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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9146 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

TUESDAY 23 APRIL, 2024



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## African clinics set to get Gates' new portable ultrasound tech

By Guardian Reporter

THE current alarmingly high mortality rates in pregnancy-related complications in remote areas of Africa are likely to be reduced in the wake of unveiling ground-breaking, portable ultrasound technology by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr Anita Zaidi, the gender equality president at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, disclosed this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the WomenLift health global conference, 2024.

With thousands of online television participants, she explained the dire need for accessible diagnostic tools in regions where healthcare facilities are scarce.

"Every year, nearly 300,000 women and over four million newborns perish due to pregnancy-related complications," she stated, underlining the disproportionate impact on low-income and to a considerable extent, middle-income countries.

The innovative ultrasound devices, compact as a water bottle and equipped

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# Regulator planned for private sector projects



This is an aerial view of an area in Karatu District, Arusha Region, in which are more than 2,000 residences but which is now all but under floodwaters after the dam receiving water from the Ngorongoro mountains overflowed owing to the ongoing heavy rains. Correspondent Getrude Mpezya captured the scene yesterday.

Permit issuing responsibilities for chemical transportation were shifted to GCLA, ending contentions with TMDA and the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads)

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government intends to establish a new institution to supervise private sector investment issues, the legislature was told yesterday.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, made this observation when presenting the ministry's budget estimates for fiscal 2024/25.

A major task for the ministry will be to su-

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## Union at 60: Graft irks VP at national prayers day

*"Let us all join our leaders in nurturing our union for the betterment of the current and coming generations"*

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday condemned increasing moral delinquency among the public, asking those in authority to take stern actions when such incidents occur.

Gracing the national prayers day ahead of making 60 years of the union at the Jambhuri Stadium here, he expressed concern on the tendency of vices to increase, calling on religious leaders not to relent in preaching peace.

He said that the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan will take action

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## 'Half of the world's buffaloes roaming Tanzanian plains'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA leads in the number of buffaloes in Africa, holding more than 50 percent of all buffaloes currently roaming the earth, a new wildlife census shows.

Dr Eblate Mjingo, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), director general, said in a presentation on the census conducted for the Ministry of Natural Resources

and Tourism that Tanzania boasts around 225,000 buffaloes at present.

The Serengeti National Park, the home of wildebeest migration, also leads buffalo numbers whose population in the precinct reaches 69,075 such African buffaloes.

The Nyerere-Selous ecosystem comes second in the country with a census

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Onesmo Mwamfupa, a nurse at Mwamasekelo Clinic in Shinyanga municipality, administers an HPV vaccine to a schoolgirl yesterday shortly after Shinyanga regional commissioner Anamringi Macha had launched the region-wide drive. The idea is for the initiative to run until this April 28 by reaching 198,865 girls aged between nine and 14. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

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## Regulator planned for private sector projects

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the government merged some agencies and authorities with kindred responsibilities, with the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) having part of its duties shifted to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Permit issuing responsibilities for chemical transportation were shifted to GCLA, ending contentions with TMDA and the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads).

The government has also amended the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act (Cap 415) to remove cargo clearing and forwarding, with TASAC now focused on bulk concentrates, live animals, chemicals used in mining plus government trophies.

He pointed at an increase of registered companies from 7,817 in 2018/19 to 10,656 companies by fiscal 2021/22 as arising from efforts taken by the government to create a conducive investment environment.

He said that in the 2024/25 financial year, the ministry is prepared to complete the preparation of the National Development Vision 2050.

During the next financial year, the ministry will finalise preparations for a new investment policy and its implementation strategy, while merging the Tanzania Investment Centre and the Special Processing Zone Authority (EPZA), he added.

Requesting the House to approve the 121.329bn/- estimates where 100.246bn/- is recurrent expenditure and 21.08bn/- is intended for development projects, he recalled that the government had scrapped 374 levies, fees and fines that were impeding investments.

The levies involved issuing of permits or licences by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT), Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA), the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (TMDA) plus the Fire and Rescue Force, he stated.

Apart from removing the levies,

the government merged some agencies and authorities with kindred responsibilities, with the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) having part of its duties shifted to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

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## African clinics set to get Gates' new portable ultrasound tech

FROM PAGE 1

tential to save countless lives and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases," she emphasised.

Dr Zaidi similarly highlighted the importance of innovation in contraceptive technology to address unmet needs of women worldwide.

