki Chasambi and Fabrice Ngoma scored the goals that secured Simba SC's win and cemented the squad's position in second place in Group B with nine points.

The Tanzanian team finished behind ASEC Mimosas which had already qualified for the quarterfinals before taking on Morocco's Wydad Casablanca the same weekend.

This year marks Simba SC's fourth appearance in the continental showdown's quarterfinals. The club hopes to break the scourge and advance beyond the quarterfinal stage, the way the team did in the CAF Cup 21 years ago.

The anticipation now shifts to the upcoming stage's draw, set to take place in Egypt next week.

Having clinched the second spot in Group B behind ASEC Mimosas, Simba SC will face off against one of the top teams from groups A, C, or D.

Noteworthy contenders include Mamelodi Sundowns, which topped Group A, Petro de Luanda, leaders of Group C, and Al Ahly, which topped Group D.

Yanga is also through to the CAF Champions League quarterfinals for the first time in the club's history after cruising to a resounding 4-0 victory over CR Belouizdad of Algeria in Dar es Salaam last week.

The Jangwani Street outfit secured the second spot in Group D of the CAF Champions League, trailing group leaders Al Ahly.



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (R), attempts to get the better of Jwaneng Galaxy's defender Lesego Keredilwe as the clubs faced each other in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League Group B tie played in Dar es Salaam last Saturday and ended in a 6-0 win for Simba SC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Yanga is slated to face either Group A leaders Mamelodi Sundowns, ASEC Mimosas- which topped Group B, or Group C leaders Petro Atletico, in the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinal leg for Yanga will commence at home between March 29-31.

The other six teams that qualified are Al Ahly, Mamelodi Sundowns, TP Mazembe, ASEC Mimosas, Petro Atletico, and Esperance.

In one of the surprises, Morocco's soccer giant Wydad AC was eliminated from the Group Stage for the first time in its history.

Several other top African outfits that were also touted to perform much better this season could not live up to expectations.

Pyramids FC, which finished last in Group A, Etoile du Sahel, which also finished last in Group C, and CR Belouizdad- positioned third in Group D- are some of the teams.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that the draw will determine the path of the teams until the final of the tournament, and will also determine which teams will host the home and away fixtures of the final.

Eight teams- which ended first and second in each group- qualified for the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League. The tournament's Group Stage was made up of four groups.

The qualified teams will be divided into two groups, the first for the first-place qualifiers, and the second for the second-place qualifiers in each group.

Mamelodi Sundowns and TP Mazembe ended first and second respectively in Group A, securing their berths in the quarterfinals of the 2024 CAF

Champions League.

Joining them in the next phase are Group B qualifiers ASEC Mimosas and Simba SC, while Petro Atletico and Esperance clinched the last eight phase spots from Group C.

Winding up the quarterfinal competitors' group are Group D's top two sides- Al Ahly and Yanga.

The first legs of the quarterfinals of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League are scheduled to be held between March 29-31, while the rematches will be held the following week, between April 5-6.

The first-leg matches in the semi-finals will be held from April 19-20 and the rematches are slated for April 26-27.

The CAF Champions League final will consist of home and away matches penned for May 19-26, 2024.

## Simbu sets sight on Summer Olympics achievements

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S prominent long-distance runner, Alphonse Simbu, is optimistic about winning a medal in the 2024 Summer Olympics' 42km race slated to take place in Paris, France.

Simbu will compete in his third Olympics after his debut in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil- in which the marathoner finished fifth after clocking 2:11:15 to complete the race.

In 2020, he went on to finish seventh in the Tokyo Olympics, which took place in Japan after clocking 2:11:35, and now he is all out to set a new record in the Paris Olympics.

Other Tanzanians who will participate in the 2024 Paris Olympics' 42km race are Failuna Abdi and Jackline in the women's category, whilst Gabriel Geay will join Simbu in the men's category.

Simbu finished second with 2:12:29 in the 2022 Commonwealth Games which took place in Birmingham, England behind winner Victor Kiplagat who recorded 2:10:55.

