



ENVIRONMENT



MINISTER FOR URGENT CLEANUP OF CLOGGED RIVER **PAGE 3**

INFRASTRUCTURE



GOVT TO BUILD THREE-LANE ROADS NATIONWIDE **PAGE 4**

POWER



REA FOCUS ON HAMLETS AFTER ELECTRIFYING ALL VILLAGES **PAGE 5**

STANDARDS



BUY ONLY CERTIFIED PRODUCTS, TBS URGES TANZANIANS **PAGE 6**

Central bank leaving lending rate at 6.0 pc

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MONETARY decision makers have decided to leave the central bank rate (CBR), the lending rate offered to banks and other financial institutions, unchanged at 6.0 percent for the quarter ending December 2024.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) governor, said at a briefing here yesterday that the monetary policy committee (MPC) had finalised monetary policy directions for the fiscal 2023/2024 third and fourth quarter.

The stay was decided on projections indicating that inflation will remain low, aligning with the maximum level of 5.0 percent.

The MPC anticipates steady growth in **TURN TO PAGE 2**

Food security: Legislatures have to prioritise agriculture in budgeting

WELCOME TO MSOMERA...



Yet more former residents of what is designated as Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Arusha Region arrive at Msomera village in Sindeni Division of Handeni District, Tanga Region, joining hundreds of their colleagues who have gradually moved there since the relocations began roundabout mid-2022. This time around it was 119 members of 26 households moving to Msomera at the weekend - complete with their herds of livestock. Sindeni division secretary Baraka Nkatura welcomed them to their new home on behalf of Handeni district commissioner Albert Msando. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

"But we have also realized that African countries need to unite and work together in order to tackle innumerable challenges facing the continent"

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THERE is a need for national assemblies in Africa to prioritize agriculture in their central budgetary estimates to address food insecurity on the continent.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango issued this appeal when opening the 53rd Africa regional conference for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) here yesterday.

"Our countries need to start prioritizing farming, especially now, at a time when climate change is taking a toll on food production due to unpredictable weather and rain seasons," he stated.

He recalled the 2014 Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods, insisting that it is high time African states put to work the convention with the rigour it deserves.

"There are various steps that can be taken to boost agriculture and guarantee food security on the continent, including turning to irrigation farming, adopting smart agriculture and encouraging foreign direct investments into the sector," he explained.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the National Assembly



The Commonwealth as a global community is supported by a network of 70 plus specialised and accredited organisations along with nine associated organisations, working in specific areas

Speaker and host of the meeting, listed topics being addressed at the CPA conference as including climate change, food security and involvement of the youth in agriculture.

"But we have also realized that African countries need to unite and work together in order to tackle innumerable challenges facing the continent," she stated, underlining the need to foster parliamentary democracy and enhancing regional cooperation.

These and other matters will come up at the CPA conference, where the CPA Africa Region chairperson Catherine Hara, Speaker of the Malawi National Assembly, pointed out that women participation in African parliaments still lags behind "and this needs to be addressed as well."

The conference, featuring nearly 300 participants, has three side events involving conference workshops, executive committee meetings and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa regional conference.

The conference brings together delegates from 14 out of the 19 CPA member parliaments, 10 speakers of national assemblies and three deputy speakers, with Tanzania hosting the CPA Africa regional secretariat since 2003.

It is housed within the National Assembly secretariat in the capital, after shifting from **TURN TO PAGE 2**

SPORTS Page 20



Simba SC seek fifth consecutive win as Coastal Union eye turnaround

Page 19



Athletic Madrid stunned after its biggest loss in Europe since 2021: 'It was really bad'

Page 18



Simba skipper Zimbwe Jr reflects on a decade of consistency and leadership

Z'bar hints at opportunities in SADC insurance sectors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said has stressed the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders to achieve key objectives of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) particularly in the insurance sector.

She made this appeal at a vital committee meeting on the matter held here yesterday, since the meeting was focused on insurance issues, underlining that it is crucial for community members to discuss development opportunities available for all in this sector.

The government has meanwhile stated the crucial need for the regional committee of insurance, securities and non-banking financial authorities (CISNA) to support efforts to enhance the regulatory environment for businesses.



No continent or country is exempt from the impacts of climate change, with heat-waves, droughts, hurricanes and storms causing substantial damage worldwide

Ali Suleiman Ameir, the state minister in the Zanzibar President's Office, made this appeal when opening of the 47th annual meeting of the CISNA committee under SADC held in Zanzibar, standing in for Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Union head of the Treasury.

The minister pointed at the importance of sharing information to prevent crime, protect stakeholders' interests and strengthen the security of financial systems across the zone.

CISNA serves as an appropriate platform for exchanging experiences, expertise and strengthening cooperation in managing the sub-sectors of insurance, capital markets and non-banking financial services, he stated.

Like many regions globally, SADC has faced crises stemming from the Covid-19 **TURN TO PAGE 2**

Four left dead, 15 injured as past-midnight bus overturns

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

FOUR people have died and 15 injured after a passenger bus veered off the road and overturned in Mailikumi area in Korogwe District, Tanga Region yesterday.

Almachius Mchunguz, the regional police commander, said at a briefing that the accident occurred an hour after midnight when a Capricorn Co. bus T605 DJR driven by Julius Mushi, 43, a resident of Arusha veered off the road.

The bus was travelling from Dar es Salaam to Arusha, where three men and one woman lost their lives. The survivors are receiving treatment at Magunga District Hospital, with several referred to Bombo Regional Hospital in the city.

The RPC urged drivers to exercise caution and adhere to traffic laws to prevent fatalities and injuries, as neglecting road safety requirements can lead to avoidable accidents.

"Safe driving is essential at all times especially on busy roads," he said, while Vasco Lucas, acting medical officer in-charge at Magunga hospital in Korogwe said they received 34 injured passengers.

They were 19 men, 14 women and two boys, sustaining injuries in various parts of their bodies, elaborating that six of the injured were referred to Bombo hospital.

The hospital has also received four bodies now preserved at the mortuary, he said, noting that some of the injured had **TURN TO PAGE 2**



Four left dead, 15 injured as past-midnight bus overturns

FROM PAGE 1

been treated and discharged.

Global health agencies say that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent relate to mechanical problems of the vehicles, six percent due to weather

unpredictability and only two percent fatal crashes arise from poor infrastructure.

The Global Status Report on road safety 2023 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that road traffic injuries are the leading killers of people aged 5-29 years.

Central bank leaving lending rate at 6.0 pc

FROM PAGE 1

line with improving domestic and global conditions, he said, pointing at global estimates varying from a global growth rate of 3.2 percent or much lower at 2.6 percent.

"This growth is expected to stimulate domestic economic activities," he said, pointing at declining inflation tied with lagged effects of tight monetary policy and decreasing commodity prices, particularly for crude oil and fertilizers.

Most central banks in the region are expected to cut or maintain policy rates, he said, aware that central banks in the SADC and EAC zones had recently affirmed this position.

He said that commodity prices in the world market have been generally stable and are projected to remain at similar levels, with crude oil prices projected at \$72 and \$82 per barrel for December 2024 futures, driven by an increase in supply.

This will reduce pressure on inflation and demand for foreign exchange, with petroleum products accounting for about 20 percent of the total import bill, he stated.

Assessing monetary policy conduct in the quarter ending September 2024, he said it successfully anchored inflation expectations well within the 5.0 percent range. Economic growth stood at 5.6 percent with construction, agriculture, financials and insurance plus trans-

portation contributing the most, he said, affirming a 5.8 percent and 5.6 percent growth rate projection in the second and third quarters of fiscal 2024/2025.

Projected growth is bolstered by improvements in global and domestic economic conditions, where domestic conditions uplift is tied to improving the business environment, supported by the development partners.

Agricultural output is expected to increase significantly due to wider use of inputs like fertilizers and quality seeds and pesticides, plus investment in irrigation schemes, he said, noting that construction and transportation are also expected to add to the growth momentum. The Zanzibar economy grew by 6.4 percent during the quarter ending September, driven by transport, financials and insurance, plus construction. Inflation remained stable, within the regional convergence target framework, he stated.

Headline inflation stood at 3.0 and 3.1 percent in July and August 2024 respectively, and is projected to stay within 3.2 percent range in the fourth quarter of calendar 2024.

The stability of consumer goods prices in the world market, adequate food supply, stable power supply as well as prudent monetary and fiscal policies are expected to contain inflationary pressures, he added.

Food security: Legislatures must prioritise agriculture in budgeting

FROM PAGE 1

Harare when Zimbabwe was thrown out of the fold, a traditional statutory body for countries forming part of the British Commonwealth, later known as the Commonwealth of Nations.

Founded in 1911 the CPA is one of its oldest organs, where in Africa it consists of 19 national legislatures and 46 provincial versions, with CPA being officially accredited as an associated Commonwealth organi-

sation.

While in the past the association covered mostly legislatures in Anglophonic countries, Rwanda, a Francophone state and Mozambique, a Lusophone country later joined CPA as full members.

The Commonwealth as a global community is supported by a network of 70 plus specialised and accredited organisations along with nine associated organisations, working in specific areas.

UK finally agrees to hand Chagos isles to Mauritius

PORT LOUIS

THE United Kingdom has agreed to transfer sovereignty over the Chagos Islands, a disputed archipelago of more than 60 islands in the Indian Ocean, to Mauritius. This move is aimed at securing the future of a strategically important US-British military base located on Diego Garcia.

In a statement released yesterday, the British government announced that international partners, including the United States, strongly supported the agreement.

"Today's deal secures this vital military base for the future," said British Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "It strengthens our role in safeguarding global security, eliminates any possibility of the Indian Ocean being used as a route for illegal immigration to the UK, and solidifies our long-term relationship with Mauritius, a close Commonwealth partner."

However, concerns have been raised that a future Mauritian government might not adhere to the agreement and could potentially allow China, which has significant investments in Mauritius, to take over the base.

Since 1971, the islands have been largely uninhabited, with only US military personnel granted access to Diego Garcia. This followed the

UK's expulsion of the Chagossian people at the request of the US. Some Chagossians resettled in Mauritius, while others have lived in Crawley, West Sussex, in the UK since 2002.

The expulsions are widely regarded as one of the most shameful episodes of Britain's modern colonial history, and Chagossians have spent decades fighting for the right to return to their homeland. In 2021, about 89 Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers arrived on Diego Garcia, but the UK government has argued that the refugee convention does not apply there, leaving them in legal limbo.



It strengthens our role in safeguarding global security, eliminates any possibility of the Indian Ocean being used as a route for illegal immigration to the UK, and solidifies our long-term relationship with Mauritius, a close Commonwealth partner



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured in Arusha city yesterday delivering speech at the 53rd Annual Africa Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Photo: VPO

FROM PAGE 1

pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, Middle East disputes and severe drought conditions in Southern Africa, he said.

"Our governments must intensify measures to mitigate these impacts and build economic resilience," he stressed, affirming that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects positive economic growth for Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is expected that the average growth rate increases from 3.4 percent in 2023 to 3.8 percent this year while several countries are anticipated to exceed this average, he stated.

"To sustain this positive economic trend, collective action from stakeholders is essential. Crucial steps include implementing strategies to

Z'bar hints at opportunities in SADC insurance sectors

address climate change, advancing financial inclusion and supporting the development of small and innovative businesses," the minister explained.

It is necessary to collaborate in tackling financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorism financing, already prioritised in the CISNA strategic agenda, he said, pointing out that climate-related disasters are becoming increasingly frequent and severe, tied to rising global temperatures.

"No continent or country is exempt from the impacts of climate

change, with heat-waves, droughts, hurricanes and storms causing substantial damage worldwide," he specified.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) governor, noted that CISNA has a major role of harmonising regulations and supervisory frameworks across member countries. This would ensure compliance with international standards set by global regulatory bodies, he told the committee.

Kenneth Matomola, the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) chief execu-

tive officer and CISNA chairman, said that the meeting's purpose was to discuss progress within the community.

It comprises various SADC member states, with the agenda also including discussions on climate change, a pressing challenge for member countries and the world at large, he said.

To achieve sustainable financial development, members would address financial regulations, based on the recognition that each country operates under a specific regulatory environment, he added.



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde addresses a mineral wealth conference in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ARU embarks on study seeking to enhance climate adaptation

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ARDHI University (ARU) has started implementation of a three-year research project in collaboration with residents of Kigamboni Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam aimed at strengthening capacity for nature-based solutions and climate services.

Funded by the European Union, the project titled 'Advancing Knowledge for Long-Term Practical Benefits and Climate Adaptation through Climate Services and Nature-Based Solutions (ALBATROSS)' seeks to accelerate climate adaptation across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Tatu Limbumba, Senior Research Fellow at ARU said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at a workshop while giving the profile of the project to ward councillors, representatives of civil society organizations, non-

government organizations and mtaa chairpersons from the project wards.

She said the project aims to co-create effective policy recommendations in partnership with local and national actors in several countries.

The don said the project is implemented in five African countries namely Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Madagascar and Tanzania, adding that in Europe, it is implemented in Italy and Germany.

Dr Limbumba said in Tanzania, the project will specifically focus on Vijibweni and Mjimwema wards in Kigamboni Municipal Council.

She said the project is designed to tackle the escalating challenges posed by climate change while promoting sustainable environmental management.

"The project seeks to strengthen local resilience by encouraging

the use of nature-based solutions which leverage natural ecosystems to address environmental issues," she said.

Also, it seeks to improve access to climate services and provide critical information to help communities understand climate patterns, prepare for extreme weather events and make informed decisions regarding agriculture, infrastructure and urban planning.

"The collaboration between ARU and Kigamboni communities represents a forward-thinking approach to climate action. By integrating scientific research with local knowledge, the project aims to create long-term, sustainable solutions to pressing environmental issues facing the region," she said.

Kigamboni Municipality Mayor Stephano Warioba said assessing nature-based solutions, particularly in rapidly changing peri-urban

areas where unchecked land development depletes mangroves is vital.

Warioba said climate change introduces new uncertainties and risks, adversely affecting health, food security and livelihoods for many residents.

"We need to collaborate with all stakeholders to develop and co-produce new local community policy directions that effectively address climate change adaptation," he said.

Prof Alphonse Kyessi, ALBATROSS team member, said the ultimate goal of the project is to inform policy and practice while raising awareness for scaling up climate services and nature-based solutions.

He said insights, knowledge and expertise of participants will be essential in laying the groundwork for the project's successful implementation.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (facing camera) has an audience at the Treasury offices in Dodoma city yesterday with a Prisons Service delegation led by Commissioner General Jeremiah Katungu (3rd-R). Photo: Finance ministry

Minister for urgent cleanup of clogged river to evade looming disaster in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Ashatu Kijaji has directed Wami Ruvu Basin Water Board based in Coast Region to issue permits for urgent cleanup of clogged Tegeta River to protect the environment and health of nearby residents and their properties.

The directive came after the minister learnt that the river is alarmingly clogged by various types of dirt, making it highly possible to flood when it rains and cause disaster.

After receiving the information,

Dr Kijaji visited the river meandering through various suburbs of Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam Region yesterday and witnessed massive environmental damage caused by human activities, including dumping of waste in the river bed hence severely reducing its natural depth.

Responding to a request by Kawe Member of Parliament Josephat Gwajima to engage National Environment Management Council (NEMC) by convening a meeting of all stakeholders to educate residents about environmental conservation, the minister supported the idea.

She instructed NEMC in

collaboration with a formed taskforce to organize a meeting and involve all Mtaa chairpersons and other leaders whose areas the river passes through.

"You should also invite elders who know the history of the river to tell how it has been affected," she said.

Director of Environment in the Vice President's Office Kemilemba Mutasa said that the waste dumped in and on the banks of the river can cause serious harm to people's health.

She said piles of dirt in the river and on its bank can be a source of disease for residents of not only

Kinondoni District but the entire Dar es Salaam Region.

Director General of NEMC Dr Immaculate Semesi said that the council received the instructions of the minister and would work in collaboration with area MP and the taskforce to hold a meeting of stakeholders to get their ideas and educate them about the important of protecting and cleaning the river.

Dr Kijaji who was accompanied by her deputy Khamis Hamza Khamis also visited Segerea River in Ilala District and witnessed widening of its banks and ordered cleanup of the river to start immediately to save the environment.

TFS starts week-long campaign to curb fires on Uluguru Mountains

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

TANZANIA Forest Services Agency (TFS) has launched a week-long campaign aimed at curbing recurrent setting of fires by residents living near Uluguru Mountains and surrounding areas in Morogoro Region.

The initiative dubbed 'Don't Start a Fire You Can't Put Out - Be Fire Cautious' focuses on residents of Mlimani and Boma Wards within Morogoro Municipality.

Speaking here yesterday, chairpersons of Kibwe and Mbete mtaa said that local leaders have formed environmental committees comprised of young people tasked with monitoring fire-related activities and controlling farm preparation through burning residues.

Thobias Augustino, chairman of Kibwe Mtaa in Boma Ward, emphasized the importance of collaboration between the wards to prevent unauthorized fire use.

"We are committed to ensuring that any fire usage is reported to our committees so that we can implement precautionary measures," he said.

He also noted that local environmental laws prohibit unauthorized fire-setting, with violators facing stated penalties.

Feruzi Mohamed, chairman of Mbete Mtaa in Mlimani Ward, highlighted their success in fire prevention, noting that there have been no significant fire outbreaks for years.

"Our environmental committees

actively monitor residents during land preparation and provide guidance on fire safety to protect natural forests and reserves," he said.

He reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding Uluguru Mountains, which hold significant social and economic value.

Jonson Mremi, assistant headteacher at Mbete Primary School, added that the school conducts environmental education sessions to instill in pupils the importance of natural resource conservation.

"We also maintain a tree nursery to support planting efforts in and around the school, helping pupils learn about environmental conservation and the fight against deforestation and forest fires," he said.

Shaaban Kiula, TFS forest officer in the Eastern Zone, reminded residents that environmental protection is a shared responsibility.

He urged all citizens to take ownership of forest resource preservation, comply with regulations, and act swiftly in the event of a fire in natural or protected areas.

"Destruction caused by fires severely harms living organisms and disrupts rainfall patterns, depleting water sources," he said.

Fires in the Uluguru Mountains are often linked to human activities such as land preparation and charcoal production, with uncontrolled fires posing a significant threat to both natural and protected forests.



Dr Ronald Benju (L), a research scientist with the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency, assisted by Mwanza city counselling officer Colman Edward when demonstrating how to vaccinate dogs against rabies earlier this week. It was during the commemoration of World Rabies Day in Misungwi District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

Govt set to introduce new audit standards in January

THE government is preparing new internal audit standards that are expected to be operational in January 2025.

Speaking here yesterday, Second Vice President of Zanzibar Hemed Suleiman Abdullah said the new standards are anticipated to represent a significant evolution in the field of internal auditing.

"We are confident that the new guidelines will introduce new horizons for the profession while improving upon the outgoing procedures," he said, adding that the trend necessitates the move for internal auditors to expand their scope.

"The new standards should reflect the dynamic nature of our world, emphasizing the need for agility, innovation and forward-thinking in audit practices," he said, pointing out that the guidelines should transform actors to be not just auditors but strategic advisors who can help guide their organizations through uncertainty and change.

He was speaking during the opening ceremony of the Internal Audit Conference taking place at the Arusha International

Conference Centre under the theme 'New Frontier: Transforming Tomorrow.'

Abdullah also revealed that as part of the government's commitment, Tanzania is working to establish a robust framework for internal auditors.

"In Zanzibar, the Internal Audit Act is already in progress and I am optimistic that we will soon hear similar developments from the mainland," he said.

Benjamin Magai, Internal Auditor General, expressed hope that the new standards will make internal audit more effective, further supporting provision of assurance and control.

"This means that internal audit will be pivotal in discouraging adverse opinions within public institutions," he said.

Magai pointed out that auditors play a vital role in helping organizations address, among other things, issues of climate change, through anticipating risks, advising senior leaders and providing assurance.

He said auditors can evaluate reliability of climate risk data for disclosure in sustainability reporting but added that to excel in this role, new skill sets in sustainability measurement, reporting and verification are essential.

Zelia Njeza, Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) president, who also serves as Executive Secretary of African Federation of Institutes of Internal Auditors, explained that adapting to changes and modern ways of operating is among the issues being addressed at the meeting.

"In Tanzania we are now gearing towards registration of internal audit to become a formalized profession recognized both within the country and internationally," she said, adding that the aim is to embrace professionalism.

The conference events brought together professionals, experts and thought leaders from Tanzania, Africa and beyond in the fields of audit, risk management, and governance.

PM appeals for food fortification initiatives to address malnutrition

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged stakeholders to expedite distribution of fortification machines to local communities in to combat malnutrition in Tanzania.

Majaliwa made the call yesterday during the 10th Annual Stakeholders Meeting on Essential Nutrition Interventions aimed at reinforcing the government's commitment to enhancing nutritional standards nationwide.

Themed 'Enhancing Sectoral Contributions for Improved Nutrition Outcomes in Tanzania' the meeting served as a platform to evaluate implementation of the Integrated National Nutrition Action Plan, which was initiated to address ongoing malnutrition challenges within Tanzanian communities.

The PM stated that the initiative aims to ensure that the country has access to affordable fortification machines and that nutrients produced using locally available raw materials are accessible at low prices.

Majaliwa commended the private sector's involvement, particularly through partnerships with organizations like the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), SANKU Nutrient Premix Blending Factory, and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), as a crucial step toward increasing the availability of fortified foods at affordable prices.

He stressed the importance of collaboration among various sectors, including agriculture, education, and social welfare, to address the underlying

causes of malnutrition, such as poverty and food scarcity. "By working together, we can create sustainable strategies that improve nutritional outcomes and uplift our society," he stated.

Majaliwa's call comes at a critical time when malnutrition remains a significant public health challenge in the country. According to the 2022 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, one in three children under five years old is affected by stunting. The government has been pushing for effective interventions, including the establishment of a National Multisectoral Nutrition Committee and the introduction of nutrition officers at regional and district levels to oversee nutrition initiatives.

"At this juncture, it is vital that we all recognize our roles in this nationwide effort. We need to expand our educational outreach on nutrition and ensure that resources are allocated effectively to support these initiatives," he said.

He also extended his appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her steady commitment to improving nutritional standards in Tanzania, recognizing her leadership in hosting significant international gatherings focused on nutrition and food systems.

According to Dr. Jim Yonazi, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), over three million children in the country face malnutrition, a situation he describes as dire for the nation's future.