With a significant percentage of pregnancies being unwanted and on account of dissatisfaction with existing contraceptive methods, there is a pressing need for new solutions, she told the global audience.

"Promising innovations such as DMPA-SC and potential monthly pills, patches, and injectables, offer hope for improving contraceptive access and empowering women to make informed choices about their reproductive health," she said.

DMPA-SC is a self-injectable contraception, commonly used reversible contraceptive method among women in the United States, a write up explains, the medic and activist stressed the critical importance of Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.

They help to prevent cervical cancer, a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women globally, even as Dr Zaidi affirms that despite the effectiveness of HPV vaccines millions of girls and women lack access to them, leaving them vulnerable to a preventable disease.

"New research supporting the efficacy of one-dose regimens offers a cost-effective and feasible solution to expand vaccine coverage and protect more individuals from HPV-related cancers," the executive declared.

Data on maternal mortality rates in Africa, published by Saifuddin Galal, showed that in South Sudan, Chad and Nigeria, the maternal mortality rate was above 1,000 per 100,000 live births in 2020.

South Sudan recorded the highest number of mothers' death rates, as during 2020 for every 100,000 children, 1,223 mothers died from incidents related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management.

The maternal death rate in Chad reached 1,063 with Nigeria following with 1,047 deaths per 100,000 live births, the publication noted, underlining that despite these gains, persistent challenges like health inequities and barriers to accessing quality essential services hamper these efforts.

Vulnerable groups, especially rural and low-income populations, face significant disparities in health-care coverage. Ongoing crises such as conflicts, climate change and epidemics further exacerbate these challenges, the report added.

There were other next-generation diagnostic systems with transformative potential in identifying life-threatening diseases faster, in a more affordable way and with greater accessibility that the Gates Foundation was introducing.

These innovations, including low-cost tests and extreme volume manufacturing (EVM) test strips, are designed to revolutionise disease testing, particularly in resource-limited settings, she stated.

With partnerships driving the development of portable, affordable and AI-enabled ultrasound devices, she remained optimistic about their potential to catalyse transformative change in maternal and child health outcomes globally.

"As the world grapples with persisting healthcare inequities, initiatives like these offer a glimmer of hope, signalling a step forward in the journey toward universal healthcare access and improved maternal and child health outcomes," the foundation executive noted.

Vaccine microneedle array patches (VMAPs) is another product she announced, affirming that the device heralds a new era in vaccine delivery.

"These patches offer a solution to the challenges of traditional vaccine administration, particularly in regions with limited access to cold chain requirements and trained healthcare workers.

"Early trials demonstrate their effectiveness in delivering vaccines safely, with the potential to eliminate barriers to immunization and protect vulnerable populations from preventable diseases," she explained.

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"By improving the speed and efficiency of diagnostic processes, these advancements have the po-

ssibility to save countless lives and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases," she emphasised.

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa views one of newly acquired patrol boats meant for use in combating illegal fishing shortly before he graced its launch in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Other dignitaries at the event included the Minister of State in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office, Hamza Hassan Juma, and Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yasushi Misawa. Photo: Carlos Banda

## 'Half of world's buffaloes roaming Tanzanian plains'

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the beasts, while Kenya currently hosts 42,000 buffaloes and Zambia 41,000 of them.

Tanzania also leads in Africa in leopard numbers, having a total of 24,000 of the ferocious cats in the census, more numerous than lions, whose number is put at 17,000 and again the highest on the continent.

It is six times the population of lions found in South Africa despite ranking second with an estimated 3,284 lions at the time the report was compiled, it said.

With elephants, Tanzania is home to 60,000 jumbos, ranking third after Botswana with 130,000 elephants and Zimbabwe, holding 100,000 jumbos by current census figures.

The number of wildebeests roaming the country's plains has also increased, reaching 1,597,850 at the time of the count, an increase of 1,326 wildebeests over the previous census in 2015.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, was upbeat about the remarkable increase in wildlife numbers, affirming that it was a positive outcome from ongoing conservation efforts.

This also poses a challenge when it comes to human-wildlife conflicts and especially with elephants, she said.

Tanzania is fifth in conserving the endangered rhinos, with a total of 212 of the short horned mammals, far behind Namibia which leads on the continent with 2196 rhinoceroses, the report added.

