



theguardiantz

theguardiantd

feedback@guardian.co.tz

+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9345 PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA MONDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2024

## NBS, REA eye third survey on accessing clean energy

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in tandem with the Rural Energy Agency (REA) is set to begin its third survey on the availability of energy in Mainland regions.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the bureau's CEO and chief government statistician, explained the plan to 110 enumerators put to training on how to conduct the survey, with trainers drawn from the Ministry of Energy, the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and NBS.

The survey, which will cover 10,500 households across urban and rural areas will gather data on cooking and lighting energy, which she said is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 and the National Vision 2025.

While this vision is coming to an end it cannot be completed without accurate data, in much the same way as preparing Vision 2050, she said, explaining that the government's plan is to ensure that the period 2024 to 2034 will suffice for a shift to clean cooking energy.

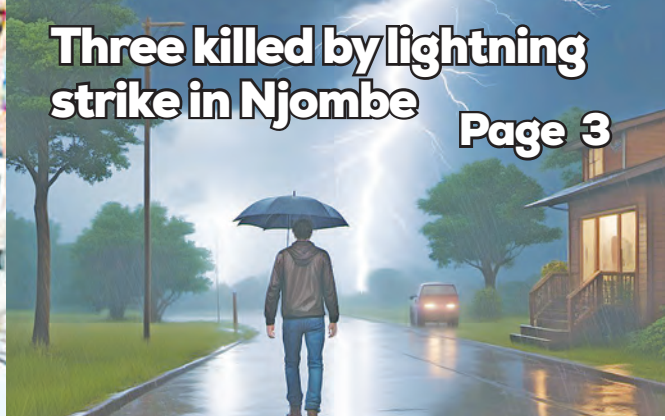
The survey will help the government to understand the situation on the ground, gather public input, and assess the increase in income related to clean energy use, among other factors, she said. "The survey must be conducted to provide answers," she emphasized.

In the 2002 Population and Housing Census, the use of clean energy was minimal, at

TURN TO Page 2



Conjoined twins return after surgery in Saudia Page 3



Three killed by lightning strike in Njombe Page 3



Minister emphasizes sustainable energy for Zanzibar Page 4

# At 63, democracy, jobs leading public concerns

STORY ON PAGE 2



Religious leaders from various Christian and Islamic denominations pictured in Arusha city yesterday taking part in a procession held concurrently with peace prayers in celebrating the 63rd anniversary of Tanganyika's Independence. With them is Arusha regional commissioner Paul Makonda (C, foreground, in sunglasses). Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

- 22 inmates walk out today
- 1,526 to serve reduced time

## Thousands win big in anniversary pardons

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has pardoned 1,548 prisoners, with 22 of them being released yesterday while the remaining 1,526 prisoners will re-

main in custody to complete reduced sentences.

Daniel Sillo, the Home Affairs deputy minister, said in a statement yesterday that the presidential amnesty applies to prisoners serving sentences of two

years or more who have already completed one-quarter of their

TURN TO Page 2

## SPORTS

Page 20



Yanga's winless start leaves CAF Champions League progress in doubt

Page 18



Ally stars for Aces A in 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League



Hadija Shaban pushes the stroller in which are her twin babies, Hassan and Hussein, shortly after landing at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday from Saudi Arabia, where the previously conjoined twins were surgically separated. Story on Page 3. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

# Dar port attracts Chinese ship with 4000 containers

STORY ON PAGE 2



## Dar port attracts Chinese ship with 4000 containers

By Guardian Reporter

IMPROVEMENTS at the port of Dar es Salaam is attracting big shippers, with the port administration receiving the first cargo ship holding 4,000 containers, sailing from China.

Mussa Biboze, the fire and safety manager at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), said yesterday that the ship's anchorage is a landmark for the growth of the port's business operations.

Addressing a press conference at a brief ceremony to receive the large cargo ship operated by EverGreen Line Group, he credited this achievement to the substantial investments and service improvements at the port since the Gulf firm, DP World, started operating the container terminal.

These investments have significantly enhanced operational efficiency, thus attracting large shippers to dock at the port, following the deepening of berthing space and installation of comprehensive security cameras, aside from an increase in the number and type of cranes.

These upgrades allow for faster loading and unloading of containers, reducing the amount of time ships spend at the port, he said, highlighting that the last time EverGreen Line Group used Dar es Salaam port was over a decade ago.

Its increasingly large ships can now use the port following improvements made by DP World and Adani International Ports Holding Co., an Indian investment group.

"I must acknowledge that these companies managing the terminals have greatly enhanced productivity for the government, boosted revenue, and expanded the number of

customers using the port," he remarked.

TPA and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) get more revenues with large ships anchoring, while creating more job opportunities for truck drivers needed to transport the goods unloaded from the containers.

Mohamed Lotfy, the shipping firm's local branch manager, said that the firm previously used smaller vessels to bring goods to the port, but with service improvements at the port, they can also use the port with larger ships.

Service improvements at the port gave the firm the confidence to bring the large vessel, holding up to 4,000 containers, he said, elaborating that the firm expects the ship to dock once per month. Later it will make two trips per month to bring in even more goods, he declared.

Donald Talawa, the Tanzania East Africa Gateway Terminal Ltd, business and relations manager, said that receiving such a large ship was a significant achievement.

"We are ready to receive and serve this new, modern ship, which has come directly from China," he said. "I must admit that the improvements made at the port, including the deepening of the harbour, now allow ships like this to dock."

Fatma Masenene, the Tanzania Shipping Agents Corporation (TASAC) shipping services regulatory manager, said the ship's arrival is a boon for the government.

Such anchoring generates revenue, benefits dry port operators and supports small-scale traders like those selling food, drinks and cleaning services, she added.



Dr Ellen Otaru-Okoedion, Chairperson of the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (C), pictured yesterday moderating a session at the on-going 16th (Dec 2 to 13) session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Photo: Guardian Photographer

## Thousands win big in anniversary pardons

FROM PAGE 1

terms and were incarcerated before October 19, 2024.

"The government has expressed hope that those pardoned will reintegrate into society as transformed individuals, contributing to national development and avoiding a return to prison," he states.

The pardon similarly applied to terminally ill prisoners in critical stages of illness, elderly inmates aged

70 and above, pregnant women who were imprisoned while expecting, and prisoners with sharp physical or mental disabilities that limit their ability to work.

Others include inmates whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment, prisoners who have served at least 15 years regardless of the crime, and those detained for over 10 years, he stated.

President Samia marked Independence Day by delivering a message to

the public, encouraging the people to use the occasion in thanksgiving for the country's peace and stability.

In a post on social media platforms, the president urged members of the public to take pride in safeguarding the core values of peace, unity and solidarity, which she stressed are the pillars of the nation's success.

The Mainland gained independence 63 years ago on December 9, 1961, when it became independent but within the British Commonwealth,

with the late Queen Elisabeth II re-maining the territory's Head of State.

Exactly one year later it became a republic, saying farewell to the governor general, Sir Richard Turnbull, then proceeded to unite with Zanzibar after its revolution against the sultanate early in 1964.

Ahead of this year's commemoration, President Samia cancelled national level ceremonies, with the funds so allocated being redirected to community projects.

## NBS, REA eye third survey on accessing clean energy

FROM PAGE 1

one percent of households, spread to an extent among city dwellers, she said.

In the past two decades the situation has been changing, thus the 2022 census showed that clean cooking energy use had risen to 16 percent of all households, she said.

Census commissioner Anne Makinda said that the government values energy sector contribution in boosting the national economy, with a series of projects to ensure adequate electricity supply.

"An investor cannot start a project to invest in an area without reliable electricity,"

she said, noting that the 2019 energy availability survey showed that energy access stood at 78.5 percent overall, with urban areas at 99.6 percent and rural areas at 69.6 percent.

This represents an 11 percent increase compared to 2016, when rural access had attained 49.3 percent, mark-

ing a 21 percent increase," she said.

Implementation of the comprehensive rural electrification programme has enabled a total of 12,240 villages out of 12,318 in the Mainland to be electrified, providing affordable, reliable and stronger

electricity especially in rural areas, she stated. Rural electrification would accelerate the pace of implementation of the national strategy for clean and safe cooking energy, that by 2034, upwards of 80 percent of households be using clean energy, she added.

By Henry Mwangonde

## At 63, democracy, jobs leading public concerns

EVEN with Tanzania's role model stability, governance challenges such as corruption, limited political freedoms and inequality are seen by observers and a range of local activists as major drawbacks. Strengthening democratic institutions and accountability is deemed to be critical for sustained development, on the basis of views expressed in recent discussions.

Unemployment, inequality and the impact of global economic shifts are issues which require bold policies and collaboration between the government, the private sector and the citizenry at large.

As what is now mainland Tanzania marks its 63rd anniversary, its Vision 2025 agenda providing a now basically realised roadmap to middle-income economic status, the country prides itself with leveraging its resources, fostering innovation and promoting inclusivity, expecting to build on its achievements and pave the way for a brighter future.

Several leaders extended warm wishes to Tanzania on its Independence Day commemoration, with Chinese resident envoy Chen Mingjian wrote in her X account to congratulate the leadership on that occasion.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko sent a message of congratulations to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, pointing at Tanzania's path of "economic and social reforms, ensuring sustainable growth of living standards."

He emphasized his country's readiness to collaborate with Tanzania, especially in

sectors like trade, manufacturing, agriculture, medicine and tourism. He wished the president good health and success in her leadership, hoping that peace, unity and progress will prevail.

Several embassies posted on their social media platforms wishing Tanzania well as it commemorates 63 years of independence, all of which added to reflections on the nation's socio-economic achievements, challenges and aspirations.

The union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania partially upstaged independence as to which is the true 'national day,' as it happens in various countries, where the national day is overtaken by commemorating a revolution, etc.

Sharing culture and history, the union was enabled by the personal proximity of its independence leaders, with TANU president Mwalimu Nyerere bringing together the leaders of the African Association and Shirazi Association to form the Afro-Shirazi Party in 1957, well before independence.

While it is taken as an expression of the spirit of federation ambient in Africa at the time, and East Africa in particular, the founders wished to have one unified country rather than a federation but opted to exercise restraint to avoid a backlash later.

The 63 years are dominated by the figure of independence leader Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, a graduate teacher and briefly newspaper edi-

tor, who was asked by city elders and his peers from student days to lead the new political formation moving from the Tanganyika African Association (TAA) to the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU).

The first two decades were marked by the philosophy of Ujamaa (African socialism) aimed to reduce reliance on foreign capital and control of the main pillars of the economy by foreign companies.

Ujamaa built on pre-existing harmony to instil a sense of purpose in the leadership, with whose ethos those who came later are still struggling to modify in one way or another.

At independence, Tanzania faced significant economic challenges, including reliance on agriculture and minimal industrialisation. Over six decades, the nation has diversified its economy, with sectors such as mining, tourism and manufacturing more visible and stronger poles of development.

Nyerere prioritised education, implementing universal primary education and improving literacy rates, though the level of provision and quality of instruction have remained a thorn in policy reviews and development planning.

Tanzania has made strides in healthcare, sharply reducing infant mortality and combating diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS. The recent universal health insurance coverage is expected to gradually improve access to essential medical services.

Unlike many African nations, Tanzania has enjoyed political stability since independence. Peaceful power transitions and a strong sense of national identity have helped maintain unity even with a noticeable ethnic and religious diversity.

Over past decade, the government has invested heavily in infrastructure, particularly roads, railways and energy. Projects like the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project are transforming the nation's connectivity and energy capacity. Rapid urbanisation in cities like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Dodoma highlights the need for sustainable urban planning, balancing urban growth with environmental sustainability.

Tanzania's breadth of natural attractions, from the Serengeti to Mount Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar, and countless other travel spots, has made tourism a vital economic activity. Strategies to enhance eco-tourism and cultural tourism are seen as crucial for sustainable growth.

The industrial sector has grown significantly, partly on account of initiatives to add value to local resources. Industries such as textiles, agro-processing and mining are increasingly vital to growth prospects.

Tanzania is rich in minerals like gold, tanzanite and rare earth elements. With current strategic policies, the government has increased its share of revenue from the sector, benefiting the



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (R), in his capacity as Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, confers a PhD in Finance to Scholastica Kevela, Njombe regional chairperson of the CCM Women Wing, at graduation ceremony held in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

national economy. Agriculture, the perennial backbone of the country's economy, is transforming with mechanisation and commercialisation, while traditional farmers face challenges including climate change and market access.

At the same time Tanzania has remained a key player in regional and international diplomacy, from facilitating the liberation movements of Southern Africa to the present, inter-

vening at least twice to change unstable situations in Uganda in the war with Gen. Idi Amin, and in the Comoros to end a standoff over impertinent holding onto power.

With over 60 percent of its population under 25, Tanzania's future lies in its youth. Investments in education, entrepreneurship and technology are seen to be the key to unlocking their potential and driving innovation.

Tanzania's diverse ethnic groups and traditions coexist harmoniously, strengthened by the national language, Kiswahili. This cultural cohesion has been a cornerstone of the country's stability, with land use challenges and traditional animosities between herders and farmers a problem, and of late, wildlife intrusions casting a shadow of mistrust on whether the government cares for farmers.





Mussa Biboze (C), Fire and Safety manager with the Tanzania Ports Authority, makes remarks shortly after a ship with 4,000 containers of cargo docked at Dar es Salaam Port yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## TCRA calls on filmmakers to prioritise quality local works

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on the country's filmmakers to ensure their productions meet high-quality standards while promoting national cultural values, including the use of standard Kiswahili.

In a message delivered to stakeholders in the film industry in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, TCRA Director General Dr Jabiri Bakari emphasized that film producers have a responsibility to promote local content.

The message was conveyed by TCRA's Principal Communication Officer, Semu Mwakyanjala, at an event held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

Mwakyanjala explained that film industry stakeholders play a crucial role in shaping public perceptions, lifestyles, and values, as their content directly influences audiences.

"Film production must have a positive impact. Films should inspire transformation, improving living standards while promoting national unity and harmony," he said. He noted that the film industry is a significant source of local broadcasting content.

According to regulations, Tanzanian radio and television stations are required to air at least 60 percent local content.

"Films must reflect societal relevance. They should not contradict cultural lifestyles, beliefs, and norms," he added, stressing that film production should aim to uphold national values and highlight the country's unique identity. These elements form the foundation of Tanzanian society, he explained.

Mwakyanjala also appealed to the aspirants for the 2025 Tanzania Film Federation (TFF) Awards to adhere to film production principles, rules, and regulations, urging them to use appropriate language to promote Swahili. Dr Genad Kasiga, Acting Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Film Board (TFB), highlighted the importance of the film industry as both an income-generating and job-creating sector. He also pointed out that it serves as a platform for promoting local talent.

TCRA oversees broadcasting content and has a five-member committee dedicated to ensuring compliance with broadcasting ethics and regulations.

# Three killed by lightning strike in Njombe Region

By Correspondent Elizabeth John, Njombe

THREE members of the same family have tragically lost their lives after being struck by lightning while seeking shelter in a nearby shed on their farm following heavy rains.

The three, Elia Mhagama (37), Eric Mhagama (13), and Amos Haule (21) – from Mawengi village in Ludewa

District, Njombe Region, lost their lives immediately after being struck by lightning while sheltering in the shed from heavy rain and strong winds on their farm.

The Njombe Regional Police Commander, Assistant Commissioner Mahamoud Banga, confirmed the incident, which occurred on December 4, at approximately 8:00 AM in the Danida hamlet of Mawengi vil-

lage, Ludewa District. "The cause of the incident was the heavy rain and lightning, which led to the deaths of these individuals as they sought refuge in a storage shed on their farm," Commander Banga said.

He said the bodies of the deceased were taken to Mngali Health Centre, and after an examination, they were returned to the family for bur-

ial. Banga urged the public to take precautions during the rainy season, advising against seeking shelter in open areas or under trees, and instead to take cover in buildings with metal roofs.

"However, houses with thatched roofs can attract lightning as they conduct electricity, so we must be cautious and seek shelter in safer

places," he said. He mentioned that the police continue to educate the public on safety through various methods, including community meetings conducted by local police officers in the region.

According to a survivor of the lightning strike, Atu Luoga and her husband were working on the farm when the rain began. They decided to take shelter in the shed.

"My younger brother and my son went into the shed, while my husband and I stayed outside. Suddenly, a lightning strike occurred and killed my husband, my son and my brother. I screamed for help," Luoga said.

Mawengi Village Executive Officer, Rogatus Mngwa advised residents to exercise caution and avoid seeking shelter in open areas or under trees during rainstorms.

# Conjoined twins return after successful surgery in Saudia

By Correspondent Joyce Lameck

CONJOINED twins-Hussein and Hassan Jumanne (3) who were born with their organs bonded, including the bladder and intestines, have returned to Tanzania following a successful separation surgery in Saudi Arabia.

The twins, who left the country on August 23, 2023, for the procedure, underwent the 16-hour surgery at King Abdulaziz Hospital in Riyadh on October 5, 2023 following with a close intensive care and treatment.

Dr Rachel Mhavi, Acting Executive Director of Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), welcomed the children and their mother at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday, confirming that the family had stayed in Saudi Arabia for over a year for treatment.

Initially, the twins had been receiving care at MNH, where their condition was monitored as they prepared for surgery.

Dr Mhavi explained that due to the complex nature of the twins' condition, which involved their in-

ternal organs, they were transferred to Saudi Arabia for the surgery.

"Their conjoined condition was challenging, and we required specialized skills. This was the first phase of their separation, and now we plan to follow up with additional surgeries," she said.

The twins had been born with three legs, two of which were functional, while the third was underdeveloped and required further surgery. Saudi Arabia has committed to assisting with future medical needs, especially for further development of their weak limb.

Dr Mhavi noted that the twins would need additional medical attention upon their return to Tanzania, including surgery to remove the third, underdeveloped leg.

Dr Zaitun Bokhary, a paediatric surgeon at MNH, detailed the complexities of the separation surgery.

"The twins were joined at the chest, abdomen, and pelvis, and their large intestines and blood vessels were fused. The most complicated area was their urinary system, which involved both kidneys and

bladders. Eight specialists in urology were required to successfully separate them," Dr Bokhary said.

Hadija Shaban, the twins' mother, expressed her gratitude to both the Tanzanian and Saudi governments for their support throughout the ordeal.

She thanked the medical team at MNH and Saudi Arabia for their commitment to her children's health and well-being.

"MNH is my family, and Dr Bokhary has been like a mother to me," she said.

Shaban also requested assistance in securing housing for herself and the twins, as she will be staying in Dar es Salaam for further treatment and rehabilitation for the next year.

The Tanzanian government, alongside Saudi Arabia, has played a significant role in covering the medical expenses, including accommodation and food during their stay abroad. The community has been encouraged to support the family as they continue their recovery journey.



Tanzania Traffic Police Commander Ramadhan Ng'anzi briefs journalists in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality yesterday shortly after leading a combined vehicle inspection and road safety sensitisation drive. Photo: Guardian Correspondent




**REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS**

**For**

**Consultancy services for Automation of Business operation and infrastructure to enhanced provision of Weather and Climate Information Services to Sectors of Agriculture and Water Resources**

- CRDB Bank Plc ("CRDB" or the "Bank") is an integrated financial services provider in Tanzania. The Bank also operates three subsidiaries, CRDB Bank Burundi S.A. and CRDB Insurance Broker Limited, and subsidiary in the Democratic Republic of Congo. CRDB is accredited with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a financial intermediary for the implementation of green finance on 12 November 2019. As the largest financial services provider in Tanzania, CRDB offers provides corporate, retail, business, treasury, premier, bancassurance and wholesale microfinance services to individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises, and corporations. Our financial services are customer-centric, and we are committed to providing tailored financial solutions that not only support economic growth but also promote sustainable livelihoods.
- Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is a Government institution mandated to provide, control and regulate meteorological services in the United Republic of Tanzania. The Authority was established by the TMA Act No. 2 of 2019. The Act, empowers the Authority to enforce the use and application of weather and climate services to the sector specific stakeholders for social and economic activities.
- The main objective of this is the provision of consultancy services for the implementation of the desire Integrated Meteorological information System. The Consultant shall design, develop and implement the Integrated Meteorological information System with its associated applications.
- The specific objectives of the assignment are defined as follows:
  - i. The consultant shall gather detailed user requirements
  - ii. The consultant shall consult and agree with the client, develop and Software Requirement Specifications (SRS)
  - iii. The consultant shall design the Integrated Meteorological information System.
  - iv. Consultant shall present designs of the system
  - v. Consultant shall demonstrate prototypes and progress of works to the TMA Team
  - vi. The consultant shall perform the consultancy work in order of priority as per client needs
  - vii. Consultant shall provide training of the completed systems and applications to ICT personnel and system users
  - viii. Consultant shall provide necessary documents of all systems and applications
  - ix. The consultant shall observe all necessary guidelines and standards for development and deployment of ICT projects.

- Perform User Acceptance Testing (UAT) with TMA project team to qualify the system works as expected
- Train TMA staff and other identified stakeholders on management and use of the systems.
- Providing support and maintenance for the system for the first 12 months after the official submission/handover.
- Transfer knowledge to TMA ICT staff during this period to ensure they are capable of managing and maintaining the system independently.

10. The consultant shall have the following minimum qualifications: -

- Experience in complex business analysis, designing and development and maintenance and support of critical information systems.
- Adequate knowledge, skills and experience in Design, Development and Deployment of Mobile Applications that have increased efficiency in various Government Institutions.
- Expertise and experience in development and deployment of services Buses (API) for effective integration of various Government institutions for enhancing sharing of data/information among institutions.
- Expertise and experience in development and deployment of critical and sensitive billing systems that are also integrated with various Government Systems.
- Experience in managing ICT contracts and implementing Sensitive Government ICT projects on time.
- Adequate number of professional senior ICT staff, with experience in programming, development, deployment, and ICT security risks assessment and enforcement of controls.

11. Apart from the above criteria other selection criteria shall be as follows: -

**A. Legal Compliance**

- Submission of all registration certificates from relevant authorities.
- Submission of valid business, Certificate of Incorporation or extract from registrar
- Submission of TIN & VAT (for registered)
- Submission of current Tax clearance certificate
- Current physical location with valid lease agreement or title deed
- Submission of Certified litigation history certificate
- Submission of all other required information and attachments required during application

**B. Company capabilities, competence and eligibility**

- Show evidence of at least THREE (3) years' experience in the relevant field
- Submit at least THREE (3) reference letters from past clients for completed projects
- Submission of CV and copies of certificates for key personnel and technical staff
- Submit at least THREE (3) years of latest AUDITED financial statements
- Demonstrate capabilities in terms of skills and technology as per requirements given in Terms of reference
- Submission of Company profile

**C. Sustainability compliance**

Clear demonstration with evidence on sustainability compliance (ESG).

**D. Sanction**

- Submission of correct information of Directors and Shareholders and their scanned copies of Identity
- Valid ID card, Driving license, Voter ID, Traveling Passport, National ID
- And submission of all other required information and attachments required during application.

12. Only eligible and qualified suppliers with demonstrative experience, compliance with the above given criteria and excellent track record in similar assignments will be considered for this consultancy service.

13. CRDB Bank Plc reserves the right to request submission of additional information from prospective applicants at any time when required.

14. Any clarity that may be required from this tender advert should be directed to:  
**Email:** info@crdbbank.co.tz  
**Copy to:** procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz  
**Phone Numbers:** 022597700; 0800080000; 0714197700; 0755897700.

15. All proposals (Technical & Financial) **must be encrypted** and submitted via email at [tenders@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:tenders@crdbbank.co.tz), copy to: [procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz) (no physical and late submission will be accepted).

16. Deadline for submission of the proposal(s) is **Tuesday 24th December 2024 before 17:00 hours.**

**The Managing Director**  
 CRDB Headquarters  
 Plot No.25 & 26 Ally Hassan Mwinji Road & Plot No.21 Barrack Obama Road  
 P.O. Box 268, 1101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
 Tel: +255 (0) 22 211 744-1 - 7  
 Fax: +255 (0) 22 211 6714  
 Email: [info@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:info@crdbbank.co.tz)  
 Website: <http://www.crdbbank.co.tz>



## Kaduaara emphasizes sustainable energy for Zanzibar's development

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals, Shaib Hassan Kaduaara, has acknowledged the contribution of stakeholders in supporting government initiatives towards achieving its vision of ensuring sustainable and inclusive energy service solutions.

He was concerned that the steady contribution of stakeholders to Zanzibar's energy and aviation sector has significantly contributed to the growth of the tourism sector, which is the backbone of Zanzibar's economy.

"Stakeholders in the energy sector have made Zanzibar more accessible to citizens and tourists. The contribution of private firms has strengthened the island's energy sector; these companies are our key stakeholder in the overall economic development of Zanzibar," the minister said over the weekend when launching the first Puma Energy Tanzania fuel station at the Fuoni area.

"With your support we have allowed travellers from different regions to visit our beautiful islands, thus helping to promote Zanzibar's reputation as a world-class tourist destination," he remarked.

He said apart from the transport sector, the energy firm has also been providing support in improving infrastructure at Kisiwandui primary school. He said the support benefited more than 2,000 pupils, enabling

them to study in clean and comfortable environments.

Kaduaara insisted that the government will continue to provide all forms of cooperation to the company towards ensuring energy services are accessible to all and ultimately achieve the national goal of universal clean energy access.

Fatma Abdallah, Managing Director of Puma Energy Tanzania said they are committed to empowering communities, providing high-quality services and contributing to Zanzibar's economic development.

She said the company has participated in renovating classrooms and construction of new toilets at Kisiwandui school as well as participating in road safety week.

She added that the firm supports efforts to enhance the well-being of communities across both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The company's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr Selemani Majige, stated that access to energy services is fundamental to economic development, and their mission is to play a key role in driving change in Tanzania.

Dr Majige said the company is proud to collaborate with the government, which holds a 50 percent stake in the company. He said the partnership underscores their shared commitment to advancing the energy sector and fostering sustainable growth for the benefit of Tanzanians.



Maria Banteze (R), a health worker at the Salawe Health Centre in Shinyanga Rural District, draws blood for an HIV test from Shinyanga district commissioner Julius Mtatiro yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## EACOP project to boost indigenous in agriculture and livestock keeping

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project has launched a program to vulnerable ethnic groups, commonly known as indigenous people, in the agriculture and livestock sectors by providing them with agricultural inputs and quality livestock seeds to enhance their economic development.

The initiative is separate from the compensation packages that included money, housing, and food baskets that were provided for one

year under the 'Livelihood Restoration' program to help the groups restore their livelihoods after their lands were impacted by the project.

Speaking during their fourth quarterly meeting between EACOP and the communities, including the Maasai, Wa-akie, Wa-Bargaig, and Wataturu, Fatuma Msumi recently here EACOP's Social Lead Manager for Tanzania, stated that the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), whose land was taken by the project are the primary beneficiaries

of this program.

However, the education provided on agriculture and livestock will also benefit neighbouring communities, even those who are not directly impacted by the project, as it helps improve their livelihoods as well.

