



## INSURANCE



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# 'Microfinance lending terms not helpful in farming sector'

The workshop brought the partners around top priorities for accelerating food systems and climate action, seeking accelerated progress on specific public-private flagship initiatives ahead of major conferences later this year

By Henry Mwangonde

AGRICULTURE financing policy is being reformulated to address bottlenecks in accessing capital in the agriculture sector, the government has declared.

Hussein Bashe, the sector minister, told the Tanzania food systems partnership dialogue and workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday that discussions were at an advanced stage with relevant ministries and institutions to review the sector's financial infrastructure.

"Currently our financial infrastructure does not finance the business concept, we want this narrative to change," he emphasised, elaborating that the aim is to let the policy 'twist' what is happening currently where financing is done via the microfinance policy.

Underlining that the wider intention is to facilitate agro-sector growth and im-

prove food security, noting that last year where the wider economy had over 25trn/- in loans only 3trn/- went to the agriculture sector.

As this is a sector which employs 80 per cent of Tanzanians, the current plan is to have at least 30-percent of the loans issued in the economy to be directed to the agriculture sector, which requires "a strong agriculture financing policy which will reduce interest rates from the current 25 per cent to a single digit."

Pointing at technical snags of the agro-sector, he said that agriculture is different from other businesses as no one can repay an agriculture loan in one or two years as it is with commercial loans.

Loan guarantee schemes being offered by the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) addresses lending issues generally and not specifically for agriculture

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Traders once operating from Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo Market complex gathered outside the CCM sub-headquarters office in the city yesterday in connection with the registration of those eligible for allocation of space at the once fire-gutted but now-renovated structure. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Hearing loss on the rise, top Muhimbili expert warns

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

YOUTHS riding excessively noisy motorcycles are at an even greater threat of hearing loss than urban residents exposed to noisy environments generally, who also need to take precautions to prevent partial or intense hearing disability.

Dr Fikiri Iddi, an audiology and speech pathology specialist at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) spelled out this warning at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), recommending that individuals exposed to excessive noise utilise protective gear such as earplugs or earmuffs to minimise adverse effects.

The specialist emphasised the ear's crucial role as one of the five senses which contribute to mental balance, improving speech and language as well as preventing

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# Japan adds 8.9bn/- in Kigoma port funding

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has received an additional 548m yen (8.9bn/-) to implement the Kigoma Port rehabilitation project after two aid agreements were amended.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary said that the amendment was effected by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in consultation with the Japanese embassy, the pact being signed yesterday.

The Treasury executive signed for the government, while Japanese ambassador



With intent to increase cooperation, amending the agreements ensures that the project will be implemented effectively

Yasushi Misawa and the JICA resident representative Hitoshi Ara signed the pact.

The Japanese government through an agreement signed on February 4, 2022, provided 2.73bn yen (44.42bn/-) for rehabilitating the port, she said, noting that the project has now received 3.27bn yen (53.35bn/-), with additional funding arising from depreciation of both currencies against the US dollar.

She expressed Tanzania's readiness for greater cooperation and mutual economic opportunities, and that the government

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## 'Chimpanzee conservation needs greater joint efforts'

Chimpanzee research is among the studies approved and funded by COSTECH for local researchers and college studies

By Getrude Mbago

JOINT efforts between the government and key conservation organisations are needed to take the chimpanzee population in the country out of danger, a key stakeholder has appealed. Dr Deus Mjun-

gu, research director at the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) working both from Washington DC and offices in Dar es Salaam, made the call in the city yesterday when a JGI team visited the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). Back in November 2023 the United

States Agency for International Development (USAID), JGI and the government signed on a 'hope through action' project intended to take the chimpanzee population at Gombe National Park out of danger, among other things.

"Funded by the American people, in part through USAID's Gender Equity and Equality Fund, the project will be locally managed and led by the Tanzanian chapter of Jane Goodall's namesake organization," a statement from JGI in Washington DC had indicated, asserting that the project will build on 20 years of USAID-JGI's partnership for sustainable development, habitat restoration and protection work in the ecological area.

The visit was conducted ahead of

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## SPORTS

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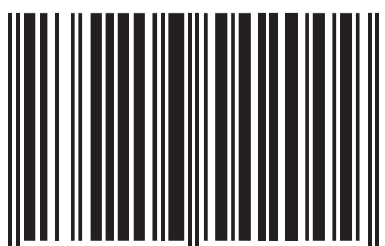


Tanzania representatives discover opponents in 2024/25 CAF inter-club competitions

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With a late goal fit for a king, England reaches another Euro final by beating Netherlands 2-1



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# 'Microfinance lending terms not helpful in farming sector'

FROM PAGE 1

financing.

Hailemariam Dessalegn, the former Ethiopian prime minister and board chairman for Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), said there is need for addressing challenges facing the agriculture sector, including post-harvest losses.

"We need to have strategies to address this and one of them is to merchandise agriculture," he said, affirming that AGRA is working with partner organisations to address the problem.

The workshop brought the partners around top priorities for accelerating food systems and climate action, seeking accelerated progress on specific public-private flagship initiatives ahead of major conferences later this year.

Scheduled conferences include the 2024 Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF), the Sustainable Development Impact Summit, and the global climate change conference

(COP 29), all of which will pursue existing initiatives on food systems, climate and environment, he said.

The conference builds momentum in policy reflection on the agriculture sector against the backdrop of the Africa Climate Summit, COP 28 and the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 in Dar es Salaam under the theme 'Recover, Regenerate, Act,' to set out Africa's solutions to the food systems crisis.

It was in this forum that the 'Building a Better Tomorrow' (BBT) initiative, a key programme for youth in commercial agriculture, while the meeting took stock of progress made in such initiatives, evaluating the momentum of its food system pathways.

Top officials say that Tanzania has transformed the country's policy direction in ensuring food security is attained in the short term while building more inclusive, sustainable, nutritious and resilient food systems in the medium term. It similarly aspires to be a grain supplier for the wider African market.

# 'Chimpanzee conservation needs greater joint efforts'

FROM PAGE 1

World Chimpanzee Day on July 14, to underline the need for renewed and robust strategies to protect the vital chimpanzee colonies.

Experts say the unique animals in the park face an existential threat.

From around 150 chimpanzees in the 1960s, the total population in Gombe National Park has declined down to 85 on account of disease outbreaks and human activities within the park, the conservators noted in the past week.

Conservation efforts are linked with the work of legendary primatologist Dr Jane Goodall, whose research offered what experts say are "invaluable insights into human evolution and behaviour."

The JGI director has a track record of 65 years in studying the behaviour and lives of Gombe's chimpanzees, and worries over the last remaining habitats for wild chimpanzees globally.

From 20 to 150 chimpanzees in the park in past decades as the research began, their numbers have dropped largely due to respiratory diseases transmitted through interactions with humans, he said.

Previously the forest provided abundant food for the chimpanzees, keeping them within the park, he said, noting that with rising human activities, they are being pushed to venture outside in search of food.

This exposes the animals to the danger of contracting diseases by proximity with other species, hence the need for educating communities on environmental conservation, natural resource management and.

"We are collaborating with local government authorities to raise awareness for the park's conserva-

tion," he said, stressing the need to create a forest corridor from the park's north to south near Burundi.

This will facilitate genetic exchange among chimpanzees in neighbouring areas, he stated, explaining that this approach would protect diverse chimpanzee populations and prevent extinction caused by genetic homogenization.

Safeguarding the park demands intense control of human activities as this not only benefits other wildlife but also ensures that future generations can witness wild chimpanzees, he emphasized.

Institute founder Dr Goodall said the entity was closely working with the government to address conservation threats through science and technology, along with providing education on the unique natural resource and its environmental needs.

As the human population increases and forests decrease, large numbers of chimpanzees are divided, shrinking their genetic diversity, she said, pointing at the need for focusing on actions that not only protect endangered animals and their habitats, but also benefit the local people whose lives depend on a healthy environment.

Dr Amos Nungu, the COSTECH director general, acknowledged the longstanding chimpanzee research initiated by Dr Goodall, who now celebrates her 90th birthday.

"Today, researchers from Gombe National Park have visited us," he stated, noting that their extensive research has significantly influenced global perceptions of human-animal interactions.

Chimpanzee research is among the studies approved and funded by COSTECH for local researchers and college studies, he added.

would be a lack of funds in the earlier plans, thus increasing project funds, he stated.

Kigoma port is a hub for goods destined to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, both by road and rail infrastructure, he said, intimating that Japan values projects promoting growth by strong infrastructure.

With intent to increase cooperation, amending the agreements ensures that the project will be implemented effectively, he added.



Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (L) and Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yasushi Misawa, exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an agreement on additional support amounting to 548 million Japanese yen (about 8.9 billion/-) for the implementation of the Kigoma Port rehabilitation project. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

# Hearing loss on the rise, Muhimbili expert warns

FROM PAGE 1

dizziness.

He pointed at areas with a noisy atmosphere like the central business district streets around the Kariakoo market, in showcasing a new service for early infant screening to help identify and promptly address any hearing challenges.

Highlighting the situation, he said parents often bring children with hearing impairments to the hospital at advanced stages, thus reducing the likelihood of restoring their hearing.

"If hearing problems are detected early, we can offer implants or hear-

ing aids, which can enhance hearing by up to 90 percent. Children often arrive here at ages six or seven, having lived with hearing disorders for years," he explained.

"Hearing disorders treatment expenses are also high where each device costs up to 70m/-, he elaborated, affirming that the government has been supporting costs of implanting such devices, allocated 2.6bn/- primarily covering their procurement.

"However, additional funding is necessary for installation and ongoing treatment of the child," he said, stressing children who are examined before reaching the age of five

are likely to overcome the impact of hearing constraints or inability to pronounce words as well as "a voice without waves."

Members of the general public need to undergo a hearing test once or twice a year by attending a clinic as the prevalence level of the problem is on the rise, he said, pointing out that the MNH clinic receives about 20 people with the problem every day.

Last year's data shows that 432m people had hearing problems worldwide, with 34 million children among them, he said, pointing at earphones as a critical factor in the tendency towards hearing loss, es-

pecially for those who ride motorcycles.

They wear earphones and in order to hear, they have to set the broadcast or other volume higher than that of the vehicle they are riding, he said, noting that to overcome hearing challenges at an early stage, one can use ear plugs or ear muffs to reduce the level of noise.

Statistics by the World Health Organization (WHO) have it that by 2050 up to 2.5bn people, one billion of whom will be youths, will have lost hearing ability. Upwards of 700m such people will be from Sub-Saharan Africa, the specialist added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured at Kasumu in Buhigwe District yesterday consoling members of the family of Doleta Minya, a resident of the village who died recently. The VP is on an official tour of Kigoma Region. Photo: VPO

# Kenyan president fires ministers after anti-tax protests

NAIROBI

KENYA'S under-fire President William Ruto has dismissed with "immediate effect" all his ministers and the attorney-general, following the recent deadly protests that led to the withdrawal of an unpopular tax bill.

The president said the move came after "reflection, listening to Kenyans, and after holistic appraisal of my cabinet".

He has said he will now consult widely in order to set up a broad-based government.

The dissolution of his cabinet does not affect the deputy president, who can't legally be fired, and the prime cabinet secretary who is also the foreign affairs minister.

Ruto said that government

operations would continue uninterrupted under the supervision of senior civil servants.

He said he would consult "across different sectors and political formations and other Kenyans, both in public and private" over a new government, but did not say when it would be announced.

The dramatic move is highly unusual, coming less than two years after he took office.

Kenyan president's humbling shows power of African youth

Historic first as president takes on Kenya's online army

Pay rise freeze for Kenyan MPs after public anger.

Three of the sacked ministers were MPs before leaving their legislative roles to join the cabinet barely two years ago.

One of them is Aden Duale, who in a prompt post on X (formerly Twitter) thanked the president and said he would "forever be indebted to him and the people of Kenya for this opportunity to serve" as Kenya's defence minister.

Last Thursday, President Ruto chaired a cabinet meeting which one of the local newspapers described as the "last supper" for the ministers.

Some of the ministers were linked to corruption scandals that led to the suspension of senior government officials within several ministries. But Mr Ruto had defended them, saying that there were no evidence to sack them.

Last October, Ruto announced a mini-cabinet reshuffle that affected at least eight ministers.

The last time an entire cabinet was dissolved was in 2005 when then President Mwai Kibaki did so shortly after losing a referendum over a new constitution.

Ruto has been under pressure from Kenyans who have continued holding anti-government protests and demanding more accountability from government, even though he agreed to withdraw his controversial tax rises.

Some of the protesters have been calling for the president to go.

Last week, Ruto announced a number of austerity measures across various government agencies.

He also ordered a freeze in proposed pay rises for members of his cabinet and parliament following a public outcry.

# Japan adds 8.9bn/- in Kigoma port funding

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will take all necessary measures to ensure that the project is well implemented to achieve intended goals.

The envoy said that Japan has provided financial support for the port rehabilitation project as it will stimulate economic growth, pointing at the rapid decline in currency exchange rates in recent years.

There was a sharp rise in the cost of goods and fuel, to the Japanese authorities realized that there



CCBRT Hospital CEO Brenda Msangi (R) explains to Choplife IP chief operating officer Oluwagbemiga Adekunfayo Odeneye in Dar es Salaam yesterday on knee amputation performed at the facility using 3D technology. Left is the Choplife Foundation Tanzania Country manager Loyce Oluoch. Photo: John Badi

## Russian envoy hails this year's DITF organisation

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AMBASSADOR of the Russian Federation to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan has hailed the organisation of the annual Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) saying that it helps deepen trade and business ties between the two countries.

In a special event organised by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) to provide opportunity for the Russia companies to present its investments and foster business ties, the envoy hailed the innovative occasion which helps to heighten ties.

He stated that Tanzania has abundant opportunities, a stable and conducive business environment for trade and investment growth, something which naturally attracts companies from all over the world.

He said Russia is among the first to discover all of the potentials of the Tanzanian investment landscape.

The ambassador said the trade fair which has attracted a number of foreign companies and businesses is a true meaning of President Samia Suluhu Hassan policy to promote economic diplomacy.

"Tanzania has a conducive and attractive business environment, it's the hope of my country that this on-going trade fair will open more opportunities for Russia companies to invest in Tanzania and also deepen the trade ties between the two beloved countries. The Russian business delegation has covered all promising fields of mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

He also disclosed that the Russia's public joint-stock company-PJSC will provide metals and other materials in assisting construction of the state-of-the-art stadiums for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027.

Other Russian companies which have business in the country include

LLC NPP A-Engineering which supplies equipment for oil and fat industry, Rapid Bio manufactures of pharmaceutical production, Lukoil Lubricants Africa S.A.R.L. the distributors of lubricants, Argentum Group (fertilizers), Mantra Tanzania Ltd. ("Mkuju river" uranium project), Veya Investment Ltd which is involved in oil drilling services.

The event also attended by various top government officials including Gerson Msigwa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Mavere Tukai, Director General of the Medical Stores Department (MSD), Joel Laurent who is the Director General of the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA).

Others are Marco Mtunga, Director General of the Cotton Board (TCB) and Primus Kimaryo, the Director General of the Coffee Board (TCB)

At the event, a Russian company-Rapid Bio LLC donated HIV antibodies test tools. The company also disclosed its plans to open a company in the country.

“...the trade fair which has attracted a number of foreign companies and businesses is a true meaning of President Samia Suluhu Hassan policy to promote economic diplomacy

## Regulation, stability to dominate debate at insurance brokers meet

By Henry Mwangonde

EXPLORING how regulation impacts growth and stability of the insurance sector is among key topics to dominate discussions in the coming annual regional conference of the Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association (TIBA), organisers said yesterday.

TIBA president Okoth Oloo said this year's conference to take place in Arusha on July 25, will also focus on cross-border trade affects growth of the sector as Tanzanian

brokers will learn from their regional peers.

He said the meeting will discuss the impact of regulation on the sector but also whether regulation is ahead of the market or the market is ahead of regulation.

Brokers from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) have been invited and are expected to share experience on how they operate.

The conference which will be held under the theme "Regulation

a catalyst for growth" will be graced by the Commissioner of Insurance Dr Baghayo Saqware.

Oloo noted that the participants will be taken through different topics including how to leverage on new technologies, regulatory landscape, customer experience in terms of products they offer, traditional and emerging distribution channels.

The insurance sector in Tanzania are devising new ways to tap into new emerging distribution channels to complement the

traditional channels in a bid to widen insurance coverage in the country.

Insurance products have traditionally been sold through brokers and agents through other emerging channels such as call centers, bancassurance, internet, and mobile have been rapidly gaining momentum.

Speaking at the event, Chair lady Anna Lema said for the organizing committee said this year's meet has been specially organised saying registration has already started.

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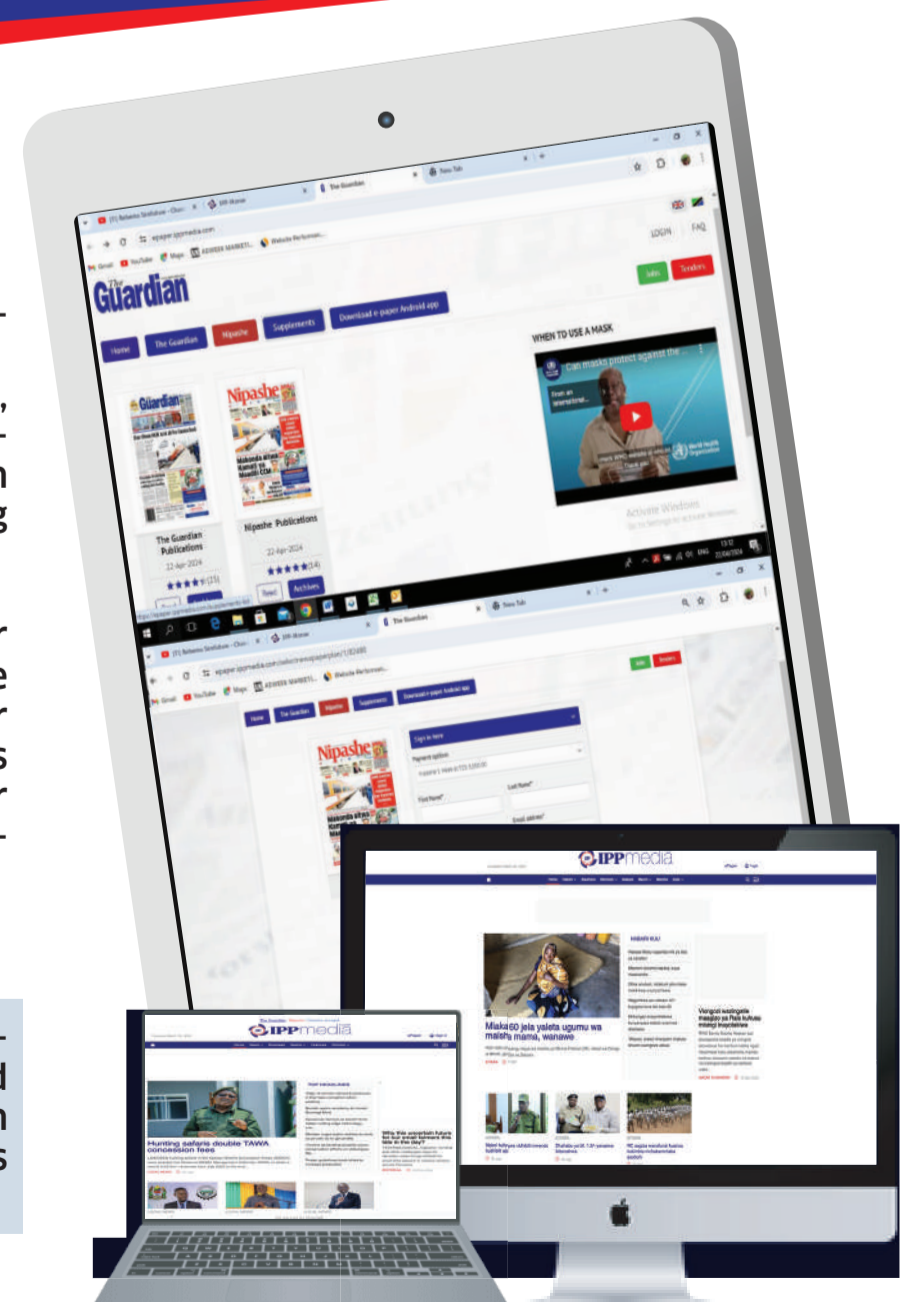
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## Kairuki roots for increased tree seedling production and supply

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Angella Kairuki has directed the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) to intensify production and distribution of tree seedlings to reach more people in the country with aim to enhance protection of forests which are vulnerable to depletion.

Kairuki made the directives yesterday when visited Tree Seed Production Centre here.

"Our forests are facing a growing threat of depletion something which calls for an accelerated effort to produce more seeds and supply them in various areas for mass tree planting," she remarked underscoring the need to allocate more funds to bolster support for the centre.

The Minister also underlined the importance for continued public education through various media platforms to heighten community awareness on the significance of high-quality tree seeds.

Prof. Dos Santos Silayo, TFS Conservation Commissioner has announced plans to bolster efficiency in service delivery by expanding its procurement capabilities which include hiring more competent professionals.

He made the declaration yesterday during the launch of preparations for the 2024/25 fiscal year procurement plan, coupled with specialized training.

The initiative, as outlined by Prof. Silayo, aims to align TFS operations with governmental directives, leveraging modern systems to streamline costs and improve service delivery. The training session involved Zone Commissioners and procurement officers from various regions nationwide.

Highlighting ongoing efforts to address staffing gaps in public procurement, Prof. Silayo stressed

the significance of comprehensive training to ensure compliance with evolving legislative frameworks governing procurement and financial management.

According to him, the initiative aims to align TFS with government directives using modern systems to reduce government costs and enhance service delivery.

"In the current fiscal year's budget, our procurement and supply allocation has increased from 300m/- to 600m/-," Prof. Silayo noted, underlining the critical role of vigilant planning in optimizing the government's expenditure, which primarily revolves around procurement activities.

He urged procurement officers to uphold regulatory standards across all organizational levels.

Fridolin Matembo, Assistant Commissioner of Procurement at TFS, underscored that the training initiative aims to enhance efficiency and deepen understanding of new government procurement systems, hence help save unnecessary government expenditure.

These systems, including the National e-Procurement System (NeST), Government Payment System (MUSE), and others, have significantly curtailed unnecessary expenditures while enhancing transparency in public procurement processes.

"Upon mastering these systems, our experts will adeptly formulate the annual procurement plan, ensuring seamless execution for the upcoming fiscal year in accordance with legal and procedural requirements," Matembo affirmed.

He also expressed gratitude for government initiatives such as the establishment of TFS commissioner offices across all regions, construction of emergency housing for anti-poaching units, and fortified security measures to safeguard natural reserves.



