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NMB stakeholders ratify 181bn/- dividend payout Page 13

Govt to save 31.2bn/ with 220KV transmission line

Once completed, the new supply of power is expected to catalyse economic development in the Lake Zone regions by delivering reliable electricity from the national grid

By Francis Kajubi

THE government is set to save 31.2bn/- that would be used to buy 21MW of electricity from Uganda in the next two years upon the completion of the 220 kilovolt Benaco-Kyaka transmission line project in Kagera region.

Gissima Nyamo-Hanga, managing director for the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (Tanesco) said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the corporate entity has been spending 2.6bn/- a month to purchase power from the neighbouring country.

He made this disclosure soon after signing a consultancy service agreement for the supervision and management of the proposed 220kV transmission line, with M/s. Shaker Consultancy Group, an Egyptian firm.

It shall work in collaboration with an electricity project development company (PDC) of Saudi Arabia, where costs including the transmission line, substation and rural electrification is pegged at \$135.4m, he stated.

The government has extended \$2.6m for the project slated to commence January next year, taking two calendar years, he said, elaborating that the OPEC Fund for International Development will extend \$60m.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development is expected to place \$30m while the Saudi Fund for Development has expressed intention to commit \$13m, he specified.

Kagera is among few regions yet to be fully integrated into the national grid, with the project set to benefit Kyerwa, Karagwe and Misenyi districts, as well as the rural and urban districts of Bukoba, he said, pointing out that the 220kV transmission line from Benaco substation in Ngara district to the Kyaka substation in Misenyi district covering 166.17km.

A new substation at Benaco will be built and Kyaka substation being extended, he affirmed, describing the project as vital for enhancing the reliability and security of power supply in the region.

The targeted districts have been depending on a 132kV transmission line from Uganda where 21MW was being supplied each month, he said, explaining that the consultant is tasked with preparing tender documents for the works.

He will also help to oversee procurement processes for the works contractors in co-operation with Tanesco up to the end of this year, he stated.

Once completed, the new supply of power is expected to catalyse economic development in the Lake Zone regions by delivering

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with Mozambique ruling party (Frelimo) presidential candidate Daniel Fransisco Chapo (L) when he paid a courtesy call at the Chamwino State House yesterday. Photo: State House

INEC fields digital, traditional tools for voter register update

By Guardian Reporter

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is expected to use digital and traditional methods in updating the voter register, with 40,126 centres earmarked for the exercise.

Ramadhani Kailima, the director of elections, made this affirmation in a presentation to media house editors in Dar es Salaam and journalists yesterday, explaining online voter registration to facilitate improvement of information on voters.

A voter who is already in the register can initiate changing information for example by having moved to a different ward or street, changing or moving to another polling station, and similar details.

This can be entered into the voter register process with a mobile phone application or on a computer, he said, noting that the voter registration system was redesigned to meet current biometric voter registration (BVR) kits based on android software, unlike the earlier windows software.

To correct voter information one has to furnish a national identification number and card, he stated, pointing out that results of the 2022 Population and Housing Census show that 5,586,433 new voters are expected to be registered, a rise of 18.7 percent on the 29,754,699 voters present in the current register after the 2019/2020 update.

Up to 594,494 voters will be removed from the register for lack of qualifications, and after improvements the register will have a total of 34,746,638 voters

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'Tanzania also working on alternative energy sources'

Germany has one of the most powerful renewable energy lobbies in Europe and has locally focused on hydropower development

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA is working to prioritise alternative sources of energy like wind, solar and biogas alongside natural gas and hydropower, the government has declared.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, made this assurance in Dar es Salaam yesterday, in

talks with a delegation of the German chamber of commerce and energy sector stakeholders, led by Thomas Terstegen, the resident ambassador.

He expressed gratitude to Germany for energy sector contributions especially for electricity projects, noting that energy was a big agenda in Tanzania, starting with energy security and energy availability.

This is outlined in energy sector policy of 2015, where the government projected an installed capacity of 10,000 Megawatts by 2030, he explained, elaborating that President Samia Suluhu Hassan wishes to see different stakeholders and foreign companies take up the energy shift agenda.

There are opportunities for investment in projects already started but lack funds for their implementation, he said, affirming that foreign companies can form joint ventures with local private sector firms for the purpose.

Increase in electricity demand for

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Hemed Morocco praises Stars' team effort after crucial win over Zambia

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Why Germany's 2006 World Cup patriotic fervor is unlikely to repeat at Euro 2024

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Azam gear up for new season with strong squad and CAF Champions League ambitions

Z'bar confident of BoT methods

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR authorities are satisfied with measures being taken by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to control dollar scarcity, including selling foreign exchange through the inter-bank foreign exchange market (IFEM).

Juma Makungu, the Zanzibar Finance and Planning deputy minister, made this affirmation in explaining BoT implementation of foreign exchange intervention policy in the House of Representatives.

He was responding to a question by Dr Mohammed Ali Suleiman (Mtambwe) who demanded to know steps the government has taken to address the scarcity of the dollar, to stabilize the foreign exchange market.

BoT has already sold \$555m through IFEM to address the scarcity of the dollar and other foreign currencies, he said, noting that the

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Govt to save 31.2bn/ with 220KV transmission line

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reliable electricity from the national grid.

"The transmission line covering 613 kilometres shall be set up to generate 33 kilovolts to be used to connect 3,226 households in Ngara and Misenyi," he said.

INEC fields digital, traditional tools for voter register update

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ers, he said, acknowledging that the number is likely to increase.

The commission has completed setting up 40,126 voter registration centers, with 39,709 on the Mainland and 417 in Zanzibar, an increase of 2,312 stations compared to 37,814 stations during the 2019/2020 polls, he specified.

The trial update was done in Ngambo ward, Tabora municipality and Ikoma ward, Rorya District in Mara region, to test readiness and effectiveness of the new equipment to be used during the current register update, he elaborated.

In accordance with rule 15 (2) (c) relating to updating the voter register for this year, INEC is facilitating prisoners imprisoned for less than six months, as well as students, to be registered as voters.

In the Mainland there are 130 voter registration centers in prisons while Zanzibar has 10 centers located in training colleges, he said.

INEC has bought 6,000 BVR kits that use scanners to take voters' information including photos, signatures and fingerprints, he said, noting that current equipment weighs 18 kg, while the earlier type weighed 35 kg.

He discounted Diaspora voting as the law has not yet been enacted, while Stanslaus Mwita, the INEC director of registration and information technology, said the old BVR and the new one are complementary. Form number one is to register all voters, form number 5A to improve information on those who have moved stations, lost or damaged cards and form 5B to remove information of voters who have lost

Dr Ismail Shaker, the group's CEO, said that the company has been operational in Tanzania for nine years, having eight branches in Africa.

"This is the seventh project we are executing in Tanzania. We are looking forward to accomplishing the project within the agreed period," he added.

credentials in the register.

The online system enables the applicant to start the process by entering his information including the voter's number and year of birth, then sending his application to the commission for a token to take to the nearest station and be given a card.

Completing the information entry process leads to a message within 12 hours, with the updating process through the Internet phone slated for inactivation two days "before the last day of improvement for the relevant area," he said.

Those with special needs will be assisted to get to the centers, with systems being prepared to enable their participation without obstacles.

Judge Jacobs Mwambegele, the INEC chairman, said that improvement of the voter register will be successful with the participation of the media.

Journalists need to take their primary responsibility of educating the public to show up at the stations, he emphasised.



In the Mainland there are 130 voter registration centers in prisons while Zanzibar has 10 centers located in training colleges

'Tanzania also working on alternative energy sources'

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Tanzania stands at about 10 to 15 percent per year as expansion of economic activities and population increase push up the demand.

The more reliable sources of electricity in the country are chiefly water which contributes 39 percent, natural gas at 56.1 percent, heavy furnace oil at 4.3 percent and other sources a marginal 0.5 percent, he said.

The envoy said that Tanzania has long-term cooperation with Germany in the energy sector, with expectations of financing project implementation to enhance the energy sector to enhance economic growth.

The meeting was organised to enable the private sector and energy stakeholders to generate comprehension of available opportunities and how Germany can facilitate their being taken up.

Maren Diale Schellschmidt of the Africa Department at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and head of delegation, was accompanied by officials of wings of German business and non-governmental organisations, fielding energy sector stakeholders.

Germany has one of the most powerful renewable energy lobbies in Europe and has locally focused on hydropower development, observers noted.

Z'bar confident of BoT methods

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central bank was implementing a new policy of participation in the common foreign exchange market, starting in January 2024.

So far 18 banks have benefited from evaluation of foreign currency transactions, with benefiting sectors including oil (20.35percent), business (24.40percent) and industry (6.16 percent), he stated.

The government has developed strategies to strengthen the availability of US dollars to curb effects of scarcity in the Zanzibar business sector and economy with new regulations for foreign exchange shops last year, he said, affirming that this facilitated the granting of licenses.

The change has increased the

number of foreign exchange shops in Zanzibar after BoT issued 21 licenses with 100 bank outlets up to April 2024 from 12 shops with 81 outlets last December.

Long-term plans to reduce the shortage of dollars in the country include strengthening domestic production to reduce imports, he said, pointing at wholesale and retail foreign currency markets to increasing availability of foreign currency via official channels.

He stated that the government had increased foreign currency reserves, augmenting its ability to sell US dollars in the forex market.

Up to April 2024, BoT had conducted foreign exchange transactions with commercial banks valued at \$147m, he added.



Judge Jacob Mwambegele, chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, briefing media editors on preparations for updating the permanent register of voters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are commission member Judge Asina Omar (L) and Judge (rt) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk, the NEC vice chairman.

Reforming UN: Africa's new bid at old problem

By Aggrey Mutambo, Nairobi

AFRICAN countries have renewed their case for a "special" consideration to have the UN Security Council reformed with their plight in mind.

It is not the first time they are making such a plea. Only that this time, they want the case they presented nearly 19 years ago to be reconsidered.

This week, a committee selected to steer Africa's reform demands at the UN Security Council met in Algiers, Algeria, for the eleventh time. And they agreed to push for what is commonly known as the Common African Position (CAP) on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, which is usually declared in an African Union documents known as the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

This committee, known as C-10 comprises of Sierra Leone, Algeria, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia, Libya, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal, Zambia, the Republic of Congo and Algeria.

"African Union Member States should call for a reform of the UN Security Council, with Africa treated as a special case and priority in their respective national statements, at the 79th Session of the UNGA high-level week, and in the Summit of the Future in September 2024," they said in an outcome document after their meeting on Monday.

World leaders are expected to gather on sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September in New York to discuss the 'future of the UN system under what is dubbed as the Summit of the Future.

The Common African Position on the UNSC Reform was first adopted by the AU Member States in 2005. It calls for allocating two seats in the permanent category "with all its prerogatives and privileges including the right of veto, and two additional seats in the non-permanent category" of the Security Council. If those reforms are agreed to, it could mean Africa's seats on the Council could rise to five from the current three non-permanent.

Bankole Adeoye, the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security argues Africa's the quest for the UN Security Council Reform "is a legitimate demand", especially since the UN Security Council has made over 60 percent of its decisions in the last ten years on African political situations.

"It is impossible to disassociate it (the quest for reform) from peace operations, largely concentrated on the continent and implemented by the UN Security Council. During recent decades, Africa has been the main topic dealt with by the UNSC," he said.

But African Ministers of the C-10

agree that divisions, distractions and competing proposals have made their quest to nearly stall. Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs says every country in Africa and beyond now sees the need for reforms, given the "rapidly evolving international security realities."

"On one hand, we see a notable convergence among member states on the fundamental need for reform including a broad-based recognition that the current structure of the Security Council does not adequately reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century," he said, indicating that reforms could cure "historical injustice with regard to the representation of Africa and invariably that of underrepresented regions."

However, he admitted that the "the complex interplay of national and regional interests militates against a much-needed consensus" even among African member states, and it is hurting the wider negotiations within the UN system.

"As a region, we must unite; we must be ready and we must be open to pragmatically and strategically consider all approaches, as long as they do not compromise on the central tenets of the Common African Position," he said on Monday.

The Outcome Document suggest-

ed that the Common African position should be the only proposal from African countries, indicating there had been an attempt to vary or trade in what should be inserted in the reforms.

"The CAP should be reaffirmed as the only current viable option to correct the historical injustice done to the African Continent and for Africa to be treated as a special case and priority in the reform process," it said.

The UN Security Council is the most powerful organ of the UN with 15 members. Its substantive decisions are binding on members. But those decisions often require the support of the five permanent members (P5): UK, US, Russia China and France. These countries earned veto powers in 1945 when the UN was formed because they had either emerged victorious from the WWII, had strong economies or had a large population.

Critics of this arrangement today argue that there are stronger economies such as India, Japan, Germany and Brazil who could qualify to sit on the Council with veto powers by virtue of their economies or population sizes. Critics also charge that the P5 have abused their veto by often limiting decisions that hurt their national interest and delaying action that can save populations in times of conflict.



Uhuru Torch race entering Paradiso village in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

Nigeria's President Tinubu falls over during ceremony

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S President Bola Tinubu yesterday slipped and fell over at an official event to mark 25 years of democracy in the country.

The president, 72, fell as he climbed the steps on a vehicle which was supposed to take him around Eagle Square in the capital, Abuja.

He had to be helped to get back to his feet.

One of his aides described it as a

"mild misstep" and said the president had been able to continue with the rest of the programme.

"He immediately went on with the ceremonial rounds. No issues," wrote presidential aide Dada Olusegun on X.

Mr Tinubu's closest challenger during last year's election, Atiku Abubakar, expressed his sympathy.

"I sincerely sympathise with President Bola Tinubu over this unfortunate incident as he was set to review the parade on Democracy Day. I do

hope that all is well with him," he wrote on X.

Popular politician and activist Shehu Sani said it was no big deal, and that the incident showed the president is no different to anyone else.

"Not Just President Tinubu, anyone alive can trip and fall; it happened to President Biden and Fidel Castro. Presidents are human beings and mortals."

X user Arinze Odira said the fall was "scary to watch".

Another Nigerian Charles Awuzie posted on Facebook that he got emotional after seeing the clip.

"Whether it is President Biden or President Tinubu, I usually feel hurt when a human gets hurt in the place of service. I wish the president well."

While most Nigerians have expressed their sympathy and best wishes, for some it has reignited questions about his health, which were raised by his opponents during the campaign for last year's tightly contested election.

SGR rides between Dar, Moro to start tomorrow

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Railways Corporation (TRC) yesterday launched a public awareness campaign ahead of the commencement of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) transport services between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro tomorrow.

Masanja Kadogosa, TRC Director General said at the launch in Dar es Salaam that the campaign aims to increase awareness to the public on matters related to safety of infrastructure, passengers and cargo, adding that the campaign will end on July 24 this year.

He said that train schedules will be every one hour from Morogoro and Dar es Salaam stations, adding that the number of routes will increase depending on the demand.

"Priority is our safety. I would like to inform the public that commencement of transport services is Friday this week," he said, noting that classes are ordinary, express, luxury and royal.

Kadogosa said TRC has provided different classes to accommodate people from all walks of life.

"Standard gauge railway services will not substitute meter gauge railway operations," he said.

Mehmet Firat, Chief Project Manager at Yapi Merkezi said that the decision to commence transport services was a significant milestone in the country's infrastructure development.

"Today, we witnessed the launch of an awareness campaign and the commencement of transport services in the country," he said.

He expressed gratitude to the government for trusting the company to construct the railway infrastructure.

AfDB strengthens transition states' capacity for productive, effective debt management

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank Group has launched a series of training programmes to support 22 transition or fragile states in Africa to manage their debt more effectively.

The Public Finance Management Academy for Africa (PFMA), an initiative of the group's African Development Institute, kicked off the maiden edition of the PFMA Spotlight on Public Debt Management in Transition States - a two-day policy dialogue on sustainable debt management tailored to the needs of Africa's 22 most vulnerable countries in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

The programme will help countries build their institutional capacity to better manage debt and achieve the financial resilience needed for development.

The series brings together heads of debt management offices, treasurers and accountants general, heads of revenue authorities, representatives of central banks, supreme audit institutions, anti-corruption agencies, civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, lawmakers, and other relevant stakeholders in transition states.

Ethiopia's Minister of State for Finance and Economic Cooperation, Semereta Sewasew, said that while there have been positive strides in debt management on the continent, debt challenges, and vulnerabilities persist, especially in most transition countries.

These countries face a wide range of political, economic, security and environmental challenges, she noted. "I am pleased that the African Development Bank has designed this training programme to help develop and strengthen the capacity of these countries to manage their debt more prudently, to make their debt more productive, and restore resilience, stability, and growth to their economies," she said.

Sewasew told participants that the government of Ethiopia had made substantial progress in improving the country's economy, particularly in addressing debt challenges. She commended the African Development Bank as a steadfast partner in this process.

"Our government will continue to work with the African Development Bank and support its programmes not only for Ethiopia but for the entire continent, especially in improving debt management, transparency, and sustainability," she said.

Public debt vulnerability remains a persistent challenge for Africa. According to the IMF, of 54 African countries, 38 low-income countries were classified as being either in debt distress, with high debt distress, or with moderate debt distress. Of these 38, 23 are transition states.

Mounting debt is compounded in transition states by fragility, the absence or shallowness of domestic debt markets, and weak institutional capacity for governance, public finance, and debt management.

The African Development Bank's Deputy Director General for East Africa and Director General designate for Nigeria, Abdul Kamara, said the training was part of the implementation of the Bank's Special Project - Strengthening the Capacity of Transition States for Effective Management and Mitigation of Debt Distress Risks. The project is being implemented from April 2023 to March 2026, for 22 transition countries in Africa under the Bank's Transition Support Facility.

"We believe that together we can do even more for our countries," he said. "We expect that at the end of these two days, participants will have, among other things, an understanding of best-practice solutions tailored to their particular debt management circumstances."

Director of the African Development Institute, Eric Ogunleye, said: "African transition countries should not be mere loan takers - they are disadvantaged. Hence, they need to be empowered to contract, negotiate and use loans to improve the quality of life of their citizens."



David Kilua, Magila ward councillor in Muheza District, Tanga Region, speaking with Mikwamba villagers yesterday on development projects implemented in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on civil servants to exercise professionalism and be at the forefront in the fight against nepotism and retapes in provision of services to the public.

Majaliwa made the appeal yesterday during Tanzania Local Government Reforms Association (TOA) Annual General Meeting which was held in Arusha.

"Refrain from taking bribes as corruption derails development; we should serve the people as it is required and we need to prioritise our people," he said.

The PM also asked members of the association to follow rules of their profession as well as civil service code of conduct and avoid conflict of interest.

Majaliwa said that the government is determined to ensure that all citizens get development and various basic services.

He said local government is an

PM warns civil servants against bribes, red tapes

important instrument to ensure that development reaches the citizens at lowest level, asking district executive directors to ensure that they have effective systems for collection and management of income.

Deputy Minister of State in the President Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Dr Festo Dugange said the ministry will continue to make performance improvements for the employees to bring development to Tanzanians.

Speaking about TOA, Dr Dugange said that the institution has helped to improve performance of employees in local

government authorities and regional administrations through training.

Chairman of TOA Albert Msovela said the main goal of the institution is to contribute to increasing participation of citizens in all matters related to finance, administration and service delivery through Decentralization by Devolution - D by D- and to defend the concept of decentralization in all levels of government.

The chairman said another goal is to bring together all stakeholders of the government and the private sector to share experience in the implementation of the concept of devolution of power

in the country as well as to promote investment at the basic levels.

Msovela said that since the establishment of the institution, they have achieved various successes, including increase in development funds to improve provision of services to citizens at the lowest levels and the existence of systems to manage the use of government funds.

He mentioned other achievements as planning in councils and the introduction of development grant system for local governments (Capital Development Grant - CDG) as part of devolution of financial matters.



Kimara -Ubungu road widening project along the Morogoro Road highway in Dar es Salaam to ease traffic congestion going on well as captured by our correspondent yesterday. Photo: Miraji Msala

Production starts at Senegal's first major offshore oil project

DAKAR

PRODUCTION has started at Senegal's first offshore oil project, the Australian group Woodside Energy said on Tuesday, as the country's new government eyes higher profits from natural resources.

"This is a historic day for Senegal and for Woodside," the company's chief executive Meg O'Neill said in a statement.

The vessel extracting oil is moored about 100 kilometers (60 miles) offshore at the Sangomar oil fields. The project aims to produce 100,000 barrels of oil per day, the statement said.

The discovery of oil and gas off the

coast of Senegal in 2014 raised hopes that the industry could generate billions of dollars in revenue for developing of the country and transform its economy.

But the new government, which came to power earlier this year, pledged to review oil and gas contracts with foreign companies, which it described as unfavourable to Senegal.

"The exploitation of our natural resources, which according to the constitution belong to the people, will receive particular attention from my government," President Bassirou Diomaye Faye said in his first address to the nation in April. "I will proceed with the disclosure of the effective ownership

of extractive companies (and) with an audit of the mining, oil, and gas sector."

At a rally in Dakar on Sunday, Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko reaffirmed his administration's commitment to reviewing the contracts and promised that the country's share will be guaranteed.

"We will face multinationals," he said. Woodside Energy has an 82 percent stake in the project and the state-owned energy company Petrosen holds the remainder. While Senegal's fossil fuel output is not expected to be as great as that of bigger producers such as Nigeria, Petrosen is expecting the sector to generate more than \$1 billion per year

over the next three decades.

"First oil from the Sangomar field marks a new era not only for our country's industry and economy, but most importantly for our people," the general manager of Petrosen, Thierno Ly, said in the statement.

The country also has a Liquefied natural gas project at the border with Mauritania and extraction is scheduled to begin at the end of this year.

The Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG project - which involves British energy giant BP, U.S. Company Kosmos Energy, Mauritanian oil and gas company SHM and Petrosen - aims to produce around 2.5 million



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) FIREFIGHTING SKID UNIT.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Firefighting Skid Unit and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested applicants to submit expressions of interest as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

II. Scope of Supply

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01870	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) FIREFIGHTING SKID UNIT

III. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

COMMERCIAL

Company Profile and updated organogram

Company Code of Conduct and Ethics

Copy of Current Business License

Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.

Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate

Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association

Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.

FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE

Applicants audited financial statements for the latest three years.