"We have been supporting indigenous people in different areas to improve their lives because EACOP follows international standards and respects human rights," said Msumi.

"After PAPs being compensated

with various benefits, including quality replacement houses, we are now enhancing their lives by providing them with entrepreneurial skills through agriculture and livestock farming through extension officers," she added.

For livestock farmers, they will be provided with modern breeds that are resistant to diseases, and those involved in crop farming will receive quality seeds to produce better yields.

"We will provide agricultural experts who will help members

of these ethnic groups to identify land for cultivation, conduct soil health tests, guide them on land preparation, and advise on the best crops for their areas, including inter-cropping that is suitable for their regions," said Msumi.

She also mentioned that entrepreneurial education for them has already started in the Kagera region, and this process will continue in other regions where the project has passed.

One of the beneficiaries, Yona Shing'adede Gidabukushida, a

traditional leader of the Watotoga community from Hanang in Man-yara region, mentioned that some affected individuals have already benefited from this program in their areas.

He noted that some have received assistance in farming and have had better harvests with the guidance of experts.

They also attempted to introduce improved livestock breeds using quality cattle, but the initiative did not yield great success, and they have requested to use semen



Tax agents based at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho bus terminal pictured yesterday strategically lined up, ready to charge conductors some fee constituting part of fare collections. However, the procedure has come under fierce criticism from passengers and bus operators alike as leading to needless delays in activities at the ever-busy facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Local firms unite to lift research communication

By Henry Mwangonde

TWO local companies have announced a strategic partnership to address the critical need for effective research communication in the country.

The partnership will be launched through a platform called UTAFITI FORUM, which is licensed by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and is set to kick off in January 2025.

The initiative aims to bridge the gap between researchers and journalists, fostering a more informed and engaged public discourse on scientific research in Tanzania and the wider East African region.

The two companies—ResearchCOM, a specialist in science communication, and BSM Washauri, a knowledge-based business company—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

The collaboration seeks to leverage their combined expertise to lead initiatives in media training, writing for global and policy impact, data communication, and the dissemination of research beyond academic circles.

By expanding the reach of research findings, the partnership aims to make a significant impact on communities and

policymaking. Through UTAFITI FORUM, a unique three-stage model will be introduced, designed to empower researchers to communicate their findings more effectively.

"We have been working on a structured approach to inspire the mindset transition of researchers—from solely focusing on traditional academic publishing to engaging a broader public," said Dr Syriacus Buguzi, CEO of ResearchCOM who is also science communication specialist.

Bakari Machumu, CEO of BSM Washauri and a media leadership expert with nearly three decades of experience in the media industry, emphasized the need to bridge the gap between research and society.

He noted that many research findings remain confined to academic journals, and researchers often lack the skills to effectively communicate with the public. He stressed the importance of the partnership to address this gap.

"Experts say that for any business to succeed, it must aim to solve a significant problem in society or the market," said Machumu.

In recent years, a growing number of researchers and journalists have expressed keen interest in research communication and enrolled on the UTAFITI FORUM platform.

## Kilombero DC makes plea for strategic investments in tourism, agriculture

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Kilombero

KILOMBERO district commissioner Dunstan Kyobya has encouraged both local and international investors to seize the opportunity for strategic investments in the district, emphasizing resources such as the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, sugarcane farming and rice fields.

Speaking at the opening of the Kilombero Festival over the weekend Kyobya noted the area's rich agricultural potential and tourism assets that require investment, particularly in guesthouses to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors.

Kyobya highlighted that Kilombero District contributes 81 percent of the water to the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project, with the Kilombero River

contributing 65 percent and the Ruaha River contributing 16 percent. He stressed that an increase in hotel facilities and transportation options would be crucial in boosting the tourism industry, particularly as more tourists visit attractions like the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Nyerere National Park, Kilombero Game Reserve and Kihansi frogs.

The district also faces envi-

ronmental challenges due to human encroachment and the depletion of biodiversity.

Stanley Kweka, a Forest Officer from Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), appealed to the public to support conservation efforts in the region, warning that many plant and animal species are nearing extinction due to human activity outside protected areas.

The species, such as sheshe

(wild dog), and medicinal plants, are now only found within the reserves.

Kweka mentioned that to address these challenges, the TFS has started a program to engage local communities in conservation by distributing tree seedlings for reforestation and the restoration of lost biodiversity.

The Kilombero Festival, which aimed to promote local tourism and education on so-

cial issues, was also supported by Theodora Batiko, Assistant Commissioner of Conservation.

She emphasized the importance of promoting Kilombero's tourism potential, especially the Udzungwa Mountains, which are known for their large elephants and forests that provide natural resources essential to farming in the district.

Batiko also commended the festival as a way of supporting

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to boost the tourism sector, highlighting that it has contributed to an increase in the number of foreign visitors compared to previous years. She noted that the festival not only highlighted the region's biodiversity but also offered medical services to attendees, thanks to Good Samaritan and St. Francis hospitals in Ifakara in Kilombero.





THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND TOURISM  
TANZANIA FOREST FUND



# 2025 CALL OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tanzania Forest Fund (abbreviated as TaFF), is a Government Fund established under Sections 79-83 of the Forest Act (Cap. 323 R.E. 2002). The Fund is a mechanism to provide long-term, reliable and sustainable financial support to forest protection, conservation, management and development in the country. The Fund came into operation in July, 2010 and started awarding grants in July 2011. The Fund is under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and is governed by a Board of Trustees while day to day activities is done by the Fund Secretariat.

The mandate and functions of Tanzania Forest Fund are derived from its objects and purposes stipulated under Section 80 of the Forest Act [Cap. 323 R.E. 2002]. They include:

- i) To promote awareness of the importance of the protection, development and sustainable use of forest resources through public education and training;
- ii) To promote and assist in the development of community forestry directed towards the conservation and protection of the forest resources of the country through the making of grants and providing advice and assistance to groups of persons wishing to form themselves into a group;
- iii) To promote and fund research into forestry;
- iv) To assist in enabling Tanzania to benefit from international initiatives and international funds directed towards the conservation and protection of biological diversity and the promotion of sustainable development of forest resources;
- v) To assist groups of persons and individuals to participate in any public debates and discussions on forestry and in particular to participate in processes connected with the making of an environmental impact assessment provided under section 18 of the Forest Act;
- vi) To assist groups of persons and individuals to ensure compliance with the Forest Act; and
- vii) To promote such other activities of a like nature to those set out in this section as will advance the purposes of the Forest Act.

Tanzania Forest Fund supports forest protection, conservation, management and development, as well as sustainable use of forest resources through awarding grants. The grants award is regulated by the Forest (Manner and Criteria for Awarding Grants) Regulations of 2021, and guided the guidelines for applying and awarding grants of 2023. Moreover, application for grants is through submission of proposals after announcing call for grants applications. Through 2025 call for grants applications, eligible stakeholders are invited to submit proposals to request grants. Deadline for submission of proposals requesting small, medium and large grants is 31st March, 2025. As such, proposals requesting small, medium and large grants submitted after 31st March, 2025 will not be considered for grants award. Table 1 shows processes from the call for grants applications to grants award.

Table 1: Schedule detailing all processes from call for grants applications to grants award

Month	Activity	Responsible Party
December 2024	Announcement of call for grants applications	Fund Secretariat
January to March 2025	Preparation and submission of proposals requesting grants	Grants applicants
31st March, 2025	Deadline for submitting proposals requesting small, medium and large grants	Grants applicants and Fund Secretariat
April - July, 2025	Feedback on submitted grants applications	Fund Secretariat
	Pre - evaluation of submitted grants applications	Fund Secretariat
	In depth evaluation of submitted grants applications	Evaluation Committee
August, 2025	Submission of grants applications' evaluation report	Evaluation Committee
	Verification of projects recommended for grants award	Fund Secretariat
September, 2025	Decision on grants award	Board of Trustees
	Notification to grants applicants on the decision made to their applications for grants	Fund Secretariat
	Training to New grantees on grants management	Fund Secretariat and New Grantees
October, 2025	Preparation and signing of grants agreement	Fund Secretariat and New Grantees
November, 2025	Disbursement of 1st instalment project funds	Fund Secretariat
	Start projects implementation	New Grantees

## 2. ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES FOR TANZANIA FOREST FUND'S GRANTS

Tanzania Forest Fund awards grants to various stakeholders undertaking interventions which contribute to forest development and improving forest protection, conservation and management in Mainland Tanzania. The following are eligible beneficiaries who can submit applications to request TaFF grants:

### 2.1 Individual Persons

Individual persons are eligible for small grants of the amount not exceeding Tanzania Shillings (TZS) Five Million (5,000,000/=). Individual grants applicants for implementing research projects should be affiliated with training or research institutions. Furthermore, the individual grants applicants are required to submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 1), accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) The individual persons applying grants for implementing projects which are not part of Masters or PhD studies are eligible for applying tree planting projects only, and should submit the following documents and evidences:
  - Photocopy of the National Identity Card obtained from The National Identification Authority (NIDA);
  - Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the person lives;
  - Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the project will be implemented;
  - Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the project will be implemented;
  - Minutes of the family meeting showing how the proposed projects will continue to be implemented or how the disbursed funds will be returned to TaFF account if the family member who received TaFF grant (grantee) deceases (dies) or will not be in a position to continue with project implementation; and
  - Evidence of tree planting initiatives and evidence showing ownership of 10 acres of land or more. The evidence of land ownership can be family agreement for the land obtained through inheritance, letter and minutes from the village government, certificate of land occupancy, certificate of customary land occupancy, agreement of land purchase.
- ii) The individual persons applying grants for implementing projects which are part of Masters or PhD studies should submit the following documents and evidences:
  - Evidence of admission from respective training institution/university;
  - Photocopy of the National Identity Card obtained from The National Identification Authority (NIDA);
  - Photocopy of valid student identity card;
  - Letter from the office of Directorate of Postgraduate Studies or other relevant university authority to authenticate that the grants applicant has no any other sources of funds for implementing the proposed research project. The letter should also show that the requested grants will be used for implementation of a project which is part of the applicant's Masters or PhD studies; and
  - Introduction letter and guarantor letter from Head of Department or College where the grants applicant has been admitted/registered.
- iii) Individual persons applying grants for implementing research projects should submit the following documents and evidences:
  - Photocopy of the National Identity Card obtained from The National Identification Authority (NIDA);
  - Letter from the head of affiliated institutions showing that the applicant is an employee of the research institution; and
  - Guarantor letter from the Head of the respective research institutions for individual research grant applicants;

### 2.2 Community-Based Organizations

Community-based Organizations (CBOs) are eligible for small grants of the amount not exceeding TZS Ten Million (10,000,000/=), and they can apply grants for implementing tree planting and beekeeping projects only. Moreover, for grants applications from CBOs to be considered for grants award, they should show evidence of practicing beekeeping and tree planting initiatives and CBOs should submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 1), accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) Photocopy of certificate of CBO registration certified by the Council Director where the CBO is registered;
- ii) Photocopy of the constitution of the respective CBO signed by all CBO members;
- iii) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the CBO is located;
- iv) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the project will be implemented;
- v) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the CBO is registered and where the project will be implemented;

- vi) Minutes of the CBO's meeting with names and telephone numbers of all CBO members and signed by all CBO members. The agenda of the meeting should be endorsement of proposal to be submitted to TaFF to request for grants;
- vii) Evidence of tree planting initiatives and evidence showing that the CBO owns land of 20 acres or more for tree planting projects geared at establishing woodlots. The evidence of land ownership can be letter and minutes from the village government, certificate of land occupancy, certificate of customary land occupancy or agreement of land purchase;
- viii) Evidence of beekeeping initiatives and evidence showing that the CBO has been granted permit from relevant authorities for practicing beekeeping inside forest reserves or other reserved areas for proposed beekeeping projects. The permit should show the duration granted to practice beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas;
- ix) For CBOs owning natural forests to be used for beekeeping activities, they should submit evidence of ownership of natural forests and minutes of the meeting of CBO members (signed by all participants and authorized the respective Village/Street Executive Officer) to substantiate agreement of using the natural forests for beekeeping activities; and
- x) Quotations for proposed projects which will involve purchase of equipment or facilities.

### 2.3 Civil Society Organizations and Faith-Based Organizations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) are eligible for medium grants (more than TZS 10 million but not exceeding TZS 20 million) and large grants (more than TZS 20 million but not exceeding TZS 50 million), and they can apply grants for implementing alternative energy sources, tree planting or beekeeping projects (but not awareness creation or sensitization activities). Furthermore, for grants applications from CSOs or FBOs to be considered for grants award, they should show evidence of practicing beekeeping and tree planting initiatives (for tree planting and beekeeping projects), and the CSOs or FBOs should submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 2), accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) Evidence showing existence of the office of CSOs or FBOs (letter from relevant authority and/or a photograph to prove existence of CSO or FBO office);
- ii) Photocopy of certificate of registration of CSOs or FBOs certified by relevant authority(s);
- iii) Letter to authenticate that the CSO or FBO has been verified by relevant authority;
- iv) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the office of the CSO or FBO is located;
- v) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the project will be implemented;
- vi) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the office of the CSO or FBOs is located;
- vii) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the project will be implemented;
- viii) Minutes of the meeting of CSO or FBO members, Trustees or Board members to substantiate that the proposed project which has been submitted to TaFF to request for grants has been endorsed and/or approved by members, Trustees or Board members of the relevant CSO or FBO. The minutes should have all names and phone numbers of all participants and should be signed by all who participated in the meeting;
- ix) Evidence of tree planting initiatives and evidence showing that the CSO or FBO owns land of more than 20 acres for tree planting projects geared at establishing woodlots. The evidence of land ownership can be letter and minutes from the village government, certificate of land occupancy, certificate of customary land occupancy, or agreement of land purchase.
- x) Evidence of beekeeping initiatives and evidence showing that the CSO or FBO has been granted permit from relevant authorities to practice beekeeping inside forest reserves or other reserved areas (for proposed beekeeping projects). The permit should show the duration granted to practice beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas;
- xi) For CSO or FBO owning natural forests to be used for beekeeping activities, should submit evidence of ownership of natural forests and minutes of the meeting of CSO or FBO members, Trustees or Board members (signed by all participants and authorized the respective Village/Street Executive Officer) to substantiate agreement of using the natural forests for beekeeping activities; and
- xii) Map, Bill of Quantities (BoQ) and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment, facilities or machineries.

### 2.4 Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are eligible for medium grants (more than TZS 10 million but not exceeding 20 million) and large grants (more than TZS 20 million but not exceeding TZS 50 million), and they can apply grants for implementing clean energy and alternative energy sources, projects only (but not awareness creation or sensitization activities).

Furthermore, for grants applications from NGOs to be considered for grants award, the NGOs should submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 2), accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) Evidence showing existence of the office of NGOs (letter from relevant authority and a photograph to prove existence of NGO office);
- ii) Photocopy of certificate of registration of the NGO certified by relevant authority(s);
- iii) Letter to authenticate that the NGO has been verified by relevant authority;
- iv) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the office of the NGO is located;
- v) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the project will be implemented;
- vi) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the office of the NGO is located;
- vii) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the project will be implemented;
- viii) Minutes of the meeting of NGO members or Board members to substantiate that the proposed project which has been submitted to TaFF to request for grants has been endorsed and/or approved by members or Board members of the relevant NGO. The minutes should have all names and phone numbers of all participants and should be signed by all who participated in the meeting; and
- ix) Map, BoQ and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment, facilities or machineries.

### 2.5 Training and Research Institutions

Training and research institutions are eligible for all types of grants except small grants which are specific for individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. In addition, only government training and research institutions are eligible for special purpose grants. The training and research institutions should submit proposals prepared using the format provided in Annex 2 (for proposals requesting medium and large grants), or Annex 3 (for proposals requesting special purpose grants), and the proposals should be accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) Introduction letter and guarantor letter from Head of the Institution if the grants applicant is a Centre, College, Campus, zone, district or department;
- ii) Minutes of the Management or Board or Council meeting to substantiate that the proposed project has been endorsed and/or approved by the Management or Board or Council meeting of the relevant institution. The minutes should be properly signed;
- iii) Evidence of land ownership for tree planting projects;
- iv) Permit for practising beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas, in case the applicants are proposing to implement beekeeping projects in the reserves which they do not own; and
- v) Map, BoQ and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment, facilities or machineries.

### 2.6 Government Institutions

The government institutions eligible for applying TaFF grants include government Departments, Parastatal Organizations, Companies, Agencies, Authorities, Training Institutions, Research Institutions, Local Government Authorities as well as primary and secondary schools. The government institutions are eligible for all types of grants including special purpose grants, but small grants category is restricted to government primary and secondary schools. Grants Applications should be submitted by head of the institutions and should indicate how the project will improve protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources in the country and respective project implementation area. The campus, departments, zones, centres, districts or district councils under the government institutions will be treated as individual beneficiaries, but grants applicants should channel their applications through the respective head of the Institutions/colleges/zones. All government institutions submitting applications for grants should ensure that the proposed project activities are part of their annual plans and budgets, and they should submit letter as evidence of incorporation of project activities during the submission of the proposals. The government institutions should submit proposals prepared using the format provided in Annex 1 (for government primary and secondary schools requesting small grants), Annex 2 (for proposals requesting medium and large grants), or Annex 3 (for proposals requesting special purpose grants), and the proposals should be accompanied by the following documents and evidences:

- i) Introduction letter and guarantor letter from head of institution/college/zone if the grants applicant is a campus, department, zone, centre or district;
- ii) Government schools should submit guarantor letter from the Council Director where the schools are located and where the project will be implemented;
- iii) Minutes of the Management or Board or Council meeting to substantiate that the proposed project has been endorsed and/or approved by the Management or Board or Council meeting of the relevant institution. The minutes should be properly signed;

- iv) Evidence of land ownership for tree planting projects;
- v) Permit for practising beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas in case the applicants are proposing to implement beekeeping projects in the reserves which they do not own; and
- vi) Map, BoQ and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment, facilities or machineries.

## 3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR AWARDING GRANTS

The priority areas for awarding grants are outlined in sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4:

- 3.1 Forest resources protection, conservation and management  
In 2025 grants applicants can submit proposals on the following areas:  
3.1.1 Establishment of tree nurseries in primary and secondary schools and tree planting in schools and surrounding communities. Eligible beneficiaries are government primary and secondary schools from 54 districts of 14 regions. They include Dodoma (Mpwapwa, Chamwino, Bahi and Kongwa Districts); Morogoro (Mvomero, Morogoro, Gairo and Kilosa Districts); Lindi (Nachingwea, Ruangwa and Lindi Districts); Manyara (Simanjiro, Hanang, Kiteto, Mbulu and Babati Districts); Singida and Tabora (Igunga, Iramba, Mkalamu, Manyoni and Ikungi Districts); Simiyu (Bariadi, Maswa, Busega, Itilima and Meatu Districts); Mwanza (Misungwi, Sengerema, Ukerewe and Magu Districts); Pwani (Mkuranga, Rufiji, Kisarawe, Kibiti and Kibaha Districts); Kilimanjaro (Rombo, Hai, Same, Siha and Mwanza Districts); Kigoma (Kakonko, Buhigwe and Kasulu Districts); Njombe (Wanging'ombe, Njombe, Ludewa and Makete Districts); Geita (Mbogwe, Bukombe and Nyang'hwale Districts), and Tanga (Korogwe, Mkinga, Handeni, and Muheza Districts).  
3.1.2 Establishment of woodlots of which the eligible beneficiaries are individual persons, CBOs, CSOs and FBOs. The grants applicants should show evidence of owning 10 acres of land or more for individual persons, 20 acres or more for CBOs, and more than 50 acres for CSOs and FBOs. Grants applications can be submitted from all regions of Tanzania mainland except Dar es Salaam.  
3.1.3 Tree planting in plantations or land owned by the government institutions.  
Eligible applicants are government institutions managing forest plantations or government institutions owning land reserved for establishing forest plantations and the applicants are advised to apply special purpose grants.  
3.1.4 Clean energy and alternative energy sources including biogas, energy saving cooking stoves, charcoal and firewood briquettes and cooking stoves for alternative energy sources.  
The aim is to reduce dependence of charcoal and firewood from the natural forests thereby contributing to improving forest protection and conservation. Eligible applicants are NGOs, CSOs, FBOs and government institutions.

### 3.2 Improvement of livelihood of communities living adjacent to forest resource base

In 2025 grants applicants will compete on the sub-theme of improving forest conservation through beekeeping. Eligible applicants are CBOs which are restricted to small grants up to TZS 10 million and government institutions which can apply for medium and large grants. Women and youth registered groups are encouraged to apply.

### 3.3 Research in forestry geared at:

- 3.3.1 Improving forest development, protection, conservation and management  
Eligible research proposals should aim at providing answers to prevailing problems and challenges in the forest and beekeeping sub-sector. The research topics or fields should come or link to the national forest or beekeeping research master plans or priority research areas of higher learning institutions, and accepted or approved by the national forestry research coordination institution (s).  
3.3.2 Improving quantity, quality and value addition for sustainable use of forest produce  
Eligible research proposals should aim at improving quantity, quality and value addition to forest and or bee products as per national forest master plan and/or beekeeping research master plan or priority research areas of higher learning institutions, and accepted or approved by the national forestry research coordination institution (s).

Eligible applicants are research institutions, training institutions and researchers from research institutions and training institutions, as well as Masters and PhD students wishing to apply grants for the purpose of finalizing their Dissertations/Theses.

### 3.4 Enhance Capacity Building to Training and/or Research Institutions and Best Student Awards

Proposals requesting grants are invited from the following areas:

- i) Capacity building to government institutions responsible for coordinating forestry research and government training institutions under the Forest and Beekeeping Division responsible for conducting training in forestry, forest industries and beekeeping. Eligible activities include construction and rehabilitation of buildings, and purchase of equipment, machineries and facilities.
- ii) The second area of focus is best student award including sponsorship award. Eligible beneficiaries are best students who have completed Certificate and Diploma courses in Forestry, Forest Industries and Beekeeping, as well best first year, second year and third year students in Forestry Degree from Sokoine University of Agriculture. Procedures for best student award and sponsorship award will be communicated to relevant institutions.

## 4. TYPES OF GRANTS

Tanzania Forest Fund awards four (4) types of grants, namely: small grants, medium grants, large grants, and special purpose grants. These grant categories are differentiated by the amount of money offered, eligible beneficiaries, duration of project implementation and contribution to forest development, protection, conservation and management. The grants types are elucidated in sub-sections 4.1 to 4.4:

### 4.1 Small Grants (Amount not Exceeding TZS 10 Million)

Small grants are awarded to individual persons, CBOs and government primary and secondary schools and are specifically for supporting small-scale interventions that contribute to improving forest protection, conservation, management and development. Individual persons and government primary and secondary schools are eligible for applying small grants of the amount not exceeding TZS 5 million, while CBOs are eligible for applying small grants of the amount up to TZS 10 million. Duration for implementing projects awarded small grants is six (6) to 12 months.

### 4.2 Medium Grants (Amount Above TZS 10 Million but not Exceeding TZS 20 Million)

Medium grants are awarded to support interventions with bigger contribution on forest protection, conservation, management and development compared to interventions supported using small grants. All beneficiaries are eligible for this grant's category except individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. The duration for implementing projects awarded medium grants is 18 months.

### 4.3 Large Grants (Amount Above TZS 20 Million but not Exceeding TZS 50 Million)

Large grants are awarded to support interventions with bigger contribution to forest protection, conservation, management and development compared to projects awarded medium grants. All beneficiaries are eligible for this grant's category except individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. The duration for implementing projects awarded large grants is 24 months.

### 4.4 Special Purpose Grants (Amount Above TZS 50 Million)

Special purpose grants are awarded to government institutions only for the purpose of implementing projects with significant impact on improving protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources, which cannot be realized using other types of grants. Projects to be considered for being awarded special purpose grants include establishment of forest plantations, large-scale afforestation schemes and infrastructure development with enormous positive impact on forest protection, conservation, management and development. Type of project to be awarded special purpose grants and the amount to be awarded as special purpose grants is the discretion of TaFF Board of Trustees. Duration for implementing projects awarded special purpose grants will depend on the nature of activities, but should be at least three years (36 months).

## 5. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Three types of assistance in awarding grants are elucidated in sub-sections 5.1 to 5.3:

### 5.1 Monetary assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide financial assistance to support implementation of interventions or activities of the proposed projects.

### 5.2 Material assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide required materials, tools, technology, machineries, facilities and equipment required to implement interventions or activities of the proposed projects.

### 5.3 Technical assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide technical assistance by conducting training or hiring professionals to conduct training or provide other technical support stipulated in the proposed projects.

## 6. KEY CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN APPLYING FOR GRANTS, EVALUATION OF GRANTS APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS AWARD

The following are criteria to be considered during application for grants, evaluation of grants applications and grants award:

- i) Grants applicants should ensure that the name found in the Certificates of Registration National Identity Card (NIDA) is the same name used in all other documents to be submitted, including the grants applications (project proposals). Furthermore, it is not permitted to



translate the name into Swahili or English. For example, Kikundi cha Upendo is not the same as Upendo Group, and Furaha is not the same as Happy;

- Direct or indirect contribution of the project to forest protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources;
- Direct or indirect tangible benefits provided by the projects to target beneficiaries;
- Project operations are transparent and demonstrate accountability;
- Innovativeness of the project and evidence of the attainment of the objectives by the proposed activities;
- Project showing that TaFF's grants should be complementary of other similar projects and should not substitute existing and ongoing initiatives;
- Applicability of project results/outputs for improving protection, conservation and management of forest and bee resources;
- Capability of the applicant to implement and manage the project including commitment on availability of personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project;
- Evidence of sustainability plan of the proposed project interventions;
- Evidence of stakeholders' participation;
- Applicants commitment to contribute 20% (cash or in-kind) of the requested funds from TaFF (for medium, large grants and special purpose grants' applicants);
- For projects aiming at establishing large plantations or establishing woodlots, the grants applications should show ownership of the land to be used for implementing the projects;
- Grants applicants for non-research projects should show that the grants will be used to implement activities for the project which has already been started. This implies that, the requested grants will be used to supported already started initiatives; and
- The grants application (proposal) should indicate that the project will be implemented in mainland Tanzania.

It is important to note that grants applications which show elements of copy and paste will not be considered for grants award.

#### 7. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

Proposals requesting small grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 1, while proposals requesting medium grants and large grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 2, and proposals requesting special purpose grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 3. Proposals that will not be prepared according to the given formats will be rejected. The proposals should not exceed 15 pages, excluding annexes. Details on attachments to be submitted together with the proposals are shown in sub-sections 2.1 to 2.6 and in the respective formats.

#### 8. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

Grants applicants should submit proposals through an online application using the following link <https://portal.maliasili.go.tz/>. Grants applicants with no access for online application (particularly those living in rural areas) may request permission from TaFF to submit hard copy of proposals through posts using the following mobile number 0714 580 688 for ICT Officer. Assistance for online grants applications will be provided by ICT Officer using the mobile number 0714 580 688 or Program Officer using mobile number 0710 074 699. Grants applicants will receive a message on their mobile phones informing them about the receipt of their proposals and all stages up to the grants award. Therefore, grants applicants are reminded to indicate mobile phone numbers in the contact section shown in the format for preparing proposals. It should be noted that, proposals submitted through emails will not be accepted.

