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## Samia swears in envoys, lists spheres of duty

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has tasked newly appointed ambassadors to lead the way in taking up economic diplomacy to promote the country's engagement with the international community and facilitate investments.

Swearing in the envoys at the Chamwino State House, the president said the government has opened a new chapter for collaboration with other countries and ambassadors need to further cement this effort.

"The country has a lot of expectations with the various diplomatic missions abroad," she said, "affirming that changing global trends need people with the capability to understand how global politics are changing," she said.

The government operates on the basis of various strategic documents including the CCM election manifesto and five-year development plans which are a must read for envoys, she stated.

The country has similarly signed various agreements with many countries where envoys must work on facilitating operationalization of such frameworks, she said, cautioning that some envoys abroad do not know what they

# 'Arrests tied with reckless rhetoric, not port debates'

By Guardian Reporter

CRIMINALLY dangerous and reckless rhetoric is what led to the recent arrests of certain individuals for suspected criminal acts, the government declared yesterday.

It said, in a press statement signed by Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye, that the arrests had nothing to do with the said individuals' airing of views concerning the port development agreement involving the Tanzanian government and the Dubai ports state firm DP World.

The government in particular took exception to statements it said were associating the arrests with the national debate on proposed port investments and rule of law issues.

It said that democratic rights and freedoms also come with responsibilities to others "and require all of us to abide by the law and refrain from reckless rhetoric" as its consequences are unpredictable and, including fomenting chaos.

The statement referred to three individuals arrested by police reportedly for uttering specific threats of a serious criminal nature, including calling for the violent overthrow of the government.

The three persons initially arrested are advocate Boniface Mwabukusi, who featured as a plaintiff in a court case to oppose the DP World accord, opposition Chadema activist Mpaluka Nyagali



Newly appointed ambassadors and high commissioners sign the oath of ethical conduct before President Samia Suluhu Hassan shortly after she swore them in at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

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**The country has a lot of expectations with the various diplomatic missions abroad**

are doing.

The country expects to receive useful information from such countries via ambassadors, tasking the envoys to learn how Asian countries, earlier having similar development levels with Tanzania, managed to transform their economies.

The ambassadors need to carry the government's policy stance at heart in any decision they make, weighing it to see whether it is beneficial to the country economically, she stated.

An appointment is testimony that Tanzanians have trust in their abilities but also a task as they owe Tanzanians a great deal of work, she said, noting that the newly appointed envoys were put through strict vetting owing to changing geopolitics to match the policy stance, "but also as a first line of defense."

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation

## Treasury, Sinosure reach mega loan securities pact

By Guardian Correspondent, Beijing

SINOSURE, a Chinese insurance firm, has entered into an agreement with the government to enable the government to obtain securities for loans to implement public sector development projects, and in joint venture accords.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, leading a delegation of the Union and Zanzibar governments, said here yesterday that the agreement was reached in discussions during the visit.

The discussions were directed at boosting relations with China's financial institution in order to access projects funds, he said, affirming that cooperation will be strengthened through investments, trade and development project loans.

The visit and pursuit of

project funds and loan securities is the outcome of the visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in November last year during which she agreed with President Xi Jinping on new ways of boosting economic ties.

The pact with Sinosure will enable the government and private firms to access loan guarantees in order to access loans from major financial institutions in China, he said.

"Our discussions went on well and now experts from both sides have begun discussions on how Tanzania can get funds to cover construction costs of the standard gauge railway (SGR) for phases V to VI - Isaka-Mwanza and Tabora-Malagarasi-Uvinza, extending to neighbouring countries of DRC and Burundi," he said.

Treasury experts and Sinosure officials will hold fur-

ther talks on obtaining funds to cover construction costs for 2,500km of roads in 24 regions in the short and medium term, he said.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, the Finance and Planning state minister in the Zanzibar President's Office, said that the pact with Sinosure will also enable benefit Zanzibar in financing the construction of roads and terminal IV of the Zanzibar International Airport as well as the Mangapwani port project.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Zanzibar Communications and Transport minister Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed, Treasury permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, her Zanzibar counterpart Dr Malik Akil, Tanzania's ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki attended the talks.



The USAID Mission Director for Tanzania, Craig Hart (R), and Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania managing director Frederick Kimaro pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing a US\$26 million environment protection agreement meant to benefit villages surrounding the Gombe Stream National Park in Kigoma District. Looking on are the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle, and Jane Goodall Institute director Jane Goodall. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

## UN wants SDG goals put in economic plans

By Henry Mwangonde

ALL 17 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) need to be inserted in the country's five year development plans and budgets, the United Nations has declared. Zlatan Milisic, the UN resident coordinator, made this observation when addressing a youth dialogue to promote awareness on the UN goals

in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He said Tanzania has made significant progress towards achieving some SDGs but lags behind in others, pointing at key social sectors like water and rural electrification, as well as improved budgets on agriculture. There is hence a need to include explicit SDG goals in the various development plans, he said,

noting that despite registered achievements, there is more to be done by looking at SDGs as a whole. Government plans need to identify important things that need to be done, in relation to poverty eradication and ensuring that public investments are conducted across the board, he said. National development plans should be inclusive and

focus on all the SDGs as interlinked priorities, as Tanzania has also made progress in gender equality through women empowerment, he stated. "Tanzania is a country where there is progress compared to other countries, we see some leadership in terms of promoting women empowerment and political will

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## 'Arrests tied with reckless rhetoric, not port debates'

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popular as 'Mdude' and a leader of the party's southern highlands zone.

That implied excluding one-time Chadema secretary general Dr Willibrod Slaa, who has however drawn the most visible attention in the weekend arrests saga.

The minister said in the statement that some local and international organisations have been issuing statements "with factual inaccuracies and gross misrepresentation of facts about the recent arrests of three individuals in Tanzania alleged to be involved in criminal conduct".

The sweeping statements on the arrests have mixed up two separate things: the national debate that is currently openly taking place in Tanzania on proposed port investments on the one hand and a rule of law issue, on the other, he noted.

He elaborated: "The deliberate falsification of information about the actual circumstances in the arrests of the criminal suspects calls into question the real motive and credibility of the organisations behind the statements.

"One of the more recent statements from an international rights group has resorted to a malicious distortion of facts by erroneously claiming that the suspects were arrested 'simply for criticising a port deal between Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'.

"The truth is that no one whatsoever has been arrested in Tanzania nor will be arrested for simply criticising the port deal or any other government project, plan, programme or policy for that matter.

"The suspects, some of whom publicly sought to incite citizens to bear arms against the Tanzania Police Force, were apprehended to send a strong message to deter any offenders from committing criminal offences.

"The arrests do not in any way restrict freedom of expression in Tanzania but are part of the enforcement of the law to prevent possible social unrest that may result from calls for a rebellion against a democratically-elected government.

"Since coming into office in March 2021, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government has expanded the democratic and civic space in Tanzania by reversing a ban on public rallies for political parties, lifting the suspension of several newspapers and online TVs and broadening freedom of expression."

The statement added that, to this effect, individuals, groups, civil society, members of the academia, the media, clerics, political parties and institutions continued to freely discuss national issues and criticise the government's position without any official intimidation or arrests.

"Opposition parties are currently freely holding public rallies across the country to criticise the port deal and other Government policies, something they were not able to do just a few years ago before President Samia

Suluhu Hassan's administration came to power," it said.

It floated assurances that the government would continue to uphold freedom of expression and peaceful assembly "and allow a vibrant public debate - offline and online - about national development projects and any other issues of public interest".

"However, rights and freedoms also come with responsibilities to others and require all of us to abide by the law and refrain from criminally dangerous and reckless rhetoric," it said.

It added: "The government remains fully committed to democracy and the rule of law, but will not make any compromises against breaches of law and order that may jeopardise the peace, national unity, security and safety of Tanzania that we all cherish."

Meanwhile, over 100 advocates from various institutions are said to have lined themselves up to defend (in court) the three arrested activists in the event of their facing treason charges. These are Dr Slaa, Mwabukusi and Nyagali.

Philip Mwakilima, chair of the advocates' panel, made this observation at a news conference in Mbeya city yesterday after the unexplained non-appearance of three suspects in court.

The advocates are mainly drawn from the Tanganyika Law Society, the Legal and Human Rights Centre, independent advocates and lawyers regularly representing political parties in court.

Dr Slaa was reported to have been arrested on Sunday (August 13) and held at Dar es Salaam's Oysterbay Police Station a day after Mwabukusi and Mpaluka were arrested.

They were arrested at Mikumi in Morogoro Region well past midnight Saturday (August 12) along with Emmanuel Masonga, Chadema's southern zone secretary, as they drove to Dar es Salaam.

Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura said at a media briefing in Dar es Salaam on Friday that activists planning to organise and coordinate illegal nationwide demonstrations in the wake of a negative court ruling for them would have no chance to execute their scheme.

He asked members of the public to avoid being trapped by such people in the planned demonstrations as police would not spare anyone found taking part in the illegal walk.

## Govt embarks on plans to deal with unethical mineral dealers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has embarked on plans to deal with unscrupulous mineral dealers in the country. The move is aimed at streamlining the mineral sector and increasing foreign currency.

It has formed a nine-member team to investigate the dealings, trading of all the mineral dealers and establish a number of issues, among them if they remit back money in the country in local or local currencies.

Through the relevant ministry, it has conducted an ex-



Tyson Mkindi (2nd-L, with mike), a manager with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in Zanzibar yesterday on the agency's activities. It was the Dawasa pavilion forming part of an ongoing exhibition held on the sidelines of a conference on the implementation of investment programmes in the country's water sector. Right is Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### CLARIFICATION ON NHC DEBTORS

**IN yesterday's issue we mistakenly reported that National Housing Corporation tenants in the country had paid rent arrears amounting to 23bn/- during a one-month campaign.**

**However, the fact is that the corporation has announced that it is embarking on a one-month campaign to collect rent arrears amounting to 23bn/- from tenants countrywide.**

**We sincerely regret the error and apologise for whatever inconvenience it may have caused, including to the NHC executives quoted in the story.**

- Editor.

## Samia swears in envoys, lists spheres of duty

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minister, earlier said the task ahead for the new envoys was sensitive and Tanzanians expect a lot from them.

A week ago, President Samia assigned to various duty stations ambassadors and high commissioners, six of whom were appointed on May 10. She made changes on the work stations of four envoys, where Ambassador Fatma Rajab will represent Tanzania in Oman, replacing Abdallah Kilima who has re-

tired.

High Commissioner Joseph Sokoine will represent Tanzania in Canada, replacing the retiring Dr Mpoki Ulisubisa.

Ambassador Naimi Aziz will represent the country in Austria while Maj. Gen. Ramson Mwaisaka, hitherto ambassador-designate will represent Tanzania in Rwanda, replacing Maj. Gen. Richard Makanzo who moved to Cairo in place of John Nchimbi, who is returning home.

Ambassador-designate Gelasius Byakanwa takes office

in the Burundi mission, from the retiring Ambassador Jilly Maleko.

Ambassador-designate Habibu Mohamed takes over in Qatar, replacing Ambassador Mahadhi Maalim who moves to Kuala Lumpur, as Ambassador -Designate Imani Njalikai moves to Algeria, replacing the retiring Maj. Gen. Jacob Kingu.

Ambassador -Designate Hassan Mwamweta is to represent Tanzania in Germany, replacing Ambassador Abdallah Possi, transferred to Ge-

neva, the European offices of the United Nations, where he replaces Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi, at end of contract.

Ambassador -Designate Mohamed Abdallah takes office in Saudi Arabia, from Ambassador Ali Jabir Mwadini who moves to Paris to replace Dr William Shelukindo, now permanent secretary in the ministry.

High Commissioner John Simbachawene will represent Tanzania in Uganda, taking over from Dr Aziz Mlima, now retiring.



D Light (Tanzania) Ltd managing director Charles Natai cuts the ribbon in Arusha city on Tuesday to launch the package of gifts to be presented during the firm's forthcoming two-month campaign dubbed 'Mwanga Wako, Mchongo Wako' meant to champion the adoption of clean solar energy across the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UN wants SDG goals inserted in economic projections

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to let women participate in the democratic process," he specified.

Tanzania was one of seven African countries participating in the working group of UN member states that put together the proposal for the SDGs, he said, affirming that since then the country has been actively measuring its progress through tools such as the voluntary national review.

Young people have a key role to play in advancing the SDGs, whether as critical thinkers, challenging existing norms; as innovators, bringing fresh solutions to age-old problems; or as communicators, bridging the awareness gap about global and national commitments, he stated. He told the audience that next month, the president of the UN General Assembly will be hosting the SDGs summit in New York to mark the halfway point to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

"Today's dialogue is testimony to UN belief in the potential and dynamism of Tanzanian youth. Through interactive sessions like these, we aim to ensure that young voices are not only heard but amplified," he said.

Hamis Seif, the Dar es Salaam University Students' Organization (DARUSO) president, said that dialogue creates room for the youth to take a role in achieving SDGs.

It is the time for the youth to offer constructive views facilitating the formulation of inclusive policies helping to address global challenges, he added.

tensive audit that has helped reduce the number of dealers from 700 in 2022 to 150 in 2023, eliminating those who do not qualify to provide the service.

While the sector's contribution to the economy increases steadily, the government has noticed several loopholes used by dealers which deny the government a lot of foreign money.

Speaking here yesterday during a meeting with the dealers, Minister for Minerals Doto Biteko said most mineral dealers in the country sell

abroad in foreign currencies but deposit shillings in the local banks.

He said the mineral laws and regulations states that mineral sold in foreign currencies clearly states that dealers or sellers of mineral outside the country should deposit foreign currencies in the local banks.

The minister expressed concerns that while the government has opened doors for any capable persons in the country to participate in mineral trading, some of the dealers misuse the freedom.

"Unlike some countries, Tanzania has allowed any willing and capable persons to participate in mining business and investments but it is unfortunate that some people are not willing to adhere to the set requirements" said the minister.

He called on the dealers to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in streamlining the sector by sticking to the law by selling outside the country and deposit back in foreign currencies they have achieved and later exchange into local cur-

rency for local dealings.

According to the minister, the mining sector has been on a high growth contributing 9.1 percent to the GDP up from 6.8 per cent in the last financial year. He said between July 2022 and July 2023, gold export reached 2.24 trn/-.

Biteko noted that the sector contributes to 56 percent of the total exports outside the country, adding, "The government depends a lot on foreign exports that earn the country foreign currencies, needful in buying goods and services outside the country."





New Forest company director, Matt Merrick (L), gives a brief to Iringa Regional Commissioner, Halima Dendego (C), after visiting the company's tree farm situated at Idete village yesterday. Right is Kilolo District Commissioner Peresi Magiri. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## Media condemns attack on journalists in Arusha

By Guardian Reporter

MEDIA stakeholders yesterday condemned an attack by allegedly a group of 200 Maasai youth on journalists who were on duty in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region.

In separate statements, the Tanzania Editors Forum and Arusha Press Club (ACP) described the act by allegedly armed Maasai youth as criminal, calling for investigations so that those involved face the law.

On 15 August, a group of allegedly machete and arrows armed Maasai youth attacked journalists at Enduleni village in Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) who were performing their duties interviewing people who have expressed willingness to vacate the area voluntarily.

Journalists who faced the ordeal are Ferdinand Shayo (ITV), Denis Msacky (Media Brain), Habib Mchanga (Jamvi la Habari), Elia Kinian (Channel Ten), Janeth Joseph (Mwananchi), Dickson

Busagaga (Clouds Media) and their translator Lengai Ngoishiye.

The injured journalists were later taken to FAME hospital at Karatu where they were treated for injuries they sustained.

"TEF condemns the incident which aims to threaten journalists from performing their duties, but also the tendency by some politicians to take the law into their hands," said Deodatus Balile TEF chairman.

TEF said there has been a growing tendency by some non-governmental organisations to inform the general public that the great enemy was the media which has been evident in the incident.

TEF said it was following up on the recent trend by some quarters of threatening and denying journalists to perform their duties.

For its part, APC called upon law enforcement agencies to investigate and all those who will be found implicated in the incident stern measures should be taken against them so that it should be a lesson to others.

## Every Tanzanian must be involved in new constitution writing, says govt

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

CONSTITUTIONAL and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has stressed the importance of involving the people at every stage in writing the new constitutional so that right issues are incorporated therein.

Speaking here yesterday at the launch of the National Advisory and Legal Aid Board, Dr Ndumbaro said the new constitution issue belongs to everyone; hence all the people have to be involved to give their views.

He added that giving the people to the right to give their views will help to rectify issues in the current constitution that often call for emending from time to time. "The constitution is for everyone and not for politicians alone, we should move away with amending the constitution four times in 60 years of independence, we must have views to come up with a good constitution."

He also appealed to the National Advisory and Legal Aid Board to advise more in having a new constitution that will live for many years, as Tanzanians now need a new constitution.

He also directed the Board to meet frequently in order to make sure Tanzanians get essential legal aid services to solve various legal issues in the country.

He also called on the Board to ensure they empower various officials in regard to the availability of various activities on legal aid so that people understand the Board's activities and equality before the law.

Dr Ndumbaro also said a few African countries have such legal aid boards, hence he thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for making sure the rights of people, especially of the poor are respected.

According to him, the Board's responsibility is to look into how to collaborate with legal aid providers how to proceed from the ward to regional level in ensuring challenges facing the people are addressed.

For his part, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mary Makondo thanked the government for making sure women, men, children and elders get free legal aid in the country.

She said the training being provided will help to make sure the down-trodden get their rights as well in understanding legal procedures.

For his part, Faraja Nchimbi, member of the National Advisory and Legal Aid Board from the National Prosecution Office said the Board advises the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the application of justice while its management have received various legal issues on finance that cover legal aid coordination activities.

## India -Tanzania bilateral trade has increased to \$6.4 billion'

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA is among the countries that have benefited from bilateral relationship with India.

Speaking at celebrations to mark India's 77th Independence Day on Tuesday, Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said they have supported various sectors including health, water, mines, education, power and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

"We are celebrating achievements of our strong relationship; we are now noticing Indian business communities coming to invest in Tanzania especially in health, education,

water, mines and agro-processing sub-sector," he said.

He said the India-Tanzania bilateral trade has increased to \$6.4 billion, solidifying India's position as Tanzania's largest export market. He said Indian investments in Tanzania have increased to \$3.74 billion.

Pradhan said Tanzania retains its pivotal role as a development partner for India within Africa, as underscored by projects surpassing USD 1.1 billion through the Indian Line of Credit.

Implementation of water supply projects directly benefiting 24 Tanzanian towns worth \$500 million started this year, he added.

Elaborating on Indian invest-

ment in Tanzania, he said India and Tanzania have fostered robust trade relationships, as evidenced by their bilateral trade surging beyond the \$6.4 billion benchmark in the fiscal year 2022/2023.

He linked the trade rapport, with a conducive policy landscape and proactive endeavours spearheaded by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) under the aegis of the 6th phase government, positioning India as the fifth-largest contributor of investments to Tanzania.

The cumulative investments have reached a substantial \$3.7 billion, Pradhan noted, adding that notable multi-speciality hospital chains and distinguished vehicle manufacturers

from India are displaying keen interest in establishing their presence in Tanzania.

Furthermore, the prospects of establishing an Indian Industrial Park within Tanzania are actively being explored, reflecting a shared vision for enhancing economic engagement and fostering mutual growth.


"The presence of Tanzania avocados in Indian markets signals a promising future for even more accelerated bilateral trade growth."

"Favourable policy landscape combined with Tanzania's burgeoning economy has generated enthusiasm among numerous Indian companies to augment their investments in the country," he added.

Abdallah Ulega, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries lauded the Indian government in supporting Tanzania's development in various sectors.

Ulega said Tanzanians have continue to benefit from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) scholarships that has helped them to improve skills, thus become experts in different fields.

"India has offered 450 slots under ITEC and 70 scholarships under (ICCR) in the 2023/2024 academic year, coupled with the establishment of the newly inaugurated IIT Madras Zanzibar campus," stated Ulega.



**About Qatar Charity**

Qatar Charity (QC) is a non-governmental organization working in both relief and development. With a considerable regional capacity, QC is a leading humanitarian organization in the East Africa region committed to transforming adversity into revival for the world's most vulnerable populations. By working with beneficiaries and communities, QC is keen to develop the links and continuum between relief activities and long-term community development projects.