Bank statements of the Applicants active bank accounts for the past 6 months.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

OSHA Compliance Certificate

Environmental compliance certificate

Workers' compensation fund certificate

Safety and Environmental policy

OTHER POLICIES

Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure

Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour

Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment

Grievance Procedure

Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme

PAST EXPERIENCE

At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)

TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01870)

OEM or authorized dealer for Toyota vehicles and firefighting mobile equipment

Evidence of previous record in supplying firefighting mobile equipment at least two and above

Competence of technician on assembling firefighting mobile equipment (Attach CVs)

Commissioning of the unit and training using competent trainers (trainers' certificates)

III. Interested companies must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting **(GGME01870 – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIRE FIGHTING SKID UNIT) on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL.** Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the Company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission should not be later than **8.30 AM (EAT) on 25th June 2024. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

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TBS asks metal pipe producers to observe set quality standards

By Guardian Reporter



THE Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) has called upon producers of flat bars, square and round metal pipes to make products that meet standards to save the public from health and economic challenges.

TBS Director General

Dr Athuman Ngenya (pictured) made the call yesterday while opening a meeting for stakeholders in the subsector at the bureau's offices in Dar es Salaam.

He said they will begin inspecting industries that produce such products to see if they abide by the rules put in place for

production of quality products.

He said one of the requirements for production of quality products suitable for use is to indicate the name of the producer and its size.

"The information is important for buyers and users of the product as it enables them to give feedback to the producer as well as monitoring in case of any defects," he said.

He said the presence of important information on the product enables regulatory institutions to identify them, monitor and take appropriate action against producers found to be violating requirements of the law, rules and standards.

He explained that despite the efforts made by TBS to ensure that the products come with important information, some manufacturers do not abide by this.

He said TBS will not hesitate to take action in accordance with the law for anyone who produces flat bars, square pipes and round pipes contrary to the requirements.

Ibrahimu Haji from Alaf promised to produce products that meet the standards to avoid violating the law.

He said they will implement all instructions given by TBS so as to produce quality products.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) SHORT TERM CONTRACT – Provision of MINING SERVICES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Tancoal Energy Limited ("Tancoal") is a premier producer and developer of thermal coal in the Eastern African region having its mine situated in the Ngaka Coalfield in Mbinga, Ruvuma Region in Tanzania.

The purpose of this EOI is to source competent Services Providers with experience, equipment, professional knowledge and technical skills for providing the following required services to our minesite:

S/N	Lot No.	Descriptions of service
1.	Lot 1	Ore haulage
2.	Lot 2	Mining Service and operations
3.	Lot 3	Logistics Service
4.	Lot 4	Equipment Hire Services
5.	Lot 5	Removal of overburden material in opencast coal mine

This call for EOI aims to shortlist capable contractors for the different lots specified and does not constitute an invitation to tender. Only suitable and qualified contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents.

2. INFORMATION REQUIRED

Interested parties need to have and submit the following:

- Proven experience and capability in mining operations
- Valid certifications and licences for mining activities
- Relevant Compliance documentation (tax, incorporation and other mandatory documents)
- Financial stability and capability (Financial Statement is required)
- Safety practices and certifications if any

3. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit their EOI, indicating the lot they are interested in (applicants are free to submit EOIs on multiple lots with unique emails and headers for each lot), to info@tancoalenergy.co.tz latest by **Tuesday, 18th June, 2024 10.00AM**.

Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.

END OF ADVERTISEMENT



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Introduction

World Wide Funds for nature Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is an international non-governmental organization which is working to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature. In Tanzania, WWF performs various projects and programs in the priority landscapes i.e., SOKNOT, Water Tower, Ruvuma, and RUMAKI Land/Seascape. In programs and projects execution WWF is working with various stakeholders i.e., governments at different tiers which includes local, regional and central, communities, private sectors, media and civil society organizations.

WWF Tanzania through Energy and Climate Change Program has received grants from EU to support implementation of "Integrated Approach for Transformation of Tanzania Fuel Wood Value Chain Project-TFWVC". This is 3-year project that intends to strengthen capacity of Tanzania government and public institutions to promote sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production in rural areas with an overall aim of enhancing environmental sustainability, particularly the sustainability of the wood-fuel value chain. The project is being implemented in six regions of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions. To this end, the project has planned to use parts of funds to purchase various equipment to support government entities in undertaking effective forest management while promoting sustainable cooking energy solution.

WWF Tanzania invites eligible Tanzanian Suppliers/Contractors registered by relevant Authorities/Bodies to bid for the lot/lots as indicated below given that each lot is a separate tender;

Lot Number	Category	Description
WWF/TCO/MRC/JUNE/2024/Lot 1	Supply of Office furniture	Office table
		Steel cabinet
		Chairs
WWF/TCO/MRC/JUNE/2024/Lot 2	Supply of Electronic equipment's	Desktop computers
		Camera
		PA Systems
WWF/TCO/MRC/JUNE/2024/Lot 3	Supply of Generator	Cloth screen
		Projector

Application Procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced bidder(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
White star, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org
Interested applicants may access the Tender Document through the following websites:
https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

All applications should reach us by or before 5:00pm Tanzania local time on Wednesday **26th June 2024**

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org

Malawi announces state funeral, 21 days of mourning for VP killed in plane crash

LILONGWE

MALAWI government yesterday said that Vice President Saulos Chilima will be honoured with a state funeral after he died in a plane crash along with eight other people.

President Lazarus Chakwera had already announced 21 days of national mourning on Tuesday, when the wreckage of the small military plane carrying Chilima and a former first lady was discovered in a mountainous area in the country's north.

Flags will fly at half-staff across the southern African nation during the period of mourning.

Chakwera has appointed a ministerial committee to oversee preparations for Chilima's state funeral, the government said in a statement. No date was announced.

Chakwera previously said that there were 10 people on the plane but the government yesterday said that a total of nine were on board when it crashed.

Everyone was killed on impact when the twin propeller aircraft went down in a hilly, forested area in bad weather, the president said. The victims included former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, the ex-wife of former Malawian President Bakili Muluzi. Six passengers and three military crew members were killed.

The plane was carrying Chilima and members of his staff on a short flight from the capital, Lilongwe, to the northern city of Mzuzu to attend a funeral of a former government minister when it went missing Monday morning.

The president said that air traffic controllers had told the plane not to land in Mzuzu because of bad weather and poor visibility and to return to Lilongwe. Air traffic controllers then lost contact with the plane and it disappeared from radar.

Hundreds of soldiers, police officers and forest rangers searched for more than 24 hours before the wreckage was discovered in a forest plantation south of Mzuzu.

The remains of the victims were brought back to Lilongwe on a Zambian Air Force helicopter on Tuesday night, when officials and mourners, including Chakwera and Chilima's wife Mary, gathered at an airport. The bodies of Chilima and the others were transported from the airport in ambulances as soldiers lined the tarmac and saluted.

UN Tourism hosts first gathering on gastronomy tourism for Africa

HARARE

UN Tourism is set to host its first regional forum on gastronomy tourism for Africa, advancing its work to make gastronomy tourism a pillar for sustainable and inclusive growth across the region.

The forum will be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 26 to 28 July 2024. Hosted under the patronage of the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr Auxillia Mnangagwa, and co-organized with Basque Culinary Centre, it aims to harness the transformative power of gastronomy tourism for the benefit of local communities and territories in the African continent.

With gastronomy tourism as one of the pillars of the UN Tourism Agenda for Africa - Tourism for Inclusive Growth, the Forum aims to build towards a roadmap for a common agenda for African Gastronomy Tourism.

African Tourism Ministers and the FAO Representative in Zimbabwe will take part in discussions on developing a strategy to propel African gastronomy onto the global stage, how to build adequate policies to enhance gastronomy tourism and enhance its role as a driver of development.

In addition to forum discussions, the event will include organized technical visits to various locations throughout the region.

Highlighting the importance of innovation, the Forum will include a pitch challenge where entrepreneurs will present scalable solutions to address regional challenges in the gastronomy and tourism value chains. Additionally, keynotes and panel discussions will emphasize sustainable practices in gastronomy tourism, exploring topics such as local sourcing and minimizing food waste.

At the forum, experts and chefs, including Chef Fatmata Binta, UN Tourism Ambassador for Responsible Tourism, representatives from Ghana Food Movement, Chef Adenike Adefila from Nigeria, Chefs in Africa (Rwanda) and Chef Mounir El Arem from Tunisia, will present their initiatives and discuss their impact on local communities, emphasizing their role in fostering positive change and progressing education and skills.

On the sidelines of the forum, the UN Tourism Youth Photo Contest titled "A Journey through Zimbabwe's Gastronomy" will offer Zimbabwean communities a unique opportunity to express their perspective and capture the essence of Zimbabwe's gastronomic heritage.

The call for participation opened on 10 June and will continue until 1 July.

Zimbabwe's engagement towards positioning gastronomy as a key pillar for the sustainable development of tourism in Africa has been showcased through the launch of several initiatives endorsed by Zimbabwe's First Lady as the National Tourism Patron, such as the Regional Traditional Gastronomy Festival taking place every year since 2019. Zimbabwe has also been an active participant in previous editions of the World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism.



Police Inspector Fidelia Kasongwa cautioning motorbike riders yesterday at Vwawa ward in Mbozi District, Songwe Region, on the consequences of not having a driving license. Photo: Issa Mwadangala

By Guardian Reporter

TMA forecasts strong winds, massive waves

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has issued an alert for strong winds and large waves affecting 11 regions, including Dar es Salaam, over the next four days.

In a statement, the weatherman indicated the regions would from June 11 to 14 witness high winds reaching 40 kilometres and waves exceeding two metres in Tanga Region and Coast (including Mafia Island). Others are Lindi, Mtwara and Zanzibar.

The weather conditions are expected to disrupt economic and maritime activities, providing major challenges

for inhabitants and companies in the impacted areas.

Other regions to be impacted include the Lake Victoria basin, Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara and Simiyu regions.

TMA advised caution, asking the public to take necessary safety and minimise

potential disruptions.

Dar es Salaam escaped major damage on May 4 as Cyclone Hidaya made landfall on Mafia Island, 130 kilometres southeast of it in the Indian Ocean.

Hidaya hit Mafia Island at 9 am local time. It significantly lost its strength

upon making landfall.

"The trend and patterns of weather systems indicate that in the past 6 hours, Tropical Cyclone Hidaya has completely lost its strength following its landfall at Mafia Island earlier today," TMA said in a statement on May 5.



Zanzibar Lands and Human Settlement Development deputy minister Salha Muhammed Mwinjuma speaking in the House of Representative yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

South Africa states its first mpox death

JOHANNESBURG

A MAN aged 37 has become South Africa's first recorded death from mpox after five laboratory-confirmed cases of the viral infection were recorded in the past month.

Health minister Joe Phaahla confirmed

the news yesterday, adding that four others remain on treatment. The man died at Tembisa Hospital on Monday, the minister told a news conference.

"All patients are males aged between 30 and 39 years without travel history to the countries currently experiencing an outbreak, which suggests there is local

transmission of this infectious disease in the country," he said.

Mpox spreads through close contact, causing flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions. Most cases are mild but it can kill.

The minister added that one patient has been discharged, one discharged

for home isolation and two remain in hospital. Although, the WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions, it is important for travellers to and from endemic countries to alert health officials on the situation to enable them to provide guidance for case detection and management.

New EAC secretary general reports, calls for teamwork

By Guardian Reporter

THE new East African Community Secretary General Veronica Nduva has urged the staff of all EAC organs and institutions to work as a team and called for collective responsibility as part of efforts to protect and enhance the good image of the Community.

In an inaugural meeting with the staff of all EAC organs and institutions at the EAC headquarters in Arusha yesterday, and other staff who joined online from the institutions, the Secretary General underscored the critical role that each staff member plays in achieving the organization's goals and aspirations. "Unity and collaboration are the cornerstone of our success," she said.

"As an institution, we must work cohesively, leveraging our diverse skills and experiences to drive the EAC agenda forward. Our collective efforts are crucial in creating a prosperous and integrated East African region."

Nduva said that under her tenure, each and every member of staff would be treated as a valuable member of the organisation, adding that it is the parts that make the whole. She emphasised the need to treat all staff members equally irrespective of rank and national origin.

She further reminded the EAC leadership and members of staff of their premier position as diplomats and the arising need to always project a good image of

the Community to East Africans, calling on all staff members to exhibit the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and dedication in their duties. She highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive public image of the EAC, which she said reflects the region's achievements and aspirations.

"Our image is a valuable asset; we all act as ambassadors of the EAC, upholding its values and principles in every interaction. We must ensure that our actions, both within and outside the workplace, align with the vision and mission of the Community," she

said.

Nduva also addressed the challenges facing the EAC and urged all staff to remain resilient and innovative in their approach to problem-solving.

"We must be proactive and forward-thinking. "By embracing change and fostering a culture of innovation, we can overcome obstacles and seize opportunities that propel the EAC to greater heights."

Annette Ssemuwemba, Deputy Secretary General in charge of customs, trade and monetary affairs, outlined the progress being registered

by the community, including the permanent secretaries and under-secretaries retreat held in May in Kampala that considered the Appeals on the Institutional Structure for the Community and recommended more than 50 new positions to the 45th Meeting of the Council for consideration and adoption.

"On behalf of the Secretariat, let me pledge our support and undivided commitment to you in order to realise the full potential of our community and utilise the same to meet the aspirations of the citizens in the region," she said.

Justice Nestor Kayobera, Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) welcomed the Nduva to the EAC and called for teamwork and networking among the bloc's top leadership, adding that this would help resolve many challenges facing the Community.

Justice Kayobera underscored the need for good relations among the various Organs and Institutions of the Community saying that there was no competition and rivalry amongst them would be counterproductive to the integration process.



Ahobokile Mwaitenda, the Finance and Economy committee chairman for the shadow People's Assembly lodged with leading opposition party Chadema, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, on the budget estimates of the Treasury. Left is the Speaker, Susan Lyimo. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, NO. 12 OF 2002, AND IN THE
MATTER OF AMAFHH BUREAU DE CHANGE LIMITED, IN VOLUNTARY
LIQUIDATION, MEMBERS' WINDING UP

On the 10th day of June, 2024, the Shareholders of AMAFHH BUREAU DE
CHANGE LIMITED, at its Extraordinary General Meeting RESOLVED the following:-

- 1) That the Company be wound up voluntarily; and
- 2) That Mr. Ketanbabu Shah of Grant Thornton Advisory East Africa Limited is hereby appointed as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing assets of the Company.

We, the undersigned shareholders of the company, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and bona fide resolution passed by the Company on the 10th day of June, 2024

Chairman
Name: Munir S. Punisa
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 10/06/2024

AMAFHH
Bureau de Change Ltd.
P.O. Box 7011, D'Salaam

Secretary
Name: ANNA M. PUNISA
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 10/06/2024

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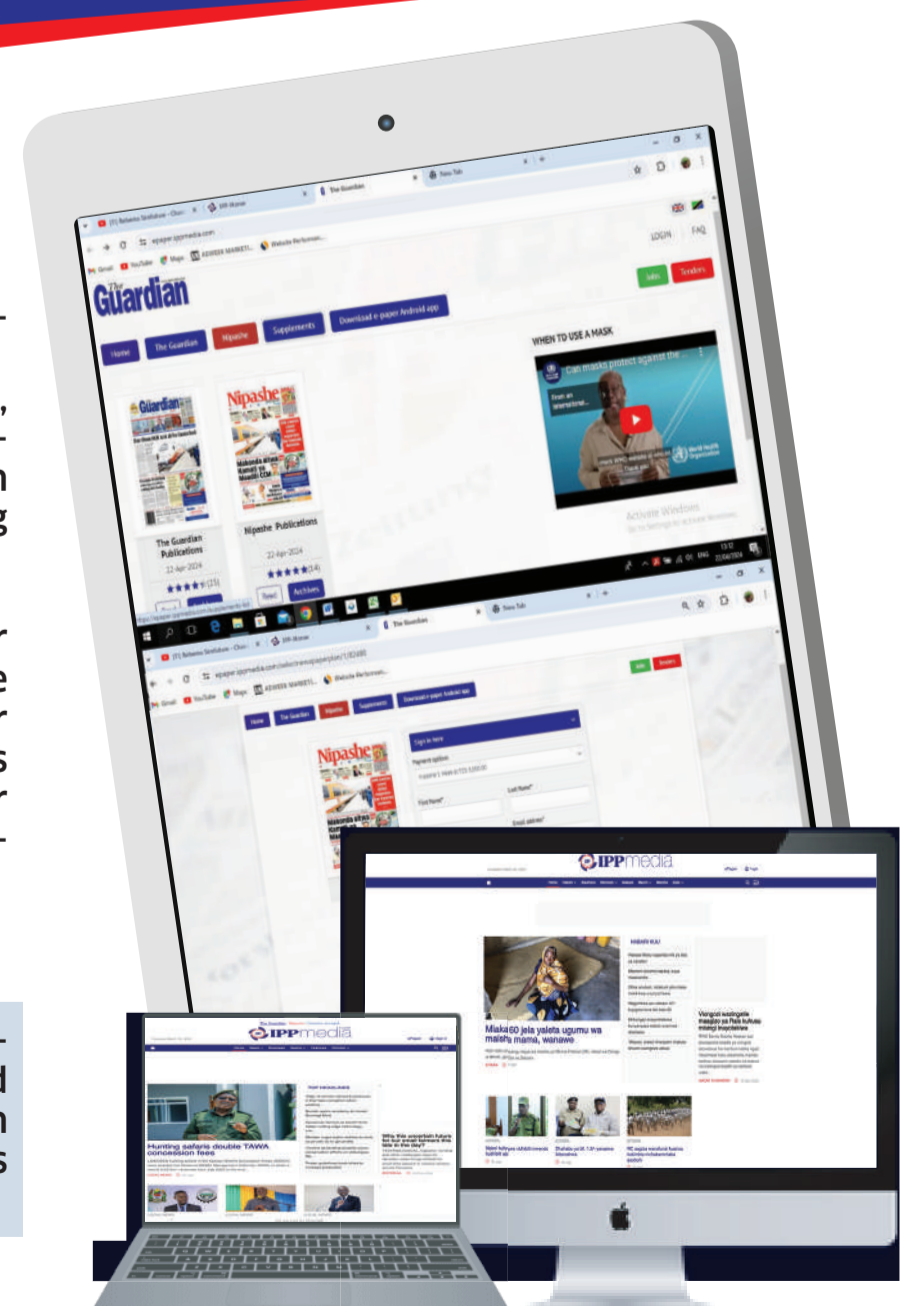
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World is not doing enough to protect oceans - UNESCO

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW report by the United Nations has found that biodiversity and carefully balanced ecosystems of oceans is being increasingly harmed by impact of human activities.

The United Nations education, science and cultural organisation (UNESCO) has said the world has been treating the oceans "like a free for all" and that this needs to stop.

It has said climate change is disrupting life in our oceans which are facing multiple hazards and being harmed by pollution, acidification, and a loss of biodiversity.

With submissions from 100 scientists from around the world, the report aims to sound the alarm on what UNESCO said is new data on threats to the oceans.

"There is loss of oxygen, there is acidification, there is sea level rise of course, causing effects on coastal communities and coastal systems," said Vidar Helgesen, executive secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

He added: "There is deterioration of blue carbon vegetation in the ocean, there is steady and strong growth of pollutants that relates to plastic, but also other chemical pollutants."

He was speaking in Paris ahead of a conference yesterday to discuss its "State of the World's Oceans" report and the screening of a documentary about the impact of climate change.

"The Great Migration of Life" documents how climate change is interfering with one of the largest animal migratory events on South Africa's Wild Coast.

"There is simply a magnitude of problems. Many of them can be traced back to climate change, so it's fair to say that climate change has a big role in many of the hazards now facing the ocean," he said.

According to UNESCO, the rate of ocean warming has doubled in 20 years and the rate of sea level rise has doubled in 30 years, with 2023 seeing the highest temperature increase since the 1950s.

It said ocean temperatures have already increased by an average of 1.45°C, with clear hotspots above 2°C in the Mediterranean, Tropical Atlantic, and Southern Ocean.

One of the main challenges facing the world's oceans is acidification which is caused by the absorption of fossil fuel emissions, changing its chemical composition.

"The ocean is now about 30 per cent more acidic than at pre-industrial times, and that percentage is set to be 170 per

cent by 2100 unless we are able to change course," he said.

One of the consequences of acidification, said Helgesen, is that shellfish are developing thinner, weaker shells, and are therefore reproducing less.

"Shellfish aren't only something we enjoy on our dinner plates, it's also something that marine life is eating, so it's disrupting the food chain in the ocean," he said.

While plastic pollution in the ocean is dramatic, Helgesen said that chemical waste was also a serious hazard.

"Nutrient pollution runoff from agriculture, from chemical industries, from wastewater, really sucks oxygen out of the water," he said.

The UNESCO report says oceans have lost 2 per cent of its oxygen since the 1960s because of warming and pollutants.

It says coastal areas are suffering the biggest impact with some plant and animal species on a "frontline battle for breath". The report identifies around 500 "dead zones" where the lack of oxygen means almost no marine life survives.

Helgesen said the report also describes other impacts on the ocean which scientists are now learning more about.

"One is that more rainfall on land, because of climate change and rising temperatures, also means that more soil is washed from the land, making the ocean darker, which affects plankton, which is at the bottom of the food chain," he said.

The report urges the fostering of what it calls marine forests. These are mangroves, seagrass plains, and tidal marshes which act as carbon sinks.

It says these hold five times more carbon than the forests on land, but that not enough is being done to save them. It says more than half of countries globally do not include marine forest restoration in their climate action plans.

The UN adopted the High Seas Treaty to protect at least a third of the world's oceans by 2023, but Helgesen said this will not have significant impact unless it establishes protection for areas of high biodiversity. "So you protect places where there is actually life to protect. And we know, and this report demonstrates, that 70 per cent of threatened species in the ocean actually take refuge in marine protected areas," he said.

Humans are heavily reliant on healthy oceans for our own survival, not least for our food, but Helgesen said we are not taking care to plan for its future.

Leaders fail to endorse envisioned merger of three economic groups

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka, Yaoundé

PRESIDENTS and finance ministers from 11 central African countries have failed to agree on merging three economic blocs.

Analysts say breaking down economic barriers among member countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States, (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) will boost trade and growth in a region that is said to be among the poorest and most conflict-ridden in the world.

But after a meeting in Cameroon's capital, officials said combining the three economic blocs will take longer than the leaders of the regions expect.

Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo is the president of ECCAS.

He said the process of merging the economic blocs is taking longer than planned because of a lack of political will, conflicting interests and bureaucratic duplication among 3 rival economic groups.

He said each time there is a leadership change, ECCAS officials start explaining the importance of fusing the economic blocs for the general interest of the eleven central African states to new governments all over again because different leaders have different

understandings of the combination.