Deadline for submitting / receiving proposals requesting small grants, medium grants and large grants is 31st March 2025, while proposals requesting special purpose grants can be submitted any time. No proposals requesting small, medium and large grants will be accepted after the set deadline.

Only applications (proposals) which have been permitted by the ICT Officer of Tanzania Forest Fund can be submitted through post using the following address:

**Administrative Secretary,  
Tanzania Forest Fund,  
P.O. Box 1764,  
DODOMA.**

For more clarification and inquiries kindly use the official telephone number provided below and mobile numbers **0714 580 688** or **0710 074 699**.

**Tel: +255 (0) 26 2963290  
Fax: +255 (0) 26 2963291**

#### ANNEX 1: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING SMALL GRANTS INSTRUCTIONS

- Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call for grants applications to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving Tanzania Forest Fund's grants.
- Please submit a complete application form using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grants award.
- Applications must be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of Tanzania Forest Fund. Late applications will not be accepted.
- All proposals must be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5 line spacing.
- All applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- Any applicant who has questions or concerns should contact Tanzania Forest Fund using the official address and telephone provided in the call of proposals.
  - Proposal Basic Information (Project Summary)
    - Project title:.....
    - Name and address of grants applicant:.....
    - Name and address of the contact person including mobile telephone number:.....
    - Project location:.....
    - Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area (s) of grants award:.....
    - Type of grants: .....
    - Type of assistance:.....
    - Total project cost (Tanzania Shillings):.....
    - Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania Shillings):.....
    - Other contributions, including in-kind (Tanzania Shillings):.....
    - Project duration including proposed start month:.....

- Background of the proposed project:.....
- Rationale and justification of the proposed project.....
- Project objectives and performance indicators.....
- Project expected results:.....
- Specific activities required to achieve the expected results:.....
- Anticipated beneficiaries from the proposed project are shown in Table Na. 1.

**Table 1: Anticipated Beneficiaries from the Proposed Project**

No.	Beneficiary	Realized Benefits

- Step by step process or methodology to be followed in order to achieve the proposed objectives: .....
- Project personnel and their expertise: .....

Applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project: .....

10. Project implementation schedule/plan is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Project Implementation Schedule**

No.	Activity	Month												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	

- How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded grants? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project: .....

#### 12. Budget for the Proposed Project

The budget should be divided into two instalments, while 10% of second instalment shall be retained until the project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 2nd instalment. Table 3 shows how to prepare the proposed project budget. Note that: Extra duty allowance, overhead costs and administrative costs will not be covered by the funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund.

**Table 3: How to Prepare Budget for the Proposed Project (with Breakdown into Two Instalments)**

Activity and Items	Units	Cost	Unit Cost (TZS)	Total Cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds				
1				
2				
3				
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds				
4				
5				
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of retained funds				
6				
7				
Total for retained funds				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Total Project Budget				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Funds Provided by Others				
Applicant's Contribution				

Indicate the sources of funds provided by others.....

#### 13. Endorsement by Various Authorities

Government institutions should fill section number 13.1 only, while community groups and all other institutions which are not government should fill sections 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3. All individual students should write the word 'Individual Postgraduate Student' in the designation in section 13.1, and should submit recommendation letter from Head of Department where they have been registered. All other individual applicants should write the word 'Individual' in the designation in section 13.1. Project proposals from primary and secondary schools should be endorsed by the respective District/Municipal (Executive) Directors. As such, they are supposed to fill sections 13.1 and 13.3.

13.1 Recommendations by Individual applicant / Head of applying Institution / organization / group)-----

Name of Applying Institution / Group:-----  
Name of Individual applicant/Head of applying Institution / Chairperson of applying Group:-----  
Designation:----- Signature:-----  
Date:----- Official Stamp:-----

13.2 Recommendations by the Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer (s) of the proposed project implementation area-----

Name of the Village/Street/Ward:-----  
Name of Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer:-----  
Designation:----- Signature:-----  
Date:----- Official Stamp:-----

13.3 Recommendations by Head of Institution or Head of Department or College or Council Director of the proposed project implementation area-----

Name of the Institution or Department or College or Council:-----  
Name of Head of Institution or Head of Department or College or Council Director:-----

Designation:----- Signature:-----  
Date:----- Official Stamp:-----

#### 14. Attachments:

- Individual applicants should submit all other attachments and evidence shown in section 2.1 and CBOs should submit all other attachments and evidence shown in section 2.2 of the 2025 call for grants applications.
- Government Primary and Secondary schools should submit the following:
  - Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the schools are located and where the projects will be implemented; and
  - Proof of land ownership in case the proposed projects will involve establishment of woodlots.
- In case the area where project implementation involves more than one village, each Village Executive Officer will appear as a Guarantor of the intended grants applicant.

#### APPENDIX 2: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING MEDIUM AND LARGE GRANTS

##### INSTRUCTIONS

- Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call for grants applications to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving Tanzania Forest Fund's grants.
- Please submit a complete application form using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grants award.
- Grants applications must be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of Tanzania Forest Fund. Late applications will not be accepted.
- All grants applications must be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5 line spacing.
- Grants applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- Any Grants applicant who has questions or concerns should contact Tanzania Forest Fund using the official address and telephone provided in the call for grants applications.

#### 10. PROJECT PROPOSAL BASIC INFORMATION

- Project title:.....
- Name and address of the applicant:.....
- Name and address of the contact person:.....
- Project location:.....
- Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area (s) of grants award: .....
- Grant type:.....
- Type of assistance requested.....
- Brief background of the proposed project:.....
- Rationale and justification of the proposed project (not more than 250 words) .
- Project objectives and performance indicators:.....
- Project expected results:.....
- Specific activities required to achieve the expected results:.....
- Project beneficiaries:.....

Under this section, the applicants should describe the project beneficiaries and how they will benefit from implementation of the proposed project. Use Table 4 to describe the beneficiaries.

**Table 4: project Beneficiaries and Realized Benefits**

No.	Beneficiary	Realized Benefits

- Total project cost (Tanzania Shillings):.....
- Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania Shillings):.....
- Applicants and other contributions including in-kind (Tanzania Shillings):.....
- Project duration including proposed start month:.....

#### 2.0 ENDORSEMENT BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES

Government institutions should fill section number 2.1 only, while NGOs, CSOs, FBOs and other non-government institutions should fill sections number 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Applications from Local Government Authorities should be endorsed by the Regional Administrative Secretaries and applications from primary and secondary schools should be endorsed by Council Director of the respective Local Government Authority.

**2.1 Recommendations by Head of Applying Institution (s) / Organization (s)**-----  
Name of Applying Institution (s) / Organization (s):-----  
Name of Head of Applying Institution (s) / Organization (s):-----  
Designation:----- Signature:-----Date:-----Official Stamp:-----

**2.2 Recommendations by the Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer (s) of the proposed project implementation area**-----  
Name of the Village/Street/Ward:-----  
Name of Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer:-----Designation:-----  
Signature:-----Date:-----Official Stamp:-----

**2.3 Recommendations by Head of Institution or Zone or College or Council Director of the proposed project implementation area**-----  
Name of the Institution or Zone or College or Council: .....

Name of Head of Institution or Head of College or College or Council Director: .....

Designation:----- Signature:-----  
Date:----- Official Stamp:-----

#### 3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION (MAIN TEXT)

##### 3.1 Project Summary

This section should contain summary of all-important elements of the proposed project including problems to be addressed, rationale and justification of the project, objectives and expected outputs, major activities to be implemented, and applicability of the results for improving forest protection, conservation and management. This section should not be more than 250 words and should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and understandable even to other people who are specialized in natural resources fields.

##### 3.2 Introduction

The introduction should clearly identify the topic or problem to be dealt with, and presents a general vision of the proposed project, its context within the appropriate priority area of Tanzania Forest Fund and background information on previous or ongoing efforts to attain the proposed project.

##### 3.3 Project Purpose, Objectives and Expected Results

The applicant should describe the purpose of the proposed project indicating clearly how the proposed project will contribute to improving protection, conservation and management of forest resources in the project implementation area and beyond. This section must also describe the objectives and results from the proposed activities. Information on how the proposed projects will enhance efforts towards improvement of community livelihood, participation and awareness on sustainable management of forest resources should be given. Strategies for disseminating results of the proposed project should also be clearly provided. Under this section, project beneficiaries and how they are going to benefit from project implementation should also be described. To enable proper review of the proposed project and monitoring of project implementation, the applicant should also provide a log frame matrix. Project implementation schedule showing activities and timeline of each activity should be prepared and be part of this section.

##### 3.4 Methodology

Under this section, the applicant should describe in detail how the project objectives will be operationalized to realize the project results/outputs. In addition, the applicant should describe project interventions and activities to be implemented and provide a work plan, including the role of various actors. For proposed research project, this section should also contain information regarding data collection tools, and methods for data collection and analysis, as well as research results' dissemination plan.

##### 3.5 Key Success Factors

This section should describe and analyse the key factors that are going to influence project success and how to ensure that these factors are in place. Analysis of the factors should consider the context of the overall project and the capacity of the project implementing team. This section should also describe challenges which are likely to affect the smooth implementation of the proposed projects and explain how to overcome the challenges.

##### 3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

This section should describe how the project will be monitored and evaluated throughout its implementation period. The section should also describe the quantifiable parameters that can define if the planned activities will solve the problem or issue that the project wants to address. In other words, this section should show how the success of the project be measured? It is also important to note that log frame matrix needs to be prepared to assist in monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project.

##### 3.7 Sustainability Plan

This section should describe the sustainability aspects of the project. The proposed project should indicate how the project or process will have continuity after phased out of Tanzania Forest Fund support to the proposed project.

##### 3.8 How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded grants? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project.

##### 3.9 Budget for the Proposed Project

The budget is an essential part of the grant application. Therefore, the project budget should: (a) be reasonable, (b) thoroughly describe each item, (c) be easy to understand, (d) be mathematically correct, and (e) be realistic and adequately justified. The budget must include detailed notes indicating calculations on each amount (unit costs). Under Tanzania Forest Fund support, project budget should not include the following items since they are not eligible for funding: staff salaries; purchase of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles; office utilities; extra duty allowance, honorarium and other costs not related to project implementation.

The budget should be divided into three instalments, while 10% of third instalment shall be retained until project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 40% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 30% of the proposed project budget, 3rd instalment is 30% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 3rd instalment funds. Table 5 shows how to prepare the proposed project budget.

**Table 5: How to Prepare Budget for the Proposed Project (with Breakdown into Three Instalments)**

Activity and Items	Units	Unit Cost (TZS)	Total Cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds			
1			
2			
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment			
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund			
Applicant's Contribution			
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds			
3			
4			
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment			
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund			
Applicant's Contribution			
Activities and expenditure of 3 <sup>rd</sup> instalment funds			
5			
6			
Total for 3 <sup>rd</sup> instalment			
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund			
Applicant's Contribution			
Activities and expenditure of retained funds			
7			
Total for retained funds			
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund			
Total Project Budget			
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund			
Funds Provided by Others			
Applicant's Contribution			

Indicate the sources of funds provided by others.....

#### 3.10 ATTACHEMENTS

The following information and documents should be submitted as attachments to the proposal:

- Organisation profile;
- Certified copy of certificate of registration (except for government institutions);
- Log frame matrix,
- Curriculum vitae of project team for research projects;
- Letters from two or more reputable Guarantors (Village/Ward Executive Officer and Council Director or Regional Administrative Secretary or head of institutions depending on the nature of the project) depending on the nature of the proposal;
- In case the area of project implementation involves more than one village, each Village Executive Officer will appear as a Guarantor of the intended applicant;
- Proof of land ownership in case the proposed projects will involve establishment of woodlots; and
- Applicants for projects to be implemented in reserved areas must be supported by a written permit from authorities owning/managing the reserved.
- For all research proposals, relevant literature review and reference information should be part of the proposal while for other proposals should appear as attachment. Each reference should include the names of all authors, the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Adherence to citation principles should be observed by all project proponents.
- In addition, NGOs, CSOs and FBOs should submit all other attachments shown in sections 2.3 and 2.4; research and training institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.5 and other government institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.6.

#### APPENDIX NO.3: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANTS

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- i) Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call for grants applications to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving Tanzania Forest Fund's grants.
- ii) Please submit a complete grants application using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grants award.
- iii) Grants should be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of Tanzania Forest Fund. Late applications will not be accepted.
- iv) Grants applications should be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5 line spacing.
- v) Grants applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- vi) Any Grants applicant who has questions or concerns should contact Tanzania Forest Fund using the official address and telephone provided in the call for grants applications.

**2.0. PROJECT PROPOSAL BASIC INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Project title:  
Should be short, focused, self-explanatory showing in short what is to be done and where the project will be implemented.
- 2.2 Name and address of grants applicant:  
Should show full name of the organization/institution and abbreviation if any, designation of head of organization/institution, postal address of the group/organization/institution, and official telephone numbers, fax and email address.
- 2.3 Name and address of the contact person:  
Write full name of the contact person. If the contact person is the head of organization/institution, then the full name should be written, and if the contact person is not head of the organization/institution, the relationship with the organization/institution should be written. Write postal address, telephone number (mobile telephone number) and email address of the contact person.
- 2.4 Project location:  
Indicate village, ward, Division, District and Region where the project will be implemented. Where necessary, mention the site for instance forest reserve.
- 2.5 Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area(s) of grants award:
- 2.6 Grant type:  
Tanzania Forest Fund awards four (4) types of grants namely; small grants, medium grants, large grants and special purpose grants. The applicant should write the type of grants requested.
- 2.7 Type of requested assistance:  
Tanzania Forest Fund offers three types of assistance, namely; monetary assistance, material assistance and technical assistance. Thus, the applicant should write requested type of assistance.
- 2.8 Total project cost (Tanzania Shillings):  
Write total project cost including amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund, funds from other sources and applicants and other contributions.
- 2.9 Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania Shillings):  
Write amount of money requested from Tanzania Forest Fund only.
- 2.10 Applicants and other contributions including in-kind (Tanzania Shillings):  
Write amount of money from your organization/institution to be contributed for project implementation. Write also amount from other sources if any.
- 2.11 Project duration including proposed start month:
- 2.12 Project beneficiaries:

Under this section, the applicants should describe the project beneficiaries and how they will benefit from implementation of the proposed project. Use Table 6 to describe project beneficiaries.

**Table 6: Project Beneficiaries and Realized Benefits**

No.	Beneficiary	Realized Benefits

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

Write brief information regarding your organization/institution, brief information regarding the proposed project particularly, if the proposed project is based on initiatives which have already started or is a new project.

**4. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT (250 WORDS):**

Write problems or challenges faced which triggered your application organization/institution to request grants. Write how Tanzania Forest Fund grants will contribute to overcome the challenge will be solution to the problem. The proposal should also indicate initiatives of your organization/institution in addressing the problem/challenge. The applicant should show how the proposed project will contribute to improving protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources in the project implementation area and the nation at large.

**5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

Write overall project objective, specific project objectives and performance indicators for each objective. Table 7 summarizes project objectives and performance indicators.

**Table 7: Project Objectives and Performance Indicators**

No.	Objective	Performance Indicator (s)
1.	Overall project objective	
2.	Specific project objectives:	
	1.	
	2.	

**PROJECT EXPECTED RESULTS:**

List project expected outputs/results and relate them with forest resources protection, conservation and management

**7. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS:**

List all project activities which will be implemented to achieve the expected results. The activities are derived from specific project objectives.

**8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE/PLAN:**

Project implementation schedule is prepared in tabular for using project activities.

**9. METHODOLOGY:**

Under this section, the applicant should describe in detail how the project objectives will be operationalized to realize the project results/outputs. In addition, the applicant should describe project interventions and activities to be implemented and provide a work plan, including the role of various actors. For proposed research project, this section should also contain information regarding data collection tools, and methods for data collection and analysis, as well as research results' dissemination plan.

**10. KEY SUCCESS FACTORS**

This section should describe and analyse the key factors that are going to influence project success and how to ensure that these factors are in place. Analysis of the factors should consider the context of the overall project and the capacity of the project implementing team. This section should also describe challenges which are likely to affect the smooth implementation of the proposed projects and explain how to overcome the challenges.

**11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

This section should describe how the project will be monitored and evaluated throughout its implementation period. The section should also describe the quantifiable parameters that can define if the planned activities will solve the problem or issue that the project wants to address. In other words, this section should how will the success of the project be measured? It is also important to note that log frame matrix needs to be prepared to assist in monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project.

**12. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

This section should describe the sustainability aspects of the project. The proposed project should indicate how the project or process will have continuity after phased out of Tanzania Forest Fund support to the proposed project.

**13. How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded grants? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project.**

**14. Budget for the Proposed Project**

The budget is an essential part of the grant application. Therefore, the project budget should: (a) be reasonable, (b) thoroughly describe each item, (c) be easy to understand, (d) be mathematically correct, and (e) be realistic and adequately justified. The budget must include detailed notes indicating calculations on each amount (unit costs). Under Tanzania Forest Fund support, project budget should not include the following items since they are not eligible for funding: staff salaries; purchase of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles; office utilities; extra duty allowance, honorarium and other costs not related to project implementation.

The budget should be divided into two instalments, while 10% of second instalment shall be retained until project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 2nd instalment. Table 8 shows how to prepare the proposed project budget.

**Table 8: How to Prepare Budget for the Proposed Project (with Breakdown into Two Instalments)**

Activity and Items	Units	Cost	Unit Cost (TZS)	Total Cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds				
1				
2				
3				
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds				
4				
5				
6				
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of retained funds				
7				
Total for retained funds				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Total Project Budget				
Funds Requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Funds Provided by Others				
Applicant's Contribution				

**15. ENDORSEMENT BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES:**

15.1 Endorsement by Head of applying institution (s) / organization(s):

Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Applying Institution (s) / Organization (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Head of Applying Institution (s) / Organization (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

**16. ATTACHMENTS**

The following attachments should be submitted together with the proposal (grants application):

- i) Covering Letter signed by Head of the applying organization/institution; and
- ii) Log frame matrix.
- iii) In addition, research and training institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.5 and other government institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.6.



**ZANZIBAR HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

87 Binguni Road,  
 Binguni P.O. Box 1439,  
 Postcode: 72214, Binguni.  
 Zanzibar

Tel: +255 (0) 776 264 880  
 Email: info@zahri.go.tz  
 Website: www.zahri.go.tz

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – RE ADVERTISED**

Zanzibar Health Research Institute (ZAHRI) was established under Act No. 5 of 2020 and is one of the key institutions of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. ZAHRI is tasked with conducting health research and overseeing the dissemination of scientific information to enhance and advance various treatment methods and the control of human diseases in the country.

ZAHRI is seeking a qualified candidate from any African Country to fill a three-year contract (renewable) position of a Senior Researcher in health-related fields.

**Job summary**

The Senior Researcher is expected to lead in grant acquisition for strategic health research undertaking, lead multidisciplinary team of Researchers and mentor young researchers in line with ZAHRI's strategic plan.

**Senior Researcher (1 Position)  
 Reports to: Director General**

**Applicant Qualifications:**

- i. Should hold a Doctoral degree (PhD) in health related fields from a recognized University
- ii. Should have a track record of winning grants as a Principal Investigator (PI) for health research
- iii. Should have worked or affiliated with research institutions for at least five (5) years
- iv. Should have published at least five (5) papers post PhD in relevant peer-reviewed scientific journals

**Responsibilities:**

- i. Acquisition of grants for strategic health research undertaking;
- ii. Lead the conduct of approved health research and generate evidence-based results for informing policy and decision making;
- iii. Provide mentorship and coaching to young researchers in attaining research competences;
- iv. Lead the dissemination of research findings across various platforms, including publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presenting at scientific conferences;
- v. Lead the synopsis of permitted health research and identify gaps in meeting national priorities;
- vi. Assist the development of the annual research implementation plan;
- vii. Contribute in reviewing and creating strategic plans, budgets, and priorities for health research;
- viii. Develop collaborative teams within health research between public and private institutions to strengthen and promote human health research;
- ix. Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

In addition to an engaging work environment, an attractive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

**Application Procedures:**

- 1. Applicants should submit a motivation letter and attach their detailed CV, certified copies of academic certificates (in pdf), birth certificate, and residency ID (if applicable), or a copy of passport and names, address and contacts of three referees.
- 2. Applications should be sent via email to info@zahri.go.tz, addressed to the Director General, Zanzibar Health Research Institute, Binguni, Zanzibar.
- 3. The deadline for submitting applications is December 20th, 2024, during working hours.
- 4. More information is available on the website: [www.zahri.go.tz](http://www.zahri.go.tz).

**Note:**

Application submitted without the required documents will not be considered.

Dr. Mayassa Salum Ally  
 Director General  
 Zanzibar Health Research Institute  
 Binguni - Zanzibar



TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2024

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Combating GBV essentially as behaviour issue could be costly

AS world marks the annual '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence', we have a new round of reflections on routine violence exercised against women and girls.

A key resident diplomat in Tanzania said at the weekend that GBV isn't only a violation of human rights but also a major barrier to sustainable development - which is vital if one has the 2030 goals in mind.

People routinely experiencing the pangs won't have the spirit to follow up on opportunities or obtain the necessary support as all endeavours have challenges.

The diplomat, leading the European Union delegation, laid stress on the importance of the government's national action plan to end violence against women and children, acknowledging that progress had been made but much work remained to be done.

Indeed, some progress has been registered, but it needs some effort to determine if this shows that society is now more tolerant and norms are uplifted, or whether reduced violence goes in tandem with family breakups and widespread visibility of homeless children, issues seldom raised in such discussions. Progress comes by twists and turns.

What also remained uncertain was how far there is sufficient resolve, steam or public resources to engender and sustain the fight against GBV, in hearing that it requires collaboration, commitment and innovation.

Gender-related affinities have an element of possessiveness and loyalty, whose traditional forms are now largely in abeyance. Thus, ending violence needs to find ways out of these reference points in ways where minimum self-acceptance can also be guaranteed.

One problem with the discussion was that it was development-oriented

rather than socially affirmative, for example in suggesting that a country can't achieve sustainable and inclusive growth if it doesn't take bold steps to address GBV.

It is easier to see how the issue of inclusion is linked with the harnessing of women's capacities and thus empowering women to lead their lives more fully in consonance with social opportunities.

Sustainability is a different matter as it relies less on individual effort than on collective strategies, sorting out imbalances of population, climate, etc.

One of the aspects worth lamenting has to do with the role of our country's development partners in their commitment to supporting initiatives meant to prevent or otherwise respond to GBV and other vices.

Some express their wish to help ensure that global commitment to the "modelling" of a violence-free world by 2030 becomes a reality.

It should not be a distant hope or hollow dream whereas, when it comes to policy advice, they line up behind radical perceptions which see the retaining of traditional structures as positive.

Some supposedly development projects relate to offering thousands of families specified resources that would be used to modernise family labour structures, the core of oppression of women that global activists pain about.

However, they also have sentiments against commercial drift of society owing to the whole idea of widening the gap between rich and poor. Yet it is commercial shifts, including women's ability to work and earn a salary, which basically freed women in Europe and America and thus enabled them to have respectful gender-based affinities. Economic uplift is key to respect in all gender settings.

## Africa must remain wary on political, economic, cultural and other alliances

IT was a little over 13 years, the occasion being the anniversary of what was once known as Organisation of African Unity (OAU) but has since been renamed African Union (AU). The day (May 25) is marked as Africa Day.

In Dar es Salaam and several other cities across the continent, the countdown to the big day included week-long activities that climaxed in trade exhibitions symbolising the progress the continent have registered over the years.

Several top African leaders had been shuttling from one point to another to tackle problems in strife-torn countries such as Somalia and the North African rim nations. Others had been attending an Indo-Africa forum in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital and AU headquarters.

These events in part pointed to the progress Africa had registered on the political, social and economic fronts. They were also an indication that there were two kinds of development that promised to come and dominate the continent's social, economic and political future.

The first kind was shaped by the traditional individual member countries' economic and trade cooperation with others that started immediately after African countries gained political independence.

The other was the relationship arising out of the AU's own efforts to capture the attention of the world, particularly the emerging market countries - as have gained pace ever since the beginning of this century.

African countries have signed a number of economic and trade pacts between and among themselves as well as with other countries, all of which meant to facilitate business and other links between and among them.

This in itself was a regime of pacts

of its own kind and involved resource exchanges between and among the African countries - severally or as a bloc - as well as the likes of Japan, the US, France, the UK, China and India.

Considering Africa's strategic geopolitical position, global socio-economic needs and the burning urge and desire for quick development, the continent has found itself at the centre of the world. The result is that more and more countries could be seen rushing mainly for its abundant resources and growing markets.

Many more continent-to-country agreements have been forged along the way, including with the likes of Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Turkey, Russia, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

In anticipation of this, many African countries saw need to devise new paradigms to help them maximise their benefits as they went about accommodating the various interests likely to knock on their doors.

The need for cooperation between African countries and the rest of the world was worth appreciation because it is a fact that no country can go it alone. But it was as crucial to caution Africa against being duped into selling its resources cheap but remain resolute in ensuring that the war on the poverty of their people remained a top priority. Africa still badly needs to devise and execute a rich variety of workable programmes capable of moving its people from poverty, misery and despondency into dignified prosperity.