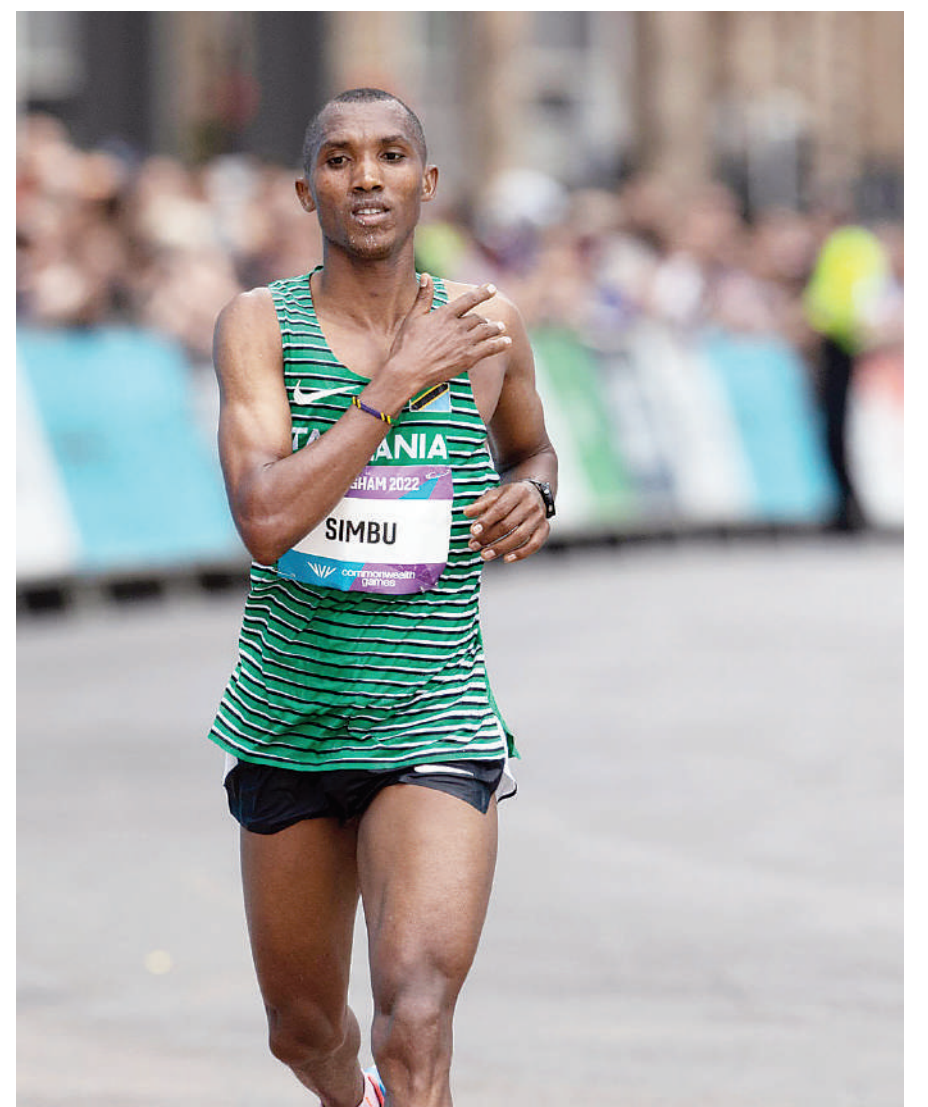
With intense preparations going on, Simbu said his main focus is to battle it out in one local or international marathon to test his prowess before heading to Paris.

"For me, my training has to be improved, my coach should analyze my weakness and see what side of my game should be improved, by doing that I think I will have massive progress," the athlete noted.

"I work closely with my coach on the type of exercises I do, and communicate more on my fitness, especially on days that I have solo training," Simbu said.

He added: "We need more runners in these Olympic races, we only have long-distance runners. I think we need a more particular short distance too."

Tanzania's Olympics-bound athletes'



Tanzania's marathoner, Alphonse Simbu.

assistant coach Anthony Mwingereza tipped Simbu to have much better results in the coming Olympics marathon compared to his results in previous races.