Dr Marcelina Baitilwake (C), Director of Admissions at the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the results of the first-round selection of applicants for Health and Allied Sciences programmes for academic year 2024/2025. She is with Awards manager Twaha A. Twaha (L) and Admissions manager Amina Aziz. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

THE Tanzania Institute of Education (TET) has signed a cooperation agreement with Chinese Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU) aimed at enhancing digital learning and teaching of Science subjects.

Dr Aneth Komba, Director General of TET announced the partnership in Dar es Salaam yesterday highlighting its significance in establishing a Science and Digital Education Centre and positioning TET as a national hub for science education.

She outlined several initiatives under the agreement, including capacity-building for curriculum developers and science teachers through short courses and long-term postgraduate and doctoral

## Tanzania, China cooperate to reinforce science studies

training programmes.

"We will also engage in collaborative research activities and strengthen the capacity of curriculum developers through long-term courses including postgraduate and doctoral training opportunities," Dr Komba stated.

She emphasized planned academic exchanges and student visits between TET and ZJNU to foster knowledge sharing, particularly in science and digital education.

To collaborate in preparing teaching and learning materials such as textbooks, manuals,

modules and texts with electronic content," said Dr Aneth.

She added that the cooperation will also involve academic visits to exchange students between the two institutions, sharing experience and knowledge in various educational areas, especially science and digital education.

Prof. Huang Xiao, Dean of ZJNU College, underscored the university's shared commitment to advancing education and innovation in digital learning.

She highlighted ZJNU's global strategy and successful collaborations with educational

institutions across Africa, including Tanzania.

"We are formalizing our partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), focusing on STEM education, digital learning, and research capacity," Prof. Huang commented.

She expressed confidence that the collaboration will enhance educational outcomes and prepare students for future challenges.

"Together, we are embarking on a journey to enrich the educational landscape in both our countries and beyond," Prof. Huang added.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has embarked on a second phase of the Organic Value Chain Development Project (OVCD) aimed at advancing farmers' skills in organic farming and enhance their participation in the value chain capitalizing on market opportunities.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, SAT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Janet Maro highlighted the project's objectives to educate farmers on organic farming techniques and facilitate their entry into global markets.

She said the initiative focuses on fostering sustainable practices, improving product quality and supporting the establishment of organic industries that meet both regional and international market demands.

She emphasized the importance of overcoming regulatory hurdles and ensuring compliance with market standards across Africa, the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Maro acknowledged the challenges faced by small-scale farmers in organic farming but expressed optimism in addressing these through collaborative efforts with relevant

## SAT joins drive to train farmers on organic farming techniques

institutions. She underscored the health benefits of organic produce and its positive impact on environmental conservation.

To date, SAT has reached 150,000 farmers across 16 regions in Tanzania, leveraging farmer groups and local leaders to promote organic farming for improved food security and nutrition.

Maro also noted successful collaborations with Tanzanian companies to export organic products like spices to the European Union, thereby boosting income for local farmers.

"Our efforts in collaboration with other stakeholders, products from organic farming are spices such as bell peppers, basil, and others have been able to enter the European market and our fellow Tanzanians have been able to increase their income," he said.

He said that increasing the value chain on organic agricultural products will also help the establishment of new small industries and reduce the employment problem for young people and women in this country.

Samson Swilla, Project Manager,

outlined plans to empower 30 SMEs and 30 farmer groups through training and market access improvements in collaboration with the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Association (TOAM). He highlighted ongoing efforts to expand the availability of organic products in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, with further expansion into other regions underway.

He noted that organic agriculture avoids harmful chemicals and pesticides, promoting both human health and environmental sustainability.

Avit Theophil, director of the Yes Group Company said the project will stimulate organic farming in Karagwe district, Kagera region hence increasing employment opportunities to youth and women. He welcomed the project's role in enhancing product quality and awareness.

Johanna Omere, founder of 'Im Organic' store, stressed the health benefits of organic foods, attributing certain diseases to the use of synthetic chemicals in conventional agriculture. She advocated for continued support for organic farming practices.



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR CRDB BANK OFFICES

- CRDB Bank Plc is an African Bank and Leading Financial Service Provider in Tanzania with current presence in Tanzania, Burundi and DRC Congo. The Bank was established in 1996 and was listed in the Dar-es-salaam stock Exchange (DSE) in June 2019.
- CRDB Bank PLC is currently inviting applications from all eligible, competent and experienced suppliers to apply for pre-qualification for provision of Electrical Works maintenance as tabulated in item 7 of this advertisement.
- Applications will be conducted according to CRDB Bank Plc Procurement Policies and Procedures. Only shortlisted suppliers will be eligible for engagement when need arise based on the framework prices.
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### JOB VACANCY

Company based out in Dar Es Salaam is looking for Experienced Clearing and forwarding staff who has good expertise in Importing Construction equipments such as excavators, rollers and other construction equipments & Good experience into Export of agri products such as sesame seeds,pulses and avocados.

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- > Handle different responsibilities as suggested by company directors

Candidate should be well versed in English and Swahili.

Interested candidates can send their CVs / Introduction on

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Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro shows journalists yesterday what he said were 39 motorcycles earlier stolen but later seized in a police crackdown mounted in various parts of the zone. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## Samia Legal Aid Campaign benefits 300 people at DITF

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A TOTAL of 300 people have benefited from free legal aid services provided by the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign since its launch at the on-going Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF2024).

Mary Makondo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, highlighted this achievement yesterday during her address at the trade fair, emphasizing the diverse legal services provided at their pavilion.

"We have received an overwhelming response from people seeking clarification on various legal issues, including inheritance and marriage," Makondo remarked.

Among the beneficiaries, 184 were men and 82 were women, who were provided with legal education, advice, and connections to independent lawyers present at the event.

"The services rendered included preparation of court documents and assistance in resolving disputes administratively, with many expressing satisfaction," she added.

She said a total of 64 cases have been registered including 19 land disputes, three marriage disputes, 10 inheritance cases, six claims, eight employment issues, three child care concerns, one case of sexual violence and 11 other matters.

Makondo noted that 31 disputes are currently in various stages of resolution, while the remaining 33 parties received legal education that led to understanding and resolution of their issues.

She also highlighted collaborative efforts with stakeholders, including eight independent lawyers from the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), a law student, and two legal assistants, underscoring the campaign's significant impact on justice for Tanzanians, especially women and

children.

"The Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign has instilled hope for justice, contributing to good governance characterized by transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision-making and law enforcement," Makondo affirmed.

Expressing gratitude for the turnout, she assured firm support until the trade fair concludes, ensuring continued access to free legal assistance for those in need.

Implemented by the Constitution and Legal Affairs Ministry, the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign which commenced in February 2023 will run until February 2026 with major focus on massive public education on legal issues and systems, human rights and fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

It was launched in Dodoma and has since extended its services to six other regions which are Manyara, Singida, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Njombe and Ruvuma.

**“The Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign has instilled hope for justice, contributing to good governance characterized by transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision-making and law enforcement”**

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

## Minister underlines need to ensure all persons with disability are safe

THE government has directed regional and district commissioners, as well as council directors to ensure firm supervision in implementing laws and regulations to protect people with disabilities (PwDs) from all forms of abuse.

Deogratius Ndejemi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), said that The Persons with Disabilities Act of 2010 should be vigorously supervised to ensure peace and safety of the group in the society.

The minister made the directives on Wednesday here during the launch of a campaign against violence targeting persons with

albinism.

The initiative follows a tragic incident a month ago, where a child with albinism was abducted and later found dead, with some of body parts missing.

He stressed that the enforcement of the law must coincide with the registration and identification of persons with disabilities living in streets and villages.

"Local leaders will oversee this process to protect this vulnerable group," he said.

Ndejemi highlighted that the

registration aligns with international agreements advocating for the protection of PwDs.

Ndejemi mentioned government efforts to improve the rights and welfare of PwDs including the provision of special skin lotion for persons with albinism (PwAs).

He further announced that the government has allocated 1bn/- through the National Fund for PwDs, which includes subsidies for the operations of the Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS).

Alfred Kapole, TAS Acting

Secretary highlighted the critical roles of law enforcement agencies and community members in preventing violence against citizens.

Fatma Mwasa, Kagera Regional Commissioner, emphasized that efforts to heighten protection of PwAs includes engaging traditional healers and religious leaders, who are instrumental in educating communities about the safety of the group, promoting peaceful living.

She said that Kagera Region has a total 275 PwAs comprising 142 males and 133 females.

# Chief Executive Officer Financial Institution



Our esteemed client in the housing finance sector is searching for an innovative **Chief Executive Officer** for a leading provider of housing finance solutions in Tanzania. Recognized for pioneering the mortgage market, our client delivers a comprehensive suite of products, including Purchase, Improvement, Extension, Completion, and Refinancing of existing home loans.

Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, we are calling for a dynamic leader with a proven track record of redefining industry standards and driving substantial growth. The selected candidate will take the helm of an organization known for its fast mortgage processing times and exceptional commitment to customer service, setting new benchmarks in affordable housing solutions.

We invite visionaries who are adept at challenging the status quo and passionate about leading a dedicated team to new levels of success. Your role will involve leveraging market trends to expand reach and enhance service delivery, all while fostering a culture of excellence and customer-centricity.

Join us in transforming the future of housing finance in Tanzania.

### Candidate Requirements

- Risk Management
- Financial Management
- Market Positioning & Growth
- Relationship Management
- Operational Excellence
- Corporate Governance
- Talent & Team Management
- Brand Management



- Strategic thinker with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Strong financial acumen & analytical skills
- Ability to build relationships with stakeholders at all levels
- Demonstrated ability to lead & inspire a diverse team
- Sound decision-making & problem-solving abilities



- Minimum 10 years in C-suite roles within the financial sector
- Deep understanding of financial services, market trends, & regulations
- Proven capability in budgeting, financial planning & analysis
- Demonstrated record of driving growth & operational efficiency in Tanzania
- A Masters Degree would be an added advantage
- Registration with a professional body would be preferred

### How to Apply

1. Interested and qualified candidates are invited to register their application at [www.empower.co.tz](http://www.empower.co.tz)
2. Once your account is activated, setup your profile and upload the following documents:
  - CV
  - Motivation Letter
  - Academic Certificates
  - Copy of Passport
  - 3 References from industry professionals

We open our doors to talented Tanzanian nationals, with a strong encouragement for qualified women to apply.

 Register  
[www.empower.co.tz](http://www.empower.co.tz)

 Complete Profile  
Upload Documents

 Apply  
Click Empower Jobs Search  
'CEO'

 Deadline  
15:00 Hrs  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2024



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### CAMFED Overview

CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists, and philanthropists

**Job Title :** Finance Officer (1 post)  
**Reporting to :** Finance Manager  
**Start Date :** ASAP  
**Location :** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

### Job Description:

Responsible for providing financial and accounting support for CAMFED Tanzania. The position entails performing financial accounting tasks daily, including processing payments, filing, and retrieving documents, providing data for the preparation of reports, and supporting the development of partner/donor proposals, as well as budgeting, financial accounting, and grant reporting.

### Specific Accountabilities:

- Ensure that all financial transactions are carried out and recorded in accordance with IAS and CAMFED Tanzania procedures and policies on daily basis.
- Prepare cheque and on-line payments for review by the finance manager in compliance with IAS, CAMFED Tanzania and donor policies and regulations, with correct coding and supporting documentation.
- Cash flow management and bank reconciliation for CAMFED Tanzania bank and Mobile wallet accounts.
- Preparation of various supporting schedules to the financial statements to facilitate annual audit and assist in the fieldwork process.
- Preparation of the monthly accounts and required other deliverables for review by 9th of every month ensuring accuracy of the data.
- Maintain banking relationship and act as the primary liaison person.
- Ensuring proper book of accounts are kept and maintaining a sound archiving (filing and retrieval) system.
- Preparation of the payroll journal and monthly reconciliation of the payroll.
- Any other reasonable duty assigned by line manager.
- Closely monitoring the agreed targets and timelines per work plans on donors assigned
- Prepare monthly donor management report on monthly basis including reviewing all donor expenditures to ensure a correct reporting of expenditures of assigned codes.
- Ensure a project/Grant is correct budgeted for on quarterly expenditure authorisation to ensure a well alignment between workplan and planned grant objectives.
- Discuss with program manager by weekly the implementation of grant comparing to approved Expenditure authorisation for the quarter and commitment of the grant, flag lagging activities to Head of Finance actions.
- Review monthly donor reports with the relevant managers and point out areas with financial risks in line with donor conditions for the managers to take proactive corrective action.
- Attend monthly grant call and share financial updates of the respective grant/project.
- Any other reasonable duty assigned by line manager.
- Support during proposal development by producing inputs including draft budgets.
- Participate fully in the development of the CAMFED annual operating budget, which will include aligning donor funding files with the active grants and their work plans.
- Preparation of quarterly Expenditure Authorization (EA) plans
- Coordinate closely with Program managers in tracking budget expenditures and escalating any necessary changes that may require budget rebasing.

Review the budgets for program activities when reviewing e-PRFs and travel expense plans before recommending further approval.

### Person specification

- A bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent degree or experience.
- Certified Professional Accountant, Management accountant or equivalent professional level.
- Minimum of 2 or more years' experience preferably in Banking and Auditing industry.
- Strong advanced Excel skills.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Speedy and attentive to detail.
- Team player.
- Working in a multi-cultural set-up
- Able to work with limited supervision.

**Job Title:** Enterprise business Financing officer (1-post)  
**Reporting to:** Program Manager Enterprise Development  
**Start date:** ASAP  
**Location:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### Job Purpose:

Under the direction of the Program Manager, the Enterprise business financing Officer will be responsible for supporting the effective planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs targeted at enabling young women to transition from school to entrepreneurship and secure improved livelihood.

The Enterprise business financing Officer is also responsible for supporting District Program Coordinators in selected operational districts to ensure that the quality, measurable

and cost effective deliverables are achieved within stipulated timeframe and in compliance with donor requirements, policies and procedures; team motivation and capacity building; building and managing strategic relationships with key stakeholders (e.g. relevant government institutions, NGOs, Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), donors at the regional and district level).

### Specific Accountabilities:

#### A: SEED MONEY SCHEME MANAGEMENT

- Manage loan administration and management (processing, disbursement, repayment and reporting) of loans tailored to the needs of the young women.
- Keep up to date loan and grants administration system that aligns with Financial Force and KIVA PA2
- Build effective working relationship with external financing partners to create opportunities and provide access to young people's transition.
- Build a strong resource team to support management of seed money scheme at district level.
- Provide quarterly report on processing, disbursement, and default status of loans
- Develop delinquent management strategy, keeping delinquency rate at a maximum rate of 10%.
- Impart knowledge on scheme management to stakeholders and program team
- Stay up to date with country policies and regulations on microfinance and advise CAMFED management accordingly.
- Lead in the implementation of all young women ensuring effective and quality delivery of access to finance programme activities in line with the annual work plans and donor targets.(e.g. Kiva, Revolving Loan Fund, Financial Practice Grants, Group Loans)
- Increase loan uptake among the network of young women.
- Manage organization floating capital for loans.

#### B: RISK MANAGEMENT

- Identify potential risks as a result of CAMA members access to loans in and out of CAMFED and come up with strategies to mitigate the impact of such risks
- Quarterly update risk registers on issues emerging from seed money scheme.
- Conduct borrower's verification on quarterly basis for all loans and grants recipients.
- Ensure donor compliance and adherence to organization's policy in the administration and management of loans and grants.

#### C: SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

- Work in collaboration with the government to scale best practices through DBC, CDC and relevant ministries.
- Link CAMA members with government task force on technical working committees.
- Documentation/Collecting evidence on best practices and evidence on what works well for young women's accessing loans
- Represent CAMFED in local, national and international events physically or virtually as may be necessary
- Apply learning to inform programming as a result of seed money scheme lessons learned

#### D: CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

- Train and ensure stakeholders working with young women in loans and grants are in adherence and signs the child protection policy.
- Ensure financed businesses through loans and grants are not in violation of child labor or harmful to young women
- Promotes whistle blow policy in day-to-day activities with stakeholders
- Ensure loans and grants for entrepreneurs are addressed in a timely, and respectfully manner

### Person Specifications

- Applicants MUST have verifiable Bachelor in Microfinance and Enterprise management, Bachelor of Arts in Community Development, Bachelor's in commerce (B. Com), Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor in Rural Development and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics and Agribusiness.
- Proven Experience in a relevant field.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, with strong communication skills and attention to detail.

### Applications details:

- Please note: All official communication pertaining to job applications and interviews will be exclusively conducted through CAMFED's official channels. These can be found on our website (<http://www.camfed.org>). CAMFED will never request applicants to pay a processing fee or to provide personal or financial information for recruitment purposes.**

- CAMFED has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation, abuse, discrimination and harassment in all forms. All applicants will therefore, be subject to a comprehensive verification process, which includes background and reference checks, as well as verification of qualifications.**

Please submit applications to [recruitmenttanzania@camfed.org](mailto:recruitmenttanzania@camfed.org) including your most recent CV and Cover Letter using Finance Officer or Enterprise business Financing officer in the subject line depending on the role which you have applied. We will close this vacancy on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

- CAMFED has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation, abuse, discrimination and harassment in all forms. All applicants will therefore, be subject to a comprehensive verification process, which includes background and reference checks, as well as verification of qualifications.**

Please submit applications to [tanzaniarecruitment@camfed.org](mailto:tanzaniarecruitment@camfed.org) including your most recent CV and Cover Letter using specific Role Title in the subject line. We will close this vacancy on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024**.

# Relief as 60 farmers in Dar get modern planting outfits

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the European Union (EU) has handed over modern planting machines (hand-jab planters) to 60 farmers in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam with aim to promote crop production, improve livelihoods and heighten food security.

The handover is part of the interventions of the capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries - Phase III (ACP-MEAs 3) project, funded by the EU.

Speaking during the handover event in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Diomedes Kalisa, Project Coordinator at FAO said donation of the equipment will go along with training to the farmers to facilitate proper handling for best results.

He said them job planters will be helpful to farmers as they save labour and time where operators work standing upright with jab

planters and hand pushed or pulled seeders so they are generally less tiring than planting with a hoe.

He said the equipment improves speed and accuracy of sowing, with work rates up to four times higher than for planting by traditional methods.

Kalisa noted that among the four outputs of the MEAs3 project, output number two aims to promote the implementation of measures that support producers in transitioning to more sustainable, resilient, and productive production systems, as well as to facilitate their access to innovative solutions, adaptive-management training, and financial and non-financial incentives.

According to him, based on various field visits and observations, it was noted that farmers in the selected districts, especially women and youth, lack sustainable agricultural tools to improve efficiency while ensuring environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic gains.

"Best ecosystem-based practices that generate multiple global environmental and socio-

economic benefits are scaled up, linking landscape-level ecosystem management with improved food security and poverty reduction at the community level and promoting alternative livelihood activities, we hope that these tools will speed up production and promote economic growth," he explained.

Hassan Ismail, Senior Agro-Engineer at the Ministry of Agriculture said jab planters present an opportunity for farmers to adopt precision agriculture methods, resulting in improved crop yields and resource optimization

He said the primary objective of jab planters is to optimize seed placement, spacing, and depth, thereby maximizing crop yield while minimizing resource usage.

Ismail said these advanced planters are equipped with sophisticated sensors and software that enable farmers to precisely manage planting operations, adapt to varying field conditions, and ultimately contribute to sustainable and resource-efficient farming practices.



Agriculture ministry deputy permanent secretary Dr Hussein Omar (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday having a word with research student Gerald Mabuto of Morogoro's Mzombe University, who is credited with having succeeded in using ripe bananas to produce seeds leading to the production of banana seedlings. Mabuto explained that what he has done is unique in that the process involved takes a shorter period of time and the seedlings are more disease-resistant than previous varieties. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

# 'Ensure investors get EIA within a month'

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has been tasked to ensure that investors who apply for an Environmental Impact Assessment certificate (EIA) get it within one month.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister of State Vice President Office (Union and Environment) made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when visited the council's offices where she spoke with the council's staff and management and gave them instructions on the implementation of various activities.

The minister said she would not be happy to see investors get bureaucratic to get those certificates that will help them start their investment adding that the employee who tries to hinder them will face severe punishment from her.

Dr Kijaji said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is making great efforts to find investors in various parts of the world, so she will be surprised to see his assistants discourage those investors with unnecessary bureaucracy.

"I will not agree to be a part of obstructing the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in finding

investors who come to invest in this country, we should set a time limit if someone asks for a certificate even 30 days is enough to issue it and the investor starts working if he has all the documents why should we stop him," she said.

She said that a person who tries to hinder investors is hindering Tanzanians because when an investor sets up a project, he creates jobs for the people and adds that even if he has a problem in his documents then NEMC has the authority to help him fix it.

"Many investors are borrowing from the bank outside there and they are coming to invest and they can start to repay the loan even before the investment so why are you hindering them? Put yourself in that position. If it is possible, tell him that it is possible and if it is not possible, tell him that it is not possible, don't make them tired," she said.

"Fortunately, I always follow and I will make sure that anyone who tries to hinder the investor will be dealt with even where I come from, I have dealt with people a lot. The National Development Corporation (NDC) was about to be dissolved for doing wrong but I straightened them until now they are doing well," she said.

She asked NEMC to manage the

law and ensure that improper plastic bags are not returned to use as citizens are complaining that the bags are now as full in the markets as it was in previous years.

"While at this meeting, I received a message from a citizen complaining that these bags are full in every corner, but we are here, why don't we take action against its producers? If it was prevented, why is it coming back when the laws are there and we banned it," said the Minister.

Director General of NEMC, Dr Immaculate Semesi promised Minister Kijaji that they have received her instructions and will strive to work hard to achieve the dreams of President Samia to empower investors.

She said the council is full of professionals who will work together to ensure that they become facilitators for investors and businessmen instead of hindering them when they want council services.

"We have heard your instructions and we promise you that we will work hard to achieve what you would like to happen. We will do our best to ensure that we fulfill our responsibility to help investors so that they can start their activities early and increase employment for Tanzanians," she said.

## 'Pressing need for reviews of African brain research ethics'

By Anina Mumm

BRAIN research data from Africa needs to be safeguarded amid a global rise in technologies that target the brain, ethicists based in South Africa and the United States have said.

Such so-called neurotechnologies include technologies that treat or prevent brain disease or mental illness, as well as consumer-oriented technologies to track or enhance brain function.

In their commentary in the May/June issue of the South African Journal of Science, the ethicists argue that African researchers, study participants and communities must be protected from exploitation and must also benefit from brain research.

Olivia Matshabane, corresponding author on the commentary and a neuroethics researcher at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, says consumer neurotechnology companies have previously collected brain data without consent, violating privacy rights.