He stated that according to 2022 statistics, the rate of malnutrition among children under five years old was 30

percent, with over 600,000 children reported to be suffering from severe malnutrition. This situation is said to affect the overall health system of children and their cognitive development.

Archard Ngemela, Food Fortification Project Manager at the non-governmental organization GAIN TZ, stated that to combat malnutrition in the country, there is a significant need for communities to access fortified flour.

Shukrani Dickson, Project Manager for Health and Nutrition focusing on gender equality at World Vision Tanzania, noted that communities still hold onto harmful traditions that undermine women and allow men to decide what to be eaten at home and why.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:



JUDITH FLORA ETALE WANDA
OF P.O. BOX 307, MWANZA

WHOSE PICTURE IS PROVIDED ABOVE, IS APPLYING TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP.

HER NATIONALITY AT PRESENT IS KENYAN. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS KENYA. HER EMPLOYERS IS ST. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY. ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 307 MWANZA SHE STAYED IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA SINCE 2018.

THAT, ANY PERSON WHO KNOWS ANY REASON WHY CITIZENSHIP SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED TO THE APPLICANT SHOULD SEND A WRITTEN AND SIGNED STATEMENT OF FACTS TO THE:-

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION SERVICES,
P.O. BOX 512,
DAR ES SALAAM.

REG. NO. 21623

EAST AFRICAN SEED (T) LIMITED

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the General Meeting of the above named Company will be held on the 06th day of November, 2024 at 09:00hours at the registered office of the Company, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Members or their proxies who will not manage to attend physically are invited to join the Meeting virtually through the link and passcode that will be provided through their respective emails.

Agenda

- To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
- To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company; and
- Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 04th day of October, 2024

Circulation:
To all members

REG. NO. 74830

AGRISCOPE AFRICA LIMITED

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the General Meeting of the above named Company will be held on the 06th day of November, 2024 at 09:00hours at the registered office of the Company, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Members or their proxies who will not manage to attend physically are invited to join the Meeting virtually through the link and passcode that will be provided through their respective emails.

Agenda

- To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
- To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company; and
- Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 04th day of October, 2024

Circulation:
To all members

Local transaction in foreign currency illegal, states BoT

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has reminded members of the public to observe legal requirements of quoting and making domestic payments in Tanzanian shilling, saying any transactions in foreign currency in the country violate the law.

Addressing a press conference in Dodoma yesterday, BoT Governor Emmanuel Tutuba said transactions in local currency are expected to ease pressure on foreign exchange and enhance the effectiveness of monetary policy.

Reading the Monetary Policy Committee Statement following a meeting held on Wednesday, he said the bank expects to continue accumulating reserves through a domestic gold purchase programme using the Tanzania Shilling.

He said the committee observed that foreign exchange inflows improved on account of a seasonal increase in tourism and exports of food and cash crops.

The high price of gold in the world market also contributed to the foreign exchange inflows as the exchange rate depreciated at a slower pace of 10.1 percent year-on-year in September compared with 12.5 percent in June this year.

"Foreign exchange reserves were high, amounting to \$5,413.6million at the end of September 2024 from \$5,345.5million in June 2024 and the reserves were more than four months of projected imports, which aligned with the country's requirement," he said.

He added that foreign exchange inflows are expected to improve further, attributable to high gold prices in the world market, increase in tourism and exports of crops such as cashew nut, tobacco, coffee and cotton.

Export of food crops to neighbouring countries, largely maize and rice, is also expected to increase foreign exchange inflows. On the demand side, moderate importation of fertilizers and lower prices of petroleum products are expected to lessen pressure on foreign exchange.

In the last quarter, inflation also eased in Zanzibar, reaching 5.1 percent attributed to both food and non-food prices and is projected to remain consistent with the target of 5 percent.

The upside risks to the inflation outlook include the potential disruption of supply chains due to geopolitical conflicts.

The governor said money supply growth slowed slightly in July to September 2024 relative to the

preceding quarter with private sector credit growth remaining robust, averaging 17.1 percent, similar to the growth registered in the previous quarter.

Risk on lending remained low, reflected by improvement in banks' asset quality, with non-performing loan ratio decreasing to 3.9 percent in August 2024 from 5.1 percent in the corresponding month in 2023.

Private sector credit growth is expected to remain high as global and domestic economic conditions continue to improve, coupled with supportive policies intended to boost economic growth.

He said the committee observed that fiscal performance was satisfactory, with tax revenue surpassing the target, largely attributable to improved tax administration and compliance.

The expenditure, he said, was aligned with the available resources as public debt amounted to \$ 37,721.6 million equivalent to 46.9 percent of GDP and within the SADC macroeconomic convergence criterion of not more than 60 percent in nominal terms.

In net present value terms, the debt was 36.4 percent for 2023/24, lower than the ceiling of 50 percent set forth in the EAC convergence benchmarks.

The external sector sustained improvement as the global economy normalizes from the economic shocks. The current account deficit is estimated at 3.2 percent of GDP in the year ending September 2024 from a deficit of 4.4percent of GDP in the corresponding period in 2023.

He argued that the improvement was driven by increased exports, particularly gold, tobacco and cashew nuts as well as tourism. The deficit is expected to further narrow, leading to subdued pressures on foreign exchange.

In Zanzibar, the current account is estimated to be a surplus of \$507million, compared with a surplus of \$ 363.7million, on account of improvement in tourism and a decrease in imports.



Lalji Foundation vice chairman Muhamad Damji (R) presents a consignment of desks to Kisarawe District's Msanga Primary School yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

Govt mulls three-lane roads to ease traffic, curb crashes

By Guardian correspondent, Dodoma

THE government plans to construct three-lane roads across various regions in a bid to reduce road accidents nationwide.

Works Minister Innocent Bashungwa made the announcement on Wednesday during his visit to inspect progress of a 112.3-kilometre ring road project in Dodoma which is expected to be completed by March 2025.

Minister Bashungwa explained that the initiative aims to replace existing single-lane roads with three-lane configurations to ease traffic and enhance safety.

"The government's plan is to build roads with three lanes on both sides,

effectively eliminating the single-lane roads currently in use. Even existing roads will be converted to three-lane designs to help reduce accidents," he said.

Regarding the ongoing ring road project in the capital city, Bashungwa urged contractors to adhere strictly to the contractual deadlines, emphasising that no extensions will be granted.

"The government will not allow even a single day of extension. Contractors must complete the project within the stipulated time. Any contractor who fails to meet the deadline will not be awarded future projects. Extending the timeline causes additional costs and the government will

not provide extra funds," he said.

Faustin Laswai, project manager at Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS), noted that the project is divided into two sections.

The first contractor is responsible for constructing a 52.3-kilometre section while the second contractor is tasked with a 60-kilometre stretch.

"Construction began in September 2021 and we expect it to be completed within the scheduled timeframe," he said.

Laswai reported that the first section is currently at 83.66 percent while the second section stands at 79.1 percent. Both sections are on track to complete within the contract period.



Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) makes assessment tour of progress in the construction of 8.9bn/- Ndulilo-Itete road in Rungwe District on Wednesday. In white shirt and sunglasses is Rungwe district commissioner Jaffar Hanu. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

NEEC disburses 19bn/- in loans to 11,000 people in six months

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has reached 11,382 individuals nationwide over the past six months, disbursing a total of 19.9bn/- loans.

Bengi Issa, NEEC executive secretary unveiled this yesterday during a meeting to launch the 'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia' programme in Singida Region.

The meeting included district commissioners, regional administrative secretary, economic empowerment coordinators, leaders of the economic empowerment forum and heads of department in the region.

"The loans were distributed between September 2023 and March 2024," she said.

She highlighted that during the period, 1,906 businesses were registered, 8,826 citizens received advice and 11,893 individuals underwent training.

According to her, to ensure effective economic empowerment, NEEC has developed guidelines for all institutions managing projects to enhance their support for beneficiaries.

"In terms of employment, we have established procedures requiring contractors to outline job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled Tanzanians when executing projects. These provisions are included in the contracts and the councils monitor compliance," she said.

Regarding the programme, Issa noted that it focuses on women, youth and special needs groups with implementation across

all 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland.

"This initiative will run for one year from July 2024 to June 2025, aiming to reach 62,000 beneficiaries with NEEC acting as primary overseer in collaboration with regional commissioners, district commissioners, council directors and other stakeholders," she said.

She added that the programme aims to collect data on individuals in various regions and economic activities they engage in, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of local economic conditions.

Additional objectives include gathering information on economic empowerment forums for women, identifying specific regional economic needs and implementing targeted programmes to empower communities.

Maulid Celebrations of Prophet Mohammed SAW and 81st Birthday Celebration of His Holiness Dr. Syedna Ali Qadr Mufaddal Saifuddin TUS

PUBLIC NOTICE - ROAD CLOSURE

The General Public is hereby informed that on **Saturday, 5th October 2024**, A procession to celebrate Maulid of Prophet Mohammed SAW and 81st Birthday of their Spiritual leader, organized by The Dawoodi Bohra Community in Dar es Salaam will start from Kaluta/Zanaki Streets up to Elia Complex, cross at Junction of Bibi Titi Street, turning left to Olympio Street till Alykhan Road, Upanga from 7PM to 8PM.

All are welcomed to witness the event.

Permit NO. -TARURA GB.891/1172/1A/70 - JESHI LA POLISI



International School of Tanganyika
Challenge | Support | Inspire

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT IST!

An accountant position is available at the International School of Tanganyika

To Apply scan the QR code or use the link below.



WWW.ISTAFRICA.CO.TZ/ABOUT-US/WORKING-AT-IST

Purchase only certified products to guard your health, Tanzanians told

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS have been encouraged to purchase only certified products to protect their health and avoid potential dangers associated with substandard goods.

Rhoda Mayugu, Senior Marketing Officer at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) made the call in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during the ongoing Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO).

"It is essential for the public to develop a habit of thoroughly checking and reading product packaging. By doing so, consumers can ensure compliance with quality standards and avoid the costs or health risks associated with using unverified products," she said.

She further explained that choosing products certified by TBS not only promotes better health outcomes but also supports the local economy.

She urged consumers to report any encounters with expired or substandard products, emphasizing that such reports are crucial for curbing the proliferation of unsafe goods in the market.

In a bid to bolster local businesses, Mayugu announced that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are yet to certify their products can obtain a quality mark at no cost.

The government currently covers all certification expenses and producers need only to present an identification letter from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to initiate the process.

"Once they arrive with the identification letter from SIDO, the certification process commences immediately with no fees involved," she said.

The official said the initiative reflects the government's recognition of the vital role that traders play in economic development and aims to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity.

Aman Nyange, marketing officer at Himo Tanners and Planters Ltd, shared his positive experience regarding product certification, noting that obtaining TBS quality mark has significantly broadened his market reach beyond Tanzania's borders.

He echoed Mayugu's call for producers to capitalise on the free certification opportunity as this is a vital chance to enhance credibility and marketability of products.

Nyange also encouraged traders and producers to visit TBS for educational resources on product quality and the importance of certification.



It is essential for the public to develop a habit of thoroughly checking and reading product packaging. By doing so, consumers can ensure compliance with quality standards and avoid the costs or health risks associated with using unverified products

Lake Victoria zone countries join fight on crime, rouse community relations

NAIROBI

OFFICIALS from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have met for the fourth time in less than two years to find ways to more effectively fight transnational crimes around Lake Victoria area.

Some of the crimes are nature-related such as illegal fishing, tree cutting and charcoal production. In other cases, criminals take advantage of porous borders to sell drugs and conduct human trafficking. In 2021, the police organization Interpol rescued 121 people trafficked in and around Lake Victoria.

Speaking to reporters at the port city of Mombasa, Kenya's interior ministry principal secretary, Raymond Omollo, said the parties were looking to close gaps in policing and surveillance, while also improving social and economic relations of communities living in the lake region.

"So we are looking at how to coordinate better, how to build capacities, how to have a common understanding with the communities around the lake and also who benefits from the use of the lake on how to manage those resources better while at the same [time] trying to minimize, eradicate a crime that we know is common in the lake," he said.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the Lake Victoria project in December

2022.

The world's second-largest freshwater lake covers 60,000 square kilometres and is a source of livelihood for at least 40 million people in East Africa.

Uganda's assistant commissioner for migration, Marcellino Bwesigye, told conference attendees that keeping Lake Victoria safe is important for his country.

"Lake Victoria is Uganda's ocean. So, we are looking forward to working together, especially to learn about the good practices that you have from the coast," Bwesigye said.

Authorities have documented illegal fishing in the lake, driven by rising demand for Nile perch, as well as charcoal harvesting and timber smuggling.

Sharon Dimanche, IOM Kenya's chief of mission, said authorities need to partner with communities to fight organized crime in the region.

"If the border communities are not informed, if they really don't know what ... we need to focus on, then it becomes a bit challenging to combat any of these transnational organized crimes because they are there and they know what is happening and they know some strange faces that are coming in their communities. So it's important that we link them up, they have a good relationship with law enforcement agencies," Dimanche said.

Rwanda to kick off vaccine, clinical trials for Marburg disease in weeks

KIGALI

RWANDA'S health minister has announced that the country will kick off vaccine and therapeutic clinical trials to treat Marburg disease in the coming weeks, as the country does what it can to contain its first outbreak of the viral fever.

"We are collaborating with the pharmaceutical companies that developed these, alongside the World Health Organisation", the minister, Sabin Nsanjimana, said.

Belonging to the same virus family as that which causes Ebola, Marburg virus has a high fatality rate of up to 88 percent. It is passed from fruit bats to humans, before being transmitted through contact with bodily fluids of those infected.

The disease was first detected in the country last month, with dozens of cases recorded so far. It has already claimed several lives, and authorities are monitoring hundreds of people who have been in contact with those infected.



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (in head-cloth), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), has a first-hand account of the extent of environmental degradation in the Segerea River valley in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. She is with her deputy, Khamis Hamza Khamis (to her left) and officials from the Vice President's Office and the National Environment Management Council. Photo: VPO

Kisarawe to build stronger collaboration with partners for speedier development

By Guardian Correspondent, Kisarawe

AUTHORITIES in Kisarawe District, Coast Region have reaffirmed commitment to increasing collaboration with development partners to enhance education and health opportunities for pupils in the district.

Speaking yesterday here during the event where Lalji Foundation donated 100 desks to two primary schools, Kisarawe District Commissioner Petro Magoti said the government recognises the crucial role that development partners and stakeholders play in stimulating change in the economy.

The handing over ceremony

took place at Msanga and Bembeza primary schools, highlighting the importance of community support in fostering better learning conditions.

In his address, Magoti said the contribution aligns perfectly with the government's efforts to elevate education standards in the country. "Let us utilise the support we receive wisely so that those who help us feel gratified seeing our pupils thrive. By taking good care of these desks, you not only ensure your comfort but also honour the generosity of our donors," he said.

He further urged parents and guardians to instil strong values in their children.

Hestressed that the responsibility of nurturing well-rounded individuals should not rest solely on teachers.

"We must work together to raise children who value education and are motivated to succeed, bringing pride to their families and our nation," he said.

Muhamad Damji, Lalji Foundation vice Chairman said the donation aims to back the government's efforts to eradicate various barriers to quality education.

"We believe in giving back to the community and this contribution reflects our commitment to supporting pupils in the two

schools. The foundation has also been active in various sectors, including health and economic development for disadvantaged populations and orphans," he said.

Damji encouraged pupils to prioritise education, highlighting its vital role in shaping their future. "Education is the key to unlocking opportunities in life. Remember, learning is a lifelong journey," he said.

He also reminded pupils that the government cannot provide employment to everyone, urging them to consider alternative pathways for self-employment such as painting, tailoring, construction, plumbing and electrical works.



Residents of a Muheza town suburb look on helplessly as a raging fire burns a house on Wednesday afternoon, sparing only two of seven rooms, despite efforts by fire fighters to mitigate the damage. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

AU observer briefs Security Council on status of alliance

UNITED NATIONS

THE Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Fatima Kyari Mohammed, has briefed the Security Council on cooperation between the UN and regional organizations including the African Union (AU).

"The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union draws its dynamism from a commitment shared and sustainable in favour of

multilateralism," she said on Wednesday.

She said the council was pleased with the increased involvement of the bloc of three elected African members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - the A3 on key resolutions as critical.

She reiterated Africa's demand of a better representation on the council.

"The African Union anticipates practical steps, including the initiation of text base

intergovernmental negotiations to prioritize Africa in the reform of the UN Security Council," she said.

Earlier on the day, some members of the Council including Sierra Leone, underscored the importance of cooperation in troubled times like these.

"We need to focus on prevention and resilient building. This involves increasing efforts towards sustainable development, as well as collaborative and inclusive multi-stakeholder action,

including with women and youth led organizations. Conflict sensitive, climate adaptation, mitigation, finance and resilience actions can be an important lever for peace building," said Michael Imran Kanu, the permanent representative of Sierra Leone to the UN said.

"We therefore welcome the deepening of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on climate, peace and security."



National College of Tourism principal Dr Florian Mtey (L) and Serengeti Breweries Limited' Director of Public Relations, John Wanyancha, sign partnership agreement documents in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. The idea is to equip hospitality industry students and graduates with essential skills and practical experience. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC urges small-scale food processors to mind safety

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu has called for increased attention to food safety, particularly among small-scale farmers involved in production, processing and packaging of vegetables, spices and fruits.

His remarks come in response to the rising incidences of health issues, including cancer, heart disease and skin problems linked to food quality.

Babu made the call yesterday here when addressing farmer groups at a seed exhibition organised by Floresta Tanzania in collaboration with the World Vegetable Centre as part of the Accelerated Innovation Delivery (AID-I) project.

He emphasised that food safety is a global concern that Tanzania strongly supports.

The AID-I project is part of a worldwide initiative under the U.S. Government's Feed the Future programme, aimed at combating hunger and poverty. It focuses on assisting small-scale farmers in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia by providing technology, innovation and information necessary to enhance food production.

Babu said that many consumers possibly take foods with high amounts of chemical content compared to organic options of the past.

"Floresta Tanzania and the World Vegetable Centre through AID-I project are

committed to strengthening availability of quality seeds and enhancing the value chain of vegetables and spices in the Kilimanjaro Region. These efforts aim to increase vegetable production, improve nutrition and income, create jobs for youth and women and support communities of people with disabilities," he said.

He praised the formation of various groups focused on vegetable and fruit production which promote availability of quality seeds and improve family nutrition.

"The government places significant emphasis on nutrition as a means to combat stunting and malnutrition," he said.

Richard Mhina, Floresta Tanzania director, noted that the AID-I project aims to reach 5,000 people in Kilimanjaro Region, with 60 percent being youth and 40 percent adults.

He explained that the project not only enhances the economic capacity of the groups but also empowers youth and women to become key advocates for agricultural development and community progress.

"This project also addresses the impacts of climate change and the rising costs of food, oil and fertilisers, exacerbated by global challenges such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict," he said.

The seed exhibition was held under the theme 'Our Seeds, Our Lives: Plant Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.'

Experts meet on harmonisation of education to enable mobility of workers in African countries

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN education experts have met in Kenya to promote harmonization of learning standards in the continent in a bid to facilitate transnational mobility of workers.

The third African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) Forum was organized in collaboration with the African Union and regional economic blocs, bringing together over 100 participants from across the continent to improve mutual recognition of educational qualifications.

Director-General of Kenya National Qualifications Authority Alice Kande said that Africa is characterized by a wide diversity of education and qualification systems that makes comparability a difficult task.

"A single continental educational standard will ensure mobility of learners and workers across Africa," Kande said, noting that unified educational standards will lead to enhanced matching of supply and demand for skills in Africa.

The official also revealed that mutual recognition of educational standards is expected to make labour markets more efficient and help the continent tackle its high unemployment rates.

Eduarda Castel-Branco, coordinator of ACQF, said that a common Africa qualifications framework is expected to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area through facilitating free movement of labor and other services.

She urged the continent to pursue the implementation of a common education area to enhance the global competitiveness of Africa's higher education institutions.

South Africa wants new ways to improve payment systems

JOHANNESBURG

GOVERNOR of South African Reserve Bank (SARB) Lesetja Kganyago has said that the institution is exploring new ways to improve payment systems, including a newly launched modernization initiative.

While addressing the 2024 SARB Payments Conference, Kganyago said the central bank recently embarked on the Payments Ecosystem Modernization Programme.

"This is the largest and most ambitious initiative by the SARB, in the payments space, since the launch of the South African Multiple Option Settlement System, or SAMOS, more than 30 years ago," the governor said. "At the heart of the programme is the development of a public payments utility that provides digital payments infrastructure. Any such programme must have security measures and fraud prevention at its core."

Kganyago noted that banknotes and coins contracted by 0.8 percent in 2023, the largest fall since 1960, which shows that people are slowly embracing the "changing payments landscape," with the availability of better payment alternatives.

"As our Vision 2025 strategy document set out, structural changes in payment systems are underway, and it is therefore vital for South Africa's competitiveness that we stay ahead of these trends. This is also an area where we can make real contributions to financial inclusion and growth," he said.

According to Kganyago, the new paradigm will make payments in South Africa "safer, faster, cheaper, and more inclusive."

The 2024 Payments Conference runs from Wednesday to Thursday, bringing together global experts in the payments, technology, and innovation industry to explore the opportunities and challenges of the future of payments in South Africa.

Table with title 'KCB BANK Tariff Guide'. It contains two main tables: one for 'STATEMENTS' and another for 'CERTIFICATE OF BALANCE'. The tables list various services and their costs in TZS, USD/EURO, KES, and GBP. Other sections include 'TRADE FINANCE', 'IMPORT LETTER OF CREDIT', 'EXPORT LETTER OF CREDIT', 'CREDIT CARD FEES', 'STANDING ORDER', 'CHECKS', 'TTs INTERNATIONAL', 'LOCAL TO TRANSFERS', 'A/C CLOSURE', 'OTHER SERVICES', and 'SALARY PROCESSING'.

- 1. All staff account will be charged when transacting over the counter and charges excluded on all digital platform
2. Community account will be charged on salary processing over the counter and charges excluded on internet banking

Please note: All taxes included
Name/Title Signature Date
Lulu Shikonyi - Head of Operations Signed 02.10.2024
Juma Abdul - Head of Retail Banking Signed 02.10.2024

Pay conveniently with your KCB card - no extra fees!
KCB credit card
KCB debit card
For People. For Better.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

PPP relevant following WFP help to TRC's cold chain unit

CHANGE is in the air for horticultural trade inside and around Tanzania with refrigerated wagons being lined up for perishable bulk goods.

Vegetables, meat and fruits will be moving more freely on the traditional central railway line after the World Food Programme (WFP) enabled the special cargo handling initiative to take off.

