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Mining: Govt phasing out mercury by 2030

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has pledged to phase out mercury use in the mining sector by 2030 in a move to enhance public health and environmental sustainability.

Cyprian Luhemeja, the Union and Environment permanent secretary in the Vice President's Office (VPO) made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday, opening a four-day international conference on mercury alternatives.

The conference has brought together representatives from 12 countries to explore mercury-free alternative technologies for small-scale gold mining, where the ministerial executive explained the need to educate small-scale miners on safer technologies.

"The government aims to educate small-scale miners on alternative technologies to phase out mercury use by 2030," he said, highlighting that countries such as Ghana have successfully eliminated mercury by adopting alternative methods, providing a model for current efforts.

The severe health and environmental risks posed by mercury, as it can contaminate soil and the wider ecosystem, constitutes a massive impact on human health and even for wildlife, he said.

The government is implementing a large-scale project across nine regions to train miners in safer practices, with a new training centre in Msalala, Shinyanga Region, set up to focus specifically on teaching small-scale miners on using mercury alternatives, he said.

Dr Immaculate Semesi, the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), director general, said that the conference was intended to impart skills

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Special Seats MPs decry food suppliers' debt pile



Pupils of Dodoma Urban District's Chikole Primary School queue for their share of nutrient-rich porridge from their teachers during celebrations related to nutrition held in Msalato ward yesterday. **Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila**

"In Bukoba Urban, six government secondary schools are owed 936m/-, with debts dating back one to six years"

By Augusta Njoji, Dodoma

LONGSTANDING debts owed to contractors and suppliers providing services in public schools need to be paid by the government as some of these clients face foreclosure by banks due to unpaid bills, legislators said yesterday.

Priscus Tarimo (Moshi Urban), issued this appeal in a question and answer session in the National Assembly, demanding clear explanations on the situation.

In a basic question, he queried the reliability of plans to settle debts owed to service providers, particularly those supplying food to government schools, highlighting the urgency of the situation as underlined by the financial strain the suppliers face.

Asia Halamga (Special Seats) raised a supplementary question, referencing a statement made during mid-year budget discussions, where the government affirmed that 949bn/- was allocated to settle various debts.

"Are school service providers included in this funding? How long will they need to wait for payment? It's crucial for these small-scale entrepreneurs to understand the timeline," the MP declared.

Grace Tendegu (Special Seats-Opposition) said that while the government verifies debts before making payments, some suppliers and contractors are owed money for up to three years. "How long does this verification process take? These delays are unacceptable," she emphasized.

Cecilia Pareso (Special Seats-Opposition) highlighted the plight of road contractors, many of whom turn to banks for loans while awaiting payment from the government.

"What is the government's position on these contractors? Some have faced foreclosure due to their financial

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..When will this process of verification be completed?

SPORTS



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'IT'S THE REALITY' - WILL IT TAKE FEWER POINTS TO WIN PREMIER LEAGUE?

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Chinese visitors shooting up, as state unveils new documentary

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE number of Chinese tourists visiting Tanzania's tourist attractions has been on a remarkable rise since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has stated.

Hassan Abbasi, the Natural Resources and Tourism permanent secretary, told a news conference over the weekend in Dar es Salaam that 54,444 Chinese tourists visited Tanzania from January to September this year, eclipsing visitations recorded for all of last year.

"The Chinese tourist market is responding remarkably," he said, making the summation ahead of the Tanzania-China alliance in the tourism and culture event, marking 60 years of a remarkable diplomatic relationship.

Back in 2018, before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, about 32,000 Chinese tourists visited Tanzania, rising to 44,038 last year, in the wake of government efforts to seize the Chinese tourism market.

It has been conducting promotional events, including tourism roadshows in major Chinese cities, along with the launch in Beijing earlier in May this year of the 'Amazing Tanzania' documentary.

The film featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi and prominent

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Tanzania's forest policy strongly supports local manufacturing, encouraging the production of 'Made in Tanzania' furniture and wood products

Posts Corp. freight sees 74pc rise with 39pc market share

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL postal items handled by the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) are showing signs of gradual increase, after a sharp decline in mail volumes from 2019 to 2021.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the sector performance report for July to September 2024 shows a 74 percent increase in items posted internationally by the postal firm mid-2021 to 2023.

The latest communications sector status report suggests that there is significant rebound in international postal items handled by the national postal operator, as it processed 979,625 international items in 2023, up from 564,528 in 2021.

This indicates a reversal in its business trend from the decline experienced in previous years, he said, noting that despite the growth, TPC holds a modest 39 percent market share of domestic postal services.

The total number of items posted internationally plummeted from 2,873,312 in 2019 to 564,528 items recorded in 2021, he said, with experts attributing the recent upswing to advancements in information and com-

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Special Seats MPs decry food suppliers' debt pile

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situation," she demanded, while Neema Lugangira (Special Seats) asserted that debts owed to food suppliers directly impact food availability in schools, affecting students' ability to learn.

She referred to deputy minister (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Zainabu Katimba's statement in the first post-budget session that 21.7bn/- is owed to school food suppliers. "When will this process of verification be completed?" she queried.

"In Bukoba Urban, six government secondary schools are owed 936m/-, with debts dating back one to six years," she said in illustration, where Finance deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande sought to reassure MPs.

He said that the government is

working to settle outstanding debts, including those owed to school food suppliers, noting that payment timelines depend on revenue availability and ongoing verification of debts by the government's Internal Auditor General (IAG).

"The verification process aims to ensure proper management and control of public funds in accordance with the Budget Act No. 439 and the Public Finance Act No. 348. We have instructed all councils to pay suppliers on time to prevent accumulating debts and avoid troubling service providers," he stated.

School service providers are included in the allocated funds from last year, with various payments being conducted, thus suppliers and service providers need to be patient as their payments will be made once verification is complete and funds are available, he added.

Posts Corp. freight sees 74pc rise with 39pc market share

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Currently, TCRA has licensed 145 postal service providers apart from TPC and a variety of courier companies categorized into six international courier service providers, two East African courier services, 47 domestic courier services, 16 intra-city courier services and 74 inter-city transporters, he said.

TCRA regularly engages with these courier companies to assess quality of service parameters, including timely delivery to maintain high service standards, he said, elaborating that a recent survey of 19 courier companies indicated that 37 percent met on-time delivery expectations.

Notable service providers like Air Tanzania, Precision Air, TanzMovers, Advanced Logistics, Delex Courier & Logistics Ltd, Ellymo Co. Ltd, and Segax were among those performing well, he specified.

The survey also highlighted that 12 companies failed to comply with the electronic and postal communications quality of service (QoS) regulations which include key performance indicators, such as the speed of service, defined as the transit time from when a mail piece is posted to its arrival at the destination, he added.

With World Post Day on October 9, TCRA reaffirmed its dedication to integrating digital advancements in the postal sector, ensuring that service delivery is both efficient and user-friendly.

Chinese visitors shooting up, as state unveils new documentary

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Chinese actor Jin Dong has been a catalyst in attracting more tourists from China to visit local attractions, he said.

"Amazing Tanzania" was to be relaunched locally on Monday at the tourism and culture event, going in tandem with exhibitions at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam, also an illustration of Chinese design, architecture, he stated.

Dr Pindi Chana, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said that local communities need to tap into the export potential of engineered wood products, particularly targeting international markets such as China.

At a meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday with a Chinese delegation led by resident ambassador Chen Mingjian, she said that the new film builds on the earlier documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan, "Tanzania, the Royal Tour," showcasing the fascinating tourism landscape.

The meeting was part of ongoing celebrations marking the long-standing diplomatic relationship between Tanzania and China, coinciding with the launch of "Amazing Tanzania" documentary.

Local communities need to increase tree planting, she said, highlighting that the effort supports environmental conservation and uplifts economic opportunities in selling wood products.

"Tanzania's forest policy strongly supports local manufacturing, encouraging the production of 'Made in Tanzania' furniture and wood products," she stated.

President Samia's visit to China further strengthened bilateral cooperation, particularly in the growing

demand for Tanzanian wood products such as marine boards, ceiling boards and plywood, she said.

China remains a steadfast partner in supporting Tanzania's development projects, including critical infrastructure improvements, she said, pointing at recent initiatives that have improved road access to major tourist destinations.

The more visible include the Ruaha and Mikumi national parks in Iringa and Morogoro regions respectively, making these areas more accessible to domestic and international visitors, she said.

"It is time to change our mindset and focus on engineered wood products, which have become a global business. We need to move away from selling raw wood or timber to optimise earnings," she said.

In addition to exports of wood products, a significant increase in Chinese tourists with upwards of 54,400 visitors annually was being noticed, she said, underlining that this flow has led to an increased demand for Chinese language translators, creating new job opportunities for many who are learning the language locally.

The bilateral ties encompass technical cooperation, infrastructure development and trade, with China being Tanzania's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years, with significant investments across various sectors, the minister noted.

Projects such as KEDA Ceramics, Huaxin Cement's Maweni Limestone and Wangkang Float Glass have each attracted investments exceeding \$100m, generating numerous jobs and bolstering the country's economy. Through collaborative efforts, Tanzania and China are building a future of shared growth and prosperity, she added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango chairs a meeting of the Cabinet's Community Development Committee in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

Mining: Govt phasing out mercury, by 2030

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from successful mercury-free practices in other countries.

Serious health risks and ecological damage are associated with mercury as it can persist in water, soil and living organisms, she said, stressing that Tanzania can fully

eliminate mercury in mining, following the examples set by other nations.

"Through this meeting, we aim to gather knowledge and share alternative technologies so that the goal is attained by 2030," she said, pointing out that the Global Environment Fund (GEF) is supporting Tanzania

and five other African countries to eradicate mercury use in gold mining. International collaboration is necessary for achieving these goals, she stated.

Commitment to phasing out mercury is an important step toward sustainable mining practices, aligning with global efforts to protect the

environment and promote public health, she further noted.

Delegates from Zambia, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Australia, Germany, the United States and Colombia are also participating, to exchange knowledge and best practices in mercury-free mining.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience with Denmark's Ambassador to Tanzania, Jesper Kammergaard, at the Dar es Salaam sub-headquarters of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Photo: PMO

Govt stresses empowerment for public servants in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has underscored the importance of empowering public servants through regular training, asserting that strong human resource management is essential for the development of African countries.

Speaking yesterday at the opening of the 9th meeting of the African Public Sector Human Resource Managers Network (APS-HRMnet), Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa emphasized that human resources in public service are crucial for governments to effectively serve their citizens and provide essential economic and social services that enhance community welfare.

The conference was conducted under the theme: "Governance Resilience and Innovation to Foster Future-Oriented Public Sector through Human Resource Leadership."

Majaliwa noted that the human resources sector plays a significant role in helping countries achieve

their development goals and meet sustainable development initiatives.

He urged human resource managers and administrators across Africa to optimize human resource management to enhance productivity and value in public service.

He cautioned that poor human resource management has adversely affected some countries, resulting in a perception of government unaccountability.

"We must be open in discussing the challenges we face and self-assess the opportunities available in our services. When you leave this meeting, aim to be ambassadors of public service by strengthening effective human resource systems in your institutions," he said.

Majaliwa stressed the need for diligence, integrity, and effort in executing duties, as public servants are the backbone of all institutions.

He instructed human resource officers to build leaders' capacity to adapt to constant changes, emphasizing adherence to principles

and regulations that guide public service.

Additionally, he called for enhanced innovation and integrity to improve talent acquisition and development.

"Our goal is to elevate the skills of public servants and ensure they adapt to evolving responsibilities as the world changes," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of fostering a culture of resilience, particularly concerning mental health, urging public servants to support one another in coping with the stresses of their roles.

Majaliwa advocated for a strategic human resource plan that involves all levels of staff to provide quality services to citizens.

George Simbachawene, the Minister of State in the President's Office for Public Service Management and Good Governance remarked that this meeting is crucial amid global challenges, making discussions essential for empowering public servants.

He noted that innovation is vital

for advancing the African continent in technology and efficiency, which will enhance human resource capabilities.

Xavier Daudi, APS-HRMnet President and Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, emphasized that this meeting offers a platform for exchanging experiences and expertise.

"This network was established to translate national, regional, and international development strategies into effective human resource management that positively impacts our citizens across Africa," he said.

The network comprises members from all over Africa, organized into five regions: West Africa (17 countries), East Africa (10 countries), Central Africa (8 countries), North Africa (6 countries), and Southern Africa (13 countries), including ministers responsible for public service, permanent secretaries, and various experts from across the continent.



Amos Makalla, CCM's Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, addresses members of the party in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni District yesterday. He stressed the need for all those registered as voters in upcoming civic and other elections to actually turn up and vote come polling day. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Avoid complacency, CCM urges contenders in next civic elections

By Henry Mwangonde

THE ruling CCM has urged candidates nominated for chair positions in the upcoming local government elections to avoid complacency, as the elections will be contested.

Amos Makalla, party's Secretary for Ideology, Publicity, and Training made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a meeting with CCM leaders and members in Kinondoni District.

He emphasised the importance of local government leaders in development, noting that there are individuals determined to challenge CCM candidates and encourage voters to oppose them.

"We, the CCM members, are committed to campaigning vigorously to secure votes for our candidates. Those expecting an easy win will have to wait," said Makalla.

He praised the enthusiasm of CCM members during the opinion poll process, which saw over 500,000 members expressing interest and more than 10 million participating. This demonstrates how leaders can emerge through democratic means.

Makalla urged leaders at all levels to monitor ongoing processes and be ready to begin their campaigns on November 21, 2024, once nominees are announced.

His visit, alongside central committee members and secretariat officials, aims to remind CCM members to conduct dignified campaigns that showcase their achievements, including the successful implementation of the party's election manifesto for 2019/2024 and 2020/2025.

He highlighted CCM's efforts to encourage voter registration, with Dar es Salaam achieving over three million registered individuals, representing 96 percent.

He urged members to channel this enthusiasm into voting, emphasizing that mere registration is not

enough.

"To achieve our goals, we need substantial affirmative votes, driven by the mobilization of ambassadors, councillors, and political committee leaders," Makalla said.

He reinforced the idea that local leaders are essential to the strength of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, connecting with members and voters.

Their performance is crucial for the success of branches, wards, and districts.

Makalla encouraged nominated candidates to present a positive image by supporting the party and collaborating with councillors for national development.

He also congratulated those who expressed interest but were not nominated, encouraging them to remain hopeful and seek opportunities elsewhere.

He expressed sympathy for those who joined opposition parties before the nominations.



He praised the enthusiasm of CCM members during the opinion poll process, which saw over 500,000 members expressing interest and more than 10 million participating. This demonstrates how leaders can emerge through democratic means

Cholera outbreak in Ikungi kills five, affects 500 in three months

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

FIVE people have died and over 500 hospitalised in special treatment camps in the Ikungi District, Singida Region due to a cholera outbreak that began in July and continued through October.

Dr Emanuelli Kikoti, Ikungi District acting medical officer told journalists here yesterday that the cases are high in Kaugeri, Mduguyu and Ufana Villages.

In response to the outbreak, the local government established special treatment camps in these areas as a precautionary measure.

According to Dr Kikoti, of the 500 patients diagnosed since the out-

break began, three have succumbed to the disease.

He attributed the fatalities to a lack of public awareness about the treatment camps and their crucial role in recovery.

"The cholera outbreak was first identified in Kaugeri Village in Mwaru Ward. While we managed to contain it there initially, subsequent cases emerged in Mgungira Ward, leading to the current total of 500 cases," Dr Kikoti said.

He outlined several measures being implemented to curb the disease, including suspending fishing activities in the reservoir located in Mgungira Ward, encouraging households to construct and utilize

latrines, and promoting environmental hygiene.

However, Dr Kikoti noted that some patients delayed seeking treatment, either opting for traditional remedies or not visiting the camps at all.

Ally Juma Mwangi, Ikungi District Council chairman, reported a dramatic increase in cholera cases, rising from six to 500.

He attributed the outbreak to inadequate latrine access and poor sanitation practices.

"The number of patients has surged from six to 500, prompting us to convene with district leaders to address this critical public health issue. Most people in this area lack

proper latrines, so we have implemented strategies, including temporarily closing the fish reservoir," Mwangi said.

Iddi Athumani Makangale, the Mwaru Ward Councillor, acknowledged the limited fatalities but confirmed that two individuals have died from cholera.

"We are actively educating the community on the importance of using latrines. There is some reluctance rooted in cultural beliefs, with some fathers, sons, or in-laws unwilling to share the same latrine," Makangale said.

Elisante Ngura, a healthcare provider at the patient camp in Ufana Village, reported that they initially admitted 11 patients, later bringing the total to 14.

Of the 14, six have recovered and been discharged, while eight others are showing good progress.



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Dar es Salaam

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COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED (CICL)

NAME OF PROJECT: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE STAR HOTEL FOR CPA AFRICA REGION

Tender No: CPA/CICL/W/2024/1

Invitation for Pre-qualifications (EPC Contract)

For

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE STAR HOTEL FOR CPA AFRICA REGION, TENDER NO. CPA/CICL/W/2024/1

1. The Commonwealth Investment company Limited (CICL) on behalf of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region is intending to engage in a contract for the Construction of Proposed Five Star Hotel at Njedengwa Area, in Dodoma, Tanzania Tender No. CPA/CICL/W/2024/1.
2. The Commonwealth Investment Company Limited (CICL) intends to initially select Applicants for Construction of Proposed Five Star Hotel at Njedengwa Area, in Dodoma, Tanzania Tender No. CPA/CICL/W/2024/1. The works consist of construction of Hotel Building and its associated external works. Others include all building service installation including Electrical Works, Plumbing Works, mechanical installations, Lift Installations, ICT installations, external landscapes, swimming pool and car parking.
3. Pre-qualification is open to building contractors Class 1 in both categories; local and international contractor who are willing to participate in this project.
4. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from the Commonwealth Investment company Limited (CICL) at the address below during office hours between 08:00 a.m. and 04:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday inclusive, except on public holidays. A complete set of Pre-qualification documents (electronic format) in English may be obtained by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the Regional Secretary, CPA Africa Region, Parliament Building, P.O.Box 941, Dodoma, Tanzania. Tel: +255 26 2322761-5; Email: cpa.secretariat@bunge.go.tz or info.cpafrica@gmail.com.
5. Please note that the Pre-qualification documents are being provided in soft copies in PDF Format through emails to be provided by the bidder.
6. Applications for Pre-qualification should be submitted electronically in PDF format through the emails below by 10:00am on 25th November, 2024. Late applications shall be rejected. The applications must be clearly marked "Application for Pre-qualification for the Construction of Five Star Hotel on Plot No. 7 Block E, Njedengwa Area, Dodoma, Tanzania: Tender No. CPA/CICL/W/2024/1.

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THE COMPANY SECRETARY
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED (CICL)

Disquiet in Zanzibar over planned evictions from 'historical' edifice

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Housing Corporation (ZHC) has come under criticism for reportedly instructing residents of East Germany-built houses at Kikwajuni area to vacate their homes ahead of planned demolitions for investment purposes.

Residents assert that properties in question do not belong to the corporation but are under ownership of the government of Zanzibar.

The controversy has drawn in prominent figures, including Ambassador Ali Abeid Karume, second child of Zanzibar's first President Abeid Amani Karume and former Kikwajuni legislator Parmukh Singh Hogan.

Ambassador Karume warned that any forced removals could provoke significant unrest between Zanzibar government and area residents.

He claimed that there are individuals with malicious intent seeking to undermine the ruling party CCM, by inciting discord.

"The buildings were constructed by Germany for the benefit of the poor, removing them forcefully isn't fair," Karume said.

Hogan said that demolishing the houses would erase a crucial part of Zanzibar's history with Germany, which played a significant role in the aftermath of Zanzibar Revolution.

Then East Germany was the first nation to recognise Zanzibar Revolution in 1964 followed by China and others.

"The buildings hold political, historical and tourism significance. Demolishing them and altering their purpose would jeopardise international relations. It would be prudent to consult Germany regarding any demolition and new construction rather than erasing their historical presence," Hogan said.

Jaha Ame Rajab, chairperson of the committee overseeing the dispute, said that residents have begun meetings with government officials to address the issue.

"There are many families living in the buildings. Evicting them for investment purposes is a serious matter that should not be taken lightly. An impulsive decision could damage the social fabric," Rajab said.

He highlighted that some residents have lived there since the first administration, adding that any eviction could lead to ongoing complaints.

The opposition ACT-Wazalendo has condemned the decision, asserting that it contradicts the vision of Zanzibar's first President, Abeid Amani Karume, to provide quality housing for Zanzibaris.

Rashid Ali Abdallah, ACT Wazalendo shadow minister, called the situation a humiliation for residents and a big shame for Zanzibar government.

"There should be discussions between the residents and the government of Zanzibar. If compensation is necessary, it should be provided. If relocation is required during construction, residents should receive financial support to sustain their livelihoods rather than face forced removal," he said.

The Kikwajuni apartment buildings were established after the revolution as part of a supportive initiative to provide quality housing for citizens, backed by East Germany.

"There are many families living in the buildings. Evicting them for investment purposes is a serious matter that should not be taken lightly. An impulsive decision could damage the social fabric"



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) and officials representing Azania Bank Limited and the Capital Markets and Securities Authority press a button in Dodoma city yesterday to signal the launch of a 30bn/- medium-term note programme bond issued by the bank. Photo: Guardian

Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA) and the Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI) have urged governments worldwide to engage in meaningful dialogue with media stakeholders to ensure journalists safety.