Verissimo said merging economic blocs will stop the duplication of regional projects such as airlines, roads, electricity, agriculture and aquaculture, making it easier for funding agencies to invest in such projects.

ECCAS consists of Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe and was created in 1983. It is officially recognized by the African Union as central Africa's regional economic community.

In 1999 Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea launched CEMAC, but remained members of ECCAS.

In 2003 Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda created CEPGL but also remained in ECCAS.

The three economic blocs claim that their mission is to facilitate the free movement of goods and persons across borders and promote regional integration, reduce inequality and poverty.

But the African Union said the central African states remain among the poorest countries, although their economic and social potential is very strong. In 2006, the AU asked central African leaders to merge the three economic blocs.



Tanzania Women Drivers Association (TWSA) members follow parliamentary proceedings in Dodoma yesterday when they arrived to study activities of the legislature. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

WMA slaps Dar traders with fine for violating law on measurement

carried out at Mabibo market where the four were found with produce packed in sacks popularly known in Kiswahili as lumbesa.

"But most of the traders in this market comply with the law by packing their produce and products in a weight not exceeding 100 kilogrammes," she said.

WMA Ilala Regional Manager Mhono Nashon said the agency carried out the operation as a continuation of the fight against arbitrary packaging of produce.

He said the measurement law and its regulations require farmers or

traders to pack produce in a weight not exceeding 100 kilogrammes for one bag.

He said in the inspection, WMA visited Mabibo, Ilala and Temeke Stereo markets and found a positive response by traders whereby potatoes, onions, carrots and a wide range of vegetables were packed in accordance with the measurement law, namely a weight not exceeding 100 kilogrammes.

In addition, he said WMA continues to reach traders in their areas and provide them with education about the correct

use of measurements to protect consumers from cheating as a result of incorrect use of measurements.

He said WMA in Ilala region has prepared a procedure to reach stakeholders and traders in markets to provide them with education on the correct use of measurements.

"In order to ensure the correct use of measurements in various business places, we must provide education on the correct use of measurements and what the law and regulations say. We will have 14 days to provide education to traders," he said.



Felix Juma, (L), an official of the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA), looks as potters carry potato sacks during a surprise inspection at the Mabibo Market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The agency sought to weigh the bags if they are packed in accordance with government regulations. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Special Correspondent

Tanzania now rendered ineligible for EU conservation grant over Maasai evictions

two KLCDs are: 1) the SOKNOT (Southern Kenya Northern Tanzania) ecosystem, within which this call will include only activities in Southern Kenya (Lot 1) and Northern Kenya ecosystem (Lot 2)."

According to statements by the Maasai International Solidarity Alliance (MISA) and Survival International, the EC removed Tanzania from the list on World Environment Day (June 5), in response to the Tanzanian government's recent series of evictions to remove the Maasai people.

The semi-nomadic pastoralist group has been targeted by the government in order to remove them from the lands in and around

Loliondo in the iconic Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the northern part of the country. Survival International is a human rights organisation that campaigns for the rights of Indigenous and/or tribal peoples and uncontacted peoples.

MISA is an international alliance standing in solidarity with the Maasai of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo.

"This decision sends a strong message, as it comes after the World Bank decision to suspend its funding for a big conservation project in April 2024 and the German Development Cooperation halted its projects in Loliondo in the second half of 2023," MISA statement reads.

MISA had expressed concerns to the EC last month about its Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Community Livelihoods: Eastern Rift Savannahs and Watersheds (ERISaWa) call for proposals, because of the impossibility of guaranteeing the implementation of a human-rights based approach (HRBA) in the current Tanzanian context.

"The corrigendum in the call for proposals published by the EC is a clear sign that the EU acknowledges the negative impacts of exclusive conservation on Maasai rights and on pastoralism as a livelihood and a highly valuable land-management system in the context of the climate crisis," it noted.

THURSDAY 13 JUNE, 2024

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African leaders coming closer with each tragedy

A BROAD part of eastern and central Africa and well beyond has expressed feelings of shock and sadness at the tragic plane crash claiming the life of Vice President Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima and nine others. President Samia Suluhu Hassan joined various world leaders in sending condolences to the people of Malawi, alongside Kenyan former premier Raila Odinga and Cheikh Mohamed Ahmed Ould Ghazouani, current African Union chairman and president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It was a genuine outpouring of sympathy.

There were also instances where condolences were sent by individual political parties, in the case of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and to an extent it was the case for Raila Odinga, aspiring for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission. With statements of sympathy being placed on social media, the extent to which condolence or expression of concern is monopolised by the state is diminished. Anyone can post and also be noticed.

In that sense the flow of condolences and expression of sadness, not just in messages sent to President Lazarus Chakwera, the government and people of Malawi, reflects a sense of community that is slowly emerging on account of social media. It relates to the concern felt around Africa and other parts of the world when any tragedy occurs in Africa, and admittedly we have had intense moments of tragedy periodically, providing the social media with plenty of food for thought and for regular contributors to public reactions, moments of pain.

The Malawi VP died on Monday along with nine others on board a

Malawi military aircraft, on the way to the northern city of Mzuzu for the burial of a former cabinet minister. Having been warned not to land at Mzuzu on account of rough weather, reports said that the aircraft went 'off radar' after it left Lilongwe. Trying to negotiate its way out of a weather mess, it then crashed on mountains near the northern city, with efforts by aviation authorities to make contact with the plane hitting a wall of silence. Until it was found later at night.

A trip that would have taken upwards of 50 minutes was transformed into a moment of national mourning with echoes all over the region, and various other places. These incidents are convergent on psychological tensions when they happen, as causes are pursued far and wide, and at times accusations are openly made. This is what happened when a sitting chief of defence forces died in a plane crash in Kenya late April, with a relative raising suspicions on the cause of the crash at the funeral, bringing President William Ruto to controlled rage.

Whether or not such sentiments are being expressed on social media, as on the first day people were taking account of the shock and fully aware it wasn't the moment for blame throwing or wild accusations, chances that this will not be seen in the following days are mild, next to nil. The now hushed voices are likely to blossom, which shows the urgency of reforming Africa's economies so that we have the necessary socioeconomic framework for a thriving democracy.

It is unfortunate that we shall learn as much gradually, one tragedy at a time, as all our efforts are directed at polishing political institutions, as reform trails afar.

One shoe fits all not usable for measuring climate change effects, efforts to respond

STANDARDS are vital for measuring where people stand at a particular moment or particular issues, such that one thinking about an issue and another speaking about it at different places are largely guided by the same indicators, and thus on the same tonal level of evaluating what is seen or experienced. That is basically what is being pursued at COP28, in follow-up engagements between multilateral development banks, including the African Development Bank, to put to action approaches agreed in the last global climate meeting in Dubai. Not that they are just starting now, but an issue cropped up, of common standards.

There is the issue of measuring and reporting climate results, which means both climate change and efforts to address its adverse effects, which definitely includes measuring such effort and seeing what it comes to in expenditure related to climate change. Multilateral lenders are at the centre of such activity, as climate finance is embedded into managing global credit generally. Experts say that historically, multilateral agencies have jointly reported climate finance volumes, but not fully capturing tangible impacts of climate credit, intervention.

In that case a new consensus is emerging on a comprehensive understanding of outcomes of climate investments, where enhanced learning will help to identify areas needing, or meriting, further support. There are issues of transparency, consistency and comparability across institutions, which also implies across countries and yardsticks on what is to be provided on a specific setting of facts or indicators. The point is to establish standardised frameworks for assessing climate progress, on the basis of an AfDB statement, seen

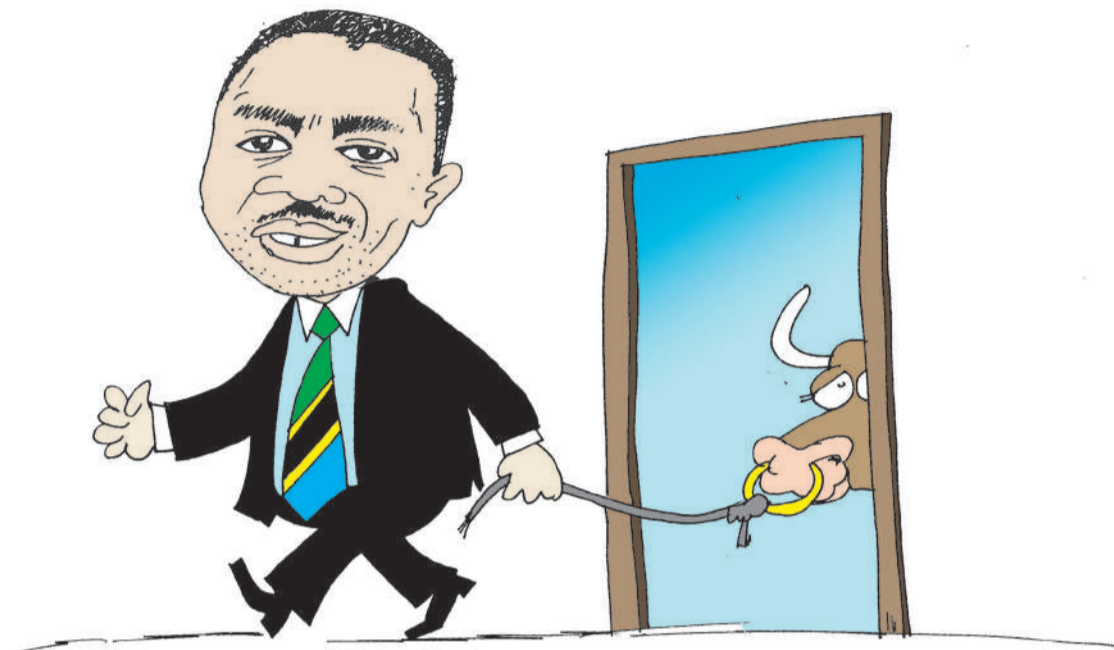
as a significant advancement in the way climate finance impacts are measured, reported, and utilised to drive effective climate action worldwide. No one can object to that.

Yet there are likely to be snags in the way in which the new climate reporting framework will operate, as locally it may take into account deforestation control with the clean cooking energy programme. It may not find the gas shift as clean enough on account of the fossil fuel imprint, as well as use of coal mixtures instead of charcoal either in homes of institutions, for precisely the same consideration. This may definitely affect the level of consensus on the clean cooking energy strategy, how far it can claim entitlement to multilateral credits for that pursuit as clearly the matter is far from being a purely internal approach.

So there is a mixed bag of policies at the national level which relate to country endowments, but it is relevant that deforestation be given pride of place, while it may not be easy to bring into measuring framework the health impact of local clean cooking energy strategy. This pluralism of approaches apart, it is clear that a live and let live situation is emerging, with basic climate change goals focusing on eliminating deforestation and replanting trees where possible.

On that aspect alone, plenty will be ironed out on evaluating local climate policy as well as initiatives to further not just these policies but to play a credible role in global climate change initiatives generally, so long as this aspect is rated highly. In that case the framework agreement is vital and definitely encompasses much of what we are already doing, but some links will depend on bilateral considerations, and where possible, creating business in climate action.

2024/25 Estimates



Africa: The G7 Is right to put food at the heart of climate plans. but how matters

POLICY making those sidelines farmers in countries like Madagascar, where I am Agriculture Minister, can be as harmful as the climate crisis itself.

This dry season, farmers in Madagascar will dig for water, as bone-dry rivers make it almost impossible to grow crops and keep livestock healthy. Others will be trying to salvage what they can of their harvests following intense rains and floods.

Despite contributing just 0.01 percent of climate emissions, my country is one of the most vulnerable to its impacts. Climate change is making Madagascar hotter, the rains more unpredictable, and floods, drought, cyclones, and hurricanes more common. Farmers - the mainstay of our economy - are hardest hit.

We are not alone. African agriculture is under assault from climate change. The combined impact of drought and floods means that 24 million people in southern Africa currently face hunger, malnutrition, and water scarcity. Overseas, consumers are facing price surges in cocoa as global supply chains are disrupted by extreme weather and changes in seasons.

At the G7 Summit this month, world leaders will try to tackle these crises. Italy, in its role as G7 President, will launch the Apulia Food Systems Initiative, to reduce hunger and malnutrition, increase climate resilience, and reduce emissions in the agri-food sector.

A more joined up approach to climate change and food security is welcome. But the G7's track record on food initiatives is patchy at best. Will this one succeed? To do so, three ingredients are needed.

First, their plan must meet the needs of Africa's 33 million small-scale farmers, who produce up to 70 percent of the food consumed on the continent, support the livelihoods of millions of people, and are critical to the global supply of commodities such as rice, coffee and wheat.

This means involving family farmers' organisations as expert partners from the outset - not tagging them on as "beneficiaries" at the end of the planning process.

It's telling that the Apulia Initiative was developed without their input. If this doesn't change, it can't hope to understand or address the daily challenges they face.

In Madagascar, where more than 80 percent of farms are family-run,



The G7 can learn from examples of food and agriculture initiatives that have worked closely with family farmers in Madagascar. Credit: Antoine Tardy/UNDRR.

we have seen the value of working in partnership with producers. In 2015, we established the National Committee for Family Farming which provides a forum for family farmers and their organisations to engage with and influence decisionmakers in government and business.

It ensures public policy and investments are rooted in the experience of farmers. For example, Madagascar's new land law gives farmers who have developed their plot for five or more years the right to obtain a certificate of land ownership and, with it, the confidence they need to invest in their farm and their future. The committee provides a blueprint for inclusion that the G7 could adopt.

Second, the G7 needs to get finance to where it's needed most. The Apulia Initiative aims to mobilise more finance for agricultural adaptation and mitigation. This is vitally important. Climate spending on agrifood systems as a whole is at least seven times lower than the most conservative estimates.

The extent to which the G7 can close this gap through debt for food swaps, increased investments by development banks, and food insurance schemes remains to be seen. A comprehensive plan for debt relief could go a long way in

a country like Madagascar where public debt is 56.1 percent of our GDP.

Equally important is ensuring the finance gets to the grassroots where it can have the most impact. In 2021, just 3.6 percent of international public climate finance spending in Africa was targeted at small-scale producers.

This means family farmers in countries like mine are missing out on opportunities to adapt or paying from their own dwindling resources. Around the globe, small-scale producers are investing \$368 billion a year in vital climate adaptation efforts.

But they can't continue to do this on their own. Family farmers organisations need direct access to affordable, flexible, longer-term finance so they can support farmers to deliver on their priorities.

Last, the G7's food systems plan must encourage a shift to more diverse and nature-friendly forms of agriculture which is key to food security. In Madagascar, a project to help farmers shift to more sustainable and resilient farming techniques was a huge success.

The farmers benefited from access to specialist advice and weather data, as well as financial support to trial new approaches - such as mulching to prevent soil erosion during heavy rains,

and planting native fruit trees to provide shade for the crops and new sources of income.

The results were striking: food insecurity fell significantly in the space of just five years, and farmers were better able to protect themselves against loss of income from extreme weather.

This is what food system transformation looks like in Africa. This is what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said is needed to build a more resilient food system. These are the sort of projects the G7 should be investing in.

For family farmers, droughts and floods are the visible face of the climate crisis. Less obvious but just as harmful is international policy-making that sidelines them and starves them of the resources they need to survive in an escalating climate catastrophe.

The Apulia Food Systems Initiative is a chance to do things differently. To harness the expertise and energy of family farmers across the continent and build a food system that is fit for the future. Let's not squander it.

Suzelin Rakotoarisolo Ratohiarijaona is the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock for the Government of Madagascar.

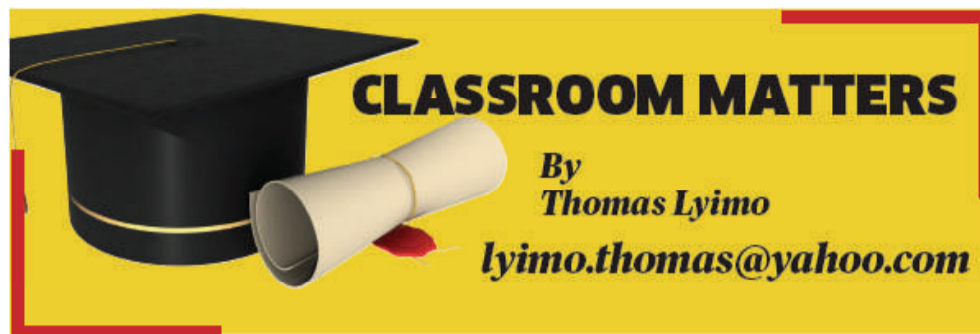
Embracing development: Competence based curriculums will ensure no one is left behind

MOST thinkers do not easily come to terms of agreement when they are told that some graduates cannot secure jobs or opt for self-employment. They start questioning the quality of education they have received. Their worries may be escalated by the idea that some learners may get discouraged to devote their time to learning if the impact is not clearly known to them.

With individuals who are less motivated to learn the struggle of the government to bring development hit the rock as well. Lack of certain understanding prevents individuals from accepting and implementing policies which can bring development easily. The late Julius Kambarage Nyerere was right to list ignorance among the three enemies of the country. He can be remembered for his policies such as compulsory free primary school education which aimed at eliminating illiteracy.

In today's world the ability to read and write is a minimal qualification for a learned person. It is something that is assumed to be possessed by everyone in the society. The focus now is on how to use the acquired knowledge and skills to bring changes in the society. The aim is to provide education which can enable an individual to live in their environment or outside their environment. This is the type of education that has both national and international standards.

The current environment of the world demands practical skills which can help in value creation so that life moves on. The demands of today's world are what have led to the creation of competence based curriculum so as to enable Tanza-



nia not to be left behind in the move to embrace development.

In the past much of the work was placed on the teacher's shoulder as the sole supplier of knowledge. But recent times have put into consideration the place of the learner who is the target of the curriculum. Teachers are now obliged not to teach as they used to do in the past but facilitate learning by involving learners in the learning process. The changes in the education sector such as the increase of books and other learning facilities like computers in some schools make it possible to run a competence based curriculum. For the competence based curriculum to be a success the

role of the teacher cannot be undermined. For them to facilitate this new approach in learning effectively they need to know what the competence based curriculum requires.

The first requirement of competence based curriculum is time devotion. It has been established by educational experts that the competence based curriculum requires the teacher to use a lot of time in preparation in order to make the intended objectives realized. The teacher does not only prepare a lesson but also the learning environment and teaching facilities. The aim of the competence based curriculum is to increase exposure to learners. This means the

teacher has to take learners to the field while they are in the class.

Things like videos help the teacher to expose learners to the real concept they want to teach as learners can visualize the real process, thus enhancing their chances of learning. All of these preparations are time consuming. Sometimes the teacher will need to use internet services to get learning resources. This justifies that a competence based curriculum can hardly be implemented without devotion of time.

The second requirement of the competence based curriculum is application of knowledge and skills learnt in class. The teacher needs to prepare an environment that will enable learners to test their understanding of what they have been taught. The room for practical work is very important in the competence based curriculum. Teaching and learning is for causing changes in society. The learner needs to be involved in the learning process and assure themselves that they have acquired knowledge

and skills which are useful.

The third requirement of the competence based curriculum is learning a specific skill. The education research has put it clear that today's world requires specific skills for an individual to be able to excel in life. It is not just learning whatever can be learnt but learning something which can solve a certain problem. The competence based curriculum aims at generating problem solvers. The current world is in need of problem solvers. There are a lot of problems caused naturally or by some individuals while there are few problem solvers. Therefore a competence based curriculum aims at eliminating that challenge. Scholars propose that we need to shift from being knowledge users to knowledge developers.

Competence based curriculum focuses on changes on the quality of graduates. It is not so much interested in number of A in a certificate but the ability to utilize knowledge and skills to improve living standards of an individual. The aim of this curriculum is to give a learner practical experience on how to go about life. The emphasis is involving learners in the teaching and learning process so that they can learn. Teaching is embracing competence.

By Michelle Meineke

Organized crime is endangering wildlife and damaging ecosystems

DESPITE 20 years of national and international prevention efforts, wildlife trafficking persists. But stronger scientific evidence could enable more rapid, measurable progress. This is the key message of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) World Wildlife Crime Report 2024.

Pangolins, rhinos, elephants, eels, cedar and rosewoods are just a tiny sample of the 4,000 animal and plant species affected by wildlife trafficking, the report shows. Huge efforts to stop illegal wildlife trade through seizures generated around 16,000 tonnes of items from 2015 to 2021.

This global problem, which impacts animals, plants, communities, economies and more, could get far worse. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse is the third biggest risk to the planet of the next 10 years, as highlighted in the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024.

"We rely on nature as the underpinning of our daily lives as much as for the foundations of business and industry, for raw materials and ecosystem services," says Akanksha Khatri, Head of Nature at the World Economic Forum.

"In the delicate web of life, everything is interlinked - and wildlife crime poses a major threat to the health of our environment. We must recognize the value of natural capital, restore and conserve ecosystems, increase regulatory pressure to improve laws for the environment, and unlock finance for nature across the board."

Species at the greatest risk

Today, the extinction rate of species on Earth is hundreds of times higher than in the past 10 million years. Wildlife crime is playing a big role.

Between 2015 and 2021, approximately 81% of illegal trade seizures in 162 countries and territories involved plant and animal species listed in the Convention



Illegal wildlife trafficking is a global problem affecting 4,000 animal and plant species.

Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Appendix, the UN report explains.

Hints of progress However, the latest numbers on elephant ivory and rhino horn trafficking "provide grounds for some optimism". The high-profile marketing and policy efforts for ivory and horn, along with market restrictions and greater law enforcement, appear to be working - potentially creating a positive template for helping other species more effectively. Still, "continued vigilance" is vital, the UNODC urges.

Rhinos and elephants still account for 29% and 15% of the species most affected by wildlife crime, respectively, after pangolins (28%) - at least 200,000 of which are poached every year. The population of African elephants has plummeted from 3.5 million a century ago to a maximum of 690,000 today, while the number of Asian elephants has more than halved from 100,000.

Remembering the bigger picture

Both elephants and rhinos are considered "iconic" wildlife and have received significant attention. Still, some of the clearest

examples of conservation harm caused by wildlife crime "receive comparatively little attention", the report says.

This includes the illegal collection of succulent plants and rare orchids, the trafficking of a wide range of reptiles, fish, birds and mammals. Here, illegal trade appears to have played a "major role in local or global extinctions".

Wildlife crime is big business The underground economy for wildlife crime is worth up to \$20 billion every year, driven by often "invisible" large and organized criminal groups. This global activity comes only behind arms, drugs and human trafficking in scale, according to the Zoological Society of London.

"Professional and remotely directed gangs have been active in elephant and tiger poaching, and industrial scale illegal fishing and logging operations are well documented," the UN report says.

Plus, corruption stalls the implementation of new regulations, and the rapid rise of new technologies over the last decade means traffickers can get their "product" to global markets faster than ever.

Putting more deterrents in place

Making it more challenging to make money illegally is a huge effort. Analysis shows that 164 Member States of the UN criminalize wildlife trafficking violations to some degree. More than half (52%) have penalties that meet the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime's definition of a serious crime with a maximum custodial penalty of at least four years - the highest level of criminalization across nine environmental crime sectors analyzed.

The other side of the financial equation in illegal wildlife trade is the negative socio-economic impact on communities, including fewer jobs for those in wildlife-based industries and reduced tourism. For example, travel and tourism is a major economic engine in Africa - a hotspot for poaching by international syndicates - with more than \$168 billion generated in 2019.

Non-material contributions associated with the world's animals and planets - our identity, culture and learning, for example - are also damaged by wildlife crime, the report flags.

Tracking trends in seizures Records relate to more than

140,000 wildlife seizures reported between 2015 and 2021, a result of extensive national and global coordination. The UN report shows that a total of 13 million items were seized in the same period.

Notably, the annual number of seizures reported for 2020 and 2021 was around half the number reported for each of the preceding four years. Several factors may be behind this, including reporting standards, less law enforcement, shifts to new modes of marketing and moving illegal wildlife shipments to avoid detection, or the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It may also be a "genuine reduction in trafficking levels", the UNODC says.

Only part of the story Whatever the cause, there is still a lot of progress to be made, as elephant ivory was the only commodity to have moved below the 2015 baseline by 2021.

And this data does reflect the full scale of the global challenge.

"Actual wildlife trafficking levels are of course far greater than the recorded seizures and it is important to keep in mind that there are important gaps in seizure-based evidence of traffick-

ing in timber, fisheries and some other large trade sectors," the UNODC warns.

What can be done about it?

The time to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking and protect 4,000 animals and species is very short. Already, data "gives no reason for confidence" that the UN Sustainable Development Goal 15.7 - to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna - will be achieved by 2030.

Therefore, greater action is urgently needed. The adage that knowledge is power is certainly true in this case. While we have more information than ever, the report stresses that more detailed and frequent data and analytics are vital to plugging knowledge gaps.

Tailored solutions per region and species, for example, are key. There is also plenty of potential to research criminal structures, financial incentives, and other features of trafficking chains. Wildlife crime is a fast-moving and complex landscape, the UNODC reminds, but one point is certain: "There is no room for complacency".

Bangladesh's 'missing billionaires': A wealth boom and stark inequality

By Faisal Mahmud

A BUTTING the posh Gulshan Club and overlooking the serene Gulshan Lake in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, a 14-storey building is nearing completion.

Construction workers clad in orange helmets and neon harness belts are detailing the finishing touches as the building's ornate facade glistens against its monochromatic concrete and glass backbone.

This building, known simply as Three, is being constructed by the elite Bangladeshi real estate developer BTI and is arguably the most expensive residential apartment building ever built in the South Asian nation.

Aside from having the most sought-after zip code, the 12 apartments - each spanning a whole floor of more than 7,000sq-foot (650sq-metre) - are stocked with a range of modern amenities and gadgets, including biometric security systems for locks and elevators and AI-based lighting for efficiency.

All the apartments were sold even before the construction started, even with a whopping base price tag of 200 million taka or \$2.5m until 2021 (the taka has since devalued, bringing the price of the apartments down to \$1.8m).

Since BTI chairman Faizur Rahman Khan also bought a flat in the building, the company carefully screened the other potential owners from the more than 50 applications it received, predominantly from businessmen in the city.

Bangladesh's rising disposable income is not unknown. Crowded shopping malls, such as Jamuna Future Park, one of the largest in South Asia, and new billboards advertising everything from packaged foods to cars and smartphones are all evidence of it.

But this BTI building, perhaps more than anything else, speaks of the growing wealth of Bangladesh's rich, a handful of the country's 180 million people.

A Boston Consulting Group (BCG) study indicated that, while the nation's middle-income and affluent consumer (MAC) class is expanding rapidly - predicted to reach 17 percent of the population by 2025, the country's wealth disparity is simultaneously deepening.

It is a symptom of the nation transitioning from an "economic basket case" - as it was once called by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger - to a fast-growing economy, but one grappling with a growing divide between rich and poor.

In Bangladesh, the wealthiest 10 percent of the population now controls a disproportionate 41 percent of the nation's total income, while the bottom 10 percent receives a meagre 1.31 percent, according to government data.

The rise of the millionaires New York-based research firm Wealth-X identified Bangladesh as the global leader in wealth growth from 2010 to 2019.

The study (PDF) indicated a remarkable 14.3 percent annual increase in the



In Bangladesh, the wealthiest 10 percent of the population now control a disproportionate 41 percent of the nation's total income which is spent on luxury houses, among other things

number of individuals with a net worth exceeding \$5m, surpassing Vietnam, which ranked second with a 13.2 percent growth rate.

Wealth-X's report further forecasts Bangladesh to be among the top five fastest-growing countries for high net-worth individuals, projecting an 11.4 percent increase over the next five years.

Further illustrating the growth of Bangladesh's wealthiest, according to Bangladesh Bank data, by the end of 2023, more than 113,586 private bank accounts held at least 10 million taka (nearly \$1m), a significant increase from just 16 such accounts after the country's independence in 1971 and 3,442 accounts in the year 2000, around the start of the country's manufacturing and export boom which helped power many of these accounts.

This group, colloquially known as kotipotis, represents less than 1 percent of total bank accounts, yet controls a substantial 43.35 percent of total deposits, highlighting the concentration of wealth within a small segment of the population.

Economist MM Akash put it bluntly: "Bangladeshi rich people are increasingly getting wealthy while the poor are struggling for survival."

The disparity is hard to miss. Less than 3km (about 2 miles) from the Three building, along the same

Gulshan Lake, lies Korail, Dhaka's largest slum. Spanning an area equivalent to 40 football fields, Korail is set in stark contrast to its affluent neighbour, with four to five people crammed into tiny 100sq-foot (9sq-metre) rooms.

In recent years, COVID pandemic-induced lockdowns, the Ukraine-Russia war, and the subsequent economic slowdown have pushed more Bangladeshis into poverty.

Surveys by various organisations have consistently reported a substantial rise in poor and extremely poor individuals. A post-COVID survey by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDA) revealed that approximately 51 percent of Dhaka's impoverished residents were pushed into extreme poverty due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Akash attributed this widening gap between rich and poor not only to an unequal distribution of economic gains, but also to a development strategy that has disproportionately benefited the ultrarich.

The country's Eighth Five-Year Plan acknowledged policy failures contributing to persistent inequality and the lack of equitable wealth distribution.

A prime example, said Akash, is Bangladesh's tax-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio of 9 percent, well below the average of developing countries of 15 percent.

"We have a regressive direct taxation on the poor and middle class while we allow the rich to practise widespread tax evasion," he says, adding that a significant portion of the wealthy's assets remains untaxed.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at Dhaka-based think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), also criticised successive governments for prioritising corporate interests by reducing taxes instead of taxing the wealthy.

"The irony is, here, workers are facing suppression when demanding fair wages, while at the same time, the ultra-rich are getting better benefits even after tax evasion."

A Ministry of Finance study suggested that a staggering 45-65 percent of Bangladesh's income remains untaxed. This is largely due to the superrich's ability to evade taxes by registering their assets - when they do - at a much lower value than the market price.

Consequently, a significant portion of government revenue comes from indirect taxes, like VAT, which burden the poor disproportionately.

Moazzem said the poor bear a heavier tax burden than the wealthy. He also rejected the "supply-side" theory that claims tax breaks for the rich ultimately benefit everyone.

Echoing Moazzem, economist Akash also challenged the notion that a grow-

ing number of affluent individuals indicates a thriving economy - as the government sometimes tries to portray.

"This is because most of those rich people in Bangladesh do not reinvest their wealth, rather stash them in offshore accounts to evade taxes," he said.

Bangladesh's billionaire conundrum According to Oxfam's 2023 Annual Inequality Report, the richest 1 percent globally amassed nearly twice as much wealth as the rest of the world combined over the past two years.

Billionaires' wealth has skyrocketed since 2020, with the uber-rich amassing an astonishing \$26 trillion (63 percent) of all new wealth created during the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis, while the remaining 99 percent shared only \$16 trillion (37 percent).

This means a billionaire gained roughly \$1.7m for every \$1 earned by someone in the bottom 90 percent. Their fortunes have grown by an average of \$2.7bn daily, further exacerbating the wealth gap.

Paradoxically, despite being the world's 35th largest economy, there were no Bangladeshi billionaires on the annual Forbes World's Billionaires List until this year.

Muhammad Aziz Khan, chairman of Bangladesh's Summit Group, who made his fortune through electricity and energy trade, was the first Bangladeshi to make it to Forbes's list.

Just to put it into context, Eswatini, an African nation with a GDP 100 times smaller than Bangladesh, has one billionaire.

Furthermore, out of the 76 countries with at least one billionaire, 40 have smaller economies than Bangladesh.

Chile, for example, has an economy roughly 78 percent the size of Bangladesh's but boasts seven billionaires. Similarly, Cyprus has four billionaires despite its economy being just one-fifth the size of Bangladesh's.

Journalist Sheikh Rafi Ahmed, who reports on these "missing billionaires", contended that many billionaires actually do exist in Bangladesh, but conceal their wealth in offshore accounts and real estate, pointing at the 11 Bangladeshis listed in the Pandora Papers for such practices. Rafi believed that substantial capital outflows and tax evasion have hindered an accurate estimation of individual wealth in Bangladesh.

"This probably explains the absence of Bangladeshi billionaires for long on global lists," he said.

Naznin Ahmed of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) pointed to the alarming rate of capital outflow through over- and under-invoicing of imports and exports.

The magnitude of the outflow of wealth from Bangladesh, as the ultrarich take their money overseas, was so significant that a 2017 Global Financial Integrity Report ranked the country highest among least developed nations for "illicit financial flows".

"I think Bangladesh has secret billionaires, but they just don't keep their money here," she said.

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Chinese technology boosts cotton production in Benin



Farmers pose for a photo in a cotton field in Belle Cite village, near the central city of Parakou, Benin.

COTONOU

AS the June rainy season descends upon Benin, Donatien Ezin and his eight-year-old son work together in the fields behind their home in Belle Cite village, near the central city of Parakou.

The 37-year-old cotton farmer expressed confidence in planting cotton in time for this month. "Thanks to the Chinese agricultural machinery, my cotton field can be planted quickly, saving a lot of labor for me and my family," Ezin said.

Parakou is a vital hub for cotton production in Benin, with cotton cultivation serving as the primary income source for locals like Ezin. Since 2013, the Chinese Support Mission for Cotton Production in Benin has been assisting local farmers to improve agricultural techniques.

Tailored to local conditions, Chinese experts undertook tasks such as seed selection, demonstration of planting techniques, and guidance on agricultural machinery.

Shen Zhiwan, a Chinese agronomist, said Belle Cite's cotton farmers have achieved "tangible progress," noting that as their incomes increased, they replaced their once-scattered adobe dwellings with sturdy brick houses.

Ezin, currently living in a brick bungalow with his family, explains the success of the cooperation project in detail. By mastering scientific planting techniques and utilizing machinery, Ezin and his brother witnessed crop yields surge from 1.2 tonnes to 2 tonnes per hectare.

Shou Xiaoyong, the head of the Chinese expert team, said that they have conducted 22 training sessions over the past three years, which covered topics such as agricultural machinery and cotton planting techniques, benefiting nearly 1,000 local trainees.

Their efforts have introduced new tools and technologies, resulting in improved cotton production and quality in Benin, he added.

Yves Koba, mayor of Belle Cite, expressed gratitude for the experts' assistance in helping local farmers increase their incomes, enabling them to build houses and purchase motorcycles and even cars.

The mechanization of cotton production has transformed work processes and elevated both cotton production and living standards, Koba said, highlighting a significant increase in cotton farming participation since the project's initiation, with more than 300 families now actively engaged in cotton-related activities in Belle Cite, up from 100 households.

BONN & NAIROBI

AS the planet groans under record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather events, Africa, which is responsible for only two to three percent of global emissions, stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable region in the world.

António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General's special address on climate action titled 'A Moment of Truth' said 2024 was the hottest May in recorded history, and that this marks twelve straight months of the hottest months ever. For the past year, every turn of the calendar has turned up the heat.

"Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we do not seem to be listening. Humanity is just one small blip on the radar. But like the meteor that wiped out the dinosaurs, we're having an outsized impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteors. We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution," he said.

The speech was made during the 60th Sessions of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies—also called the 2024 Bonn Climate Change Conference—to build on the many mandates of COP28 in Dubai, drive forward progress on key issues and prepare decisions for adoption at the COP29 UN Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

"We are at a moment of truth. It is a travesty of climate justice that those least responsible for the crisis are hardest hit: the poorest people, the most vulnerable countries, Indigenous Peoples, women and girls. The richest one percent emits as much as two-thirds of humanity," Guterres observed.

Emphasizing that extreme events "turbocharged by climate chaos are piling up—destroying lives, pummeling economies, and hammering health. Wrecking sustainable development; forcing people from their homes; and rocking the foundations of peace and security—as people are displaced and vital resources depleted."

Climate justice is an approach to climate action centred on the unequal impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. It seeks to achieve an equitable distribution of both the burdens of climate change and the efforts to mitigate climate change, examining issues such as equality, human rights and historical responsibilities for climate change.

This approach recognizes that marginalized or vulnerable communities, especially in developing and least-developed countries, often face the worst consequences of climate change. The "triple injustice" of climate change means that they frequently experience additional disadvantage as a result of climate change responses, which exacerbates already existing inequalities.

Meena Raman from the Third World Network spoke about the poor performance and duplicity of the developed countries.

Climate finance: The planet is speaking, listen and respond with justice



While Africa is responsible for two to three percent of global emissions, the continent stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable.

"They come to these negotiations talking about issues such as mitigation ambition while regressing and moving away from the climate finance agenda," she said, pointing to the failure of the developed world to keep to their promises of reducing their carbon emissions by 25 to 40 percent by 2020.

"There are only 17.4 percent emissions reductions overall in developed countries and economies in transition...This is the height of irresponsibility."

She also called them out on climate finance.

"The developed world has only managed to generate about USD 51.6 billion annually from 2019 to 2020, against a commitment of USD 100 billion per year. And here they come talking about achievements and being on target while they are nowhere near that target," she said.

Sara Shaw from Friends of the Earth International stressed that developed countries have not provided

the finance they owe to developing countries over the past decades to deliver a just transition and a meaningful and just phase out of fossil fuels. This has led to a dire emergency situation, with the impacts of the climate crisis becoming increasingly devastating.

"The situation is fuelling, understandably, a narrative of urgency. But instead of the urgency meaning that the action is directed at tackling the root causes of the climate crisis at source, including fossil fuel and

greenhouse gas emissions, we see rich countries and big polluters chafing after a range of dangerous distractions, such as the carbon market," she said.

Raman speaks of a lack of good faith in the negotiations, of big countries minimizing and disguising their contribution to global emissions, and their financial responsibility to developing and underdeveloped countries. Saying there is a resistance to focusing on finance and a deliberate shift to focusing on other issues.

"Developed countries are saying that negotiations here are not only about finance but about the global stocktake—how parties have progressed towards achieving global climate goals—in their entirety. The negotiations are about every global stocktake outcome. But what they are attempting to do is dilute and muddy the discussions so that there will not be a total focus on finance," Raman emphasized.

"For Baku, COP29 is a finance COP and the new collective quantified goal on finance is a very critical discussion that is going on now and that has to be decided in terms of what the quantity of the new goal is going to be."

Civil society from Africa, under the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), is in Bonn to voice their concerns and demands on behalf of millions of Africans suffering from climate change's impacts. To remind the Parties to the UNFCCC of their moral and legal obligations to protect their planet and people from the existential threat of global warming. To hold them accountable for their actions and inactions that have caused and exacerbated this crisis.

"Africa is on the frontlines of the climate crisis. We are experiencing the worst effects of a problem that we did not create. Our communities are facing severe water scarcity, crop failures, malnutrition, diseases, displacement, conflicts, heat waves and loss of life due to climate change. Our natural resources and ecosystems are under immense pressure from climate change and other human activities. Our development prospects and aspirations are being undermined by inadequate support and finance from the international community," their joint statement read.

Their statement said their call was not for charity or sympathy.

"We are here to demand justice and equity; to demand that the parties, especially those from the North, stop procrastination; to call on them to listen to the voices of the people, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized, and to act following the best available science and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. We are here to call on rich countries to demonstrate leadership and courage in tackling this crisis that threatens our common future."

South Africa's unity government: Five parties need to find common ground

By Joleen Steyn Kotze

FOLLOWING South Africa's historic 2024 general election, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has started a process to establish a government of national unity. This, after it lost its parliamentary majority.

As a political scientist, I believe that five political parties, including those with the highest shares of votes, are key to constituting a unity government. This view applies even to those parties, such as the Economic Freedom Fighters, that have already shot down the idea of a government of national unity. In my view, attempts should be made to bring in smaller but significant political parties.

The five are the ANC, the main opposition Democratic Alliance, the Economic Freedom Fighters, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Patriotic Alliance.

These parties are critical to creating an inclusive government representative of South Africa's voting public.

Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto we Sizwe Party, with the third largest share of votes, has an anti-constitutional stance that rules it out as a good potential partner in a unity government. In fact, at the time of writing, the party was planning to stop the first sitting of parliament, through a court interdict. The first sitting must be within 14 days after announcement of the election results.

A government of national unity is not new in South Africa. Emerging from a brutal and extremely divisive apartheid context, political leaders sought to create political stability through a unity government after the 1994 elections. However, the 1994 unity government was a requirement of the interim constitution.

South Africans have stated, through their votes, that they are no longer happy with the single party hegemony the ANC enjoyed over the last 30 years. They are looking for cooperation to deal with the country's major challenges. These include unemployment, a stagnant economy, a dysfunctional public sector, and persistent racialised patterns of poverty and inequality.

The question is: are South Africa's political parties able to see beyond their ideological lenses towards the vista of compromise and collaboration?

I believe understanding the areas on which the parties agree is crucial for assessing how they might behave in a unity government. These intersections are pivotal for ensuring political and administrative stability, most notably in creating conditions to foster much-needed economic growth and social development.

An ideological analysis of the parties' election manifestos might provide some answers. Manifestos



African National Congress president Cyril Ramaphosa, centre, and fellow party national executive members.

provide important clues about a party's worldview and priorities.

African National Congress
The African National Congress holds a strong social welfare view with a focus on income redistribution. Its key values are non-racialism, constitutionalism, social justice and human rights. The ANC's worldview is rooted in the principles of freedom, justice and solidarity. This was evident in its 2024 election slogan: "Let's do more, together".

Key to implementing its priority areas (see the graphic below) will be to balance state intervention with market dynamics to pursue economic and social development, and maintain a strong welfarist approach in policy implementation.

The Democratic Alliance
The Democratic Alliance's manifesto has a focus on economic liberalism. It champions creating conditions for the private sector to prosper. This includes opening the energy market (including electricity) to competition, for example.

An area where the ANC and Democratic Alliance (DA) may converge is in creating a social

welfare safety net. However, the DA's manifesto points to a more liberal welfare state. Here individuals are regarded as individual market actors. The role of the state is to create conditions conducive to their success. The party proposes "overhauling restrictive regulations" in the Labour Relations Act which it says deter firms from hiring people. The two parties would need to agree on exactly how much social welfare there will be.

Individualism and the centrality of the economic market are fundamental to the party's worldview. It is thus rational to assume that the party would not abandon these principles in negotiating its involvement in the government of national unity.

The Economic Freedom Fighters
The Economic Freedom Fighters are ideologically on the extreme left, with a strong socialist and revolutionary policy agenda found in their Seven Cardinal Principles for Elections 2024.

With 9.52% of the votes, the party represents a substantial constituency, especially the young voting public.

The party emphasises strong state intervention in the economy. It advocates for nationalisation of land and banks, which directly contradicts the Democratic Alliance's worldview.

The extent of state intervention and control may emerge as a point of conflict with the ANC. The party and the ANC will need to agree on exactly how much state involvement in economic life is necessary for transformation and social justice. At the time of writing, the Economic Freedom Fighters were still expressing a preference for a (narrower) coalition government with the ANC, rather than a broader unity government involving the Democratic Alliance.

The Inkatha Freedom Party's Thirteen Point Manifesto Plan may present an ideological compromise. The party shares with the ANC and the Democratic Alliance a commitment to constitutionalism. Its commitment to some state intervention along with economic diversification could facilitate common ground with the ANC.

Like the Democratic Alliance, Inkatha champions individualism and personal agency. It wants an audit of all land to de-

termine land ownership, which may also resonate with the Economic Freedom Fighters. From a policy perspective, Inkatha could potentially act as a unifying force.

The Patriotic Alliance

The Patriotic Alliance is an interesting addition to the unity government. A cursory glance at its 2024 Turn Around Strategy shows a highly conservative and nationalistic worldview.

The party sits to the extreme right of a potential unity government. With a focus on returning to religion, curbing migration, reinstating the death penalty, and elevating traditional leadership, it resonates with more conservative elements in society.

We can assume that the Patriotic Alliance would be more open to conservative economic policies. In what it calls "benefication", the party advocates for exploiting natural resources for economic advantage and growth - without any regard for climate change and the environment.

Road to a unity government
The proposed government of national unity is poised to encounter various areas of contention. ANC policies such as

black economic empowerment are likely to be a point of debate between it and the Democratic Alliance, as they balance transformation and building state capacity.

The Democratic Alliance is committed to a form of meritocracy, as seen in its manifesto.

Nationalisation of banks and land will become key contestation points for the Economic Freedom Fighters and the other potential political partners. Serious economic repercussions may arise if they cannot reach common ground.

We have seen the Economic Freedom Fighters use its political muscle in local government coalitions for expediency or positions.

The Patriotic Alliance is a wildcard here. Its economic and political demands in a unity government remain unclear and its position on land is not known.

Political parties must show ideological flexibility to foster stability and drive South Africa towards prosperity through creative policy solutions. Maturity, compromise and ideological agility are crucial for achieving a government of national unity to rebuild the nation.

RADIO One **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
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Thursday 13 June 2024

By **Maty Konte & Godsway Tetteh**

Mobile money revolutionizing financial inclusion for Sub-Saharan African firms

FIRMS in sub-Saharan Africa face significant constraints to growth owing to different factors, including inadequate access to credit from the formal banking sector.

At the same time, the lack of universal access to financial services such as bank accounts and the limited availability of bank branches often render financial transactions costly with adverse effects on entrepreneurial businesses.

Luckily, sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed the advent and exponential growth in mobile money adoption than anywhere else in the world since its inception in Kenya in 2007.

The success story of mobile money is evident in the 2021 Global Findex report which shows that in countries such as Tanzania, Benin, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe mobile money account ownership far exceeds financial institution account ownership.

In Benin for example the proportion of adults with mobile money accounts increased from 18 percent to 37 percent between 2017 and 2021 while financial institution accounts ownership decreased from 32 percent to 24 percent during the same period.

Similarly, Zambia records a 12 percent points decline in financial institution account ownership and a 14 percent points rise in mobile money

account ownership between 2017 and 2021.

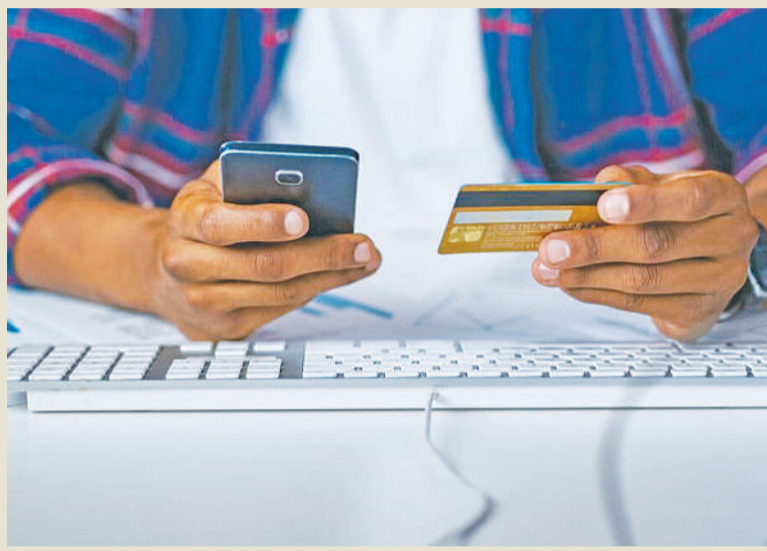
The success story of mobile money has brought an important policy question as to whether mobile money can complement traditional financial services by helping firms overcome some of the constraints in the financial sector.

An answer to this question is provided in a recent study by Konte and Tetteh that examines the complementarity between mobile money use for transactions and traditional financial services in relation to labour productivity using firm-level data across 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The study argues that in the face of financial frictions, mobile money use can augment the impact of traditional financial services on labour productivity through a reduction in financial transaction costs.

The findings show that firms experienced greater productivity improvement once they combined mobile money with traditional financial services such as bank credit and account ownership.

Firms that only use mobile money for transactions record an increase in their productivity by 1 percent compared to firms that do not use either mobile money or bank services. However, when firms combine mobile money use



Mobile money enhances the effect of traditional finance on firm performance

with access to bank credit, their productivity increases by around 22 percent.

These findings are visible among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in East Africa, where mobile money is well established, but also in regions where mobile money is emerging.

The evidence shows that mobile money complements traditional financial services and therefore firms should be encouraged to use mobile money in addition to traditional financial services. The promotion of both mobile money and traditional financial services will enable formal firms to access

financial products and services that are cost-effective at any given transaction.

This is particularly important given that mobile money services are relatively less expensive for low-value transactions (transactions that involve small amounts) while traditional financial services are cost-effective for high-value transactions.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, we expect that the use of both mobile money and traditional financial services will be favourable to SMEs given that these firms face major constraints to growth and are more likely to engage in low-value transactions. The freeing

up of additional financial resources owing to mobile money use for example will propel SMEs to channel limited financial resources into productive investment and business expansion.

How can the benefits of mobile money be enhanced?

Mobile money holds great prospects for entrepreneurial businesses in sub-Saharan Africa, but formal firms are yet to experience its full benefits. The limited direct impact of mobile money on firms' productivity in our study suggests that there is more room for growth and value addition.

A possible channel to unlock the full benefit of mobile money is the provision of credits to formal firms via mobile money platforms. In collaboration with commercial banks, Mobile Network Operators are beginning to offer microcredits on mobile money platforms to consumers in countries such as Kenya, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire without collateral.

This model of credit provision can be leveraged to extend loans to SMEs where bank, mobile money, and telecommunication transaction records are combined to compute credit scores. Using alternative sources of information to estimate the creditworthiness of formal firms will relax the overreliance on collateral as a guarantee for credit access.

The experiences in Kenya and Tanzania for example show that

the provision of consumer credit via mobile money platforms can lead to over-indebtedness or default risk especially when the collateral requirements are removed. The extension of alternative finance to SMEs via mobile money platforms should account for new sources of default risks and take the necessary steps to address them.

Sub-Saharan African countries can take advantage of their experiences with mobile money interoperability (e.g. bank-to-mobile money interoperability) to experiment with open banking. Open banking requires consumers to grant access to their banking transaction records to third-party firms for tailored financial solutions including payment and credit solutions.

The ability of consumers or firms to share their banking and mobile money transaction information with third-party firms will open the possibility for value-added services for example on mobile money platforms, that will be beneficial for businesses and consumers. Open banking however requires appropriate regulatory and legal framework for successful implementation.

Finally, there is the need to increase daily transaction limits of mobile money transactions especially for SMEs. This will ensure that SMEs can conduct both low-value and high-value transactions on mobile money platforms at low costs. Effective customer due diligence and know your customer (KYC) measures are required to mitigate any potential risks that may arise during mobile money transactions.

Maty Konte is a Senior Economist in the Economics and Market Research unit at the IFC, while Godsway Tetteh serves as a Research Associate at the Financial Regulation Innovation Lab, University of Strathclyde, UK.

NMB stakeholders ratify 181bn/- dividend payout

By **Guardian Reporter**

SHAREHOLDERS of NMB Bank Plc have approved a remarkable increase in their total dividend payout, which surged to an impressive 181bn/- from 143bn/- in 2022, which translates to a dividend of 361/- per share, showcasing a substantial 26 percent year-on-year (YoY) boost. The significant annual growth in dividend payout reflects the company's commitment to providing steady and sustainable returns to its shareholders. The dividend is scheduled to be paid around 19th June 2024.

The bank achieved a Profit before Tax (PBT)

of 770bn/- and a Profit after Tax (PAT) of 542bn/-, both marking a 26 percent YoY increase. These strong financial results are credited to the bank's disciplined execution of its strategy, robust revenue growth, effective cost management, and enhanced quality of its loan portfolio.

It is said that the record profits signify a new milestone for the bank and the Tanzanian financial services sector, underscoring the institution's dedication to creating value for its stakeholders.

In 2023, the bank's total income surged to an impressive 1.4tn/-, an 18 percent increase from the 1.2tn/- reported in 2022.

The notable growth was primarily driven by a robust increase in Net Interest Income (NII), which rose by 19 percent to 934bn/- from 786bn/- in 2022, attributable to the growth in the credit portfolio and investments in Government securities.

Additionally, the bank saw strong growth in Non-Funded Income (NFI), climbing from 402bn/- in 2022 to 468bn/- in 2023, a 16 percent YoY increase propelled by heightened customer activity on digital channels.

The bank showcased significant efficiency improvements and an enhanced loan portfolio quality. The Cost-to-Income Ratio (CIR) im-



NMB CEO, Ruth Zaipuna (3rd - L), presents the bank's financial report to Dr. Edwin Mhede, the Chairman of the Board, in Dar es Salaam, accompanied by other senior bank officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

proved to an impressive 39 percent, while the non-performing loan ratio held steady at 3.2 percent.

These ratios are well below the maximum regulatory thresholds of 55 percent for CIR and 5 percent for non-performing loans, showcasing the bank's sound financial management practices.

The bank continues to enhance its balance sheet for improved asset earnings. With total assets hitting an unprecedented high of 12.2tn/-, marking a significant 19 percent increase from 10.2tn/- in 2022, the steady progression

in the balance sheet is fueled by robust growth in loans and advances to customers by 28 percent, a prudent 17 percent investment in Government securities, and commendable 11 percent year-on-year growth in customer deposits.

Dr. Edwin Mhede, Chairman of the Board of NMB Bank Plc, emphasized the institution's commitment to governance principles, value creation, and the ESG agenda as key drivers of sustainable growth. He added, "For the 2023 financial year, shareholders approved a cash dividend of 361/- per share, resulting in a total

payout of 181bn/-, aligned with NMB's dividend policy." This represents a 26 percent increase from the previous year and reflects a focus on delivering superior returns to stakeholders, underscoring the commitment to deepening NMB's value creation. NMB Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Ruth Zaipuna, highlighted progress in executing the 5-year Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and strategic initiatives aimed at fostering loyalty and advancing financial inclusion. The expansion included opening four new branches, onboarding over 11,000 new agents,

and reaching 28,295 agents in 2023. Additionally, over 1.2 million new customer accounts were added, aligning with the goal of creating a future-proof, technologically driven bank while investing significantly in employee development.

Zaipuna reiterated the bank's role as a driver of economic prosperity and provider of opportunities for clients and stakeholders. She expressed gratitude for the trust of clients and shareholders, acknowledging the dedication of employees in achieving milestones. The bank remains dedicated to supporting communities through sustainability initiatives, including education, health, entrepreneurship, and environmental and climate-related matters, as evidenced by an investment of over 6.2bn/- in 2023. A portion of the 2023 profit after tax, amounting to 5.4bn/-, is earmarked for continued community support in the upcoming year.

Zaipuna extended heartfelt gratitude to the NMB Board, shareholders, regulators, the Government, customers, and staff for their unwavering trust and support. The bank is committed to prioritizing strategy execution, innovation, community engagement, and delivering top-notch financial solutions to foster shared prosperity among its customers.

EcoBank's q1 2024 profits surge, crediting government policies for firm performance

By **Guardian Reporter**

ECOBANK Tanzania's Profit before tax for the first quarter of 2024 has risen to 3.5bn/-, which is five times more than what was recorded in the corresponding period in 2023.

The bank hails the 6th phase government for implementing pro-business policies, something which has helped increase operational efficiency of the bank and positive performance of other economic sectors.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam over the Weekend, Ecobank-Tanzania Managing Director Dr Charles Asiedu said the results in Q1 were a continuation of the good performance that the bank achieved throughout 2023.

"In the first three months of the

year, revenues surged by an impressive 66 percent to nearly 10bn/- compared to the same period in 2023. This significant growth was driven by increased lending aimed at bolstering Tanzania's economy, coupled with Anding business volumes, which underscored the strong acceptance of products by customers," he said.

He said the profit growth was supported by controlled cost and decreased impairment charge arising from Non-Performing Loans (NPL) ratio consistently being under 3 percent for the past two years.

Operating efficiency continued to improve resulting from widening positive jaws between revenue and cost. Thus, cost to income ratio trended to less than 60 percent for the first time compared to 77 per-



Ecobank-Tanzania Managing Director Dr Charles Asiedu addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on the bank's performance for the year 2023. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

cent a year ago. We also returned better to shareholders as annualized

return on equity improved to 44 percent from just 12 percent in 2023.

These impressive results reflect the increasing customer confidence in our business as deposit grew over the one-year period by 68 percent to 313bn/- billion influencing assets growth of 27 percent to 415bn/-. On the back of strong growth in deposits, we were able to support our client businesses as we grew our loan book by more than 65bn/- to 157bn/- from 90bn/-.

On annual basis, revenues surged by 48 percent, reaching 31.26bn/- in 2023, from 21.11bn/- in 2022.

"Profit before tax increased tremendously by 496 percent from 1.61bn/- in 2022 to 9.59bn/- in 2023. The bank's cost-to-income ratio improved significantly, decreasing from 90.56 percent in 2022 to 65.1

percent in 2023, reflecting effective cost management strategies," he detailed.

The loans and advances portfolio grew by 79 percent from 91.75bn/- in 2022 to TZS 164.50bn/- in 2023. Customer deposits rose by 48 percent, from TZS 185.97bn/- in 2022 to 274.59bn/- in 2023, demonstrating strong customer relationships and trust in Ecobank's services. Total assets increased by 27 percent, reaching 406.69bn/- in 2023.

Dr Asiedu said the achievements align with the broader success of the Ecobank Group, the pan-African financial services conglomerate. Despite the challenging operating environment in 2023, the Ecobank Group reported a return on tangible shareholders' equity of 24.9 percent and increased profit before tax by 8

percent (or 34 percent at constant currency), reaching \$581 million. Net revenue surpassed the \$2.0 billion mark for the first time since 2015, growing by 11 percent (or 31 percent at constant currency) to reach \$2.1 billion. This performance highlights the early successes of the Group's 5-year Growth, Transformation, and Returns (GTR) strategy.

The bank expressed commitment to continue to enhancing its services, expanding its reach, and fostering partnerships that drive growth and development in Tanzania.

The bank remains dedicated to supporting businesses and individuals in achieving their financial goals, further solidifying its position as a key player in the Tanzanian banking sector.

Driving growth and competitiveness: Impact of banking industry mergers

By Kelvin Mkwawa

IN January this year, I shared the importance of mergers and acquisitions in the banking industry; improvement of the financial health of the banking industry, improvement of customer experience and making it easier to regulate, and increase efficiency & diversify risks.

One of the principal objectives behind mergers in the banking industry is to expand operations and stay competitive.

In our market, we have seen several mergers/acquisitions in the last few years. Most notable mergers/acquisitions in our banking industry are; In 2019, Azania Bank acquired Bank M Tanzania Plc (Bank M), and Exim Bank Tanzania Limited acquired UBL Tanzania Limited.

In June 2020, the central bank merged TIB Commercial Bank Limited into TPB (now known as Tanzania Commercial Bank). Also, in the middle of 2020, Mwanga Community Bank (MCBL),

EFC Microfinance Bank, and Hakika Microfinance Bank (HK MFB) amalgamated to form Mwanga Hakika Bank, which advanced to become a commercial bank.

Furthermore, in 2020, The Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited (CBA) and NIC Bank Tanzania Limited (NIC) merged to form NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited, a new financial institution. In 2021, the National Bank of Malawi Plc (NBM) completed the acquisition of a 51% controlling stake in Akiba Commercial Bank Plc (ACB) of Tanzania.

In addition, Exim Bank Tanzania Limited acquired First National Bank (FNB) Tanzania Limited in 2022 and NMB Bank Plc accrued Yeti Microfinance Bank Plc in 2023. Also, in 2023 Access Bank Plc (Access) acquired a majority stake in African Banking Corporation (Tanzania) Limited (BancABC Tanzania).

Lastly, on June 4th, 2024, Selcom Tanzania announced the acquisition of Access Microfinance Bank Tanzania



Kelvin Mkwawa

Limited and rebranded it as Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited.

The competitive and regulatory developments in the industry are the main reasons for mergers and acquisitions.

Before I divulge into details, let me define an acquisition

merger; An acquisition is a

strategy through which one

buys a controlling stake or 100 percent interest in another with the intent of making the acquired one a subsidiary within its organization while

a merger is a strategy which one acquires all the assets and

all liabilities of another and acquired one ceases to exist while the acquiring one retains its identity.

So why does M&A occur? It is very important to know some of the reasons used by different banks in many M&As; to move/expand into relatively virgin areas where competition is less, to pool together scarce resources thus having more working capital, to enter into new markets via diversification, and to improve efficiency by pooling together management skills.

Of all the reasons I have mentioned, studies have shown that the most common one is to expand/grow; in today's business environment, banks may have to grow to survive, and one of the best ways to grow is by merging with another bank or acquiring another bank.

Through M&A, banks can achieve significant growth in their operations, minimize their expenses, and encourage healthy competition in the banking sector. It is worth noting that not all M&As are successful and not each situ-

ation is calling for M&A as a growth strategy so I would like to share two situations in which M&A have proven useful as a growth strategy;

Filling gaps created by marketplace changes - When the marketplace changes in response to external events or new laws and regulations, it can create a gap in a bank's critical offerings. It is a prime opportunity for a strategic merger.

For example, when the Government decided to bar public institutions from depositing their funds in commercial banks and implemented the Treasury Single Account (TSA) which caused a liquidity crisis in the banking industry.

Because of that, some banks lose significant deposits in their balance sheet and could have looked at M&A as a growth strategy to increase their deposits and hence maintain the shareholders' value.

Leverage synergies - Banks can use M&A to enter into new markets through diversification. We have seen the banking industry's main com-

petition comes from fintech companies thus the banks that see fintech companies as partners will survive and those that don't will die.

Banks should look into acquiring some fintech companies that fit their cause since the future of banking is digital banking so they are faced with the choice to either adapt to the digital revolution or lose market share.

To sum it up, bank mergers are unavoidable in today's World due to globalization and competition in financial institutions. By promoting M&A, we will have fewer healthier banks which will be a good way to restore discipline and confidence in the industry.

Banks should see M&A as an opportunity to expand their reach quicker and achieve higher productivity, diversify risk, increase efficiency, and reduce cost.

Kelvin Mkwawa (pictured), is a seasoned banker; he can be reached via Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Lack of clear data hampers Africa's leap to inclusive instant payments

By Sabine Mensah

WHILE on a speaking tour in 2022 to disseminate findings from a report I co-authored, a central bank official from West Africa shared a key observation. Our report aimed to document the relationship between financial inclusion and the infrastructure provided by inclusive, instant payment systems and was based on publicly available data. But as the central bank official shared, the research was incomplete, because the publicly available data their country provided was outdated. Within a month, the central bank had updated its website and issued a press release with official statistics.

This anecdote illustrates the importance of accurate data and the need for greater transparency in public-sector efforts in sharing of digital financial services statistics. Even though cash is still king in Africa, mobile technology has provided the means to leapfrog the financial inclusion of millions of unbanked customers through instant payment systems. We need more of that transparency to generate evidence-based insights and learnings, to support enabling policy and regulatory reforms in favor of inclusive digital payment systems in Africa.

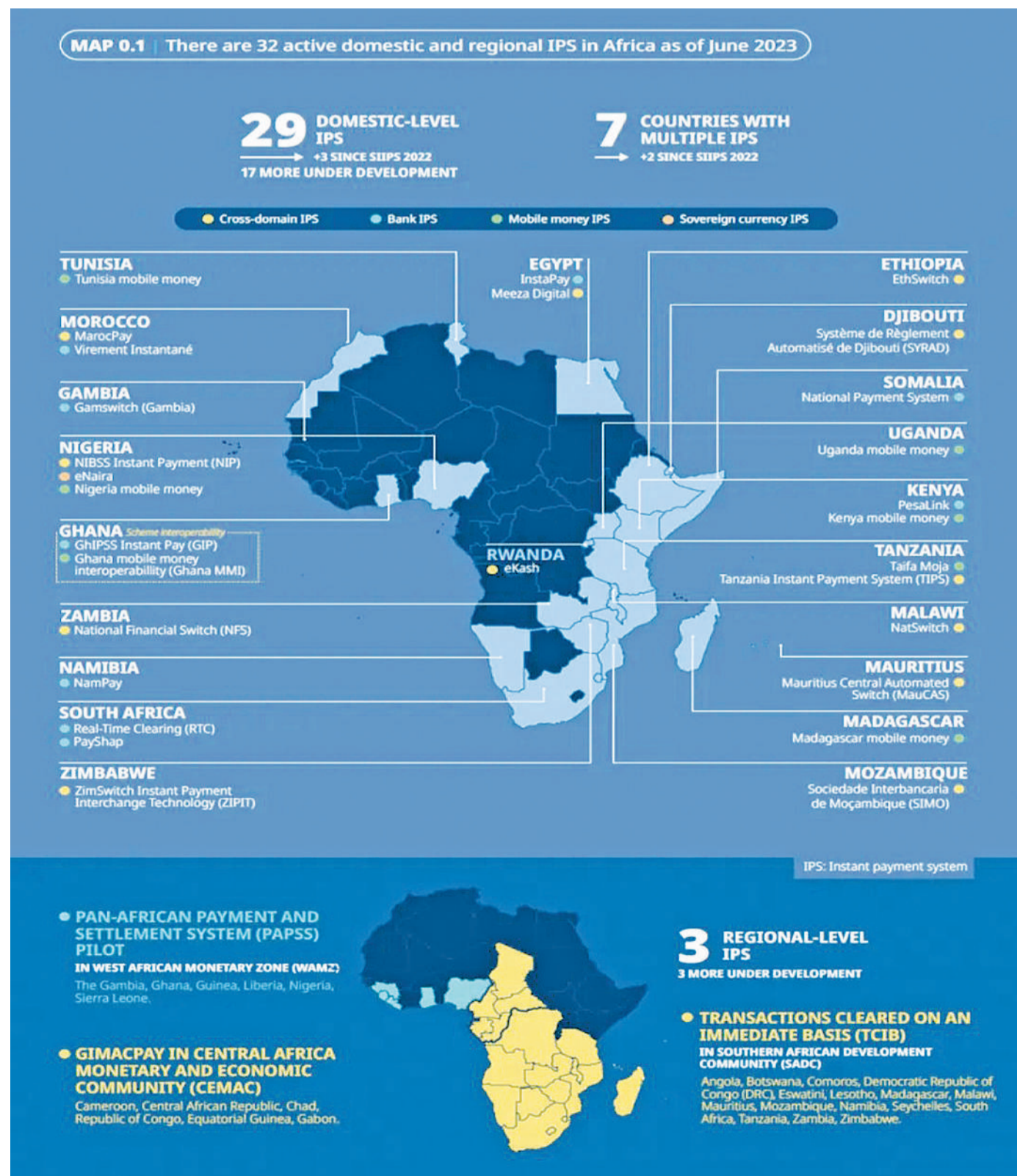
Robust data is key for growing a market

Much of the world is starting to focus on the incredible power of Instant Payment Systems (IPS) as a foundational enabler of financial inclusion.

IPS are public or public-private sector payment platforms capable of processing retail payments from any financial provider in real-time and 24/7. The 32 IPS in Africa processed nearly 32 billion transactions worth close to \$1.2 trillion in 2022, as reported in the AfricaNenda State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems in Africa Report, 2023. The volume and value of payments made by IPS to date represent massive progress from ten years ago.