In the performance of its activities in cooperation with different humanitarian and development partners, Qatar Charity is committed to the principles of partnership such as equality, transparency, responsibility, and integration. QC is also committed to the fundamental humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, and impartiality.

**Our Vision** We envision a world in which all human beings have the right to live in peace and dignity.

**Our Mission** We assist and support vulnerable communities in achieving progress and prosperity by:

- Providing adequate support for vulnerable communities through robust social welfare systems.
- Ensuring crisis-affected people receive the assistance and support they need to survive and recover.
- Implementing primary services in underdeveloped communities in the fields of education, culture, health, water and sanitation, food security, and housing.
- Empowering underprivileged communities through income-generating projects.
- Enhancing local humanitarian response and recovery capacities in emergencies.
- Advocating for the voiceless and campaigning for policies and practices to reduce inequalities and poverty.
- Promoting social cohesion, peace, and development.

As per requirement of regulation 13 of NGO's (amendment) regulation, 2018.v In 2022 & 2023 Qatar Charity had receive to implement the following projects.

Project Description	Top Activities	Sector	Beneficiaries	Cost of the project
Ramadhan Project (Distribution of Food parcel) 2022	Distribution of Ramadan baskets to needy families during the month of Ramadan in the areas of Temika, Kinondoni and Kigamboni	Food Security	700	TSh 114,838,709.68
Building a qur'anic school	Construction of an additional class set, drilling a water well and Toilets	Education	405	TSh 145,476,774.19
Distributing of Udhya'a project	Distribution of sacrificial meat to the needy in 4 areas of Dar es Salaam and Pwani (total 500 sheep)	Food Security	2000	TSh 95,806,451.61
Ramadhan Project (Distribution of Food parcel) 2023	Distribution of Ramadan baskets to needy families during the month of Ramadan in two areas of Dar es Salaam in addition to the families of the association's sponsors	Food Security	175	TSh 26,250,000.00
Furnishing the Quranic School on Pemba Island	School furnishing and providing stationery, supplies and appliances	Education	405	TSh 45,536,712.00



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TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit [www.trademarkafrica.com](http://www.trademarkafrica.com)

TMA would like to invite interested and **qualified firms** to participate in the following tender opportunities:

**1. Consultancy services for Supply and Installation of ICT Infrastructure - Networking And storage equipment for the Kenya Revenue Authority [PRQ20230007]**

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com)

The closing date for submission is on **07 September 2023 on or before 11:00 am (Kenyan Time)**

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**





Ostadi Food Restaurant, director Radhia Daffa, hands over various food items worth 1m/- to school for blind and other needy students in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region earlier this week in support of efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the programme dubbed 'Tasamu na Mama'. Photo: Correspondent Ashrack Miraji

## WMA directs domestic gas sellers to meet actual volume of customers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WEIGHT and Measures Agency (WMA) has directed sellers of domestic gas to ensure that they have weighing scales to measure actual volume of the product before handing them to customers.

This, according to the agency, will greatly address complaints from people that some traders have been tampering with the gas cylinders thus selling incorrect amounts for their own benefits.

Stella Kahwa, WMA chief executive officer made the directives yesterday here when addressing a news conference on the implementation of responsibilities and plans for the 2023/24 financial year.

Kahwa said that there has been a number of complaints from the public over some traders who have been tampering with domestic gas cylinders thus selling them in deceitful weight.

According to her, WMA has a role to protect consumers in trade, health, safety and environment in relation to weights and measurements and protect society from consequences of false measurements in any transaction.

"We remind the general public of the importance of using right weights and measurements as a way to cooperate with authorities to stop these unlawful traits, we have received a number

of complaints on this and we want the traders to comply with the laws and regulations," she asserted.

She said that for a trader, measuring gas density in cylinders before handing over to customers is a must and the agency will continue monitoring this to ensure that people access services in fair measurements.

She said there was a need for traders to be aware of the dos and don'ts when conducting their businesses as a way to stimulate incomes at both the individual and national levels.

The CEO further said the agency also has a role of managing the amount of gas entering the country by ships to know if the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) measurements are correct.

Apart from checking the imported gas, the agency also monitors and measures gas cylinders of different volumes to ensure that buyers of the domestic cooking gas get the correct amount.

The same applies to other sectors such as water meters so as to ensure that they work properly and provide fair charges.

He said that in the air transport, the agency has continued to check all weigh scales used in airports to be sure of the amount of weight so as to strengthen safety and prevent accidents due to overloading.

## UK government invests £210m to fight antimicrobial resistance

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Kingdom (UK) government has announced funding of £210 million to support state-of-the-art laboratories, cutting-edge disease surveillance systems and a global workforce to tackle deadly antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in countries across Asia and Africa over the next three years.

A statement issued by the British High Commission - Dar es Salaam stated that the funding from the UK aid budget - will support the Fleming Fund's activities to tackle AMR in countries across Asia and Africa over the next three

years, helping to reduce the threat it poses to the UK and globally.

It noted that the funding under the second phase of the Fleming Fund's fight against AMR, will bolster the surveillance capacity in up to 25 countries where the threat and burden of AMR is highest including Indonesia, Ghana, Kenya, and Papua New Guinea - with more than 250 laboratories set to be upgraded and provided with state-of-the-art equipment.

This investment includes new genome sequencing technology which will help track bacterial transmission between humans, animals and the en-

vironment. The investment will also strengthen the international health workforce by supporting 20,000 training sessions for laboratory staff, pharmacists and hospital staff, and over 200 Fleming Fund scholarships to boost expertise in microbiology.

"Antimicrobial resistance is a silent killer which poses a significant threat to people's health around the world and in the UK, and will be an important topic here at the G20 in India.

It's vital it is stopped in its tracks and this record funding will allow countries most at risk to tackle it and prevent it from taking more lives across the world,

ultimately making us safer at home.

It also builds on work the government is doing to incentivise drug companies to develop new antibiotics - a model which some G20 countries are looking to implement.

Around 1.27 million people around the world die each year due to AMR - where bacteria have evolved so much that antibiotics and other current treatments are no longer effective against infections - with one in five of those deaths in children under five. In 2019, AMR was found to have caused between 7,000 and 35,000 deaths in the UK alone."

UK Special Envoy on AMR Dame Sally

Davies said: "I am proud and delighted that the UK's Fleming Fund will continue to create real impact to tackle AMR and build pandemic preparedness on the ground across the world, using data to drive action and catalyse investment."

This world-leading investment in AMR laboratories, workforce and systems is a vital contribution to realise our vision of a world free of drug-resistant infection.

The investment will deliver the second phase of the UK-India Fleming Fund partnership alongside India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Worth up to £3 million, it will accelerate collabora-

tion on AMR surveillance across One Health sectors and help both countries to deliver on their 2030 roadmap."

As part of his visit to India, the Secretary of State will go to India's National Centre for Disease Control, where India's government and the Fleming Fund are joining forces to combat antimicrobial resistance.

He will also attend a showcase of innovative health technology with representatives from UK and Indian artificial intelligence and digital health firms in a bid to unleash further the tech partnership which is already transforming healthcare in both countries.



### ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit [www.trademarkafrica.com](http://www.trademarkafrica.com)

TMA would like to invite interested and **qualified firms** to participate in the following tender opportunities:

#### 1. Consultancy services for Supply and Installation of ICT Infrastructure – Networking And storage equipment for the Kenya Revenue Authority [PRQ20230007]

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com)

The closing date for submission is on **07 September 2023 on or before 11:00 am (Kenyan Time)**

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**



Moo Maji Well Drilling Limited director, Mohammed Ainaidi, (with hat) speaks to children during the launch of a water well drilled by Moo Maji Drilling company. The delegation was led by Arts, Culture and Sports minister who is also Muheza MP Hamisi Mwinjuma (in green T-shirt). The event took place yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Ruvuma farmers appeal for higher maize prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

RUVUMA Region maize farmers have appealed to the government to see the importance of fixing the maize price according to production cost, as opposed to now when the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) Songea Zone buys the crop at mere 800/- a kilo.

Speaking to reporters at different times, the farmers said since the start of the maize buying season started, they continue asking the government to look into the possibility of raising the price to 1,000/- a kilo as it is for other regions.

Salum Mohamed, Lwanga village resident in Namtumbo District said that the main problem at the present is the maize price

which NFRA buys at a small price that does not commensurate with the cost of production.

He said they have also been facing other challenges regarding various deductions and that at the end of the day you find yourself selling the maize at mere 700/- a kilo, the situation that disheartens them a lot.

He explained that apart from sending the maize to NFRA, there are still delays in payment as farmers have numerous problems that need money to attend to, so after selling the maize, farmers prefer to be paid promptly.

For her part, Maimuna Hussein, Namtumbo villager from Namtumbo District appealed to the government through the relevant ministry to look into a better way to fix maize prices so that the price

should be the same as for other regions, especially those in the north where the price is 800/- a kilo.

Head of NFRA Namabengo buying centre, Lugano Moses advised farmers to sell their maize to NFRA instead of businessmen as the government offers good prices and the payment is prompt.

For his part, Songea Zone NFRA manager, Zenobius Kahele told reporters that NFRA has already started buying maize since the start of the season despite minor challenges that continue to be addressed and that the business is not bad even though some of the buying centres in Tunduru and Nyasa districts have closed due to lack of the crop.

He added that in other areas the maize being delivered is not completely dry.



## 500 people are expected to undergo cataract surgery

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EYE treatment camp has been opened in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region for the people with eye problems and more than 500 are expected to undergo cataracts surgery.

The camp was opened here yesterday by Mbarali District Commissioner, Col. Dennis Mwila and has been organised in collaboration with the government and Helen Keller International, an NGO.

Keller International Manager, Athuman Tawaqal said the camp is the fourth. It was preceded by the first on conjunctivitis and for now it is for cataract surgery alone.

Tawaqal said before the camp was opened, they started in Songwe Region where they were conducting surgery at Songwe Mwambani district hospital and 270 people underwent surgery.

He said all patients receiving the service are not required to pay anything, everything is free.

He said the cost for conducting surgery to one eye is 200,000/- which many ordinary individuals cannot pay.

"We are thankful to the government for the cooperation extended to us for the exercise," Tawaqal said.

Dr Bernadetha Shillo, manager of the national eye services programme from the Ministry of Health, thanked Helen Keller organisation for sponsoring the eye camp by meeting all treatment costs.

She said the camp started on August 14, this year and will go on for a week and follow up on people with cataract surgery will be done from house to house basis and so far they have identified 800 people with eye problems but those needing surgery are 500, some of who are required to undergo surgery for both eyes.

"This service is a bit unique because patients are searched in their homes," she said and added so far more than 80 per cent of those who underwent eye surgery say their eyes were now better than before.

Jema Gidala, Mbarali resident thanked the government and Helen Keller International for providing the eye treatment services for free as she had no money to cover for the cost.



Mbarali residents undergo cataract surgery at a free camp organised by a Non - Governmental Organisation - Helen Keller International in Mbeya Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Renewed appeal to govt to lift ban on wildlife exports

By Guardian Reporter Muheza

BUTTERFLY farmers in Amani Division, Muheza District, Tanga Region who have now switched to spices say the crop is not profitable, appealing to the government to lift a ban on wildlife exports.

Most of the insect keepers in Kwezitu and Msasa IBC villages in the Amani Nature Forest Reserve in Muheza District said the butterfly project was once an economic saviour as it used to provide them with

a good income.

Addressing a team of journalists from the Journalist Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) who visited the reserve, the farmers called upon the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohamed Mchengerwa to lift the live animal export ban as most of them are now poor.

Jestina Ndeisaba said the project had lifted them from abject poverty but they are now leading difficult lives after the government imposed

the ban in 2019. She said with the project they were certain to earn between 300,000/- and 400,000/- per month.

Aloyce Kibiriti, Chairman of Msasa IBC village said the butterfly project is environmentally friendly and made residents of the area shy away from human destructive activities in the forest.

"The butterfly project has enabled construction of the village office whose cost was met by the

seven percent levy from butterfly project earnings," he added.

Kibiriti added that the lift of the export ban would bring great grief amongst villagers as nearly every household managed to build a house and bought motor-cycles.

Former Manager of the Butterfly Project, Amiri Sheghebe said the project was operating under Tanzania Forests Conservation Group (TFCG) and was a social and economic project established in 2004 whose main aim was to

economically empower communities around the reserve area.

He said the project was the first of its kind in Tanzania and 50 percent of the beneficiaries were women. He said the main butterfly market was Europe and the United States whereas 65 per cent of the returns belonged to the butterfly farmers, 28 per cent for the project's operations and seven per cent was directed for community development which included construction of classrooms.

Senior Amani Nature Forest Reserve Senior Conservator, Aloyce Nyulu said the project had many benefits including reduction of human invasion in the forest area and reduced environmental destruction due to human activities.

Nyalulu noted that Kisiwani village residents managed to establish a project that ensured availability of clean and safe water while Msasa IBC and Kwezitu villages used the earnings to build classrooms.

Coca-Cola **BONITE BOTTLERS LIMITED** Coca-Cola

### Advertisements of Employment

#### 1. Mechanical Technician

##### Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of VETA level III/Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from a recognised Institution. Form four pass in all subjects in single attempt.

##### Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to maintain and troubleshooting all the mechanical equipment to acceptable and approved standards for efficient operation and to ensure smooth running of the line and service equipment by close communication with other staff.
- Ability to operate machines as directed and to ensure they are running smoothly, efficiently and kept clean as required.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player.
- Compliance to safety requirement at work place
- Desire to learn and acquire more knowledge and skills.

#### 2. Electrical Technician

##### Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of VETA level III/Diploma in Electrical Engineering from a recognised Institution.

##### Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to maintain all the electrical equipment to acceptable and approved standards for efficient operation, and to ensure the smooth running of the line and service equipment by close communication with other staff.
- Hanson on handling electrical circuit, PLC, knowledge of ethernet and profibus communication
- Ability to ensure the correct electrical functioning of electrically operated equipments on the premises.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player.
- Compliance to safety requirement at work place

#### 3. Plumber

##### Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of VETA level III/ Diploma in Plumbing and pipe fitting from a recognised Institution.

##### Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to assemble pipe sections, tubing and fittings
- Ability to fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player.
- Compliance to safety requirement at work place

✓ **Experience:**Six months and above in Mechanical/Electrical/Plumber field

✓ **Location:** Moshi.

##### Mode of Application:

All applications accompanied with cover letter, photocopies of certificates and CVs to be sent to the undersigned, to reach him not later than 24/08/2023.

The Managing Director,  
Bonite Bottlers Ltd,  
P.O.Box 1352,  
MOSHI.

217554601



### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

### SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF BICYCLES FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

RFQ No. PIT/CO/10785556/FY24

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Mpanda and Kigoma. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.
- Plan International Tanzania through **Keeping adolescent girls in school (KAGIS)** project funded by Global Affairs Canada has set aside funds for supply and distribution of bicycles for Adolescent girls. The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to [tenders@plan-international.org](mailto:tenders@plan-international.org) Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
- Bidders must submit the quotation in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam. Vendors may submit their bids to Plan international Geita office; before 17:00 Tuesday 05th September 2023, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before **17:00 Tuesday 05th September 2023.**
- Late and Electronic Bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director  
Plan International Tanzania  
Central Technologies House  
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area  
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBCI&NECTA  
P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam

217554301





**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER AND SEWAGE FROM SEPTIC TANKS/CESSPOOLS AND DISPOSAL TO THE DESIGNATED TREATMENT FACILITIES - GGML, TANZANIA.**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

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

The Company is in the process of prequalifying service providers for collection of wastewater and sewage from septic tanks and disposal to the designated facilities and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

**Scope of Service:**

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01715	COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER AND SEWAGE FROM SEPTIC TANKS/CESSPOOLS AND DISPOSAL TO THE DESIGNATED TREATMENT FACILITIES

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile	2%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license	2%
Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	2%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate	3%
Copy of company memorandum and article of association	2%
Current NSSF Compliance clearance certificate	2%
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.	3%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Supplier's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years, this will confirm Supplier's experience in the business, and assist in comparability and business trend analysis.	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the Supplier's active bank accounts for the past 6 months	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
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)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01715)	60%
Evidence of at least two, roadworthy wastewater/septage suction trucks with a tank capacity of at least 15,000 litres (mandatory)	20%
Possess valid permit to collect, transport and dispose of wastewater (mandatory)	20%
Relevant experience in similar work - evidence of successful provision of similar services in mining industry for at least one year	10%
Evidence of a team leader with practical knowledge and experience of at least one year in providing a similar service.	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

III. Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION " COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER AND SEWAGE FROM SEPTIC TANKS/CESSPOOLS AND DISPOSAL TO THE DESIGNATED TREATMENT FACILITIES AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01715) on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company.

IV. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from GGML. Submission should not be later than **8.30AM 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NUTS, BOLTS, WASHERS AND SCREWS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

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

The Company is in the process of prequalifying suppliers for Nuts, Bolts, washers and Screws and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SUPPLY. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

**Scope of Supply:**

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01730	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NUTS, BOLTS, WASHERS AND SCREWS TO GGML

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY) COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile	2%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license	2%
Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	2%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate	3%
Copy of company memorandum and article of association	2%
List of Directors and Company Shareholding Structure	2%
Current NSSF Compliance clearance certificate	2%
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.	3%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Supplier's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years, this will confirm Supplier's experience in the business, and assist in comparability and business trend analysis.	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the Supplier's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.5%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.5%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Program	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
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)	1%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1%
Acceptance certificates /completion certificates (Prove of a. above where applicable)	1%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01730)	60%
Proof of Supply of nuts, bolts, washer and screws to GGM or other mines in Tanzania (Purchase order, contract)	20%
Possess clear know how on the items to be supplied (cv of key personnel and their qualifications)	20%
Proof of either manufacturing or dealership with reputable nuts, bolts, washer and screws manufacturers	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

III. Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NUTS, BOLTS, WASHERS AND SCREWS TO GGML" AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01730) on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company.

IV. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from GGML. Submission should not be later than **8.30AM of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline) Without copying any individual from GGML. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



# Players in fishery, aquaculture urged to implement strategies

By Getrude Mbugo

PLAYERS in the fishery and aquaculture value chain have been urged to work in synergy to implement strategies and reform measures that promote sustainable management and production of fish products for increased socio-economic benefits.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of a three-day workshop which has brought on board key senior officials from various African Union (AU) Member States to collectively proffer practical solutions aimed at promoting and developing rational utilization and sustainable management of fisheries resources and coherent development of aquaculture in Africa.

He said that it is critical for the African governments to sustain this momentum and build on the efforts and positive development of the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for

Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in order for the African fisheries sector to contribute effectively to the socio-economic development and improve the welfare and living standards of our people while taking into consideration environmental concerns.

He expressed gratitude to the AU-IBAR for the support to the operationalization of the fisheries management plans for small-pelagics during the implementation of the first phase of the Fisheries Governance project and alignment of the EAC Regional Fisheries Policy to the PFRS.

He also commended the African Union for spearheading the development of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) as well as the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) and their proactive leadership in the implementation of the Fisheries Governance Projects (FISHGOV) in Africa.

Minister Ulega said that Tanzania is committed to the conservation of

the fisheries resources and sustainable development of the aquaculture sector.

"The ministry is working closely with the key players in the fishing industry, including fisher folk, fish processors and exporters, regional fisheries management bodies, relevant regional multilateral environment agreements, the private sector and the development partners as well as most importantly our neighboring countries to bring about reforms and improved governance of the fisheries sector with a view to increasing socio-economic benefits and stock sustainability," he explained.

Dubbed: "Biennial Forum for Regular Consultations on Monitoring Compliance on Domestications of Global and Continental Instruments within the Framework of African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)", the event also meant for regular consultations on monitoring compliance on domestications of global and continental instruments

within the framework of the AFRM.

The open access character for capture fisheries, inadequate or weak governance at national level and for management of trans-boundary resources and ecosystems, institutional weaknesses and insufficient financial investments opportunities, have led to increase in fishing pressure intensity, overfished stocks, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, inadequate benefits from trade in fish and fish products. The potential of the sector to contribute to poverty reduction and improved socio-economic benefits to populations have not been optimally exploited," he asserted.

Dr Mohamed Seisaym senior fisheries officer at AU-IBAR said the fisheries sector plays important roles socio-economically and politically especially in building our national economies through income generation, employment opportunities and food security as well as livelihoods

through rational utilization of the available fishery resources.

"As we all know that, globally, the Fisheries sector plays important roles socio-economically and politically especially in building our national economies through income generation, employment opportunities and food security as well as livelihoods through rational utilization of the available fishery resources," he noted.