During an event to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) on November 2, the stakeholders condemned the increasing violence against journalists.

The global observance aims to raise awareness about journalists' safety of, particularly in crises and emergencies.

Ernest Sungura, executive secretary of CoRI and chairperson of NIMCA, highlighted the need to create a supportive environment for journalists to fulfil their vital roles as watchdogs and information

Stakeholders appeal for action to ensure safety of journalists

disseminators.

He also emphasized the importance of celebrating the resilience of journalists and committing to supporting their essential work amidst adversity.

This year's theme underscores the urgent need for protective measures for journalists in vulnerable situations.

According to UNESCO, violence against journalists remains alarmingly high, with over 1,700 journalists killed globally between 2006 and 2024 and 90 percent of the cases remain unresolved in courts. This stark reality underscores the critical role journalists play in promoting and safeguarding democracy.

Sungura further noted that in

Tanzania, from 2012 to October 2024, there have been 316 recorded incidents of press freedom violations, with 44 occurring this year alone.

Reported incidents include 31 arrests, eight threats, one abduction and various forms of harassment and media suppression. Of those affected, 36 are men and eight are women.

Despite the challenges, there is a silver lining as Tanzania's press freedom ranking has significantly improved, rising from 143rd in 2023 to 97th this year, according to Reporters Without Borders.

"This progress reflects the ongoing efforts of advocates working towards greater protections for journalists.

However, the rise in violations—from 19 cases in 2022 to 33 documented this year—signals a pressing need for continued vigilance and action," he said.

CoRI advocates for constructive dialogue between the government and media stakeholders, especially as the country approaches local government polls this year and General Elections next year.

The announcement of an upcoming meeting involving the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance marks a promising step towards fostering a safer environment for journalists.



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- Dry Hire Two (02) Front-End Wheel Loaders with three (03) Operators.
- Standard bucket capacity: 3.0m³
- Lift capacity (rated load): 5,000Kgs
- Dump height: 3,040mm
- Overall operating height: 5,435mm
- Wheel base: 3,200 mm
- Operating weight: 17,450Kgs

Period: 12 months.

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company profile (Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.).
- Method Statement to carryout works, Resources Deployment Plan and Organization Chart showing resources and designation.
- Equipment's registration documents proving ownership.
- Experience with similar works, copy of Purchase Orders of previous projects carried out indicating project name, project extent coverage (area) etc minimum 03 years.
- Availability of equipments, proof of location and running hours from previous projects carried.
- Company Health, Safety & Environmental Policies.
- OSHA certificate of compliance.
- Safety background from previous projects.
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- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
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- Last date to submit quotes: **11th November 2024.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



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ENDLINE EVALUATION- FOR GIRLS GET EQUAL PROGRAMME, INTERGRATED APPROACH TO END CHILD EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE IN RUKWA, RFQ No. PIT/RUK/10919430/FY24

1. Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro, Mara, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Mpanda and Kigoma. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.
2. Plan International Tanzania through girls get equal Programme, integrated approach to end CEFM project supported by NORAD has set aside funds for end line evaluation. The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
- 4 Bidders must submit the quotation in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam, before 14:30 Friday 22nd November 2024, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before 14:30 Friday 22nd November 2024.
- 5 Late and Electronic Bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda cuts a cake in the Botswana capital, Gaborone, on Saturday at a reception Tanzanian nationals living in the southern African country hosted to mark the 30th anniversary of their residency there. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

THN launched in Dar to enhance innovation

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

ORGANISATIONS involved in technology innovation have launched the Tanzania Hubs Network (THN), aiming to connect and strengthen innovation hubs across the country.

Speaking at the launch of the network in Dar es Salaam yesterday, THN Chairperson Kiko Kiwanga stated: "This marks a transformative step toward creating a thriving, interconnected innovation ecosystem that fuels entrepreneurship and socio-economic growth in Tanzania." The network is supported by the FUNGUO Innovation Programme, a UNDP Tanzania initiative funded by the European Union and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Kiwanga noted that THN currently includes 35 member hubs, with plans to expand to over 50 hubs by the end of the year due to ongoing applications from various innovation hubs. "We are shaping an ecosystem for hubs in the country. Our mission is to provide holistic support for entrepreneurs and innovators, especially in tech, addressing key challenges through collaboration, resource sharing, and advocacy," he added.

THN provides an unprecedented opportunity for hubs across Tanzania to collectively advance innovation and entrepreneurship. Through this network, members can offer better support to innovators, improve service quality, and raise Tanzania's profile within Africa's innovation landscape.

"This fully funded initiative allows hub managers to engage with top African innovation leaders, learn from international best practices, and establish partnerships that will empower Tanzanian hubs to support startups with innovative, impactful solutions," Kiwanga said.

FUNGUO Programme Manager Joseph Manirakiza added, "We're laying the foundation for a united, resilient innovation ecosystem in Tanzania. Support from the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH), the EU, and the UK government is instrumental in realizing THN's vision."

"We are shaping an ecosystem for hubs in the country. Our mission is to provide holistic support for entrepreneurs and innovators, especially in tech, addressing key challenges through collaboration, resource sharing, and advocacy"

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Go fast in issuing quality logos, barcodes for local traders, Jafo tells TBS and TIRDO

INDUSTRY and Trade, minister Dr Selemani Jafo has directed the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) to expedite the provision of quality logos and barcodes for local traders.

This, according to the Minister, will enable more Tanzanian products to penetrate international markets, including the East African Community (EAC) and the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He made the directives over the weekend in the Lindi region during the launch of a trade fair focusing on tailoring and business opportunities.

In his address, Minister Jafo pledged his Ministry's support in creating a favourable environment

to attract both local and foreign investment for industrial development in the region.

He highlighted the availability of raw materials in Lindi that could draw investment and noted that the government is implementing its Industrial Program for 2025-2030, aimed at boosting employment and overall economic growth.

Meanwhile, Minister Jafo inaugurated the Online Market (e-Market) in Lindi and instructed the Regional Commissioner to ensure the market operates monthly, in collaboration with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade).

He encouraged efforts to publicise the market to attract traders and

facilitate the buying and selling of various products.

He also urged Tanzanians to prioritise locally made goods to support their fellow citizens.

Lindi Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack appealed to the Ministry for assistance in establishing factories to process local crops, such as sesame oil,

which is abundant in the region, as well as facilities for seaweed product processing.

Abdallah Hamis Livembe, a traditional elder, echoed the call for prioritising Lindi in the establishment of industries to enhance employment opportunities and boost the region's economy, which he noted lags behind others.

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CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD



SUSPENSION OF CONTRACTORS

The Contractors Registration Board (CRB) is a statutory regulatory Board established in accordance with the Contractors Registration Act Cap 235 (R.E) 2002 to register all types of contractors, and regulate their conduct for protecting consumers of construction services in Tanzania. In executing this objective, CRB is also duty bound to promote development of local contractors across the country.

CRB wishes to inform all Clients (developers), Consultants and the General Public that the following contractors have been suspended from practising as Contractors with effect from 01.11.2024 in accordance with Sections 13 and 15 of the Contractors Registration Act Cap. 235 (R.E) 2002. The key reason for suspension is failure to make good indebtedness arising from the Contractors Assistance Fund (CAF).

S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1.	SAMCAT (T) LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0109/09/2010
		CIVIL	C3/0076/09/2010
2.	SAMNA (T) INVESTMENTS LIMITED	BUILDING	B2/140/07/2022
		CIVIL	C4/496/07/2022
3.	VISION SCOPE LIMITED	BUILDING	B5/1204/08/2018
		CIVIL	C4/1018/09/2018
4.	CAPITAL NETWORK LIMITED	BUILDING	B5/0439/10/2009
		CIVIL	C5/0391/10/2009
5.	MAJOR CONSULTANTS LIMITED	BUILDING	B7/4191/02/2014
		ELECTRICAL	E6/0111/04/2014
		SPECIALIST	SPE3/0627/01/2014
		CIVIL	C6/1360/12/2013

REGISTRAR



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (2nd-R) presents an award to Dar es Salaam resident Rishen Patel at the weekend in recognition of his contribution to the implementation of various community development projects in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

More than 100 youths in Mvomero equipped with job-creating skills

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa,

Morogoro

A TOTAL of 104 youth in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have been empowered to become self-employed and generate income by launching businesses, including fish shops, fish farming ponds and restaurants.

The youth, both male and female, were at risk of engaging in harmful activities due to a lack of productive engagements.

Their transformation was made possible through the Youth Power Organisation (YPO) in collaboration with the Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) project, implemented by Swisscontact Tanzania.

Charles Makongo, YPO executive director made the remarks over the weekend here during the closure of the project funded by the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania through the Fish Farming and Entrepreneurship Project.

The project commenced in March and provided 170 young

individuals with 32 days of training, which included assessments to identify those best suited for entrepreneurship.

Director Makongo highlighted the dedication and discipline exhibited by the 104 young traders stating: "We have successfully empowered young people to own their fish ponds and engage in commercial fish farming. Some have opened fish shops and are already earning income; others are frying fish and chicken or running restaurants."

Masunga Isumbi, information and communication officer at Swisscontact Tanzania emphasized that the SET project specifically targets both young men and women who have faced challenges such as teenage pregnancies, particularly those aged 15 to 24 in the Morogoro Region.

He said the initiative has partnered with 13 local institutions to reach its beneficiaries.

Isumbi said the empowerment initiative not only enhances the livelihoods of the participants but also fosters community

development and economic growth in the region.

Mohamed Said Abdallah, one of the project's beneficiaries, shared how the initiative helped him establish a fish farming pond, earning him respect within his community.

"Previously, we were viewed as idle youths, often associated with negative behaviours. Now, I feel valued," he said.

Neema James, another beneficiary, expressed her gratitude for the project, stating that it enabled her to open a restaurant specializing in fish and chicken dishes, generating a daily income that supports her livelihood.

"This has transformed my life from idleness to productive engagement," she said.

As the project concludes, Teacher Linno Mwageni, Executive Director of the Mvomero District Council, assured participants that they would continue to receive support, including opportunities to establish fish hatchery clusters and access to free seedlings of oil palm, cloves and cocoa.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Community Engagement Specialist | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks a Community Engagement Specialist for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow-on activity in Tanzania. The Activity's overall objective is to sustainably improve literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard 1 - 4 learners in target regions; strengthen the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increase community support for safe and inclusive learning environments.

The Community Engagement Specialist will be responsible for managing and overseeing program activities focused on community support of educational activities that ensure all children have access to education in a safe and inclusive learning environment. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities Include:

- Provide technical leadership and guidance to the design, technical implementation, and monitoring of all activities focused on community and caregiver promotion of children's learning, wellbeing, and resilience.
- Identify and advise on the use of relevant approaches, such as Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategies
- Provide capacity building for teachers to collaborate with caregivers and facilitate at-home learning support
- Lead collaborations with the Tanzanian government, local ministries and community stakeholders
- Advise on home- and community-based learning to support foundational literacy and numeracy
- Collaborate with other component leaders to achieve project outcomes
- Provide technical support to the implementation of activities in close collaboration with the Senior Technical Lead
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief of Party

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in social science, behavioral psychology, communications, or similar field required.
- Seven years of experience leading community engagement activities required, preferably within the education sector.
- Professional experience working with school communities, caregivers, local actors, and local governance structures; expertise in home- and community-based learning coupled with an understanding of behavioral change and adult learning techniques.
- Nuanced understanding of social, political, and economic dynamics of Tanzania.
- Experience on USAID or other international donor-funded projects in Tanzania strongly preferred.
- Excellent organizational and supervisory skills and ability to work effectively in a fast-paced, environment.
- Detail oriented, and ability to prioritize tasks.
- Fluency in written and spoken English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred.
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions:

To apply, please email your CV/Resume to TanzaniaJURecruit@chemonics.com and provide a brief explanation of why you would be a good fit for this role.

This recruit is being conducted on a rolling basis, so please submit your application as soon as possible. No telephone inquiries. Finalists will be contacted. More information about Chemonics International can be found at www.chemonics.com.

Chemonics is an equal opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, age, or other legally protected characteristics. Military veterans, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service alumni are encouraged to apply.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Chief of Party | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks a Chief of Party for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow-on activity in Tanzania. This anticipated 4-5-year, \$25-50 million project will focus on sustainably improving literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard grades 1 - 4 learners in target regions; strengthening the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increasing community support for safe and inclusive learning environments.

The Chief of Party provides technical, compliance, and managerial oversight; ensures operational and programmatic integrity; creates a positive and productive working environment; and embraces our corporate values while making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities include:

- Provides overall leadership, management, and technical direction for the Activity;
- Responsible for making key decisions to meet project objectives;
- Serves as the key liaison to USAID, Tanzanian government, ministers and representatives, civil society and NGO representatives, implementing partners, and stakeholders;
- Oversees financial management and contractual accountability of project;
- Ensures compliance with USAID regulations and Chemonics policies and procedures;
- Ensures the quality, compliance, timeliness and efficiency of all products including the work plan, MEL Plan, client deliverables and other reporting efforts;
- Monitors and, when necessary, modifies programs to achieve results; ensure that all project activities are implemented effectively;
- Ensures the activity meets high standards for performance and integrity that comply with Chemonics policies;
- Applies in-depth technical expertise in the program, ensuring an integrated vision among various components and focusing on achieving results;
- Identify issues and risks related to project implementation proactively and make appropriate adjustments and changes to ensure continuous improvement;
- Performs other duties and responsibilities as required.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Master's level or equivalent) in education or directly related field, PhD or EdD in education or directly related field preferred;
- Minimum 12 years of senior-level experience and/or technical experience with USAID or similar donor-funded programs, including 8 years senior leadership experience;
- Experience designing, implementing, and managing large education projects particularly related to pre-primary and primary literacy and numeracy skill development, particularly promoting gender equity, social and emotional learning, and inclusive education;
- Recognized national or international-level expertise in education policy and system reform for pre-and in-service teacher education and professional development;
- Experience supervising long-term field staff and short-term U.S., third country, and local experts;
- A strong understanding of monitoring, evaluation, and learning of education projects;
- Strong understanding of the development and education issues in East Africa; demonstrated experience working in Tanzania and the Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara, Ruvuma, and/or Zanzibar regions preferred;
- Familiarity with USAID tools and methodologies to improve education outcomes;
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Fluency in spoken and written English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred;
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions:

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

MERLA Director | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks a Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning and Adapting (MERLA) Director for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow on activity in Tanzania. The Activity's overall objective is to sustainably improve literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard 1 – 4 learners in target regions; strengthen the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increase community support for safe and inclusive learning environments.

The MERLA Director will be responsible for overseeing all MERLA-related functions of the activity. We are seeking individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities include:

- Leads the development and review of the project MEL plan and associated workplans, as reflected in the results framework;
- Provides cross cutting support including iteration, adaptation, and sharing learning on best practices within the education sector
- Collaborates with the relevant communications teams to development and implement the Activity's communication strategy and annual workplan for communications asset production, dissemination, and monitoring.
- Leads the development of the project's MEL strategy and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan, and oversee data collection, data systems, and results reporting to meet USAID requirements.
- Spearheads, guides, and supervises all database, survey, and assessment methodology documents (sampling frame, guides, instructions, surveys, and analysis) for quality assurance and adherence to USAID data quality standards and industry best practices
- Leads the development of collaboration, learning, and adaptation (CLA) mechanisms and incorporate these mechanisms throughout implementation to regularly adapt and modify approaches and interventions as needed.
- Develops, with input from technical staff, baseline survey data points and methods for MEL per the Activity's MEL plan and individual activities.
- Ensures the inclusion of youth- and gender-sensitive indicators and results in MEL.
- Provides evidence-based data and information to the technical team to develop progress reports, technical papers, success stories, case studies, etc.; recommend improvements to meet Activity goals.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief of Party

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Master's level or equivalent) in area of monitoring, evaluation, and learning or another relevant subject matter required;
- Minimum (12-15) years of experience working with USAID and in data systems, knowledge management, international development, or another relevant field.
- Experience in designing, using and implementing M&E methodologies and tools and the ability to train others in their use.
- Excellent presentation skills and strong ability to communicate clearly and concisely in writing.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Detail oriented, and ability to prioritize tasks.
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Fluency in written and spoken English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred.
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Operations Director | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks an Operations Director for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow on activity in Tanzania. This 4-5-year, \$25-50 million project will focus on sustainably improving literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard 1 – 4 learners in target regions; strengthening the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increasing community support for safe and inclusive learning environments.

The Operations Director will provide overall operational and financial management support to the Chief of Party ensuring that the program is implemented with utmost compliance and efficiency. We are seeking individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities Include:

- Provide direct oversight of administrative and finance staff and build team capacity in adhering to USAID and Chemonics policies and regulations.
- Ensure timely and effective approvals processes, budget review and management, client communications, calendar and event management, regional travel management, and report submission.
- Ensure planned program activities are implemented successfully and according to schedule.
- Establish proper procedures, trackers, and filing systems for procurements, recruitment/hiring, performance management, subcontracts/vendors and maintain proper implementation of operational systems.
- Inform the project management unit (PMU) on all pertinent procurement, financial and operational matters on a regular basis
- Other duties as assigned by the chief of party.

Finance.

- Review all expenditures and transactions against supporting documents from procurement, grants and subcontracts departments, ensuring appropriate back-up documentation is submitted in accordance with Chemonics procurement and financial policies
- Oversee the accounting and financial records of local expenses.
- Ensure accurate and timely processing of payroll for local staff.
- Maintain and control the project field cash position, including but not limited to requesting accurate and appropriate wire transfer requests and ensuring that local bank accounts are reconciled and balanced on a monthly basis.
- Closely monitor and maintain low accounts receivables and payables balances.
- Oversee field office project finances and budget reporting, and support senior management and the PMU with estimates of monthly, quarterly and annual expenditures, including through supporting and communicating budgets of activities included in the work plan.
- Ensure VAT claims and other in-country national reports and requirements are processed timeously and according to local and USAID regulations and maintain accurate reimbursement or response files.
- Maintain transparent, detailed, comprehensive and audit-proof record keeping systems per Chemonics' policies, including for all project expenditures.

Personnel and Human Resources.

- Ensure compliance with Tanzanian and Chemonics human resource practices and adherence to field office policy manual
- Confirm all personnel files are complete and compliant with Chemonics' policies, local labor laws, and USAID regulations
- Assist with the recruitment process, on-boarding and orientation of project staff, including development of scopes of work and employment contracts.
- Provide periodic business conduct and ethics trainings, including Chemonics' Living our Values training.
- Promote and support staff continuous development and timely feedback and performance reviews.

- Manage all annual performance management and incidental performance management procedures and requirements as necessary

Procurement

- Oversee and ensure proper implementation of project procurement and logistics system, ensuring segregation of duties within procurement procedures.
- Oversee management of the physical office, as well as procurement of all office equipment, supplies and services.
- Work with operations staff to ensure international and local travel is properly procured and effectively managed.
- Ensure RF0s, travel authorization and advance requests, purchase requests, purchase orders, and subcontracts are drafted, executed and implemented according to Chemonics' policies.
- Oversee timely management of agreements with landlord, vendors, and subcontractors.
- Supervise staff to ensure inventory management and tracking of all project equipment and vehicles is maintained/updated.

Security

- Ensure security procedures are followed, and updates circulated to relevant staff.
- Oversee Safety and Security Focal Point (SSFP) and work with SSFP to draft contingency plans, the emergency action plan, telephone tree and emergency contact list.
- Train staff on satellite phone and other communication devices and conduct emergency drills.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration, master's degree preferred.
- At least eight years of progressively responsible experience in administrative and financial management of large-scale, complex, international development assistance programs.
- Extensive experience in development and managing a donor-funded grants program
- Demonstrated ability to establish and develop working relationships and a high level of trust with public/private organizations as well as prepare regular and ad hoc reports, activity documentation and briefing papers
- Excellent computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Power Point, and Outlook) are required to effectively implement, analyze, monitor, and manage activity goals, inputs, outcomes, and achievements
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Fluency in written and spoken English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred.
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Senior Technical Lead | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks a Senior Technical Lead for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow-on activity in Tanzania. This anticipated 4-5-year, \$25-50 million project will focus on sustainably improving literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard grades 1 – 4 learners in target regions; strengthening the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increasing community support for safe and inclusive learning environments. The Senior Technical Lead be responsible for managing and overseeing the technical components of the activity and report directly to the Chief of Party. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities include:

- Lead the project's overall technical vision and implementation strategy and ensure applicability to the Tanzanian context
- Ensure integration, synergy, and cohesion among various project interventions.
- Oversee all technical activities and collaborate closely with technical specialists to maximize project performance and minimize potential risk.
- Serve as the liaison to ministers and government representatives, civil society and NGO representatives, implementing partners, and stakeholders
- Provide direction, guidance, and mentorship to the technical team, collaborating with the Chief of Party (COP) to design technically appropriate activities and trainings.
- Directly supervises technical specialists and manages performance
- Support work planning and ensure USAID contract compliance in technical implementation in all assigned objective areas across the project.
- Lead the development and review of technical deliverables and products, ensuring high quality and compliance with the activity's development objectives, and adhering to reporting requirements provided by USAID.
- Provide support in improving monitoring and evaluation of technical interventions alongside the MEL Director.
- Ensure continuous learning and progress throughout project implementation.
- Perform other general duties and technical insights as needed.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in education, international development, or related field
- Minimum ten years of senior management experience on donor-funded programs, or in a related role
- Expertise in one or more of the following areas: early grade literacy and numeracy education, social and emotional learning, systems strengthening, foundational learning, accelerated learning, social inclusive education, community engagement, digital education or related fields to the scope of this Activity in an international context.
- Previous experience working in Africa required; experience working in Tanzania strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated supervisory experience, including management of a large, diverse team; experience managing teams operating in multiple locations preferred
- Proven progressively responsible managerial experience implementing and managing complex donor-funded projects.
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Fluency in written and spoken English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred.
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Social Inclusion Lead | Tanzania | 2024

Chemonics seeks a Social Inclusion Lead for the anticipated USAID-funded Jifunze Uelewe follow-on activity in Tanzania. The Activity's overall objective is to sustainably improve literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills for all pre-primary and standard 1 – 4 learners in target regions; strengthen the capacity of local and regional government to sustain improved learning outcomes; and increase community support for safe and inclusive learning environments.