Yet there is so much more to do. While impressive, these statistics underestimate the true picture since the data for 10 out of the 32 live IPS on the continent are not publicly available. Despite the growth in payment system availability, nearly half of the population across Africa does not live in a country with instant payment system capabilities. In those environments, making direct digital payments is only accessible to the most affluent consumers and merchants and expensive for everyone. Lower-income customers, and those living in areas with limited connectivity, have no other option but to use cash, which is easily lost or stolen and requires physical proximity. Cash also leaves no paper trail, and therefore does not allow users to build a financial track record that lenders can use to underwrite credit.

What does this have to do with payment ecosystem data?



Data is a great motivator. It enables central bankers and payment ecosystem participants to benchmark their payments system status in relation to their peers, and to share learnings, communicate urgency, and show progress. There is precedent for data driving consensus and elevating the importance of an issue. Before the launch of the Global Findex Database in 2011, for example, there was no comprehensive source of global, demand-side data on how adults around the world ac-

cess and use financial services. Today, the Global Findex is the benchmark by which the UN measures progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 8.10.2 on financial inclusion and informs national financial inclusion strategies for many countries around the world. In the ten years since its first edition, financial access has grown by more than 70 percent, in part motivated by the ability to see where progress is happening and where it is lagging. We need similarly comprehensive, trusted, and

detailed insights into digital payments availability and usage in Africa—in this case, informed by both supply-side and demand-side data.

AfricaNenda set out in 2021 to begin creating those insights so they could be shared openly as a public good. Our annual State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems in Africa (SIIPS Report) is the product of that effort. As we begin research for SIIPS 2024, our third edition, we have clearer insight into the data gaps we still need to fill given

the multiple goals we have. They are, first, to document the landscape of instant payment systems across the continent; and second, to establish a standard definition of inclusivity in payment systems that we could use to map the existing payment systems along an inclusivity spectrum.

Sabine Mensah, Deputy CEO of AfricaNenda, is leading the charge towards achieving universal financial inclusion in Africa by 2030. Connect with her on social media.

Empower project to transforms students

By Guardian Reporter

STUDENTS in three universities across the country will have the opportunity to receive capacity building that will guide them towards securing successful employment or venturing into entrepreneurial endeavors post-graduation.

This partnership makes possible through a project called 'Generation Empower', where they will receive training via various seminars and online learning resources.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the signing ceremony of the collaboration between Empower and Tigo, Miranda Naiman, the co-director of Empower, named the beneficiaries as the Universities in Dodoma (UDOM), St. Augustine College in Mwanza (SAUT), and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

She further elaborated that students from the respective universities will have the chance to delve into employment-related topics and nurture the skills required for self-employment upon graduation.

"This partnership emphasizes our firm commitment to develop the potential of Tanzanian youth. By giving them modern skills, we not only improve their individual orientation but also contribute to the overall development of the nation," she said.

"We will work with various organizations and companies, students will have the opportunity to visit them and learn and see how they can find employment," Miranda added.

Furthermore, she highlighted that as per the agreement, Tigo will provide free internet access to the students. Additionally, they have secured a five-year contract with UDSM to oversee the project, and have now opted to broaden its reach by including the two additional universities.

According to her, over the course of three years of implementing the project with UDSM, more than 6000 students have benefited.

Tigo's Chief Commercial Officer, Isack Nchunda, emphasized their dedication to the advancement of youth in Tanzania, citing this as the primary motivation for their involvement in the project.

"We are committed to developing the skills and talents of young individuals, not only investing in their future, but also nurturing a generation of innovative leaders who will catalyze positive change in our society," stated Nchunda.

Furthermore, Erica Sospeter, a student benefiting from the project at UDSM, expressed how the initiative has provided invaluable insights for many students at the university.

"This project will significantly assist students in acquiring various skills, guiding them on employment opportunities, self-employment, and entrepreneurial endeavors," mentioned Erica.

African SMEs face financial gap: Key players in economic growth

By Marcus Fedder

SMEs are the backbone of African economies, providing over 60 percent of employment, generating some 40 percent of the GDP. SMEs are merchants, traders, producers, innovators, plumbers, smallholder farmers, hairdressers, restaurants.

Some 60 million are registered businesses and probably the same number scrape by as unregistered, often micro-scale, ventures. They need finance for working capital or investments.

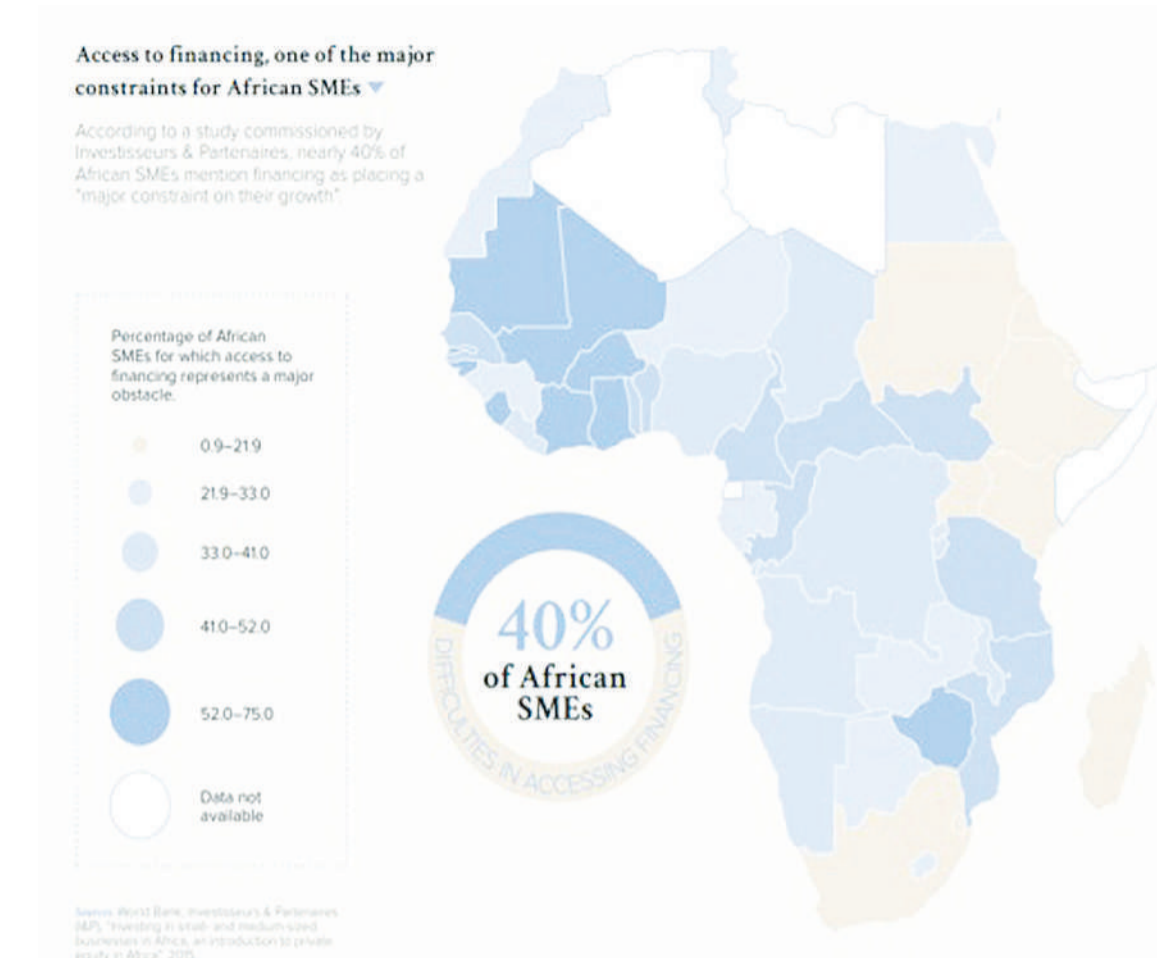
More than USD 300 billion by some estimates, and in sub-Saharan Africa alone the gap is a massive USD 245 billion according to World Bank numbers. Some 40 percent of African SMEs have difficulty accessing finance.

The 'missing middle'

Why? Making loans to them is cumbersome - KYC (know your customer) due diligence and credit assessments are time consuming and therefore costly. Data is often not easily available, corporate governance may be lacking.

Most SMEs only need smallish loans, so the potential profits from making such loans are also small. For banks, including development banks, these processes were simply too expensive in the past, so they preferred to focus on bigger corporates, which is understandable.

And microfinance institutions lent to individuals and micro enterprises. As a result, SMEs fell between the chairs. The problem of this "Missing Middle" was recognized years ago, alas not much could be done to help these SMEs as



long as lending was a tiresome manual or analogue process.

Is this really enough to reduce the financing gap for SMEs?

Then about ten years ago came fintech and started disrupting traditional banking by providing faster and cheaper loans and services to consumers and companies around the world.

Digitalization seemed the answer to solve the problem of expensive analogue processes and looked like being the answer to help close the African USD 300 billion gap. Many

thoughts, banks were toast.

Well, things did not happen quite as predicted and the conclusion from analyzing both banks and fintech companies in various countries of the continent is that technology nonetheless seems able to contribute to the expansion of SME lending, even if not in the disruptive way people originally expected.

Let's look at the basics; if the assumption is that in principle there is enough money available to close the financing gap, then the

simple conclusion must be that money does not reach its targets because of red tape, wrong risk-return characteristics or both. Removing red tape is a larger issue.

But if the returns were sustainably high enough to compensate for risks, money should flow. How do you increase returns? Not by simply charging more, but by building better processes that reduce the costs of making loans. And by better analyzing and quantifying risks. Fintech, i.e. digitalization, addresses both these issues.

Making loans is expensive for banks. Onboarding a new client requires KYC processes when issues like company registration, fraud registers, directors, major shareholders, ESG standards are checked.

Credit assessments are even more onerous, taking between four to six weeks and in the past even up to six months. Basically, the same amount of data-points need to be analyzed for a loan of USD 100k as for a loan of USD 1 million.

Spreading such costs over a high margin - i.e. the interest rate charged - to an extent that the loan is no longer affordable for an SME, or legal in a country such as South Africa.

So if the overheads and costs of KYC and credit assessment can be reduced and if the risk assessment methodology can be improved, lenders can charge sustainable interest rates and still make profits.

So fintechs which promise all of this should have replaced banks by now. Alas, banks still remain the classical SME lenders and loan-volumes from banks for SMEs by far exceed volumes lent by fintech companies. And that despite the fact that the lending processes of banks are in most cases still very traditional, i.e. manual, from onboarding, KYC, to credit analysis and disbursement processing.

Some banks, however, have realised the advantages digitalization entails and have gone from manual to digital, i.e. internalizing fintech. From the analysis of a number of banks across the continent the following conclusions can be drawn:

Many banks stick to legacy

processes and making SME loans would continue to be expensive for them so that lending may not be expanded.

But others are waking up and are digitalizing KYC and credit assessment, thus sharply reducing processing times, whilst improving analytics and thus reducing unexpected loan losses.

One Ruanda-based bank reported time-savings of over 70 hours per SME credit assessment - a conservative indication of the total time saving potential per client in other banks.

Banks have one big advantage: as deposit taking institutions they generally have a huge domestic funding base that can provide cheap funding for the expansion of SME lending.

The other advantage of banks is their bricks-and-mortar presence in many parts of the country, which helps keeping the number of non-performing loans in check and is useful in case of loan restructurings and recovery.

Fintech has not always met expectations in terms of costs

Now, let's look at fintech companies, why have they not pushed banks aside? In some way the oldest fintech in Africa is mobile money. With the spreading of mobile phones, many people and thus also microbusinesses got connected to each other and also to a potential new source of money; cashless money through the phone.

To be continued.....

Marcus Fedder (pictured) is Vice Chair of TCX and an advisor to Affinity Africa. He can be reached via social media.

Climate cause: Charting a new path to sustainability

By Masood Ahmed

CLIMATE change poses a special challenge to the International Monetary Fund. While the IMF's World Economic Outlook offered its first substantive discussion of the matter back in 2008, the executive board didn't agree on a strategy for helping member countries address it until 2021.

To this day, the issue provokes strong reactions both from those who want the IMF to do more and from those who argue that it has already strayed beyond its core mandate and expertise.

Why should an issue that is widely considered an existential threat to the planet raise such controversy about the work of the IMF? In part, not everyone appreciates the seriousness and urgency of addressing climate change and its risks for global prosperity. Even some of those who do maintain that it has little to do with the core mission of the IMF.

The executive board laid the basic question to rest in its 2021 strategy paper. "Climate change has emerged as one of the most critical macroeconomic and financial policy challenges that the IMF's membership will face in the coming years and decades," the board wrote. "Climate change is bound to affect macroeconomic and financial stability through numerous other transmission mechanisms, including fiscal positions, asset prices, trade flows, and real interest and exchange rates.... No country can expect to be spared entirely."

The emphasis on "macroeconomic and financial stability" is important because that is the lodestar guiding the Fund's activities. "Macro-criticality" has long been the test for determining what issues the Fund should address. Even so, there's an ongoing debate over just how extensive the IMF's involvement should be and what form it should take.

Two schools of thought

One camp starts from the historical purpose and core exper-



Tanzania's battle against climate change intensifies. File Photo

tise of the IMF. It argues for limiting the organization's focus on climate change to what is strictly necessary to deliver on the core mandate. In this view, the immediate and longer-term implications of climate change for the fiscal, monetary, financial, and external accounts of member countries and for the global economy are very much the Fund's business.

This suggests a strong case for the IMF to research, assess, and advise on various policy tools—in these same domains—that countries can deploy to adapt to climate change. Helping countries build the institutional capacity to design and implement such policies would also be an important corollary of the need to focus on climate change.

The case for the Fund's engagement becomes less clear for this group if the organization extends its coverage to advising on policies or mechanisms for slowing climate change, or if it takes on the task of mobilizing private financing to tackle climate

mitigation. For example, the Fund has long studied and advised on the removal of subsidies for fossil fuels, but linking this to a country's mitigation commitment is more controversial. The Fund shouldn't assess the progress countries make on their international green transition commitments on policies and financing, or report on that as part of its surveillance process, this group argues.

Those who urge restraint on the part of the IMF do not claim that these issues are unimportant. Rather, they say it is not the job of the IMF to deal with them. They voice concern that focusing on these areas would draw the Fund's attention and energy away from pressing macroeconomic and financial risks that no other institution is geared to address.

To be continued.....

Masood Ahmed (pictured), is the President of the Center for Global Development, he can be reached via social media.

Widen scope of research, innovation week, UDSM told

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Franklin Rwezimula has called on University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) to widen the scope of the research and innovation week by involving research partners whose researches are registered and has a relationship with various academic departments.

Dr Rwezimula made the call in Dar es Salaam recently when wrapping up the 9th Research and Innovation Week at UDSM. Featuring 306 projects, the week-long event was sponsored by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML).

He said: "The results of research conducted by various universities in the country, including the University of Dar es Salaam, have been an important reference in the implementation of various national, regional and international policies, plans and strategies related to research and creativity."

"This event provides a good platform to encourage a generation of young and budding academics to engage in research and innovation that respond to economic and social challenges in our country and the world at large," he added.

Dr Rwezimula said that if universities in Tanzania showcase their academic work and research results to the public, they will influence the government and the labour market, improve the existing relationship between universities and employers and donors, and ultimately create opportunities for collaboration within and outside the country.

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Research, Prof. Nelson Boniface thanked GGML for making the Research and Innovation Week a success, with staff and students participating in showcasing their various research and innovation activities and projects at the appropriate level.

The Research and Innovation Week is a key university platform for promoting research and innovation through dissemination, stakeholder engagement and public awareness of

important initiatives, activities and impact of the University's research and innovation. The theme this year was Fostering Research and Innovation through University-Industry Partnerships.

Simon Shayo, the Vice President for Sustainability and Corporate Affairs (Africa) pledged that the mining firm will continue working with UDSM to develop research and innovation in the country to provide answers to the various challenges facing the Tanzanian society.

He not only congratulated UDSM for declaring last week as Research and Innovation Week, but also promised that GGML will continue to sponsor the event to encourage more research and innovation projects in the country.

"We think we should continue to be partners in this because we believe that no country in the world has made a big step forward without focusing on research and innovation. The countries we had 20 or 25 years ago like Malaysia, Singapore and others have invested more in research and innovation, that's why we see the steps they have taken."

"That's why we as a mining company believe that our presence in this country for close to 25 years, are part of the National Development Plan 2025 and we believe that we will be part of the National Development Vision 2050, that's why we will continue to work with you as partners in future similar events," he said.

He also urged the students to take advantage of the opportunities for research and learning, especially considering that the results of these innovations are used in various fields, including the mining sector.

He said in order to develop the talents of the graduates and enhance their experience in their professions, GGML takes in 50 graduates from various colleges in the country every year and provides them with one year's training.

He said the graduates, 50 percent of whom are women, are given experience in various areas of the mining sector.

WORLD

Iran condemns US court ruling to cease pro-Palestinian rallies

TEHRAN

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Tuesday condemned a court ruling in the United States that ordered the cessation of the pro-Palestinian protests and strikes by American students and university staff.

He made the remarks in a post on social media platform X, after an Orange County Superior Court judge on Friday issued a temporary restraining ruling, ordering thousands of University of California (UC) academic workers, who were on strike at six campuses in protest of administrators' response to pro-Palestinian protests, to re-

turn to their jobs on Monday until June 27 while final exams are taken.

Kanaani described the court order as being "in violation of the rights to freedom of expression and opinion", saying it was indicative of the difference between the "slogans and actions" about the two rights in the United States.

He added officials of the UC student association maintained that the ruling to forcefully stop the strike by the university's students and staff in support of Palestinians failed to have "judicial validity".

Unionized academic researchers, graduate teaching assistants and post-doctoral scholars walked off the job over what they



University of California Police officers face pro-Palestinian protesters outside Dodd Hall in the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in Los Angeles, June 10, 2024. AFP

called "unfair labor practices" in the university's handling of pro-Palestinian demonstrations in recent weeks.

The court ruling was issued after the UC filed a lawsuit and requested injunctive relief on June 4 against the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811, which had organized the strikes, for breach of contract. The first UC campus that stood up and withheld labor was UC Santa Cruz, where academic workers walked off the job on May

20. The walkout spread to UC Los Angeles and UC Davis on May 28, and further expanded to three more campuses, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara and UC Irvine, later.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been spreading at colleges and universities across the United States amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Hundreds were arrested in crackdowns on pro-Palestinian protests and encampments on UC campuses across the state last month.

Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden convicted on all three charges at federal gun trial

WASHINGTON

HUNTER Biden, the eldest living son of the US president, has been convicted of all three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver when, prosecutors argued, the president's son lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs, CNN reported.

The jury, which deliberated for just under three hours, returned guilty verdicts on all three charges, which stemmed from a revolver Hunter Biden bought in October 2018 at a Delaware gun shop.

The first two counts were for lying about his drug use on a federal background check form, and the third count was for possessing a gun while addicted to, or using, illegal drugs.

His trial on gun charges began on June 3.

According to CNN, the former president's son is accused of lying on federal documents regarding his drug usage at the time of the weapon's purchase, obtaining a revolver illegally while under the influence of narcotics.

After the verdict, Hunter left the courtroom with his wife. US District Judge Maryellen Noreika stated that she would set the sentencing date later.

According to reports, on two charges, Hunter may face a sentence of up to 10 years and in the third case, he may face prison for up to five years, as per CNN.

This is the first time that the child of a US president has been tried on criminal charges and convicted.

Hunter Biden could face up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to USD 750,000 at sentencing, though he likely will receive far less than the maximum as a first-time offender.

Before dismissing the parties, the judge told them sentencing is usually set for 120 days following a verdict, which means it is likely to happen before Election Day.

Prosecutors declined to comment following the verdict. Hunter Biden is expected to issue a written statement, a source familiar with the matter said.

In the moments following the verdict, after court ended, Hunter Biden turned around to his legal team and flashed a brief smile, perhaps stunned by the outcome, before hugging all of his attorneys and patting them on the back.

As he exited, Hunter Biden gave kisses and hugs to family members and friends in the courtroom, almost like a receiving line. His friend and financial backer, Kevin Morris, walked out with his arms crossed. Some of the supporters looked stunned.

Valerie Biden, President Biden's sister, entered the courtroom a few minutes after the verdict was read.

Leaving the courthouse after the verdict, Hunter Biden shuffled his family members into an elevator as he held hands with his wife. He smiled briefly and left. **ANI**

Some countries back out of plans to attend Swiss-hosted Ukraine conference – report

MOSCOW

SOME countries backed out of plans to attend the "peace conference" on Ukraine in Switzerland, prompting the number of participating nations to drop from 93 to 78, according to the Ukrainian service of Radio Liberty (designated in Russia as a foreign media agent and included in the register of undesirable organizations).

The report, which cites unidentified EU diplomats, didn't name the countries that pulled out of the conference. One diplomat said the number of withdrawals could rise.

Sergey Nikiforov, a spokesman for Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, declined to give the number of participating countries.

"We would not like to state the final number," he said on Rada television on Tuesday.

Switzerland plans to hold a conference on Ukraine on June 15-16 in Burgenstock.

The Swiss Foreign Ministry earlier said Bern had invited more than 160 delegations to the Burgenstock conference, including delegations from G7, G20 and BRICS countries. According to Swiss officials, Russia wasn't invited. President Vladimir Putin said that Russia will not insist on taking part if the country is not wanted at the conference.

According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the event is a "path to nowhere," and Russia does not see the West's desire for fair play. Moscow has repeatedly said it has never refused to seek a peaceful settlement with Kiev. **Agencies**

BRICS countries pledge to strengthen solidarity and cooperation

NIZHNY NOVGOROD

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday attended the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Dialogue with Developing Countries (BRICS+) in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod.

The dialogue saw participation from the BRICS countries and 12 major developing countries with regional influence, including Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Türkiye, Mauritania, Cuba, Venezuela and Bahrain.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, stated that BRICS+ serves as a vital dialogue platform for the BRICS nations towards the broader emerging markets and developing countries. It has long been a dynamic force for BRICS development and has become a flag of South-South cooperation.

The Chinese foreign minister noted that we are in an era of turmoil and chaos. The Ukraine crisis and Gaza conflict are protracted, challenges like cybersecurity and climate change are emerging one after another, and a certain coun-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (second left) speaks during the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Dialogue with Developing Countries (BRICS+) in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, on Tuesday. (PHOTO / FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHINA)

try, in order to maintain its unipolar hegemony, is rallying allies for unilateral sanctions, erecting protectionist walls, and weaponizing economic and financial measures. In addition, the North-South divide is widening, and the global economic recovery has faced setbacks.

Meanwhile, the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries signifi-

cantly drives the process towards a multipolar world. A new wave of technological and industrial revolutions is emerging, propelling numerous countries onto a fast development track, Wang pointed out.

