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FAO, Ethiopian officials to study Tanzania's agriculture DRM strategies



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K'koo traders pick 'ambassadors' to promote tax compliance



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Z'bar pledges quick, seamless investment permit issuance



MPs want HIV/AIDS drugs bill budgeting

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has called for the government to fully implement its sustainability plan for the HIV and AIDS response to

reduce reliance on donor assistance.

Elibariki Kingu (Singida West), the chairman of the Health and HIV/AIDS standing committee of the National Assembly, made this sugges-

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Singida East constituency legislator Miraji Mtaturu pictured yesterday in the National Assembly, currently in ordinary session in Dodoma city, contributing to debate on parliamentary committee reports on health and HIV/AIDS as well as social welfare and community development. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

FCS, SIDO link up for inclusive trade

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA is set to increase its renewable energy generation capacity to 2,463 megawatts by 2030, as part of a comprehensive energy development plan, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has stated.

Speaking at the Mission 300 African Heads of State energy summit in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the president detailed the country's strategy to accelerate electricity supply and address critical energy challenges, including the reliance on fossil fuels and limited energy access in rural areas.

"Our goal is to diversify energy sources to include solar, wind, geothermal and natural gas while ensuring sustainability and affordability for all consumers," she said.

Currently Tanzania has capacity to generate 3,431 megawatts of electricity, with 58 percent from hydropower, 35 percent from natural gas and seven percent from other sources. As of November, 2024 the country was generating 1800MW from its various sources, she specified.

Current plans are focused on harnessing the country's renewable energy potential to meet growing demand and support industrialisation efforts, she said, underlining that Tanzania also plans to leverage its strategic location to enhance regional power trade by expanding connections to neighbouring countries.

The national grid is already linked to Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda, while work is proceeding to connect with Zambia and Uganda, she said, affirming that Tanzania's electricity production ex-

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Maternal, newborn strides: Foundation honours Samia

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA'S remarkable progress in maternal and child health has pushed the Gates Foundation to award President Samia Suluhu Hassan its Goalkeepers Award, the 7th president to receive the prestigious award and the first African leader to be honoured.

The foundation acknowledged the president's tireless efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality rates by 80 percent, improve healthcare access and foster gender equality in the healthcare sector.

At the awarding ceremony in Dar es



This has been instrumental in reducing maternal and child mortality, improving health services and driving health policy reforms

Salaam yesterday, the president underlined the country's significant progress in improving healthcare and nutrition, underscoring the importance of keeping up with investment in systems that uphold the dignity of every individual.

Dedicating the award to health workers, she acknowledged their tireless compassion and commitment, reiterating the focus for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adult health.

She pointed at the increasing number of registered medical specialists in maternal and newborn care, from 69 in 2020 to 338

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Govt for industries counting nationwide

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is set to carry out an industrial production census across three months from next month, the first time it is conducted in both parts of the union at the same time.

Dr Selemani Jafu, the Industry and Trade minister, made this affirmation at a press conference on the 2023 industrial production census.

The census will be used to collect extensive data useful for the government and stakeholders to make informed decisions in policy updates, plans and programmes for industrial sector development and the economy as a whole, he said.

The results will also be used to evaluate the implementation of the Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), regional programmes such as the East African Vision 2050, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, he stated.

This projection notably includes SDG goal six on access to clean and safe water, goal seven on access to clean and affordable energy alongside goal nine on industrial development, innovation and infrastructure, he explained.

Census officials will collect data from industries employing 10 or more people as a category, while those employing one to nine workers form another category, he said.

Data collection on some small-scale industries will be conducted on a sampling method to save time and resources as large numbers of small businesses have similar characteristics, he asserted.

Data collection will be conducted electronically, with enumerators using tablets to gather information through digital questionnaires as was done during the 2022

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Dr Anita Zaidi, President of the Gender Equality Division of the Gates Foundation, presents the Global Goalkeeper Award to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The annual award recognizes leaders and change makers driving progress toward the global Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The award was presented in recognition of the president's efforts in combating maternal and neonatal mortality for children under five years old. She dedicated it to health specialists, acknowledging their tireless efforts to improve the lives of women, children and families. Photo: State House



Maternal, newborn strides: Foundation honours Samia

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in 2024, alongside expanding free maternal and under-five health services, becoming more accessible to rural communities.

Placing 727 ambulances over the past nine years strengthened referral systems, ensuring timely interventions and emergency care, particularly for life-threatening obstetric conditions, she stated.

Ongoing efforts to address adolescent health, particularly the focus on preventing teenage pregnancies were significant, she said, pointing at the country's national action plan for adolescent health and well-being.

It is pegged to tackling cultural and traditional barriers, ensuring a healthier future for the nation's youth, she said, while Anita Zaidi, president of gender equality at Gates Foundation, said Tanzania has made tremendous progress in maternal and child health over the past decade.

Through strengthened health-care systems, improved access to maternal services and a focus on quality care, more mothers survive childbirth and more children grow up with an opportunity to thrive, she stated.

She pointed at Tanzania's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals which it signed in 2015, positioning it as a model for Africa and beyond, she stated.

The president had emphasized that Tanzania's advancements in maternal and child health, including the reduction of maternal mortality and the decline in under-five mortality from 67 to 43 per 1,000 births, are the result of collective efforts.

These achievements were made possible through partnerships with organizations like the Gates Foundation, civil society groups such as the Jakaya Kikwete Foundation, and the tireless work of healthcare professionals across the country, she stressed, underlining that the journey is far from over.

The government's partnership with the private sector to fortify staple foods with essential nutrients is helping to improve maternal health and ensure that women have the nutrition they need during pregnancy, she asserted.

Jenista Mhagama, the Health minister, said the award is testimony to the president's exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to improving healthcare.

It highlights the country's significant progress in advancing health-care outcomes and sustainable development, she said, alluding to the president's transformative impact on the healthcare sector.

This has been instrumental in reducing maternal and child mortality, improving health services and driving health policy reforms, further noted.



Fire and Rescue Force personnel pictured on Monday carrying the body of one of three small-scale miners who died reportedly after being trapped at Nkandi mine at Ilindi-Mwine in Kahama District. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Govt for industries counting nationwide

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Population and Housing Census, he specified.

Stakeholders in the industrial sector need to cooperate with the government to ensure the successful completion of the census, he said, noting that those who withhold required information will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the chief statistician, said that the census will be conducted from March to June, with the results expected in a few months.

The census was conducted on the Mainland in 1963, 1978, 1989 and 2013, with Zanzibar carrying out that exercise in 1989, 2002, 2008 and 2012, she added.

20.75m people vagrant in Horn of Africa - IOM

NAIROBI

THE number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in the Horn of Africa rose to 20.75 million at the end of 2024, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said yesterday in a report released in Nairobi, Kenya.

The United Nations migration agency said that the figure increased from 20.42 million in October 2024, with the rise attributed to a surge in IDPs in Sudan. "The increase in 340,744 IDPs in Sudan was due to the ongoing conflict affecting several states in the country and ongoing escalation in Al Jazirah State in November, as well as heavy rains and reported fires," IOM said.

The agency noted that between October 20 and Nov. 13 last year, an estimated 68,801 households were displaced from locations across Al Jazirah State amid increased insecurity and escalations in clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

The UN migration agency added that individuals were reportedly displaced to 38 localities across

seven different states. "Among the individuals displaced, 15,129 were IDPs who were already displaced prior to the escalation and therefore experienced secondary displacement," IOM said.

The other countries with a high number of IDP populations are Somalia with 3.5 million, Ethiopia with 3.3 million, and South Sudan with two million. The main causes of displacements, according to the IOM, are conflict, floods, drought and food insecurity, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

The UN agency further noted that the Greater Horn of Africa region had some 5.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, a rise from 5.1 million in October 2024.

Some 674 million people were food insecure in the region at the end of 2024, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Among them, 38 million are in IGAD member states, including Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, said the agencies.

MPs want HIV/AIDS drugs bill budgeting

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tion when presenting the committee's annual report for 2024.

The idea was unveiled just days after the new authorities in the United States moved to pause its funding for numerous foreign aid programmes, including essential HIV services.

The MP said that a significant portion of HIV and AIDS intervention efforts in the country relies on foreign funding, thus when the funding reaches its limit it could severely hinder the country's ability to continue combating the epidemic.

The committee also urged the legislature to ask the government to finalise drafting the bill on harvesting, handling and transplanting human body parts and organs.

It would establish a legal frame-

work to regulate these services, protect human rights and prevent the illegal trade in human body parts, he stated, recalling that no legal cadre exists to regulate such services at present.

Conducting these activities without proper legal oversight could lead to serious societal consequences, including human rights violations and the illegal trade of body parts, the legislator intimated.

He reported a considerable gap in expectations for the now defunct Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy, as in the 2024/25 financial year, funding sources were expected to raise 173.5bn/- to support the uninsured population.

Yet by November 23, 2024, a total of 47.13bn/- had been collected, measuring up to 27 percent of the set objective he explained.

The committee asked the legislature to demand involvement of private sector stakeholders in financing health insurance for the uninsured population, hinting at progress made so far, including identifying funding sources.

On January 20, President Donald Trump ordered a pause so that foreign aid contributions are reviewed to see if they align with policies of the current administration.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a waiver for emergency food aid for life-saving medicine, medical services, food, shelter and subsistence help, with reports of the clampdown being reinstated at the start of the week.

The Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy issued a memo clarifying that the President's Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR)

was covered by the specific exceptions to the clampdown, spelling out what activities would be financed.

These include: life-saving HIV care and treatment services, including testing and counselling, prevention and treatment of infections including tuberculosis (TB), laboratory services, along with procurement and supply chain for commodities/medicines. Services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services are also included, the bureau noted.

"Any other activities not specifically mentioned in this guidance may not be resumed without express approval," it specified, raising hope for more than 20 million people living with HIV, two-thirds of those receiving treatment globally, and directly supported by PEPFAR.



Two-day practical training for Permanent Voter Registration upgrading personnel in progress in Tanga city yesterday in readiness for implementation scheduled to run across Tanga Region from February 13 to 19. Photo courtesy of Independent National Electoral Commission

Over 17,000 former fighters start civilian life in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian government has announced that more than 17,400 former armed combatants have been reintegrated into civilian life after successful rehabilitation training.

The Ethiopian National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC) said the rehabilitation and reintegration of former members of different armed groups is "progressing steadily" in the country's Tigray, Amhara, Afar,

and Oromia regions, the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported Monday.

Temesgen Tilahun, commissioner of the NRC, further underscored the need to strengthen existing partnerships among regional authorities, the federal government, and international partners toward the smooth rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants, thereby fostering sustainable peace across conflict-affected parts of the country.

reaching over 30,000 underserved hamlets by 2030, she elaborated. Firewood and charcoal still affects over 90 percent of households, thus the need for cleaner energy, where the national clean cooking energy strategy is meant to increase cleaner energy access from 10 percent at the start to 80 percent by 2034, thus

reducing environmental degradation and health risks, she said.

She projected investments of up to \$13bn, with \$5bn expected from the private sector, she stated, hailing the African Development Bank, World Bank and other partners for their support, urging greater collaboration and innovation.

"This is not just about energy. It is about lifting millions out of poverty, creating jobs and providing hope for future generations," she declared, stressing that unveiling the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration during the summit solidifies commitment to sustainable energy development.



National Environment Management Council (NEMC) officials pictured in Dodoma city earlier this week screening sewage scooped from pits dug by the contractor engaged in the execution of the Standard Gauge Railway project. Photo courtesy of Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NEMC Central Zone extends EIA certificates to over 100 projects

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) central zone has registered 105 development projects and issued environmental impact assessment (EIA) certificates between July and December of last year.

Novatus Mushi, NEMC acting manager for the central zone, said this here yesterday when speaking during inspection of various investment projects across the central zone, which included Dodoma, Iringa, and Singida regions.

Mushi said the goal to register projects between July and December was 62 projects, but the council registered 105 projects. The council also aimed to evaluate 62 projects but managed to evaluate 51 projects.

In support of the government's ambition to shift operations to Dodoma, NEMC central zone office has been at the forefront to ensure the objectives were met.

"Based on the plan, the office

has been advising, managing, and monitoring government projects to ensure they reach the intended goals in compliance with the Environmental Law and established procedures," Mushi said.

He noted that NEMC had already registered 37 government projects, which included eight office buildings, five educational institution buildings, 13 health facilities (hospitals/dispensaries/health centres), one dry port, one sports complex, an exhibition complex, four water supply projects, two agricultural projects and two solar energy projects.

Mushi added that the central zone office continues to register and evaluate investment projects to ensure sustainable growth in Dodoma and surrounding areas.

During the period from July to December 2024, the office registered a total of 69 investment projects, including 15 industrial projects, 21 mining projects, two agricultural projects, 11 construction projects, one water supply project and two forestry projects.

For the period between July

2024 and January 2025, the council participated in joint audits and evaluations to monitor compliance with the law in key strategic projects, including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Mtumba government town, the ring road, the Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) project, the construction of Farkwa Dam and the Msalato International Airport.

Mushi also reported that between July and December 2024, they successfully addressed a total of 24 complaints from various stakeholders and provided solutions.

Among the complaints, 14 were related to noise pollution, accounting for 58 percent of all complaints mainly noise from recreational areas, factories, and houses of worship. The remaining 10 complaints were related to pollution and environmental damage in various areas in Dodoma, Singida and Iringa regions.

He noted that NEMC central zone office successfully tracked and resolved all 24 complaints received by phones, emails, or letters.

Between July 2024 and January

2025, the council inspected a total of 603 investment projects in Dodoma, Iringa and Singida regions, reaching 75 percent of the estimated target for the 2024/25 financial year.

Mushi also revealed that the central zone office received five applications to set on fire medical devices and drugs weighing 20 tons from public and private institutions between July 2024 and January 2025.

Additionally, the office processed five applications for permits to collect and transport hazardous waste under five tons, which were submitted to the office of the Vice President for approval.

"Furthermore, from July 2024 to January 2025, NEMC central zone issued tracking documents and received 143 copies of hazardous waste books from individuals and private companies with permits," he added.

He stressed that consistent management of hazardous and electronic waste regulations helps minimise environmental impacts and prevents damage to public infrastructure projects.

FAO, Ethiopian officials out to study Tanzania's agricultural strategies

By Guardian Reporter

A DELEGATION of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and key Ethiopian government offices are set to conduct a study tour in Tanzania to learn from the country's disaster risk management (DRM) strategies in the agriculture sector.

A statement issued yesterday by the UN agency, said the exchange visit will take place from February 9 to 15, 2025, noting that the primary purpose of the visit is to support learning and experience sharing with Tanzania, which is recognised for its well-established and efficient disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems.

The delegation comprises experts from FAO Ethiopia Country Office, FAO Regional Office for Africa, the Resilience Hub for Southern Africa, Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission, and the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute.

"These experts specialise in various fields, including crop production, livestock, extension services, plant protection, environment, climate change, disaster risk management, meteorology, early warning systems, and resilience building," the statement reads in part.

According to statement, the exchange visit is facilitated by the European Union (EU)-funded project "Support to Effective Food Security, Nutrition, and Resilience Programming in Ethiopia (ProAct II)."

"This initiative aims to enhance food security, nutrition, and the resilience of vulnerable communities in Ethiopia by influencing investments in resilience building and improving the quality of programming."

Farayi Zimudzi, FAO Representative in Ethiopia highlighted the significance of the tour, saying: "It takes into account the common challenges as well as the urgent need to prevent and reduce disasters while building resilience of smallholder actors in the agri-food system as a whole."

She further expressed hope that the visit would provide an in-depth understanding of DRM

coordination and mainstreaming in the agriculture sector.

Ethiopia has faced numerous high-impact disasters over the years, including climate-related events, pest and disease outbreaks affecting crops and livestock, and other human-induced crises. The increasing frequency and overlapping nature of the disasters have weakened the national economy and adversely impacted livelihoods, underscoring the need to strengthen the country's capacity for DRR.

During the visit, the delegation will engage with key partners and government offices in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha, and Manyara regions. They will meet with FAO Tanzania, the World Food Programme (WFP), the ministry of agriculture, the ministry of livestock and fisheries, the Prime Minister's Office disaster risk management department, and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency.

Additionally, the experts will visit the National Food Reserve Agency and the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority. A key highlight of the tour will be an assessment of landslide recovery processes in Hanang, a region that experienced devastating catastrophe causing significant loss of lives and severe damage to livelihoods, particularly of smallholder farmers.

This study tour is expected to foster knowledge exchange and contribute to strengthening Ethiopia's DRM systems by drawing on Tanzania's successful experiences in mitigating agricultural disasters and building resilience in the sector.

It takes into account the common challenges as well as the urgent need to prevent and reduce disasters while building resilience of smallholder actors in the agri-food system as a whole

Angolan investors in Tanzania to explore rewarding opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

A DELEGATION of Angolan investors is currently in Tanzania to explore potential partnerships and investment opportunities, especially in agri-processing sub-sector.

Felix John, investment promotion manager at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) said this on Monday when speaking to journalists on the arrival of the delegation, saying the visit aims to enhance collaboration between Angola and Tanzania, with the broader goal of boosting Africa's economy.

"We expect that through this visit, we will be able to register various investment projects, particularly from Angola," he said.

John highlighted that TIC has been working diligently to streamline the investment process, making it easier for companies to establish their presence in Tanzania.

"One of the key initiatives implemented by the government is the Investors One Stop Facilitation Centre, the first-of-its-kind programme that brings together 15 government ministries, departments and authorities under one roof. The initiative allows investors to register their projects and obtain TIC certificate of incentive within just 48 hours," he explained.

He added that TIC's proactive approach is part of a broader strategy to position Tanzania as premier destination for African investors, including those from Angola.

"Our goal is to attract investors from across the continent, and we expect to see significant increase in investment projects from Angola this year."

The delegation includes CEOs and heads of major companies who are eager to explore various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, hospitality and industry.

"We are excited to be here and are eager to work with Tanzanian companies to foster economic growth," said Ariclene Duarte Gomes, executive admin for Tegmasu Group, a leading company in Angola.


The delegation expressed particular interest in Tanzania's agricultural potential. "Our company specialises in chips, potatoes, and other agro-industrial products, and we see great opportunities in Tanzania's agricultural landscape. Additionally, we are looking

to develop our tourism sector, and Tanzania's expertise in this area will be invaluable," Gomes remarked.

Gomes also highlighted the historical connection between Angola and Tanzania, stating that while the two



countries have shared ties in the past, there is still much more to be done to strengthen their partnership.

"We are neighbouring countries, and it's important that we work more closely together," he added.



SUBMISSION OF RETURNS AND PAYMENT OF WITHHOLDING TAX, PAYE, AND SDL

Our esteemed Taxpayers are hereby reminded to submit returns and payment of Withholding Taxes, PAYE and SDL for January, 2025 on or before 7th February 2025.

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Kariakoo traders pick 'ambassadors' to promote voluntary tax compliance

By Getrude Mbago

MEMBERS of Kariakoo Business Community have appointed house-to-house "ambassadors" to oversee the process of formalising operations and ensuring that every trader is registered and voluntarily pays taxes to promote fairness in taxation.

Speaking during the ceremony to unveil the ambassadors in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Yusuph Mwenda hailed the new move, saying the ambassadors will play a crucial role in ensuring equitable tax compliance.

Mwenda emphasised that TRA's primary responsibility is to ensure prosperity of businesses, supporting their growth while ensuring that no business faces closure.

He highlighted Kariakoo as the key business hub, with a significant impact on both Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

"Kariakoo is a major contributor to tax revenue, with a diverse range of small, medium and big taxpayers. Therefore, TRA must remain close to them and assist in resolving the challenges they face," he said.

He further noted that policy challenges faced by taxpayers have already been addressed by a commission set up by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and were being actively worked on. The issues which require system changes are being resolved by TRA.

"The doors of TRA are always open for taxpayers, and I am ready to listen to them in order to improve their businesses environment," he said.

He also recalled that the government has entrusted him with the responsibilities of promoting businesses growth and collecting taxes voluntarily, without the use of force.

"I am pleased to see that traders,

including hawkers popularly known as machinga are now willing to pay taxes," he said.

Mwenda called on the public to expose those evading taxes and foreign traders operating in businesses reserved for locals, as their activities undermine market competition.

Regarding relocation of the vendors to Jangwani as promised by President Samia, Mwenda assured that efforts are underway to create conducive environment for their relocation.

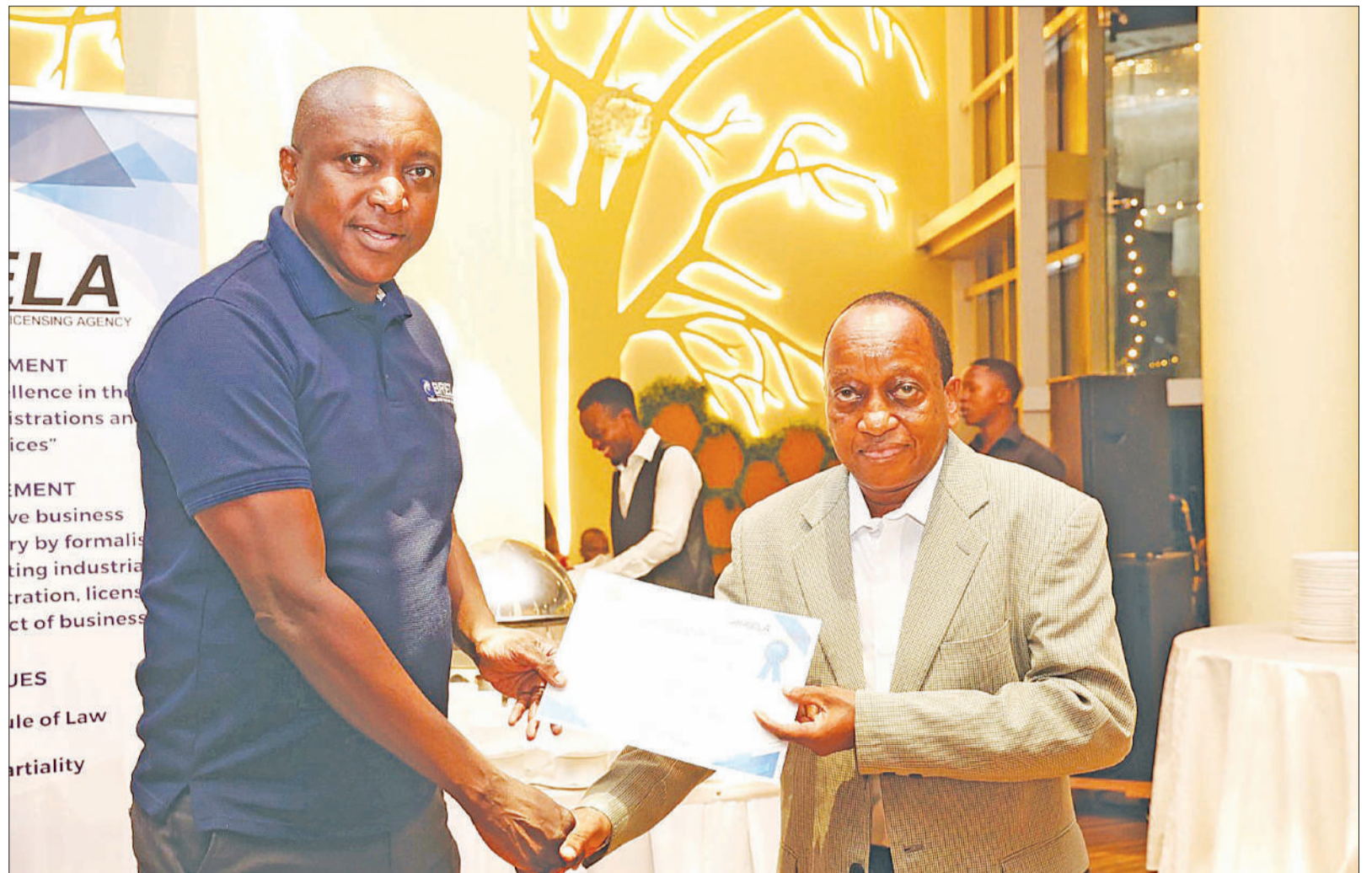
On the issue of the delayed cargo for Kariakoo traders stuck at the Port of Dar es Salaam, Mwenda instructed the deputy commissioner for customs to address the matter urgently and ensure that the goods are cleared to allow traders to resume their businesses operations.