The Social Inclusion Lead will be responsible for technical leadership, activity coordination, and capacity development for the activity's inclusive education component. We are seeking individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Responsibilities include:

- Under the Senior Technical Lead provide inclusive education technical leadership, oversight, and coordination of technical activities in improving the inclusivity of early grade education for children with disabilities;
- Guide program staff on essential components of inclusive arithmetic and literacy programs, including training on curriculum design, lesson planning, instructional approach, teacher professional development, materials development and distribution, classroom-level assessment and large-scale assessment to develop highly effective activities in these areas and to integrate them for maximum effectiveness at the program level;
- Lead the adaptation of program materials for children with disabilities;
- Review, analyzes, and evaluates the effectiveness of arithmetic and literacy-related activities and makes recommendations for continuous improvement to meet project goals.
- Assess and analyze psychological and physical challenges and develop plans to address these gaps.
- Lead the development of activities to provide psychological support and services for children and their communities within the primary education stage
- Support psychosocial activities conducted in child-friendly spaces, and coordinate with Safeguarding team in schools to ensure a comprehensive response for children and their families.
- Incorporate programming within education systems to increase awareness of gender stereotyping, gender attitudes, norms and practices by challenging power relations, rethinking gender norms and binaries, and raise critical consciousness about the root causes of inequality and systems of oppression.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief of Party or Senior Technical Lead

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Master's level or equivalent) in education, psychology, mathematics, social sciences, or other relevant field required;
- 10 years of demonstrated experience working in improving early grade education initiatives, including designing and implementing inclusive programs, curriculum development, and teacher professional development activities, especially for student with impaired vision;
- Strong understanding of education issues facing children with disabilities in East Africa;
- Demonstrated experience working in Tanzania and specifically the Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara, Ruvuma, and/or Zanzibar regions is preferred.
- Familiarity with USAID tools and methodologies to improve education and inclusion outcomes;
- Experience implementing interventions that promote gender equity;
- Experience working in East Africa highly desired;
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Fluency in written and spoken English; fluency in Kiswahili preferred.
- Qualified applicants from Tanzania highly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions:

To apply, please email your CV/Resume to TanzaniaJURecruit@chemonics.com and provide a brief explanation of why you would be a good fit for this role.

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So, anxiety among persons with HIV/Aids pretty close to normal?

RESEARCHERS with two key medical institutions have lately released findings showing that people living with HIV and AIDS are considerably affected by poor mental health, particularly anxiety, compared to other groups.

Specialists with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) converged behind this finding, making it largely incontrovertible. It also meets with common sense, that anyone with a chronic disease faces mental malaise.

What was interesting was in the details - that the study conducted last year involved 593 participants, including 164 men, whose rather belated findings were being discussed at an online forum organised by the Tanzania Mental Health Stakeholders Community of Practice (TMH-CoP), hosted by the top hospital's administrators.

It was said that being aware of one's positive status carries serious repercussions as they may lose hope. The preliminary consequence of this situation is penciled as failing to adhere to prescribed antiretroviral (ARV) medications, implying that this is mental state implication.

While it is unclear if there was an interest in other alleys to HIV medication than the pursuit of anti-retrovirals, the specificity of anxiety and its medical fidelity results were in a way insufficient.

It is said that failure to follow up on medication can lead to increased anxiety and a further decline in their health, making life particularly challenging.

That is likely if someone is not taking any medication or there is clear antimicrobial resistance in the medication taken, neither of which featured in the rapid presentation.

Data-wise, 74 individuals or 12 percent among the 593 HIV-AIDS sufferers surveyed exhibited

symptoms of anxiety, which may not have been clearly marked out in terms of intensity levels.

Taking up this result as demanding public education on mental health issues related to living with HIV, was somewhat on the high side as the number is not strong enough for an all-out awareness campaign.

If slightly over ten per cent of those living with HIV-AIDS have noticeable symptoms of anxiety, the verdict there has to be that all is well and good. Even without HIV, one-tenth of society will suffer from anxieties.

The practitioners said that people with HIV are at heightened risk of developing mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, and the research confirms that they are more vulnerable than those without chronic illnesses.

That is perfectly valid but there are other spheres of sourcing anxiety for instance if one went around examining many single mothers at youthful or middle age of life. That is assuming that when they are much older their attitude to life may have stabilised, etc.

Young unemployed men will likely face intense anxieties and suffer more intensely if they are educated and had high hopes in life.

We have similarly noticed the way old age or post-retirement life can wear down a person rapidly if expectations either in benefits or in some business started upon retirement fails.

In a word, the main source of anxiety does not appear to be disease but social insecurity, and in the case of HIV-Aids, whatever regime one is following.

That is, so long as the disease is tamed and periodic ailments arising from diminished immune defences aren't visible, life can go on reasonably well. It doesn't matter much if the intervention means antiretrovirals or neo-life therapies.

Drug resistance awareness crusade has to seize up different facets of complications

SOME excitement was recently visible in the National Assembly and among a stretch of media outlets when the issue of combating the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was brought to the floor of the legislature.

It was far less a moment of new legislation than of socialisation when a goodwill ambassador for the USAID-funded campaign against random taking of medication was received in the hemicycle. The wish was to engage the lawmakers in the fight against AMR as a global health challenge.

There appears to be considerable confetti in the way in which the matter is carried in the media and then how it was received in the legislature for the simple reason that it is the positive side of the issue that is repeated on each occasion.

The negative side, or rather factors that led to random use of drugs, or indeed touching off microbial resistance itself, are hardly levelled, as that would alter the convivial mood that goodwill ambassadors need. Thus there is more gained on the hype than on the science, and indeed policy work.

The goodwill envoy is reported to have the parliamentarians with passion and clarity, shedding light on the devastating consequences of unchecked antimicrobial use and misuse. He appealed to action as without immediate action, rising resistance to antibiotics could undo decades of medical progress and lead to untreatable infections, putting millions of lives at risk.

Definitely, but how can policy action control medical habits, for instance how far all medical purchases would have to be on

prescription, or their use be monitored by some public agency. Should medicine be taken only in health centres?

In addition, antimicrobial resistance is selective as it has to do with receptors and a range of identifiers in the body, which have to do with complicated things like DNA, blood groups, hormonal discrepancies and even interferences from mental state factors like fear and stigma.

Even within the sphere of uncontrolled drug use, at times plain wisdom has helped where excessive prescription has side effects that last long in the body, apart from impacting the quality of life, crushing poor households with long lists of drugs to buy.

If anything, this campaign like a fairly good number of others, are good causes where fairly complicated issues are given simple explanation and a convivial atmosphere to take the message.

It confirms existing prejudices or biases where those who don't have to worry about costs routine visits to hospital or can purchase any amount of drugs are confirmed in their convictions.

Those who need to do so some hedging about drug types or medication or to move to alternative therapies will be indirectly booted on those upper class occasions - to the effect that they may not be knowing what they are supposed or expected to be clear about.

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A Tanzanian woman is reshaping science and empowering young girls to imagine new possibilities for their future. It is none other than Dr Tusekile Alfredy (pictured), a Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (Rsif) scholar whose groundbreaking research is paving the way for future generations of girls. In this recent online interview with Rsif Senior Communications Officer Janet Otieno, she touches on the highlights of her journey. Excerpts:

Question: What hooked you, so to speak, into pursuing a career in Material Science and Engineering - and what do you see as the high points of your journey into research?

Answer: My research journey is deeply rooted in my own experience, including the challenges I faced when growing up. I pursued both my MSc and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology. This is based in Arusha city, Tanzania. My research focuses on water treatment, specifically using cost-effective materials sourced locally and transforming waste into valuable resources.

I was inspired to explore water treatment chiefly owing to the struggles I experienced growing up in a village where access to clean and safe drinking water was a constant challenge. In my village, we had only two water options: a river and a spring. Although people believed that spring water was clean and safe going by its clear appearance, in reality we had no proper treatment methods.

River water, which was used for domestic purposes, required long journeys to fetch. My sisters and I would walk hours each day to bring water home, a burden that is typically the lot of women and girls in many African cultures.

Three key words - health, gender and education - always come to my mind when I think about water. These experiences ignited my passion for water research. Growing up in an area affected by high fluoride levels in the water further fuelled my dedication.

Fluoride contamination in Arusha Region, most especially in the Meru District, causes significant health issues such as dental fluorosis, a condition that affected my very own daughter. Watching her teeth change colour daily was alarming, and I realised the connection this had with fluoridated water. I switched to bottled water for her, which ultimately inspired my PhD research on fluoride removal. Facing these real-life challenges motivated me to focus on developing effective water treatment methods, hoping to alleviate water scarcity and protect

Tanzanian scholar goes transforming water science and inspiring girls



people from water-related health issues.

Did you face any challenges along the way? How did you overcome them?

Yes, challenges in research are inevitable, especially when balancing the roles of a mother, wife and researcher. It can be quite demanding, but all of these roles are incredibly important to me. To overcome them, I firmly committed to myself that nothing would stand in the way of achieving my dreams. With careful planning, I worked to balance my responsibilities and, through perseverance and faith, I managed them very well.

What is your current research all about and what inspired you to choose the particular field?

Currently, I am an investigator on a project entitled "FLOW CAPACITIVE DEIONISATION FOR GREEN REMOVAL AND RECOVERY OF AMMONIUM/AMMONIA FROM WASTEWATER". This is primarily meant to contribute in addressing the challenge of costly and energy-intensive removal and recovery of ammonium/ammonia from wastewater using a chemical-free and low-energy technology known as flow capacitive deionisation (FCDI).

What inspired me to pursue this research is the dual benefit it offers. The process removes ammonia from wastewater and recovers it, providing both environmental and economic

advantages. This approach allows for the simultaneous treatment of wastewater and the collection of concentrated ammonia, creating a circular-economy solution that is both sustainable and efficient.

How do you see your research contributing to solving real-world problems, particularly in Africa or other developing regions?

In developing countries like Tanzania, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy, fertilisers are essential for achieving high crop yields. My research on the recovery of ammonia using the FCDI system at a larger scale offers a promising solution for the local production of fertilisers. This initiative has the potential to greatly improve agricultural productivity, reduce reliance on imported fertilisers and enhance food security. By aligning with the agricultural priorities of Tanzania and other sub-Saharan African nations, this project directly supports the region's economic development goals and contributes to its efforts towards sustainable growth.

In what ways do you think your research could impact or empower girls and women, either directly or indirectly?

My research has the potential to empower girls and women both directly and indirectly in several meaningful ways.

Water Access and Health: In many developing regions, women and girls are often responsible

for fetching water. By developing efficient and sustainable water treatment solutions like FCDI, we can improve water quality and reduce the time and effort needed to access safe drinking water. This would alleviate the daily burden of water collection, freeing up time for education, economic activities and personal development generally.

Agricultural Empowerment: By promoting the local production of fertilisers from recovered ammonia, the project can enhance agricultural productivity. Since many women in rural areas are engaged in farming, access to affordable, locally produced fertilisers could help improve their crop yields and income. Empowering women in agriculture can contribute to their financial independence and enhance food security for their families and communities.

Role Models in STEM: As a woman leading a research project in STEM, my work could inspire and encourage other women and girls to pursue careers in science and engineering. By demonstrating the impact of women's contributions to solving real-world challenges, I hope to motivate more women to enter and excel in fields where they are often underrepresented.

[STEM is an acronym standing for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is an approach to learning and development that focuses on developing skills like problem-solving, critical analysis, creativity and teamwork.]

Tanzanian scholar goes transforming water science and inspiring girls

From Page 8

Do you believe that your work can help inspire more young girls to pursue education and careers in STEM? If so, how?

Indeed, I strongly believe that my work can help inspire more young girls to pursue education and careers in STEM. There are several ways in which this research and my own journey can serve as a source of inspiration.

One is Representation and Role Modelling. Seeing women leading innovative research projects in STEM can be a powerful motivator for young girls. My journey from growing up in a village with limited resources to becoming a researcher tackling global environmental challenges shows that it is possible for women to excel in STEM. When girls see someone they can relate to, it can help break the stereotype that STEM fields are exclusively for men.

Two is Relevance to Real-World Issues. The research I am engaged in directly addresses real-world problems, such as water purification and sustainable agriculture, which are particularly relevant to communities in developing regions. Demonstrating the tangible impact STEM can have on improving people's lives and the environment can inspire girls to pursue careers in fields where they can make a meaningful difference through inspiration and mentorship.

As a successful scholar, what advice would you give to young girls with dreams of pursuing higher education and careers in sciences?

My advice to young girls dreaming of pursuing higher education and careers in the sciences would be that they should believe in themselves. Girls should believe that they can achieve their goals, no matter how challenging that may seem. Sometimes, they can face obstacles, but they will triumph if they trust in their abilities and stay focused on their dreams. Confidence in



their potential is the key to pushing through difficult moments. Additionally, they should remain curious and never stop learning as, after all, science is all about curiosity and discovery. They should keep asking questions, stay open to learning new things and desist from being afraid to explore areas that interest them. Each challenge they encounter will teach them something valuable that will bring them closer to the realisation of their goals.

Do you have a female mentor who has influenced your career path? How important do you think role models are for young girls?

Yes, I do have a female mentor who has significantly influenced my career path - and it is Professor Tatiana Pogrebnyaya. She was my supervisor during my MSc studies but, beyond that, she became a mentor and a mother figure to me. Her constant encouragement, leadership and sup-

port were key to making my academic journey the success story I believe it is. Whenever I faced challenges in my research, she knew how to lift my spirits and guide me through difficult times, always fostering an environment in which I could excel.

Mentors are incredibly important, especially for young girls in STEM. They provide guidance and encouragement alongside serving as role models, helping to shape the next generation of researchers and pushing the boundaries of successful research even further. A mentor can inspire confidence and resilience, which are essential for overcoming challenges in the field.

What does the International Day of the Girl Child (Oct 11) mean to you this year, and how do you connect it to your work or personal journey?

The International Day of the Girl Child holds profound personal significance for me, as it evokes memories of my own childhood and the challenges I witnessed. I remember that my mother was unable to read because she was not allowed to attend school and was forced into marriage, while my uncles had access to education. The Day serves as a powerful reminder that girls have the right to education and should be empowered equally, just as boys are.

Additionally, during my secondary school years, I was often told that girls could not excel in science subjects. I was determined to challenge that notion and prove that it is indeed possible. I vividly recall that during my bachelor's degree in mathematics, only three girls were among 30 students in the class. The International Day of the Girl Child is important to me because it symbolises the progress and value of being a woman and reinforces the need for equal opportunities for girls, especially in the Education and STEM

fields.

How do you envision your research contributing to a better future for the next generation of girls?

I envision my research contributing to a better future for the next generation of girls by addressing real-world problems that directly impact their lives. By developing sustainable and effective solutions to challenges such as water scarcity and pollution, I hope to inspire young girls to engage with these issues and empower the girls to crusade for change.

I see myself as a role model and an ambassador for girls who have not fully realised their rights. My work is chiefly meant to demonstrate that, through education and innovative research, we can create a future where girls are not only empowered but also equipped to overcome the challenges previous generations have faced. By paving the way for improved access to clean water and sustainable resources, I hope to contribute to a world where the next generation of girls can thrive and realise their full potential.

What are the future goals for your research, and how do you hope it will continue to create change or drive impact?

My future goal in research is to become a leading female researcher known for innovative findings that address real-world challenges facing both local communities and the global population. I aspire to be a researcher who is adaptable to market needs, transforming ideas into viable solutions contributing to economic development within my country.

Additionally, I hope to collaborate with researchers and institutions in developed countries to learn from their advancements and adopt practices that can significantly enhance

the well-being of my community. By bridging the gap between innovative research and practical applications, I am determined to drive meaningful change and create lasting impact through my work.

How would you like to see more women and girls supported in STEM or academic research in the future?

I would like to see more women and girls supported in STEM and academic research through targeted initiatives that address both practical challenges and cultural barriers. This includes encouraging girls from a young age to explore STEM fields by providing access to resources, hands-on science programmes and strong role models. Implementing gender-sensitive policies, such as flexible work schedules, parental leave and childcare support in academic institutions, is essential to help women balance their careers with personal responsibilities. Establishing networks and professional associations for women in STEM is also vital for fostering collaboration and mentorship. Furthermore, allocating specific funding and grants for women-led research projects, particularly in fields like water treatment and sustainability will drive impactful innovation. Showcasing successful women in STEM as role models can inspire the next generation, while supporting STEM programmes in underserved areas will help bridge educational gaps and empower girls from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in science and technology.

* Rsis is the flagship programme of the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET), an Africa-led, World Bank-affiliated initiative managed by the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe) and the Regional Coordination Unit.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CUSTOMS DUTY REMISSIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

Dar es Salaam, 04th November, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 140 of the **East African Community Customs Management Act, 2004** read together with Regulation 3 of the **East African Community Customs Management (Duty Remission) Regulations, 2008**, the Council of Ministers for Finance of the EAC countries are empowered, through notices in the Gazette, to grant duty remission on imported goods (raw materials/inputs) used in the manufacture of approved goods for export and home consumption.

In this regard, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to inform **all manufacturers who wish to apply for duty remission for the Third Quarter of the Financial Year 2024/2025 (January-March, 2025) that the deadline for submitting applications is 06th December, 2024.**

Applications are to be submitted through the following address: -

Commissioner for Customs and Excise,
Customs and Excise Department
Tanzania Revenue Authority,
Sokoine Drive, TPA Tower,
P.O Box 9053,
Dar es Salaam.

For further information and clarification do not hesitate to visit the Office of the Manager Trade Facilitation, Tanzania Revenue Authority.

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

- 1. Invitation To Tender (ITT) Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning, training and after-sales services for laboratory equipment for the Uganda national bureau of standards (Malaba office):**
 - LOT 1: Chemistry Equipment - PRQ20240544;
 - LOT 2: Microbiology Equipment - PRQ20240543;
 - LOT 3: Glassware - PRQ20240618;
 - LOT 4: Portable GC/MS - PRQ20240570].

- 2. Request for Proposals for long term technical assistance to support the Kenya Trade Remedies Agency (KETRA) to enhance its institutional capacity and operationalize its services - [Tender Number: PRQ20240452]**

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrika.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrika.com. The closing date for submission is indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

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

National primary exam results highlight success in private schools, challenges for public faculties

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE National Examinations Council of Tanzania has published the 2024 Primary School Final Exam results, showing a modest but notable improvement in student performance across the board. With an increase of 0.29% over last year's results, the national pass rate has reached 80.87%, and distinctions, represented by grades A and B, now make up 35.83% of the total scores, an 8.65% improvement.

These figures suggest that initiatives aimed at improving education quality are beginning to bear fruit, particularly in private schools, which continue to outperform their public counterparts significantly. However, the performance disparity between the two remains a substantial challenge for the country.

Educational experts and stakeholders are closely examining these results, acknowledging the progress made while also pointing to areas that require critical attention. Dr. Joviter Katabaro, an esteemed educational scholar and retired lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam, was quoted once as saying that these statistics as a positive reflection of "ongoing efforts to bolster educational outcomes," especially in well-resourced environments.

However, Dr. Katabaro warns, "Education quality must be measured not solely by the number of passes but by the comprehensive skills students acquire to confront real-world challenges." He draws from the philosophy of Tanzania's founding father, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who envisioned education as a pathway to creating knowledgeable and skilled citizens capable of bettering their communities. This vision underscores the importance of a well-rounded educational experience, where success goes beyond exam



Students celebrate primary education results in Arusha Region.

scores and translates to social empowerment.

One of the standout achievements of this year's results is the notable performance in individual subjects. The pass rate for Kiswahili stands at 86.58%, while Science and Technology follow at 83.75%. Mathematics,

traditionally a challenging subject, recorded a 55.12% pass rate, which, while lower than other subjects, still marks progress.

These subject-specific outcomes point to strides made in foundational learning areas critical to the student's academic

and professional futures. Professor Clinton Galabawa, an education policy expert, attributes this improvement to "an increased focus on teacher training, resource allocation, and a more practical curriculum in schools with the necessary means." He further explains that subjects such as Science and Mathematics are especially vital for students aiming to excel in increasingly competitive fields and that the government must continue prioritizing these areas to drive further improvement.

The divide in academic performance between private and public schools remains pronounced. Private institutions made up 92.35% of schools with students scoring A-C grades, while the majority of public-school students received lower grades, particularly C, D, and E.