It is handled by the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) in a strategic investment taking place starting from 2022, with the WFP not seeking to run anything - just enabling.

The WFP country representative recalled at a recent briefing that two years ago the UN agency launched a milestone drive in partnership with TRC for what is known as the structured rail cold chain project.

The diplomat did not raise the issue of its strategic interest in areas where refugees still live in the western regions, while being aware of the potential for path-breaking trade in horticultural products if refrigeration is assured.

This can start with the now underutilised central railway line, opting to focus on connecting key horticultural areas in the likes of Dodoma and Morogoro regions.

They will be connected with major retailers and processors in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, seeking to facilitate exports via port and airport facilities in the commercial capital.

Noticeably, WFP has invested US\$0.53m in the project, covering its background study and procurement of eight refrigerated 40-foot containers plus accessory equipment.

It isn't a joint venture but a turnkey project where the keys are then given to TRC to manage facilities that are compatible with both the meter gauge railway and the standard gauge railway. All other technical support by WFP stands intact.

Geothermal energy uptake quite likely if market structures could be loosened

TANZANIA Geothermal Development Co. (TGDC) surveyors have identified 52 areas in 16 regions with the potential for geothermal energy harnessing.

This was revealed at an occasion to provide background information on a regional geothermal conference slated for Dar es Salaam in just over two weeks.

A top official with the firm talked of the potential to generate over 5,000 megawatts of electricity and 15,000 megawatts of thermal energy for direct use.

The issue now is how fast this comes about, as maintaining an electricity monopoly ensures that such developments come only at a slow pace.

As the firm is already working on the projects, it lists five priority projects for the generation of 200 megawatts of power, located in Mbeya, Songwe, Arusha and Coast regions.

When it comes to investments, the government has enabled the firm to purchase a geothermal research drilling rig valued at 13.18bn/-, already a major step ahead.

But as it is expected to be located slowly from one point to another, the probable level of efficiency is limited - and it isn't clear that TGDC has other options on the procurement of rigs.

The best illustration is the nearly forgotten campaign to switch to using compressed natural gas (CNG) in motor vehicles, with regulatory agencies moving to block the private sector from

Yet it isn't too much to say that, left to itself, TRC might soon start becoming a 'beggar thy neighbour' before WFP as the whole idea of the horticultural cold chain facility being run sustainably by TRC on its own is admittedly a tall order.

One option could be putting up onerous charges intended to make the facility sustainable but then making the products placed on this service line be priced upwards - a disadvantage.

A deputy minister who was chief guest at that event appeared to compound the worries in remarking that the facility is part of a strategy by the government to bolster cargo transport by uplifting railway business.

Direct reference to farmers, livestock keepers plus those engaged in horticulture soon being able to take advantage of this facility to widen business activity was clear avoidance of the proper groups one ought to be talking about.

It isn't the farmers or livestock keepers but those with ranches or business opportunities in the Gulf region and beyond. Administrators want them to come as clients instead of seeking real partnership with them so that the facility is made sustainable when they latch up to it.

The TRC focus on ease of transportation as fostering ability to meet domestic and international market demands is definitely inadequate, as the sort of assurances needed for cold chain operations and related insurance facilities can't be fully assured by TRC.

This inability to work with the private sector at PPP level instead of canvassing for client cooperation risks diminishing the sustainability potential not just of the cold chain facility but even of SGR, what with power flow irregularities.

Those in the know realise how disturbances and the sense of emergency could appeals to allowance seekers.

monopolising the building of new gas filling stations.

Current petrol or diesel filling stations could be shut or at a belated moment be allowed to convert to gas.

Instead of actually developing all these areas, the geothermal entity could act as a regulator for the new sphere of power investments, leasing blocks for geothermal generation in like manner as applies in oil or gas prospecting.

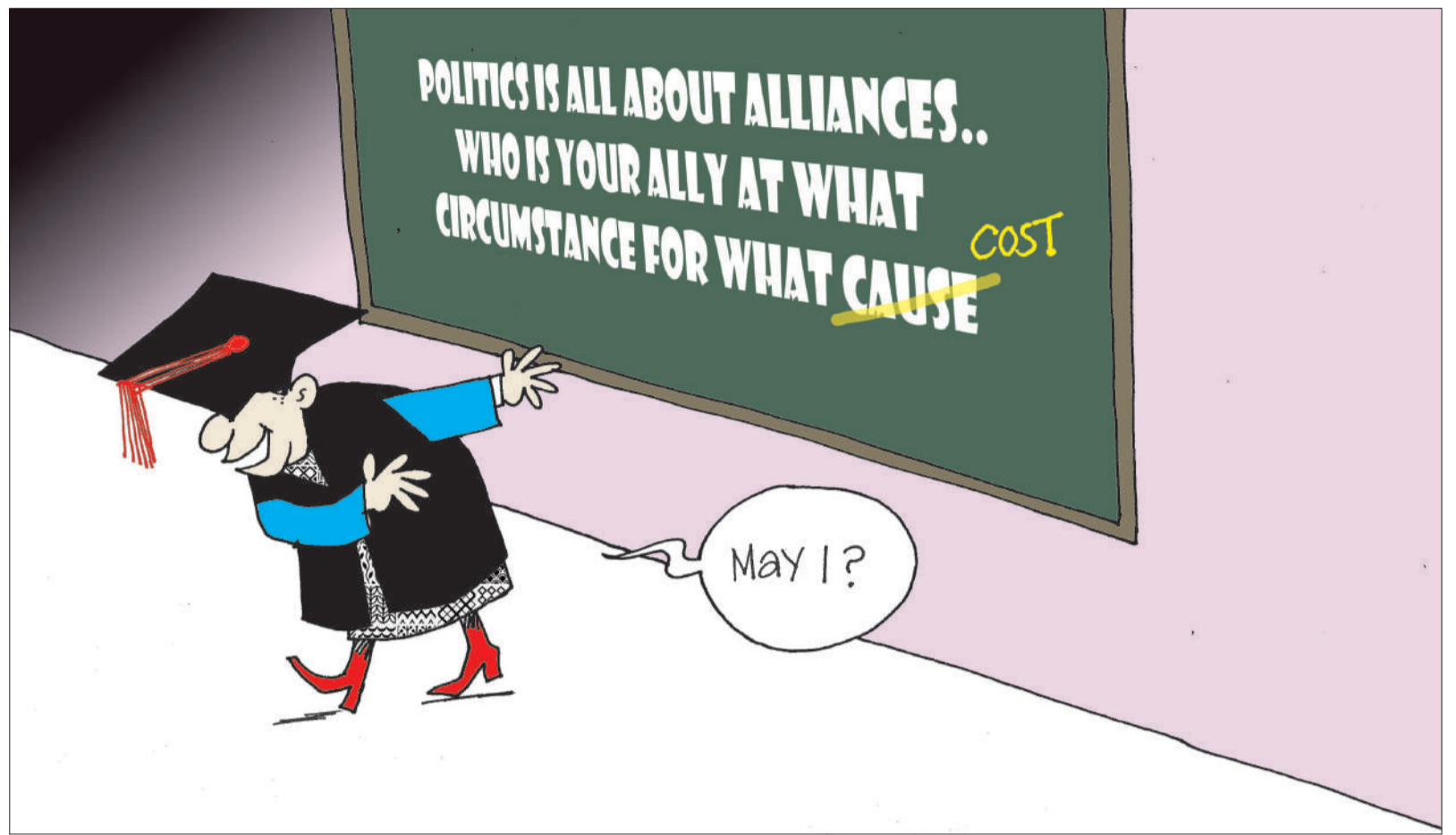
While each firm would arrange for its own spheres of marketing its produce as well as its pricing, now we expect that the substantial power generation projects are all intended for the power monopoly identified with the national grid.

That could mean having an institutional autonomy where each generating firm obtains payments on a monthly or longer basis at own agreed prices.

Nor is the strategy altogether clear, as the firm concerned says that, through those projects, the country will reduce its dependence on fossil fuels like the use of natural gas and even hydropower.

There is a difference between the two as gas use in electricity generation is fairly expensive, so geothermal energy can be directed at specific markets where it can lower its price quotations.

As some parts of East Africa move towards the use of electric vehicles, it is a niche market where the shift to natural gas would get a worthy competitor, along with biomass energy, save for the monopoly structures currently stifling power generation at present.



By Luis Fernando Cascante

IT'S a growing trend in Latin America: politicians are increasingly stigmatising the media and turning citizens against them. Journalists, in turn, are self-censoring out of fear of reprisal by government authorities.

Journalist Óscar Portillo experienced this firsthand while reporting in El Salvador for El Diario de Hoy. He witnessed the administration of President Nayib Bukele intimidating his colleagues and attempting to bar them from press conferences.

Once, he unintentionally found himself in an incident that foreshadowed the relationship between his country's government and the media.

"On one occasion, when Bukele was still holding press conferences, I was waiting in the press room of the Presidential House. A woman from the protocol office pulled my press card, quite forcefully, and asked me where I was from," Portillo recalled.

"I told her I worked for El Diario de Hoy. Another colleague questioned her about how she pulled my card. She was checking who was from El Faro and Revista Factum so that she wouldn't let them in," added Portillo.

Portillo said that reporters have resorted to self-censorship to avoid scrutiny or being barred from press conferences, adding that he himself later left his career as a journalist owing to poor working conditions and the growing harassment of journalists - reporters, in particular.

El Salvador's deteriorating press freedom reflects trends in a region that

Sustained financing for SRHR is good for Africa's economies

By Myriam Sidibe and Serah Malaba

WITHOUT concerted efforts to support integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), we are unlikely to meet the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Good Health and Well-being or Gender Equality by the targeted 2030.

Health systems in sub-Saharan Africa are failing to meet the needs of adolescent girls and young women, with the prevalence of unwanted and unintended pregnancies among this population standing at 30 per cent whereas a further 20 per cent involuntarily give birth before their 20th birthday.

But the big question remains, despite all the massive investments in women and girls' health over the past 20 years coupled by deliberate pro-adolescent campaigns: why does it feel like the path is getting harder and that we are being forced to retrace our steps? How can we change the trajectory of the health of women and girls in Africa?

It is heartening that during the just-ended 79th United Nations General Assembly sessions in New York, governments and philanthropies committed about US\$350 million in

Journalists in Latin America censoring themselves, press freedom backsliding

has experienced the steepest decline in the Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) Press Freedom Index. Of the 180 countries ranked, El Salvador now stands at 133, having dropped 18 spots since the previous report.

The Index gives scores from 0 to 100 to all countries based on five indicators. According to the report, countries scoring between 85 and 100 are in a "good situation" for press freedom, while those between 55 and 70 points are classified as "problematic".

El Salvador is in the next to lowest category, scoring between 40 and 55 points - a "difficult situation".

RSF notes in its report: "The media are among the victims of El Salvador's widespread violence. Since taking office in June 2019, President Nayib Bukele has attacked and threatened journalists critical of his government.

"Outspoken media outlets are harassed and journalists covering security issues and gangs are criminalised. The use of trolls reinforces the government's narrative, and state-held information has been kept confidential since the Covid-19 pandemic days."

The Salvadoran case is emblematic of Central America, which has been plagued by violence and limited access to public information. Further down the rankings are Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the latter two countries experiencing particularly severe press freedom

violations.

Even Costa Rica, long considered an oasis of press freedom in the region, has experienced major setbacks over the past three years.

In 2021, the country ranked fifth in the world, behind only the Scandinavian countries. However, tensions between the media and the new government which took office in 2022 have caused Costa Rica to fall to 26th place today.

The RSF report elaborates: "The state does not usually interfere in the work of the press. Nonetheless, in 2022, the government subjected some media outlets and journalists to verbal attacks, and some state entities refused to provide media outlets with public interest information.

It adds, though: "Despite the government's attempts to vilify critical media, journalists don't face threats to their physical safety or imprisonment, nor are they monitored."

Changes in leadership across South America have also been reflected in jumps and falls in the press freedom rankings. Argentina, for example, fell 10 points in just eight months after the inauguration of President Javier Milei, moving from a "rather good" to a "problematic" situation.

Milei's aggressive stance towards the media, particularly public outlets, raised alarms following his election victory.

"It is regrettable that President Javier Milei can, from one day to the other,

announce the demise of a news agency that has been active in the country for nearly eight decades. The dismantling of public media presents a real threat to pluralism in Argentina. The closure of Argentine state news agency Télam is, for Reporters Without Borders, a severe "blow to journalism and the right to information," Artur Romeu, director of RSF's Latin America office, said at the time.

Other countries, such as Chile, Colombia and Brazil, have slightly improved in their scores but continue to suffer from various press freedom issues.

"The new government led by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has restored normal relations between the media and state agencies after Jair Bolsonaro's term as president, which was marked by constant hostility towards the media," reads the RSF report on Brazil.

It adds, though: "But structural violence against journalists, highly concentrated media ownership, and the effects of disinformation still pose major challenges for press freedom."

• A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICJF). Costa Rican journalist Luis Fernando Cascante is an alumnus of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and ICJF as well as a former editor of daily paper La República de Costa Rica.

Fourthly, we all need to move beyond traditional boundaries and dare to collaborate in new and unexpected ways to develop the type of platforms or coalitions that will allow private, public and social sectors to join forces and scale up innovative financing models that will secure the future of SRHR for African communities.

Lastly, businesses, industry leaders, funders, donors, governments and civil society ought to collectively commit to developing, investing and implementing new innovative financing and partnerships models that catalyse and enable sustained financing for SRHR across sub-Saharan Africa.

We need to protect our societies - and most of all our adolescent girls - so that they can flourish, thrive and fully live out their hopes, desires and dreams.

• Prof Myriam Sidibe is the founder and Chief Mission Officer at Brands on a Mission and Serah Malaba is the Chief Impact Officer at Tiko. Tiko is an African non-profit organisation leveraging the power of a tech-responsive world to deliver sexual and reproductive health impacts to underserved adolescent girls and young women in urban and peri-urban Africa.

Secondly, we need to form bold new coalitions through transformative partnerships rooted in a shared mission transcending the boundaries of any single organisation, public or private, to drive systems change where adolescents' SRHR is everybody's business.

Thirdly, we need to inculcate new social norms that speak on the issues and barriers that adolescent girls face and influence change of perceptions on how businesses can effectively and sustainably contribute to SRHR outcomes.

To do this, we need to incentivise and motivate new players to enter the space, to convince them that SRHR is

Sign language: A basic human right and crucial bridge for the deaf

By Adonis Byemelwa

As the sun rose over Shinyanga on September 25th, the excitement was palpable. It wasn't just another day for this Tanzanian region; it marked the opening of the 11th annual International Week of the Deaf. A celebration that goes beyond recognition, this event stands as a testament to the global movement advocating for the rights of deaf people, culminating in a vibrant showcase of empowerment, inclusion, and progress.

In a world growing increasingly conscious of diversity and the need for inclusivity, the deaf community's fight for equality has taken center stage. This year's theme, "Unite to Defend the Rights of Sign Language," echoes with significance, reminding us that the only difference between the hearing and the deaf is the mode of communication. Sign language, a vital bridge for the deaf, is more than a tool—it's an essential human right.

According to the Onespecial Place, the Seech Expert website, over 70 million deaf individuals live across the globe today. For them, sign language is not just a method of communication but an assertion of identity, culture, and dignity. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), in partnership with national associations and affiliates such as the Tanzania Deaf Association (Chavita), has long spearheaded initiatives to promote this right, working in collaboration with the United Nations. As International Week of the Deaf sweeps across the world, the emphasis is clear: Human rights through sign languages must be recognized, respected, and integrated into all aspects of society.

In Shinyanga, Regional Commissioner Anamringi Macha's message during the event's opening struck a powerful chord. His directive to all local councils to allocate funds annually for the training of public relations officers in sign language is both timely and revolutionary.

"The government recognizes the importance of promoting sign language," Macha declared. "Training institutions are available, and I am instructing all councils to budget for this every year so that communication barriers for the deaf can be dismantled."

His words were not mere rhetoric; they marked a call to action. The urgen-



cy of ensuring that deaf people have access to proper services at all levels of society was underscored. From hospitals to police stations, schools to courts, the presence of sign language interpreters will no longer be optional—it is imperative.

Macha further emphasized the importance of enforcing the law that reserves 3% of jobs for people with disabilities, highlighting how crucial it is for councils to maintain accurate statistics of these communities to ensure they are employed in appropriate roles when opportunities arise.

But the focus of this year's celebration went beyond access to public services. The grander vision was about leadership and political engagement. Macha urged people with disabilities to participate in the upcoming local government elections, both as candidates and voters, asserting that they possess the qualifications to lead.

"The disabled have every right to leadership, and many are outstanding leaders," he said, driving home a message of empowerment that resonated deeply within the crowd. His words were a clarion call for inclusivity at every level of governance.

It wasn't just government officials lending their voices to the cause. Selina Mremba, Chairperson of the Tanzania Deaf Association (Chavita), reiterated the need for sign language interpret-

ers in public and private institutions alike. "Sign language is the primary tool of communication for the deaf. Without interpreters, we cannot access the same services as everyone else." Her appeal reflected the broader global campaign led by the WFD to cement the status of sign languages as official languages, ensuring they are recognized not just as a secondary option but as an essential mode of communication in daily life.

This year's celebration in Shinyanga was also marked by a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which offered digital economy training for deaf individuals. UNDP representative Ghati Horombe's speech encapsulated the day's spirit. "For Tanzania to achieve sustainable development, all groups must be included," she noted, reinforcing the idea that the nation's progress is intertwined with the inclusion of every citizen, regardless of their abilities.

For many, the true heart of the event lay in the voices of the community itself. Zawadi Masoud, Chairperson of the Deaf Association in Kahama, stood before the crowd and called for more than just symbolic support. Her words were direct: "We need interpreters in critical institutions like police stations, courts, and hospitals. Without them, how can we expect to access justice, healthcare, or education?"

As the grand finale of the International Week of the Deaf approaches on September 28 at Sabasaba Grounds, the spotlight will undoubtedly be on the resilience, achievements, and promises made to the deaf community. Yet, beyond the vibrant cultural activities and speeches lies a deeper message: the global commitment to empowering the deaf with tangible skills that enable them to thrive in the workforce and society.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has long emphasized the importance of vocational training for people with disabilities, including those with hearing impairments. In its 2015 recommendations, the ILO advocated for skills that extend beyond basic education, pushing for foundational, technical, and entrepreneurial abilities that can translate directly into employment. These skills, when tailored to market demands, can open pathways for deaf individuals to access meaningful work, an area often overlooked in broader employment studies.

For decades, the ILO has been at the forefront of this advocacy, with landmark documents like the Vocational Rehabilitation Recommendation of 1955 (No. 99) and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Convention of 1983 (No. 159) setting the framework for vocational training that includes people with disabilities. These poli-

cies mandate that authorities provide equal access to skills training for the disabled, using general services with necessary adaptations to ensure inclusion. This approach is not just about equality; it's about equipping the deaf community with the tools they need to succeed in an ever-evolving job market.

The International Week of the Deaf is not just a celebration; it is the heartbeat of a global movement for equality, pushing for the recognition of sign language as a fundamental human right. In this fight, cities like Milan have led by example. Over a century ago, Milan was at the center of a significant debate on deaf education, but it has since made remarkable strides by recognizing the cultural and linguistic rights of the deaf community. Its journey has become a milestone, inspiring countries worldwide to strengthen their stance on deaf rights.

Tanzania, too, is making progress. Some television stations have become champions of accessibility, placing interpreters in nearly every major program, ensuring that no one is left out. Meanwhile, institutions like Tengeru Teachers' College in Monduli, Njombe School for the Deaf, and Tabora Deaf School are reshaping the future, equipping generations with the skills to communicate, thrive, and lead. These institutions are game-changers in a country where the need for inclusive education is being increasingly recognized.

Uganda also stands out for its dedication to the deaf community, with Kampala International University running a special education program that truly understands and caters to the needs of the deaf. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, through its Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University, is another force driving change, ensuring that the deaf are given the tools to lead fulfilling lives. At Mugeza Primary School for the Deaf in Bukoba, Kagera Region, the efforts to empower young deaf children are laying the foundation for a more inclusive Tanzania.

The road ahead may be long, but these efforts—from Milan to Shinyanga, from Tanzania to Uganda—prove that the world is waking up to the need for true inclusivity. It is only by uniting to defend the rights of sign language that we can break down barriers and ensure that the deaf community is not just seen, but heard and valued.

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

Crusading for change: TAWLA fighting to combat NCDs, promote healthy eating

WORLD Heart Day, celebrated annually on September 29, raises awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), their prevention and promotes heart health.

Organized by the World Heart Federation (WHF), the global event encourages individuals, families, communities, and governments to take action to reduce heart-related risks.

Each year, World Heart Day focuses on different themes, highlighting key issues such as healthy lifestyle choices, understanding heart disease risks and managing stress.

The aim is to educate people on preventing cardiovascular diseases through regular physical activity, healthy eating, avoiding tobacco, and managing stress and high blood pressure.

CVD and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are closely linked, often influencing each other significantly. Many NCDs share risk factors with heart disease, including obesity, which increases the likelihood of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes which are among major contributors to heart diseases.

Globally, five million people die from NCDs each year, in Tanzania, more than two-thirds of deaths are NCD-related. In response, the government is investing in preventive measures and advocacy activities to reduce this burden. The Ministry of Health (MoH) particularly commemorates the NCDs week using a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.

Studies show a rising prevalence of NCDs among youth, especially conditions like obesity, type 2 diabetes, and mental health disorders. For instance, the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that approximately 40 million children under five years are overweight or obese, leading to health issues typically seen in older adults.

Trans fats significantly impact health



Dr Fredrick Mashili, a lecturer at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

by raising low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol (often referred to as 'bad' cholesterol) and lowering high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol (the 'good' cholesterol).

This imbalance increases the risk of heart disease and stroke, two major forms of CVD. The WHO estimates that eliminating trans-fats from the food supply could prevent millions of deaths globally each year.

Reducing or eliminating trans-fats is crucial for preventing NCDs, particularly heart disease and diabetes. Public health initiatives that raise awareness about the dangers of trans-fats and promote healthier alternatives are essential for improving population health outcomes.

The Tanzania Women's Lawyers As-

sociation (TAWLA) is advocating for various laws aimed at improving community health, including gender equality, human dignity and gender justice through policy, legal and constitutional reforms. TAWLA also focuses on helping communities avoid trans-fats and prevent non-communicable diseases, especially heart disease.