Ilala District Commissioner Edward Mpagolo said they are currently compiling a database of all Kariakoo traders and establishing a joint registration system with TRA to simplify the process for traders and reduce the need for them to visit offices during business hours.

Mpagolo noted that the friendly visit of Mwenda to Kariakoo demonstrated strong relationship and collaboration between TRA and the business community, which is expected to lead into increased tax revenue collection.

Severin Mushi, Chairman of Kariakoo Business Community, explained that they have appointed ambassadors for each building to assist with trader registration and ensure that all businesses in Kariakoo have tax payer identification numbers (TINs) and pay taxes, creating fairness in tax contributions.

Mushi also noted that whenever challenges arise, they collaborate with TRA to resolve them and improve the business environment within the market.



Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyaisa (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate of appreciation to Deo Meela, who has recently retired from service. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EMPLOYEES of the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) have been urged to move away from a "business as usual" mentality and instead focus on ethics, discipline and professionalism in their daily work.

Godfrey Nyaisa, CEO of Brela, made this appeal yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a special meeting with all employees. The purpose of the meeting was to remind everyone of their responsibilities, address existing challenges, and find solutions together.

The meeting also served to congratulate outstanding employees and bid farewell to those retiring from public service.

"I would like to emphasize the importance of work discipline.

BRELA employees urged to prioritise morals, discipline

Let's build a culture of respecting our roles and being fair at work, so that even if you move on to another institution, your competence and conduct will be recognized," Nyaisa said.

He further stressed that employees should take responsibility for their duties and recognize that their individual efforts contribute to the CEO's reputation as a hardworking leader, ultimately benefiting the entire institution.

Nyaisa assured employees that he would continue working on resolving existing challenges and asked them to remain patient as the foundations for improvements are

laid.

He also commended staff members who have written feature articles about Brela's activities to educate the public. He encouraged others to follow their example, helping the public understand the importance of formalizing businesses.

The meeting was followed by an award ceremony to recognize the top employees for the year 2023/2024. These employees received certificates and gifts, with the top performer also receiving a certificate and a cash award of 3m/-.

The awardees were Vicente Nyanje, Abdulkarim Nzori, Boniface

Ngugi, Abas Cothema, Gwamaka Mwankenja, Mwajabu Goma, Swedi Jabiri, and Onesmo Mushi, who was named Employee of the Year.

Retiring employees were also honoured for their contributions to the agency. Each of the retirees—Deo Meela, Andrew Mkapa, Gloria Binamungu and Gloria Mbilimonywa—was presented with a special gift voucher worth 1m/-.

Employees recognized for their significant contributions were Stanslaus Kigosi, Isidor Nkindi, Menrad Rweymamu, Abdul Songoro, Sweetness Madata, Calvin Rwambogo, Andrew Mares and Tawi Kilumile.

Muheza sets aside 470m/- for district hospital improvement

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

A TOTAL of 470m/- has been allocated for procuring medical equipment and facility upgrade at Samia Suluhu Hassan District Hospital located at Lusanga Ward in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

Out of the amount, 300m/- is set for physiotherapy equipment, while 170m/- will be used to complete the construction of a mortuary, two surgical wards, two internal medicine wards for both men and women and a wastewater management system for the administrative building.

Muheza District Council Finance Committee members said this during a tour to inspect ongoing development projects.

The committee, led by Erasto Mhina, who also serves as the District Council chairman, inspected various projects in the district. The team visited five projects across four wards, including three education projects, one health initiative and the construction of administrative building.

"The hospital has become critical health solution within our district; the council aims to develop it further. This newly established district hospital is becoming one of the most dependable healthcare facilities in the area," he said.

The new satellite school at Misufini village, Magoroto Ward was among the inspected sites. The school is being constructed with funds from the office of Muheza MP and Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hamisi Mwinjuma in partnership with financial institutions.

The finance committee also commended the construction of Mhamba Secondary School at Bwitini Village, Mhamba Ward. Funded by the central government through the World Bank's Tanzania

Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQIP), the project had the budget of 584,280,029/- and is near completion.

The committee praised construction of Kwabastola Secondary School in Makole Ward, which is expected to address the shortage of schools in the district.

Meanwhile, Muheza District Council has reached 5,413 primary and secondary school pupils in the campaign to raise awareness about combating gender-based violence (GBV) among pupils.

Husna Henry, Muheza District Community Development Officer said this during her two-day visit of primary and secondary schools across the district.

She stated that the campaign aimed to reduce incidents of gender-based violence and strengthen pupils' self-awareness, enhance security measures, and ultimately support their academic goals.

She urged pupils to report acts of violence without fear and emphasised that they have both rights and responsibilities as pupils.



The hospital has become critical health solution within our district; the council aims to develop it further. This newly established district hospital is becoming one of the most dependable healthcare facilities in the area



Residents of Ushuwani kwa Madawa in Dar es Salaam's Tegeta A suburb move to repair an earth road on self-help basis at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

TLS calls for more judges to ease backlog of appeals

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

THE Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) in Mbeya Region has called on the government to increase the number of Court of Appeal justices to address backlog of cases.

Additionally, the society urged political leaders to refrain from receiving and resolving legal complaints, emphasizing the importance of guiding citizens to address grievances through proper legal channels.

Baraka Mbwilo, TLS Chairperson

in Mbeya Region made the appeal during Legal Week celebrations at the High Court of Tanzania, Mbeya Zone.

He highlighted delays in higher court cases, which have led to frustration among individuals seeking timely justice.

Mbwilo advocated for improvements in the judiciary, aligning with the Vision 2050 development agenda. He pointed out that while Court of Appeal cases can sometimes be resolved within six months to a year, appeals at the High Court can take over three years, which he deemed

unacceptable.

He also called for the decentralization of legal services, including land tribunals, citing that Mbeya Region has only one district tribunal with just two chairpersons handling cases from all districts.

Presiding Judge of the High Court, Mbeya Zone, Joachim Tigana, assured that the government would address the TLS recommendations, some of which are already being implemented. He mentioned ongoing construction of courts in Songwe Region and district courts

to bring legal services closer to citizens.

Judge Tigana further stated that the government is reviewing and updating outdated laws to meet current needs and reduce case processing times, ensuring timely justice. He urged leaders, including religious and traditional figures, to educate citizens about Mobile Court services, which have seen lower public engagement than expected.

Through the Legal Week celebrations, 5,756 citizens received legal education, raising awareness about legal matters.



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT.**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
FOR
CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZANZIBAR ENERGY ACT**

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ

CTF LOAN NUMBER: TFOB5747-TZ

CTF GRANT NUMBER: TFOB5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Development of the Zanzibar Energy Act.

Reference No. TZ-MOWEM-455667-CS-CQS

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The primary objective of this assignment are:

- To develop a comprehensive and modern Zanzibar Energy Act that addresses the evolving needs of the energy sector.
- To review and amend the ZECO Act and ZURA Act to ensure alignment and compatibility with the Energy Act.
- To define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the energy sector.
- To create a modern, flexible, and robust legal framework that promotes sustainable energy development, attracts investment, and ensures energy security for Zanzibar.
- To strengthen the regulatory framework for the energy sector to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
- To create a transparent and predictable regulatory environment for investors and consumers.
- To ensure alignment with Zanzibar's energy policy, the Zanzibar Development Plans (ZADEPs), and international climate commitments.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected firm will be required to undertake the following tasks:

TASK 1: Review of Existing Legal Frameworks

- Conduct a thorough review of the ZECO Act and ZURA Act and any other energy-related laws and regulations in Zanzibar to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and areas requiring revision or amendment.
- Assess the current and future energy needs of Zanzibar, including demand projections, infrastructure requirements, and policy priorities.
- Analyze international best practices and energy legislation in other countries, particularly in Africa and small island developing states (SIDS).

TASK 2: Stakeholder Consultations:

- Organize and conduct stakeholder consultations workshops with government ministries, energy agencies, private sector actors, civil society, and international partners to collect and consolidate inputs and comments on the existing and proposed act(s).
- Ensure that the stakeholders consultations address the needs of all relevant groups, including vulnerable populations and marginalized communities.

TASK 3: Drafting of the Energy Act:

- Prepare a draft Zanzibar Energy Act that addresses the identified needs and challenges, incorporating key guiding principles such as:
 - Sustainable energy development
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy promotion
 - Consumer protection
 - Grid stability and reliability
 - Oil and gas (downstream activities)
 - Cross-border energy cooperation
 - Generation
 - Distribution
 - Licensing
- Define the roles and responsibilities of government entities, regulators, and private sector stakeholders.
- Amend ZECO Act and ZURA Act to align with Energy Act.
- Ensure that the draft legislation promotes competition, private sector participation, and consumer protection in the energy market.

TASK 4: Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks:

- Propose a regulatory framework for the energy sector, including the establishment or strengthening of regulatory authorities.
- Recommend institutional arrangements and roles for key entities responsible for enforcing the Act and monitoring compliance.
- Provide training and capacity building to relevant government officials and stakeholders on the provisions of the Energy Act and its implementation.

TASK 5: Review and Finalization:

- Present the draft of Energy Act to stakeholders, incorporating feedback from consultations and legal reviews.
- Collaborate with government officials to ensure the draft complies with Zanzibar's legal and constitutional framework.
- Finalize the Energy Act and submit it to the Government for approval and legislative processes.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consulting firm should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The consulting firm (or consortium of firms) should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

The consulting firm is required to have the following experience:

- (A) Core Business and year in Business
At least ten (10) years' experience in consulting work of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.
- (B) Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:
- Have successfully implemented at least three (3) similar projects in Act, preferably in the energy sector in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.
 - Provide information on previous assignments which should include the name of the assignment, name and full contact address of the client, tasks performed by the consultant under the assignment, assignment value (in US dollars), and period (dates) of execution of the assignment.
- (C) Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of Development of the Energy Act. (Provide the structure of the organization, qualifications, and number of key staff for the assignment and their CVs).

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of EoI criteria. For firm participating as association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per EoI criteria

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS) set out in the Procurement Regulations. (The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be Obtained upon asking through Email: proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz)

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hour, **07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below: (Both hard copy along with Soft copy by **26th February 2025 at 10:00 am local Time.**)

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
E-mail: proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz

Note: Submission of Softcopy only will not be considered in opening ceremony and any difference in hard and soft copy, the information in hard copy will be used for evaluation.

183626



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT.**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY DATABASE SYSTEM**

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ

CTF LOAN NUMBER: TFOB5747-TZ

CTF GRANT NUMBER: TFOB5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Development of the Energy Database System.

Reference No. TZ-MOWEM-455669-CS-CQS

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this assignment is to develop a robust, secure, and user-friendly Energy Database System that centralizes data from various energy sources, provides data analytics and visualization tools, and supports energy policy decision-making.

The system should be designed with scalability, interoperability, data integrity, and security as key considerations. Additionally, it should be capable of handling large datasets, integrating with existing energy management platforms, and providing tools for detailed data analysis and reporting.

Scope of Work

The selected firm will be responsible for delivering the following tasks:

Task 1: System Design and Architecture

- Assess current energy data management practices and infrastructure.
- Define system architecture, including database structure, storage options, and hardware requirements.
- Ensure scalability to accommodate future data growth and integration with other systems.
- Design user interfaces and workflows for data input, management, and reporting.

Task 2: Data Collection and Integration

- Identify and integrate data from diverse sources (generation, consumption, distribution, energy efficiency, renewable energy projects, etc.).
- Implement data collection mechanisms, including APIs, ETL processes, and manual data input forms.
- Ensure real-time data access for key stakeholders and automated data updates.

Task 3: Development of the Energy Database System

- Develop a centralized energy database with appropriate relational or non-relational structures.
- Ensure compliance with industry existing database systems.
- Implement functionalities for querying, data visualization, and reporting.
- Provide real-time dashboards for monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) and analytics.

Task 4: Data Security and Compliance

- Implement robust data security protocols, including encryption, access controls, and user authentication mechanisms.
- Ensure compliance with data protection regulations (GDPR or local equivalents).
- Set up regular backups, disaster recovery, and failover mechanisms.

Task 5: User Training and Documentation

- Develop training materials and deliver training sessions for users, administrators, and stakeholders.
- Provide detailed system documentation, including user manuals, technical specifications, and maintenance guides.

Task 6: Maintenance and Support

- Provide post-implementation support and maintenance for at least 12 months.
- Implement a ticketing system for issue tracking and resolution.
- Develop and execute a system performance monitoring and optimization plan.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consulting firm should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The consulting firm (or consortium of firms) should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

The consulting firm is required to have the following experience:

- (A) Core Business and year in Business
At least ten (10) years' experience in consulting work of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.
- (B) Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:
- Have successfully implemented at least three (3) similar projects in database system development, preferably in the energy sector in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.
 - Provide information on previous assignments which should include the name of the assignment, name and full contact address of the client, tasks performed by the consultant under the assignment, assignment value (in US dollars), and period (dates) of execution of the assignment.
- (C) Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of Development of the Energy Database System. (Provide the structure of the organization, qualifications, and number of key staff for the assignment and their CVs).

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

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183626

Tanzanian youth-led agritech startups win \$22,500 in Africa challenge 2025

By Guardian Reporter

THREE Tanzanian agritech youth-led startups have collectively secured \$22,500 in grants after emerging winners of the 2025 AYUte Africa Challenge Tanzania Cohort 2.

Heifer International Tanzania announced the winners at the weekend, showcasing innovative youth-led agritech solutions that address critical challenges in the country's agricultural sector.

The winners' innovations range from post-harvest loss solutions and pest management to cost-effective animal feed production and drone technology for soil analysis and fumigation.

A statement issued stated that the startups are poised to drive a technology-led revolution in Tanzania's agricultural sector.

The competition, which received over 260 applications from across the country, highlights breakthrough technologies designed to support smallholder farmers who account for 80 percent of Tanzania's agricultural production.

Under the theme: "Empowering Generations: From Legacy to Innovation," this year's Demo Day featured solutions tackling various issues within the agricultural value chain.

The competition underscored the growing role of youth in transforming Tanzania's agriculture through technology and innovation.

The overall winner of the 2025 challenge was MIL - Animal Nutrition, which walked away with \$10,000. The startup's innovative solution provides cost-effective animal feed, meeting the growing needs of dairy farming, especially during the dry season.

Mbeya Oil Cado, the first runner-up, received \$7,500. The agritech startup uses avocado 'rejects' to produce cooking oil with a small-scale manufacturing machine. The company has already secured markets in Kenya, South Africa and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Meanwhile, Dry Food emerged as the second runner-up, receiving \$5,000 in funding. The startup

reduces post-harvest loss of tomatoes by turning them into tomato powder, a useful culinary ingredient.

In his keynote address, Prof Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, commended the collaborative effort between Heifer International Tanzania and Sahara Ventures.

He highlighted that the initiative is strategically aimed at fostering youth engagement in agriculture while transforming the sector and boosting food production capacity for smallholder farmers.

Mark Tsoxo, Heifer International country director said the AYUte Africa Challenge acts as a catalyst for scaling high-potential agritech startups, empowering young African entrepreneurs who are harnessing innovation and technology to revolutionise smallholder farming across the continent.

"By providing access to finance and strategic support, we empower young entrepreneurs to turn ground breaking ideas into sustainable solutions. Heifer International remains committed to ending hunger, creating opportunities for youth, and advancing Africa's agricultural progress through innovative solutions that make a lasting impact," he said.

He said Heifer International and its strategic partners will continue to provide technical support to all finalists of the AYUte Tanzania Cohort 2, helping them deploy and scale their agritech solutions.

The AYUte Africa Challenge Tanzania, part of Heifer International's AYUte NextGen initiative, is an acceleration programme that provides grants to youth traders leveraging innovation and technology to reshape food production and agriculture in Africa.

The programme empowers agritech startups with funding, mentorship and training in leadership, project management, and financial management to scale up businesses.

The efforts will ultimately benefit smallholder farmers, empowering them to build resilience and increase their incomes.

Zanzibar promises to fast-track issuance of investment permits

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Ministry of Labour, Economy and Investment in Zanzibar has pledged to continue expediting issuance of investment permits without bureaucracy, allowing investors to seamlessly start their businesses and contribute to the isles' economic development.

Speaking during the launch of international real estate company Coldwell Banker Tanzania which operates in over 20 countries worldwide, Minister for Labour, Economy and Investment Shariff Ali Shariff highlighted the immense potential of the property market to drive Zanzibar's economic growth.

Gina Washington, the company's chief executive officer, echoed this sentiment, emphasising the sector's potential to create more employment opportunities for young people.

According to the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA), 30 percent of registered projects are in real estate, making it promising area for future investment.

Shariff noted that the company's launch signifies not only the growth of world-class real estate brand in the region but also the vast opportunities Zanzibar offers in investment and property sectors.

"Zanzibar is experiencing transformative era, driven by strategic economic reforms, increased investor confidence, and forward-thinking government agenda. This event demonstrates our collective commitment to foster business-friendly environment that attracts global players while ensuring sustainable development that benefits both local and international stakeholders," he said.

He further underscored that the government has positioned investment as a key pillar for

economic diversification and long-term prosperity. "The rapid development in infrastructure, streamlined regulatory frameworks, and enhanced ease of doing business have made Zanzibar attractive destination for investors across various sectors, including real estate," he noted.

With tourism and blue economy initiatives driving growth, the real estate sector plays a critical role in providing high-quality residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments to support the growing economy and international market demand.

"In the last four years under the 8th phase of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, ZIPA has registered over 430 investment projects valued at \$5.9 billion, which are expected to create over 22,000 direct jobs for locals.

Tourism projects lead the charts, accounting for over 38 percent of all registered projects, followed by the real estate sector at more than 22 percent. Notably, 78 percent of real estate projects were registered in the last four years, demonstrating the government's readiness and commitment to support the real estate industry in Zanzibar," Shariff added.

Washington noted that Coldwell Banker has been a global leader in real estate for over 119 years, known for its trust, integrity, and innovation. "We are here to bring a new level of professionalism and transparency to the market, helping investors, developers and agents thrive," she said.

Naimah Kunambi, associate broker and sales manager at Coldwell Banker, emphasised that the launch marks the beginning of a new standard in real estate, founded on excellence, professionalism and a commitment to serve clients, agents, and the community.



Singida CCM regional chairperson Martha Mlata (R) presents a souvenir basket to Singida regional commissioner Halima Dendego during the party's 48th anniversary celebrations held at regional level in Itigi town at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

'Africans deserve compensations for colonial injustices, suffering'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

THE African Court on Human and People's Rights has embarked on a mission to ensure that people who were victims of atrocities during colonial days in the continent are compensated.

President of Cape Verde, Jose Maria Neves, pointed out that the outrages suffered by the African countries are almost the same, therefore all states need to unite together and demand reparation from the former colonial masters.

Neves spoke during the official opening of the 2025 Judicial Year at the Arusha-based African Court on Human and People's Rights.

"Compensation can also be delivered in the form of provision of education which can heal

wounds though on the other hand, monetary and property reparation may also help to address resulting problems from the unfair treatment that our forefathers experienced during the dark days," he said.

Advocate Fulgence Masawe, Director of advocacy and reforms at Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), said it was high time for African countries to demand their rightful reimbursement from the colonial era's sufferings and lootings.

"Foreign nations looted plenty of resources and cultural artefacts, from Africa, forced to pay head taxes, as well as killing maiming plus taking skulls and limbs of ancestors to their countries," he stated.

It was reminded that Kenya suffered during colonial era through the British attacks on

Mau Mau freedom fighters, Tanzania experienced atrocities from Germans during Maji-Maji uprising as well as the struggle of freedom in Iringa led by Chief Mkwawa.

The lawyer pointed out that West African countries are still scarred by the effects of transatlantic slave trade, while South African resident suffered the upshot of apartheid incidents.

"Payments or restorative justice should not necessarily comprise goods of value, even admitting the mistakes, issuing apology and affirmations that such incidents shall never be repeated again," pointed out lawyer Masawe.

Judges of the African Court in Arusha hosted their counterparts from national, regional, and international courts during the official ceremony held in Arusha.

President of the African Court, Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud said despite the Court's establishment as a beacon of hope for victims of human rights violations, statistics indicate that twenty years after the adoption of the Protocol, only 34 of the 55 member states of the African Union are parties to the protocol.

Attending the event were representatives of the African Union (AU) member states, National Focal Points for the Court designated by the AU member states, and representatives of the AU organs and institutions.

Among the activities include discussions of advancing justice through amendments, with focus on women's reparations, a theme that tallies with that of the African Union: Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations.



Judge Dr Zainabu Mango (2nd-L) of the Tabora Zone of the High Court of Tanzania presents a certificate to Akili Platform Tanzania executive director Roghat Robert in Tabora municipality at the weekend in recognition of the organisation's contribution to the boosting of public awareness on mental health and climate change. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NGO empowers girls with weaving training

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Mufindi

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania has provided weaving training for women and girls at Nyololo village, Mufindi District, Iringa Region to empower them economically and improve their livelihoods.

Speaking during the six-day training recently, Benson Lwakatare, project officer at SOS Children's Villages, explained

that the organisation would work with beneficiaries to ensure their products get market, enhancing the initiative's impact.

"We've developed a strategic plan to secure markets for the baskets produced. This project aims to create basket production group to increase income for women and girls, particularly those under 'Binti Bora project,'" he said.

'Binti Bora' project, a three-year initiative funded by SOS Finland

is set to end this year and is being implemented across Iringa Region. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania, which supports children who have lost their parents or are in vulnerable situations, runs various projects in Iringa to help families and children in need.

David Jumanne, a trainer from Turiani in Morogoro Region, praised SOS Children's Villages for empowering women and girls. He emphasised that basket weaving would provide economic

independence and help prevent girls from engaging in risky activities by offering reliable income source.

Participants expressed gratitude to SOS Children's Villages for bringing the training to their village and pledged to share their newly acquired skills with others.

"Previously, we had no activities to help us become financially independent, but this project came at the right time," said Jane Mwaikenda.



Jangwani-Mafuso section of a Dar es Salaam road undergoes repair earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Theatre facility gives hope of surgical services for residents

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Kilolo

MORE than 260,000 residents of Ukwega Ward in Kilolo District, Iringa Region, are set to access improved surgical services following construction of theatre building at Ipalamwa Dispensary. Nayman Chavalla, Country Director for Global Volunteers in Tanzania, said the development will improve health services during the foundation stone laying ceremony

recently. The event was attended by Bishop Dr Blaston Gaville of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Iringa Diocese, Bud Philbrook, founder and CEO of Global Volunteers and retired Bishop Prof Owdenburg Mdegella of Iringa Diocese. Chavalla explained that surgical services aim to address the challenges pregnant mothers face during childbirth. Currently, minor surgical procedures force patients to travel to Ilula, Kilolo, or Iringa

towns, incurring unnecessary costs and risking both mothers and the newborns. He further noted that Global Volunteers, through Reaching Children's Potential (RCP) programme, has been working to enhance maternal and child health services. The new surgical building is part of the organisation's broader efforts to improve healthcare for the community. Global Volunteers which is a US based non-governmental organisation, focuses on health,

education, and nutrition in collaboration with local communities to improve the lives of people in vulnerable conditions. The RCP programme aims to improve health and development of infants, mothers and the community, focusing on reducing child stunting, improving maternal and child health and boosting learning opportunities for children. According to the Kilolo District Council officials, the facility is now at 95 percent and is expected to be completed soon.