This is why stand convinced that African countries need to make thorough re-assessments of their development alliances and strategies, including their cooperation agreements with the outside world.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

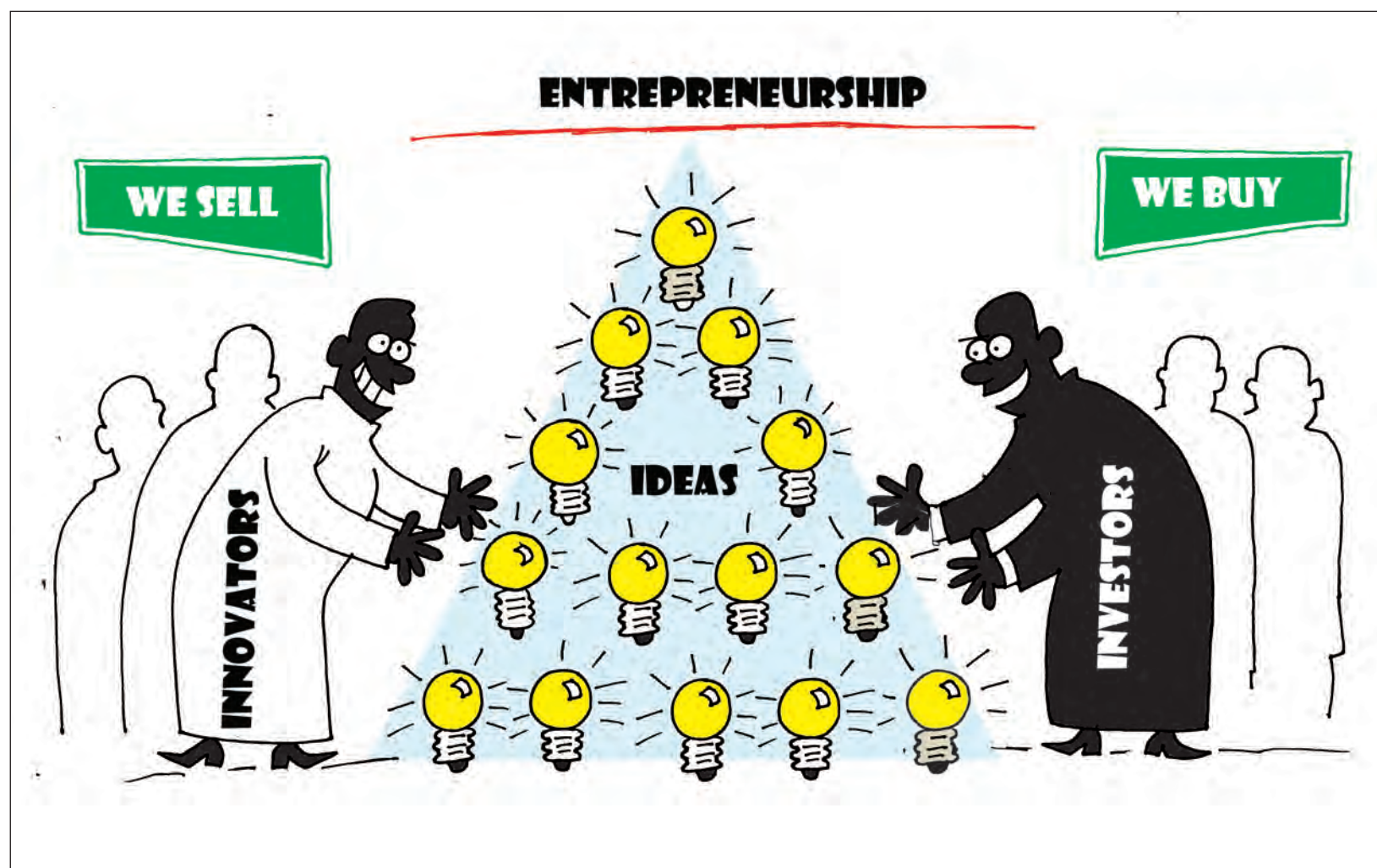
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



## How AI can help journalists rebuild a fraying connection with their audience

By Richard Fletcher

I would like to explain what I think are the three key challenges facing journalism today - before moving on to how AI can be used to address them.

But the challenges I'll discuss are perhaps not those that first come to mind when we think about the state of journalism today.

That's because they specifically relate to journalism's connection with the public - without which journalism is not able to play the essential role it does in democracy.

Our research at the Reuters Institute examines changes to journalism, the practices it uses, and the impact of technology on those practices.

However, much of our work also examines the public's relationship with news and the news media - how people access news, what they think and feel about it, what they think it does and does not do for them as citizens, and how they see its role as an institution within society.

Journalists have a shared sense of how they feel about these issues - but it is vital to ask whether the public shares this view.

If we think about the very important and very clear economic, practical and political challenges facing journalism today, and we think about how we would want to see these resolved - or what we think they could look like in an ideal world - I would argue that all of them require not only the existence of an audience for journalism but also a healthy relationship between journalism and the public.

In other words, and as me and my colleagues have argued before, journalism can only ever exist within the context of its audience.

With that in mind, what can we say about what is happening to news, journalism and its relationship with the public? I would say there are three key trends right now. These trends are overlapping and interrelated, but together they pose a challenge to that connection between journalism and the public.

### News use is changing

The first trend is changing patterns of news access. We all know by now that traditional, offline forms of news use - particularly printed newspapers, but also television news - are used by fewer and fewer people. Young people in particular are turning to digital, online news access - often via intermediaries like social media, usually accessed on smartphones and other mobile devices.

Here are some data from our Digital News Report - a study of how people get news across 47 media markets. I'm using Germany as an example, but we see many of the same patterns everywhere. Weekly TV news use has declined by about 20 percentage points since 2013, and is now used less widely than online news.

We also see a very sharp decline in the use of printed newspapers and magazines, and at the same time the use of social me-



dia for news has steadily increased - overtaking print in 2019.

At this point you may be thinking that this is a superficial change - after all, the news itself is still often (though increasingly less so) coming from the same brands as it always has.

In one sense, this is true. But it is also true that the way people access news seems to be having a big impact upon how engaged people are with news, how much attention people pay to it, and the benefits it gives society and the impact it can have.

There's considerable evidence to suggest that, although there are some benefits to digital news access, such as increased diversity and choice, people pay less attention to it, consume it less frequently and benefit from it less.

The proportion who do not use any of these sources has grown from 1 per cent to 8 per cent, and is steadily increasing in many of the countries we study. In some, it is already over 10 per cent.

### Lower interest in news

This brings us to the second key trend: declining interest in news. We have seen a stark decline in the proportion of people with high levels of interest in news in the last ten years. In some European countries the proportion with high levels of interest in news has declined by around 20 points or more.

Examples of this trend are found the UK, France, Spain, Germany and Poland. In the UK, the figure has gone from 70 per cent in 2015 to just 38 per cent today - from a clear majority to a clear minority.

These trends matter because research has long personal motivation to be the primary reason some people engage with news and some people do not.

This is perhaps one reason our research has also documented an increase in selective 'news avoidance' in recent years - with around 40 per

cent of respondents saying that they sometimes or often actively try to avoid the news.

### Lower trust in news

The third trend is declining trust in news. Every year we ask people in our survey whether they "trust most news most of the time", and when we look at the results, we see a decline in the proportion that agree with this statement.

The decline in trust is not as dramatic as the decline in interest - and it's not as consistent, either. Some countries within Europe - such as those in the Nordic region and the Netherlands - have even seen small increases in trust. But in most of the markets covered by our research the trend is downwards.

However, this does not necessarily mean that journalism has actually become less trustworthy. In my opinion, although it is necessarily imperfect, journalism is in many respects getting better all the time.

And it is clear that declines in trust are influenced by factors outside of journalism, such as criticism from politicians and other elites who sometimes simply dislike the coverage of them and their actions.

But the reason I think the data on trust are important is that they encapsulate a range of different concerns and negative attitudes people have towards journalism and the media as an institution.

These perceptions may not be accurate or justified - and many of them are not - but this doesn't make them or their effects on society any less real. Most newsworthy events happen outside of people's direct personal experience, so a degree of trust is an essential precondition for people to learn about the world from news.

### How AI can help

Changing patterns of news use, declining interest in news, and declining trust are the three defining trends

for journalism's relationship with the public today. But how does generative AI fit into this picture and what is its relationship with these challenges?

In many ways, it is too early to say. The technology can be used in an infinite number of ways, many of which are yet to be conceived of.

But even now, many newsrooms across the world are integrating AI into their work - whether it is to help them with routine tasks like translation and transcription, or for more ambitious projects around the creation of content.

I'm not going to address the broader question of whether this is right or wrong. Many people have strong views about this, and the concerns about copyright, jobs and professional autonomy undoubtedly deserve serious attention.

Outside of journalism, there are lots of other issues and concerns - including real fears about how generative AI could be used to generate misinformation.

But if we assume that the adoption of AI by journalism will continue, it's important to think how we can use it to address the three key challenges I've mentioned.

Let's think about these in reverse order, and start with trust in news. In my view, this is the hardest issue to address with AI. It is much easier to see the challenge here but harder to see where the opportunity might be.

One key reason for this is that research suggests that people's trust in news is an extension of how they feel about politics and society in general. This means that people's trust in news is shaped by external factors that journalists and the news media do not have any direct control over.

In a separate study of attitudes towards the use of generative AI in news across eight countries, we found that people think that the use of AI in journalism will make news 'cheaper to make' but also 'less trustworthy'.

*Continues on page 10*



By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

# HIV/Aids: NGO commended for empowering vulnerable communities with vital knowledge

FOR over 25 years, the Tanzania Development and AIDS Prevention Association (TADEPA) has been a pillar of hope in the fight against HIV/Aids.

Through dedicated efforts, in Kagera and across other regions countrywide, TADEPA has been working to empower communities by providing essential knowledge, resources and support to combat the epidemic.

Renowned for its grassroots approach, the Non-Governmental Organization has successfully bridged health-care gaps, raised awareness, and supported vulnerable populations.

In celebrating this year's World Aids Day on December 1st, authorities in Kagera Region organized an event in Kyerwa District where a number of stakeholders including doctors gathered to discuss various issues related to the diseases.

This year's theme was "Take the rights path: My health, my right!" with the World Health Organization (WHO) calling on global leaders and citizens to champion the right to health by addressing the inequalities that hinder progress in ending AIDS.

WHO statistics indicates that in 2023, an estimated 39.9 million people were living with HIV globally, approximately 630 000 people died from HIV-related causes in 2023 and an estimated 1.3 million people acquired HIV in 2023.

Kagera Regional Medical Officer (RMO) Dr. Samweli Laizer highlighted the need for collaboration between the government and stakeholders such as TADEPA and the Management and Development for Health (MDH) in addressing inequalities that fuels new HIV infections.

Providing an overview of the HIV/Aids situation in the region, the RMO noted that a total of 77,577 people had been tested for HIV, with 76,497 individuals enrolled at Care and Treatment Center (CTC) at different hospitals.

Among them, 75,043 had their viral load suppressed and are progressing well with the Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) treatment. Viral load suppression is vital for maintaining the health of people living with HIV, preventing transmission, and achieving long-term control of the HIV epidemic.

Suppressing the viral load to undetectable levels helps prevent the progression of HIV to AIDS, allows the immune system to recover and function more effectively, reducing the risk of opportunistic infections.

When a person's viral load is undetectable, they cannot transmit the virus sexually. However, suppression decreases the likelihood of developing other infections, such as tuberculosis (TB) and certain cancers, which are more common in people with untreated HIV.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Regional Commissioner Fatma Mwassa, Kyerwa District Commissioner Zaituni Msofe called upon residents to make sure they check their health status including a test for HIV.

Selestine Mbatiana, Chairperson of People Living with HIV in Kyerwa District, said that with proper treatment and support, people living with HIV can regain their health, rebuild their life and manages their daily activities.

"I am on ART treatment; I feel good and I can actively engage in income generating activities including agriculture. At my village, I have livestock and a shop," he said,



Zaituni Msofe, Kyerwa District Commissioner at the TADEPA booth during celebrations to mark this year's World Aids Day on December 1st. Photo: Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast.

insisting with proper care and treatment HIV positive individuals can live to achieve their life goals.

Abimeleck Richard, TADEPA Program Officer explained how addressing root causes such as household conflicts and financial disparities helps reduce HIV transmission risks.

Dr James Barongo, CEO of TADEPA expressed pride in the organization's recognition, reaffirming its dedication to supporting Tanzanian children, particularly those under eight years old. He emphasized that early access to services lays a strong foundation for the next generation.

Kagera Region was one of the earliest regions hit hard by HIV/Aids leading to a rise in orphans and destabilized families. According to a 2023 study by Straton Kakoko Ruhinda, HIV/Aids severely affected family stability, exacerbating stigma, discrimination, and fragmentation of family units.

Recent data from the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2022-2023 revealed a decline in HIV prevalence, from 5.6 percent in 2017 to 4.9 percent in 2022. Globally, the World Health Organization reported that 39.9 million people were living with HIV in 2022, with 630,000 deaths attributed to the virus.

Nationally, the 2024 World AIDS Day was held in Ruvuma Region with the government underscoring Tanzania's commitment to ending HIV/Aids by 2030.

Deputy Minister Ummu Nderiananga urged community mobilization, while Acting Program Head Dr. Riziki Kisonga detailed available services, including HIV testing and counseling.

Health Minister Jenista Mhagama acknowledged the support of international partners like the Global Fund and the U.S. government. She emphasized efforts to strengthen healthcare

infrastructure and expand ARV access.

As Tanzania works toward zero new infections and the elimination of stigma by 2030, organizations like TADEPA remain crucial. Their efforts empower communities, transform lives, and pave the way for a healthier future.

This year's World AIDS Day celebrations inspired hope and unity, highlighting the collective resolve of Tanzanians to overcome the HIV epidemic. Through education, access to care, and collaboration, the country is reshaping its future—where HIV no longer devastates lives, and hope flourishes.

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

# Balanced diet key to health, happiness and a long life

FROM the very beginning of humanity's existence, food has been an integral part of survival and well-being. In the biblical narrative of creation, human beings were granted stewardship over the earth, tasked with cultivating its resources to sustain life.

Beyond nutrition, food is a cornerstone of human health, happiness, and cultural identity.

Today, experts around the world emphasize the importance of a balanced diet, which provides the nutrients necessary for growth, energy and disease prevention.

Maintaining a balanced diet is vital for human fitness and overall well-being because its role in human health. A balanced diet consists of adequate amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Each of these nutrients serves specific purposes in the body.

Consuming nutritious food helps in energy production. Foods provide the energy needed for physical activity and metabolic processes. Proteins and minerals contribute to the repair and development of body tissues.

Vitamins and minerals enhance the immune system, helping the body fight infections and diseases. Regular consumption of a balanced diet protects against deficiencies, strengthens immunity, and promotes optimal body functioning. For instance, vitamin-rich foods reduce the risk of disease, while proper hydration and dietary fiber improve digestion and nutrient absorption.

## Risks of an unbalanced diet

Eating an unbalanced diet can lead to various short-term and long-term health effects due to nutrient deficiencies or excesses. A diet lacking in carbohydrates, proteins, or iron can result in reduced energy levels and fatigue, impacting daily activities and productivity. Insufficient fiber intake can cause constipation, while excessive fats or processed foods may lead to indigestion.

Other effects of poor dietary choices include hypertension whereas excessive salt intake or insufficient potassium can lead to high blood pressure. Overeating and calorie-dense foods increase fat storage, heightening the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Processed and fatty foods negatively impact gut health, nutrient absorption, and metabolism. High consumption of refined sugars, red meats, and fried foods can exacerbate these conditions. Conversely, incorporating fresh vegetables, fruits, lean proteins, and dairy can help mitigate such risks.

Balanced nutrition goes hand-in-hand with physical activity. Experts recommend walking at least three kilometers daily to promote fitness, control cravings, and maintain a healthy weight. Regular exercise complements



a balanced diet, ensuring a stronger and more resilient body.

## Global perspective on food security

Food security remains a pressing global challenge. World Food Day, celebrated annually on October 16, highlights the critical role of food in human lives and advocates for sustainable solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

While global food production has improved, disparities persist. Between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2023. At least 23.8 percent of the global population is undernourished. Over 30 percent of children under five suffer from stunted growth, while 4.1 percent die before their fifth birthday.

In Tanzania, food insecurity continues to affect significant portions of the population. Between November 2023 and April 2024, around 900,000 individuals in 21 district councils expe-

rienced acute food insecurity. Factors such as poverty, climate change, and limited access to resources exacerbate this issue.

## Tanzania's role as East Africa's food basket

Known for its natural resources and fertile lands, Tanzania plays a pivotal role in feeding East Africa. Often referred to as the "food basket" of the region, it supplies a variety of crops both domestically and for export.

Under the sixth phase government, Tanzania has implemented measures to combat hunger and malnutrition, including disseminating nutritional information and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Globally, one-third of all food produced is wasted, posing ethical, economic, and environmental challenges. Innovations such as precision agriculture and vertical farming are promising so-

lutions to boost production while minimizing waste and environmental impact.

A balanced diet is not merely about eating well; it is a fundamental aspect of life, health, and sustainability. By promoting better dietary habits, encouraging physical activity, and addressing food security challenges, we can create a healthier and more equitable world.

As we commemorate World Food Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry and that every individual has access to nutritious food. Together, through global cooperation and sustainable practices, we can make this vision a reality.



## How AI could help journalists rebuild a fraying connection with their audience

From page 8

Although it may be possible to use AI to adapt content to move the needle towards trust for some people, the main task may be in simply countering the perception that AI makes news less trustworthy, and convincing audiences that it is being used responsibly and for their benefit.

This is why efforts around labelling, explanation about how AI is being used for news - and having a human in the loop, while no silver bullet - are nonetheless important for public understanding and, ultimately, public trust.

### What about declining interest in news?

This is also a difficult challenge and it's not immediately obvious how AI might fit in. As researchers, we probably don't know enough about what shapes people's interest in news - but there is evidence that interest is shaped in childhood through socialisation with parents and peers.

Therefore, it may not be possible to use AI to really reverse a specific individual's interest in news. But I do think there is the potential for AI to be used to better meet the needs of those less interested in news.

For example, what if generative AI could be used to take a news article written by a journalist and create an additional version of it that is better suited to people with low interest or lacking background knowledge of complex stories - a version that does not assume that the reader had knowledge of what has caused long-running conflicts, or does not assume that they are familiar with insider political jargon?

And when it comes to news avoidance, news avoiders themselves tell us that one of the main reasons they avoid news is that they do not feel that the news is relevant to their lives.

Can AI help journalists craft articles that explain how news might affect them - or even just remind journalists that this matters for some people?

Finally, let's consider how AI can help journalists address the challenge of changing news access. To me it is clear that the changing patterns of news access that I spoke about earlier are not going to be reversed. In fact, they will likely become even more embedded, and it may be that AI itself will become a key part of how people access news.

It's not so difficult to imagine a future where people ask AI chatbots to give them the latest news. In fact, our research suggests that a small minority of 5 per cent have already tried this. But our research also suggests that, in their present state, AI chatbots are not terribly good at accurately serving up the latest news from specific outlets.

Perhaps this will be true for some time and, as mentioned earlier, there are important legal, practical and financial issues that must be addressed before this even becomes a viable proposition.

Hallucinations are an obvious concern, too. But personally, I am more interested in how it might be possible to use AI to create additional versions and formats that are a better fit for how people access information in the digital world.

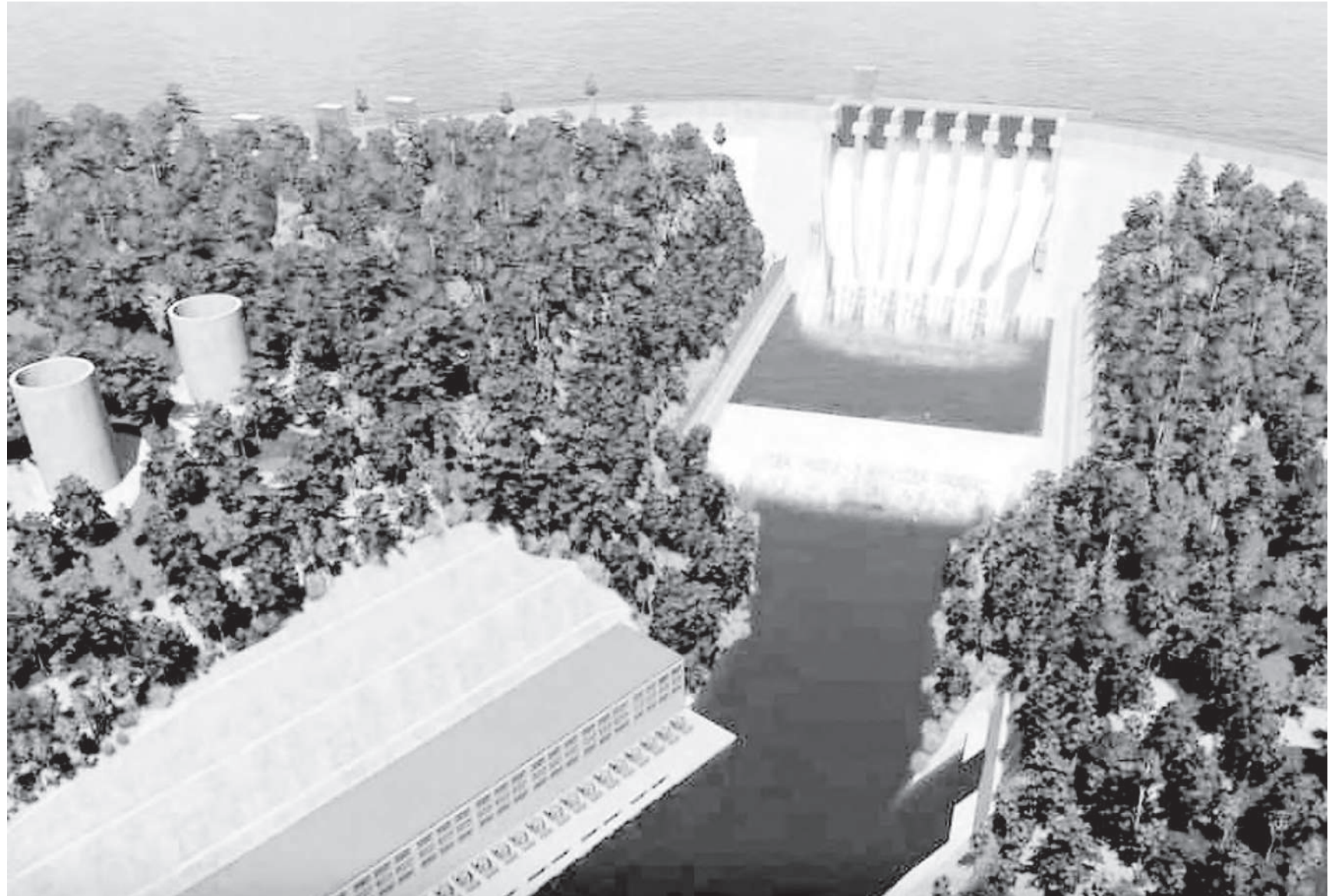
For example, taking articles written by journalists and using generative AI in the newsroom or on news publishers' own websites to create summaries that convey the key points - or to convert that text to audio (or vice versa) to fit in with how people prefer to access media today.

Can AI be used, for example, to create versions of articles that meet the needs of citizens with hearing or visual impairment?

Uses such as this interest me and appeal to me primarily because they are not about using AI to do the work of journalists. And because the technology is being used in the newsroom, they leave journalists, rather than technology companies, in control of the output. Nor are these examples aimed at making the news cheaper to make - something that is of little, indirect public benefit.

On the contrary, they are about using the technology to do more of what journalism does best to do it better, and in ways that might help repair the fraying connection with the public. It might be possible to use AI to create new versions that are a better fit for how people access news.

Richard Fletcher is Director of Research of the Reuters Institute. This is a version of a speech he gave at the Lorenzo Natali Prize award ceremony held in Brussels this November 26.



The Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Plant

## Energy alternatives: Why Tanzania can't imitate Egypt's nuclear drive

By Guardian Correspondent

THOSE following the news in the past few years will be aware of the energy, effort and zeal that the Egyptian authorities have always placed on any initiative relating to designing or reallocating the use of Nile River waters that sets up technical impediments to its natural flow.

This has seen signs of instability in the Horn of Africa as Ethiopia builds one or more dams on the Blue Nile tributary for its own electricity generation plans, not to speak of irrigation. Egypt is far from amused, but seeing the limits of strategic alternatives, tries other solutions.

Reports say that work has recently commenced on the installation of the core catcher for Unit 4 of the El-Dabaa nuclear power plant with the Russian firm Rosatom Engineering tasked as general designer and contractor for the plant. It will be Egypt's first nuclear power facility, while South Africa looks for ways to finance nuclear power supply expansion as its power shortages have long broached unmanageable proportions. Even here, limits of hydro expansion are evident as no other source compares with the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Plant (JNHPP), and by far.

It is interesting to read explanations that the core catcher is a crucial part of the plant's passive safety system, designed to prevent the release of radioactive materials in the event of a severe accident that results in the destruction of the reactor vessel.

The system is made up of several components, with a total weight of over 700 tonnes; the core catcher body alone weighs 155 tonnes, all of which now look manageable by the scale of projects we are designing or dreaming about at present. Indeed some state agencies openly talk of using this source for power generation as the country is believed to have tangible uranium reserves.

The generation system at El-Dabaa will consist of four 1,200 MW power units, each equipped with pressurised water reactors (VVER-1200) of the Russian Generation III+ design. Analysts say that this evolutionary reactor type complies fully with international safety regulations, meanwhile as back in August, a similar core catcher was delivered to the Paks-II plant in Hungary for its new units. Both these are countries we are extending intense economic ties, and they can be elevated to that level, now that JNHPP and SGR were contracted to such states.

It can thus be said that the major hydropower plant and speed train projects are curtain raisers to higher level technology sourcing in the near future. The reason is that the clean cooking energy strategy that the government has adopted will at best be limited to the domestic level, and can't be argued for industrial outlays and indeed electricity for rapid urbanization plans, high rise outfits, etc.

In the unlikely event of convincing 'the conference of the parties' that massive LNG is consistent with an overall target of 'net zero' by 2050 at least, nuclear sourcing will start making plenty of sense, as it is making such sense in parallel situations.

When it comes to renewable or basically clean energies, it would appear that nuclear energy isn't on the first lists of many countries, despite its growing popularity, or rather regaining legitimacy.

Wind energy as well as solar panels which take up plenty of space but are far more amenable to individual initiative or small organisations take the lion's share of current initiatives. Those thinking of going nuclear, including timid gestures from local energy authorities, rely more on the presence of uranium as the key mineral resource, within our shores.

There are other rather unwelcome considerations

on chances of going nuclear for any African state, apart from South Africa which already had those facilities from the time of its isolation as an apartheid state. Capital amounts to be invested in such projects are forbidding, and if there is a state monopoly for which the power to be produced will be directed, a 'tangential' error in the costing and indeed in the tendering could lead to debt repayment costs of grotesque proportions. This could well be somewhat imaginary but is worth avoiding, for such back breaking contracts have at times destabilized countries.

It follows that merely having the raw materials within our shores does not make us ready to move into that sphere of electricity generation, as chances of finding low interest loans to add to local financing we could still marshal are minimal.

We are thus likely to remain a zone of extractive industries for new energy sources, for which we shall be able to use some of them in developing solar and wind energy systems, despite being quite slow in that regard. Were it that the shareholding structure in the electricity monopoly was liberalised, to enable competing supplier to deliver substantial loads by contract, the pace picks up.

Ironically this is a repetition of what happened 50 years when construction was being initiated for the Tanzania-Zambia railway cutting through a zone that is rich in coal and iron ore reserves.

Local analysts started speaking of the real feasibility of an iron and steel industry as the key components were now being brought together: raw materials, a railway line, and profound interest in basic industrialization (in the 1975 budget presentation). There were some missing factors not clearly accounted for, and much of that bespeaks of the current potential, though there is greater chance of making it this time, with a real shift.

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Governments urged to adopt agroecology for food security

By Guardian Reporter, Riyadh

**G**OVERNMENTS have been advised to develop and implement policies that actively support agro-ecological, agroforestry approaches and practices for local communities and pastoralists to ensure food security and the right to food.