A lecturer in educational management at Makumira University Dr. Apollo Mugenyi, "The gap between public and private schools is a direct consequence of unequal access to educational resources.

Schools with better facilities, more qualified teachers, and comprehensive support systems naturally see higher performance." This disparity points to an ongoing challenge in Tanzania's education sector: bridging the gap to provide all students, regardless of school type, with quality education.

Students in under-resourced public schools, particularly those in rural regions, continue to face a multitude of obstacles that compromise their academic success. Limited access to adequately trained teachers, outdated learning materials, and a lack of modern facilities are significant barriers.

These challenges hinder students' abilities to meet the rigorous demands of national exams, thereby perpetuating a cycle of underachievement. Professor Galabawa has long emphasized the need to address these inequalities, stating that "the investment in educational resources is indispensable if we aim to provide equal opportunities and improve learning outcomes nationwide." He urges the government to prioritize public school funding to narrow the achievement gap, allowing students from all backgrounds the chance to succeed.

In recent years, the Tanzanian government has introduced several initiatives aimed at improving education access and quality in public schools. The free education policy, for instance, has allowed children from low-income families to enroll without financial burden, significantly increasing the number of primary school stu-

While this policy has made education more accessible, it has also introduced new challenges, especially in maintaining quality across the board. Dr. Katabaro notes, "Increasing access is only one part of the equation. Quality must follow, or we risk merely crowding classrooms without creating conducive environments for effective learning."

Efforts to bridge the resource gap between public and private schools are underway, though more work is required to ensure substantial improvement. Programs that focus on ongoing teacher training, enhancing parental involvement, and equipping schools with essential learning materials have shown promise in leveling the educational playing field.

These initiatives, according to Dr. Mugenyi, are vital for closing the achievement gap. He explains that "consistent teacher training, especially for those in public schools, is necessary to elevate teaching standards and provide students with a high-quality education." Teachers, he believes, are central to this transformation, and empowering them with better resources and training is essential for achieving sustainable educational improvement.

Private schools, which often have greater access to resources, continue to set the pace for educational outcomes in Tanzania. With smaller class sizes, experienced teachers, and well-equipped facilities, these schools are better positioned to support students in achieving high grades. As a result, many parents actively seek enrollment in private schools despite the financial costs.

Nevertheless, this creates an additional layer of complexity for the Tanzanian education system, as students from public schools may face stigma or lowered expectations due to their educational background.

This issue is compounded by the rise of data-driven platforms like Iziraa.com, which use technology to publish school performance data. While these platforms provide valuable insights for parents, they may also inadvertently marginalize schools that underperform, potentially dampening teacher morale and student motivation.

For parents whose children did not fare as well, particularly those enrolled in under-resourced public schools, this year's results bring mixed feelings. The systemic challenges faced by these schools are widely recognized, yet families often feel disheartened when their children struggle to compete with

students from more privileged institutions.

The societal pressure to succeed academically adds a layer of anxiety, as education is frequently viewed as the primary pathway to upward mobility in Tanzania. Unesco has previously commented on the impact of educational disparities, noting that "the quality gap in education directly translates into socioeconomic divides." In this context, the challenges faced by public school students often have broader implications, reinforcing existing social and economic inequalities.

Reflecting on the political dimension of education, some analysts note that annual increases in pass rates may be influenced by political motivations. Since 2015, the government has faced criticism over poor exam results, leading to pressure to demonstrate progress in the sector.

Katoko Teachers College tutor Steidius Kazinduki observes that "a growing pass rate each year can serve to affirm government initiatives publicly, yet we must remain cautious to ensure these figures reflect genuine improvements rather than superficial adjustments." He urges stakeholders to keep educational integrity at the forefront, ensuring that pass rates correspond with real learning gains rather than symbolic victories.

Experts emphasize key reforms to address Tanzania's education challenges. Dr. Apollo Mugenyi highlights the need for strategic investment in public school infrastructure and rigorous teacher training, aiming to create equitable, well-resourced learning environments.

He stresses that "qualified teachers and modern educational tools are essential to bridge performance gaps." Additionally, involving parents more actively in educational programs can support students' academic progress both at home and in school.

Platforms like Iziraa.com have become valuable for parents assessing school performance, though Dr. Mugenyi cautions against their potential to stigmatize underperforming schools. He advises that "these platforms should inspire constructive competition that lifts all schools."

This year's Primary School Final Exam results reflect both gains and ongoing inequalities, with notable improvement in subjects like Mathematics and Science. Yet, the gap between public and private school performance highlights the need for ongoing systemic reform.

Stakeholders call for commitment to Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's vision of an education system that equips all students with the skills to succeed. The future of Tanzania's education must focus not only on exam results but also on building capabilities that empower students to contribute meaningfully to society, regardless of their background.

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Expression of Interest Announcement: Grain Storage Solutions by Private Sector

The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) of Tanzania invites qualified private sector entities to express their interest in assisting NFRA in addressing the existing grain storage capacity challenges. NFRA is currently managing an intensive grain procurement season for 2024/2025 including requirements for national reserves, exports, and commitments to the potential stakeholders.

To support this critical national objective and ensure the safe storage of procured grain, NFRA is seeking private sector partners to provide additional storage capacity. With current capacity falling short of the procurement target, we face an urgent need for innovative and cost-effective storage solutions.

Scope of Private Sector Involvement

Selected private sector entities will collaborate with NFRA to provide additional warehousing capacity for grain storage, especially in four (5) key regions of Songea, Sumbawanga, Njombe, Morogoro and Songwe. The scope includes, but is not limited to:

- Leasing existing private warehousing facilities for grain storage, minimum capacity 3,000MT per warehouse
- Constructing new storage facilities with long-term lease contracts to address medium to long-term storage needs with minimum Capacity of 3,000MT per warehouse.
- Assisting with efficient inventory management practices to optimize grain handling and storage.

Requirements for Participation

Interested entities must demonstrate:

- Experience in grain storage management or related logistics.
- Availability of storage facilities that meet NFRA's standards for food safety and quality.
- Willingness to engage in a collaborative effort aimed at enhancing Tanzania's food security.

Submission Details

Interested private sector entities are requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) within 14 days from the advertisement of this EOI. The submission should include company profiles, details of available storage capacity, location of warehouses to be constructed, details of available land for construction and any relevant experience in managing large-scale storage or logistics projects.

Contact Information

Please send your EOI and any inquiries to:
Email: info@nfra.go.tz; hpmu@nfra.go.tz

**Address: Chief Executive Officer
 National Food Reserve Agency,
 P.o.Box 1050
 Kizota Industrial Area, Dodoma, Tanzania.**

We look forward to partnering with capable and committed entities to ensure the successful storage of Tanzania's grain reserves and to meet our national food security objectives.

Dr. Andrew M. Komba
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HWC: Farmers pause food crop cultivation

By Guardian Reporter, Liwale

SOME farmers in Kitogoro Village, Liwale District, Lindi Region, have abandoned food crops cultivation over fears of losses caused by elephant intrusions.

Speaking here at the weekend, some farmers claimed that they currently live by purchasing food as it has been five years since they decided to stop cultivating food crops, claiming that no one in the village has a stock of maize like it used to be before.

"We stopped growing maize in 2018 because it felt like we were

farming to feed elephants. We live off the money we get from selling cashewnuts. They also eat cashew leaves but at least some fruits remain," said one of the villagers, Nassoro Ally, appealing to the government to increase the number of Village Game Scouts (VGS) to help in managing the challenge.

He noted that the maize they purchase come from Songea in Ruvuma Region. He said once VGS are provided with the needed equipment, it would make it easier for them to drive the elephants away as currently they rely on wildlife officers from the district who are under the Tanzania Wildlife Author-

ity (TAWA) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).

"Sometimes when one reports elephant intrusion to authorities, they tell respond that vehicle is far away in another village. Once our VGS have all the equipment, it would be easier for them to scare away the destructive animals," Ally added, noting that villagers live in fear and often stay indoors from six in the evening.

Kitogoro Village Executive Officer Miraji Zuberi said the village, with a population of 701 people, has faced elephant invasions for years, with the situation worsening during cashewnut harvesting

season.

Zuberi noted that most farmers have stopped cultivating maize due to Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), insisting villagers currently focus on cash crops like cashewnuts, pigeon peas, and sesame.

"The HWC challenge is real; so far, 40 people have reported their farms being invaded by elephants. The GIZ project has largely helped to reduce the challenge by introducing a smelly repellent technique. On farm fields where this method was applied, farmers harvested well without elephants entering their farms," he said, stressing the need for the method to be applied on more farms to motivate villagers to cultivate food crops including maize.

"After placing the smelly repell-

ent fence, elephants stopped 200 meters away from the farm and then left. Our request to GIZ is to provide more education for the method to be used on more farms, a move which would help increase food production," added Zuberi.

Anthony Kawishe, focal person for GIZ and SwissAid Tanzania projects in Liwale, said the district faces serious HWC challenges, adding that under the project, extension officers from respective villages were trained on making smelly repellent whereas the knowledge was then shared with villagers through public meetings.

GIZ is implementing the Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tanzania project in the Ruvuma Landscape on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Co-

operation and Development. In Liwale District, it is executed in 11 villages namely Turuki, Kitogoro, Mtawatawa, Mtawango, Nanjegeja, Chimbuko, Mkutano, Ngumbu, Nahoro, Naluleo and Kimbemba.

GIZ Technical Advisor in Liwale District Debora Missana told members of the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) that they consider using the smelly repellent fence method, beehives and noise deterrent (metal sheets) to protect farmers' crops from destructive animals.

"We have successfully trained villagers on alternative methods for resolving HWC. In Liwale, we have trained over 1,000 villagers on how to make smelly repellent which is used to scare away elephants," she said.



One of the smelly repellent fence at Mtawango village in Liwale District, Lindi Region.



JOB VACANCY

Vacancy title: Senior Partnerships & Sales Officer - Tanzania

Jobs at: KickStart

Deadline of this Job: Monday, November 18, 2024

Duty Station: Within Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, East Africa

JOB DETAILS:

KickStart is an award-winning, global nonprofit social enterprise that develops and mass-markets low-cost irrigation solutions that are bought by thousands of small-holder farmers in developing countries and used to increase their income by up to a factor of ten, enabling them to lift themselves sustainably out of poverty- (See www.KickStart.org for more information).

The project in Tanzania and surrounding will develop and implement the latest innovations in KickStart's model of selling equipment at the Base of the African Rural Pyramid to Small-Holder-Farmers across the region.

Job Purpose

The Senior Partnership and Sales Officer is responsible for developing, expanding, and reporting on the program in Tanzania. S/he will be responsible for managing the program activities and will report to the Country Sales and Partnerships Manager based in Tanzania. These activities support the primary goal of getting people out of poverty in Tanzania by promoting the sales and usage of our branded irrigation pumps through partnerships and the private sector.

Nature and Scope:

The Senior Partnership and Sales Officer will:

- Perform the due-diligence to understand the market potential and opportunities for the irrigation solutions products in all parts of Tanzania to inform segmenting areas of focus-
- Enlist groups of farmers in the designated areas.
- Make all the scheduled visits to group of farmers as agreed with the group.
- Identify and contact potential partners in the region to get them to buy pumps or to connect KickStart with the farmers they are working with for the purpose of making pump sales to them.
- Create awareness and convince farmers to purchase Moneymaker pumps
- Create and follow up on the prospects for sales generation.
- Market tests various physical products as may be developed by the Innovation Hub.
- Carry out farm demonstrations to the farmers who desire to understand the pump.
- Ensure that the dealer assigned to them have all the appropriate marketing collaterals
- Partnership engagements:
- Creating partnerships with International and local NGOs, UN organizations like FAO and World Food program, Government, Out-growers, and other stakeholders.
- Working in partnership with distributor to push sales and adoption of Moneymaker pumps-
- Ensure timely and accurate reporting of the organization's activities and social impacts.
- Understand and articulate all the policies of Kickstart International to all stakeholders to ensure clarity and full compliance to the same.
- Ensure prudent management of Kickstart International resources as the custodian.
- Manage seamlessly the operational issues of the organization involving staff travelling into and out of the assigned territory, relationships between Kickstart Internal activities and Distributors' needs-
- Targets are met at least possible cost and inconvenience to Kickstart International,

Distributors and Customers acquiring the pumps.

Key Performance Criteria

1. Impact and sales targets
2. Creation of partnerships.
3. Ensure collection of end use data of Moneymaker pumps in each country.
4. A team that is ethical, team-work oriented and high performing.
5. Real time use of CRM tool in tracking all engagements.

Principal Accountabilities

- Daily, weekly, and monthly reports on all activities carried and all captured in the Stalemate CRM- Documentation of all activities and programs implemented.
- Ensure that all the sales documentation is made including contracts and guarantee forms and passed to the line manager.
- Partners are met on time, according to the schedule and all prospects are recorded.
- Regular market assessment and pro-active development of country specific sales and marketing plans with country Manager and Distributors assistance to maximize sales and impacts in the country. This includes sales plans, pricing policies, and promotional plans for each region.
- Actively promote products through product demonstrations, product support and training of distributors, customers and influencers-
- Provide monthly updated sales reports and forecast.
- Prepare monthly work plans and monthly reports.
- Program design and implementation using tactical marketing initiatives.
- Establish an annual and long term Business Plan-
- Compile and collect monthly end user data for impact monitoring.
- Perform any other official duties within the key performing criteria as may be assigned to you.

Skills, Experiences, and Competencies

- Degree in Marketing: Business Administration; Economics or Agriculture/Agronomy.
- Minimum of five years' relevant work experience.
- Proven ability to handle challenging work load.
- Cross-cultural experience, understanding and sensitivity.
- Excellent interpersonal and written and oral communication skills.
- Commitment to KickStart's values.
- Experience selling assets to rural markets-
- Experience working with distributors, retail markets and agro-dealers.
- Experience working with rural farmers.
- Willing to travel for up to 80% every month.
- A valid driving License.

Work Hours: 8

Experience in Months: 60

Level of Education: Bachelor Degree

Job application procedure

Note:

Interested candidates are required to submit their CV and Cover letter quoting the position title on the subject line to hrtz@kickstart.org. Closing date is **18 November, 2024**.



REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (NIG.) LTD. (TANZANIA BRANCH)

Seize the Opportunity: Used Construction Equipment for Sale by Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd – Tanzania Branch.

Issued this 04th November, 2024

Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd, a leader in civil engineering and infrastructure development, is offering a unique opportunity to purchase high-quality used construction machinery and equipment. This event presents a rare chance for interested buyers to acquire quality machinery. Here is what you need to know:

Sale Terms and Conditions

1. Bidder Registration and Security Deposit: Interested buyers must register and submit a refundable bid security deposit of Tsh. 1,000,000/= for each asset. Deposits are payable at Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd Head Office Dar es salaam only. (The Bidder agrees to the seller that upon being awarded the asset, the security deposit shall be included in his payments but if the bidder will cancel at his own will after being awarded the security deposit shall not be refunded.)
2. Duty Charges: Buyers are responsible for applicable duty charges. Estimated charges are indicative; buyers should verify these with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) before purchasing.
3. Viewing Arrangements: Prospective buyers can arrange to view the equipment at their respective locations (Sululu ifakara Camp site). From 18th November, 2024 To 25th November, 2024.

Site visits are available during business hours on weekdays and until midday on Saturdays. Visits must be scheduled in advance via email at emmalucas25@yahoo.com or by calling **+255 717293638**.
4. Tax Assessment and Duty Payment Approval: The disposing client must engage with TRA for tax assessment and duty payment approval before asset release.

5. Ownership Transfer Costs: Buyers are responsible for all costs associated with the transfer of ownership of the assets.
6. AS-it is, **WHERE IS** Basis: All assets are sold in their current condition and location without any warranties.
7. Additional Terms and Conditions: Further details will be provided in correspondence with interested buyers.
8. Bid Submission Deadline: Bids will be accepted at our Head Office at Plot 19, Manara Road - Ada Estate, Kinondoni P.O. Box 34653 Dar es Salaam from 26th November, 2024 To 28th November, 2024.
9. Cancellation of auction: The Bidders agrees to the seller that at any time at any time the seller reserve the rights to cancel or postpone the auction until further notice and refunding to the bidder only deposit amount with ought any further claims.

Contacts; you may Contact us through emmalucas25@yahoo.com or by calling **+255 717293638**.

About Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd

Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd is recognized for its significant contributions to infrastructure projects across Africa including Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania. With a robust presence in civil engineering, the company has established a reputation for innovative solutions, quality delivery, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability and compliance. Reynolds Construction Co. (Nig) Ltd continues to lead the industry in setting high standards for excellence and reliability in construction and infrastructure development.



DIGITAL MARKETING

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Mbwego forest reserve faces danger of disappearing

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More regions now with GDP per capita below national average

By Guardian Reporter

The number of regions with a GDP per capita below the national average, at current market prices, continues to increase, highlighting the growing economic disparities across the country.

According to the latest revised data (2019-2022) and provisional figures for 2023 released recently by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), by 2023, 16 out of 26 regions had a GDP per capita below the national average of 3,058,847/-, up from 15 regions in 2022.

Between 2017 and 2021, only 12 Tanzania mainland regions recorded a GDP per capita below the national average.

The 16 regions with the lowest GDP per capita include Mtwara, Lindi, Shinyanga, Geita, Mara, Morogoro, Rukwa, Songwe, Katavi, Kigoma, Tabora, Dodoma, Pwani, Singida, Kagera, and Simiyu.

Analysts attribute these gaps to factors such as rising population, as indicated by the 2022 Population and Census report, as well as varying levels of investments, infrastructure development, and industrial activity.

Regions with strong economic activity, particularly those with thriving mining, industries, or tourism sectors—including Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, Njombe, Arusha, Mwanza, Manyara, and Tanga—continue to lead in GDP per capita, surpassing the national average.

Notably, four regions that were above the national average from 2017 to 2020—Geita, Shinyanga, Lindi, and Mtwara—dropped below it by 2023.

Economists stress that reducing these disparities requires policies focused on population management, infrastructure enhancement, investment incentives, and industry support.

Regional governments are also urged to collaborate with national stakeholders to boost economic activities that can spur job creation and raise household incomes.

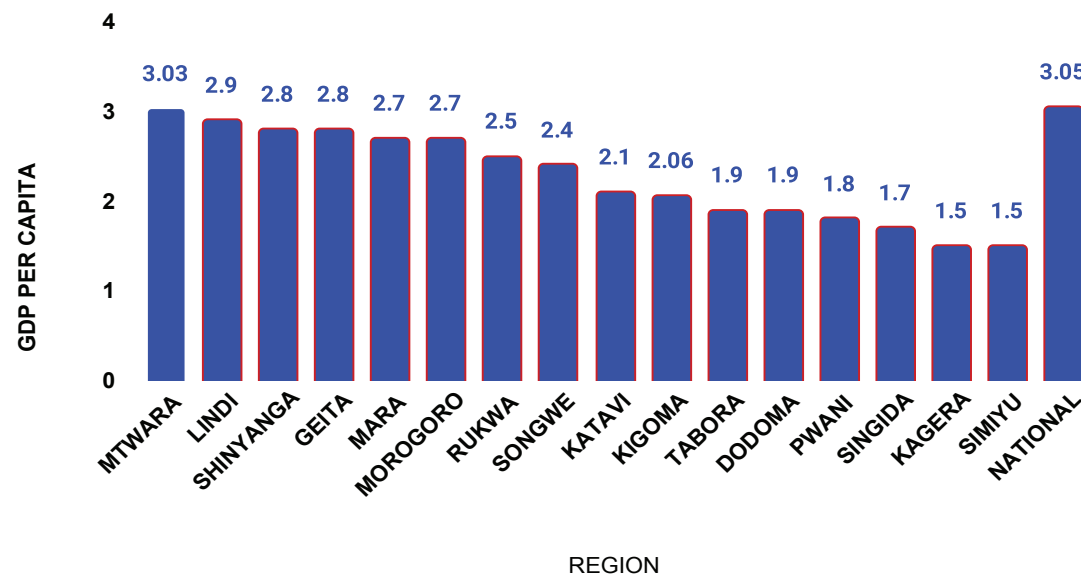
The central government is also encouraged to support underperforming regions with funding for improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare to stimulate local economies.

Infrastructure development remains uneven, with regions like Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Mwanza having better access to roads, ports, and telecommunications, attracting more business activities and investments.

In contrast, remote regions such as Kigoma, Lindi, Katavi and Rukwa are struggling with inadequate infrastructure, limiting economic opportunities and access to markets, healthcare, and education services.

The concentration of industrial and service sectors in regions like Dar es Salaam, the country's economic hub, fosters better job opportunities and higher incomes. Manufacturing, financial services, and trade are predominantly urban,

REGIONS WITH GDP PER CAPITA BELOW NATIONAL AVERAGE (IN MILLION SHILLINGS)



while regions without significant industrial activity face limited employment prospects, perpetuating poverty.

The 2022 Population and Census Report further reveals that eight of the 16 regions with GDP per capita below the national average, including Simiyu, Tabora, Katavi, Kigoma, Mara, Geita, and Singida, also recorded the highest dependency ratios, ranging from 106.1 to 119.3, well above the national average of 87.4.

Meanwhile, according to 2022 census, regions with low GDP per capita, such as Simiyu, Pwani, Katavi, Tabora, Dodoma, Singida, Rukwa, Shinyanga, and Geita, recorded high population growth rates of 3.7 to 7.1

percent between 2012 and 2022, surpassing the national average of 3.2 percent for mainland Tanzania.