Donasian Kessy (R), Shinyanga Regional Head of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau, briefs journalists yesterday on the bureau's performance during the last three months of last year. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga,

Katavi

SCIENCE and Mathematics teachers in Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi regions have been urged to use tablets and smartphones to enhance classroom engagement with learners. Silvano Sichone, Katavi Regional Education Officer, made the appeal yesterday during the opening of teacher training at Mpanda Girls Secondary School. Sichone highlighted how the devices help pupils' better grasp concepts through videos, images

Use modern tech devices to enhance learner engagement, teachers urged

and illustrations which are often challenging to demonstrate with traditional methods. "The devices make lessons more engaging and memorable," said Sichone, adding that technology enables teachers to use computer applications and programmes for practical exercises and online scientific experiments. The training also involved quality assurance officers to improve

teacher evaluations and offer guidance on scientific topics. Katavi Training Centre Coordinator Majaliwa Mkalawa said 675 teachers from three regions attend sessions on science, mathematics and ICT. According to Mkalawa the training aims to equip teachers with skills to meet 21st-century educational demands, focusing on innovation and practical teaching

techniques. "The new methods will motivate pupils to excel in science and mathematics," he added. Participants Onesmo Nasari who is chemistry teacher from Kipete Secondary School and Judith Oisso, a biology teacher from Myovizi Secondary School, expressed optimism about the training's impact on their teaching and pupils' outcomes.

Njombe Town Council exceeds revenue target

By Correspondent Elizabeth John,

Njombe

NJOMBE Town Council has surpassed revenue collection target by over 11 percent, collecting 4.2bn/- which is 61 percent of the target compared to the projected 50 percent for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

Erasto Mpete, Njombe Town Council Chairman, revealed this during the council's regular meeting held recently.

Presenting the council's report on revenue collected during the first half of the 2024/25 financial year, Mpete, said from July to December 2024, 4.209bn/- was collected which was 61 percent of the target.

"I take this opportunity to sincerely commend everyone, as this achievement is a sign of collaboration among the finance committee, all council members, and the public, which enabled us to reach this percentage," he said.

Mpete also highlighted the council's achievements in maintaining cleanliness and urged council members to take the lead in initiatives aimed at making the council a model in every aspect.

"In terms of cleanliness for 2024/25 financial year, our council won first place in the national environmental cleanliness in all wards within Njombe Town Council," said Nyagawa.

Despite this achievement, we still face challenges to keep our town clean. We must ensure cooperation with residents to ensure they pay the levies stipulated by law, as it is every citizen's responsibility to maintain the environment," Mpete emphasised.

Nganyagwa Erneo, representative of Njombe District Commissioner, acknowledged the council's achievements but noted persistent land disputes, for which strategies, including education campaigns, have been implemented to resolve.

"There are still land disputes in Mjimwema, Iwungilo, Kifanya, Ithanga, Uwemba, and Lugenge wards. Some of the disputes have lasted over five years. We must ensure we resolve them," said Erneo.

Njombe Urban Ward Councillor, Alatanga Nyagawa, expressed confidence that his ward had made significant contribution to the council's revenue, citing the growing number of businesses from various areas.

"The secret behind this success is the involvement of leaders at all levels, including local government officials and experts. We have made significant efforts in cleanliness campaigns such as 'Ogesha Mji Wako' (clean your town), which had greatly inspired environmental cleanliness in all wards within Njombe Town Council," said Nyagawa.

Online procurement appeals channelling system unveiled

By Vitus Audax, Mwanza

NEW online module for submitting and handling of procurement appeals and complaints was launched in Mwanza yesterday.

The module is part of the Public Procurement Electronic System (Nest) and aims to eliminate document backlog while streamlining the process for bidders who previously had to submit hard copies.

Dr Fredrick Mwakibinga, Commissioner for Public Procurement Policy at the Ministry of Finance, explained that the new system allows all procedures to be conducted online, removing the need for in-person meetings with service providers.

"This system will reduce costs, shorten processing time, improve government efficiency and help combat corruption," he said.

He also highlighted that

regulations are being updated to align with the 2023 Public Procurement Act, with the goal of reducing contractor complaints.

James Sando, Executive Secretary of the Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA), explained that the module was developed in collaboration with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to simplify the appeals process.

Sando shared that, over the past four years, PPAA had handled 162 cases, resolving 32 and saved 583bn/- The cases primarily involved bidders who lacked the necessary financial capacity or qualifications, and unsatisfactory contracts and potential losses of public funds.

Following the launch, training sessions were held for lawyers, IT specialists, procurement officers, contractors and bidders from the lakes region to be familiar with the existing system.

WHO donates over 2,000 doses of Ebola trial vaccine to Uganda

KAMPALA

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has donated 2,160 doses of Ebola trial vaccine to Uganda to evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine in combating the virus which in the recent outbreak has killed a health worker in Kampala.

WHO is working with Uganda's Ministry of Health, Makerere University Lung Institute and the Ugandan Virus Research Institute, as well as worldwide filovirus and trial experts and regulators to initiate the trials, according to a statement posted on the website of the WHO.

Uganda's Ministry of Health on Thursday declared an Ebola outbreak after a 32-year-old male nurse working at Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala succumbed to Sudan Ebola virus disease (SVD), marking the eighth outbreak of the deadly disease in the East African country.

"The aim of the vaccine trial is to evaluate a potentially efficacious candidate vaccine, and if efficacious, to possibly contribute to ending the ongoing outbreak and protect populations at risk in the future," said WHO. "Those eligible to join the trial are those at highest risk of SVD, like close contacts of a

person who has been confirmed to have had SVD or who has died from the disease. The study sites will therefore be the locations where contacts of the case or cases reside."

There are no approved treatments or vaccines for Sudan virus, but early initiation of supportive treatment has been shown to significantly reduce deaths from Sudan virus disease, according to WHO.

Uganda's previous SVD outbreak started in September 2022 and ended in January 2023, with 164 cases and 77 deaths in the country.

During that outbreak, a WHO committee of external experts evaluated candidate vaccines and provided recommendations on their suitability for evaluation in Uganda, as part of a clinical trial against the SVD virus.

"The vaccine trial processes underway include orientation of the research teams on the trial procedures, and logistics arrangements. Research teams have been deployed to the field to work along with the surveillance teams as approvals are awaited," said WHO in the statement.

According to WHO, case fatality rates of Sudan virus disease have varied from 41 percent to 100 percent in past outbreaks.

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Spending billions for people to drink tea more often: Any use?

WITH the world in rapid change and policy makers struggling to take account of changes they scarcely expected to witness even as the New Year was being celebrated, various problems come up that many might elect to ignore.

For example, the Tea Board of Tanzania (TBT) recently brought together industry stakeholders to seek out strategies for the development of the crop - this chiefly in a bid to draw up a ten-year development plan to run up to 2034.

Also in attendance were officials from the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), the Tanzania Ports Authority, cooperative unions and the Agriculture ministry.

The meeting revolved around challenges like power outages and poor roads along with exploring ways to enhance the quality of Tanzanian tea to secure its position in regional and wider markets.

What sort of particularly struck imagination was the idea of encouraging Tanzanians to consume more tea, especially locally produced varieties.

It is quite possible that current tea consumption levels are low but, from an economic point of view, setting out to get people to drink more tea can be tricky. What could do better is perhaps a matter of taste diversity rather than quantity.

For one thing, various 'tastes' of tea are available, herbal or medicinal tea being among them - though it is unlikely that most are locally sourced.

There have been efforts to mix tea with ginger but some users will say there was more tea than ginger, while it may have worked for a portion of consumers. More of that sort can still be done.

It is hard to say how far there is room for collaboration between the government and the private sector to collectively revive the tea

industry.

Items like tea and salt are at once cheap and inelastic in terms of consumption, while the consumption of processed water compares with that of sugar in that it is elastic by income levels and personal habits or preferences. The board doesn't have many avenues.

It is thus hard to figure out a 'road map' to guide collective direction other than competing brands on the market and consumption rising in tandem with increase of population.

It is unlikely that the board can find ways of enabling any of the brands to fare better than they are already doing in relation to other consumption products.

If anything, it is the tolls and levies which need to be pruned, and one avenue is to scrap controls at that level, place the crop in a multi-crop board and then see its effect.

The board and the stakeholders agreed to pursue discussions on the premise that, if increasing production is a priority, the relevant stakeholders in production need to work together to determine the best way forward.

Such a requirement could plausibly have been entrusted to a consultant who would hand the findings to a stakeholders' meeting if the regulator could have perceived well ahead of the consultant's report that the board could have featured in the puzzle. Hopefully, the discussions will still serve as a blueprint to help in improving and implementing strategies designed to sustain local tea.

There was a recommendation for the devising of some marketing device to that effect, unveiling a new logo for Tanzanian tea and thus making it easily identifiable.

That perhaps implies that there are no brands, or they will feature under the same logo. The target is to do better in international markets, which looks a brilliant idea.

What bells does having gas cylinders as scrap metal ring relative to energy shift?

MEMBERS of our Parliamentary Energy and Minerals standing committee have sent ripples around the country with an observation that some recipients of subsidized gas cylinders had failed to refill them and were instead often selling them as scrap metal.

This was not a foul-mouthed assertion intended to sow doubt in the domestic energy transition drive, but a realistic assessment by a parliamentary committee. While it is not a dominant tendency, it still speaks of policy challenges.

It was noted that the tendency has been causing losses to the government and hindering progress toward the goal of an 80 per cent clean cooking energy shift by 2034.

Then followed an appeal to the government to assess the distribution and use of subsidized gas cylinders to determine if the intended objectives were being achieved.

While there is likely to be encouraging progress, there is no denying that scrap metal tales still douse optimism.

It would surely pay for the government to arrest the sale or purchase of cooking gas cylinders as scrap metal, but there will still be clear policy matters to tackle.

There was a recommendation for a sort of criminalising of the misuse of gas cylinders, which would be plausible as policy so

long as the cylinders donated were not treated as private property.

Were it that the donation surrendered all rights and has no element of obligation for reuse or maintaining the use for which the cylinder was donated, no issues would arise. But if it is thenceforward legislated that cylinders remain state property, then liability would likely arise.

What is at issue is the manner in which the shift to gas use can be assured for the broad public if there is such a gap between consumer ability and gas refilling, such that access to filled cylinders made no difference.

This revelation would stand as an intrusion into policy making circles that they were understating the compromises they ought to make. The government wants the same gas revenues, the same gas producers.

This shift was previously examined in view of global climate fund arrangements, including how much this could be covered from those sources, but now that approach appears all but sidelined.

The issue is now whether the government can find a consortium of investors to take over production of natural gas such that it sells at half the current prices. That would make many shift to using gas on their own, as charcoal will be more expensive. However, that would likely call for some restructuring in various agencies.

JUSTICE DELAYED...

...is justice denied!



Rethinking Africa's debt: Debunking myths and identifying more sustainable solutions

By Franck Kuwono

THE 2024 UN OSAA flagship report 'Unpacking Africa's Debt: Towards a Lasting and Durable Solution' addresses the urgent need to reform Africa's debt structures and suggests how countries can get out of unsustainable debt.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 aspirations, Africa requires an additional \$1.3 - 1.6 trillion in financing.

According to a new report 'Unpacking Africa's Debt: Towards a Lasting and Durable Solution' by the UN Special Advisor on Africa launched on 14 November 2024, borrowing remains a necessary tool to navigate the compounding crises of financial distress, climate change, food insecurity, and persistent conflict.

The report emphasizes the need to re-examine Africa's historical reliance on debt instruments to address structural constraints and unlock economic opportunities. By fostering economic growth and ensuring debt sustainability, debt can become a tool for progress rather than a hindrance.

Debt is an important mode of financing. While many countries are in debt distress, we must not treat Africa as a completely debt-distressed continent.

This shift requires aligning debt strategies with long-term development priorities.

"Debt is an important mode of financing. While many countries are in debt distress, we must not treat Africa as a completely debt-distressed continent," said Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, at the launch of the report in New York.

"Debt, when managed effectively, can help us invest in achieving development goals," added Duarte. The need to reform the global financing system to ensure predictable and affordable financing, prioritize development outcomes over private finance interests, and create fiscal space to fund SDG investments, is also emphasized in the report.

Existing frameworks, including debt restructuring arrangements like the Common Framework, the Report says, are insufficient to meet Africa's development needs. The Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI (Debt Service Suspension Initiative) is an initiative launched by the G20 in November 2020 to help low-income

countries address unsustainable debt levels.

Developed by the G20 and the Paris Club (a group of major creditor countries), the Common Framework aims to streamline debt restructuring and provide more comprehensive debt relief options for countries struggling with high debt burdens, particularly following the economic impact of COVID-19.

At the national level, African countries can deepen domestic debt markets to incentivize local investment and effectively engage with the private sector.

Strengthening regional financing architecture can support transboundary infrastructure projects, complementing national efforts. Enhancing debt management and reform capacity across the continent will also play a critical role in addressing the development financing gap.

The report envisions debt as a means to support a more sustainable economic model. Moving beyond resource extraction for export, African economies can leverage debt to build value-added industries, fostering resilience and self-reliance.

By rethinking debt, fostering domestic investment, and pushing for global financing reforms, Africa can bridge its development gap and achieve its aspirations sustainably.

Key recommendations

Some of the recommendations proposed by the report aimed at addressing Africa's financing challenges, include:

Increasing access to affordable finance:

Fulfill Official Development Assistance (ODA) pledges, allocating 10 percent to capacity building and digitization for domestic resource mobilization (DRM) systems.

Reform Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to prioritize long-term (30-50 years) concessional lending, increase capital, and lend in local currencies to reduce currency risks.

Prioritize sustainable development by ensuring predictable, large-scale climate adaptation financing.

Reducing borrowing costs:

Restructure high-interest, short-term debt into long-term, low-cost loans to ease fiscal pressure.

Strengthen the G20 Common Framework by expanded eligibility, clarifying processes, and ensuring debt service suspension during negotiations.

Enhancing debt sustainability:

Introduce debt service suspension linked to SDG progress. Establish a Sovereign Debt Authority to prioritize development in debt treatment.

Leveraging Financing Innovations:

Use state-contingent clauses to suspend debt payments during crises.

Employ debt-for-development, debt-for-nature, debt-for-climate swaps to free resources for SDG investment.

Strengthening regional cooperation:

Boost regional development banks and accelerate Pan-African institutions like the African Investment Bank.

Promote cross-border financing for infrastructure and deepen regional financial markets. "achieving development goals," added Ms. Duarte. The need to reform the global financing system to ensure predictable and affordable financing, prioritize development outcomes over private finance interests, and create fiscal space to fund SDG investments, is also emphasized in the report.

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Source: Africa Renewal, United Nations

Managing migration: The government should balance rural and urban growth

By Correspondent Tuntule Swebe

DAR ES SALAAM is a commercial city that attracts many people in search of better opportunities, leading to significant migration from rural areas.

One of the primary factors that contribute to people to move from rural areas to cities is the pursuit of better economic opportunities. Urban areas tend to offer more diverse and stable sources of income compared to rural regions, where employment options are often limited to agriculture and informal work.

Some aspects of how economic opportunities drive rural-urban migration include, availability of jobs. Cities have a broader range of industries, including manufacturing, construction, trade, transportation, and services like banking, education, and healthcare.

Unlike rural areas, where employment is largely seasonal and depend on agriculture, urban centres provide year-round job opportunities, attracting individuals seeking steady income.

Urban areas provide better access to banks, microfinance institutions, and credit services, which enable individuals to start businesses or invest in education and housing. In contrast, rural communities often face financial exclusion, limiting economic growth and making it harder to break the cycle of poverty.

Other factors for rural-urban migration are access to education because cities provide better schools, universities and vocational training, attracting students and families. In cities there is improved access to hospitals, clinics and specialized medical care that encourages migration.

Cities have better roads, electricity, water supply and digital connectivity, droughts, floods, and soil degradation force people to leave rural areas as well as social and cultural factors whereas people move to cities seeking modern lifestyles, escaping restrictive traditions, or reuniting with family.

However, not all newcomers arrive with a clear plan. Many struggle to find shelter, and some even face rejection from their own relatives upon arrival. As a result, they are forced to adapt and survive in difficult conditions, often sleeping under bridges, along roadsides, outside business kiosks, near residential homes, or in marketplaces.

Unfortunately, some individuals resort to criminal activities such as theft and violence to sustain themselves.



Mama Anodi, a local government leader at Kisutu Steet in Dar es Salaam Region, expressed concerns on the rapidly increasing trend of migration from rural to urban areas. She said some young people relocating to urban places lack proper jobs thus engaging in criminal activities such as theft.

Juma Ally, a resident of Kimara Mwisho in the city, pointed out that while not all of these individuals engage in crime, a significant number do. He explained that some people bring criminal habits from their hometowns, engaging in drug abuse and theft.

Faraji, a resident of Mbezi Beach, shared similar sentiments. He stated that

those who sleep in the streets often contribute to increased crime incidents such as robbery and drug-related offenses.

Their presence also leads to environmental pollution since they lack proper sanitation facilities thus disposing waste irresponsibly, stated Faraji.

Law enforcement agencies have been actively working to curb criminal activities in the city. Last year, police in Dar es Salaam's special zone arrested eight suspects

for allegedly being involved in the kidnapping of businessman Deogratus Tarimo on November 11, 2024, in Kiluvya, Ubungo.

The suspects were apprehended in Dar es Salaam, Songea and Mlimba in Morogoro. Police also recovered a vehicle—'Toyota Raum' which was used in the crime. The vehicle had fake registration number T 237 EGE identified, while its real number was T 237 ECF.

To address this challenge, the government must take decisive steps to manage homelessness and crime, ensuring the safety and well-being of all citizens.

There are a number of measures which could be taken to control the situation which includes improving rural economic opportunities by investing in agriculture—modernize farming techniques, provide access to markets and offer financial support to farmers.

Establishment of rural-based industries to process agricultural products as well as job creation could make youth relax at their home towns. Governments should also take measures to support small businesses through microfinance, training and access to resources.

There is also a need to ensure better connectivity of roads to allow farmers to access markets and services expand electricity and water supply, expanding internet and mobile networks to support education, e-commerce, and business opportunities and introducing agricultural and technical training whereas youth will be trained on modern farming techniques and technical skills thus making rural work more viable.

By improving rural livelihoods, expanding infrastructure, and decentralizing development, Tanzania can create a more balanced population distribution. This will reduce excessive migration to cities while promoting sustainable growth in both rural and urban areas.

Strategies crucial in validating visions, plans of an entrepreneur

By Thomas Lyimo

FOR both large and small scale entrepreneurs, success is the ultimate goal. Just as water follows a channel, success requires a clear path. Therefore, anyone aspiring to excel in entrepreneurship must have a well-defined purpose.

Some thinkers argue that many people fail in life simply because they do not know what they want. This highlights the importance of having a vision.

A vision serves as a roadmap, guiding the formulation of policies and strategies for companies or small-scale enterprises. Every success is built on a conceptual or theoretical framework, making it essential for businesses to have advisors or researchers.

Crafting a vision takes time and requires extensive knowledge, as it involves stakeholders, implementation strategies and methods for measuring success.

A clear vision helps entrepreneurs stay focused on their purpose despite challenges. When formulating a vision, it is crucial to anticipate potential obstacles and develop strategies to overcome them.

If a vision is set properly, the likelihood of needing to alter business policies or perspectives is minimal. It is not advisable to allow activities that were not initially considered to interfere with the pursuit of the vision, as they may cause loss of focus and jeopardize success.

Running a business without challenges is impossible, but proposed solutions must align with the entrepreneur's vision. Success is measured by evaluating the fulfillment of objectives.

Engaging in activities outside the scope of the vision can lead to a loss of direction and, ultimately, business failure. Therefore, entrepreneurs must consistently remind themselves of their vision to stay on track.

However, if significant changes in the market arise that do not align with the existing vision, it may be necessary to revisit and reformulate the vision. Every action taken within a serious business must be backed by research to ensure alignment with its roadmap.

It is often recommended to sell what customers need rather than what entrepreneurs want to sell. If customer needs remain unchanged, caution should be exercised before introducing new products or services.

Entrepreneurs must adapt to evolving customer demands; failure to do so could put their business at risk. This mindset underscores the importance of discipline in achieving business goals.

A vision should also outline how success will be communicated to customers and how the vision will be reinforced through promotional efforts. Both large and small scale entrepreneurs must engage in marketing to retain and attract customers.

Marketing is crucial for retaining customers because it helps maintain engagement, build brand loyalty, and rein-



Entrepreneurs are advised to sell what customers need rather than what they want to sell.

force the value of a product or service. Regular marketing efforts, such as emails, social media interactions, and promotions, keep customers engaged with your brand. Engaged customers are more likely to make repeat purchases.

Consistent and effective marketing helps build a strong brand identity. Customers who feel connected to a brand through personalized experiences and communication are more likely to stay loyal.

Retaining customers is often more cost-effective than acquiring new ones. A well-executed marketing strategy ensures that existing customers are not lured away by competitors.

Additionally, a vision should clearly define business strategies for achieving desired objectives. Strategies are vital to entrepreneurial success in several ways:

Providing options, customers have diverse objectives and financial resources, influencing their purchasing decisions. To cater to various customer needs, entrepreneurs must offer multiple options. This flexibility enhances customer satisfaction and increases business appeal. A prime example of this strategy is demonstrated by cellular phone companies offering various service plans.

Timing, customer demand fluctuates based on seasons. The likelihood of

purchasing a product or service is influenced by its necessity at a given time. When demand is high, customers are willing to pay more. For instance, selling sweaters and jackets during summer is unlikely to be successful. Thus, timing is crucial in business operations.

Offering additional services, providing complementary services can attract more customers. These services may be offered directly by the entrepreneur or in collaboration with others. Customers often prefer one-stop solutions.

For example, bank customers may find it convenient to access a stationery shop nearby for document photocopying. Integrating supplementary services enhances customer satisfaction and boosts business success.

Choosing the right location, the location of a business significantly impacts its success. It should be situated where customers are easily accessible, reducing the need for extensive advertising. Lower operational costs increase profitability. For instance, a juice manufacturing firm should be located near fruit farms to minimize transportation expenses.

Maintaining a contingency fund, unforeseen challenges can arise, leading to unexpected costs. Without a contingency fund, frequent financial strains may disrupt business operations, allowing competitors to dominate the market. A well-prepared entrepreneur understands the importance of financial resilience.

Formulating a business policy or vision is not overly difficult, but the real challenge lies in translating plans into actionable success. Customers have diverse needs and expectations; thus, entrepreneurs must capture and retain their attention. Serving a broad customer base enhances profitability through economies of scale. The ultimate objective should be to meet customer demands with a high level of satisfaction. To achieve this, implementing effective strategies is essential.

MAPUTO

Mozambique: Two presidents, one divided nation

NO illusions: Mozambique remains in crisis, despite the inauguration of Daniel Chapo as president and the establishment of a new parliament. While the widespread allegations of massive electoral fraud during the elections on 9 October 2024 were the immediate trigger for the unrest, the protests revealed deeply entrenched socio-economic and political grievances.

There is significant frustration over the escalating cost of living, rising inequality, persistent unemployment and lack of quality public services – challenges that have defined Mozambique's development path over the past decade. These socio-economic pressures have fuelled feelings of marginalisation and despair, particularly among the youth and the large group of people struggling to make ends meet.