He further highlighted that the governance of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector continues to be a matter of concern, particularly regarding the utilisation of knowledge for making well-informed decisions something which need more investment in capacity building and implementing mechanisms to facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels.

He noted that trade in fish and fishery products now constitute the

most highly traded food commodity internationally, leading to increase in demand which have some negative impacts on the fishing ecosystems and environment as well as the stocks, including incidental catch of threatened and or endangered marine species and by-catch and declining fish stocks due to overfishing.



**The ministry is working closely with the key players in the fishing industry, including fisher folk, fish processors and exporters, regional fisheries management bodies, relevant regional multilateral environment**



Muheza district education officer for primary schools Nuru Kamota (L) speaks to executive officers of the ward during the training about safe school programme to fight sexual violence for students recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## KOROSHO COOPERATIVE JOINT ENTERPRISE LIMITED (KCJE LTD)



### TANGAZO LA ZABUNI

**LOTI NAMBA 1: VIUTILIFU /KCJE/ 2024**  
**LOTI NAMBA 2: MAGUNIA /KCJE/2024**

Tarehe: 17/08/2023

1. Vyama Vikuu vya Ushirika vinavyohudumia wakulima wa zao la Korosho vya **TANECU LTD, MAMCU, TAMCU LTD, RUNALI LTD, CORECU LTD, na LINDI MWAMBAO LTD** vinatangaza Zabuni ya Ununuzi wa pamoja ya viuatilifu na magunia kwa ajiri ya msimu wa 2024/2025.

2. Kwa idhini ya Bodi ya Vyama Vikuu hivyo, Mwenyekiti wa Bodi ya Korosho Cooperative Joint Enterprise anawatangazia Wazabuni wote ambao wana uwezo wa kusambaza Viuatilifu vya zao la korosho na Magunia kuwasilisha maombi yao.

3. Mzabuni mmoja anaruhusiwa kuomba Loti zaidi ya moja au sehemu ya Loti kulingana na uwezo alionao. Nyaraka za zabuni zinapatikana kwa malipo ya shilingi laki tano tu (Sh. 500,000/=) malipo hayo yapitie kwenye :-

**AKAUNTI NAMBA: 0150771321300**  
**JINA LA AKAUNTI: KOROSHO COOPERATIVE JOINT ENTERPRISE LTD**  
**BENKI: CRDB - TAWI LA MTWARA**

4. Mchakato wa zabuni hii utafanyika kwa njia shindani ya Kitaifa (NCT) kwa mujibu wa kanuni za Ununuzi wa Umma za mwaka 2013 na marekebisho yake ya mwaka 2016 na ni zabuni ya wazi kwa wazabuni wote wenye sifa stahiki.

5. Wazabuni wote wanakaribishwa ofisi ya Katibu wa Korosho Cooperative Joint Enterprise iliyoko Mtwara mjini mtaa wa MADUKA MAKUBWA Jengo la Ushirika wa TANECU LTD ghorofa ya kwanza kwa ajili ya kuwasilisha maombi. Muda wa kuwasilisha ni saa za kazi kuanzia saa mbili asubuhi (2:00) hadi saa kumi na nusu jioni (10.30) isipokuwa siku za Jumamosi na Jumapili pamoja na siku za siku kuu.

6. Wazabuni wote wawasilishe zabuni zao katika Nakala tatu (nakala halisi moja, na nakala kivuli mbili) zikiwa zimefungwa kwa umakini na kuwekwa lakiri. Zabuni zote zitafunguliwa mara baada ya muda wa mwisho wa kuwasilisha. Tukio ambalo litakuwa la wazi kwa wazabuni na wawakilishi wao pia wanakaribishwa kuhudhuria. Mwisho wa kupokea ni tarehe 06/09/2023 saa nne asubuhi (4:00) katika chumba cha mikutano TANECU LTD Mjini Mtwara.

**Maombi yatamwe kwa Anuani ifuatavyo:-**  
**Mwenyekiti wa Bodi,**  
**Korosho Cooperative Joint Enterprise Ltd**  
**S.L.P. 660**  
**MTWARA.**

7. Zabuni zote zitakazochelewa hazitafikiwa wakati wa tathimini bila kujali sababu zozote za kuchelewa.

8. Zabuni zitakazotumwa kwa email, telegram au fax hazitafunguliwa na kufanyiwa kazi.

**IMETOLEWA NA:**  
**MWENYEKITI WA BODI**  
**KOROSHO COOPERATIVE JOINT ENTERPRISE LIMITED**

217554901



## Invitation for Bids Disposal of Assets

**Tender No. PIT/DA/01/2023**

1. Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Mpanda and Kigoma. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.

2. Plan International Tanzania now invite sealed bids from interested parties for purchase of the assets listed below:

### a) Motor vehicles

S/No	Item Description	Registration number	Year of Man	Condition	Location	Duty Status
1.	Toyota Landcruiser /Hardtop Station Wagon	T 495 CPQ	2013	Running	Plan offices, Dsm	Exempted
2.	Toyota Landcruiser /Hardtop Station Wagon	T 770 AYU	2008	Running	Plan offices, Dsm	Exempted
3.	Toyota Landcruiser /Hardtop Station Wagon	T 351 BZQ	2011	Grounded	Plan offices, Dsm	Exempted
4.	Nissan Patrol Station Station Wagon	T 220 CDC	2011	Running	Plan offices, Dsm	Paid
5.	Toyota Landcruiser /Hardtop Station Wagon	T 577 BTS	2010	Running	Plan offices, Dsm	Exempted
6.	Toyota Landcruiser /Hardtop Station Wagon	T 587 BTS	2010	Running	Plan offices, Dsm	Exempted

### b) Motorcycles and generators

S/No	Item Description	Registration #	Year of Man	Condition	Location	Tax & Duty
1.	Motorcycle Honda XL 200	MC 424 AMA	2009	Grounded	Kisarawe	Exempted
2.	Motorcycle Honda XL 125	T 274 ANQ	2006	Grounded	Ifakara	Paid
3.	Motorcycle Honda XL 200	MC 816 BCY	2009	Grounded	Ifakara	Exempted
4.	Motorcycle Honda XL 125	MC 820 BCY	2011	Grounded	Ifakara	Exempted
5.	Motorcycle Honda XL 125	MC 563 AMX	2006	Grounded	Ifakara	Paid
6.	YAMAHA YBR125G LBPKE135	MC 422 BDP	2015	Grounded	Kisarawe	Paid
7.	Motorcycle Honda XL 125	MC 597 ADU	2013	Grounded	Kisarawe	Paid
8.	Motorcycle Honda XL 200	MC 427 AMA	2009	Grounded	Kisarawe	Exempted
9.	Motorcycle Honda XL 200	MC 433 AMA	2009	Grounded	Kisarawe	Exempted
10.	Generator Olympian GEP30-1, KVA 27.0	-	2006	Grounded	Ifakara	Paid
11.	Generator Olympian OLYMPIAN GEP22-2, KVA 20	-	-	Grounded	Kisarawe	Paid

### c) Various furniture and IT equipment in Ifakara and Kisarawe offices

- The above-mentioned assets will be sold on "as is where is" basis, Plan International Tanzania shall have no further liability after sale.
- Asset Inspection should be conducted during the working days between 9am-3pm on Monday to Thursday, 9am - 2.30pm on Friday. For inquiries and further inspection arrangements bidders may call the Procurement and Logistics unit on + 255 767 77 32 64
- Bidders shall submit the bid forms to be supplied from Plan offices, properly filled with all the required information in a plain sealed envelope marked the above tender number, with complete asset description and registration or asset number before 5PM Monday, 18th September 2023 through bids email:  
**electronic.bids@plan-international.org** or nearby Plan offices
- Successful applicant will be required to pay 25% of the bid price soon after receiving the letter of award and remaining 75% paid within 14 days

**Country Director**  
**Plan International Tanzania**  
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## China-US, Africa business summit a welcome novelty

A RATHER unfamiliar confluence of business lobbies is inching into Africa, a China-US business 'coalition' that has roots in the two sides of the Pacific Ocean and wishes to use it as a lever to gain headway in the region. This kind of group would be easy to comprehend for those who have an awareness of how China opened up to the outside world, and how it developed a thriving capitalist economy - with Chinese characteristics as they say. It is useful to learn more.

What strikes the mind merely by blending the two sources of business, or a sort of business community, is apparent intention to cultivate cultural synergies and diplomatic leverage in what they want to do here. Firstly they will cross the limits of the usual suspicion of US business firms, and seek to steer clear of the traditional Chinese way of doing things, of large projects taken up by state firms. It is a brain teaser who among them relies on the other, to enter Tanzania.

A guess is equally in the right place, as such matters can only be signalled in the way a mission or event is organised, not spelt out in terms of strategy. Yet this is a vital aspect for officials wishing to be clear what is a win-win situation in the blending, and whether our own outlook will be mixed in terms of how we look at China or at the US, or it is a moment of synthesis. If it is preferable to fuse our attitudes on China and on the US to do business with the group, what is the basic attitude or rather an explicit anchor of such attitude, on China or US?

It is clear that recent develop-

ments like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are visible stage setters for a business climate attractive for Chinese and even US firms. The more integrated environment in East Africa is at best a plus, while explicit concern with local markets of any of the partner states appears to be secondary, at best. That may explain the diplomatic leverage of having the summit organised by the secretariat of the East African Community (EAC), virtually as a cohesive substitute for the spatially adrift AfCFTA desk.

For one thing, organising the China-US and Africa business summit will be a test of cohesion both for AfCFTA and EAC member states, if they can speak with an uncharacteristic one voice they find it so hard to set the tune. They say 'who pays the piper calls the tune,' and thus economic diplomacy teams from all the respective member states whether in AfCFTA or EAC will be aware that their internal advantages (and even regional advantages) are relevant only in relation to locating a company. But the guarantees they want are of a regional and ultimately AfCFTA context, which means only cohesion shall work there.

There was reference to financial commitment by US President Joe Biden of intent to facilitate upwards of \$50bn investments into Africa within the current presidency. Those are unlikely to be funds to be put into projects as in the China-Africa tradition but guarantee funds for banks to lend for plausible projects in the region, in the AfCFTA context. It is well worth repeating it.

## Education is fundamental to development and growth

THE human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. For Tanzania and other countries to reap these benefits fully, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education.

Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives and together declared education for all as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform the call to action from education for all to learning for all.

The World Bank's education strategy conference emphasised several core ideas: Invest early. Invest smartly. Invest in learning for all.

First, foundational skills acquired early in childhood make possible a lifetime of learning. The traditional view of education as starting in primary school takes up the challenge too late. The science of brain development shows that learning needs to be encouraged early and often, both inside and outside of the formal schooling system.

Prenatal health and early childhood development programs that include education and health are consequently important to realise this potential. In the primary years, quality teaching is essential to give students the foundational literacy and numeracy on which lifelong learning depends.

Adolescence is also a period of

high potential for learning, but many teenagers leave school at this point, lured by the prospect of a job, the need to help their families, or turned away by the cost of schooling. For those who drop out too early, second-chance and nonformal learning opportunities are essential to ensure that all youth can acquire skills for the labor market.

Second, getting results requires smart investments that is, investments that prioritize and monitor learning, beyond traditional metrics, such as the number of teachers trained or number of students enrolled. Quality needs to be the focus of education investments, with learning gains as the key metric of quality. Resources are too limited and the challenges too big to be designing policies and programs in the dark. We need evidence on what works in order to invest smartly.

Third, learning for all means ensuring that all students, and not just the most privileged or gifted, acquire the knowledge and skills that they need. Major challenges of access remain for disadvantaged populations at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. We must lower the barriers that keep girls, children with disabilities, and ethno-linguistic minorities from attaining as much education as other population groups. "Learning for All" promotes the equity goals that underlie Education for All and the MDGs. Without confronting equity issues, it will be impossible to achieve the objective of learning for all.

Achieving learning for all will be challenging, but it is the right agenda for the next decade. It is the knowledge and skills that children and youth acquire today—not simply their school attendance—that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and that will help ensure that their communities and nations thrive.

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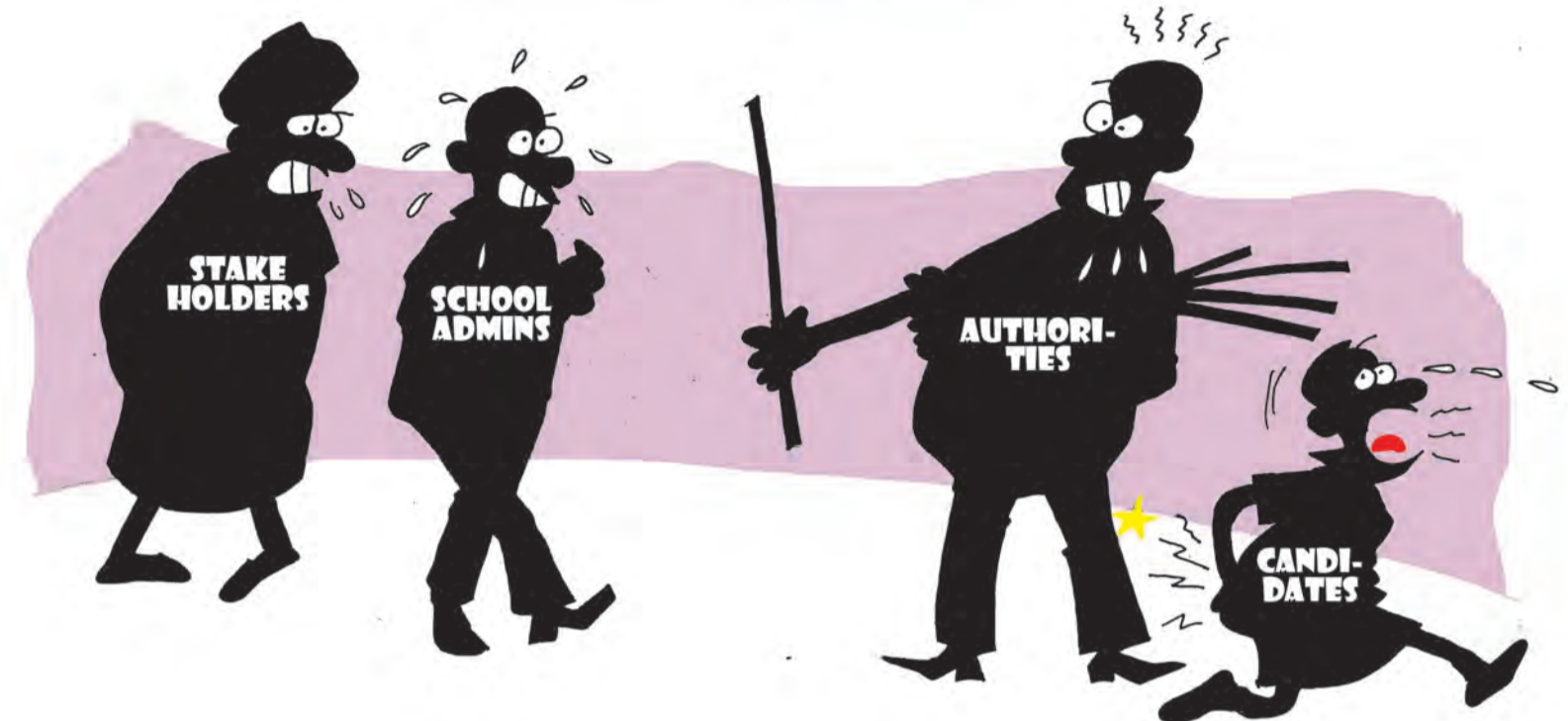
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## EXAM CHEATS



## Niger needs deeper mediation diplomacy, not military intervention

By Special Correspondent

NIGER is one of the poorest countries in the world, a victim of a callous history and geography.

After toppling the democratically elected Nigerien President, Mohamed Bazoum, on 26 July, the new military junta in Niamey, riding on a dizzying wave of orchestrated populist urgings, has suspended the constitution, detained the president (and his family members), and closed the nation's airspace and borders.

The junta has also continued to maintain a hard line in response to a range of sanctions, some of which are crippling, like those from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and other merely symbolic ones from the African Union, the United Nations, and some other states. It has neither released the detained president and his family, nor sought to restore civilian rule. Instead, using the easy fig leaf of geopolitics, it has made it all about French and American power overreach, and the pawns of these powers to subdue the sovereignty of Niger.

Seeking early legitimacy by dredging into the pool of the anti-colonial sentiments of its 25 million citizens, the junta seems poised for a long battle to retain power. This is where the key challenge of diplomacy will be tested vis-à-vis the new administration of Bola Tinubu in Nigeria, ECOWAS, and the world at large.

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, a victim of a callous history and geography. It is landlocked, arid, and an ugly symbol of the current global crisis. While a vengeful colonial history has drained most of the country's wealth for the purposes of France, its post-colonial reality, since independence in 1960, has offered no respite from corrupt and greedy elites who have seemingly weaponised the sprawling poverty and wretchedness of the citizens to retain power and continue their plunder.

Much has been said about the country's uranium deposit, but its true value is a paltry 6 per cent of the global market share and even France, contrary to the raucous media fiction, imports most of its uranium needs from Kazakhstan. The reality is that Niger is in the doghouse. It can hardly grow its own food. In fact, Niger imports one-fifth of all its food requirements, and for that reason, depends considerably on close to \$2 billion a year in development assistance for survival.

The junta needs to take a hard look in the mirror and match the image with the object. Rhetoric and bluster



Detained President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum

will not cut it for the country; neither will the khaki or jumpsuits offer any easy way out of the economic and political crises facing the country. The situation could easily spiral out of control if not carefully managed.

With Russia's cynical blockade of the UN-sponsored Ukrainian grains programme for Africa, Niger needs every cent of the half a billion euros in European assistance pledged until next year, and the \$153 million US assistance in the books for this year, otherwise the humanitarian situation in the country will worsen and the poorest of its people will be the victims. This potential misery ought to inform the decisions taken by the junta, going forward.

PREMIUM TIMES urges the ECOWAS Council of Heads of State to deepen the path of diplomacy and dialogue with Niamey. The sanctions must not make a post-Tchiani recovery impossible. The electricity cut off, for instance, will damage, very badly, an economy already reeling. This is not a lame excuse in support of the objective of the junta, which is adding "offences" against the ancien regime daily as a justification for legitimacy. The most recent claim of probing a whopping \$153 million defence procurement corruption is a case in point.

Corruption is the unhappy element in the post-colonial narrative of Niger's underdevelopment, and the Omar Tchiani-led coup will not be the first to use it as an excuse to unravel democracy. However, this defence procurement scandal deserves attention and diligent investigation.

As PREMIUM TIMES indicated three years ago, when we published this scandal, the defence sector, particularly its procurement process, is the most opaque and corruption-ridden aspect of state management in Africa. Hardly any ECOWAS state, including Nigeria, can stand the test of integrity in this regard. It will be

fascinating to see how former President Issoufou, Tchiani's erstwhile boss, under whose regime all this happened, and perhaps the unseen patron of this current coup, fares in relation to the scandal.

This is a straight line to the theme of good governance, the missing epicentre in the region's story of development deficit, and the foundation upon which successive military adventures have built their plots to truncate democratic consolidation in this corner of the globe.

Most commentators will propose that this fragility of the state, the worst representation of which assumes the complexion of francophone ECOWAS, should remind France of the moral quality of its civilisation and how its ex-colonies find purpose in that enterprise. It is for want of a decent term that we must characterise that relationship as the worst case of peonage in the lexicon of international relations.

This, putting it kindly, is a challenge to France's conscience, and it ought to consider it a curse that some usurious oddity called Colonial Agreements still bind it to sovereign states six decades after their independence. More than ever before, the "agreement" casts France as a parasite on its former colonies. The spectre of the agreement is strong in the developments we are witnessing in Niger, beyond its instrumentalisation by the junta. Duplicitous is not a strange entry in the choice of terms when it comes to diplomacy but a country that assembled the world in Paris this June to design a new global financial architecture that is "just, equitable and inclusive" must shred those horrible pages from the agreement binding it to its former colonies.

Pity will be the word if the Tchiani junta, like its compatriots in Mali and Burkina Faso, thinks that dressing up in military camouflage will solve the problems of their countries. Africa is the best reference of the encyclo-

pedia of military worthlessness in governance, where successive "revolutionary" militarists quickly decompose into morbid putrescence, once the coup leaders find adjustment and cosily tuck their tummies into the sofa of power.