Economists urge that Tanzania's rapid population growth poses significant challenges to sustainable development, infrastructure, and social services. With an annual growth rate of around 3 percent, the population is projected to double within the next few decades, increasing demand for resources like food, water, and energy.

Education is a key area impacted by this growth, as a growing population demands more schools, teachers, and materials.

Despite government efforts, maintaining quality education while ex-

panding access remains challenging. Overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of trained teachers affect learning outcomes, particularly in rural areas.

Healthcare services are similarly strained, with increasing demand for hospitals, clinics, and medical personnel.

High population growth exacerbates issues related to child and maternal health, malnutrition, and disease management. Urban areas, in particular, experience long wait times, shortages of essential medicines, and under-resourced facilities due to rising demand.

Employment remains another major challenge. With over 60 per-

cent of Tanzania's population under the age of 25, the need for job opportunities is acute.

However, the formal sector has struggled to keep pace, leading to high youth unemployment and underemployment. Many young people resort to informal or low-paying jobs, limiting economic mobility and increasing vulnerability to poverty.

By prioritizing infrastructure development, enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting local industries, and investing in human capital, Tanzania can bridge regional disparities and promote balanced economic development.

Addressing these challenges is crucial for poverty reduction and long-term social and economic stability.

The BoT provisional data show that the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at current market prices, increased to 188.7trn/- in 2023, from 170.8trn/- recorded in 2022.

Dar es Salaam continue to hold its position as the largest economy with an estimated 32trn/-, followed by Mwanza region with 13.5trn/- while Mbeya and Morogoro are the third and fourth largest with GDPs of 9trn/- and 8.8trn/- respectively.

The smallest economies in Tanzania mainland include Katav, with the GDP of 2.5trn/- followed by Simiyu (3.41trn/-), Songwe (3.42trn/-), Njombe (3.43trn/-), Singida (3.5trn/-), Lindo (3.6trn/-), Pwani (3.8trn/-) Rukwa (3.9trn/-) and Kagera with the regional GDP of 4.8trn/-.

Govt allocates 38trn/- for procuring goods, services

By Francis Kajubi

The government of Tanzania has allocated a total budget of 38trn/- to its procurement entities, facilitated through the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) for local and foreign bidders to execute public development projects in the financial year 2023/24.

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) oversees the NeST, which has registered 62,000 tender contracts valued at 10 trillion shillings awarded to various bidders.

PPRA's Director General, Dennis Simba, announced that real-time monitoring of development project proclamations has saved approximately 2.7trn/- since the system's enrollment.

Tanzania is leading in government tender awards with 37 tenders, followed by China with 28, Kenya with 21, South Africa with 18, and the United Arab Emirates with 10.

To empower local firms, the PPRA is enhancing the capacity of Tanzanian companies, ensuring that tenders worth up to 50bn/- are reserved for them under the Public Procurement Act, Cap. 410 of 2023. As of last month, 210 special groups had secured tenders totaling 9.8 billion



PPRA's Director General, Dennis Simba

shillings through NeST.

Furthermore, the PPRA has reported savings of around 15 billion shillings from project inspections using an electronic tracking system for government procurements. By the end of last month, 21,000 procuring institutions and over 28,000 bidders were registered in the NeST system.

Simba highlighted that the new procurement law mandates that procuring institutions allocate 30 percent of their annual procurement budgets to special groups, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities. As of October, 500 billion shillings had been disbursed to these groups via NeST.

The Public Procurement Act, Chapter 410, regulates public procurement in Tanzania, introducing several significant provisions in its 2023 version. These include sustainable procurement principles, domestic preference for up to 15 percent for locally produced goods and services during competitive tenders, and a requirement for e-procurement.

The act also specifies indicative pricing based on market conditions and mandates that contractors have policies for child protection and vulnerable populations. Additionally, suppliers must adhere to international labor standards.

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

The Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) has recently introduced mobile coffee shops aimed at stimulating domestic consumption and creating employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

This announcement was made over the weekend by Frank Nyarusi, TCB's Acting Director for Marketing and Coffee Mobilization, during the first Coffee Roaster Forum held in Moshi.

"This project was launched in Dodoma by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during this year's Nanenane agricultural fair. The primary objective is to increase local coffee consumption from the current 7 percent to 15 percent by the year 2025," he explained.

In his opening remarks, TCB Acting Director General Kajiru Kisenge emphasized that the forum is an opportunity for coffee roasters to discuss and explore potential areas within the roasting unit, thereby promoting the coffee sector through the roasting segment. "This forum is crucial for the coffee industry, which continues to grow. I am optimistic that participants will develop resolutions and strategies to boost the volume of roasted coffee from the current 7 percent of national production to 15 percent by 2025," he stated.

Kisenge added, "Increasing roasted coffee means enhancing the value of coffee produced, which in turn leads to higher local consumption and increased export volumes. This will ultimately benefit farmers and the nation through greater coffee sales abroad."

Speaking on behalf of the coffee roasters, Joel Mtunga remarked that the forum represents a significant initiative that will improve both the coffee sector and income through coffee production. Mtunga further noted that the



Coffee board vows to promote domestic consumption by 50pc

coffee roasters forum would enhance the roasting sector by facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences, enabling roasters to increase the level of value-added coffee through roasting.

Local coffee consumption in Tanzania remains relatively low compared to other coffee-producing nations, with most of the coffee grown in the country exported to international markets. However, recent years have seen a gradual shift, as local demand for coffee begins to rise, fueled by an expanding urban middle class, the emergence of specialty coffee shops, and growing awareness of the quality of Tanzanian coffee.

The Tanzanian government, along with organizations such as the TCB and the Tanzania Coffee Association, is actively promoting coffee consumption through various initiatives. These efforts include coffee festivals, barista training programs, and educational campaigns that emphasize the health benefits and cultural value of coffee. The

increasing presence of coffee shops in cities like Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Mwanza encourages young people to incorporate coffee into their lifestyle, boosting local demand.

Additionally, there is a burgeoning movement among local coffee farmers and cooperatives to roast and package coffee domestically. By processing coffee locally and selling directly to Tanzanian consumers, producers can capture more value from the coffee supply chain.

Increased domestic consumption could provide stability to the coffee sector by creating a reliable local market and reducing dependence on volatile international prices. Industry experts believe that cultivating a strong coffee culture in Tanzania has the potential to benefit both consumers and producers, providing local farmers with greater price security and creating more opportunities within the coffee industry.

The Tanzanian coffee sector

is a vital component of the country's agricultural economy, supporting over 400,000 farmers and contributing significantly to export revenues. Coffee production in Tanzania primarily revolves around two main varieties: Arabica and Robusta. Arabica, cultivated in highland regions like Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mbeya, and Ruvuma, constitutes around 70% of the country's coffee production, while Robusta is mainly grown in the lowland areas of Kagera.

Despite its importance, Tanzania's coffee sector faces several challenges, including fluctuating global coffee prices, aging coffee plants, limited access to modern farming techniques, and the impact of climate change on crop yield and quality. To address these issues, initiatives have been launched to rejuvenate coffee plantations, promote sustainable farming practices, and encourage youth involvement in coffee farming.

Furthermore, the Tanzania Coffee Board and various industry stakeholders are working to improve processing infrastructure and increase value addition, allowing more coffee to be exported as high-quality processed beans rather than raw produce. Programs aimed at branding Tanzanian coffee internationally, particularly in premium markets, are also underway as demand for specialty coffee grows globally. This shift could increase revenue potential for Tanzanian coffee farmers and foster a more resilient coffee industry.

'Cautious optimism' for African financial markets

By Arunima Sharan



The landscape of African financial markets continues to evolve amid global pressures and domestic reforms, with key stakeholders working to strengthen market infrastructure while addressing persistent challenges.

The eighth edition of the Absa Africa Financial Markets Index, which launched in October 2024 at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Washington DC, lays out a story of clear and widespread progress. Scores increased for 82 percent of the 29 countries in the index, marking the highest proportion since its inception in 2017.

Panellists at the launch event, which included representatives from three central banks, the IMF and the International Finance Corporation, highlighted the resilience of African countries in dealing with a difficult financial and economic environment, both globally and domestically. The discussion also

revealed both the progress made and the hurdles that lie ahead for the continent's economic development.

'Cautious optimism as we go forward'

The macroeconomic context on the continent remains challenging, though signs of improvement are emerging across several key indicators. According to Catherine Pattillo, deputy director, Africa department at the IMF, the region has seen meaningful progress in addressing macro imbalances, with inflation trending downward and fiscal positions showing improvement. Public debt, after a decade of continuous increase, has finally begun to stabilise - albeit at elevated levels.

These improvements reflect the commitment of African nations to implement difficult but necessary reforms to restore macroeconomic stability.

These remarks corroborate findings from the 2024 AFMI report, which revealed that the macroeconomic environment in most countries has improved considerably compared to the previous years. Headline inflation rates fell in 10 AFMI countries, although in nine cases, rates remain high above 20 percent. Based on IMF projections, the growth rate is also expected to catch up to pre-pandemic levels. However, external debt continues to dampen prospects.

This was also mentioned by Claver Gatete, executive secretary, Unit-

ed Nations Economic Commission of Africa, where he noted 'more than one in three countries in Africa were in or at risk of debt distress' and 'the rapid rise in external debt continues to place a considerable strain on many economies'. Pattillo echoed this, adding that the region faces a 'funding squeeze', with domestic and external financing conditions remaining tight despite improving global financial conditions.

Policy and structural reforms to mitigate uncertainty

In response to challenging financial conditions, African nations are implementing various reforms to stabilise their economies and strengthen market infrastructure. These improvements span across foreign exchange markets, monetary policy decisions and corporate creditworthiness assessment frameworks.

Michael Atingi-Ego, deputy governor, Bank of Uganda, emphasised how global financial challenges have driven improvements in legal standards and enforceability in the country. He noted how in order to preserve the level of reserves and maintain stability in the exchange rate, the Bank of Uganda went beyond monetary policy measures to consider standard master agreements. He explained how these reforms 'promoted the trading in the swaps and promoted the support for the interbank foreign exchange market, interbank foreign and money markets'.

Tanzania's experience illustrates the challenges many nations face, especially when the country grapples with severe market dryness,

particularly for essential imports like oil. In response, as noted by Yamungu Kayandabila, deputy governor, Bank of Tanzania, the country implemented a new code of conduct for its FX market and is working under an IMF Extended Credit Facility programme to improve market transparency and price discovery.

Elsewhere, to improve transparency, Ethiopia has introduced a more flexible exchange rate system to boost export competitiveness, address persistent foreign exchange shortages and attract foreign direct investment. Central banks in Nigeria, Egypt and Zimbabwe have also undertaken FX reforms to improve access in order to attract capital.

ESG initiatives for innovation and co-operation

Panellists at the launch agreed that green finance and environmental, social and governance initiatives have emerged as a promising area for market growth and innovation across Africa. The 2024 AFMI report also revealed that 23 countries now implementing ESG measures in their financial market infrastructure.

Atingi-Ego outlined how Uganda is taking significant steps to expand its ESG footprint, with plans to broaden its fixed income market beyond traditional securities, to include green bonds, sukuk, Panda bonds and diaspora infrastructure bonds. At an organisational level as well, the Bank of Uganda has institutionalised ESG principles across the financial sector in its strategic plan for 2022-2027, and it aims to

become a sustainable central bank.

In southern Africa more broadly, regional co-operation is driving ESG development. The Southern African Development Community is actively discussing ways to incentivise both investors and issuers to incorporate ESG principles into their financing activities. Zafar Parker, head of financial markets at the South African Reserve Bank, notes that discussions are underway about incorporating ESG principles into debt issuance within the next few years. A key debate remains on whether ESG initiatives should be private sector-led or government-driven, with some suggesting that government-issued green bonds could help build momentum for private sector participation.

The combination of regulatory reforms, infrastructure development and innovative financial instruments is gradually creating more robust and resilient markets. As countries continue to address structural challenges while embracing new opportunities in areas including ESG, the continent's financial markets are positioned to play an increasingly important role in supporting economic development and improving living standards for its growing population.

Arunima Sharan (pictured) is Senior Economist, Economic and Monetary Policy Institute at OMFIF. She holds a MA in Governance, Development and Public Policy from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and a BA in Economics and International Development from McGill University.

Techsavvy use smartphones to drive access to sexual reproductive health

By Special Correspondent

Activists, influencers and technology experts say young people have made major gains by advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) narratives, particularly for adolescent girls and young women through digital technologies.

Speaking during the "African Voices: Shaping a New SRHR Narrative through Technology" session, the panellists and participants underscored how young people are using the internet to dismantle long-standing barriers to SRHR access.

The session held during the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum in Cape Town, spotlighted the immense potential of Africa's young people. With 77% of Africa's population under the age of 35, the continent's young people are a powerful force for change, uniquely positioned to drive SRHR transformation.

The side event, hosted by Brands on a Mission (BoaM) as part of its African Voices initiative, observed that far from being passive recipients, today's young people are asserting themselves as discerning consumers of SRHR services, demanding solutions that are responsive to their preferences, experiences, and realities.

By leveraging these technologies, young people are driving conversations that are deeply relevant to their lives, and actively shaping and influencing public health narratives, helping to dismantle cultural stigmas and expand access to vital SRHR services across the continent.

Professor Myriam Sidibe, Founder and Chief Mission Officer, at Brands on a Mission, stressed the need for African young people to be central in shaping SRHR solutions. "The young voices that we heard today are the voices we need to keep listening to in our homes, communities and online. Young people are communication experts shaping our stories and Africa's future, we need to meet them where they are at and expand on their potential. There has been so much hope and excitement expressed today on how emerging technologies can unlock innovation and impact for SRHR and Gender Based Violence (GBV) on the African continent," she said.

Angella Summer Namubiru, a Ugandan media personality and



Professor Myriam Sidibe, Chief of Mission at Brands on a Mission (BoaM) speaks during the African Voices: Shaping a New SRHR Narrative through Technology session convened at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum in Cape Town, South Africa. Professor Sidibe underscored the influence that young people and digital technologies can have to address long-standing barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

digital content creator with over six million followers on TikTok, highlighted the pivotal role of social media in amplifying young people-driven SRHR advocacy saying, "Technology gives young people a chance to share their stories, learn about sexual and reproductive health, and create ways to earn money. When young people have these opportunities, they can make better choices for their lives and health without being forced into situations they do not want."

Fatima Carvalho, Co-founder of Cape Verde-based Eco-Feminism Movement (Cabo Verde Ecofeminism Movement), highlighted the need to integrate traditional practices with technological advancements to make SRHR interventions more effective: "I believe that the most effective SRHR interventions lie at the intersection of tradition and innovation. By combining the wisdom of our ancestors with modern technology, we can create holistic solutions that are both culturally relevant and forward-thinking, ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight for reproductive rights and

gender equality"

Dr. Mercy Nhamo-Murire, Deputy Chief Impact Officer at Tiko, underscored the vital role technology can play in removing social and financial barriers to care, ultimately empowering girls as agents in their sexual and reproductive health journey. "Adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa are faced with the interconnected triple threat of teenage pregnancy, HIV infection and sexual violence. Technology and real-time data are proving powerfully effective in unlocking community-based, girl-centred solutions to combat this threat, enabling girls to access integrated, safe and stigma-free health services that work holistically within delicate local contexts to meet their evolving needs."

Kris Lemon, Senior Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning Associate at Reach Digital Health, complemented, speaking on the necessity of making these technologies accessible to marginalised communities: "Where technologies are developed to facilitate people's goals, evidence increasingly shows that digital technologies offer particular benefits to young people pursuing their sexual and reproductive health aims. Mobile platforms allow users to access a world of educational, motivational, and supportive content, at low cost and anonymously, with AI increasing the match between content and users' individual needs."

NdiloKelwa Nthengwe, Executive Director of the Voices for Choices and Rights Coalition, highlighted the importance of diverse leadership in shaping the future of SRHR. She stated, "The future of technology is evolving much quicker than the representation of accountable leadership. We, African women in all our diversity, need to remain cognizant of this reality as we grow into positions of influence and leadership."

The session, part of the broader SVRI Forum agenda, aimed to strengthen partnerships and foster new collaborations between African influencers, civil society organisations, and technology-driven NGOs. It called for the creation of safe and stigma-free digital spaces where young people can access and shape relevant SRHR content.

CURRENT NEWS



Azania Bank's Managing Director, Esther Mang'anya.

Azania Bank seeks to raise 100bn/- using 5-year bond

By Guardian Reporter

AZANIA Bank Limited has launched a five year - Medium Term Note (MTN) seeking to raise 100bn/- in the next five years to finance strategic projects in various sectors of the economy.

To start with, the Capital Market and Securities Authority (CMSA) has approved the first batch of the MTN where the bank will rise 30bn/- with green shoe option of 15bn/-, at an attractive of 12.5 percent annual interest.

The 30bn/- bond was unveiled in Dodoma yesterday by Finance Minister, Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba.

At the launch, Dr. Nchemba praised Azania Bank's board, management, and staff for supporting the government's efforts to finance strategic development projects through this four-year maturity bond. "Our role as the government is to keep improving the business environment so that institutions like Azania Bank

can continue introducing innovative products and services that support national investment projects," he stated. The Tier 1 bank, partially owned by the Treasury, aims to make economic participation accessible to Tanzanians. "This bond clearly targets ordinary citizens, as the minimum investment of 500,000/- is within reach for many," said Dr. Nchemba, highlighting the bond's competitive 12.5 percent annual yield.

Azania Bank's Managing Director, Esther Mang'anya, briefed the minister on the bond, which launched on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday. She explained that this is Azania Bank's first bond issuance and that investors will receive interest payments every three months. "This bond offers one of the most attractive interest rates in the current market," she noted.

The bond includes a green shoe option of 15bn/- and is available at all Azania Bank

branches, DSE stock brokers, and other agents. "The offering opened today and will close on December 6, after which it will move to the DSE's secondary market," Mang'anya added.

Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) Acting CEO, Alfred Mkombo, also spoke at the event, commending Azania Bank and lead sponsor NMB Bank Plc for introducing new investment options to the market. "This bond meets all regulatory standards, making it a reliable opportunity for investors," Mkombo assured, praising the Bank of Tanzania's role in supporting the country's financial markets.

Mkombo emphasized that banks like Azania play a crucial role in financing government projects, with the public actively participating. "CMSA is committed to ensuring investment instruments in the market offer favorable returns for investors," he said.

Mbwego forest reserve faces danger of disappearing

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A total of 1,102.5 hectares of the Mbwego village land forest reserve in Mnkonde village, Kilindi District, Tanga Region, are in danger of disappearing due to anthropogenic factors caused by cattle herders.

Musa Kumbi, chairman of the Msanja Ward Forest Conservation Network (HIMIMSA), raised this concern when speaking to journalists and staff from the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), who visited the village to assess the impact of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

Residents of Mnkonde village complain that Maasai herders are allegedly conducting illegal farming activities, constructing houses, cattle sheds, and grazing cattle within the forest reserves, leading to deforestation. Currently, there are Maasai herders who have settled in the forest reserve, with 14 households residing within its boundaries. When attempts are made to remove them, they refuse to leave, and the residents feel powerless to intervene.

Concerns for safety are growing among the villagers, and the forests continue to suffer damage. Residents have noticed this decline while conducting patrols to prevent encroachment from those invading the forests for agricultural activities and cattle grazing.

Kumbi emphasizes the need for government intervention, as the Mnkonde Village Council has submitted complaints to the district level, but no action has been taken, allowing the destruction of their forest to persist.

Juma Micholi, chairman of the Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC), states they rely on the Mbwego forest re-



Musa Kumbi, the chairman of the Msanja Ward Forest Conservation Network (HIMIMSA) (L) explains on how Maasai herders have built house and cattle shed to Elida Fundi, MJUMITA's good governance and advocacy officer (2nd R) and Adam Sylvester, the Kilindi Natural Resources officer (R). Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

serve for sustainable timber harvesting and revenue collection to fund village development projects. The forest was officially designated in 2008, and from 2022 to 2023, the village earned over 60 million TZS from sustainable timber harvesting.

"From this income, we have drilled a deep water well for Mnkonde residents, built a mosque, purchased 16 windows, and allocated funds for citizens' house address signs," he said. He praised TFCG, MJUMITA, and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for training villagers in sustainable harvesting and forest conservation.

"We're proud of the IBEST project because villagers are now aware of the by-laws and regulations that prevent illegal entry into the forest reserve without approval from village government leaders, and they know where to obtain permits for timber harvesting," Micholi explained.

Villages without natural resource committees, such as Mswaki and Mzungu Hasara, are now coming to learn from them about forest conservation, as their reserves have been depleted due to agriculture, cattle grazing, and charcoal production.

Zubeda Kihyo, chairperson of the Mnkonde village natural resource committee, expressed gratitude to TFCG and MJUMITA for training them in community-based forest management, good governance, gender equality, and how to communicate with invaders in the forest reserve, with funding from the IBEST project. However, despite receiving this training, the forest reserves continue to be under threat.

Villagers are demanding government intervention to remove these invaders and allocate alternative land for them, as their

numbers are increasing inside the forest reserves, clearing trees that the community relies on for revenue collection to support village development projects. If the government fails to take legal action, all the forests may disappear due to farming, livestock grazing, and unsustainable charcoal production.