TAWLA believes in the necessity of government and stakeholder education on the acceptable levels of fats in food products to protect consumers from NCDs and ultimately reduce mortality rates. They advocate for clear legislation requiring industries that use trans-fats to label their products, thus enabling consumers to make informed choices.

Furthermore, labels should use sim-

ple language to explain the harmful effects of trans-fats, ensuring that consumers understand these risks. Laws should be implemented and enforced, with penalties for manufacturers who violate them, to protect the nation from NCDs.

Dr Fredrick Mashili, a lecturer at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), emphasizes that trans-fats are among the most harmful dietary fats, linked to several health risks, including heart disease. He notes that trans-fats raise LDL cholesterol while lowering HDL cholesterol, significantly increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke. The WHO has highlighted the importance of eliminating trans-fats to prevent millions of heart disease-related deaths annually.

Dr Mashili points out that trans fats often come from fried foods and cooking oils reused for frying. These harmful fats are typically derived from plant oils like cottonseed or vegetable oil through an industrial process known as partial hydrogenation, which makes oils more solid.

"These artificial trans-fats are commonly found in processed foods like cookies, crackers, and cakes, which use partially hydrogenated oils to enhance shelf life," says Dr Mashili. Fast foods, such as French fries and fried chicken, also contain trans-fats.

Many countries have imposed restrictions or bans on artificial trans-fats in food products. For instance, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned partially hydrogenated oils in food products starting in 2018, although some processed foods may still contain trace amounts.

"By limiting processed and fried food intake and checking labels for partially hydrogenated oils, consumers can reduce their trans-fat consumption and mitigate health risks," adds Dr Mashili.

Bobi Odiko from Africa Communications Consultants and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) emphasizes the need for Tanzania to strengthen national policies promoting healthier food consumption to reduce the burden of NCDs. GHA collaborates with local civil society, governments, and stakeholders to drive public health progress through evidence-based policy changes that save lives and promote a healthy future.

Odiko acknowledges that achieving policy change can be complex, but effective media use in advocacy campaigns, such as mandatory front-of-pack labelling (FOPL), is critical. The media, often referred to as the Fourth Estate, plays a fundamental role in informing and educating the public, shaping opinions on matters of national and regional importance.

"Effective use of media can raise awareness, mobilize support, and influence policymakers. We recognize that the media industry is evolving, necessitating cutting-edge information," he says.

Lightness Maruchu, a lawyer from TAWLA, highlights the importance of FOPL, which indicates the presence of added sugars, total fats, saturated fats, trans-fats, and sodium in food products. This labelling empowers consumers to make informed choices about their diets.

Maruchu believes that FOPL legislation will significantly reduce NCDs in Tanzania, leading to a healthier population. "Many products have back-of-pack labelling, which isn't as visible to consumers. Front-of-pack labelling will help consumers quickly identify what's in a product and make informed choices," she concludes.

The approaching rainy season signals trouble for Gaza

By Oritro Karim

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to grow more dire as a result of the Israel-Hamas war, concerns of diminishing public health are growing due to prolonged flooding. Repeated airstrikes and forced evacuations in recent weeks have pushed many displaced citizens to flooding hotspots. An influx of torrential rain has greatly exacerbated the failing sanitation system, increasing the risk of contracting waterborne diseases. Health experts fear that conditions will continue to worsen in the coming winter months.

A primary cause of concern for health officials is the large pooling of dirty water caused by the accumulation of torrential rain. This has created a suitable breeding ground for bacteria, viruses, and mosquitoes. Additionally, heavy flooding greatly increases chances of water contamination, which can cause diseases like cholera and Hepatitis A. The Global WASH Cluster adds that increased flooding raises the likelihood of citizens experiencing snakebites. It is also stated that mental health among displaced persons is expected to worsen as living conditions grow more harsh.

In a press release issued on 30 September from the United Nations (UN), Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, stated that 215 learning facilities sheltering approximately 34,000 children are predicted to be severely damaged by flooding. Hundreds of thousands of Gazans are projected to be internally displaced in the com-



Children in a displacement shelter in the Northern Gaza Strip receiving psychological support kits.

ing rainy season.

Last year's rainy season was described as "catastrophic" by health officials. Ajith Sunghay, the head of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, described the sanitation levels in Gaza last year as "un-

inhabitable", adding that most of the displaced persons don't have access to clothes or blankets to stay warm. Sunghay emphasizes the harsh conditions of the winter months in Gaza by saying that he fears that many civilians will die and that this time of year is "entirely predictable". The healthcare system in Gaza is

currently not properly equipped to handle the influx of sick and injured people that are predicted to come in the final quarter of 2024. According to OCHA, there are currently only 17 hospitals that remain partially functional, with all of them facing significant shortages in fuel, medicines, and supplies.

It is estimated that about 1.4 million people did not receive their monthly food rations in September due to a lack of supplies. Currently, humanitarian organizations are in the process of delivering 600,000 daily meals despite continued access challenges. Additionally, it is estimated by the World Bank that as of now, 100 percent of Gazans are living in poverty.

The Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA) warns that further restrictions of humanitarian aid in critically vulnerable areas will greatly aggravate declining public health as aid organizations won't be able to prepare for the upcoming rainy season. The UN and its affiliated organizations have developed a winterization plan in an effort to mitigate the harsh living conditions observed in Gaza for the final quarter of the year. This plan is targeted to assist over 850,000 individuals in almost 50 of the most flood-affected areas.

"It requires \$242 million to improve shelter conditions; provide warm clothing and blankets; and redirect floodwaters away from critical infrastructure and dumping sites, among other interventions", stated Dujarric. However, OCHA acknowledges that these efforts will not be successful if restrictions aren't lifted, allowing for easier access between supply warehouses and displacement shelters. The UN urges further donor contributions as living conditions are projected to grow harsher in the coming months.

By Natalia Lopez Moya

Papaya has gone from essential to a luxury for many Cubans

The frutabomba (papaya), the most voluptuous of the fruits consumed in Cuban homes has, for decades, also been the ingredient of the most popular desserts and milkshakes when there is a shortage of milk for a good flan or when the exclusive mamey disappears from the markets. Painted in paintings and recreated in engravings, in recent years it has ceased to be a product within everyone's reach.

Also known as 'papaya', a word commonly used by Cubans to designate the vulva, it has the advantage of being large but the problem of being fragile when transported when ripe. Large and delicate, it is most often sold whole in markets but can also be purchased in portions that must be swallowed in a short time before they spoil.

Now, a pound of frutabomba is sold for 60 pesos in the market at 19th and B in El Vedado, Havana. A single specimen can weigh quite a bit, so with less than 300 pesos it is unlikely that you will be able to walk away with one of these fruits in your bag. Trying to buy a small portion, for just one person, can be as difficult as convincing a vendor in the downtown store to sell half a head of garlic or just a couple of lettuce leaves.

While other products have doubled or tripled in price in recent months, the price of frutabomba has remained stable throughout 2024, although in November of last year it reached 70 pesos per pound. But even without significant jumps, the fruit has also been the victim of inflation that has pushed it out of the pockets of many Cubans. Its rise began at the beginning of this century, when it began to replace other fruits that were in short supply at that time.

In the absence of oranges, Papaya



Fruit has been the victim of inflation that has pushed it past the pockets of many Cubans

came out on top. In the absence of cashew fruits, sugar apples, custard apples and soursops, their plump appearance and small seeds replaced a long list of delicacies that once sprouted from the branches of so many trees throughout the country. Easy to harvest, with a medium-sized plant but high productivity

and without great demands to be transported in its green state, it was the perfect food for the state-purchasing monopoly Acopio to fill statistics and organize agricultural fairs.

But people wanted them ripe, ready to be cut into pieces and devoured. That's where vendor ingenuity came into play. They dis-

covered that if a green specimen was dipped in a formula based on nitrogen fertilizers, it quickly acquired a beautiful color that made customers salivate and pushed them to reach into their wallets. When they got home and cut open the beautiful frutabomba, they found a whitish and tasteless interior.

Hence came the need to see the inside of the fruit before buying it. A small triangle cut with a skillful knife allowed the inside to be seen. "Yes, I'll take it," sealed the deal with the buyer, relieved to know in advance that it was not one of those "hastily ripened"

frutabombas. But with popular tricks you never know, over time the "ripening accelerators" have become more difficult to detect.

For its part, candied frutabomba, made with pieces of green or multi-colored fruit, has saved dessert for countless Cuban families for decades. Easy to make, without complicated ingredients, the syrupy recipe has, however, come up against the lack of sugar in the country that was once mistaken for a sugar mill, beating to the rhythm of the machinery of a sugar mill, and the sound of the cutting of the cane in the sugarcane fields.

The stability of the price of frutabomba in recent months is due more to the loss of the ingredients and contexts that enhance it than to the ups and downs of the market. Given the lack of sugar and tourists, the most sensual of fruits does not rise as much as other products, but neither does it fall from the heights to which it has risen. However, it can still be seen in hotel buffets and in the paintings that tourists buy in souvenir markets.

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 DUNJANI 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

Africa's small-scale revolution against big agriculture: Farmers talk greener, better food

By Kaamil Ahmed

FROM degraded fields being brought back to fertile life to community gardens flourishing as food co-operatives, a growing revolution is happening in countries across the African continent.

The climate crisis, conflict and the dominance of multinationals with industrial-scale production for export have popularised the concept of agroecology – promoting small-scale farming and farmers, protecting biodiversity and adapting traditional methods that do away with the need for chemicals and expensive fertilisers.

Five African devotees of agroecology spoke about their rejection of chemicals and fertilisers to create diverse and thriving crops, saying it meant to be greener and better food.

In a single year, a farm boasting little more than a pair of forlorn-looking coffee trees was transformed into a lush place of thriving and diverse crops, all playing a role in the mini ecosystem. Fennel protects the salad leaves from pests while sweet potato plants hold water in the soil. Soon, neighbouring farmers came knocking to find out what the secret was, says Asmelash Dagne, who trains farmers in Ethiopia in agroecology.

An environmentalist with a science background, Dagne believes balanced environments that do not draw excessive water, pollute or need costly chemicals or energy supplies are crucial. He says the lack of fertiliser supplies, as a result of stocks being delayed by the Ukraine war, was a lesson in how vulnerable farmers can be unless they adapt.

"Big companies give seed, fertilisers, pesticides and this becomes the business. Governments tell farmers: you need to use this, you need to do it this way to feed ourselves better. But we already have existing practices which feed from generation to generation," he says.

Dagne is proud that farmers he works with have been able to avoid the need for pumping water for irrigation by collecting rainwater. A traditional method has been adapted using a system of intersecting trenches.

He says that over time the water seeps into the soil, adding to the groundwater that helps crops to flourish.

"The feedback from farmers is these



Women in rural Limpopo, South Africa, have applied agroecology methods to create backyard gardens to combat food insecurity, June 2022

methods are productive. They can feed their families. They can eat more diverse food. They are resilient because the soil is so rich with organic matter that it can hold water for longer, so the drought seasons are not affecting them that much," he says.

In Limpopo in north South Africa, everyone ate what they could grow. Now the supermarket reigns supreme with convenient, longlife produce. But that costs money and Themba Chauke saw many of his neighbours become indebted purely trying to feed their families on low salaries.

"We also learned our lesson during Covid to produce our own food because people were told to stay at home and they didn't have access to food," Chauke says.

Chauke had been work-

ing with community radio for his Tsonga ethnic group, but moved into creating community gardens that provide education and space for people to grow quality food.

They largely use traditional farming techniques, with some adaptations, moving from growing just one crop a year to using the winter season for cash crops such as spinach, tomatoes, cabbages and onions.

Everything is planted together, a traditional method of intercropping that he says helps the gardens thrive, with some crops warding off pests and others enriching the soil.

Beans had always been a staple of the Basotho kitchen but Ska Moteane found they were steadily being replaced by meat and fast food. Her people were even forgetting their own recip-

Despite being a chef, she did not know how to cook the dishes she had grown up on, and her education at culinary school in South Africa had focused on European cuisine. So she decided to document what was at risk of being lost.

Now Moteane serves those dishes herself and encourages others to cook them, sourcing ingredients directly from the farmers growing beans and crops such as sorghum that are central to Basotho culture but not bought by supermarkets, which stock their shelves with imported products seen as superior.

"Sorghum is considered for poor people. You have people who still have that mindset. That's what we are fighting against," she says.

She does see progress and believes that promoting Baso-

tho culture helps to save traditional crops and allows local people to grow them.

"We used to see that the farmers would have bales and bales of sorghum or maize until it would go bad. Now they are able to sell pretty much everything. So there is a shift, and it can only get better."

When Stephan Katongole's father returned to Uganda in the early 2000s after decades abroad, he planted coffee trees on the family's hitherto abandoned farmland with the aim of commercial production.

Despite having no agricultural experience, Katongole took over the land 13 years ago, when his father was too old to manage it. He saw that the old ways were not working – coffee on the commodity market earned very little money for producers, but speciality coffee, grown through agroforestry, would be more successful.

Katongole slowly transformed the vast lines of coffee trees to a more diverse space, where they coexist with other plants. He says mono-cropping – large farms producing a single crop – should no longer be seen as a solution.

"We have to try to mimic what was there before we came into the system. We brought nature out of balance with what we were doing. So my advice would be, try to do everything you can to mimic those forests which were already there by planting trees."

A drought showed Edie Mukiibi the shortcomings of industrial scale agricul-

ture. He was part of a trial that encouraged farmers to invest in a breed of maize that they were all told would be drought resistant with the help of the fertilisers they were sold. Then drought came and they lost everything.

Mukiibi grew up learning traditional farming methods, but at university he was taught that technology and large-scale agriculture were the solution for Africa.

Now he is pushing back against "big agriculture", promoting more time-tested and diverse methods of farming.

Mukiibi farmed in Uganda but is now the president of Slow Food International, promoting more sustainable production and consumption globally.

There have been challenges, he says, with agriculture giants claiming agroecology cannot deliver at scale. He believes this message is undermining and unwelcome, and that the agroecology movement is having success across Africa.

"I've travelled to more than 30 African countries, meeting farmers in the communities, and many express the fear and worry that they cannot catch up with the seed system controlled by big business," says Mukiibi.

"It is so important not to lose the argument because then we hand our future to the corporations and their intention is not to feed anyone.

"It is to feed their revenue streams, to stamp their control over food and to dictate who should produce what and when."

Kenyan entrepreneurs explore opportunities at China Trade Week

NAIROBI

DRESSED in elegant attire, Magdalene Wangui was among the hundreds of visitors attending the official opening of China Trade Week on Wednesday at a convention centre in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

Wandering through the exhibition hall where Chinese firms displayed an array of products, ranging from solar panels to agricultural machinery and automotive parts, Wangui paused frequently to inquire about prices.

Wangui, in her mid-30s, is an entrepreneur with ventures in fashion design and farming. She said that she employs several young people to help her produce yarn for carpets, sweaters and blankets, while also managing a small farm.

Her goal at the exhibition was to explore Chinese-made equipment, such as knitting machines, sprayers and solar batteries, which could boost her businesses.

"I have been searching for a yarn-making machine since I am into designing clothes, and I have been considering importing one from China because their quality is reliable," Wangui said.

At the Shenzhen Mistei Lighting Technology Co. Ltd booth, the brightly coloured solar equipment on display caught Wangui's eye. She was particularly interested in purchasing a solar battery to address the frequent power outages in her

neighbourhood.

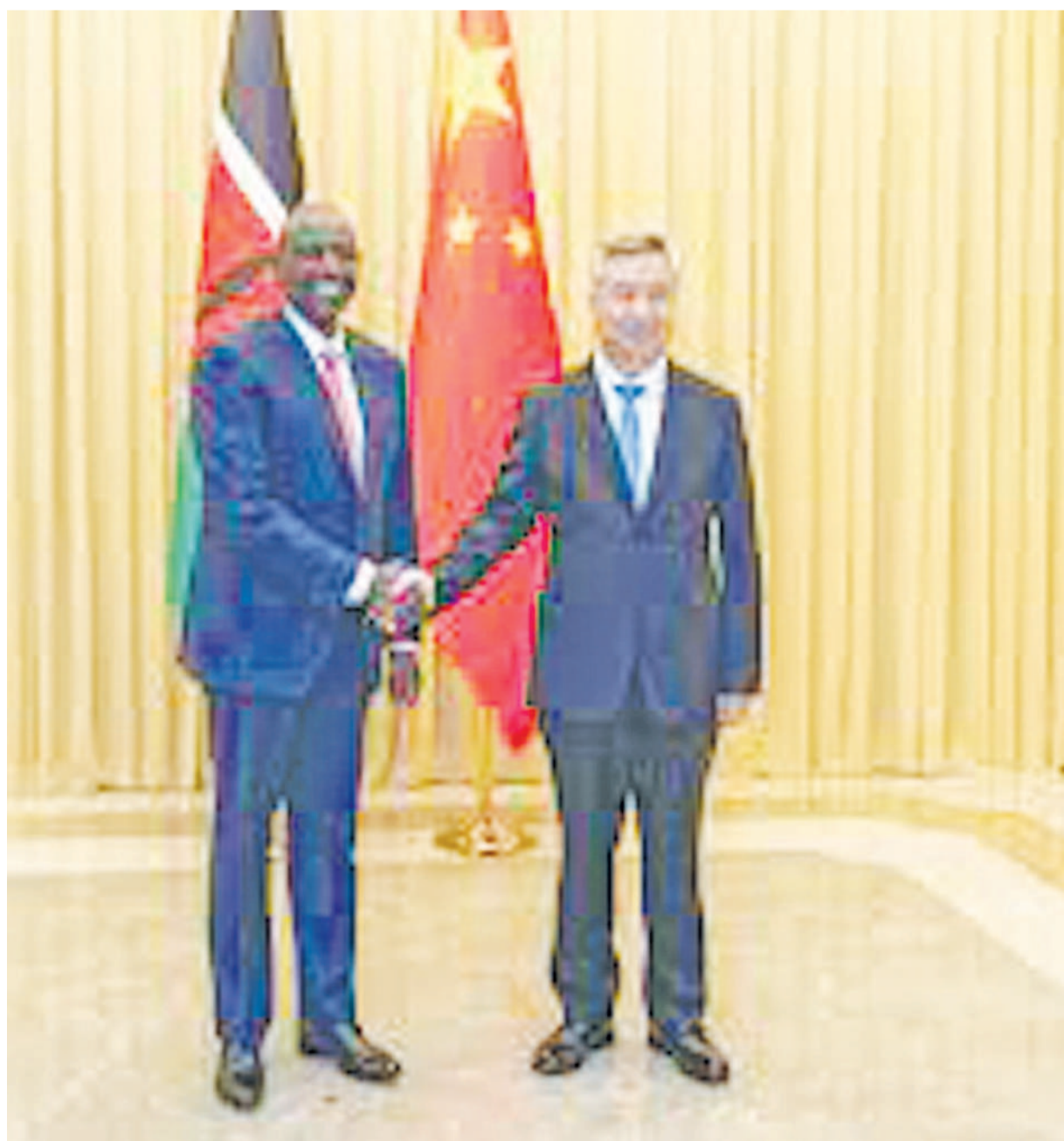
China Trade Week, in its ninth edition, featured over 120 companies, including 85 from China, and runs through Friday. The event includes panel discussions, exhibitions, business matchmaking, and partnership deals. The event continues to solidify its role as a bridge for Kenyan entrepreneurs, offering them access to affordable, high-quality products and a pathway to expanding their businesses.

Chinese firms, covering sectors like new energy, textiles, information and communications technology, construction and agriculture, have turned heads among local entrepreneurs.

Kevin Ogwang, a marketer for a clearing and forwarding firm in downtown Nairobi, attended the event to seek partnerships with Chinese manufacturers. In the course of his tour, he encountered a variety of products from sleek fabrics and shoes to electric cables and utensils.

"Visiting China Trade Week was essential for connecting with suppliers from China and linking them to our local clients," Ogwang said, adding that Kenya's young entrepreneurs could benefit from access to Chinese manufacturers, particularly in building materials, solar solutions and farm equipment.

For Zhongqing Ye, manager of Ningbo DaBu Welding Technology Co. Ltd., the event offered an opportunity to expand their presence in the Kenyan and African markets. She said that Chi-



nese-made welding machines and protective masks were well received by visitors, adding that local partnerships would be vital for increasing visibility.

Likewise, Karl Yang, overseas department manager at Shenzhen Mistei Lighting Technology Co. Ltd., was enthusiastic about engaging young visitors interested in solar products such as batteries, power banks and lighting equipment. Yang praised the growing renewable energy sector in Kenya and anticipated strong collaborations with local distributors to promote solar technologies.

Wycliffe Oparanya, the cabinet secretary for Kenya's Ministry of Cooperatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, said that China Trade Week, held in conjunction with the Africa Build Show 2024 and Africa Technology Show 2024, underscored the strong commercial ties between Kenya and China.

The event serves as a platform for local startups to explore new markets, capital and technology from their Chinese counterparts, Oparanya said.

Gilbert Mwangaza, director of a general supplies startup, said his visit to the exhibition hall revealed several Chinese-manufactured products, including solar equipment, motor vehicle spare parts and industrial machines, which his clients would be keen to purchase.

"I found many things that interested me, especially the spare parts for vehicles. The prices are very favourable for businesspeople like us," Mwangaza said.

By Joseph Twahirwa Setako

The fight against unemployment in Africa: Transforming challenges into opportunities



COULD the concept of “flexi-jobs” enable young people to secure multiple employment opportunities, offering incentives to both employers and employees?

Might a strategy of welcoming and integrating qualified foreign workers contrary to the anti-immigration stance prevalent among far-right groups in the West boost economic growth across Africa?

Rwanda has already benefited from Burundian professors, Congolese doctors (who represent 40% of all doctors in Rwanda), as well as financial experts from Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire, Kenyan bankers, and educators from diverse backgrounds.

Apprenticeships & Added Value

As in Switzerland, apprenticeships in high-value fields such as knowledge-based industries, luxury sectors, and advanced industries like watchmaking, optics, aerospace, digital technology, defence, aviation technology, and satellite sensors do not necessarily require long-term or university education.

It is sufficient to engage young people while they are still in secondary school, as is done in Switzerland, allowing them to enter apprenticeships while working, earning an income, and honing their skills.

Certainly, the NST2's objective of preparing a future-ready workforce is crucial. The initiative will train one million coders and equip 500,000 people with advanced ICT skills.

Furthermore, Centres of Excellence in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) will be established to meet the market's demand for specialised skills among future generations.

Nevertheless, it remains essential to explore alternative methods for reducing youth unemployment. As the Rwandan saying goes, “Ujya gukira indwara arayirata” (one speaks of their illness to heal from it).