"In Africa, there have been past experiences of African people's health data being collected, analysed and reported in ways that go against a community's cultural values and beliefs," she said.

"This is something that should be cautioned against and prevented from re-occurring in the realm of new and emerging neurotechnologies," she said.

While neurotechnologies may ease the burden of neurological, psychiatric and substance-use disorders in underserved communities, Matshabane says their development and use should align with "African people's values, principles and priorities".

She and her fellow authors say that special ethical considerations apply in Africa. For example, when conducting neuroscience research on children, scientists should

consider that many African children are vulnerable to disruptions in healthy brain development due to increased exposure to risk factors such as poverty, trauma, alcohol and HIV.

Furthermore, some neuroscientific interventions used to prevent or treat brain disease or mental illness in other parts of the world may not work or be accepted in Africa due to cultural reasons or local contexts, they write.

According to the commentary authors, neuroethicists within Africa are in a unique position to focus their attention on how African values and priorities can inform the development of contextually appropriate interventions.

They add that African people and scientists should be included in global neuroethics discussions early on, for a more "robust and nuanced debate", and call on academics, policymakers and others to develop local guidelines for neurotechnologies that reflect African contexts.

Matshabane says Unesco has convened a group of 24 "experts from diverse backgrounds" to make global recommendations around neurotechnologies.



**In Africa, there have been past experiences of African people's health data being collected, analysed and reported in ways that go against a community's cultural values and beliefs**



Geophrey Pinda (2nd-R), Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister, pictured earlier this week presenting to Leticia Choma of Mwanga in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality a land title deed to a house inherited from her father. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## RC unveils conditions for traders to get into revamped Kariakoo Market

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has unveiled new conditions for traders to work at the refurbished Kariakoo Market, stipulating that those with outstanding debts must settle them before gaining access.

Chalamila made the remarks in Dar es Salaam recently at a rally as part of his ongoing regional tour alongside CCM Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, Amos Makalla.

During the meeting which aimed

at addressing concerns of Dar es Salaam residents, Chalamila criticized the mismanagement of major markets in the city, attributing their underperformance to interference from agents and middlemen.

"Most of our markets fail to meet revenue targets because individuals entrusted with leadership have prioritized personal gain," he stated.

Regarding the new Kariakoo market's progress, Chalamila reported that construction is at 96 percent and set to be completed soon.

In his remarks Makalla assured the Regional Commissioner that all complaints aired during the rally fell within his capability to resolve effectively.

Recently, when swearing in new top public leaders, President Samia Suluhu Hassan wanted leaders to ensure that they supervise 24 hours operations at the Kariakoo market.

He directed the Minister for Trade and Industry, Dr Suleiman Jafo, to collaborate closely with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to enhance tax compliance within the business sector.

Meanwhile, an official investigation into a recent fire that destroyed 550 stalls in the Kariakoo Auction Mart area concluded that the incident was not accidental but an act of sabotage.

The committee formed by RC Chalamila attributed the fire to internal disputes between traders and their leadership.

The report also recommended that the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) improve emergency water infrastructure to better respond to such incidents.

## 300 complete educational studies linked to the space industry in African nations

ADDIS ABABA

THE first cohort of the Pathways to Space programme, a new educational initiative arranged by the Future African Space Explorers STEM Academy (FASESA) and Boeing celebrated their graduation on Wednesday in Ethiopia.

After five months of immersive learning, 312 students, including 50 percent girls, from 63 schools in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Tanzania have developed a keen interest in the space industry, shaping their career aspirations.

Pascal Chidozi, a 16-year-old graduate of the programme in Nigeria, said: "Participating in the Pathways to Space programme has been a life-changing experience for me. Building payloads, testing them, and learning about satellite operations has not only deepened my passion for STEM but has also opened my eyes to the limitless possibilities in space exploration. The most memorable moment for me was launching a high-altitude balloon, which provided me with a hands-on understanding of the principles of flight. This programme has inspired me to pursue a career in aerospace engineering, equipping me with the confidence and knowledge to chase my dreams."

Kuljit Ghata-Aura, president of Boeing Middle East, Türkiye, Africa, and Central Asia, said: "Right on the heels of the Boeing Starliner mission to the International Space Station, we are delighted to inspire more young people into the aerospace industry. We are looking forward to the innovative contributions the graduates of the Pathways to Space programme will make, shaping the future of space exploration in the decades to come."

The Pathways to Space Programme helped 120 Ethiopian, 112 Nigerian and 82 Tanzanian students to explore the fascinating world of space through hands-

on activities. They formed teams, designed a mission patch, built a prototype satellite, conducted tests, and presented their designs.

The programme culminated in the satellite prototype testing day, where students tested their prototypes in real-world conditions. This comprehensive experience developed their engineering skills, passion for space exploration, and prepared them for future education and careers.

"We are incredibly proud of the students' accomplishments. Their dedication and enthusiasm for STEM and space exploration are truly inspiring," said Sean Jacobs, founder and executive director at FASESA.

"The graduation ceremony not only celebrates their hard work during the programme but also marks the beginning of their journey as future leaders in the space industry or more broadly in science and technology."

FASESA and Boeing have set their sights on expanding the Pathways to Space programme to other countries in Africa in the years to come. Starting next year, the programme will offer both in-person and online participation, creating opportunities for more students across the African continent.



**We are incredibly proud of the students' accomplishments. Their dedication and enthusiasm for STEM and space exploration are truly inspiring**



Shinyanga district commissioner Julius Mtatiro addresses a meeting in Salawe ward earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## UN calls for fight against dust and sand storms

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2025-2034 as the United Nations Decade to Combat Sand and Dust Storms, extreme weather events that are increasing and threatening health and economies from central Africa to northern China.

Ugandan Ambassador to the UN Godfrey Kwoba, who introduced the resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, a powerful UN grouping of 134 developing countries and China, told the 193-member assembly that the initiative aimed to "stop and mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms" through "international and regional cooperation".

The assembly adopted the resolution by consensus and with a gavel from the assembly's president, Dennis Francis.

In a 2022 report, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification said sand and dust storms have "increased significantly in frequency in recent years."

Storms can exacerbate respiratory diseases, kill crops and livestock, and increase desertification, although documentation of their impacts is limited.

The convention estimates that 2 trillion tonnes of sand and dust enter the atmosphere each year, mainly in drylands and sub-humid regions with little vegetation.

Most emissions result from natural conditions, but droughts and climate change are exacerbating the problem.

The report estimates that "at least 25% of global dust emissions come from human activities" such as unsustainable land management and water use.

As part of the 10-year initiative adopted on Wednesday, the General Assembly said the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will promote mitigation practices in affected countries, including "sustainable land use management, agroforestry, windbreaks, afforestation/reforestation and land restoration programmes."

The resolution also calls for global cooperation to strengthen

early warning systems and share important meteorological information for forecasting sand dust storms.

The adoption of the resolution comes two days before the International Day to Combat Sand and Dust Storms, 12 July, which the General Assembly proclaimed last year and which will be observed for the first time.

The resolution called on countries to mark the day through educational and other activities aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of combating sand and dust storms for public health, improving land use, strengthening food security and livelihoods, and promoting "climate change resilience".

FRIDAY 12 JULY 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## TLS election agenda has doable and undoable issues tied in one platform

ASPIRANTS for the upcoming Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) presidential election are spelling out leadership objectives for attracting voter loyalties, and perhaps prepare the profession as a whole for some visible changes.

For an outsider looking at that sort of quest, what most likely comes up is the proverbial 'plank' in one's eye and the 'splint' in someone else's eye.

It is a matter of trying to see whether an aspirant or a candidate is trying to rectify the legal profession, the system of governance or TLS reflexes, to begin with.

How these issues are entangled is partially visible in the matters raised by at least one candidate recently interviewed for this newspaper.

The candidate is setting out a three-item platform for enabling the society to remain unified, robust and independent during and beyond the particular aspirant's tenure.

It has been all but a matter of trying to figure out how realistic those goals are, and indeed if in those aspirations 'the bar' is raised high enough. There are some preliminary impressions and they aren't all lined up in non-ubiquitous optimism.

It is hard to tell if keeping the society unified is an election pledge but, rather, what it takes to do so could readily be one such.

Yes, for instance, if it means minimising or blunting tussles with the government - which has seen some of its more ardent militants stand not for the law per se but for human rights win most votes as candidates.

The result was statutory changes by the Judiciary on regulating the society, as it is finally in a window of the Judiciary just as advocates are -

by definition 'officers of the High Court'.

Better practices for all along with advocates' welfare, came next, where there is a possible contention of focus, if it is uplifting practices first or welfare.

Sorting out what each advocate is doing may interfere with one's liberty, while the law profession is a little open-ended as to best practices.

The preferred method an advocate follows is what helps the client, even as it may disappoint another party in an issue. The issue about welfare is meanwhile also open-ended, as there are no rules about earnings except usable contracts with the clients.

What may also prove elusive is the idea of setting up a TLS incubator for young lawyers. There are preliminary issues in whether a society can also be a law school.

If it will not be offering any auxiliary qualifications, what will make it different from the sort of experience an apprentice gets on the job, with an added advantage that he or she knows precisely what viewpoint is relevant for his or her professional pursuit?

The fact that the aspirant readily admits that the relationship between advocates and the Judiciary has not been well recently, means the task will not be easy.

How far whoever wins the envisage election can expect to cut out not just public differences of opinion but also disciplinary actions and heavy penalties is not really a dispute in relation to their professional work - as advocates.

It may well be less an issue of resolving issues affecting both parties than a question of simply toning down the militancy otherwise known as human rights activism.

## FAO food systems project for a few wards 'underwhelming'

TRYING to be hopeful in relation to a food systems integrated programme being developed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) pegged at US\$9m (20bn/-) will hardly have been very gratifying, as it covered little more than a few wards in Usangu-Ihefu valley on mainland Tanzania alongside parts of Zanzibar.

It has airs of an experimental situation as to what is possible to do on environmental and climate change when tied up with food systems on the ground.

Yet it is hard to fault the design as it is something explicit by some organisations for desired ends, not standing in for policy objectives.

A stakeholders' symposium was discussing preparing of a project implemented by FAO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Zanzibar at midweek, set for the Usangu-Ihefu valley.

The zone is of crucial importance: it is the main source of water to the Great Ruaha, in which case stopping environmentally unfriendly agricultural practices affecting the water flow is an illustration of

It is clear that there was a low-scale intention with regard to the parameters of the project, thus opting to include a project area in Zanzibar, where specific environmental challenges need to be resolved.

The Usangu ecosystem serves as a model of what is to be done in other besieged valleys such as in the nearby Morogoro Region, not to speak of extensive coastal river delta scenarios.

The building blocks are clear but

ambition was in a shortfall on the basis of what is visible, and there are often structural reasons for this.

What makes the project relevant for practically all parts of the country with similar features is that, on the basis of its scale, it is doubtful whether half of the districts will have been covered by 2030.

This considering that there are two United Nations agencies involved, the FAO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

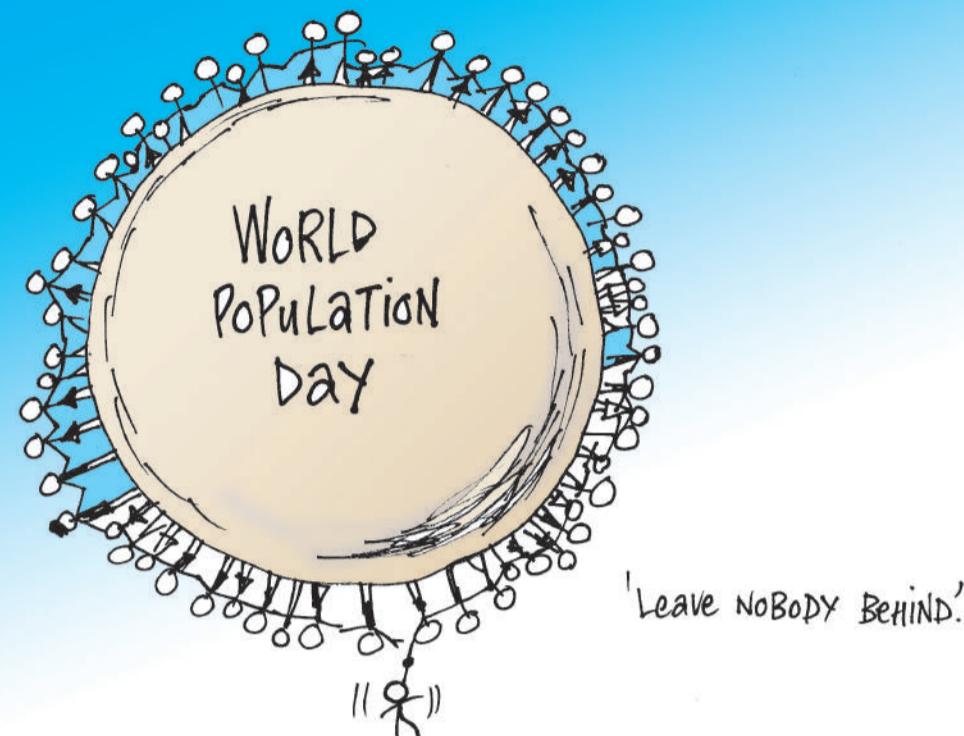
That is partly why analysts have been wondering why a combination of the two agencies yields a US\$9m project - as if it was a pilot study. There are likely to be structural reasons for the project to be limited to a low-level vision.

Anyone who following the 'spring meetings' of the World Bank (which runs the GEF) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be aware that there was a lot of debate on having local funds to accompany World Bank projects.

An auxiliary issue is that the global lender has closely built synergies with the private sector, which similarly involve associated institutions like the African Development Bank, in which case local planners missed out in both aspects of the design.

In that case, the two UN agencies would accordingly have to fruitlessly wait for an initiative in that direction - that is, from the time of the food systems summit in Dar es Salaam mid last year - to the start of the new financial year.

And so they moved on, placing the funds they had earmarked from the start - and selecting a crucial project plus one.



## Adding life to years - Demographic change across Asia and the Pacific

BANGKOK, Thailand

WORLD Population Day on 11 July provides an excellent opportunity to take stock and look ahead regarding population issues that are affecting all aspects of society in Asia and the Pacific.

This year is special, since we also commemorate the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 30 years ago in Cairo. In Asia and the Pacific, we convened the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 2023 which informed the ICPD commemoration earlier this year.

These events help us to reflect on how the concept of population policies has evolved from a narrow focus on population control to identifying and seeking opportunities in the multiple linkages between population and development.

The region has changed beyond recognition from the situation in 1963 when the first Asian and Pacific Population Conference was convened, and population policies were first given serious attention.

The population of the region at that time was 1.9 billion, with a total fertility rate of about 6.0 births per woman and a life expectancy at birth of 51.3 years. Children aged 0-14 accounted for 40 per cent of the total population, whereas persons 65 years or older accounted for about 4 per cent.

Today, the region has a population of about 4.8 billion people which represents about 58 per cent of the world's total. The total fertility rate has plunged to 1.8 births per woman, life expectancy at birth has increased to 74.7 years, and the proportion of older persons stands at 10.5 per cent of the total population (and it is projected to go up to 19 per cent or almost 1 billion people by 2050).

These aggregates mark variation at the subregional levels, with older persons in countries in East and North-East Asia, for example, already accounting for a much greater share of the total population compared to countries in other parts of the region.

This has significant implications for the labour force, economy, health care and sustainability of social protection systems. The issue has been highlighted by ESCAP and the UN system for years, and it is



Grandparents looking after a toddler at a park in Viet Nam. Credit: Pexels/Loifotos

now receiving heightened attention from Governments, civil society and mainstream media, some of whom are making doomsday predictions resulting in negative perceptions of older persons and outright ageism.

Some governments have initiated pro-natalist policies with limited effect. The demographic changes that have happened over decades cannot be reversed by the flick of a switch.

We need to understand that population ageing is the result of significant progress and achievements in health care, nutrition, education, strives toward gender equality and empowerment of women and greater reproductive choices for women.

Population ageing can be seen as a natural outcome of these achievements, but clearly, we need to adapt better to these changes that affect all aspects of society.

We need a range of interconnected policies which ensure stronger social protection systems, promote active and healthy ageing, and build strong care systems. We need to support older women who are often the most likely to be left behind.

Also, the younger people of today are older persons of tomorrow, and thus we must adopt a life course approach to population ageing that recognizes the importance of data and evidence and accords priority to the rights of older persons.

As proportions of older persons rise, significant cohorts of populations in different age groups will co-exist in our region for the first time in history. This means that managing inter-generational relations will be critical to ensuring harmonious, cohesive, inclusive and sustainable societies in the future.

Ensuring gender equality is

critical to addressing this issue. Relieving women, including many older women, of the huge unpaid care burden and ensuring their participation in the labour force will contribute to maintaining labour force productivity keeping them active and healthy for longer periods. This will add trillions of USD to the GDP of countries in the region.

This can only be achieved if population policies are reimagined to explore their multiple links to the different dimensions of development, taking into account the changing age and family structures.

In the end, it is as important to add life to years as it is to add years to life.

Srinivas Tata is Director of ESCAP's Social Development Division.  
IPS UN Bureau



By Adonis Byemelwa

# Africa's youthful demographic presents significant economic growth through a vast domestic market



**Africa's growing population presents a robust workforce for enhanced productivity and innovation.**

WORLD Population Day, observed annually on July 11, raises awareness of global population issues. Established by the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, the event was inspired by the public interest generated by Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, marking the world's population reaching five billion people.

The day aims to increase awareness of various population issues, such as family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, and human rights. The idea was suggested by Dr. K.C. Zachariah when the global population reached five billion, during his tenure as a senior demographer at the World Bank.

While global attention peaks at population increments of billions, the world population grows by approximately 100 million every 14 months. By November 2022, the global population reached eight billion, highlighting the importance of addressing population-related concerns.

Tanzania, a country that exemplifies significant demographic growth, has seen its population surge from around 8.7 million in 1955 to over 69.4 million in 2024. This more than seven-fold increase is a clear indication of the broader demographic trends observed in many African nations.

The annual growth rate, which averaged 2.85 percent in the early 1960s, peaked at over 3 percent in the mid-1980s and has since remained around 3 percent.

The sustained growth is primarily driven by a high fertility rate, which has recently declined from its peak of seven children per woman in the 1970s to 4.51 in 2024. According to Tanzania's 2022 census statistics, the median age is a mere 17 years, emphasizing the youthful nature of the population.

Economic figures reveal the complexity of the relationship between population growth and economic development in Africa. South Africa's GDP, for instance, amounted to over \$373 billion in 2024, the highest on the continent. Egypt followed with a GDP of approximately \$347.6 billion, and Algeria ranked third with about \$266.8 billion.

These figures reflect the dynamic economic landscape of Africa, with several countries among the fastest-growing economies globally. In this context, Tanzania's fifth place in population ranking, with about 67.4 million

people in 2023, presents both opportunities and challenges for economic growth.

A large and youthful population, with a median age of 17, offers a substantial potential workforce that can drive economic activities if properly harnessed.

However, the high fertility rates necessitate the expansion of infrastructure, healthcare, and educational services to accommodate the growing population.

The 38 percent urban population suggests a trend towards urbanization, which could spur economic development through increased industrialization and service sector growth, provided urban planning and investments keep pace with population growth.

Renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs emphasizes, "Africa's rapid population growth will require unprecedented investment in health and education to ensure that it can sustain and build on its economic gains."

This statement underscores the need for substantial investment in human capital to transform demographic growth into economic prosperity. Countries that successfully invest in education and healthcare can harness the demographic dividend of a youthful population to boost economic productivity.

Migration patterns have also played a role in shaping Tanzania's demographic landscape. Although the net migration rate has often been negative, indicating more people leaving than entering the

country, the overall impact on population growth has been minimal compared to natural birth rates.

This is evident from the steady population increase despite periods of negative net migration. As Tanzania continues to grow, managing this demographic expansion will be crucial for sustainable development, requiring policies that address the needs of its young and urbanizing population while ensuring economic growth and social stability.

Tanzania's dependents are almost 85 percent, a significant figure that can strain resources as more investment is needed in healthcare, education, and social services. The University of Dar es Salaam lecturer Dr. John Msinde points out, "The high dependency ratio requires a concerted effort in policy and investment to ensure that the working-age population is capable of supporting the dependents."

This highlights the importance of strategic planning and investment in human capital to manage population growth effectively. Population growth can also spur economic diversification if there is a conducive environment for business and investment.

Diverse economies that are not overly reliant on a single sector, such as agriculture or mining, are better positioned to absorb a growing workforce and sustain economic growth. Egypt, with a population of 112 million, a relatively lower fer-

tility rate of 2.8, and a median age of 24, has diversified its economy to support its growing population.

Economist Dr. Dambisa Moyo notes, "Economic diversification is key to mitigating the risks associated with demographic pressures and ensuring sustainable growth."

In many African countries, agriculture remains a significant part of the economy. Population growth can lead to increased agricultural productivity if there is access to land, technology, and markets.

Industrial development can provide jobs for the growing population, contributing to economic development. Retired University of Dodoma Professor Davis Mwanfupe emphasizes, "African nations need to focus on industrialization and improving agricultural productivity to harness the economic potential of their growing populations." This approach requires sound policies and investments to maximize the economic benefits of population growth.

Countries like Nigeria, with a population of over 223.8 million, stand as the most populous in Africa. Nigeria's large population offers a vast domestic market for goods and services, stimulating economic activities and attracting investments.

The country's median age of 17 and a fertility rate of 5.1 indicate a high dependency ratio but also a potential demographic dividend if the youth are adequately educated and employed. However, Nigeria's high population density of 246 people per square kilometer and significant urbanization rate of 54 percent pose challenges such as the need for robust infrastructure, housing, and social services to sustain economic growth.

Milline Mbonile, Professor of Geography at the University of Dar es Salaam, states, "The relationship between population growth and economic development in Africa is complex and requires a balanced approach."

While a growing population presents opportunities for economic expansion and a demographic dividend, it also requires substantial investments in human capital, infrastructure, and economic diversification to realize these benefits."

This sentiment captures the multifaceted nature of managing population growth in Africa.

China and other developed countries have demonstrated the benefits of controlled population growth, ensuring sustainable development through strategic planning and investment.

As African countries continue to experience rapid population growth, they can learn from these examples to achieve a balance between population management and economic development. By investing in human capital, diversifying economies, and ensuring robust infrastructure, African nations can turn their demographic trends into economic opportunities.

The relationship between population growth and economic development in Africa is multifaceted and requires a balanced approach. While a growing population presents opportunities for economic expansion and a demographic dividend, it also requires substantial investments in human capital, infrastructure, and economic diversification to realize these benefits.

A large population presents significant economic opportunities. It fuels demand and drives economic growth through a vast domestic market. A robust workforce enhances productivity and innovation, catalyzing technological advancements and industrial progress. Cultural diversity fosters creativity and global appeal, attracting tourism and boosting soft power.