Mwingereza noted: "He has shown dedication to the sport for many years, despite the difficulties, his enthusiasm

has always written itself on the wall, this year we expect much more from Simbu and the other three national flag bearers."



## Football star Kerr pleads not guilty to racially aggravated offence

LONDON

INTERNATIONAL women's football star Sam Kerr is facing trial in England after pleading not guilty to a racially aggravated offence against a London police officer, prosecutors said.

The Chelsea striker and Australia captain was charged following an incident in January last year, when the Metropolitan Police said they were called to a dispute over a taxi fare.

The 30-year-old Kerr, born to an Anglo-Indian father and Australian mother, is a treasured sporting figure in Australia and one of the most famous players in women's football.

Australia's all-time leading scorer last year graced the cover of the FIFA video game alongside Kylian Mbappe.

She is expected to face trial in February 2025. The charge, relating to "threatening, abusive or insulting" behaviour, can carry a fine or custodial sentence if proven.

The alleged incident occurred before last year's World Cup, which was held in Australia and New Zealand, but was not publicly disclosed until now and appeared to take Australian football bosses by surprise.

Matildas coach Tony Gustavsson said he had only found out about the allegation on Tuesday and was yet to speak to his skipper.

"I was informed this morning and obviously I was surprised," he said.

"I can't comment on the offence because it's a legal matter at this point. The only thing I can comment on is my experience and interaction with Sam as a person, and as a footballer. And I have only had positive experiences," he said.

Gustavsson said it was too early to say whether the allegation would rule Kerr out of selection for this summer's Paris Olympics.

Kerr has been sidelined since January with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament.

"I think it's a bit too early to look at selection at this time and as we all know with Sam's serious injury in January, there's obviously a very big question mark whether she will even be up for selection," said Gus-

tavsson.

Football Australia CEO James Johnson called the allegation "unsettling" and "very serious".

"We've got our own questions that we'd like to know. We've got to find out what actually happened," he said.

"It's regarding racism, and there's no place for racism in our sport. At the same time, Sam has rights, natural justice rights, procedural rights, that she's going to work her way through and we're respectful of that."

Former Australia men's team captain Craig Foster said the news was unexpected and distressing.

"Racism is a very serious issue (not only) in sport. Let's acknowledge the rights of the other person involved and hope that February absolves Sam," he posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Kerr has been credited with helping drive the booming popularity of the women's game both in Australia and globally.

She played Australian Rules football as a youngster and was convinced she would one day represent her beloved West Coast Eagles, like her elder brother.

She switched to football aged 12 and made her full international debut against Italy in 2009, a precocious talent aged just 15 at the time.

Known for her pace, agility and heading ability -- as well as her trademark backflip goal celebrations -- Kerr left for the United States in 2013.

She went first to Western New York Flash, then Sky Blue FC in New Jersey and finally Chicago Red Stars.

After moving to Chelsea in 2020, Kerr rose to a new level.

The 2023 Ballon d'Or runner-up scored the only goal in Chelsea's 1-0 win over Manchester United in last season's FA Cup final.

As her star has continued to rise over the years, Kerr has signed lucrative endorsement deals with the likes of Nike and Mastercard.

She has scored 99 goals in 128 games in all competitions for Chelsea.

In 2019, Kerr became the first Australian, man or woman, to score a hat-trick at a World Cup.

AFP

“

*She is expected to face trial in February 2025. The charge, relating to "threatening, abusive or insulting" behaviour, can carry a fine or custodial sentence if proven*

## Brazilian Cuca appointed Athletico Paranaense boss after sexual assault scandal

RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIAN football coach Alexi Stival, who left his former club Corinthians less than a year ago over a sexual assault scandal, has found a new job at Athletico Paranaense.

Nicknamed "Cuca", 60-year-old Stival was sentenced in Switzerland in 1989, along with two other footballers, to 15 months in prison for participating in the sexual abuse of a 13-year-old girl.

The abuse happened on a trip to Bern in 1987 where his then team, Grêmio, was playing in a friendly tournament.

He was already back in Brazil at the time of his conviction, and as Brazil does not extradite its nationals, Cuca never served his sentence.