Tchiani, who has served as head of the presidential guard since 2011, is evidence of everything wrong with the military in Niger. His current metamorphosis as a presumed liberator needs to be welcomed with sharp doubt. For this reason, PREMIUM TIMES urges him to cut his rowdy rallies in Niamey short and announce a quick handover plan to an elected civilian administration based on credible and clear democratic tenets, including subordination of the military to civilian authority.

This is the point Nigeria, as the current Chairman of ECOWAS, has tried to deliver, loud and clear. It was not going to be an easy role. Nigeria's northern segment has citizens whose relations are aboriginal Nigerien. Hausa is spoken by over 50% of the people in Niger, who also share the culture and religion as their Nigerian cousins. In many respects, the two countries share more than what separates them. This is the challenge Nigeria faces in imposing crippling sanctions on a fraternal neighbour.

The integrity and future of ECOWAS is also at stake. The decision of the Community had to be implemented, and while the communique issued on Thursday, 10th July in Abuja sounded escalatory, it nonetheless offers wide margins for mediation and negotiated outcomes. Niger must at least meet the Community halfway. The sponsored anti-Nigerian rhetoric in the country serves no tangible goal. The predominant mood in Nigeria itself rejects a war against Niger but that is not the same as saying people accept military rule. To be clear, there are few and influential war mongers in Nigeria's policy corridor, but they are at best spent forces seeking relevance and lucre in a new dispensation.

It is worthy of making the point very strongly that no military in the subregion, or even Africa, has any special skills in making itself the preferred option in solving the continent's myriad problems. Evidence has routinely proven this to be true. Niger should be the watershed that says no military regime will ever be tolerated again in our subregion, or even the African continent. It also means that we can now ask ECOWAS to be equally as stout in its opposition to any unconstitutional rule change that would benefit any incumbent in the subregion.



# Of English medium schools which pose as international institutions

**S**OME socioeconomic thinkers inclined to education posit that for African countries to develop, we need to have our own model of development. They argue that since development is reflected in education, there is a need to have our own model of education as well.

Tanzania now has many schools which use international curricula. The presence of international schools has led to growth of opinions whereby some people debate which education system is the best between the locally developed system and the international curricula.

The challenges are intensified when our English medium schools try to copy some modalities of provision of education from international schools with the aim of making the schools look to some extent like international schools. To emulate others is not bad but does the environment permit such modifications?

In any country, education is guided by some policies and the case is the same in Tanzania. The government has allowed operations of international schools which use international curricula and the English medium schools which use local curriculum but only teach in English language.

When English medium schools make themselves look like international schools in all aspects, confusion arises as the quality assurers may miss some information when they go for inspection at the English medium schools which have embraced modalities of international schools.

For any lawful activity in a society, there must be rules and regulations. If someone denies to be inspected, they may be suspected of wrong doing. Harmonizing contents and not copying will reduce unnecessary tensions between teachers and quality assurers who are legally recognized and paid for ensuring that education is provided in accordance with the laid-down rules and regulations.

The copying of some modalities in provision of education in some English medium schools to make them look like international schools may lead to some challenges as parents may be required to add money in their payments so as to cater for the costs of adoption of new modalities. Parents are always not happy when it comes to fee increments. Harmonizing the foreign education content with our own education is advantageous in the following ways:

Firstly, it is cost effective. With harmonizing the education contents there is little adjustment in teaching and learning processes as the same available resources can be used with only a change in technique. Harmonizing enables improvement of the teaching and learning processes without much change to the system. It is well established that financial resources



are the deciding factor and hence if attempts to improve our education do not involve financial costs, it is easy for them to be accommodated in the system.

Secondly, harmonizing of education contents enables durability of policies. When we resort to copy and paste style

in an attempt to improve our education, we will find ourselves always struggling to improve education policies as the introduced modalities may not be relevant to the existing environment and hence not possible for them to be implemented. But when we harmonize our education system there is a possi-

bility of our education policies to last longer and relevant.

Thirdly, harmonizing education contents will enable us to have our own model of education. As it has been posited by socioeconomic experts, it is very encouraging for a country to develop its own model capturing all aspects of life which are of paramount importance.


The problems which face our country should be solved by our education system. For this to be a success, the designing of our policies in education should reflect the needs of the society. Copying and pasting foreign education contents and systems may hinder the desire to introduce an education system which reflects the needs of our people and hence underdevelopment. We need to adjust but not copy.

Fourthly, harmonizing our education contents and system rather than copy-

ing and pasting will help our education to be applicable seamlessly. For education to be useful to a country, it must be applicable so that it can produce some results which are desired by that particular country.

Copying and pasting may lead to education which cannot be applicable but with harmonizing, things can move smoothly as harmonizing considers the real life situation rather than relying on alien concepts.

It is not a must for new ideas to be right though they may help to improve our thinking. Creating our own education standards out of our own experiences and that of others will give us a workable education system. Let us initiate and welcome thoughts for improvement but not copying and pasting as some schools do. Our education should respond to our needs.



**CLASSROOM MATTERS**

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# Reintegration assistance for migrants going home

By Sophie Meiners

**R**EINTEGRATION assistance for migrants returning to their countries of origin is becoming increasingly salient. Germany and the EU cooperate closely with countries of origin to support local reintegration.

Here, assistance goes beyond purely monetary support and can also include additional assistance, such as vocational training and psychological support.

Still, such efforts encounter criticism and limitations: short-term and individualised support cannot address the root causes of migration and displacement, such as poverty, insecurity and a lack of opportunities, which are among the factors leading to migration in the first place.

One way to increase the effectiveness of this assistance can be the involvement of initiatives and groups led by returnees themselves. This not only makes it possible to strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of the projects, but also to implement sustainable structures beyond project cycles.

## Diverse and transregional networks

The so-called 'returnee networks' are varied and active in a multitude of regions around the world. For instance, returnees in Nigeria have formed informal social media groups, and in Bangladesh, with the help of a local NGO, formalised networks of returnees emerged in various parts of the country.

These groups are sometimes made up exclusively of persons who recently returned but can also be led by those who do not, or no longer, struggle with the problems of reintegration.

Although the emergence of such networks is not a regional phenomenon, they cannot be found in all countries. There are different factors to explain this.

On the one hand, it can be observed that returnee networks develop in contexts in which a large number of migrants return in the same time period. They then get to know one another in registration processes or reintegration programmes and remain in contact.

Another factor is an already existing returnee network, which can serve as a role model. Common challenges, such as coping with trauma and stigmatisation, play just as much a role as a lack of reintegration support and family support systems.

Both these challenges make meeting like-minded peers a more urgent need. Support from external actors and an active civil society also contribute to the emergence of networks.

Regardless of how they developed and their level of formalisation, these networks can effectively support the reintegration of new returnees. They offer practical help with regard to housing, employment and bureaucratic hurdles.

They also act as trustworthy intermediaries, in-



Assistance to migrants should go beyond purely monetary support but also include additional assistance such as vocational training and psychological support. IPS

forming newcomers about the available support and acting as advocates for returnees' interests. They can therefore play an important role in shaping reintegration policies and educating their communities about the realities of migrants' lives during and upon return to their country of origin.

However, in addition to these indispensable strengths, returnee networks also harbour risks. Competition for resources, such as funds raised through projects with international organisations, and the lack of women participa-

tion can limit the representativeness of some networks.

Moreover, most networks have a very low degree of professionalisation, which is not negative in itself, but can lead to the groups duplicating existing support services and providing these only in a moderate quality.

Finally, involvement in the networks could result in members further distancing themselves from the rest of society due to their solid and longstanding identification as a 'returnee', thus delaying or even preventing their reintegration.

The notion of returnee networks being an exclusively positive force, which can and should be engaged under all circumstances, is therefore incorrect. Yet, this does not mean that cooperation should be ruled out either.

In spite of the risks, the integration of networks is long overdue and is possible in compliance with safeguards. The perspective of returnees should always form a part of reintegration programmes.

The question is not whether to cooperate with returnee networks, but how

to involve them in a meaningful way.

**Sophie Meiners is a Research Fellow in the Migration Programme of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). Previously, she was a Carlo Schmid Fellow at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Office of the Special Representative on Climate.**

IPS UN Bureau





**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**  
**TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION**  
**TASAC**



**ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), was established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 as a maritime administration to oversee maritime safety, security, environment and regulator of maritime transport services. In executing its mandates as a regulator of maritime transport services, the Corporation is charged with the function of licensing and registering regulated service providers in the maritime transport sector, among others, in accordance with Section 12 of Cap. 415.

The Corporation is hereby inviting interested companies to apply for licensing and registration in accordance with the Act and its Regulations as follows:

#### **INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR:**

1. NEW LICENCE OF SHIP TALLYING SERVICES.
2. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE OF SHIPPERS.

Applications for the above-mentioned licenses/ registration are invited in accordance with the Act and the following respective Regulations:

1. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Ship Tallying) Regulations, (GN. No. 380 of 2023)
2. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shippers Registration) Regulations, (GN. 382 of 2023)

Prospective applicants for licenses/ registration are guided to submit their applications by filling out prescribed forms online after obtaining a link from TASAC Head Office or Regional Offices. The application process is expected to commence on 01st September, 2023.

Each applicant must enclose certified copies of relevant documents as shown below:

#### **1. SHIP TALLYING LICENCE**

- i) Certificate of incorporation or registration;
- ii) Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- iii) Share certificate of the company's shareholders;
- iv) Tax clearance certificate;
- v) Proof or availability of business premise;
- vi) Proof of professional qualifications in ship tallying services;
- vii) Affidavit that the company has not been

- declared bankrupt in the last two years;
- viii) Proof of payment of application fee as prescribed in the Second Schedule; and
- ix) Any other document as may be required by the Corporation.

#### **2. SHIPPERS REGISTRATION**

- (a) In case of a body corporate or partnership, enclose with an application a certified copy of;

- (i) A business license;
- (ii) Taxpayer Identification Number certificate;
- (iii) Certificate of incorporation, certificate of compliance or certificate of registration; and
- (iv) Any other document as may be required by the Corporation.

- (b) In case of an individual, enclose with an application a certified copy of-

- (i) Business licence;
- (ii) Taxpayer Identification Number certificate;
- (iii) National Identification or Passport; and
- (iv) Any other document as may be required by the Corporation.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 and its Regulations are available on the TASAC website ([www.tasac.go.tz](http://www.tasac.go.tz)). Applicants are advised to access the relevant legislation for detailed guidance on requirements for licence application and conditions of licence in order to ensure full compliance.

For any inquiry, please contact TASAC at the address indicated below:

**DIRECTOR GENERAL,**  
**Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC),**  
**PSSSF Tower – 8th Floor, Plot No.:20/21**  
**Ohio Street / Garden Avenue,**  
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## SADC council of ministers deliberates on regional integration agenda ahead of the 43rd summit

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) 43rd summit of Heads of State and government to be held today in Luanda, Angola will pay attention and focus on human and financial capital as a catalyst for industrialization.

Ambassador Tete António, Angola's Minister of External Relations said the summit will be guided by the theme; "Human and Financial Capital: The Key Drivers for Sustainable Industrialisation in the SADC Region". He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting of the council of ministers on Tuesday.

He said the theme seeks to address two of the most critical enablers in supporting regional industrialisation, namely adequate human resources within the context of climate change and 4th industrial revolution, and adequate financial resources to ensure more sustainable funding mechanisms.

"Only with a population, especially the youth, that is educated, trained and prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution, with main focus on the digitalization of economies, will we be able to make qualitative progress in the industrialization pro-

cess," Amb. António said.

António underscored the need for sustained peace and security, highlighting that that it is only possible to guarantee the successful implementation of the SADC development and industrialisation agenda in a context of peace and security, since peace, security and stability are indispensable prerequisites for economic development.

In his remarks, Kibasa Maliba Minister of Telecommunications, Posts and Information Technologies of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) expressed gratitude to the council of ministers for the support rendered to the DRC during its tenure as chair of SADC noting that several milestones were achieved.

"Over the past year, we have worked hand in hand to find ways of addressing a multitude of challenges that threaten to reverse the gains we have made in our collective pursuit of an integrated and prosperous region", said Maliba.

He said guided by the 42nd SADC Summit Theme; "Promoting industrialisation through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value-chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth", the SADC region implemented activities to improve the deployment of SADC's industrialisation and market integra-



tion programmes, as set out in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP, 2020-2030).

The Minister called on the region to find ways of empowering our young people, unlocking their potential and creating pathways for their success so that they can have a share in the prosperity of the region.

"One of the ways to create opportunities for the youth is to ac-

celerate implementation of the industrialisation agenda which has the potential to boost economic growth and reduce poverty," the Minister said.

SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Mpedi Magosi highlighted the region's progress towards the achievement of the outcomes articulated in the RISDP 2020-2030, as well as global and continental developments that impacted the SADC Region's progress towards

regional integration.

The Executive Secretary urged Member States to continue making progress in pursuing the various regional integration targets and accelerating the regional integration agenda while addressing the challenges so as to remove the bottlenecks that are slowing integration, industrialization, and market access in the region.

Magosi noted that the region made tremendous progress in en-

hancing regional integration and cooperation. He noted the spirit of solidarity by Member States to building peace and stability in the region, citing the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) which was deployed in July 2021 to support the Government to fight terrorism and violent extremism in the Cabo Delgado Province.

He expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo where armed groups continue to terrorise citizens, leading to displacement of the population, especially women, girls, and children.

Magosi said the region approved the deployment of the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) as a regional response against armed groups in the eastern DRC to restore peace and peace.

The council of ministers observed a moment of silence in solidarity and remembrance of and expressed condolences to the governments and families of the soldiers who lost their lives while serving in SAMIM, as well as commended the determination, uniqueness, and complementarity of the combined efforts in combating the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado Province.

## Ghana gets \$200m WB financing to upscale coconut production, other tree crops

ACCRA

GHANA has secured a \$200 million loan facility from the World Bank to support the coconut sector and three other tree crop commodities to increase production for export.

The facility will support a programme known as the "Tree Crop Diversification Project", which would enable the Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA) to undertake research and development of different varieties of coconut, cashew, mango and rubber.

The financial support would also go into strengthening institutional value chain governance, improving tree crop adaptation and climate change resilience and support post-

harvest management and value addition lapses of the four selected tree crops.

Dr Bryan Acheampong, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, announced this in a speech read on his behalf during the launch of the 2023 International Coconut Festival in Accra on Thursday.

The TCDA is expected to work closely with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to develop disease-resistant varieties for the four tree crops.

The Project, the Minister said would help upscale the production of the selected tree crops for export and position Ghana as a leader in the global market.

The International Coconut Festival is scheduled from September

26 to 28, 2023, in Takoradi of the Western Region. The event would be characterised by exhibitions, seminars, networking, capacity-building workshops for farmers and negotiations with financial institutions for funding.

"Invest in Ghana's Coconut Sector for an Inclusive Economic Transformation and Improved Climate and Social Resilience" was the theme for the Festival.

The event is being jointly organised by the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the Western Regional Coordinating Council, the African Coconut Group and the Tree Crops Development.

Albert Kassim Diwura, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, GEPA, expressed optimism that the launch

of the Coconut Festival would propel the coconut agenda to greater heights. "We are excited because this project, which was started to improve the coconut sector, is gathering momentum and has the potential to position Ghana as a premier hub for coconuts on the African continent.

In 2017, he said, the Authority started the Coconut Revitalization Programme, to improve the supply capacity of the value chain and revitalise the once-struggling coconut sector.

The rising global demand for coconuts was the driving force behind the intervention, he added.

"While we acknowledge that coconut production is a multi-billion dollar industry, it is important to note

that all the top-producing nations, mostly in Asia, are earning significant rewards as a result of the significant investments in the value chain, Diwura noted.

He called on the business community in Ghana to explore opportunities within the coconut industry.

"Ghana is well-positioned to emerge as a leading global supplier of coconut products, thereby generating significant export revenues.

"GEPA has undertaken notable and impactful investments in the sector since 2017. We have procured and disseminated disease-resistant coconut seedlings to farmers across the major coconut farming regions in the country."

To date, nearly 800 seedlings have been distributed, covering over

12,500 acres. The Western Region has also outdoored a programme to distribute five million seedlings which was launched in 2020.

Diwura gave the assurance that GEPA would continue to support the coconut sector with unwavering commitment until it became self-sufficient.

He acknowledged the considerable investments made by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, as well as the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, through the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) programme.

Also, he acknowledged the crucial role the African Coconut Group, led by Davies Korboe, its chairman played in promoting sectorial growth.

## Dr Yonazi amplifies Tanzania's agricultural goals with ASDP II's comprehensive review

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzanian government is reviewing the implementation of the Second Phase of the Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP II).

Dr. Jim Yonazi, Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister for Policy, Parliament Affairs, and Coordination unveiled this on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the Inception Workshop for the ASDP II Midterm Review and Re-planning.

During the mid-term evaluation emphasizes ASDP II's transformative potential and the programme aims to bolster Tanzania's agricultural sector through its collaborative and comprehensive strategy.

Dr. Yonazi articulated the instrumental role of ASDP II in charting Tanzania's agricultural future, stressing that the invaluable contribution of various stakeholders, which serves as a linchpin for the nation's agricultural metamorphosis.

The programme's ambit is vast, encompassing stakeholders from water management, land utilisation, transportation, value-added industries, and trade. Harnessing the collective knowledge and experience of these sectors, ASDP II seeks to drive Tanzania's agricultural evolution in a coordinated manner.

Dr. Yonazi remarked: "This gathering is pivotal as we set our sights on propelling our agricultural program into its next phase."

He encouraged attendees to champion innovative tactics and cultivate enduring alliances to accelerate agricultural development.

The programme's success is contingent upon the instrumental coordination from the Office of the Prime Minister, amalgamating both government and private sector contributions to navigate the program towards holistic success.

Dr. Yonazi's vision extends beyond national confines, envisaging agriculture as a linchpin for economic development both domestically and across the East and Central African region.

His ambition for the programme to be a regional archetype showcases its potential influence beyond Tanzania.

"Our progress in optimising land usage and

expanding market horizons is commendable," Dr. Yonazi said, pointing out that to the programme's triumph in boosting productivity, even amidst land constraints, and its strides in educating the populace on high-quality seeds and best farming practices. The programme's commitment to water conservation and ecological preservation emphasizes the importance of sustainability in fostering agricultural prosperity. Dr. Yonazi underscored the imperative to expedite the efficient use of water and land resources to magnify agricultural output.

Dr. Hussein Mohamed Omar, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Agriculture, echoed the ministry's unwavering dedication to the ASDP II's progression.

Dr. Omar set forth the ministry's primary objectives, which include achieving a 10% agricultural growth by 2030, escalating exports from \$1.2 billion to \$5 billion, and creating over 3 million new jobs.

Dr. Omar drew parallels between these aims and ASDP II's critical function. The government's commitment, exemplified by the rise in fertilizer subsidies, indicates a steadfast resolve to enhance productivity in concert with ASDP II's objectives.

The ministry is also amplifying its research thrust, with funding for such initiatives leaping significantly since ASDP II's inception. This increased investment underscores a dedication to refining agricultural strategies through rigorous research.

Prof. Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, underscored the necessity for thorough evaluation. Commending the ministry's achievements under ASDP II, Prof. Shemdoe highlighted initiatives that led to improved meat and milk production and the enhancement of resources for livestock farmers.

He noted his ministry has introduced innovative 'Livestock Guest House' initiative to combat drought challenges. These facilities would provide necessary sustenance to livestock during drought periods.

He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan's support, evidenced by a significant budget



Dr. Jim Yonazi, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office ( Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination (C) flanked by Dr. Hussein Mohamed Omar, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Agriculture (L), and Prof. Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (R). Others are the agricultural leaders from diverse sectors at 'The Inception Workshop for ASDP II Midterm Review and Re-planning' held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

increment for the ministry.

The PS remains hopeful about further budgetary increases to optimize the sector's contribution to the economy, emphasizing the ministry's commitment to utilising ASDP II as a catalyst for sustainable growth in both the livestock and fisheries sectors.

The introduction of the Livestock Guest House initiative epitomizes the blend of innovation and strategy, ensuring livestock farming's resilience amidst adverse climatic conditions. Vianey Rweyendela, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Country Manager for Tanzania, painted a vivid picture of the country's path towards sustainable growth.

He recognized the foundational role of the Prime Minister's office in orchestrating seamless coordination for Tanzania's agricultural endeavours.