Industrial and science parks

The development of economic zones in all 30 districts across Rwanda is already underway and offers promising employment opportunities.

Each district possesses unique assets, facilitating win-win partnerships

with other countries or cities and opening the door to sectors such as automobile and electric truck manufacturing.

Arts and vocational schools, polytechnics, and TVET centres, already present in many districts, provide knowledge that can be expanded and enhanced.

However, the process could be further strengthened through strategic partnerships between the diaspora of specific countries and individual districts, promoting regular, mutually beneficial exchanges between Rwanda and host nations.

Agriculture and livestock

The reorientation of unemployed university graduates into livestock farming and agriculture

could boost farmers through the establishment of an Agricultural & Pastoral STOP Centre in each district, where farmers could share their expertise.

Let us also acknowledge the first objective of NST2, which is the modernization of agriculture.

The plan projects annual growth exceeding 6% in the agricultural sector, transitioning it to a more market-oriented and sustainable model.

Productivity is set to increase by over 50%, targeting food self-sufficiency, with efforts concentrated on expanding irrigated land by 85%, improving access to fertilisers and seeds, enhancing animal breeds, and boosting national animal feed production.

Once again, the diaspora has

a crucial role to play in supporting the agricultural and livestock sectors by channelling funds through the Orora & Hinga Bank to assist small-scale farmers and herders.

Made in Rwanda and private investment

The two objectives outlined in the NST2 transforming Rwanda into a hub for high-quality, locally manufactured products, and doubling private investment are commendable.

Exports are expected to rise, driven by non-traditional products, agro-industry, and value-added mining.

However, as the Rwandan proverb says, “Akanyoni kataguritse ntikamenya icyo bweze”

(Those who never venture out will never find their fortune).

Importing successful models from other continents such as youth centres in Denmark, Asian tech hubs, or Swiss military and social service programs and tailoring them to fit the specific context of each district, region, or country, could expedite the integration of young people into the job market and foster personal development.

Conferences and Tourism

Rwanda's safety and favourable climate position it as an ideal destination

for tourism, international conferences, and the Visit Rwanda initiative.

The growth of the hospitality sector offers significant job creation opportunities, which in turn contribute to reducing youth unemployment.

According to NST2, tourism revenues are projected to double within the next five years, establishing Rwanda as a leading destination for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions), as well as major sporting and cultural events.

This growth will be a key driver in addressing youth unemployment.

Once again, the diaspora can make substantial contributions by investing in tourism infrastructure, including hiking trails, cycling paths, and more.

Decentralizing cooperation to districts

Rwanda has long adopted the twinning system, but is it not time to intensify efforts toward boosting employment and district-level development through decentralised cooperation?

By fostering partnerships, such as Rhineland-Palatinate with Nyabihu District, South Korea with Kirehe, or Singapore with Gatsibo, each of Rwanda's 30 districts could establish privileged relationships with specific countries in various sectors.

Of course, such efforts should remain under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to prevent any negative influences.

Extreme weather is disrupting lives in southern Africa: New policies needed to keep the peace

By Gracious Maviza and Siyaxola

Gadu

OVER the past decades, heavy and more frequent rainfall and dry spells in southern Africa have caused loss and damage to agriculture, livestock, the energy sector, food security and nutrition.

Gender and migration scientist Gracious Maviza and climate change specialist Siyaxola Gadu talked to The Conversation Africa about how this poses risks to stability and peace in the region.

What's the link between climate, peace and security?

There is no direct and linear relationship between climate risks and security. However, the changing climate intensifies socioeconomic problems. These include water scarcity, already precarious livelihoods and food insecurity, poverty, and weak governance. When the climate changes and these problems get worse, this can create social tensions between and within communities.

Climate change-induced disasters threaten the livelihoods and well-being of communities. They can result in displacement, as seen in the current floods in west, central and North Africa, which have displaced 3.5 million people and killed 900.

These extreme weather disasters can also lead to competition and tensions related to resources such as food, land and water.

In settings where conflict already exists, the effects of climate change can either aggravate or prolong it, making it more difficult to build and maintain peace. Conflict also gets in the way of communities organising and uniting to put in place their own strategies to adapt to climate change.

Conflict-affected settings are also more susceptible to climate-related instability. This is because most of



Southern Africa's drought has devastated crops and pastures, leading to displacement.

the population relies on food, land and water systems that are dependent on the climate. For example, rural communities depend on rainfed agriculture for food and livelihoods.

We carried out research in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Our findings suggest that the adverse effects of climate change on food, land and water systems are altering the dynamics of interaction in ways that will make it difficult to maintain communal harmony and peaceful relations.

How is southern Africa being affected?

Southern Africa is one of the regions most affected by climate variability and change. It has experienced increasingly intense cyclones, floods and droughts due to changing rainfall and temperature patterns. This has affected water

availability and agriculture, leading to food insecurity. In turn, this has exacerbated tensions within and between communities, as well as amplifying grievances against local and national authorities.

Due to persistent droughts, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi recently officially declared states of emergency.

Our research found that in Zambia, persistent droughts pushed farmers from the southern province to the northern part of the country. The displaced farmers had farming practices that were different from those of the host communities, which caused anxiety and agitation.

In the northern part of Mozambique, some people who had lost their land and could no longer farm joined non-state armed groups as an alternative way to make a living. (When men and young people join

these groups they gain protection, and access to aid and money from the leaders of the groups as appreciation of their loyalty and services.)

Climate variability and change are not the only sources of instability in the region. But, when combined with existing problems related to water and energy infrastructure, social and political institutions, and lack of resources for climate risk management and adaptation, climate change disasters increase the danger of conflict happening.

What's the link with migration and gender?

The gender, migration, climate, peace and security nexus, or the place where these all connect, is complex.

Gender is critical in shaping how individuals and communities experience and respond to disrupted

livelihoods, scarce resources, a degraded environment, and forced migration and displacement. Women and men experience the impacts of climate change differently. Women are often responsible for water, food and energy supply within households, which are directly affected by climate change. This makes them frontline responders to the adverse effects of climate variability and extremes.

Women's workloads increase as these resources become scarcer. Women may be forced to travel longer distances to fetch water and firewood. They are less able to participate in other economic or educational activities.

Also, women may be disproportionately affected by violence and displacement during conflicts. Despite this, women are key agents in building resilience and peace. They often play crucial roles in conflict resolution, building united communities, and the management of natural resources.

Because scarce resources result in the loss of livelihoods, men are more likely to migrate long distances in search of work to provide for their families. In families that are displaced by climate disasters, the power dynamics change. It's hard for men to maintain their roles as breadwinner. This challenges masculinities and can lead to gender-based violence.

What should the policy responses be?

Policies can provide frameworks that guide actions, allocate resources and establish standards for mitigating climate-related risks to peace and security.

Effective policies should help build resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and promote sustainable development. For example, policies must aim to improve disaster preparedness and promote regional cooperation.

Currently, climate-related policies in most southern African countries are silent on peace and security. This is mainly because it's a new concept and has yet to be endorsed as such in southern Africa.

Nevertheless, there is some progress. For example, the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security Team at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, part of a global network of organisations concerned with food security, recently collaborated with the African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes and the Zambian Ministry of Green Economy and Environment on a climate, peace and security perspective for its National Green Growth Strategy.

Another solution is for governments to recognise available local-level solutions. These include locally informed conservation agriculture and natural resources management. Community voices are important to listen to if governments want to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

AFRICA'S HOUSING DEFICIT IS TICKING BOMB, SAYS SHELTER AFRIQUE BOSS

NEW YORK

The managing director of Shelter Afrique Development Bank, Thierno Habib has said Africa's housing deficit is a "ticking bomb" which needs some urgent attention.

Africa's housing deficit is currently estimated at over 52 million units and is expected to increase as the continent's population grows, and urbanisation continues.

Speaking at the Global Africa Forum in New York at the end of last month, Habib called for increased investment and partnership that will help address the current housing deficit.

"Urban development and affordable housing across the continent. And we are really looking at the opportunity for transformation, and for our continent to play its role in the global financial architecture.

"So as a development bank, this is where we come in, as you all know, housing and urban infrastructure are critical to Africa's development agenda."

"Playing a pivotal role in improving living standards, driving economic growth and fostering social inclusion with Africa's urban population projected to exceed 50 percent by 2050. The continent faces an escalating housing crisis which is really a ticking bomb on all of us, currently experiencing a deficit of over 53 million housing units needed across the continent," Habib said.



Countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Tanzania are witnessing high birth rates, further straining already limited housing resources.

The Africa Prosperity Network (APN), organizers of Africa Prosperity Dialogues (APD), in collaboration with Africa-America Institute (AAI), a premier US-based international organization dedicated to strengthening the human capacity of Africans, will jointly host the second edition of the Global Africa Forum (GAF) on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in

New York City, United States of America.

The Global Africa Forum serves as a platform for connecting the African continent with its diaspora to foster collaboration and take advantage of economic opportunities aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The Forum will, among others, seek to connect the skills, technology, and financial investments of Global Africans to the development of key sectors, such as energy, health, education, housing, transportation, and digital infrastructure, on the

African continent.

The Global Africa Forum will also seek to unpack US-Africa economic policies that have the potential to create funding opportunities for large-scale infrastructure projects that will help to connect and integrate the African continent.

The maiden edition of the forum, held last year (2023), witnessed the launch of the Global Africa Network by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, with the support of notable personalities such as Aunna Ezia-konwa, United Nations Assistant

Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa.

Speaking during the opening of Shelter Afrique Development Bank's (ShafDB) 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kigali in June this year, Rwanda's Prime Minister, Edouard Ngirente, said, "Africa is facing a major challenge of urbanisation and access to affordable housing. There is therefore need for citizens to have access to affordable housing to promote socio-economic development on the continent."

He highlighted the importance of housing finance and partnerships between government, private developers and financial institutions to address these challenges.

"By optimising partnership and effective cooperation, we can together establish sustainable housing solutions. Developers should therefore participate in affordable housing projects on the side of the government to attract investors and provide affordable housing to the citizens," said Ngirente.

According to the projections from the UN-Habitat, 68 percent of the world population will live in urban areas by 2050. Today 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas.

It is against this background that Shelter Afrique says Africa needs more than US\$1.4 trillion in funding to address the growing

housing crisis.

The Pan African housing development financier said majority of African countries were already facing housing crisis as a result of population explosion, increased urbanization, poor urban planning, dysfunctional land markets, rising construction costs, proliferation of informal settlements, and underdeveloped financial systems.

Countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Tanzania are witnessing high birth rates, further straining already limited housing resources. The housing deficit in Nigeria, for instance, is estimated at 28 million units, with similar gaps observed in other densely populated African nations.

Also, studies show the availability of housing finance in Africa is limited, especially for low- and middle-income households.

Mortgage systems are underdeveloped in many African countries, and when available, they often come with high interest rates and stringent eligibility criteria, leaving most people unable to access formal housing loans.

Despite the challenges, there are opportunities for innovation and growth in Africa's housing sector. Sustainable urbanization and smart investments can help address the housing crisis, providing millions with access to decent and affordable homes.

Govt targeting investments in smart infrastructure to tackle climate risks

By Francis Kajubi

The future of Tanzania's urban infrastructure is poised to become climate-driven and smart.

Innocent Bashungwa, the Minister for Works, addressed the second Tanzania-Japan Quality Infrastructure Dialogue held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, emphasizing that smartly designed infrastructure could alleviate the government's financial burden from rehabilitating dilapidated roads and bridges impacted by climate change.

At the dialogue, coordinated by the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Bashungwa highlighted Japan's significant contributions to Tanzania's infrastructure development, amounting to a total of 1.25trn/- since the 1980s for upgrading and rehabilitating roads and bridges.

He discussed the Dar es Salaam Infrastructure Master Plan, which commenced in 2018 and aims for completion by 2040. This major project is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and aims to alleviate traffic congestion in the central business

district of Dar es Salaam.

"Decongesting Tanzania's cities through a smart approach is a priority as the government prepares the National Development Vision 2050. The smart infrastructure we plan to develop will address the potential risks posed by climate change," said Bashungwa.

He further noted that environmental conservation in Tanzania's major cities is crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global commitments aimed at creating a better world for all living beings.

"Smart living should extend beyond merely erecting concrete structures; it should focus on conserving the environment and sustaining nature. Our urban development must prioritize climate resilience," he added.

The minister stated that the government is currently collaborating with development partners, including JICA, to address traffic congestion in Dodoma, with similar initiatives in Mwanza, Arusha, and Mbeya.

"Infrastructure efficiency is vital in today's world for enhancing

the competitiveness of sustainable economies. Infrastructure design should not only facilitate economic progress but also combat environmental and climate change threats," Bashungwa emphasized.

He called for JICA's support in developing a comprehensive national infrastructure and transport master plan and financing smart climate projects.

Ogasawara Kenichi, Deputy Minister for International Projects at Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, noted that the two countries are collaborating to create quality jobs through joint infrastructure projects.

He mentioned that over 60 Japanese construction companies are present in Dar es Salaam for the dialogue, sharing experiences with local firms.

This dialogue is a continuation of discussions from the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Nairobi last year, where Japan expressed its commitment to mobilizing resources to address Africa's infrastructure challenges.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo, closes TIMEXPO 2024 in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Dr Jafo urges regions to build industries by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

The Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr Selemani Jafo, has announced that by 2030, every region in Tanzania must establish at least three large industries to revolutionize the sector, boost employment, and drive economic growth.

Speaking at the close of the second Tanzania International Manufacturers Exhibition (TIMEXPO 2024), organized by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in collaboration with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) and coordinated by Radian Limited, Dr Jafo outlined an ambitious industrialization plan.

He called for the creation of five medium-sized industries and no fewer than 30 small industries in each region, aiming to generate over 185,000 jobs.

"This industrial development strategy will commence next year. Regions must begin designating areas for these industries to ensure success," said Jafo.

He emphasized the sixth phase government's commitment, under President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, to advancing the indus-

trial and trade sectors, among others.

He urged manufacturers to focus on producing high-quality goods to attract customers and remain competitive in domestic, regional, and international markets.

"The government is actively strengthening economic diplomacy and encouraging industrialists to take advantage of the open and highly competitive global market. Therefore, it is critical that our producers meet the demand for high-quality goods," he said.

Dr Jafo also called on government institutions to facilitate rather than obstruct industrial development, assuring manufacturers of continued support from his ministry.

Jafo stressed the importance of continued collaboration between the government and institutions to address challenges faced by investors.

In another development, the minister announced plans to revive non-operational factories, inviting private investors to seize these opportunities.

"For example, the closure of a large cashew factory in Tunduru

cost over 600 jobs. Similarly, 11 factories in Nachingwea, Lindi, and Mtwara remain idle. I encourage investors to be ready when the government opens up these factories for new investments," he added.

Dr Jafo also called on financial institutions to reduce interest rates to help local investors access capital. "Many investors struggle with inadequate capital. Lowering interest rates would attract more investors, fostering the growth of industries and the overall economy," he said.

Latifa Khamis, Director General of TanTrade, praised the success of the exhibition, which saw an increase in participants from 79 to 257. "I encourage industrial owners to participate in future exhibitions, which we expect to be even more successful," said Khamis.

Leodgar Tenga, Executive Director of CTI, also urged industrialists from Dar es Salaam and other regions to attend future exhibitions to explore business opportunities and build partnerships.

The industrial sector in Tanzania plays a crucial role in the country's economic growth and transformation. It encompasses a variety of sub-sectors, including manufacturing, mining, construction, and utilities (electricity, gas, and water supply).

In recent years, the Tanzanian government has emphasized industrialization as a key strategy for achieving its Vision 2025, which aims to shift the economy from low-productivity agricultural-based activities to higher-productivity industrial and service sectors.

Policies like the National Development Vision and the Integrated Industrial Development Strategy (IIDS) are geared toward creating industries across all regions of the country, as exemplified by the recent directive for each region to have at least three large industries by 2030.

Manufacturing accounts for around 8 percent of Tanzania's GDP and is a critical focus of the country's economic policy. The sector is dominated by food and beverages, textiles, chemicals, and construction materials.

Despite growth, the manufacturing sector faces challenges, including insufficient infrastructure, limited access to technology, and high borrowing costs. Additionally, the sector struggles with regional competition, particularly from Kenya and Uganda.



Aerial view of Dar es Salaam city. Photo: File.

JAPAN BATTERY INDUSTRY NOW EYES TANZANIA'S NICKEL, COBALT, COPPER

By Guardian Reporter

Japanese battery industry is targeting cleaner nickel, cobalt and copper from Tanzania's Kabanga Nickel project, managed by Tembo Nickel.

This comes after Lifezone Metals Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC).

This strategic partnership aims to support JOGMEC's efforts to secure cleaner metals from the Kabanga Nickel Project for the Japanese battery industry.

Kabanga is one of the world's largest and highest-grade undeveloped nickel sulfide deposits with byproduct copper and cobalt.

By utilizing Lifezone's Hydromet technology, the project is expected to significantly reduce emissions compared to traditional smelting methods.

During the signing of the MoU, Lifezone Metal Chief Executive Officer, Chris Showalter stated: "Kabanga is a world-class, high-grade nickel deposit and we welcome the opportunity to bring on JOGMEC as a strategically aligned partner. With BHP as our project development partner, Societe Generale as our Lead Financial Advisor for the project



financing process, the support of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and the Government of Tanzania, and now strategic cooperation with JOGMEC - a Japanese government independent administrative agency for energy and metals, we see a clear indication of intent to drive this globally significant

project forward to the benefit of all partners and stakeholders."

Under the terms of the MOU, Lifezone will collaborate with JOGMEC to facilitate the supply of metals from Kabanga, through Lifezone's portion of marketing rights, for Japan's growing battery market, ensuring a sustainable and traceable

metals value chain.

This initiative aligns with both Lifezone's and JOGMEC's commitment to advancing responsible mining practices and supporting the global transition to clean energy.

JOGMEC will consider providing financial support for Japanese companies upon its submittal of an application for the Japanese Governmental funding support program.

This potential investment underscores the importance of the Kabanga Nickel Project in meeting the increasing demand of Japanese industry for cleaner metals.

However, Lifezone Metals said the MOU is non-binding and imposes no obligations on either party.

JOGMEC is an independent administrative agency of the Japanese government whose mission is to secure a stable and affordable supply of energy and mineral resources to strengthen Japan's industrial base.

Japan is a partner in the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), which aims to accelerate the development of diverse and sustainable critical energy minerals supply chains through working with host governments and industry to facilitate targeted financial and diplomatic

support for strategic projects along the value chain.

MSP partners include Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (represented by the European Commission).

Both JOGMEC and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) are members of the recently announced MSP Finance Network, and the Kabanga Nickel Project has been recognized as a MSP Project.

Tanzania's rich deposits of battery metals present significant opportunities for the country to become a key supplier in the global battery supply chain. With the right investment and infrastructure development, Tanzania could play a vital role in the transition to a more sustainable and electrified future.

As the demand for battery metals continues to rise, the country is well-positioned to leverage its natural resources effectively.

The Tanzanian government has been actively promoting investment in mining and mineral processing. New policies and regulations aim to attract foreign investment in battery metal projects.

Construction starts on E.Africa's largest liquid oxygen plant

NAIROBI

Hewatele, a medical oxygen producer in Kenya has kicked off the construction of its first modern liquid oxygen manufacturing plant at the outskirts of Kenyan Capital Nairobi.

Located at Tatu Industrial Park in the Tatu City Special Economic Zone, it is set to be east Africa's largest liquid oxygen plant.

Once complete, the project will help address the rising demand for medical oxygen in the country.

According to Kenya's Ministry of Health, demand for medical oxygen has increased significantly since the coronavirus pandemic, from 410 tons per month to 880 tons per month.

The project is being supported by a US\$20 million funding package from Fintfund, DFC (the US International Development Finance Corporation), SEDF (Soros Economic Development Fund), UBS Optimus Foundation and Grand Challenges Canada.

Hewatele founder Bernard Olayo said the project will ensure high-quality oxygen is consistently accessible across different facilities in the region.

He said it will also contribute towards achieving universal healthcare and contributing towards the country's economic growth.

Due to the high production costs, fragmented delivery and storage options, medicinal oxygen is typically eight to ten times more expensive in sub-Saharan Africa than it is in Europe and North America.

The construction of oxygen production facility is expected to enable Hewatele to boost production of medical oxygen by at least 20 tons per day, which is expected to reduce the cost to its rural and urban healthcare customers by up-to 30 percent.

Like many regions in Africa, East Africa has limited oxygen production facilities, and most of the oxygen is concentrated in major cities like Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, and Addis Ababa. Rural and remote areas often struggle with access to medical oxygen.

Tanzania faced oxygen shortages during the Covid 19 pandemic, but efforts were made to expand local production.

In 2021, a new oxygen plant was established at Mloganzila under Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, aimed at reducing the reliance on imported oxygen and improving healthcare service delivery.

The government of Tanzania has also partnered with non-governmental organizations to boost oxygen supply in regional hospitals.

In African continent, oxygen production, specifically in the context of medical oxygen, is a critical issue due to the continent's growing healthcare demands, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other respiratory diseases.

Medical oxygen is essential for treating various conditions, including pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and during surgeries or emergency care.

Many African countries face challenges with insufficient production facilities, particularly in rural areas. Most oxygen is produced in large urban centers, leaving many regions without reliable access.



Marcelo Prates



Alex Wu

The power of public blockchains

By Marcelo Prates & Alex Wu

If digital payments and financial transactions are the vehicles that help move the modern economy forward, the roads they run on are as important as the vehicles themselves. These roads must offer the stability, security and resilience required for all vehicles to reach their destination smoothly and on time.

National payments systems controlled by public or private actors like T2 in Europe and CHAPS in the UK are traditional examples of such roads. More recently, public blockchains have appeared as a robust alternative for the financial transit of the digital world. And they do so in a decentralised manner, which should be seen not as a drawback but as a desired feature.

Decentralisation, rather than denoting a total absence of control, really means that no single party has control over the network. The development, maintenance and use of a public blockchain are spread across multiple parties and follow internal rules embedded in its protocol that are automatically applied and enforced. No stakeholder can unilaterally change the rules or arbitrarily decide who can build upon or use a public blockchain.

Public blockchains don't have an identifiable legal entity behind them. But they're supported by communities of developers working collaboratively to identify and solve problems and contribute to code changes and updates, ensuring timely improvements to the blockchain's protocol. Many decisions about changes and updates are made through discussions among these community members rather than simply relying on the routine execution of digital contracts.

While these arrangements may not fol-

low traditional accountability structures, public blockchains introduce new ways to achieve the safety and vitality that are expected from any financial infrastructure. And public blockchains have built an impressive track record to support that claim.

In almost 15 years of continued operation, the bitcoin network has gone down twice - in 2010 and 2013 for a total of 15 hours. To date, the network has an uptime rate of 99.99 percent. Similarly, the Stellar blockchain has faced 67 minutes of total downtime in its 10 years of 24/7 operations. In 2021, Stellar continued to operate as designed even when many of its validator nodes went offline.

Ensuring that market infrastructures operate smoothly can be challenging. European payments system T2 (then Target-2) suffered a 10-hour outage on 23 October 2020. A 6-hour failure also hit the UK's CHAPS payments system on 14 August 2023. The downtime of payment systems operated by centralised organisations demonstrates that centralisation and traditional legal entities don't guarantee a flawless performance.

Private versus public blockchains There's a false equivalence that private, permissioned networks are safer and more efficient than public, decentralised ones. While private networks may offer competitive bandwidth and throughput, they don't come with the safety of their public counterparts. Private blockchains are likely to have fewer developers, nodes and data storage facilities supporting their operations.

Private networks therefore have fewer sets of eyes ensuring their safety and resiliency. Public blockchains, on the other hand, have hundreds if not thousands of parties running full nodes that maintain these networks. Some of them validate

and confirm transactions according to the related consensus mechanism - from bitcoin's proof of work, based on the nodes' investment of computational power and energy, to Stellar's proof of agreement, based on the reputation of the entities running validator nodes.

Public blockchains also host a wide array of developers and users who benefit from network improvements. Unlike traditional financial infrastructures or private blockchains, network updates aren't decided unilaterally. Developers and users alike can propose software changes that must be approved by a majority of nodes - only then can a change be implemented and executed.

This governance arrangement allows for a comprehensive risk management of public blockchains, with developers, nodes and validators depending on each other. All the parties benefit from knowing that the network will work according to its programmatic protocol rules and that changes will be implemented only after proper vetting and if incentives are aligned.

This process gives public blockchains strong operational resilience as it eliminates single points of failure or attack. As no single party controls the network, no one can disrupt its functioning or shut down operations, either willingly or accidentally. No individual breakdown or outage at the developer, node or validator levels is enough to affect the operation of a public blockchain.

Ensuring control over assets It's also important to distinguish between the decentralised nature of public blockchains, the roads upon which digital assets run and the assets themselves. The assets are generally issued by a centralised entity and can be configured to comply with applicable regulatory re-

quirements.

While blockchains may be public, the issuers of assets deployed on many of those blockchains can choose the degree of control they want to have over their assets, especially when they need to comply with existing regulations.

For example, many public blockchains offer optional features that issuers can easily add to new assets, like the possibility of clawing back or freezing tokens. Issuers can choose the degree of control they want or need over each issued asset, from no control at all (for unregulated assets like non-fungible tokens) to more stringent controls (for regulated assets like tokenised securities).

On Stellar, these control features are native to the platform and can be implemented directly without additional programming or smart contracts. In fact, the Stellar network has intuitive 'asset flags' that can be used to turn on control features at the time of asset issuance.

Issuers can fully customise and control their assets according to compliance needs and regulatory requirements. And this is all transparent to users, who can view the profile of each asset and decide which ones they are willing to hold or use.

Public blockchains represent the next era of public financial infrastructure, providing an open and neutral platform for everyone to securely interact, innovate and exchange ideas and value online. They are ready to pave the way for the payments and financial vehicles of the 21st century.

Marcelo Prates is Policy Director and Alex Wu is Policy and Government Relations Manager, Stellar Development Foundation.

CONSTRUCTION

BRAZILIAN RESEARCHERS SUPPORT CASSAVA INNOVATION IN TANZANIA



By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

A delegation of nine agricultural experts from Amapa State, Brazil, has arrived in Tanzania to exchange knowledge on cassava innovation and seed system development with local counterparts.

The group began their technical visits at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI).

The delegation includes experts from SEBRAE, a Brazilian non-profit that works in public-private partnerships to foster entrepreneurship and competitiveness in agriculture, as well as senior researchers from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), agricultural extension workers, and cassava seed entrepreneurs (CSEs).

In an exclusive interview, Nsajigwa Mwakyusa, Research Officer and Principal Investigator of the BASICS II Project (Building an Economically Sustainable and Integrated Seed System for Cassava), explained that the primary objective of the visit was to gain insights into Tanzania's cassava Early Generation Seed Sys-

tems (EGS).

"They aim to identify the key success factors for CSEs, understand how cassava best practices like weed management are scaled, and explore other key elements of the seed system," Mwakyusa stated.

During their visit, the institutions shared cutting-edge research on cassava while the Brazilian team provided insights into their breeding and seed system work. Mwakyusa described the collaboration as a foundation for deeper shared learning between the two nations.

The week-long visit included tours of key cassava research sites, such as the Chambezi TARI/IITA breeding trials, and meetings with local CSEs. The delegation also visited the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) to gain a better understanding of the regulatory framework governing seed certification in Tanzania.

TARI Kibaha has hosted several international exchanges recently. Mwakyusa highlighted a visit last month by Dr. Richardson Okechuku of IITA Nigeria, who conducted a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) session under the BASICS II Project.

Additionally, a 12-member delegation from Nigeria's National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the Association of Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs Network (ACSEN) visited to learn about Tanzania's cassava seed system, with a focus on EGS production.

In July 2024, TARI Kibaha also welcomed 28 officials from Kenya, including representatives from the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), researchers from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), and staff from Menonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA). They were part of the Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa (VIRCA PLUS) program and came to study sustainable cassava seed systems.

"These visits highlight TARI Kibaha's growing reputation as a leader in cassava research and sustainable seed systems development in the tropics," Mwakyusa noted.

He added that the interactions provide a platform for mutual learning, innovation, and collaboration, reinforcing Tanzania's role in global cassava seed system development.

Engineers streamline temporary works with BIM solution

By Ashley Grogan

Coates has introduced building information modelling (BIM) solutions to enhance the efficiency of temporary works.

Major construction and infrastructure projects are like intricate puzzles, where every piece - from architectural design to structural engineering - must fit together perfectly. The success of these massive undertakings hinges on the seamless collaboration of multiple disciplines, each bringing their own specialised knowledge to the table.

But with so many moving parts, the risk of miscommunication, delays and costly errors looms large. This makes finding ways to simplify and streamline the process not just beneficial, but essential.

For more than two decades, BIM has been key to reducing the complexity of these projects, integrating data from a variety of sources to create 3D virtual building models.

David Dragicevich, national technical engineering manager at Coates Engineering Solutions, explains that BIM helps people visualise and comprehend the details and complexity involved in designing, constructing, operating and demolishing buildings.

While BIM has been widely adopted in the construction industry, its uptake has been comparatively slow for temporary works, says Dragicevich.

"Customers are now requesting digital models of our products, and we're increasingly seeing BIM integration specified as a supplier requirement when tendering for Tier 1 contracts," he says.

To meet this demand, Coates Engineering Solutions has launched a suite of BIM content in the widely used Revit format for its most popular temporary works products. From 1 October, digital models of Coates' award-winning Quadshore Prop System, Universal Prop System, Dono Brace, and Tilt Prop range are available to customers at no additional charge.

"By providing BIM content for our products, we're enabling project owners and their engineering teams to integrate temporary works into their designs," says Dragicevich. "We're also helping customers to tender competitively and to harness the value of more informed, efficient and cost-effective solutions."

Integrating BIM into temporary works enables safer, more efficient construction processes and improved project outcomes for the industry. It can facilitate better collaboration between stakeholders, assist with decision-making, streamline project management and documentation, as well as improve design, efficiency, safety and cost-effectiveness of a project.

"Not everyone can read technical drawings, but the visualisation that BIM offers affords everyone a good understanding of the temporary works design and its wider context," explains Dragicevich.

"By centralising all project data, BIM ensures everyone in the design team can make decisions based on current, reliable and highly contextual data. It also highlights where these designs overlap, and where there's potential for conflict.

"If we attend site for the first time to install a temporary works solution, we often find some unexpected conditions onsite that require adjustments to be made. BIM gives you a much better understanding of the environment you are designing for, and will be working in, before you get to site."

Modelling the built environment in three dimensions can also make it much faster and easier to translate temporary works designs into highly detailed drawings.

"BIM brings more detail, context and understanding to the design of temporary works, without necessarily costing you more in design time or labour to build," says Dragicevich. "It also allows a broader range of factors to be considered and design efficiencies to be achieved outside of the scope of temporary works."

For example, Dragicevich says using BIM allows project teams to optimise structural components by identifying areas where fewer or lower-capacity elements may be sufficient. Conversely, it can also pinpoint locations where additional support might be necessary to maintain the safety and integrity of the overall solution.

"Extending BIM to include temporary works empowers project teams to find these efficiencies," says Dragicevich. "It also informs design accommodations like access requirements and the type of machinery that can be moved into and used in the space."

Crucially, the enhanced project documentation enabled by BIM solutions can set a project on the right path from the very start.

Dockworkers strike over automation

By Hamza Shaban

Dockworkers who walked off the job this week - over demands for higher pay and a ban on automation - marked the latest example of that collective anxiety boiling over. In the absence of workplace policy that balances the rush of technology with job security, expect more labor action to fill the void.

Unionized workers are increasingly deciding for themselves how they want tech advancements to play out, rather than fully accepting the whims of their employers. That's true for longshoremen just as it was for Hollywood writers. (Just a few days ago, California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a high-profile bill that would have been one of the most comprehensive policies around regulating AI in the US.)

"We know from history labor success tends to build greater success,"

said Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, an associate professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University and former US Department of Labor official.

Hertel-Fernandez said it's no coincidence that we are seeing the bold posture from the port workers, given the recent labor action from several other unions including Hollywood creatives, the UAW, and Kaiser health-care workers. The high-profile incidents have a spillover effect, he said. They encourage workers who see others winning gains amid a supportive public environment and a favorable political context.

"Across the board, in very different sectors, we are seeing technology being rolled out in ways that can empower workers but it can also degrade their work or even displace them altogether," he said.

The potential impact of the port strike on the



economy is a key point of leverage for workers. The timeline remains fuzzy but experts say a prolonged work stoppage would cause significant delays in unloading cargo, higher prices, and product shortages. Those plausible consequences have also generated a backlash in some circles. The striking dockworkers are acting selfishly, critics of the action have said, highlighting a resistance to what many see as an inevitable progress of tech-

nology in manual work.

But a compromise wouldn't have to outright ban automation, said Darrell West, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. A broader policy solution could mandate worker retraining so that employees can qualify for other roles when their jobs are displaced.

"We don't want people to be left behind. We don't want them to become obsolete due to robots," he said.

The conversation around the dockworker strike also highlights a self-serving belief that automation will only disrupt manual fields, as if having a laptop job is a protective moat.

"Eventually, this is going to happen in every sector," he said. "So if people are not worried about longshore people losing their jobs, they will be worried a year from now when they are losing their own."

Chinese cities loosen property curbs

GUANGZHOU

Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai have further relaxed their home buying restrictions in a bid to finally raise the country's property market out of the doldrums, where it's been for the past four years.

On Sunday, Guangzhou's authorities announced they were dropping all curbs on home buyers, the South China Morning Post reported. Meanwhile, Shenzhen and Shanghai announced they were loosening requirements for non-locals wanting to purchase residential property. The new rules for all three cities kicked in on Monday.

The policy shifts followed the central government's major stimulus announcement last week. People's Bank of China governor Pan Gongsheng said new tools would be introduced to ease pressures on the property market, and that the mort-



gage rate for existing housing would be further lowered. China's leaders have also promised to spend as necessary to achieve the country's growth target of around 5 percent.

China unveiled its first tranche of "heavyweight policies" to resuscitate the housing market back in May. Property investments, which for decades had been a major means

of wealth creation for ordinary Chinese, took a turn in 2021 when a number of major developers defaulted on their repayments to investors. The crash was sparked by new regulations designed to curb soaring property prices.

Since then, a drastic decline in investor confidence has seen sales worsen year-by-year. Some provinces and cities have

already made it easier for non-mainland Chinese, such as Macao and Hong Kong residents, to purchase property in an attempt to spur sales.

Speaking to the Post on the latest city-level announcements, Shanghai real estate expert Yan Zhancai said a lot of buyer inquiries were expected due to "pent-up demand" being released. "Significant steps

are being taken to encourage home-buying during the [week-long National Day] holiday," Yan said.

Property sales in China are anticipated to decline slightly further in 2024, estimated at around RMB 11 trillion to RMB 11.5 trillion, which represents a 5 percent decrease compared to 2023. This decline follows a significant drop of 10-15 percent in sales in 2023.

The Chinese government is likely to implement further measures to stabilize the market, including relaxing home-purchase restrictions and easing mortgage down payment rules. These actions aim to bolster buyer confidence and stimulate demand, especially in struggling markets.

Overall, the China property market in 2024 will navigate through a mix of recovery efforts and challenges, heavily influenced by government policies and market conditions.

WORLD

Nobel Peace Prize could honor UNRWA, ICJ, UN chief Guterres



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a UN Security Council meeting on the theme of "Leadership for Peace" at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on Sept 25, 2024. AFP

OSLO/STOCKHOLM

THE United Nations Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), the International Court of Justice and UN chief Antonio Guterres are among the favorites for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, experts said, in a year marked by the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine.

Given past form, the Norwegian Nobel Committee is capable of springing a complete surprise in the Oct 11 announcement - including not giving the prize at all.

With 2024 marked by the now spreading Israel-Hamas conflict, a Ukraine conflict in its third year and bloodshed in Sudan displacing more than 10 million, the committee may want to focus on humanitarian actors helping to relieve civilian suffering.

"UNRWA could be one such candidate. They're doing extremely important work for civilian Palestinians that experience the sufferings of the war in Gaza," Henrik Urdal, director of the Peace Research Insti-

tute Oslo, told Reuters.

A prize to UNRWA would be controversial, he added, given the allegations made by Israel that some of its staff took part in the Oct 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel by Hamas that triggered the conflict in Gaza.

Some countries halted their funding to UNRWA as a result of the allegations. Most donors have since resumed. In August, an internal UN investigation said that nine staff members may have been involved in the attack and have been fired.

UNRWA has said Israel is trying to have the organization disbanded. The agency, set up in 1949 in the aftermath of the war over Israel's creation, provides humanitarian assistance to millions of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

UN Secretary-General Guterres

The secretive five-strong awarding committee, appointed by the Norwegian parlia-

ment, may also want to focus on the need to bolster the international world order built after the Second World War and its crowning institution, the United Nations.

That could mean a prize to its secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, with or without its top court, the ICJ, said Asle Sveen, a historian of the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Guterres is the top symbol of the UN," Sveen told Reuters. "(And) the ICJ's most important duty is to ensure that international humanitarian law is applied globally."

The ICJ has condemned Russia's military operation in Ukraine and called on Israel to ensure that no genocide is committed in Gaza in an ongoing case Israel has repeatedly dismissed as baseless.

But the committee could also decide that no one gets the prize, something that has happened on 19 occasions, the last time in 1972.

"Maybe this is the year in which the Nobel Peace Prize committee should simply withhold the prize and focus attention on the fact that this is a warring planet," Dan Smith, head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, told Reuters.

Thousands of people can propose names, including former laureates, members of parliaments and university professors of history or law. Nominations are secret for 50 years, but those who nominate can choose to reveal their choices.

Some of the known nominees include the UN refugee agency, UN-HCR, Pope Francis and British naturalist David Attenborough. In total 286 candidates have been nominated for this year's prize.

Last year's prize went to Narges Mohammadi, an imprisoned Iranian women's rights advocate. Agencies

Pope Francis calls for fasting and prayer on October 7, when Hamas attacked Israel last year

VATICAN CITY



POPE Francis called on everyone in the world to pray and fast on October 7, the day when Hamas launched attacks against Israel last year.

In a post on X, Pope Francis (pictured) said, "On October 7, I ask everyone to take part in a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the world. Pray together."

Israel Defence Forces on October 1 night released footage of hundreds of Iranian missiles as they rained over the Old City in Jerusalem in a major escalation of the raging conflict in the Middle East.

In a post on X, the IDF said, "Watch as Iranian missiles rain over the Old City in Jerusalem, a holy site for Muslims, Christians and Jews. This is the target of the Iranian regime: everyone."

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin issued a statement condemning Iran's act of aggression against Israel.

US President Joe Biden said that he discussed Iran's attack on Israel with the G7 leaders. Biden reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security.

In a post on X, Biden said, "This morning, I joined a call with G7 leaders to discuss Iran's unacceptable attack against Israel and to coordinate a response to this attack, including new sanctions. I reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security."

Former Israeli Ambassador to India, Daniel Carmon, while speaking to ANI, said that India should closely monitor the situation in Israel, as it has its own interests there. Carmon appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swift response, noting that he reaffirmed India's commitment to peace.

"I don't know what will happen next. India is a strategic partner of Israel, and Israel is a strategic partner of India. We share very good bilateral relations. For me, it's crucial to observe the India-Israel relationship. We deeply appreciate Prime Minister Modi's statement on October 7, 2023. He quickly made a clear and strong declaration. Mediation or involvement between the various regional players is complex and can sometimes result in losses rather than gains. So, I'm not in a position to suggest what India should do. However, I believe India must follow the situation closely as it affects its own interests," he said.

The turmoil in West Asia escalated after Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles towards targets in Israel and the United States military coordinated closely with the Israeli Defence Forces to help defend Israel against the attack.

US Naval destroyers joined Israeli air defence units in firing interceptors to shoot down inbound missiles. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Iran's missile attack on his country as a "big mistake" and said "Tehran would pay for it."

"Iran made a big mistake today and will pay for it. The Iranian regime does not understand our determination to defend ourselves and our determination to take revenge on our enemies," he said. Meanwhile, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson, RAdm. Daniel Hagari, described Iran's attack as a "severe and dangerous escalation."

"There will be consequences. We will respond wherever, whenever, and however we choose, in accordance with the directive of the government of Israel," said Hagari regarding Iran's large-scale attack.

ANI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets the United States Vice President's National Security Advisor Phil Gordon, in Washington D.C. on Wednesday. ANI

UK's Starmer repays cost of Taylor Swift tickets after criticism

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Keir Starmer has repaid thousands of pounds worth of gifts from wealthy donors, his office said on Wednesday, following criticism over freebies received by the prime minister and other Labour politicians.

Only months after Starmer and his Labour Party were elected to power, he and some of his top ministers have come under fire for accepting donations to pay for clothing, host parties, attend concerts and foreign travel.

Starmer's Downing Street office said he had repaid more than 6,000 pounds (\$7,961) worth of gifts ahead of the publication of a proposed new code for such donations.

"We are now going to bring forward principles for donations, because until now



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks at a press conference, during his visit to the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Oct 2, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

politicians have used their best individual judgment on a case-by-case basis," Starmer said when asked about the repayments by reporters during a trip to Brussels.

"So I took the decision that until the principles are in

place, it was right for me to make those repayments," he said.

The 6,000 pounds will cover the cost of six tickets for a Taylor Swift concert, four horse racing tickets and a clothing rental agreement

with a high-end fashion designer.

Under the House of Commons code of conduct, members of parliament have to provide information about financial interests which might reasonably be thought

to influence their work.

The controversy forced Starmer to say last month he would not accept any more donations to pay for his clothing. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Finance Minister Rachel Reeves will also no longer accept them.

Earlier on Wednesday a parliamentary notice showed there was an ongoing investigation into Wahed Alli, a Labour donor who sits in parliament's upper chamber and has donated to Starmer, for alleged non-registration of interests. Starmer's registered financial interests show he received several donations from Alli, including multiple pairs of glasses, clothes and accommodation.

Alli is a media entrepreneur and former chairman of the online fashion retailer ASOS.

Iran will pay a price, says Israel envoy to India Reuven Azar

NEW DELHI

ISRAEL'S Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, said that the country successfully defended itself against a barrage of ballistic missiles launched by Iran on Tuesday, adding that Iran would face consequences of this attack.

"Our PM was very clear that Iran will pay a price. We have to think about it thoroughly--can we have a situation where rouge states like Iran attack with a barrage of ballistic missiles? If this goes unchecked, then consequences will be terrible for the region...If nobody is going to stop Iran, then it is our

responsibility," said the envoy.

While speaking to ANI, Ambassador Azar attributed Israel's success in defending the rocket barrage to two key factors, Israel's advanced air defence systems and its strong partnerships with the United States and neighbouring countries.

"We were pretty successful because of two reasons. First of all, we have probably the best air defence systems in the world and we have been able to thwart most of these missiles. We only left unattacked those who fell in open areas," he said

ANI

BEIJING

Xi Focus: Leading drive to build strong China

AN array of high-profile events were held in the past week to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC), with President Xi Jinping renewing his call for building a strong country.

At a reception held on the eve of the National Day, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, emphasized that the "best way" to commemorate the anniversary is to advance the "unprecedented" cause of building China into a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization.

A day before, when he conferred the highest state honors on heroes and role models, Xi called on the Chinese to bear in mind the aspiration to make the country strong. "We should be loyal to the country, love the country, integrate personal development

goals into the overall national development, and realize personal value in fulfilling duties for the country and serving the people," he said.

About 12 years ago, shortly after assuming the Party's top post, Xi first mentioned the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

In less than ten years, he led China to eliminate absolute poverty, achieving the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Historic achievements and changes have taken place across the board.

Xi believes that to govern the country, the Party must first be governed well, and only when the Party thrives can the nation be strong.

As the Party's top leader, Xi has strengthened the CPC's overall leadership to ensure that it plays the core role of coordinating the efforts of all sides. He has also advanced the full and rigorous self-governance of the Party.

In 2022, when the Party convened

its 20th national congress, Xi outlined the timetable and roadmap for a two-step strategy for the Party to lead the nation in fully building a great modern socialist country by the middle of the century, when the people's republic celebrates its centennial.

He envisioned a blueprint for national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. "For China to become strong, every sector and aspect must be strengthened," he said.

China has been known as the world's factory, and Xi has recognized the need to further solidify the country's role as a manufacturing powerhouse. During an inspection of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China about a decade ago, Xi boarded a display model of the C919 passenger aircraft.



He stressed the need to enhance the country's equipment manufacturing industry, saying that developing this sector, including large aircraft, should play a leading role in building a strong country.

By Sept. 1 this year, the domestically produced C919 aircraft had completed over 3,700 flights since entering commercial operation, transporting 500,000 passengers safely. Xi's vision for a strong China encompasses various sectors, including manufacturing, aerospace, transportation, technology, education, culture, maritime affairs and finance.

Today, China has the world's largest operational network of high-speed railway; the cross-sea Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge has set multiple world records, and China's new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products have become popular exports.

Xi emphasized innovation as "the primary driving force for develop-

ment," underscoring the importance of promoting the new development philosophy and stepping up the establishment of new development patterns.

As a result, continuous technological achievements have been scored, with new technologies, and new forms and new models of business thriving. A clear testament to this progress is China's rise on the global innovation index, moving from 34th in 2012 to 12th in 2023.

Noting that a great modern socialist country must be strong not only materially but also culturally and ethically, Xi proposed the concept of the "two integrations" - blending the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional culture - while underscoring the need to "shoulder a new cultural mission."

Efforts in this regard have driven the prosperity of China's cultural industry and significantly boosted the

cultural confidence of the Chinese people.

Xi considers a sound ecosystem essential for the prosperity of civilization. He placed ecological conservation in China's overall plan for national development, led the country in fighting the tough battle against pollution, and pushed for faster transition of China's growth model to one of green development.

As Xi has said, the Chinese Dream is essentially about ensuring a good life for the people. During his inspection tours, he always visits ordinary people, interacts with them, and asks about their living conditions. For him, every issue concerning the people, big or small, deserves the utmost care and attention.

Under his leadership, a series of national campaigns have been launched to improve public sanitation facilities, promote garbage sorting, enhance food safety supervision, and ease the curriculum burdens on school students.

Xinhua

China needs strong Russia while Russia needs prosperous, stable China – Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is interested in China being a prosperous and stable country while China needs a strong and successful Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Rossiiskaya Gazeta daily.

"Today, Russian-Chinese cooperation has acquired the nature of a comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction that enter a new era," Lavrov said speaking on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of bilateral relations establishment.

"According to the leaders of our countries, bilateral relations are currently at an unprecedentedly high level," he continued. "At the same time, they are constantly being enriched with new content."

"We are convinced that Russia needs a prosperous and stable China while China needs a strong and successful Russia," Lavrov stated. "Our friendly and good-neighboring relations are not within an alliance, but they are superior in their effectiveness to military-political alliances that exercise the logic of confrontation."

Russia's top diplomat pointed out that



over the past decades, the countries' bilateral ties had been repeatedly put to the test.

"However, the most important is that we have managed to show strategic wisdom and stamina," Lavrov noted. "We have managed to build an exemplary model of relations between two neighboring great powers in a spirit of good-neighboringness, friendship and cooperation."

"In 2005, agreements came into force that finally closed the border issue and turned the shared border into a belt of eternal peace and friendship," he added.

UN migration agency urges for concerted efforts to address root causes of dangerous journeys along Red Sea

ADDIS ABABA

THE International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Wednesday stressed the urgent need to address the root causes of dangerous journeys along the Red Sea as at least 45 migrants died after two boats sank off the coast of Djibouti.

The United Nations migration agency, in a statement issued Wednesday, said at least 45 people have tragically died and 111 are still missing after they were forced off their vessel in the open sea by smugglers.

The incident involves two boats transporting migrants returning from Yemen. "With this incident, 2024 marks the deadliest year for migrant sea crossings, between the East and Horn of Africa and Yemen."

This incident is also the second deadliest on the Eastern route sea crossing, following the death of 196 people in June 2024, signifying a disturbing trend this year," it said.

According to survivors, the first boat carried 100 migrants while the second had 210 on board, all returning to Djibouti from Yemen. Migrants were forced by the Yemenite boat operators to disembark in the open sea and swim. One woman drowned, but her 4-month-old infant survived along with 98 others from the first boat.

The IOM said its team in Djibouti is supporting emergency services in search and rescue operations for missing persons. Some 55 people have been rescued and are receiving medical and psychosocial support.

Search and rescue operations are underway by the Djiboutian Coast Guard to locate the missing migrants. The IOM, in coordination with the Djibouti government, is providing humanitarian assistance and protection interventions in-

cluding medical assistance, mental health and psychosocial support and safe shelter to the survivors.

"This latest double tragedy is the starkest reminder yet of the urgent need to protect and address the needs of migrants along the Eastern Route from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and the Gulf," IOM Regional Director for East, Horn and Southern Africa Frantz Celestin was quoted as saying.

"Hundreds have lost their lives this year. We call on the donor community to continue to support IOM's response, to save lives and address the root causes of the life-threatening and dangerous journeys these migrants take, and stop their exploitation by smugglers."

Since 2014, IOM Missing Migrants Project has also recorded more than 1,300 cases of migrant deaths due to drowning on the Eastern route, including 337 from January to August 2024. The Eastern migration route, running from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, has long been one of the busiest migratory corridors in the East and Horn of Africa region.

Many migrants are believed to use this route to leave and return to their countries of origin, particularly Ethiopia and Somalia, with the hope of pursuing better livelihood opportunities in Gulf countries.

The IOM said thousands remain stranded along the route in extremely difficult conditions and face various forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, which underscores the urgent need for robust measures to protect migrants and prevent future loss of life.

In most of these incidents, desperate East African migrants attempted to cross the dangerous route, hoping to reach the Middle East via war-torn Yemen, with the main destination being Saudi Arabia, Yemen's northern neighbor.

Israel bears all blame for Middle East escalation, says Russia's UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

ISRAEL bears all the blame for escalating tensions in the Middle East, Russian Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said.

"The political assassination [of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah] has the potential for catastrophic consequences in Lebanon and across the entire Middle East."

West Jerusalem could not fail to realize this, but it deliberately went for escalation. Therefore, the Israeli side bears all responsibility for the ensuing escalation of its consequences, including for the people of Israel," he said at a meeting of the UN Security Council dedicated to the Middle East.

"As part of its mandate to maintain international peace and security, the UN Security Council must compel Israel to immediately cease hostilities," Nebenzya went on to say.

"You and I are also should to make every effort to create conditions for a political and diplomatic settlement. In this context, we take note of Tehran's signal that it is not willing to whip up confrontation any further."

On September 23, Israel started a military operation codenamed North-



ern Arrows against Hezbollah in Lebanon, carrying out widespread strikes at the group's military sites. In a strike on September 27 Israel eliminated Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut.

The group confirmed his death and vowed to continue standing up to Israel. Overnight into October 1, the IDF announced a limited ground operation in the border areas of southern Lebanon.

On October 1, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps carried out a massive attack on Israel with ballistic and hypersonic missiles.

An air raid alert was issued throughout the Israel, and people were ordered to take shelter. The IIRG said 90% of the missiles successfully hit their designated targets.

Israel said Iran launched about 180 rockets, but most of them were intercepted. Israel said the Iranian attack did not cripple the combat readiness of the Israeli Air Force.

Can US striking port workers win battle against automation?

HOUSTON

PICKET lines were formed on Tuesday as about 45,000 dock workers walked out at 36 ports along the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts, demanding higher pay and ban on automation amid fears of job loss in an AI-driven future that extends far beyond the dock industry globally.

SHARP DISAGREEMENT

At Port Houston, striking workers, organized by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), erected a large banner on Tuesday that read, "No to automation! Machines don't have families to feed." "We are prepared to fight as long as necessary, to stay out on strike for whatever period of time it takes, to get the wages and protections against automation our ILA members deserve," said Harold Daggett, the ILA president.

On the eve of the walkout, the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents the ports, had increased its offer on Monday, promising to raise wages by nearly 50 percent while keeping the limits on automation in place from the old contract and allowing semi-automation. The union rejected the offer Tuesday, saying it fell short of workers' demand. The disagreement remains sharp as the labor union not only demands a 77 percent wage raise over the six-year life of the contract, but also a "total ban on automation" at ports, multiple U.S. media outlets reported.

As always, port operators, often representing large corporations, are keen to cut costs, increase profits, improve efficiency, and reduce the risk of accidents by adopting new technologies. Supporters of automation view it as a "must" and an inevitable step toward achieving these goals.

If the union gets most of what it wants from their employers regarding automation, U.S. ports will continue to lag behind international ones in terms of speed and efficiency, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a right-wing think tank, warned on Tuesday.

The labor union, focused on protecting workers' rights, argues that corporations are dead set on replacing hard-working people with automation but "robots do not pay taxes and they do not spend money in their communities." "USMX is trying to fool you with promises of workforce protections for semi-automation."

Let me be clear: we don't want any form of semi-automation or full automation," ILA leadership said in a September letter to members. Port workers participate in a strike at the Port Houston in Texas, the United States, on Oct. 1, 2024. (Photo by Chengyue Lao/Xinhua)

WHO CAN LAUGH AT LAST

Can union workers win the battle against automation?

In the coming weeks, port operators may raise their offer again as disruptions to the U.S. economy grow, the presidential election approaches, and the pressure to reach



Port workers participate in a strike at the Port Houston in Texas, the United States, on Oct. 1, 2024. (Photo by Chengyue Lao/Xinhua)

an agreement accumulates day by day. The ports affected by the strike handle roughly half the country's cargo ships.

Analysis firm J.P. Morgan estimates the port work stoppage could cost the U.S. economy 5 billion U.S. dollars per day, not to mention fears of inflation and supply shortages. This strike could potentially become one of the most disruptive labor actions to the U.S. economy in decades.

The ILA last launched a major strike in 1977 against big containers, which were much easier to handle than individual boxes, saving costs and reducing the need for as many workers.

The strike lasted 44 days and ended with a substantial pay raise and guaranteed income for union members, according to The Washington Post.

However, the 1977 strike did nothing to stop containers from dominating the shipping industry, which finds itself in a similar episode during the current strike: workers fighting to stop another technological advancement: automation. Looking back at history, it is difficult to find an optimistic example of such resistance that has successfully preserved jobs as wished by the striking workers.

One of the most famous early examples is the Luddite movement in 19th-century Britain, where textile workers protested automation by destroying machines but were eventually suppressed by the government.

It seems most likely that new industries and jobs will emerge from technological innovations, but only for those who acquire the necessary skills to thrive in the modern workforce. But what will happen to those who lose their jobs?

Industry experts suggest that the AI revolution and increased use of robots could drastically reduce the number of workers needed on-site at dockyards. Tasks like operating cranes, trucks, and gates will require fewer workers, possibly almost none.

American dock workers have already felt the impact of automation.

A report from the Economic Roundtable found that automation removed 572 full-time-equivalent jobs per year at the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles in 2020 and 2021. Port workers participate in a strike at the Port of Houston in Texas, the United States, on Oct. 1, 2024. (Photo by Chengyue Lao/Xinhua)

"AUTOMATION UNEMPLOYMENT"

Beyond the shipping industry, automation is expected to eliminate millions of jobs in sectors such as transportation, retail, healthcare, law, finance, and many other professions, according to researcher Harry Holzer, writing for the Brookings Institution.

Local observers note that the labor market is becoming increasingly polarized. "Automation unemployment" is now a global challenge, affecting not only individual livelihoods but also social stability and economic growth. "Global labor income share -- the proportion of total global income that goes to workers -- is shrinking," said Celeste Drake, deputy director-general of the UN International Labour Organization (ILO), last month.

"The global trend of shrinking pay in heavily industrialized economies could be driven -- at least temporarily -- by tech innovations like automation and AI in the workplace," warned the ILO official.

"This needs to change because it's increasing inequality, which disproportionately affects working people." "One thing is certain: this strike will not be the last effort to resist automation."

While automation is advancing with unstoppable force, the fight against robots replacing human workers will help shape our future in an AI-driven world, with serious consequences for global peace in the rest of the 21st century.

Xinhua

75 years on, China's economy emerges stronger with new growth momentum

BEIJING

SINCE the founding of the People's Republic of China 75 years ago, the country has evolved from a backward and poor nation into the world's second-largest economy, achieving numerous milestones along the way.

By embarking on a high-quality development path that is innovation-driven, environmentally sustainable and increasingly open, China has continued to offer the world new growth momentum and opportunities. The following figures and facts shed light on how the world's major economic powerhouse transformed and thrived in three-quarters of a century.

Over the past 75 years, China's rapid economic progress has been nothing short of a miracle. At constant prices, the total economic output in 2023 has increased 223 times compared to 1952, with an average annual growth rate of 7.9 percent.

Specifically, China's GDP surpassed 126 trillion yuan (about 18 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2023. The GDP in 1952 was just 67.9 billion yuan. By 1986, it had surpassed 1 trillion yuan, and in 2000, it exceeded 10 trillion yuan. In 2020, the country's GDP surpassed 100 trillion yuan.

In the process, China has secured victories in the continued fight against poverty. By 2020, 98.99 million people in rural China had been lifted out of poverty,

and all 832 impoverished counties were officially recognized as having exited poverty.

The living standards of the Chinese people have progressed from mere subsistence to moderate prosperity in all aspects. Over the past 75 years, the per capita disposable income of China's residents has increased 76-fold, adjusted for inflation. The foundation of the development has become increasingly solid and the nation's food supply remains firmly in its own hands, with total grain output rising from 113.18 million tonnes in 1949 to 695.41 million tonnes in 2023.

Industrial production capacity has been constantly improved. In 2023, the added value of the manufacturing industry topped 33 trillion yuan, remaining the world's biggest in terms of scale for 14 consecutive years. New industries and business models are emerging one after another, and the services sector has gradually grown to become the largest industry in the national economy.

Over the past 75 years, China's economic influence has steadily increased.

In 2023, the total economic output of the country accounted for about 17 percent of the global total. From 2013 to 2023, China's average contribution to global economic growth exceeded 30 percent, making it the largest driving force behind world economic growth.

At present, China is the world's largest trader of goods, the second-largest country in services trade, the second-largest consumer of commodities, and the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves.

In 2023, the actual utilization of foreign direct investment reached 163.3 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of 176 times compared to 1983, maintaining a world-leading scale for several consecutive years.

The Belt and Road Initiative has consolidated and expanded its network of partnerships and 22 pilot free trade zones have been established. European opinion-maker Modern Diplomacy stated in a recent article that over the past 75 years, China has turned itself from a poor country into the world's second top economy, with the largest manufacturing system in the world.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the national effort has achieved results and historic changes, thus successfully promoting and expanding the stages of modernization.

NEW GROWTH MOMENTUM

In particular, since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, China has been committed to implementing the new development philosophy, unlocking the dynamics, vitality and potential of high-quality development while effec-

tively addressing various risks and challenges along the way.

China has witnessed continuous optimization of its economic structure.

In 2023, the contribution rate of final consumption expenditure to economic growth reached 82.5 percent, further enhancing the role of consumption as the main engine.

By the end of 2023, the urbanization rate of the permanent resident population had increased by 13.06 percentage points compared to the end of 2012, further narrowing the development gap between urban and rural areas.

As an innovation-oriented country, China has continuously strengthened its growth momentum.

In 2023, China's total expenditure on research and experimental development ranked second in the world, increasing 2.2 times compared to 2012. China's ranking in the Global Innovation Index rose from 34th in 2012 to 12th in 2023, making it the only middle-income economy among the top 30.

A number of intelligent and green industries have rapidly taken shape. Electric vehicles, solar batteries and lithium-ion batteries, categorized as China's tech-intensive and green "new three," reported a combined export value of 150 billion dollars in 2023, jumping 29.9 percent year on year.

Xinhua



Tanzania's senior men's cricket team skipper Abhik Patwa (L) hands over part of the bonuses to Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar at an occasion to honour the squad for winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A in Dar es Salaam from September 21-26. The ceremony took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

TCA fetes Tanzania's cricket team for winning ICC Men's T20 WC Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

THE Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) management last weekend hosted a ceremony to celebrate the senior men's cricket squad's victory in the just-concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A in Dar es Salaam.

The regional showdown - which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venues from September 21-26 - saw six national sides battle for qualification for the Regional Final.

Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, and Tanzania took part in the Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A.

Tanzania men's cricket team beat Malawi in a pulsating regional showdown final, held on September 26, to lift the tournament's title.

The top two teams in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A have automatically progressed to the Regional Final.

In a ceremony filled with appreciation and goodwill, the senior national team's players were commended for their exceptional performance and dedication throughout the tournament, securing a well-deserved title for Tanzania.

In a heartwarming gesture, Elisha Shaibu, a devoted fan of Tanzania's cricket who has consistently supported the team despite his physical challenges, was invited as a special guest to the event.

The Dar es Salaam-based Shaibu, who has been a regular presence in several cricket matches, was given the honour of presenting cash bonuses to the players.

His passion for the game and unwavering support were recognized by TCA, with the association's officials making sure to involve him in the special occasion.

Shaibu was also part of the trophy presentation ceremony during the final match, standing with the players as they celebrated their victory.

The thoughtful gesture by the TCA highlights the association's commitment to acknowledging the loyalty of fans like Shaibu, whose support transcends barriers.

In another rare and meaningful moment at the event, the senior national team players showed their gratitude by giving back to the cricket community.

As a token of appreciation for TCA's efforts, the players donated part of their bonuses towards the development of the UDSM grounds, which are crucial for the future of cricket in Tanzania.

Currently, one ground is operational at the UDSM, with two more under construction.

The contribution from the players, as revealed by one of the TCA officials, demonstrates the cricketers' commitment to not only the squad's success but also the growth of cricket in the country.

Such a gesture, the official said, ensures that future generations will have access to improved cricket facilities and opportunities to develop their skills.

Balakrishna Sreekumar, TCA Chairman, commended the senior national squad's players for their sportsmanship and willingness to contribute to the sport's development.

He emphasized that the victory was a team effort, but the players' decision to invest in the future of Tanzania's cricket showed their character and vision beyond the field.

The ceremony, the association stated, stands as a testament to the unity within the Tanzanian cricket community, from loyal fans like Shaibu to the selfless players who have invested in the future of the game.

As the TCA continues to support and nurture cricket across the country, the official added, the senior national side's victory serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when the entire cricket family comes together for a common cause.

Simba skipper Zimbwe Jr reflects on a decade of consistency and leadership

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club captain, Mohammed Hussein Zimbwe Jr, has expressed pride in his enduring tenure with the club, crediting his sustained success to dedication, discipline, and a passion for the game.

Zimbwe Jr (pictured), who has been a vital part of Simba SC for nearly a decade, continues to surprise fans and analysts alike with his remarkable consistency.

As one of the longest-serving players at Simba, the left-back has maintained his performance at the highest-level season after season.

Speaking about the secret to his longevity, Zimbwe Jr emphasized the importance of self-care, rigorous training, and closely following the guidance of the club's coaching staff. These factors, he explained, have been critical in keeping him at the top of his game.

Zimbwe Jr, a key player for Tanzania's national team, Taifa Stars, attributes his ability to maintain peak physical condition as a major reason for his durability on the pitch. His dedication to fitness has allowed him to avoid major injuries and continue contributing at the highest level.

"I have no thoughts of retirement at the moment because I still have the strength to help the team," said Zimbwe Jr. "As long as I'm fit, I believe I can



keep playing for many more years, barring any unforeseen challenges."

He acknowledged the difficulties of maintaining such a high standard in professional football, highlighting the constant effort required to stay at the top.

"Football is my life. I know that I have to push myself and take care of my body. I'm not one to shy away from hard work or intense training," he added.

Throughout his career at Simba, Zimbwe Jr has remained a dependable figure, rarely sidelined by injuries.

His durability has seen him feature prominently in Simba's lineups season after season, making him one of the club's most frequently used players.

His ability to remain injury-free and maintain peak fitness has been a key factor in his long-standing role as Simba's first-choice left-back.

Simba compete not only in the Tanzanian Premier League but also in continental tournaments like the CAF Champions League and Confederation Cup.

Despite the club's constant recruitment of top talent from across Africa, Zimbwe Jr has

consistently held his place in the starting lineup, fending off competition year after year.

This season, the club signed Burkinabe left-back Valentine Nouma, hoping to bolster their defense. However, Nouma has found it difficult to break into the first team due to Zimbwe Jr's exceptional form and leadership on the field.

Simba's efforts to find a successor for Zimbwe Jr have been ongoing for several seasons. Despite bringing in numerous players to challenge his position, none have managed to unseat him.

His resilience, professionalism, and commitment have ensured that he remains a mainstay in the squad.

As captain, Zimbwe Jr leads by example both on and off the pitch. His work ethic and positive attitude have earned him the respect of his teammates and the trust of his coaches.

Even with the club's investment in younger talents, Zimbwe Jr's enduring quality has made him indispensable to the team.

His continued ability to rise to the challenge each season, and his status as an irreplaceable player in the squad, reflect his unwavering dedication to Simba.

Despite the presence of highly-touted competitors like Nouma, Zimbwe Jr's form remains unmatched, solidifying his legacy as one of Simba's all-time greats.



Police and Anmache basketball teams' players pictured in action during the ongoing basketball tournament at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Tactical battle awaits as Coastal Union prepare to stifle Simba's attack

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union head coach Joseph Lazaro has expressed his team's readiness to deploy tactical defensive strategies as they prepare to face Simba SC in today's Premier League clash at KMC Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Buoyed by their recent 2-0 victory over Pamba Jiji, Coastal Union are looking to build on their first win of the season after a challenging start.

Lazaro, recently promoted to head coach, is Coastal Union's third manager this season, following the dismissal of head coach David Ouma just two days before their crucial CAF Confederation Cup match against Bravos Do Maquis.

Under interim coach Ngawina Ngawina, the team managed a 0-0 draw in the CAF competition but failed to progress.

Lazaro took over shortly afterward, inheriting a side that has struggled to replicate last season's form.

The Tanga-based club's early season has been fraught with challenges, including their elimination from the CAF Confederation Cup in the preliminary rounds and losses in the local Community Shield to Azam (5-2) and Simba SC (1-0) in the third-place playoff.

Domestically, they've endured a string of disappointing results: a 1-0 defeat to Mashujaa, a 2-0 loss to Namungo, a narrow 1-0 setback against Azam, and a 2-1 defeat to JKT Tanzania. Their win against Pamba Jiji, however, has offered some much-needed morale boost.

Ahead of the match against league giants Simba, Lazaro is confident in his defensive approach. He has conducted a thorough tactical analysis of

Simba, identifying both their strengths and weaknesses.

Lazaro emphasized that Simba's attacking threat comes from multiple areas of the pitch, making it essential for Coastal Union to maintain a disciplined defensive line.

"We're familiar with our opponents, Simba. Despite their reputation as the best team, they have vulnerabilities. We're both defensively focused, but the key is knowing our own strengths," said Lazaro.

"Our team has been consistently improving, and we've addressed our defensive shortcomings since the Pamba Jiji match. We're well aware of Simba's ability to score, but we believe our defense is well-prepared," he added.

Lazaro also highlighted the need for Coastal Union to stay composed when Simba has possession, focusing on deep

defense and quick counterattacks.

The coach expects offensive transitions to play a key role in today's match, with John Makwata and Maabad Maulid expected to spearhead the attack.

On the other hand, Simba SC, in excellent form, have won their last four league games and boast 10 clean sheets so far this season.

Despite Simba's attacking depth and defensive solidity, Coastal Union will look to exploit any opportunities that arise, hoping to upset the form team in the Premier League.

As the match approaches, all eyes will be on whether Lazaro's tactical defense can withstand the relentless attacking power of the Msimbazi Reds, or if Simba will extend their unbeaten run in the league.

Senegal coach Aliou Cissé ousted despite African title and leading team to two World Cups

DAKAR, Senegal

SENEGAL coach Aliou Cissé, who led the team to an Africa Cup of Nations title and the past two World Cup tournaments, lost his job Wednesday with the national soccer federation citing a government request not to renew his contract.

Cissé was nearing 10 years in charge of the Teranga Lions that included reaching two AFCON finals – winning the title in 2022 – and the round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup. Senegal went to that tournament in Qatar without star forward Sadio Mané, who was injured.

The Senegalese soccer body published a letter Wednesday thanking Cissé for his work and “his brilliant results.”

The former Paris Saint-Germain defender had been due to hold a news conference Friday to announce his squad for upcoming qualifying games for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

The letter also listed reasons from the government sports ministry not to renew Cissé's contract for one year: Not reaching recent tournament objectives, the team's falling FIFA ranking, and the risk of worsening relations between the team and the Senegalese public.

It was unclear if the ministry's request conflicted with FIFA rules prohibiting government interference in the independent management of its member federations.

Senegal failed to retain its Africa title this year. Cissé's team was eliminated in the round of 16 in a penalty shootout by host Ivory Coast, which went on to win the title.

FIFA now ranks Senegal at No. 21 in the world, four places below its record high achieved from February to April this year.

Senegal is unbeaten in a four-team qualifying group for the next African championship and has home and away games against Malawi this month.

The federation said it will appoint an interim coaching team for the next games.

Senegal also is unbeaten in a 2026 World Cup qualifying group though trails leader Sudan by two points after four of the 10 rounds. Senegal resumes play in March away to Sudan.

AP

Brazil teenager Endrick becomes youngest Champions League starter for Real Madrid

LILLE, France

ENDRICK has yet another record to his name with Real Madrid.

At 18 years, 73 days old, the Brazil forward became the youngest player to start a Champions League match with the Spanish powerhouse in the game at Lille on Wednesday.

He surpassed the mark set by former Madrid great Raúl González, who was 18 years, 78 days old when he faced Ajax in 1995.

Endrick had already become Madrid's youngest Champions League scorer with his stoppage-time goal in Madrid's 3-1 win over Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium last month.

Endrick also is the youngest foreign player to score for Madrid in the Spanish league. He scored at 18 years, 35 days, surpassing Frenchman Raphael Varane, who was 18 years, 152 days when he scored in 2011.

It was Endrick's first start with Madrid since he joined the club. He had appeared in eight matches coming off the bench.

He was substituted by Luka Modric in the 57th minute against Lille.

Endrick was only 16 when Madrid paid Brazilian club Palmeiras a transfer fee of more than 40 million euros (around \$44 million), plus additions, in 2022. He stayed with Palmeiras until arriving at Madrid for this season after turning 18.

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappé returned from a hamstring injury by coming off the bench for Real Madrid in the second half of the team's Champions League match at Lille on Wednesday.

Mbappé entered the game in the 57th minute to replace defender Éder Militão. Madrid was losing 1-0 when the France forward came in.

Mbappé had missed Madrid's 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid in the Spanish league on Sunday because of an injury to his left leg.

The injury was diagnosed after the 3-2 win over Alaves in the Spanish league, when Mbappé scored his seventh goal since joining Madrid this season.

AP

Atletico Madrid stunned after its biggest loss in Europe since 2021: 'It was really bad'

LISBON, Portugal

ATLETICO Madrid's 4-0 loss at Benfica in the Champions League on Wednesday was the team's worst defeat in Europe in three years, according to UEFA.

Diego Simeone's team had lost by the same score to Bayern Munich in the group stage of Europe's top club competition in 2021.

The four-goal loss to Benfica is Atletico's joint-biggest margin of defeat in UEFA club competitions. It had previously lost by four goals five other times.

“From the start, it was really bad,” Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak said.

“We didn't play from the beginning until the end. They did a great job, they have a great team and they deserve to win. They did much more than us. Unfortunately for us, we lost 4-0 and it could have been more.”

Benfica's victory equaled the biggest winning margin by a Portuguese team against a Spanish one in a European Cup or Champions League match. It also earned the other victory,



Atletico Madrid's head coach Diego Simeone reacts during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between SL Benfica and Atletico Madrid in Lisbon, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. AP Photo

defeating Real Madrid 5-1 in February 1965.

Muhammed Kerem Akturkoglu opened the scoring in the 13th minute, and Ángel Di María, Alexander Bah and Orkun Kokcu added second-half goals for the Portuguese club. Di María and Kokcu scored off penalty kicks.

“They took advantage of all the mistakes we could have made and the truth is that they deserved to win,” Simeone

said.

The uncharacteristic defeat by Atletico came after a tense Spanish league derby against Madrid on Sunday, when Atletico needed a stoppage-time goal by Ángel Correa to salvage a 1-1 draw at its Metropolitan stadium.

Atletico, usually known for its stout defense under Simeone, had last conceded four goals in a league match against Osasuna in May,

when it lost 4-1 at home in its second-to-last game of the season.

Atletico had opened its Champions League campaign with a 2-1 win against Leipzig at the Metropolitano. It had only one win in its next three league matches after that.

The club will have to close part of its stadium for three matches because of fan trouble in the derby against Madrid, when some of its supporters threw objects on the field after Madrid scored a goal, prompting the referee to send the players to the locker rooms and interrupting the game for more than 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in England, Liverpool is making one of the toughest fixture lists in the new-format Champions League look quite easy.

Two Italian teams have now been comfortably dealt with, as unheralded Bologna was beaten 2-0 on Wednesday two weeks after AC Milan was brushed aside 3-1 in San Siro.

Two German opponents are up next – including former Liverpool star Xabi Alonso returning to Anfield as

Bayer Leverkusen coach – then comes two Spanish teams, including a visit of defending champion Real Madrid.

Those stellar home games in November can show new Liverpool coach Arne Slot how the famed stadium can pulsate on European nights after he enjoyed a relatively calm home debut in the Champions League.

Mohamed Salah's magical left foot created an 11th-minute goal for Alexis Mac Allister and curled in a rising shot in the 75th.

The Egypt star set a club record by scoring in a fifth straight home game in the European Cup or Champions League, as he was watched from the stands by the club's scoring greats Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish.

Playing in the marquee competition for the first time in almost 60 years, Bologna is still looking for a first goal though not for lack of trying.

Bologna struck the frame of Liverpool's goal twice and forced Allison Becker into a key diving save in an intense spell of pressure around the half-hour mark. The Ital-

ian side drew 0-0 with Shakhtar Donetsk two weeks ago when failing to make 17 goal attempts count. There were 12 more against Liverpool.

“Overall, a good result, but I wouldn't use the word ‘delighted’ myself today,” Slot said.

Bologna will be back in England in three weeks' time to next face Aston Villa, which beat Bayern Munich 1-0 on Wednesday.

Liverpool players were actually queuing up to score in the goalmouth early in the game as Salah teased the left side of the Bologna defense.

From his floated cross, Mac Allister scored with a simple half-volley from two meters (yards) in front of goal. Luis Díaz was standing next to Mac Allister, also unmarked, had he been needed.

The gulf in experience and resources was stark between two clubs whose gap in revenue was more than \$600 million last year. The modern gulf between the Premier League and Serie A is such that Liverpool's 2023 financial accounts showed revenue about \$200 million more than Milan and Bologna combined.

AP

'The finest moment in Emery's brilliant Villa rebuild'

By Phil McNulty

UNAI Emery paid his respects to Aston Villa's glorious past while offering up the enticing prospect of a golden future on one of Villa Park's greatest nights.

The 1982 European Cup Final victory over Bayern was relived by Villa's legends in the build-up to this Champions League meeting with the Bundesliga giants, Emery more than happy to accept the weight of history he carried into the club's first game in this competition for 41 years.

And while nothing can touch the 1-0 win Peter Withe's goal gave Villa in Rotterdam all those years ago, this famous win that re-established Villa in Europe's elite group will make memories forever for all those who witnessed it as that scoreline was repeated on a night rich in drama and gripping tension.

The headlines will be grabbed by substitute Jhon Duran, scoring the 79th-minute winner with his fifth goal off the bench this season, and keeper Emiliano Martinez for a stunning last-second save from Harry Kane's header.

But the true architect of this victory, and this stunning Villa renaissance made a sharp exit with a beaming smile pumping his fists around an ecstatic Villa Park surrounded by a wall of noise.

Villa's win is the finest moment in Emery's brilliant rebuild, this European specialist on the sort of territory he enjoys after taking his team into the top four last season.

The sign of how far this club has come can be illustrated by the



fact it was six years ago that an angry Villa fan threw a cabbage at then manager Steve Bruce in disgust following a draw with Preston North End.

Emery (pictured) only gets thrown bouquets, his hero status confirmed by his face at the centre of huge flag dropped from The Holte End moments before kick-off.

Villa were only three points off the relegation zone when Emery succeeded sacked Steven Gerrard in October 2022. The transformation has been remarkable.

When Villa were searching for Gerrard's replacement, Emery was on a four-man list with Ruben Amorim, now much-coveted at Sporting Lisbon, Mauricio Pochettino and Julen Lopetegui.

Emery, who had rejected Newcastle United at the 11th-hour, was particularly favoured by owner Nassef Sawiris, unmoved by his sacking at Arsenal. He was more impressed by Emery winning the Europa League three times with Sevilla and a fourth at Villarreal and his ability to fashion formidable teams. The Spaniard even reached the final in his supposed one full

season of struggle at Arsenal.

The feeling was that Emery was perhaps walking into a difficult situation at Emirates Stadium as successor to Arsene Wenger and that his record was not as bad in hindsight as others thought.

Pochettino was unlikely to come back into football with Villa at that stage but there were no doubts about Emery's pedigree and his suitability for Villa.

He is the driving force behind Villa's renewal, his imprint all over this win against Bayern, from the fierce defensive organisation to the midfield pressing and a winner on the counter attack, Duran lifting Pau Torres' long pass over the stranded Manuel Neuer.

Emery's shrewd strategy also unsettled Bayern, with a more direct approach targeting defender Dayot Upamecano with Ollie Watkins running in behind. He

was also aware of Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer's habit of playing as a sweeper keeper, which led directly to Duran's goal. The ploy worked to perfection.

Mention what Emery brings and one Villa insider told BBC Sport: “Attention to detail. An incredible work ethic. Down time does not exist as far as Unai is concerned. He is incredible and he is getting the rewards that work ethic deserves. He also respectful to everyone at the club and very popular.”

Emery arrives around 8am at Villa's Bodymoor Heath training HQ and staff using the gym at the centre are used to the sight of the manager arriving at 8.30pm after finishing at his desk, gathering details on his iPad while on the exercise bike before even making notes while using the rowing machine.

He turns to his laptop once the formalities of a game are completed, sitting at the front of Villa's coach focusing immediately on the next match, the next opponent.

He has brought 23 Spanish coaches into Bodymoor Heath, a sign of Villa's trust and investment in Emery, but he has ensured they have totally integrated with those already there in a calm and welcoming atmosphere. There is mutual respect from all at Bodymoor Heath, an environment fostered by Emery, whose English is said to be much better than some might expect.

Emery, who was joined by

long-time associate in Monchi, who was with him at Sevilla, as president of football operations while the appointment of the experienced Pako Ayestaran as his right-hand man was an ideal choice.

Ayestaran was Rafael Benitez's assistant when he enjoyed early success winning the Champions League and FA Cup at Liverpool. It was never quite the same at Anfield after he left, perhaps no coincidence as the 61-year-old is a personable and highly-respected figure with great knowledge of the Premier League and the game in general.

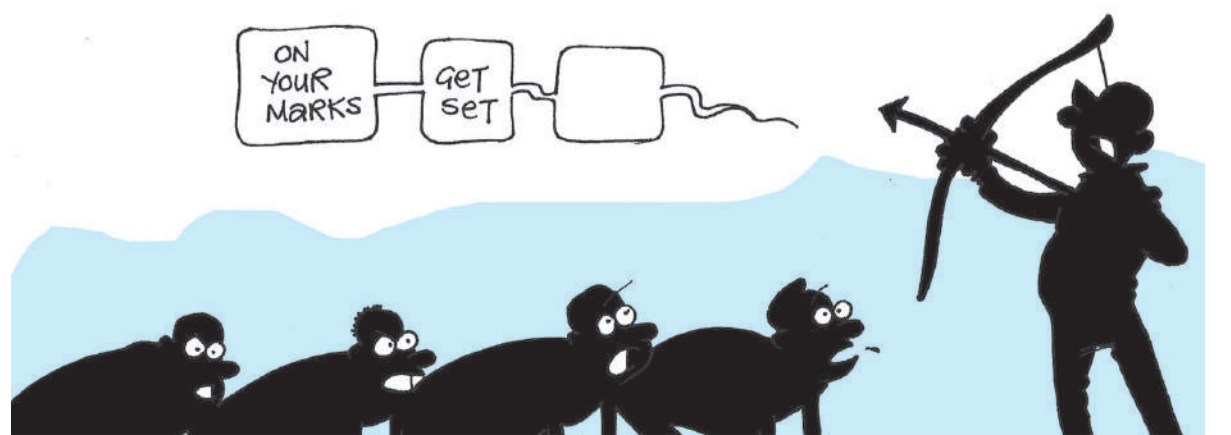
Emery, who also has the trusted Damian Vidagany at his side, was not afraid to keep members of Gerrard's staff, such as the outstanding set-piece coach Austin MacPhee, a workaholic in the mode of his manager.

He identifies quality and nurtures it, especially in players, who are helped by relentless and specific video analysis, with Ollie Watkins a particular beneficiary.

Emery is also getting the best out of the unpredictable maverick Duran, albeit as a substitute. He needs careful handling and the manager has proved adept in this area.

Since his first weekend in charge on 5 November 2022, Villa have the fifth most wins and fifth most home wins in the Premier League, with only Manchester City, Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal ahead of them.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Atletico Madrid stunned after its biggest loss in Europe since 2021: 'It was really bad'

PAGE 19

Singida Black Stars now aim to extend unbeaten run in Kigoma showdown

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars are set to take on Mashujaa FC in a pivotal Premier League away match today at the Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma, with kick-off scheduled for 4:00 PM EAT.

Both teams have demonstrated strong performances in the early stages of the season, making this a highly anticipated encounter.

Singida Black Stars enter the fixture as league leaders, with 13 points from five matches. Under the guidance of head coach Patrick Aussems, the team has secured four wins and one draw, building a solid foundation at the top of the table. Their balanced approach between offense and defense has been impressive, with eight goals scored and only three conceded.

Their campaign began with a 3-1 away victory over Ken Gold FC, followed by a 1-0 win against Kagera Sugar, a 2-1 triumph against KMC FC, and another 1-0 win over Pamba Jiji FC.

However, in their most recent fixture, they were held to a 1-1 draw by JKT Tanzania, leaving the team feeling they could have secured all three points.

Assistant coach Denis Kitambi reflected on the team's recent performances and shared his thoughts ahead of the Mashujaa FC clash.

"We've arrived safely here in Kigoma, and our preparations have gone well. It's true that we dropped points against JKT Tanzania, but our performance was strong. We need to make sure we convert our chances into goals," Kitambi emphasized.

He added: "The game against Mashujaa FC will be difficult. They are a solid team defensively, having only conceded two goals so far this season. We need to be at our best to break them down."

Mashujaa FC, currently sitting sixth in the Premier League standings, have been one of the most resilient teams in the league. With two wins and three draws from their five matches, they have accumulated nine points.

Their defense has been particularly impressive, conceding just two goals while scoring four.

The Kigoma-based side's unbeaten run in the league has been built on their ability to frustrate opponents with their solid defensive structure. Their most recent result, a hard-fought 0-0 draw, further underscores their defensive capabilities.

Today's matchup promises to be a battle between Singida Black Stars' attacking power and Mashujaa FC's defensive resilience. Singida Black Stars' ability to create and convert chances will be tested against one of the stingiest defenses in the league. To break through, Singida Black Stars will need to be clinical in front of goal.

For Mashujaa FC, the challenge will be not only to maintain their defensive solidity but also to capitalize on their attacking opportunities. Their attack has been somewhat limited, with just four goals in five games, but their knack for scoring at crucial moments has kept them competitive.

Both teams have tough fixtures ahead. Singida Black Stars will next face Namungo FC and Fountain Gate FC at home, followed by an away match against Azam FC. They will then return home to take on Coastal Union before traveling to play Tabora United.

Mashujaa FC's upcoming schedule is equally challenging. After today's match, they will host Ken Gold at Lake Tanganyika Stadium before facing league giants Simba SC. They will then take on Fountain Gate and Tabora United away, before hosting Namungo FC and Kagera Sugar.

As league leaders, Singida Black Stars will be eager to extend their unbeaten run and solidify their position at the top of the table. A victory today would further cement their status as title contenders, especially with a series of difficult matches looming.

For Mashujaa FC, maintaining their unbeaten record and earning points against the top-ranked Singida Black Stars would be a significant boost. They have quietly built a reputation as one of the hardest teams to break down, and another strong performance could see them climb higher in the standings.

Simba SC seek fifth consecutive win as Coastal Union eye turnaround



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC are set to take the field today in a much-anticipated Premier League clash against Coastal Union, with the match kicking off at 4:15 PM at the KMC Complex.

Riding high on a flawless start to the season, Simba are determined to claim their fifth straight league win.

Simba have been dominant in their recent encounters with Coastal Union, winning all of their last five matches against the Tanga-based team.

During these fixtures, Simba scored an impressive 13 goals while conceding only three, further showcasing their superiority over their opponents. This solid record is expected to give the Reds an extra boost of confidence as they step onto the pitch today.

Simba are targeting a fifth consecutive win in the Premier League, having already won their first four matches this season. Another three points today would be pivotal in maintaining their title chase.

The club's top priority is to win every match, making each game a crucial step toward their ultimate goal of reclaiming the league title. Coastal Union, currently struggling in the bottom half of the table, will need to produce a special performance to stop the in-

form Simba. Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, called on the club's fans to turn up in numbers at the KMC Complex to rally behind the team. "We urge our fans to show their support and create an electric atmo-

sphere to boost the players' morale," Ally stated.

Tickets for the match are available at TSh 20,000 for VIP sections, while regular tickets are priced at TSh 10,000.

Following today's match, the Premier League will pause to accommodate the FIFA international break. During this period, Tanzania's national team, the Taifa Stars, will be involved in back-to-back Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against DR Congo on October 10 and 15.

These fixtures will be pivotal in Tanzania's quest to secure a place in the next AFCON tournament.

Once the league resumes, Simba will face their biggest domestic rivals, Young Africans, in the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby on October 19. This clash is expected to be a crucial test for both teams in the race for the title.

After the derby, Simba's schedule will include matches against Tanzania Prisons, Mashujaa FC (away), JKT Tanzania, and KMC FC, as they continue their pursuit of domestic glory.

Coastal Union enter this match in a challenging position, having earned only four points from their first six matches of the season. This underwhelming start has left them in 13th place on the league table, with pressure mounting on the team to turn things around.

After their match against Simba, Coastal Union will face Dodoma Jiji FC and Kagera Sugar, followed by a tough home fixture against defending champions Young Africans.

They will then travel to face Singida Black Stars and Ken Gold in consecutive away matches, hoping to improve their fortunes and climb out of the lower ranks of the standings.

Today's game presents an opportunity for Coastal Union to test themselves against one of the league's top contenders. However, they will need to overcome Simba's impressive form and solid defense if they are to come away with a positive result.

As both teams prepare for the challenge ahead, all eyes will be on the KMC Complex to see whether Simba can continue their dominant run, or if Coastal Union can pull off a surprising upset.

Dauids anticipates defensive Coastal Union in Simba's pursuit of victory

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach, Fadlu Davids, has expressed confidence ahead of their Premier League encounter against Coastal Union at the KMC Complex today.

Despite Coastal Union's coach, Joseph Lazaro, hinting at a defensive strategy, Davids believes his team is well-prepared to face any challenge and extend their winning streak to five matches.

This will be the second meeting between Simba and Coastal Union this season, with the Msimbazi Reds emerging victorious in their first clash during the third-place playoff of the Community Shield.

Coastal Union, who have struggled for form this season, will be looking for their second win, while Simba aim to continue their dominant run.

In the previous encounter, Simba overcame Coastal Union's attacking style despite playing with 10 men after Fabrice Ngoma's red card.

Davids (pictured) anticipates a more defensive approach from Coastal Union this time, but he is confident his team is prepared to exploit transitions and break down their opponent's defense.

"Coastal Union have strengthened their squad and now play a more attacking style. However, their coach may employ defensive tactics against us," Davids explained.

"We're ready to counter their strategy, especially in transition moments. Coastal Union won't be able to maintain a defensive posture for the entire match, and we need to capitalize on our chances."

Davids emphasized the need for Simba to be clinical, citing missed

opportunities in their recent win over Dodoma City.

"We created numerous clear-cut chances, including an open-goal miss. Tomorrow, we must be sharper in front of goal to maintain our status as an elite attacking side," he added.

With a busy fixture list looming, Davids stressed the importance of squad rotation to keep his players fresh and avoid burnout.

"We have a demanding schedule, with three games per week starting in November. Balancing league commitments with the CAF Confederation Cup will require contributions from the entire squad," he said.

Simba will benefit from the return of key midfielders Mzimiru Yasin and Yusuph Kagoma, who are fit again and ready to compete for starting positions.

Their return will boost a squad already bolstered by Deborah Fernandez's excellent form and Ngoma's resurgence after a slow start to the season.

Simba recently signed Congolese winger Elie Mpanzu on a two-year contract. Although Mpanzu has been training with the team, he will only be eligible to play in the CAF Confederation Cup group stages and not in domestic league matches.

Simba are determined to secure three points against Coastal Union before heading into the international break.

Following the break, the team will shift focus to the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam Derby against archrivals Young Africans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on October 19.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