Although the village government has issued notices for the Maasai herders to vacate the area, while some have left, others remain. Mswaki, Mzungu Hasara, and Mbwego village land forest reserves are being illegally invaded by herders and farmers.

The training provided was free of charge, funded by the European Union through the Ministry of Finance. With the knowledge and skills acquired from MJUMITA and TFCG, VNRC members are now conducting regular patrols within the forests.

Sofia Madeni from the Chekanao group mentioned that through the IFBEST project, they learned to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in Mnkonde village. Both women and men are now engaging in income-generating activities instead of relying on cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal production, a significant shift from previous practices.

"Through the VSLA group, I have taken a loan to pay for my child's school fees," Madeni stated. Some women are now purchasing patterned fabric to sell in the village, further reducing their dependence on firewood and char-

coal.

Juma Kihara, Mnkonde village chairman, added that the village has 2,748 residents and 587 households, comprising 1,400 men and 1,348 women. Mwanaidi Gwalu, the Guardian of MJUMITA in Msanja Ward, expressed gratitude to TFCG and MJUMITA for training villagers in forest management.

So far, they have drilled a deep water well through conservation efforts, received training on establishing VSLAs, and formed two groups, Upendo and Chekanao. Previously, the community engaged in illegal charcoal burning, which harmed their health. Now, they avoid cutting firewood or producing charcoal, opting instead to take loans from savings groups to invest in their businesses.

Elida Fundi, MJUMITA's good governance and advocacy officer, noted, "We are training communities living at the forest edges to benefit from forest products and building capacity within MJUMITA's networks and other civil society organizations to educate communities on forest conservation and adherence to policies and laws. Our goal is to enable sustainable forest management in the Tanga region while producing charcoal sustainably."

Fundi expressed pride in the achievements witnessed in Lusane, Gendagenda, and Mnkonde villages, highlighting the positive results of the IFBEST project, including the land use plan that has helped resolve village boundary issues.

NBC Bank launches financial literacy campaign

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has introduced a new financial literacy programme dubbed, "Nondo za Pesa," designed to equip Tanzanians with essential skills for informed financial decision-making and goal achievement.

At the launch event in Dar es Salaam, Filbert Mponzi, bank's chief of retail banking, emphasized the importance of financial literacy for building financial independence, aligning with the bank's commitment to financial inclusion. The program will focus on budgeting, managing expenses, and avoiding debt, with a particular emphasis on youth and women.

"In an era where financial decisions shape our lives, financial literacy is not just a desirable skill but a necessity," Mponzi remarked.

He explained that the program will offer comprehensive resources, workshops, and tips on goal-setting, savings, loans, investment, and risk management, delivered through both traditional and digital platforms to reach grassroots communities.

Mponzi referenced the Finscope Survey 2023, noting low financial service uptake among youth and women, and expressed optimism that the 'Nondo za Pesa' campaign will help bridge this gap and foster economic growth and stability.

The bank also offers tailored products like the NMB Pesa account with an instant loan feature called "Mshiko Fasta," allowing customers to secure loans of up to 1 million Tanzanian shillings without visiting branches.

The launch was attended by key stakeholders and media personalities, including renowned figure Maulid Kitege, who praised the initiative, stating, "This program has come at an ideal time, providing youth with a platform to access vital financial information."

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Central Bank of Nigeria

Nigerian banks profit helps absorb higher credit losses

Lagos

The robust profitability of Nigerian banks is expected to continue in 2024, enabling them to absorb higher credit losses and meet increased capital requirements, according to S&P Global Ratings.

The report, which assesses the resilience of Nigerian banks in the face of economic challenges, credits their strong earnings, high-interest margins, and diversified income sources as key to their stability.

S&P Global anticipates that Nigerian banks' earnings will remain strong, largely due to increased interest margins driven by high interest rates set by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). The CBN raised the monetary policy rate by a cumulative 850 basis points this year, reaching 27.25 percent, which in turn has led to higher yields on government securities and loans.

This has bolstered the banks' profitability as they navigate credit risks and the broader economic landscape.

S&P noted that Nigerian banks' focus on digital capabilities has also helped them secure additional non-funded revenue during economic slowdowns. In 2023, non-interest in-

come contributed to approximately 50 percent of rated banks' total income. This diversification in revenue sources has enabled banks to mitigate some of the risks associated with Nigeria's challenging economic conditions, including rising credit losses.

S&P Global Ratings estimates that the CBN's recent capital increase requirement will add an average of 400 basis points to top-tier banks' regulatory capital ratios. This substantial increase is expected to enhance the banks' ability to absorb losses, especially in an environment with high operating, credit, and currency risks. The bolstered capital levels will also better position Nigerian banks to compete against international and pan-African banking groups, particularly in the competitive trade finance sector.

The report highlights that the recapitalization will not only strengthen the balance sheets of top-tier banks but also enable mid-tier banks to expand their lending to the real economy and enhance credit intermediation. This, in turn, could support broader economic growth as banks can extend more financing to businesses and consumers.

"The last recapitalization in Nigeria's

banking sector took place in 2005, at a time when the naira was trading at about 130 to 1 US dollar. Since then, multiple episodes of currency depreciation have weakened the value of banks' USD-denominated capital. At the same time, the total size of Nigerian banks' balance sheets has expanded significantly, growing by approximately 3.5 times in USD terms as banks expanded their reach within Nigeria and across Africa.

"The report points out that Nigerian banks hold substantial foreign currency exposures, reinforcing the need for strengthened capital to counterbalance currency-related risks," it stated.

S&P notes further that the volatility of the naira, while sometimes beneficial to earnings through trading gains, has eroded banks' capitalization in USD terms. For instance, banks with long USD-denominated asset positions recorded notable trading gains following the naira's depreciation in 2023.

This trend continued into the first quarter of 2024, as additional revaluation gains were realized on USD-denominated assets due to continued currency depreciation. However, the CBN's decision in February 2024 to

lower banks' net long foreign currency position to 0% of shareholders' equity (down from 10 percent) has tempered these gains.

In evaluating Nigerian banks' capital strength, S&P uses its proprietary risk-adjusted capital (RAC) ratio, which differs from the regulatory capital adequacy ratio due to the distinct risk weights applied in S&P's methodology. According to the report,

It further noted that Nigerian banks face extremely high economic risks, which results in elevated risk charges in S&P's RAC model and, consequently, lower RAC ratios. The report highlights that most Nigerian banks' RAC ratios fall between 3 percent and 5 percent, in contrast to their regulatory capital adequacy ratios, which range from 16 percent to 30 percent.

While improvements in RAC ratios resulting from the recapitalization will not directly lead to credit rating upgrades, S&P indicates that certain banks might see strengthened stand-alone credit profiles (SACPs). SACPs reflect S&P's assessment of a bank's intrinsic creditworthiness, excluding the influence of sovereign constraints.

Top-Tier Banks' Creditworthiness and Sovereign Ratings S&P Global believes that Nigerian top-tier banks demonstrate stronger intrinsic creditworthiness compared to the sovereign, evidenced by their ability to grow revenues and maintain profitability across economic cycles. In fact, the SACPs of top-tier banks exceed Nigeria's sovereign rating by two notches. However, despite this relative strength, S&P does not rate Nigerian financial institutions above the country's sovereign rating of 'B-/B-' on the global foreign currency scale and 'ngBBB+/ngA-2' on the national scale. This approach reflects the risks posed to banks by the broader economic conditions and the impact of sovereign stress on their creditworthiness.

S&P's outlook on most rated Nigerian banks remains stable, with exceptions for Ecobank Nigeria Ltd. and First City Monument Bank, which have negative outlooks. The stable outlook primarily mirrors the stable outlook on Nigeria's long-term sovereign rating, as bank ratings are expected to align with sovereign rating shifts. Therefore, S&P concludes that the recapitalization exercise will not trigger any rating changes unless there is a notable improvement in Nigeria's sovereign creditworthiness.

Nigerian banks are well-positioned to withstand higher credit losses, supported by robust earnings, strong net interest margins, and diversified revenue streams. The CBN's increased capital requirements are expected to enhance banks' loss-absorbing capacity, better positioning them for competition within and beyond Nigeria. While currency volatility and high economic risks continue to challenge Nigerian banks, their ability to generate consistent earnings through economic cycles underscores their resilience.

With strong fundamentals and planned capital enhancements, Nigerian banks are expected to maintain stability, provided there are no major shifts in sovereign creditworthiness. This stability is crucial not only for the banks themselves but also for Nigeria's broader financial sector as it navigates complex economic dynamics.

WORLD

Harris appeals to key voters, Trump embraces violent rhetoric



Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally at Jenison Field House on the campus of Michigan State University, on Sunday in East Lansing, Michigan. AP

DETROIT/KINSTON

DEMOCRAT Kamala Harris made her closing pitch for the US presidency at a historically Black church and to Arab Americans in battleground Michigan on Sunday, while her Republican rival Donald Trump embraced violent rhetoric at a rally in Pennsylvania.

Opinion polls show the pair locked in a tight race, with Vice-President Harris, 60, bolstered by strong support among female voters while former President Trump, 78, gains ground with Hispanic voters, especially men.

Voters overall view both candidates unfavorably, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling, but that has not dissuaded them from casting ballots.

More than 78 million Americans have already done so ahead of Tuesday's Election Day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, approaching half the total 160 million votes cast in 2020, in which US voter turnout was the highest in more than a century.

Control of Congress is also up for grabs on Tuesday, with Republicans favored to capture a majority in the Senate while Democrats are seen as having an even chance of flipping Republicans' narrow majority in the House of Representatives. Presidents whose parties fail to control both chambers have struggled to pass major legislation.

"In just two days we have the power to decide the fate of our nation for generations to come," Harris told parishioners at Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of

God in Christ in Detroit. "We must act. It's not enough to only pray; not enough to just talk."

Later in a rally in East Lansing, Michigan, she addressed the state's 200,000 Arab Americans, starting her speech with a nod to civilian victims of Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

"This year has been difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon, it is devastating. And as president, I will do everything in my power to end the war in Gaza," Harris said to applause.

Many Arab and Muslim Americans as well as anti-war activist groups have condemned US support for Israel amid the tens of thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza and Lebanon, and the displacement of millions. Israel says it is targeting militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

Trump visited Dearborn, Michigan, the heart of the Arab American community, on Friday and vowed to end the conflict in the Middle East without saying how.

Instead of mentioning Trump by name, Harris chose to highlight her opponent's record during her last Sunday on the campaign trail.

Trump goes off script

Trump, at his first of three rallies on Sunday, frequently abandoned his teleprompter with off-the-cuff remarks in which he denounced opinion polls showing movement for Harris. He called Democrats a "demonic party," ridiculed Democratic President Joe Biden and talked about the high price of

apples.

Trump, who survived an assassination attempt in July when a gunman's bullet grazed his ear in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Sunday complained to supporters about gaps in the bulletproof glass surrounding him as he spoke and mused that an assassin would have to shoot through the news media to get him.

"To get me, somebody would have to shoot through the fake news and I don't mind that so much," said Trump, who has long criticized the media and sought to rile public sentiment against them.

Last week he suggested prominent Republican critic, former congresswoman Liz Cheney, should face gunfire in combat over her hawkish foreign policy, leading an Arizona prosecutor to open an investigation.

Campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung issued a statement saying Trump's comment was not directed toward the media but rather, "It was about threats against him that were spurred on by dangerous rhetoric from Democrats."

Trump later spoke in Kinston, North Carolina, and in Macon, Georgia, where he seized on last week's jobs report that showed the US economy only produced 12,000 jobs last month.

He told a large crowd gathered in an amphitheater that the report

showed that the United States was a "nation in decline" and he warned darkly without evidence of a potentially looming repeat of the 1929 Great Depression with "people jumping off buildings."

Senior Harris campaign officials have said her closing argument is designed to reach a narrow slice of undecided voters. That stood in contrast to Trump, who varied little from his standard speech aimed at inspiring his loyal supporters.

"Kamala's campaign is run on hate and demonization," Trump said.

Near the end of his Pennsylvania speech, Trump - whose false claims that his 2020 loss was the result of fraud inspired his supporters' Jan 6, 2021, assault on the US Capitol - mused that he would have preferred not to have handed over power.

"We had the safest border in the history of our country the day that I left. I shouldn't have left. I mean, honestly, because we did so, we did so well," Trump said.

Trump said during his remarks that election results should be announced on Election Night, despite warnings by officials in multiple states that it could take days to ascertain the final outcome.

Democrats say they have plans in place should Trump try to prematurely claim victory this time.

Agencies

CIIE a key trade platform for Africa, says South African expert

JOHANNESBURG

THE China International Import Expo (CIIE) is an important platform for Africa to showcase its products and enhance trade with China, said a South African expert.

"China has an important and attractive market, and the CIIE is incredibly big and diverse. It's a wonderful opportunity for African businesses to tap into the Chinese market and understand what's happening in the global market," said Philip Myburgh, group head of trade at Standard Bank Business and Commercial Banking, in an interview with Xinhua ahead of the 7th CIIE due from Tuesday to Sunday in Shanghai.

Given that Africa sometimes takes a backseat or gets overshadowed by

larger economies at global events, Myburgh said they expect more exposure to and attention from the international community.

"We are certainly getting a stronger presence at the CIIE, with the Africa pavilion bringing all made-in-Africa products together," he said, adding that it's encouraging to see more emphasis on Africa.

Standard Bank, which has participated in the CIIE since its inception, has hosted many promotional events to strengthen the connection between Africa and China, said the expert.

"We are seeing more diversity and stronger demand for African products showcased in the CIIE, and we are expecting more transactions, more interest, and more deals being signed this year," he added.

During the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in September in Beijing, China committed to further opening its market to African agricultural products, with two protocols signed for the export of greasy wool and dairy products from South Africa to China.

In Myburgh's opinion, the FOCAC marks a highlight of the China-Africa relationship as many infrastructure and funding projects were announced, and more partnership agreements signed. Meanwhile, the CIIE is a practical showcase of the theoretical and political commitments made at the FOCAC.

Myburgh said China's efforts to promote high-level opening-up are welcomed by African countries and will boost Africa's economic recovery and growth.

China plays an important role in helping African countries diversify their economies and boost growth, and has become a key off-taker for African products and a provider of critical technologies for the industrialization and sustainable development of the continent, he said.

Noting that Africa could benefit from more foreign exchange, Myburgh said exports to China could be a critical contributor to Africa's economic growth.

It's also crucial for African countries to learn from China when it comes to renewable energy and technologies to save water and conserve energy, said Myburgh, adding that the CIIE has offered a platform for Africans to learn from and collaborate with more important stakeholders.

Xinhua

Our leaders failing to safeguard Hindus, says Canada MP on attack outside Hindu Temple

OTTAWA

CANADIAN MP Kevin Vuong yesterday condemned the "violent disruption" outside Hindu Sabha Temple in Canada's Brampton and stressed that the leaders of the country are failing to safeguard the Hindu community.

Stating that Canada has become a "safe harbour for radicals", he affirmed that everyone deserves to "worship in peace."

"Alarming to see an attack on Hindu Canadians. From Khalistani extremists to terrorist cosplayers, has become a safe harbour for radicals. Our leaders are failing to safeguard Hindus as they have Christians and Jewish Canadians from violence. We all deserve to worship in peace," Vuong posted on X.

The incident occurred on Sunday (local time) outside a consular camp organised by the Indian High Commission in Canada, in collaboration with the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, near Toronto.

Moreover, the Indian High Commission condemned the "violent disruption" outside a consular camp in Brampton and raised concerns over the safety of Indian nationals in the country.

The Indian High Commission said that any further events will be organised "contingent on security arrangements" made by the local authorities.

"We have seen violent disruption today (Nov 3) orchestrated by anti-India elements outside the consular camp co-organised with the Hindu Sabha Mandir, Brampton, near Toronto," the statement by the High Commission.

The statement also highlighted other incidents of disruption during a consular camp held in Vancouver and Surrey on November 2 and 3.

It further said it is "deeply disappointing" that such disruptions are "being allowed" for routine consular work. "It is deeply disappointing to see such disruptions being allowed for routine consular work being organised by our consulated with the fullest cooperation of the local co-organizers. We also remain very concerned for the safety of applicants, including Indian nationals, on whose demand such events are organized in the first place," the statement added.

Russia is not going to attack Poland, Baltics, Ukraine through Belarus rule - Lukashenko

MINSK



BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed as nonsense Western politicians' claims that Russia was planning to carry out aggression against neighboring EU countries and Ukraine through Belarus.

"We are not fanning tensions. Russia is not going to attack Poland, Lithuania, Latvia or Ukraine through Belarus. It's complete nonsense," said Lukashenko, speaking at a televised festive ceremony in the village Dozhinki, in Mosty (Grodno region).

Lukashenko (pictured) said, "no one is going to go to war from Belarus with neighbors and NATO without our knowledge."

"They (the West - TASS) have set the task to strangle us and Russia. Today, as they move on towards this aim, they are looking for a pretext to reproach us," said the Belarusian president.

According to Lukashenko, foreigners are happy to come to Belarus, "despite the lies being spread about the Belarusian state."

"I have said more than once that nations should not suffer due to the stupidity of their leaders," he stated. Lukashenko also recalled that Minsk responded to sanctions and restrictions on the entry of its vans, trains, airplanes and cars with visa-free travel for citizens of many countries.

"Already about a million people have been able to see for themselves that Belarus really has a dictatorship - a dictatorship of stability, security, order, kindness and hospitality. A dictatorship of justice," Lukashenko said.

He called for building relations in a neighborly manner.

"If you don't want to, it's fine with us. We will find other countries with whom we will develop cooperation. But if we turn our back on you, you will not come to us anymore," Lukashenko warned. "Unlike Western officials, we realize that whatever contradictions there may exist, even though we are on different banks, the most important thing is to be able to build bridges. We have always had it this way and will continue to do so."

Chinese-funded bamboo project brings relief to flood-ravaged Kenyan communities

NAIROBI

FOR decades, Francis Mayobo's farm, located along the Nzoia River in western Kenya, was repeatedly inundated by floods that destroyed his crops and pushed him to the brink of poverty.

A retired public works official, Mayobo's farmland is near the river, which originates in Kenya's northwestern highlands and drains into Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater body.

Four years ago, Mayobo took a proactive step by planting hundreds of bamboo trees on his farm after learning about the tree's flood-mitigating potential.

"I was motivated to venture into bamboo farming after training and research on how it could protect my farm from floods," Mayobo told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Today, the bamboo trees not only shield his farm from seasonal floods

but have also rejuvenated the soil, allowing him to grow crops such as maize, legumes, bananas, and millet.

Mayobo is one of many smallholder farmers in western Kenya's flood-prone areas set to benefit from a bamboo agroforestry initiative funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences through its Sino-Africa Joint Research Center.

The project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Program's affiliated International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), in collaboration with local partners.

Dubbed "Ecosystem Restoration for Enhancing Livelihoods and Addressing Climate Change: China-Kenya Cooperation on Bamboo Technology Transfer," the project promises flood protection, income generation, and improved resilience for local farmers and fishermen.

Under this initiative, Mayobo and

other farmers have received training on bamboo cultivation, helping them establish nurseries and secure seedlings for replanting in flood-prone zones.

Samuel Juma Magoba, an elderly farmer involved in the project, has cultivated bamboo on his one-acre farm and found new income opportunities by selling bamboo for furniture, ornaments, utensils, and compost.

He recalled the severe flood damage he witnessed in his youth in his village near the Nzoia River basin - a devastation that has notably decreased since local farmers started planting bamboo along the riverbanks.

According to Dennis Otieno Ochuodho, a senior researcher at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya, a project partner, the bamboo agroforestry project offers an effective, nature-based solution to climate-induced flooding.

Ochuodho said the project aims to expand research, training, and technology transfer in bamboo farming, restore the degraded Nzoia River basin, and enhance food security through mixed cropping systems. A large-scale bamboo plantation, he added, will protect native species, serve as a carbon sink, and supply raw materials for herbal medicine, supplements, and roofing.

Despite her advanced age, Alice Makhulo's passion for cultivating bamboo on her seven-acre farm near a swamp remains undiminished, thanks to the economic and environmental benefits she has reaped from the trees. "Even my children and grandchildren appreciate the cool breeze from the mature bamboo trees. I have also been selling the bamboo stems to local furniture makers," Makhulo said.

As part of the China-funded bamboo agroforestry initiative, more than 200 farmers will receive training in sustain-

able bamboo cultivation, which also includes a 25-hectare demonstration site to showcase ecological restoration through the planting of this iconic tree species.

Guoqin Wang, program manager at UNEP-IEMP, emphasized that by stabilizing the Nzoia River banks, the project not only curtails flooding but also enhances local livelihoods by combining food crops with bamboo and creating natural products for sale.

Leveraging Chinese bamboo technology and expertise, the initiative aims to regenerate degraded landscapes, conserve water sources, and improve climate resilience for river communities, Wang added.

Symprose Anyango, coordinator of Eco Green Kenya, a conservation lobby, noted that communities along the Nzoia River have embraced the project, particularly women, saying that "bamboo has in particular been of huge benefit to women who suffer

most from climate change. They are using bamboo to revive traditional weaving and earn an additional income."

Xinhua



According to Dennis Otieno Ochuodho, a senior researcher at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya, a project partner, the bamboo agroforestry project offers an effective, nature-based solution to climate-induced flooding

EAM Jaishankar hails new Indian Consulate in Brisbane as 'landmark moment' in India-Australia relations

BRISBANE

LAUDING the prospering India-Australia ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday, hailed the inauguration of new Indian consulate in Brisbane as a "landmark moment" and "milestone" in the relation between two nations.