"Their efforts," he remarked, "have been the guiding force, the very backbone, allowing various stakeholders to unite under a shared vision."

But it wasn't just about the higher echelons of governance. Rweyendela's praise extended to sectoral ministries, whose dedication, he stated, "is focused not just on today but on envisioning a prosperous future for upcoming generations of Tanzanians."

He noted: "Unity is our greatest asset. From

policy-makers to grassroots workers, every individual is instrumental in steering Tanzania towards its ambitious goal of 10 per cent annual agricultural growth."

He articulated that the 10 per cent target symbolizes more than just an economic benchmark. "It's a beacon of hope," he affirmed. According to him, the goal represents Tanzania's commitment to elevate the quality of life for every citizen, promising a brighter, more prosperous future.

The Tanzanian government launched the ten-year ASDP II in 2017, succeeding the ASDP I from 2006-2014.

ASDP II aims to revamp Tanzania's agricultural sector by enhancing productivity, promoting commercialization, and boosting smallholder farmer income, thus positively impacting livelihoods, food security, and GDP contribution. Implemented in two phases, the first concluded in 2022, with the second set to end in 2027.

ASDP II addresses vital issues in the agricultural sector, such as low productivity, market accessibility, and inadequate infrastructure. Its main focus areas include improving productivity, commercialization, farmer income, food security, and poverty reduction. Expected outcomes comprise a 6 per cent annual rise in agricultural GDP, a 10 per cent poverty reduction, and a 30 per cent increase in smallholder income.

## Tabora High Court sentences fake doctor 15 years in jail

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

HIGH Court of Tanzania, Tabora Zone has sentenced Amos Mathias (35) to 15 years' imprisonment for impersonating as doctor by conducting surgery on one Lukwaja Selemani (78) in his private parts and who later died.

The Court found Mathias guilty of murder of Lukwaja, resident of Mhungulu Village, Nzega District, Tabora Region.

Reading the verdict on Tuesday, senior judge of the High Court of Tanzania Tabora Zone, Athumani Matuma said the accused committed the offence on June 10 2022 in the village impersonating as a medical doctor while knowing he was not a certified doctor to conduct surgeries.

He said that earlier, the accused confessed to have committed the offence by conducting surgery on the deceased's two areas of the body while sleeping on a bed made of clay.

He said he gave the guilty ruling after listening to eight points from the defence advocate Ikram Msomi, six of which were quashed, and four from the State Attorney Mmari Mmari calling for the Court to mete out a prudent ruling.

Judge Matuma said the judgement has been meted out in accordance in accordance to section 196 and 197 of the Penal Code to act as lesson to others with similar intentions, knowingly or unknowingly.

He said when his condition deteriorated after the surgery, his body started swelling owing to crude devices used in the surgery.

He also said that the accused used to provide dental services to people by extracting their teeth at 15,000/- while charging 200,000/- for surgery and the patient was required to pay 150,000/- in advance.









## BRICS bank' issues first S. African rand bonds

JOHANNESBURG

The development bank founded by the so-called BRICS countries closed the auction for its first South African rand bonds on Tuesday, as it comes under pressure to boost its local currency fundraising and lending.

The New Development Bank's (NDB) two bonds, a 1 billion rand (\$52.3 million) five-year note and a 500 million rand three-year note, attracted 2.67 billion rand of bids in total, according to auction results shared by two investors with Reuters.

South Africa's finance minister said that the NDB, which was founded to give the BRICS members - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - more control of development financing, was not doing enough local currency lending, in an interview with Reuters ahead of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg next week.

The NDB did not respond to a request for comment on the bond auction.

Chief Financial Officer Leslie Maasdorp told Reuters in a recent interview that the bank aims to increase local currency lending, most of which has so



far been in the Chinese yuan, from about 22 percent to 30 percent by 2026, but that there were limits to de-dollarisation.

The South African bond market has struggled in recent years to attract new issuers to match growing

demand from domestic investors looking for quality credit assets.

NDB's three-year rand bond was priced at a floating rate of 95 basis points (bps) above the three-month Johannesburg Interbank Average Rate (Jibar), while the five year was

priced at Jibar +105 bps.

The most recent comparable South African government bonds were a 4.5-year bond priced at Jibar +90 bps and a seven year priced at Jibar +120 bps, said Raphi Rootshtain, a portfolio manager at Sasfin

Wealth.

"It is interesting to note that most of the underlying lending activities in South Africa are to State Owned Companies (SOEs)," Rootshtain said. "So effectively the NDB will become the new proxy funding vehicle for SOEs which should come with additional risk."

The bond sale was arranged by Standard Bank, which declined to comment, and Absa Bank.

The sale "had... 94 percent of bids being within or lower than price guidance and the issuance rates representing the tightest spreads achieved by a non-government issuer in 2023," said Kumeshen Naidoo, head of debt capital markets at Absa.

BRICS is a group of five emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - that have been cooperating since 2006 to address global challenges and promote mutual interests. Membership in the group remained closed

for years, but this year there appears to be a queue of potential members forming, indicating a sense of urgency by countries to address some of these challenges and strengthen partnerships away from western influence.

Last June at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Algeria are candidates for BRICS membership. Other potential candidates include Mexico, Argentina, and Indonesia.

Twenty three countries have formally applied to become new BRICS members.

Additional members will only strengthen the group's global economic presence - especially if the UAE and Saudi Arabia end up joining. But apart from the economic aspect, BRICS+ will prove to be a potent political powerhouse as well.

## Ethiopian central bank limits commercial lending

ADIS ABABA

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has announced measures to limit the amount of capital being lent by the country's commercial banks in a bid to bring down inflation.

In a monetary policy statement released last week, the Ethiopian central bank introduced a new rule that restricts banks' yearly credit expansion to 14 percent.

Part of the reason for this restriction is that commercial lending in Ethiopia has soared in recent years. In the twelve months ending February 2023, banks lent a total of 382bn birr (\$6.9bn) - an 80 percent increase compared to the 209.6bn birr (\$3.8bn) that was lent the year before.

Officials at the Ethiopian central bank believe that this stark increase in the amount of cash circulating in the national economy is partly responsible for the high levels of inflation the East African country is currently experiencing. Inflation has come down from its May 2022 peak of 37.7 percent but prices are still rising at just over 29 percent.

Despite the focus on commercial lending, there are several other factors that have contributed to inflation in Ethiopia. The weakening birr, at a time when the country is posting substantial trade deficits, has pushed up the



National Bank governor Mamo Mihretu

cost of essential goods.

The disruption to supply chains caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine has also sent the price of goods higher, with the cost of Ethiopia's food imports being particularly affected by President Putin's decision to block Ukrainian grains reaching global markets. Ethiopia's civil war in the Tigray region, which ended in November last year, has led to a reduction in agricultural production, creating

further inflationary pressure.

The NBE hopes that the new credit limit on banks will help bring inflation below 20 percent by 2024 and under 10 percent by 2025 and have said the measure is "an important part of reducing inflation sustainably."

Hailemeleket Berhan, a capital markets analyst based in Addis Ababa, tells African Business that "the central bank governor needs to take bold measures to bring down inflation," but that

the move "will have some negative consequences."

"I think the limit will have a direct effect on individuals and businesses, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) who have tended to be the beneficiaries of commercial bank loans," Berhan says. "The economy will probably slow down a little bit, but the central bank has also stressed that they are not totally limiting credit growth but capping it at 14 percent. And I

think that will probably continue into the middle of next year."

"You have to control inflation but at the same time you have to create jobs and stimulate the economy," Berhan adds. "It's a really fine line between controlling inflation but avoiding high unemployment."

Implications for liberalisation Ethiopia has taken several measures in recent months to liberalise its banking sector as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed looks to instigate fundamental economic reform. In May, the central bank put forward plans to open up the country's banking sector to foreign competition for the first time.

In the same month, the Kenyan company Safaricom secured a licence to launch its M-Pesa mobile money services in Ethiopia, in the first case of a foreign company being authorised to offer such services. Just this week, the fintech company Kacha received a licence from the NBE to launch full-scale commercial operations, becoming Ethiopia's first private payments issuer.

Berhan believes that the NBE's decision to limit credit expansion will not hinder the liberalisation or growth of Ethiopia's banking sector and says that "the move sends a very good signal to private sector investors."

## Energy firm launches new debts payments campaign

By Frank Monyo

In a bid to sustain the government's efforts in clean energy usage, D.Light Tanzania Limited has stepped up to support its customers with clean energy solution to ease their never ending energy demands.

The company has launched a campaign, dubbed 'Mwanga Wako, Mchongo Wako, which translates to 'Your light, your deal, will see lucky customers win various prizes, including solar home systems, bicycles, smartphones, and airtime.

The new campaign requires existing customers to pay outstanding loans or pay on time, and when new customers acquire solar services from D.light, both are set to win prizes.

Participants can walk away with top prizes like Solar equipment when they pay in bulk for 90 days; bicycles with everyday payment; Infinix Smart 6 4G with 60 days in bulk payment; Nokia C2 with 30 days bulk payment, and 20,000/- airtime when they catch-up with their loans.

The total monetary value of the prizes to be won from the campaign stands at over 11m/- and the campaign is scheduled to run for two months starting from 14th August will cover all regions with extensive solar usage, including Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Geita, Iringa, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, and Lindi.

Speaking at a press conference, d.light Tanzania Limited Managing Director, Charles Natai, said the ultimate goals of the campaign is to champion for more cleaner energy use and save the environment from climate change. And to do that, D.light will entice users to stay current with their payments by rewarding them, which will ultimately demonstrate that D.light Tanzania values and appreciates its customers.

"The campaign aims to win back customers who are lagging behind in paying for their units by giving them offers and various prizes every month, in the course of the two months of the campaign, and finally the grand prize at the end of the campaign," said Charles Natai, MD of D.light Tanzania Limited.

Simon Mshana, D.light agent shares his admiration, "I have been D.light agent for three years, never have I encountered any issue rather than seeing my income grow. I bought my first motorcycle and took my kids to school, thanks to D.light".

The company has already transformed the lives of over 100 million people in Africa and over two hundred thousand people in Tanzania to unburden themselves from use of fossil fuels that endanger the environment.

## Equity group's half-year earnings hit Sh26 billion

NAIROBI

Equity Group's net profit for the half year ended June grew 7.8 percent to Sh26.3 billion on increased interest and non-interest income.

Net interest income grew by 16.6 percent to Sh46.4 billion on increased lending while non-interest income rose by 42.9 percent to Sh36.5 billion.

Equity Group CEO James Mwangi said on Tuesday the lender expanded its loan book by 25.6 percent to Sh817.19 billion despite rising loan defaults as businesses and households grapple with economic challenges.

"We want to support busi-



Equity Group CEO James Mwangi

nesses, communities and entrepreneurs to wade through these difficult and challenging times. You don't avoid risk. You

manage risk," said Mr Mwangi.

The rise in interest income was partly due to the rise in the base lending rate as the Central

Bank of Kenya sought to contain high inflation.

"When the government increases interest rates or issues three-year bonds at 16 percent or 17 percent, it means that we can't undermine the sovereign risk rate by issuing interest rates lower than that," said Mr Mwangi.

The group also benefited from foreign exchange trading whose revenue rose from Sh5.03 billion to Sh8.45 billion in the period many businesses were seeking dollars to facilitate imports.

"As the country goes through the challenges of forex, the group has been supported heavily by diaspora flows that

have enabled us to keep the lights of businesses of our customers on, providing them foreign currency as they required and we can see the growth in forex trading income as a result," said Mwangi.

Mwangi said funding grew at a faster pace than that of lending, leaving room to invest in government securities, resulting in a growth in income from this line of business from Sh19.1 billion to Sh22.7 billion.

Equity's non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio hit 9.8 percent from 8.5 percent, to which it reacted by increasing provisioning for loan defaults by 73.6 percent to Sh7.1 billion.



# WHAT IS SHADOW BANKING - PART TWO

Last week, I shared that many financial institutions act like banks but are not supervised like banks. These institutions are called shadow banks. There is no general and commonly agreed definition of shadow banking but the term "shadow bank" was coined by economist Paul McCulley in a 2007 speech at the annual financial symposium hosted by the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in the United States. Shadow banks are institutions that perform every function of banking except accepting deposits from the public. Shadow banks differ from traditional commercial banks in four key aspects: they are not subject to prudential regulation such as capital adequacy rules, their deposits/liabilities are not insured/guaranteed by the government (unless they deposited them in commercial banks), and shadow banks do not have recourse to central bank liquidity.

Furthermore, I shared that governments have come to terms to recognize shadow banks and are developing various initiatives to monitor them. For example in Tanzania, the Government, through the



**Kelvin Mkwawa,**

Microfinance Act of 2018, is set to regulate licensing and registration of all shadow banks such as community financial groups, community-based groups, and Saccos/Vicoba. Last week, I explained that shadow banking does help to stabilize the financial markets by absorbing uninsured deposits from the commercial banking sec-

tor. But it is important to ensure there is control in place that reduces shadow banking's systematic risk without stifling the critical role shadow banking plays in facilitating economic activities such as investments in projects financed by commercial banks through shadow banks' deposits. In this week's article, I will share the advantages and disadvantages of shadow banking.

One of the main advantages of shadow banking is the decentralization system it has. Unlike the traditional banking sector where most of the credit intermediation process takes place under one roof, the shadow banking system is decentralized. The decentralization system enables specialization which encourages efficiency in the system and it may prevent the creation and existence of too-big-to-fail financial institutions. In addition, the decentralization system supports innovations as shadow banks are not confined to too many regulations and procedures in their operations. Another advantage of shadow banking is that it allows additional sources of funds into the financial market. The liquidity expansion enabled by shadow banks

provides alternative options for lending to the market hence diversification in the financial system. This leads to a lower cost of capital for firms/investors and greater investment return for depositors.

The main disadvantage of shadow banking is that it is unregulated. As shadow banks perform every function of banking except accepting deposits, they are subject to less regulation (or no regulation at all) compared to traditional banks. As a result, shadow banks do not have any kind of backup from the Central Bank that would save them from trouble if they lose their deposits. In addition, since shadow banks do not have a backup from Central Banks, deposits are not insured by Central Banks. Furthermore, even though commercial banks do back these shadow banks indirectly, it is difficult for shadow banks to access the funds of commercial banks as backups in case a crisis occurs. This creates a situation where a lack of deposits from shadow banks might negatively affect the position of deposits of commercial banks.

In conclusion, shadow banking might help financial stability by ab-

sorbing uninsured and uninsurable deposits from the commercial banking sector if there is better prudential oversight to reduce shadow banking's systemic risks, without stifling its benefits to the economy. For the past two weeks, we have seen the advantages and disadvantages of shadow banking. Because shadow banks are unregulated, it allows them to have a decentralization system that encourages efficiency and it supports innovations as shadow banks are not confined to too many regulations and procedures in their operations. Another advantage of shadow banks is that they create additional sources of funds in the financial market. Also, I shared the disadvantages of shadow banks; since shadow banking is unregulated, shadow banks do not have any kind of backup from Central Banks and have no access to short-term borrowing from Central Banks in case of any liquidity challenges.

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## China trust deficit: Crisis spurs shadow banking policy response calls

HONG KONG/NEW YORK

CHINESE fears of a spillover from missed payments on some shadow banking linked trust products and worsening consumer sentiment are expected to hasten a policy response to revive the country's cash-starved property sector.

Concerns about the outsized exposure of China's \$3 trillion shadow banking sector, roughly the size of Britain's economy, to property developers and the wider economy, have grown over the past year as the sector lurched from one crisis to another.

Zhongrong International Trust Co, which traditionally had sizable real estate exposure, has recently missed repayments on some investment products, fuelling contagion fears.

Trust firms operate outside many of the rules governing commercial banks and mainly channel the proceeds of wealth products sold by banks to real estate developers, other sectors, and even some retail investors.

Barclays said in a note that regulators were likely to step in if the market environment deteriorates significantly, and measures used by China in the past to deal with spiking financial volatility have included liquidity injections.

"The risk of a systemic shock to the Chinese financial system is not great, but the downward pressure on the economy will intensify," said Yan Wang, chief emerging markets and China strategist at Alpine Macro.

"These issues are all related, thus the contagion is already happening, and the risk of further spread is

Beijing took a step in that direction on Tuesday by cutting key policy rates after a broad array of data highlighted intensifying pressure on the economy, mainly from the property sector.

The latest challenge came from the shadows, with two companies saying over the weekend they had not received payment on maturing Zhongrong International Trust investment products.

Nomura said a wave of defaults on trust products could cause "substantial ripple effects" for China's broader economy as losses suffered by individual investors, lured by higher returns, would have an acute impact on consumption.

"This is something where the problems are probably not going to be confined to this individual trust but are going to spread to or become more evident in the trust



industry as a whole," said Arthur Kroeber, partner and head of research at Gavekal in New York.

"I think they're within the ability of the government to manage without any sort of dramatic explosion or blow up. But it's a long, slow-burning problem."

Even as China's property problems have torn through the economy in the last few years, Beijing has so far managed to contain the impact on the financial industry.

Analysts at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, which manages more than \$600 billion in assets, said recent developments could provide an opportunity to buy government bonds.

"Given the view that any short-term domestic liquidity squeeze will be eased, we are more inclined to use the opportunity to buy Chinese government bonds, should yields spike," said Chuanyi Zhou, Assistant Vice President, EM Asia Corporate Credit Analyst, and Lin Jing Leong, Executive Director, Senior EM Asia Sovereign Analyst.

'CONTAGION'

The trust sector had been a major fundraising channel for property developers seeking rapid expansion. But since 2021, when real estate slipped into a downturn, some of them have gone bust, while others have divested investments in property firms.

Beijing has also ramped up efforts since 2017 to reduce the size

of the shadow banking sector amid concerns over financial stability. As of end-2022, assets held by trust firms totalled 21 trillion yuan, down about 20 percent from end-2017.

The outstanding value of trust products invested in the property sector was 1.2 trillion yuan as of end-2022, down about 30 percent year-on-year. Still, exposure to the real estate sector varies from different trust firms.

"The real contagion may just be what we are already seeing - weak consumer and business confidence which is dragging down growth. The government is well aware of this but has so far been very timid in its response," said Kamil Dimmich, partner and portfolio manager at North of South Capital LLP, in London.

Barclays said since trust product clients tend to be wealthy individuals or companies, the authorities may have some "tolerance for market forces to play out".

Rayliant Quantamental China Equity ETF co-portfolio manager Phillip Wool said the rise in defaults by trust firms would result in another hit to confidence, as home buyers will not feel comfortable putting down a big down payment.

"As for whether Beijing steps in, I think we're getting to a point where that has to happen. The deeper confidence sinks, the harder that is to reverse," Wool added.



CROP INSURANCE:

## A newfound hope to Tanzanian farmers

By Godwin Jaha Semunyu

IN the heart of Tanzania's progress lies agriculture, a powerhouse driving our economy through employment, food security, exports, rural prosperity, and overall national stability.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of our nation. As the revered Mwalimu Nyerere once declared, "Agriculture is the spinal cord of our nation" - an undeniable truth that shapes our destiny.

However, the path of Tanzanian farming, like any dance with nature, is fraught with challenges. The diligent hands of farmers are constantly at odds with the unpredictable whims of nature. Floods and droughts stand as mighty adversaries.

These natural trials reveal the delicate balance between human determination and environmental unpredictability, highlighting the need for unwavering support and adaptable strategies to protect those who sustain our livelihood.

Here enters crop insurance, a beacon of hope that arises to shield Tanzanian farmers from nature's whims. Far beyond being a financial safety net, it is

a lifeline. It's a pledge to transform misfortune into stepping-stones toward prosperity.

With every insured acre, Tanzanian farmers embrace a sense of security that their tireless efforts won't go in vain.

During the ongoing Nanenane exhibitions in Mbeya, NBC Bank and Jubilee Insurance announced extending an impressive compensation of US\$35,537 to tobacco farmers in the Tabora and Shinyanga regions to recuperate losses incurred due to the heavy rains during the 2022/2023 season.

The disbursement was facilitated through II Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in the regions.

Crop insurance doesn't just safeguard livelihoods; it ensures that years of toil aren't undone by disaster. It showcases a nation's resolve to foster self-reliance and food security. Its effects ripple far and wide - communities grow more robust, economies gain resilience, and aspirations are nurtured with newfound hope.