Last April, Corinthians announced the departure of coach Cuca -- who denies the accusations -- just a week after hiring him.

His appointment had caused an outcry among supporters of the Sao Paulo club, but Corinthians said he was leaving "at the request of his family to resolve personal issues."

A court in Bern recently overturned his conviction on a technicality, without ruling on the merits of the case, according to Brazilian press reports in January.

The conviction did not prevent Cuca from enjoying a successful coaching career, notably lifting the Copa Libertadores -- South America's equivalent of the UEFA Champions League -- with Athletico Mineiro in 2013.

Athletico Paranaense said Cuca would be their new boss until the end of the season, replacing Colombian Juan Carlos Osorio.

The announcement came just weeks after former Brazil defender Dani Alves was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison for the rape of a young woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022.

AFP

## Arsenal hit Sheff Utd for six to set record scoring streak

LONDON

ARSENAL entered the record books as a 6-0 demolition of Sheffield United on Monday kept the Gunners on Liverpool and Manchester City's tails in the Premier League title race.

Martin Odegaard, Jayden Bogle's own goal, Gabriel Martinelli, Kai Havertz and Declan Rice put the visitors 5-0 at half-time before Ben White rounded off the scoring.

Mikel Arteta's men become the first side to ever win three consecutive away games in the English top-flight by five or more goals.

"When we had the ball, we were in a good mood today," said Arsenal captain Odegaard.

"Created a lot, scored the goals early on - a nice performance."

By contrast, Sheffield United also set a new record by becoming the first English top-flight side to concede five or more goals in three straight home matches.

"It's a painful season and the boys are a damaged group of players," said Blades boss Chris Wilder.

"They were in a different league, a different planet to us. We couldn't lay a glove on them."

Arsenal's stunning streak of 31 goals in seven consecutive Premier League wins since a winter break has at least built up a big advantage over their rivals should the title be decided on goal difference.

They remain in third, just two points behind leaders Liverpool and one adrift of defending champions City.

However, Arteta's men can go top with victory at home to Brentford on Saturday ahead of Sunday's showdown between Liverpool and City at Anfield.



Bukayo Saka was, as ever, a threat. Agencie

"I love the way the team played. The quality and the aggression we showed from the beginning," said Arteta. "We have to continue to do what we are doing."

There appeared little doubt over the outcome from the first whistle at Bramall Lane.

Bukayo Saka rattled the crossbar after just two minutes and what little resistance there was from the Blades ended just five minutes in.

Rice's cross picked out the unmarked Odegaard to turn into the bottom corner.

Saka's five-game scoring streak in the league came to an end but he did bag two assists before going off at half-time due to illness.

The England international turned

former Arsenal defender Austin Trusty with ease as he got to the by-line and his driven cross flicked off Bogle into his own net.

Martinelli's deflected effort quickly made it 3-0 and forced Wilder to make a change after just 17 minutes.

Ben Osborn replaced Oliver Norwood but a change of shape did little to stem the bleeding for the hosts.

Havertz is beginning to silence his critics after a slow start to life at the Emirates following a £65 million (\$82 million) move from Chelsea.

The German international slammed home Arsenal's fourth before Rice then got in on the party by sweeping home Saka's cross six minutes before half-time.

Only the sight of Martinelli hob-

bling off just after the hour mark blighted a perfect night for the visitors. White rounded off the scoring with a cool finish from Havertz's cut-back on 58 minutes as Arsenal matched their record Premier League away win, set just last month at West Ham.

By that stage many of the home support had headed for the exits, resigned to their side's fate on the night and the season.

Wilder's men remain rooted to the foot of the table, 11 points adrift of safety with 11 games remaining.

Arsenal on the other hand are 11 matches away from a first league title for 20 years and could not wish to be in finer form heading down the home straight.

AFP

## Arsenal are transformed and now hold an advantage in the Premier League title race

Richard Jolly

THERE was a time when the scoreline indelibly associated with Arsenal was 1-0. Not now, and if there were points earlier in the season when Mikel Arteta (pictured) seemed to be paying tribute to George Graham's low-risk, low-scoring side, now it is more likely to be 5-0 to the Arsenal. Or, in this case, a second 6-0 away win in a month.