He noted that the establishment of the consulate not only reflects India's deepening ties with Australia but also acknowledges the prominent role of Queensland, a state that holds an important place in "our bludgeoning times."

"Today is a landmark moment and certainly a milestone in our increasingly strong bilateral relationship," Jaishankar stated at the inauguration ceremony.

The Foreign Minister emphasised the significance of the Indian community in Queensland, noting the large and rapidly expanding diaspora, as well as the growing number of Indian students pursuing higher education in Australian institutions.

"The majority of our bilateral trade... is driven by the Sunshine State. Our diaspora is strong and growing," Jaishankar added.

EAM Jaishankar, who is on a five day visit to Australia, commented on his visit to the University of Queensland, where he met with members of the Indian community and Indian-origin students.

Reflecting on the importance of educational and cultural exchanges, he stated, "I was privileged yesterday to meet some of you at the University of Queensland... Indian students today are present in educational institutions in Australia broadly and Queensland, specifically."

He also voiced optimism that the new consulate would serve the Indian community in Australia efficiently, meeting the consular needs of Indian nationals and those of Indian origin in a "timely manner and with much greater convenience."

Jaishankar commended the dedicated efforts of the Consul General and her team in providing support and strengthening India-Australia ties in various domains, including the economy, education, and research.

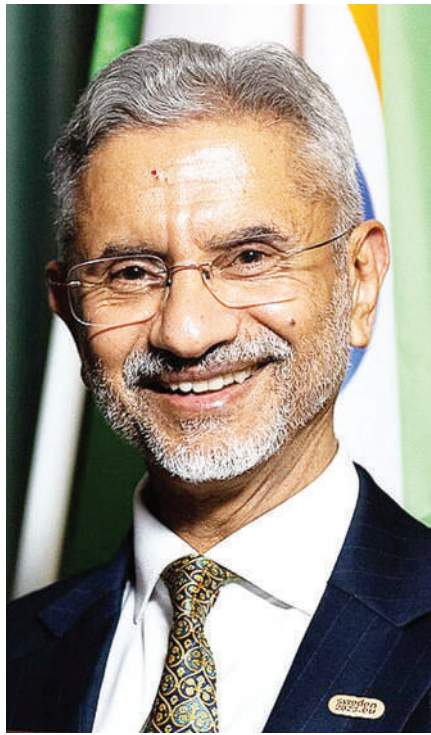
"I'm very sure that the Consulate General and her team will serve the diaspora and the students well. They will promote ties in economy, education, and research," he remarked.

Stating that this is his fifth visit to Australia and first to Brisbane, Jaishankar said that his frequent visits underscore the growing intensity of cooperation between the two nations.

He pointed to the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) as a clear example of the evolving economic partnership between India and Australia, which has opened "huge trade opportunities" for both countries.

"I do recall that Queensland actually accounts for the vast majority of exports from Australia to India. We certainly see a very promising economic future of partnership, and I'm sure that the consulate will help make that happen most speedily," Jaishankar added.

The EAM also acknowledged the achievements of the Indian diaspora



across various sectors, describing them as a "living bridge" between the two countries.

"We have a million-strong Indian diaspora, and certainly, they are making their contribution to the vibrant and multicultural society here," he said.

The minister praised the community for earning "great respect" in Australia and noted that their excellence across academia, research, technology, business, and healthcare has enhanced India-Australia ties.

Emphasising the importance of preserving cultural heritage, Jaishankar assured that the consulate would support cultural and social activities, allowing the Indian community in Queensland to maintain a strong connection with its roots.

"As part of the multicultural identity of this country, we are very confident that the consulate will also support cultural activities and other endeavours which will allow the Indian community here to be in touch with its roots and preserve its culture, heritage, and traditions," he affirmed.

The event concluded with Jaishankar expressing gratitude to the Queensland government and its dignitaries for their warm reception and continued support.

"I can see from my very brief stay that the Consul General would be received with great warmth and will be extended the fullest support to realise our mission," he said.

Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar met Queensland Governor Jeannette Young, and the two leaders discussed opportunities and ways to strengthen economic, trade and investment cooperation with the state.

"Pleased to meet H.E. Dr. Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland, in Brisbane today. Discussed opportunities and ways to strengthen economic, trade and investment cooperation with the Queensland state," Jaishankar stated in a post on X.

The Foreign Minister also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Roma Street Parklands in Brisbane, reinforcing Gandhi's enduring message of peace and harmony. In a social media post, Jaishankar said Gandhi's ideals continue to resonate worldwide. **ANI**

Israel officially informs UN of end to relations with Palestinian relief agency

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL has officially notified the United Nations that it was cancelling the agreement that regulated its relations with the main UN relief organization for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) since 1967, the country's foreign ministry said yesterday.

Last month, the Israeli parliament passed legislation banning UNRWA from operating in Israel and stopping Israeli authorities from cooperating with the organization, which provides aid and education services to millions of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Israel has long been critical of UNRWA, set up in the wake of the 1948 war that broke out at the time of the creation of the state of Israel, accusing it of anti-Israel bias and saying it perpetuates the conflict by maintaining Palestinians in a permanent refugee status.

Since the start of the Gaza war in October last year, it has also said that the organization has been deeply infiltrated by Hamas in Gaza, accusing some of its staff of taking part in the Oct 7 attack on Israel.

The legislation has alarmed the United Nations and some of Israel's Western allies who fear it will further worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where Israel has been fighting Hamas militants for a year. The ban does not refer to operations in the Palestinian territories or elsewhere.

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon said in a statement that despite the overwhelming evidence "we submitted to the UN highlighting how Hamas infiltrated UNRWA, the UN did nothing to address this reality".

The legislation does not directly outlaw UNRWA's operations in the West Bank and Gaza, both considered by international law to be outside the state of Israel but under Israeli occupation.

But it will severely impact its ability to work in those areas and there has been deep alarm among aid groups and many of Israel's partners.

The Israeli foreign ministry said activity by other international organizations would be expanded and "preparations will be made to end the connection with UNRWA and to boost alternatives to UNRWA".

Pak-China Friendship Hospital brings lifesaving relief and hope in Pakistan's Gwadar

GWADAR, Pakistan

NADIA Akram Ali's life took a devastating turn when a health worker informed her that her five-year-old son was showing symptoms of acute typhoid fever and urgently needed to be hospitalized to save his life in the Gwadar district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province.

"I felt utterly helpless. I didn't have the resources to take him to big hospitals in far-off cities and there was no proper hospital in Gwadar," she said, adding that faced with limited options, her husband decided to take their son to the newly inaugurated hospital in the city.

To the couple's astonishment, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar was beyond anything they had imagined. "It was just like the big, expensive hospitals I had only seen on TV, and I never dreamed that my family could access such quality care," Ali told Xinhua.

Inaugurated in May this year, the 100-bed hospital, which includes emergency, outpatient, inpatient, medical technology, administration, and logistics facilities, is already making a significant impact, receiving approximately 900 patients daily from Gwadar and the surrounding areas.

As a livelihood project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the hospital's state-of-the-art building, consisting of single and multi-story structures, and its advanced medical equipment, including a modern laboratory, CT scanners, and ultrasound machines, have been generously donated by the Chinese government.

Some of the hospital's facilities are integrated with an existing 50-bed hospital in the city, creating a combined operation of 150 beds. The new hospital complex includes outpatient services, medical technology departments, and ward buildings, all supported by China.

Speaking to Xinhua, Afan Faiq Zada, the medical superintendent of the hospital, said that it is nothing short of a blessing for the local community, transforming healthcare access in the region.

"Previously, there were no specialized healthcare services, and people had to travel hundreds of kilometers to access even basic medical care. Now, with this purpose-built, state-of-the-art hospital, residents can access primary, secondary, and even tertiary healthcare services locally," he added.

Zada, who has worked in several well-reput-



Patients wait for their turns at the Pak-China Friendship Hospital in the Gwadar district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province on Sept. 16, 2024. (Xinhua/Ahmad Kamal)

ed hospitals in Pakistan, said that modern scanning machines and advanced laboratories have greatly improved the speed and accuracy of diagnoses, allowing for timely treatment.

"The hospital's impact is tangible, and the locals have embraced it wholeheartedly, with many describing it as a life-changing development," he said, adding that healthcare outcomes in the region have drastically improved, largely due to China's generous donation. This hospital is the only facility of its kind within a 500-km radius.

He noted that to handle emergencies, the hospital's surgery department offers a wide range of services, including general surgery, orthopedics, and urology, with round-the-clock trauma care.

Beyond curative services, the hospital has made strides in preventive healthcare by raising awareness among the local population. Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend antenatal visits, and there is ongoing education on child nutrition.

Shazia Ali, a gynecologist at the hospital, said that due to a lack of facilities in Gwadar and nearby districts, the rate of neonatal fatalities, miscarriages, and maternal deaths was previously very high. However, with the new operating theaters and ultrasound machines, this ratio has substantially decreased even within just a few months of the hospital's inauguration.

The hospital has been widely praised throughout the district, gaining a reputation for its excellent services. Patients from neighboring districts also come for medical treatment.

According to patients and doctors at the hospital, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital has transformed healthcare in the region, offering top-tier services that were once inaccessible to the local population, and became a symbol of the strong partnership between China and Pakistan by providing much-needed relief and hope to the community.

Lian Wenyong, an engineer for the hospital's maintenance from the project's Chinese constructor, said that the Chinese constructor also provides a two-year warranty service for this donated project to Gwadar.

"We are on call at any time to provide timely maintenance and repairs so that Gwadar people can better enjoy medical services," the Chinese engineer said.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation and is expanding to the fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others. **Xinhua**

Russian forces liberate settlement of Vishnyovoye in Donetsk People's Republic

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN forces have liberated the settlement of Vishnyovoye in the Donetsk People's Republic, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Units of Battlegroup Center carried out active offensive operations, liberating the settlement of Vishnyovoye in the Donetsk People's Republic," the statement reads.

Ukraine loses up to 60 troops in area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup Dnepr

The Ukrainian army lost up to 60 troops in the area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup Dnepr in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Units of Battlegroup Dnepr hit the forces and equipment of the 110th Mechanized Brigade and the 141st Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces, the 124th and 126th territorial defense brigades near Nikopol in the Dnepropetrovsk Region, Ponyatovka and Tokarevka in the Kherson Region and Nesteryanka in the Zaporozhye Region. The Ukraine army lost up to 60 troops, two motor vehicles and an ammunition depot," the statement reads.

Ukraine loses over 520 troops in area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup South

The Ukrainian army lost over 520 troops in the area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup South in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Units of Battlegroup South continued to move deeper into enemy defenses, defeating the forces of the 23rd, 28th, 33rd, 54th, 67th and 72nd mechanized brigades, the Third Tank Brigade, the 46th and 81st air mobile brigades, the 79th air assault brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces and the 119th Territorial Defense Brigade near Andreyevka, Konstantinovka, Dalneye, Chasov Yar, Ilyinka, Berestki, Kurakhovo, Seversk and Dronovka in the Donetsk People's Republic. Four

counterattacks by units of the 33rd Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces were repelled," the statement reads.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the enemy lost over 520 troops, 12 motor vehicles, a US-made M113 armored personnel carrier, two M119 105 mm howitzers, two D-39 122 mm howitzers and two ammunition depots.

Units of Battlegroup West repel five Ukrainian counter attacks in past day

Units of Russia's Battlegroup West repelled five Ukrainian counterattacks in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Units of Battlegroup West hit the troops and equipment of the 30st, 60st, 63rd, 92nd and 116th mechanized brigades and the Third Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces near Petropavlovka, Golubovka, Pershotravnevoye and Kupyansk in the Kharkov Region and Teryn in the Donetsk People's Republic. Five counterattacks by assault teams from the 14th and 44th mechanized brigades and the Third Tank Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces were repelled," the statement reads.

Russia's Battlegroup Center makes Ukraine lose over 500 troops in past day

Russia's Battlegroup Center caused Ukraine to lose over 500 troops, a tank and a British-made armored personnel carrier in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Russian forces hit the troops and equipment of the 32nd and 93rd mechanized brigades, the 25th Airborne Brigade, the 68th Jaeger Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces, the 45th Marine Brigade and the 122nd Territorial Defense Brigade near Dimitrov, Petrovka, Novoselidovka, Shcherbinovka, Dzerzhinsk and Nelepolva in the Donetsk People's Republic. They also repelled ten counterattacks by the 35th, 42nd, 100th, 117th and 150th mechanized brigades, the 152th

Jaeger Brigade, the 49th and 425th assault battalions of the Ukrainian armed forces," the statement reads.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the enemy lost over 500 troops, a tank, a British-made Spartan armored personnel carrier, a Kozak armored combat vehicle, four pickup trucks, a Msta-B 152 mm howitzer and a D-30 122 mm howitzers, as well as a US-made M113 armored personnel carrier, a Maxx-Pro armored combat vehicle and a M119 105 mm howitzer.

Ukraine loses up to 105 troops in area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup East

The Ukrainian army lost up to 105 troops and a French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzer in the area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup East in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Units of Battlegroup East improved their frontline position, defeating the forces of the 152nd Jaeger Brigade of the Ukrainian army, the 37th Marine Brigade and the 113th Territorial Defense Brigade near Uspenovka, Velikaya Novosyolka, Razdolnoye, Makarovka and Ostrovkoye in the Donetsk People's Republic. A counterattack by the assault battalion of the 23th Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces was repelled," the statement reads.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the enemy lost up to 105 troops, a tank, three motor vehicles and a French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzer.

Ukraine loses up to 460 troops in area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup West

The Ukrainian army lost up to 460 troops in the area of responsibility of Russia's Battlegroup West in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"The enemy lost up to 460 troops, an infantry fighting vehicle, three motor vehicles, a US-made M198 155 mm howitzer, and a British-made L119 105 mm gun. Three ammuni-

tion depots were destroyed," the statement reads.

Russian troops hit train loaded with Ukrainian army's armored vehicles, energy facilities

Russian forces hit a train loaded with armored vehicles, as well as infrastructure facilities at military airfields, energy facilities and drone production sites in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Russian tactical aircraft, attack drone crews, missile forces and artillery troops <.> hit a train loaded with the Ukrainian army's armored vices at the station of departure, as well as military airfield infrastructure, energy facilities, an oil refinery producing fuel for the Ukrainian armed forces and drone production sites, along with military equipment and troops in 140 areas," the statement reads.

The ministry added that a US-made AN/TPQ-37 counterbattery radar had been destroyed.

Russian air defenses down four ATACMS missiles, one HIMARS rocket, 47 drones in past day

Russian air defenses downed four ATACMS missiles, a HIMARS rocket and 47 Ukrainian drones in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Air defenses downed four ATACMS missiles, a US-made HIMARS rocket and 47 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones," the statement reads.

The Defense Ministry specified that a total of 647 planes, 283 helicopters, 35,216 unmanned aerial vehicles, 585 missile systems, 19,031 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, 1,484 multiple rocket launchers, and 17,245 field artillery mounts and mortars, as well as 27,956 special military motor vehicles, had been destroyed since the start of Russia's special military operation.

Russia's Battlegroup North makes Ukraine lose over 30 troops in the Kharkov Region

Tabora United intensify search for new head coach as Aswani steers transition

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United Football Club are actively searching for a new head coach following the dismissal of Kenyan Francis Kimanzi due to a series of disappointing performances that failed to meet the club's expectations, especially after notable off-season signings.

Brian Aswani, also from Kenya, has stepped up as the interim head coach. Aswani, who holds a CAF B license and an MBA in Project Management, previously served as the club's video analyst and is a graduate of Cheza Sports Academy.

He began his new role with a 1-0 victory over Pamba Jiji and was set to lead Tabora United against Mashujaa FC later yesterday.

While Aswani's start as interim coach has been promising, Tabora United remain committed to bringing in an experienced coach to guide the team towards their long-term goals.

The club's spokesperson, Christina Mwangala, confirmed the ongoing search, noting: "We are in the final stages of appointing a new head coach for the 2024/25 season."

"Despite significant investments in our squad, our performance has not met expectations, which led to the difficult decision to part ways with coach Kimanzi."

During the off-season, Tabora United made several high-profile signings, including former Young Africans players Heritier Makambo and Yacouba Songne, as well as Nigerian international goalkeeper Victor Sochima.

The club's objective remains a strong

league finish, with Mwangala adding: "Our goal for this season is to secure a top place in the league. We are pleased with coach Aswani's contributions so far and hope he can continue delivering positive results until a permanent replacement is found."

As interim head coach, Aswani is eligible to manage the team for the next four matches if the hiring process extends. His task includes navigating a difficult season that has seen six coaching changes across the NBC Premier League, reflecting the high turnover of coaches in Tanzanian football.

The decision to part with Kimanzi came after a heavy 4-2 loss to JKT Tanzania, the team's biggest defeat of the season.

Notably, both Kimanzi and his assistant Yusuf Chipu were present at the match, observing from the stands rather than the touchline.

Despite the recent league challenges, Mwangala expressed respect for Kimanzi's efforts, stating: "We are not saying Kimanzi is not a good coach. He's a manager with a strong profile, but sometimes things don't work out in football, regardless of experience."

Currently, Tabora United sit in 10th place with 11 points from nine matches. Under Kimanzi, the team managed wins against Namungo and Kagera Sugar, and a draw against Tanzania Prisons. However, losses to Simba SC, Singida, and Dodoma Jiji ultimately led to his departure.

With Aswani at the helm, fans are hopeful for a stable and successful season ahead as the club rebuilds.

The practice of eleventh-hour Olympic preparations must be firmly relegated to the past



Tanzania representatives during the Paris 2024 Olympic. PHOTO: AGENCIES

By Lloyd Elipokeo

DESPITE straining every sinew in an effort to claim at least one measly medal at the Paris Olympics earlier this year, Tanzania ultimately failed to end their nightmarish 44-year hoodoo where securing medals at the Games is concerned.

Indeed, in the post-Olympics analysis of our dismal performance, many quarters highlighted the crucial importance of beginning preparations for the Games early instead of engaging in last gasp preparations, which as history so powerfully illustrates, has never served us well.

Just to offer a bit more clarity on what I mean by early preparations, I am saying that preparations should begin literally years before the Olympic Games are due to be held.

In fact, our Olympic preparations should ideally begin soon after the previous Games have ended.

Sadly, it is near-impossible to recollect a time when we, as a country, have kicked-off our preparations for the multi-sport Games soon after the curtain has fallen down on the last Olympics.

Nevertheless, we now have the opportunity to right the wrongs of the past where our Olympic preparations are concerned.

Therefore, one would like to issue a clarion call to our various sports administrators to begin our preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Games forthwith.

Let us now switch gears to discuss the coveted 2024 Ballon d'Or accolade, which controversially was awarded to the Spanish defensive midfielder Rodri instead of the illustri-

ous Brazilian maestro Vinicius Junior, who had been the hot favourite to secure the prestigious prize.

Indeed, it should be remembered that Vinicius Junior was a vital cog in the wheel of Real Madrid as the Los Blancos (Real Madrid's nickname) outclassed all comers en-route to claiming the La Liga title and the highly treasured UEFA Champions League trophy to boot.

Admittedly, though, Rodri played a significant role in Spain's impressive triumph at this year's European Football Championship but his efforts pale in comparison to Vinicius Junior's praiseworthy exertions, which also helped Real Madrid to lift the UEFA Super Cup around the outset of this present season.

Really, the bottom line is that Vinicius Junior's contributions to Real Madrid's glorious success last season surpassed the

efforts of all other nominees who were on the shortlist for the Ballon d'Or award.

In light of that, it is hard to dispute the fact that unarguably Vinicius Junior's failure to win the Ballon d'Or award this year smacks of racism, and indeed, racism at its very worst.

Let us not forget, the Brazilian football great has often found himself in the cross-hairs of racist football fans in Spain but instead of tolerating such despicable behaviour, he has fought hard to change it.

Thus, let us call a spade a spade. The Ballon d'Or organizers' snub of Vinicius Junior this year was a glaring case of racism.

One hopes then that the Brazilian football star will not be downhearted for too long and furthermore, that he continues to showcase his vast repertoire of mesmerizing football skills.

Geita Gold's unbeaten start sparks hope for Premier League return

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

GEITA Gold faced a challenging season last year, finishing second from the bottom in the NBC Premier League and subsequently being relegated to the second-tier Championship League after three seasons in the topflight.

The relegation triggered a substantial player and technical staff exodus, including head coach Denis Kitambi, who moved to Singida Black Stars, and top scorer Valentino Mashaka, who was picked up by Simba SC.

Despite genuine concerns that Geita Gold would struggle to regroup and mount a competitive challenge for an immediate return to the Premier League, the club has exceeded expectations.

Seven games into the 2024/25 Championship season, Geita Gold remain unbeaten, establishing themselves as serious contenders for promotion as they lead the league, one point clear of second-placed Mtbwa Sugar and two points ahead of third-placed Stand United.

Under the guidance of coach Amani Josiah, Geita Gold began their campaign with a goalless draw at home against TMA at the Nyankumbu

Ground, followed by a 1-1 away draw with Mbuni.

This steady start set the foundation for a four-game winning streak, beginning with an emphatic 3-0 win over Green Warriors.