The Global South is no longer a silent majority but a new awakened force, he stressed.

The Chinese foreign minister made a three-point

proposal on how developing countries can create new opportunities amidst these changes: uphold universal security and jointly address challenges; prioritize development and join hands with progressive forces; and uphold fairness and justice, and improve global governance.

During the meeting, the participants highly praised the strategic significance of

the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Dialogue with Developing Countries, noting that the BRICS+ model facilitates unity and cooperation among developing countries, enhancing the Global South's influence and building a more just and reasonable international order.

They agreed to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, oppose unilateralism and hegemonism, insist on resolving conflicts and differences through dialogue and consultation, promote political solutions to international hotspots, and achieve a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible.

They also called for reforms to the international financial system, enhanced cooperation in digital economy, infrastructure and other areas, safeguarding the stability of the global industrial supply chain, narrowing the development gap, and achieving shared progress.

On Tuesday, Wang also met with Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, and exchanged views with other foreign ministers attending the dialogue. **Xinhua**

US Secy meets Yair Lapid, Benny Gantz, Isaac Herzog to stress on ceasefire agreement

WASHINGTON

UNITED States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, who is on a visit to the Middle East, met with the chairman of the Yesh Atid party Yair Lapid, Israeli chairman of the National Unity party Benny Gantz, and Israel's President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday to underscore that a ceasefire agreement that secures the release of all hostages would benefit both Israelis and Palestinians.

In a post on X, Blinken stated, "In Israel today, I met with @YairLapid, @GantzBe, and @Isaac_Herzog to un-

derscore that a ceasefire agreement that secures the release of all hostages would benefit both Israelis and Palestinians."

Blinken held discussions regarding the hostage proposal, and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza in a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday.

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met today with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The Secretary reiterated that the United States and other world leaders will

stand behind the comprehensive proposal outlined by President Biden that would lead to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and a significant and sustained increase in humanitarian assistance for distribution throughout Gaza," the US State Department said in an official release.

Blinken will travel to Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Qatar from June 10-12.

The Secretary underscored the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security, including ensuring October 7 can never be repeated," according to the State Department.

However, he reiterated that the proposal on the table would unlock the possibility of calm along Israel's northern border.

"The Secretary updated the prime minister on ongoing diplomatic efforts to plan for the post-conflict period, emphasizing the importance of those efforts to providing long-term peace, security, and stability to Israelis and Palestinians alike. Secretary Blinken also emphasized the importance of preventing the conflict from spreading," the State Department added. **ANI**

Italy's largest parties gain ground in European Parliament vote

ROME

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's far-right party has strengthened its hand with a strong showing in the European Parliament elections ending Sunday night. However, Italy's main opposition party also gained ground.

Meloni's Brothers of Italy gained 28.8 percent of votes, earning 24 of Italy's 76 seats in the legislative body. This represents a dramatic increase from the 6.4 percent share of votes won by the party in the last European Parliament vote in 2019 and an increase

from the 26 percent it earned in the 2022 national election.

However, like the Brothers of Italy, the country's center-left Democratic Party, the main opposition party, also won a larger share of the vote, with 24.1 percent and 20 seats. This represents a stronger showing than the 22.7 percent of votes the party won in 2019.

The main takeaway is that the big parties grew their share, separating themselves from the other parties," Vincenzo Emanuele, a political scientist and vice-director of the Italian Center for Electoral Studies at Rome's LUISS Uni-

versity, told Xinhua on Monday.

Although the vote results are for Italy's representatives in the European Parliament and do not directly impact the Italian Parliament or the makeup of Meloni's government, they are considered a gauge of support rates for the country's political factions.

Meloni said after the vote that the results strengthen Italy's influence within the European Union (EU) and internationally. "We have the strongest government in the G7," Meloni said, referring to the Group of Seven (G7) nations. Italy is at the helm of the G7 this year. Meanwhile, the other European

countries in the organization, France and Germany, saw their ruling coalitions lose support in the European Parliament vote.

In Italy, the losers in this vote were the country's second-tier parties. Anti-migrant party The League won 9.0 percent of the vote, a large drop from 34.3 percent in 2019.

Five years ago, the party was the biggest winner; this time, it dropped to the fifth.

The anti-establishment Five-Star Movement, headed by former Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, earned 10.0 percent of the vote, a decline from 17.1 percent

in the last European Parliament elections.

According to Emanuele, the low voter turnout featured this year's elections in Italy: just 49.7 percent of those eligible to vote actually did. It is the first time that fewer than half of eligible voters have turned out in a European Parliament election.

In 2019, the turnout was 54.5 percent. The results were front-page news across Italian media, with Le Repubblica calling the vote both "historic" and "predictable." Italian state broadcaster RAI put the results in an EU context, saying "Europe is moving to

the right."

With 76 of 720 seats, Italy will have the third-largest contingent in the European Parliament, behind Germany and France, both of which saw their tilt toward right-wing nationalist parties in the latest vote.



Five years ago, the party was the biggest winner; this time, it dropped to the fifth



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs his first Union Cabinet meeting at the start of his third term, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

US to send another Patriot missile system to Ukraine after repeated demands

KYIV

US President Joe Biden has approved the deployment of another Patriot missile system to Ukraine amid raging conflict with Russia, the New York Times reported citing senior administration and military officials.

Biden's decision came last week, the officials said, after a series of high-level meetings and an internal debate over how to meet Ukraine's pressing needs for bolstered air defences without jeopardizing US combat readiness. This comes as Kyiv is struggling to fend off Russian attacks on its cities, infrastructure and electrical grid.

The new Patriot system -- the second that the United States has sent to Ukraine -- will come from Poland, where it has been protecting a rotational force of American troops who will be returning to the US, officials said.

According to the officials, the system could be deployed to Ukraine's front lines in the next several days, depending on any maintenance or modifications it needs.

Considered one of the United States' best air defence weapons, the Patriot includes a powerful radar system and mobile launchers that fire missiles at incoming projectiles, as reported by the NYT.

It is also one of the scarcest weapons systems in the US arsenal. Pentagon officials refuse to disclose how many it has, but one senior military official said that the Army has deployed only 14 of them, in the US and around the world.

Notably, Patriots are also held by American allies and two of those nations have sent a couple to Ukraine, but US officials say they hope European powers will send more.

Pentagon officials did not want to move any batteries from the US. There is a Patriot battery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for training American and Ukrainian troops, but moving it would take away training, the New York Times reported citing officials. Other batteries protecting bases and troops in the US, including in Hawaii, were either deemed too far away or necessary for homeland defence.

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and other senior Pentagon leaders have appealed to European allies to transfer their systems to Ukraine.

Two other nations have responded to Ukraine's plea for more Patriots. Ger-

many has so far deployed one Patriot system, and Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said a second would be deployed by the end of June. The Netherlands has also deployed a Dutch-American battery in Ukraine, and negotiations are under way to send a second.

The Biden administration officials hope the deployment of another US Patriot system will nudge allies to do the same.

During US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to Kyiv last month, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Ukraine urgently needed "seven batteries, of which two batteries are necessary, and they were necessary so that we could protect the city of Kharkiv and the entire region of Kharkiv."

Beyond Kharkiv, Ukraine must take urgent steps to protect Odesa in the south, military analysts said, as well as the country's electrical grid.

In recent months, a barrage of Russian missile and drone strikes on Ukraine's power plants and substations has severely hobbled energy infrastructure, forcing Ukrainian authorities to order nationwide rolling blackouts. This has raised concerns about what will happen when the cold weather arrives and the use of heating devices increases the load on the energy system, the New York Times reported.

The US officials said there was little high-level debate over whether to supply Ukraine with another Patriot. But officials said that Austin and General Charles Q Brown Junior, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, debated which of the US Patriots to send.

The two men assessed that the Pentagon could move a Patriot battery in Poland, which had the benefit of being next door to Ukraine.

The issue is again expected to come up this week when Austin and General Brown travel to Belgium for NATO and allied defence meetings.

"I think you can expect to see air defence will, for all the obvious reasons, be a topic of discussion," Major General Patrick S Ryder, the Pentagon spokesman, said on Monday.

The Patriot is by far the most expensive single weapon system that the United States has supplied to Ukraine, at a total cost of about USD 1.1 billion: USD 400 million for the system and USD 690 million for the missiles, as reported by the NYT.

ANI

UK's Sunak offers more tax cuts as election polls refuse to budge

SILVERSTONE

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to cut 17 billion pounds (\$21.7 billion) of taxes for working people if re-elected, in a final throw of the dice to overturn polls that put him on course for a heavy defeat in Britain's July 4 election.

With his Conservative Party consistently about 20 points behind Keir Starmer's opposition Labour in the polls, Sunak made a new appeal on Tuesday to what one Conservative lawmaker described as Britain's carpenters, bricklayers and electricians, by promising further tax cuts if they give him their vote.

The party manifesto aims to put tax cuts at the heart of the campaign, with Sunak's team believing that the move will put pressure on Labour, traditionally seen as the party of tax and spend. Starmer has said his party will not lift the main taxes.

Sunak, a 44-year-old former investment banker, acknowledged that people were frustrated with him and his

party after 14 years of power, dominated at times by political turmoil and scandal, during which many have struggled to make ends meet.

The twin shocks of the COVID pandemic and energy price spikes have sent consumer prices up 21 percent in three years, the tax burden has risen to its highest as a share of the economy since just after World War II, and failing public services have created a sense of malaise.

But Sunak argued that the economy was finally recovering and if re-elected he would cut payroll taxes for workers to reignite economic growth further.

"I'm not blind to the fact that people are frustrated with our party and frustrated with me," he said at the launch of the Conservatives' manifesto, setting out its future policy pledges.

"Things have not always been easy, and we have not got everything right, but we are the only party in this election with the big ideas to make our country a better place to live."

Agencies

Palestinians recall horrors 'not even in nightmares' after Nuseirat refugee camp attacks

GAZA

PEDESTRIANS can hardly walk through the streets of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip on Sunday, which has been transformed overnight into a devastated area with the smell of death.

Burned cars, destroyed houses, and bloodstains from the victims are found on the camp's roads and in its alleys after Israeli special forces launched a military operation in the camp to free four Israeli hostages on Saturday.

As Israeli troops entered the camp, warplanes launched a series of violent raids on dozens of targets inside the camp, mostly civilian houses, according to the media office of the Hamas-run government.

At least 274 Palestinians were killed and more than 698 others injured during the Israeli military operation, according to figures released by the Hamas-run health authorities on Sunday. "I was drinking a cup of coffee on the balcony of my house overlooking the street.

Everything was normal: passers-by and vendors in the street, children playing in the sun, but everything changed in an instant," recalled Othman Zaki, a resident of the Nuseirat camp.

"Suddenly, Israeli planes started bombing violently everywhere. No one understood anything. Everyone started running without knowing where to go safely," said the 27-year-old man. "The continuous bombing, the rapid events, and the bodies of the victims lying everywhere -- no one can describe it," said Ahmed Shaaban, a displaced Palestinian man. "We couldn't save anyone.

The situation was catastrophic and crazy. No one could have imagined it, not even in their nightmares," he added.

Since early Sunday morning, the 42-year-old father of six has been trying in vain to identify landmarks in his neighborhood. The street where he once lived with his family has been reduced to rubble.

"We can only see the rubble of houses destroyed by Israeli airstrikes. The dead and wounded were lying on the sides of the road. No one could save them due to the violent and continuous bombing," he said with teary eyes.

When the bombing, which lasted for more than half an hour, finally subsided, Shaaban



A man shows the debris after Israeli attacks in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on June 8, 2024. Xinhua

and his neighbors started to leave and seek safety. "We were shocked by what we saw. The victims were everywhere," he recalled.

In a desperate attempt to rescue the injured people, they used anything that could move -- vehicles, bicycles, even donkey carts -- to transport them to hospitals.

Yahya Ayoub from the city of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip described how the bombing forced many displaced people and dozens of residents of Nuseirat camp to flee their homes.

"Destruction is everywhere here. Houses

were burned, some destroyed. Victims were killed inside their homes without understanding what was happening or what their fault was," Ayoub said.

With a tone of sadness, Ayoub said he could not believe he had survived the bombing. He recounted carrying an injured, unconscious child from the street, running a long distance until he found a car to take the child to the hospital. "I still do not know the condition of the child, but I hope he is fine and that the doctors succeed in saving his life," he said.

China speeds up cultivation of digital professionals

China reaps fruitful results in international polar expedition cooperation

By Liu Shiyao (People's Daily) 10:26, June 10, 2024

China's 40th Antarctic expedition successfully concluded as Xuelong, the country's first domestically built polar icebreaker, returned to a port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province on April 10.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's polar expedition. Over the past four decades, China has continuously strengthened its comprehensive capabilities in polar expedition and actively cooperated with relevant countries, making significant contributions to better understanding, protecting, and utilizing the polar regions.

As a roaring sound grew closer, a red and white Snow Eagle 601, China's first fixed-wing aircraft for polar flight, touched down on the airport of the Zhongshan Station, a Chinese scientific research base in Antarctica.

This marked a major milestone of China's 40th Antarctic expedition team, with the completion of an aerial scientific survey of ice sheet margins of the Queen Maud Land and the Enderby Land, a major international polar cooperation project.

The Antarctic ice sheet, a vast expanse of ice covering the continent, is experiencing mass loss due to global warming, creating uncertainty in predicting future sea level rise.

To calculate the mass loss, the key lies in gathering two critical statistics: the speed of ice movement and ice thickness at the margins of the ice sheet. The most effective way to obtain ice thickness is through aerial surveys using the airborne "ice radar."

In 2021, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) established the RINGS Action Group (hereafter referred to as "the RINGS") to collect data on ice thickness and sub-ice terrain along the margins of the Antarctic



Chinese and Russian researchers pose for a picture after extracting an ice core sample during China's 40th Antarctic expedition.

ice sheet through international cooperative aerial observations. So far, 82 scientists from 18 countries have joined the RINGS.

In 2023, the RINGS launched its first international collaborative program for aerial scientific exploration in the data-deficient regions of the Queen Maud Land and the Enderby Land. China was a major initiator of the program.

"The complex meteorological conditions at the margins of the Antarctic ice sheet posed a major challenge for the aerial survey. Besides, it involved extensive international communication and coordination across all aspects," said Cui Xiangbin, a researcher with the Center for Polar Ice & Snow and Climate Change Research in the Polar Research Institute of China under the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources.

According to Cui, with a surveyed length of 7,200 kilometers and a total flight time of around 28 hours, the program successfully mitigated data shortages.

Following the completion of the program, China would share the observation data collected by Snow Eagle 601 with other countries and collaborate on joint research projects, so as to provide valuable information for scientists around the world to study the rapid changes of the Antarctic ice sheet and the rise in global sea levels.

rock sample marked the world's first targeted geological survey and sampling of subglacial bedrock within the deep Antarctic ice sheet. In this process, Chinese and foreign researchers exchanged experience, learned from each other, and engaged in in-depth discussions on technical issues, he added.

On February 7 this year, China's Qiling Station in Antarctica, the country's fifth research station in the continent, started operation on Inexpressible Island in the Ross Sea.

As planned, the Qiling Station will collaborate with research stations from other countries, transform its marine laboratory into an international cooperation platform, and set a model of international cooperation in Antarctic research along the coast of the Ross Sea.

The polar scientific expedition holds immense importance and is a noble endeavor benefiting humanity. Ever since initiating polar exploration 40 years ago, China has been actively involved in almost all major international observation and research programs in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. It has also actively sent personnel to participate in Antarctic expeditions in other countries, while gradually expanding its international cooperation in the Arctic.

Chinese polar expedition members in Antarctica have always lived in harmony with their international counterparts, and have offered emergency international rescue assistance in times of need. **People's Daily**



Azam new signing Adam Adam. Courtesy of Azam

Azam gear up for new season with strong squad and CAF Champions League ambitions

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM are gearing up for a dominant season, determined to conquer both domestic and international competitions in the upcoming 2024/25 campaign.

The team management has emphasized their commitment to comprehensive preparations, ensuring they are well-equipped to challenge for trophies on all fronts.

Coach Yusuph Dabo's squad finished the recently concluded season as runners-up in the Premier League, narrowly missing out on the title with a final tally of 69 points.

The race for the championship was fiercely contested, with rivals Simba finishing with the same points total, ultimately separated only by goal difference.

This impressive league performance has secured Azam a coveted spot in the prestigious CAF Champions League. They join fellow Tanzanian giants Young Africans in the continent's club competition, while Simba and Coastal Union will represent the nation in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Azam have actively bolstered their squad in anticipation of the upcoming challenges. The club has welcomed back a familiar face, Adam Adam, who honed his skills in Azam's youth setup before impressing with Mashujaa in the 2023/24 season.

Looking beyond Tanzania, they

have also secured the services of two exciting Colombian prospects: striker Jhonier Blanco (23) from Rionegro Aguilas FC and defender Ever Meza from Leonnes FC. Additionally, winger Frank Tiesse has been brought in to add pace and dynamism from Stade Malien in Mali.

Speaking on behalf of the club, the information officer, Hasheem Ibwe, reaffirmed Azam's ambitious goals.

"We are fully prepared for every competition we participate in," he declared. "We realize that we will be in the CAF Champions League, so the preparations will be big."

Ibwe highlighted the lessons learned from the previous season. "Last season we made it clear that we need to do the right thing in the domestic league and now we are in the CAF Champions League and there we will also do the right thing. We are doing well," he said.

His statement underscores the club's commitment to continuous improvement and a relentless pursuit of success.

With a strong core group of players, exciting new signings, and a clear vision from the management, Azam are poised to be a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming season.

Their hunger for domestic dominance and their ambition to make waves on the continental stage will undoubtedly make them a compelling team to watch.

Tanzanian clubs prepare to fine-tune in CECAFA Kagame Cup ahead of CAF campaigns

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIAN football giants, Simba, Young Africans, Azam, and Coastal Union, are set to utilize the CECAFA Kagame Cup 2024 as a critical preparatory ground for their upcoming campaigns in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

The Kagame Cup, which will take place from July 6 to 22 in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, promises to be a high-stakes tournament featuring top teams from East and Central Africa.

The Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA), a body comprising 12 member countries including Zanzibar, has officially announced the return of the prestigious tournament. This year's event will see Tanzanian clubs competing against formidable opponents from Zambia, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and more.

The lineup includes Al Hilal, Al Merreikh, and Hai Ak Wadi from Sudan; Red Arrow from Zambia; TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo; Nyasa Big Bullets from Malawi; SC Villa from Uganda; APR from Rwanda; Gor Mahia from Kenya; Vital'O from Burundi; JKU from Zanzibar; and El Merreikh from South Sudan.

For the participating Tanza-

nian teams, the Kagame Cup represents an invaluable opportunity to fine-tune their squads ahead of the continental competitions.

Young Africans, Simba, Azam, and Coastal Union will leverage this tournament to gain competitive match experience, test their new signings, and build team cohesion in a competitive environment. The tournament's timing allows these clubs to integrate their preseason preparations seamlessly with high-level competition.

This competition has been known as the Kagame Cup since 2002 when Rwandan President Paul Kagame began sponsoring the tournament. It has a storied history and is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the region. After a hiatus of several years, the competition's revival has been met with enthusiasm.

This season's tournament is expected to draw considerable attention and support, providing a platform for the region's best teams to showcase their talents.

As the host nation, Tanzania will be in the spotlight, with local fans eager to see their top clubs perform against regional powerhouses. Simba and Young Africans, in particular, have a storied rivalry and rich history in Tanzanian football.

Their participation in the Kagame Cup will be closely

watched, not only by their passionate fan bases but also by football enthusiasts across the region.

Azam, known for their strong performances in recent years, and Coastal Union, eager to make their mark, will also aim to impress.

Playing against teams like Al Hilal and Al Merreikh of Sudan, who are regulars in the CAF Champions League, and TP Mazembe, a club with a storied history in African football, will provide Tanzanian clubs with a taste of the high-level competition they will face in the CAF tournaments.

The matches against these clubs will be crucial for assessing their readiness and making necessary adjustments before the start of the CAF competitions.

The return of the Kagame Cup also signifies a broader effort to strengthen regional football. By bringing together top teams from East and Central Africa, the tournament fosters a competitive spirit and mutual growth among the participating clubs.

For Tanzanian clubs, it is not just about preparations but also about asserting their dominance in the region and gaining a psychological edge over their rivals.

Moreover, the tournament offers a platform for young and

emerging talent to shine. Coaches will have the opportunity to experiment with different tactics and line-ups, giving fringe players a chance to prove themselves.

For scouts and football analysts, the Kagame Cup will be a goldmine of talent, providing insights into the future stars of East African football.

As the countdown to the tournament begins, the excitement is palpable. Tanzanian clubs are expected to finalize their squad registrations promptly, ensuring that they have their best players available for this crucial preparatory phase.

The competition schedule is packed, and the teams must be in peak condition to navigate the challenges ahead.

The Kagame Cup 2024 is more than just a regional tournament; it is a strategic stepping stone for Tanzanian clubs aiming for glory in African competitions. With a blend of experienced stalwarts and emerging talents, Simba, Young Africans, Azam, and Coastal Union are poised to use this tournament to sharpen their skills, build team chemistry, and ultimately make a strong impact on the continental stage.

The stage is set for an exciting display of football, with Tanzanian clubs ready to rise to the occasion.

German Embassy presents hip-hop for social change

By Guardian Correspondent

THE German Embassy in Dar es Salaam recently presented Hip-Hop for Social Change, an international celebration of hip-hop's transformative power in the run-up to the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

The event took place at Goethe Institut in Dar es Salaam and highlighted breakdancing, one of the newest Olympic disciplines, and Hip Hop, and promoted the message of "Sport as a Universal Language."

Hip-Hop for Social Change is more than a dance competition; it's a movement for social change, featuring prominent figures from the global hip-hop community who embody socio-economic empowerment, gender equality, and cultural diversity.

The event's key highlights were:

- Workshops and performances by the Tanzanian breakdancer Lion (Johnson) and Persian Hair (Raha Nejad), a German hip hop dancer.

- Female Empowerment: The Bongo Queens, the first female hip-hop band from Tanzania, performed. Emerging from a Goethe Institut project, they now operate with their own management, symbolizing gender equality and the power of self-reliance.

- Diversity and Inclusion: Showcasing how dance unites individuals across genders, races, and religious beliefs, demonstrating the unifying force of hip hop.

- Community Building: The event featured examples of regional, national, and international exchanges, such as the German-Tanzanian hip-hop collaboration, emphasizing the role of dance in bringing communities together irrespective of ethnic backgrounds.