Arteta's Arsenal are the roundheads who have reinvented themselves as cavaliers. There are times when title-chasing teams can find the goals dry up in the run-in. But Arsenal have grown more expansive, more exciting, more ebullient. They became the first team in Premier League history to score five or more times in three consecutive away matches and the division's top scorers. And if they were aided by the ineptitude of Sheffield United, who plummeted to a historic low by conceding at least five goals for the fourth successive home game, this was a stunning demonstration of attacking strength.

Arsenal made a spectacular start: three goals to the good after 15 minutes, four ahead after 25, five in front after 38, they raised the question of whether the Premier League record of 9-0 might fall. It did not but Arsenal were irresistible when they needed to be. They have scored 31 in their last seven league games, winning each. If goal difference is the determining factor in the title race, it is very much advantage Arsenal now.

All that without a specialist striker. It was a triumph of Arteta's ethos, of a belief that goals can come from anywhere when they attack with such brilliance. Now Kai Havertz has scored in three successive league games. Martin Odegaard, Gabriel Martinelli, Declan Rice and Ben White joined him in finding the net, the latter strikes seen by decreasing numbers of home fans.

Stands were emptying long before half-time. Fans were not the only departures. There was the rarity of a tactical substitution in the 16th minute, Oliver Norwood being replaced by Ben Osborn. A few of Norwood's teammates may have wished their number was up, too: Arsenal



scythed through the Blades with embarrassing ease and the confidence of a team who knew they would be rampant.

It amounted to another embarrassing day for a proud club who overachieved in winning promotion last season, who promptly lost their two best players and who could be forgiven for wishing this season would end now. Or, better still, several weeks ago. They navigated this game without teammates fighting or anyone eating a sandwich in Chris Wilder's presence but the positives ended there. Now United could be on course for an unwanted century; they last conceded 100 league goals in a campaign in 1933-34.

At least they will not have to face Arsenal on their return to the Cham-

ionship. Stiffer tests await the Gunners - by default, in the sense this could not have been any easier - but Arteta's side are flying. Individually and collectively, they were outstanding.

Perhaps Bukayo Saka was the pick of the bunch in the first half; even as his scoring run ended, he felt unstoppable. Yet such was the competition from Rice, who has rarely looked so potent as an attacking midfielder; Martinelli, who was electric; Havertz, who was elusive; and Odegaard, who was elegantly influential.

Arteta took mercy on the Blades at the break, substituting Saka. It removed some of the sting from his side but White still pinged in the 10,000th goal in Arsenal's history.

Then he exited, with Martinelli hobbling off, and Jorginho making way so Thomas Partey could return after four months out. Arsenal declared their innings.

It was game over long before then, with Arsenal's intent signalled from the first whistle. In the opening minute, Saka hit the bar and Martinelli had a shot cleared off the line by Jack Robinson.

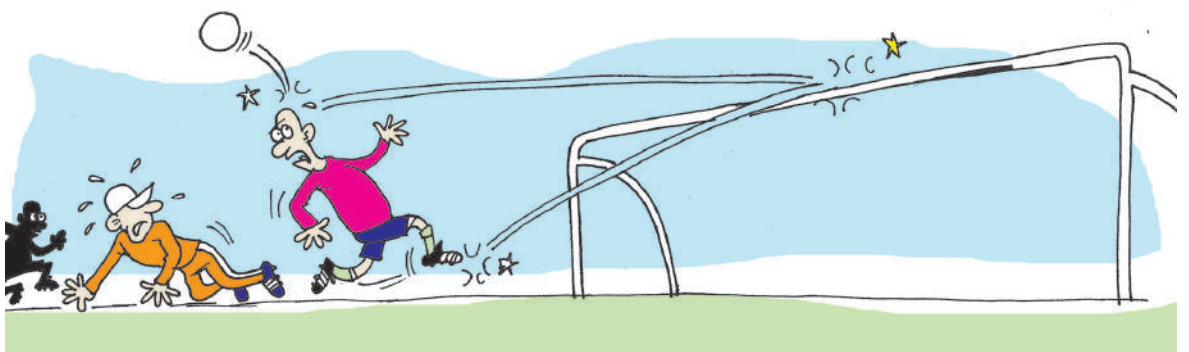
It rendered it a surprise that United held out for four minutes before Odegaard tucked in a shot from Rice's low centre. Arsenal then benefited from a third own goal in two games when Jayden Bogle contrived to meet Saka's cross with a back-heeled flick into his own net. It was a comically good finish.