Led by Venâncio Mondlane, the officially recognised runner-up in the presidential election, the protests quickly gained momentum, especially among young people. The protesters explicitly rejected the election results and expressed their dissatisfaction with FRELIMO's 49-year rule, calling for an end to what they describe as a failed governance model that has perpetuated economic stagnation and political exclusion.

More than three months of protests have now passed. The death toll surpasses 300, with over 600 injured and many still unaccounted for. Both public and private infrastructures have sustained extensive damage. Yet, the deadlock continues. Attempts at dialogue have failed, leaving the country engulfed in a state of uncertainty.

Two presidents, one divided nation

Mozambique now faces the unprecedented challenge of two claimants to the presidency: Chapo, the official head of state, and Mondlane, the self-declared 'president of the people'. Both inaugurations have been overshadowed by violence, reflecting a wider trend in how dissent is managed in the country.

FRELIMO's long history of using state security forces to advance its own political agenda is evident in the police's consistent and brutal response to protests. Tear gas, live bullets and even home invasions have been deployed, resulting in the deaths and injuries of uninvolved civilians.

This excessive use of force has gone largely unaddressed by Chapo, his predecessor Filipe Nyusi, and senior police officials, reinforcing perceptions of complicity or even direct orchestration in the suppression of opposition.

But the violence is not one-sided. Protesters have engaged in sabotage and even launched attacks on police stations, resulting in the deaths of police officers. In some neighbourhoods, protesters went so far as to declare that they would completely replace the Polícia da República de Moçambique (PRM) and form their own police force, further eroding the authority of the official security apparatus.

Adding fuel to the fire, Mondlane recently announced a controversial retaliation doctrine: for every protester killed by police, a police officer would be killed in return. It is 'an eye for an eye'.



Mozambique has been affected by weeks of post-electoral violence.

In a defiant bid to undermine Chapo's authority, Mondlane has embraced a shadow governance model. Issuing what he calls 'presidential decrees', he has called for civil disobedience, including boycotts of toll fees and demands for price reductions on essential goods like water, energy and cement.

His populist measures have struck a chord with many supporters, but their enforcement often spirals into protests and, at times, violence.

Meanwhile, Chapo's administration, still struggling to form his government, has yet to meaningfully address the unfolding crisis. In a recent development, Ana Rita Sithole, a senior figure within FRELIMO, dismissed the possibility of a political agreement with Mondlane, sending a clear signal that a faction within the party is unwilling to engage in dialogue, thereby prolonging the standoff and undermining any prospect of restoring peace. This hard-line position only deepens the political divide, casting a shadow over Mozambique's already fragile future.

Escalation and authoritarianism or stability and dialogue?

Mozambique's uncertain future is dominated by two possible scenarios – one of escalation, the other of reconciliation and a return to stability. The potential for dialogue stands as the decisive factor separating these two trajectories. However, progress in fostering such dialogue has so far been disappointingly limited.

In the first scenario, instability deepens as both sides entrench their positions. In this scenario, Mondlane continues to rally civil disobedience, protests and mass mobilisation, further eroding Chapo's ability to govern effectively. Faced with mounting pressure, Chapo might follow the repressive path of his predecessor Nyusi, increasingly depending on police crack-

downs and state security forces to assert control.

While these measures may be aimed at restoring order, they risk inflaming tensions further. Every act of repression could provoke stronger resistance from opposition supporters, potentially spiralling into a dangerous cycle of violence and escalating unrest.

Political persecution might intensify, targeting prominent opposition figures, journalists and activists. In an extreme scenario, this could even result in the assassination or imprisonment of key opposition leaders such as Mondlane himself, sparking further outrage among his supporters and deepening societal divisions.

This trajectory is neither new nor unique. Other nations facing post-electoral crises have travelled similar roads of increased repression and authoritarianism. Zimbabwe after its 2008 elections, Ethiopia after 2005, Venezuela in 2018 and Russia in 2011 are stark examples. While such measures may offer short-term control, they ultimately prove unsustainable, leading to prolonged instability or deeper authoritarian rule.

Mozambique now faces a similar risk, with police brutality against protesters reaching alarming and unacceptable levels. This intensification of repression underscores the urgent need for a new, more inclusive and less militaristic approach to address the crisis.

A second, more optimistic scenario hinges on a return to dialogue. Genuine engagement between Chapo, Mondlane and key societal stakeholders – including civil society, religious leaders and academics – could defuse tensions and restore trust in governance.

Unfortunately, efforts to initiate dialogue have so far encountered substantial setbacks. Former President Nyusi made an early attempt by inviting Mondlane to the table, but the latter's preconditions – primarily related to his safety – were not addressed, leading to his absence from the talks. Subsequent discussions included Chapo and representatives from several opposition parties, such as Ossufo Momade (RENAMO), Lutero Simango (MDM), Albino Forquilha (Podemos) and Salomão Muchanga (Nova Democracia), but Mondlane's continued absence limited their scope and effectiveness.

When Mondlane eventually returned to Mozambique at the beginning of this month, there was speculation about possible meetings with other

opposition leaders, but these talks never materialised. In his inaugural speech, Chapo himself stressed the need for 'frank, honest and sincere' dialogue, calling it a priority for political and social stability.

Yet, nearly two weeks after assuming office, there were no reports of any substantial dialogue initiatives, and Chapo publicly denied the existence of any ongoing negotiations.

For this scenario to succeed, Chapo, as the president of the Republic, must take decisive action and leverage his leadership position to build consensus for the good of the country. At the same time, Mondlane must demonstrate openness for a negotiated solution to the conflict and reconsider his list of demands, particularly since his fight for 'electoral truth' seems difficult to win after the constitutional court processed the complaints and officially determined the final results.

Although more serious now, Mozambique's current deadlock mirrors the tensions that followed the 2009 elections. As then, there is reluctance to engage in meaningful dialogue. Sadly, that earlier impasse eventually gave way to armed confrontations between RENAMO, the largest opposition party at the time, and the FRELIMO government.

To prevent history from repeating itself, leaders need to do more than make symbolic gestures; the situation calls for authentic, inclusive engagement that amplifies the voices of all – including opposition leaders and civil society. Only by replacing entrenched divisions with sincere dialogue can the country break free from its cycle of conflict and work toward a stable, democratic future.

Egídio Chaimite is a Senior Researcher at IESE in Mozambique, specialising in governance, elections, human rights and social movements. With extensive publications and experience in programme design, implementation and evaluation, he also teaches electoral management and public policy at top Mozambican universities.

Brazil to free classrooms from invasion of mobile phones

By Mario Osava

IT was necessary to repel the "invasion" of mobile phones in Brazilian classrooms, even to spark a debate about the use of technology in education, according to Silvana Veloso, an educator with extensive experience on the subject.

On January 13, Brazil enacted a law that bans "the use of personal portable electronic devices by students during classes, recess, or breaks between classes at all levels of basic education," making it the first Latin American country to impose such a nationwide restriction.

An unusual agreement among various opposing political factions allowed the new law to be passed by the National Congress in December 2024. Only a few far-right lawmakers, primarily from the Liberal Party, voted against it.

They wanted students to have access to phones to film "indoctrinating practices" by teachers and expose Marxist ideological activism, which they claim is contaminating Brazilian education. However, even some of their legislators supported the law.

Restricting mobile phones in schools aims to "safeguard the mental, physical, and psychological health of children and adolescents," as stated in the approved Law 15.100. It includes exceptions for pedagogical use, emergencies involving risks, or health and disability issues.

The new law took immediate effect, with no transition period, and will be enforced starting in February, when

the school year begins in this country of 212 million people.

"This law is small and limited, but positive because it mobilizes the community, parents, teachers, and even the school cafeteria staff, sparking debate," Veloso said. She does not reject technology in schools but advocates for its appropriate use.

As an educator, Veloso led the BH Digital program, a digital inclusion initiative in Belo Horizonte – the capital of the southern state of Minas Gerais, with 2.3 million inhabitants – from its inception in 2004 until 2012.

The program established telecenters with 10 to 20 internet-connected computers in public institutions like libraries, assistance offices, cultural centers, and NGOs, as well as a mobile unit – a trailer equipped to teach computer classes in neighborhoods.

With 40 of her 60 years dedicated to education, Veloso also served as Secretary of Education for Rio Acima, a municipality of 10,000 residents, from 2022 to 2024. During her tenure, she implemented a technology program in local schools, including robotics labs. She continues to work as a teacher and advisor on the subject.

Rio Acima and many other municipalities received computer equipment, such as desktops and tablets, but lacked the knowledge to use them effectively.

Unprepared schools and teachers

Just as with the overwhelming presence of mobile phones, schools and teachers are generally unprepared to



integrate new technologies into teaching, Veloso lamented. They have not developed pedagogical projects to incorporate these tools.

Regarding mobile phones, which are owned by a vast majority of students, Veloso has witnessed troubling cases. In response to school violence, which surged in late 2022 and early 2023 – with five assaults and 11 deaths in five Brazilian states – students aged nine and ten in Rio Acima organized self-defense networks via WhatsApp.

Instructions on using kitchen knives to "bleed the bandits" who might invade schools and the preparation of Molotov cocktails were part of the group's discussions, until a mother found

out through the students themselves, Veloso told IPS over the phone from Rio Acima, where she lives.

The leader of the movement was just 10 years old and headed several WhatsApp groups. "They were reproducing the violence" they feared becoming victims of, Veloso noted.

Another earlier case, from 2017, came to light when a student was found with cuts on her arm. It involved girls self-harming, encouraged by a website that promoted competitions among those who could cut themselves the most.

Training, particularly for teachers, to manage and leverage technological innovations is the central challenge facing education, Veloso ar-

gued.

"Technology does not cause regression; we are the ones responsible. Humanity has always sought interactive communication. What we have achieved is marvelous – phones that allow us to talk while seeing the other person's image are fascinating," but they require debate and dialogue for proper use, she concluded.

The harm of mobile phones

Numerous studies highlight the negative effects of mobile phones on learning, including attention deficits, social media addiction, and increased anxiety among students.

Brazil has become the first Latin American country to pass a law restricting mobile

phones in schools, following a global trend. A quarter of the 194 member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have already adopted restrictive measures, particularly in Europe and Asia.

Although the law takes effect in February, its full implementation requires regulations and protocols for schools managed by states (secondary schools) and municipalities (primary schools).

After political consensus, driven by the proven distraction caused by mobile phones in both schools and workplaces, the new law now prompts reflection on pedagogical projects in schools.

"Technology must be introduced into each school in an organized manner, avoiding the current chaos," said Bernardo Baiao, coordinator of Educational Policies at Todos pela Educação, a nonprofit civil society organization advocating for quality basic education in Brazil.

The proliferation of mobile phones, combined with social media, has a cognitive dimension, affecting learning. Students themselves admit that it distracts them from their studies.

"More screen time, less learning," emphasized Baiao, a history graduate turned educator, who has worked full-time for the Todos pela Educação movement in Rio de Janeiro for the past three years.

Other aspects of the technological challenge include the emotional impact on those who "cannot live without social media" and the

social interaction aspect of "living and playing at school, making it naturally noisy, without the silence of mobile phones, which bring distant people closer while pushing away those nearby," he told IPS.

"Technology is not the enemy. We must combine different tools. Printed books are better for memorization, but digital ones are more suitable for personalized teaching, addressing different needs and interests," he added.

"The teacher is more important than the computer or phone screen; technology cannot replace them," he stressed.

The ban on mobile phones in schools had already been implemented in many private schools, and four of Brazil's 26 states had passed their own legislation. In fact, 28% of schools had already adopted a total ban, with few exceptions, by 2023, according to the Internet Steering Committee.

This committee includes government and civil society participants, including academics and industry representatives. It assists in internet governance, maintaining neutrality against political and private interests, and established the core principles of Brazil's internet law, the Civil Rights Framework for the Internet.

The swift passage of the national law was due to near-consensus in public opinion. A survey conducted by the non-governmental Locomotiva Institute in October 2024 showed that 82% of respondents supported banning mobile phones in schools.

Kenya's "boda girls" conquer wild male-dominated industry

NAIROBI

WHEN her three children didn't have enough to eat, Monica Atieno decided to apply for a job through a new programme that was recruiting women to become motorcycle taxi riders – a profession long dominated by men.

At first, she kept her plan a secret from her husband, who was himself a motorcycle taxi rider in their town of Ukwala in western Kenya. When he found out, he was furious and threatened to leave. But Atieno, who is 29, says she told him: "I'm going to do it, because I know what I'm going to achieve."

Last year, after hundreds of hours of training, she became a motorcycle taxi driver – a "Boda Girl," as they're called. She's now one of only about 1,000 women among the estimated 2.5 million motorcycle taxi drivers in the east African nation of Kenya, according to the Boda Boda Safety Association, an advocacy group.

The road to success has been full of obstacles. Many of the women who signed up, like Monica Atieno, had never before driven a motorbike, let alone a car. They have faced harassment from passengers and fellow drivers. Their husbands voiced disapproval.

The women received training in essential skills like self-defence and mechanics. Now, many say they have begun to earn incomes and independence, discovered new strengths and, in some cases, started to support their entire families – accomplishments they once thought impossible.

"When I joined Boda Girls, my life changed completely," said Lilian Rehema, 33, one of the first women motorcycle taxi drivers in her area. "My kids can dress nicely. They can get food every day."

The programme started when Dan Ogola, who had helped found the local Matibabu Hospital two decades ago, noticed that women were regularly coming to the hospital in search of work – whether as cooks, cleaners or receptionists.

The hospital was one of the largest employers in Siaya County, where one million residents live mostly in villages and small towns connected by red soil roads that wind through flat plains and rolling hills. Many people make a living by farming maize, cassava or sweet potatoes. Others fish in Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. Jobs are scarce, especially for women.

At the same time, Ogolla noticed a troubling pattern: When these same women became patients, they couldn't afford transportation to the hospital for medical checkups. Many had to walk up to two hours, even when pregnant, to reach the hospital. Some ended up giving birth en route.

So, with the support of an American charity, the Tiba Foundation, which also helps fund the hospital, he hired a driving school to train women motorcycle taxi drivers. In April 2022 he recruited 10 women from nearby villages – the first cohort of "Boda Girls."

"We kill poverty by creating jobs for them," he said, "and they bring people to us and make health services accessible to women."

After Rehema's husband died, she and her four chil-



Monica Atieno (L) and her husband, Stephen Ochieng, who are both motorcycle taxi riders, outside their home near the town of Ukwala in western Kenya.

dren could no longer survive on money from growing kale on her small farm. On the verge of losing her home, she was forced to beg for money. After years of struggle, she came across Matibabu hospital's surprising job opportunity when she went there hoping to find work as a cook.

She had never before heard of women driving boda-bodas, as the two-wheeled taxis are called.

Boda-bodas originated in the 1960s when riders along the border between Kenya and Uganda would shout "border to border" to attract customers, according to researchers. What started as bicycle taxis eventually transformed into motorcycle taxis – often cheap, imported bikes from India. Boda-bodas became one of Kenya's major economic forces.

"I didn't know how to ride, but I could learn," Rehema said.

With time and persistence, she mastered the skills to navigate the region's unpredictable dirt roads: hitting the brakes just before turns and leaning into corners while keeping steady. She learned how to change engine oil in inconvenient conditions.

Two years ago, she became one of the first female drivers in her area. Now, she rushes expectant mothers to deliver their babies in the hospital, and transports women and their babies to checkups. When she arrives at the hospital, she greets everyone with warm smiles, kisses babies and shakes hands like a beloved lo-

cal politician.

The "Boda Girls" programme was an instant hit, inspiring others.

Each morning, Lucy Odele marveled at the confidence of the Boda Girls zooming past her house. Odele had had polio as a child, leaving her with a limp in her right leg and making it hard for her to stand for long. It also made finding work even more difficult. Living as a single mother with her parent, Odele, 38, longed for independence. She applied to the programme, and joined 13 other women in May 2023 as part of the second cohort.

But Odele said she had initially struggled, finding it hard to swing her leg over the bike. "I used to cry. I would see others make progress, while I stayed where I was," she said.

Refusing to give up, the programme found her a solution: a smaller scooter that she could more easily mount. At night, she wheels it carefully into her cramped house, positioning it next to her sofa like a trusted friend.

"I know what it's like, walking long distances to clinics," she said. "I don't want anybody to suffer the way I suffered."

Lucy Odele pushing her motorbike into her house before going to sleep for the night, in order to safeguard the bike from possible thieves, in the town of Ukwala.

After she went into labor, Violet Onyango got a ride to Matibabu Hospital with a Boda Girl, and after the birth held her new baby girl, Talia, for the first time.

The programme has now trained 51

women. In the early morning light, they can be seen on their colourful bikes with bright pink seats – a mark of their trainee status. When they graduate, they are given purple leather seats, each displaying the hand-stitched Boda Girls logo.

Last summer, when Violet Onyango was in labor, her family couldn't afford the fare to transport her to the hospital, and the baby's father refused to help. So she called one of the Boda Girls who had already driven her to multiple checkups, who gently transported her for free to the hospital to safely deliver her baby girl.

Afterward, Onyango, an avid soccer player, said of her baby, "I want her to go to school, get an education and become a footballer like me."

Many male boda-boda drivers believe that women are taking their jobs.

"Before the Boda Girls arrived, I was doing well, but things changed," said Frederic Owino, a long time boda-boda driver in the county. "Since they came, my work has decreased."

Kevin Mubadi, chairman of the Boda Boda Safety Association of Kenya, which supports inclusion for women drivers, said, "Some passengers still find it strange for women to ride boda-bodas."

He added that women also often experience "sexual harassment from male clients."

To protect themselves, the Boda Girls learn self-defence. Trainers teach them to stop the bike if a passenger is inap-

propriate, firmly assert the rules and take a defensive stance – arms extended, palms out, ready to kick if threatened.

The Boda Girls have gone on to share these skills with girls in nearby schools.

The landscape is slowly changing, with more women joining the industry not just as drivers, but also as engineers and mechanics – changing mind-sets all around them.

Atieno's once-skeptical husband, who had threatened to leave when she first enrolled in the programme, changed his mind after a month when he saw that she was already earning double what he made. With her Boda Girl earnings, she bought a cow and several pigs, and expanded into other ventures like making soap and tailoring.

One morning in July, she carried two of their children to school on the back of her purple motorbike. Her husband hopped on too, so he could attend a parent-teacher meeting. After dropping them at school, Ms. Atieno rode on – off to work.

Atieno prepares to drive her children, Brenda and Valeria, along with Ochieng, to a parent's day at the school.

Fear, humanitarian crisis grip Goma in DRC as new peace summit looms

GOMA

THE city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) awoke cautiously as urban life tentatively resumed under the shadow of ongoing conflict and a deepening humanitarian crisis. Shops reopened and streets stirred with activity despite looming uncertainty.

Goma, the capital of North Kivu province and a key regional hub, remains in turmoil after the M23 rebels on January 26 asserted that they had taken control of the city, a claim the Congolese government has not recognized.

Scenes of destruction painted a grim picture: looted homes, ransacked military trucks and bullet casings scattered across the ground. The city has endured days of intense clashes between M23 fighters and the Congolese armed forces, leaving both material devastation and human loss.

Over the weekend, resi-

dents mobilized to clean up the city, clearing debris and abandoned military equipment, including damaged vehicles left behind in the fighting.

"There are more than 2,000 bodies to be buried," said Patrick Muyaya, spokesperson for the DRC government, on Monday evening during a press briefing in Kinshasa, the capital of the Central African country, referring to the aftermath of the hostilities in Goma.

Despite the conflict, some semblance of normalcy is returning. Since Thursday, water, electricity and internet services have been restored in the city, home to over one million residents and more than 700,000 displaced people. Meanwhile, the M23 rebels have announced plans to establish a "civilian administration" in Goma.

However, critical infrastructure remains disrupted. Goma International Airport, which previously handled domestic, international and UN flights, remains closed.



A man looks on while standing next to a tent at the Kashaka IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp in the outskirts of Goma on Monday. AFP

Airline companies and humanitarian agencies report that warehouses storing emergency aid supplies have been looted.

In response to ongoing lawlessness, the M23 has conducted operations against looters in the city's outskirts, targeting those using weapons abandoned during the clashes.

Meanwhile, urban commerce is slowly reviving. Makeshift markets have reappeared along the streets, with trucks delivering goods to lo-

cal vendors.

"We came from Minova with our trucks to supply food to Goma. We did not encounter any major security issues on the roads. It is a relief to see business resuming," said Samy Mumbere, a transporter from Minova, a town in South Kivu province that is also under M23's control.

However, the humanitarian crisis continues to worsen. The entry of armed groups into Goma has severely impacted medical services, with hospitals and clinics reach-

ing full capacity, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Sunday.

Adding to the crisis, food and transportation costs have skyrocketed. According to ActionAid, a non-governmental organization, prices for essential goods like flour and oil have more than doubled since the outbreak of violence.

The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) has expressed alarm over reports of the M23 advancing toward

Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu. However, in a statement issued late Monday, the rebels denied any plans to take control of Bukavu and announced a unilateral ceasefire starting Tuesday for humanitarian reasons.

The Congolese government has yet to respond to the ceasefire declaration.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has voiced deep concern over the escalating violence and condemned M23's offensive. He called on the rebels to cease hostilities immediately and withdraw from occupied areas. According to UN estimates, more than 400,000 people have been displaced in eastern DRC since the beginning of the year.

A fresh round of peace talks is set to take place in the coming days, aimed at mediating tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, which have been exacerbated by the M23 conflict.

The DRC has accused Rwanda of backing the M23 rebels, a charge Kigali denies.

Rwanda has accused the DRC army of supporting remnants of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, a group allegedly responsible for the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

On Friday, leaders from the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community (EAC) will convene for a joint summit to discuss the crisis. DRC President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame are expected to attend.

Kenyan President William Ruto confirmed their participation on Monday, though neither Kinshasa nor Kigali has made an official announcement. Tshisekedi was notably absent from last week's virtual EAC summit.

Efforts to broker peace have repeatedly stalled. In December, a peace summit under the African Union-led Luanda Process, which was expected to bring Tshisekedi and Kagame to the negotiating table, was abruptly canceled.

Zambia to launch oral vaccination campaign in cholera-affected town

LUSAKA

HEALTH authorities in Zambia will commence an oral cholera vaccination campaign in Chililabombwe Town in Copperbelt Province currently hard-hit by a cholera outbreak, a senior government official said yesterday.

The government has initiated discussions with the World Health Organization, Gavi, and other partners to address the cholera outbreak in the province, Minister of Health Elijah Muchima said during an update press briefing on the cholera situation.

He said that about 129,000 doses of vaccines have been

earmarked for the district, and the vaccination exercise is expected to commence on Feb. 7. "Vaccination remains a cornerstone of our cholera response strategy," he said, adding that training to prepare facilities for the exercise and public sensitization about the disease have started.

According to him, a multisectoral stakeholder program has been initiated to control the outbreak and prevent further spread, with the United Nations Children's Fund expected to increase the number of community-based volunteers to 150 from the current 50. Muchima, who has been inspecting

cholera-affected areas in the province since Sunday, said most of the patients are not residents of Chililabombwe but traders from other towns, who live in make-shift containers with no proper water and sanitation facilities.

According to him, water tests have confirmed contamination with human waste.

In response, the government plans to drill 10 boreholes in the affected areas to provide people with clean drinking water. The minister said Chililabombwe recorded one cholera case in the past 24 hours, while Ndola and Chingola towns in Copperbelt Province have two cases each, bringing the total num-

ber of cholera cases admitted in the province to 15. All the patients are in stable condition, with more expected to be discharged soon.

Additionally, two cases have been reported in the country's northern district of Nakonde, which brings the total number of cholera admissions countrywide to 17.

Transforming Africa's coffee sector for sustainable growth

By Special Correspondent

THE 2024 Coffee Farmer Thriving Index published by 60Decibels paints a stark picture of Africa's coffee industry – one characterised by low profitability, financial vulnerability, and limited value addition at the production level.

While coffee remains a critical export for many African economies, the report highlights the structural inefficiencies that prevent farmers from thriving. At its core, the report underscores a fundamental challenge:

Africa's coffee sector remains largely extractive, with smallholder farmers bearing the risks of volatile markets and climate shocks while receiving only a fraction of the final product's value.

This dynamic must change if Africa is to transition from being a raw commodity exporter to a value-added powerhouse. The findings of the report highlight several economic barriers preventing Africa's coffee industry from achieving sustainable growth.

More than a third of Ugandan coffee farmers reported earning no profit, with 21 per cent operating at a loss. Price volatility and climate-related disruptions make coffee farming an unpredictable livelihood, reinforcing cycles of poverty. Nearly half of coffee farmers in Uganda have no savings, making them vulnerable to economic shocks.

Limited access to credit and financial services further constrains their ability to invest in productivity-enhancing measures such as better seeds, fertilizers, or processing technology. Most coffee farmers sell raw coffee cherries, missing out on the higher margins associated with processing.

Despite coffee's importance as a cash crop, 29 percent of farmers are classified as food insecure, particularly during non-harvest periods. Over-reliance on coffee income without diversified revenue streams exacerbates this problem.

Africa's coffee sector operates within a global value chain that extracts wealth at the farm level while enriching players further down the supply chain. Farmers often receive only a small fraction of the final retail price, with profits concentrated among processors, traders, and multinational brands.

This perpetuates a colonial-era trade dynamic where African economies remain dependent on raw commodity exports rather than building integrated value chains. A fundamental challenge lies in market structuring.

Coffee remains a globally traded commodity, subject to price volatility dictated by external forces rather than local economic fundamentals.



The 2024 Coffee Farmer Thriving Index published by 60Decibels paints a stark picture of Africa's coffee industry.

The absence of locally developed value chains means that farmers are price-takers rather than price-setters, leaving them at the mercy of international market fluctuations.

To address these gaps and ensure that Africa retains more value from its coffee industry, a strategic shift is required across policy, finance, and market structures.

Africa must break free from the raw commodity export model by investing in coffee processing infrastructure. Governments and private investors should develop processing plants to roast, grind, and package coffee locally.

This would allow African businesses to capture more of the final retail price, rather than exporting

raw beans for processing abroad. Countries like Ethiopia have already seen success by restricting raw coffee exports, forcing local industry development.

Without financial inclusion, smallholder farmers will remain trapped in cycles of subsistence. Governments, central banks, and financial institutions must develop tailored credit programs that offer patient capital, concessional loans, and risk-sharing mechanisms to farmers and cooperatives.

Parametric insurance products should also be expanded to help farmers manage climate-related risks. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents an opportunity to build regional coffee processing hubs. Rather than exporting to Europe or Asia,

African countries should trade more coffee within the continent, developing local consumption markets in urban centres.

Encouraging intra-African trade will help stabilise demand, reduce reliance on global market fluctuations, and allow African businesses to scale. Technology must be leveraged to expand access to precision farming techniques, soil testing, and climate adaptation strategies.

Digital platforms can provide real-time market information, weather alerts, and agronomic advice. Africa's coffee industry stands at a crossroads. It can either continue exporting raw beans or remain at the mercy of global price fluctuations, or it can build integrated value chains, capture more economic value, and transform coffee farming into a thriving, sustainable industry.

This shift requires bold policy-making, strategic investments, and a rethinking of Africa's place in the global coffee economy. Financial inclusion, value addition, regional trade integration, and climate adaptation must be at the heart of this transformation.

If Africa is to break free from the cycle of commodity dependency, the coffee sector offers a clear test case. The solutions exist – what is needed now is the political will, investment, and commitment to make Africa's coffee farmers truly thrive.

Trump's second coming: A new era for America, its complex impact on Africa

By Azu Ishiekwene

IT'S hard to argue when US President Donald Trump says that God saved him to save America. Not only is rational argument often suspended or lost when God enters the matter, but Trump's return as the 47th president defies logic.

A leader's job is never done. But how do you rationally explain Kamala Harris's defeat in the presidential election and, along with it, the routing of Joe Biden and the Democratic Party in the Congress? If the election were a boxing match, it would have beaten the record of Vitali Klitschko vs Shannon Briggs's 2010 fight as one of the most one-sided in boxing history.

Biden's sins

And it's not a laughing matter. Trump was a joke, but God, they say, uses jokers to teach serious people some lessons. I don't mean his sordid personal record just yet. I mean where Biden had taken America compared with where Trump left it in 2021.

Recovery from Covid-19 was largely exemplary, thanks to Biden letting data and science lead. The management of inflation on his watch (average 5.2%) has been the envy of most of the world, especially Europe.



The negotiations with Big Pharma to review the prices of prescription drugs saved taxpayers billions of dollars, not to mention the benefits of peace of mind.

He added 16.6 million jobs, achieved the lowest unemployment in five decades, and invested more than \$300-billion to rebuild roads and bridges. In contrast to climate change denier Trump, who pulled the US out of the Paris Agreement, even though experts have described climate change as one of the world's biggest threats in the next two to 10 years, Biden returned America to the agreement and aggressively pursued investment in clean energy.

Forget the record!

But it turned out that whatever logic or facts might offer, God had other plans, according to Trump. It could only have been divine because how come voters didn't remember Biden's record, or, if they did, we are now told the record doesn't matter any more. What matters is how they felt at election time – a concept obviously outside the realm of logic.

Trump's sordid record didn't matter in this solemn divination, this act of God. At the peak of his trials, Trump faced 91 criminal counts and multiple indictments. He was convicted on 34 counts for falsifying business records during his hush money trial, and impeached twice. Just at the door to the White House, he was sentenced for a felony but received an "unconditional discharge".

Voters knew his record up until 5 November 2024; nothing was secret. Yet, in a divination that spared him to redeem America – one of the few countries, apart from South Africa, Sweden and Finland, where a candidate can be elected even with a convict's millstone around his neck – Trump won resoundingly.

It's pointless trying to figure it out. Trump is here to finish what he couldn't in his first coming. At his inauguration, he announced a glorious new American dawn, the very purpose for which 1) the hand of fate made voters

turn a blind eye to his chaotic record; and 2) God saved him from being killed twice. Who can argue against that?

While we're getting used to the political science of feelings and divinations over facts and logic, it might be helpful to ask what this second missionary journey means for Africa. It does seem that God saved Trump not only to save America from itself, but also to save Africa from Africa.

Relief, at last

His victory is a relief for several countries with strict LGBT laws. Nigeria has an anti-LGBT law that criminalises same-sex marriage and public display of affection by persons of the same sex, with a fine of up to 14 years' imprisonment.

It battled to hold its ground against US pressure for more than a decade. When Biden was going out the door, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed a law banning homosexuality in the military – something that may have played out differently if Harris of the Democratic Party had won.

But Nigeria's anti-LGBT laws are not even close to those of Uganda, which imposed the death penalty, a move that Biden described as "a tragic violation of universal human rights" and on whose watch Uganda was removed from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), among other reprisals.

Tanzania and Ghana were not too far behind a backlash under Biden for their stringent anti-LGBT laws, a misery from which they have now been delivered. In his second missionary journey, Trump has condemned all forms of "social engineering" and declared from day one that there are only two sexes in the US – male and female.

This second coming is not only about the sexes or gender. Money – well, not precisely real money – is involved, too, for Africans. Crypto is getting popular on the continent. Data from Creditcoin's blog suggests that African youths, particularly in Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, are playing big. One source says that 35% of those aged between 18 and 60 in Nigeria owned or traded crypto assets in 2022.

The year before was a nightmare for crypto traders in Nigeria after the Central Bank banned trading in crypto assets, and it has been a long winter since. Well, the new crypto godfather has just arrived on the scene. In what signalled a brave new dawn for the token and its youthful lovers on the continent, Trump and his wife, Melania, launched personalised cryptos and became crypto billionaires hours before the president's inauguration.

DM

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 226 00 -

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Across: 1 a legislative body in Russia; 4 the fifth sign of the ZODIAC; 7 an old kind of wheat; 9 a play; 10 a ward in Same district; 11 recent times; 13 editor (abbrev); 15 length of time someone existed; 16 a mineral; 17 a horse of a breed originating in Arabia; 18 a person who idles. Down: 1 administrative Capital of Tanzania; 2 follow a winding course; 3 motive; 4 a large number or amount; 5 a piece of rubber to rub out; 6 half of two; 8 Capital city of Kenya; 12 ogham; 14 a hoofed grazing/browsing animal; 16 petrol.

Word fit puzzle grid with clues. 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. EMMER, NEWS, DHAL: OR, DATA: LOA, PLANE, DUNE: SO, ESSENCE, EMBE, MINDED, DONE, NEWBIE, ESOL: AN, LEECH, EAST: LOW.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. A weekly program schedule for Radio One, listing programs for Monday through Sunday with their respective start and end times.

BUSINESS

OPEC+ agrees to raise oil output from April

LONDON

OPEC+ agreed to stick to its policy of gradually raising oil output from April and removed the US government's Energy Information Administration from the sources used to monitor its production and adherence to supply pacts.

OPEC+ and Donald Trump clashed repeatedly during his first administration in 2016-2020 when the US President demanded it raise production to compensate for the drop in Iranian supply that resulted from US sanctions.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has already called on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to bring down prices, saying elevated prices have helped Russia continue the war in Ukraine.

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said the group of ministers from OPEC and allies led by Russia (OPEC+) discussed Trump's call to raise production, and agreed OPEC+ will start boosting output from April 1 in line with previous

plans.

An online meeting of the OPEC+ group called the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee also changed the list of consultants and other firms OPEC+ uses to monitor its production, known as secondary sources.

"After thorough analysis from the OPEC Secretariat, the Committee replaced Rystad Energy and the Energy Information Administration (EIA) with Kpler, OilX, and ESAI, as part of the secondary sources used to assess the crude oil production and conformity," OPEC+ said in a statement.

One OPEC+ source said the removal of EIA data was because the agency was not communicating on the information required and that the decision was not driven by politics. The U.S. government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Rystad Energy values our longstanding commercial relationship with OPEC and understands that for this specific aspect of our engagement, it is common to engage different market intelligence providers," a spokesperson said.



OPEC+ uses secondary sources to help monitor its output as a legacy of historic OPEC disputes about how much oil members were pumping and occasionally alters the list.

In March 2022, OPEC+ dropped the International Energy Agency as a secondary source, a decision OPEC+ sources at the time said was driven by Saudi Arabia, reflecting concern about US influence on the watchdog's figures.

Monday's meeting coincided with a rise in oil prices after Trump imposed tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, America's top trading partners, raising concern about supply disruption.

Prices, however, have yet to return to the level of \$83 a barrel hit on Jan. 15 because of concern about the impact of US sanctions on Russia.

OPEC+ is cutting output by 5.85 million barrels per day (bpd), equal to about 5.7 percent of global supply, agreed in a series of steps since 2022.

In December, OPEC+ extended its latest layer of cuts through the first quarter of 2025, pushing back a plan to begin raising output to April. The extension was the latest of several delays due to weak demand and rising supply outside the group.

Based on that plan, the unwinding of 2.2 million bpd of cuts - the most recent layer - and the start of an increase for the United Arab Emirates, begins in April with a monthly rise of 138,000 bpd, according to Reuters calculations.

The hikes will last until September 2026. Based on OPEC+'s previous practice, a final decision to go ahead with the April hike is expected around early March.

DSE indices gain in February's opening

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices started the second month of the current quarter in green, with foreign investors' 2.2bn/- net sell.

The daily market report shows Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed the day at 4,752.30 points an increase of 8.92 points, while

all share index (DSEI) and Bank, Finance & Investment gained by 1.65 points and 29.53 points respectively.

The gaining of the share indices resulted from appreciations of share prices in three counters including CRDB (1.45 percent), KCB (2.44 percent) and Nation Media Group (3.85 percent) while losers were EABL and NICO counters.

A total turnover of 3.6bn/- was recorded during the opening of the week, following the transaction of 1.45 million shares traded in 988 deals.

Top movers were CRDB counter, which recorded the transactions of 872,940 shares valued 612m/-, traded at a price ranging from 690/- to 710/- per share in 618 deals, followed by TCC counter,

which recorded the transaction of 300,120 shares valued 1.8bn/-, of which 300,110 were traded through block trade pre-arranged market board at a price of 17,000 per share.

The third top mover was NMB counter, which transacted 216,702 shares valued 1.2bn/-, of which 200,000 share were traded through pre-arranged block

trade, at a price of 5,850/- per share.

Other active counters during the day were Afriprise, DCB, DSE, MBP, MCB, NICO, PAL, TBL, TCCL, TPCC, and VODA.

The report shows local investors dominated the buying activity, as shares they bought accounted for 93.92 percent of total value of shares purchased, while foreign

investors dominated the selling activity as the amount of shares they sold accounted for 61.14 percent of total value of shares sold.

The report shows foreign investors have so far sold shares valued 15.5bn/- since the start of the first quarter of this year, which is equivalent to half of total shares they sold during the fourth quarter of last year.

Mikumi National Park spends 23bn/- to stimulate visitations

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Morogoro

MIKUMI National Park is spending 23bn/- to improve its infrastructure, which will enable the fourth largest national park to attract more tourists.

The park is confirmed wildlife sighting hotspot, which now receives over 1,000 visitors daily, is implementing two strategic projects aimed at enhancing visitor amenities and transportation infrastructure.

The project is financed under the World Bank's Resilient Natural Resources Management for Tourism Growth (REGROW) project, with the goal of enabling Tanzania's fourth-largest national park to professionally cater to the growing number of visitors.

The projects, currently

progressing well, include the construction of infrastructure for staff and tourist amenities at Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa Mountains, and Nyerere National Parks, as well as the construction and upgrading of the Kikoboga Airstrip at Mikumi National Park.

Records show that approximately 115,009 visitors, both local and international, toured the Morogoro-based natural preserve between July 2024 and January 30, 2025, generating over 6.4bn/-.

ZamZam Juma Yusuph, Conservation Officer II (CO II) at Mikumi National Park, said the amount collected so far represents over 89 percent of the annual revenue target of at least 6.8bn/-.

"During the 2023/2024 year, we managed to gener-

ate over 6.6bn/- from a total of 114,730 visitors. This year, we have already raised over 6.4bn/- within just six months, which is an encouraging record," she said.

She expressed optimism that the park, situated between the Uluguru and Lumango Mountains, will achieve remarkable results this year.

Adding his voice on the achievements, Mikumi National Park Assistant Conservation Commissioner Augustine George Massesa said the operation of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) electric trains has contributed to the surge in visitor numbers.

"The operation of fast trains between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma has opened up a new niche for local tourists to visit the park, which is endowed with a wide variety of



Paskari Ntandu a conservation ranger at the Mikumi National Park, explains to journalists on the ongoing implementation of the expansion and upgrading of the Kikoboga Airstrip located inside the park. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

natural life," he said.

He further appreciated President Samia Suluhu Hassan for empowering the park to implement various projects aimed at improving visitor amenities.

In efforts to further position Mikumi National Park as a major tourism hotspot, Com-

missioner Massesa said the park has opened a friendly window for private sector stakeholders to invest in the vast national park, which spans 300 km west of Dar es Salaam along the Dar-Mbeya highway.

"Some investors have already extended their foothold in the park, but more invest-

ment is needed, especially in accommodation facilities for tourists," he said. Providing additional details on the ongoing projects, Conservation Ranger II (CR II) Paskari Ntandu said the initiatives include the installation of a state-of-the-art Visitor Information Centre (VIC), which will feature a reception building, shops, a museum, an exhibition hall, public toilets, and car parking.

"The expansion of the Kikoboga Airstrip involves extending the runway and constructing an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Building, as well as an aircraft apron," he explained.

Due to its accessibility, Mikumi is one of Tanzania's most popular national parks. The natural preserve is known for its superb scenic plains and baobabs, making it a comfortable home for various wild animal and bird species.

The park boasts a spectacular concentration of wildlife, including rare species such as the magnificent sable antelope, African hunting dog, blue wildebeest, and Lichtenstein's hartebeest.

The gentle foothills and vast miombo woodland savanna in the park's southern parts are particularly spectacular.

Muheza District Council sets priorities for 2025/26 budget

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

THE Muheza District Council has outlined its key priorities for the 2025/26 financial year, focusing on strengthening local revenue collection and improving service delivery.

These priorities were revealed during the council's workers' meeting held last weekend, where the draft budget of 46.45bn/- was approved.

Opening the meeting, Muheza District Executive Director Dr. Jumaa Mhina en-

couraged council members to freely share their thoughts and suggestions, emphasizing the importance of aligning the district's priorities with the proposed budget.

"These funds will be allocated to salaries, other expenditures, and development projects," Dr. Mhina stated.

Presenting the budget draft, Acting Planning Officer Mwanaisha Dala explained the breakdown of the proposed 46.45bn/- budget.

Local revenue is expected to contribute 3.85bn/-, while 2.66bn/- will come from

other grants. Salaries will account for 29.27bn/-, and development projects will receive 10.66bn/-.

Dala highlighted the district's priorities, which include strengthening local revenue collection to enhance service delivery and investment, supporting operational costs for educational oversight and improving access to health supplies, including medications and diagnostic tools.

Other priorities will include providing economic and social loans to women's, youth, and disability groups



Councilors, Muheza District Council

and improving working conditions by contributing to the construction of four village offices (Kwamnyefu, Shembekeza, Masimbani, Mkulumbilo) and the Makole ward office.

Council members underscored the importance of budgeting for monitoring revenue collection to ensure targets are met and addressing outstanding debts for staff and retirees.

Dr. Mhina assured the council that the proposed budget takes these concerns into account and incorporates suggestions made during the workers' meetings.

Muheza District, located in the Tanga Region of north-eastern Tanzania, has a diverse economy based on agriculture, trade, and tourism.

Eco-tourism is growing due to the district's proximity to the Usambara Mountains and Amani Nature Reserve, renowned for their biodiversity and scenic beauty.

However, infrastructure issues, including road networks and access to reliable markets, pose a challenge to economic growth, while farmers face difficulties in accessing finance and agricultural inputs.

Why crucial governance for implementation of organisation's cybersecurity programme

IMPLEMENTING cybersecurity governance is the only way to ensure that your organization's technology is meeting its needs, that staff members are following cybersecurity guidelines, and that your organization is fully protected. Cybersecurity governance is a strategic endeavor that aims to establish robust cybersecurity safeguards, reduce the impact of security incidents, and facilitate business continuity through constant monitoring and adaptation to the dynamic threat landscape. According to the definition of security governance, an organization actively manages the risks it encounters and gives guidance for the safety of its operations. The principles of confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA) are upheld by cybersecurity governance mechanisms, which guarantee that essential data is protected from unwanted access, data integrity is preserved, and information is still available when needed.

The goal of cybersecurity governance is to bring an organization's business initiatives, people, technology, security programs, and policies into alignment. It serves as the backbone of the business, guarantee-

ing adherence to rules and guidelines while skillfully controlling security threats. For security governance to be effective, organizations must trust decision makers and invest in risk management resources to ensure that the proper people, structures, and risk management procedures are in place. This makes it possible to make informed decisions about risk management while pursuing the aims and objectives of the organization. The process outlines the duties of each stakeholder involved in the decision-making process as well as the policies and procedures that are established.

With the help of cybersecurity governance, organizations may determine their risk appetite, assign responsibilities to create an effective accountability structure, create security rules and procedures, and effectively address events. Most organizations lack the accurate, unbiased, and practical measures required to enable cybersecurity governance. There is no one governance strategy that works for all kinds of enterprises. The cybersecurity governance policy needs to be updated frequently to reflect the organization's current

security posture and the state of cyber threats. The organization can also determine its risk appetite and think about how to keep a suitable degree of risk tolerance at this point.

Because every organization has different needs, a rigid framework for handling cybersecurity threats does not work for all of them. On the other side, under cyber governance, senior leadership and stakeholders work together to set security objectives and determine the

most effective board-level strategy for achieving them. Once your corporate goals have been determined, your cybersecurity goals will become clearer. Determine your strategic goals and align them with your security objectives in collaboration with stakeholders and leadership.

Directing and controlling risk management activities is made easier for organizations when risk management information is communicated effectively. In order to effectively interact with employees,

business partners, and customers, organizations need to set up both internal and external channels. Those who are accountable and responsible for an organization's security and those who have the authority to make risk management choices on their behalf must have open lines of communication in order for security risk management to be effective. The extent of decision-making authority delegation must be made explicit. In other words, they should know when decisions

should be sent to executives at higher levels for review. This enables the pursuit of the organization's goals and objectives while making well-informed judgments on risk management.

Last but not least, use webinars, workshops, or free courses to periodically offer security awareness training. Along with the stakeholders, walk your staff through your security rules and processes. The training should address cybersecurity procedural standards and implemented controls. Governance is crucial for managing the consequences of cyber disasters and ensuring business continuity. It comprises recognizing events, responding to them, resolving them, and documenting them for future use. Effective oversight guarantees that governance exists in your organization in a concrete form that is simple to evaluate, rather than merely existing on paper. By adding automation, this procedure can be made even more precise and effective.

Ibrahim Sultan is Cyber Security Consultant. These are his personal views. He can be reached through email address: "mailto:sultibra@gmail.com" sultibra@gmail.com

By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.



Researchers talk of more affordable animal feed tech

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

NOVFEED Ltd, a Dar es Salaam-based company, has introduced an innovative technology to produce Single-Cell Protein (SCP), aimed at providing affordable animal feed and reducing costs for small and medium-sized livestock entrepreneurs.

Dr. Ally Mahadhy, a lecturer and researcher from the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the University of Dar es Salaam, highlighted the breakthrough during a media briefing.

He emphasized the potential of biotechnology to transform industries such as health and agriculture.

Single-Cell Protein (SCP),

derived from bacteria found in soil, can be used for both human consumption and animal feed. Novfeed Ltd has successfully produced SCP-based feed for poultry and fish. The product, which is safe for both humans and the environment, is already available for sale to livestock sector entrepreneurs.

"SCP is a sustainable al-

ternative to traditional feed sources like soy and sardines," Dr. Mahadhy noted. "The Bacillus spp. bacteria, found in soil and market waste, can produce valuable products without competing with human food sources."

The production process also yields a by-product juice that can serve as a plant supplement or be converted into

fertilizer.

Dr. Mahadhy encouraged entrepreneurs to explore biotechnology to develop new products, including animal feed. The department, he added, is ready to provide knowledge and support to innovators.

Since 2006, over 540 students have graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Molec-

ular Biology and Biotechnology from UDSM.

"These graduates have ventured into various industries, including quality control and the production of products such as alcoholic beverages and yogurt. Many have also established start-ups focused on biotechnology applications in health and agriculture.

"We have trained experts

who are now spread across the country, contributing to technological advancements in various sectors," Dr. Mahadhy said.

He urged entrepreneurs to harness biotechnology to improve human health and animal feed production, assuring them that the department stands ready to assist.

Salt miners receive mixing machine to spur production

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Pangani

THE Ministry of Health has officially handed over a salt mineral mixing machine worth 18m/- to local salt producers in Sange village, Pangani District.

During the handover ceremony, Senior Nutrition Officer from the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Hamida Juma, urged the villagers to ensure proper care and maintenance of the equipment.

"Take good care of this machine so it can last longer and benefit all group members, particularly by improving health and nutrition as well as uplifting your incomes," she emphasized.

Tanga Region's Nutrition Of-

ficer, Sakina Mustafa, highlighted the machine's significant value in helping Sange village produce high-quality, mineral-enriched salt.