Crop insurance isn't only about reacting to crises either; it's about nurturing resilience

or adapting to a changing climate. Swift payouts empower farmers to bounce back faster.

Beyond its immediate impact on individual farmers, this triumphant crop insurance venture marks a significant milestone in advancing financial inclusion for Tanzania's agricultural community.

NBC Bank's unwavering commitment to collective progress is built on its purpose of empowering our community's future together.

As Tanzania navigates the intricate landscape of agriculture, initiatives like these shine as beacons of hope, illustrating the potential of collaborative efforts between financial institutions, insurers, and government bodies to uplift farmers and secure the bedrock of the nation's economy.

After all, like late Mwalimu Nyerere said, Kilimo ni Uti wa Mgongo wa Taifa - agriculture is truly the backbone of our country.

*Godwin Jaha Semunyu is a seasoned Marketer and a Communications enthusiast. He is the Head of Corporate Affairs at NBC Bank (T). He can reach through; godwin.semunyu@nbc.co.tz*



# British Muslims say banks ruin lives with debanking policies

LONDON

When former postman Iqeel Ahmed told staff at his local Halifax branch he couldn't feed his family because he was locked out of his account, they asked whether he had tried the nearest food bank.

For six weeks after his card was first declined – trying to buy take-away chicken before a night shift – he'd visit the bank close to his home in Luton, Bedfordshire, in search of answers.

The 45-year-old's salary from the Royal Mail was being deposited, but his direct debits bounced, leaving him unable to pay bills.

The Halifax branch manager eventually called and said Ahmed could use his account again if he provided ID. Two months after he regained access, both Ahmed and his wife Iram Khan received letters stating that the bank couldn't maintain a relationship with them. Savings accounts for his young children were also closed.

He was baffled, initially thinking the letters were a scam. He recalls going into the branch on the day his card froze to let them know he would be going on a family holiday to Morocco – a detail that has played on his mind as he's never received a better explanation of what happened.

"You know what they say, there's no smoke without fire," he said in an interview. "But when it happens to you, you're thinking, but I didn't do anything." Ahmed is a familiar figure in his community, having volunteered for a homeless charity. After three decades banking with Halifax, Ahmed now advises his friends to open multiple accounts like him and not "put all their eggs in one basket."

A spokesperson for Lloyds Banking Group Plc, which owns Halifax, said they couldn't comment on individual cases unless they were given the customer's personal details. "We meet all regulatory and legal requirements and do not close an account, or prevent one being opened, based on a customer's political or personal beliefs," they said.

## Shut Down

Since Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage declared that he'd lost his bank account with NatWest Group Plc's upmarket Coutts subsidiary in June, the concept of debanking has catapulted into the spotlight. Bank chiefs have insisted they don't take personal or political beliefs into account when removing access to financial services. NatWest CEO Alison Rose quit after Farage uncovered documents showing that, in his case, the opposite was true.

For Muslim communities in Britain, accessing financial services can prove especially difficult. From delays with applying and problems



passing screening checks, to sudden debanking without an explanation, Bloomberg News has spoken to numerous customers who have struggled with the system.

In early August, the Muslim Council of Britain called for an impartial review of whether banks were closing accounts disproportionately. Figures from the Financial Conduct Authority last year showed about one in fifty UK adults are unbanked – a proportion that rises to one in 10 for Muslims.

The government has promised to examine the issue of debanking, both generally and for politicians in particular, who are deemed more of a money-laundering and corruption risk by the banks. Lenders will soon be obliged to give account-holders 90 days' notice and a reason for cutting them off.

To be sure, banks have good reason to be wary of money laundering, which has been regulated globally since the 1990s and subject to even stricter rules after 9/11 to curb criminal money flows. The consequences for not being tough enough can be huge: After a record \$1.9 billion fine for facilitating drug cartels in 2012, HSBC Holdings Plc has pulled back from multiple countries and business lines, partly to avoid reputational risk.

UK lenders have become increasingly keen to close accounts, with almost 350,000 shuttered last year, compared to about 45,000 in 2017, according to FCA data obtained by the Mail on Sunday. Over 1,300 peo-

ple complained about their account closure to the financial ombudsman last year. Many of those affected get no explanation.

This was the case for one NatWest customer who received a letter two months ago, which was seen by Bloomberg, informing them their account would be closed after 14 years.

When the person, who asked not to be named discussing their finances, complained about discrimination, the bank wrote it was not willing to reconsider the decision or "divulge the precise reason." The person said they were told by their banker these decisions are rarely reversed and believed there was little point in complaining to the Financial Ombudsman Service. The account was closed in late July.

NatWest, like other banks, declined to comment on individual cases. "Like all UK regulated banking institutions, we are subject to legal and regulatory requirements, and we treat compliance with them as a matter of priority," a spokesperson said. "This may mean we are required to delay, or refuse to act on a customer's instructions, and/or restrict, or close a customer's account."

UK Finance, the trade body, said "the decision to close an account is only taken after extensive review. If a firm concludes that it cannot continue to offer services, it must communicate this to the customer so far as permissible and in every case treat the customer fairly."

Loss of Opportunity

Wasif Mahmood, a financial services lawyer, deals with numerous debanking cases affecting marginalized communities in Britain, including small business owners and overseas students. Debanking has far-reaching implications for these groups, leading to a vicious cycle of lost opportunities, he said. Among Mahmood's clients are people with cash-and-carry shops from immigrant, Muslim backgrounds, who banks see as vulnerable to money laundering, he said. Lenders were filing Suspicious Activity Reports like a "sledgehammer to crack a nut" as grounds to shut down accounts, he added.

Access to the SAR database is strictly limited to particular law enforcement and government agency staff, and those with a filing against them often aren't told, in order to avoid the risk of tipping off criminals. Suspicion of money laundering has become a catch-all, said Mahmood, adding that he's seen the system disproportionately hitting individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

In modern Britain, "you are a non-person if you don't have a bank account," the lawyer said.

## 'Risky' Accounts

Restricted banking access for Muslims is not a new issue. In 2014, HSBC faced criticism by rights groups for closing the accounts of Syrian refugees, Finsbury Park Mosque, and the Ummah Welfare Trust, among others. Data provider World-Check apologized and paid £10,000 (\$12,753)

in damages after wrongly linking the mosque and other individuals to terror activities. The mosque, which was led by radical preacher Abu Hamza until an anti-terrorism raid in 2003, was reopened by new managers who denounced Hamza and worked to rebuild community relations.

Islamic Relief, a major aid agency, had its accounts shut by HSBC around that time, two years after its UBS account was closed. "Some banks are reluctant to deal with humanitarian charities working in the world's most fragile and complex states because it's simpler to just say no," said Alun McDonald, head of media and external relations. He said banks needed to invest in due diligence and update risk management to factor in the UN exemption on humanitarian assistance from sanctioned regimes.

Anas Altikriti, founder of the Cordoba Foundation think-tank, also received a letter from HSBC saying his current and business accounts, as well as those of his then-wife and teenage sons, would be closed during that period. He opened an account with Lloyds Banking Group Plc, only to find it unusable due to constant phone calls about payments in and out of his account, and it later shut him out too.

Over the years, accounts with Banco Santander SA, Halifax, NatWest, and RBS were also closed, he said. In August, he learned his Barclays Plc account had been shut. None of the banks would comment on individual cases.

After investigative journalist Peter Oborne looked into his case, Altikriti discovered he was on a heightened risk list compiled by World-Check Risk Intelligence. He believes it's because of his views about the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Palestinian rights. His father is also a politician in Iraq. As a result, he always has two or three accounts

at hand, anticipating closures. Currently, he's waiting for Wise Plc to verify his details for an account he applied for in May.

"These are lives we're talking about," Altikriti said in an interview. "I don't know whether my marriage broke down because of this. I don't know whether my relationship with clients broke down because of this. I don't know if my reputation has been sullied as a result of this."

## Name Check

Issues also crop up at the beginning of the customer journey. The nine biggest lenders are required to offer free basic accounts under the 2015 Payment Accounts Regulations, allowing all legal residents to receive money and pay bills. Around 7.4 million of these accounts exist, yet there are some examples of difficulties.

Nina Mohanty founded Bloom Money, a savings app designed for diaspora communities, in part to address the obstacles faced by such customers in the rest of the financial services industry. Mohanty said there are cases where Palestinian refugees are turned away because banks don't accept their travel documents, while those with Sudanese passports are rejected because the country is under UK financial sanctions.

"It is very much a broken system," she said.

Ibrahim Khan, co-founder of wealth management app Cur8 Capital, said he's never managed to get an account with Monzo or Revolut and has never received an explanation. He believes it's due to potential sanction matches with his name, so ran the name he uses for banking through Experian and ComplyAdvantage screens. "You can imagine with a name like Muhammad Khan, you'll get a fair few hits."

He argued that it highlighted the systemic "racism and bias creep" in screening processes, with algorithms trained on watch lists heavily populated with Muslim, Black, or ethnic minority names. Identity checks that rely on photos also struggle with Black or Brown faces, potentially leading to longer onboarding times and adding a further barrier to access.

Khan said financial institutions look at roughly the same live sanction screens. Setting the "fuzziness" wide on searches – like including every possible spelling of "Muhammad" – can trigger false positives. Banks can generally change the settings on their checks to suit their risk appetites.

Bloomberg News obtained permission from Khan to ask Monzo about his application. "There are multiple factors that influence decisions on whether to offer someone an account," a spokesperson for Monzo said. "This decision made in 2021 was not determined by any sanctions or PEP screening and had nothing to do with this person's name." They declined to give further information on the reason Khan was rejected.

"We have a sophisticated range of ways to screen customers but we can confirm that a customer's onboarding or offboarding has absolutely nothing to do with their name, race, ethnicity or religion," Revolut said in a statement.

For Husayn Kassai, the co-founder and former chief executive officer of global identity-checking company Onfido, a key source of frustration has been blacklisting and reduced access to finance. "I don't think the banks are doing enough to think through their internal biases in the system," he said.

Lenders are legally required to shut out certain customers to meet money laundering and terrorism legislation, and serve those who meet the qualifications for "basic" accounts. Beyond that, banks set their own risk tolerance, often in private. Kassai points out the grey areas here, with banks' strict approach to money laundering compliance in retail accounts in sharp contrast to London's reputation as a haven for money-laundering among the world's richest.

Institutions are willing to take on greater risks as long as the accounts are "financially lucrative enough," he said. "Banks have a fundamental duty to the community and must ensure fair and appropriate access to everyone."





# WORLD

## Deep-rooted poverty engulfs 37m in US

NEW YORK

MORE than 37.9 million people in the United States live in poverty, as many struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, healthcare and a permanent place to live, figures show, despite the country being the richest in the world by gross domestic product.

The stark figures from the US Census Bureau show that 11.6 percent of the entire population was in poverty in 2021. Out of that number, 56 percent, or 21.4 million, were women of all races, along with 16.9 percent of children.

Women between the ages 25 and 34 are 69 percent more likely than men of the same age to live in poverty, according to data from the Center for American Progress in Washington. More women than men over the age of 75 also face financial hardships.

While poverty affects people in towns and cities nationwide, it is particularly bad in Appalachia, the Tobacco Belt of Virginia; the Carolinas, the Cotton Belt

in the South; and South Texas, where it affects multiple generations of families.

Since 1963, federal guidelines have determined poverty for a family of four as those who live off less than \$25,700 a year. Among single adults, it is those who earn less than \$14,580 a year. These guidelines compare a person's pretax income against three times the minimum cost of food.

Jeff Smith, senior communications manager for North Texas Food Bank, said nearly 700,000 North Texans are unsure of where their next meal will come from.

"Tragically, this includes more than 250,000 children ... in our region," he said.

In 2011, the Census Bureau updated the way it identifies those impoverished to include not just the cost of food, but also their household size, cost of utilities, clothing, government programs and where people live. This new guidance is dubbed the Supplemental Poverty Measure.



A woman who calls herself Princess uses blankets to keep warm in sub-freezing temperature as she sits outside of a business, Feb 16, 2021, in San Antonio, US. (PHOTO / AP)

### Living on almost nothing

The World Bank describes people to be in poverty if they are living on less than \$2.15 per day. At least 1.5 billion people in the US are thought to be in that category, according to the 2016 book \$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by US sociologists Kathryn Edin and Luke Shaefer.

In rural communities and big cities, those on fixed incomes, senior citizens and workers earning a minimum wage are among those who are struggling.

City Relief, a nonprofit founded in 1989, provides meals from local mobile vans at several locations across New York and New Jersey for workers on low wages, the homeless and anyone who needs a meal.

"Often, people will come to us just because

the rent doesn't allow them enough money to eat," Corey Hayes, creative director at City Relief, said. "Many people have less money to spend on food, many rely on these meals as their only meal of the day."

In March, cuts to the federal government's food assistance program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, squeezed budgets further, leaving eligible households with \$95 less per month.

It affected more than 30 million people in 32 states and the District of Columbia, according to the US Department of Agriculture, which runs the program.

"When family budgets are squeezed, we tend to see neighbors seeking food assistance because food is generally their most flexible expense and is the most readily available form of

## I am here not as Prime Minister, but as a Hindu - UK PM Rishi Sunak

CAMBRIDGE

UNITED Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak attended the Ramayana recitation by spiritual leader Morari Babu at Cambridge University on Tuesday and said that he was present there as a Hindu and not as a Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



Starting his address with a chant of "Jai Siya Ram", PM Sunak said that it was an honour for him to be present at Morari Babu's Ram Katha on Indian Independence Day at the University of Cambridge.

Further, he said that he was there as a Hindu. "I'm here today not as a Prime Minister but as a Hindu. For me, faith is very personal. It guides me in every aspect of my life," he said.

Sunak said that being a Prime Minister is a great honour but it is not an easy job.

"There are difficult decisions to make. Hard choices to confront. And our faith gives me courage, strength and resilience to do the best I can for our country," Sunak said.

"For me, Lord Rama will always be an inspirational figure, to face life's challenges with courage, to govern with humility and to work selflessly," he added.

Sunak said that he aspires to lead how the Hindu scriptures have taught leaders to lead.

"Bapu with your blessings, I aspire to lead in equivalence with how our scriptures have taught leaders to lead," Sunak said.

Recalling his days from the past when he was a chancellor, Sunak said, "For me, it was a wonderful and special moment to light diyas for Diwali outside 11 Downing Street back when I was chancellor."

He pointed out the Golden figure of Lord Hanuman which is seen behind Morari Babu in all his events and said that just like that, a golden figure of Lord Ganesh sits on his desk in his office at 10 Downing Street.

"And just like Bapu has a golden Hanuman in his background, I am proud that a golden Ganesh sits gleefully on my desk at 10 Downing Street," Sunak said.

"It (Lord Ganesh's golden statue) is a constant reminder to me of the importance of listening and reflecting on issues before acting. I am proud to be British. Proud to be Hindu," Rishi Sunak said.

Recalling the times from his childhood, Rishi Sunak said, "Growing up I have very fond memories of attending our own local mandir in Southampton. My parents and family organised havans, poojas, aartis. Afterwards, I would help serve lunch and Prasad with my brother and sister and cousins."

"Our values and what Bapu does each day of his life, are the values of selfless service, Devotion and keeping faith. But perhaps the greatest value is duty or 'seva' as we know it," he added.

Sunak further said that he follows not Just Ramayana, but also Bhagwat Geeta and Hanuman Chalisa.

"I leave here today remembering the Ramayan which Bapu speaks on, but also the Bhagwat Geeta and the Hanuman Chalisa," he said.

He also thanked Morari Babu. Sunak said, "Your teachings have truth, love and compassion, and are more relevant now than they have ever been."

ANI

## We want to ensure President Bazoum is safe and hard-earned democracy of Niger is respected - US State Department

WASHINGTON

THE US State Department on Tuesday stated that in connection with the Niger coup, the utmost priority of Washington is the safety of President Mohamed Bazoum and his family and respect towards the "hard-earned" democracy of Niamey.

The State Department also affirmed its support towards Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in achieving the stated objectives.

"We continue to work with ECOWAS, with the African Union, with other partners around the world as well as regional partners to get this situation back on track and to maintain Niger's hard-earned democracy," US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel said at the state briefing on Tuesday.

He added, "...Every day, every minute that President Bazoum (pictured) and his family continue to be detained, and this - and every day that Niger's hard-earned democracy is not respected, that window closes a little bit. And that is why we're so actively engaged in this and why we're hoping to find a diplomatic resolution to this".

Vedant Patel further said that the two outcomes that US wants to see in the situation is safety and the release of President Bazoum and his family, and the respect of 'hard-earned' democracy of Niger.

"We have been incredibly clear throughout the duration of this about the two outcomes that we would like to see, and that is, first, we want to see and ensure that President Bazoum and his family are kept safe, we want to see them



released, and we want to see the hard-earned democracy of Niger respected. And that continues to be our point of view and what we are calling for in our engagements, and it's a point of view that we know is shared by ECOWAS and the African Union as well," he said.

Previously, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken also reiterated the priorities of the US and

affirmed Washington's strong support towards the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the issue.

"With regard to Niger, first, we reiterate the imperative of releasing President Bazoum, his family, from detention.

And we reiterate the imperative of returning to the constitutional order in Niger. We're in strong support of what ECOWAS is doing to achieve exactly those results. You heard from ECOWAS just a couple of days ago about how they see the path forward.

And we remain very focused on diplomacy for achieving the results that we want, which is the return to the constitutional order. And I believe that there continues to be space for diplomacy in achieving that result," he said.

Blinken added, "The pressure

that's been exerted by many countries, including through ECOWAS, on the military leaders responsible for disrupting the constitutional order in Niger is mounting.

I think they have to take that into account, as well as the fact that their actions have isolated them from the region and from the world, as well as the fact that there is a diplomatic path forward under the constitution that would restore a constitutional order. That's what we're focused on."

Niger has been engulfed in political chaos since late last month when President Mohamed Bazoum was ousted in a coup d'état by the presidential guard. Bazoum, has said he has been deprived of all human contact and was given just dry rice and pasta by the military junta, CNN reported.

ANI

## Russia to expand military-technical cooperation with African nations, official says

PATRIOT PARK

ALL necessary preconditions are in place for expanding Russia's military-technical cooperation with African countries, which in turn will help pave the way for creating a well-balanced, multipolar world order, Dmitry Shugayev, director of the Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSVTS), told TASS at the Army-2023 forum.

"In assessing the results and prospects for military and technical cooperation with African countries, it is safe to say that there is a good basis for intensifying cooperation with those countries in the region that are strategically important for Russia from the viewpoint of forming a sustainable multipolar world order," he said.

The second Russia-Africa Sum-

mit held in St. Petersburg in July provided an excellent platform for discussing various initiatives, as well as building pragmatic relations between Russia and African countries, Shugayev added.

"During such talks, naturally, issues pertaining to military and technical cooperation were mentioned, although it is premature to disclose the details [of these meetings] and information about agreements that were concluded.

That said, it is obvious that the level of confidence that was reached at the summit will facilitate further strengthening of cooperation between the Russian Federation and African states in various areas, including the military and technical area," he noted.

Russia's cooperation with African nations is an integral part of military and technical cooperation, the FSVTS chief stressed,



adding that intergovernmental agreements on military and technical cooperation have been signed with 43 African countries.

"We note that overall cooperation with African states is developing at a stable, dynamic pace, with [such countries] accounting for a

healthy share of Russia's weapons exports annually.

The current portfolio of African countries' orders totals around 20%," he said.

The Army-2023 International Military-Technical Forum is being held at the Patriot Congress and

Exhibition Center, the Alabino training ground and the Kubinka airfield outside Moscow on August 14-20.

Over 60 countries have confirmed the participation of their official military delegations in the forum.

The forum's scientific and business program features over 300 events focusing on the development of Russia's armed forces and its defense industry and international military-technical cooperation, taking into account present-day realities.

Access to the forum and program events is reserved for industry specialists and foreign delegations on August 15-17.

The event will be open to the general public on August 18-20. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner.

Agencies

## KLM introduces new world business class seats in the B777-300/200

NAIROBI

KLM Airline has upgraded its World Business Class seats in all its Boeing 777 aircraft in a move aimed at meeting evolving customer needs.

Both the Boeing 777-300 and the 777-200, will be equipped with the updated World Business Class seats that come with a sliding door for more comfort and privacy.

Commenting on the upgrade, Air France-KLM General Manager for East and Southern Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana Marius van der

Ham said, "The seats have been improved in terms of design, technology and sustainability criteria. Based on extensive customer and competitive research, we have improved the seat so that the customer can enjoy even more privacy and comfort during the flight. With the renewed World Business Class, Premium Comfort, Economy Comfort and Economy Class seats, KLM is ready to meet the different wishes of passengers. We are pleased to be able to offer our customers worldwide these products and additional services."



Thanks to innovative developments, the seats, including all associated technology, are on average 10 - 15 per cent lighter

than Business Class seats in the same segment. This contributes to KLM's sustainability objectives. Besides the lightweight slid-

ing door that is easy to open and close, the upgraded seats offer passengers direct access to the aisle. The chair can be adjusted to a comfortable bed of two meters (198 cm) or even closed for more privacy while working, relaxing and/or sleeping.

More personal adjustment options and useful functionalities, including adjustable support for the lower back and a relax mode with a subtle back massage, is available.

Furthermore, there are several charging options for equipment conveniently located within sight

of the passenger. There is also the option of wireless charging, a lockable cupboard with extra storage space and a built-in mirror. The chair offers a recessed bottle holder to safely place a bottle of water 'on' the table, even in the event of turbulence.

KLM chose the Jamco Venture seat in a 1-2-1 configuration, with direct aisle access for each passenger. The Jamco Venture seat is already in use in the World Business Class of the Boeing 787 aircraft.

Based on extensive customer research, KLM has further im-

proved the seat in collaboration with the supplier. The entire design of JAMCO in collaboration with KLM, and in particular the setup of the personal cabin, is overall lighter than other World Business Class seats in the same segment, without compromising on quality.

These aircraft are also fitted with the latest Premium Comfort Cabin. The conversion is expected to be completed within a year.

Other World Business Class services, such as the catering concept and Sky Priority, remain unchanged. **Agencies**

ANI



# China makes demarches to Japan over politician's Taiwan remarks

BEIJING

CHINA has made serious demarches to Japan over its certain politician's visit to Taiwan and his irresponsible remarks, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a press briefing when asked to comment that according to a Japanese lawmaker who accompanied Taro Aso, Vice-President of the Liberal Democratic Party and former prime minister of Japan, on his visit to Taiwan, Aso had discussed his remark in Taiwan about "a readiness to fight" and "deterrence" with the Japanese government beforehand, and the remark is in line with Japan's official view.

Taiwan is part of China, Wang said, pointing out that the Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair that brooks no foreign interference.

Wang pointed out that the Cairo Declaration issued by China, the US and the UK in 1943 made it clear that Taiwan and all the other territories Japan stole from China shall be restored to China.

Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation in 1945 reaffirms this. The Instrument of Surrender signed by Japan in 1945 says explicitly that Japan accepts the Potsdam Proclamation. The China-Japan Joint Statement signed in 1972 when the two sides normalized diplomatic relations states that the Japanese government fully understands and respects the position of the Chinese government that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory and declares the commitment to Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation.

Wang said in 1978, the two countries concluded the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between China and Japan, which affirms the principles set out in the joint statement in legal form.

The third and fourth political documents concluded in 1998 and 2008 respectively both reiterate Japan's commitment to the position on the Taiwan question stipulated in the joint statement.

Japan has more than once made serious commitments to China on the Taiwan question, including not sup-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin speaks during a press briefing in Beijing, China, on Aug 15, 2023. (PHOTO / FMPRC)

porting "two Chinas," "one China, one Taiwan" or "Taiwan independence," and only maintaining people-to-people and region-to-region exchanges with Taiwan, Wang added.

"Those are the historical context of the issue, and the principles and position that Japan must abide by," said Wang.

"I wish to stress that the Taiwan question bears on China's core interests, the political foundation of China-Japan relations, and basic trust and principles

between the two countries," Wang said, urging Japan to adhere to the one-China principle and the spirit of the four political documents between China and Japan, and take concrete action to honor its political commitment and related statements.

"China is ready to take all measures necessary to firmly safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said.

Separately, a Chinese mainland spokesperson on Tuesday stressed that Lai Ching-te and his ilk, who trumpet "Taiwan independence" separatist rhetoric, will only push Taiwan to the brink of war.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the statement when asked for comments on Lai's recent separatist remarks.

Noting that Lai has used his "stopover" visit to the United States to spread the "Taiwan independence" fallacy, Zhu said his words and acts have once again proved that he is indeed a "worker for Taiwan independence" and an out-and-out "troublemaker."

The so-called "peace" demagoguery Lai preaches is an utter lie, the spokesperson said. **Xinhua**

## US announces USD 200 million security aid for Ukraine

WASHINGTON

THE United States government on Monday announced security assistance of USD 200 million for Ukraine which continues to defend its territory and protect its people.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a US State Department statement that the package, which is valued at USD 200 million, includes air defence munitions, artillery rounds, anti-armour capabilities, and additional mine-clearing equipment.

"It is being executed from previously authorized Presidential Drawdown Authority," the statement added.

The US further said that every day, Russia is killing Ukrainian civilians and destroying civilian infrastructure. Additionally, they are weaponizing hunger and are contributing to global food insecurity by destructing Ukraine's civilian ports and grain infrastructure.

"Russia started this war and could end it at any time by withdrawing its forces from Ukraine and stopping its brutal attacks," the statement said.

To extend help, the US further said that along with 5their allies, they will stand united for Ukraine.

"Until it does, the United States and our allies and partners will stand united with Ukraine, for as long as it takes," the statement added.

Earlier last month, The US government announced a 1.3 billion USD military aid package for Ukraine – during its ongoing conflict with Russia – including air defence systems and attack drones.

According to the US Department of Defence, the package includes four more National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS), medium-range air defence batteries that have helped Ukraine withstand ongoing Russian barrages of missiles and drones. **ANI**

# Türkiye presses for grain deal to bolster influence, secure cheap grain

ANKARA

SERVING as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine, Türkiye is working to revive the Black Sea Grain Initiative to bolster its regional influence and secure cheap grains, analysts said.

The agreement, which had been brokered by Türkiye and the United Nations in July 2022 in Istanbul, encountered a setback when Russia decided to withdraw from it on July 17, alleging unfulfilled obligations by its counterparts.

Since then, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his ministers, and diplomats have been working intensively to revive the deal.

The Turkish leader held phone talks with his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts and said that Russian President Vladimir Putin may visit Türkiye in August to discuss the grain deal.

Regional influence, prestige, and cheap grains are the main incentives

for Türkiye to revive the grain initiative, Batu Coskun, an Ankara-based independent political risk analyst, told Xinhua.

"There is a very significant prestige component to it, and Türkiye emerged as a very significant interlocutor between Ukraine and Russia," he said.

In Coskun's view, Ankara wants to use a possible reenactment of the grain deal as a means of rapprochement between Moscow and Kiev. Turkey's leadership has been keen to capitalize on its previous diplomatic success with the grain deal which it sees as a step toward permanent peace, he said.

Kerim Has, a Moscow-based analyst, believes that economic reasons are at the top of Türkiye's motivation for the reinstatement of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, as the country reels from economic woes, especially food inflation.



"More than 80 percent of the wheat imported by Türkiye comes from Russia and Ukraine. For a long time, Türkiye is the number one client of Russia," he told Xinhua.

"In addition, Türkiye was buying wheat at discounted prices from both countries by mediating in the grain corridor," Has said.

Yet Russia's withdrawal from the

argued.

Ankara, which pursues a "proactive neutrality" in the Ukraine conflict, has not joined Western sanctions on Russia, but has sealed off the Turkish straits to Russian army vessels, preventing Russian warships from entering or leaving the Black Sea.

Türkiye has said that Western countries should try to address Russia's complaints and that it hopes Russia would return to the deal. During televised remarks on Aug. 8, the Turkish leader warned against the specter of escalating military conflict in the Black Sea after Moscow's withdrawal from the deal.

"Extending the war to the Black Sea would be a complete disaster for our entire region," Erdogan said, adding that his country would continue to implement the 1936 Montreux Convention, a document that asserts Türkiye's control of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. **Xinhua**

# B&B boom fuels demand for managers in China

"HELLO! Do you still have rooms available?"

"Hello! We have two rooms available. When do you plan to arrive? Do you have any special requests for the room?"

B&B manager Kong Jie picked up the phone and handled a reservation enquiry at a B&B hotel in Jiuru Mountain scenic area in Jinan city, east China's Shandong province.

After communicating with the guest, Kong and the guest became connected with each other on WeChat, an instant messaging application. She then shared the location of the B&B hotel and its parking lot so the guest would find it easily.

China has more than one million B&B managers. Last year, B&B hotel managers officially became a new profession recognized by the country's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

By providing customized services including accommodation, dining, and experiencing local natural environment, culture and lifestyles, B&B managers meet tourists' needs for individualized experiences.

Kong, 37 years old, is from Jinan city of Shandong. Before starting to work in the B&B industry six years ago, she had done several odd jobs in different places.

Over the past 6 years, Kong has witnessed the rapid growth of the B&B industry.

"The form and content of tourism in China have undergone tremendous changes in recent years. Tourists no longer satisfy themselves with simple sightseeing, but like to ex-



After rehabilitation of a mining area, Yaozhihe village in Baokang county, central China's Hubei province builds a cluster of B&B hotels at the former site of the mining area. (People's Daily Online/ Yang Dong)

perience in richer ways," Kong said.

B&B hotels emphasize service and experience, allowing guests to return to nature and feel warm and intimate, comfortable and relaxed.

The booming B&B industry has driven the development of rural tourism and boosted local employment.

Liu Li, a 45-year-old B&B manager, is a villager from nearby Huluyu village. Before doing this job, Liu was a housewife with no source of income.

"After B&B hotels became popular, I pursued training to become a B&B manager, leading to a fulfilling job near home," Liu said. Now, Liu's child has gone away to university. Being a B&B manager allows her to conveniently take care of her elderly family members. Liu said she is very satisfied with her job. Good B&B managers are often "jacks of all trades." According to Kong, the daily work of B&B managers is very comprehensive and not easy to do.

In addition to basic accommodation services such as check-in, reception, cleaning and meal arrangements, B&B managers also plan travel routes for guests and recommend attractions, offering travel tips regarding mountain climbing, water activities, and visiting the scenic area's experience centers. B&B managers also need to

were no pharmacies nearby in the mountainous region and the guest did not have any medicine, the accompanying family members were very worried. They called Kong for help.

"After we learned of the situation, we immediately drove to town, bought anti-pyretics and delivered them to the guest," Kong recalled. At 7 a.m. the next day, the guest texted her on WeChat that the fever was gone and expressed their gratitude.

One guest visited Kong's hotel and kept coming back, sometimes with family and sometimes for company team building events. Every time before leaving, he would tell the managers what they did well during his stay and what could be improved. He also shared books he was reading with them. Over time, he formed deep friendships with the managers.

Kong has many stories like this from her time as a B&B manager. What she cherishes most are the connections she has made with guests from across the country.

"Everyone has their own story. Communicating with the guests opens my eyes to new possibilities in life," she said.

"B&B managers becoming a new profession not only means we've gained social recognition, but our future lives will have more prospects. In the future, I want to learn more skills such as tea ceremony and making wine, and then get certified," Kong expressed.

The woman has started making plans for her future career development.

People's Daily

# Russian defense minister hails high level of contacts between Russia, Chinese military

KUBINKA

RUSSIA and China maintain communication between the two countries' military at a high level and conduct joint land, naval and air drills, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said on Tuesday.

"We are maintaining contacts at a high level, exchanging delegations, conducting joint exercises and drill - this is shown on all global channels - about our joint patrols on land, at sea, and in the air," he said during a working meeting Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu on the sidelines of the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

The Russian defense minister noted that cooperation with China is developed both bilaterally and within multilateral formats, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the ADMM-Plus (ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus).

"Russia and China are strategic partners, good neighbors and close friends," he stressed. "During Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Russia this March, the leaders of our countries reiterated that Russian-Chinese comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation have reached the highest point ever in the entire history of bilateral relations. We are implementing our leaders' agreements in practice."

Shoigu thanked his Chinese counterpart for taking part in the Moscow security conference, noting that Li's speech at the conference opening and the analysis of international situation "deserve closer attention."

China's participation in Army forum

The Russian defense minister noted that

China traditionally takes an active part in the Army international forum and China's products traditionally attract specialists' interest. "Yesterday, I visited your exposition, which broadly represents China's defense sector. I saw many new and promising things," Shoigu said, adding that since the previous exhibition, where China also took part, "a serious step forward had been taken."

"Today, all companies, all countries taking part in the exhibition take into account the experience of the latest development, including in the zone of the special military operation," he said.

The Russian minister said he is confident that today's meeting will help strengthen the traditionally friendly ties between the two countries' defense ministries and enhancing regional and global security.

He noted that this is his third meeting with his Chinese counterpart this year and congratulated him on the 96th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, which was marked on August 1.

About forum

The Army 2023 international military-technical forum is running at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center, the Alabino training ground and the Kubinka airfield outside Moscow on August 14-20. About 1,500 leading Russian defense enterprises and 85 foreign companies and businesses from seven countries are participating in the forum's expositions and business program.

The forum has been organized by the Russian Defense Ministry. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner.



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu



## SPORT



Muheza District Hospital's nurse (L) prepares a Yanga fan for blood donation at an event that took place at Magila Falls Eco Resort in Muheza District, Tanga last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

## Yanga fans, islamic organization donate blood in Muheza District

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

YANGA fans and an Islamic organization- Jamiyat Ahlak Islamiya (JAI)- last weekend took part in blood donation at a Muheza health center in Tanga.

The occasion which took place in various places and had Muheza District's top officials presiding over it witnessed the Yanga supporters and JAI members donating about 88 units of blood.

The first social event, graced by Muheza District Council's Executive Director Mohamed Mhina, took place at Magila Falls Eco Resort, with about 60 Yanga fans from two branches of Dar es Salaam participating in the blood donation.

They were accompanied by their Muheza District counterparts from Yanga Imara Branch and donated about 20 units of blood.

JAI members donated about 68 units of blood in an event that took place at Shaurimoyo Street in Muheza township last Sunday.

The occasion, which was graced by Muheza District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Mohamed Fakhri, moreover commemorated the 13th anniversary of the Islamic organization.

Apart from blood donation, Yanga's

fans toured natural flora and fauna at the tourist attraction in the district, where they performed cultural tourism- exploring nature on spot holes waterfalls, hiking trails, and more.

Speaking during the event, Muheza District Council's Executive Director, Mhina, thanked Yanga fanatics for their donation to save others' lives.

The official pointed out: "Pregnant women, accident victims, and young children are among important groups of patients in need of blood to save their lives."

Magila Falls Eco Resort's Director, David Mhaina, commended Yanga's fans for selecting the tourist attraction at Magila Ward, located about seven kilometers on the outskirts of Muheza township, to conduct social and tourism activities.

Mhaina stated that the supporters have not only done social activities but also implemented President Samia Suluhu Hassan's drive centered on using sports to promote tourism and generate more revenue to develop Muheza District and the country. He furthermore called upon other Tanzanians including sports stakeholders to visit the place and, among others, explore the natural beauty and learn about the Anglican Church monument.

## Coaches' changes light up CAF inter-club competitions' kickoff

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi &

Agencies

THE 2023/24 CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup campaigns will commence this Friday and, amidst the excitement, several clubs have undergone coaching changes.

Some of the top clubs have made managerial changes as they seek to build trophy-winning squads for Africa's inter-club football competitions.

Belgo-Tunisian Nasreddine Nabi, despite steering Young Africans SC (Yanga) of Tanzania to the club's first-ever continental final in the previous term, has now taken up the reins of Moroccan champions AS FAR Rabat in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

This move sets the stage for a captivating journey for both the coach and the club. Consequently, Yanga has appointed Argentinian tactician Miguel Angel Gamondi to fill the void left by Nabi's departure.

Notably, Esperance de Tunis witnessed the departure of head coach Nabil Maaloul following the outfit's semi-final loss to Al Ahly SC in the previous season.

In his stead, the Tunisian powerhouse has reappointed Moin Chabaani, a figure well-versed in CAF Champions League triumphs, having led the team to consecutive victories in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons.

Another finalist in the last edition, Wydad Athletic Club, embarks on a fresh journey under new leadership. Adil Ramzi has taken the reins as head coach, succeeding Belgian coach Sven Vandebroek.

In a fascinating managerial shuffle, Vandebroek now finds himself at the helm of Algerian champions CR Belouizdad, stepping into the shoes

of Nabil Kouki.

Intriguingly, Moroccan giant Raja Club Athletic welcomes Josef Zinnbauer as the outfit's new head coach, marking a historic occasion as the first-ever German to lead the club. Zinnbauer was earlier the head coach at South African soccer giant, Orlando Pirates.

Meanwhile, TP Mazembe has welcomed back former head coach, Senegalese Lamine N'Diaye for the 2023/24 season.

N'Diaye's return aims to reignite the outfit's fortunes after a disappointing campaign last season, during which the team exited the CAF Confederation Cup at the Group Stage.

His previous tenure saw the gaffer guide TP Mazembe, nicknamed 'Ravens', to victory in the 2009/10 competition and secure back-to-back CAF Super Cup titles in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 editions.

As the 2023/24 CAF Champions League draws near, these coaching changes promise an engaging blend of experience, tactics, and aspirations, setting the stage for a thrilling chapter in African football.

The countdown is on as the 2023/24 CAF Champions League campaign is poised to kick off on Friday.

With 16 coveted spots up for grabs for the Group Stage, African football enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the tournament's commencement.

In a notable departure from previous years, this edition will see a significant alteration in the format.

For the first time in recent memory, there will be no playoff round for teams that face elimination in the second preliminary stage.

This change adds an intriguing dynamic to the competition, intensifying the race for a place in the prestigious Group Stage.

## The puzzle around Mo Dewji's tweet: For whom the bell tolls

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PUNDITS appeared to agree rather hazily as to the purpose of the tweet by Simba SC sponsor cum investor, Mohammed Dewji, as to his having disbursed three billion shillings for player registration, apparently adding 'so no excuse'.

The tweet came in the night after the penalties win by the city giants in a 2023/24 Community Shield semi-final encounter with Singida Big Stars, whose own signing bill is unlikely to be anywhere the city side's purported eight billion shillings total expense. The issue needing to be resolved was the message.

Without really resolving the issue of motivation for writing the tweet, pundits in at least one radio talk show zeroed in on whether the tweet was true - that the sums of money had indeed been disbursed.

That did not appear too complicated as the sponsor had given such commitment when the club's annual budget was being unveiled during pre-season activities, and implicitly he had carried out his promise. Thus the pundits were lost on how far he indeed had to make a point of saying so!

To a few observers far from the radio mikes, it did not appear that the sponsor was bragging that he had paid a huge amount of money for the club's welfare.

From the breakdown, all other substantial inputs of funds were corporate, like (randomly) television rights payments, Premier League sponsorship, registration cash for the Africa Football League, selling of club shirts, etc, so, why would the investor's 3bn/- stand out singularly, in a 25bn/- club kitty?

For one thing, it is also possible that the pundits were mistaken, that the sponsor was not bragging about his contribution, nor indeed was the remark directed foremost at leaders and groups of plotters in the club.

The discussion all too easily descended into a bit of a witch hunt as to who wishes to sideline the sponsor, and indeed, at one point, he may have intimated throwing in the towel as to his key role in the club, etc.

Internal bickering notwithstanding, it did not appear he



Simba SC investor Mohammed Dewji

ever moved to make up his mind in that direction, and then disavowed at some point.

The key to the tweet does not appear to be the figure, and thus a presumed intention to brag about it, as that would in a sense be preposterous.

It reminds us of a dispute among African writers after independence, with the French-speaking part feverish about a notion known as Negritude, being a Negro.

It is something like a fairly active idea of Ubuntu in South Africa, as a psychic characteristic of being Bantu.

A Nigerian writer making it up in African ranks at that time wondered what is useful about the idea, as being African is visible for all to see, in which case there is no need for being shouted to the top of one's voice.

He took an example that a tiger does not have to shout its 'tigrity', as anyone who meets a tiger or sees it in action, will know precisely what it is.

In that sense, a billionaire sponsor cannot shout about his being rich, or having contributed a massive amount of money for registrations.

Were it that there was more than one investor or he was not an honorary president or had a limited track record in the club, one could imagine he may pick a moment to say this or that, despite that it would be unlikely even then.

Such precisions about how much money someone contributed are committee matters, not social media exchanges after a match where the club side narrowly won the game.