Others were more deliberate. Martinelli exchanged passes with the overlapping Jakub Kiwior and finished adeptly. The Brazilian Martinelli dispossessed Anel Ahmedhodzic, who threw him to the ground in frustration, and Havertz surged through to score. Next, Saka laid the ball back for the raiding Rice to angle in a shot.

All before half-time. And if they faced weaker opponents than their rivals, Arsenal may note it took Liverpool 99 minutes to find a lead against Nottingham Forest, Manchester City 80 to get ahead in the Manchester derby. Arsenal had victory sealed within a quarter of an hour. The imperious ease of it may aid them in the next three months. But even if not, it was a statement of how a team who had seemed to be trying to grind their way to glory have transformed themselves into entertainers.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal hit Sheff Utd for six to set record scoring streak**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



## Azam FC issues terms for wantaway Dube

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a shocking sequence of events, Azam FC's striker Prince Dube has presented a contract termination letter to the club.

Dube (pictured), whose current contract is slated to expire in 2026, joined Azam FC from Highlanders FC in his home country, Zimbabwe, in 2020 with four months left on his contract.

The prolific attacker, aged 27, had penned a two-year contract when he arrived at a deal that fetched his former side \$50,000.

Before the season Dube extended his contract with two and a half years left to fulfill his contract terms.

It is understood one of Tanzania's envoys in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League is eyeing Dube's signature.

Azam FC has confirmed receiving a contract termination letter from their striker Dube and the club's management has already responded by issuing three terms.

The club's Head of the Information and Communication Department, Thabit Zakaria, said they have set up three conditions for Dube to either leave the club or honour his current contract.

Zakaria said Azam FC is a professional club and will follow accurate procedures to either let Dube go or have him stay until the end of his contract.

"Azam FC confirms receiving a contract termination letter from Dube requesting that he wants to leave after joining the club in 2020," Zakaria pointed out.

The official noted: "He has submitted his letter to the management which has already responded to the contract he signed before the start of this season that keeps him at the club until 2026, if he wants to leave there are three things he can do to leave."

He disclosed: "One he has to pay the release clause that he signed with the club at the beginning of the season, which is \$300,000 US dollars (765m/-) and he will be free to join the club of his choice."

"Another term is that clubs that wish to have Dube's services should pay the release clause of 765m/- (\$300,000 US dollars) and we will be open for business," Zakaria stated.

"Lastly, if all the above terms are not met by Dube and the club he wishes to move to fails to meet the release clause term, Dube will have to remain with the club until 2026 when his current contract runs out," he pointed out.

"As such, until now, he has two and half years to parade at the club and the management has maintained that he can leave only if the terms of the contract are adhered to," Zakaria said.

Azam FC has two strikers this season in Zimbabwean Dube and Senegalese Allasane Diao. Allowing Dube to leave this season will limit options for head coach Yousouph Dabo.

With stiff competition in the NBC Premier League, Azam FC is set to face Yanga in the second phase tie of the league on March 17.

## Matola: Simba SC players cautious against in-form Tanzania Prisons

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a quest to close the gap on top of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League log, Simba SC has taken precautions ahead of the squad's domestic fixture against in-form Tanzania Prisons scheduled for today at Jamhuri Stadium, Morogoro.

Simba SC assistant coach Suleiman Matola praised the prowess shown by Prisons in their previous five games- which saw the Mbeya outfit win three, suffer defeat in one loss, and manage a draw.

The Simba SC tactician pointed out Prisons has turned out to be a side to beat in recent games.

Prisons FC is eyeing one of the top four positions. The outfit is currently occupying sixth place in the league log and it has yet to win against Simba SC in the last five games, losing four games and one draw.