The piece of advice was given by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia over the weekend at the open dialogue session on civil society contributions on inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems during the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

They also urge government to limit water-intensive business practices and end all public support for land-degrading agriculture, support locally led actions, initiatives and knowledge exchange about sustainable agri-food systems as well as supporting implementation of landmark COP14 Decision 26 on land tenure for ensuring land rights for inclusive agri-food systems.

In his keynote address, Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer and Founder of Indian based AGRO RANGERS organization said in rural India, an estimated 900 million people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, but climate change has accelerated soil erosion, leading to widespread soil degradation whereas farmers find themselves in debt and reduced incomes.

Sakore underscored the need for governments to support farmers to shift from chemical farming to sustainable organic farming through regenerative agroforestry models.

"Growing up in a marginalized farming family, I witnessed firsthand the

economic hardships that farmers and their families endure. I have dedicated the past five years working in regenerative organic agriculture. We work to change the mindset of farmers from chemical farming to regenerative organic farming by educating them and creating awareness," said Sakore.

Chairperson of the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), Dr Ellen Oturu underscored the need for collaborative efforts especially from the private sector to support and invest in human and financial resources in land restoration for the benefit of communities.

Dr Oturu was of the view that governments should develop agro-ecology policies for food security as it offers a holistic approach to agriculture that addresses critical challenges such as sustainable food production, and environmental conservation.

"By minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, agro-ecology reduces environmental pollution and health risks, while supporting the natural ecosystems that sustain agriculture," she said, adding that by adopting agro-ecology policies, governments can ensure a sustainable, equitable and resilient food system capable of addressing present and future challenges.

Glenda Mangia from Fundación Cauce in Argentina highlighted the need for governments to introduce environment and care learning sessions to children as young as five years.

According to Mangia, introduce children to farming activities



Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) attending the ongoing sixteenth session of conference of the parties (COP16) to the UNCCD. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

helps them feel the soil and learn about soils from early age of between four and five years, thus encouraging them to plant and care of the environment.

Sharing practical experience of the sustainable agriculture project—'Kilimo Endelevu', Erimelinda Temba from Islands of Peace in Arusha, Tanzania said it is high time that people starts consuming safe and healthy food which are grown agroecologically.

"Knowing the importance of agroecology; We have been building the capacity of framers and schools to be able to adopt sustainable farming practices that adheres to the principles of agroecology. We focus on transforming food systems by adopting principles of agroecology as well as supporting farmers from production, post production and at consumer level," said Temba.

Explaining, she added that some sustainable farming practices that farmers are encouraged to adopt include diversification whereas they should adopt crops, livestock

and trees all together to ensure they diversify their farming practices.

Temba was optimistic that the launch of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) for 2023-2030 in March this year will mark a pivotal moment in the nation's agricultural evolution.

NEOAS is a comprehensive framework designed to accelerate sustainable, ecological organic farming practices. It lays the groundwork for governmental and private sector collaboration, fostering new partnerships in line with Tanzania's agricultural transformation aspirations.

She said they also do advocacy at national level whereas the seed working group has been formed to advocate for agroecology farmer managed seed systems. She said in post-harvest management farmers are capacitated to ensure proper handling and storage of crops by using technologies that adheres to the principles of agroecology.

"The challenge we have is that agroecology does not yet have deep roots in our

country, thus making more of our activities focusing on capacity building and investment. Consumer sensitization is also done to ensure people are aware of the products and how they can access them," said Temba, adding they have been doing a number of campaigns and cooking demonstrations for the community to know and understand the whole chain that supports agroecological production.

Earlier, UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw underscored the need for governments to conduct extensive research to develop intercropping-based agroforestry models that enhance soil health, improve farmers' livelihoods, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Thiaw said the session was a unique opportunity for civil society organizations to have a constructive dialogue whereas in the last 27 years, such dialogue have consistently provided a unique mechanism for intergrating the participation of CSOs in the conferences.

"We are grateful to the government of the Kingdom of Saudi for ensuring participation of non-state actors in the conference of parties whereas this year we have over 4,000 CSOs taking part in this session of the COP," he said.

# Enthusiasm for science among girls gone from a dream to reality

By Guardian Correspondent

**I**N recent decades, a significant shift has occurred in the world of science and engineering: girls are not only enrolling in these traditionally male-dominated fields but excelling in them. While there is still work to be done, the enthusiasm for science among girls has gone from a dream to a reality, transforming communities and challenging longstanding gender norms.

In Tanzania, the gender gap in education is narrowing, with girls consistently outperforming boys in key educational milestones. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, from 2013 to 2017, the primary school completion rate for girls averaged 53 percent, compared to 47 percent for boys. As a result, more girls are enrolling in secondary schools, colleges, and universities, with an increasing number pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects—a stark contrast to just 20 years ago.

This shift is supported by a robust pipeline of education and career opportunities. From primary school to higher education and into the workforce, young girls are increasingly empowered to become engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Today, we meet a few remarkable women who are trailblazing the path from students to entrepreneurs, all making a lasting impact on their communities.

## Breaking Barriers: Girls in STEM

The government has been at the forefront of promoting gender equality in education.

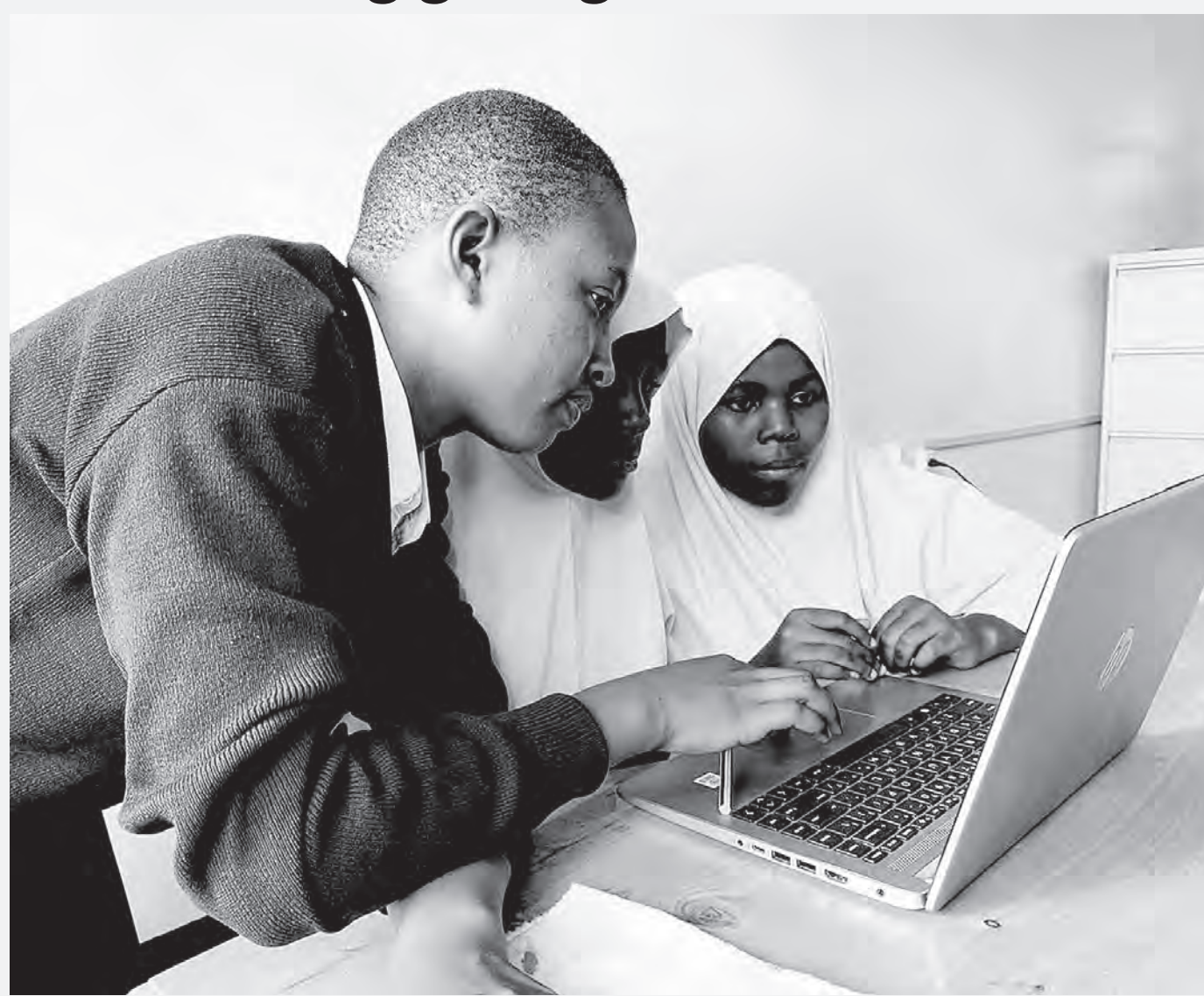
Through initiatives such as the establishment of 26 girls' secondary schools across the country, the government is providing girls with a platform to excel. Each school, located in a different region, serves as a hub for fostering scientific and academic growth for girls who are passionate about learning.

One such student, Sanya Magire Juma, is currently studying at Dar es Salaam Girls Secondary School. "I want to study science and become a surgeon later. I love everything I'm learning now," Sanya says.

Inspired by her sister, a practicing surgeon in Dar es Salaam, Sanya exemplifies the growing number of female role models in the medical field. Unlike in the 1980s, when girls had few women in science to look up to, today's students can draw inspiration from countless female professionals across various disciplines.

Sanya's story is mirrored by other students like Amina Juma Masangula, a third-year engineering student at Misungwi Community Technical Training College. "Whenever I say I'm taking engineering, some people roll their eyes or tell me I can't because I'm a girl," Amina says. "That makes me study harder to prove them wrong." Despite facing doubts and traditional gender norms, Amina is excelling, topping her class and proving that determination can overcome societal barriers.

Misungwi Community Development Technical Training Institute (CDTTI), which has been training technical personnel since 1982, has seen a surge in female stu-



dents pursuing engineering courses.

Charles Frankline Nyakiodho, CDTTI Principal, notes that the number of girls enrolling in engineering courses has grown significantly. "Parents are increasingly encouraging their daughters to pursue technical courses, and women empowerment programs have played a key role in emboldening them," Nyakiodho explains.

Moreover, Tanzania's procurement law, which man-

dates that 30 percent of government contracts be awarded to female-owned businesses, has further spurred female participation in the engineering sector.

Nyakiodho highlights that several female alumni have gone on to start their own civil engineering companies, creating a new wave of women entrepreneurs in the field. Entrepreneurship Meets Innovation

While some girls choose the traditional route of em-

ployment, others, like Diana Mbogo, are creating their own paths. Diana, a graduate in mechanical engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam, co-founded Millennium Engineering, a company that designs innovative solutions to address local challenges. One of their projects focuses on improving the livelihoods of fishermen around Lake Victoria, who previously relied on costly and hazardous kerosene lanterns for night fishing.

Millennium Engineering developed solar-powered lanterns that provide a safer, cheaper, and more sustainable alternative. "Our solution is green and less risky than kerosene lanterns," Diana says. "It allows fishermen to fish longer hours, safely and affordably."

The company's innovative approach doesn't stop there. They also introduced solar-powered driers for sardine fishers, a game-changer in a region where fish drying

often depends on unpredictable weather. These solar driers allow women, who traditionally spent hours in the sun watching their fish dry, to redirect their time to other income-generating activities or family care.

Diana's journey, from engineering student to entrepreneur, is an inspiring example of how women in STEM can not only succeed but also lead meaningful change in their communities. With their technical skills and innovative thinking, women like Diana are tackling some of the most pressing issues facing their communities—such as energy access and sustainable agriculture.

## The Path Forward

Today, girls like Sanya, Amina, and Diana are living proof that gender no longer has to limit one's potential in science and engineering. With a supportive environment, strong female role models, and government initiatives promoting gender equality, girls in Tanzania and beyond are breaking barriers and creating solutions that benefit their communities.

This shift is not just about education; it's about empowerment. By equipping young girls with the tools and support they need to succeed in STEM fields, we are opening doors to higher-paying, high-impact careers that can drive economic and social progress. As part of the global Generation Equality movement, which is dedicated to accelerating gender equality and empowering women and girls, Tanzania is making significant strides toward realizing a more inclusive and equitable future.



# Reflection on 63 years of independence: Striving after new heights

ADDIS ABABA &amp; NAIROBI

**E**THIOPIA'S education system is buckling under the weight of complex, competing challenges. The aftermath of a deadly war in the north, ongoing violence, climate-induced disasters, and widespread forced displacements have converged to push as many as 9 million children out of school. With close to 18 percent of schools in the country destroyed or damaged and persisting intercommunal conflicts in various regions, there are fears that many might never find their way back to school.

"In the absence of education, both boys and girls may be mobilized into militant groups, and frequently, girls will be subjected to child marriage.

The choice is to provide them with an education, as it is the pathway to their future and contribution to their society and also as a protection mechanism," says Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises in the United Nations. "Being out-of-school puts them in harm's way and onto the path of abuse, violations, and the destruction of their lives, their communities, and eventually their country.

We must ensure that no child is left behind in the education system. Investing in the very real potential of Ethiopia's young generation is not an option—it is an absolute necessity."

Sherif traveled to the Tigray region in the first week of December 2024 together with the ECW Global Champion and Finance Minister of Denmark, Nicolai Wammen. ECW's high-level delegation saw first-hand the devastating effects of the deadly three-year conflict between the Ethiopian central government and the northernmost region of Tigray, Ethiopia.

The aftermath and recovery process are such that, amid limited resources, the country is putting back the pieces of a broken education infrastructure to jumpstart an education system that had come to a complete halt.

At the end of their joint visit, the two called for bold donor action to deliver the promise of a quality education to millions of crisis-impacted children.

"We have a multi-year investment and great partners on the ground, including a very supportive government. We work with UN agencies, including UNICEF, and civil society organizations such as Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council, ImagineIDay and other local Ethiopian organizations," Sherif told IPS.

The ECW delegation visited schools benefiting from funding by ECW and strategic partners, met children, parents, and teachers, and saw first-hand the impact of ECW-supported programmes. In one



**Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and Nicolai Wammen, ECW Global Champion and Danish Minister of Finance, visit a school in the Tigray Region in Ethiopia. The delegation met with girls and boys whose education was interrupted for over three years due to conflict. Thanks to ECW & strategic partners' support in the region, students are back in the classroom where they belong. Credit: ECW/Tesfaye**



EMBASSY OF DENMARK  
Dar es Salaam

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLITICAL OFFICER

Denmark's cooperation with Tanzania has been evolving since 1963, making Tanzania the first African country Denmark partnered with. Over the past 60 years, Denmark has contributed more than 50 trillion TZS to Tanzania's socio-economic development through Danida, and close relations have been built between people and institutions.

In recognition of Tanzania's evolving role on the global scene, and in line with the Danish Government's strategy for strengthened engagement with African countries, Denmark is now broadening its partnership with Tanzania. In addition to development cooperation, we will strengthen our engagement through government-to-government twinning, and we are committed to seeing stronger trade and investment relations, and a rich political dialogue on national and global issues of relevance to both Denmark and Tanzania.

To deliver on the future partnership, we seek a self-driven colleague who can contribute to the Embassy's strong political network and ensure that we deliver on our ambitions for a mutually beneficial political dialogue on national and global issues.

If you are keen on global, regional and national political matters, have excellent analytical skills, and if you can write in a clear, concise and analytical manner we can offer a rewarding working environment.

As a Political Officer your key role will be to support management in keeping abreast of Tanzania's political interests regionally and on the global scene. You will contribute to the Embassy's assessment of the political economy of Tanzania and support the work of stronger ties between Denmark and Tanzania on policy priorities of common interest incl. peace and stability, and regional security. Denmark will be on the UN Security Council in 2025-2026.

### Key responsibilities and duties:

- Build strong local networks and ensure regular outreach to relevant actors based on the Embassy's priorities, incl. regional security.
- Prepare written analysis and reports on regional security, and political and social development of relevance to Danish policy priorities.
- Ensure active participation in relevant working groups and coordination forums.
- Manage smaller partnerships with think tanks.
- Drive a continued dialogue with Danish and Tanzanian researchers and think tanks.

To learn more about the qualifications and other requirements, please visit the Danish Embassy's website at [www.tanzania.um.dk](http://www.tanzania.um.dk)

The website will provide you with more information including the application process.

The deadline for receiving applications is 17th December 2024.

The Embassy attaches great importance to equal opportunities for all and therefore receives applications from all qualified persons regardless of race, sex, religion, age or disability.

e-mail: [recruitment@prospect-africa.net](mailto:recruitment@prospect-africa.net)



school alone, enrollment increased by an impressive 20 percent last year due to a comprehensive package of interventions funded by ECW.

"It is heartwarming to witness the life-transforming power of quality education in the most complex crisis situations. I met strong and resilient girls and boys who are returning to learning, healing and thriving thanks to ECW's support.

However, conflicts, climate change and other crises continue to push millions of children out of school every year—in Ethiopia and beyond. Business as usual will not meet this challenge. I encourage private sector partners to join ECW's efforts and invest in new and innovative financing strategies to fill the widening gap," said Nicolai Wammen, Minister of Finance, Denmark, and ECW Global Champion.

Sherif says the delegation saw significant progress in supported schools, such as "rehabilitated infrastructure and others rebuilt from scratch.

We saw learning supplies, teachers who are well trained and sensitized, and professionals offering mental health and psychosocial services.

There is a strong academic curriculum. Included in the national curriculum are critical issues of peace-building, ethics, and the arts. Education is ongoing in primary and secondary schools but also in pre-primary and early childhood development schools. Children with disabilities also benefit from targeted supports and inclusive education."

Overall, they witnessed a protective learning environment that included systematic implementation of a referral identification of children in need and distribution of assistive devices, and children in need of assistance integrated with their peers, which promotes their inclusion and improves their social and learning skills.

There were girls' clubs too for pursuit of shared and common interests. Teachers are trained on gender-sensitive issues, and there is systematic implementation of menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls, designated sanitation areas for girls, and promotion of water and sanitation.

"The children are receiving quality, safe, and inclusive holistic education. Having gone through mental health and psychosocial support through ECW investment, they are confident and expressive of their dreams. This is what investment in education can do, and we can do even more through bold donor action to reach every child with quality education and prospects for lifelong learning and earning," Sherif observes.

But the challenges are still significantly complex and pressing, and resources are scarce.

Ethiopia also hosts the third largest refugee population in Africa, significantly exacerbating the country's educational challenges. There were over 200,000 new arrivals from Sudan and Somalia in 2023-2024 alone, further increasing pressure on existing resources.

After a visit that revealed the numerous challenges Ethiopian children face and their unwavering deter-

mination to learn, ECW announced a USD 5 million First Emergency Response grant, increasing its total investments in the country to USD 93 million since 2017.

Of the new USD 5 million grant, UNICEF will be the implementing partner for USD 4 million. A local organization, ImagineIDay, will implement the remaining USD 1 million. The organizations will work together with their partners to address urgent needs in the Oromia and Afar regions, where renewed conflict, intercommunal violence, drought and displacement have further disrupted education services in recent months.

These emergency interventions will build on the USD 24 million Multi-Year Resilience Programme announced last month by ECW, targeting needs in the Amhara, Somalia, and Tigray regions.

"ImagineIDay is deeply grateful for this Education Cannot Wait First Emergency Response grant. With this generous support, we will provide over 13,000 out-of-school children in the Afar region—60 percent of whom are girls and 13 percent are children with disabilities—with access to safe learning environments.

This project will not only enhance their well-being but also empower them to reach their full potential. Given that education in emergencies in Ethiopia has been severely underfunded, this grant is crucial in ensuring that crisis-affected children receive the education and support they need to build a brighter future," said Dr. Seid Aman, Country Director of ImagineIDay.

To date, ECW's combined multi-year and emergency investments in Ethiopia have reached more than 550,000 children and adolescents, providing a comprehensive range of supports—school rehabilitation, teacher training, mental health and psychosocial support, inclusive education, school feeding, gender transformative initiatives, early childhood education, and more.

ECW's support focuses on the most vulnerable, including girls, children from refugee, displaced and host community communities, and children with disabilities.

ECW's investments are aligned to the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan and the Ethiopia Education Sector Development Programme VI, a detailed planning document that provides a comprehensive outlook of the roadmap that the country's education sector is taking.

The Global Fund urgently calls for additional resources to fill the USD 64 million funding gap to meet the requirements for the acute education needs in the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ethiopia.

Working in emergency and protracted crisis settings across the globe, ECW supports quality education outcomes for refugee, internally displaced, and other crisis-affected girls and boys, so no one is left behind.





**DIGITAL MARKETING**  
Liberalism of passionomics, trading attention

Page 14



**BUSINESS NEWS**  
US TikTok ban: When and why could the app be outlawed?

Page 14



**INTERVIEW**  
Citizens' expectations as petrol price soars

Page 15

## Youth in Kilwa District to benefit from entrepreneurship project

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

**Y**OUTH in Kilwa district, Lindi region have a reason to smile after Southern Corridor Alliance of Agriculture Producers (SCAAP) has introduced Youth Entrepreneurship for the Future of Agriculture (YEFFA) project in Lindi Region to help youth become self-employed through agricultural activities.

Kassim Kambwily, Kilwa district council, agricultural officer made this call recently during the launch of Kilwa Youth Development Initiatives' (KIYODI) three-year Strategic Plan.

The event was attended by KIYODI members, ActionAid Tanzania staff, and Kilwa Community Development Officers.

He says that the YEFFA project in Kilwa District will focus on vegetable and fruits farming.

He urged KIYODI members and other youth from various wards in Kilwa District to take advantage of this opportunity to cultivate vegetables and fruits, including onions, bananas, and tomato, within their localities.

According to Kambwily, these crops have a huge market demand in Tanzania, neighboring countries and abroad.

The project will be implemented by the Kilwa District Council in collaboration with SCAAP.

The project is expected to start in January 2025 in Kilwa District. Once it is ready, all the youth will be informed through the village government, the Kilwa Youth Development Initiatives' (KIYODI) platform and other youth reflection platforms.

He urged the youth in all areas where they reside to take advantage of this opportunity because the SCAAP will assist them in finding markets for their produce.

"We want to see young people in the wards and villages engaging in agriculture so that they can become self-employed, increase their income, and have a better life," he says.

Additionally, the project will be implemented in the districts of Liwale, Ruangwa, Mtama and in Lindi Municipal Council.

"We need a lot of young people in this project, now is the time to tell the parent not to sell the farm or land so that you can benefit from this opportunity," he says.

Kambwily says, all young people interested in farming are welcome to join this project.

"Any youth, who wants to farm, we want them to produce productively, we advise them to use good agricultural practices, and we will help them to get agricultural extension officers," he says.

Additionally, the district will support them by connecting them with agricultural extension officers for guidance and assistance.



A lady captured working on a farm.

Erick Mkinda, Kilwa District Council, principal community development officer expressed his gratitude to ActionAid Tanzania for the work they are doing in Kilwa District.

"We have successfully seen the three-year strategic plans of KIYODI and Dira Yetu Initiative that will guide them in their activities, ActionAid Tanzania has played a significant role in the success of various initiatives in Kilwa District, including education, environmental conservation, the economy, children's and women's rights, and other important issues, helping our district to attain progress and move to the next level," he says.

KIYODI has made significant progress and has done well in the areas of good governance and account-

ability, as well as providing various education in the areas where they operate.

"The government will continue to support you by offering advice, expertise, and the office will remain open at all times to bring development to the residents of Kilwa," he says.

Currently, Kilwa District has an officer who works with youth. "It's your time to tell him the things you need to do so that you can improve your economic status," he says.

Said Mpuna, Kilwa Youth Development Initiatives' (KIYODI)'s chairman and a paralegal at Lihimalyao Ward, expressed his gratitude to the ActionAid Kilwa for training them on various issues related to leadership, tax systems

and the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS). This training has brought positive changes in the area.

Through the knowledge gained from ActionAid Kilwa, a total of 15 youth were able to contest for various leadership positions at the village level.

Among those, three youth won the election in Kiwawa village, Njenga hamlet located in Kivinje, and songo songo hamlet located in Mitole village.

Additionally, various community challenges have been addressed within the youth reflection cycle, such as securing 20 percent of funds from the district council to the development of local villages. Mandawa village has benefited from this allocation which has significantly

contributed to the area's development initiatives.

The youth have been actively involved in monitoring the operation of the Lihimalyao market after noticing that the revenue generated was unsatisfactory.

"As KIYODI members, we are very proud of what we have accomplished. After conducting the monitoring, the revenue increased from 40,000/- to between 100,000/- and 130,000/- per month," he says.

Additionally, they have been able to understand and educate the community about the proper use of public resources in the Masoko, Kivinje, Singino, Mandawa, Lihimalyao, Njingo, Miguruwe and Mitole Wards.

"We have successfully managed to collect youth opinions which have been included in the Tanzania Youth Manifesto (2020-2025)," he says.

Currently, the KIYODI platform faces several challenges, including insufficient financial resources to support its operations, a lack of markets for the products it produces, and the absence of a dedicated office to implement its tasks effectively.

He expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders and government officials who have enabled them to carry out their work efficiently and successfully, from the district level to the wards and villages, including Tumaini Jipya kwa Wanawake Kilwa (TUJIWAKI).

## Irrigation scheme project to benefit more farmers in Chamwino District

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

**T**HE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is implementing a strategy project for the construction of a 12 billion liters irrigation scheme at Membe village of Chamwino district, Dodoma region.

The robust project expected to gobble up to 16.2bn/- upon its completion will benefit a total of 2000 farmers in the area who are set to venture into production of diverse economic cash and food crops at a 7,500 acreage plantation.

The timely initiative is part of a series of projects by the state-owned Commission currently taking shape across the country with an eye to help farmers in the country to produce crops throughout a year, hence cheating the rainy season's dependency.

The Project's Site Engineer from NIRC, Salehe Ramadhani said implementation of the facility is now at 86 percent of its erection.

He unveiled; funds for the project have been accrued from the State Coffer, saying construction of the scheme is implemented by the local based company, Nakuroi Investment Company Ltd.

"Implementation of this project commenced on 1st September 2022, and as per the entered agreement the contractor was due to handover the project this December," he expressed. Due to some unfriendly weather interactions,

Eng. Ramadhani said the contractor is now supposed to finalize the project in two months to come.

"The Commission has already injected the contractor with over 10.4bn/- and we remain optimistic the project will finalize in time," he added.

He detailed, the project incorporates construction of a 4.90km dam embankment with a top width of 6m and average depth of 14m.

"The capacity of the dam stands at a length of 4.5 km, with 12 million cubic metres, whereby the volume of water is 12 billion liters," he observed.

Apart from serving for irrigation purposes, he said the project has been designed to allow the beneficiaries to engage in fishing activities, as well as getting enough water for their livestock, hence propelling livelihoods.

Speaking for his part, Masoud Chembe, the Project's Site Engineer from Nakuroi Investment Company Ltd said they're working round the clock to ensure the construction of the project reflects value for the invested funds, as well as meet the set time frame.