The result on the pitch was contrary to expectations so the sponsor merely registered displeasure.

That was the point about the second aspect of the tweet, which the pundits ignored, namely that there is no excuse for failure or poor performance against sides like Singida Big Stars.

And indeed the issue would not be the Singida side in the first place but only as an illustration of the sort of results that the honorary president would not like to see being prolonged.

It was a reminder to the coach, the technical bench, and players that there is no excuse for poor performance, for a squad of that

size, as his contribution is, so to speak, far from negligible.

So it would have been more appropriate to determine if the remark was right, that a squad costing what the club leadership has spent can allow itself to be put to a draw, and only survive by a penalty shootout.

In a sense, the sponsor-cum-investor was helping the coach, or reminding the coach if he had also kind of forgotten, that squad like that ought to perform. Being saved by lucky penalties was out of place.

Seen from that point of view it becomes a point of concern on the value of the team and the results it obtained on that day, not about how much the sponsor has given to the club generally.

Even if some pundits wish to debate whether as a club sponsor or honorary president, he ought to comment on match results or not, it remains valid that as a sponsor and honorary president, he can sometimes air a viewpoint, with the intent to put right some things.

In this particular intervention, he was not talking about money put into the club but squad value and performance. It was just fair.



Musicians making Tanzanite Music Band are pictured entertaining attendees at the launch of the quality logo for ALAF Company's product guarantee system in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



## Lionel Messi on target as Miami rout Union to reach Leagues Cup final

PHILADELPHIA

LIONEL Messi extended his remarkable goal-scoring streak as Inter Miami powered into the final of the Leagues Cup with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Philadelphia Union on Tuesday.

The Argentina superstar took his tally to nine goals in six appearances for Miami in an entertaining semi-final at Philadelphia's Subaru Park.

Venezuelan international Josef Martinez, Messi's former Barcelona team-mate Jordi Alba, and substitute David Ruiz scored Miami's other goals, with Alejandro Bedoya the lone scorer for out-gunned Philadelphia.

The result leaves Messi preparing for the 42nd final of his career with Miami facing Nashville SC in Saturday's final of the World Cup-style tournament for teams from Mexico and Major League Soccer.

Nashville booked their place in the final later Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Mexican side Monterrey and will host the final this weekend.

Miami meanwhile were left basking in a victory which also sees them qualify for the CONCACAF Champions Cup regional tournament next season -- potentially opening up a route into FIFA's expanded Club World Cup in 2025.

"Our goal was to qualify for international competition next season and we've done that tonight," said Miami head coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino.

"This most important thing was achieving qualification for Concacaf Champions Cup, and now we have to prepare to win this tournament, which has us feeling very motivated and confident."

Miami's semi-final in Philadelphia was in theory supposed to be the toughest assignment yet faced by Messi since he made his debut for Miami on July 21 after joining from Paris Saint-Germain.

Philadelphia are one of the strongest teams in MLS, and are third in the Eastern Conference standings while Miami are bottom of the table.

- Early strike -

The Union have also been practically invincible at home, losing only once in their previous 38 games at Subaru Park. But the home side were left in disarray just three minutes after kick-off as Miami took the lead.

A long ball forward from Ukrainian defender Sergiy Kryvtsov sowed panic in the Union back line, and Martinez latched onto the pass before rifling a shot past diving Philadelphia goalkeeper Andre Blake.

Philadelphia should have equalised five minutes later when Hungary international Daniel Gazdag went through on goal only to shoot straight at Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender.

Gazdag had another good chance after 19 minutes, but saw his curling shot from the edge of the area fly just wide.

If that chance encouraged Philadelphia, the optimism was short-lived as Messi struck once again to punish slack Union defending.

Damion Lowe was caught napping and Martinez spun away from the defender to release Messi, who was given far too much time and space to direct a fierce low strike from outside the area into the bottom corner past Blake.

Philadelphia responded with sustained pressure, and Gazdag tested Callender from long range once more with a rasping shot on 29 minutes.

Although Union enjoyed plenty of territory and possession, it was Miami who struck the decisive blow on half-time.

AFP

## UEFA chief says football must 'eliminate cancer' of hooliganism

ATHENS

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin on Wednesday urged European football to "eliminate the cancer" of hooliganism.

Ceferin was speaking in Athens in the wake of last week's fatal stabbing of a fan ahead of a Champions League qualifier.

"The problem of violence and hooliganism is not just Greek, it is European," he told a joint press conference with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"I call on everyone at a European level to eliminate this cancer", he added.

AEK Athens fan Michalis Katsouris, 29, died after being stabbed during violent clashes on the eve of Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb's qualifier at AEK near the Greek club's stadium in Nea Filadelfia, a western suburb of Athens.

Last Tuesday's match was then postponed by UEFA until 19 August.

"We will do everything in our power to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again," said Ceferin.

On Sunday, the Greek courts charged 105 people with involvement in the incidents and remanded them in custody. The accused include 102 Croatians, suspected of being linked to the Bad Blue Boys, a Dinamo Zagreb ultra group.

"The guilty parties will be found and punished for this murder," said the Greek prime minister, who also called for a "European mechanism to tackle violence in stadiums and punish it effectively."

AFP

# The stars signing up for Saudi's football project

LONDON

SAUDI Arabia has emerged as a force in the football transfer market this year, offering eye-watering salaries that have lured a host of big names including Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the oil-rich Gulf kingdom.

Here, AFP Sport takes a look at some of the biggest names to make the move:

\*The stars

Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival in January to play for Riyadh-based Al-Nassr is what first drew global attention to ongoing efforts to boost the Saudi Pro League.

He was followed by his former Real Madrid teammate Karim Benzema, the 2022 Ballon d'Or winner who signed a three-year contract with Al-Ittihad in June.

Just a few days later, fellow Frenchman N'Golo Kante joined the same Jeddah-based club, also on a three-year deal.

The veteran and member of France's victorious 2018 World Cup squad will form a partnership with Brazilian Fabinho, arriving from Liverpool, in midfield.

Still buzzing from his historic FA Cup semi-final hat-trick for Manchester City in April,



Karim Benzema

Algeria captain Riyad Mahrez has signed for four years with Jeddah-based Al-Ahli, a transfer estimated at 35 million euros.

Senegalese star Sadio Mane, who helped Liverpool to the Premier League and Champions League titles before heading to a Bundesliga crown with Bayern Munich, signed with Ronaldo's Al-Nassr at the start of this month for a reported annual salary of 40 million euros plus 10 million euros in results-based bonuses.

The latest coup for the Saudis is Brazil forward Neymar who signed on

Tuesday for Al-Hilal on a two-year contract after six seasons with French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

Sources close to the deal say his salary, like Benzema and Kante, will be around 100 million euros per season.

PSG are likely to receive the same amount as a fee, considerably less than the world record fee of 222 million euros they paid Barcelona for his services in 2017.

\* Past their prime -

Along with top-tier stars, several other big names in the sport are starting new chapters in

Saudi Arabia.

Marcelo Brozovic, who captained Inter Milan in last season's Champions League final, has signed a three-year deal with Al-Nassr, who reportedly paid a transfer fee of 18 million euros.

Ex-Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson has joined Al-Ettifaq until 2026, drawing heavy criticism given his past support for the LG-BTQ community and the fact that Saudi Arabia outlaws homosexuality.

Another former Liverpool star, Brazilian international Roberto Firmino, left the team

after eight seasons for Al-Ahli, who have also landed Edouard Mendy of Senegal.

Kalidou Koulibaly, for his part, bade farewell to Stamford Bridge for Al-Hilal for a reported transfer fee of 23 million euros.

\* Rising talent -

It is not just fading stars who are making the trip to the Gulf.

The 28-year-old Ivorian midfielder Seko Fofana has also joined Ronaldo at Al-Nassr, leaving French outfit Lens as they prepare to return to the Champions League.

After eight years with Lazio, Serbian midfield-

er Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, also 28, has inked a three-year deal with Al-Hilal.

He will be joined by 26-year-old Ruben Neves, the Portuguese star who was previously tipped for a move to Barcelona.

Another 26-year-old, Frenchman Allan Saint-Maximin, has joined Al-Ahli from Newcastle, which is 80-percent owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund.

- The coaches -

The Saudi Pro League has also drawn renowned coaches.

Dismissed by Aston Villa in October, iconic former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard signed with Al-Ettifaq until 2025, and a clip of him introducing himself in halting Arabic has gone viral on social media.

Former Croatia and West Ham boss Slaven Bilic will join the Al-Fateh bench.

After leaving Fenerbahce in June, former Benfica coach Jorge Jesus has returned to Al-Hilal, where he worked in 2018-2019.

And in late July, Al-Ahli named 35-year-old German Matthias Jaissle, regarded as one of the most promising managers of his generation, as their new coach.

AFP

## Bayern pin hopes on 'messiah' Kane as Bundesliga returns

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich are pinning their hopes on England captain Harry Kane to return a stuttering team fresh off their worst season in a decade to the European elite.

Bayern's 11th straight Bundesliga title failed to paper over the cracks of a side which is yet to click since the arrival of coach Thomas Tuchel in March.

Last week's signing of Kane for 100 million euros (\$109 million) from Premier League side Tottenham broke the German club's transfer record.

The deal also broke a long-standing promise from former boss Uli Hoeness that the club "wouldn't buy a player for 100 million even if I had the money".

But whether the 30-year-old Kane, who arrives after a successful but trophyless career in north London, can truly be Bayern's saviour remains to be seen.

- 'A bad start' -

Bayern limped to the title in 2022-23, winning on goal difference after Borussia Dortmund's last-day collapse to draw at home with mid-table Mainz.

Bayern's points total of 71 was their lowest since 2010-11, when the side finished third under caretaker coach Andries Jonker.

The shock firing of Julian Nagelsmann for Tuchel in March failed to have the desired effect, with Bayern knocked out of the German Cup and the Champions League soon afterwards.

Former Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic repeatedly dismissed criticisms of



Harry Kane

the team under Tuchel, saying the side needed time to get used to the Champions League-winning coach's methods.

In late May, just days before he himself was sacked, Salihamidzic told Sky: "Thomas Tuchel just needs the pre-season with the team, then everything will be better."

Early evidence however suggests Bayern have not solved their problems from last season.

On Saturday, Bayern were beaten 3-0 at home by RB Leipzig in the German Super Cup with Kane making little impact, making his debut as a late substitute.

Just like last season, Bayern lacked fluency and coherence, with a "sorry" Tuchel saying Kane "probably thinks we haven't been training

here for weeks".

Tuchel blamed his side's "bad start" to the match and said he saw a "huge discrepancy" between what his team produced at training and what they showed on the

pitch.

Tuchel said he was "frightened", telling reporters he has "no solution" to the side's problems.

Tuchel has publicly called for a new de-

fensive midfielder, while the ongoing saga surrounding injured captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was made worse by the sale of replacement Yann Sommer to Inter Milan.

- 'Walking on water' -  
Even for the richest club in Germany, the outlay on Kane was lavish and the Bayern brass will want an immediate return.

Tuchel said as much after Saturday's result, saying Kane would "soon help the team and lift us up to a new level".

"We have to get to know him but he will play every game."

Kane embraced the expectations on him at his unveiling on Sunday, saying: "I'm here to win the Champions League with this team."

The sky-high expectations on Kane come after the failed signing of Sadio Mane.

Mane, another arrival from the Premier League unveiled to great fanfare, lasted just one disappointing year in Munich, having failed to step into the shoes of the departed Robert Lewan-

dowski.

Lewandowski scored 344 goals in 375 Bayern appearances during his eight years at the club, making the Pole an almost impossible act to follow.

As a true centre-forward, Kane is more likely than the Senegalese to match Lewandowski's output, but whether he alone can return Bayern to the European elite is a task questioned by the club's rivals.

Leipzig sporting director Max Eberl said after his side's dominant performance on Saturday that the hype around Kane made the England captain seem "like the messiah, walking on water".

Kane's first true test will come on Friday, when he will start up front as Bayern take on Werder Bremen in the season opener.

If Kane takes too long to resemble the second coming of Lewandowski, the England captain will soon realise how quickly patience wears thin in Bavaria.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





The stars signing up for Saudi's football project

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## Simba SC gunning for perfect start against Mtibwa Sugar in Premier League



Simba SC's goal-getter, Jean Baleke (L), challenges Mtibwa Sugar's center-back, Vedastus Mwiambi, as the two squads faced each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter at Manungu Stadium in Turiani, Morogoro on March 11 this year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

**F**RESH from lifting the 2023/24 Community Shield last weekend, Simba SC begins the club's latest bid for NBC Premier League supremacy away to Mtibwa Sugar at the Manungu Stadium in Morogoro in the afternoon.

After falling short last season, Simba SC's aim for 2023-2024 is simple- go one better and secure the NBC Premier League silverware.

They have enjoyed a successful pre-season preparation, including winning the 2023/24 Community Shield.

Simba SC lost just one of the outfit's 30 NBC Premier League games last season, picking up 22 wins and seven

draws along the way. On top of that, the team netted an impressive 75 goals.

They start their campaign looking for a perfect start against a side they handed a total of eight unanswered goals last season.

Simba SC has improved the squad with the signings of Willy Onana, Aubin Kra-

mo, Che Malone Fondoh, Fabrice Ngoma, and Luis Miquissone.

They were joined by locals, David Kameta 'Duchu', Hussein Kazi, Shaaban Idd Chilunda, and Hamis Abdallah, as well as Moroccan goalkeeper Ayub Lakred.

Malawian midfielder Peter Banda's imminent exit

from the Msimbazi Street side could bring the number of departures to 12.

Simba SC released goalkeeper Benno Kakolanya, fullback Gadiel Michael, center-back Mohamed Ouattara, and midfielders Ismael Sawadogo, Victor Akpan, and Nelson Okwa.

The list also has midfielders Jonas Mkude, Erasto Nyoni, and Augustine Okrah, defender Joash Onyango, attacker Habib Kyombo and winger Pape Sakho.

The Roberto Oliveira-coached side is heavily backed to secure the first win of the season in this match, though the squad will need to sharpen up, having failed to score in two Community Shield outings.

Meanwhile, Mtibwa Sugar will be hoping for a much better league campaign after watching last season fizzle out with only three wins in the club's second-phase matches, along with eight losses and four draws.

Their poor end to the season saw them finish two places and two points above the relegation zone, recording nine wins, eight draws, and 13 losses in their 30 league matches.

The hosts under new head

coach Habib Kondo have strengthened their squad with the signings of Haruna Shamte, Abdulhillary Hassan, Fredrick Magata, Kassim Haruna, Seif Karihe, Kassim Suleiman, Yassin Mustapha, Juma Luizio, and Kevin Nashon.

The likes of Onesmo Mayaya, Charles Ilanfy, Issa Rashid, Ismail Muhesa, and up-and-coming goal-getter Athuman Masumbuko 'Makambo', have all left the club for new pastures.

Mtibwa Sugar experienced a mixed set of results in the side's pre-season campaign, although a record of just one victory in five games is not a great record for Kondo's team.

The team's chances of staying in the league this season will not depend on their results against the likes of Simba SC, but the former's recent record against the Dar es Salaam outfit needs to improve.

In head-to-head stats, Simba SC and Mtibwa Sugar have met in 26 league matches since 2010/11.

Simba SC has claimed 17 wins while seven matches have ended in draws. Mtibwa Sugar has won just two games.



Namungo FC's head coach, Cedric Kaze. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAMUNGO FC

## Cedric Kaze happy with Namungo FC's progress

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DESPITE losing 1-0 to JKT Tanzania in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League opening game on Tuesday, Namungo FC head coach Cedric Kaze is content with the progress his side is making and said the side will fix the finishing challenges.

The Burundian coach endured a disappointing start with Namungo FC when his outfit lost 0-1 to JKT Tanzania at Majaliwa Stadium.

The clash witnessed Namungo FC goalkeeper Jonathan Nahimana's failure to deal with a free kick by JKT Tanzania's Martin Kiggi in the first half proving costly in the end for the Southerners.

However, Kaze was pleased with what he saw from his charges and believes luck was not on their side after seeing his team hit the woodwork twice.

The Burundian gaffer noted: "The important thing I saw on the pitch was the performance of the players, the way they committed themselves, we created many goal-scoring opportunities and hit the woodwork twice."

Kaze stated: "This gives us the courage to continue with the work we are doing, we believe that luck will be on our side tomorrow or the day after... I can say luck was not on our side today."

The tactician, who has joined Namungo FC from his spell with Young Africans SC (Yanga) also explained the team's striking issue.

With Reliants Lusajo and new signing Kelvin Sabato missing the game, he was forced to use Ali Abdallah 'Mkoko' who unfortunately lasted for 14 minutes after picking a knock and had to be replaced.

The Burundian coach pointed out: "It's true, it is what it is, we have to deal with it, the man we use as a central striker, Reliants Lusajo, is injured."

"Sabato is not fit, he was late for pre-season, it is a challenge but we believe in the future we will fix it," Kaze said.

The home team endured a relatively decent campaign last season, finishing fifth place.

They will look to improve upon that finish this season and claim one of the continental tickets.

Kaze, who replaced Tanzanian tactician Dennis Kitambi, is tasked with ensuring they earn a continental tournament ticket.

The next league game for Namungo FC, popularly known as 'Southern Killers', is on Saturday against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC which will see them play at home yet again.

## Popular UK female boxer inspires Tanzania's boxers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

REVERED United Kingdom's female professional boxer Natasha Jonas has advised Tanzania's boxers to work hard so that they can realize their dreams of becoming top pugilists.

Liverpool-based Natasha, currently on a two-week tour in Tanzania, issued her comments at an inspirational and motivational forum that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The forum that attracted upcoming and established amateur and professional boxers was organized by National Sports Council (NSC) and Kasi Sports Group.

Also in attendance were officials from the Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) and the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Committee (TPBRC).

"There are many challenges the boxers face, I went through them but my dream was to become a top professional boxer... I realized it," the UK boxer noted.

The pugilist pointed out: "Recently, while in the country, I saw young boxers train, they were doing well but they had worn-out equipment, they were hard-working and dedicated."

She added: "I tried to join them in training but their equipment was very bad, to be honest, their hard-working (nature) and dedication were motivational to me."

"My advice to Tanzania's

boxers is that regardless of the obstacles and challenges they face, they must work hard."

"(They must) never give up as everything is possible, when I was four years old I also developed an interest in boxing but (went on to become) a recognized boxer at the age of 20," she said.

The boxer also disclosed that like in Tanzania, the UK government is only supporting amateur boxers financially, adding when a boxer shifts to professional boxing, he/she is supported by professional boxing bodies.

She assured the local boxing fraternity that she will use her connections and influence to help local boxers, she, however, said the initiative could come to fruition if local boxers show willingness

to work with professional boxing organizations.

Benson Chacha, NSC Acting Executive Secretary, assured Natasha that the government is committed to developing boxing in the country.

"Natasha is here in Tanzania to share her experience as a boxer and a mother, I'm sure that she will motivate many upcoming and established boxers."

"The country is doing well in boxing as witnessed in the recent Africa Boxing Championships in Cameroon where our boxers won two medals and in last year's Commonwealth Games in England where we also won medals," the NSC leader noted.

"Professional boxers have also been doing well, that is a clear sign that the government is committed to devel-

oping boxing in the country," he said.

BFT secretary-general Makore Mashaga and George Silas, TPBRC's secretary-general, hailed Natasha's visit to Tanzania, saying it will inspire many boxers.

"Natasha has broken barriers that even some men have failed to achieve, her background is enough to motivate our local boxers so that they should believe in their aspirations," Mashaga noted.

In 2012, Natasha became the first female British boxer to win the British Boxing Board of Control (BBOC) Award. Natasha took up boxing in 2005 and, by 2010, she had won five ABA Championships in the 64kg division for Liverpool club- Rotunda ABC.

In 2009, she became the first female boxer to com-

pete for GB Boxing, and, in the same year, she claimed the gold medal in the 64kg division in the 2009 Women's European Union Amateur Boxing Championships in Bulgaria.

In 2010, she got a gold medal in the inaugural GB Amateur Boxing Championships.

The pugilist made history in Qinhuangdao, China in May 2012, when she reached the semi-finals of the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships to become the first-ever female British boxer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

She then went on to take the bronze medal and a place in the 2012 London Olympics, consequently emerging as the first British Female boxer to compete in Olympic Games.



Ibrahim Hassan (R) dribbles past his teammates when the youngsters' team took part in a training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