## 60 years: Graft irks VP at national prayers day

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be watchful and act swiftly on any incidents of unrest, especially with election exercises at the end of the year, to strengthen security on the country's borders to protect people and their properties.

He called on religious leaders to maintain the prayer effort for the nation, hailing

Tanzanians on both parts of the union for readiness to maintain the peace, strengthening the union and working to change lives, stressing the need to adopt the use of gas and electricity for cooking, cutting out charcoal, firewood.

Earlier, the Zanzibar second VP Hemed Suleiman Abdullah, saluted

the event organizers with an observation that the event was a vital occasion for the nation as a whole.

He said religious leaders have a vital contribution in the prevailing peace and harmony, urging youths to avoid anything that puts peace in peril, in the country to uphold peace at all costs for they have the history to tell coming generations on the importance of the union.

"Let us all join our leaders in nurturing our union for the betterment of the current and coming generations," he stated, while Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

insisted on the role of religious leaders in ensuring that peace prevails.

"The government acknowledges the importance of this event that has brought together religious leaders and people from different religions in the country and aimed at cementing the union," she stated, stressing the need to preach peace and rebuking those with intentions to destabilize the country.

Sheikh Ali Khamis, deputy to the Mufti of Tanzania, on his part said he was praying less for the union than against those wishing ill for the union, to fail and let the union progress.



Mourners carry the coffin bearing the body of Clouds Media Group senior presenter Gardner G Habash shortly before the paying of last respects at Dar es Salaam's Leaders' Club grounds yesterday. He died on Saturday while admitted to a hospital in the city and his burial is lined up for Tarakea in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region, today. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Mobhare Matinyi (R), Director of Information Services in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry doubling as Chief Government Spokesman, presents working tools to Media Council of Tanzania Board member Dr Joyce Bazira late last week. It was at a ceremony to bid farewell to former MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga and welcome his successor, Ernest Sungura (L). Third left is High Court Judge (rtd) Robert Makaramba, chairman of the council's Ethics Committee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Be careful, forensic investigators urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

COMMISSIONER of Police Forensic Bureau, Shaban Hiki has urged police officers and doctors involved in criminal investigation to be careful of accuracy during collection, packaging, care and transportation of samples and evidence to the laboratory in order to get correct answers.

According to him, for the samples of investigations to test correctly and provide true answers, it is important to take good care of them from the starting point to the laboratory where they are tested.

Commissioner Hiki made the call here when speaking to criminal justice stakeholders who involved police officers, doctors, prosecutors, judges and officers from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

He warned that improper collection, transportation and storage of the case proceedings evidence in accordance with the guidelines and laws cause the samples to reach to the laboratory of the chief government chemist being damaged that cause them to be thrown away and thus leading to the delay of case hearing due to lack of evidence.

"You find that the sample taker takes a small piece of liver or cuts the wrong area or puts it in the wrong packaging, causing it to be damaged when it arrives to the laboratory or not suitable as it is small and insufficient and there are other reasons that cause the samples to be rejected, this goes in line with incorrect filling of the form using original copy as per law in order the court to receive and agree to the evidence," he explained.

He thanked the Chief Government Chemist office for organising the training which will bring positive outcomes in criminal justice.

He further reminded doctors to fill the form number 3 (PF3) in order

to avoid challenges that have been raised by being filled incorrectly.

Gerald Mollel, manager of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA)-Central Zone admitted that despite the government procuring modern machinery and equipment to carry out sample testing to enable Tanzania's tests meet international standards, yet the challenges of taking, transporting and storing samples have made the laboratory unable to test some samples.

"The training is aimed to build a joint awareness to ensure that criminal justice and forensic services reach high levels including court to promote provision and ac-

cess to justice. Currently, the Government Chemist Laboratory conducts its investigations using modern plants to ensure that we provide accurate answers," he said.

He said the authority has International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification.

Senior State Attorney for Morogoro Region, Joseph Maugo thanked the organisers of the training but highlighted various challenges which they face during case proceedings such as delay of evidence from the investigative laboratory due to various procedures, long distance and misplacement of files while the investigation already started.

By Henry Mwangonde

## DCEA arrests 21 in connection with 767.2 kilos of illicit drugs

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has arrested 21 people in connection to a 767.2 kilogramme consignment of mixed drugs including heroin, Methamphetamine and Marijuana which the authority seized in a special operation from 4th April to 18 this year.