She provided training on the correct method for mixing minerals into salt and encouraged the community to abandon traditional practices that may pose health risks.

Receiving the machine on behalf of the Pangani District Executive Director, Jenifa expressed gratitude for the donation, noting that it would enhance the quality of locally produced salt and increase its market value.

Pangani District is one of 33 districts in Tanzania with the capacity to produce large quantities of salt.

Salt production in Tanza-

nia is an important industry with significant economic and health implications.

The country has vast salt production potential due to its extensive coastline along the Indian Ocean and favorable climate conditions for solar evaporation.

The Tanzanian government, in collaboration with development partners, promotes the use of mineral mixing machines for iodization.

Efforts are underway to modernize the industry, including the introduction of advanced technologies, capacity-building initiatives, and market linkages.

These measures aim to improve production quality, increase output, and enhance the market competitiveness of Tanzanian salt producers.



A senior nutrition officer from the President's Office - PORALG, Hamida Juma (R), instructs a Sange village salt producer on the proper technique for mixing salt with iodine and ensuring the correct care and management of the equipment, following the handover of a salt mixing machine. PHOTO: CHEJI BAKARI

LAGOS

THE new State of "App Marketing in Sub-Saharan Africa" report published by AppsFlyer and Google has revealed a significant uptick in finance app installs and in-app purchase (IAP) revenues, signaling an ongoing trend toward economic recovery despite broader macroeconomic challenges.

The report was based on data from 1.1 billion app downloads and 20,000 apps.

According to the report, from Q1 to Q3 in 2024, finance app installs saw a remarkable 34 percent increase compared to the same period in 2023, outpacing other app categories.

Notably, iOS played a major role in this surge, with finance app installs on the platform doubling in Q1 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023.

Leveraging Google Search data, the report explores key trends and consumer behavior in financial services, one of the most searched categories in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Nigeria, financial-related searches have grown significantly between January 2023

and August 2024. Terms like "Naira," "dollar," "naira to dollar," and "loans" dominated search queries, reflecting public concern over the devaluation of the Naira.

Search activity peaked between February and April, coinciding with the Naira's record low against the dollar in February.

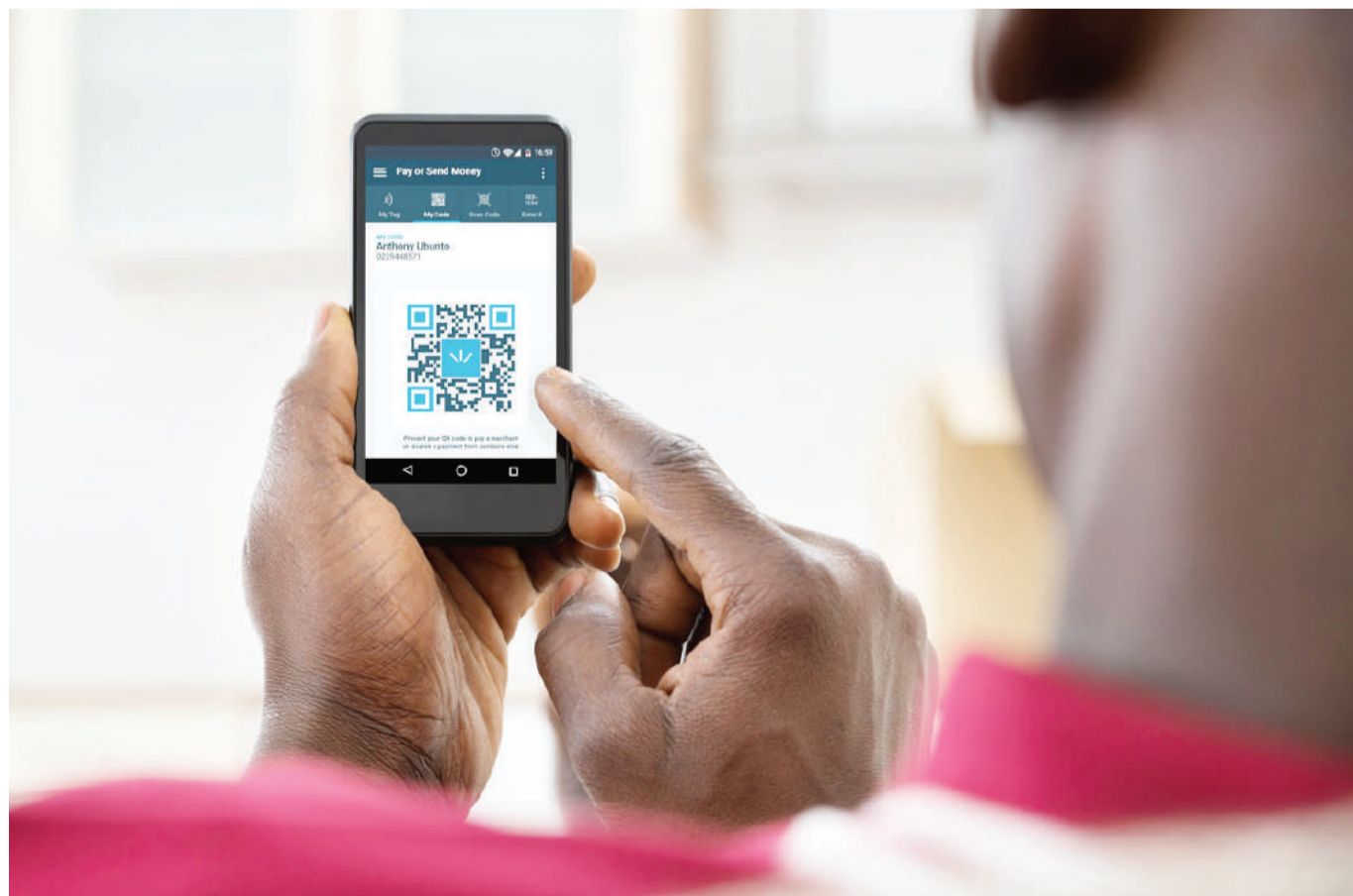
Meanwhile, financial searches in South Africa remained relatively steady, with seasonal spikes in January and August driven by events such as educational expenses and holiday-related costs.

Despite challenges faced by the finance sector between Q1 and Q3 2024—including a 27 percent decline in Android app installs due to reduced ad spend—there has been robust growth in IAP revenue from finance apps across Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Q3, IAP revenue for finance apps surged by 46 percent compared to the same period in 2023, contributing to an overall 28 percent growth from Q1 to Q3.

In Nigeria, iOS finance apps saw an impressive 51 percent increase in IAP revenue during the same period. This reflects a broader regional

Finance app usage, revenue surge in sub-Saharan Africa



trend, showing a shift toward more consistent in-app spending.

Looking ahead, markets can anticipate continued growth in Sub-Saharan Africa's mobile landscape, driven

by increased app installs and higher IAP revenues from fi-

nance apps. This momentum is further supported by a 9 percent rise in ad spend in Q4

2024 compared to Q3.

Netta Lev Sadeh, Managing Director EMEA SANI at AppsFlyer, commented, "Our partnership with Google has given us valuable insights into the evolving financial services landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa. The results emphasize the growing role of mobile phones and apps in advancing financial inclusion across the region. We're optimistic about the steady rise in IAP revenue from finance apps, which signals a promising economic future for the region."

Lorraine Landon, Head of Advertising Products and Solutions - SSA for Google, highlighted during the launch, "This report underscores the tremendous opportunity for brands and advertisers to engage with consumers in Africa through mobile apps."

"The data highlights a significant year-over-year increase in app engagement, and we are proud to continue our partnership with AppsFlyer to support businesses in this dynamic market and help unlock new growth opportunities," Landon added.

Botswana, De Beers finalise talks on diamond deal

GABORONE

THE government of Botswana and South African diamond firm De Beers say they have reached a new, 10-year sales agreement following talks that had dragged on since 2019.

Analysts say the diamond industry is sure to welcome the deal, as Botswana, after Russia, is the world's second-largest producer of diamonds.

Under terms of the new agreement, Botswana's government will be allowed to sell 30 percent of rough diamonds mined through a joint mining venture with De Beers.

The share rises to 50 percent by the end of the deal in 2035.

Botswana hopes that will reverse a decline in diamond revenue. The government once received \$7 billion a year through De Beers, but that figure declined to \$4.2 billion in 2023, amid falling diamond sales worldwide.

Addressing journalists on Monday, De Beers CEO Al Cook applauded the new government for ensuring a smooth conclusion to the talks.

Under the previous government, negotiations were often tense, with former President Mokgweetsi Masisi threatening to sever ties with De Beers.

The talks made more progress once President Duma Boko took over in November.

Elodie Daguzan, executive director at the World Diamond Council (WDC), told VOA the organization is happy to see the sides finally reach a deal.

"The World Diamond Council is thrilled about this development which underscores the importance of long-term, stable partnerships in the diamond sector. Botswana has been a leading example of how responsible diamond mining, through successful collaboration with the private sector, can drive sustainable growth," she said.

Daguzan said the agreement will bolster an industry beset by challenges that include consumer worries over so-called "blood diamonds" and overall cautious consumer spending.

"We believe it will provide much-needed confidence to members of our industry, who are currently navigating a particularly challenging market and seeking signs of stability. At WDC, we remain committed to supporting



Botswana President Duma Boko

frameworks that ensure the ethical sourcing, transparency and the continued contribution of diamonds to the well-being of producing nations and communities," she said.

Hans Merket, a researcher on diamond mining, says it was imperative for Botswana and De Beers to reach an agreement, considering the global supply chain disruptions caused by sanctions on Russian diamonds.

"This agreement between the world's largest diamond producer after Russia, will therefore be seen as a welcome development, not only to both parties but by the industry at large. Hopefully, it will enable the sector to continue advancing a more positive narrative with diamonds contributing to development and well-being, offering a clear alternative to sanctioned stones from

Russia," he said.

Botswana's Minister of Minerals, Bogolo Kenenwendo, said her government and De Beers will officially sign the agreement before the end of February.

At the end of the new agreement in 2035, there is an option for a five-year renewal.

As of early 2025, the global diamond industry is experiencing notable shifts in pro-

duction and market dynamics.

Recent analyses indicate that diamond mining output reached approximately 105 million carats in 2024, marking the lowest volume since 1995.

In terms of market demand, the US, which accounts for over 55 percent of global diamond jewelry demand, is projected to experience a rebound in 2025.

Overall, the diamond industry in 2025 is navigating a complex landscape characterized by decreased natural diamond production, strategic adjustments by major producers, and the rising prominence of lab-grown diamonds.

These developments are reshaping the market and influencing both supply and demand dynamics.



Botswana hopes that will reverse a decline in diamond revenue. The government once received \$7 billion a year through De Beers, but that figure declined to \$4.2 billion in 2023, amid falling diamond sales worldwide

Ramaphosa hits back at US over land-confiscation claims

By Terence Creamer



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa (pictured) has issued a swift response to US President Donald Trump's threat that aid from that country could be withdrawn, owing to his view that South Africa's recently enacted Expropriation Act is leading to the confiscation of land.

Following Trump's comments, which were made initially on his Truth Social account and later reinforced in a brief television interview, the Presidency said the government had not confiscated any land.

It also underlined South Africa's status as a "constitutional democracy that is deeply rooted in the rule of law, justice and equality".

In the Truth Social post, Trump said: "South Africa is confiscating land, and treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY. It is a bad situation that the Radical Left Media doesn't want to so much as mention. A massive Human Rights VIOLATION, at a minimum, is happening for all to see. The United States won't stand for it, we will act. Also, I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed!"

Then, in an impromptu interview regarding the possibility of cutting aid to other African countries, Trump indicated that his attention was solely on South Africa.

"No, it's only South Africa. Terrible things are happening in South Africa. The leadership is doing some terrible things, horrible things. So, that's under investigation right now. We will make a determination [once] we find out what South Africa is doing.

He went on to say: "They're taking away land, they're confiscating land and actually they're doing things that are perhaps far worse than that."

Trump's warnings came amid a flurry of recent executive actions affecting foreign relations, including the announced imposition of 25 percent tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports and an additional 10% on Chinese imports.

Ramaphosa stressed that the country's recently adopted Expropriation Act was not a confiscation instrument, but a constitutionally mandated legal process that ensured public access to land "in an equitable and just manner as guided by the Constitution".

"South Africa, like the United States of America and other countries, has always had expropriation laws that balance the need for public usage of land and the protection of rights of property owners."

Ramaphosa said South Africa looked forward "to engaging with the Trump administration over its land reform policy and issues of bilateral interest", and expressed optimism that these meetings would result in a better and common understanding.

It also stressed that the US remained a key strategic political and trade partner for South Africa.

"With the exception of PEPFAR Aid, which constitutes 17 percent of South Africa's HIV/Aids programme, there is no other significant funding that is provided by the United States in South Africa," it added.

After Ramaphosa posted his response on X, Elon Musk, who grew up in South Africa and who has voiced his opposition to both the Expropriation Act and South Africa's black economic empowerment policies, posted the following on the platform that he also owns: "Why do you have openly racist ownership laws?"



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



WEDNESDAY 5 Feb		THURSDAY 6 Feb		FRIDAY 7 Feb		SATURDAY 8 Feb		SUNDAY 9 Feb	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwarija wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwarija wa Mazoezi
5:30	Uwarija wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwarija wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwarija wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	Meza huru	7:30	Meza huru
8:00	Kumekucha michezo	8:00	Kumekucha michezo	8:00	Kumekucha michezo	8:00	Meza huru	8:00	Meza huru
8:30	HABARI	8:30	HABARI	8:30	HABARI	8:30	Meza huru	8:30	Meza huru
8:55	HABARI za saa	8:55	HABARI za saa	8:55	HABARI za saa	9:00	Meza huru	9:00	Meza huru
9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha kishindo	9:00	Meza huru	9:00	Meza huru
9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Meza huru	9:30	Meza huru
9:55	HABARI za saa	9:55	HABARI za saa	9:55	HABARI za saa	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	10:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	11:30	Dw News Africa rpt	11:30	Dw News Africa rpt
10:55	HABARI za saa	10:55	HABARI za saa	10:55	HABARI za saa	12:00	Our Earth	12:00	Our Earth
11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	12:30	Telenovela Destiny ep. Rpt	12:30	Telenovela Destiny ep. Rpt
11:40	Igizo: Bongolo DSM	11:40	Igizo: Bongolo DSM	11:40	Igizo: Bongolo DSM	13:00	Capchat	13:00	Capchat
11:55	HABARI za saa	11:55	HABARI za saa	11:55	HABARI za saa	13:30	Our Earth	13:30	Our Earth
12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Capchat	14:00	Capchat
12:30	Bundesliga	12:30	Bundesliga	12:30	Bundesliga	14:30	Special Pgm: Culinary Tourism rpt	14:30	Special Pgm: Culinary Tourism rpt
12:55	HABARI za saa	12:55	HABARI za saa	12:55	HABARI za saa	15:30	Business Edition rpt	15:30	Business Edition rpt
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	16:00	Culinary delight rpt	16:00	Culinary delight rpt
13:30	HABARI za saa	13:30	HABARI za saa	13:30	HABARI za saa	16:30	Business Edition rpt	16:30	Business Edition rpt
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	17:00	Innovation rpt	17:00	Innovation rpt
14:40	Majishi	14:40	Majishi	14:40	Majishi	17:30	Meza huru	17:30	Meza huru
14:55	HABARI za saa	14:55	HABARI za saa	14:55	HABARI za saa	18:00	Our Earth rpt	18:00	Our Earth rpt
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	18:30	Capchat	18:30	Capchat
16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	19:00	Our Earth rpt	19:00	Our Earth rpt
17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	19:30	Chetu ni chetu	19:30	Chetu ni chetu
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:00	Hapa na Pale	20:00	Mondays Agenda Rpt	20:00	Mondays Agenda Rpt
18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	20:45	Telenovela Destiny ep 14	20:45	Telenovela Destiny ep 14
18:30	DW Aframax	18:30	DW Aframax	18:30	DW Aframax	21:30	Capital Prime News	21:30	Capital Prime News
19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	22:00	Dakika 45	22:00	Dakika 45
19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:15	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	19:15	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	19:30	The Decor	19:30	The Decor
21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	20:00	Special Pgm: Culinary Tourism	20:00	Special Pgm: Culinary Tourism
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	20:30	Tomorrow Today	20:30	Tomorrow Today
21:35	Kipindi maalum:	21:35	Kipindi maalum:	21:35	Kipindi maalum:	21:00	Out n' About	21:00	Out n' About
21:50	Kipindi maalum:	21:50	Kipindi maalum:	21:50	Kipindi maalum:	21:30	Capchat Rpt	21:30	Capchat Rpt
22:25	Soap: Uzalo	22:25	Soap: Uzalo	22:25	Soap: Uzalo	23:00	Al Jazeera	23:00	Al Jazeera
22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot	22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot	22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot	01:00	Al Jazeera	01:00	Al Jazeera
23:00	Jiji Iku	23:00	Jiji Iku	23:00	Jiji Iku				
23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Music: The Base	23:30	Music: The Base				
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera				

CAPITAL



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets the Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Crown Prince of Dubai, Hamdan bin Mohammed, in Abu Dhabi. ANI

Amidst Gaza ceasefire, India revives diplomatic outreach for economic corridor with West Asia and Europe

WITH a third round of hostage and prisoner exchanges completed and signs that the Israel-Gaza ceasefire is still holding, reviving talks on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is back on the agenda in India's diplomatic outreach to the region.

Sources confirmed that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed taking forward infrastructure and trade facilitation initiatives during his visit to the United Arab Emirates this week.

He is also expected to travel to Oman in mid-February for bilateral meetings and to address the Indian Ocean Conference, being organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the India Foundation, where he will meet with about 20 other counterparts from the region as well. A visit by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani is also being discussed.

Diplomatic blitz

IMEC will feature prominently during next week's back to back Delhi visits by Greece's Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis who will hold Foreign Office consultations, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty for a strategic dialogue with Mr. Jaishankar. Mr. Abdelatty, who will visit a few weeks after the Gaza ceasefire and the re-opening of the Rafah border crossing from Egypt to Gaza, is expected to share his views on the reconstruction of Gaza during his visit to India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to discuss the IMEC project with French President Emmanuel Macron on his visit to France for the Artificial Intelligence Summit between February 10 and 12, and with new U.S. President Donald Trump during a visit to Washington that is still being planned.

Ceasefire hopes

Official and diplomatic sources said that while no specific moves on the project were being discussed at present, hopes for a stable and lasting ceasefire in Gaza and the region had grown in the past few weeks. However, they conceded that it would be difficult to pick up the diplomacy over IMEC between Israel and Arab countries until there was some kind of commitment from the Netanyahu government regarding talks for a two-state solution, which seemed unlikely at present. In the interim, however, the sources said, India would keep the project on the agenda with the countries concerned.

"We remain positive about the IMEC project and we are speaking to all the stakeholders about it. This is a long-term project, and we can't see it only in terms of one conflict," said one official.

Greek optimism

The Greek government has been keen to move ahead on the project, and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has touted IMEC as a key element of the India-Greece Strategic Partnership, suggesting that Greece could be "India's gateway to Europe".

"The war in Gaza and turmoil in the Middle East is undoubtedly destabilising but it does not undermine the powerful logic behind IMEC. Nor should it weaken our resolve to work towards

realising it," Mr. Mitsotakis had said during a visit to Delhi in February 2024. Officials in Delhi and Athens said they expected to take the discussions on IMEC forward during Mr. Gerapetritis's visit, expected from February 5 to 7. The Greek Foreign Minister is one of the few leaders to have visited both Tel Aviv and Ramallah since the October 2023 attacks, and as a member of the UN Security Council this year, Greece occupies a key position on hopes to resolve the conflict.

The Egyptian FM, Mr. Abdelatty, is also expected to discuss the project, although officials said the Egyptian government had been unhappy with the IMEC announcement, as they saw it as a geopolitical and commercial rival to the Suez Canal. The IMEC launch took place just months after Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had travelled to India as the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations in 2023, and took the Egyptian government by surprise. However, officials feel that, over time, Cairo has come to see the "collaborative opportunities" of the project, and is now more willing to discuss its potential.

Viability concerns

The IMEC project was launched on September 9, 2023 by India, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the European Union during the G-20 Summit. It includes plans for a shipping, road, and rail route from ports in western India, taking trade to the UAE's Ras Al Khaima, and on to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel before crossing the Mediterranean Sea to a European destination.

Questions about its viability have grown as it was virtually shelved after the October 7 attacks on Israel and the bombardment of Gaza, as well as other conflicts in West Asia, involving Iran, Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria. Although the original MoU had committed to all stakeholders meeting within 60 days or two months of the launch, India has been unable to convene the meeting in the last 16 months.

"The continuity of ceasefire in Gaza and chances of it turning into a permanent one is still uncertain," said former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, an expert on West Asia. "IMEC relevant countries remain invested and India and UAE and Saudi Arabia are incrementally establishing the requisite infrastructure and mechanisms. But speedier movement on several pillars of the IMEC will follow after calm is established," he added.

Slow progress

As it awaits a resolution of the Israel-Gaza conflict, New Delhi has held discussions with all the countries involved in IMEC. France appointed a special envoy for IMEC, while India and the UAE have set up a number of tracks to discuss possible rail and shipping projects.

"Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] laid special emphasis on the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) as a historic initiative to foster regional connectivity and prosperity," the MEA had said in a statement last year after UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan called on the PM during a visit to Delhi last year. ANI

Eastern DR Congo rebel alliance declares ceasefire

DAKAR/NAIROBI/
UNITED NATIONS

THE eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) rebel alliance that includes the M23 has declared a ceasefire for humanitarian reasons starting on Feb 4, the group known as the Congo River Alliance said in a statement.

The alliance added that it had no intention of capturing Bukavu, South Kivu's provincial capital, after it seized Congo's largest eastern city of Goma last week.

Meanwhile, Kenyan President William Ruto on Monday said leaders from southern and eastern African countries have resolved to meet for a two-day extraordinary summit from Friday to discuss the situation in the eastern DRC.

Ruto said a joint summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) will be held on Friday and Saturday in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to address the conflict in the eastern DRC.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan (Tanzania) has graciously agreed to host the summit to deliberate on the situation in eastern DRC," Ruto said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

This followed an agreement between SADC Chairman and Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Ruto, who is also the EAC chairperson.

According to Ruto, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame have confirmed attendance at the summit, which will be preceded by a ministerial meeting on Friday before the heads of state convene on Saturday. Other leaders who have confirmed participation include President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia.

On Jan 29, heads of state of the EAC called on all parties involved in the conflict in the eastern DRC to cease hostilities and observe an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, allowing displaced populations access to humanitarian services.



People erect tents as they arrive at the Kashaka IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp in the outskirts of Goma on Monday. AFP

Member states of the EAC, an intergovernmental organization that aims to promote economic, political, and social integration in the region, are Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda.

SADC leaders on Jan 31 called for dialogue within all parties to restore peace and security in the eastern DRC.

The bloc expressed concern that the recent attacks continued to worsen the security and humanitarian situation in the DRC, said a communique issued at the end of the SADC Heads of State and Government summit held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Health risks in Goma

UN humanitarian workers said bodies in the streets, no clean water and an intensifying rainy season trigger escalating health risks in Goma, the DRC.

"There are still bodies of people who died in the violence lying in the streets of Goma," said the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Monday. "Morgues are at capacity, and hospitals and health centers are overwhelmed with injured people."

OCHA said that while efforts to chlorinate water are underway, with the support of the humanitarian partners, the lack of drinking water is forcing people in Goma to rely on untreated water from Lake Kivu. And the rainy season makes matters worse.

Crime is another complicating factor following the invasion last week by M23 rebels.

The office said two humanitarian organizations and government entities reported vehicles hijacked over the weekend.

OCHA said aid organizations are assessing the impact of the looting of their warehouses as they try to resume aid deliveries in and around the capital of North Kivu province.

However, the office said economic and other activities are gradually resuming, but schools and banks remain closed in Goma.

OCHA said it joined with relief partners in surveying displacement sites in and around Goma. Initial findings reveal that many

camps were looted, destroyed and abandoned. While some people may have returned to their communities or sought refuge elsewhere, many people still lack adequate shelter and access to essential services.

The office said the World Food Programme (WFP) reported that they are prepositioning supplies and are ready to resume their operations as soon as conditions allow.

WFP also said it is strengthening preparedness efforts in neighboring countries, working with the UN Refugee Agency, the International Organization of Migration and other key partners to develop contingency plans.

"Given the risk of increased displacement, WFP is ensuring readiness in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Tanzania," the agency said, following fears raised last week of the eastern DRC hostilities erupting into a regional conflict.

OCHA said one out of every four people across the DRC faces acute hunger, including children and pregnant and nursing women. Armed violence, continued conflict and soaring food prices are key drivers of DRC's acute food insecurity.

The UN mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) said it is concerned about the reported advance of the rebel M23 armed group toward South Kivu's capital, Bukavu.

MONUSCO no longer has a mandate from the UN Security Council to take action in South Kivu.

The peacekeeping mission said the M23 rebels are reportedly consolidating their presence in Goma through regular patrols and house searches. Looting and the occupation of private homes by the armed group have been reported, along with attempts to seize vehicles, including those owned by humanitarian organizations, which is against international humanitarian law.

MONUSCO said fighting continues on the outskirts of Minova, in South Kivu and government forces have reinforced their positions in Nyabibwe, 85 km north of Bukavu on Lake Kivu's western shore. Agencies



Russia-Ukraine settlement talks must be based on 2022 Istanbul agreements, says diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is ready for substantial negotiations on the Ukrainian conflict settlement based on the 2022 Istanbul agreements, Alexey Polishchuk, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second CIS Department, told TASS yesterday.

The diplomat noted that in order to launch the negotiations it is necessary to resolve the legal aspects of the legitimacy of Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and his decree that banned Kiev's negotiations with Moscow.

"The Russian side is open to realistic proposals and is ready for substantial negotiations," Polishchuk (pictured) said in an interview with TASS.

"It has been repeatedly noted that a peaceful settlement is possible on the basis of the 2022 Istanbul agreement, which referred to the neutral non-aligned nuclear free status of Ukraine, its demilitarization and denazification, the non-deployment of foreign troops and bases on its soil, considering modern territorial realities and the eradication of all root causes that led to the Ukrainian crisis," he said.

"Moreover, all legal aspects regarding Zelensky's illegitimacy and his decree banning bilateral talks must be resolved before the negotiations could be launched," the diplomat added.

The first Russian-Ukrainian talks after the beginning of the special military operation were held in early March 2022 in Belarus but yielded no results.

Another round of talks was held in Istanbul in late March 2022 when Moscow received a document from Kiev about the conditions for a potential agreement.

It included Ukraine's obligations to observe a neutral, off-bloc status and not to deploy foreign weapons, including nuclear, on its territory.

Following this, Russia withdrew its troops in the Kiev and Chernigov areas but, according to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kiev backed out of the agreements and the talks were frozen.

As Ukraine's chief negotiator David Arakhamia said later that it was former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson who prohibited Kiev from signing peace agreements with Russia and demanded that Ukraine continue military activities against Russia. Agencies

Agencies

WHO proposes budget cut after US exit, defends its work

LONDON

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) member states will discuss cutting part of its budget by \$400 million in light of President Donald Trump's move to withdraw the US, its biggest government funder, from the WHO, a document released on Monday showed.

Opening the UN agency's annual executive board meeting, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (pictured) also defended the WHO's work and recent reforms and reiterated a call for Washington to reconsider its exit and enter into dialogue with the agency on further change.

"We would welcome suggestions from the United States, and all member states, for how we can serve you and the people of the world better," he said.

The budget cut will be addressed at the Feb 3-11 Geneva

meeting, during which member state representatives will discuss the agency's funding and work for the 2026-27 period.

The executive board proposed cutting the base programs section of the budget from a proposed \$5.3 billion to \$4.9 billion, according to a document released on Monday. That is part of the wider \$7.5 billion budget for 2026-27 that was originally proposed, including money for polio eradication and tackling emergencies.

"With the departure of the biggest financial contributor, the budget could not be business as usual," the document reads. The US is the WHO's biggest government donor, contributing around 18 percent of its overall funding. The WHO has already separately taken some cost-cutting steps after the US move.

However, some board representatives also wanted to send a message that the WHO would



preserve its strategic direction despite the challenges, the document adds.

The \$4.9 billion is roughly the same as the base program budget for the previous period, 2024-2025.

Trump moved to exit the WHO on his first day in office two weeks ago. The process will take one year under US law.

On Monday, Tedros also spe-

cifically addressed some of Trump's criticisms, including around the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the WHO's independence.

He said the agency acted fast on the COVID outbreak, adding that the WHO is happy to say no to member states where requests go against its mission or science. Agencies

Agencies

Trump pauses tariffs on Canada, Mexico for a month

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump suspended his threat of steep tariffs on Canada and Mexico on Monday, agreeing to a 30-day pause in return for concessions on border and crime enforcement with the two neighboring countries.

"Canada has agreed to ensure we have a secure Northern Border, and to finally end the deadly scourge of drugs like Fentanyl," Trump said in a post on social media platform Truth Social.

In a post on X earlier, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that he "just had a good call with President Trump", noting that "proposed tariffs will be paused for at least 30 days while we work together".

"Canada is implementing our \$1.3 billion border plan - reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl. Nearly 10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border," Trudeau said.

"In addition, Canada is making new commitments to appoint a Fentanyl Czar, we will list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border, launch a Canada-US Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering. I have also signed a new intelligence



US President Donald Trump speaks during a ceremony with the Florida Panthers NHL hockey team to celebrate their 2024 Stanley Cup victory in the East Room of the White House, Feb 3, 2025, in Washington. (PHOTO / AP)

directive on organized crime and fentanyl and we will be backing it with \$200 million," Trudeau continued.

Trump said in his post that he is "very pleased with this initial outcome", and the tariffs announced on Saturday will be paused for 30 days to allow further negotiations.

Trump signed executive orders on Saturday to impose a 25 percent additional tariff

on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10 percent tariff hike on imports from China, which has drawn widespread opposition and immediate retaliations.

The tariff order on Canada is 25 percent on all imports and 10 percent on energy products. Canada immediately hit back with 25 percent tariffs on 155 billion Canadian dollars (\$107 billion) worth of American goods.

Earlier on Monday, Trump said that he had "very friendly conversation" with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, and the two sides agreed to "immediately pause" the anticipated tariffs for one month and continue negotiations.

"I just spoke with President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico. It was a very friendly conversation wherein she agreed to immediately supply 10,000 Mexican Soldiers on the Border separating Mexico and the United States. These soldiers will be specifically designated to stop the flow of fentanyl, and illegal migrants into our Country," Trump said in a post on social media platform Truth Social.

"We further agreed to immediately pause the anticipated tariffs for a one month period during which we will have negotiations headed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent, and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, and high-level Representatives of Mexico," Trump continued.

"I look forward to participating in those negotiations, with President Sheinbaum, as we attempt to achieve a 'deal' between our two Countries," said the US president.

Shortly after Trump's announcement, Sheinbaum instructed the Secretariat of Economy to implement tariff and non-tariff measures to defend Mexico's interests in response to the levies imposed by the Trump administration.

"We categorically reject the White House's slander against the Mexican government of having alliances with criminal organizations, as well as any intention of intervention in our territory," the Mexican president said on the social platform X.

Rejecting UN principles for world governance to lead to chaos, top Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

REJECTING the UN-centered system of international relations created after the Yalta Conference in 1945 will inevitably lead to chaos and catastrophe, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"Attempts to forcibly reshape the world to suit one's own interests while violating the fundamental principles of the UN will only deepen instability and fuel confrontation, ultimately resulting in disaster.

With all the conflicts already present in today's international affairs, thoughtlessly rejecting the Yalta Conference system, with the UN and its Charter at its 'core', will inevitably lead to chaos," the top Russian diplomat said in an article for the Russia in Global Affairs journal.

Lavrov (pictured) pointed out that the ideals laid out in the UN Charter align with the world's move toward multipolarity.

The Russian foreign minister went on to say that the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-interference in their internal affairs and other fundamental postulates, including the right of peoples to self-determination, should be observed not in words but in deeds.

"It is incumbent upon all of us to respect the territorial integrity of states whose governments represent the entire population living in the territory concerned.

There is no need to prove that after the February 2014 coup d'état, the Kiev regime does not represent the inhabitants of Crimea, Donbass and Novorossiia, just as Western metropolises did not represent the peoples of the colonial territories they exploited," the top diplomat emphasized.



Ethiopia's ruling party concludes 2nd congress with national advancement pledge

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S ruling Prosperity Party (PP) has concluded its second congress, electing its leadership and reiterating its commitment to national advancement.

The three-day party congress, held from Friday to Sunday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, re-elected the country's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed as its president "with a significant number of votes," while the country's Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh and Vice President of the PP Adem Farah were elected as vice presidents, the party disclosed.

Abiy expressed his strong commitment to advancing the party's future initiatives aimed at enhancing the socio-economic development and transformation of the East African country.

"The trust and responsibility entrusted to me and the deputy presidents through this re-election inspire us to move forward with renewed commitment," Abiy said following his re-election.

The three-day congress, which was held under the theme "From Pledge to Practice," concluded on Sunday evening with the election of the party's central committee members.

The congress, which brought together more than 1,700 participants, including party members and leaders of sister political parties from various countries, passed an eight-point statement of position. Noting that the congress "marked a pivotal moment in Ethiopia's political history, with unwavering unity and a vision for the (country's) future," the party said its members have agreed to successfully implement the major outcomes of the congress "with the strongest determination, greatest efforts, and drastic actions."

Full pullout of French troops from Chad milestone for African autonomy

N'DJAMENA

THE end of French military presence in Chad, as was announced by Chadian President Mahamat Deby last week, marks the end of over 120 years of French military involvement in the country and a significant step for African nations toward independence.

Colonialism left a permanent scar on Africa. From the transatlantic slave trade in the 16th century to the "Scramble for Africa" in the 19th century, Western powers fragmented the continent, using force and unequal treaties.

Millions of Africans were forcibly transported as slaves, while Africa's wealth in minerals, gold, ivory and other resources was plundered. These colonial acts destroyed Africa's social structures and left wounds that are still difficult to heal.

Though many African nations gained independence in the mid-20th century, some Western countries continue to interfere in African nations' internal affairs through financial, legal and military means, particularly in sectors like finance, energy, minerals and defense. This "new colonialism" has restrained Africa's



A ceremony to mark the formal withdrawal of French troops from Chad is held at Adji Kossé military base in N'Djamena, capital of Chad, Jan. 31, 2025. Xinhua

growth and prosperity.

In recent years, Africa has been undergoing a remarkable transformation.

Industrialization is steadily advancing, and the push for unity and self-reliance is becoming increasingly prominent. Africa's rapid development has attracted global attention. Yet some Western politicians, while publicly professing concern for Africa, continue to spread ideas like "Af-

rica's ingratitude" and "the gifts of colonialism," showing a deep-seated colonial mindset that has stirred resentment across the continent.

Today, African nations are striving for strategic autonomy under Pan-Africanism, accelerating efforts for regional integration, development and revitalization.

Africa is no longer the "hopeless continent" portrayed by Western media, but rather a

source of vitality and a land of opportunity.

According to the International Monetary Fund, Africa's economy is expected to grow in 2025, with Sub-Saharan Africa's growth rate forecast to reach 4.2 percent, surpassing the global average.

An awakening Africa is taking its future in its own hands. Politically, African nations are taking a firm stand against external interference and sanctions, demand-

ing apologies and reparations for the slave trade, and calling for the correction of historical injustices.

Economically, African countries are deepening industrial reforms and advancing the African Continental Free Trade Area to unlock further economic potential. On security, Africa is adopting "African solutions to African problems," safeguarding national security and resolving regional disputes.

As a key member of the Global South, Africa is progressing toward an important pillar of global political, economic and cultural development.

In recent years, the African Union has joined the Group of 20, and countries like Ethiopia have joined the BRICS mechanism. Africa's voice on the international stage is growing louder, with a strong presence in global governance.

The declining influence of Western powers in Africa highlights a paradigm shift that underscores the continent's aspiration for equal and true partnerships with the rest of the world. Africa's awakening is not just an African story. It is a story of all humanity. The moral of the story is that true partnerships must be built on equality and respect.

BEIJING

China files complaint with WTO against US tariff hikes

CHINA has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s dispute settlement mechanism against the U.S. decision to impose an additional 10-percent tariff on goods from China, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Tuesday.

The move is to safeguard China's legitimate rights and interests, an MOC spokesperson said in response to media inquiries.

The U.S. imposition of additional tariffs on

Chinese products has seriously violated the WTO rules, and this egregious act is typical of unilateralism and trade protectionism, said the spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the U.S. move severely undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system, erodes the foundation of China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation, and disrupts the stability of global in-

dustrial and supply chains.

The United States has repeatedly put unilateralism above multilateralism, incurring strong condemnation from the majority of the WTO members. "China firmly opposes the U.S. actions, and urges the U.S. side to immediately rectify its wrongdoings," the spokesperson said.

As a staunch supporter and significant

contributor to the multilateral trading system, China stands ready to work with other WTO members to address the challenges posed by unilateralism and trade protectionism to the multilateral trading system, and to safeguard the orderly and stable development of international trade, added the spokesperson.

Xinhua

Homeowners not leveraging available technology to reduce energy costs and emissions, says report

NAIROBI

HOMEOWNERS are increasingly aware of the need to reduce energy consumption and curb their carbon footprint, but a new report from Schneider Electric reveals that many are still failing to take full advantage of the technology available to them.

The global leader in energy management and automation released the third edition of its consumer survey yesterday, offering new insights into attitudes toward home energy efficiency, sustainability, and the adoption of smart home technology.

The study, titled 'Evolving

Home Energy Consumption: Intentions, Actions, and Hurdles to Greater Home Energy Efficiency', surveyed 13,000 participants from 11 countries and exposed a significant gap between awareness and action in home energy practices.

According to the findings, 82percent of respondents consider energy efficiency "somewhat important" or "very important," and 70percent are concerned about reducing their carbon footprint. Yet, the report highlights a stark disconnect when it comes to translating intentions into impactful actions.

While 84percent of those

surveyed named energy efficiency as their top desired home improvement, just 44percent actively adjust their ambient temperatures—one of the most effective ways to reduce energy consumption. Instead, many homeowners opt for less effective measures, such as turning off lights (58percent) or unplugging unused chargers (48percent), which offer minimal savings.

In fact, lighting accounts for only about 5percent of household energy bills, and unplugging chargers saves just 26 cents annually per device.

This underutilization of available technology is not

limited to everyday actions. Smart home technologies that can help reduce energy costs are not being adopted at scale, despite widespread awareness of their benefits.

For example, while 52percent of consumers believe that smart lighting enhances energy efficiency, only 24percent actually own smart lighting.

Even fewer—just 21percent—have a smart thermostat, a device proven to cut energy bills by up to 30percent. A further 46% of homeowners don't even recognize the full energy-saving potential of smart thermostats.

The survey also points to reluctance around emerg-

ing technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). Despite experts predicting that AI could help mitigate up to 10percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, 44percent of respondents said they would never rely on AI for household tasks.

Additionally, 52percent of consumers cited cost as a barrier to adopting smart home technology, even though connected homes can reduce energy consumption by up to 22percent.

"The gap between intention and action is clear," said Michael Lotfy Gierges, Executive Vice President of Home & Distribution at Schneider Electric. "While

consumers express a strong desire to reduce their energy bills and increase efficiency, many are unaware of the most impactful solutions. There are existing technologies that can help, but education is key to unlocking their potential."

Further complicating the issue, the survey uncovered a lack of understanding around more traditional home technology. Around 30percent of respondents admitted they didn't know what their electrical panel does, and 16percent didn't know its location.

Given that the electrical panel is crucial for maintaining a safe and efficient power system in the home,

this knowledge gap could pose serious safety risks as homes become more electrified.

The findings suggest that, despite the growing urgency to tackle rising energy costs and climate change, homeowners are not yet fully equipped to take advantage of the tools that could make a difference.

With better education and awareness, Schneider Electric believes that more homeowners can harness digital tools to reduce both their energy consumption and carbon footprints, contributing to a more sustainable and cost-effective future.

Agencies

SPORT



A jump ball between Orlando Magic center Goga Bitadze (35) and Golden State Warriors center Quinten Post (21) during the second quarter at Chase Center in San Francisco, California, USA, on Monday. Agencies

Warriors survive back-and-forth battle with Magic

By Field Level Media

MOSES Moody capped a 17-point performance off the bench with a late 3-pointer. Andrew Wiggins had a team-high 25 points and the Golden State Warriors outlasted the Orlando Magic 104-99 on Monday night in San Francisco.

Stephen Curry overcame a slow start to score 24 points for the Warriors, who won for the third time in their past four games.

Cole Anthony came off the bench to pace Orlando with 26 points.

The Warriors ranged from trailing by 11 points in the first half to leading by 15 early in the fourth quarter, but they trailed 92-90 with 4:27 to go before outscoring the visitors 14-7 the rest of the way.

Wiggins, Kevon Looney and Draymond Green had buckets during a six-point burst that gave Golden State the lead for good. And after Moody countered a Franz Wagner jumper with his 3-pointer for a 99-94 advantage with 1:07 remaining, the Warriors were able to hold on.

A 3-pointer by Anthony kept the Magic alive at 102-99 with 17.1 seconds remaining, but Curry hit a pair of game-clinching free throws about four seconds later.

After scoring just 43 points in the first half, the Warriors appeared to put themselves in the driver's seat with a 39-point third quarter to take an 82-67 lead. But the Magic chipped away, eventually drawing even at 90-all on a jumper by Anthony with 4:58 to go.

Curry missed his first seven 3-point attempts and finished 2-for-12 from deep, but the league's leader from the free-throw line at 93.7 percent going into the game padded his point total by making all eight of his attempts at the charity stripe.

The Warriors were able to outscore the Magic 36-24 from beyond the arc despite shooting just 30.8 percent from distance. Dennis Schroder did all of his scoring on three 3-pointers, while Moody went 3-for-5.

Looney grabbed 15 rebounds off the bench for Golden State to complement six assists and two points.

Wagner had 21 points and Paolo Banchero scored 18 for Orlando, which dropped its fourth game in a row. Goga Bitadze contributed six points and 14 rebounds, while Wendell Carter Jr. amassed six points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Banchero was 0-for-6 and Wagner went 1-for-5 on 3-pointers. The Magic finished at 25 percent (8 of 32) from beyond the arc.

Meanwhile, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 34 points to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 125-96 home win over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday in a battle of short-handed teams.

Playing on the second night of a back-to-back, the Bucks were without Giannis Antetokounmpo, Damian Lillard, Khris Middleton, Brook Lopez and Bobby Portis.

The Thunder were without Jalen Williams, Cason

Wallace and Alex Caruso.

The absences took a bit of the shine off the rematch of December's NBA Cup final, which Milwaukee won in Las Vegas.

But Oklahoma City has largely rolled through its schedule even with key players out, and they wasted no time jumping out to a big lead thanks to Gilgeous-Alexander.

In that Dec. 17 loss, which doesn't count in the regular-season standings, Gilgeous-Alexander was just 8 of 24 from the field for 21 points -- only three points more than his lowest total of the season.

On Monday, the Thunder star shot 9 of 11 in the first quarter en route to 21 points. Oklahoma City jumped ahead by as much as 20 in the period.

By halftime, Gilgeous-Alexander had 30 as the Thunder's lead ballooned to 34.

By late in the third quarter, Gilgeous-Alexander was on the bench, his night completed as Oklahoma City had the game well in hand.

Gilgeous-Alexander finished 15 of 19 from the field with six assists in less than 23 minutes, his fewest of the season by more than five minutes.

The Thunder led by 41 points heading into the fourth quarter.

Ousmane Dieng scored a season-high 21 points for the Thunder, while Isaiah Joe added 18 off the bench.

Oklahoma City shot 51.5 percent despite missing its last 10 shots and not scoring after the 5:28 mark.

The Thunder have won back-to-back games and have won five of their last seven.

Oklahoma City has won its last two games by an average of 31.5 points.

Milwaukee has lost four consecutive games and five of six. It has given up an average of 131.5 points per game during the skid.

Antetokounmpo was out with right patella tendinopathy, Lillard with left groin soreness, Middleton for workload management after offseason ankle surgery, Lopez with back soreness and Portis missed his sixth consecutive game for personal reasons.

Ryan Rollins had a career-high 16 points to lead Milwaukee. Rookies AJ Johnson and Tyler Smith posted season-best tallies of 13 and 12 points, respectively.

REUTERS

SPORTS

KenGold face tough task integrating new players ahead of Yanga clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENGOLD FC face a challenging task of integrating their new signings as they prepare for a crucial match against defending champions Young Africans (Yanga) today at the KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Assistant coach Omary Kapilima acknowledged the difficulty of quickly blending new players into the squad but remains optimistic about securing a positive result.

Kapilima, who previously led the team during the first round following Fikiri Elias's resignation, now serves under newly appointed head coach Vladislav Heric (pictured).

The Serbian tactician has signed a six-month contract, which could be extended by another year if he successfully keeps KenGold in the Premier League next season.

During the month-long break, KenGold overhauled their squad and coaching staff, bringing in Heric along with several key players, including Bernard Morrison, Kelvin Yondani, and Obrey Chirwa, in an effort to improve their performance and avoid relegation.

The team will be at full strength for the Young Africans fixture, except for recent free-agent signing Bernard Morrison, who is currently sidelined with an injury.

Assistant coach Kapilima expressed confidence that KenGold can secure three crucial points, which would greatly aid their fight against relegation.

He highlighted the team's encouraging performances in recent friendlies, including a 1-1 draw against Tanzania Prisons FC and a goalless draw with



Mbeya Combine.

"I'm confident in our new signings, and we're working hard to improve. We still need to create more attacking opportunities, but we've already implemented a new strategy for the Young Africans match," Kapilima stated.

Kapilima emphasized that the team is fully focused on survival and is treating the remainder of the season as a fresh start.

"Our goal is to stay in the Premier League despite the pressure. We ask our fans to keep supporting us. I

believe our results will improve, and we'll climb the table," he concluded.

Currently, KenGold sit at the bottom of the Premier League with just six points from 16 matches (one win, three draws, and 12 losses). They have scored 11 goals, conceded 29, and have a goal difference of -18.

KenGold's next three matches are Young Africans (away), Tabora United (away) and Fountain Gate FC (home)

With a challenging schedule ahead, KenGold must turn their recent improvements into results if they hope to avoid relegation.

TOC elected members to serve a shortened term

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has confirmed that the leaders elected in the upcoming elections will not serve a full four-year term as mandated by the committee's constitution. Instead, they will hold office for only three years due to delays in holding the elections.

TOC secretary general Filbert Bayi (pictured) explained that while the committee's constitution stipulates a four-year term for elected members, the upcoming elections - whose date remains uncertain - will result in a shortened tenure.

The delay is due to the pending approval of TOC's amended constitution by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Initially, TOC's leadership elections were scheduled for December 14 last year, later postponed to December 28, but eventually cancelled because the process began before the new constitution was ratified.

According to IOC election guidelines, member countries must hold elections within six months after the Olympic Games, but the acting Registrar of Clubs and Sports Associations called off the elections due to unresolved constitutional



issues. Bayi emphasized that elections will not take place on a government-set date unless funding is secured. TOC is awaiting TZS 75 million from the IOC to conduct the elections, as no formal request has been made for financial support due to the uncertainty of the election date.

"Those elected will serve for only three years and a few months. The elections were cancelled last December and will take place on a date announced by the government."

"However, we cannot hold the elections immediately on the government's set date without securing the necessary funding. If

the government agrees to finance the process, we will proceed as scheduled," Bayi said.

Before the election cancellation, 27 candidates had expressed interest in various TOC positions. Bayi assured that those who paid to collect nomination forms would receive refunds.

In a previous interview, Bayi revealed that TOC's funds for this year's elections had already been exhausted. However, the committee has informed the IOC about the situation, and the international governing body is expected to release the necessary funds next month.

The elections will fill 12 positions following recent amendments to TOC's constitution. These changes have restructured the roles of secretary general and treasurer, making them appointed rather than elected positions.

The new committee will consist of five members from Mainland Tanzania and five from Zanzibar, with each side required to have at least two female representatives.

TOC has emphasized its commitment to gender balance, ensuring that women candidates are adequately represented in leadership positions.



Players of persons with disabilities basketball team pictured over the weekend during a training session at the Jakaya M. Kikwete Youth Park grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Manager Maresca hails huge win as Chelsea hit back to beat West Ham

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Enzo Maresca labelled his team's 2-1 win over West Ham United a huge result as they came from a goal down on Monday to boost their hopes of a top-four Premier League finish.

A lacklustre Chelsea side trailed Jarrod Bowen's strike three minutes before halftime but improved after the break with substitute Pedro Neto equalising before Aaron Wan-Bissaka's own goal sent the hosts into fourth place.

It was only the second win for Chelsea in their last eight league games.

"It is huge," Maresca said. "It was a tough game especially mentally. It is never easy when teams come here and wait and sit back. You need to be patient. There is no space, you need to move the ball and wait for the right moment."

"In the second half we came back and overall we deserved to win the game. They were waiting

for our mistakes and you can't get frustrated."

Maresca made five substitutions during the second half with Neto making the biggest impact after replacing Jadon Sancho.

"It is always about the players. It is not about the manager. It was just a feeling we had (over the substitutions) during the game. I think we need to improve in the final third in terms of chances and being more clinical," Maresca said.

Chelsea have 43 points from 24 games, two more than champions Manchester City and Newcastle United.

On the top-four race, Maresca said: "We are there and hopefully we can be there until the end."

"Playing this kind of game in February, where we are still there is an important statement. It was a good weekend for us in terms of results and we knew today was even better."

REUTERS

Goalkeeper Neuer, 38, extends Bayern Munich stay until 2026

MUNICH

BAYERN Munich goalkeeper and captain Manuel Neuer has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the Allianz Arena until June next year, the Bundesliga club announced on Monday.

Neuer (pictured), who turns 39 next month, moved to Bayern from fellow German side Schalke in 2011 and has since made 547 appearances while keeping 258 clean-sheets for the Bavarians.

Having announced his retirement from international duty in August last year after playing 124 times and winning the 2014 World Cup with Germany, Neuer's previous Bayern contract was set to expire at the end of the current season.

Next campaign will mark his 15th season at Bayern. He has won the Bundesliga 11 times, five German Cups and six DFL-Supercups with Bayern.

"Neuer is the best goalkeeper of his generation and a Bayern icon," Max Eberl, board member for sport, said in a statement. "When you talk about goalkeeping in our time, you talk about Manuel Neuer - and that's around the world."

"He's an absolute role model, both on and off the pitch. We're delighted that this unique and successful relationship will continue."

REUTERS

Australia coach ducks questions about Kerr captaincy

MELBOURNE

CHELSEA striker Sam Kerr is expected to be fit to return to competitive soccer by next month but her future as Australia captain remains uncertain pending the outcome of her trial in London.

Some media pundits in Australia have called on Kerr to be stripped of the captaincy after she was accused of racially abusing a white police officer following a drunken dispute with a cab driver.

Kerr, 31, went on trial on Monday and has pleaded not guilty to one count of racially aggravated harassment.

At a media conference on Tuesday, Australia interim coach Tom Sermanni declined to answer whether Kerr would lead the "Matildas" again.

"It's difficult for me to answer that to be perfectly honest," Sermanni said.

"Obviously with the court case that's going on at the moment, it would be unwise of me to sort of comment on that and comment on the outcome, whatever the outcome might be."

"So I think it's a case of waiting to see what happens and then move on from there."

Sermanni made it clear he wanted the talismanic Kerr back in his squad, though, when recovered from an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

One of the world's top female strikers and Australia's all-time top scorer with 69 goals, Kerr has been sidelined since suffering the knee injury in Jan. 2024.

"My main aim as the head coach is hopefully to have Sam fit and healthy in as quick a time as possible," said Sermanni.

"She's in the process of coming back, but I would still suggest, from an injury perspective, it will probably be sometime in March before she's back on the field."

With Kerr unavailable, Sermanni is glad to have forward Mary Fowler in good form ahead of this month's SheBelieves Cup, an invitational tournament in the United States which will also feature the host nation, Colombia and Japan.

Fowler missed Australia's season-ending friendlies last year while on a wellbeing break but has started the new year in fine touch for her club, scoring three goals for Manchester City in their last two Women's Super League matches.

Sermanni named Fowler on Tuesday in a 23-woman squad for the SheBelieves Cup where Australia will kick off against Japan in Houston on Feb. 20.

Sermanni labelled Fowler a "world class footballer" but said she was still some way from her prime.

"I want her to really step up in the national team, and lead by how she plays in the games," he added.

REUTERS

Manchester City the big spenders in January transfer window

LONDON

MANCHESTER City easily topped the spending charts in the January transfer window with the signing of Spanish midfielder Nico Gonzalez on Deadline Day to complete a busy month for the ailing Premier League champions.

City have endured a testing time on the pitch and sit fifth in the Premier League table with their hopes of a record-extending fifth successive domestic championship in tatters.

But the rebuild appears to have started in earnest with more than 180 million pounds (\$223.58 million) spent by Pep Guardiola's outfit - more than the combined amount paid by the other 19 English top-flight clubs in a relatively quiet window.

City's spending was the second-biggest outlay ever worldwide by a club in the January transfer window behind Chelsea's 274 million pounds in 2023, according to Transfermarkt.

City paid Porto 60 million euros (\$62.06 million) for 23-year-old Gonzalez (pictured) - their fourth major signing in the window.

Defender Abdou Diallo Khusanov joined from Lens for 33 million pounds, Egypt forward Omar Marmoush arrived from Eintracht Frankfurt for 59 million pounds while defender Vitor Reis was signed from Palmeiras for 29 million pounds.

It is quite a change of direction by City who usually do not feel the need to make big signings in mid-season. The last time they made a significant signing in January was 2018 when they brought in Athletic Bilbao defender Aymeric Laporte.

While fullback Kyle Walker left to join AC Milan on loan, Guardiola will be content that his squad has been bolstered for the second half of a campaign that features a looming Champions League playoff against Real Madrid for a last-16 spot.

While City splashed the cash, Premier League leaders Liverpool made



no signings and second-placed Arsenal also failed to bolster their forward line despite injuries to Gabriel Jesus and Bukayo Saka.

Aston Villa cashed in on Colombia striker Jhon Duran for whom Al-Nassr paid 64 million pounds but manager Unai Emery will be satisfied that Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford joined last week on loan.

Three-times Champions League winner Marco Asensio has also arrived at Villa Park on loan from Paris St Germain in a deal completed on Deadline Day.

SPURS SIGNINGS

Injury-plagued Tottenham Hotspur began the transfer window by signing Czech goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky from Slavia Prague for 12 million pounds and concluded it by agreeing to take winger Mathys Tel on loan

from Bayern Munich.

Manchester United fans may be left wondering whether they have been weakened in the window with Anthony also going out on loan to Real Betis and no forwards coming in.

Champions League qualification hopefuls Nottingham Forest have often been frenetic in past January windows but this time spent virtually nothing. Some of their rivals in the battle to qualify for Europe did strengthen though.

Brighton & Hove Albion signed Paraguayan midfielder Diego Gomez from Inter Miami for 12 million pounds and also spent 20 million pounds on Greek defender Stefanos Tzimas, who will stay at Nuremberg for the rest of the season.

Previous big spenders Chelsea kept their powder dry while Newcastle United were also inactive in January,

both wary of staying within Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR).

Of teams involved in the Premier League relegation battle, Wolverhampton Wanderers strengthened their defence with Emmanuel Agbadou joining from Reims and Burkina Faso international Nasser Djiga signing on Deadline Day from Red Star Belgrade.

Elsewhere in Europe it was a quiet month of trading although Paris St Germain did buy exciting Georgia winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia from Napoli for 70 million euros (\$72.25 million) and handed him the number seven shirt vacated by Kylian Mbappe.

Leaving PSG was Dutch playmaker Xavi Simons who joined Bundesliga side RB Leipzig for 50 million euros. (\$1 = 0.8051 pounds) (\$1 = 0.9689 euros)

Chelsea rally to beat West Ham 2-1 at Stamford Bridge

LONDON

CHELSEA recovered to beat their former manager Graham Potter's side West Ham United 2-1 with a second-half strike from substitute Pedro Neto and an own goal by Aaron Wan-Bissaka lifting them to fourth place in the Premier League on Monday.

The result took Chelsea two points above fifth-placed Manchester City and Newcastle United in sixth and within four points of Nottingham Forest, who are third.

Jarrod Bowen, in his first game back after a month out with a foot fracture, put the Hammers ahead when he pounced on a back pass by defender Levi Colwill three minutes before half-time and fired a left-foot shot past Filip Jorgensen in Chelsea's goal.

The goal livened up the game after a messy first half, with Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez, Cole Palmer, Noni Madueke and Jadon Sanchez all missing good chances.

West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola ensured West Ham went into the break in the lead when he tipped a spinning Palmer free kick over the bar three minutes after the opener.

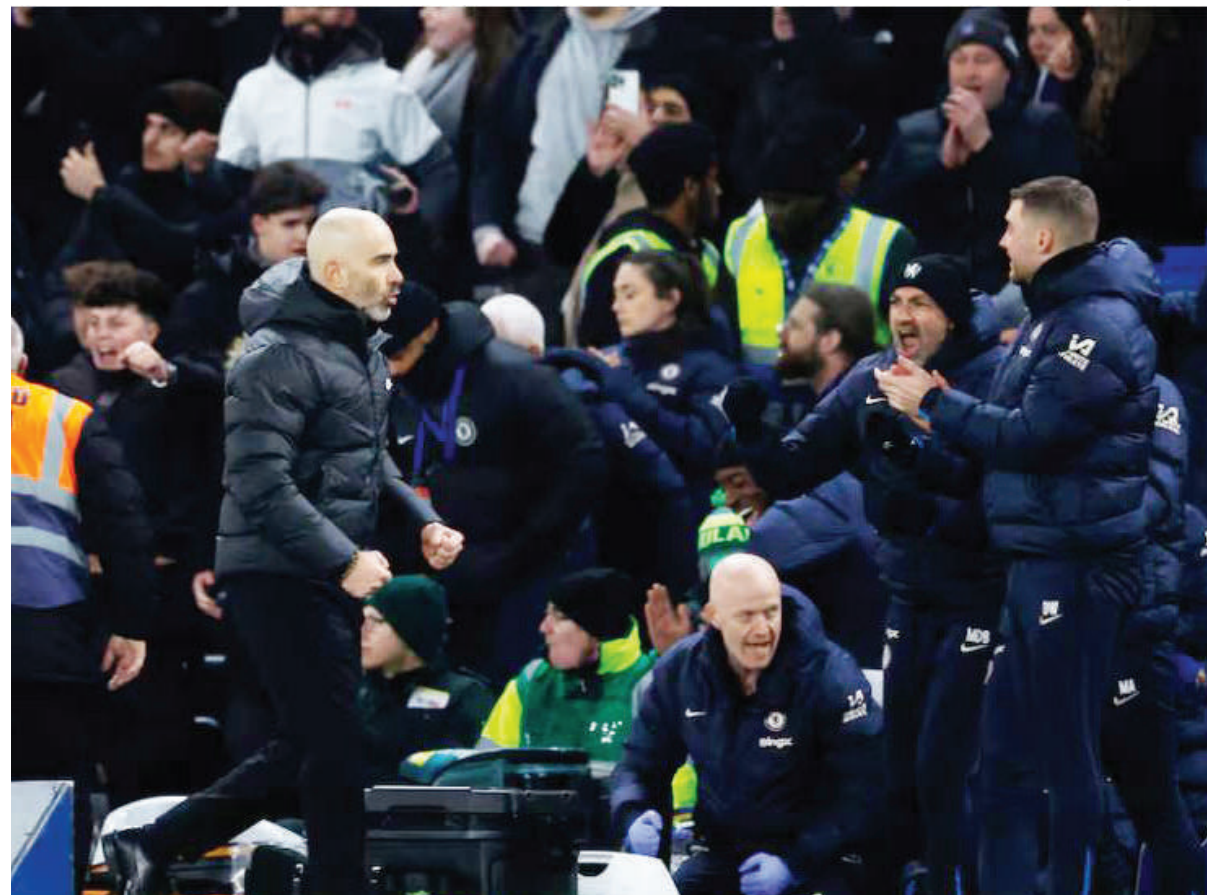
Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca, criticised recently for failing to make timely substitutions, sent on Neto for Sancho and Marc Guiu for Nicolas Jackson seven minutes into the second half and the hosts looked brighter for the changes.

Portugal winger Neto snatched the 64th-minute equaliser after latching onto a ricocheted shot from teammate Fernandez. After a lengthy VAR check for offside, the goal was given.

Palmer created the winner 10 minutes later, with his cross deflected by Aaron Wan-Bissaka into his own net to the despair of West Ham boss Potter on his return to Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea pushed for a third goal with chances for Palmer and Fernandez but West Ham finished strongly and Jorgensen, selected ahead of mistake-prone Robert Sanchez, kept out efforts by Mohammed Kudus and Konstantinos Mavropanos in the dying minutes.

"This victory coming from behind was really important for us. We have to be consistent, this is the most important



Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca celebrates after the Premier League match against West Ham United at Stamford Bridge, London, Britain on Monday. Agencies

thing," Neto told Sky Sports.

The result was a disappointment for Potter, who was sacked in April 2023 after failing to find a winning formula following seven months in charge at Chelsea.

The 49-year-old has been at West

Ham less than a month with two defeats, a draw and a win in the league so far but Bowen has been encouraged by the team's progress under Potter.

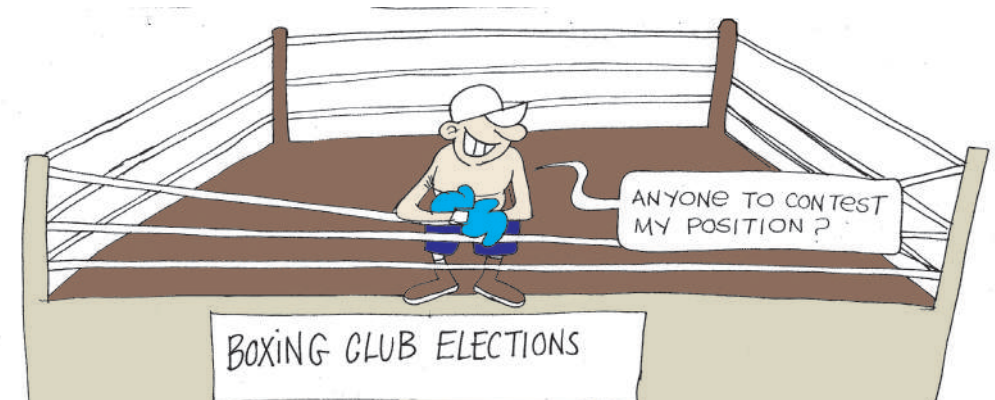
"Performances have been a lot better since the new manager has come in," said Bowen. "It's an exciting time to be

coming back into the squad. Good times ahead for us hopefully."

West Ham, who are 15th on 27 points, have now won one of their last 19 league games at Chelsea, drawing four and losing 14.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester City the big spenders

in January transfer window

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Tabora United look to bounce back against Namungo FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TABORA United didn't have a good time the last time they stood on the pitch. They got hammered by Simba 3-0 last Sunday, but redemption is around the corner as they host Namungo this afternoon.

The loss to Simba ended coach Anicet Makiadi's impressive six-game unbeaten start since taking over from Francis Kimanzi.

During that run, Tabora United under Makiadi (pictured) secured four wins, including a statement victory against defending champions Young Africans, which shattered the Jangwani Street-based side's perfect league record.

Overall, Tabora United have registered seven wins, four draws, and five losses from 16 league matches, accumulating 25 points.

They currently sit in fifth place, eight points behind fourth-placed Singida Black Stars.

Despite the recent setback, Tabora United remain a strong side, and playing at home will boost their confidence. They also defeated Namungo earlier this season, which should add extra motivation.

The team will be determined to erase the disappointment of their last outing and put on a much-improved performance.

Namungo, meanwhile, have endured an inconsistent season, managing five wins, two draws, and nine defeats from 16 league matches.

Their 17 points place them in 12th position, just three points above the relegation zone and two behind seventh-placed Mashujaa.

However, Namungo have shown signs of improvement in recent matches. While they have struggled to close out games in the past - often creating chances but failing to convert them while conceding avoidable goals - their form has picked up.

They are currently unbeaten in their last four matches, scoring six goals and conceding four during that stretch.

Their improved away form will also be encouraging, having won two of their last three away fixtures - securing victories against Fountain Gate and KenGold, along with a draw against Kagera Sugar.

With both teams looking to continue their upward trajectory, today's clash promises to be an intriguing battle.

Tabora United will seek to bounce back, while Namungo will be eager to extend their unbeaten run and climb further away from the relegation zone.

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Despite the recent setback, Tabora United remain a strong side, and playing at home will boost their confidence. They also defeated Namungo earlier this season, which should add extra

Tanzania to confront Italy in ICC Men's CWC Challenge League B second leg opener

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

THE chase for progression to the next phase of the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup unfolds on Friday (February 7) as Tanzania faces Italy in the 2025 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second leg opener in Hong Kong.

The 2025 Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second leg, scheduled for conclusion on February 16, will witness Tanzania, Bahrain, Italy, Singapore, Uganda, and host Hong Kong fight for the top two places that will hand them qualification for the next phase.

In preparation for the forthcoming global showpiece qualifier, Tanzania confronted Italy in a warm-up clash at the Hong Kong Cricket Club venue on Monday.

The teams used the opportunity to test their full squads, rotating bowlers and batsmen to maximize game-time experience for everyone.

The Marcus Campopiano-led Italy garnered a five-wicket victory over Tanzania to boost the former's spirit heading to the 2025 Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second leg.

The clash witnessed Tanzania bat first and notch 187 runs, losing nine wickets in 47 overs.

Tanzania's innings saw skipper Kassim Nassor's resilient knock of 97 runs not out turning out to be a standout showing. The experienced Nassor helped to anchor the East African nation's cricketers' innings while wickets fell at the other end.

Jaspreet Singh starred with the ball for Italy, having claimed three crucial wickets, backed by disciplined bowling from the rest of the attack.

In response, Italy mounted a successful chase, having posted 188/5 in 25.4 overs.

They showcased their batting depth, with Justin Mosca (52 runs off 26) and Campopiano (47 runs off 49) leading the charge.

Youthful Laksh Bakrania impressed during Tanzania's bowling turn, picking up three wickets, while Nassor and Akhil Anil contributed with breakthroughs. The warm-up match provided valuable insights for both sides and served as a perfect warm-up for the main event.

The 2025 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second leg opener will be a chance for Tanzania to keep alive hope of becoming one of the serious contenders for qualification for the following phase. In the 2024 Cricket World Cup Challenge League B in Kampala, Abhik Patwa-led Tanzania lost to Italy by nine wickets via the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method.

Tanzania will, in the second clash of the 2025 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second leg, confront Bahrain on Monday next week.

The East African nation's team will then take on host Hong Kong in the third fixture on Wednesday.

Tanzania's senior national cricket squad has Ally Mpeka, Akhil Anil, Amal Rajeevan, Arshaan Jassani, Ivan Ismail, Khalid Amiri, and Laksh Snehal.

Mohamed Simba, Mohamed Omary, Mohamed Yunus, Maker Mukesh, Rajendra Asuri, Sivaraj Selvaraj, and skipper Kassim Nassor complete the travelling senior national cricketers' list.

Pushpa Kumar is the senior national cricket squad's head coach, and Adil Kassam is the team manager.

According to the TCA officer, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B is more than just a tournament, stressing it is a continuation of Tanzania's mission towards the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup qualification.



Tanzania's senior national men's cricket team captain, Kassim Nassor, leaves the pitch after the conclusion of the 2025 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B second-leg warm-up tie against Italy in Hong Kong on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Yanga aiming for seventh straight win against bottom-placed KenGold

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) temporarily climbed to the top of the Premier League standings with a commanding 4-0 victory over Kagera Sugar last weekend.

Clement Mzize, Pacome Zouzoua, Mudathir Yahya, and Kennedy Musonda Romelu all found the net in the emphatic win at the KMC Mwenge Complex.

The victory marked Young Africans' sixth consecutive league triumph under head coach Sead Ramovic (pictured), reaffirming their status as strong title contenders.

This afternoon, the defending champions will aim for a seventh straight win as they host struggling KenGold at the same venue.

Given the vast gap in quality between the two teams, Young Africans will be expected to secure another comfortable victory.

On the other hand, KenGold remain rooted to the bottom of the table, having collected just six points from 16 matches.

If their current form continues, they are on track to register the lowest-ever Premier League points total in a 30-game season, a record currently held by Ruvo Shooting.

Having suffered four straight defeats in the league, KenGold risk being relegated in their debut Premier League season.

The Mbeya-based side, which earned promotion last year after four seasons in the Championship, is now banking on a mid-season squad overhaul to salvage their campaign.

In a desperate bid to turn their fortunes around, KenGold made sweeping changes during the January transfer window, releasing several players, including Steven Mganga, Amir Njeru, James Msuva, Adam Uledi, Casto Posta, Paul Materazzi, Asanga Stalone, and Salum Iddrisa.

To bolster their squad, they have recruited experienced playmaker Bernard Morrison, a former Young Africans and Simba SC midfielder, who last played for AS FAR Rabat in Morocco.

Also joining the club is Zambian forward Obrey Chirwa, who featured for Kagera Sugar earlier this season.

Other new signings include Zawadi Mauya (formerly of Kagera Sugar and Young Africans), Em-



manuel Asante (Namungo), Mubashid Seidu (Ghana), Kyala Lassa (Zambia), El-nest Kwofie (Ghana), Kelvin Yondani, Mohamed Yusuph (Dodoma Jiji), Mathias Juviliani, Nassir Bofu, Abdul Abdulai, Thompson Unachi (Nigeria), Maulid Mbegu, Selemani Bwenzi, and Joseph Ambokege.

KenGold have also acquired Ahmed Chambeja, Sadala Lipangile (Biashara United), Sandale Komanje (Tabora United), Rodgers Gabriel, Fredrick Kalubunga (Vipers, Uganda), and Erick Kabamba

in their attempt to strengthen the team.

Alongside the squad overhaul, the club has made a coaching change, appointing Vladislav Heric as their new head coach.

Heric replaces Omar Kapilima and becomes the fourth manager to take charge of KenGold this season.

With Young Africans in top form and KenGold battling for survival, today's match presents a significant challenge for the struggling side as they seek to avoid another setback in their fight against relegation.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