"As a local company, we're very grateful to the Government for giving us this big national tender. Implementation of this project has provided job opportunities to many indigenous of Membe village," he appreciated.

Adding her voice pertaining to implementation of the project, Mariamu Mziwanda, Acting Head, Government Com-

munications Unit at NIRC, said the Commission is also implementing other similar projects in Ndogoe and Chinangali II in Dodoma region.

"In general, the Commission is currently implementing a number of strategic projects for construction of irrigation schemes in different regions," she said.

The focus, she said, is to empower the farmers to produce at least three seasons in a year, the development which targets to increase food security in the country, and national income.

She expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for helping increase budget allocation towards the Commission, from 17bn/- to currently over 400bn/-.

"The budget is allowing the Commission to run its core responsibilities more professionally, especially in project implementation," she appreciated.

She also applauded the Director General (DG) of the Commission, Mr Raymond William Mndolwa for supervising the commission maturely.

The National Irrigation Commission was established under Section 3 of the National Irrigation Act No. 4 of 2013 as an Independent Department of the Government under the Ministry responsible for irrigation.

The Commission is a body corporate and its day to day activities are managed by the Director General under the guidance of the Governing Board of ten members.



Site Project Engineer Salehe Ramadhani for the Membe irrigation scheme Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## Barrick, Twiga mines hailed for local content implementation

By Guardian Correspondent, Msalala

**T**HE Mining Commission has commended Barrick and Twiga Mines for their effective compliance with local content regulations, enabling Tanzanians to actively participate in the mining business and improve their socio-economic well-being.

Speaking during a one-day training workshop on local content and corporate social responsibility (CSR) implementation at Bulyanhulu Mine over the weekend, Mining Commission Chairperson Janet Lekashingo emphasized that the government's introduction of local content and CSR regulations aimed to foster sustainability, inclusivity, and the equitable sharing of mining benefits with local communities.

"This is not just about meeting workshop obligations; it's about shaping a future where mining makes a lasting, positive impact. From its inception, the Mining Commission has been committed to ensuring Tanzanian goods and services take priority in the sector," she said.

Lekashingo explained that by prioritizing local participation, the country had witnessed a significant increase in the number of Tanzanians benefiting directly from the mining sector, marking a substantial improvement compared to previous years.

She added that local content compliance is about empowering communities—creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the lives of people living around mining areas by involving them in both business and mining activities.

"As we engage in this workshop, let us remember that local content is key to unlocking Tanzania's potential. It acts as a bridge, connecting global expertise with local talent, ensuring that mining becomes a cornerstone of national progress," she said.

The Chairperson also expressed her satisfaction at the fact that Barrick's General Managers across all its Tanza-

nian mines are Tanzanians, encouraging other mining companies to follow suit in complying with local content regulations.

"It is crucial for companies to empower local suppliers, as this is part of a broader effort by both the government and mining companies to build capacity, foster mutual understanding, and promote cooperation," she stated.

Lekashingo further advised Twiga Minerals Corporation to focus on sustainable projects that leave lasting impacts, rather than relying heavily on importing equipment such as machinery, bulldozers, and underground support machines for mining operations.

She emphasized the government's commitment to establishing industries that support the mining sector, such as the creation of a special economic zone at Buzwagi. This initiative aims to attract local and foreign investors to set up industries that could act as game-changers for Tanzania's mining sector.

The Chairperson urged stakeholders to explore alternative methods of establishing industries for mining equipment, which would not only create jobs but also reduce reliance on imports, boost government tax revenue, and stimulate broader socio-economic development.

Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine's General Manager, Victor Lule, expressed gratitude to the government for its timely support in implementing CSR and local content compliance. He highlighted the company's focus on empowering Tanzanians and building local capacity.

"To date, 82% of our procurement is done through local suppliers, with the remaining 12% sourced from foreign suppliers. We are walking the talk when it comes to local content compliance," Lule said.

He further reiterated Barrick's commitment to educating local businesspeople and suppliers on how to engage with mining companies, register their businesses, and participate in workshops, seminars, and conferences to build sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships.



Mark Bristow, Barrick Gold Corporation's Chief Executive Officer

Lule added that 96% of Barrick's workforce is Tanzanian, including employees at management levels, underscoring the company's commitment to promoting local content.

He also cautioned local suppliers to remain diligent and meet their contractual obligations. He noted that some local suppliers had failed to deliver on time or had provided substandard products.

Mining Commission Director of Mineral Audit and Trade, Venance Kasiki, congratulated Barrick and Twiga for their adherence to local content regulations but also urged them to focus on sustainable projects that would have a positive impact on local communities.

Kasiki also revealed that the Mining Commission had been in discussions with local banks, including CRDB and NMB, to explore financing options for local suppliers in the mining sector, such as offering loans to facilitate local content growth.

"We have had several meetings with banks in the country to highlight mining as a growing and promising sector, one that should not be seen as a risk but as a key driver of economic growth," he said.

Bulyanhulu and North Mara mines are jointly owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the government of Tanzania through Twiga Minerals Corporation.



## DIGITAL MARKETING:

# Liberalism of passionomics, trading attention

**D**efining Passionomics: A new cultural movement that is characterized by a desire to invest time, money, and energy in the things that are most important to us is emerging. Consumers today prioritize their passions, well-being, relationships, and experiences when considering how they spend their time and money. That change in consumer sentiment needs to be reflected in marketing. Passionomics is the term used to describe this movement toward investing in areas of passion in order to find happiness and fulfillment.

The skill set needed for a marketer to



master today's marketing landscape. Understand attention. What it is? Where it is? And how to leverage on it for brand building in order to boost sales. Yes, this phenomenon is coined - Day Trading Attention.

Just as financial capital market trad-

ers constantly study the financial markets to understand where to invest, a marketer must constantly study what people are paying attention to, the cost associated with capturing that attention and its movement by the day. If you know all this information, then

selling them (people) something should not be an obstacle for you - identifying where human attention lies then re-engineering it. This is what marketers have been doing for decades.

Mass communication sits across a handful of social media sites. This is where it can all be captured. If you as a marketer, business leader or content creator, if you're not day trading that attention, you're not in the Passionomics of things. If you run your business based on your ideology of how humans should be interacting with each other. You will lose. The number one marketing asset in the world, is other people's attention. People's attention is in play and it lives on their mobile devices. Those mobile devices contain 7 or 8 platforms named YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, X, TikTok etc. You need to figure out how to be in these platforms.

Passionomics and Day Trading is more than just a study of consumer behaviour. It goes further, concentrating on comprehending the driving forces behind their spending priorities, and how they affect their level of personal fulfillment. Whether it's a brand, travel sector, sports, any business or the arts, they show

how our individual interests impact our sense of self and, consequently, our purchasing decisions, which in turn impact wider market trends. It's an intriguing way to look at economic trends. In order to connect with consumers in a meaningful way, Passionomics highlights the necessity for marketers to move away from campaigns that primarily focus on personas and demographics and more toward passion, excitement, entertainment etc. and the communities that surround them. Using data driven analytics such as Day Trading Attention, one can revolutionize the way marketers perceive their target audience.

Brands that understand and cater to consumer passions can differentiate themselves in a crowded market in today's experience driven world. Additionally, as consumers place a higher value on experiences than tangible goods, Passionomics may offer a way to establish more genuine connections with audiences.

Where social media algorithms were once based on social graphs (friends, classmates, near contacts, geography etc.) to predict trends habits, they are now transitioning toward interest graphs (entertainment, music, social

influencers etc.) which are powered by artificial intelligence. Interest graphs does not care about how many followers you have but your ability to make strong engaging content that will keep the user on their app. A good example is the number one of TikTok followers Khaby Lame has - over 162.5 million. He does not say a single word in his video posts, but his social platform engagement is very high due to the "interest" the public has of him.

In a world where people are constantly searching for meaning, Passionomics and Day Trading Attention provides a framework for determining what matters to people outside of necessities and enables marketers to see how consumer spending related to these passions affects businesses. We have the resources as marketers to truly comprehend our clients. In data driven analytics, using these tools responsibly is more crucial than ever. Figure out where the under priced attention is and learn how to effectively story tell in those places.

*Alley Mtatya (Advertising, Marketing, Branding and Customer Experience Expert)*



## Private sector urged to leverage technology in curbing corruption

NAIROBI

Private sector players have been urged to leverage technology as a critical tool in combating corruption and upholding business ethics.

Speaking at the 5th Africa Business Conference (ABEC), Francesco Checchi, Team Lead at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Africa Anti-Corruption Hub, noted that advancements in technology have significantly enhanced transparency and accountability in public and private sectors.

E-governance solutions now enable citizens to track bureaucratic processes and verify public service information, reducing corruption opportunities and empowering accountability.

Representing the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Investment Promotion, Ms. Patricia Aruwa, Director of the Directorate of Business Environment, stressed the importance of integrity in fostering a conducive investment climate.

She underscored that the cost of inaction against corruption far outweighs the cost of maintaining ethical practices.

The government is actively addressing integrity issues to attract investments and build trust within the business environment.

This year's ABEC, themed "A Brave New Africa: Business Growth in a Time of Economic Turbulence," convened over 200 business leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders, including the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, and the Kenya Chamber of Commerce.

ABEC Convener Fatma El Maawy highlighted the platform's impact in raising awareness about corruption

and its toll on Africa, which loses an estimated \$140 billion annually to corruption and \$60 billion to illicit financial flows.

The 2023 Kenya National Ethics and Corruption Survey ranked corruption as the fourth most pressing national issue after the cost of living, unemployment, and poverty.

Jacqueline Mugo, CEO of the Federation of Kenya Employers, emphasized the detrimental impact of corruption on business competitiveness.

She highlighted how corruption increases costs, discourages investment, and damages reputations, urging businesses to adopt ethical practices as a foundation for sustainable growth.

Kenya Airways Chief Human Resources Officer Tom Shivo and Safaricom Chief Corporate Security Officer Nicholas Mulila both pointed to the role of digital tools in addressing corruption challenges.

Mulila explained how Safaricom equips its employees and partners with tools for risk assessment, reporting, and compliance.

He stressed that collective action is essential to tackling corruption, as no single organization can address the issue alone.

The conference concluded with a call to action for private sector players to align anti-corruption strategies with business goals, utilize technology for compliance and risk management, engage tech-savvy youth to champion transparency, and reward businesses that consistently demonstrate ethical behavior.

Since its inception in 2019, ABEC has fostered dialogue on mitigating corruption and promoting integrity across Africa's business landscape.

## US TikTok ban: When and why could the app be outlawed?

WASHINGTON

TikTok has suffered a setback in its fight against a law which will ban it in the US unless it is sold by ByteDance, its Chinese parent company.

In December, a court in the US rejected its attempt to appeal the law, passed in April - paving the way for its potential ban.

The video sharing app has millions of users worldwide, but has faced questions over the security of data and links to the government in Beijing.

Lawmakers from both major US political parties supported a law that bans TikTok unless ByteDance agrees to sell to a non-Chinese company.

They fear the Chinese government could force ByteDance to hand over data about TikTok's 170 million US users.

TikTok insists it would not provide foreign user data to the Chinese government.

In April, following approval by Congress, President Joe Biden signed a bill paving the way for TikTok's forced sale.

Previous attempts to block the app in the US on national security grounds have failed.

Donald Trump tried to ban the app while he was in the White House in 2020.

But he criticised the new legislation during his successful bid to return as the US president in the 2024 US election, arguing that limiting TikTok would unfairly benefit Facebook.

Biden signing the bill into law did not mean an immediate US ban for TikTok, but it did start a ticking clock.

The legislation gives ByteDance nine months to sell TikTok to a new buyer, with an additional three-month grace period, before any ban would take effect.

TikTok said this could mean it is either forced to sell or shut down in the US by 19 January 2025.

But the company's fight against the legislation in court, which began when it sued to block the law in May, could take years.

Trump's victory in the 2024 US Election may also throw TikTok a lifeline.

The president-elect said in the run-up to the November elections that he would not let a ban take effect.

The most straightforward way for the US to ban TikTok would be to remove it from app stores, such as those operated by Apple and Google for iOS and Android devices.

App stores are how most people download apps on to their smartphones and tablets, so the ban would stop new users from getting TikTok.

It would also mean that people who already had the app would no longer be able to get future updates designed to improve security or fix bugs.

The bill forbids applications controlled by US adversary countries from being updated and maintained in the US.

It gives broad powers to the president to limit apps with ties to Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.

TikTok has previously called the law "unconstitutional" and said it is an affront to the US right to free speech.

Its arguments were heard by a three-judge panel at a Washington DC federal ap-



peals court in September.

TikTok's lawyers told the court that a ban would have a "staggering" impact on the free speech of its US users, and creators opposing the law also voiced concerns about its impact on their work.

But its appeal was rejected by the DC court in a ruling issued on Friday 6 December, which found in the favour of the law.

The platform said it will take its legal fight to the US's highest legal authority, the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court has an established historical record of protecting Americans' right to free speech, and we expect they will do just that on this important constitutional issue," a TikTok spokesperson said.

They added the law was based on "inaccurate, flawed and hypothetical information" and that a ban would censor US citizens.

TikTok's boss Shou Zi Chew told users in a video at the start of its legal fight-back that "we aren't going anywhere".

ByteDance would also have to seek approval from Chinese officials to sell TikTok, but Beijing has vowed to oppose such a move.

Many US creators and users have criticised the potential ban.

Tiffany Yu, a young disability advocate from Los Angeles, told the BBC at a protest outside the White House the platform was vital to her work.

In March 2024, TikTok asked its 170 million US users to contact their political representatives and ask them not to support the bill.

But the deluge of "confused" calls from TikTok users to congressmen and senators seemingly backfired.

Several politicians said the campaign

worsened the concerns they had about the app, and strengthened their resolve to pass the legislation.

It is thought the US TikTok bill could inspire similar moves elsewhere.

TikTok is already banned in India, which was one of the app's largest markets before it was outlawed in June 2020.

It is also blocked in Iran, Nepal, Afghanistan and Somalia.

The UK government and Parliament banned TikTok from staff work devices in 2023, as has the European Commission.

The BBC also advised staff to delete TikTok from corporate phones because of security fears.

At the heart of TikTok is its algorithm, a set of instructions which determines which content is presented to users, based on data about how they engaged with previous material.

Users are offered three main feeds on their app - Following, Friends and For You.

The Following and Friends feeds present users with content from people they have chosen to follow and who follow them back, but the For You feed is automatically generated by the app.

This curated feed has become the main destination for users looking for new content, and creators hungry for the millions of views TikTok videos can clock up if they go viral.

Critics say the app collects more data than other social media platforms in order to power its highly personalised system.

This can include information about users' location, device, the content they engage with and keystroke rhythms they exhibit while typing.

But popular social media apps such as Facebook and Instagram collect similar data from users.



# Citizens' expectations as petrol price soars

LAGOS

Huge hopes that the return of local refining of premium motor spirit (pms or fuel) like in the days of old would force back transport fares this coming yuletide may have been dashed, as always.

In the paradox called Nigeria which is derided as a country that exports what it does not have and imports what it abundantly has, families are bracing up for higher transport fares beyond the 300% increase witnessed between May 2023 and now. This is as most goods and house needs have spiked to 1000% increase, just as rice has risen from N18,000 to N1,115,000 for best species.

Inquiries around the country showed that easterners in Lagos who wish to travel are expecting higher fares than the outrageous rates already at hand.

Indication came to some of them who were banking on the usual missionary buses that charged pittance. In one church in Yaba, they have increased their trip to the east to N27,000 though some parishioners remain skeptical if that would be real because they expect them to increase it. Some families said they are afraid some top bussing companies would charge as high as N90,000 per person.

This may look little to many families that usually flew but cannot anymore in the face of most airlines charging about N400,000 return ticket per person. Seats may not even be available close to Christmas and New Year.

Some transport companies in the east and south-south said they are preparing to increase prices. One of them in Port Harcourt has started increasing prices for those going to the east. This morning, they increased charges for those carrying bags of rice. A worker said they must charge higher for rice because rice is now very expensive. This caused uproar as passengers wondered how the increase in rice would justify



increase in transporting it.

Transporters on Enugu-Port Harcourt route said they were getting set to increase prices from the N11,500 it is at the moment.

A driver with a transport franchise gave a breakdown saying with the present rate (N11,500), that a driver is given only N57,000 after loading his bus with seven passengers. "You will buy fuel for the trip with N35,000 and run other expenses and tips on the road. So, how much are you going home with to balance for the day? How much do you keep for repairs that come up any moment?"

He said the only hope is the yuletide (season) when they would have to increase prices. He said most routes have one way traffic meaning you have to charge double be-

cause on your way back, you may not get even one passenger. "Somebody loading passengers from Lagos to Owerri on December 23 or 24 will have full load but will go back empty. So, if you don't double the price, how do you cover the cost of fuel to return empty to Lagos?"

On this argument, many transporters are sure that prices must go higher up no matter what the refineries are saying.

Then president, Goodluck Jonathan, had promised that prices of fuel would crash the year the Dangote Refinery would start operation. He was the president that issued the license to Dangote group. Jonathan had attempted to remove fuel subsidy in 2011/12 but ran into protests that were about to lead to rioting and probable fall of his ad-

ministration. Even oil union workers leaders who were in Israel privately admitted in chats with this reporter that removing subsidy was the best option for Nigeria but officially they charged the unions on for showdown demanding for return of subsidy, until it was restored.

The eventual plan by the Jonathan administration was to wait for the Dangote Refinery to start operations so the prices could come down and allow subsidy to be removed without a huge spike in prices. The Dangote Refinery rather took many more years to start, thus dashing the hope for quick intervention from Lekki. Subsidy thus persisted all through President Muhammadu Buhari eight years until President Bola Ahmed Tinubu whimsically announced end of subsidy, an action that shot fuel prices to N550 per litre same days and as high as N1500 at a time.

When the Dangote Refinery finally and sluggishly started, another scandal took over; price. The intervention or involvement of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) as regulator, partner, and distributor changed the story and seemed to dash all hopes of cheap local sourced fuel.

The first crisis was supply of crude; the next was whether to

pay in naira or dollar, the next was that the NNPC must be sole distributor; then the Independent Marketers going to court and strike, and so on.

At the end of it all, Dangote who was said to have sold to the NNPC at N766 per litre settled for N970 per litre to independent marketers. It became obvious that the final retailer would never sell below N1000 per litre, making it impossible to feel the impact of local refining by motorists and households.

While the Dangote Refinery was dancing the alleyway of price uncertainty play tune by the NNPC, news broke the PH Refinery had begun truck-out operations. Next, tons of controversies took over: was it actually refining, were the cracking units actually working? Were they buying C5 from Indorama to blend into pms?

After that wave, the next was the price at which the NNPC was selling to NNPC. The union (Petroleum Products Retail Outlet Owners Association of Nigeria, PETROAN) said they were buying at N1065 per litre. The NNPC reacted and said through Olufemi Soneye that the refinery had not commenced bulk sales.

"We have not yet commenced bulk sales and we have not yet opened the purchase portal as we are still finalising the necessary

processes.

"At present, the products we are selling at our retail outlets are what we bought from the Dangote Refinery, which includes the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) fees.

"The product from Port Harcourt Refinery is currently for our retail stores.

"Our prices are regularly reviewed and adjusted as required," the NNPC Ltd. Spokesperson said. The statement that provoked the NNPC was issued by the former president of the PH City Chmaber who is now the National President of PETROAN, Billy Gillis-Harry (PhD) on Wednesday.

The price controversy thus seemed to shift between NNPC and Dangote to NNPC and their own Refinery and the PETROAN, an indication that in a deregulated-regulated oil economy, price transparency may be impossible.

With Dangote selling to Independent Marketers at almost N1000 and the Port Harcourt Refinery not sure what its prices should be though they are said to be selling above N1000, the road is still not smiling.

No motorist will drop a kobo from transport rate after buying fuel at over N1000 per litre. Yuletide will always be yuletide, and will always cause a hike.

Bottomline is that as long as inflation caused by subsidy removal and forex float is still raging going even close to 34% and food sector going above 50%, transport fares will not unilaterally slump. At the moment, some stations sold at N1090 in Port Harcourt Friday, December 6, 2024.

## GM joint venture waves off fears after big losses

DETROIT

GM China has called its China business a "good asset" in an effort to dispel market expectations that the Detroit-based carmaker may give up the world's biggest vehicle market, which may erode the confidence of investors and car buyers in its prospects.

"GM is working closer than ever with our joint venture partner SAIC to restore the business in China to make it profitable and sustainable," said GM China in a statement on Thursday.

The statement came after GM told shareholders on Wednesday that it would record two non-cash charges totaling more than \$5 billion on its Chinese joint venture, SAIC-GM, which produces Buick, Chevrolet and Cadillac models.

Specifically, the Detroit-based company expects a charge of \$2.6 to \$2.9 billion for restructuring costs and a charge of \$2.7 billion for reduced joint venture value.

The news attracted wide media coverage in the United States and China, even resulting in speculation on social media that GM may exit the world's largest vehicle market, as it has been strategically giving up non-profitable

markets like India.

GM's operations in China, primarily via its two joint ventures SAIC-GM and SAIC-GM-Wuling, used to be very profitable. SAIC-GM saw its annual sales hit 1 million units in 2010 and exceed 2 million units in 2017.

But sales have been falling over the past few years due to the rise of domestic rivals and its failure to introduce competitive products. Its sales slumped to 1 million units in 2023 and fell to only 370,000 units in the first 11 months of this year.

The other joint venture, SAIC-GM-Wuling, was a star in the NEV sector, with its two-seater Wuling Hongguang MINI EV the best-seller in its segment.

The carmaker, which primarily produces Wuling and Baojun-branded vehicles, is gradually going out of favor. It has not come up with models with a similar appeal as car buyers are moving up to larger and more expensive vehicles.

SAIC-GM-Wuling was not related to the \$5 billion charge about which GM told its shareholders.

In its statement, GM China said its restructuring efforts have started to produce promising results in terms

of its market share and sales volume.

"We have been taking steps to reduce our inventories, align our production to demand, protect our pricing and reduce fixed costs," it said.

"In the third quarter, both sales and market share posted quarter-on-quarter growth, and the NEV portfolio outsold ICE models for the first time. In November, we achieved a month-on-month sales increase, the fifth sequential growth in a row."

GM China said its dealer inventory has been reduced by more than 50 percent since the start of the year, "which will allow us to better manage our pricing and costs".

SAIC-GM sold 56,241 vehicles in November, still a 35.36 percent drop from the same month of 2023, according to statistics SAIC filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

GM China did not say when the restructuring efforts will be completed but in an analyst conference on Wednesday, GM's Chief Financial Officer Paul Jacobson said they are in their final stages.

He said GM is seeking to be profitable in China in 2025 and believes its joint venture can restructure without additional funds.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



The island is home to the ancient, uncontacted Shompen tribe

## Fears loom over India's 'Hong Kong' project on remote island

HONG KONG

"The forest is our supermarket," says Anstice Justin. "We get almost everything from the forests on these islands. It is what we survive on."

Mr Justin, an anthropologist, has grown up in the Andaman and Nicobar islands straddling India's east coast. A federally-administered territory, the ecologically-fragile region consists of 836 islands, of which only 38 are inhabited. The Nicobar Islands are a distinct group of islands in the southern part of the territory, located some 150 km (93 miles) south of the Andaman Islands.

Now Mr Justin watches with trepidation as India plans a multi-billion 'Hong Kong-like' development project on the Great Nicobar Island, one of the largest and most secluded parts of the Nicobar archipelago.

Built on a budget of 720bn rupees (\$9bn or £6bn) and spread over 166 sq km, the project includes a transshipment harbour, a power plant, an airport and a new township, all designed to link the area to crucial global trade routes along the Indian Ocean and the Suez Canal.

Positioned near the Strait of Malacca, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, the project promises to boost international trade and tourism - the government reckons that some 650,000 people will be living on the island by the time the

project is completed in 30 years.

Experts say the multi-billion plan is also a part of India's larger goal to counter China's growing influence in the region.

But the scheme has sparked alarm among the islanders who fear the loss of their land, culture, and way of life, with the project threatening to push them to the brink of extinction.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to some of the most isolated and vulnerable tribes in the world, with five groups classified as "particularly vulnerable."

These include the Jarawas, North Sentinelese, Great Andamanese, Onge, and Shompen. While the Jarawas and North Sentinelese remain largely uncontacted, the Shompen - some 400 people - of the Great Nicobar Islands are also at risk of losing their way of life due to external pressures.

A nomadic tribe, most of them live deep inside the forest where they forage for survival - not much is known about their culture as very few of them have ever had contact with the outside world.

"The loss will be especially huge and traumatic for them," says Mr Justin, who has been documenting the island since 1985.

"Whatever we call development in the outside world is not of interest to them. They have a traditional life of their own."

Environmentalists say there are

also huge environmental costs of the project.

Spread across 921 sq km (355.6 sq miles), around 80% of the Great Nicobar island is covered with rainforests, which are home to more than 1,800 animals and 800 flora species, many of which are endemic.

The federal environment ministry has said that only 130 sq km or 14% of the total area of the island will be cleared for the project - but that's still about 964,000 trees. Experts warn the actual number could be much higher.

"The government always claims only a part of the forest will be cleared. But the infrastructure you're building would lead to more pollution, which in turn would impact the entire habitat," says Madhav Gadgil, an ecologist.

The environment ministry did not respond to BBC's request for comment.

But Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in August had said that the project "will not disturb or displace" tribespeople and that it had received environmental clearances based on the "rigour of environmental scrutiny and after incorporating consequent safeguards".

Earlier this year, 39 international experts from different fields of social sciences had warned that the development project would be a "death sentence" for the Shompen as it would destroy their habitat.



The GM logo is seen on the facade of the General Motors headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, USA



## Regional countries stress respect for Syrian people's will after sudden political shift

CAIRO

THE fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government on Sunday has brought Syria into the spotlight of the Middle East. While closely monitoring future developments, regional countries expressed support for the will and choice of the Syrian people and hoped for a swift restoration of unity and security in the country.

The Arab League called on Sunday for a peaceful, inclusive, and secure political transition process in Syria.

In a statement, the Arab League stressed the importance of placing national interests above all else, exercising restraint, and safeguarding lives and property.

The Arab League also condemned Israel's actions, including its attempts to exploit the current situation in Syria to expand its occupation of the Golan Heights and declare the 1974 Disengagement Agreement between Israel and Syria null and void.

Iran, a close ally of Assad, said on Sunday that it believes the Syrian people should have the sole right to determine their own future, free from any foreign interference or imposition.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry called for national talks involving all segments of Syrian society to form an inclusive government, pledging to support efforts to ensure security and stability in Syria.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry also emphasized the importance of respecting the Syrian people's will, saying, "It is up to them (Syrians) alone to choose their representatives and their political



People attend a rally celebrating the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, at central Syntagma square, in Athens, Greece on Sunday. AP

system, as well as to shape the future of their country for the good of Syria."

The ministry also expressed Lebanon's willingness to build the "best" relations with its neighbor and its representatives, in a way that "preserves the common interests of both countries."

However, in the meantime, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged the army to tighten control over the border with Syria to prevent any threat to Lebanon's civil peace.

Saudi Arabia said on Sunday that it stands by the Syrian people and their choice and calls for the country's territorial integrity to be preserved.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that it stands with the fraternal Syrian people and their choice during this special period in Syria's history, and for redoubled efforts to preserve the unity of Syria," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry called on the international community to "cooperate with Syrians for the benefit of their country and not to interfere in its internal affairs."

Also on Sunday, King Abdullah II of Jordan said the kingdom stands with the Syrian people and respects their will and choice, calling for urgent and swift efforts to restore stability and avoid further conflict that could lead to chaos.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Jordan will provide all possible support to help

Syrians rebuild their country, institutions, and political system.

Echoing the same sentiments, Iraq also reaffirms the necessity of respecting the free will of Syrians, emphasizing that the security, territorial integrity, and independence of Syria are of paramount importance not only for Iraq but also for the region.

Iraqi government spokesman Basim al-Awadi said in a statement that the Iraqi government is maintaining international communications to promote efforts toward security and stability in Syria.

Egypt proposed starting an integrated and comprehensive political process to address Syrian issues, calling on all Syrian parties to preserve Syria's national institutions and prioritize their state's higher interest.

Cairo pledged coordinated efforts with regional and international partners to assist with Syria's reconstruction and the safe return of Syrian refugees.

Stressing its solidarity with the Syrian people, the Algerian Foreign Ministry urged all Syrian parties to unite, maintain peace, and safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity. It also highlighted the importance of inclusive dialogue among Syrians to prioritize national interests, protect resources, and build a future based on institutions reflecting the people's will, free from foreign interference.



## Kremlin refutes Trump's remarks on losses in Ukrainian conflict

MOSCOW

THE Ukrainian army's losses surpass those of Russia exponentially, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Commenting on data, cited by US President-elect Donald Trump, he said: "As for figures cited on losses on both sides, obviously, they were given in a Ukrainian interpretation and reflect Ukraine's official stance."

The actual figures for losses are completely different: Ukrainian losses exponentially surpass the losses on the Russian side," the Kremlin official stressed.

The continued dynamics of the Ukrainian army's losses will lead to its exhaustion and the lowered draft age in Ukraine, Peskov added.

### Possibility of a settlement

Peskov also noted that Russia is open to talks on Ukraine but terms for an immediate ceasefire were outlined by Russian President Vladimir Putin back in June.

"President Putin has repeatedly mentioned that Russia is open to talks on Ukraine and welcomes peace initiatives, coming, above all, from the countries of the Global South, our BRICS partners: China, India, Brazil, South Africa, as well as the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, already working on the humanitarian track," the Kremlin official said.

"Our stance on Ukraine is well-known. Conditions for an instant ceasefire were outlined by President Putin in June during his speech at the Russian Foreign Ministry," Peskov added.

In order to get on the track toward peace, it is enough for Vladimir Zelensky to cancel his decree banning any talks with Russia and return to dialogue based on the Istanbul agreements, told reporters.

"It is important to reiterate that it was precisely Ukraine that rejected any talks and continues to do so."

Moreover, Zelensky with his own decree forbade himself and his administration any interaction with the Russian leadership.

"This is their unwavering stance," Peskov emphasized. "In order to get on the peace track, it is enough for Zelensky to cancel this decree and order to resume dialogue based on the Istanbul agreements and accounting for the actual situation on the ground," the Kremlin official stressed.

The Kremlin has carefully examined remarks by US President-elect Donald Trump on Ukraine's readiness for a peace agreement with Russia, the spokesman added.

"We have carefully studied the statement by US President-elect Donald Trump which he made after a meeting in Paris with [French President Emmanuel] Macron and [Vladimir] Zelensky," the Kremlin official said.

Agencies

Agencies

## S. Korean Justice Ministry imposes travel ban on President Yoon

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's Ministry of Justice yesterday placed a travel ban on President Yoon Suk-yeol, Yonhap news agency reported, marking the first time a sitting South Korean president has been barred from leaving the country.

The unprecedented measure came at the request of the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials, which sought the restriction as part of its investigation into Yoon's abrupt imposition of martial law last week.

The office that investigates high-ranking officials is one of several law enforcement bodies, including public prosecutors and police, probing into allegations of insurrection and abuse of power tied to Yoon's role in the martial law declaration.

Overseas travel bans have already been imposed on four other key figures in the martial law turmoil, including two top military commanders and the former interior minister.

Earlier in the day, the main opposition Democratic Party of Korea submitted bills to investigate charges of Yoon's alleged insurrection and scandal involving his wife.

The Democratic Party proposed to appoint special counsels to investigate Yoon's botched martial law declaration and various allegations related to First Lady Kim Keon-hee.

Meanwhile, defense ministry spokesperson Jeon Ha-kyu said Monday the control of the country's military forces currently lies with President Yoon as the commander-in-chief, when asked whether a suspect in an insurrection case could hold such powers.

Kim Hyun-tae, head of the 707th Special Mission Group, said Monday his soldiers, mobilized to storm the National Assembly after Yoon declared martial law on the night of Dec 3, are victims used by former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun.

Kim Hyun-tae made the accusation against the former defense chief at a press conference, saying his troops were only at fault for following his orders while noting he would bear all legal responsibility.

The special prosecution investigation team questioned former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun for the third round Monday morning on treason, abuse of power and other charges since his emergency arrest the previous day.

Xinhua



People watch a televised address delivered by South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol on a screen at a railway station in Seoul, South Korea on Sunday. XINHUA

## Biden lays out US policy as Syrian capital falls to rebels

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden in remarks Sunday from the White House laid out a three-pronged policy forward as the opposition forces in Syria seized control of the capital, warning against any extremists' threats.

Bashar al-Assad has left Syria and resigned as the country's president while calling for a peaceful transfer of power, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Speaking from the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Biden said his administration will help fend off potential threats against US partners in the region, including Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Israel, "during this period of transition."

Second, the president said, the United States will help ensure stability "in eastern Syria, protecting any personnel, our personnel, against any threats," and maintain the US mission against the extremist group known as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"We're clear-eyed about the fact that ISIS will try to take advantage of any vacuum to re-establish its capabilities and to create a



President Joe Biden speaks about the sudden collapse of the Syrian government under Bashar Assad from the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington on Sunday. AP

safe haven. We will not let that happen," Biden said.

Third, the United States "will engage with all Syrian groups, including within the process, led by the United Nations, to establish a transition away from" the Assad government.

With less than two months in office, it's unclear, though, to what extent the Biden administration will fulfill the policy announced above.

Donald Trump, the incoming president who will assume office on Jan 20, also reacted to the rapidly unfolding situation in Syria, calling for a hands-off approach from the United States.

"In any event, Syria is a mess, but is not our friend, & THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT. LET IT PLAY OUT. DO NOT GET INVOLVED!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Saturday morning.

Also on Saturday, Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security advisor, told a defense forum in California that the United States won't get involved militarily in the current fight in Syria.

Agencies

## EU countries want vaping included in bloc's tobacco tax law

BRUSSELS

SIXTEEN EU countries asked the European Commission yesterday to propose a new law in the coming months on taxing tobacco in the bloc to include new products such as electronic cigarettes - vapes - which are not covered under the existing legislation.

The initiative, led by the Netherlands, has the support of Croatia, the Czech Repub-

lic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Slovakia, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Slovenia and Portugal.

In a letter to the Commission, finance ministers from the countries say an update to the bloc's 2011 EU tobacco taxation law is needed because - in the absence of EU regulations on vaping - each country now applies different rules and levels of excise tax, distorting the bloc's sin-

gle market.

"Based on the current directive, most of these products cannot be taxed like traditional tobacco products. The provisions of the current directive are insufficient or too narrow to meet the challenges faced by the administrations of Member States given the ever-evolving offerings of the tobacco industry," said the joint letter, seen by Reuters.

"Due to shortcomings in

the EU legislation, Member States have taken appropriate actions at the national level. This has led to fragmentation, an uneven playing field and, ultimately, to the distortion of our internal market," it said.

An update to the EU tobacco taxation law was due already at the end of 2022, but has been delayed and governments want the new Commission, which took office on Dec 1 for the next five years, to ad-

dress this urgently.

The European Commission has so far set regulatory standards for e-cigarettes, including limits on nicotine content and labels explaining they should not be used by non-smokers. Manufacturers must register with the government before selling.

But otherwise the rules differ from country to country. In France people under the age of 18 cannot buy vapes, and their use is banned in

certain public places, including universities and on public transport.

Italy lifted a ban on using electronic cigarettes in public in 2013. Use in or near schools is still forbidden. Disposable vapes have attracted particular attention from lawmakers in some European Union countries amid environmental and health concerns. France has moved to ban them entirely.

The German Federal Coun-

cil, the upper house of parliament, has called on the government to push for a similar ban on disposable vapes across the EU.

**Although the economic outlook for developed economies is revised up from 1.3 percent to 1.6**



# The global significance of China's poverty alleviation

BEIJING

"POVERTY alleviation has always been a priority and a major task I am determined to deliver," Chinese President Xi Jinping reflected on his years of effort on poverty reduction when attending the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro last month.

Speaking to world leaders at the G20 gathering, Xi likened the fight against poverty to a bird's struggle to fly, saying, "A weaker bird can start early and fly high." This metaphor resonated with many developing countries.

Over the past decades, China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, achieving the poverty reduction goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a full decade ahead of schedule. This historic achievement resolved the absolute poverty problem China had faced for millennia, and gives hope and inspiration for other countries in their fight against poverty.

## PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH

To end poverty, the "last mile"—reaching the most disadvantaged individuals in remote regions, often burdened by disabilities, illness, or lack of education—is the most challenging. As poverty rates decline and extreme poverty comes to the fore, the utility of the same-level interventions would diminish, thus many governments would reduce funding.

Yet, in the "last mile" of China's anti-poverty fight, China has sustained and even increased its poverty alleviation funding, ensuring that no region or individual was left behind, said Cai Fang, chief expert of the National Think Tank under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Over an eight-year period starting in 2012, China lifted an average of over 10 million people out of poverty annually—equivalent to the population of a medium-sized country. This achievement equates



to one person escaping poverty every three seconds.

"Only by embracing a people-centered development philosophy as the fundamental epistemology can such unwavering poverty alleviation efforts be made," Cai said.

A government's approach to poverty is widely viewed as a reflection of its priorities and relationship with its people. As Polish scholar Jan Rowinski once observed, China's poverty alleviation efforts highlight a governance model deeply rooted in accountability, execution, and the belief that the well-being of its people is paramount.

## PERSISTENT EFFORTS

After becoming China's top leader, Xi launched a historic nationwide campaign against extreme poverty. Over the next eight years, until he declared China's "complete victory" in its fight against poverty in 2021, Xi visited all 14 contiguous areas of extreme poverty across the country and over 20 poor villages, and sat in the homes of impoverished households to learn about their difficulties, and listen to their needs. Peruvian President Dina Boluarte hailed Xi's leadership as a model for overcoming extreme poverty and building national strength.

China, under Xi's leadership, has consistently made poverty eradication a key priority in national governance. This unwavering commitment, described by Xi as the "endurance, perseverance, and striving spirit that enables water drops to penetrate rocks over time and turns blueprints into reality," has ensured both policy continuity and long-term success.

China's achievement highlights "the importance of political commitment at all levels of government and policy stability to improve the conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his congratulations to Xi as China declared victory over extreme poverty in 2021.

## PROGRESS-DRIVEN METHODS

In 2013, during a visit to Shibadong Village in Hunan Province, Xi put forward the concept of "targeted poverty alleviation." This approach tailored solutions to the specific situation regarding each region, household, and individual, so as to ensure precise and effective measures.

Eleven years later, just a month ago, the village was recognized as one of the UN World Tourism Organization's "Best Tourism Villages," marking its remarkable transformation from an isolated village into a thriving, vibrant community. The success of China's strategy has been highly regarded by leaders of many developing countries. For example, in 2018, Bounnhang Vorachith, then general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of Laos, visited Shibadong to learn about its poverty-reduction efforts. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev wrote the foreword for the Uzbek edition of Xi's book "Up and Out of Poverty," highlighting "China's practical experience in poverty alleviation."

In addition, diplomats from 11 countries visited Huamao Village, southwest China's Guizhou Province, to learn about its innovative approach to integrating agriculture and tourism.

China channeled talent, funds, and technology into underdeveloped re-

gions, fostering industrial growth and infrastructure upgrades tailored to local conditions. This progress-driven approach partially explains why Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hailed China as an impressive development model.

## PROSPERITY FOR ALL

The Chinese TV drama "Minning Town" has captivated audiences across Africa and other parts of the Global South. Set in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region from the 1990s to the present day, the production shows how villagers from Xihai, one of China's most uninhabitable areas, have triumphed over destitution with assistance from the coastal province of Fujian.

Xihai was once called "the most unfit place for human settlement" by UN experts due to drought and ecological fragility. In 1997, Xi, then deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Fujian Provincial Committee, visited Xihai as part of a "pairing-up" poverty alleviation initiative between Fujian and Ningxia. Distressed by the impoverished living conditions of the local people, he pushed for a relocation project, moving communities from Xihai to a more fertile area along the Yellow River. The new settlement is called "Minning Village."

Today, Minning Village has grown into Minning Town, with residents' per capita income increasing about 20-fold in two decades.

Across the country, China's East-West Pairing-up Program transfers resources, expertise, and funding from developed eastern regions to less developed western areas, narrowing regional disparities. Experts believe China's poverty alleviation, rooted in the goal of common prosperity, is a rational approach to economic development.

"If China can make it, other developing countries can make it as well," Xi told the world, adding that "China is ready to take steps together with all parties to build a just world of common development, leave poverty in the past, and turn our vision into reality."

Xinhua

# Decision to grant asylum to Assad, his family, was made by Putin – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE decision to grant asylum in Russia to Bashar Assad and his family was made by President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Such decisions certainly cannot be made without the head of state. It was his decision," Peskov said.

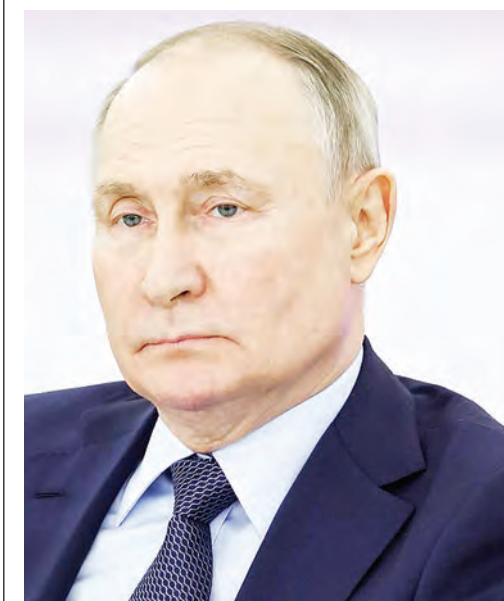
The Kremlin spokesman noted, however, that no official statements had been made on the matter. "A source provided the information [to the media] yesterday," he said, noting that he had nothing to add.

On November 27, Syria's armed opposition units launched a large-scale offensive on the positions of government forces in the provinces of Aleppo and Idlib. By the evening of December 7, President Bashar Assad's opponents had seized several large cities, including Aleppo, Hama, Deir ez-Zor, Daraa, and Homs.

On December 8, they entered the Syrian capital, Damascus, while the army withdrew from the city.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry's statement, Syrian President Bashar Assad stepped down and left the country, handing down instructions to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

A Kremlin source said later that Assad and his family members had arrived in Moscow as Russia had provided them with asylum based on humanitarian grounds.



GENEVA

# Europe embraces China's visa-free policy as catalyst for deeper ties

MALTESE sinologist Stephen Cachia has been brimming with excitement in recent days, thanks to China's newly-extended visa-free policy. After a one-year trial, China decided in November to further broaden the scope of this policy to more European countries, including Malta.

As a lecturer in Chinese history at the University of Malta and a fluent Chinese speaker, Cachia has developed a deep connection with Chinese culture. "I always encourage my students to visit China to experience its people, culture, and historical sites firsthand," he said. "This visa-free policy will make their trips much easier and more seamless."

Cachia, who has visited China multiple times, looks forward to returning to explore the country again.

The journey toward visa-free travel to China for Europeans began in November 2023, when China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a one-year trial of unilateral visa-free entry for ordinary passport holders from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and Malaysia. Under this policy, eligible individuals could visit China for business, tourism, family visits, or simply transit without a visa, with stays of

up to 15 days.

The trial, which started on Dec. 1, 2023, proved successful, prompting an expansion throughout 2024. By Nov. 30, 2024, the policy covered 38 countries, most of them European countries, with the maximum stay increased to 30 days. The policy also demonstrates greater flexibility by including travel for the purpose of exchanges.

## BOOSTING TOURISM AND EXCHANGE

China's unilateral visa-free policy has fueled a surge in international arrivals. In the third quarter of 2024, China recorded nearly 8.2 million inbound trips by foreigners, a 48.8 percent year-on-year increase. Among these, around 4.9 million entries were visa-free, a remarkable 78.6 percent rise compared to the same period in 2023.

Air China's Geneva office reported a significant growth in passenger numbers. Since the visa exemption's implementation on March 14, its Geneva-Beijing flights had carried around 29,000 passengers as of Nov. 30, marking an 80 percent increase compared to 2023.

The rise in travel has also spurred a buzz on social media, with "China Travel" be-



Tourists from Spain visit Tianzifang, an art area in east China's Shanghai, Dec. 3, 2024. Expanding visa-free policy is a milestone in China's journey toward greater openness and also shows its confidence on the global stage. So far, 38 countries enjoy unilateral visa-free access, and the maximum stay for visitors has been extended to 30 days as of Nov. 30. (Photo by Chen Haoming/Xinhua)

coming a top-trending term across global platforms of social media, such as Facebook and TikTok.

Luigi Gambardella, president of the Brussels-based digital association ChinaEU, highlighted the policy's role in promoting

cultural exchange. "Firsthand experiences in China help visitors break stereotypes and gain a better understanding of its social and economic dynamics," he said.

In Croatia, a newly added country in November, the policy has yet to reach many

people. However, Damir Kresic, managing director of Croatia's Institute for Tourism, praised the initiative as a gesture of goodwill. "This is China's way of saying to the world: You are welcome, you are all invited," he said, adding that he has been spreading the news among friends and family.

## FOSTERING ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Marjana Majeric, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, noted that the extended 30-day visa-free period facilitates deeper economic ties, offering businesses better market access and opportunities for development cooperation.

Major companies, including Mercedes-Benz and BMW, have recognized the policy's impact in streamlining business travel and enhancing investor confidence. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have also benefited, as managers now find it easier to attend exhibitions and meetings in China.

Jochen Tueting, CEO of Chery Europe, explained that the visa-free regime facilitates multinationals by improving coordination among local teams in China and fostering cooperative automotive development between China and Europe.

Xinhua

# Forged in suffering: North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the price paid by its people

NORTH Korea (or DPRK) is an authoritarian state led by the Kim family for 70 years. Shortly after Kim Jong Il's death in late 2011, his son Kim Jong Un was named marshal of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

North Korea's threats to the outside world always grab the media's attention. But it's the North Korean people who face the biggest threat of all.

"The gravity, scale, and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world." - United Nations Commission of Inquiry Report on North Korea

In order to maintain control, the North Korean regime has stripped the people of their power and potential through a system of isolation, indoctrination, and brutal repression. The government recently

shocked the international community by reportedly deploying troops to Russia amid the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Though the exact scale and role of these soldiers remain unclear, experts suggest that North Korean involvement could significantly impact both the Russia-Ukraine war and the security dynamics on the Korean Peninsula.

This deployment highlights the regime's persistent prioritization of militaristic goals over the well-being of its people, raising critical questions about human rights abuses within North Korea.

North Korea's troop deployment to Russia appears to be driven by several strategic motives, with the primary goal of solidifying its alliance with Moscow. In June, a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty" was signed between North Korea and Russia, rati-

fied by the Russian State Duma in October.

This alliance extends beyond mere diplomatic formalities; North Korea seems to believe that a "blood alliance" forged on the battlefield will better secure its future. Kim Jong-un's administration likely believes that only deep ties with powerful nations like Russia can preserve its regime.

Additionally, Pyongyang's relentless pursuit of nuclear and missile advancements has long overshadowed the welfare of its people. During the severe famine of the 1990s, known as the "Arduous March," millions died of starvation while the regime prioritized nuclear development, culminating in its first nuclear test in 2006.

Today, the state has achieved miniaturization and standardization of nuclear warheads, yet it continues to seek further advancements. Russia pos-

sesses critical technologies in re-entry capabilities for intercontinental ballistic missiles, reconnaissance satellites, and nuclear-powered submarines—all elements North Korea seeks to bolster its military power.

Possessing such technology would enable North Korea to pose a greater threat not only to South Korea but also to other neighboring countries and even the U.S., further destabilizing the already fragile security landscape in the region.

The North Korean regime's decision to send its soldiers into a foreign war for combat experience marks another dimension of its strategic ambitions. North Korea's forces, though numbering 1.2 million active-duty personnel, lack real-world battle experience. Engagement in intense warfare could provide its soldiers with valuable combat exposure.

If this deployment is paired with potential technology transfers from Russia, North Korea could significantly enhance its military capabilities, posing an even greater threat to South Korea and neighboring countries.

Financial motives likely play a role in this deployment. While it is not confirmed, each North Korean soldier is reportedly paid around \$2,000 per month.

This means that if, as reported by the media, 12,000 soldiers are deployed, the total would amount to \$24 million per month—funds that would almost certainly be funneled to the regime.

North Korea's economy has long struggled under international sanctions, and though this deployment may offer some financial relief, these gains come at a tragic cost. Many young soldiers face

a high likelihood of casualties, with former Ukrainian Defense Minister Andriy Zahorodnyuk estimating a 90% casualty rate for similar front-line forces.

For the North Korean regime, sending soldiers to fight in a distant war is a calculated exchange of lives for money, with little regard for individual safety or family consequences.

Beneath these moves lies a much darker reality of widespread human rights abuses. Reports indicate that families of soldiers deployed to Russia are being forcibly relocated and isolated, likely to prevent desertion and dissent.

## Physical isolation

It's illegal for North Koreans to leave their country without the government's permission. North Koreans who do attempt to leave the country illegally and are caught can face se-

vere consequences including torture, forced labor, and life-imprisonment in a political prison camp.

Those who are allowed to travel abroad—like diplomats, elite students, recruited workers, and athletes—are monitored closely and must attend special ideological briefings once they return to North Korea. "Before we left North Korea, our team was warned not to be swayed by the capitalism we would see in the outside world. And we were told specifically not to meet or talk with South Korean students at the contest." - Jeongyol Kim, competed in the International Math Olympiad before defecting

North Koreans also rarely have a chance to talk with foreigners who travel to North Korea, and even then there is normally a minder present. Agencies





Aces A cricket team's youthful performer Hamza Ally (L) receives the Player of the Match prize from teammate Abhishek Kumar after the squad faced Delaware Upanga SC in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League tie in Dar es Salaam recently. Kumar was the award winner but he chose to hand it over to Ally. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CRICKET CLUB

## Ally stars for Aces A in 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

ACES Cricket Club's first-choice squad has enjoyed a formidable run in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League, with several gifted cricketers having played a part in the achievement.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

The first-choice outfit, also known as Aces A, was on Sunday scheduled to confront Pak Stars A in the tournament's final at the Annadil Burhani Oval in Dar es Salaam.

Talented cricketer Hamza Ally is one of the players who have significantly contributed to Aces A's achievement in the tournament, thanks to his stellar showing in various outings.

Ally is lately, however, forced to battle for an opportunity to play, with so many professionals coming to the club from time to time.

All senior cricketers have, the club's founder and senior cricketer Azim Thakur stated, motivated Ally to step up his performance.

They include Arun Yadav and Prathamesh Chavan, one of the newly recruited cricketers at Aces Cricket Club.

Thakur revealed that a seasoned cricketer from Punjab, India Abhishek Kumar, is Ally's new mentor in Aces A outfit.

Before joining Aces Cricket Club, Kumar was participating in the Nava Shehr District cricket tournament in India.

Kumar has played in the same team as Indian player Abhishek Sharma in the Punjab Premier League.

The cricketer is lately closing in on featuring in the acclaimed Ranji Trophy tournament in Punjab State.

The seasoned cricketer is reputed for scoring big centuries.

His experience and presence make a huge difference in Aces Cricket Club, which is determined to effectively play a part in cricket promotion in Tanzania.

Aces A, which has experienced frustrating spells this year, having earlier failed to play in any of the knockout stages of club tournaments, is finally eyeing a piece of silverware to grandly end the year.

Thakur stated that he always believes in local talent and is keen on promoting them.

One of Ally's memorable showings in the TCA Delaware Champions League was in view when Aces A locked horns with Pak Stars A at the Leaders Club venue on November 24.

Matches bringing together Aces A and Pak Stars A are usually encounters between familiar foes.

They are clubs that have developed a thrilling rivalry in Dar es Salaam cricket.

In most cases, Aces A has had the upper hand when coming up against Pak Stars A, but lately, the latter has been

putting up a sensible fight.

Aces A usually performs as a team and delivers, but when the squad confronted Pak Stars A in the TCA Delaware Champions League, the clash was awesome. The duel that brought together the two teams was viewed as the game of the tournament.

Amassing more than 180 runs was a challenge that both teams could not accomplish in the clash.

Pak Stars A started extremely well in both batting and bowling but, as the saying goes, cricket is about temperament.

Pak Stars A were a bit cautious and smart when they took the crease, but then, the Aces A prodigy, Ally, came in and pinned the best hitters in domestic cricket quite well.

Pak Stars A did not take their chances when it mattered, and as Aces A's top bowlers had already been exhausted, Ally was brought to do the cover-up.

Ally put on a tremendous bowling show. With seasoned performers Zamyoni Ramadhan and Zafar Khan batting at both ends for Pak Stars A, the Aces A prodigy contained the duo.

Ally grabbed 2-19 in his four overs, as Pak Stars A concluded their innings with 152/4 in the scheduled 20 overs.

In response, the Asif Butt-led Aces A mounted a solid chase, dropping five wickets in 18.5 overs and grabbing the win.

Pak Stars A bowled well in the first six overs - with Aces A notching 19 runs for the loss of two wickets, and they dropped the third wicket in the eighth over.

Aces A - needing more than 110 runs in 12 overs to come out victorious - banked on Zimbabwean Aisah Chibanda and Kumar who hit Pak Stars A bowlers hard.

Chibanda - known for hitting big shots, did his job solidly, and when he got out, Kumar toyed with the bowling unit of Pak Stars A.

The cricketer resorted to knocking drives, which turned out to be classy.

Kumar displayed a clean game and showed how to help his team chase and close the game.

His innings have motivated the youngsters in his team to be calm and collected in the chase.

Coming and bowling against seasoned cricketers Khan and Ramadhan in small boundaries, said a lot about Ally's competence.

Putting on the same spirited showing against equally experienced duo of Delaware Upanga SC A's Sanjay Bom and Ramesh Alluri, when Aces A faced the outfit, once again talks volumes concerning Ally's growth.

The in-form Ally wounded up his three overs with two wickets, conceding 22 runs and a 7.33 economy rate, helping Aces A outfit garner a 24-run victory.

Thakur noted that credit should duly go to Aces Cricket Club management and its ongoing Academy Future initiative, which targets to support efforts to develop cricket domestically.

## Local juggernauts now suffer costly slip-ups on the ruthless continental football stage

By Lloyd Ellipokea

FOLLOWING their sad-sounding 2-0 loss to the Sudanese club Al Hilal in their disappointing group stage opener of the CAF Champions League, Young Africans SC were utterly determined to return to winning ways last Saturday in their second group stage match against their experienced Algerian opponents MC Alger in the latter's backyard.

However, despite Young Africans' steely resolve, they still suffered a heartbreaking 2-0 defeat to their hosts, MC Alger, which has left an army of Young Africans supporters feeling deflated and a bit dejected.

Indeed, Young Africans' lackluster form in this season's CAF Champions League is a far cry from their dazzling displays in this same elite competition last season.

Fueled by a massive desire to soar to unprecedented heights Young Africans gladdened the hearts of their avid devotees by progressing to the quarter-finals of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, which was a truly historic first for the Tanzanian heavyweights.

In addition, in the season before last, Young Africans lost the final of the CAF Confederations Cup by a hair's breadth as the Jangwani Street-based side



Young Africans attacking midfielder Pazome Zouzoua pictured in action on Saturday during the CAF Champions League Group A match against MC Alger at Stade 6 Juillet in Algiers. MC Alger won 2-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

narrowly lost the tournament's finale on the away goals rule.

In light of all of the aforesaid points, it is easy to understand why big things were expected from Young Africans in this season's CAF Champions League.

Having lost their opening two group stage clashes on the bounce, Young Africans clearly have their work cut out for them as they attempt to turn around their fortunes in

the demanding group stage of this season's CAF Champions League.

As for Simba SC, they suffered their first defeat of the CAF Confederations Cup's group stage when the Msimbazi Street-based outfit succumbed to a 2-1 loss to CS Constantine of Algeria on the latter's home patch last Sunday.

In the wake of that setback, Simba do not have any time to

dwell on their sorrow as the club must rapidly regroup lest they be caught napping in the ensuing group stage contests.

Thus, as the group stages of both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederations Cup are now in full swing, hope springs eternal that Young Africans and Simba can rediscover their way again in both revered football championships.

Switching gears, it is arguably fair to say that the 21-year-old sprinting sensation from Botswana, Letsile Tebogo, was an unknown quantity at the beginning of the multi-sport, pulsating Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Nevertheless, despite not being a household name, Tebogo simply shrugged that off as he went on to rewrite the history books in the 200 meters final to fabulously claim the gold medal, which was significantly the first in his country's history.

Indeed, Tebogo's monumental accomplishment was greeted with seemingly ceaseless jubilation in his home country as the President of Botswana even declared August 9, 2024 as a public holiday in honour of the gifted athlete's triumphant exertions.

With the end of this year just round the corner, it is dearly hoped that Tebogo will be able to pick up from where he left off in the New Year.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Doto Biteko, presenting a sponsorship certificate to Barrick's Communications Manager, Georgia Mutagahywa, in recognition of the company's role as one of the sponsors of the UDSM Marathon held over the weekend. Second right is the Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, along with other university leaders. Photo: Correspondent

## Tanzania awaits Group B opponent after AFCON U-17 CECAFA qualifier shake-up

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

Tanzania's U-17 football team is awaiting confirmation of a new opponent from Group B following the withdrawal of two teams from Group A in the AFCON U-17 CECAFA qualifiers.

The tournament is scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda, from December 14-27.

Initially, Tanzania was drawn in Group A alongside hosts Uganda, Ethiopia, and Burundi. However, Ethiopia and Burundi have announced their withdrawal from the competition, leaving just two teams in the group.

Burundi became the second team to withdraw, citing player eligibility issues as determined by CAF doctors after mandatory Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) tests.

"We communicate with regret the withdrawal of the U-17 team from the CECAFA U-17 tournament in Uganda. The decision was reached after some players were found ineligible according to the report sent by the team of CAF doctors," stated Manirakiza Jeremie, general secretary of the Football Federation of Burundi (FFB).

Earlier, Ethiopia had also withdrawn from the competition due to unspecified rea-

sons.

In light of these developments, CECAFA Competitions Director Yusuf Mossi has confirmed that one team from Group B will be moved to Group A to balance the groups, ensuring that both have three teams.

The six remaining teams competing for the two qualification slots include:

**Group A:** Uganda, Tanzania, and one team to be added from Group B.

**Group B:** Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

The top two teams from the qualifiers will represent the CECAFA Zone at the AFCON U-17

finals set for 2025.

All participating teams are required to undergo mandatory MRI tests to verify player eligibility before the competition begins.

In the 2022 edition of the CECAFA qualifiers held in Addis Ababa, Somalia emerged victorious, defeating South Sudan 3-1 in the final.

Tanzania's U-17 team is preparing intensively for the tournament, determined to secure one of the two available slots for the 2025 AFCON U-17.

As the adjusted group fixtures are finalized, Tanzania awaits clarity on its new group-stage opponent from Group B.



## Mbappe says he is still committed to France despite recent absences

MADRID

KYLIAN Mbappe said he remained committed to the French national team despite not being called up for recent games, and that he respected the decisions made by coach Didier Deschamps.

"The French team has always been the highest rank in football, it's the national team. I've always said there's nothing more important. My love for the French team hasn't changed," Mbappe said in an interview with Canal+ on Sunday.

"I've always given my all," added the France captain, who has not featured for the Les Bleus since two Nations League games in early September.

"You serve your country and that's it... I always held the French national team to the highest level. I did everything possible to represent it as best as possible."

The 25-year-old striker has been hailed as one of the world's best players and moved to Spanish giants Real Madrid in July.

He has 86 caps for France but was not included in the squads for their more recent Nations League fixtures in October and November.

"I can't talk about November because it was a decision from the coach (Deschamps) and I'll get behind what he said. I fully respect his decision because he is the boss. I wanted to go but I can't say why," he said.

Real have struggled at the start of the season and face the threat of elimination from the Champions League group stage, sitting 24th and last in the play-off spots.

"It's not the best start to the season, either collectively or individually. We're preparing for the moments that will count. It hasn't met expectations but at Real you're expected to perform in the second half of the season," Mbappe said.

The football calendar has become a major concern for elite players, with the increasing number of fixtures potentially contributing to injuries, a concern shared by Mbappe.

"In the NBA (National Basketball Association), they get four months off. We get two weeks. And in the second week, we're already back to running. It's not a vacation," he said.

The impact of such a demanding schedule has clearly weighed on him, especially after Euro 2024, much of which he played with a face mask after breaking his nose and where he asked to go off during extra time in France's quarter-final because of fatigue. France went out in the last four.

"I was tired. I wanted to stay because you give everything for the French team but it was exhausting," Mbappe said.

REUTERS

## Conte content with Napoli performance despite defeat

NAPLES, Italy

NAPOLI manager Antonio Conte said he was happy with his side's display and commitment after they lost to Lazio for the second time this week on Sunday, also losing their place at the top of the Serie A.

After Thursday's 3-1 away defeat knocked Napoli out of the Coppa Italia, a home league game gave them a chance for revenge along with the opportunity to reclaim top spot from Atalanta.

Instead, Lazio came away victorious again, with Gustav Isaksen's goal the difference between the sides in a 1-0 win, but Conte remained upbeat in defeat.

"Today's match also tells us that the path we are taking is the right one, our idea is to attack the opponent, to not let them control the game and create situations to hurt," Conte told DAZN.

"There is room for improvement from this point of view, we get there but the last step is missing.

"We are working on it, I am not disappointed with the performance, the boys gave everything, playing a good match against an excellent team."

Lazio are now just one point off Napoli, in what is turning out to be an excitingly close title race, and after their two wins over his side, Conte is not surprised with their position in the standings.

"Lazio are not a meteorite, they are doing very well," Conte said.

"I'm not disappointed or unhappy, during this journey there are some stumbles, there will probably be others, this is the team I want to see but we need to have more quality in the final metres."

Lazio manager Marco Baroni knows what it takes to win a Scudetto. He scored the only goal for Napoli, against Lazio, on the final day of the season in 1990 to guarantee them the league title, but he isn't getting carried away with his side's success.

"It's hard to make the climb and it takes a moment to drop back down again," Baroni said.

"I know the league very well, the teams that are at the top, and we have to face them with this attitude. And then in the end we will see."

REUTERS

## Perfect win, says Maresca, as Chelsea storm back to sink Spurs

LONDON

ENZO Maresca hailed the perfect win as his Chelsea side roared back from two goals down after 11 minutes to beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 and move second in the Premier League on Sunday.

The visitors were in big trouble after two slips by Marc Cucurella led to goals for Dominic Solanke and Dejan Kulusevski but they responded in powerful fashion.

Cole Palmer slotted two penalties, the second an audacious Panenka dink, while Jadon Sancho and Enzo Fernandez were also on target as Chelsea cut Liverpool's lead to four points.

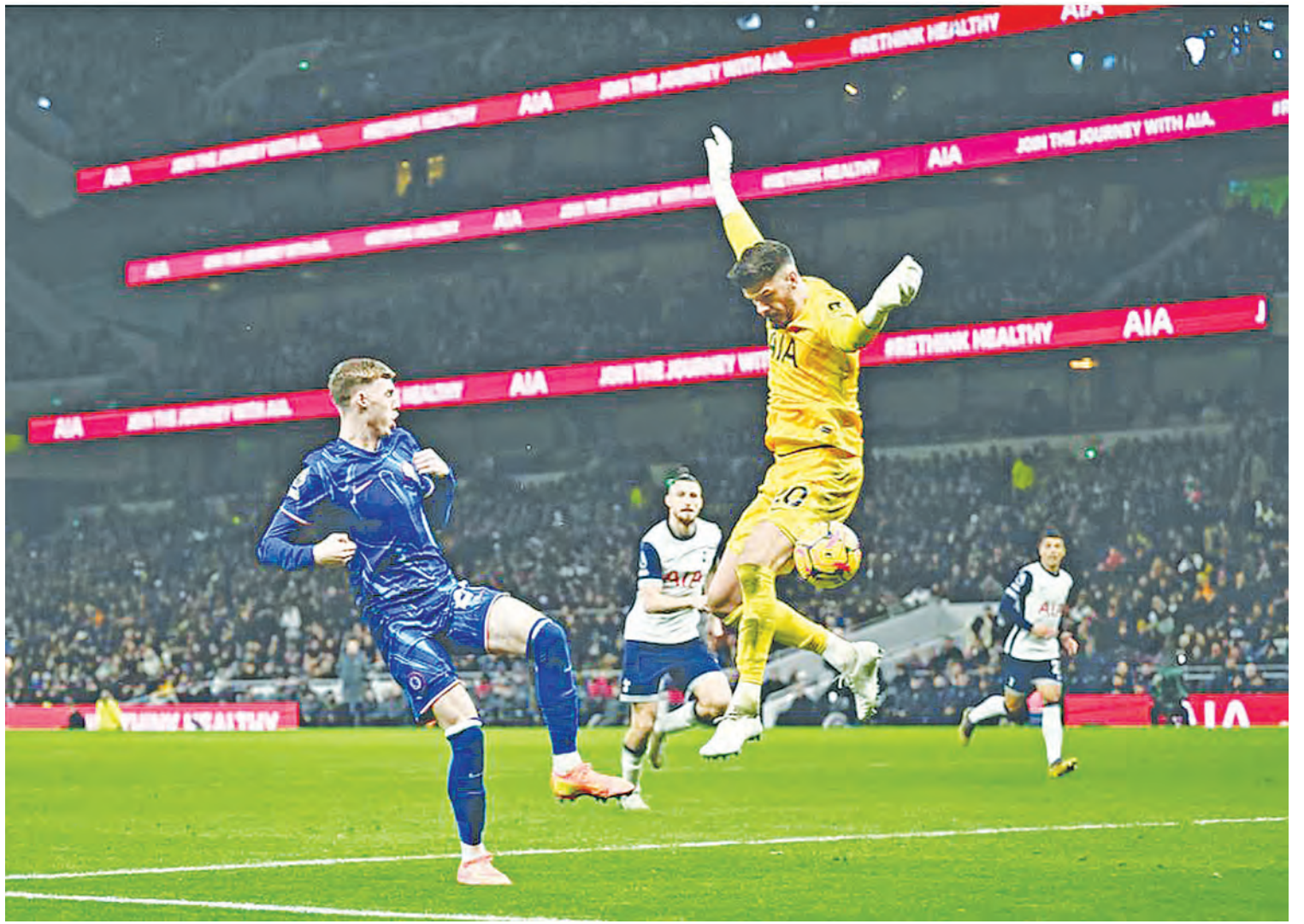
It was Chelsea's fourth win in a row in the league and while Maresca continues to dismiss his side's title ambitions, few now are taking that opinion seriously.

"To come to this stadium and think you are going to win and not suffer, it's impossible. It's the perfect win probably because of this," the Italian told reporters.

"After the game, my message to the players is to be focused in the day by day, our sessions, the next game on Thursday and then Sunday. The main focus has to be to enjoy the day off and when we come back, 100%, train well, go for the game.

"The fans can dream because from the outside, it is quite clear and inside, the reality is we are not ready but the important thing is we improve day by day."

Cucurella was left red-faced after his choice of footwear proved his undoing, twice falling over and being punished as



Tottenham Hotspur's Fraser Forster in action with Chelsea's Cole Palmer during their Premier League match at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, in London, Britain on December 8, 2024. REUTERS

Tottenham took advantage to surge ahead.

It was all smiles between the Spaniard and Maresca at the end, however. "He said to me after the game that he was trying to bring emotion to the game!" Maresca told Sky Sports.

"No, being serious, to come to this stadium against this team and be 2-0 down, but continue then with the same plan on and off the ball and then second half we changed things tactically. I think overall we deserved to win.

"It's more a question for Marc. They are mature enough to decide what boots they need for

the game. The most important thing is that we were 2-0 but we continued the same way to create chances."

Palmer has now been involved in 50 Premier League goals in 48 games for Chelsea since signing from Manchester City -- 33 goals and 17 assists.

"The Premier League is full of top players and top talent. Cole belongs with those players," Maresca said.

Meanwhile, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said his side did everything they could have done to win on Sunday at Fulham, but he praised the home side for their early goal and

dogged defending.

"Gutted that we didn't win it because I think we deserved to win from the beginning to the end," Arteta told reporters.

Fulham's Raul Jimenez scored early at Craven Cottage, and William Saliba equalised for the Gunners at the start of the second half.

Fulham held on for the draw despite Arsenal having 70% possession and peppering Fulham with six corners. Arsenal have now scored 23 league goals from corners since the start of last season, more than any other team in the league.

"We did almost every-

thing that we had to do to win it," Arteta said.

"This is the quality of the opposition and the league so you cannot cry about it. For millimetres we could have been here with a really dominant win," he said.

"It's never enough if you don't score three, four or five. If they (opposition sides) play 11 direct balls I want to win 11. We want to win 100%," he said.

Fulham have been a thorn in Arsenal's side, getting the better of them last season with a win at home and a draw at the Emirates.

But Arteta defended his makeshift back line

on Sunday when asked if they would have conceded the early goal to Jimenez had injured defender Gabriel Magalhães been available.

"I cannot promise you with different personnel it wouldn't happen. Sometimes you have to praise the opposition," he said.

"We had to change the whole unit. That's it, they (injured players) are not available. We have to respond to that, and I'm very happy with the way they did," he said, praising defender Jakob Kiwiior in particular who stood in for the missing Gabriel.

REUTERS

## Simeone lauds Atletico substitutes in comeback win over Sevilla

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid manager Diego Simeone praised the impact of his substitutes after his side rallied to record their ninth straight win in all competitions by beating Sevilla 4-3 in LaLiga on Sunday.

Atletico rallied from 3-1 down in the second half helped by Simeone's substitutions, including the introduction of Brazilian winger Samuel Lino, who equalised before Antoine Griezmann sealed the comeback.

With Atletico sitting third on 35 points, one point behind Real Madrid and just three behind leaders Barcelona, the Argentine coach pointed to the performance of substitutes as key to making his side a title contender.

"The team is working very well as a unit. It makes me happy when those who are waiting enter into the match well. Because that's the strength to stay in the game," Simeone told a news conference.

"They have all played since we started (the season) and they have played quite a lot, almost all of them. Some have made better use of the chances they've been given, others are trying to improve to get more.

"Lino's goal makes me

happy because he's been looking for it. Today he scored an important goal for the comeback and hopefully it will give him the confidence he needs.

"Today the team made me very happy with the reaction they had with the substitutions."

Atletico's talisman and all-time top scorer Griezmann bagged a double, earning praise from his coach.

"He wasn't playing well in the first half, but with little he had already done a lot," Simeone said. "In the second half I think he improved, the fourth goal came, and well, we love him a lot.

"He's a guy who has always given absolutely everything to Atletico Madrid."

Despite Atletico's fine form, Simeone remained cautious and said his team will face more challenges during a very long season.

"In a long season, with so many games, with LaLiga, Champions League, Copa del Rey, Club World Cup, there are many games and obviously we are going to have to go through different stages," he said.

"The most important thing is to be strong and to make sure that these situations do as little damage as possible."

REUTERS



Atletico Madrid's Conor Gallagher in action with Sevilla's Jose Angel Carmona during their LaLiga match at Metropolitano, in Madrid, Spain in December 8, 2024. REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Perfect win, says Maresca, as Chelsea storm back to sink Spurs

PAGE 19

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SKONGA (I)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (I)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEK  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kaili Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 SSPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA1 (I)

**SSports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on SSports.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Singida Black Stars assistant coach David Ouma sets sights on Federation Cup glory

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Black Stars assistant coach David Ouma has set an ambitious target of winning the Federation Cup to secure his team's spot in next year's CAF Confederation Cup.

Ouma's tenure at Singida Black Stars began on a high note as the team secured a 2-0 victory over Magnate FC in a Federation Cup match on Saturday, advancing to the Round of 16.

The victory has bolstered confidence within the squad as they now turn their attention to the Premier League, where they will face Dodoma Jiji on Thursday.

The Singida-based club has had an impressive Premier League campaign so far, winning seven of their 12 matches, drawing three, and losing two, amassing 24 points and occupying fourth place in the standings.

Ouma, who was appointed assistant coach recently under head coach Ramadhani Nsazurwimo, expressed optimism about the team's potential.

"Last year, I reached the semi-finals of the tournament with Coastal Union, but this time, my target is to help the club feature in continental football next year. We have a good squad, and the players are highly motivated to achieve great things," he said.

The Kenyan tactician revealed that his decision to join Singida Black Stars was driven by the club's long-term vision and commitment to winning titles.

"Singida's project and plans for the coming years were compelling. Despite receiving numerous offers for head coach roles, I chose to join as an assistant because I believed in the direction the club is heading," Ouma explained.

He also emphasized his willingness to embrace challenges, saying: "I believe in taking risks that push me out of my comfort zone. After reviewing Singida's proposal, I was convinced that the challenge they offered suited the kind of risks I enjoy taking."

Before joining Singida Black Stars, Ouma had been in talks with several clubs in his home country, but the negotiations took too long to materialize.

His appointment follows the departure of assistant coach Dennis Kitambi and head coach Patrick Ausesms, who were dismissed after a string of four winless matches.

Ouma's determination to make an impact with Singida Black Stars has set the tone for the team's ambitions in the Federation Cup and beyond.

As they prepare for their next Premier League match, the Singida faithful will hope that Ouma's vision and experience can guide the club to new heights.

# David's highlights costly mistakes after loss to CS Constantine



CS Constantine goalkeeper Kheireddine Boussouf pictured on Sunday failing to stop Simba SC defender Mohamed Hussein's volley during their CAF Confederation Cup Group A match in Constantine, Algeria. CS Constantine won 2-1. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club's CAF Confederation Cup campaign hit a stumbling block in Algeria as they succumbed to a 2-1 defeat against CS Constantine in a Group A encounter.

Despite an early lead, defensive lapses in the second half proved costly for the Msimbazi Street-based side.

Simba took the lead in the 20th minute when Mohammed Hussein commonly known as "Zimbabwe Jr", scored a spectacular goal.

His intended cross deceived the CS Constantine defense and sailed directly into the net, giving Simba a promising start.

The first half saw a spirited performance from Simba, with their defensive setup and swift counterattacks keeping the Algerian hosts at bay.

However, their inability to capitalize further on their dominance would later haunt them.

The start of the second half

was disastrous for Simba. CS Constantine struck twice in quick succession, turning the game on its head.

Abdulrazack Hamza's own goal leveled the score in the 47th minute, taking advantage of a lapse in Simba's defensive organization. Just three minutes later, Brahim Dib netted the second goal for the hosts after a deflection off Simba defender Che Malone Fondoh.

These back-to-back blows unsettled Simba, who struggled to regain their composure. Despite numerous attempts to equalize, Simba's lack of precision in the final third meant the scoreline remained unchanged for the rest of the match.

Simba head coach Fadlu

David's offered a candid assessment of the match. Speaking after the game, he commended CS Constantine's performance while expressing frustration at his team's missed opportunities.

"First of all, I'd like to congratulate CS Constantine for securing the three points today," David said. "The match was quite balanced on both sides, and perhaps a draw would have been a fair result."

David lamented Simba's failure to maintain their first-half lead.

"When you're leading 1-0 away from home, you expect to consolidate either by controlling possession or forcing the opposition to play in areas where you have the advantage. Unfortunately,

small details cost us the game," he explained.

Highlighting the crucial moments, David added: "We didn't press effectively in the first minute of the second half, leading to a sequence where we failed to defend a corner properly. Both goals we conceded were avoidable, especially the second, which was a deflection. These are the details we need to address moving forward."

Despite the disappointment, David stressed the importance of learning from the defeat and focusing on the upcoming matches.

The result leaves Simba in a precarious position in Group A.

CS Constantine now lead the group with six points,

followed by Simba and Angolan side Bravos do Maquis, both tied on three points. Tunisian outfit CS Sfaxien sit at the bottom with no points after two games.

In another Group A match, Bravos defeated CS Sfaxien, adding to the competitive dynamics of the group.

Simba will face CS Sfaxien next in a must-win clash at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on December 15.

Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, confirmed that the team is set to return to Dar es Salaam early today morning to begin preparations for their crucial home fixture.

"Our team has started the journey back home, and by Allah's will, we will arrive on Tuesday at dawn," Ally said. "Once we land, we will announce the full schedule, including training sessions and other activities."

Ally emphasized the significance of the December 15 match against CS Sfaxien, urging all Simba fans to rally behind the team.

"This is a match that no true Simba fan should miss. I call upon branch leaders and group administrators to mobilize fans to fill the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Let's show our unwavering support and help the team secure an important victory," he added.

## Yanga's winless start leaves CAF Champions League progress in doubt

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



YOUNG Africans Sports Club head coach Sead Ramovic has attributed his team's 2-0 loss to MC Alger in the CAF Champions League Group A match to two key mistakes that shifted the game's momentum.

The encounter, held at the 5 July 1962 Stadium in Algeria, marked Young Africans' second consecutive defeat in the group stage, following a similar loss at home against Al Hilal.

Speaking after the game, Ramovic (pictured), who took charge of Young Africans just three weeks ago, highlighted the errors as moments of lost focus that ultimately cost his team.

"It was probably not a good day for us. If you look at how we started the game and the results we got, they are two different things," said the German tactician. "We made two mistakes that caused us to lose focus, and it cost us. These are matches where you have to play with your sanity throughout the game."

The loss leaves Young Africans at the bottom of Group A with no points, putting them in a precarious position ahead of their next match against TP Mazembe in the Democratic Republic of Congo on December 14.

While Ramovic acknowledged his team's mistakes, several underlying issues contributed to the defeat.

One of the most glaring was the midfield's inability to maintain pass-

ing accuracy. Key players like Duke Abuya, Maxi Nzengele, Stéphane Aziz Ki, and Mudathir Yahya failed to deliver reliable passes, disrupting Young Africans' ability to build effective attacks.

Injuries also plagued the team, with crucial players like Khalid Aucho, Dickson Job, and left-back Chadrack Boka missing from the lineup. Boka's absence was particularly noticeable, as his replacement, Nickson Kibabage, struggled defensively.

MC Alger exploited Kibabage's flank to launch repeated attacks, highlighting the gap left by Boka's injury.

Goalkeeper Djigui Diarra, though present, played through injuries, further exposing the team's vulnerability.

One of the most pressing issues for Young Africans is the dip in form of midfielder Aziz Ki. Known for his creative prowess last season, Ki has been unable to replicate his previous performances. His subdued presence on

the field has left Young Africans without a reliable playmaker.

Options to address this include giving Clatous Chama more responsibility in midfield or resting Ki to help him recover from fatigue.

Last season, Ki expended significant energy competing for the Mainland Premier League Golden Boot, where he scored 21 goals.

Upfront, Young Africans strikers have struggled to make an impact. Kennedy Musonda showed promise but lacked the pace needed to unsettle MC Alger's defenders.

Prince Dube appeared low on confidence, Clement Mzize is sidelined with injury, and Jean Baleke has yet to find his rhythm. These challenges have left Young Africans without a dependable goal scorer.

Young Africans now face a daunting trip to Lubumbashi to take on TP Mazembe, a team they share a storied rivalry with.

History suggests a tough battle awaits. In 2016, Mazembe defeated Young Africans 3-1 in Lubumbashi and followed up with a 1-0 win in Dar es Salaam. However, Young Africans turned the tables during the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup group stage, securing a 1-0 victory in Lubumbashi and a 3-1 win at home.

The stakes are high for Young Africans, who must claim victory to keep their hopes of progressing alive. With no points from their opening two matches, Ramovic's side must de-

liver a flawless performance against Mazembe to stay in contention.

Young Africans' defensive lapses were a recurring theme in their loss to MC Alger. The absence of reliable defenders and the team's inability to block MC Alger's attacks underscore the need for better organization at the back.

Depth in the squad has also emerged as a concern. Players filling in for injured teammates must step up to maintain the team's competitiveness in the CAF Champions League.

Despite the challenges, Ramovic remains optimistic about Young Africans' ability to turn their fortunes around. With four matches left in the group stage, including the pivotal clash against TP Mazembe, the team has a chance to redeem itself.

However, improvement is needed across all areas of play: midfield creativity, defensive solidity, and finishing in the final third. Injuries must be managed effectively, and the team's morale must remain intact as they navigate a tough schedule.

For Young Africans, the journey to salvage their CAF Champions League campaign begins with addressing the mistakes and tactical shortcomings that have plagued their performances so far.

Whether they can rise to the challenge and reclaim their form remains to be seen, but the stakes could not be higher.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