Foreign investors are drawn to expanding markets, stimulating infrastructure development, and job creation. Well-managed urbanization improves living standards and cultivates innovation hubs. Strategic resource utilization ensures sustainability and maximizes economic potential. With thoughtful planning, countries can leverage their demographic dividend to achieve sustainable prosperity and economic development.

## New technology to help farmers get rid of fruit flies, boost mango production

By Beatrice Philemon

FRUIT flies affect the production and market of fresh fruits worldwide including mangoes, cucumber, tomatoes. They are a significant threat to the horticulture sector in Tanzania, causing up to 80 percent crop loss if left unmanaged.

These pests, particularly invasive species like *Bactrocera dorsalis*, can devastate fruit production, impacting both local consumption and international trade.

Traditional monitoring methods, which involve manual inspection of pheromone traps, are labour-intensive, time-consuming, and prone to errors. This necessitates the development of more efficient and accurate methods for detecting and monitoring fruit flies to ensure timely and effective pest control measures.

The government through the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has developed a new fruit fly automatic detection and monitoring system dubbed: 'Fruit Flies (IoT) system' which is expected to help mango growers in controlling pests.

The innovative technological system is executed under a five years (2021-2026) project—Adaptive Environmental Monitoring Network for East Africa (AdEMNEA) with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

DIT partnered with Makere University (MAK), Uganda, University of Juba (UoJ) in South Sudan, University of Bergen and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) whereas they received a grant from NORAD for implementation of AdEMNEA project. Project implementation started in 2021 and is expected to end in 2026 with Tanzania focusing on pest control.

Dr Mbazingwa Mkiramweni from



**Afidhu Yusufu, Senior Instructor at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) explains to a visitor on how the fruit fly automatic detection and monitoring system works at the on-going 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Beatrice Philemon**

the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering at DIT told The Guardian that the new technology would also benefit other fruit growers countrywide.

Explaining, Dr Mkiramweni said the Fruit Flies (IoT) system is solar powered equipped with electronic sensors to assist mango growers and researchers to monitor, counts and detect mango fruit flies in mango farms without regular on-site visits.

The system will also help researchers to obtain different data in terms of the number of fruit fly captured, fruit flies image, humidity, temperature, reducing the need for frequent field visits and enabling real-time data collection and analysis.

How it works

Dr Mkiramweni said the system attracts fruit flies inside the trap and kills the insects, take picture and send them via internet and can send alert to farmer when insects start or exceed determined level and is equipped with electronic sensors for accurate and efficient monitoring activities.

"We are glad to come up with the new system that represents a technological advancement in pest management. To start with, the system will in August this year be installed at Koga farm in Mkuranga District, Coast Region to minimize the effects. We are

installing the system as a pilot before taking it to other farms," he said.

It uses various technologies such as image recognition, artificial intelligent, and IoT to automate the detection, identification and counting of fruit flies. The system has a trapping part (fruit fly trap) and receiving end (user interface) where data can be viewed and interpreted.

He added that the trap contains a chemical known as pheromone which can lure the insects up to 100-meter radius from the trap, the camera that takes pictures of the captured insects after a specified time interval, the humidity and temperature sensor for monitoring the environment conditions, the small computational device for processing data and communication devices for transferring the information to the end user.

"The system is solar powered and has a motorized mechanising which can rotate the base of the trap so as to pour out the insect or placing them in the lower part of the container for storage," Dr Mkiramweni told The Guardian, adding, the receiving end is a webpage that display the pictures of insects captured, the amount of temperature, humidity, the number of insects captured and the graph indicating the number of insects

captured for a specified amount of time.

These systems can continuously monitor the number of fruit fly captured, reducing the need for frequent field visits and enabling real-time data collection and analysis.

By leveraging these advanced technologies, the automatic detection system provides accurate and timely information that can inform farmers, agricultural officers, and researchers, facilitating more effective pest management strategies.

Benefits

Before DIT came up with the intervention, experts met with members of the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO) whereas they discussed the main challenges that mango grower's face as well as other factors affected fruit production.

This is where mango growers raised concerns on fruit flies especially 'Bactrocera Invadens' flies which spreads diseases thus causes the mango to rot. The main goal was to help them to prevent fruit flies that cause damage in their farms, thus enabling them to produce high quality mangoes for domestic and international market.

AMAGRO works with 65 smallholder mango growers seeking to produce improved mango seedlings and export quality mangoes. Purpose includes ensuring sustainable land use and conservation of the environment and to assist members to achieve stable income and improved standard of living.

According to Dr Mkiramweni, the benefits of using an automatic detection and monitoring system are manifold as it leverages cutting-edge technology to eliminate the need for manual insect counting, thus saving time and reducing labour costs and providing precise and real-time data, which can significantly enhance

the decision-making process for pest control.

He said farmers can receive immediate alerts about fruit fly infestations, enabling prompt action to mitigate damage.

Agricultural officers can use the data to monitor pest trends and plan region-wide interventions, while researchers can analyse the collected data to study fruit fly species, behaviours and develop more effective control methods, he added.

Traps equipped with these advanced detection systems not only catch fruit flies but also collect valuable data.

Using AI, the collected data can be used to predict future pest outbreaks and understand the impact of fruit fly in the agricultural production. Such predictive insights are crucial for developing long-term pest management strategies and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

Since Tanzania is committed to starting using satellite in education, research communication purposes, the integration of satellite technology with the fruit fly automatic detection and monitoring system further enhances its capabilities.

Satellites can collect data from these systems remotely, providing a comprehensive view of pest activity across large geographic areas.

This satellite-collected data can be analysed to track fruit fly migration patterns, assess the effectiveness of pest control measures, and make informed decisions on resource allocation for pest management.

Worldwide Mangoes are grown in over 60 countries and half of the produced and traded tropical fruits are mango. The mango fruit grows well under (warm) tropical climate, with long dry season (over three months) followed by sufficient rains.

# Lebanon's deep healthcare crisis exposed through water-borne infectious diseases

By Randa El Ozeir

**T**HIS summer is bringing an additional challenge to the public health front in Lebanon, along with higher-than-normal temperatures.

An uptick in food- and water-borne communicable diseases, mainly viral hepatitis A, has been registered in the country, according to recent statistics released by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health from numbers collected in hospitals, health centers and laboratories.

The hepatitis A virus (HAV) causes hepatitis A, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which causes inflammation of the liver. The virus is primarily spread when an uninfected (and unvaccinated) person ingests food or water that is contaminated with the feces of an infected person. The disease is closely associated with unsafe water or food, inadequate sanitation, poor personal hygiene and oral-anal sex.

An unrelenting, thorny economic crisis has been ravaging the country for years and is considered the main culprit for the deterioration of basic facilities, community installations and public services.

Dr. Abdulrahman Bizri, member of the Lebanese parliament and the parliamentary committee on public health, professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and chairperson of the national COVID vaccine committee and response, blames the collapse of Lebanese currency, the negligence, the intractable economic, political and livelihood crises, the mismanagement and the prevailing misconduct for the complications of preventing and containing diseases, including communicable types.

"All these factors led to failure in sustaining health infrastructure, such as sewage, and providing clean water to households for direct or indirect human use through produce and/or livestock, which resulted in the spread of many diseases, namely the infectious ones transmitted through contaminated water, such as cholera, hepatitis



**Dr Abdulrahman Bizri, member of the Lebanese parliament and the parliamentary committee on public health, professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and chair of the national COVID vaccine committee and response.**

A, acute diarrhea, dysentery, salmonella and other diseases."

Staff shortages and budget cuts

Government dysfunction, scarcity of maintenance and investment and corruption slowed down the development of services and responses to health outbreaks.

Dr. Hussein Hassan, professor and researcher in food safety and food production at AUB, points out two additional elements that have deeply affected the public health situation: the reduced funding and the exodus of medical doctors.

"In hospitals, for example, we have staff shortages due to the brain drain while we

are suffering from inefficiency and ghost workers. Unfortunately, we also have bribery and budget cuts that delay much-needed projects."

Can the Ministry of Health (MoH), with its current shape in light of government spending, decrease its ability to manage and protect against communicable diseases?

Bizri says that "MoH is facing an uphill battle due to its limited and low capacities. It relies heavily on the support of the international community, for example, WHO, UNICEF, and UNHCR, among others, to control these diseases."

Bridging the gap requires a comprehensive and holistic approach to dealing with the situation based on short-term and long-term steps to be taken on many official and public levels. Dr Hassan believes that "we need to strengthen the surveillance of outbreaks, execute mass vaccination campaigns, provide affected individuals with required supplies, and improve the water and sanitation in crowded areas by installing purification systems and even distributing bottled water."

Large presence of syrian refugees

Poverty, poor public awareness, inadequate education, a social environment with minimal knowledge and disregarding good hygiene practices contribute to communicable disease transmission.

Bizri refers to the sizable presence of Syrian refugees who live in difficult and bad conditions, congregated in unorganized camps with insufficient reliable health structures or safe drinking water. He applauded the three-way partnership between the Lebanese Ministry of Health, international organizations like WHO and UNHCR, and the considerable Lebanese medical private sector in fighting diseases threatening the country.

"Lebanon succeeded in containing many epidemics that had the potential to prevail. The Lebanese medical body, including civil society, massively volunteered to control the spread of these diseases. The health sector spearheaded the efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic

and is still at the forefront of fighting communicable diseases."

However, he has reservations regarding the "skeptical role of UNHCR in its fight against many of the epidemics menacing Lebanon as an outcome of the concentrated existence of Syrian refugees, since it does not deal transparently with the Lebanese government and its official institutions."

To ensure continuity of public health preventative and controlling programs, Hassan mapped out some long-term measures to be put in place, including "economic and political stability, strengthening the healthcare system, investing in improving water supply and sewage systems, and developing and implementing maintenance programs related to water safety, particularly among refugees."

He acknowledges the crucial role played by international collaboration and financial and technical support delivered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Mistrust has dented the relationship between the healthcare system and the citizens.

"I believe that Lebanese citizens lost faith in the health sector long ago," said Bizri. "Yet they keep depending on this sector, which offers affordable health and medical services compared to the private healthcare costs in Lebanon. The country boasts advanced medical services and treatments, but its public health is still enduring a significant deficit."

By Dan Baumgardt

**M**AIRLYN Smith, a Canadian actress and cook, recently revealed on TikTok that she and her husband go for a walk after dinner to release their pent up gases. Smith calls these post-prandial strolls "fart walks". The hashtag is now blowing up on social media.

The purpose of a fart walk is to start the digestive process and relieve bloating, troublesome gas or the sensation of a big meal sitting in your stomach like a brick. Smith claims that a ten- to 20-minute stroll, helps you "age wonderfully".

But does science back up the benefits of an after-meal stroll? And how might our knowledge of digestive function and illness contribute to finding ways to shed that bloated feeling with exercise?

First, consider what happens when your stomach is filled following a good meal. Its capacity varies according to age, size and eating habits, but fill it up and, like a washing machine, it starts to churn.

The autonomic nervous system controls movement and activity in your heart, lungs and guts. It is an automatic system that operates beyond your conscious control. You don't think about making your heart beat or your bowels move for instance, do you?

There are two divisions of the autonomic system. The sympathetic division commands fight-and-flight responses, such as increasing heart rate and blood pressure. This allows you to either stand your ground or run like the clappers.

Its opposite is the parasympathetic nervous system, which governs rest-and-digest responses. This comes into play when you're ready to reduce that chewed-up meal into soup (also called chyme) and absorb all its nutrition into the bloodstream. Then excrete the waste and gases as faeces and flatulence.

To do this, the parasympathetic nervous system mobilises your gut. It causes the release of digestive juices, containing enzymes that break down carbohydrates, fats and proteins into smaller absorbable molecules. It also activates the muscle in the gut wall, allowing the chyme to move along. This waveform of action is called peristalsis.

Where do farts come from?

## 'Fart walk': The health benefits of going for a walk after a meal



**Jerusalem artichokes are famous for their power to induce flatulence**

This is a question my daughter asked me a couple of weeks ago. When I started explaining bacteria and fibre fermentation she lost interest and asked if she could watch Bluey instead.

It may well have been where she got the question from in the first place.

Flatulence is the symptom associated with flatus - the accumulation of gas within the digestive tract. There are many ways gas can build up, and diet is often a big culprit.

High-fibre foods and those with indigestible carbohydrates, such as inulin, (Jerusalem artichokes being a prime example) remain in the gut where its bacteria induce fermentation. Those who've attempted the high-fibre cab-

bage soup diet might also be able to attest to it. Don't forget the flatulent power of fizzy drinks either, nor the swallowing of air that can occur when eating too quickly.

While flatulence is a normal part of life, excessive frequency (or odour) can be a sign of a gastrointestinal disorder. These include gluten or dairy intolerance, or irritable bowel syndrome.

So what evidence is there that walking can aid digestion?

The results obtained from investigating the effect of exercise on the gut are somewhat inconsistent. There are several gastrointestinal symptoms to consider. In the case of constipation, eating fibre is a good measure, but regular

exercise is advised as having a positive effect on bowel movements. And it doesn't need to be ultra-marathons or pumping iron for three hours. Regular walking or light running is often recommended.

A review of studies showed positive effects of aerobic exercise and qigong (Chinese movement exercises similar to tai chi), but concluded that more rigorous research was needed to investigate further. In fact, moderate daily exercise has been associated with a reduced risk of developing bowel cancer and diverticular disease (development of small pouches of the bowel), which have associations with constipation.

What about flatulence?

One study found that gut symptoms, chiefly passing gas, were more prominent and frequent at rest than during exercise. Another examined the effect of exercise levels on symptoms like flatulence and nausea. They found that long-distance walking (that is, low-intensity, prolonged exercise) generated these symptoms, though with notably less frequency and severity when compared with high-intensity exertion.

So is it possible to overdo it? Gastrointestinal symptoms are frequently reported in athletes - runner's trots, for instance. These relate to episodes of diarrhoea runners may experience during a race.

As well as diarrhoea, heavy exertion may also cause symptoms of indigestion, nausea and abdominal pain as a result of reduced blood supply to the gut as it gets redirected to the muscles - an example of the sympathetic system working against digestion.

What are the other mechanisms for the influence of exercise on the gut then? Other suggestions are that sympathetic action and the cascade of different hormones released during exercise cause localised inflammation in sections of the intestine. This might have the ability to change the gut microbiome and therefore flatus production.

So, while the jury is out on a clear-cut answer and recommendation, it isn't unreasonable to consider a trial of light exercise like walking to see if it can alleviate the earth, wind and fire in your abdomen. Its proven positive effects on other aspects of your health, such as cardiovascular risk and weight loss will be a bonus.

# Three-legged lion takes 'record-breaking' swim across river in Uganda

KAMPALA

**A** Well-earned rest for these two lions, who researchers believe swam the longest distance ever recorded for the species.

A feat made even more remarkable by the fact one of the lions - Jacob - has only three legs, after losing one to a poacher's snare.

Using a drone, researchers filmed Jacob and his brother Tibu overcoming their natural aversion to water and paddling across the Kazinga Channel.

Such was their determination to find females, they ploughed on through waters teeming with crocodiles and hippos and arrived at the opposite bank, some 1.5 kilometers later.

Scientists who captured the moment described the event and their findings in a paper published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*.

"So, from a behavioral standpoint, it's fascinating to see them cross such a large water body and over such a long distance," says Alexander Braczkowski, a conservation biologist working with Griffith University in Australia and Northern Arizona University.

"I think it's also a testament to a much larger problem, and it's a symptom of a



much larger problem. And that's why animals are having to take much bigger risks in a human-dominated world," he adds.

Braczkowski believes Jacob and Tibu were forced to make the swim due to a lack of females in the national park.

Female lions are more susceptible to being killed by farmers in retaliation for the killing of cattle.

Researchers say that's led to males outnumbering lionesses.

A healthy lion population should have a ratio of two females to one male,

but in Queen Elizabeth National Park, those numbers have been reversed, and there are twice as many males as females, says Braczkowski.

Jacob and Tibu had, in fact, lost a fight for dominance with other males just hours before deciding to make the remarkable swim to the opposite bank.

The big cats in total made three attempts to cross, all within the space of one hour.

The team also captured the second attempt on camera.

"It's pretty clear that something's

trailing them. It's either a hippo or a Nile crocodile," says Braczkowski.

"That Kazinga Channel which essentially links the two lake systems of Lake Edward and Lake George, it's got a pretty high density of Nile crocodiles and hippos, which are both known to attack and even predate on lions."

"What you're seeing in those first few attempts is, you know, they're kind of scrubbing up the courage, probably encountering something in the water and then in that last attempt, they just say, okay, we're going. And, you know,

they make that monstrous swim of over sort of a mile," adds Braczkowski.

Since they began tracking Jacob in 2017, he's been through a punishing ordeal, mostly at the hands of humans.

"This is an animal that was caught in a snare. He was saved from that snare. A year later, he lost that same leg that was trapped in the snare in a poacher's wheel trap, probably in the Congo. Then six months after that, his family was poisoned. His pride was essentially splintered in two. Shortly thereafter, he was gored by a buffalo," explains Braczkowski.

"Then he makes a 75-kilometre dispersal up north, trying to find territory with his two brothers, and loses a brother. And now, sort of we see him in the twilight of his life, taking the biggest risks of his life to try and, you know, pass on his genes. So, yeah, I think obviously, it's all the more remarkable that he's only got three legs.

"There's something about this particular lion that just says, I'm not going to give up."

Lions have been observed swimming before, notably in Zimbabwe and Botswana, but they're far less comfortable in the water than other big cats, such as jaguars and tigers, says Braczkowski.

By Vuyisile Moyo, Gwanda

**S**MALLHOLDER farmers in rural Gwanda, a region in Zimbabwe that borders South Africa, have been affected by a double shock - a combination of heat, droughts and floods caused by climate change, and water contamination and damaged land caused by illegal, small-scale mining.

Droughts in Gwanda have significantly affected rural farmers and increased over the past 40 years. This has left many families impoverished after harvests failed. Illegal, small-scale mining for gold in Zimbabwe has resulted in deforestation, land degradation, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity in the area, making the problem worse.

Not all small-scale mining in Zimbabwe is illegal. Some artisanal miners have a valid mining claim, a licence to engage in mining activities on an allocated piece of land, and pay taxes to the local authorities and government. Illegal small-scale mining, on the other hand, is mining without permits in any area where the miners suspect that there is gold. There are an estimated 400,000 illegal, small-scale miners in Zimbabwe.

The combined impacts of increased droughts and illegal mining create a complex web of challenges for rural farmers. I am a researcher and development practitioner focusing on communities' adaptation and transformation to climate change. My PhD thesis investigated how 40 years of these problems had affected the farmers, and what practices they came up with to adapt to both stressors at the same time.

I held group discussions in Gwanda, surveyed 80 farmers, and interviewed a group of elders who had lived and farmed in the area for more than 40 years. My research found that rural farmers in Gwanda had limited capacity to adapt to climate-related and illegal small-scale mining shocks. Poor governance of the natural environment in Gwanda is leading to food scarcity, and damage to water and land. It threatens to reverse development gains in these areas.

## The problem

Families in Gwanda mainly survive on smallholder farming in the rainy season when crops grow. In the dry season, households survive by migrating to find work elsewhere, receiving remittances from relatives working outside Zimbabwe, by receiving food aid, and by vending.

They also rely on their own small businesses, harvesting mopane worms, homestead gardening, and dry planting of drought-resistant crops. Some farmers have bought smaller livestock like goats that can survive high temperatures and droughts.

However, illegal small-scale mining has negatively affected these earning opportunities. The farmers I interviewed said they woke up in the morning to find their farmland and foraging areas had been dug up by miners, who worked at night to evade police. Livestock fell into mine pits and died, and local people were

sometimes injured.

As one farmer said: "My farm was encroached by the artisanal miners who believed that there is a lot of gold there. My farmland was dug all over and now I no longer have land for crop production. I now rely on requesting to farm on other people's land... I depend on crop farming for the sustenance of my family."

Previous research in Ghana has also found that artisanal miners dug thousands of pits, leading to the deaths of livestock from drinking the polluted water in the pits and from getting trapped in unrehabilitated and abandoned pits.

The miners also dug up roads between 2017 to 2021, which local authorities failed to repair. One busy road was so damaged by illegal small-scale mining that public transport vehicles could no longer use it. The struggling farmers who had previous-

ly paid R100 (US\$5.43) for a journey now had to pay R300 (US\$16.40) to travel a longer, alternative route. This caused additional stress to the rural farmers, who needed to travel to Gwanda town or Bulawayo to collect their remittances and buy groceries.

Besides destroying the environment and damaging social capital, artisanal small-scale mining is only benefiting a few rural farmers (those politically connected to the ruling Zanu PF party).

Women in Gwanda told me that illegal small-scale miners had cut down mopane trees in the area. In times of previous drought, when their harvest was poor, local women had been able to harvest more than 30 buckets each of mopane worms in a season and sell these in the closest city of Bulawayo, 126 kilometres away, and neighbouring Botswana. They earned enough to survive the year and pay for food,

clothing and school fees - an option that no longer existed, they said.

My research also found that women were double victims. Local men tended to migrate to South Africa and Botswana to seek an income, leaving the women behind. After having their land damaged and rendered unsuitable for agricultural activities, the women did not have the option of digging for gold themselves. They were not accepted by the miners from outside Gwanda and could only find work on the periphery of the illegal mining industry. This included washing miners' clothes, sex work, and selling food. Those who did become miners faced sexual harassment and were looked down upon.

Artisanal mining can be a good alternative to failing agriculture, but only if it is legal and managed properly. In Gwanda it is not policed well.

Governance systems in Gwanda

need to be strengthened. The Zimbabwean government must revisit the Mines and Minerals Act, which regulates how people and corporations go about getting mining rights, and make sure that the police monitor and restrict artisanal mining. Illegal miners must be apprehended and prevented from damaging communal land.

A climate change mitigation programme for agriculture must be put in place. Rural farmers and traditional leaders from Gwanda must be involved in developing this. It should not be developed in a top down manner by experts from government and international institutions.

**Vuyisile Moyo is affiliated with the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) at the University of Cape Town.**

# Zimbabwe farmers affected by illegal mining, climate change



# New law prohibiting child marriages in Sierra Leone lauded

By Joyce Chimbi

“A person shall not contract marriage with a child.” Sierra Leone’s landmark Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2024 says, outlawing, in no uncertain terms, child marriage, giving consent to and attempted child marriage, officiating, attending and promoting child marriage, and use of force or ill-treatment of a child.

The legislation was signed by Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio earlier in July in a ceremony organized by First Lady Fatima Bio, whose “Hands Off Our Girls” campaign played a crucial role in this achievement.

Men who marry girls under 18 face 15 years in prison, a fine of around USD 4,000, or both.

Fatou Gueye Ndir, Senior Regional Engagement and Advocacy Officer for Girls Not Brides, told IPS that the power of the new legislation towards ending harmful practices cannot be overemphasized, as “it also includes provisions for enforcing penalties on offenders, protecting victims’ wives, and ensuring access to education and support services for young girls affected.”

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of over 1,400 civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. Fatou says the new law has injected new life into the fight against child marriage and early and forced marriages in Sierra Leone.

“This is a turning point. We call upon the government to continue to provide support services for affected girls and access to education, which are essential so that girls are protected and are not negatively impacted by criminalization of child marriage.”

The law also prohibits conspiracy to cause child marriage and aiding and abetting child marriage. So comprehensive is the new law that it also prohibits cohabitation with a child, any attempt to do so, conspiracy to cause cohabitation with a child and, aiding and abetting cohabitation with a child.

UNICEF says in 2020 alone, nearly 800,000 girls under the age of 18 were married, accounting for a third of the girls in Sierra Leone. Half of them married before they turned 15. So prevalent is the child marriage scourge that approximately nine percent of all children will have gotten married by age 15, and 30 percent by age 18.

Hannah Yambasu, director for Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society Sierra Leone (WAVES-SL), which is a national NGO, said that in the absence of a law prohibiting child marriages, “the compulsory education policy, where all children must go to school, has not been enough to keep girls within the education system. There are ethnic groups and communities that believe girls, in and out of school, should not turn 18 years old before getting married.”

She says girls entered risky territory at the age of 12 and that many were subsequently forced into child marriages and their lifelong consequences.

Yambasu agrees, saying that the law in and of itself is not enough and concerted efforts must be made to sensitize the community on all sections of the law, especially as the Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2009 allowed for child marriages with the consent of a parent or guardian and did not stipulate a minimum age of marriage. Stressing that massive, grassroots civic education is urgently needed.

Fatou said effective implementation of the law will lead to substantial gains and positive outcomes in education, health and the economic advancement of women. Emphasizing that child marriage and education are strongly interlinked, as girls who stay longer in school are protected from child marriages. Furthermore, girls will have fewer disruption caused by early marriage or early pregnancy and, are more likely to perform better.



Fatima Maada Bio, the First Lady of Sierra Leone, championed the legislation with her Hands Off Our Girls campaign.



The newly-signed Sierra Leone law outlawing child marriage also says that those who entered into marriage as children before the new legislation came into effect can petition for annulment.

ment Goals Report 2024, which details the significant challenges the world is facing in making substantial strides towards achieving the SDGs. It features areas with setbacks while also showcasing where tangible progress has been made, for instance, the world continues to lag in its pursuit of gender equality by 2030.

While harmful practices are decreasing, the report finds it are not keeping up with population growth. One in five girls still marries before age 18, compared to one in four 25 years ago—68 million child marriages were averted in this period.

The report raises concerns that far too many women still cannot realize the right to decide on their sexual and reproductive health. Violence against women persists, disproportionately affecting those with disabilities. With just six years remaining, current progress falls far short of what is required to meet the SDGs. Without massive investment and scaled-up action, the report calls into question the achievement of the SDGs.

The UN’s Summit of the Future will be held in September 2024. A once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and reaffirm existing commitments, including to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yambasu understands these challenges all too well, as she works closely with adolescent girls, women and vulnerable persons, including those with disabilities and implores all governments, stakeholders and the older generation to give girls a chance to live their life as they choose.

“A chance to go to school and to later on choose the husband of their choice. They go into forced marriages with their hearts bleeding and the trajectory of their lives changing for the worst. All children deserve protection and happiness, and we now have a legal blueprint to safeguard their dreams,” she says.

Stressing that girls deserve “access to all the tools necessary to fully participate in developing our nations in Africa. We need to rise up against all harmful practices. The traditions are there, yes, and we want to preserve them. But let us keep only those that develop and advance our communities.”

IPS

“Child marriage is linked to girls’ pregnancy, so the law will progressively help reduce maternal and infant mortality. Delaying marriage and pregnancy will significantly lower the risk associated with early childbirth, including all the complications that often lead to higher rates of maternal and infant mortality,” Fatou says.

Further indicating that girls who avoid early child marriage are less likely to experience the psychological trauma or stress associated with child marriage, leading to improved mental health outcomes.

“When more girls complete their education, there will be a larger pool of educated women entering the workforce, contributing to economic growth and development. Educated women are more likely to secure better-paying jobs, which can elevate the economic status of their families, reducing poverty levels,” she says.

The rapid rise in the child population in Africa necessitates radical steps towards ending all harmful practices, including child marriage, as they derail progress towards universal access to education. Child marriage is particularly a major obstacle to sustainable development. Six of the world’s 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are in West and Central Africa, where the average prevalence across the region remains high—nearly 41 per cent of girls marry before reaching the age of 18.

The new Sierra Leone law is timely, especially in light of the Sustainable Develop-

# RADIO One

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

By Francis Kajubi

# STAKEHOLDERS COMPLEMENT GOVT EFFORTS IN EQUIPPING WOMEN ON LAND OWNERSHIP

**A**TTITUDE and behaviour change among communities are aspects that must be observed by the government and nongovernmental organizations if equality to land ownership for women is to be realized.

Khadija Mrisho, Land Tenure Specialist and Lead of the Stand for Her Land campaign at LANDESA, made the recommendation at a stakeholders meeting held recently in Morogoro town.

According to her, the change of attitude and behavior among community members towards women land ownership rights is of key importance if empowerment of women in sustainable development is to be achieved.

She said the non-profit organization enrolled the campaign in 2019 with a mission of closing the gap between law and practice for more women to realize their land rights.

"The campaign aligns with the sustainable development goal 'SDG5 and SDG 1 on women welfare and empowerment socially and economically,'" said Khadija.

She asserted that in Africa, the campaign is being run in Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal and Ethiopia. In Tanzania, the campaign is implemented by the Stand For Her Land Coalition (S4HL Coalition) with 36 members, coordinated by LANDESA and chaired by Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association (TAWLA).

She asserted that the campaign is being run in collaboration with the 36 member organizations at the village level to fast track women land rights at the grassroots level.

The campaign, she said, currently covers ten district councils namely Kilwa, Monduli, Gairo, Kisarawe, Arumeru, Lindi rural, Mufindi, Kilosa, Ifakara and Mkuranga.

At the meeting which was called for the member organizations to shed insights in the implementation of the campaign for the first half of this year, Khadija said the campaign apart from promoting implementation of progressive laws that guarantee women's land rights, it targets at advance-

ment of grassroots women's agencies, voices and leadership in land governance bodies and climate action projects.

Speaking at the meeting, member organizations shared the progress in realizing land ownership for women and related setbacks.

Juma Masisi, WAMEDA Executive Director, said that the Kagera based organization has been implementing the campaign in Karagwe and Kyerwa districts.

Through the Women empowerment and Food Security Project, the organization aligns the project with the stand for her land campaign by sensitizing communities on the rights to women land ownership.

The organization has reached 402 women with training on land ownership and heritage related issues.

"Women are capable of capitalizing on every opportunity that comes their way as long as they are given a chance to do so. Behavior change should be not only for the men but also women," he said.

According to him, women who lose their husbands face harassment from their late husbands' relatives on inheriting properties and the harassment mostly comes from female relatives which shouldn't be the case.

Judith Likindikoki, Project Officer, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum said that through the LANDESA financed campaign, the organization is sensitizing communities on women's rights to land ownership in Kilwa district of Lindi region particularly in the villages of Nainokwe, Liwiti, Mavuji and Migeregere.

She said the organization has been organizing public debates on women land rights alongside district multi stakeholders' forums that involve government officials at the district and village levels.



A woman captured while working on a farm. File Photo.

Selemani Bishagazi, Director Sauti ya Jamii said that the organization has sensitized communities in Hai district in Kilimanjaro region and in Ilala district in Dar es Salam.

"We have helped communities to prepare questionnaires for the forthcoming local government elections on issues related to omen land ownership where contestants will be required to explain based on their political parties manifestos how they will address the issue," said Bishagazi.

Godwin Assenga, TAMWA ICT and Programme Officer said that the organization has learned that there is overwhelming fear among men in some societies regarding women land ownership.

He said that in some communities in Lindi region are being married with an intention of acquiring land from men they marry to and after achieving their mission,

They sought divorce and went on to marry other men for the same purpose. The scenario scares aware men from engaging women in land ownership matters," said Assenga.

Flavian Ngeni, Programme

Manager Habitat for Humanity Tanzania, said that the organization is all about working with communities in building houses and hope for self-reliance.

The organization empowers women with skills to become builders and employ them as masons for housing projects. For the past eight months, the organization has built 19 residential houses.

Tumaini Setumbi, Community Development Officer, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development said that the government has been supporting women land ownership campaigns through its Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP)

According to her, the project targets increasing women land ownership to 41 percent come 2027 from the current 25 percent.

"The project has as of March this year reached 541,593 people with sensitization on women land ownership rights,

The World Bank funded project at a tune of 346bn/ is being implemented with observation of women land rights in the preparation of the National

Development Vision 2050," said Setumbi.

John Mapunda, Senior Community Development Officer, Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group, said that the ministry is implementing the Generative Equality Forum programme for women to have easy access to land ownership.

He said the ministry has facilitated the endorsement of the National Gender and Development Policy 2023 which emphasizes on empowering women economically and socially.

"Women land ownership is one of the ministry's priorities and we have been sensitizing communities on this matter since establishment of the ministry two years ago," said Mapunda.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 gives special importance to securing women's land rights as a critical area for action in eradicating poverty and reducing gender equality gaps.

According to the research findings dubbed 'Women's Access to Land in Tanzania: The Case of the Makete District 2017' by Kerbina Moyo from the Department of Real Estate and Construction Management, School of Architecture and Built Environment Stockholm, states that within households, men occupy about 47 percent of the land.

Mixed ownership reaches almost 37 percent, while women occupy a small portion which is 16 percent of the family land in Tanzania. It states that customary land tenure accounts for 97 percent of land in the Makete district while general land tenure forms three percent.

Makete district in particular, the study found that 63 women, an equivalent of 56 percent of the interviewed in Bulungwa, Lupalilo, and Mwakouta villages had acquired land through inheritance in the form of either family

or clan land.

Purchase of land ranked second with about 30 respondents (27 percent), allocation by friends took third position with eight respondents (seven percent).

Allocation by friends or relatives and leasing of land accounted for three percent each from three interviewed respondents. "Allocation by village leaders formed four percent with five respondents," reads the survey report.

On the other hand, a surge of 57 percent of Tanzanians does not legally own the land they live on, according to findings of the Fin-Scope Tanzania 2023 Survey by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT).

The findings of the survey conducted in an interval of six years dubbed 'Insights that drive innovation' shows that in 2017 an estimated 56 percent of Tanzanians didn't own the land they lived on.

According to data in the survey's report released last Monday, 37 per[1]cent of interviewed respondents said that they personally own the land they live on. In 2017, 30 percent of respondents said that they personally own the land they lived on.

Of the total respondents, from a sample of 10,005 aged 16 years and above conducted across 667 enumeration areas (EA) with 15 interviews per EA, shows that only six percent of Tanzanians own the land with someone else.

In 2017, 15 percent of Tanzanians own the land with someone else. The report states that ownership of land, and more so proof of land ownership, continues to be one of the key forms of collateral for formal financing and borrowing, in particular with banks.

It emphasizes that holding proof of ownership of land is heavily linked to the likelihood of being provided with a line of credit from larger financial service providers.

## 'Fifth paradigm' of science right at future's door

TIUANJIN

A new wave of technological breakthroughs, represented by artificial intelligence, blockchain and the mobile internet, is reshaping the world. These advancements, combined with the innovative allocation of production factors and industrial transformation, are promoting new quality productive forces. And the digital economy, characterized by innovation, efficiency and intelligence, is transforming traditional production methods while developing new quality productive forces.

As a new production factor, data are crucial for cultivating new quality productive forces in the digital economy, while theoretical and practical innovations need to be leveraged to exploit the multiplier effect of data and facilitate the develop-

ment of new quality productive forces.

Traditionally, there have been three paradigms of science: empirical, theoretical and computational. But since our ability to collect "big data" has greatly surpassed our capability to analyze the data, a fourth paradigm has emerged, which is data-driven discovery. Despite that, however, the limitations of these paradigms become evident in the digital economy and, as a result, conclusions derived from the data may not align with real-world situations or common sense.

That in turn has made it necessary to explore the possibility of a "fifth paradigm" of science, and reconstruct the institutions of industrial society and economy. This approach is in line with the disruptive impacts of scientific theory, which will fully unleash the multiplier ef-



fect of data.

This author's proposed theory of data intellectual property is based on the "Coken theory". By integrating diverse knowledge, this approach aims to improve market-based distribution of data benefits, enhance transaction efficiency and overcome the limitations of traditional IP rights protection.

By using the Coken theory, one can transcend the limitations of traditional ownership, combine it with the "fifth paradigm" of science and realize incentive distribution for data revenue and value creation in circulation.

distribution system based on data IP ownership and contribution.

Data rights holders can possess, use, trade and benefit from registered data, ensuring dynamic protection throughout the data's lifecycle. Currently, the theory and system of data IP registration are being implemented in places such as Zhejiang province, and the explosive growth of new technology clusters represented by AI and blockchain, especially through massive aggregation of multi-source data, has significantly altered organizational models and production methods.

Hence, this is the right time to explore the "fifth paradigm" of science so as to seize the opportunities and overcome the challenges of digital civilization.

## GSMA and World Bank partner to boost handset affordability

CAPE TOWN

THE GSMA, the World Bank, and other global institutions today unveiled a new coalition to increase handset affordability for low-income people.

The new alliance will consider a variety of strategies to minimize the cost of entrance into the digital economy for these communities.

In a statement, the group stated that Africans are particularly affected by issues such as the expensive cost of phones (30 percent of monthly income) with 3G and 4G capabilities, which impedes access to key services and economic possibilities, widening the digital gap.

The consortium stated that if smartphones were priced about \$20, an extra 270 million Africans would be able to purchase them, possibly closing the usage gap by 23 percent.

Members of the coalition include major global mobile operators, vendors, device ecosystem stakeholders, international organizations, and funding institutions such as the World Bank Group, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and the WEF Edison Alliance.

The coalition will work together to enhance access to cheap internet-enabled devices in order to reduce the 'Usage Gap', which pre-



with particular focus on LMICs and areas where handset affordability presents the highest barrier to getting online, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

By exploring new solutions including 'de-risking' financing mechanisms, with the support of the World Bank Group, the coalition said it will enhance and complement ongoing efforts to expand digital access and affordability.

Going forward, the GSMA will continue to facilitate close collaboration between coalition members to share learnings, and deploy tailored innovative models that can effectively narrow the usage gap.

Mats Granryd, director general of the GSMA, said: "Mobile has helped billions of people worldwide to play an active role in our increasingly digital world, but the cost of entry can still be too high for many on low incomes. Together with global mobile operators, and the support of the World Bank Group and other key coalition members, we're determined to act on this issue."

"By building creative solutions to bring mobile internet into the hands of those who need it the most, we believe we can make real strides towards closing the Usage Gap and help millions more maximise their potential by getting online."

# MPAYIMANA PROPOSES REFORMS TO PROTECT ARABLE LAND FROM CONSTRUCTION PRESSURE

KIGALI

Independent presidential candidate Philippe Mpayimana has proposed reforms in the construction sector, including the development of apartment buildings to accommodate more families and protect agricultural land from the increasing pressure of housing needs.

This proposal is a key part of his manifesto as he campaigns to become President of Rwanda in the July 2024 elections.

Mpayimana says this approach could increase the value of agricultural land compared to building plots. He addressed the current situation where building plots have become a speculative business.

Prioritising agriculture over construction

In a strict measure to protect agricultural land, Mpayimana proposes to suspend construction on remaining undeveloped land for five years to prioritize agriculture if elected.

During this period, people who buy plots or houses for demolition will be granted authorizations, but they will be encouraged to pool resources to build multi-floor buildings for co-ownership.

"We note that the trade in building plots is more flourishing than the trade in agricultural land or farms, ponds, forests," he said, indicating that the demand for building plots shows a preference for construction over agriculture.

Mpayimana argued that constructing houses does not preserve surrounding agricultural land but rather reduces it due to the horizontal expansion of residential compounds and cities. He advocates for embracing vertical construction, consisting of multi-floor buildings.

Contrary to current orders to build on plots to prevent state monopolisation, Mpayimana suggests that owners should avoid starting construction before gathering the necessary budget for a storey building. In the meantime, he requests that undeveloped land be cultivated to ensure the country and its cities remain green.

He encourages a construction model where one person can build a firm house with a strong foundation and a top that can serve as another plot for a family member or another person to build a



A view of a newly constructed farming land in Bumbogo Sector Gasabo District. Sam Ngendahimana.

housing unit.

Constructing Residential Storey Buildings under Social Housing

Mpayimana's project aims to build at least one residential house with three floors in each village, where possible, per year, to accommodate at least 12 families under the housing at moderate rent (HLM) model. HLM, or social housing, provides housing for people with low or average income who struggle to find private housing, and it may be public or private with rent subsidies.

He emphasised that apartment social housing for low-income families should be a government responsibility. Tenants would pay rent based on their financial means, and effective implementation would require experienced property managers.

"All people need accommodation, but not everyone will be building their own house. Therefore, the first infrastructure is to build low-cost houses for the people that correspond to their financial means," he said, adding that residents suggested such houses should not exceed five floors.

Regarding investment requirements, he mentioned that it would be a profitable investment for the government, as residents will pay based on their financial means. If these buildings are properly constructed to last for 100 years, the government would see a return on its

investment.

Mpayimana is contesting the presidency against incumbent President Paul Kagame, the flag-bearer of the ruling party Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF Inkotanyi), and Frank Habineza, Chairperson of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR).

This is Mpayimana's second bid for the presidency after an unsuccessful attempt in 2017, where he received over 0.7 percent of the total votes in an election won by Kagame with more than 98 percent of the votes.

Rwanda might have about 1.4 million hectares of arable land, but a big chunk of it is being used for construction rather than agriculture, a scenario that could gravely affect food production in the country in the near future.

Lawmakers say much of the country's arable land is under pressure. They called on authorities to move fast and ensure that there is a clear demarcation of land for agriculture in the country.

Experts have attributed the pressure on land to population growth and growing construction needs occasioned by urbanisation, worse of all, unplanned settlements.

The Fourth Population and Housing Census, published in 2012, projects that the population will increase from 10.5 million in 2012 to at least 15.4 million by 2032.

According to the projections from the census, about 102,000 new households were to be created by 2015, which would shoot to 111,575 by 2017 and 125,674 new households by 2020.

This situation shows growing demand for housing.

A 2016 report by different agencies, whose results were derived from a survey of five districts, revealed that, in general, there is lack of compliance to standards and regulations related to land use, planning and management.

Some key findings include lack of enforcement of land use plans, increasing level of urban sprawl (rural land increasingly being urbanised as a result of people's relocation) and informal settlements both in urban and rural areas, poor implementation of 'Umudugudu' (village) policy, poor environmental protection where buffers of lakes, rivers, wetlands and protected forests are misused.

The sampled districts are Kicukiro in Kigali, Musanze (as a secondary city) in Northern Province, Kamonyi of Southern Province, Ngoma in Eastern Province, and Karongi in Western Province.

In Karongi District, some portions of land have been dedicated to Imidugudu settlements but with no clear data on size given. Between 2011 and 2015, at least 300 hectares of land earmarked for agriculture in the district was encroached on

for housing needs.

In Ngoma, the survey found no concrete zoning practice for various land uses which led to the encroachment of agriculture land to the tune of 244 hectares within the same reporting period.

The situation was not any different in other districts sampled.

MP Ignatienne Nyirarukundo, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, said that there was need to protect land designated for agriculture and optimally utilise it to ensure sustained food security, expressing concern over encroachment of such land, mainly for construction.

"If nothing is done, land that was designed for agriculture will be occupied by buildings. That is an issue that needs deep discussions to see how to protect agricultural land even if it has not been fully exploited for the intended use," she said.

Senator Jean Damascène Ntawukuliryayo said a clear demarcation of land for agriculture and proper land use in the country is essential for proper planning for agriculture in terms of inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, hence ensuring agriculture productivity.

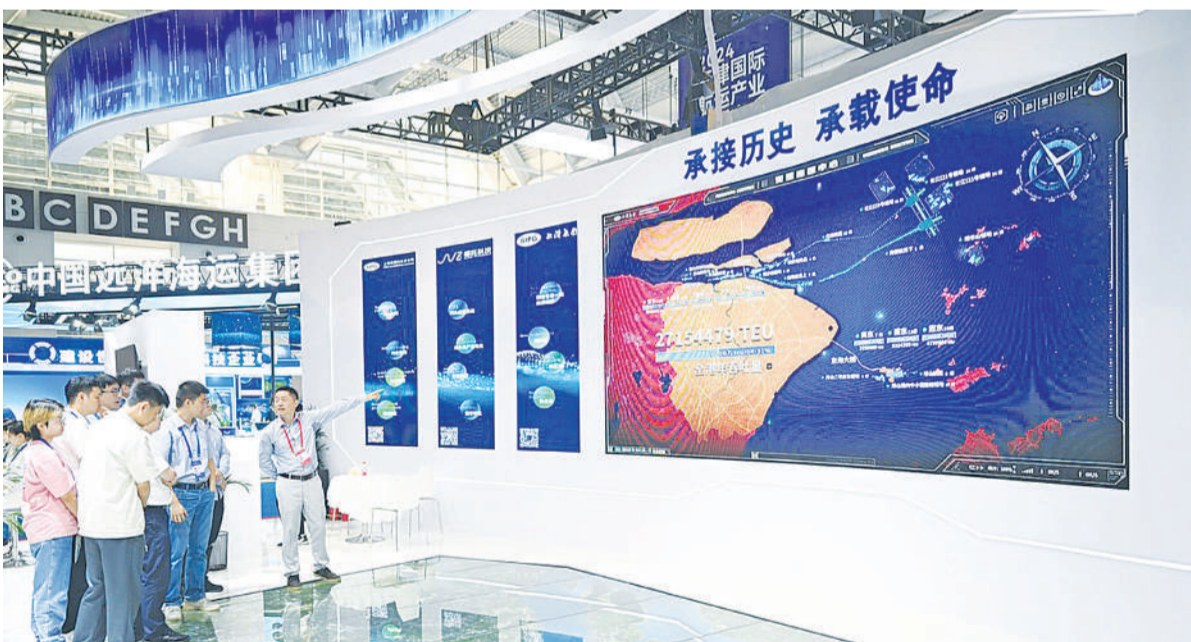
"If we do not take a resolution and people continue to use land the way they feel like, it is a major issue," he said.

Annie Kairaba, the managing director of Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), a local NGO whose main area of intervention is land, concurs with the legislators.

"Urbanisation is expanding, yet land size cannot increase. Most areas that were used for agriculture now hold buildings," Kairaba said, citing Kibagabaga area in Kigali.

She told The New Times that Vision 2020 provides for 50 per cent of population to live off farm, which is a great vision for the economy considering the rapid population growth, "with our limited land."

However, Kairaba observed that this should be strategically implemented in order to ensure sustained food security, especially of the poor and the less educated who depend on agriculture for their livelihood.



People visit the Tianjin International Shipping Industry Expo 2024 held in Tianjin, yesterday.

## International shipping industry Expo 2024 kicks off in Tianjin

TIANJIN

Tianjin International Shipping Industry Expo 2024 kicked off on Wednesday, aiming to build a platform for international cooperation and exchange in the shipping industry.

The four-day expo set nine exhibition areas to all-round display shipping industry chain equipment, technology and services, attracting over 400 enterprises, well-known ports, and industry associations.

During the expo, the Port Economic Development Report of Chinese Seaport Cities 2024 was released by the Transport Planning and Research Institute of the Ministry of Transport.

According to the report, Chinese seaport cities saw the added value of their port economy amount to 6.2 trillion yuan (\$869.05 billion) in 2023, which accounted for 13.4 percent of these cities' total economic output. The added value increased

by 192.9 billion yuan over the previous year.

The report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the port economic development of the country's 59 seaport cities.

Notably, the Yangtze River Delta region's seaport cities contributed 44.7 percent of the total added value of the port economy, thereby emerging as the most developed area of the port economy among coastal regions.

In 2023, the port

economy accounted for 15 percent, 22 percent and 8 percent of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries in seaport cities, respectively, significantly supporting the primary and secondary industries, the report said.

The report noted that China's port economy is still based on fundamental traditional industries, facing the problems of low technological content, incomplete industrial chain and less cluster devel-

## Energy companies marketing Rwanda to scale clean cooking

KIGALI

Bboxx is partnering with TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda to scale Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) clean cooking in and beyond Kigali, Rwanda, following a successful pilot programme in 2023, with plans to reach 1 million people over the next 5 years.

For this clean cooking roll-out, Bboxx is providing its own technology, the Smart Cooking Valve, which sits on top of the LPG cylinder, and TotalEnergies will provide the cylinders and gas. The Smart Cooking Valve, launched in August 2023, is a device that revolutionises gas usage: it locks onto the LPG cylinder and digitally controls customers' gas access based on their mobile money payments, enabling a pay-as-you-cook financing model. Few households can afford an entire gas refill in one payment, so this flexible payment system allows customers to pay for their day-to-day gas usage and reap the economic and health advantages by switching from traditional

cooking methods like charcoal to more affordable and less polluting LPG.

The initial test phase of the pilot programme demonstrated great demand for the PAYGo kit, with higher than usual cylinder rotation. The partnership model enables universal clean cooking access, with TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda financing the cylinder and gas for customers, and Bboxx ensuring collection payments. This provides financial flexibility for the customer and expands the LPG offering to a wider market. This partnership creates a brand-new clean cooking business model which has the potential to scale across the entire continent - Bboxx and TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda plan to reach 1 million people over the next 5 years by providing cylinders with Smart Cooking Valves.

Mansoor Hamayun, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Bboxx, said: "Pursuing clean cooking expansion is a huge part of Bboxx's mission to bring essential prod-

ucts and services to underserved communities and we are both honoured and excited to embark on this clean cooking deployment with TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda. Bboxx is building on the release of the Smart Cooking Valve last year and applying its PAYGo model to the existing clean cooking industry, enabling us to extend access to more families. When we look at the bigger picture, access to clean cooking facilities leads to more lives saved."

Ronan Masseron, TotalEnergies Country Chair and Managing Director in Rwanda, said: "Through partnership and innovation, Bboxx and TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda are lighting the path towards clean cooking access in Rwanda and beyond. By combining Bboxx's pioneering technology with TotalEnergies' commitment to sustainability, we're not just providing LPG cylinders, we're delivering economic empowerment and health benefits to thousands."

The partnership of Bboxx with TotalEnergies Marketing Rwanda marks a crucial development in the clean cooking space. Currently, 2.4 billion people still rely on traditional cooking methods, which often leads to harmful health effects, often with fatal consequences, particularly for women and children. The success of this partnership and clean cooking deployment would demonstrate that there is scope for more LPG units to expand across the continent using this business model.



LPG cylinders. File Photo.

## CONSTRUCTION

## FIVE STEPS TO DECARBONISING, DIGITISING YOUR FLEET

CAPE TOWN

To anyone who has been paying even the slightest bit of attention to the global climate change crisis, the decline of the fossil fuel era will come as no surprise. Not only is the supply slowly drying up, but the processes to collect and produce electricity, petrol, diesel, LP gas, and other forms of fossil fuel energy are taking a heavy toll on the environment.

Thankfully, access to clean, renewable energy – wind, water, and solar power – is becoming ever easier. And things that rely on fossil fuels – cars, trucks, and aeroplanes – are being developed to run on renewable fuel sources.

Says Justin Coetzee, CEO of fleet management company GoMetro, “Electric vehicle (EV) technology is moving fast, and the world is delivering great products at more affordable prices as technology and demand rise. A fully electric delivery fleet isn’t feasible just yet, but now is the time to plan and prepare for this future. What can you do today that will allow you to hit the ground running in the future?”

Coetzee shares five steps that will help to set you up for a smooth transition to an EV fleet.

**Analyse your existing data**

Start by examining your company’s existing operations. Gather your fleet telematics for information on current routes, vehicle load capacity, usual cargo, and available drivers. Then, examine the grid quality near your business premises and your vehicle replacement schedule. In-house telematics data will have months of very rich operational insights to drive a transition strategy.

“It can take some effort to pull all of this information together, but once it has been compiled and analysed, you will have a detailed overview of your operation, which will significantly as-



sist you in the remaining steps of the process,” Coetzee says.

Although it is possible to complete this analysis in-house, getting help from experts will produce far more accurate results and an in-depth plan of action for the next steps.

**Invest in solar**

For years, South Africans have suffered from problematic electricity supply, prompting many businesses and private homes to invest in solar. A reliable source of electricity is a crucial component of a successful business, and barring the occasional reprieve, the South African government is struggling to meet the country’s demand.

“The tax incentives for installing solar power are fantastic, so take full advantage. But act quickly – the incentives are only available until 28 February 2025. Instead of investing in just enough roof panels to see you through load shedding, cover

your factory’s entire roof. Yes, it will produce more power than you can use right now, but that won’t be the case for long. In a few years, you’ll replace your fossil fuel costs with green, renewable ‘fuel’ to operate your fleet,” advises Coetzee.

The Section 12BA tax benefit lets companies claim an upfront 125% of renewable energy asset costs. This rebate applies to inverters and power storage batteries as well, if they form an integral part of the renewable energy system.

Your solar investment will pay off in the long run, when highway electrification becomes more feasible for toll companies and you can invest in larger trucks that can travel longer distances with more cargo, Coetzee says.

**Invest in your first electric vehicles**

With the fleet telematics gathered in Step 1, investigate which

electric trucks will best suit your business. There are affordable entry-level EVs for most categories of commercial vehicle.

Coetzee comments that the initial analysis will identify what balance of internal combustion engine (ICE) and EV vehicles in your fleet will produce optimal results for an initial step towards transition. Then you need to decide which EVs are the most suitable replacements for the trucks scheduled for imminent retirement.

“Look at battery size, range, and charging times. Analyse how much solar power you are producing and compare those numbers to the energy requirements of various EVs. Match up your supply with potential demand for the best investment,” Coetzee continues. “Your EV fleet may look a little different from your ICE fleet, but it should ultimately produce the same results.”

The EVs currently available in

South Africa might not fill you with confidence that this is the right direction. However, by the time you’re ready to start replacing your ICE fleet, most likely with smaller delivery vehicles in the one- to four-tonne range, the market will be full of great options.

He notes that EV manufacturers are regularly launching new models and producing increasingly superior vehicles. Import tariffs and duties are anticipated to be adjusted in future government budget announcements, which will go a long way to the affordability of these eco-friendly vehicles.

**Identify suitable routes**

With a good understanding of your new vehicle’s capabilities, it’s time to look at the most suitable routes to send them on. The first routes to be serviced by EVs will likely be loops of around 120 kilometres from the depot, Coetzee says. This will allow for two

passes a day, with a fast charge after the first loop, while the vehicle is being reloaded, and a full charge overnight on low-power charging.

Longer, interprovincial routes, won’t be viable for some time, Coetzee adds, as they will require charging infrastructure along major national routes, which will undoubtedly take a while to complete. But, he says, shorter routes can reduce your fuel spend from the outset.

“When the first tranche of your routes have gone electric and you’ve got new data to analyse – what routes work best, what’s the best charging schedule for your business, your largest expenses and biggest savings, and so on – you can revisit your initial plan and make improvements for the next wave of EVs to your fleet,” Coetzee states.

**Data management**

He notes that data management and analytics are even more important for EV fleets than ICE fleets.

“EV fleets require careful management of resources since you won’t be able to pop into a nearby fuelling station if a vehicle runs out of power,” he explains. “Thankfully, electric vehicles generate vast amounts of data that, with the assistance of a reliable electric vehicle fleet management system, will set your company up for a successful future in the EV era.”

**Anticipate emissions regulations**

Coetzee says companies should remember that South Africa currently lags the European Union in its emissions regulations, but it’s only a matter of time before the government tightens these regulations in line with the EU and other world powers.

“An EV fleet is a neat solution to complying with the developing standards of emissions control. Not only does it show commitment to a greener planet, but you can take advantage of economic benefits, such as reduced fuel and maintenance costs, improved efficiency, and vehicle longevity – all of which are good for your business,” he concludes

## Uganda commences construction of the Multi-Million Hoima Stadium

KAMPALA

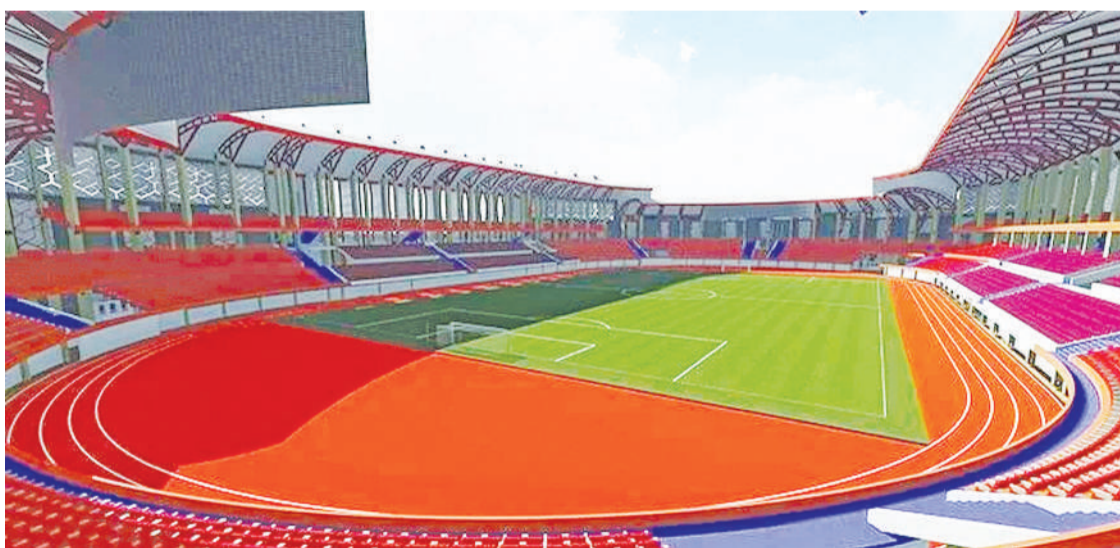
Uganda Prepares to Host the AFCON 2027 Tournament as it Commences Construction of the Multi-Million Hoima Stadium.

Construction of the multi-million Hoima Stadium in Uganda takes shape as the country prepares to host the AFCON 2027. The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) is a tournament that is anticipated to be hosted by East African countries.

This includes Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, who will distribute the matches. Completion of the stadium is expected within 18 months, with a deadline of December 2025.

The Ministry of Works and Transport, supported by the newly formed Africa Cup of Nations Sub-Committee on Infrastructure, will oversee the project. Other East African nations are taking the task quite seriously, as they also have stadiums in the works. Kenya is constructing a 60,000-seater sports complex which will feature state-of-the-art technology. It will also include top-level TV broadcast capabilities, VAR, and goal-line technology.

The construction of the Hoima stadium necessitates an expeditious construction to ensure preparedness for the tournament. Fellow host nations are also serious with their work as they seek to be well-prepared. For instance, the construction of the Tal-



anta stadium was spearheaded by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

This is the same company that built the 472 km-long Nairobi-Mombasa Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). Tanzania, on the other hand, is constructing a modern football stadium in Arusha.

The construction of the stadium is being undertaken by the China Railway Construction Engineering Group (CRCEG). The company has been operating in Arusha for nearly 20 years, completing over 10 major projects.

The significance of the stadiums being constructed across East Africa, including the multi-million Hoima stadium, is commendable. Other than being prepared for the AFCON 2027, the stadiums raise the bar for football across these nations.

East Africa is not known for

having prolific football stadiums, but that seems to be changing. Upon completion, these newly constructed stadiums will facilitate the provision of state-of-the-art amenities for the sport.

Nonetheless, the AFCON marks a historic return to East Africa, which last hosted the tournament in 1976. The stadiums are a symbolic mark of these historical markings as an indelible testament to the impact football as a sport may have on infrastructure development. Currently, of the three countries, Kenya is the only nation still without a CAF or FIFA-approved stadium.

This is after Uganda had the Mandela National Stadium (Namboole) cleared to host international matches last month.

The construction of the multi-million Hoima stadium is not the only one that football fans

across the region are eyeing for its completion. In Kenya, the Talanta stadium promises to be a spectacle for all to see. Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba is optimistic about the timely completion of renovation and construction works at Nyayo, Kasarani, and Talanta Sports City stadiums.

He has projected that the Talanta Sports City Stadium will be ready by December 2025, ahead of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) inspections. “We are confident that the speed that is currently being considered for the construction of Talanta Stadium puts us in a good place to ensure that we complete the work by December 2025 as we said at the beginning,” Namwamba stated.

## Kalahari railway expected to speed up as Botswana appeals for faster progress

GABORONE

The construction of the mega Trans-Kalahari railway project is expected to speed up as Botswana calls for faster progress. Botswana’s President Mkgwetsi Eric Masisi noted that he seeks to see faster progress in constructing the Trans-Kalahari Railway project. Once completed, the railway project is expected to be a transportation link between Namibia and Botswana. The president noted that the project has been on the cards for more than a decade and should have been completed by now, benefiting both countries and the region.

“I feel compelled to highlight that this project should not be starting but in its final stages by now. It is imperative that we quickly address all pending matters to expedite the commencement of the project without delay,” Masisi said. He added that time is of the essence, and urgent action is required to resolve any outstanding issues so that the project can begin as soon as possible.

The construction of the mega Trans-Kalahari railway project is expected to revolutionize Southern Africa’s transport sector once completed. The project will benefit not only Botswana and Namibia but also other Southern African countries such as Angola and South Africa. Botswana’s government, aware of this, seeks the expeditious completion of the much-stalled project.

He made the remarks during talks with his Namibian counterpart, Nangolo Mbumba, in the Namibian coastal city of Swakopmund, where he is being hosted on a three-day official visit. The Trans-Kalahari railway is expected to improve

the transport sector of both nations. Furthermore, the governments of Namibia and Botswana are committed to improving freight rail services.

This is expected to be done in a way that will best meet the transportation needs of the users. Moreover, the project will create jobs and economic benefits for their citizens.

The Trans-Kalahari railway project involves the construction of a new line from Botswana to Walvis Bay in Namibia. In addition, it involves a complete rehabilitation of the TransNamib line. The rehabilitation works will be carried out from Gobabis, through the capital, Windhoek, to the new port at Walvis Bay. The 1,500km railway line will traverse the vast semi-arid, sandy savannah of the Kalahari Desert, hence the name “Trans-Kalahari railway.” It mirrors the existing Trans-Kalahari Highway or corridor that links Botswana to Walvis Bay. However, unlike the railway line, the corridor stretches 1,900km. It traverses Walvis Bay through Windhoek, Gaborone in Botswana, and Johannesburg to Pretoria in South Africa.

The project will be developed through a public-private partnership based on a DBOOT contractual arrangement. Under this arrangement, a developer undertakes the project’s financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance. The project’s consulting engineers are Nine squared consultants.

Apart from the mega Trans-Kalahari Railway Project, other significant projects are underway in the region. One of them is the Trans-Angolan motorway project.

## WORLD

## Kagame expected to cruise to fourth term in Rwanda election

KIGALI

RWANDAN President Paul Kagame is expected to cruise to a fourth term in office in an election on Monday against two opposition candidates who were cleared to run against him but have only modest expectations.

Kagame (pictured), 66, helped lead the rebel movement that ended the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and has served as president since 2000. He faces only two rivals because six other potential candidates were not cleared to run by the state-run electoral commission.

Kagame won nearly 99 percent of the vote in the last election in 2017, which followed a constitutional change removing term limits that would have barred him from standing again.

His reelection could signal further stability but also continued global scrutiny, given accusations of rights abuses and continued tensions with neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kagame has won praise during his tenure

for rebuilding the country of 14 million after the genocide, in which more than a million people were killed. Rwanda has emerged as a regional financial hub.

International scrutiny was intensified by the migration deal Rwanda struck in 2022 to receive thousands of asylum seekers from Britain. Newly elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed on Saturday he would scrap the agreement.

"With you, there is nothing our country will not achieve, because today you have leaders who are not foolish and you are not foolish," he told young supporters at a rally last week in Eastern Province.

## Two challengers

Eight candidates had applied to run against Kagame, but only two were retained in the final list validated by the electoral commission. The others, including Kagame's most vocal critics, were invalidated for various reasons that included prior criminal convictions.

The two approved candidates, Frank Habineza and Philippe Mpayimana, ran against



Kagame in 2017.

In an interview with Reuters, Habineza, the leader of the Democratic Green Party, said he expected to exceed his total of 0.48 percent of the vote from 2017.

"People are only considering 2017 and say that I got 0.4 percent, but they forget that our party stood for parliament and got more than 5 percent," he said. Mpayimana, who works for the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement, urged voters at a campaign event to consider his candidacy.

"It's true you cannot change the winning team, but we also have to give opportunities to the junior teams to see if they can deliver on their pledges. That is what democracy means," he said.

Over 9 million voters are registered for the polls in which they will also elect members of the 80-seat lower house of parliament. Provisional results are expected by July 20.

## Chinese, Guinea-Bissau presidents hold talks, elevate ties

BEIJING

CHINA and Guinea-Bissau on Wednesday elevated their relations to a strategic partnership.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Umaro Sissoco Embalo, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, announced this when holding talks in Beijing.

Noting that in recent years, China and Guinea-Bissau have deepened bilateral relations, strengthened political mutual trust, expanded pragmatic cooperation and enhanced international coordination, Xi said China supports Guinea-Bissau in independently exploring a development path that suits its national conditions.

Xi said China is willing to work with Guinea-Bissau to inherit the traditional friendship, consolidate political mutual trust, expand pragmatic cooperation, continuously enrich the connotation of the strategic partnership between the two countries, and help Guinea-Bissau achieve better national development.

He stressed that China stands ready to strengthen friendly exchanges with Guinea-Bissau at all levels, enhance experience-sharing on governance, and expand cooperation in areas such as agriculture, mining, infrastructure construction and the blue economy under the guidance of the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Xi said China welcomes high-quality agricultural products from Guinea-Bissau to enter the Chinese market, and encourages Chinese enterprises to invest and carry out cooperation in Guinea-Bissau and help Guinea-Bissau transform its resource potential into development momentum.



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Umaro Sissoco Embalo, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, who is on a state visit to China, in Beijing, capital of China, July 10, 2024. Xi held talks with Embalo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. They witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents after the talks.

mentum.

China is willing to continue to provide support within its capacity for Guinea-Bissau's domestic construction, and will continue to send its rice experts and medical teams to assist Guinea-Bissau in ensuring food security and developing public health, he added.

Xi called on the two sides to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in education, youth and other fields to bring the two peoples' hearts closer. China will continue to provide government scholarships and training opportunities to help Guinea-Bissau cultivate more talents for its national development, he said.

Both China and Africa have splendid civilizations, both have suffered from the painful history of colonization and aggression, and both cherish and pursue national independence and liberation, Xi said, adding that mutual

support and assistance between China and African countries are sincere and genuine.

Xi said China and African countries are good brothers with sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and offer an exemplary model for unity and cooperation between developing nations.

Under the new circumstances, the two sides should join hands to usher in a new era, Xi added. Xi said the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is an important platform for the Chinese and African people to practice the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and promote common development.

Noting that two weeks ago, the commemorative events marking the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were held in Beijing, and this autumn, a new FOCAC Summit will be held in Beijing,

Xi said China is willing to work with Guinea-Bissau and other African countries to champion the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, discuss major plans for China-Africa cooperation in the new era, safeguard the common interests of developing countries and international fairness and justice, and jointly build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

Embalo said Guinea-Bissau and China enjoy a solid and cordial relationship marked by unwavering mutual support, adding that whenever Guinea-Bissau faces difficulties, China has always provided invaluable assistance without hesitation, a gesture that the people of Guinea-Bissau will never forget.

Embalo said Guinea-Bissau will continue to stand firmly with China, uphold the one-China principle and support China's position on its core in-

terests such as the Taiwan question. Guinea-Bissau admires China's remarkable development achievements and regards China as its top priority in foreign relations and most important partner.

Guinea-Bissau hopes to learn from China's development experience, and strengthen cooperation with China in areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure and mineral resources. Embalo said China has never engaged in colonialism, interfered in the internal affairs of other countries, or pointed fingers at other countries, and China has always treated small countries with equality and respect, consistently matching its words with actions.

Noting that China has brought cooperation projects to Africa, including schools, hospitals and roads, delivering benefits to the African people, Embalo said Guinea-Bissau greatly appreciates China's important role and positive contributions in helping the development of the African continent, and actively supports China in hosting the new FOCAC Summit.

Guinea-Bissau supports the BRI, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi, and is willing to closely communicate and cooperate with China on multilateral affairs, to jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity, Embalo added.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents regarding the Global Development Initiative, economic development, customs inspection and quarantine, geology, mining and other fields. The

## PM Modi lauds India-Austria friendship, shares video showcasing his recent Vienna visit

VIENNA

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday shared a video showcasing his recently concluded Vienna visit, and lauded the ties shared by India and Austria.

In a post shared on X, PM Modi posted a video depicting his engagements that took place in Austria during his 2-day long visit to the European nation, and wrote "May the India-Austria friendship scale new heights of progress!"

"Highlights from a special visit," he wrote sharing glimpses of the visit.

In the video, Prime Minister Modi is seen receiving a guard of honour in Austria, among other memorable moments.

Meanwhile, in a candid moment, the Austrian Chancellor could be seen in the video, clicking a selfie with PM Modi. The two leaders share a hearty laugh, as they click a picture.

Notably, after the visit concluded, PM Modi shared a post on X and thanked Austria's Chancellor, government, and people for their warm welcome and hospitality.

He also stated this visit was immensely productive and described it as 'historic.'

"My visit to Austria has been historic and immensely productive. New vigour has been added to the friendship between our nations. I am glad to have attended diverse programmes while in Vienna. Gratitude to Chancellor @karlnehammer, the Austrian Government and people for their hospitality and affection," PM Modi said on X.

PM Modi attended a community event in Vienna on Wednesday and stated that this visit has ended on a historic occasion marking 75 years of their friendship.

Further, he also expressed his gratitude and delight at the enthusiastic welcome, acknowledging that it was a historic moment as an Indian Prime Minister visited Austria after a gap of 41 years.

As PM Modi arrived on the stage at a community event people welcomed him 'Modi, Modi' chant.

The community warmly welcomed PM Modi, and the event showcased the strong connection between India and its diaspora.

Notably, PM Modi held significant meetings with Austrian leaders, including Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and Chancellor Neuhammer, to bolster bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration between India and Austria.

ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with Austrian physicist and Nobel laureate Dr Anton Zeilinger, in Vienna on Wednesday. ANI

## Russia's Medvedev wants NATO, Ukraine snuffed out for good

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev says Moscow needs to ramp up efforts to keep Ukraine out of the North Atlantic Alliance - and put an end to both the former Soviet republic and the bloc.

The Russian politician commented on the Washington Summit Declaration, specifically on the paragraph reading: "We will continue to support it [Ukraine] on its irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration, including NATO membership."

"One thing is for certain. We must do all we can to make sure that Ukraine's 'irreversible path' to NATO ends in the demise of either Ukraine or NATO. Or - even better - both," Medvedev said.



## UK PM Starmer says special relationship with US is stronger than ever

WASHINGTON

BRITAIN'S new prime minister, Keir Starmer, on Wednesday hailed the special relationship between the UK and US at his first one-on-one meeting with President Joe Biden, where the two also celebrated England's soccer win in the semifinals of Euro 2024.

Days after Starmer was elected in a landslide, he joined Biden in the White House's Oval Office. The US leader joked that England's victory over the Netherlands on Wednesday, which put England in the final, was down to Britain's new leader.

Starmer was in Washington for



US President Joe Biden (R) meets with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Wednesday. AP

a meeting of NATO leaders, his first international summit. With Biden, he spoke of Britain's historical and cultural ties with the United States, a connection that has been termed the "special relationship".

But the conversation was dominated by the soccer match.

"The special relationship is so important. It was forged in difficult circumstances and endured for so long and is stronger now than ever," Starmer said.

"I'm very pleased to be able to come so early in government to recommit to NATO, to recommit to the special relationship and to discuss these affairs with you."

The two joked about England's success in the soccer competition.

Starmer suggested England might win Euro 24, while Biden replied that the victory over the Netherlands was "good news indeed". "It's all because of the prime minister," Biden joked.

Earlier, Starmer, who will attend the soccer final on Sunday, watched some of the game with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on the margins of the NATO summit.

"I began to watch the game with the Netherlands prime minister, but we left at 1-1," Starmer said.

Biden laughed and said: "And you guys are still talking to one another?"

Agencies



## EU countries reprimand Hungary for PM's visits to Russia, China

BRUSSELS

BUDAPEST has been reprimanded by other European Union nations for Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's visits to Moscow and Beijing following the country's takeover of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, Politico writes.

"It's unprecedented that the presidency would be reprimanded in such a way by all the others," the media outlet cited a senior EU diplomat as saying. Another source said that "it took nine days for the Hungarian presidency to lose any smidgen of trust they had left." In his view, Orban's "actions are not serving the EU or peace."

Several EU ambassadors warned of "practical consequences" for Hungary if Orban continued to pursue his current path. "Changing the order of the presidencies or shortening Hungary's six-month turn at the helm of the EU might have been options at one point, but are now legally fraught as the presidency is underway," Politico writes, citing an EU official. Another diplomat said that the EU in fact showed "a yellow card" to Hungary at the July 10 meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Euractiv news website reported earlier that EU member states had not presented any specific measures to end Hungary's presidency of the Council of the EU due to Orban's trips to Russia and China. According to Euractiv, despite



"wide dissatisfaction" with Budapest's actions, the only decision that some EU nations made was to send "more junior officials than expected to informal meetings organized by the Hungarians." Orban visited Moscow on July 5 to discuss ways to resolve the conflict in Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Earlier, on July 2, the Hungarian premier made a trip to Kiev where he held a meeting with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky. On July 8, Orban met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing to exchange views on the prospects for resolving the Ukraine crisis.

Agencies

## Macron, breaking post-vote silence, urges mainstream coalition

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday called on mainstream parties to join forces to form a solid majority in the National Assembly, in his first public comments since Sunday's snap election delivered parliamentary gridlock.

The vote, which Macron unexpectedly called after losing to the far-right National Rally (RN) in European elections, has plunged France into uncharted waters, with three politically divergent blocs and no obvious path to forming a government.

In a letter to regional newspapers, the deeply unpopular Macron urged mainstream parties with "republican values" to form a governing coalition and said he hoped to pick a prime minister from such a grouping.

"Let us place our hope in the ability of our political leaders to demonstrate sense, harmony and calm in your interest, and that of the country," he wrote. "It is in the light of these principles that I will decide on the appointment of the prime minister."

The New Popular Front (NFP), a hastily assembled alliance of the hard-left France Unbowed party and the Socialist, Green and Communist parties, unexpectedly won the most seats in Sunday's vote, but not a majority.

Macron's centrist camp came second and the RN third after third-placed candidates from the left and center withdrew from the run-off to avoid splitting the anti-RN vote, scuppering the far right's hopes of winning a majority and forming a government.

It would be customary for Macron to call on the biggest parliamentary group, in this case the left-wing bloc, to form a government, but nothing in the constitution obliges him to do so.

Macron did not explicitly call for the RN or France Unbowed to be excluded from a governing coalition, but his mention of "republican values" is typically understood to exclude parties on the far left or the far right.

Several France Unbowed lawmakers reacted to Macron's letter by saying that he should accept the left-wing alliance's pick for prime minister, when it has agreed on one, and allow the bloc to form a government.

"The best he can do for the country at this stage is to allow the group that won the most seats, the New Popular Front, to govern. Any other machinations would be truly problematic and dangerous for democracy," said one of them, Eric Coquerel, on LCI television.

### Tone hardens

Financial markets, the European Commission and France's euro zone partners are all watching closely to see whether the impasse can be broken.

Options include a broad coalition,



a minority government or a technocratic government led by a non-politically affiliated person, which would seek to pass laws in parliament on a case-by-case basis, with ad hoc agreements.

But any government - of the left, center, or a broader coalition - could quickly be toppled by a confidence vote from the opposition if it had not secured sufficient support.

RN leader Jordan Bardella said Macron was to blame for the political paralysis.

"And now his message is: 'sort something out'. Irresponsible!" he posted on X, referring to Macron's letter.

Bardella's mentor, the long-time RN leader Marine Le Pen, has spent the last few years cleaning up the image of a party once known for racism and antisemitism, and must now decide what strategy to adopt to win the 2027 presidential election.

She has framed the tactical withdrawals as an establishment plot to keep her party from power.

On Wednesday her tone hardened, when she drew parallels between a hard-left politician's call for a march towards the prime minister's office and the assault on Capitol Hill by supporters of former US President Donald Trump.

She said the NFP has almost "subversive attitudes since they are calling for Matignon to be taken by force," referring to the prime minister's office. "It's their assault on the Capitol."

She was reacting to a social media post by France Unbowed lawmaker Adrien Quatennens, who accused Macron of wanting to "steal" the left's victory after he asked centrist Prime Minister Gabriel Attal to stay on for now, for stability. Quatennens had called for "a big popular march" on Matignon.

Agencies

## Six-month of US military intervention fails to solve crisis in Red Sea

ADEN

NEARLY six months after launching its first airstrikes against Houthi targets, a U.S.-led coalition has made little headway in curbing the Yemeni group's maritime attacks.

The U.S. military, mainly in collaboration with the British forces, has conducted hundreds of airstrikes against Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen, but the group has continued its attacks on ships in the Red Sea and expanded the attacks to the Indian Ocean and even allegedly in the Mediterranean Sea.

Yemeni analysts say the limited impact of the U.S. intervention underscores the limitations of deploying warships to such a volatile region.

### U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS FAIL TO DETER HOUSHI ATTACKS

Six months after the first U.S.-British airstrikes against Houthi targets in Yemen on Jan. 12, the initially limited intervention has evolved into a near-daily campaign.

While the U.S. maintains the strikes have significantly degraded Houthi capabilities, recent developments depict a different picture.

The airstrikes, initially billed as a "one-off" response to Houthi missile threats, now target a wider range of Houthi infrastructure, including missile launchers, radars, and other military assets.

However, the Houthis continue to launch attacks on critical maritime routes. Since November 2023, they've sunk two commercial vessels, the "MV Rubymar" in March and the "Tutor" in June.

The Houthis have also displayed a growing arsenal, with unmanned boats and a possible homemade hypersonic missile added to their inventory.

Furthermore, they've managed to down at least three U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drones, each worth around 30 million U.S. dollars, and have claimed multiple attacks on the USS Eisenhower in the Red Sea, a nuclear-powered air carrier, though these claims remain disputed by U.S. officials.

Yemeni military and strategic expert Thabet Hussein stated that while U.S. military operations in the Red Sea aim to "dissuade" Houthi attacks on shipping lanes and dismantle their infrastructure, these efforts have fallen short. "The U.S. six-month operations have failed to deter the Houthis from continuing their attacks," Hussein said.

### "LACK OF FOCUS" FROM U.S. OPERATIONS

### FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS

The persistence of the crisis in the Red Sea, one of the world's most important



The screenshot captured from a video released by the Houthi group on April 27, 2024 shows the wreckage of what it said was a "U.S. MQ9 spy drone" in a mountain in Saada, northern Yemen. (Xinhua)

Nabil al-Bukiri, director of the Arab Forum for Studies and Development, said the American strikes were carried out without a clear strategic purpose.

"The American strikes had no goal and therefore had no impact on the Houthi group," al-Bukiri told Xinhua, adding that "the operations were more about establishing an American presence in the region rather than weakening the Houthi position."

Hussein also agreed that the coalition's strikes were not sufficiently "focused, intense, or decisive," costing the whole mission. The Yemeni analyst further noted the crucial role of external support, particularly from Iran.

Iran quickly "compensates for the Houthis' losses," which enables the Houthis to maintain their offensive capabilities despite coalition efforts, Hussein stated.

The Houthi group is widely considered a vital part of the Iran-led "arc of resistance" in the region, although the two sides have repeatedly denied claims that Iran has been supplying weapons to the militant group.

Moreover, Hussein pointed out the Houthis' growing experience from years of civil war and enduring airstrikes as another important factor for their success in staying off the U.S. airstrikes. "They've become adept at preserving strength and seizing opportunities to strike back," he said.

## Hollywood divided over Biden's candidacy

LOS ANGELES

IN the wake of President Joe Biden's shaky performance during a recent presidential debate, a rift has emerged among Hollywood's elite regarding his continued candidacy.

While many of Biden's celebrity backers continue their support, some previously fervent supporters, like Damon Lindelof and Barry Diller, have ceased donations to Biden's re-election efforts, signaling a potential shift in Hollywood's political landscape.

Hollywood is a major source of campaign funding for many candidates. The entertainment industry comprises numerous wealthy individuals who can make substantial donations. These funds are critical for campaign activities such as advertising, organizing events, and mobilizing voters.

Jessica Levinson, an election law professor at Loyola Marymount University, emphasized to the press the critical role that Hollywood's financial support plays in political campaigns.

"Deciding whether Biden can stay in the presidential race will come down to three factors -- Democratic Party leadership, the president's polling performance and sentiment among big donors," Levinson, who teaches election law at the university, was quoted by the official website of the university.

She noted that if key donors withdraw their support, it could signal broader challenges for Biden's re-election bid, impacting not just his campaign finances but also the overall morale and strategic direction of the



Democratic Party.

"If your key donors jump ship, that's not just a pocket-book hit, but it's a big signal to other people as well," she told the Los Angeles Times.

Just three weeks ago, Hollywood donors poured 30 million U.S. dollars into Biden's campaign at a star-studded fundraiser hosted by Jeffrey Katzenberg, a movie mogul and co-chair of the Biden campaign.

However, Biden's recent debate debacle has spurred a crisis, with some insiders accusing Katzenberg of misleading them about the president's age-related fitness for office. Various news outlets reported some anonymous Hollywood powerbrokers expressing outrage and a sense of betrayal among some donors who felt Katzenberg had mistakenly reassured them of Biden's capabilities.

"What Jeffrey Katzenberg has done here is unbelievable," one Hollywood power broker, donor and influential Democrat who declined to be identified told the Wrap, an entertainment news outlet, "Jeffrey

lied about the whole Biden thing. The whole Biden inner circle lied ... It's such an act of hypocrisy."

Key figures like Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings and Disney heir Abigail Disney, who used to be strong supporters, called for Biden to step aside last week.

This sentiment is felt among the Democratic rank and file, causing some to redirect their contributions to down-ballot Congressional races instead of the presidential campaign.

The controversy highlighted internal divisions within Hollywood's elite. While some donors have ceased their contributions, others remain supportive or undecided.

The situation is further complicated by Katzenberg's apparent absence from crucial campaign meetings following the debate on June 27, raising questions about his continued role and influence in Biden's reelection efforts. But according to a report from Deadline Hollywood, Katzenberg joined a conference call of major donors Tuesday morning in Biden's latest attempt to shift the tide and shut down the talk of him stepping back for another candidate.

trade routes, has far-reaching effects on regional geopolitical dynamics and global trade.

As the waterway turns into a danger zone, an increasing number of companies transporting vital raw materials and fuels have suspended operations in the area, rerouting their ships an additional 3,500 nautical miles around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

The detour adds about 12 days to a ship's journey from Asia to Europe. Prices have also more than tripled, according to the latest index from the Shanghai Shipping Exchange.

According to a report from Allianz Trade, the crisis in the Red Sea could slow global GDP growth by 0.4 percent and inflation increases by 0.5 percent.

Amid the turmoil, al-Bukiri noted that the Houthi group has benefited from the crisis, with U.S. military operations inadvertently enhancing their local and regional standing.

The Houthis have managed to frame their actions as support for Gaza, earning sympathy from those who are unsatisfied with the Arab states' reaction to the conflict in Gaza.

The newfound support has significantly bolstered Houthi influence, potentially altering the dynamics within war-torn Yemen and complicating the peace process.

Yemeni analysts agree that U.S. military intervention is not conducive to resolving the crisis. They argue that it only escalates tensions and uncertainties while failing to address the root cause in Gaza, where the ongoing conflict continues to fuel instability in the Middle East.

The internal turmoil within Hollywood is a microcosm of a broader debate within the Democratic Party. Some politicians and media outlets have echoed calls for Biden to make way for a new candidate.

Columnists and political analysts have pointed out that even long-time allies of Biden, like former California Senator Barbara Boxer, have expressed concerns about his debate performance, suggesting he has a limited window to prove his capability to lead effectively.

Despite the mounting pressure, Biden's defenders, such as former President Barack Obama and First Lady Jill Biden, argue that one poor debate should not overshadow his administration's achievements.

While the unfolding drama underscored the critical role Hollywood donors play in shaping political campaigns, many voters said they were disgusted with those celebrities who tried to attract significant media attention and help shape the narrative.

"Hollywood donors pressuring Biden show the arrogance of the wealthy," The Los Angeles Times published three letters to the newspaper's editor Tuesday.

"President Biden may stay in the race, he may not. In either case, I'm sure it's comforting to our NATO allies to read that critical U.S. political decisions are being made by movie stars and blockbuster producers. But that's what you get with a system that forces voters to choose not the best-qualified politician but the best-funded."

Bart Braverman, a resident from Indio, California, said in the letter. *Xinhua*



Alliance Caravans' cricketer Adersh Dileep (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from the Chairman and Managing Director of Petrofuel Group, Satish Kumar, once the club locked horns with Harab Motors Pak Stars in 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

## Alliance Caravans make it to 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup Super 4

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

ALLIANCE Caravans hosted Harab Motors Pak Stars in a crucial 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament match in Dar es Salaam early this week, with both teams needing a convincing win to make certain of progression to the Super 4 phase of the tournament.

While Alliance Caravans could still qualify for the knockouts with a narrow loss, Harab Motors Pak Stars needed a convincing win to improve their Net Run Rate (NRR) for a chance at qualification.

With this in mind, the Zafar Khan-led Harab Motors Pak Stars won the toss and opted to field first, limiting Alliance Caravans to 154 runs losing eight wickets in 20 overs.

Alliance Caravans had a shaky start to their turn with the bat, losing one of their reliable cricketers Amal Rajeevan early with so far two runs on the board.

However, Prakash Nair, their most consistent performer, steadied the innings with a solid knock of 43 runs off 27 deliveries.

Despite wickets falling at regular intervals, Adersh Dileep played a crucial late cameo for the batting outfit, scoring 35 runs from 20 balls and ensuring Alliance Caravans reached 154/8 by the end of their 20 overs.

All-rounder Kassim Nassor (19 runs, three fours) and Jerry Mathew (16 runs) were the other cricketers who made their presence count for Alliance Caravans having made their way back with two-digit figures.

Aqib Liaqat starred for Harab Motors Pak Stars when they fielded, claiming four wickets in his allotted four overs giving away 25 runs.

In reply, Harab Motors Pak Stars knew they had to chase down the 155-run target before the 15th over to qualify for the Super 4 phase of the Petrofuel TCA Caravans Cup showdown.

However, Alliance Caravans' bowlers, led by experienced spinner Nassor, anticipated Harab Motors Pak Stars' aggressive approach and countered with a blend of pace and spin.

The batting outfit's opening batting

pair of Ivan Ismail and skipper Khan fell early, with the former scoring just one run whereas the latter departed for three runs, adding pressure to the chase.

Mohammed Omary, deployed at number three, provided some hope with a quickfire 33 off 15 balls, but his efforts were hardly enough as Harab Motors Pak Stars lost wickets regularly.

Muhammad Bilawal contributed a late cameo of 29 runs off 18 balls. Still, the effort was hardly sufficient as they were bowled out for 133 runs, ending their hopes of qualification for the tournament knockouts.

Jerry Mathew (3-36) and Justin Thomas (2-35) were standout bowlers for Alliance Caravans, having wounded their respective four-over quotas with a gallant display.

Adersh Dileep received the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize for his all-around performance, scoring 35 runs and taking a crucial catch.

Thomas was recognized with the Medinova Moment of the Match honour for his pivotal contributions, including dismissing Ismail and Zamoyoni Ramadhani and effecting the run out of menacing skipper Khan.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Delaware Upanga SC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, Flashnet Strikers, Park Mobile Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, Econo Lodge Lions, Azania Bank Pak Stars, and Generics Gymkhana are taking part in the showdown.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

progress of their tactical training as he prepares the squad for the CAF Champions League and local competitions.

Newly signed players are also expected to showcase their skills to impress Dabo ahead of a tense new season.

The new arrivals include Ivorian attacking midfielder Franck Tiesse, defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Colombian midfielder Ever Meza from Leones, and striker Jhonier Blanco. Local additions to the squad are striker Adam Omar Adam from Mashujaa and midfielder Nassor

AZAM FC, after starting their pre-season training camp, will play their first domestic friendly match of the pre-season against Zimamoto FC at the New Amaan Complex today.

The team is currently in Zanzibar for their initial camp before heading to Morocco next week for international friendlies.

Coach Youssouph Dabo will have the chance to evaluate his players and the

## Young Africans commence pre-season: New signings and tactical flexibility in focus

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans have officially commenced their training sessions for the upcoming 2024/2025 season. The initial phase of training began with light exercises and fitness routines on the scenic beaches of Coco Beach in Dar es Salaam, under the leadership of head coach Miguel Gamondi.

Despite the team's robust roster, a few players, including Aziz Ki, are yet to join the training camp. Recently, the club announced a one-year contract extension for Aziz Ki, ensuring his continued presence at Young Africans.

Reflecting on the return to training, Gamondi expressed his gratitude and optimism for the upcoming season.

"We are back now to start preparing for the new season. We thank God for that. We are still not at full strength as some players have arrived late, but they will join the team very soon to complete our squad," Gamondi stated.

Young Africans concluded the previous season with significant achievements. They secured their third consecutive Premier League title, marking the 30th in the club's illustrious history. Additionally, they triumphed in the Federation Cup, clinching victory in a tense penalty shootout against Azam FC, which ended 6-5 after a goalless draw in regular time.

On the continental stage, Young Africans demonstrated their strength by reaching the



Young Africans players during a training session for the upcoming 2024/2025 season in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League. Despite a commendable effort, they were narrowly defeated by South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns, falling 3-2 in a penalty shootout after two goalless legs.

"Last season was good for us, but the past is over now. We have to focus on what lies ahead and prepare for the next season to do even better because we have a lot of work to do in the future," Gamondi emphasized.

Addressing the club's new signings, Gamondi expressed his satisfaction with the additions to the squad.

"I am happy that Dube has joined Young Africans, along with other players like Clatous Chama. We have made smart signings to bring quality players, not just quantity. Prince Dube is a very good striker who

I believe will add a lot to this team. He needs time because he hasn't played for six months. People should not expect him to score immediately; they need to give him time to adapt," he explained.

Gamondi also discussed his approach to organizing the squad amidst the influx of high-profile players. He noted that the team's composition would be tailored to the specific opponents they face.

"As a coach, I will not have a difficult time deciding which players to start, especially now that we have many good players like Mudathir Yahya, Max Nzengeli, Clatous Chama, Pamekou Zouzoua, and Aziz Ki. It depends on the opponent and the players' form.

"We don't need to play based on a player's name but on their

performance. Sometimes, we may need two offensive midfielders or three attacking midfielders. Last season, we played over 50 matches, so each player will get their chance to play when needed," Gamondi elaborated.

Young Africans will face Kaizer Chiefs in the inaugural Toyota Cup, a friendly match scheduled for Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM East African Time.

Additionally, the team is set to compete against arch-rivals Simba SC in one of the semi-final matches of the Community Shield tournament. The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed that the 2024 Community Shield tournament will take place from Thursday, August 8, 2024, to Sunday, August 11, at a venue yet to be announced.

## Arusha hosts Lina PG Tour Pro-Am tourney third round

By Guardian Correspondent

GOLFERS totaling 124 - including 52 professionals and 72 amateurs - have lined up for the Lina PG Tour Pro-Am Tournament scheduled for this weekend at Arusha Gymkhana Club's course.

The showdown, which aims to honour the former player of the national women's golf team - the late Lina Nkya -, is expected to be held in the region and the winners would be presented with various prizes.

Speaking immediately after completing the registration, professional golfer Nuru Mollé said he prepared well for the showdown's professionals category and is optimistic he would come out victoriously.

He asked Tanzanians to turn up and watch the golfers battle it out, congratulating all stakeholders that have facilitated the hosting of the showdown which has adhered to professionalism and quality.

"I have prepared well to ensure I emerge victorious in this competition. Participating in this tournament is moreover an opportunity for me to meet my teammates and continue sharing experiences," Mollé disclosed.

Ali Sanzu, who triumphed in amateurs' previous two rounds of the tournament played in Morogoro and Kilimanjaro, said that the Arusha round is important for him because it is the one leading to the major tournament slated to take place in Dubai.

He said he has invested well in this weekend's showdown to ensure he holds sway and emerges victorious.

The first round of the showdown was held in Kilimanjaro, the second round took place



Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) president and prominent female golfer Ayne Magombe (R) receives a sample of T-shirts, to be used by participants of this season's Lina PG Tour Pro-Am Tournament third round slated for this weekend in Arusha, from the showdown's founder Said Nkya. The showdown is held to honour the former player of the national women's golf team, the late Lina Nkya, who was also Said's wife. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

in Morogoro, and now Arusha is hosting the third round.

The registration of golf players for the tournament was held at the Arusha Gymkhana Club.

The Lina PG Tour Pro-Am Tournament's third round teed off on Thursday and has been slated to conclude on Sunday.

The last day of the showdown will have a presentation ceremony for all categories' winners, with the champion walking away with a trophy and cash prize.

Mollé triumphed in the 2024 tournament's first round for professionals, held at the TPC Moshi course in Kilimanjaro, followed by second-placed Fadhili Nkya.

Hassan Kadio emerged victorious in the professional category's second round played in Morogoro and Abdalah Yusuph finished second.

"Our club has finalized the signings for next season and submitted their registration into the transfer matching system. The new players will be introduced to the public once our team arrives in Morocco. We plan to reveal them in a foreign country," said Zakaria.

## Azam FC prioritize fitness in friendly match against Zimamoto

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC, after starting their pre-season training camp, will play their first domestic friendly match of the pre-season against Zimamoto FC at the New Amaan Complex today.

The team is currently in Zanzibar for their initial camp before heading to Morocco next week for international friendlies.

Coach Youssouph Dabo will have the chance to evaluate his players and the

progress of their tactical training as he prepares the squad for the CAF Champions League and local competitions.

Newly signed players are also expected to showcase their skills to impress Dabo ahead of a tense new season.

The new arrivals include Ivorian attacking midfielder Franck Tiesse, defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Colombian midfielder Ever Meza from Leones, and striker Jhonier Blanco. Local additions to the squad are striker Adam Omar Adam from Mashujaa and midfielder Nassor

Saadun from Geita Gold.

Azam face a congested fixture schedule, participating in the CAF interclub competition, Premier League, Community Shield mini-tournament, Mapinduzi Cup, and Muungano Cup, next season. Thabit Zakaria, head of Azam FC's information and communication department, emphasized that the match aims to boost players' fitness rather than focus on competition, ensuring all players get playing time. "Our friendly match against Zimamoto is our first local outing of the

domestic season. It aims to assess the players' fitness levels and their adaptation to coach Dabo's tactical switch. Many new players need to adapt to our philosophy, and we are confident they will do so quickly," said Zakaria.

Azam secured second place in the Premier League standings by edging out Simba on goal difference with a 2-0 away victory against Geita Gold on the final day of the campaign at Nyankumbu Ground.

The result secured their spot alongside champions Young Africans as Mainland

Tanzania's representatives in the CAF Champions League next season.

Zakaria also mentioned that Azam have completed the signings for the upcoming season, with only the official announcements remaining.

"Our club has finalized the signings for next season and submitted their registration into the transfer matching system. The new players will be introduced to the public once our team arrives in Morocco. We plan to reveal them in a foreign country," said Zakaria.

## Deflated Dutch see dream of a first European title in 36 years slip away as coach disputes penalty

DORTMUND, Germany

DUTCH fans came to the stadium in a rousing march, 100,000 strong. It will feel like a long journey home.

When Ollie Watkins' added-time goal sealed a 2-1 win for England over the Netherlands in the Euro 2024 semifinals on Wednesday, it ended the orange-clad Dutch fans' dream of a first European Championship title since 1988.

"A great goal, but then it's over, and that's difficult to accept," Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said.

The journey home will not be without some bitterness after a hotly disputed penalty decision in England's favor after Dutch defender Denzel Dumfries made contact with Harry Kane while trying to block a shot.

"In my opinion this should not have been a penalty," Koeman said through an interpreter. "I think that we cannot play properly football and this is due to VAR. It really breaks football."

Until the penalty call that put England firmly back in the game, it had been a party atmosphere for the Dutch fans.

The towering South Stand – famed as a "Yellow Wall" for Borussia Dortmund games, now bright orange – was alive with dancing fans, while beach balls and balloons bounced between rows of supporters.

A win for the Netherlands would have meant a final against Spain in Berlin on Sunday, a rematch of the Dutch team's last major-tournament final when it was runner-up at the 2010 World Cup.

It had been an uneven tournament for Koeman's team, which impressed in a 0-0 draw with France in the group stage, which it perhaps should have won if not for a VAR offside call against Dumfries. A 3-2 loss against Austria in the next game showed the Dutch team was vulnerable, before knockout wins over outclassed Romania and a spirited Turkey team.

In a semifinal game of fine margins, much revolved around Dumfries once again.

The right wing back gave away the penalty which allowed England to level the score, hit the crossbar with a header at the other end, and cleared Phil Foden's shot off the goal-line to stop England scoring again.

"There was contact so you think he can give it," was his verdict on the penalty to Dutch broadcaster NOS. "It's annoying. I take responsibility. I didn't do it deliberately. It happens in a split second."

AP

## Darwin Núñez, Uruguay teammates enter stands as fans fight after Copa America loss to Colombia

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

DARWIN Núñez and about a dozen Uruguay teammates went into the stands as fans brawled at Bank of America Stadium following a 1-0 loss to Colombia in a Copa America semifinal on Wednesday night.

After a physical and contentious match, a melee broke out behind the Uruguay bench after Mexican referee César Ramos' final whistle.

The crowd of 70,644 was about 90% in favor in Colombia, but a small patch of Uruguay fans fought with Colombia supporters as beverages were thrown.

Núñez and teammates then climbed a staircase into the crowd. A video showed Núñez hitting a fan in Colombian team colors.

Uruguay captain José Giménez said players went in the crowd to protect their families.

"This is a disaster. Our family is in danger. We had to get into the stands to take out our loved ones with small babies, newborns," he told TUDN. "Everything was a disaster. There was not a single police officer."

It took more than 10 minutes for police to arrive on the scene and to restore order. The public address announcer asked for fans to leave the stadium, but several supporters remained.

About 100 Uruguayan fans and members of the federation staff remained on the field for their own protection more than 20 minutes after the game, while Colombia fans made their way out to celebrate.

CONMEBOL released a statement after the game saying that it strongly condemns any act of violence that affects the game.

"Our work is based on the conviction that soccer connects and unites us through its positive values," the organization said. "There is no place for intolerance and violence on and off the field. We invite everyone in the remaining days to pour all of their passion into cheering on their national teams and having an unforgettable party."

Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said he didn't see what was happening right away.

AP

# With a late goal fit for a king, England reaches another Euro final by beating Netherlands 2-1

DORTMUND, Germany

ENGLAND is into another European Championship final after its latest dramatic, come-from-behind win that even took King Charles III on a roller coaster ride.

Ollie Watkins, who came on for captain Harry Kane in a bold call by England coach Gareth Southgate, scored in the first minute of stoppage time to earn England a 2-1 win over the Netherlands on Wednesday and a shot at Spain in the title match.

In the knockout stage at Euro 2024, England has scored a stoppage-time equalizer through Jude Bellingham before edging past Slovakia in the last 16 and needed a penalty-shootout to see off Switzerland in the quarterfinals.

The English are keeping their supporters back home on the edge of their seats as the men's team moves closer to a first title since the 1966 World Cup – and that includes its monarch.

"If I may encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last minute wonder-goals or another penalties drama, I am sure the stresses on the nation's collective heart rate and blood pressure would be greatly alleviated!" the king said in a congratulatory message soon after the game in Dortmund.

Watkins' goal was fit for a king.

He had only made one previous appearance at Euro 2024



England's Ollie Watkins celebrates scoring his side's second goal during a Euro 2024 semifinal match against the Netherlands. AP Photo

– as a substitute in the group game against Denmark – so it was a surprise when he was introduced by Southgate in the 80th minute in England's biggest match so far.

The gamble paid off. Fed by another substitute in Cole Palmer, Watkins took a touch with his back to goal just inside the area and, from a tight angle, smashed a fierce shot into the bottom corner.

"Unbelievable – I've been waiting for that moment for weeks," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker who was the fourth-equal top scorer in the Premier League last season.

"It's taken a lot of hard work to get to where I am today. I got

the opportunity and took it with both hands."

It was painful for Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman.

"I had a feeling toward the end of the match that maybe we could score," Koeman said, "and for sure in extra time I'd have put money on us."

England will play Lamine Yamal and Spain in Sunday's final in Berlin. It will be the nation's first title match on foreign soil, having won the World Cup in 1966 and lost to Italy in the Euro 2020 final – both times at Wembley Stadium.

"It's going to be unbelievably tough – a really difficult game," Kane said of the title

match, with Spain widely regarded as the best team at the tournament. "One more game to make history."

The sea of orange in the giant South Stand at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion fell silent for the first time after Watkins' late goal. It housed the most vocal of the Dutch supporters who dominated the city center before marching in their thousands to the stadium ahead of the game. Police reported three separate clashes between fans from both countries in the city.

It gave the occasion the feeling of a home match for the Dutch and England was up against it even more after

# Ollie Watkins now the unlikely toast of England after last-gasp winner at Euro

DORTMUND, Germany

OLLIE Watkins is, in his own words, a realist.

He has never pictured himself playing at a major tournament for England – especially when, as a teenager learning his trade as a striker, he was sent on loan to English sixth-tier club Weston-super-Mare in 2015.

So imagine what went through Watkins' mind when he saw his stoppage-time shot fly past Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen and into the bottom corner to earn England a place in the European Championship final?

"I don't think I've hit a ball that sweet before," Watkins said after England's 2-1 victory over the Dutch in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Suddenly, Watkins is the toast of England, an improbable turnaround in fortunes for a striker who had played 24 minutes at Euro 2024 – as a substitute in the group stage against Denmark – before replacing captain Harry Kane in the 80th minute for the biggest moment of his career.

Being an understudy for Kane, England's all-time leading scorer with 66 goals, is a tough business. Minutes are scarce – Kane typically plays the full game – so every opportunity has to be grasped.

Watkins did just that with a goal that fans of the Premier League have seen time and again in his games playing for Aston Villa.

Darting behind the

Dutch defense in a manner that is beyond Kane these days, Watkins controlled a pass from Cole Palmer with his back to goal then, in one movement, swiveled and fired a low shot through the legs of Netherlands defender Stefan De Vrij and past Verbruggen from a narrow angle.

"That's my bread and butter – running in behind, causing trouble," Watkins said. If that sounds quite basic, then that's the kind of striker Watkins is. Hard-working. Selfless.

Pretty much the ultimate team player. "I've put in a lot of hard work to get to this point," said Watkins, who was tied as the fourth top scorer in the Premier League this season with 19 goals. "It's not just this season, it's cumulative."

"I've done a lot of hard work and I'm going to enjoy every moment." That was evident as Watkins was engulfed by joyous teammates on the field at Westfalenstadion after his goal, his fourth for England. Two of them came against San Marino, the world's lowest-ranked team.

"It was slow motion when I was running to the boys and celebrating... I didn't want to leave the pitch," he said. "I've had a few messages from my friends saying, 'Be patient, you're going to get an opportunity.' When I've been on the bench, I've definitely said to (backup goalkeeper) Dean Hender-

son, 'I can make a difference today, I need to get on that pitch.' Obviously I've taken my chance when I've got it and I've scored and now we're in the final."

Southgate smiled as he said Watkins had "saved us another half hour" of extra time, which England needed to get past Slovakia and Switzerland previously in the knockout stage.

"Very, very special for him," Southgate said.

Meanwhile, Gareth Southgate has faced non-stop criticism as England's manager at Euro 2024. Reaching the final could rekindle a love affair with the team's supporters.

A coach once idolized by his team's fans – and with the most consistently successful record of any England manager – had been the target of a volley of plastic cups from disgruntled fans at one game, and criticism from British TV commentators over his cautious approach.

Wednesday's 2-1 win over the Netherlands in the Euro 2024 semifinals might change all that. Southgate's team played a more open, attacking style for much of the game, and his decision to take off captain Harry Kane paid dividends when substitute Ollie Watkins scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner.

"We all want to be loved, right? When you're doing something for your country and you're a proud Englishman, when you don't feel that back and when all you read is criticism, it's hard. So to be able to celebrate the second final (after Euro 2020) is very, very special," Southgate said, paying tribute to England's traveling fans.

"If I hadn't been on the grass, I'd have been watching, celebrating like they were. We are kindred spirits in many ways but of course I'm the one who has to pick a team. So to be able to

the 21-year-old Xavi Simons became the second youngest scorer for the Netherlands at a Euros.

The Paris Saint-Germain midfielder dispossessed Declan Rice about 40 meters (yards) out, drove forward and unleashed a shot into the far corner from outside the area.

Compared to the 16-year-old Yamal, Spain's new superstar, Simons is a soccer veteran but this was another case of a young player shining on the big stage at the Euros.

Kane has had plenty of big moments at major tournaments and he had another when he slotted home a penalty after Denzel Dumfries' outstretched leg made contact with Kane's foot as the England striker attempted a shot.

Kane became the sixth player to be on three goals for the tournament.

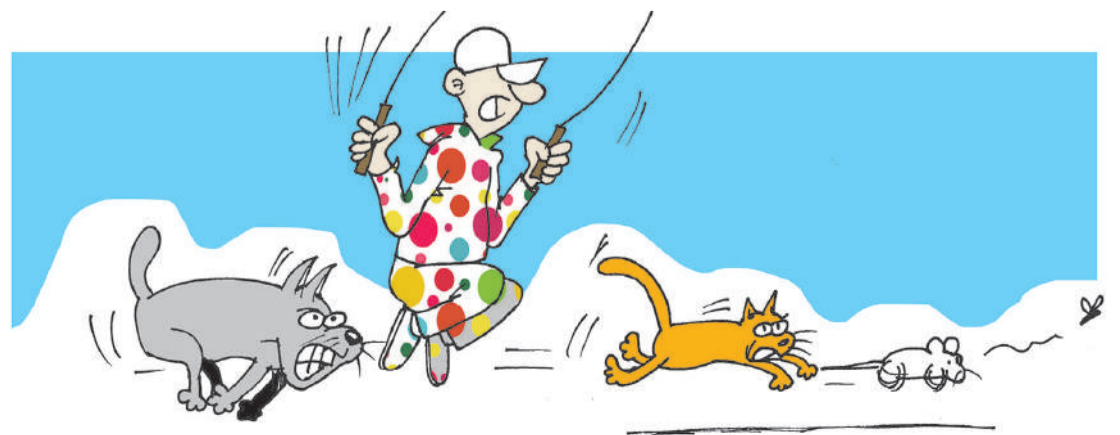
An open first half, which saw Dumfries and England's Phil Foden hit the goal frame, made way for a tight and tense second half that had a huge two-minute spell when Bukayo Saka had a goal disallowed before Kane and Foden were taken off.

It might rank as Southgate's best call in his eight-year England tenure. And that the goal was set up by Palmer, who entered as a substitute the same time as Watkins, will have made it even sweeter.

"We are giving people some amazing nights ... but we are not finished," Southgate said.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

With a late goal fit for a king, England reaches another Euro final by beating Netherlands 2-1

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Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi is pictured in a jovial mood as he chats with Clatous Chama, who joined the Jangwani-based side from their arch-rivals Simba. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

## Gamondi happy with Yanga's squad depth after 'amazing' transfer window

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi is happy with the squad depth following the club's business in the transfer window ahead of the 2024/25 campaign.

The champions have signed five players so far, including Clatous Chama from Simba and Prince Dube from Azam.

They have also succeeded in keeping Stephane Aziz Ki to stay for another year.

Gamondi admits the quality in his squad will give him selection headaches, but he is glad to have them.

"We have brought in players who add something to the team. We didn't need to bring many players, not quantity but quality players in specific areas. Players who can determine the game. Everybody needs to improve and perform better, and hopefully, these players coming in can adapt quickly.

"We need to be patient with the new players. They need time for adaptation, time to know the tactical pattern and other players. We are going slowly.

"Don't be anxious to see the new players score three, four, or five goals because in football sometimes you need time. Some players start quickly.

"We think we will improve, especially in the international competitions. The players now need to show and compete. We have very strong competition between them. In all places, we have two players and even three in some. I think this is healthy because everybody must give his best to be in the first eleven," said the gaffer.

With the addition of Chama, Young Africans have four attacking midfielders to terrorise opposition defences.

The Argentine spoke about the prospect of fielding all the four creative talents and jokingly said they have sent a request to TFF asking permission to field 14 players to accommodate everyone's wish.

"Sometimes it will be a headache to have all these players in similar positions but I prefer to have this headache. I know it will be a very long social media discussion, and you will have a lot of things to comment but for now, I have asked Ali Kamwe to send a letter to TFF and CAF to ask if we can play with 14 players. If we do that everybody will be happy to see his player," he said.

# Tanzania representatives discover opponents in 2024/25 CAF inter-club competitions



Simba head coach Fadlu Davids with his players during a training session in Ismailia, Egypt yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of SSC.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MAINLAND Premier League clubs have discovered their opponents in the 2024/25 CAF inter-club competitions. This was after the draw held in Cairo yesterday at the CAF headquarters.

Young Africans, Azam, Simba and Coastal Union are the four clubs which will represent Mainland Tanzania in the two continental tournaments.

Young Africans, who are the defending Premier League champions, will lock horns with Burundi's Vital'o in the CAF Champions League preliminary rounds.

The first leg of the encounter will be held in Bujumbura on the weekend of August 16-18 should CAF approve Prince Rwagasore Stadium to host the game.

The return leg will be held on the weekend of August 23-24 in Dar.

The winner on aggregate between the two teams will take on either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopian club Commercial Bank in the play-off rounds.

The winner of the second preliminary round will then progress to the lucrative group stages of the conti-

nent's biggest club competition.

Last season's Premier League runners-up, Azam, are scheduled to face APR of Rwanda in the Champions League preliminary rounds.

Azam will host the first leg at Chamazi Complex before travelling to Kigali for the return leg.

If the Ice Cream Makers will proceed to the next stage, they will face Zanzibar's JKU or Egyptian giants Pyramids.

Coastal Union, who finished fourth last season, have been pitted against

FC Bravos of Angola in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary rounds.

"Wagosi wa Kaya" will first make the trip to Angola for the first leg before hosting the second leg in Tanzania.

They will then face DR Congo outfit St. Eloi Lupopo in the play-off round provided they overcome FC Bravos on aggregate.

Simba, who were among the 12 exempted clubs to feature in the first preliminary rounds of the CAF Confederation Cup, face the aggregate win-

ner between Zanzibar's Uhamiaji and Libya's Federation Cup winners in the playoffs round.

The 2024/2025 CAF Interclub season will kick off with the Preliminary Round scheduled between August 16 and 18, 2024.

The Group Stages are scheduled between October-December 2024.

The Knockout Phase and Final of both competitions will be between March-May 2025.

## ...Simba, Coastal Union anticipate strong opposition in the CAF Confederation Cup

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

SIMBA are set to face the winner of the match between Uhamiaji FC from Zanzibar and an unannounced Libyan team in the second preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup qualifiers.

This draw comes as the club prepares for what promises to be a challenging competition, with several prominent teams vying for the coveted trophy.

As one of the top 12 highest-ranked clubs in the official CAF rankings, Simba have been exempted from the first preliminary round. This privilege reflects the club's consistent performance in African football, particularly in the CAF Champions League.

In contrast, the remaining 40 clubs will compete from the first preliminary round, comprising three ranked teams and 37 non-ranked teams. These 37 teams have been di-

vided into three pots based on their geographical proximity to ensure a fair and balanced draw.

Simba anticipate strong opposition in the CAF Confederation Cup, especially considering the significant teams that have fallen in the competition this season. The club, which has built a formidable reputation in the CAF Champions League over the years, finished third in the Premier League this season, necessitating its participation in Africa's second-largest club championship.

The road ahead for Simba is expected to be tough, contrary to fans' initial expectations of an easier path in the Confederation Cup. Many supporters had hoped this competition would offer a more straightforward route to surpass the quarter-final stage, a barrier the team has been unable to break in the CAF Champions League for five consecutive seasons.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union FC, other Tanzanian representatives in the CAF Confederation Cup, will face FC Bravo of Angola. The winners of this tie will then take on FC Lupopo. The first leg of Coastal Union's encounter is scheduled to take place in Angola during the weekend of August 16-18.

Coastal Union's participation marks a significant return to international competition after a long hiatus, with their last appearance dating back to 1989 when they competed in the African Cup Championship. The tournament later merged with the CAF Cup to form the CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

The draw signals the beginning of what promises to be another thrilling season of elite African club football. This year's CAF Confederation Cup will feature 52 clubs from 41 countries, highlighting the diversity and competitive spirit of the tournament. Alongside the CAF Champions

League, the CAF Confederation Cup remains one of the most prestigious competitions in African club football, attracting significant attention and viewership across the continent and beyond.

The growth of these interclub competitions is evident, with record global TV audiences tuning in to watch the matches. The increasing standard of African football continues to draw fans, enhancing the profile and reach of the competitions.

Last season, Zamalek of Egypt were crowned champions of the CAF Confederation Cup for the second time, underlining the high level of competition and the unpredictable nature of the tournament.

As Simba SC and Coastal Union FC prepare for their respective matches, they carry the hopes of Tanzanian football fans eager to see their teams excel on the continental stage.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