Since then, they have managed consecutive victories, including a 1-0 win over Kiluvya and a 2-1 victory against Polisi Tanzania.

Their success this season is largely credited to their defensive strength. Geita Gold boast one of the best defensive records in the Championship, with five clean sheets out of seven games, conceding only two goals (0.3 goals per game).

Goalkeeper Adam Osaja has been a standout performer, securing the backline alongside defenders Frank Magingi and Nassib Mpapi.

This disciplined approach has made Geita Gold the only team in the Championship yet to find themselves trailing in a match this season.

In attack, former Azam FC striker Andrew Simchimba has been pivotal, netting five goals and providing one assist. Vitalis Mayanga has also contributed with two goals, while Yusuph Mhulu, Frank Ikobela, and Pius Enosi have each scored once, making Geita Gold the third-highest-scoring team in



Geita Gold FC squad. Photo: Courtesy of GGFC

the division with ten goals in total (1.4 goals per game).

Their offensive balance, combined with a solid defense, has made them formidable contenders.

The Championship season, however, is a marathon 30-game campaign, and consistency will be key for Geita Gold if they are to secure promotion.

The top two clubs earn automatic promotion, while the teams finishing third and fourth face playoff matches.

Last season, it required 62 points to reach the promotion

playoffs, with the league winners, Ken Gold, finishing with 70 points after scoring 51 goals and conceding just 18.

With 23 games remaining, Geita Gold will need to maintain their momentum to stay in the race for promotion.

As the Championship sea-

son progresses, fans of Geita Gold will eagerly watch to see if the team can sustain its unbeaten run and ultimately clinch promotion back to the Premier League.

So far, they have earned their current position through hard work and strategic play,

laying a strong foundation for the rest of the season.

Supporters are encouraged to savor the team's impressive early performance as Geita Gold look to keep building towards a successful return to the topflight.

Mikel Arteta has transformed Arsenal - but to win the title he must change them back

By Richard Jolly

ARSENAL may have only exited the title race for about two-and-a-half hours. They were soon readmitted, reprieved by a result in Bournemouth.

The prospect of an eight-point deficit to Manchester City disappeared. In a division where there has scarcely been room for error, there was now some. Arsenal's task still seems implausible, but it is not quite impossible.

And yet they finished Saturday behind Nottingham Forest in the Premier League table after delivering their worst performance of the season in what promises to be a defining week.

Newcastle, Inter Milan and Chelsea present a trio of examinations on the road and the Arsenal that Mikel Arteta has constructed seem designed with such tasks in mind. They may be Arteta's Arsenal 3.0, the battle-hardened rebrand.

The notion of Arteta as the purist turned puritan, the new Jose Mourinho, has gained currency and provided irritation of late. If, earlier in the season, there was the best of George Graham's Arsenal in the way the Spaniard's side defended, perhaps there was the worst of it at St James' Park, a lumpy 4-4-2 producing a dreary display in a 1-0 defeat.

On such occasions, pragmatism becomes unpragmatic, a policy of reducing games to small numbers of chances backfiring when Arsenal had too few of their own.

Maybe it was simply a bad day at the office, but it felt Arteta was trying to plot a path to the title by eliminating errors and seeking the efficiency Mourinho once used to dethrone an earlier Arsenal side.

Has it come at the expense of flair? Take away home matches with promoted sides and Arsenal have 10 goals in eight games against the clubs who were in the Premier League last season.

Yet in Arteta's defence, that does include two apiece against City and Liverpool and that tally could be higher were Arsenal always able to keep 11 players on the pitch.

Nor, with points dropped in five of their last eight games, have Arsenal been efficient enough. It was, Arteta said at St James' Park, a problem of execution, not strategy.

"It's about being our best selves every single week," he said. "Today we weren't our best version." He cited a lack of threat, a need to improve "a lot of things that we are doing with the ball consistently".

But it can seem a consequence of choices, of squad construction where a solitary player is given responsibility for one aspect, where Arsenal can look more reliant on set-pieces to score.

For instance, Gabriel Martinelli is the only attacker likely to run in behind defences regularly. Martin Odegaard is the only senior creative midfielder in the squad; if the decisions to allow both Emile Smith Rowe and Fabio Vieira to leave without being replaced - except by a strapping, more defensive, less inventive presence in Mikel Merino - was designed partly to free up a path to the side for wunderkind Ethan Nwaneri, Odegaard's absence for the last two months has come at a cost.

The best players are irreplaceable because of their standards; it is unrealistic to think Arsenal would have an understudy for the Norwegian of the same class.

The test instead is of how big a drop-off is, how a team compensates. On Saturday, Arsenal did not, in effect removing Odegaard's role by abandoning the 4-3-3 Arteta often uses for 4-4-2.

Meanwhile, a familiar criticism is that Arsenal lack a predatory striker. Given Kai Havertz's terrific form this season, it often feels an outdated one. It reflects a concerted choice by Arteta, though: even with Eddie Nketiah's departure, he did not recruit a specialist No 9.

The problem, perhaps, is not Havertz as much as the fact his deputy has certain similarities and Gabriel Jesus' only goal in his last 26 appearances came against Preston.

With Odegaard absent, Arsenal's attacking efforts have been powered by Bukayo Saka and Havertz this season. Leandro Trossard's goals have dried up. Martinelli's only came against Leicester and Southampton. Raheem Sterling has only scored or assisted against League One Bolton.

One way or another, they feel short of one more quality attack-minded player; perhaps it was supposed to be Vieira, given a £35m signing is now out on loan.

It has all been compounded by the complications of a stop-start season, interrupted by injuries and red cards. There are explanations why Arsenal have not been at their most fluent.

Declan Rice had a slow start to the campaign, Merino a delayed one. Nevertheless, it is a theme that Arteta's technicians can find themselves together on the bench: Jorginho, Oleksandr Zinchenko and Nwaneri all began there at Newcastle.

If the old criticism was that Arsenal were all style and no steel, they seemed the opposite on Saturday.

The chances are that visits to Inter and Chelsea will see Arteta reach for the comfort blanket of solidity, of physicality. Clean sheets could be prioritised by a side who had set their stall out to be relentless and remorseless. **THE INDEPENDENT**

Moises Caicedo finally proves worth to show Ruben Amorim his tough Manchester United task

By Richard Jolly

RUUD van Nistelrooy set off down the touchline in celebration, leaping as he punched the air. And yet what threatened to be a triumphant occasion for a great goalscorer was instead altered by an occasional one. Chelsea committed £115m for Moises Caicedo in part because of their propensity to overpay for many a player. It certainly was not, however, for his capacity to find the net.

Yet fees of such magnitude can demand a player has a transformative impact and, in an unexpected way, the biggest signing in Premier League history did. A volley was struck beautifully, nestling in the corner of the Manchester United net. Van Nistelrooy only had four minutes to savour a lead he greeted so dramatically. Chelsea had a point at Old Trafford which, given their last league win here came when Sir Alex Ferguson was still managing, may have been the best they could achieve.

Their first-half superiority suggested otherwise. Welcome as Caicedo's equaliser was for Enzo Maresca, there was a way in which this game represented a missed opportunity: certainly, for all their progress under the Italian, they have not had a statement result in his tenure. This could have provided it. Caicedo's goal nevertheless meant they clambered into



Moises Caicedo scored an excellent volley to secure Chelsea a point. (Action Images via Reuters)

the top four as they made up a point on Manchester City, Arsenal and Aston Villa over the weekend. It might, though, have been better.

So, too, for the watching Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the waiting Ruben Amorim as Alejandro Garnacho came agonisingly close to a winner with an 89th-minute half-volley that he hooked just over the bar. "We had the better of the chances," claimed Van Nistelrooy. Yet after United's two previous flagship home matches this season ended in 3-0 wins for Liverpool and Tottenham, there may be relief they averted a hat-trick of embarrassing reverses. It was a consequence in part of the feel-good factor engendered by Van Nistelrooy's temporary appointment. His United were not lacking in spirit, though Amorim may detect tactical failings, issues in midfield and difficulties at left-back, where Noussair Mazraoui struggled against

the electric Noni Madueke before the break.

In the centre of the pitch, there was a tale of four hugely expensive signings. United had further evidence of the enduring magnetism of Casemiro, who had a role in both goals. His astute diagonal ball led to United's penalty. His poor header brought Chelsea's leveller. That, perhaps, is Casemiro now, better in attack than defence.

For Chelsea, meanwhile, the fortunes of the £100m men have diverged sharply. Enzo Fernandez was again benched, emerging only to spurn a chance to decide the game by blazing over the bar. Caicedo was arguably the best player on the pitch. "Moi is doing fantastic," Maresca said. "The problem with Moi and with Enzo is because the club paid big money, people expect them always to be the best but they are human beings." Caicedo, at least, is benefit-

ing from patience and understanding, along with a new sidekick. In Romeo Lavia and the Ecuadorian, Chelsea had the more compelling, more convincing midfield. Alongside Casemiro, United had Manuel Ugarte: invariably in the wrong place, often doing the wrong thing, sometimes at the wrong time. Amorim, who managed him at Sporting, will be charged with resolving United's latest problem.

Van Nistelrooy has resisted the temptation to try the Portuguese's 3-4-3 formation and the first half was an Erik ten Hag-style basketball game, full of transitions. It was a mystery why it produced so few clear-cut chances. Chelsea, in particular, should have had more. Both sides hit the woodwork, Madueke heading Cole Palmer's corner on to the post, Marcus Rashford volleying Bruno Fernandes's deep cross onto the bar. United,

with a hole where they needed a midfield, tended to leave Palmer free, which amounted to a risky policy. His capacity to glide past players was apparent when they got close enough. If unconvincing at times, Matthijs de Ligt nevertheless made two fine blocks from the Mancunian's shots. When, in stoppage time at the end, Lisandro Martinez caught Palmer with his studs, he was fortunate to escape with a yellow card. "It is quite clear it is a red," said Maresca.

It made for an ill-tempered ending but the second half was largely less chaotic, albeit with more goals and goalmouth action. The deadlock was broken after Rasmus Hojlund took down Casemiro's pass. His touch was taking him away from goal, but Robert Sanchez brought him down. Fernandes converted the penalty. The interim manager seemed to have retained his pace from his playing days as he celebrated. After no goals in his last 17 outings for Ten Hag, the scorer has three in two for Van Nistelrooy. The captain was nevertheless quick to say sorry. "I spoke to the manager [Ten Hag] and apologised to him," Fernandes said. "I was disappointed he has gone and I tried to help him. I wasn't scoring goals."

United, the third lowest scorers in the division, are not scoring enough either and Chelsea were soon level, Caicedo drilling in an inch-perfect shot. The scoreline had some justice. It probably didn't do United much good, given they need to make up ground if they are to get close to the top four. Time will tell whether it helps or hinders Chelsea's challenge for a Champions League place. Yet in Caicedo, there was someone who clearly took a sizeable step forward.

THE INDEPENDENT

'It's the reality' - will it take fewer points to win Premier League?

By Harry Poole

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has predicted fewer points will be required to win the Premier League this season. But do the stats back that up?

With Bournemouth ending the champions' 32-game unbeaten league run and last season's runners-up Arsenal losing at Newcastle, four of the competition's current top six failed to win over the weekend.

Guardiola has won six league titles in eight years since taking charge at City and his teams have set an unprecedented standard for their rivals to match.

But the Spaniard believes the physical demands on players caused by an increased number of games will mean those levels cannot be maintained.

"It's the reality we are living now," said Guardiola, whose side will also contest an expanded 32-team Club World Cup following the conclusion of the European season next summer.

"In the previous seasons we played a lot of games, but if we go to the World Cup and arrive in the last stages of that competition, we're going to play almost 70 games.

"It's like NBA, but they have four months holiday and we have three weeks.

"You have injuries for a long time which didn't happen before. It's normal, it's going to happen. We have to handle it."

Following Arsenal's loss at Newcastle on Saturday, former Eng-



Defeat to Bournemouth ended Manchester City's 32-game unbeaten league run [BBC]

land midfielder Joe Cole agreed fewer points will be required - but for a different reason.

"I think this league title will be won by less points than it has been for a long time because there are too many good teams," said Cole, speaking on TNT Sports.

Let's take a look at the numbers.

- The average number of points per game required to win the Premier League title over its history is 2.29.
- Since Guardiola's arrival in 2016-17, that number has risen to 2.46 points.
- The average number of points the eventual Premier League champion has had after 10 games is 22.5.
- Since Guardiola's arrival in 2016-17, that has increased to 23.6 points.
- The gap between first and 10th after the opening 10 games of a Premier League campaign has been smaller than the 10 points separating those positions in 2024-25 in seven of 32 previous seasons.

Current leaders Liverpool have taken 25 points - an average of 2.50 points per game - from 10 matches this season, and therefore are actually overperforming against those title-winning figures. So far, no issue there.

In terms of the most competitive seasons, just four points separated the Premier League's top 10 clubs after each had played 10 games in 2020-21.

But that campaign and 2015-16 are the only two seasons to see a smaller gap between first and 10th after 10 games in the past 22 years.

Despite defeat on Saturday, City are only one point short of the 24 they had at this stage last season, before going on to win a fourth successive title with 91 points.

City became the first team in English top-flight history to reach 100 points in 2017-18 - dropping just 14 points - and they have broken the 90-point barrier on three other occasions

under Guardiola.

That has forced their rivals to reach new heights, with Liverpool exceeding 90 points three times in the past six years - but winning the title only once.

Six of the last eight champions have won more than 90 points, but prior to 2017 only four teams had reached that tally in the 21 years since the league was reduced to 20 clubs.

Asked whether he expects those standards will drop this season, Guardiola said: "Of course, absolutely.

"If we'd had five more days to prepare and recover [for Bournemouth], maybe we would have been better. Or maybe not, who knows.

"I talked about the calendar for the season when we were winning, not just now because we lost a game. The reality is they won, we congratulate them."

Global players' union Fifpro and a group rep-

resenting 39 European leagues filed a legal complaint against Fifa over "abuse of dominance" relating to the number of games players are expected to participate in during a season.

Manchester City midfielder Rodri, who has since suffered a season-ending knee injury, even claimed players are close to going on strike in protest.

City were without key players such as John Stones, Ruben Dias and Kevin De Bruyne at the weekend, while defenders Manuel Akanji and Nathan Ake played despite not being fully fit.

"We won a lot and people expect we're going to win all the time," said Guardiola, whose side had not lost in the Premier League since 6 December 2023.

"It's the first game we've lost in the Premier League in 2024. We're in November. It's unbelievable."

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Moises Caicedo finally proves worth to show Ruben Amorim his tough Manchester United task

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Simba's Aishi Manula reaffirms loyalty amid limited playing time

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club goalkeeper Aishi Manula has reaffirmed his dedication to the club, despite limited field time this season.

Although not Simba's primary choice in goal, Manula (pictured) remains committed to supporting his teammates as they pursue the NBC Premier League title.

Manula, who recently captained Tanzania's Taifa Stars in a critical African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifier against Sudan, was instrumental in the match.

Despite his strong performance, Taifa Stars were ultimately eliminated after a nail-biting 6-5 penalty shootout following a 1-1 aggregate scoreline.

Reflecting on his dual roles with Simba and the national team, Manula expressed gratitude for the opportunity to represent both club and country, even with restricted playtime at Simba.

"I'm proud to be part of Simba SC this season, even though I haven't had many chances to play," Manula shared. "Training with top coaches here keeps me in peak condition, which helped me perform well for the national team. Being prepared when called upon is crucial, and I'm committed to contributing whenever needed."

Manula's commitment remains strong, despite facing fierce competition within the team. With Simba's ambitions set firmly on the league title, he emphasized that his primary focus is on teamwork, regardless of his position in the lineup.

"Whether I'm on the pitch or cheering from the sidelines, our collective goal is to bring the championship to Simba," he said.

Moussa Camara's recent rise has made Manula's journey more challenging. Since joining Simba, Camara has established himself as the club's first-choice goalkeeper, boasting seven clean sheets in nine league matches.

Manula, however, sees the competition as a positive force, pushing him to maintain his form.

"It's a competitive environment, and each of us is committed to giving our best. Even if I'm not currently the first choice, I'm working hard. I'm proud of my recent performances with the national team, and I'll keep pushing, confident that my opportunity will come," he remarked.

This season, Manula's appearances have been limited to a friendly against Sudan's Al Hilal, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Nevertheless, he remains optimistic about future chances to contribute, underscoring that his role in the squad goes beyond game minutes.

His experience and positive attitude have cultivated a spirit of unity among Simba's goalkeepers, further strengthening the team's defensive line.

Despite Manula's loyalty and commitment, his future at Simba remains uncertain as his contract is set to expire at the end of the season.

Reports suggest that the club may not renew his contract, given Camara's current dominance in goal. If Simba opts not to extend his contract, Manula may look to pursue new opportunities where he can secure regular playing time.

Manula's situation highlights the competitive nature of elite football, where even seasoned players face continuous pressure to perform.

Though Camara has quickly claimed the starting position, Manula's professionalism and dedication to the team remain evident, as he continues to train hard, support his teammates, and await his next opportunity to shine.

Simba gear up for rescheduled showdown against KMC



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has updated the fixture schedule for the NBC Premier League, rescheduling the match between Simba Sports Club and Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Originally slated for today, the game will now kick off tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the KMC Complex in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

This minor adjustment has been met positively by Simba, who are eager for the matchup following a series of strong performances.

Simba's Information and Com-

munication Manager, Ahmed Ally (pictured), expressed confidence in the team's current form and enthusiasm to face KMC.

"Our recent victory over Mashujaa FC was crucial for us," said Ally. "Securing three points in that game reinforced our position and gave our fans a memorable experience. I want to commend our players and technical bench for their dedication and the joy they

bring to the fans."

Ally encouraged Simba supporters to turn out in full force, emphasizing the impact of home support.

"We're back on home ground for Wednesday's afternoon match," he added. "Let's fill the stands and rally behind Simba. The real excitement lies within our team, and you don't want to miss out."

Simba approach the game on a three-match

winning streak, underscoring their momentum and resilience as they pursue the top league honours.

They defeated Tanzania Prisons 1-0, triumphed over Namungo FC 3-0, and most recently, edged out Mashujaa FC with a 1-0 victory.

Historically, Simba have dominated their encounters with KMC, remaining unbeaten in their last five league meetings, securing three wins and two draws.

Currently, Simba sit third in the Premier League standings, amassing 22 points from nine games, with seven wins, one draw, and one loss.

However, KMC are not to be underestimated. They come into this match with two consecutive wins, recently defeating Tanzania Prisons 2-1 and edging Namungo FC 1-0, which has lifted them to sixth place in the standings.

KMC have earned 14 points from ten matches, with four wins, two draws, and four losses this season.

In addition to this rescheduling, the TPLB has also postponed Simba's fix-

ture against Pamba Jiji FC, initially set for November 21, to a later date, yet to be confirmed.

The adjustment is part of the TPLB's effort to balance the league schedule, ensuring adequate preparation time for all teams.

With the Premier League well underway, the competition is heating up as teams jockey for higher positions in the standings.

For Simba, a victory against KMC would narrow the gap with the league leaders and maintain their upward trajectory.

Meanwhile, KMC will look to leverage their recent form to challenge one of the league's top contenders.

Tomorrow's match promises to be a thrilling showdown, as both teams bring recent winning momentum to the field.

Simba's formidable home support at the KMC Complex is expected to provide an added advantage, but KMC will likely pose a formidable challenge given their recent improvements and confidence in the league.



Tanzania's cricket coaches, who went for the 'Coach the Coaches' course, in a group picture with the course's instructors from South Africa, after the training's conclusion in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

TCA galvanizes cricket promotion, holds new course

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

EFFORTS by the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) to improve the standard of the game locally have kept on gaining pace as the body recently held a newly introduced coaching course in Dar es Salaam.

The course, dubbed 'Coach the Coaches', has been described as the new era for Tanzania's cricket development.

A TCA official stated that the association's centre at Muhimbili, Ilala in the city was, at the end of last month, abuzz with

excitement as 28 passionate development officers from 13 centres across the country gathered for the 'Coach the Coaches' course.

The transformative training, the official pointed out, was led by professional coaches Christopher Cardoso and Jolene Dippenaar from South Africa. The training aimed to uplift the standards of cricket coaching within the country.

Cardoso and Jolene guided participants through both theory and practical sessions, covering essential techniques and coaching principles.

The training is geared towards ensuring the development officers are equipped to become ICC Level 2-accredited coaches.

The tacticians would thereafter lead the 10 new academies TCA is set to launch next year.

Each academy will, according to the official, have assistant coaches with at least an ICC Level 1 coaching certificate to strengthen the foundation of Tanzania's cricket.

The 'Coach the Coaches' course concluded on a high note, with TCA Chairman Bal-

akrishna Sreekumar presenting each of the participating coaches with a national team jersey as a gesture of encouragement.

Sreekumar shared how delighted he was to see such genuine enthusiasm among the coaches.

The TCA Chairman moreover noted that the coaches' commitment would greatly enhance cricket development at the grassroots level.

Supervision of cricket development from the grassroots has been the motive TCA is earnestly putting its efforts

into. The association, for one, recently launched a junior showdown, known as TCA Dar U-17 League, seeking to offer junior cricketers a competitive experience.

The new showdown's introduction highlighted the competitive spirit and promising talent among the young cricketers.

As the league progresses, the association said, domestic cricket fans can look forward to more thrilling matches and outstanding performances from the budding cricketers.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