This season's first meeting between Simba SC and Tanzania Prisons at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on October 5 last year witnessed Simba SC registering a 3-1 victory.

Speaking ahead of the game, Matola said the squad is cautious against Prisons- with the majority of his outfit's key players fit for the match after garnering CAF Champions League quarterfinal qualification.

"Against Prisons is going to be a tough match, we are all witnesses of Prisons in form the Premier League in these recent games," Matola noted.

"We know whenever we play them it is always a tough match and we will make sure we come up with the best results in this match," the tactician said.

"All key players a fit, only player missing is Sadio Kanoute who picked a hip injury, he is expected to be out for sometimes," Matola added.

The gaffer revealed: "With players including Leandre Onana on the brink of taking part in the match, we are aware of the intensity of this match and players are fit and ready."

Matola assured Simba SC fans that the team has made the right decision to pick Jamhuri stadium for home games, asserting that it has always been the squad's home ground for many years.

Matola revealed: "Simba SC has played many games at Jamhuri Stadium in the past, we made clinical considerations to see which stadium can be favourable for us and we chose Jamhuri Stadium, Morogoro."

Simba SC, under Algerian head coach Abdelhak Benchikha, is likely to have massive rotations in the upcoming four league fixtures to keep all players fit and add competition within the squad.

The Msimbazi Street squad is currently placed third in the league log with 36 points from 15 games.

The club is trailing second-placed Azam FC which has amassed 43 points from 19 matches- being level on points with league leader Yanga- with the latter honouring 16 fixtures.



Simba SC's assistant coach, Selemani Matola.

## Simba SC shifts focus back to Premier League pursuit



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B tie against Jwaneng Galaxy which was held at the venue the same weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will welcome Mbeya side, Tanzania Prisons FC, at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro for a midweek NBC Premier League clash on Wednesday afternoon.

Simba SC is coming from a CAF Champions League resounding victory over Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy in Dar es Salaam last weekend and will be switching focus back to the NBC Premier League.

After qualifying for the last eight of the CAF Champions League for the fifth time, Simba SC's attention is now on catching up with Azam FC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, in the title race.

The last time the two sides met, Tanzania Prisons, alias 'Wajelajela', was the host and was defeated by 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi' in a 3-1 occasion.

Goals by Clatous Chama, John Bocco, and a penalty kick by Saido Ntibazonkiza in the late minutes of the second half had Simba SC coming out victorious.

In this return fixture, Abdelhak Benchikha-coached Simba SC will look to repeat another victory against the Mbeya counterparts, only this time, at home.

Simba SC is running on a tight schedule this season as the squad battles it out in three different competitions.

The club's assistant coach Selemani Matola though highlighted that the focus is currently on the encounter against the Southern Highlands outfit.

Speaking ahead of the game, Matola lauded Prisons' recent good form and, for that reason, Simba SC needs to respect them as much as the squad wants to win the game.

The coach said: "In recent rounds, Prisons have had good results. We have to accord them their respect when we meet, but Simba SC is a big team. Tomorrow's game is important, we need to win so that we can continue to stay high on the standings."

Prisons travel to the Jamhuri Stadium having beaten Tabora United 3-1 at home last weekend.

It was an excellent victory for Prisons that extended the squad's good run of form under the tutelage of head coach Hamad Ally.

After 18 games, Prisons finds itself sitting sixth on the Premier League log with 24 points after 18 games.

Ally acknowledged the gulf in quality between the two sides and insisted the warders would approach the game with great caution.

"In reality, Simba SC has good players, if you make repeated mistakes they will punish you, knowing that we are prepared to respect them and play with great caution so that we can get what we need," Ally noted.

The tactician stated: "We have analyzed Simba SC in the club's recent games through video tapes and we have identified their weaknesses, so we know what we will do to get the desired results that will continue to put us in a good position in the standings."

Simba SC is the overwhelming favourite, as far as the head-to-head record is concerned. The Dar es Salaam side has won 14 of the past 23 league games against Prisons.

Simba SC has suffered in just four games while drawing five of the remaining nine head-to-head encounters with Prisons.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kati Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SPORTS (I)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kati Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM