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# Refugees, seekers of asylum to be verified

*This will also involve diplomatic consultations with neighboring countries on how the refugees will be repatriated and their staying here*

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will conduct a verification exercise for all refugees and asylum seekers after being found that some of them may have violated their status by posing a threat to the country's security.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan made this affirmation yesterday at an annual conference of top military commanders chaired by Gen. Jacob Mkunda, the chief of defence forces (CDF) noting that the verification exercise will enable moves to repatriate those whose reasons for seeking asylum are inapplicable.

The Head of State was responding to a statement by the CDF that the high number of refugees and asylum seekers poses a threat to the security of the country. "Refugees who entered the country through western regions from Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo were not taken to camps. They were taken to 73 villages in Kigoma Region, where they are living up to now," the CDF explained.

The army has information that some of the refugees' children and their families have been employed, others have been appointed to various decision-making positions in the government,

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Commander in Chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan shares a light moment with Tanzania People's Defence Forces officers in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after opening an annual meeting for Army commanders. Photo: State House

## SPORTS



**HEMED MOROCCO ADMITS LACK OF CONCENTRATION COST TAIFA STARS**

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**MOROCCO COACH ADMITS ON AFCON BLUNDERS AFTER DR CONGO DRAW**

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## ATCL cargo flights adding China route

*"If you see that now, don't think that the port authority is not working well, as there are more ships than was usually the case"*

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WITH increased demand for cargo transportation between China and Tanzania, the Boeing 767-300F cargo plane will soon start a

weekly flight to China.

Ladislau Matindi, the Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) director general, made this affirmation yesterday when speaking to a Chinese business delegation from Jiangsu Province, at a New

Year celebration in the city.

The company is in the final stages to obtain flight permission from China's regulatory authorities, thus promising that hauling cargo to and from China is about to start.

Cargo air freighting improves efforts at cargo

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In progress - as captured yesterday - is the clearing of mud that had accumulated and rendered the flood-prone Jangwani Valley stretch of Dar es Salaam's all-important Morogoro Road impassable since Friday owing to incessant heavy rain. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## EAC tax commissioners meet in Dar on policy, revenue law harmony

By Correspondent James Kandoya

EAST African states have been tasked to establish harmonised tax administration systems in the sub-region states to mitigate harmful tax competition in the region.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the 51st meeting of East African revenue authorities' commissioners, discussing 'harnessing regional synergy to optimize revenue for sustainable development.'

Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and hosts Tanzania are taking part, with this year's theme meant to foster competitiveness and ultimately contribute to the sustainability of public

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## UN hopeful of African Security Council seat

KAMPALA

THE five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agree that Africa merits due representation in the key UN organ, Secretary General Antonio Guterres has declared.

Addressed the third summit of the Group of 77 here on Sunday, he said that in recent declarations, public declarations, the permanent

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## Refugees, seekers of asylum to be verified

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he elaborated, noting that while Tanzania is safe, terrorism, faulty use of the internet and illegal immigration are emerging as security threats.

From January 2023 there were 138,149 asylum seekers welcomed in the country, he stated, affirming that it has come to notice that of them are employed and others even posted in government.

The meeting was aimed at sharing knowledge on emerging challenges between the high command and brigade commanders to ensure that the issues are addressed, while President Samia said the government will conduct a review of asylum seekers and refugees' status in the country with a view to repatriating ineligible individuals.

This will also involve diplomatic consultations with neighboring countries on how the refugees will be repatriated and their staying here, she said, underlining that TPDF is well spoken in the

region on the basis of what the army was doing in peacekeeping and other duties.

She called for the transformation and change in operations as the profile of the country's enemies had changed with the emerging use of science and technology.

Dr Stergomona Tax, the Defense and National Service minister, said that the support the army receives from the government has made this institution achieve various successes.

For many years Tanzania has sheltered many refugees, as since 1995 it has hosted more than four million refugees, higher than Great Lakes riparian states, along with taking an impartial position in seeking to restore stability in the region.

Tanzania is signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees, thus obliged to host people from a troubled country while individual refugees' status is being determined, she added.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (L) welcomes China's Deputy Prime Minister Liu Guozhong, shortly after the latter jetted into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport for a three-day official visit to Tanzania. Photo: DPMO

## EAC tax commissioners consult on policy, revenue law harmony

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finances and economic growth in the region.

The meeting is a vital platform for the member states to review tax laws and tax policy, she said, explaining that it examines systems of collecting tax and cross border trading among the member states.

She expressed expectations that the commissioners general will come up with suggestions on tax policy and laws to drive economic growth for the benefit of the sub-region, while John Musinguzi, the URA commissioner general, said the meeting was a platform to share experiences, synergy and shifts in technology.

He said smuggling is one of the big challenges facing the member states, so the platform will share experience on how to control it, within the wider problem of how to improve collecting of revenues, harnessing ideas on how to harmonise the laws.

Alphayo Kidata, the TRA commissioner general, said that the platform is vital for the welfare of EAC member states, with domestic resource mobilisation through modernized tax

administration systems being vital to supporting various spheres of the sustainable development agenda.

Sound tax policies are a great tool in ensuring effective uses of a country's resources along with closing loopholes in tax collection, he stated, affirming that EAC partner states

As the commissioners share experiences and challenges in tax administration in a highly digitalised business environment it is upon the tax authorities to choose the best policy direction to ensure that EAC region does not lose out in this area, he emphasised.

Digitization of business in cross border transactions is fairly allocated between jurisdictions, he said, noting that the theme of the meeting underscores the collective objective of establishing harmonized tax administration systems across the partner states.

TRA was glad about the commissioners' meeting as through this forum various tax measures and success stories in tax administration are put in place by revenue authorities, along with issues of broadening the tax base by adopting some of the tax measures, he added.

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airlifting using passenger planes for up to 15 tonnes per trip, while using the cargo plane attract more cargo freight businesses to seek the plane's facilities, he said.

ATCL will provide relief to Chinese businesses in those flights, where there will be 10 in one lump sum, with round trip fares being reduced, he said, urging the local Chinese business community to use the ATCL direct flights without connecting stations before arriving in China.

"When our plane leaves here in Dar es Salaam, it goes direct to China, it takes an average of 11 hours," he said, affirming that traders will save time, "and as you know time is money."

He officiated at a draw where seven

## ATCL cargo flights adding China route

traders from the Jiangsu business community got free round trip tickets to China using the ATCL plane, while Tony Lu Zhang, who heads the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania, said Chinese prospective investors had doubled in the past few years owing to an improved business environment.

The amount of cargo arriving at the port of Dar es Salaam has similarly doubled, which shows that the investment environment is attracting more and more people, he said, elaborating that those visiting the port will see ships lined up to unload cargo.

"If you see that now, don't think

that the port authority is not working well, as there are more ships than was usually the case," he stated, finding it normal that they have to wait for a longer time to unload their cargo.

The economy is growing and business is flourishing, he said, intimating that in the past cargo took 30 days to arrive after it is ordered, but now it can take up to 40 days as there are so many people who order cargo. This is evidence of sharp business growth, he said.

At the meeting, SACP Jumanne Muliro, commander of the Dar es Salaam special police zone, said the police force has worked hard to create a

safe environment to enable business people to carry out their activities calmly.

In the past it was common for traders, especially from China, to be attacked and looted of goods and money, but the police force initiated an extensive effort to deal with the criminals and ended such actions, by and large, he said.

Reflecting on collaboration between the Chinese business community and the police force, he said Chinese traders were once being attacked and the police zone vowed to stamp out this criminality, "and now you will not hear of them again."

## AU embarks on second phase of troop withdrawal from Somalia

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

The second phase of the African Union troop withdrawal from Somalia has begun, the bloc said yesterday.

The pull-out follows a timeline for the handover of security to the country's authorities, which are fighting al-Qaida's affiliate in East Africa – the Somalia-based al-Shabab.

Last year, the UN Security Council unanimously approved a new African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, known as ATMIS, to support the Somalis until their forces take full responsibility for the country's security at the end of 2024.

The mission is aiming to pull out at least 3,000 more troops by the end of the month, out of the originally 19,626-strong AU force. In the first phase, some 2,000 AU troops drawn from various member states left Somalia in June, handing over six forward operating bases.

On Sunday, the Burundian contingent handed over the Biyo Adde forward operating base in the south-central Hirshabelle state, near the capital of Mogadishu, to the Somali national army. Commander Lt. Col. Philip Butoyi commended the progress made by the Somali forces.

"We have witnessed developments on the battlefield where Somali Security Forces have demonstrated their increasing capability to secure the country. We have seen the forces attack, seize, and hold ground," the mission quoted Butoyi.

Somali army Maj. Muhudiin Ahmed, thanked the Burundian troops for putting their "lives on the line and shed blood to defend our land against the

enemy."

Under a UN resolution, the pull out will occur in three phases and completed by December 2024.

Somalia's government last year launched "total war" on the al-Qaida-linked terror group al-Shabab, which controls parts of rural central and southern Somalia and makes millions of dollars through "taxation" of residents and extortion of businesses.

Al-Shabab has for more than a decade carried out devastating attacks while exploiting clan divisions and extorting millions of dollars a year in its quest to impose an Islamic state. The current offensive was sparked in part by local communities and militias driven to the brink by al-Shabab's harsh taxation policies amid the country's worst drought on record.



**We have witnessed developments on the battlefield where Somali Security Forces have demonstrated their increasing capability to secure the country. We have seen the forces attack, seize, and hold ground**



Dr Joseph Mhagama (2nd-L), Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Administration, Constitution and Law, pictured in Dodoma yesterday speaking at a session called to analyse stakeholders' views on four bills tabled in the National Assembly in the city for first reading. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UN hopeful of African Security Council seat

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members were being favourable to at least one African permanent member.

He said that the United States is on record as having said so as well as the Russian Federation, China also being positive in this regard, along with the United Kingdom and France. "So for the first time, I'm hopeful that at least a partial reform of the UN Security Council could be possible," he stated.

He aired the view that it was time for this flagrant injustice to be corrected and for Africa to have at least one permanent member, affirming that it is not guaranteed, that there are many levers on which such a decision depends.

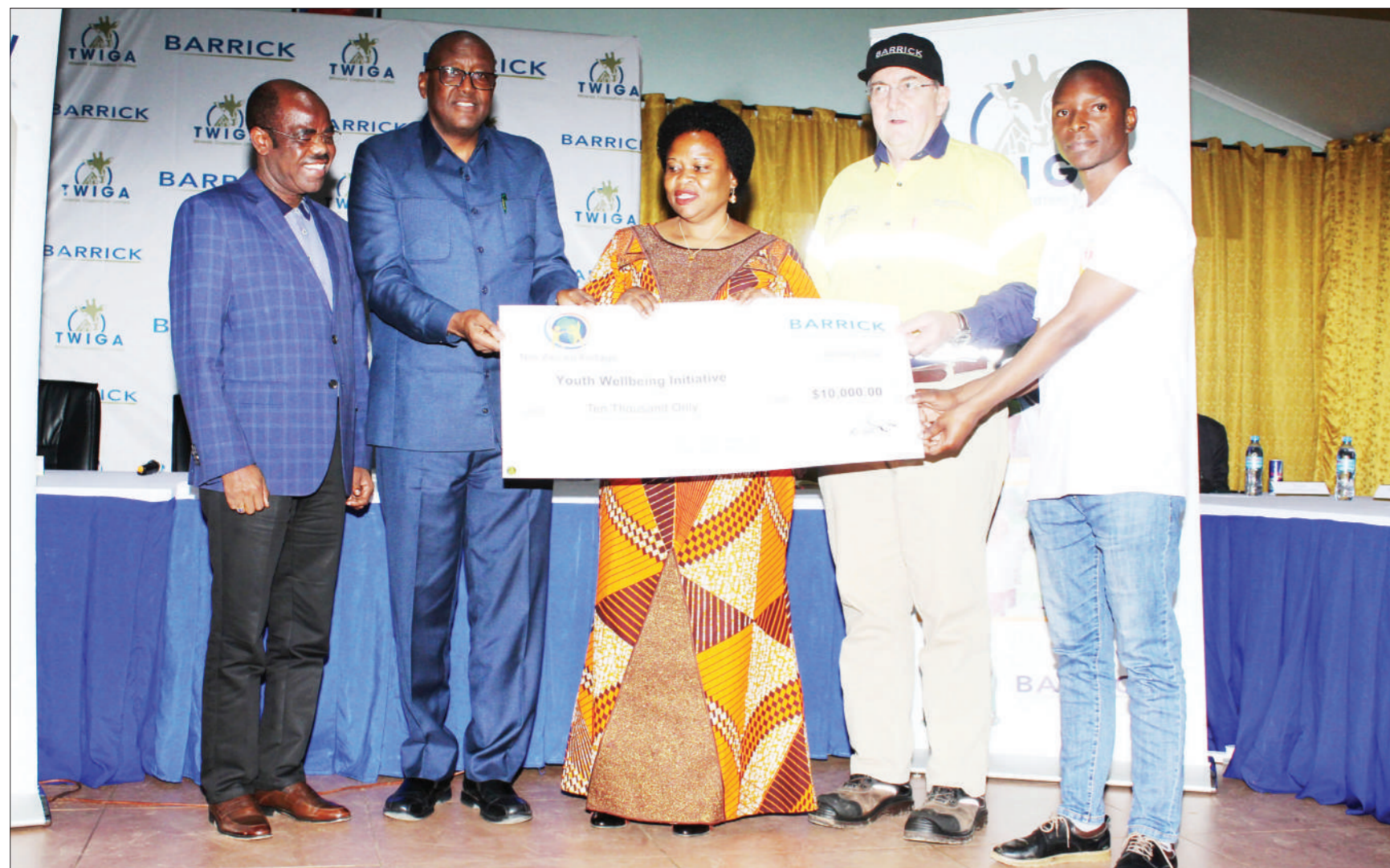
"It depends on the secretary general, on member states of the UN General Assembly," he said, affirming that still for the first time, "I think there are reasons to be hopeful."

Observers were asserting that the African Union seeks to secure two permanent seats, dating from the work of a committee of 10 set up in 2005 with the core mandate of canvassing support for one African position on reform of the Security Council.

He similarly discussed reforms of international institutions and frameworks, asserting that the United Nations Security Council is paralysed by

geopolitical divisions, and its composition does not reflect the reality of today's world. "It must be reformed," he emphasised.

The global financial system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, had failed to provide a global safety net for developing countries in distress, as it was created after the Second World War in a totally different global economic situation, the UN chief intoned.



Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kuruswa (2nd-L), Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme (C), and Barrick Gold Corp president and CEO Mark Bristow (2nd-R) pictured at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in Shinyanga Region on Sunday presenting a dummy cheque for USD10000 to Fungua Trust representative Ernest Mwamwaja (R). The trust oversees projects meant to help three schools in Nyang'hwale and Msalala districts. Left is Geita regional commissioner Martine Shigella. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Publicise our party's ideology, Nchimbi urges CCM members

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE ruling CCM secretary general, Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi has appealed to party members to publicise the party's ideology vigorously ahead of this year's local government elections.

Speaking during a home-coming meeting in Dodoma yesterday, the newly appointed SG argued that party members have the role of telling members of the public that what the government is doing is in line with party manifesto and ideologies.

He emphasized that members of any given political party are its 'main assets' in the drive for bringing the desired developmental changes, saying for the ruling party, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is the 'capital' in bringing development.

Dr Nchimbi encouraged party members to talk to their counterparts from other political divides, stating that it is not a sign of weakness but the moral obligation for all to participate in nation building.

He cited section 8(2) of the party's membership that outlines the role of party members, one of being strong and active participation in party building and promotion of its activities.

"All CCM members should continue talking about the party as we head to the 2024 local government elections and beyond" said Dr Nchimbi, expressing hope that the ruling party shall win by landslide margin in the election.

During the event held at the famous party headquarters in Dodoma, the SG received some members of the opposition Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA), who defected to the ruling party.

He used the opportunity to welcome other opposition politicians who are willing to join CCM to do so, saying the party is ready to accommodate them in the quest to bring development in the country.

"Talking to opposition politicians is not a bad thing, neither is it a weakness, but CCM sees it as an opportunity to engage opposition in nation building", he said.

According to the SG, party ideologies should not tear the country apart, adding that Tanzanians only need development. He called on all Tanzanians, political parties, development partners and other stakeholders to join forces in nation building.

Dr Nchimbi told the meeting that during his tenure as Tanzanian Ambassador to Egypt where he was in charge of six countries including Palestine, he experienced a lot and learnt that peace is paramount for any nation's development.

During the event, the diplomat was also 'crowned' as one of the 'Gogo' elders and named Mwaha Mtonyi, meaning a person with the ability to cause rain.

Earlier, Dodoma Regional CCM Chairperson, Adam Kimbisa, in his welcome remarks said the party has got the right person to steer the party towards coming political turbulence.

He said the region is geared for a big win in the coming elections as it has done in the past. "Dodoma is the home of CCM and has lived to this by not giving any parliamentary seat to the opposition" he said.

The three opposition leaders who left CHADEMA for CCM expressed satisfaction with what the current government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is doing.

Former Special Seats MP, Upendo Peneza, who served one term (2015-2020) in the parliament said currently, there is increasing democratic space, rule of law and strong drive for reconciliation in the country.

She described President Samia as a leader determined to transform the country and is doing so by touching people's lives directly. "My decision to join CCM never came overnight, it was a long thought prompted by what the president is doing," she said.

Peneza who has been in opposition politics for over 15 years yesterday announced the decision to ditch CHADEMA alongside former Manyara Youth Wing leader, Ben Andrew and former personal assistant to opposition leader in parliament, Onesphory Mboya.

## Zanzibar to increase revenue collections in next fiscal year

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government is set to collect 3.38trn/- by fiscal year 2024/2025, which is an increase of 548bn/-.

Dr Juma Malik Akil, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, unveiled this yesterday here when speaking at the economic and budget forum for local government authorities (LGAs).

The forum is themed: 'Budget plans reflect the expectations of all'.

Dr Akil explained that the government plans to collect 2.838trn/- by July,

this year, which is equivalent to 99 per cent.

He also revealed that the government anticipates receiving 829,000 tourists by fiscal year 2024/2025, from 638,000 in FY 2023/2024.

He said the accomplishment was attained because there was a great plan in place to increase taxes for organizations that were involved in revenue collection, such as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA), as well as for the tourism industry.

"Efforts taken by the government to

encourage compliance in paying taxes for businesses have helped increase government revenues," he said.

According to him, the government used the collected revenues to improve health service delivery, education and roads infrastructure.

Dr Akil also stated that the government anticipates stepping up collaboration with tax agencies to guarantee that the money earmarked for collection is received on time.

He also stated that the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries and other organizations now make more money,

and the government will keep promoting voluntary tax payments and bolstering the business climate.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the Office of the President, Finance, and Planning urged the organizations that collect revenue to effectively utilize the systems to reduce revenues loss.

Dr Saada said there are institutions that have not yet put systems in place and cause loss of income, asking forum participants to provide opinions and plans that will help the management of revenues in local governments.



### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TZ/ATE/2201/2024 GOVERNANCE

#### Mid-term Review of the NTD Sustainability Plan Consultancy TOR

##### Background

RTI International through Act | East program is supporting Tanzania Ministry of Health (MOH) through the National Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Program (NTDCP) to implement interventions towards control and elimination of Neglected Tropical diseases (NTD). Interventions include community and school mass drug administration, health promotion, advocacy, gender equity and social inclusion (GESI), diseases monitoring surveys, and health systems strengthening (HSS) interventions.

In line with the WHO NTD 2030 roadmap and the WHO sustainability framework and country strategies like HSSP-V and the NTD Master plan, NTDCP developed a five-year Sustainability Plan (2021-2026) to respond to sustainability challenges and identified by the government of Tanzania as stipulated in the plan itself.

The NTD Sustainability Plan serves as a roadmap for achieving NTD sustainability goals and establish multi-year milestones that can be incorporated into relevant sectors' policies and strategies. It is a living document that will be continually revised and updated as new information is learned and shared with national stakeholders. In this way the government will be able to re-direct efforts by setting new directions and approaches. The long-term goal is for the Tanzania government, implementing partners, and donors, to align their investments in sustaining Tanzania's NTD program with the aim of achieving program goals.

##### Purpose of Mid-term review of the Sustainability Plan

The purpose of the NTD Sustainability Plan 2021-2026 mid-term review is to measure progress made against each objective as stipulated in the plan, evaluate the strategy and sustainability priority actions to inform the government and all stakeholders on the next steps towards achieving 2026 sustainability goals.

##### Specific objectives

- To document up-to-date progress made in achieving the set objectives of the NTD Sustainability Plan.
- To identify success factors, challenges, and gaps during the implementation of the sustainability strategic objectives and indicators.
- To document lessons learned and provide strategic recommendations for sustainability actions' reprioritization in implementing the NTD Sustainability Plan in the remaining period (2024- 2026).

##### Scope for the midterm review of the NTD Sustainability Plan

To accomplish this consultancy, the consultant is expected to work closely with the HSS Advisors at RTI International (Act | East Program), HSS focal and NTDCP Program Manager at

NTDCP.

##### Qualifications

The consultancy should be led by an individual with competence in project/program formulation and evaluation and public health, and who has worked with infectious diseases prevention and control programs at policy and implementation levels. The consultant will assure to include relevant competent experts in the team to discharge the tasks at the highest professional standards. Essential skills, among other expertise and qualifications, should include:

- At least master's degree in public health, Public Policy, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research, Project Management, International Development, Statistics, or any other relevant field.
- Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field of infectious diseases prevention and control related issues.
- Knowledge and understanding of international and country-level implementation of neglected tropical diseases agenda.
- Excellent background and experiences in health systems strengthening, and sustainability, system thinking and primary health care model and multisectoral approach to health programming.
- At least 10 years professional work experience in the areas of program design, review, and evaluation, especially in infectious diseases prevention and control, health system strengthening and financing (especially domestic) in working with government, international and funding organizations.
- Demonstrable understanding of Sustainable Development Goals including health targets and indicators, and the WHO 2030 neglected tropical diseases road map.
- Proven understanding and experience in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs and social and behaviour change communication strategies.
- Extensive conceptual and methodological skills and experience in applying qualitative and quantitative research evaluation methods.
- Demonstrable experience of program formulation and review.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Application closing date: February 06, 2024

Please send your expression of interest to the address below USAID's Act to End NTDs | East Tanzania Program RTI International, Global Health Division 1131B Msasani Road, Masaki P.O. Box 369, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Email: [procurement@acteasttanzania.rti.org](mailto:procurement@acteasttanzania.rti.org)



TETRA TECH

## Job Opportunity

### Chief of Party for Tanzania Private Sector Strengthening Activity

Tetra Tech International Development (International Development Jobs - Tetra Tech) is currently accepting expressions of interest from qualified candidates for a Chief of Party position on the USAID-funded Tanzania Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA) program in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**Position Description:** The COP will be the principal point of contact in Tanzania for procedural and substantive matters and is ultimately responsible for all contract management and implementation. S/he will be the primary liaison with USAID/Tanzania on technical matters and must adjust activities and operations in response to USAID/Tanzania technical direction. The COP will also be responsible for ensuring quality control and the overall responsiveness of technical assistance provided under the award.

##### Responsibilities:

- Providing overall leadership, management, and general technical direction of the entire project
- Ensuring an integrated vision among different components and actors, and a focus on achieving the results defined in the project award
- Identify issues and risks related to project implementation in a timely manner and suggest appropriate adjustments

##### Qualifications:

- Master's degree in international development, business, organizational development, or other relevant field.
- Minimum ten (10) years of relevant, senior-level professional experience managing and implementing partnerships with the private sector to foster economic development
- At least five (5) years of demonstrated experience managing and supervising staff.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with the private sector, youth organizations/representatives, government officials, donors, and other stakeholders.
- Demonstrated, credible experience successful managing an activity of similar size and complexity and relevant technical scope, preferably a USAID-funded or other donor funded development activity

##### Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience working with the private sector in Tanzania to advance economic opportunities for youth and women highly desired.
- Professional proficiency in both spoken and written English

and Swahili

- Tanzanian nationals strongly encouraged to apply.

To be considered, please submit the following:

- Cover Letter
- CV

Apply on-line at: <https://tetratech.referrals.selectminds.com/intdev/jobs/chiefof-party-for-tanzania-private-sector-strengthening-activity-39639>

Please indicate where you saw Tetra Tech's IDS ad posted.

Please ensure that only the requested documents noted above are submitted. Only candidates who have been selected for an interview will be contacted. **No phone calls, please.**

Tetra Tech International Development is committed to safeguarding and technical excellence in equality and social inclusion. Our team of dedicated Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion (GYSI) advisers work closely with our staff and partners to share international norms and best practices to improve the livelihoods of the world's most marginalized groups. Tetra Tech International Development is especially interested in candidates that can contribute to our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives that aim to expand inclusion and an authentic sense of belonging to all our staff regardless of background.

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## 'Interest-free loans reached 12000 women in 6 regions'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 12,000 women entrepreneurs have benefited from interest-free loans from the World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS).

Haji Saheeb, WIPAHS founder in Tanzania made the affirmation over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when issuing loans to 105 women entrepreneurs from 12 groups in Dar es Salaam.

He said that the women benefited were from Handeni district in Tanga, Mafia in Coast, Tabora, Moshi district in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

He said for Dar es Salaam regional alone, WIPAHS has issued loans to 2,150 women entrepreneurs from 215 groups.

He said in this year's plan, the organization will issue between 60m/- and 80m/- loan to 600 women entrepreneurs.

According to him, the amount may increase depending on the demand up to 1000 women adding that commitment and faithfulness was very important.

"When women are empowered, they can do better and strengthening women is strengthening society. Therefore we believe women can use the loan efficiently, produce and repay the loan," he said.

Jamal Shao, secretary of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in Dar es Salaam called on the organization to start financially supporting teachers of madrasa.

He said once they are supported financially, they can easily and comfortably teach religion in their respective areas peacefully.

Shao added that the teachers must be arranged in groups before supported financially, adding that currently, no organization or institution has attempted to do so even once.

Ukhty Mariam Mtambo, chairperson of the Muslim Women Leaders Organization in Dar es Salaam, thanked WIPAHS for the financial support to the women entrepreneurs.

She called on women who received loans to use the fund for the intended goal and pay back the debts to avoid unnecessary disturbances and to increase faithfulness.

Mariam Mwapi, the beneficiaries of the loan thanked the organization for the support that uplifted their living standards.

Mariam said that through a free interest loan, she has procured three wheelers, furniture and paid school fees for students.

WIPAHS is an organization based in Dar es Salaam. It is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), started its activities in early 1985/86.

It has improved the living conditions of the indigenous community of Tanzania, which has been suffering from poverty, disease and illiteracy.

WIPAHS' impact can be seen by its vast number of projects which promote rural development through education, the access of water, economic sustainability and the enhancement of religious learning.

*"When women are empowered, they can do better and strengthening women is strengthening society. Therefore we believe women can use the loan efficiently, produce and repay the loan"*

## Antony Blinken opens African tour in Cape Verde

WASHINGTON DC

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken embarks on a week-long tour of Africa's west coast with the primary objective of sustaining US influence in the face of strong competition from Beijing and Moscow, coupled with escalating instability in the Sahel region.

Beginning his journey with a brief stopover in Cape Verde, Blinken's subsequent destinations include Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Angola.

This marks his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa in ten months, occurring amid the dominant international focus on the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Despite President Joe Biden's unfulfilled promise to visit Africa in 2023, Blinken's tour comes at a time of evolving political landscapes since his last visit to the region in March 2023.

Notably, political changes in Niger, where Blinken previously supported elected President Mohamed Bazoum, have occurred. Following a military coup that ousted Bazoum, the new regime is diversifying its partnerships, including strengthening ties with Moscow and ousting French soldiers.

Russia has expanded its influence in several French-speaking African countries, raising concerns about security in the Sahel, where jihadist groups continue to conduct attacks.

In response to the unstable Sahel situation, the United States is considering alternative locations for a drone base, emphasizing stability in coastal countries. Antony Blinken's West African visit aims to assist these countries comprehensively in strengthening their societies and combating the expanding terrorist threat in the Sahel.

Arriving in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where he plans to attend a decisive match in the African Cup of Nations (CAN), Blinken will commend the country's democratic consolidation since Alassane Ouattara came to power in 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire, bordering Mali and Burkina Faso, has successfully contained the jihadist threat, employing a multifaceted approach combining military responses with economic development.

The Biden administration's ten-year plan, announced last year, focuses on promoting stability and preventing conflict in coastal countries such as Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo, departing from a security-centric approach.

In Cape Verde, Blinken's initial stop, the United States has praised the democratic stability of the Portuguese-speaking archipelago.

The US has contributed around \$150 million through various programs, including the expansion of the capital's port, road improvements, and enhancements to the drinking water distribution system, with a third aid program currently under consideration.



Erick Msofe (R), acting health project manager with German development agency GIZ, is pictured at the weekend presenting ICT equipment to a representative of Korogwe Town Council's Majengo Hospital. The items are meant to improve record-keeping at the hospital. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI Town Council has urged parents and guardians to continue enrolling children who will start nursery this year before the deadline on March 31, this year.

Simon Mumbee, council's primary education officer made the advice over the weekend here when speaking to journalists on the enrollment status of the nursery pupils in the council.

He said that so far the council has enrolled 75 percent of pupils, which is about 4,027 pupils, since registration started last September.

"By January 19, this year we'd enrolled 75 percent," the education officer stressed.

According to the education policy of 2014, nursery pupils must be enrolled at the age

## Town council tells parents to continue enrolling nursery pupils before March

of five and must complete in a period of one year.

"At home, pre-education pupils are using native languages, so early education helps them socialize, and they learn the Swahili language," Mumbee added.

He also stated that legal action should be taken against a parent or guardian who chooses not to enroll the child who is eligible to do so.

Davis Gisuka, the Early Childhood Development Technical Advisor at the Children In Crossfire Organization (CIC) said that

kindergarten pupils should experience the stages of mental, emotional, physical, and linguistic development.

Gisuka said pre-education became official in 1995, and research indicates that education is the foundation for all further education levels. Without proper preparation, a child will not succeed in the future.

Rose Swai, a former Primary School teacher in the council said although they used to accept pupils younger than five, they no longer do.

The right to education for all children is

outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international agreements and declarations that mandate free and compulsory basic education for all children.

According to the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (PJT-MMMAM) for the years 2021/22-

2025/26, the curriculum of early education supports learning through games, and the government's 2016 education guide includes pre education.



Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) managing director Ladislaus Matindi (R) announces the name of one of seven members of the Chinese business community who had just won Air Tanzania return (Dar es Salaam/China/Dar es Salaam) tickets in a raffle held at a Jiangsu Province New Year celebration party in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## 18 killed when truck plunges into a ravine in south-western Congo

KINSHASA

A TRUCK driving at high speed ran out of control and plunged into a ravine in south-western Congo, killing 18 passengers on board and injuring more than a dozen others, police said.

The truck was "filled with goods and carrying many passengers" on a major highway in the remote Kasangulu territory in Kongo Central district on Sunday when it fell into the ravine, according to Kasangulu police commander Benjamin Banza.

"The bodies recovered from the ravine were transported to the morgue of the Kasangulu General Hospital, while the injured,

including six serious and 15 minor ones, are being treated at the hospital," Banza said late Sunday.

The truck was severely damaged and was yet to be recovered from the raven, Banza said, adding that speeding is suspected as the cause of the accident.

Speeding is a common cause of crashes along major roads in Congo, where traffic rules are often not adhered to.

Sunday's accident raised fresh concerns about road safety in the Kongo Central region, which regularly records such tragedies. Local authorities have promised to educate drivers and enforce traffic rules in response.



Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing heads of East African countries' revenue authorities at a meeting organised by the Tanzania Revenue Authority. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TGNP calls for equal access and distribution of resources

By Carlos Banda

THE Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) yesterday called on women in decision-making positions to ensure all groups within the society have equal access to resources.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP executive director, made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam on the side-lines of 10-day training dubbed: 'Towards Decolonial Feminist Leadership'.

To have real development we need to have a concept that advocates for equal distribution and access to resources for all groups in the society. When we speak about decolonizing feminist leadership, we mean the leadership forms that do not observe equality, human rights and focus solely on material things instead of cherishing humanity," she said.

Liundi said: "A kind of leadership that ensures that policies and budgets include the needs of special groups - women, youth and people with disabilities - and ensures the resources are made available and evenly distributed to address the needs of these people."

She said the training is being implemented in collaboration with a Canadian-based organization - Coady International Institute and the Canadian Embassy in Tanzania which have also been supporting a programme that aims to advocate for women's voice & their involvement in leadership for more than five years to date.

Liundi also highlighted that the training programme comprises participants from African countries like Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

She said that the training intends to exchange experiences and knowledge in order to decolonize feminist leadership in an effort to achieve gender equality and promote human rights.

"Many African countries are taking part in this programme representing their home countries, institutions,

civil society organizations, from Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Cameroon, Uganda and many more," she said.

She explained: "They have prepared themselves to discuss the status of the implementation of

Aisha Mshantu, the Director of Glaring Future Foundation, said the training programme is a life saver for people living with disabilities as it offers understanding and builds the capacity for people in special groups to be able to participate and contest for leadership positions in the local government elections slated for later this year and the upcoming general elections in 2025.

Anna Marwa, Gender and Women Empowerment Officer at PELUM Tanzania stated that she expects to see political parties' opportunities that will pave way for more women participation in decision making roles, highlighting that the program will create an understanding of women's leadership and equip the participants with the capacity to share knowledge on women's involvement during civic elections.

Eris Smith, programme manager, Women's Leadership and Active Citizenship at Coady International Institute complimented the joint execution of the program with TGNP while citing that, the training will help African women bring change and challenge the negative systems and structures that affect the society.

"We are really happy to offer this course with TGNP bringing together leaders from around the world to explore and unpack things that matter to them and unpack and challenge the negative systems and structures that affect our lives," he said.

Smith added: "The importance of this programme is to bring together people from all developing countries and many across Africa and ensure that different understandings of feminism, decolonialism, and women's leadership can be unpacked together and explored where we can build a common understanding and solidarity."

### LAGOS

## Lagos state in Nigeria bans single-use plastics

NIGERIA'S Lagos State has announced a ban on the usage and distribution of Styrofoam and other single-use plastics with immediate effect.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab announced over the weekend that the decision was reached, following the menace which the single-use plastics, especially the non-biodegradable Styrofoam, were causing on the environment.

He said most drainage channels

in the state were daily clogged up by Styrofoam through indiscriminate distribution and usage, despite the regular cleaning and evacuation of the drains.

Commissioner Wahab directed the State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), and the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), to immediately commence implementation of the ban.

He asked the two agencies to clamp down on all the production

companies and distribution outlets for Styrofoam in the state to prevent further distribution.

The commissioner advised producers, distributors, and end-users of Styrofoam packs to take the ban seriously and find alternatives or risk heavy fines, and other penalties, including sealing of their premises.

He warned that they could also be made to bear the costs of the daily clean-up of their products from roads and drainage channels which runs

into tens of millions of naira daily.

"Our state cannot be held hostage to the economic interests of a few wealthy business owners, compared to the millions of Lagosians suffering the consequences of indiscriminate dumping of single-use plastics and other types of waste," he stated.

He advised consumers and residents to boycott Styrofoam packs and single-use plastics and imbibe the practice of using reusable food containers and water bottles for their food and drinks.



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES IN TANZANIA REFERENCE NO. 000000455

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Services to be provided includes but are not limited to:

Recruitment Process: Candidate search and eligibility checks.

- Conduct a wide search for candidates who match job description provided by the project.
- Conducting assessments of the candidates through interviews and screening.
- Vetting of candidates' academic qualifications.
- Conducting background checks / character references.

Once selected the Service Provider shall be responsible for all management and handling of the Technical Assistance Staff including:

- Managing the interviews and onboarding of candidates including ensuring their compliance with onboarding rules and guidelines.
- Be responsible for all their needs including medical checks for fitness to work, availability, permits, and provide necessary onboarding documents.
- Manage and own onboarded candidates' Contracts, performance, leave, rotations, disciplinary actions, termination and off boarding.
- Be responsible for Candidates' expenses including payroll, travel, accommodation, and medical expenses.

While in execution of its assignments the external service provider shall:

- Demonstrate the highest profession standards and exercise all due care, skills, and competence in provision of the services to the satisfaction of the Project.
- Comply with all relevant national labour laws, other relevant national laws, EACOP policies and international best practices in oil and gas industry including standards on human rights and discrimination (gender, ethnic or tribal discrimination).
- Be able to replace any unfit personal/contractor assigned to the Project at the request of the Project.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Certificate of Incorporation and recent BRELA search (attach copy).
- Proof of registration with relevant authorities including Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) etc.
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available (attach copy).
- Proof of Business License.
- Proof of experience in providing similar services to related projects or companies including recommendation letters from three current clients.
- Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project including personal level of qualifications, experience, and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com), (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT)** on or before **21/02/2024**. Email object shall be: **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES EOI-000000455** (EOI-reference number mentioned in the header). Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

**Note:** The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGNING, AND ILLUSTRATION SERVICES. REFERENCE NO. 00000343

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in provision of layout, graphic designing, and illustration services to the (EACOP) project.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 296km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is seeking a qualified vendor to provide layout, graphic designing, and illustration services to the EACOP project. EACOP runs operations in eight (8) regions Tanga, Manyara, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora Shinyanga, Geita and Kagera which are regions crossed by the pipeline and other operations centers including Dar es Salaam.

The Vendor is expected to provide the following services:

- To Design and layout of various communication materials, including but not limited to, newsletters, brochures, flyers, posters, banners, social media and websites graphics.
- To Prepare concept development and design of various internal, external, and digital communication projects.
- To ensure creation of visually appealing and effective design are consistent with EACOP's brand guidelines and messaging.
- Develop design template and style guides for consistent and effective production of communication materials.
- To ensure collaboration with the communication team to ensure that designs are aligned with the company goals and objectives.
- To Coordinate with third-party vendors, including printers, to ensure that all materials are produced to the highest standards.
- Should Attend at meetings as required to discuss project progress and provide design updates.
- Should have a rigorous quality control process in place to ensure the graphics and designs meet EACOP standards and specifications.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of technical capacity such as equipment, facilities, and team composition.
- Proven experience of working in major projects with high demand of services offered.
- Certificate of Incorporation, current BRELA search and Business License
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Experience, performance, and capacity in delivering the Scope of Services outlined above in Tanzania, in compliance with national and international standards.
- Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project including personal certifications as necessary and level of qualifications, and experience and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com), (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT)** on or before **6th February 2024** Email object shall be: **00000343 Provision of layout, graphic designing, and illustration services**. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

**Note:** EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.

## Tanzania to participate in this year's Mining Indaba

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is expected to take part for the maiden time in the continental top mining conference, Mining Indaba, a prestigious economic event scheduled for next month in South Africa.

The Mining Indaba conference is one of the largest conferences, bringing together about 900 investors, 40 sectoral institutions, and approximately 1000 executives from large companies.

The event, shelved to take shape from February 5th to 8th 2024 in Cape Town, serves as a crucial podium to help build and strengthen relationships and business networks in the mining sector among the participating countries.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry of Minerals, the event provided a unique opportunity to seek investors, capital, technology, partnership, trade, exchanging experiences, and learning about the sustainable management and development of the mining industry in Africa.

Tanzania will participate under the theme: "Advancing mining investment to accelerate prosperity."

The theme is consistent with the government's efforts to improve geological understanding of the country by encouraging increased mineral exploration and mining.

Currently, the government has launched Vision 2030, which aims to facilitate more geoscientific surveys to uncover the country's mineral potential.

In the conference, Tanzania will majorly focus on promoting investment opportunities in the mining sector, including exploration, extraction and value-added activities.

At the conference, Tanzania is projected to have an opportunity to meet various potential stakeholders from various countries, which is an important development for promoting the country's investment and business opportunities in the mining industry.

The mining sector participation in Mining Indaba is another opportunity to solidify its role in contributing to economic growth of the country.

Several mining firms have so far chipped in and roll out financial support to ensure the country participate fruitfully and comfortably in the event, these include Barrick Gold, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Tembo Nickel, Shanta Gold, TRX Gold, Mantra Tanzania, Petra Diamond, Orica, City Engineering and AUMS.



**The mining sector participation in Mining Indaba is another opportunity to solidify its role in contributing to economic growth of the country**

## EU's internal struggles amid Red Sea tensions

BRUSSELS

THE recent tensions in the Red Sea have highlighted the challenges facing the European Union (EU) in achieving a unified stance on Middle East policies, particularly in response to the US-led naval coalition against Houthi attacks.

Eugenio Lopez, a Spanish economist, sheds light on the divisions among EU member states, emphasizing the difficulty of establishing a cohesive Western approach to the situation.

The United States' proposal for an international maritime coalition to safeguard shipping lines from Iranian-backed Houthi attacks has not garnered unanimous support within the EU. While the U.S. and Britain have shown solidarity in this operation, Spain, along with other EU members like Italy and France, has maintained a cautious and non-committal position.

Spain's decision not to join the Washington-led Operation Prosperity Guardian against the Houthis has remained firm, even in the face of increased pressure from the U.S. The Spanish government, led by Defense Minister Margarita Robles, has made it clear that it will not participate militarily in the Red Sea. Despite the U.S. and British strikes on the Houthis, the European Union suggested that member states conduct military operations in the region, but Spain, along with some fellow EU countries, has refrained from endorsing such actions.

Lopez points to the inherent challenge of achieving unity within the EU due to the diverse political systems and diplomatic strategies of its 27 member states. He emphasizes that EU countries are cautious about putting themselves under the control of American military forces, and their varied positions underscore the complexities of forming a cohesive foreign policy in the Middle East.

The instability in the Red Sea is not only a matter of geopolitical concern but also holds economic implications. Spanish media reports suggest that the crisis could pose a risk to Spain and Europe's economy, with estimates indicating potential losses of up to 135 billion euros in commercial exchanges between Spain and Asia. The escalating tensions have led to increased shipping costs, impacting Asia-Europe maritime trade. The conflict has forced cargo ships to bypass the Suez Canal and take a longer route south to the Cape of Good Hope, resulting in double the time and cost for maritime trade.

Lopez argues that the recent U.S. and British strikes have intensified the conflict and disrupted global maritime trade further, emphasizing the need for a careful and calculated approach to navigate these complex geopolitical and economic challenges.



Tanzanian anaesthetists from Dar es Salaam-based Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) and their counterparts from Zambia's National Heart Hospital line themselves up to admit a child for heart surgery at the just-ended three-and-a-half-day health camp held in Lusaka. The event was facilitated by Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli-based international non-profit organisation with the mission of improving the quality of cardiac care for children. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Emanuel Ngonele

A GROUP of Tanzanian female peacekeepers in the Central African Republic under the United Nations Security Council (MINUSCA) has started empowering war victims with various entrepreneurial skills and get rid of gender-based violence (GBV).

The war victims include women and children who are the most victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The group involves peacekeepers who are in the seventh Tanzanian Contingent (TANZBAT 07) visited various areas in CAR—the country that has been affected by the civil war.

## Peacekeepers equip war victims in CAR with entrepreneurial skills

Speaking from Ndjima Tasteu Village located in Berberati, Head of Gender Division at TANZBAT 07 Major Lilian Laizer said their visits aimed at improving the welfare of the communities especially women and children who have been victims of the vice by training various entrepreneurship skills and providing various humanitarian aids—medical services, clean and safe water.

She said another major issue was child

protection and civil security at large saying the UN has made a deliberate effort to ensure that women in areas of conflict and war are protected from sexual exploitation and abuse together with serving children who are used as fighters in various rebel groups.

"The units establish units that attend gender issues in all groups that participate in peacekeeping operations in the world,"

she said.

She said the UN has increased the number of women in peacekeeping from one per cent in 1993 to 34 per cent in 2023 adding that female leadership is said to be more concerned with the community and emphasis on their presence in peacekeeping operations help to reduce community tension in potential explosive situation.



Frank Mahimbali, a Judge with the Shinyanga Zone of the High Court of Tanzania, briefs journalists in Shinyanga yesterday on the upcoming (Jan 24 to 30) nationwide Law Week celebrations to be held at regional level at the municipality's Fire Station grounds. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Cameroon starts world-first malaria mass vaccine rollout

YAOUNDÉ

THE world's first routine vaccine programme against malaria has started in Cameroon, in a move projected to save thousands of children's lives across Africa.

The symbolic first jab was given to a baby girl named Daniella at a health facility near Yaoundé on Monday.

Every year 600,000 people die of malaria in Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Children under five make up at least 80 percent of those deaths. Cameroon is offering the RTS,S vaccine free of charge to

all infants up to the age of six months old. Patients require a total of four doses.

The jab is known to be effective in at least 36 percent of cases, according to US researchers, meaning it could save over one in three lives.

While the rollout is undoubtedly a relief and a life-saver, its relatively low efficacy rate means that it is not a "silver bullet," argues Willis Akhwale at End Malaria Council Kenya.

But for medics it is an important "additional tool" in the fight against malaria, says Cameroonian doctor Shalom Ndoula who helped to lead the rollout in

his country.

"We have a capacity to considerably reduce the number of cases and deaths from malaria and accelerate the elimination of the disease," he said.

Development of the RTS,S vaccine has taken 30 years of research by the British drug-maker GSK.

The World Health Organization, which approved the vaccine, hailed the launch in Cameroon as a historic moment in the global fight against the mosquito-borne disease. It comes after successful pilot campaigns in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi.

Twenty other countries aim to roll out

the programme this year, according to the global vaccine alliance, Gavi. Among them are Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone.

The WHO says Cameroon records about six million malaria cases every year, with 4,000 deaths in health facilities - most of them children below five.

Six-month-old children in 42 districts with the greatest rates of morbidity and mortality will receive four doses until the age of two.

In 2021, Africa accounted for 95 percent of malaria cases globally and about 96 percent of related deaths.

## AfDB appoints new ICT director

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank has appointed Dr Oluwatomisin Adeola Fashina as Senior Director, Information Technology and Chief Information Technology Officer, effective 16th January 2024.

A Nigerian national, Fashina brings to the role over 30 years of experience in technology and financial services management. He joins the African Development Bank from Ecobank Group where he has been group executive for Operations and Technology and managing director for eProcess International since March 2021.

In that role, Fashina exercised responsibility for operations and technology functions, including information technology, customer experience, information security and business continuity management, cyber security, procurements and fintechs across 34 Ecobank affiliates. He oversaw the design and implementation of digital transformation, customer experience transformation, robotic process automation and artificial intelligence projects, among others.

Fashina joined Ecobank Group in 2016 as group chief information officer and managing director for eProcess International, overseeing overall technology functions in the Group and delivering on its digital strategy and ensuring technology service delivery to end customers. He was also instrumental in the setting up of the Ecobank Software Center to manage software development, integration and driving innovation.

Prior to joining Ecobank, Dr Fashina was chairperson of Steward Bank in Harare, Zimbabwe from 2013 through 2016; by 2015, he had successfully turned the Bank from loss- to profit-making.

Prior, Fashina held leadership roles with ABSA Bank as general manager and head of transactional banking products and channels management. He has also been director for Cash Management and Payments at Barclays Bank Emerging Markets in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as well as director for Client Delivery and division head for Electronic Banking and Implementation, both for Sub-Saharan Africa, with CitiGroup South Africa.

Dr Fashina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer

Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, a Master of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and a PhD in Business Management from Capella University, in Minnesota in the U.S.

Of his appointment, Fashina said: "I am grateful to President Adesina for his confidence and the opportunity to lead the Information Technology Department and its talented staff. I am also humbled and at the same time excited to be given the chance to lead the Bank's efforts of ensuring world-class service enhancement with the overarching mandate of combining operational resilience with building and implementing an outstanding technology strategy in order to achieve a sustained advantage for the Bank."

Commenting on the appointment, African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina said: "I am pleased to appoint Dr Oluwatomisin Adeola Fashina as senior director for Information Technology and chief information technology officer. Dr Fashina is a strategic leader with world-class expertise in information technology, banking operations and systems thinking. I am confident that at this time when the Bank is currently in the process of a major systems transformation, his sound track record of driving organizational success through the deployment of modern technologies and motivating teams for top performance will be a key asset in the continuous improvement of the Bank's information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure."



**I am grateful to President Adesina for his confidence and the opportunity to lead the Information Technology Department and its talented staff**



Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, Riziki Pembe Juma (L), has a word at the weekend with elders accommodated at Sebleni Centre in Zanzibar's Unguja Urban District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## IRC says Africa's humanitarian crisis risks escalating amid civil strife, climate change

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE humanitarian crisis affecting several African countries is unlikely to subside amid climate disasters and armed conflicts that have escalated on the continent, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an international charity, has said.

George Readings, IRC director of the global crisis said Africa remains an epicentre of the climate crisis and civil strife that have worsened the fragility of nation-states, destroying livelihoods of civilians and worsening poverty.

"The climate crisis and armed conflicts are intersecting in Africa," Readings told journalists in Nairobi, adding that eight out of ten countries

in the IRC's 2024 Emergency Watch List are in Africa.

According to Readings, climate change has fueled resource-based conflicts in Africa while elevated debt levels, governance lapses and unconstitutional changes of governments threaten the continent's long-term stability and growth. He added that armed groups have surged in countries grappling with a dire humanitarian situation even as external support dwindles amid competing priorities from multilateral donors.

The IRC's 2024 Emergency Watch List provides a comprehensive assessment of the 20 countries across the globe at greatest risk of new

humanitarian emergencies. Despite accounting for about 10 percent of the world's population, these WatchList countries, the majority in Africa, represent 86 percent of all civilians facing humanitarian needs globally.

In addition, these countries represent about 70 percent of displaced persons and those grappling with worrying levels of food insecurity and abject poverty.

Joyce Mogane, the IRC deputy regional director for East Africa, noted that as civil strife and climate disasters escalate, civilians can hardly access basic services like clean water, sanitation and health.

Mogane said that Horn of African countries affected by conflict and

extreme weather events have limited capacity to address high levels of malnutrition and communicable diseases including cholera. She emphasized that home-grown conflict resolution initiatives coupled with increased adaptation financing will be key to tame the humanitarian crisis affecting some Horn of African nations.

Linda Ogallo, the climate information services expert at the Nairobi-based Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), stressed that investing in early warning and resilience programs could minimize resource-based conflicts in the region.

## Burundian farmers celebrate great yields attributed to AfDB support

BUJUMBURA

BURUNDIAN farmers told visiting government officials and African Development Bank (AfDB) representatives that they are delighted with the year's great yields thanks to the hybrid, climate-resilient seeds and multi-strand support that has been provided by the Bank.

Several cooperative members expressed their satisfaction. Marie-Thérèse Nahabaganwa, chair of the Tsindinzara (Combating Hunger in Kirundi) cooperative that works 200 hectares in the Muhara and Kagera-Ruhohera valleys, reported that her cooperative received from six tonnes of hybrid maize seeds, agricultural inputs and technical support. She expects a yield of 800 tonnes of maize, or 4 tonnes per hectare. "We owe all these exceptional yields to the efforts of our local government combined with support from projects financed by the African Development Bank," said Nahabaganwa.

Other cooperative members also benefited. Willy Nduricimpa, a member of the cooperative, was particularly appreciative of the awareness sessions that had been held on land release. "We didn't initially think that we'd be able to make a profit by pooling our portions of land. But now we feel more than satisfied because, well, my share of the harvest will be 500 kilogrammes, unlike before when I barely harvested 50 kilos of maize."

Nduricimpa went on to say that he would use part of his harvest to feed his family and would sell another part to increase his heads of livestock.

"We have come to congratulate you on agreeing to pool your land," said Emmanuel Niyungeko, Permanent Secretary of the Burundian Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and

Livestock. The harvest you have just made is totally in line with the government's vision of increasing agricultural production so that every mouth has food, and every pocket has money." Niyungeko paid tribute to the cooperative's members, who had followed the advice of the agricultural advisers and pooled their land.

The ministerial secretary, project managers and the African Development Bank visited the provinces of Kayanza and Kirundo from 2-5 January 2024 to see the results of projects funded by the Bank and observed the maize harvest in projects that had provided seeds.

To strengthen Burundi's food security and nutrition, the African Development Bank has set up the Burundian Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains Sustainable Development Support Project and the Emergency Agricultural Production Project in Burundi.

In August 2023, under the second of these projects, 571 tonnes of selected hybrid maize seeds were provided to 195,000 households belonging to cooperatives in 14 provinces of the country including Kayanza and Kirundo. In addition to the technical support that has greatly revolutionized the agricultural sector in this northern region, the project has also developed marshlands for farmers.

In July 2022, the Bank granted Burundi \$5.4 million to fund the Emergency Agricultural Production Project launched as part of the African Emergency Food Production Facility set up by the Bank to avert a food crisis in Africa due to Russia's war in Ukraine. With its provision of \$1.5 billion, the Facility provided agricultural seeds - wheat, rice, maize, soybeans - to 20 million African farmers to produce an additional 38 million tonnes of food in two years.



This visibly crude way of transporting chickens would likely have attracted all manner of displeasure in the good old days of the Tanzania Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) and other crusaders for the ethical treatment and other rights of animals. Roving correspondent Jumanne Juma of The Guardian captured this scene at Wahama village in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, late last week.

## Castle Wind farm components reach South Africa

CAPE TOWN

GOLDWIND turbines for the 89 MW Castle wind farm being developed by African Clean Energy Developments (ACED) have arrived in South Africa. The units have been recently unloaded at the Coega port in the Eastern Cape.

Castle Wind Farm will supply wind energy to Sibanye-Stillwater through a long-term PPA and wheeling

arrangement with Eskom Holdings SOC. The project is located near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province and is due to commence operations in the first half of 2025.

Sibanye-Stillwater's head of Energy and Decarbonisation, Jevon Martin said, "Sibanye-Stillwater celebrates the momentous arrival of the first wind turbines for the Castle Wind Farm, a significant step in our journey towards carbon neutrality. This

milestone reinforces our commitment to sustainable energy solutions and environmental stewardship."

It is only one of three private wind farms in South Africa to have reached financial close. This occurred in May 2023.

Castle Wind Farm will consist of 16 Goldwind 6 MW turbines, and ADENCO is responsible for the Electrical Balance of Plant, while CSV Construction is responsible for the

Civil Balance of Plant.

ACED said it has facilitated the acquisition of the development from Juwi Group, conducted late-stage development and all procurement, and took the project to financial close. The company is currently providing construction management services, and its sister company, EIMS Africa, will provide asset management services after the Commercial Operation Date.

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## Removal of soybeans import barriers a right step for trade

**I**N an instance pointing to the thawing of what threatened to become a simmering trade dispute, the Tanzanian government has lifted a ban on the importation of soybeans from our next-door neighbour Malawi.

This is going by remarks by the CEO of the Arusha-based Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to the effect that the regulator has cleared soybean imports from Malawi after it was satisfied with results of thorough tests performed on samples from the crop.

Unlike another trade tiff resolved last week, this time there was genuine fear for viral crop diseases - only that laboratory tests confirmed that the fear was exaggerated.

As happened, the two governments did not come to the fore to restrain their respective regulatory authorities about the measures.

Still, Malawi had earlier okayed maize consignments from Tanzania to cross border points onward to market outlets in Lilongwe, which has itself resulted from TPHPA having restricted consignments of maize and soybeans from Malawi in the wake of rumours of a viral disease attacking the crops in the neighbouring country.

One such dread was identified as the 'tobacco ringspot virus' that could threaten beans and other grains if it passed into Tanzania via such import.

So, when TPHPA moved to stop such imports, most roadside observers felt it was a reaction to a genuine threat, which is unravelling with penultimate laboratory tests pointing to the contrary.

That is why there are clearly some unclear data from regulatory authorities or their media teams as to why in both countries there prevailed fear that there was a problem with the crop on the opposite side of the territorial boundary.

Were these rumours just manufactured to disturb the trade atmosphere and raise the price of maize in the importing country, where some wholesalers would laugh all the way to their banks?

The two countries are long-standing members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC),

which doesn't appear to have a crop trade coordinating unit, where threats of viral infections can be reported and checked - instead of making do with wild claims hinted to the media as a technical finding.

There were contrasting sources for the rumours and justifications for the steps taken, with the Agricultural Research Services department of the Malawian agro-sector ministry having previously raised a sort of alert over what was described as a lethal virus-based blackening of maize.

The department was speaking of the crop disease as threatening maize yields in the southern African country - but without actually stating that there was a general problem across the region with regard to maize and soybeans.

Had the reports been true, they could have justified having Malawi maize barred from entering Tanzania until after thorough checks. But Tanzania maize, which would ordinarily still be allowed into Malawi, was restricted on the strength of the same reports. A third party was apparently cornering the market.

Thus when Tanzania went ahead and banned the importation of soybeans and maize seeds from Malawi ostensibly to protect itself from crop diseases and infections, it was acting from affirmations of a ministerial agency.

When Malawi sort of retaliated, it was acting on a different note and soon its commissioner for disaster management waived the maize import ban. So, it was a little easier for TPHPA to check a bit closely the health of the soybean crop.

Standing adamant on the maize import ban would have hiked inflation with respect to the basic staple, and few governments would relish that kind of situation.

Some were saying that 4.4 million Malawi residents would suffer from a maize flour import ban, an obviously serious matter. With that, the decision by Nkata Bay customs authorities to stop imports of 40 tonnes of maize died off - to much relief to both countries, one would presume.

## These rains serve as crucial reminders on the need for greater disaster preparedness

**M**ANAGERS for the Dar es Salaam zone of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) will have no excuse not to carry out urgent repairs of roads and bridges damaged by relentless heavy rains.

This is what the agency's CEO has directed, and the government might not need to step in yet, if the work is indeed conducted day and night.

If it looks like things will be done in a hurry, it will also be vital to check on both the standard of the work and the quotations in respect of pricing, as emergency is a situation where some people may seek to land some form of fortune.

Top Tarura officials were at the weekend inspecting a number of damaged roads and bridges in various parts of the city and its environs seriously damaged or in fact swept away by floods following the unseasonable downpours.

Without doubt, there will be other such infrastructure within and without the city environs calling for immediate attention.

In the circumstances, all ears and eyes will likely be directed at the agency's head offices rather than the regional branches. It is from that vantage point that all supplies or coordination of supplies will be expected.

This is basically what the public authorities are expected to do, with city residents affected by the floods seeking support from relatives - at least for now.

There are, meanwhile, appeals to the government to extend urgent support to scores of people whose residences and business premises floodwaters have literally reduced to ruins.

In a trademark quip, a top administrator has noted that people living in or near naturally flood-prone valleys

had defaulted on heeding decades of relocation pleas by the government and alerts by weather prediction agencies.

But the fact remains that we are witnessing tragic moments - a period of disaster - and we need immediate action to forestall worse times.

Take the case of Kiburugwa in Temeke District's sprawling Mbagala suburb, where occupants of well over 10 houses which collapsed are without shelter.

One of the residents in question has related to journalists reporting on the situation that they have lived "peacefully" in that place for over 20 years, "but this year's rains are uncharacteristically heavy and have descended on us with unprecedented vengeance".

More generally, there have more troubles than meets the eye - for instance, seeing numerous families fighting off raging floodwaters and then trying to see whether sleep would be forthcoming. By the time they woke up, or were woken up, they discovered that things had grown much worse.

Many were unsure of what little in their houses remained intact after most of their earthly belongings were swept away by floodwaters.

Even worse, many faced a hard time seeking to go out for their usual economic activities, as many streets and roads were already rendered impassable. With this, even the ability to engage in income-generating activities has been severely impaired: nowhere to sell things and strained markets if everyone is tied up with losses and how to overcome that situation.

Tragic, indeed - and appropriate remedial and other interventions are badly needed. We would surely benefit from light-hearted quips lighting up our otherwise dull or sad days, but those shouldn't come NOW.



By Bron Maher

## How publishers should respond to a deluge of news industry cyberattacks

**F**OR its 2023 report on the state of ransomware, cybersecurity service Sophos asked 138 IT (info tech) leaders at media and entertainment businesses whether they had been hit by a ransom attack in the previous year. Almost 100 respondents, or 70 per cent of the total, said they had.

Dire as that sounds, this represented a modest improvement: in the 2022 report, 79 per cent of the 392 media staff questioned admitted to being attacked - a higher rate than for any other industry.

The little-noticed onslaught on news businesses became very public in late 2022 after a hack of The Guardian (UK) forced it to close its offices for weeks as it rebuilt its IT infrastructure. Outside the news industry, ransomware attacks have also been in the headlines with the British Library hit in October (2023), leaving users unable to access its online catalogue for months and killing its website for weeks.

Cyberattacks on the news industry appear to be getting more frequent: in 2015, another survey of news publishers found 52 per cent had been hacked or had suffered a data breach in the prior year.

Rob Hesmondhalgh, chief technology and security officer at publisher software as a service provider Lineup Systems, told Press Gazette that cyberattacks on the news industry are "terrifyingly common".

Hesmondhalgh can speak from experience: one of his clients, Norway's Amedia, suffered a catastrophic cyberattack in 2021 that prevented it from printing its 78 local newspapers - some of them for as long as a week.

"That was enormous," he said, adding: "That impacts you whilst it is happening. It also impacts you going forward because people move away from you as a news source and they don't all come back."

George Glass, senior vice president for cyber risk at advisory firm Kroll, agreed that cyberattacks on publishers are happening all the time.

"Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks from hacktivists, phishing against journalists, and the frequent exploitation of vulnerabilities within the extensive digital footprint of most media organisations happen daily, often hundreds of times per day," he told Press Gazette.

But just what do cyberattacks on the news industry look like? The Guardian has said its 2022 hack was most likely the result of a phishing attack - a type of cyberattack in which someone is tricked into providing sensitive credentials or clicking a link or attachment that contains malware.

Phrased differently, phishing is a

type of social engineering attack often used to steal user data, including login credentials and credit card numbers. It occurs when an attacker, masquerading as a trusted entity, dupes a victim into opening an email, instant message, or text message.

In The Guardian's case, parts of its system were hijacked by ransomware - malware that seizes data and encrypts it until the perpetrator is paid off, usually in cryptocurrency.

Guardian News and Media said bank details, salaries and passport numbers of staff were compromised, and blamed the hack for delays in payments to its freelancers.

Morgan Wright, chief security advisor at cybersecurity business Sentinel One, said the media come under attack because of "the position they hold in society".

He told Press Gazette: "From nation-state actors and activists to terrorist groups and transnational criminal groups, the media are one of the few entities that are a common target for bad actors..."

Wright elaborated: "Depending on the motivation, the attacks could be retribution for a perceived slight, testing of new tactics and techniques or an active measures campaign, that is, a targeted attack designed to incorrectly assign attribution to another group."

News site archives are used daily by people around the world for everything from double-checking claims on social media and settling pub arguments to providing the sources on which Wikipedia is based. They're also integral to the journalistic process itself, with reporters taught to check their publication's clippings before embarking on writing a story. But hacks can put editorial systems at risk.

Christiaan Beek, senior director for threat analytics at cybersecurity platform vendor Rapid7, said the slew of elections due around the world this year makes the media "a prime target for nation-state actors looking to spread misinformation or enact revenge when they are shone in a negative light".

Hesmondhalgh said he thinks attacks on publishers' editorial archives are already occurring and are either going unnoticed or undisclosed: "Being able to change the truth can be much more valuable than being able to steal some money."

It would not take many such hacks to have an effect, he added: "If you say 'people tried to hack our HR system, and they've got away with people's bank details', that's bad... But if you're a news provider and you say 'people

tried to hack our editorial system' - you're no longer trusted."

Kroll's Glass echoed that sentiment, saying that misinformation at a media organisation after a compromise "can have far-reaching consequences, eroding trust in the media and disrupting the flow of accurate information, which is crucial for an informed society".

But other cybersecurity experts said this was not a significant likelihood, with one who asked to remain anonymous suggesting that such hacks would be a lot of effort for an unclear payoff.

What is the economic logic of extorting cash-strapped news organisations, though? There are financial motives too: Glass said that "for financially motivated attackers, disrupting a news network, especially if the attack impacts broadcast or publishing operations, creates significant pressure for the victims to pay the ransom and generates visibility for the attacker group, a secondary but essential benefit for criminals."

"However, several other attractive factors make media organisations a valuable target. Journalists are valuable intelligence sources. Uncovering a journalist's sources would be advantageous in various whistleblowing cases, M&A (mergers and acquisitions) activity and overall influence operations."

Even leaving aside the more unique qualities of the media, publishers can make for a lucrative target. Matt Dowson, a cybersecurity commercial lead at cloud computing business Iomart, said: "It's worth just taking a step back and looking at how valuable a dataset could be in a media organisation."

"That could be anything from internal employees - so all of the data supporting their HR system - for example, names, addresses, telephone numbers, passport details and work permits. That's all valuable on the dark web. If you take a slice of that, it can be resold."

The news industry's extensive digital supply chains offer would-be attackers multiple routes in, and the fact that many media organisations are financially lean may have made it more likely, not less, to be attacked.

Lineup's Hesmondhalgh said high-value industries like banking and insurance "have invested heavily for many, many years in security, for very obvious reasons."

He elaborated: "The consequences for them of failing in their security - not just in terms of embarrassment

to the business or disruption to the business but also in terms of regulatory fines, sanctions, et cetera - are huge. So they have invested continuously for a long time and probably driven forward the IT industry in that sense."

"The media industry has not really seen itself as being under that kind of threat for a long time. And it's fairly recent, it's the last two years, that they're waking up to that and taking it seriously."

He recommended that successive rounds of cuts at publishers have likely left IT departments understaffed, because for news outlets "it's not their core function. When it's come around to cost savings or efficiency savings, it's one of those things that have tended to get hit. And therefore I think we are starting from a position of a bit of weakness."

The 2023 Sophos report into the state of ransomware found that the media, leisure and entertainment sector "had the highest percentage of attacks where the root cause was an exploited vulnerability", at 55 per cent.

What can news publishers do to protect themselves from cyberattacks? Press Gazette asked the experts what news publishers should do to minimise their risk, keeping in mind that major spending would be difficult for many.

Sentinel One's Wright said: "Stick to the basics to start. View all inbound emails with links as suspect. Be very cautious about sharing personal information on social media, as that is used to social engineer access through the answering of security questions."

All software should be kept up to date, he said, and all accounts should use multi-factor authentication and pass phrases or complex passwords. Those credentials should never be reused in more than one place.

"Even though budgets are always a consideration, imagine what it would cost to recover from an attack as opposed to preventing one in the first place," he added.

"Organisations never seem to find the time and money to do it right, but when an incident happens, they seem to find enough time and money to do it over. The price for the latter is usually ten to 20 times the former."

Hesmondhalgh added that "training and education are absolutely essential", noting that everyone in his company, including him, is routinely targeted with an in-house spear phishing - a phishing attack tailored to an individual - to test them.

\* A WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) Executive News Service dispatch.



NEW DELHI

# Decoding China: Beijing all out to have more influence across Africa

CHINA'S interest and influence continue to grow in countries across Africa. Beijing buys political support and access to raw materials with major infrastructure investments.

For 34 years, the first foreign trip of the year has always taken the Chinese foreign minister to Africa.

This week, Wang Yi visited Egypt, Tunisia, Togo and Ivory Coast before traveling on to South America. In addition to the crisis in the Middle East, his agenda included economic cooperation and civil society exchange.

Africa is playing an increasingly important role for China, which is hungry for energy and raw materials.

After World War II, communist China cultivated intensive cooperation with African countries. Beijing fraternized and positioned itself as a spokesperson for these underdeveloped countries, which later would become part of what is now called the "Global South."

Since reform and opening up began in China 45 years ago, Africa has always been a reliable supplier of natural resources.

In return, China invests in infrastructure and social services such as education and healthcare.

In the 1970s, for example, China financed the 1,860-kilometre (1,100-mile) railroad line between the Tanzanian port city of Dar es Salaam and Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia.

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), also called the Uhuru Railway, runs through the most important copper mining region in Africa. China thus receives copper from Zambia via a rail network that it built itself. Numerous other infrastructure projects followed this pattern.

**Win-win, but not without self-interest**

China has different normative principles, said Philipp Gieg, an international relations expert at Germany's University of Würzburg.

Gieg said China does not dictate what Africa should do, but that Chinese aid is based on Beijing's motives.

"It is openly stated as such. When China talks about 'win-win,' it means win for Africa, but also win for China," Gieg said.

Shortly after Taiwan's presidential elections, which the China-critical candidate William Lai Ching-te won, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang found political solidarity on his trip to Africa. Beijing considers Taiwan to be Chinese territory, which one day will be "reunited" with the mainland.

"Togo supports the reunification of China," said Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbe. "There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an integral part of China," said Alassane Ouattara, president of Ivory Coast.

Beijing's strategy for Taiwan includes isolating the self-ruled island on the international stage. For example, only 11 countries have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

**Creating dependence**

Economic cooperation with Africa is being intensified as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a keystone of Chinese foreign policy that provides loans for big infrastructure projects in developing countries.

A summit meeting between the Chinese and African leaders, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), is held every three years, most recently in Senegal in 2021.

In a video message at the time, Xi said that Sino-African relations were exemplary among the international community because "both sides have forged an indestructible fraternal friendship in the fight against imperialism and colonialism."

The Chinese-African friendship today is based on reciprocity, said Mari-



THE Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) connects Tanzania's ports with raw materials in Zambia. Photo: Courtesy of DW.

na Rudyak, a Sinologist at the Institute for East Asian Studies at the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

"African countries receive support from China in the form of investment, trade and development aid. And in return, China receives political support in correlations between financial flows and the voting behavior of African states in the United Nations when it comes to issues that are relevant to China," she said.

According to a study by Germany's Friedrich Naumann Foundation, China has constructed or refurbished over 15

parliament buildings in Africa. This has provided the opportunity for China to access cross-party legislative elites through long-term maintenance of these parliament buildings.

"China has emerged as a critical player in (re)shaping domestic political institutions in Africa. It is clear that China is also interested in building up political capital," said Rudyak.

However, China rejects such criticism and accuses the West of imposing political conditionality on development aid such as good governance, the promotion of democracy

and human rights.

"China believes that none of this is what Africa needs," she added.

However, the African countries themselves do not see any competition between China and the West. China builds roads, and the West brings other goods, said Rudyak. And Africa takes what it needs.

DW

## Why Ethiopia's quest for Red Sea access has sparked regional controversy

By A Special Correspondent

EARLY this week, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed hosted Muse Bihi Abdi, President of the breakaway region of Somaliland, in the capital Addis Ababa.

The two leaders signed a memorandum of understanding for Ethiopia to lease a 20-kilometre (12-mile) stretch of coastal land in Somaliland, giving the landlocked nation crucial access to the Red Sea through the port of Berbera.

In return, according to various reports, Somaliland will get shares in Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopia's flag carrier, and possibly formal recognition of its sovereignty, something that has remained elusive since the former British protectorate declared independence from Somalia in 1991.

As expected, Somalia has lashed out at the agreement, terming it a violation of its sovereignty and recalling its ambassador from Ethiopia.

Mogadishu has drawn support from major regional and international players, including the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), European Union (EU) and Türkiye.

**Ethiopia has 'right to access Red Sea'**

Ethiopia lost its Red Sea ports in the early 1990s after the Eritrean War of Independence, which ran from 1961 to 1991, when Eritrea gained independence.

According to foreign policy analyst Midamba Noah, Ethiopia does have "a right to access the Red Sea, but they are going about it the wrong way."

"Ethiopia needs access to the sea. They cannot afford to be landlocked the way they are. It is a very strong state militarily and economically," said Noah, the former vice chancellor of KCA University in Kenya's capital Nairobi.

"These things have to be nego-

tiated. War will not resolve these issues."

The strategic significance of Ethiopia having access to the Red Sea "cannot be overstated," he said.

"The area not only serves as a vital gateway for Ethiopia to boost its trade capabilities, but also marks a crucial step towards reducing the nation's dependency on other countries for maritime transit," he explained.

"The Red Sea, with its potential for increased economic opportunities, positions Ethiopia at the crossroads of regional trade dynamics, fostering self-reliance and bolstering the nation's economic resilience."

Patrick Maluki, an expert on international relations, pointed out that Ethiopia has so far not officially recognized Somaliland as a sovereign state.

According to him, Somaliland should have sought consent from Mogadishu before signing the deal.

"This, right now, is not recognition. Somaliland should get into discussions with Somalia to determine what rights it can exercise within the confederation of Somaliland and Somalia," he stated.

"Taking Somaliland back to the situation of chaos that we have seen over the years will not be fair."

**'Regional dominoes tumble'**

Regarding Somalia's strong reaction, Hassan Khannenje, director of the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, said it reflects "the complex dynamics of regional diplomacy."

This shows that there is a "need for constructive dialogue to address mutual interests and ensure enduring stability in the Horn of Africa," he said.

Egypt, a crucial player in the region due to its Nile River interests, has thrown its weight behind Somalia, pledging security and stability assistance.

Experts warn that could have serious geopolitical implications, putting Egypt at loggerheads with Ethiopia, a fellow Nile Basin na-



tion with whom it has cooperated on water resource management, as well as far-reaching consequences for diplomatic relations and water politics in the Horn of Africa.

"As regional dominoes tumble in the Horn of Africa, the alignment of Egypt with Somalia marks a significant turning point in the delicate balance of power," said Noah.

"This geopolitical shift, fuelled by divergent interests in the Nile River, not only amplifies tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia, but also sets the stage for a complex interplay of alliances that could reshape the entire regional landscape."

The analyst cautioned that in the face of escalat-

ing tensions and potential conflicts, there could be a looming risk of more humanitarian crises.

This could result in disruptions to trade, widespread displacement, and other cascading consequences stemming from the prevailing instability, he added.

**Future uncertain, diplomacy crucial**

All the experts warned that the Red Sea access deal has ignited a tinderbox, calling on Somalia and Ethiopia to focus on strategic diplomacy to avoid plunging the Horn of Africa into a new cycle of violence.

"This can become an external war which will affect the greater Horn of Africa," said Noah.

"If I was Ethiopia right now, I would actively engage

with IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), African Union, and an emissary from the East African Community, like Kenya, and get dialogue going."

Maluki warned that "failure to address concerns diplomatically may lead to strained relationships among neighbouring nations and key regional partners."

"In this delicate situation, the future is uncertain, making diplomacy crucial to navigate potential challenges and maintain regional stability," he stressed.

The analyst also warned of "grave economic consequences" for Ethiopia, saying that the situation could affect its critical trade relations and economic partnerships.

# US plan to revamp Palestinian Authority is doomed to fail

By Samer Jaber

FOR two months now, the United States and other Western countries, backing Israel, have been talking about 'the day after' in Gaza.

They have rejected Israeli assertions that the Israeli army will remain in control of the Strip and pointed to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as their preferred political actor to take over governance once the war is over.

In so doing, the US and its allies have paid little regard to what the Palestinian people want. The current leadership of the PA lost the last democratic elections held in the occupied Palestinian territory in 2006 to Hamas and since then, it has steadily lost popularity.

In a recent public opinion poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR), some 90 percent of respondents were in favour of the resignation of PA President Mahmoud Abbas, and 60 percent called for the dismantling of the PA itself.

Washington is undoubtedly aware of the low public trust in the PA, but there is a reason why it insists on supporting its takeover of Gaza: its leadership has been a reliable partner for decades in maintaining a status quo in the interests of Israel.

The US would like that arrangement to continue, so its backing for the PA may be accompanied by an attempt to revamp it in order to solve its legitimacy problem. But even if this effort succeeds, it is unlikely the new iteration of the PA would be sustainable.

A reliable partner

Perhaps one of the main factors that has convinced the US that the PA is a "good choice" for post-war governance in Gaza is its anti-Hamas stance and willingness to conduct security coordination with Israel.

Since the commencement of the conflict between Israel and Gaza on October 7, the PA and its leadership have not issued an official statement offering explicit political support for the Palestinian resistance. Their rhetoric has predominantly focused on condemning and disapproving of attacks on civilians on both sides, while also rejecting the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland.

In a political address on the ninth day of the war, Abbas criticised Hamas, asserting that their actions did not represent the Palestinian people. He emphasised that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and underscored the importance of peaceful resistance as the only legitimate means to oppose Israeli occupation. This statement was later retracted by his office.

In December, Hussein al-Sheikh, a PA official and secretary-general of the executive committee of the PLO, also criticised Hamas in an interview with Reuters. He suggested its armed resistance "method and approach" has failed and led to many casualties among the civilian population.

The stance of the PA is consistent with its own narrow political and economic interests which have come at the expense of the Palestinian national

cause. It has systematically and brutally stamped out any opposition and any support for other factions, including Hamas, in order to maintain its rule over West Bank cities while Israel continues with its brutal occupation and dispossession of the Palestinian people.

In Israel's war on Gaza in 2008-2009, the PA leadership hoped to regain administrative control of Gaza with assistance from Israel. During that conflict, the PA prohibited any activities in the West Bank in support of Gaza and threatened to arrest participants. I, myself, faced harassment and the threat of arrest for attempting to join a demonstration against the war. Similar positions were adopted by the PA, albeit with less aggressive measures, in subsequent Israeli assaults on Gaza, as its leadership came to recognise that Hamas was unlikely to relinquish its control over the Strip.

Since October 7, the PA has taken a bolder stance, marked by more aggressive actions. Its security forces have suppressed demonstrations and marches held in support of Gaza, resorting to shooting live ammunition at participants. Additionally, the PA has recently detained individuals expressing support for the Palestinian resistance.

While cracking down on Palestinian protests, the PA has done nothing to protect its people from attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian communities, which have resulted in deaths, injuries and the displacement of hundreds of people in the occupied West Bank. Additionally, the Israeli army has intensified its raids in the PA-administered areas, leading to the arrest of thousands and the killing of hundreds of Palestinians, with no reaction from the PA.

The PA's inability to offer basic protection has added to the deterioration of its legitimacy among Palestinians. Furthermore, by taking a stance against the Palestinian resistance and aligning itself with Israel and the US, the PA is only further undermining its own legitimacy.

Washington is aware of the growing unpopularity of the PA and its leadership among Palestinians but it is not giving up on it because it seems to believe that that can be fixed. That is because the US has tried to revamp the authority before as it has always faced problems with legitimacy due to the way it was set up.

As a governing institution, the PA was established to bring an end to the first Intifada. Conceived under the interim peace agreements in Oslo, it was envisioned as an administrative body to oversee civil affairs for Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and certain parts of the West Bank, excluding occupied East Jerusalem.

It effectively took on a role as an Israeli security contractor in exchange for certain benefits related to administering Palestinian population centres. The PA faithfully fulfilled its mandate, carrying out routine arrests and surveillance of Palestinian individuals, whether they were involved in actions against Israel or were activists opposing its corrupt practices.

Thus, Israel strategically benefitted from the establishment of the PA, but the same cannot be said for the Pales-



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on January 10, 2024 (Reuters/Evelyn Hockstein)

tinian people, as they continued to experience the ravages of a military occupation.

Despite this, the PA under Yasser Arafat - or what we can call PA 1.0 - leveraged patronage and corruption to maintain some level of support. Notably, Arafat viewed the Oslo process as an interim measure, expecting a fully independent Palestinian state by 2000.

He pragmatically engaged in security collaboration with Israel, hoping to build trust and ultimately achieve peaceful coexistence. In 1996, responding to on-going Palestinian resistance, he even declared a "war on terror" and convened a security summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, involving Israel, Egypt and the US.

In 2000, the civil and security arrangements overseen by the PA became increasingly fragile and eventually collapsed, triggering the eruption of the second Intifada.

This uprising was a response to Israel's policies of settlement expansion, its firm refusal to accept any form of Palestinian sovereignty between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, and broader social and economic grievances. In 2002, the Bush administration conceived the idea of refurbishing the PA as part of the Road map for peace. While Arafat's leadership was perceived as a hindering factor, he had already collaborated with the US by implementing structural reforms, including the creation of a prime minister's position.

Seeking to reshape the Palestinian leadership, the US engaged with potential alternative leaders, including Mahmoud Abbas, who eventually assumed the presidency of the PA in 2005 after the suspicious death of Arafat.

The PA took its first blow when Hamas won the elections in 2006 and was able to form a government. The US and EU rejected the results, boycotted the government and suspended financial assistance to the PA, while Israel halted the transfer of tax revenues.

Meanwhile, the PA security apparatus leadership refused to deal with the Hamas government and continued their work as usual, claiming they reported to the PA president's office.

For several months, Hamas struggled to maintain its PA government, while Abbas and his supporters made significant efforts to isolate it. In 2007, Hamas took over the PA

security apparatus in the Gaza Strip and assumed control of all PA institutions. Abbas declared Hamas an unwanted entity in the West Bank and ordered the expulsion of the Hamas government and the imprisonment of many Hamas operatives.

After splitting the PA into two entities, one in the Gaza Strip and another in the West Bank, Abbas, along with allies Mohammed Dahlan and Salam Fayyad, led efforts to restructure the PA in the West Bank with full support from the US and the EU.

Under what we can call PA 2.0, two major restructuring efforts took place. First, it consolidated the Palestinian security apparatus under a united command. Led by US Army General Keith Dayton, the revamping of the Palestinian security forces aimed at deepening their partnership with the Israeli state and army.

Additionally, it sought to cultivate a vested interest among PA personnel in maintaining the role of the PA. Second, the restructuring of the PA consolidated its budget, placing all its resources under the Ministry of Finance.

This restructuring did not result in a "better" PA. It remained a dysfunctional entity, which mismanaged resources and service provision, leading to a severe deterioration in living standards for the majority of Palestinians.

Its leadership enjoyed certain privileges due to its security coordination with Israel and engaged in widespread corruption practices that have raised concerns even among PA supporters. Meanwhile, Israel's settlement enterprises continued expanding without limits and the violence employed by the Israeli army and settlers against ordinary Palestinians only worsened.

The lack of support for the PA leadership and its dysfunction have raised concerns about whether it can play a role in the upcoming post-Gaza war arrangements that the US administration is trying to put together.

That is why Washington has signalled it will seek to revamp the PA once again - into PA 3.0 - with the aim of addressing the needs of various parties. The US administration and its allies seek an authority that can provide security to Israel and engage in a peace process without altering the status quo.

Since the start of the war, several US envoys have visited Ramallah carrying the same message: that the PA needs to

be revamped. In December US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Abbas and al-Sheikh (the PLO secretary general) urging them to "bring new blood" into the government. Al-Sheikh is considered a possible successor to Abbas, who could be part of these efforts to restructure the PA.

However, after more than 100 days since the start of the Israeli war on Gaza, it looks like Washington does not have a concrete plan and only has some general ideas which the PA has declared a readiness to discuss. More importantly, the US vision does not seem to take into account the will of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian public clearly demands a leadership that can head a democratic, national entity capable of fulfilling the Palestinian national aspirations, including creating an independent state and realising the Palestinians' right of return to their homelands.

Revamping the PA implies intensifying cooperation with Israel and providing Israeli settlers with more security, which effectively means more insecurity and dispossession for the Palestinians. As a result, the Palestinian people will continue to perceive the PA as illegitimate and public anger, upheaval and resistance will continue to grow.

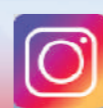
In this sense, the US vision for revamping the PA would fail because it would not address the core issues of Israeli occupation and apartheid, which successive American administrations have systematically and purposefully ignored.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAVYO 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

# 'Women, peace, security in Africa a catalyst for change'

VICENZA,

AFRICA boasts the second largest land mass and population among continents as well as the youngest median age in the world at under 19 years on average. With seven coups over the last three years, the battle for power over African people has made international headlines. Among the more positive groups vying for legitimacy and prominence: women.

Recent joint military efforts highlight Africa's commitment to empowering females, and the pursuit of peace and security throughout Africa is not only a strategic US objective, but one shared by numerous partner nations.

US Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF) works with military leadership, and specifically women in leadership positions, throughout the continent of Africa to address conflict and instability. This is part of an on-going peace building effort under the umbrella of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiative.

"This initiative acknowledges that sustainable peace requires the full and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making," said US Army Maj. Teisha B. Barnes, a civil affairs officer with Civil Military Operations (G39, CMO), SETAF-AF.

Barnes emphasized the interconnectedness of security and gender equality, indicating that security is not just about mitigating threats.

"It's about creating conditions for sustainable peace," Barnes said. "To reach these objectives, we've begun to incorporate WPS into all of our training exercises such as African Lion, Justified Accord and Southern Accord."

SETAF-AF's first exercise of the year, Justified Accord, kicks off Feb. 26, 2024, throughout multiple locations in Kenya and exercise planners confirmed WPS will be a focal point during the staff officer academics portion.

"Kenya is truly a valued partner to the U.S. and incorporating WPS initiatives into the exercise was strongly supported by both nations" said Forrest McKinley, exercises contractor (G7), focused on Justified Accord.

Kenya's National Action Plan on WPS provides a roadmap for integrating gender perspectives into peace and security efforts within the Kenyan government, military and civil sectors. This includes ensuring women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery processes.

These policies permeate throughout the Kenya Defence Forces, with numerous women leading soldiers, sailors and aviators in every occupational specialty. Additionally, the same military leadership courses are available to both men and women in all Kenyan branches of the military.

By providing women with access to quality military education, the nation is investing in a future where women are equipped with the skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to peace building efforts.

Barnes highlighted the transformative power of education. "Recently, we conducted the first ever WPS course held at SETAF-AF, taught by joint staff instructors," she said. "The goal of the course was to ensure that the gender perspective is included in all planning factors from human resources to civil military considerations."

The WPS course, titled "Operationalizing WPS 101," was held in December at SETAF-AF headquarters in Vicenza, Italy.

"The course was a continuation of work I have been involved in throughout my career," said class participant Brenadine Humphrey, digital media specialist, public affairs office, SETAF-AF. "We know including women's perspectives increases the chances for sustainable reconciliation and peace in communities."

Humphrey shared that while there has been progress in increasing awareness of women's issues, one of the main dilemmas today is how to put lessons learned into sustainable practice.

"The instructors challenged us to practically apply our newfound knowledge in our own planning efforts, to look for ways we can create an action plan to ensure we are looking at WPS holistically throughout our organizations," she said. "I hope we do more of these courses, both internally and with our partners."

Barnes, one of the course instructors, agreed, and emphasized that African solutions should come from African-led efforts.

To that end, SETAF-AF is also working with Zambia to build an all-encompassing WPS program in Africa with Zambia as the lead. To accomplish this goal, multinational collaboration is critical, including partnerships with the US military.

In Sept. 2023, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin travelled to Africa to meet with Djiboutian, Somali and Kenyan counterparts in support of security agreements, pledging \$100 million in support of Kenyan security deployments.

"It is important to note that through all of the WPS initiatives, I also learn more effective ways to include the gender perspective," said Barnes. "This initiative is fostered through the exchange of concepts across the globe. Every perspective helps to further create a holistic program."

The involvement of the US military in WPS efforts reflects a recognition of the strategic importance of gender-inclusive approaches to regional stability. This collaboration extends beyond traditional security measures, incorporating a broader understanding of security that encompasses social, economic and political dimensions.

In conflict-affected areas, women-led initiatives contribute to community cohesion, conflict resolution and sustainable development.

For instance, at last year's multinational exercise Justified Accord, female soldiers were involved in all planning and execution of a two-day medical civic action program (MED-CAP). At two separate clinics, female civil affairs officers teamed with Kenyan counterparts to provide healthcare to over 750 patients in hard-to-reach locations.

Although the MEDCAP was not WPS-led, it demonstrates how WPS efforts continue to evolve in Africa, with the commitment to empower women remaining central to building lasting peace.

As collaborative efforts between nations and communities continue, Africa has the potential to become a model for gender-inclusive strategies that not only address immediate security concerns but also pave the way for a more equitable and resilient future.

"This is definitely a win-win partnership," concluded Barnes. "Yes, we invest time, money and energy. But we learn and gain just as much from our host nation partners."



**The course was a continuation of work I have been involved in throughout my career," said class participant Brenadine Humphrey, digital media specialist, public affairs office, SETAF-AF**



Representatives of 12 countries listen during a discussion with the United Nations Gender in Peace Support Operations course at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
(EWURA)

## TRANSFER VACANCIES

*The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) is an independent, world-class regulatory authority responsible for licensing, tariff regulation, and quality of service regulation of the electricity, water, petroleum, and Natural gas sectors. EWURA has the following vacancies for which suitably qualified Public Servants who wish to be transferred to EWURA are invited to apply.*

- ### 1. PETROLEUM DIVISION

**Post Title:** Engineer II - Petroleum Inspection (3 Post)  
**Duty Station:** EWURA Offices  
**Reports to:** Technical Manager-Petroleum

Engineer II - Petroleum Inspection will be responsible for compliance inspection of the petroleum products and facilities.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

  - To participate in field inspections of petroleum products and facilities including pipelines to establish conformity with standards;
  - To provide technical inputs in the preparation of regulatory tools for petroleum infrastructure including petroleum pipelines;
  - To conduct a preliminary review of license applications;
  - To collect, analyze and prepare reports on the licensing performance trends;
  - To assist in gathering research data related to the petroleum industry during inspections;
  - To collect and analyze relevant data on petroleum products and facilities; and
  - To undertake any other duties as assigned by the superiors.

**Academic Qualifications and Experience**  
The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience:

Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in one of the following fields: Petroleum Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical and Process Engineering, Geo-Science, Petroleum Geology, or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution. For Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering must have been registered by the Engineering Registration Board (ERB) as a Graduate Engineer.
- ### 2. CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION

**Post Title:** Senior Accountant II (1 Post)  
**Duty Station:** EWURA Offices  
**Reports to:** Finance and Accounts Manager

Senior Accountant II will be responsible for ensuring billing and collection of Authority revenues, finance functions, review for accuracy and proper posting for all records for payments and receipts made within the Authority.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

  - To monitor and ensure timely billing and collection of all revenues of the Authority.
  - To follow-up of Authority income on regular basis and attend to queries from regulated suppliers' revenue transactions.
  - To ensure timely and effective provision of financial services to the Authority.
  - To provide inputs in developing, upgrading and application of systems and procedures for finance.
  - To ensure that all finance functions are carried out on time and accordance to financial standards.
  - To provide inputs in prudent management of the Authority's resources, including keeping records on their utilization.
  - To participate in preparation of time-based reports on financial performance.
  - To provide inputs in preparation annual financial statements and during auditing.
  - To undertake any other duties as assigned by the superiors.
  - To ensure timely and effective provision of financial services to the Authority.
  - To monitor financial expenditure and ensure compliance to approved budget, procedures and policies.
  - To provide inputs in developing, upgrading and application of systems and procedures for finance.
  - To ensure that all finance functions are carried out on time and accordance to financial standards.
  - To provide inputs in prudent management of the Authority's resources, including keeping records on their utilization.
  - To participate in preparation of time-based reports on financial performance.
  - To provide inputs in preparation annual financial statements and during auditing.
  - To monitor and control all accounts payable for the Authority.
  - To prepare and update the assets register of the Authority.
  - To undertake any other duties as assigned by the superiors.

**Academic Qualifications and Experience**  
The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience:

Holder of Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields: Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration or Commerce majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized institutions plus either CPA (T), ACCA, ACA, CIMA or an equivalent professional qualification recognized by the NBAA with working experience of at least seven (7) years in a related field.
- ### 3. INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

**Post Title:** Senior Internal Auditor II- Risk Management (1 post)  
**Duty Station:** EWURA Head Office - Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Risk Management Manager

Senior Internal Auditor II will be responsible for assisting the Risk Management to institute effective internal control system, risk management and good governance processes.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

  - To review internal controls and submit recommendations to superiors.
  - To assess and recommend internal control systems adequate to avert perpetration of frauds, misappropriation and embezzlements.
  - To conduct audit work and documents audit issues in working papers.
  - To conduct regular checks and ad hoc investigations.
  - To respond to external audit queries to allow for accounts to be approved at the end of the financial year.
  - To Monitor Management implementation of auditors' recommendations.
  - To participate in assessing risk management practices within the organization.
  - To participate in special audits and investigations;
  - To review working papers prepared by junior staff; and
  - To perform any other official duties as may be assigned by the immediate supervisor.

**Academic Qualifications and Experience**  
The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience:

Holder of Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields: Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized institutions plus either CPA (T), ACCA, ACA, CIA or equivalent professional qualifications recognized by the NBAA with working experience of at least seven (7) years in the related field. Skills in Risk Management will be an added advantage.
- ### 4. LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

**Post Title:** Legal Officer II (1 Post)  
**Duty Station:** EWURA Headquarters Office - Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Manager Licensing and Enforcement

Legal Officer II will be responsible for interpretations of regulatory legislation and legal matters, to represent the Authority in various Courts and tribunals and to provide inputs to research on legislation and other legal aspects pertaining to regulated sectors, the role and functions of the Authority.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

  - To assist in interpretation of regulatory legislation and other legal documents.
  - To assist in preparing the Authority's representation in matters of litigation.
  - To represent the Authority in various Courts and tribunals.
  - To follow up on implementation of laws, regulations, rules, contracts, agreements and other legal instruments.
  - To assist in providing legal advice on internal matters such as Human Resources, procurement and contracts for goods and services entered into by the Authority.
  - To assist in providing inputs in drafting and updating concessions, lease and license agreements in the regulated sectors.
  - To participate in reviewing appeals, procedures and enforce actions.
  - To provide inputs to research on legislation and other legal aspects pertaining to regulated sectors and the role and functions of the Authority.
  - To provide legal advice to and settle consumer complaints as well as from regulated suppliers.
  - To coordinate and participate in consumer complaints hearing sessions.
  - To participate in preparing Board meetings and minutes.
  - To provide advice in drafting various legal instruments.
  - To provide legal inputs in the preparation of divisional performance reports.
  - To undertake any other duties as assigned by the superiors.

**Minimum Academic Qualifications and Experience**  
The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience: -

Holder of Bachelor's Degree in one of the following fields: Law (LL.B) from any recognized Institution who has passed a recognized practical legal training or undergone internship program recognized by the Attorney General.

**Personal Attributes**  
In addition to the above skills and qualifications, applicants for the above positions are required to have the following attributes:

  - A very high level of integrity, honesty and sense of responsibility;
  - Ability to work under pressure and produce expected results;
  - Ability to work in a dynamic team;
  - Ability to self-manage, achieve results and meet deadlines; and
  - Willingness to work beyond the call of duty.

**Tenure**

  - EWURA is an equal opportunity employer.
  - Staff will be employed on permanent and pensionable terms.

**Mode of Application**  
Interested Public Servants should apply in confidence enclosing:

  - Application letter with Curriculum Vitae (CV) including names, postal address, e-mail address, and telephone number.
  - Certified copies of certificates.
  - one passport size photo and names and contacts of three referees.
  - Applicants must channel their application letters through their respective employers, failure of which will lead to automatic disqualification.
  - Transfer is not promotion therefore applicants should apply for the position they are currently holding.
  - Only successful candidates will be contacted for further procedures.
  - Applicants should indicate their willingness and commitment to cover their transfer costs as the application for transfer will be considered self-initiated.
  - Lobbying and canvassing will not be entertained and may result to the applicant's disadvantage.
  - Interested applicants should submit their applications by 5th February, 2024 through the following address:

The Director General,  
Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA),  
EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 4104 Tambukareli,  
P. O. Box 2857,  
DODOMA

By Ed Holt

# Trapped and trafficked – Fishers tell of forced labour horror

“THE thing is that when you come from an African country, they know that you’re basically trapped,” says Noel Adabblah.

“You have the wrong documents; you can’t go home because you’ve already borrowed money there to get here, and you won’t risk losing what work you have, no matter how bad, because of that. They know all the tricks.”

The 36-year-old is speaking from Dublin, where he has managed to make a new life for himself after becoming a victim of what recent reports have shown to be widespread and growing forced labour in fishing fleets across the globe.

Adabblah, from Tema in Ghana, and three friends signed up with a recruitment agency back home to work as fishers on boats in the UK. They paid the equivalent of 1,200 EUR to be placed in jobs and were given letters of invitation and guarantees by their new employers, who said they would be met in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and who agreed to take care of all their documents and visas.

Their employment contracts stated the men would be paid 1,000 GBP per month and employed for 12 months, with an option to reduce or extend that by three months upon mutual consent.

But when they arrived in January 2018, they were taken to Dublin and later split up. In the following months, they were taken to do various jobs at different ports in Ireland, sometimes late at night with no idea where they were going.

“We thought we were going there to sail and fish, but when we got there, we saw the boats were not ready; they were in poor condition, and we couldn’t fish, so the owner of the boats got us to do other jobs instead,” Adabblah said.

Cambodian fishermen from the fishing vessel Sor Somboon 19 recovers from beriberi at Ranong Hospital. The crew met internationally accepted definitions of victims of forced labour. Thai government investigations determined that the hospitalizations and deaths from the beriberi outbreak aboard Sor Somboon 19 were directly caused by a business model based on transshipment at sea. Credit: Greenpeace

A Cambodian fisher from the fishing vessel Sor Somboon 19 recovers from beriberi at Ranong Hospital. The crew met internationally accepted definitions of victims of forced labour. Credit: Greenpeace

“But after a few months, we said this is not what we came here to do. We had an argument over pay—he said he had no boats to fish with and wanted to lay us off, told us to go home. But we said no, that we had a 12-month contract we had signed for.

He said he wouldn’t pay us, but could try to get

us another job with someone else, but we said we couldn’t do that because the visas we had only applied to working for him. He told us if we didn’t like it, we could go home.”

It is at this point that many victims of forced labour often simply accept their fate and either go home or do whatever their employer wants. But Adabblah and his friends were determined to see the terms of their contract met, and they contacted the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF).

However, their problems deepened as they discovered they did not have the right documents for their work.

“We had no idea of the difference between Ireland and the UK. We thought the papers were OK. But when we went to the ITF, we realized they weren’t,” explains Adabblah.

At that point, the Irish police were obliged to open an investigation into the case.

Adabblah, who stayed in Ireland and has since managed to find work in the construction industry, says he heard nothing about the case until last year. “I heard that the police had said there was not enough evidence to pursue a conviction,” he says. Forced labour does not exist as an offense on the Irish statute books, so such cases are investigated under human trafficking legislation.

Regardless of the lack of a conviction in his case, he is clear that what he and his friends experienced was forced labour.

“They treated us badly. We worked 20-hour shifts some days. Once, when I was ill and couldn’t go on the boat, they said that if I couldn’t do the job, I could go home. They say stuff like that to threaten you,” he says.

The tuna fishermen on their vessels were forced to work 20-22 hour days for little to no pay, often deprived of basic necessities like showers.

Adabblah’s experience is far from unique among workers in the world’s fishing fleets. A recent report by the Financial Transparency Coalition, an international grouping of NGOs, said that more than 128,000 fishers were trapped in forced labour aboard fishing vessels in 2021. Its authors say there is a “human rights crisis” of forced labour aboard commercial fishing vessels, leading to horrific abuses and even deaths.

They point out that many of these victims of forced labour are from the global South, something that the people behind these crimes use to their advantage, experts say.

Michael O’Brien of the ITF’s Fisheries Section told IPS: “Those employing vulnerable migrants



Burmese fishers in temporary shelter in Ambon Port, Indonesia. Hundreds of trafficked workers are waiting to be sent back home, with many facing an uncertain future. The forced labour and trafficking survivors interviewed by Greenpeace Southeast Asia detailed beatings and food deprivation for anyone who tried to escape. The tuna fishermen on their vessels were forced to work 20–22 hours a day for little to no pay.

in forced labour scenarios rely upon the vulnerability of the victim, the potential lack of legal status of the victim in the country where they are working, and the victim’s reliance on an income that is unavailable to them in their country of origin.”

Mariama Thiam, an investigative journalist in Senegal who did research for the Financial Transparency Coalition report, said fishers often do not know what they are signing up for.

“Usually there is a standard contract that the fisher signs, and often they sign it without understanding it fully,” she told IPS. “Most Senegalese fishermen have a low level of educa-

tion. The contract is checked by the national fishing agency, which sees it, says it looks okay, approves it, and the fishers then go, but the fishers don’t understand what’s in it.”

Then, once they have started work, the men are so desperate to keep their jobs that they will put up with whatever conditions they have to.

“All the fishers I have spoken to say they have had no choice but to do the work because they cannot afford to lose their jobs—their families rely on them. Some of them were beaten or did not have any days off; captains systematically confiscate all their passports when they go on board—the captains say that if the fishermen have their passports, some will go on shore when they are in Europe and stay on there, migrating illegally,” she said.

“In the minds of Senegalese fishermen, their priority is salary. They can tolerate human rights abuses and forced labour if they get their salary,” Thiam added.

Adabblah agrees, adding though that this allows the criminals behind the forced labour to continue their abuses.

“The thing is that a lot of people are afraid to speak up because of where they are from, and they end up being too scared to say anything even if they are really badly treated. There are lots of people who are in the same situation as I was or experiencing much worse, but if no one speaks up, how can [criminals] be identified?” he says.

Experts on the issue say the owners of vessels where forced labour is alleged to have occurred hide behind complex corporate structures and that many governments take a lax approach to uncovering ultimate beneficial ownership information when vessels are registered or fishing licenses are applied for.

This means those behind the abuses are rarely identified, let alone punished.

“In Senegal, what happens is that the government doesn’t want to share information on owner control of boats. No one can get information on it, not journalists, not activists, sometimes not even people in other parts of government itself,” said Thiam.

Other problems include a lack of legislation to even deal with the problem. For instance, Thiam highlighted that fishers in Senegal work under a collective convention dating back to 1976 that

does not mention forced labour.

O’Brien added: “In the Irish context, there has never been a prosecution for human trafficking for labour exploitation in fisheries or any other sector.”

“There is a school of thought among progressive lawyers that we need a separate offense on the statute books of ‘labour exploitation’ to obtain convictions. In the case of fishers, some remedies can be obtained via the labour and maritime authorities, but these are lower-level offenses that do not have a dissuasive effect on the vessel owners.”

Victims also face difficulties seeking redress in their home countries.

Complaints to recruiting agencies in fishers’ home countries often come to nothing and can end up having serious consequences.

“The thing about the agency I dealt with at home and other agencies like it is that if you complain to them, they will just say that you are talking too much and you should come home and solve the situation there, and then when you get home, they just blacklist you and you won’t get any fishing work ever again; they will just recruit someone else,” says Adabblah.

Although Adabblah did not see the justice he had hoped for, he is aware his story has ended better than many other victims of forced labour. He, along with his three friends, have made new lives in Ireland, and he is hoping to soon begin the process of becoming a naturalised Irish citizen.

He urges anyone who finds themselves in the same situation to not stay quiet, and instead contact an organization like the ITF or something similar.

Doing so may not always bring victims a satisfactory resolution to their problems, but each publicized case may end up having a long-term positive effect on stopping others from being abused, said O’Brien.

“The ITF has significant resources but not enough to match the scale of the problem. The cases we take up like Noel’s are the tip of the iceberg. However, we use these cases, with the consent of the victims, to highlight the problem with governments and, in turn, campaign for changes in the law,” he said.

IPS

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 64 -

1 2 3 4

5 6

7 8 9

10 11

12 13

14

15 16

17 18

- 12 a rectangular block of steel, gold, or other metal
  - 14 person’s age from 13 to 19
  - 15 continent using Euro as her monetary unit
  - 17 an item of news
  - 18 give or apportion something to someone
- Down:
- 1 a violent robber or outlaw belonging to a gang
  - 2 waste water and excrement conveyed in sewers
  - 3 Sold his birth right to Jacob
  - 4 permitted by law
  - 6 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
  - 8 spanish football manager
  - 9 a person who regularly takes drugs
  - 13 interpreter in Japanese
  - 16 put food into the mouth and chew and swallow it

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

DENSELY AERATED TASER  
SPENDER RWANDA LAEVULOSE  
GROTTO IRES, RIP DRAINAGES  
EINA, ALA ONE, TAN SNASH  
SHOUT, SE OAT, EDT NARES, EWER

Yesterday’s solution

SALIVA RSKY A  
TORATE HOELNTO  
RANSACK SYANGH  
INDO HIDE L LEAD  
VIOLAN T TACONO  
EMNET E H ROTOR  
AMTASHI ETE ARM  
LANI I B MEANS E  
S CHAMA ELM HER

# RADIO One 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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:45 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:55 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMI YAMU 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS MACHANGANYIKO

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# Internet access has cut poverty in Tanzania, Nigeria by 7pc - W'Bank

LAGOS

THE World Bank estimates that improved access to Internet coverage over three years led to a seven per cent reduction in extreme poverty in Nigeria and Tanzania.

The bank disclosed this in a new brief titled, "Digital transformation drives development in Africa."

It said Internet access also led to an increase of eight per cent in labour force participation and wage employment.

The bank said, "In 2023, a World Bank flagship report found that in Nigeria and Tanzania, extreme poverty declined by about 7 per cent after three or more years of exposure to internet coverage, while labour force participation and wage employment increased by up to eight per cent."

The brief further highlighted that over the past five years (2016 - 2021), Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an extraordinary 115 per cent increase in Internet users, a change that has been instrumental in spurring economic growth, fostering innovation, and creating job opportunities.

With over five million active Internet subscriptions in Nigeria, there is still the need for wider Internet coverage to boost inclusive economic growth.

The Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr Bosun Tijani, recently noted that the



Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an extraordinary 115 per cent increase in Internet users between 2016 and 2021

cost of data in Nigeria was still one of the cheapest in the world but lamented that many operators are not willing to lay fibre in many parts of the countries outside the major cities because it would be unprofitable.

In the brief, World Bank Chief Economist for Africa, Andrew Dabalen, said, "The minimal usage of mobile internet is a lost opportunity for inclusive growth in Africa. Closing the uptake gap would increase the continent's potential to create jobs for its growing population and boost economic recovery in a highly digitalised world."

Despite the encouraging progress, the journey towards digital inclusivity faces chal-

lenges, including the affordability of mobile connectivity and a persistent digital gender gap.

The cost of mobile internet remains high, and women are 37 per cent less likely to use mobile internet compared to men. These barriers highlight the need for continued efforts to make digital access more equitable and widespread.

The brief read in part, "The region's digital infrastructure coverage, access, and quality still lag other regions. At the end of 2021, while 84 per cent of people in SSA lived in areas where 3G service was available, and 63 per cent had access to 4G mobile coverage, only 22 per cent were using mobile internet services. The gap between coverage and usage is similarly large for broadband, with 61 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa living within the broadband range but not using it.

"Affordability of mobile connectivity, measured by the price of one gigabyte of mobile data, is another major constraint. In 2019, the average cost of one GB of mobile internet as a percentage of monthly per-capita Gross National Income was 10.5

per cent, which is considerably higher than the 2 per cent target recommended by the United Nations Broadband Commission. In addition, in 2021, the median cost of an entry-level internet-enabled handset amounted to more than 25.2 per cent of monthly gross domestic product per capita.

It added, "The region has one of the widest digital gender gaps globally. The greatest disparity exists for internet use, where women are 37 per cent less likely than men to use mobile internet according to 2023 GSMA data.

"In 2021, around 470 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa did not have proof of ID, preventing them from fully benefiting from critical public and some private services."

The World Bank also stressed its commitment to digital development in Africa with an investment of \$731.8m across 11 Digital Development projects over six years, with a broader allocation of \$2.8bn across 24 projects over the past decade.

These investments are part of a larger goal under the Digital Economy for Africa initiative, which aims to digitally enable every individual, business, and government in Africa by 2030.

## Barrick Gold commits 75bn/- to education projects

By Francis Kajubi

BARRICK Gold Corporation has committed an investment worth 75.45bn/- (\$30 million) through its Future Forward Education programme in construction of classrooms, dormitories and washroom facilities to benefit over 49,000 students in Shinyanga, Geita and Arusha regions.

The projects implemented through the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) arrangement significantly targets improving educational infrastructure.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow told the press in Bulyanhulu on Sunday that just in the first tranche that started in July 2023 the company has disbursed 25.15bn/- (\$10million) for infrastructure development projects covering 64 schools.

"The programme has so far seen construction of 396 classrooms, 97 dormitories and 600 ablution blocks," said Bristow.

Upon completion, he said, the programme will facilitate construction of 1,090 classrooms, 270 dormitories and 1,640 ablution blocks across 161 schools.

He pointed out that through a joint venture company-Twiga Minerals Corporation the miner is also



Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow

progressing its \$40 million pledge to build a world-class 73 Kilometre road from Bulyanhulu to the new Kahama airport.

On the company's business trends, Bristow said that Barrick's North Mara and Bulyanhulu gold mines have sustained their strong performance and achieved their production guidance for 2023. The mines are part of Twiga Minerals joint venture.

He said the transformation of two derelict mines into a world-class complex which, on a combined basis, produces gold at a Tier One level.

"The Twiga partnership has not only transformed Tanzania's gold min-

ing industry, it has also re-established the country, well-known as one Africa's most popular tourism attractions, as a prime investment destination that has a wealth of metal and mineral resources," he said.

He asserted that conversion drilling at both mines has again replenished their reserves after depletion.

At North Mara, the potential for another underground operation is being explored while the optimization of its open cast mine plan is expected to add years to its life.

At Bulyanhulu, he said, there are near-surface opportunities with the potential for increasing production

and mining flexibility.

Bristow said since Barrick took over the Tanzanian mines in 2019 they had grown into the largest contributor to the government's revenue, through taxes, employment, payments to local suppliers, community projects and distributions to shareholders.

Its investment in the economy to date totals more than \$3.4 billion (on a 100 percent basis).

"Perhaps even more important, these mines are now widely respected as value-adding partners and community members. Among the many accolades they have received, Barrick Tanzania has been certified as a top employer for its people management programs," said Bristow.

The Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) crowned Barrick North Mara as the 2023 employer of the year and the company with the best social responsibility program.

In the health and safety arena, North Mara won the 2023 OSHA Compliance award with Bulyanhulu as first runner-up, and Bulyanhulu also received an award for excellence in crisis management.

As part of the Buzwagi mine closure plan and to improve the transportation system in the area, Barrick's Buzwagi gold mine in partnership with the Tanzania's Airport Authority funded the building of a new terminal at the Kahama airport.

The new airport terminal building will serve more than 200 passengers at a time and has a full range of facilities. It is expected to be a catalyst for economic growth in the Kahama region.

## World stocks extend rally, central banks seen on hold

LONDON/SYDNEY

EUROPEAN equities jumped on Monday, following fresh highs in Japanese stock markets and Friday's record close in the Nasdaq, ahead of a week brimming with central bank meetings, major economic data and corporate earnings.

Banks, industrial goods and services, tech firms and travel and leisure shares led the opening rally, each sector up nearly 1.5 percent.

Chip stocks have been on a roll since Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSMC) upgraded its profit outlook last week on booming demand for high-end chips used in AI applications.

That helped send the Nikkei to a fresh 34-year peak and brought gains for January to almost 9 percent.

Chipmakers, including Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices, were among the beneficiaries of the AI-driven rally.

Nasdaq futures extended their rally with gains of 0.6 percent, while S&P 500 futures firmed 0.3 percent.

Yet MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan still eased 0.6 percent, having already taken a drubbing last week.

The index has been pressured by weakness in China's markets, which hit five-year lows last week and sparked speculation state funds were having to support stocks.

"The wide majority of macro-economic data shows we are in a recovery period but that markets have yet to price this in," said Florian Ielpo, head of macro at Lombard Odier Investment Managers.

Rates have declined by 1.5 percent, which should ease costs, but growth rates remain lower than in the past 20 years, said Ielpo.

"We've priced in sub-priced growth at the dawn of a recovery," Ielpo said.

ECB in no rush

The European Central Bank (ECB) meets on Thursday and is expected to hold monetary policy steady.

"A March cut still makes sense, but the pushback from ECB officials has been potent in recent days, making a June cut more likely," said Giovanni Zanni, an economist at NatWest Markets.

Futures have priced in 40 basis points of easing by June, with a first cut in May implied at a 76 percent chance.

Central banks in Canada and Norway also meet this week and no change to rates is expected, though Turkey is thought likely to hike again. In Beijing, the central bank again skipped a rate cut in its market operations on Monday and the Bank of Japan is expected to keep policy super-easy at a meeting on Tuesday.

In the US, Fed officials are in blackout this week ahead of the next meeting on Jan. 30-31.

Hawkish talk has scaled back the probability of a March cut from the Federal Reserve to 49 percent, from around 75 percent a couple of weeks ago.

Prospects for an early easing could be affected by data on US economic growth and core inflation due later this week.

Gross domestic product is seen running at an annualised 2 percent pace in the fourth quarter, while the core personal consumption price index is seen slowing to an annual 3.0 percent in December, down from 3.2 percent the previous month and the lowest since early 2021, according to a Reuters poll.

Recent data has tended to surprise on the high side, one reason yields on 10-year Treasuries climbed almost 20 basis points last week to last stand at 4.13 percent.

That shift underpinned the dollar, which hit a five-week high on a basket of currencies. It traded flat on Monday at 103.25 while the euro was idling at \$1.089 after easing 0.5 percent for the week.

All of this left non-yielding gold looking unattractive at \$2,023 an ounce. In the oil market, dampened global demand has offset the threat to supply from tensions in the Middle East. Brent was off 60 cents at \$77.96 a barrel, while US crude for January eased 25 cents to \$73.16 per barrel.

## Dollar takes breather; option expiries give yen a jolt

Singapore/London

The US dollar steadied on Monday as looming central bank decisions in Japan and Europe and vacillating market expectations for Fed rate cuts forced a pause in the greenback's data-spurred rally this year.

Japan's yen was the notable mover in otherwise quiet trading, as it headed away from Friday's 148.80 per dollar, its weakest in a month, to as firm as 147.74.

The currency, last at 148.23 per dollar, has been the worst hit against the dollar this year, tumbling about 5 percent in a swift reversal of December's bounce to five-month peaks near 140.

The Bank of Japan's two-day meeting begins on Monday. Wagers for an exit from negative rates at this meeting have been wound down following

the New Year's Day earthquake on Japan's west coast alongside dovish BOJ commentary. Traders said one factor driving the yen moves was the expiry of a large amount of currency options this week and the hedging around those contracts.

LSEG data showed that while most options expiring between Monday and Thursday with strike prices between 147.15 and 148.10 dollar-yen levels were small, the cumulative amount was around \$2.6 billion. "The options put on ahead of BOJ are punts on a breakout in case BOJ signals anything during this meeting for further policy moves," said Rong Ren Goh, fixed income investments director at Eastspring Investments in Singapore.

"We might see yen chop around into the meetings and as options expire, but as long



as BOJ doesn't actually announce anything, dollar-yen will still be U.S. rates driven." The dollar's trade-weighted index was down 0.09 percent at 103.19 and the greenback was flat against the euro which was at \$1.0892.

The dollar's rally this year has been jerky as investors try to make up their minds about when the Federal Reserve will start cutting rates.

Data late last week showing U.S. economic activity remains

resilient despite interest rates at their highest level in decades caused markets to scale back expectations of rate cuts beginning as soon as in March.

Interest rate futures show traders are betting rate cuts will start in May, not March as they did until last week. Longer Treasury yields have risen steadily, with 10-year yields up 30 basis points this month.

There is, however, a wide gap of about 100 basis points between market expectations

and the Fed's own dot plot of where rates will be by year end. That, said Eastspring Investments' Goh, is "the struggling narrative in the market at the moment which prevents the dollar from rising further than it already has this month".

ECB up next after BOJ

This week also has much for markets to focus on, with the European Central Bank and Canada and Turkey's policy meetings on Thursday, a busy earnings season and turmoil in the Red Sea upsetting global trade and supply chains.

Ahead of the ECB policy meeting, the debate has shifted somewhat as policymakers accept that the next move is a rate cut, but later and less than what markets expect. Market analysts think the ECB's inflation outlook is wrong and expect five cuts this year.

## NAVIGATING THE NEW YEAR:

# Four essential tips for business productivity

BY NORMAN KRETZMER

FOR business owners, the start of a new year is a perfect opportunity to take a fresh look at their operations. Even small optimisations to your systems and processes can create big productivity boosts, which in turn, can help you to drive significant improvements to your revenues and profitability.

Here are four tips for improving your productivity, so that your business can navigate the challenges and opportunities it will face in the year to come.

## 1. Planning is everything

In a world that feels more volatile and uncertain than ever, good strategic and project planning is key to success. It's important to have clearly defined objectives for your business, with actionable steps that will help you to meet your goals. Regular strategic planning will help you to reassess and adjust your business strategy based on market trends and internal performance.

Each project should also be carefully planned, paying close attention to the expected outcomes, the risks that may derail the project, and the resources required to complete it. Break projects down into tasks, set deadlines and ensure that there are clear lines of accountability. Strategic and project goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timed (SMART) to keep progress on track.

## 2. Centralise and digitise information

Poorly organised information, particularly a reliance on paper documents, is one of the biggest enemies of productivity in any business. Many businesses are keeping critical information



such as contracts and customer records in filing cabinets or on employees' local hard drives. Digitising this information and storing it in a centralised online repository can deliver immediate productivity wins.

Consider the benefits, for example, of being able to access all contracts with customers, suppliers and service providers via a cloud-based system rather than needing to rummage through a cabinet. Once your documents are stored online, it also becomes easier for your

team to share information and collaborate, saving time for everyone. This also enables your team to work remotely when appropriate.

## 3. Embrace automation and AI

Although many businesses have adopted software to automate some processes, you'll still find many owners and employees manually executing a range of repetitive, time-consuming tasks. Whether it's manually tracking customer service requests, capturing financial information, or keeping track of legal contracts, the admin can be overwhelming.

Today, businesses can use a range of affordable, cloud-based software tools to automate these tedious processes and free resources up to focus on growth and strategy. Such solutions help to reduce human error, improve efficiency, speed up business processes, and strengthen compliance with tax laws and other regulations.

## 4. Harness tech as an enabler, but don't let it become a distraction

Technology has completely changed how businesses operate over the past 15 years. Mobile access to apps like email, social media and instant messaging allow us to work from nearly anywhere, be more responsive to colleagues and customers, and have access to real-time info at our fingertips. But there is also a downside, given the propensity of people to try to multitask.

These technologies can distract employees from their essential tasks.

Constant WhatsApp or social media notifications can be disruptive when you need to focus on doing your financials or completing a customer proposal.

It can be helpful to set times aside during the day to respond to messages and turn notifications off the rest of the time.

**Norman Kretzmer (pictured) is the founder and CEO of Contract Understanding based in Johannesburg**

# Deflationary threats to the Chinese economy

Jeremy Stevens

AS expected, China inflation data showed ongoing deflationary threats. Consumer Price Index (CPI) moderated, from -0.5 percent y/y in November (the fastest contraction in over three years), to -0.3 percent y/y in December.

Similarly, China's Producer Price Index (PPI) improved a fraction, from -3.0 percent y/y in November, to -2.7 percent in December.

This means that China, for only the second time in over 30 years, reported consumer price deflation for the year, declining by an average of 0.27 percent y/y each month, well below the government's target of 3.0 percent.

Falling consumer prices illustrates formidable deflationary pressures, and soft demand, casting concerns over the trajectory of the economy.

Notably, a 150 bps undershoot in inflation tends to reduce growth by 0.9 ppt, relative to trend, in the following year.

Given that the post-Covid stimulus playbook had focused on boosting supply, producer price deflation unsurprisingly deepened in 2023.

Even more surprising, consumer goods deflation confirming the consumption "rebound" has been driven by base effects, and catering and restaurant sales.

On aggregate, households have seemingly seen their purchasing power altered, or changed their preferences and spending patterns.

The story of soft demand and widespread is made plain in the GDP deflator - the broadest measure of prices in an economy.

Unlike other major economies, China's GDP deflator has fallen over the past two years, eventually in 2023 turning negative for the first time in eight years.

Deflation causes the real debt burden of an economy to rise dramatically as asset prices fall while the costs of debt liabilities remain fixed.

Also, corporate earnings are generally more sensitive to changes in prices than to sales volumes, which means that deflation hits corporate earnings and so disincentivizes capacity expansion.

Strange, then, that the outstanding stock of bank loans still increased at twice the speed of the economy. So much for concerns over the efficiency of credit allocation.

All in, the stock of credit increased by a staggering CNY33tn in 2023 (versus CNY30tn and CNY29tn in 2022 and 2021 respectively).

The acceleration in the growth of the overall credit stock since July is a result of the new central government Special Treasury bond (STB) and local government special purpose bonds (SPB), and additions to the Pledged Supplemental Lending (PSL) program.

Corporate credit demand is still weak. In December, new bank loans growth continued a year-long trend of slowing.

The rare exception was banking loans to manufacturing, which ballooned even though price deflation has hits profit growth, which, alongside soft export orders, should



have weighed on manufacturing production.

Expect further easing of monetary policy in 2024.

That said, at this juncture, the PBOC doesn't seem to be anchoring its policy decisions to inflation and inflation expectations.

This for a variety of reasons, such as the constraints on opening the credit taps being more fundamental in nature; the PBoC has does not want to send a broad easing signal to the market; and the PBOC is waiting for clarity over the direction of the US Fed and others.

The disproportionate deceleration of nominal GDP growth versus real GDP growth is worrisome. So are the pro-cyclical dynamics between credit and nominal growth.

The spectre of more widespread deflation at this juncture may still a low-probability threat, but we are watching items carefully, such as: food and pork prices; the Chinese Commodity Index (CCI); and industrial inventory levels.

The Politburo has committed to stepping up counter-cyclical policy adjustments in 2024. To that end, the monetary loosening cycle is set to advance throughout the year.

Laying the foundation, the PBOC has committed itself to "employ a variety of tools" to meet the obligation for the "reasonable growth in credit."

That said, at this juncture, the PBOC doesn't seem to be anchoring its policy decisions to inflation and inflation expectations.

Thus, we do not expect that weak consumer and producer price outcomes to translate into easing policies from the central bank.

**Jeremy Stevens (pictured) is the Beijing-based China economist of Standard Bank. He can be reached through Email: jeremy.stevens@standardbank.com.cn**

# Central banks' gold buying frenzy set to continue this year

LONDON

THE first half of 2023 was a record-breaking moment for central bank gold buying, led by none other than China and Russia. Organizations like the World Gold Council reported a staggering increase compared to 2022:

"On a year-to-date basis, central banks have bought an astonishing net 800t, 14 percent higher than the same period last year."

Whether or not The January Effect will apply to the gold price as we finish the first month of 2024, there are plenty of indicators that the central bank buying spree will continue for at least the first half of the new year. Accelerating de-dollarization is just one factor, as powerhouses like China and Russia continue strategically moving further and further from the grips of USD hegemony.

Of course, actions by the Biden administration to isolate Russia with sanctions in the wake of the Ukraine conflict only provide further impetus for the Russians to continue divesting in any way they can from the US dollar.

Combined with a volatile ruble and a wave of new American spending to feed its proxy wars in Ukraine and Israel, it only makes sense that Russia's gold coffers will continue to grow.

You can also bet on China and Russia buying significantly more gold than what gets reported publicly, so the real numbers are always higher than they seem. As Jim Richards has pointed out many times, such as in this tweet from Q1 last year, countries like Russia and China hold gold acquired through off-the-books buying programs that far exceed what they officially claim:

"Central Bank of Russia reported a gain of 30 metric tonnes in its gold reserves. That's after a year of flatlining more likely due to non-reporting than non-acquisition. Nice to see Russia back in the game."

For more central bank gold-buying fuel, the Fed, claiming victory against inflation, has actually given up on fighting it. The Fed knows it backed itself into a corner and has no choice but to lower rates in 2024 - which means central banks will need a way to hedge against those easier money policies. And while the Fed's balance sheet shrank in 2023, it didn't even come close to closing the gap created by the trillions it added during the Covid era. Of course, that wouldn't stop Powell from running his victory lap at 2023's final post-FOMC press conference about stopping rate hikes:

"That's us thinking we've done enough."

However, lower rates in 2024 would bolster the case for even more inflation, not less - leading to a tanking dollar and surging relative prices for gold and other commodities.

Peter Schiff isn't the only one to have pointed this out, but all you have to do is forget what central banks say and look at what they do.

The stage is set for banks to add more gold to their reserves to hedge against downward pressures on the dollar, even as the Fed claims victory over the inflation battle. The only question is which will occur first: a dollar crisis or a sovereign debt collapse? Central bankers aren't going to wait to find out.

After all, in 2023, not even higher nominal yields managed to slow down gold's rally. Booming Treasury yields reflect less certainty in the health of the economy, not more, as investors flee to the perceived safety of Treasuries and bonds. But what goes up must come down, and a collapse in the Treasuries market would nuke the dollar, taking the rest of the economy with it:

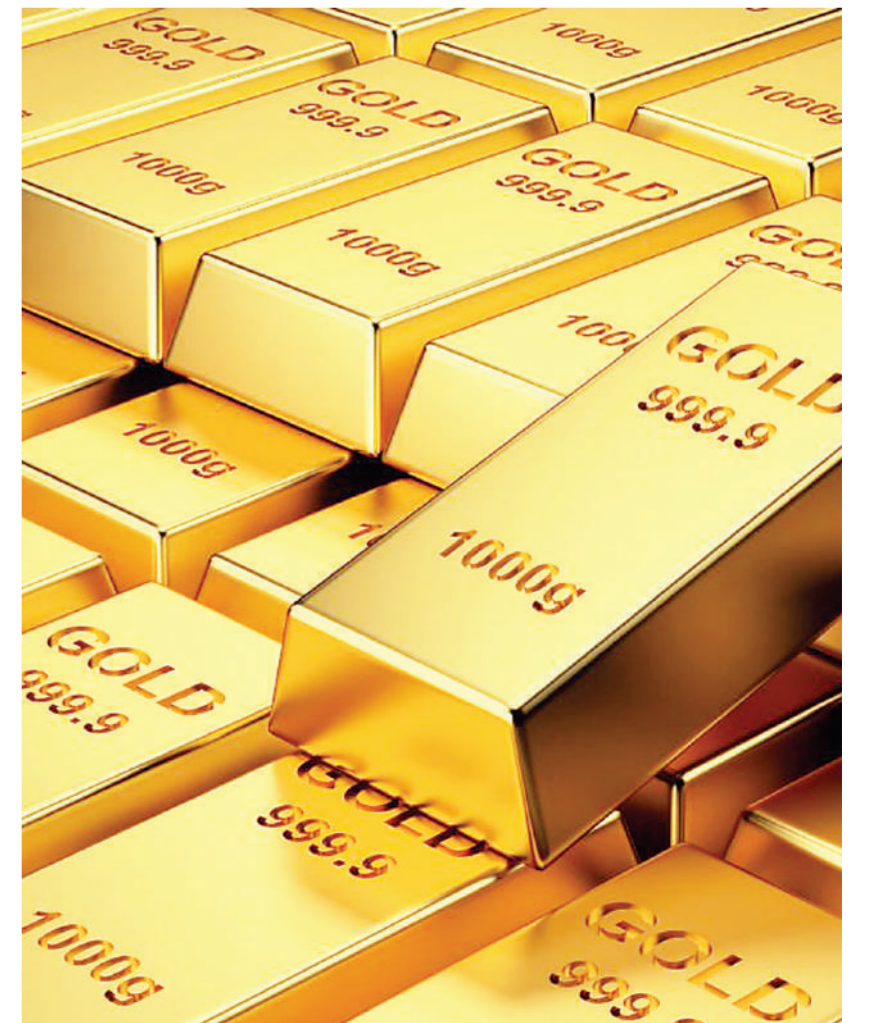
"...a Treasury's crash will force the value of the dollar to plunge, which will lead to a brutal economic downturn - one in which the "standard of living" in the country will drop dramatically."

Finally, 2024 brings even more uncertainty in the face of the US's continuing proxy conflicts and, notably, a US presidential election that is reinforcing a global picture of domestic political instability. With candidates on both sides like RFK Jr. and Vivek Ramaswamy embracing anti-establishment messages about reigning in central banks, the military-industrial complex, and the US debt spiral, there are plenty of candidates shaking the nest in ways that would have been unheard of just a couple elections ago. As Robin Tsui of the South China Morning Post points out, somewhat obviously:

"...the potential for US government shutdowns, fiscal policy debates, and political stand-offs ahead of the 2024 US election cycle persist."

It's true that many economists and Fed officials haven't given up hope for a "soft landing" next year, which would imply decreasing demand for gold. But as time has pressed on, this is a claim that even they admit could end up being proven hollow. To any honest observer, more signs of instability, inflation, negative-yielding debt, and election-year madness all point to a strong need for safety throughout this year.

Looking past the claims that US bankers and officials are making in public, central banks know the truth: they need to keep gobbling gold. It's the only strategic maneuver that makes sense, with few other meaningful ways to protect themselves from becoming collateral damage in the confluence of self-destructive economic meddling, overstretched foreign entanglements, and election-year political turmoil in the US.



# Europe, Africa crude market tightens on Red Sea disruptions

LONDON

THE Brent crude market structure and some physical markets in Europe and Africa are reflecting tighter supply resulting partly from concern about shipping delays due to vessels avoiding the Red Sea, according to traders, LSEG data and analysts.

The disruptions have combined with other factors such as outages and rising Chinese demand to increase competition for crude supply that does not have to transit the Suez Canal, and analysts say this is most evident in European markets.

In a sign of tighter supply, the structure of the benchmark Brent crude futures market hit its most bullish in two months on Friday, as tankers diverted from the Red Sea following air strikes by the United States and Britain on targets in Yemen.

"Brent is the most impacted futures contract when it comes to Red Sea/Suez Canal disruptions," said Viktor Katona, lead crude analyst at Kpler.

"So who suffers the most on the physical front? Undoubtedly, it's European refiners."

The premium of the first-month Brent contract to the six-month contract rose to as much as \$2.15 a barrel on Friday, the highest since early November. This structure, called backwardation, indicates a perception of



tighter supply for prompt delivery.

The nearby month of the U.S. crude market shifted into a backwardation this week, albeit a shallower one than for Brent, reflecting nearby tightness.

In the North Sea crude market, the differential of Forties crude to benchmark dated Brent has reached the highest since late November and the prices of some other grades considered a local alternative to Middle East crude have soared.

The price of Norway's Johan Sverdrup crude, an alterna-

tive to medium sour Middle East crude, started to jump in December and has risen more in January, trading at a \$2.80 premium to dated Brent, up from a more than \$2 discount before the disruptions.

The rise in Johan Sverdrup demand could be at least partly linked to worries around delays to Middle East crudes arriving in Europe, trading sources said.

Red sea causing delays

Less Middle Eastern crude is heading to Europe. The volume going to Europe from the Middle East nearly halved

to about 570,000 barrels per day in December from 1.07 million bpd in October, Kpler data shows.

"The Red Sea issues are causing delays so refiners need to cover back locally," a trade source said. "The market is tight with the loss of barrels from the Gulf," another added.

In Asia, the average spot premiums for Middle Eastern oil benchmarks Dubai, Oman and Murban have rebounded, bolstered in part by supply disruption concerns. US crude differentials have yet to show any impact, trading largely in a range this year.

Azeri Light crude, produced in the Caspian Sea and sold to Europe as well as the United States and Asia, has also jumped to more than \$6 over dated Brent, which would be the highest since September according to LSEG data.

Other developments have also tightened the European crude market including a drop in Libyan supply due to protests, the first such disruption for months, and lower Nigerian exports.

"It's difficult to measure the impact of the Red Sea separately," a crude trader said. "It's a strong market everywhere, but people are very nervous."

He also sees strong demand for February as refiners opt for "rush buying."

"There are lots of Mediterranean and North Sea buyers in the market to buy for February arrival," the trader said.

Supply of crude from Nigeria has reduced because the country started up its Dangote refinery, which is taking some cargoes. While Nigerian crude has not risen across the board, European refiners have been bidding up some grades depending on their products' yield.

Medium sweet crude Nigerian crude Egina has been bid up to around dated Brent plus \$6.00 a barrel on demand from European refiners, far higher than the price of lighter crudes such as Qua Iboe which yield middle distillates.

Angolan crude, which also heads to Europe without having to pass through the Suez Canal, is seeing higher demand from China and India due to issues around Iranian and Russian crude, a trader said, reducing the supply that could come to Europe.

China's oil trade with Iran has stalled as Tehran withholds shipments and demands higher prices, while India's imports of Russian crude have fallen due to currency challenges, although India says the drop was due to unattractive prices.

"Angola looks very solid," Katona of Kpler said, adding that the freight cost to India is manageable.

## London broker mergers leave firms on hunt for new advisers

LONDON

FOR companies listed on the London stock exchange, a corporate broker is typically a must-have. Without one, you lose the middleman who handles interactions with investors – and the exchange can even suspend your shares.

So listed firms have good reason to be checking up on their brokers, as a wave of mergers in the industry – most recently the tie-up between Panmure Gordon and Liberum – highlight the precariousness of business models built on corporate deal-making that's all but dried up.

More than one hundred London-listed companies have either left or appointed a new corporate broker in the last three months of 2023, roughly twice as many as in the same period a year ago, according to figures from data provider ARL. When pitching, brokers are being asked more questions about their financial health, multiple people involved in the processes said, declining to be identified discussing private information.

Corporate brokers have been a unique part of the City of London for centuries, handling what's still seen as steady but not particularly lucrative work such as lining up buyers for shares or making sure the client company stays outside of the London Stock Exchange Group's listing rules.

The relationship between broker and company can lead to more lucrative contracts if the client gets involved in a takeover, for example. The mandates tend to last roughly a decade and firms usually only look for a change when planning a strategy shift – they might add a second broker if

they're considering a transformative deal – or a broker loses key staff.

But the trend of broker-hopping can be "contagious," said Robert Pickering, a former chief executive officer of Cazenove & Co., the storied City firm that was bought by JPMorgan Chase & Co. in 2010 and continues to dominate broking. Many UK-listed companies "are disappointed with their share price and some might think that if they hire a new broker, maybe things will improve," he said.

### Smaller players hit hard

With London's markets missing out on last year's equities rally, initial public offerings still dormant and the pool of smaller listed firms in the UK capital shrinking, brokers have felt a tightening squeeze on many sources of revenue.

The merger between mid-cap boutiques Panmure Gordon and Liberum announced last week was the latest among a slew of deals as smaller brokers search for scale.

A few days before the deal was announced, Frasers Group Plc – a retail conglomerate on the blue-chip FTSE 100 index – replaced Liberum with Wall Street firm Jefferies Financial Group Inc. Investment manager Brooks Macdonald Group Plc last week replaced independent Peel Hunt Ltd. with Investec, part of the South African lender of the same name.

These changes also highlight the winners in this upheaval: bigger players who can offset losses in capital markets divisions with revenues from commercial or private banking. Alongside the likes of JPMorgan Cazenove and Barclays Plc are adding large-

cap clients, while other global investment banks such as Investec Plc and Royal Bank of Canada are looking to win share in London's shrinking mid-cap space.

"Brokers have come under more pressure to demonstrate their financial strength and breadth of services they offer," said Lisa Gordon, who chairs mid-cap investment bank Cavendish Financial Plc. Gordon added that she viewed this development as a positive for Cavendish, which was formed by a merger between FinnCap and Cenkos last year.

Some smaller brokers have expanded beyond the UK or built debt and private markets advisory services to see them through the dry spell, but consolidation is proving a popular option. Last year's acquisition of Numis by Deutsche Bank AG for £410 million (\$520 million) is one of the biggest examples to date.

The creation of Panmure Liberum leaves Peel Hunt as the last well-known UK mid-cap specialist that hasn't sought a tie-up yet. The firm was owned by Belgian bank KBC Group NV for nearly a decade before a management buyout in 2010. The firm listed on London's Alternative Investment Market for smaller companies in 2021 and has since fallen nearly 50%, ironically demonstrating to clients the risks of going public and giving it a valuation of just over £140 million.

Many observers in the industry wouldn't be surprised if Peel Hunt became a takeover target, seeing it in a position similar to Numis before the Deutsche Bank deal.

A spokesperson for Peel Hunt declined to comment.

### Consolidation Doubts

Some veterans worry that in the absence of a market comeback, smaller firms might be unable to generate enough to pay bonuses and keep staff motivated, given the relatively small fees they collect.

"What preoccupies you most in a downturn is how to retain your talent," Pickering said. "If you lose people, that's when you lose your will to operate as an independent firm."

With Deutsche Bank, Numis potentially faces the opposite problem: becoming too big. Some of its smaller clients have been eyeing new corporate brokers in recent months because they want the increased attention that comes with a smaller broker, two people familiar with the matter said.

The combined firm hasn't lost clients as a result of the deal, according to Alex Ham, co-chief executive. Indeed, it felt the benefit of Deutsche Bank's balance sheet capabilities when acting as main coordinator on Zegona Communications Plc's £300 million (\$327 million) equity raise to help fund its acquisition of

Vodafone Group Plc's Spanish unit, he said.

Deutsche Bank was already broker to blue-chip firms such as BAE Systems Plc before the deal, and the combined outfit's average client size is north of £1 billion, while competitors such as Panmure Liberum generally cater to clients with a market capitalization of less than £500 million.

### Rebound Hopes

There are some signs that dealmaking will stir back into life in 2024. Air Astana, Kazakhstan's flag carrier, and London Tunnels, a company developing once-secret passageways in the city into a tourist attraction, said last week they plan UK stock-market listings.

Bankers, however, aren't celebrating yet as a substantial recovery could well be a year away, given the uncertainty around expected interest rate cuts and major elections.

"Instability in markets is the biggest fear of a board," said Ham. "That's when they really need their advisers and then they also want to know if their broker will be there for them in the future."

## S.Korea to make financial markets more attractive

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea will take steps to make its financial markets more investor friendly and attractive to foreigners, the financial regulator said on Monday.

The comments by vice chairman of the Financial Services Commission (FSC), Kim So-young, came at a meeting with foreign financial firms in Seoul to discuss ways of helping them expand business, in the wake of November's ban on short-selling.

"The government will make various efforts to globalise the financial industry, especially to build a more favourable environment for foreign financial firms," Kim said.

"In a broad framework, we will continue efforts to improve the attractiveness of the Korean market to foreign investors."

Officials of 10 foreign firms, such as HSBC, JP Morgan and Societe Generale, attended the meeting, the FSC said.

Among the regulatory reforms South Korea adopted last year to boost foreign access to its financial markets was the scrapping of a 30-year-old rule that foreigners must register with authorities in order to trade listed stocks.

In November, however, it imposed a sudden temporary ban on stock short-selling through the first half of 2024, after authorities uncovered some illegal trades by foreign firms.



VIEW FROM THE TOP



## Israeli, Palestinian ministers to attend EU peace meeting

BRUSSELS

THE Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers are to meet their European Union counterparts on Monday as the EU considers potential steps toward a comprehensive peace between the two sides even as the war in Gaza rages on.

Israel's Israel Katz and Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki will take part separately in a regular meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels largely devoted to the Middle East but also taking stock of the Ukraine conflict.

Foreign ministers from Saudi Ara-

bia, Egypt and Jordan and the secretary-general of the League of Arab States will also attend as the gathering focuses on the consequences of the Oct 7 attacks on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas from Gaza and Israel's military response.

Ahead of the meeting, the EU's diplomatic service sent a discussion paper to its 27 member countries, suggesting a roadmap to peace in the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At the heart of the plan is a call for a "preparatory peace conference" to be organised by the EU, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the League of Arab States, with the United States

and United Nations also invited to be conveners of the gathering.

The conference would go ahead even if Israelis or Palestinians declined to take part. But both parties would be consulted at every step of the talks as delegates sought to draw up a peace plan, the document suggests.

The internal document, seen by multiple news organisations including Reuters, makes clear one key goal of a peace plan should be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, "living side by side with Israel in peace and security".

Agencies

## Landmines in ZNPP area necessary for protection against sabotage, says Russian envoy

VIENNA

THE landmines, discovered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts on the periphery of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) are necessary for protection against saboteurs, Russian Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said.

"There is nothing extraordinary about the presence of landmines. It is a common measure of protection of the station from attacks and sabotage.

The landmines are located between the outer and inner fences of the power plant. It is a restricted buffer zone. Power plant staff does not go there. The landmines pose threat only for rats, crows and potential saboteurs," he said on his Telegram channel.

He pointed out that, in accordance with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the power plant administration is entitled to decide on protective measures on its own.

"The IAEA Secretariat would do good to remember that. Especially considering that Director General [Rafael Grossi] underscored in his five pillars of nuclear security, voiced in the UN Security Council on May 30, 2023, that it is crucial to make sure that the power plant is reliably protected from attacks and sabotage," the diplomat said.

Ulyanov pointed out that the IAEA staff first noticed the landmines last summer. Meanwhile, the Agency acknowledged that these protective measures are deployed in a way that poses no threat for the power plant facilities or staff.

"These landmines were removed in November. Now, they appeared again. Meaning, there is a need for that. This is hardly a sensation," Ulyanov concluded.

One day earlier, the IAEA announced that landmines were discovered between the outer and inner fence of the ZNPP. The Agency believes that this contradicts IAEA security standards.



## China calls for advancement of South-South cooperation



Heads of state and government representatives attend the opening session of the Third South Summit in Kampala on Sunday. AFP

KAMPALA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's special representative Liu Guozhong attended the Third South Summit held Sunday in the Ugandan capital of Kampala and delivered a speech, calling for the advancement of South-South cooperation and reform of the global governance system.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Group of 77, and over the past six decades, the Global South has followed the right path of equality, mutual trust, mutual benefit, solidarity and mutual assistance, said Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council.

Independence is the defining political feature of the Global South, seeking strength through unity is the glorious tradition of

the Global South, development and revitalization are the historical mission of the Global South, and fairness and justice are the common propositions of the Global South, Liu noted.

Transformations of the world unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace, and the Global South is faced with a complex external environment, he said, calling for more efforts in exploring a path to modernization, promoting South-South cooperation at a higher level, actively participating in the reform of the global governance system, and deepening a global partnership for development that is united, equal, balanced and beneficial to all.

Liu said that the Chinese president has put forward the important vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative,

and advocates the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, aiming to mobilize global resources, promote the common development of human society, long-term stability and mutual learning among civilizations, and push the world toward a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress.

As a developing country and a member of the Global South, China has always shared a common destiny with other developing countries, and will continue to take South-South cooperation as a priority in its foreign cooperation and contribute to the common development of developing countries in the Global South, Liu said.

The South Summit is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77. High-level representatives of nearly 100 countries and heads of United Nations agencies attended the meeting.

Xinhua

## US focused on forming servile colonial administration in Ukraine, Russian intel chief says

MOSCOW

THE US has started to form a colonial-style administration in Ukraine, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Sergey Naryshkin said.

"The United States has started to form an actual colonial administration in Ukraine as part of a policy aimed at completely subordinating the country," he pointed out in a statement released by the SVR.

"According to Washington's plan, the administration will consist of Ukrainians who were trained in the West and have sworn allegiance to US interests," Naryshkin added.

According to him, the US has demanded that the Ukrainian president



"should on one pretext or another dismiss senior officials who have lost the White House's trust." "The blacklist includes dozens of high-ranking Ukrainian officials from [President Vladimir] Zelensky's team," Naryshkin said. "He has been put on notice that, if he fails to act accordingly, Washington will release 'killer' corruption files against his close connections. Zelensky real-

izes that the compromising evidence in the possession of the Americans could destroy him as president. Given such circumstances, he will continue to dance to the tune of his American masters," the Russian intel chief emphasized.

He went on to say that, "the US leadership is steadily increasing Kiev's vassal dependence on Washington." "American advisors are already represented in all of Ukraine's key government agencies, which is similar to the way the Anglo-Saxons used to dispatch their 'political agents' to actually rule over and control local authorities [in London's colonies] during the heyday of the British Empire," Naryshkin stressed.

"Vladimir Zelensky received strong recommendations on government reshuffles during his visit to the US in December 2023. The Americans are pushing for Ukrainian Ambassador to Washington Oksana Markarova, who studied at Indiana University at Bloomington, to become the country's next prime minister.

Deputy Finance Minister Alexander Kava, who studied at Harvard, has been chosen for the position of finance minister. Deputy Economy Minister Taras Kachka, a graduate of Poland's National Institute of Public Administration, has been recommended to head the ministry," Naryshkin concluded.

Agencies



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Secretary-General of United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 19th NAM Summit, in Kampala on Saturday. ANI

## 'India does as many cashless payments in a month, as much America does in three years'

ABUJA

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar drew an analogy while describing the country's growth in digital public infrastructure and said that the number of cashless transactions the United States does in three years, India does in a month.

The EAM was interacting with the people of the Indian community in Nigeria on Sunday (local time).

"The life of every Indian citizen has become easier and this is because we have embraced technology in a very deep way. You can see this in payment, very few people today pay in cash and very few people accept cash...Today, we do as many cashless payments in India in a month as much as America does in three years," Jaishankar said at the event.

He further highlighted the five major examples that showcase the transformation of India in the last decade.

"For me, how a country deals with a challenge, recovers from the challenge, and is able to pose such a strong economic performance, how the life of an average citizen becomes better, how we are capable of something that captures the imagination of the world and how do we look after our people outside the country. These are five true examples of what changed in India in the last decade," Jaishankar said.

The EAM also lauded the way India dealt with Covid pandemic while pointing that many countries have still not been able to cope with the impact and highlighting that New Delhi brought back 7 million of its people from abroad.

"I take great heart, great hope and great faith from how India dealt with it. When Covid started, during a virtual meeting in 2020, it was said that the country that will be most unable to cope with Covid would be India. Two years later, I saw that we went through the Covid wave, and lockdowns...we started making medicines for the rest of the world," he further said.

Stressing that India is the fastest-growing economy in the world, Jais-

hankar said that business sentiment about New Delhi has improved and as a result, the flow of investments into the country has reached its highest ever.

"Today, what is happening in the economy...we are the fastest-growing big economy in the world...but it is much more than that. Today, if you see the economic activity in India, wherever you go, something is being built. A metro is being built, a road is being built, new airports are coming up, new trains are coming up, railway stations are coming up. If you go to your village, piped water is coming up, there is electricity connection coming," Jaishankar said.

He added, "There is a sense today that India is being built at a fantastic pace, not just being built, that growth rate actually covers many other things. You can see the flow of investment in India, the highest ever. Look at the business sentiment about India. For me, the real change is the change I see in our own people".

Notably, Jaishankar is on a visit to Nigeria from January 21-23. During this, he will co-chair the 6th India-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with his counterpart and meet with other leaders.

Prior to this, he also led the Indian delegation at the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to be held in Kampala, Uganda.

He also met several foreign leaders and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the summit.

The EAM will also inaugurate the 3rd edition of the Nigeria-India Business Council meeting, deliver a speech at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, interact with CII Business delegates and inaugurate the bust of Mahatma Gandhi.

He will also chair the regional conference of Indian Heads of Missions. India and Nigeria have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. This is EAM's first visit to Nigeria, which will further consolidate bilateral relations between the two countries, the release said. ANI



**Today, what is happening in the economy...we are the fastest-growing big economy in the world... but it is much more than that**

CURRENTLY, the global economic recovery remains fragile and weak, and various security challenges keep emerging. Misunderstandings, estrangement and conflicts among civilizations still exist, and the deficits in peace, development, security and governance are growing.

Eying on promoting human progress, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) in recent years. These initiatives have contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to im-

proving global governance, embracing changes in the world, and addressing challenges facing humanity, providing strategic guidance for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

It is widely recognized that peace and stability, material sufficiency, and cultural-ethical enrichment represent the basic goals of human society. Development serves as the material foundation for security and civilization, security acts as the fundamental prerequisite for development and civilization, and civilization provides the cultural-ethical support for development

## The three initiatives China put forward have resonated warmly with the world

and security.

The GDI, GSI, and GCI proposed by Xi guide the advance of human society across these three dimensions. Resonating and complementing each other, they have built broad consensus and strong momentum in the international community to strengthen cooperation, jointly meet challenges, and create a shared future.

The GDI is committed to promoting global development and foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-

win cooperation and common prosperity, with an aim to foster a global community of development with a shared future.

So far, over 100 countries and international organizations have voiced support for the GDI, and more than 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI. China has also signed cooperation memorandums of understanding with nearly 30 countries and international organizations. This has enhanced the synergy between the GDI and major national and regional development

plans. The GDI stays committed to development as its first priority, to a people-centered approach, to inclusiveness and benefits for all, to innovation-driven development, to harmony between humanity and nature and to results-oriented actions.

The initiative is fully aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It addresses the most pressing livelihood needs of developing countries, building cooperation platforms and partnerships in key areas

such as poverty reduction, food security, industrialization and digital connectivity. It deepens pragmatic cooperation, strengthens knowledge sharing in development, and benefits developing countries extensively.

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed believes that strengthening cooperation within the framework of the GDI is key to achieving the common objectives for people and the planet.

Through the GSI, China calls for adapting to the profound chang-

es in the international landscape through solidarity, addressing traditional and non-traditional security risks and challenges with a win-win mindset, and creating a new path to security that features dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance, and win-win results over zero-sum game. The initiative aims at building a security community.

China released the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, which expounds the core ideas and principles of the GSI, and identifies the priorities, platforms and mechanisms of cooperation.

People's Daily



# Ron DeSantis ends 2024 campaign, endorses Trump over Haley

SEABROOK

FLORIDA Governor Ron DeSantis ended his fading presidential campaign on Sunday and endorsed Donald Trump just two days before the pivotal New Hampshire primary, leaving former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley as Trump's last remaining long-shot challenger for the Republican nomination.

DeSantis' decision, less than a week after his deflating loss to Trump in Iowa despite an enormous investment in the state, caps a stunning fall from grace after he was widely seen as Republicans' most promising alternative to Trump ahead of the general election in November.

His departure sets up the one-on-one battle that Haley has coveted against Trump, the former president who has maintained an iron grip on the Republican electorate despite facing four criminal prosecutions. He has pleaded not guilty in all the cases.

But the majority of DeSantis' supporters appears more likely to switch allegiance to Trump rather than the more moderate Haley. In New Hampshire, about two-thirds of DeSantis backers cite Trump as their second choice, said Andrew Smith, director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

In a video posted on X, DeSantis endorsed Trump while delivering a parting shot at Haley.

"He has my endorsement because we can't go back to the old Republican guard of yesteryear: a re-packaged form of warmed-over corporatism that Nikki Haley represents", he said.



Republican presidential candidate Florida Governor Ron DeSantis speaks to supporters during a caucus night party, Jan 15, 2024, in West Des Moines, Iowa. AP

Trump is holding a double-digit lead over Haley in New Hampshire, according to polls, and his campaign hopes a second consecutive win will make his eventual nomination all but inevitable.

He also holds a commanding lead in South Carolina, which votes on Feb. 24. A Haley loss in her home state - where she served as governor from 2011 to 2017 - would likely doom her campaign.

At a campaign event in Seabrook, New Hampshire, Haley drew cheers when she announced that DeSantis had dropped out. "For now, I'll leave you with this: May the best woman win", she said.

### 'One-person race'

David Kochel, a Republican strategist who has worked on five presidential campaigns, said DeSantis' exit was unlikely

to change the basic contours of the campaign, given that his support had cratered. "The race needs a big dynamic shift, and I don't feel that DeSantis dropping out is that big a deal as he didn't have that much going on in New Hampshire, and he didn't even have that much going on in South Carolina", he said.

Another Republican consultant, Ford O'Connell, who has ties to both the Trump and DeSantis camps, said he expected most DeSantis voters to "come home" to Trump.

"Without question, Trump is the beneficiary of DeSantis ending his campaign", he said.

With time running short, Haley has sharpened her attacks on the frontrunner in the final days before the election.

In a statement after DeSantis' announce-

ment, the Trump campaign thanked him for the endorsement and urged Republicans to coalesce behind him.

"Nikki Haley is the candidate of the globalists and Democrats who will do everything to stop the America First movement", the campaign said.

The winner of this year's Republican nominating contests will take on President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee.

### Desantis campaign errors

Early last year, DeSantis was considered a top presidential contender and a natural heir to Trump due to his combative style and deeply conservative views. He led several head-to-head polls against Trump.

DeSantis failed on both counts. He never successfully articulated to most Trump supporters why he was a better option, while Republicans looking to ditch the former president split their votes among multiple candidates.

But his support has declined for several months, due to a flawed campaign strategy, his seeming lack of ease with voters on the campaign trail and Trump's so far unshakeable command of much of the party's base.

More than 70 percent of Republicans have a favorable opinion of Trump, according to most polls. That put DeSantis in a position where he had to appeal to voters that still admired Trump, as well as those who passionately disliked him.

DeSantis failed on both counts. He never successfully articulated to most Trump supporters why he was a better option, while Republicans looking to ditch the former president split their votes among multiple candidates.

Agencies

# China, DR Congo vow to deepen cooperation

KINSHASA

PRESIDENT Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo met with Shen Yueyue, Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, on Sunday after Shen attended Tshisekedi's inauguration one day ago.

Shen, also the vice-chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, conveyed Xi's cordial greetings and good wishes to Tshisekedi, saying that China attaches great importance to the development of China-DR Congo relations.

China is willing to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, firmly support each other's core interests, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and promote the development of people-to-people friendship, Shen said.

China is ready to deepen exchanges and cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, aiming to build a stronger and more dynamic comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership with the DR Congo, Shen said.

For his part, Tshisekedi sincerely thanked Xi for sending a special envoy to attend his inauguration ceremony and asked Shen to convey his sincere greetings and best wishes to his Chinese counterpart.

Tshisekedi spoke highly of the progress made in the cooperation package of "resource for projects" between the DR Congo and China, emphasizing that the DR Congo highly values the traditional friendship between the two countries.

The DR Congo firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is ready to deepen cooperation with China in key areas such as mining, so as to push bilateral relations to a higher level, he added.



President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (right) meets Shen Yueyue, Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, also the vice-chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo on Sunday. XINHUA

# India hands over 15th consignment of humanitarian aid comprising power generators to Ukraine

NEW DELHI

AMID the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Indian envoy to Ukraine, Harsh Kumar Jain handed over the 15th consignment of humanitarian aid to Ukraine on Friday, Embassy of Ukraine in India said on Sunday.

The Indian envoy handed over the consignment, which included ten 30 kW generators, to the Director of the "Kryla Nadiyi" Charitable Fund, Mataliya Liska, in the presence of the Head of the Lviv Regional State Administration, Maksym Kozyskyi. The Embassy said the generators will be provided to eight educational institutions in Lviv region to support their educational processes.

The Ukrainian Embassy also expressed its gratitude for the humanitarian aid provided by the Indian government.

The statement said, "We express our sincere gratitude for provided humanitarian assistance during the hard times of Russian aggression. We highly appreciate the human-centric approach of the Government of India and its commitment to continue to provide humanitarian support to the people of Ukraine."

Earlier in August, India handed over the 14th consignment of humanitarian aid comprising essential medicines to crisis-hit Ukraine. The aid was handed over by Indian Ambassador to Ukraine Harsh Jain.

ANI

# Global milestone: Cameroon launches first malaria jabs drive

THE global fight against malaria took a stride forward yesterday as Cameroon launched the world's first routine vaccine program against the mosquito-borne disease that is projected to save tens of thousands of children's lives per year across Africa.

Around 40 years in the making, the World Health Organization (WHO)-approved RTS,S vaccine developed by British drugmaker GSK is meant to work alongside existing tools such as bed nets to combat malaria, which in Africa kills nearly half a million children under the age of five each year.

After successful trials, including in Ghana and Kenya, Cameroon is the first country to

administer doses through a routine immunization program that 19 other countries aim to roll out this year, according to global vaccine alliance Gavi.

Around 6.6 million children in these countries are targeted for malaria vaccination through 2024-25.

"For a long time, we have been waiting for a day like this," said Mohammed Abdulaziz of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at a joint online briefing with the WHO, Gavi and other organizations.

The urgency is clear. Disruptions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, rising insecticide resistance, and other issues have hindered the fight against malaria in recent years with cases



rising by around 5 million year-on-year in 2022, according to the WHO.

Overall, more than 30 countries on the continent have expressed interest in introducing the vaccine and fears of a supply squeeze have eased since a

second vaccine completed a key regulatory step in December.

Rolling out the second vaccine "is expected to result in sufficient vaccine supply to meet the high demand and reach millions more children," the WHO's director of immunization, Kate

O'Brien, said at the briefing.

This R2I vaccine, developed by University of Oxford, could be launched in May or June, said Gavi's Chief Programme Officer Aurelia Nguyen.

Some experts have expressed scepticism, saying attention and funding should not be drawn away from the wider fight against the age-old killer and the use of established malaria-prevention tools like bed nets.

Health experts at the briefing said the roll-out was accompanied with extensive community out-reach to combat any vaccine hesitancy and to emphasise the importance of continuing to use all protective measures alongside the vaccines.

Agencies

DUBAI

ABDULLAH bin Touq Al Marri, UAE's Minister of Economy, inaugurated the 3rd edition of World of Coffee Dubai 2024, organised by DXB Live and the Specialty Coffee Association.

The exhibition features over 1,650 local, regional, and global brands and companies, marking a 50 per cent increase in space. This year's event has garnered significant global interest, with 51 countries participating in its

# UAE's Minister of Economy inaugurates World of Coffee 2024

activities. The exhibition will run until January 23, 2024.

Bin Touq, accompanied by Timur Abdiljalil, Consul General of Kyrgyz Republic in Dubai and the Northern Emirates and Khalid Al Hammadi, Senior Vice President of DXB Live along with Yannos Apostolopoulos, Chief Executive Officer, The Specialty Coffee Association (SCA), toured the pavilions featured in the ex-

hibition. He lauded the impressive influx of visitors and the wide participation of brands and exhibitors from across the globe. He commended the event organisation's efficiency and praised the hard work of the teams involved.

During his visit, Bin Touq also toured the Roosters Village, Cupping Room, and Brew Bar pavilions, thoroughly inspecting the

arrangements for the upcoming 2024 UAE National Barista Latte Art Championships.

The competitions present participants with the chance to qualify for the esteemed World Barista Championship. In addition, Bin Touq observed the preparations for both the Coffee Design Awards and the Best New Product Awards.

The 2024 edition of World of

Coffee focuses on sustainability in the coffee industry, emphasising the need for responsible practices to ensure a continuous coffee supply. The Expo showcases regional market growth and addresses the increasing demand for specialty coffee.

It features lectures and workshops on the sustainable coffee movement, promoting eco-friendly agricultural practices and aiming to preserve biodiversity and improve coffee quality.

ANI

# Unveiling truths of US-led coups in Latin America

BEIJING

IN April 2009, during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, then president of Venezuela Hugo Chavez gave his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama a book titled "The Open Veins of Latin America," which eloquently argues that the West has long plundered the region's natural resources to bankroll its own progress.

What the author Eduardo Galeano referred to as the "underground gold and silver veins" had been exploited for centuries and the mineral wealth exported to other lands.

"The underdevelopment of Latin America derives from the development of others and it continues to feed it," he wrote. After more than 300 years of European colonial rule, Latin America no sooner saw the dawn of national independence in the early 19th century than Uncle Sam broke in, vying for its rich resources.

In December 1823, James

Monroe, the fifth American president, delivered a speech to Congress proclaiming "America for Americans."

And the United States has since been obsessed with the Monroe Doctrine to hold sway over Latin American countries, unscrupulously launching coups, invasions and sanctions whenever necessary.

Today, the Monroe Doctrine persists, bleeding dry the "veins" of Latin Americans, undermining their national security and stymieing their social development.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 1973, audiences nationwide heard the calm but firm voice of then Chilean president Salvador Allende aired by Radio Magallanes: "I am not going to resign!"

Placed in a historic transition, I will pay for loyalty to the people with my life." Surrounded by tanks and bombarded by fighter jets, Allende led the presidential guard in a desperate fight against the coup forces, only to die in the line of duty. In the



A man pays homage to former Chilean President Salvador Allende and commemorates the 49th anniversary of the military coup launched by Augusto Pinochet in Santiago, Chile, Sept. 11, 2022. Xinhua

final moments of his life, he revealed to the public via radio that the coup was launched by

reactionary groups backed by foreign capital and imperialism. The coup d'etat marked one of

the darkest episodes in Chilean history.

As reported by the British

newspaper The Guardian, "the hands of the United States are stained with the blood of Chileans," as it was Washington that instigated the coup in order to prevent the emergence of a "second Cuba" in Latin America.

According to The New York Times, the U.S. government allocated 815,000 U.S. dollars to create division within Allende's government, and between 1970 and 1973 the Central Intelligence Agency spent more than 8 million dollars in Chile, most of which was used to finance strikes and demonstrations by right-wing opposition groups.

In the past 200 years, the United States has habitually engineered coups in Latin American countries and persecuted leaders of left-wing political parties.

According to a study by Harvard University, between 1898 and 1994, Washington plotted and staged at least 41 coups d'etat in Latin America, equivalent to one in every 28 months.

In recent years, the Monroe Doctrine has been consolidated by more covert judicial coups, or lawfare.

Collusion between the U.S. and Brazilian judicial and intelligence services succeeded in depriving Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of an envisioned reelection in 2018 and sent him to prison.

Progressive leaders from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and other countries have also been plagued with judicial coups or even fell victim.

Hooked on the Monroe Doctrine, the United States schemes to generate political instability in Latin America to easily replace leaders who question the region's subordination to Washington, said Pavel Aleman Benitez, researcher at Cuba's International Policy Research Center (CIP). As American Congressman Greg Casar observed, "U.S. foreign policy has too often contributed to instability in Latin America."

Xinhua

# SPORT



TECNO company's instructor, Shakila Mkima (C), poses for a picture with Simba SC's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally (R) and his Yanga counterpart Ally Kamwe during the unveiling of a campaign, termed 'Busti Kipaji', which seeks to support needy Tanzanian junior footballers. The event took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## 2024 Miss Kinondoni launched in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 2024 Miss Tanzania beauty pageant for Kinondoni District was launched at the Hyatt Regency The Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Various stakeholders from the beauty industry, film, and new genre music turned up for the launch.

The Queen J. Investment Company coordinates Miss Kinondoni under the firm's Director Queen Peter Johnsson, who was also one of the beauties from Kinondoni Municipality.

Executive Secretary of the National Arts Council, who was represented by Augustine Makame- Senior Arts Officer in the National Arts Council- graced the 2024 Miss Kinondoni launch.

He thanked the pageant's organizers for raising the status and coming up with a unique approach- quite different from the way the contest was organized in previous years.

The motto of the 2024 Miss Tanzania pageant is Beauty and Leadership, meaning to honour the event's contestants who have held several leadership positions in the government.

Makame mentioned some former Miss Tanzania beauties- who are currently leaders in various parts of the country and abroad- as 1999 Miss Tanzania Hoyce Temu- who is currently Tanzania's Deputy Ambassador to Switzerland.

Iringa Regional Commissioner Halima Dendegu and Jokate Mwegelo- who is currently the Tanzania Women's Union Secretary-General- are also former beauties currently holding dignified positions in government and renowned institutions.

Queen J. Investment Director, Queen, asked stakeholders to come out in large numbers to sponsor 2024 Miss Kinondoni pageant to help the beauty industry achieve success.

Some of the beauties who participated in the 2024 Miss Kinondoni launch include 2010 Miss Tanzania winner Genevieve Emmanuel, and a lawyer Rebecca Manoti- who was also the 2019 Miss Lake Zone winner and 2019 Miss Tanzania finals contestant.

Leyla Bhanji- 2003 Miss Kinondoni winner

and 2003 Miss Tanzania finals contestant, 2013 Miss Tanzania finals contestant Alice Mwakatika, and Diana Laizer- 2013 Miss Tanzania finals contestant who is also the Director of Lavine International Agency were also in attendance.

Another attendant of the launch included Serafina John, a 2018 Miss Tanzania pageant final contestant.

All beauties were accompanied by Miss Kinondoni Amina Jigge- who is also the 2023/24 Miss Tanzania runner-up- and 2022 Miss Tanzania Halima Kopwe.

Miss Kinondoni pageant winners that have also won the Miss Tanzania title since 1998 include

Basilla Mwanukuzi (1998)- who is currently the Director of The Look Company, which hosts the Miss Tanzania beauty pageant.

Faraja Kotta Nyalandu- 2004 Miss Kinondoni winner and Miss Tanzania, Nancy Sumari- 2005 Miss Kinondoni, Miss Tanzania and Miss World Africa, Wema Sepetu- 2006 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania, and Richa Adhia 2007 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania.

Bridgitte Alfred- 2012 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania, Diana Edward- 2016 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania, Queen Elizabeth Makune- 2018 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania, as well as Amina Jigge- 2023 Miss Kinondoni and Miss Tanzania second-placed contestant also attended the occasion.

Queen stated the 2024 Miss Kinondoni has been slated for May 11, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel.

## TBF selects national squad for EA Community competition

By Guardian Correspondent

THIRTEEN basketball players have been selected to form the national team slated to participate in the East Africa Community competition to be held in Rwanda on February 10.

Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) spokesperson, Mary Arthur, said the federation received an invitation from the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) asking it to start preparing the national team for the showdown.

Mary said that the competition will involve eight countries- Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Congo DR, Somalia, Burundi, and the host Rwanda.

"Early on, we were supposed to have the National Tournament (Taifa Cup) in February this year but, after receiving this invitation to participate in the East African Community competition, we decided to push the Taifa Cup back to June 19," the TBF official revealed.

"We, therefore, ask all regions that will participate in the Taifa Cup to continue preparing fully so that when the time comes for the competition, it would bring about competitiveness that will promote the sport in the country," Mary said.

Mary further called on various stakeholders to come forward to support the national team's preparations so that it can do well in the East African Community competition.

The players that have earned a call-up to the national basketball team are Josephat Peter, Baraka Sadick, and Erick Lugora from Dar es Salaam, Ally Faraji, Fotius Ngaiza, Isaya Aswile (Dodoma), and Tyrone Edward (Mbeya).

Others are Amin Mkosa, Mwalimu Kheri

(Mbeya), Haji Mbegu, Jonas Mushi (Arusha), Cisco George (Mwanza), and Salmin Juma from Unguja.

Renowned former basketball players, Mohammed Mbwana and Ashraf Haroun, are the national basketball squad's coaches.

Mbwana said they have always been monitoring the players' performance from the Taifa Cup and at their respective clubs.

The tactician noted: "We have called them now because they showed good displays in the regions they played in, others also did well in their clubs and we will continue to monitor them."

"We will always be selecting teams based on the level of players at the time, so, all players in all regions ought to continue working hard in the regional leagues and other competitions given the national team is for every player," Mbwana stressed.

“

Early on, we were supposed to have the National Tournament (Taifa Cup) in February this year but, after receiving this invitation to participate in the East African Community competition, we decided to push the Taifa Cup back to June 19

SPORTS

## Minnows stealing the show at 2023 AFCON finals

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

USUALLY at the prestigious AFCON finals, the continent's football powerhouses are accustomed to inflicting embarrassing defeats on the so-called minnows.

However, in what is a marked departure from the past, the small fry of continental football has left football enthusiasts open-mouthed with their fearless approach in duels against African football's established heavyweights.

Indeed, this bold and determined mindset has paid dividends for continental football's weak teams thus far at the ongoing AFCON Finals in Ivory Coast, which is proving to be a real treat.

Consider the football duel between Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, which took place during the competition's early days.

With numberless football buffs expecting Nigeria to mercilessly trounce Equatorial Guinea, it was the latter, who seized the lead to the utter astonishment of football fans across the continent.

Now on the back foot, the Super Eagles of Nigeria swiftly drew level less than two minutes later when the Eagles' ruthlessly prolific attacker Victor Osimhen netted the equalizer, which ensured that both teams finished the engrossing encounter with a share of the spoils.

If that result was not jaw-dropping enough for you, there were delightfully more flabbergasting results to come.

Indeed, in the showdown between traditional title contenders Ghana and the lowly Cape Verde, it was the latter, who would set tongues wagging after claiming a sensational 2-1 win over the Black Stars.

At this point in the pulsating AFCON finals, it is difficult to gaze into a crystal ball and successfully predict that more jaw-dropping results are on the cards.

Nevertheless, it is unimpeachably true that the so-called lightweights of continental football have made sublime contributions to the thrilling football spectacle that is continuing to unfold in the Ivory Coast.



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, dribbles past Morocco's player as the squads locked horns in a Group F encounter of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations that was held in Ivory Coast on January 17. Morocco beat Taifa Stars 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Let us now sink our teeth into the domestic sporting arena which has long been bedeviled by a lack of funding.

In a bid to successfully address this quandary, the President recently called upon sports stakeholders, well-wishers, and would-be corporate sponsors to donate funds that will bankroll the participation of our various national sports teams in a plethora of hugely esteemed sporting championships.

Thus far, the enormous sum of 800m/- has been raised although this is still admittedly smaller than the whopping sum of 4.7bn/- which has been pledged by various sponsors and sports stakeholders.

Indeed, it is hoped that more would-be sponsors will financially throw their weight behind our various sports teams which could potentially heighten our chances of gaining medals at august sporting competitions.

Let us end now with some encouraging tidings for all Tanzanians from the AFCON finals in Ivory Coast where our Taifa Stars claimed a hard-earned draw with the erstwhile African champions Zambia last Sunday.

Taifa Stars had been on course to claim what would have been a morale-boosting victory after taking an

early lead in the 11th minute via a Simon Msuva strike.

Unfortunately, though, Zambia leveled the match in the 88th minute through Patson Daka which left legions of Tanzanians with their hearts sunk.

Nonetheless, Taifa Stars' impressive display was a distinct improvement on their opening match of the tournament, which saw them humiliatingly lose 3-0 to the Atlas Lions of Morocco.

Hope springs eternal then that the Taifa Stars will be able to outclass the DR Congo in their last Group F clash.

## Azam FC goes for tactical adjustments and strategic signings



Azam FC's newly signed Sudanese keeper, Mohamed Mustafa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoil

AZAM FC has decided to make significant changes to its squad registration, temporarily taking goalkeepers Abdulai Idrissu and Ali Ahamada out of the team due to the prolonged injuries the two shot-stoppers suffered in the previous year.

Idrissu, recovering from an injury on his left arm, underwent surgery in South Africa while Ahamada is undergoing further medical examinations in France for a knee injury on his left leg.

The first-choice goalkeepers, facing an estimated recovery time of four to five months, have been replaced in the registration to accommodate the arrival of new signings aimed at fortifying the team during the mini-registration window.

The club has secured the services of Sudanese goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa from Al-Merrikh of Sudan, central defender Yeison Fuentes from Leones FC, and striker Franklin Navarro, who comes from Cortulua FC in Colombia.

The adjustments in the squad reflect Azam FC's proactive approach to strengthening key positions affected by injuries.

The introduction of Mustafa, Fuentes, and Navarro is expected to contribute to the team's resilience and competitiveness in upcoming fixtures.

Alongside such changes, the club announced the departure of striker Idris Mbombo, who has officially joined Nkana which plays in the Zambia Super League.

This decision marks a strategic move in reshaping Azam FC's composition and aligning with the squad's objectives for the future.

Azam FC is currently dominating the NBC Premier League, leading the league's table with 37 points from 16 games.

The league leader is just one point clear of closest challengers, Yanga, and is moreover boasting a six-game unbeaten streak.

Azam FC's offensive firepower is undeniable, as evidenced by recent wins- some of which are the 4-0 victory over Kagera Sugar, 5-0 over Kinondoni Municipal Council, and 5-0 defeat of Mtibwa Sugar.

The Chamazi-based Azam FC has conceded 10 goals throughout the current NBC Premier League season.

However, it is important to note that the club has so

far played 13 games out of the total 30, and has not conceded any goal in the side's away games so far.

This means Azam FC's defense remains strong overall, despite the relatively few number of matches played.

Azam FC's management remains committed to navigating through the challenges, adapting to unforeseen circumstances, and building a formidable squad capable of achieving success in domestic and continental competitions.

The ongoing restructuring underscores the club's dedication to maintaining a competitive edge in various competitions.

## Congo captain Chancel Mbemba subjected to online racist abuse

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast

CONGO captain Chancel Mbemba was subjected to a torrent of racist abuse on social media after leading his team to a 1-1 draw against Morocco at the Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday.

Mbemba's Instagram account was targeted by many users who replied to his latest posts with monkey or gorilla emojis, or wrote racist comments.

The 29-year-old Mbemba, who is Black, plays for top-tier French club Marseille.

Mbemba had a heated exchange with Morocco coach Walid Regragui after the match. It led to a melee between players and officials from both teams that continued as they left the field and went down the players' tunnel.

Regragui sought Mbemba after

the game when the player was on his knees giving thanks in a personal moment. Mbemba took Regragui's hand and clapped him on the back as it appeared he thought it was a friendly exchange. But Regragui kept hold of Mbemba's hand and carried on talking.

The player angrily pulled his hand away and gestured for the video referee before players from both sides jumped in.

Mbemba suggested to journalists after the game in San Pedro that Regragui had insulted him.

"I'm keeping my silence, it's better. Everybody knows me, I respect everyone ... but I never thought I'd hear that word from the coach, that it would come from his mouth," Mbemba said.

There was no immediate reaction from Regragui.

AP

## Salah to leave Egypt squad and return to Liverpool for injury rehab

ABIDJAN

MOHAMED Salah will leave the Egypt squad at the Africa Cup of Nations to continue treatment on a hamstring injury at his club Liverpool, the country's football association said on Sunday, but they hope he will return to the tournament in Ivory Coast.

"Salah will attend (Monday's) game against Cape Verde and then will travel to the UK," the Egyptian Football Association said.

"After communication between the Egyptian medical staff and their Liverpool counterparts, we have agreed that the player will return to the UK to continue his treatment, hoping to return to the Egypt team for the semi-finals."

The announcement comes after Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said it "makes sense" for the 31-year-old to undergo treatment in England.

"That's the plan," Klopp said after Liverpool's 4-0 victory away to Bournemouth on Sunday when asked if Salah would now return to Merseyside.

"If that's already decided 100 per cent, I don't know. But that's the plan. I think probably everybody sees it makes sense that he's doing the rehab with us or with our people."

Salah had already been ruled out of the Pharaohs' crucial Group B clash against Cape Verde in Abidjan on Monday and Egypt's last-16 match should they progress.

The Egyptian FA had initially hoped he would be back for an eventual quarter-final, but now appear resigned to being without him until a possible semi-final on February 7.

Klopp did leave the door open for Salah to return to the tournament should he prove his fitness while Egypt are still alive.

"If Egypt qualifies for the final and he is fit before the final, then probably yes," added Klopp. "Why not? That's clear."

After drawing their opening two games at the tournament, the record seven-time African champions need to beat already-qualified Cape Verde just to be guaranteed of qualifying for the last 16.

Salah salvaged a 2-2 draw with Mozambique from the penalty spot in Egypt's opening game before limping off in the first half of the stalemate against Ghana.

His injury is the latest cruel twist of fate for the player at the AFCON. He has never won the trophy and twice fallen short in the final, to Cameroon in 2017 and Senegal two years ago.

Salah told a press conference on Sunday he remains convinced he will be crowned champion of Africa "sooner or later".

"I have won everything possible but this one not yet," said the two-time African footballer of the year. "It will happen somehow, that is what I believe, and whatever I believe I achieve, so sooner or later it will happen."

"I would love to win it, absolutely," Salah said when asked what it would mean to win the AFCON to add to the medals he has picked up at club level with Liverpool.

"I have won everything possible but this one not yet. It will happen somehow, that is what I believe, and whatever I believe I achieve, so sooner or later it will happen."

Salah made his Egypt debut in 2011, a year after they won the last of their record seven Cup of Nations titles.

He played in the teams that lost the finals in Gabon in 2017, and at the last edition in Cameroon two years ago, and is now determined to go one step further this time.

"Everybody knows what it means to any player to win an Africa Cup," the 31-year-old said.

"We were unlucky at the last one and also in Gabon. The players are very motivated to win the tournament. We all want to win it."

AFP

## I approach each game with the intention of scoring - Zwane

ABIDJAN

SOUTH African playmaker, Themba Zwane says his approach to every game involves him getting a goal.

Zwane, who scored a brace in South Africa's emphatic 4-0 win over Namibia on Sunday evening resulted in the Mamelodi Sundowns player being awarded the TotalEnergies Man of the Match award at Korhogo's Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium.

"Each game, I go with confidence of scoring goals. Players that attack need to score, and I am glad to have scored and received this award. It means a lot to get the Man of the Match award and very happy to get the win today," said the soft-spoken Zwane.

Commenting on his next opponent, Zwane said they would do a thorough analysis on Tunisia and plan accordingly for the north African giants. "We know that it is not over yet. It's going to be a difficult one against Tunisia. We are going to analyze them properly and come with a plan. We know that we definitely need win to in order to qualify", said the South African playmaker.

The win takes South Africa to second place behind Mali ahead of their crucial clash against Tunisia on Wednesday. Tunisia are bottom of the group with a single point.

CAF MEDIA

## Morocco coach admits to AFCON blunders after DR Congo draw

ABIDJAN

MOROCCO coach Walid Regragui said he blundered as his team drew 1-1 in an Africa Cup of Nations Group F draw against the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday.

Achraf Hakimi gave the Atlas Lions a perfect start as his sixth-minute volley flew into the net in the southwestern coastal city of San-Pedro.

But after Cedric Bakambu missed a penalty for the Leopards, they levelled on 76 minutes through a shot from substitute Silas Katomba Mvumpa.

Tanzania and 10-man Zambia later drew 1-1, leaving all four with a chance of making the knockout stage.

It is a similar situation in Group E after South Africa put a loss to Mali behind them with a 4-0 triumph over Namibia in Korhogo, where veteran Themba Zwane scored twice.

Morocco, who two years ago in Qatar became the first World Cup semi-finalists from Africa, have four points from two matches, DR Congo and Zambia two each and Tanzania one.

Regragui, named African Coach of the Year at the annual CAF awards last month after his World Cup achievements, told reporters that his second-half substitutions did not work.

"After making changes to introduce freshness, we did not manage the match well. We retreated and allowed the Congolese back into the game.

"We left too much space between our lines. Tactically we should have been better. Perhaps we respected our opponents too much.

"DR Congo are the most difficult team in the group. They were motivated and dangerous and deserved to draw," said Regragui, who played for Morocco in a 2004 final loss to Tunisia.



Achraf Hakimi (L) of Morocco and Silas of DR Congo, the goal scorers, battle for the ball. Agencies

Silas, who plays for Bundesliga outfit Stuttgart and prefers to be known by his first name, was voted man of the match, despite only coming on with 26 minutes left. He said he was "happy with the award but not the result".

"There were opportunities toward the end of the match for us to collect all three points. We noticed the Moroccans were tired and we created scoring opportunities.

### - Relief from heat -

"I would like to start games, but that decision is not mine. I follow the instructions of our coach and prepare mentally for whatever task I am assigned."

The match was the last in the tournament to kick off at 1400 local (GMT) time, which will be a huge relief to teams forced to endure 36 Celsius (97 Fahrenheit) heat at times.

Aliou Cisse, coach of defending champions Senegal, has called on

the organisers to rethink match times for future Cup of Nations, starting with the 2025 finals in Morocco.

Tanzania thought they had finally won a Cup of Nations match 44 years after making their debut in Nigeria only to be thwarted by star Zambia forward Patson Daka.

Daka's near-post header flew past Aisha Manula with just two minutes of regular time remaining.

The Taifa Stars, the second lowest ranked team at the tournament, took an 11th-minute lead when clubless Simon Msuva slammed a close-range shot past goalkeeper Lawrence Mulenga.

Zambia were reduced to 10 men just before half-time when captain Roderick Kabwe was shown a second yellow card, then a red after elbowing rival skipper Mbwana Samatta.

Amid furious Zambian protests, coach Avram Grant, the former

Chelsea and West Ham United manager, was yellow-carded by the Beninese referee.

Themba Zwane, whose international career appeared over after coach Hugo Broos said he was "too old" for international football at 32, was the two-goal South African star against Namibia.

After Percy Tau atoned for a penalty miss against Mali by converting a spot-kick in the 14th minute, Zwane netted twice to give the former champions a three-goal half-time advantage.

Now 34, Zwane was replaced in the closing stages by Thapelo Maseko, who scored to give South Africa a record winning margin in a Cup of Nations match.

Despite the biggest win so far in the tournament, South Africa are not assured of a last-16 place. Mali have four points, South Africa and Namibia three each and Tunisia one.

AFP

## Racism in European football - league by league

MILAN

THE racist abuse suffered by AC Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan at Udinese and Coventry midfielder Kasey Palmer in an English second division match at Sheffield Wednesday were just the latest examples of the ugliness plaguing football.

FIFA chief Gianni Infantino described the incidents as "totally abhorrent" and demanded the implementation of an automatic forfeit of games for teams whose fans commit racist abuse.

AFP Sport looks at the issues in Europe's top five leagues:

### - Italy -

Racism in Italian stadiums is nothing new, but several incidents have recently been highly publicised, due to the personalities or reactions of the players targeted.

Marc-Andre Zoro of Ivory Coast was one of the first to take a stand in 2005 when he picked up the ball and prepared to leave the pitch. At the time, his Messina teammates convinced him to return to the game.

Stars like Samuel Eto'o, Kevin-Prince Boateng, Mario Balotelli and most recently Romelu Lukaku have been victims of racism from supporters.

Saturday's incident was depressingly familiar for French international Maignan -- in 2021, he was targeted by Juventus supporters.

"I am neither the first nor the last to whom this will happen. As long as these events are treated as 'isolated incidents', Maignan said.

### - Spain -

Real Madrid's Brazilian striker Vinicius Jr has been the target of recurring racism.

After he was hung in effigy from a bridge in the Spanish capital by Atletico fans last year, four people being charged with a hate crime.

In June, FIFA chief Gianni Infantino met with Vinicius to defend the player and sent out a message to referees to tackle the issue all



'Not first, not last': Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan at the match against Udinese. Agencies

the way up to national level.

Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o endured a barrage of vitriol from Zaragoza fans in 2005, being subject to monkey chants and having peanuts thrown at him.

Eto'o danced in front of his tormentors after scoring in a 4-1 win. "I danced like a monkey because they treated me like a monkey," said the Cameroon star. Zaragoza were fined just 9,000 euros.

In 2014, after a banana was thrown at him, Brazil's Dani Alves, picked it up and ate it slowly before taking a corner.

### - England -

England internationals Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, three black players, were all targeted after missing their penalties in the Euro-2021 final against Italy.

In October 2023 the English football authorities launched another campaign against racism.

"They vowed to 'continue to put pressure on social media companies to do more to eliminate hate from their platforms.'"

However, Coventry's Palmer was doubtful of any lasting improvement. "Racism is a disgrace... it has no place in the world, let alone football," he wrote on X.

"I'm black and proud and I am raising my three kids to be the exact same. I'll be honest, it feels like things will never change, no matter how

hard we try."

### - France -

Ligue 1 has recently suffered several episodes of violence between football hooligans, but racist behaviour appears rarer than in Spain or Italy.

A recent incident, however, caused great debate. Two Lyon supporters are being prosecuted for making Nazi salutes and shouting racist abuse at Marseille in October last year.

A few days earlier, in the third division, a Nancy supporter made monkey chants during a match against Red Star. The club identified the individual and handed him a five-year stadium ban.

### - Germany -

Germany has cleaned up its stadiums, at least in the Bundesliga, but racism is expressed on social media.

In 2023, Bayern published statements of support for French players Dayot Upamecano and Mathys Tel, victims of online attacks after poor performances.

The last serious incident in the stands dates back to 2021, and also demonstrates the sensitivity of the Germans on the issue.

A third-division match was called off after half an hour following monkey chants from a spectator. Both clubs, Duisburg and Osnabruck, backed the decision.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Morocco coach admits to AFCON blunders after DR Congo draw**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Zambia coach disappointed in draw against Taifa Stars

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, were denied a maiden AFCON win on Sunday after 10-man Zambia, Chipolopolo, rescued a 1-1 draw in their second match of Group F in the 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations held in San Pedro, Ivory Coast.

Taifa Stars striker Simon Msuva scored their first goal of the tournament in the 11th minute following a defense-splitting pass from captain Mbwana Samatta.

Stars, under coach Hemed Morocco, were found with a numerical advantage before the break after Zambia captain Roderick Kabwe received a second yellow card to leave them a man down.

Despite Stars dominating the game, a late Patson Daka header equalized for Zambia to deny Tanzania a chance to go third in the group.

Speaking after the game, Zambia head coach, Avram Grant, was left disappointed in their draw against Tanzania.

Despite Grant's men scoring late to get a point from the game but was not impressed with his team despite acknowledging how strong Tanzania was in the game.

"It's a disappointing result. We knew it wouldn't be an easy match after watching Tanzania's match against Morocco."

"Indeed, we started well too but we conceded a goal quickly and that changed our tactics, especially after the red card," he said in a post-match interview with CAF Media.

The 2015 TotalEnergies CAF AFCON finalist admitted playing with 10 men for the greater part of the game had an impact on them.

The Zambia gaffer pointed out: "It's difficult to play with ten players. But I'm happy with the boys' reaction. They gave everything to come back."

Zambia has a game more to play against the 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalist and favourites, Morocco.

Grant believes his team will show up and deliver against the Atlas Lions.

"We already know that Morocco is a big team but we are not afraid of them. We will play them and I hope we will put up a good performance. We will have to show character," the gaffer said.

Grant stated: "That's what we try to do every day, get better. And on all levels. Since I have been coaching this team, we have progressed in several areas but we must continue. Even when you become champion, you have to continue to improve the team."

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SSPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

# Taifa Stars win plaudits, urged to stay focused

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars lost the chance to write history and get its first victory in the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations, which is held in Ivory Coast.

The squad settled for a 1-1 draw with Zambia who had 10 players left in the Group F match which took place at the San Pedro Stadium last weekend.

Taifa Stars got off to a bright start as they surged forward in numbers in the early stages.

Forward Simon Msuva scored Tanzania's goal in the 11th minute, beating Zambia's keeper Lawrence Mulenga with a fierce shot after receiving a pass from Mbwana Samatta.

Leicester City FC striker Patson Daka equalized for Zambia in the 88th minute by heading home a corner kick from Clatous Chama and revived his team's hopes of reaching the round of 16.



Tanzania's senior national soccer team forward, Simon Msuva (L), battles for possession with Zambia's Lameck Banda as they faced each other in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations encounter which took place at Laurent Pokou Stadium, San-Pédro last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Zambia had to play the entire second half with 10 players after defender Rodrick Kabwe was sent off for a second bookable offense as he had fouled Mbwana Samatta in the 44th minute.

Chipolopolo's head coach brought in Tanzania-based players, midfielder Chama and striker Kennedy Musonda, who brought life to the team that had 10 players and finally managed to score an equalizing goal in the final minutes of the intense game.

Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', currently serving as the interim head coach for Taifa Stars, expressed gratitude for the safe play and commended the players' resilience after the challenging game.

He pointed out: "The dynamics shifted, especially after the opponents received a red card, but we were prepared for a tough encounter."

Despite a commendable first half where Taifa Stars took the lead and aimed to finish strong, the team anticipated a difficult match.

The second half presented heightened challenges as the opponent, Chipolopolo, came back with 'Morocco' highlighted a momentary lapse in concentration by his players in the final minutes, contributing to the match's complexities.

Looking ahead, with one group game remaining, 'Morocco' maintained optimism about progressing to the next stage.

The tactician stated: "Despite the challenges faced, believe in the team's capabilities and preparation. I'm confident in their ability to secure advancement in the tournament."

In reflection on the match, Mbwana Samatta, Tanzania's skipper, conveyed the team's initial optimism.

The attacker said: "There was a time when we believed we could secure a victory, but despite our determined efforts, luck did not favor us. We fought hard, but the outcome didn't align with our expectations."

Despite the disappointment, Samatta remained focused on the team's future, acknowledging: "We have one more game ahead of us, and our primary goal is to secure three points to propel us forward."

The skipper insisted: "The crucial aspect now is to strategize on how we can achieve this in our upcoming match."

After the final whistle, Samatta reinforced the team's resilient spirit, stating: "Nothing can change the significance of this result. Our attention is already on the next game, and we are committed to learning from our experiences and giving our best to secure a positive outcome in the upcoming challenge." Zambia's national team head coach Avram Grant attributed the team's shortcomings during the 90 minutes of the game to a series of unfortunate events.

He emphasized the impact of playing short due to an unnecessary red card, expressing frustration that the card, which he believed shouldn't even have been a yellow, disrupted their strategic plans for the match.

The coach further contended that the initial yellow card was also undeserved, compounding the challenges faced by the team throughout the game.

In response to the perceived injustices, Zambia's coach, Avram Grant, has taken issue with the referee, contending that the officiating played a role in denying them victory.

Grant is urging the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

Despite the setback, he acknowledged the formidable nature of the opposing team, praising Tanzania as a formidable opponent with a roster of talented young players.

In summary, Grant attributed the team's struggles to a controversial red card and an undeserved yellow card, expressing dissatisfaction with the officiating.

He is now advocating for CAF intervention. He commended Tanzania's prowess, acknowledging the difficulty of facing a skilled team with talented young players.

The draw saw Chipolopolo remain third on the group standings and they will book their spot in the Round of 16 if they secure a win over Morocco on January 24 in what will be their last group stage match.

## Hemed Morocco admits lack of concentration cost Taifa Stars



Tanzania's senior national soccer team forward, Simon Msuva (2nd R), jubilates with his teammate, Feisal Salum, when the former netted for the squad in a Group F tie of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which took place at Laurent Pokou Stadium, San-Pédro last weekend and concluded in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA'S interim head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco' has bemoaned his side's lack of concentration as the hopes of registering a first-ever African Cup of Nations victory ended with a 1-1 share of spoils with Zambia in Côte d'Ivoire on Sunday evening.

Forward Simon Msuva fired Taifa Stars ahead at the San Pedro Stadium in the 11th minute and put them on course for their first win at the finals after they started their campaign with a 3-0 loss to Morocco.

Midfielder Himid Mao pressed Zambia to steal away possession, allowing striker Mbwana Samatta to feed Msuva whose shot was still rising as it found the top corner.

Zambia battled hard to try and get into the game and could have been level had Fashion Sakala not headed wide from point-blank range on the half-hour mark.

Matters seemed to go Tanzania's way when Zambia lost Roderick Kabwe to a needless second yellow just before half-time.

The second caution came after Kabwe elbowed Samatta, and the Zambian protested furiously for several minutes before leaving the pitch.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, Zambia looked the more enterprising in the second half but left it late to level, with Leicester City FC's Patson Daka racing in at the near post and rising high to attack the ball and glance it into the net.

Tanzania might have had a second when left fullback Mohamed Hussein's cross deflected off Zambia's Frankie Musonda and bounced narrowly wide, while substitute Morice Abraham brought a good save from Zambia goalkeeper Lawrence Mulenga.

Earlier on Sunday, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo also drew 1-1, leaving all four teams with a chance of qualifying for the knockout stage.

Morocco has four points, DR Congo and Zambia two each, and Tanzania one ahead

of the final group matches on Wednesday.

Speaking after the game, 'Morocco' opted against deriding his team's mistakes, instead pointing out they were up against a good team that became even more dangerous after going down to ten men.

"It was a difficult match. We started well by trying to push them. Then we quickly scored in the first quarter of an hour. But unfortunately, we were already trying to manage the match in the first half," the gaffer stated.

"I knew this team. We followed them and analyzed them well. In football, teams with 10 players are often more dangerous. And we lacked concentration. Which cost us a goal in the last minute," the tactician said.

"We were going for three points but we are going to take the point. It's football. We have a young team that continues to learn and progress game after game."

"Some players fell physically today but we will work on that. And certainly, in the next match, we will be even better." 'Morocco' pointed out.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