- Freedom of Expression: Attendees experienced the freedom of expression through



various performances, highlighting hip hop as a vehicle for human rights advocacy.

- Intercultural Dance Fusion: Performances included a mix of general breakdance and hip-hop dance moves with unique styles influenced by each dancer's cultural origin, promoting intercultural understanding and appreciation.

- Individuality and Personal

Development: The event underscored the role of breakdance and hip-hop in fostering individuality and personal growth among participants.

Speaking during the event, the German Ambassador to Tanzania, Thomas Terstegen, said: "We are incredibly proud to host Hip-Hop for Social Change. This event is a unique opportunity for communities worldwide to

connect and celebrate the unifying power of hip hop.

"It's about more than just dance; it's about empowering individuals and fostering global understanding."

The annual celebration of Hip-Hop music and culture in Tanzania, Hip-Hop Asili Festival (HAF) will take place at the end of July, this year.

NCBA Bank Golf Series comes to Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent

THE esteemed NCBA Bank Golf Series is set to return to Arusha, Tanzania on June 29, this year.

This exciting event will bring together the rich history of golf and the breathtaking landscapes of Tanzania.

Renowned for its thrilling competition and exceptional sportsmanship, the NCBA Bank Golf Series has captivated audiences across the region.

Over 100 golfers are expected to participate at the Arusha Gymkhana Golf Club, a course celebrated for its challenging layout.

The event will be graced by the presence of the Minister of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Dr. Advocate Damas Ndambaro, who is also an avid golfer.

Beyond celebrating the sport, the NCBA Bank Golf Series aims to identify and nurture future champions.

Three outstanding performers from the Arusha event will earn their places in the grand finale of the

NCBA Finals in Nairobi.

This tournament will also offer a prime opportunity for networking among customers, potential business partners, leaders, and golfers.

In addition to the golf series, NCBA Bank has been a steadfast supporter of the Rotary Club's initiatives.

This year, NCBA Bank is backing the Rotary Golf Tournament, which focuses on impactful community projects such as STEM boot camps in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

These initiatives aim to empower students with knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, promoting the theme "Smart Education is the Future of Farming."

Education support remains a key pillar of NCBA Bank's social responsibility efforts. By sponsoring these activities, NCBA Bank continues to contribute significantly to the enhancement of science education in schools in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

Man United manager Ten Hag to keep job after performance review, AP source says

MANCHESTER, England

ERIK ten Hag will stay on as Manchester United manager and is in negotiations to extend his contract, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision had not been publicly announced.

The decision ends months of uncertainty over Ten Hag's future after he oversaw United's worst league campaign in 34 years, but ended the season by winning the FA Cup with a victory over Manchester City.

United carried out an end-of-year review after last month's cup final and decided to stick with Ten Hag, who has won two trophies in as many seasons since joining the club from Ajax in 2022.

The FA Cup followed the English League Cup, which the Dutchman won in his first year at Old Trafford. But his second season in charge saw the 20-time champion suffer its lowest Premier League finish – eighth – losing 19 times in all competitions.

Ten Hag keeps his job in the face of a major overhaul of United's soccer operations by new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe.

British billionaire Ratcliffe bought a 27.7% stake in the club in February and has hired a new CEO and technical director, with a sporting director on the way.

Ten Hag, who won three Dutch titles with Ajax, was Ratcliffe's last major call. He survived despite failing to meet Ratcliffe's challenge of securing Champions League qualification for next season.

Ten Hag is United's fifth permanent manager since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 during a period of decline on the field. It has gone 11 years without winning the title.

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjær all failed to return the club to its past glories.

Ten Hag went into the cup final under intense pressure and it was not known if a win would be enough to save his job.

His team produced an outstanding performance to beat four-time defending league champion City 2-1 at Wembley Stadium.

Afterward, an emboldened Ten Hag issued a defiant message, saying if United "don't want me anymore then I go somewhere else to win trophies because that is what I did my whole career."

Ratcliffe assumed control of United's failing soccer operations after investing \$1.3 billion in shares and injecting a further \$300 million cash into the club.

He has quickly begun his overhaul with the appointment of former Manchester City executive Omar Berrada as CEO. City's former academy head Jason Wilcox has been hired as technical director.

Newcastle's Dan Ashworth is set to become sporting director.

AP

China keeps its World Cup hopes alive despite a 1-0 loss to S Korea. Thailand and India miss out

BY JOHN DUERDEN

CHINA kept its 2026 World Cup hopes alive by the narrowest of margins despite a 1-0 loss to South Korea on Tuesday in Asian qualifying.

China advanced to the third qualification round because Thailand, needing to beat Singapore by three goals, only won 3-1.

South Korea finished the second round of continental qualifying atop Group C and remains on course for an 11th straight World Cup appearance.

Six of the 18 Asian teams in the next stage will secure automatic spots at the World Cup. Two more teams will earn direct entry to the World Cup from a fourth stage in Asian qualifying and another will go into intercontinental playoffs for a spot at the global tournament.

In front of 65,000 fans at Seoul World Cup Stadium, Lee Kang-in scored in the 61st minute. A cross from Tottenham star Son Heung-min found its way to the Paris Saint-Germain midfielder, who scored on a low shot from near the penalty spot.

"We were able to keep China from creating any dangerous chances," Son said. "There's no such thing as a perfect match, but we stayed patient and capitalized on our chance to win. Obviously, we could have won by a bigger margin, but overall, everyone did a great job."

China needed a draw or better to ensure second place in the group but was forced to wait and hope that Singapore could avoid a three-goal loss in Bangkok.

China's only appearance at a men's World Cup so far was in 2002, when the tournament was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.

At the Rajamangala Stadium, Suphanat Mueanta put Thailand ahead in the first half, and Ikhсан Fandi equalized just before the hour.

AP

Why Germany's 2006 World Cup patriotic fervor is unlikely to repeat at Euro 2024

BERLIN

WHEN Germany hosted the 2006 World Cup, it unleashed an unexpected burst of national pride across the country. For many Germans, it was the first time they felt they could wave the flag unburdened by the country's dark past.

As Germany gets ready to host another major soccer tournament, the European Championship, such scenes of patriotic fervor are hard to imagine happening again.

While the national team could yet coax reluctant Germans to celebrate, the country itself is going through difficult times politically, with a far-right surge making many uncomfortable about public displays of national pride.

Even with Germany's opening game on Friday against Scotland just days away, there are few German flags hanging from balconies or windows, few national colors on show.

"It's not going to be like 2006, because we've moved on 18 years and there are conflicts everywhere," said Stephan Uersfeld, a sports columnist for broadcaster NTV. "Conflicts within German society, conflicts within Europe. It hadn't been the case in 2006."

Germany was one of the countries where the far-right made significant gains in elections to the European Parliament on Sunday. Alternative for Germany, or AfD, came second.



FILE — German soccer fans celebrate during the World Cup semifinal soccer match between Germany and Italy at the 'Fan Mile', a public viewing zone in Berlin on Tuesday, July 4, 2006. AP Photo

In 2006, the country wasn't as polarized. Germans still refer to the World Cup that year as a "Sommermärchen," or summer fairy-tale.

It was the first time Germany hosted a major soccer tournament since reunification. The economy was recovering from a deep depression with unemployment at 12.6% in 2005 – the highest it's ever been since the war – and new Chancellor Angela Merkel promised better times to come.

She enthusiastically cheered along as a young Germany team coached by Jürgen Klinsmann defied expectations to reach the semifinals in a country where soccer is by far the most popular sport. The good weather also played its part. Germans watched on large screens in beer gardens, on the streets or among friends at home, then continued the parties in parks and clubs.

"It was just a great atmosphere," Uersfeld said. "I think

the entire country was proud to actually host a tournament and be such a great host. They couldn't believe that people liked what they saw in Germany. You had people coming from all over the world."

He said hosting a European Championship isn't as big as hosting a World Cup.

It's questionable if even a World Cup would generate a similar celebratory mood now as in 2006. There hasn't been the same collective mass-displays of national pride in the country since, not even after Germany won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Anxiety over the rise of AfD, which uses the German flag frequently in campaigning, and more extremist groups has put many Germans off from displaying national symbols.

"Nobody wants to be confused with the right-wing stuff," said Axel Lischke, a sound engineer in Berlin.

He described himself as a

fan of soccer, but not particularly of Germany, and said he would likely root for Scotland in the opening match on Friday.

"I would love to see German society treating everyone equally," said Lischke, who suggested the image of the multicultural German national team is only a vision. He pointed to the treatment of former Germany international Mesut Özil after the team flopped at the 2018 World Cup.

Özil, who has Turkish roots, was made the scapegoat for Germany's group-stage exit and a target for racist abuse. The president of the German soccer federation, DFB, at the time, Reinhard Grindel, later regretted not giving Özil more support.

The DFB has since positioned itself in direct opposition to the far-right, promoting inclusion and tolerance. It has launched campaigns against racism and discrimi-

nation. "It's part of our work," DFB general secretary Heike Ullrich told The AP. "You cannot say that sport has no role in politics. And we know how strongly football can be used as a model to send out politically important messages."

Just before Euro 2024, a TV documentary questioned the German national team's role in fostering integration in a multicultural society.

Germany defender Jonathan Tah and former internationals Shkodran Mustafi and Gerald Asamoah talked about the racism and hostility they faced.

The program on public broadcaster ARD included a survey asking 1,304 participants if they would prefer more white players on the team. One in five replied they would.

Both Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann and midfielder Joshua Kimmich said they were shocked that the broadcaster would even ask such a question.

"When you consider that we are about to host a European Championship at home, it's absurd to ask such a question when the aim is actually to unite the whole country," Kimmich said. "It's about achieving great things together. As a team, we're trying to get everyone in Germany behind us."

To what extent that will happen – even if it doesn't reach 2006 levels – will become clear once Germany gets the tournament underway on Friday.

AP

Euro 2024 won't feature Europe's top striker. Who else is missing?

BY ANDREW DAMPF

GOALKEEPERS and defenders: Exhale.

The most feared striker in Europe won't be playing at the European Championship.

That's because Erling Haaland's Norway didn't qualify.

Haaland's goal-scoring statistics with both club and country are staggering: 90 goals in 98 matches across all competitions in two seasons with Manchester City, and 30 in 32 matches for Norway since his national-team debut in 2019.

But Halaand produced "only" five goals in six qualifying matches for Norway, which finished third in Group A behind Spain and Scotland and didn't even reach the playoffs.

Norway's absence also means that Arsenal and Norway captain Martin Odegaard won't be at the tournament in Germany. Norway won only three of eight qualifiers and finished six points behind group runner-up Scotland.

A look at some other top players who won't be at Euro 2024, which starts Friday:

THIBAUT COURTOIS
Thibaut Courtois was healthy enough to make two key saves during the first half of the Champions League final and help Real Madrid to another title.

But the Belgium goalkeeper announced in December that he would miss the Euros and has not backpedaled on his decision despite returning to full fitness for Madrid after a long-term knee injury.

There's also this:



FILE — Manchester City's Erling Haaland reacts at the end of the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London, on Saturday, May 25, 2024. The most feared striker in Europe won't be playing at the European Championship. AP Photo

There are ongoing tensions between Courtois and Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco.

Courtois questioned Tedesco's "reality" after the coach accused him of abandoning his teammates and faking an injury before a qualifier last year.

Without the Madrid keeper, Tedesco's choices in goal are: Matz Sels (Nottingham Forest), Koen Casteels (Wolfsburg) and Thomas Kaminski (Luton).

KARIM BENZEMA
Benzema retired from France's national team the day after "Les Bleus" lost the 2022 World Cup final without the striker.

Then last year he left Real Madrid for Saudi Arabian club Al-Ittihad and now, at age 36, his days at the top seem finished.

Benzema was awarded the Ballon d'Or as the world's top player in 2022 but then missed the World Cup in Qatar that year after tearing a left thigh muscle in pre-tournament training.

He also didn't play in France's victorious 2018 World Cup campaign be-

underwent surgery after rupturing his left ACL.

MARCUS RASHFORD
The Manchester United striker paid the price for a disappointing season at the club level and failed to make the cut for England coach Gareth Southgate's initial 33-man selection.

Rashford managed just eight goals for a United team that suffered its lowest-ever Premier League finish – eighth.

The omission comes only two seasons after Rashford had a career-best campaign, scoring 34 goals for club and country.

Jack Grealish, Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson – who all played in the final when England lost to Italy in a penalty shootout in 2021 – were also left out by Southgate.

"These are difficult calls, you are talking about players who are very good players, who have been an important part of what we have done," Southgate said. "With Marcus, I feel players in the same area of the pitch have had better seasons, it's as simple as that."

MATS HUMMELS
Reaching the Champions League final wasn't enough for Mats Hummels to make the

squad for host Germany.

Hummels made a strong case for inclusion with his inspirational performances in Borussia Dortmund's run in Europe. But Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said there were "1,000 components" to the decision not to include the veteran defender. Nagelsmann sees Real Madrid's Antonio Rüdiger and Bayer Leverkusen's Jonathan Tah as his preferred central defensive pairing – and anyone else would need to be content with a backup role.

Dortmund defender Nico Schlotterbeck is evidently content to take the reserve role and did make the squad.

Bayern Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka was also left out, despite a strong finish to the Bundesliga season.

SANDRO TONALI
Newcastle midfielder Sandro Tonali is serving a 10-month ban for betting on teams he played for – ruling him out of consideration for defending champion Italy.

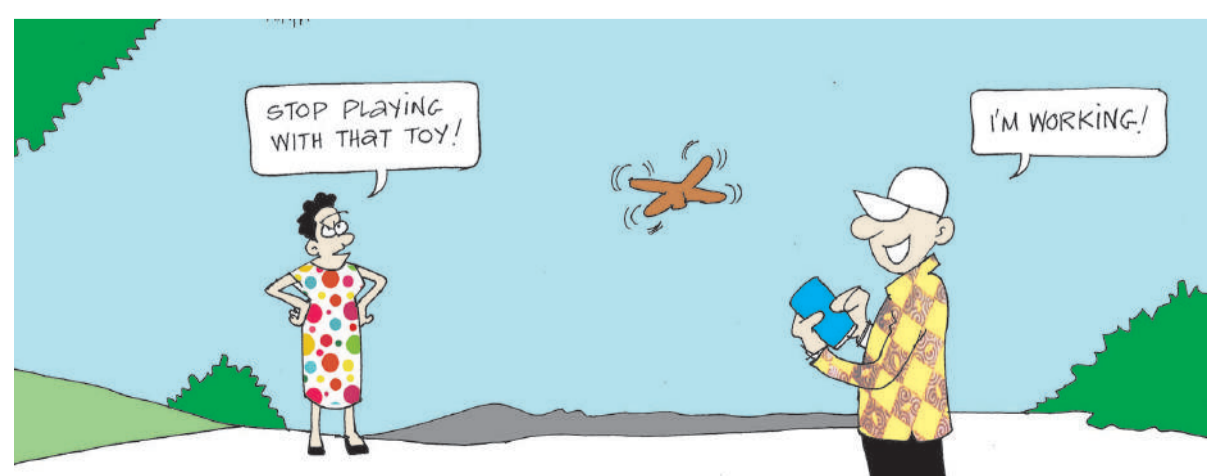
It leaves coach Luciano Spalletti without his top choice at playmaker but opens space for the likes of Jorginho and Lorenzo Pellegrini.

Tonali had seemed poised to inherit the role that once belonged to Andrea Pirlo by setting the pace and directing the attack for Italy's squad.

Several other Italy players are out injured: Domenico Berardi, Nicolò Zaniolo, Francesco Acerbi and Giorgio Scalvini.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why Germany's 2006 World Cup patriotic fervor is unlikely to repeat at Euro 2024

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Salim 'Try Again' Muhene. Agencies

Simba set for major management shake-up

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA have confirmed that Salim 'Try Again' Muhene has resigned as chairman and director of the football club.

Try Again was appointed to the club's board as a director in 2017 and has helped the club oversee a successful period over the last seven years, including four league titles, three Federation Cup triumphs, and growth on and off the pitch.

In 2021, Try Again became the club's chairman following the resignation of Mohammed 'Mo' Dewji.

However, the soft spoken chairman grew increasingly unpopular with supporters due to the recent drought in silverware.

Last season, Simba secured the Community Shield and Union Cup but fell away in the Premier League, African Football League and Federation Cup.

Simba ended the season in third place, meaning they missed out on qualification for the CAF Champions League for the first time in six years.

They also suffered their biggest derby defeat in the last 40 years when they collapsed in the second half to lose 5-1 to their arch-rivals Young Africans.

Angry fans and supporters pointed an accusing finger at the management led by Try Again calling out for a major shake-up of the club ahead of the new season.

With pressure mounting from different sides, Try Again made the decision to step down from his role to pave the way for the return of Mo Dewji on Tuesday evening.

He said the club's salvation lies in the hand of Mo Dewji.

"To save Simba and take it out of its current challenges, it is only Mo Dewji who can do that and take it forward. I have been talking to him frequently sometimes up to ten times a day, the aim is to see that he comes back to build a strong and better Simba," he said.

"I have had a conversation with him and asked him to return to be the chairman of the club's board as it was in previous years. I will remain a member and be a leader who will be ready to serve Simba at any time."

Mo Dewji, who had resigned due to what he termed his busy schedule which involves a lot of travel outside the country leaving him with little time to serve Simba, has now accepted to take over from Try Again.

In a brief video, Mo Dewji revealed factors behind Simba's recent struggles.

He pleaded with the club supporters, members and leaders to ease factionalism that came after the last election.

"Since the last election was concluded, we have had factions within the club. This has caused various conflicts within our club. I ask my fellow Simba members to break up the groups and come back to cooperate in the spirit of our motto, Simba Nguvu Moja," he said.

Mo Dewji promised to rebuild the club which will certainly involve a major shake-up on and off the pitch as the club look to bridge the gap with their arch-rivals Young Africans.

Hemed Morocco praises Taifa Stars' team effort after crucial win over Zambia



Taifa Stars players celebrate after their 2026 FIFA World Cup African Qualifier Group E match against Zambia's Chipolopolo at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on Tuesday. Stars won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA men's national football team, Taifa Stars, head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman has praised his players' collective effort to earn a crucial victory over Zambia.

Tanzania defeated Zambia 1-0 at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, in the fourth round of African qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Tuesday.

A fifth-minute strike from debutant striker Waziri Junior set the team on their way to a much-needed away victory.

The hosts tried valiantly to find an equaliser but were denied by stout Taifa Stars defence marshalled by Ibrahim Bacca and Bakari Mwanmyeto.

The victory sees Tanzania go second on six points, three behind Group E leaders Morocco who thrashed Congo Brazzaville 6-0 to maintain their perfect record.

This is Taifa Stars' second away victory of the campaign, after the earlier win over Niger.

"The match was difficult," coach Morocco said during the TFF post-match interview, reacting to how the World Cup qualifier game

unfolded.

He expressed his pride in his players for sticking to a game plan that was based on containing the expected pressure from a Zambian side looking to bounce back following Thursday's loss to Morocco.

"We knew we were coming to play against Zambia who lost the last match in Morocco and are not in a good position. They were also playing at home in front of their fans but we planned to manage that

pressure," said the tactician. He continued: "I must thank my players, it was not easy. They were able to fight all the ninety minutes. The tactics we came up with have worked. Let me continue to congratulate them and I think this is over, let's look ahead."

With the June FIFA World Cup qualifiers concluded, Tanzania will return to action in March with two matches at home to Congo and away to Morocco. Winners of each group

will automatically qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2026. Africa will have a total of nine teams, with the possibility of a 10th team, participating in the upcoming World Cup.

To determine the tenth representative from Africa, CAF introduced an additional opportunity.

The four best runners-up from the groups will play in a CAF Play-Off tournament.

The winner of this playoff will then face a team from the CONCACAF zone for a

chance to secure the tenth and final spot in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Tanzania, with its population of 61 million people, has never played in the World Cup finals.

Since 1966, Taifa Stars have made ten unsuccessful World Cup qualification attempts.

In the last attempt, Taifa Stars finished third in a group that had eventual winners DR Congo, second-placed Benin, and Madagascar who ended bottom.

...Match winner Waziri Jr explains the role of senior players in their win against Zambia

Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA national football team striker Waziri Junior has expressed the role of experienced players in shaping their mentality in the crucial 2026 World Cup Group E qualifying match after beating Zambia's Chipolopolo on Tuesday evening.

Taifa Stars won 1-0 away at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola and the lone goal was scored by Junior five minutes into the game.

A brilliant pressing from the midfield by match captain Himid Mao, led to a Zambia misplaced pass that was intercepted by Mudathir Yahya who set the goal scorer inside the 18-yard box to score from a tight right corner.

This is a second meeting between the two nations, as in their recent Africa Cup of Nations Group F encoun-

ter Zambia's Chipolopolo and Taifa Stars faced off in a closely contested match that ended in a 1-1 draw.

Simon Msuva opened the scoring for Tanzania, while Patson Daka salvaged a late equalizer for Zambia with a goal in the 88th minute.

The KMC striker, with 14 goals in the Premier League last season, said he was elated to score in the top contest, after starting his second game for the Tanzania national football team this year.

"I am very delighted to play a top match for my national team. World Cup qualification is a huge stage for me as a player. I am happy to help my country by scoring the winning goal.

"Coming into the match it was a matter of mentality and staying into the game for all ninety minutes, especially after scoring an early goal.

Our coaches instructed us to stay on plan by playing counterattacks, but also staying compact in defense.

"Experienced players like Himid Mao and Simon Msuva, who have played many international games with Taifa Stars, told us to manage the game as well as time in order to slow our opposition attacks. They insisted on staying calm when we were under pressure. By doing that we were able to win," said the match winning goal scorer.

Taifa Stars under the tutelage of Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman showed calmness throughout the game with many young players and debutants like Edwin Balua, Adolf Bitegeko, and Lameck Lawi contributing their part during the match.

Taifa Stars started the match with Ali Salim playing in goal, Bakari Mwanmyeto paired with Ibra-

him Hamad as center-backs, Lusajo Mwaikenda played as right-back while Mohamed Hussein played as left-back. Mao paired with Yahya as holding midfielders in a 4-2-3-1 formation while Simon Msuva and Clement Mzize interchanged on the flanks, with Feisal Salum playing behind Junior.

Charles M'Mbombwa, Lawi, Bitegeko, Abdul Suleiman, and Balua came in as substitutes.

Currently, Tanzania is second in their group with six points after three matches. Zambia is in fourth place with three points after same number of games played.

Morocco tops the group with nine points, having won all their three first matches so far after beating Congo 6-0 on Tuesday. Niger is in third place with three points after two games.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