Aretas Lyimo, DCEA commissioner general said during a press conference yesterday that the operation was conducted in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga.

He said the seizure involved 525.67 kilogrammes of methamphetamine and 233.2 kilogrammes of heroin and 8.33 kilogrammes of dried marijuana which were seized at Mikanjuni in Tanga, Wailes, Temeke district in Dar es Salaam and Zinga in the Coast region.

Lyimo said on April, 10 officers from DCEA thronged Zinga area in the Coast region and seized 424.84 of Methampheta-

mine drugs and arrested three people in connection to the matter.

"On the same day at Kunduchi in Dar es Salaam, DCEA in collaboration with others from other security agencies arrested one person with 158.24 kilogrammes of Heroin," he said.

Commissioner Lyimo said on April, 16 at Kunduchi in Dar es Salaam the authority seized 232.69 kilogrammes of heroin and 100.83 of Methamphetamine which were imported into the country through the port of Dar es Salaam and nine people were arrested.

He said on April, 18 this year, one man was arrested at the Port of Dar es Salaam with 2.12 kilogramme of dried marijuana.

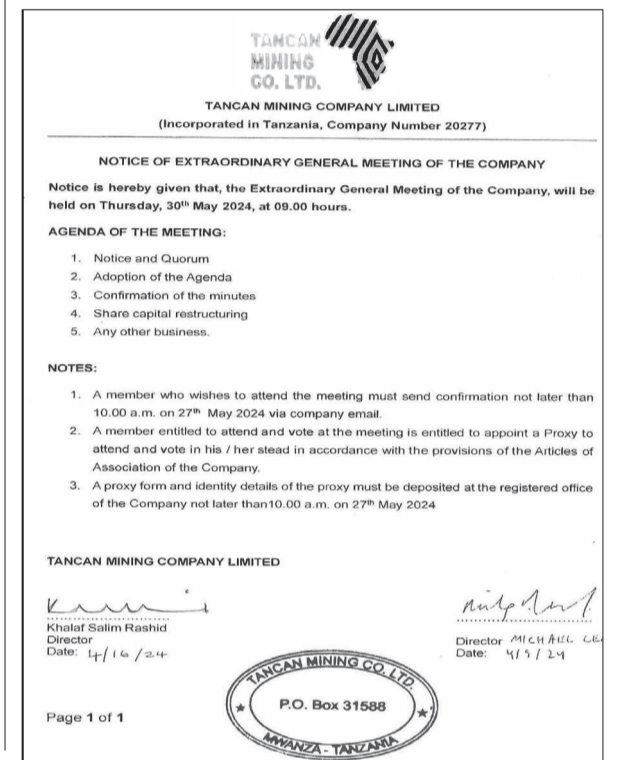
He said some of the key drug dealers are now packing drugs in packs of different

products namely Coffee and tea which is the commonly used method to avoid being noticed.

According to Lyimo methamphetamine is a man-made stimulant that is highly addictive and can be injected, smoked, snorted, or ingested orally.

He added that the drug has serious health effects to the user as it leaves a lasting effect on the brain leading to loss of memory and affects the central nervous system.

The DCEA boss also called upon the general public to continue collaborating with officers from the agency in issuing information about the business saying the seizure was possible through collaboration from the public which has been collaborative on the matter.



Nipashe MWANGA WA JAMI The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR  
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION (HEET)

Specific Procurement Notice Template  
Request for Bids Small Works

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

**Country:** United Republic of Tanzania - Zanzibar  
**Name of Project:** Higher Education Economic for Transformation Project (HEET)  
**Contract Title** Construction of Laboratory Complex and Agriculture Building of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) at Tunguu, Unguja - Zanzibar

**Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:** IDA-68870-TZ RFB  
**Reference No.:** TZ-SUZ-419398-CW-RFB  
**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024

- This request for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) Issue No. **WB-OP0015674 of 28.11.2021.**
- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania has received fund from the World Bank (WB) under the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST). This is a five years project from 2021/22 to 2025/26. The State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) is one of the public institutions benefiting from the project. SUZA is directing the funds to development of teaching and learning infrastructure. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this fund will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **The Proposed Construction of Laboratory Complex and Agriculture Building for the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) at Tunguu, Unguja - Zanzibar**
- The **State University of Zanzibar** now invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified bidders (**Building Contractors Class One**) for carrying out the Construction and Completion of buildings. The works must be completed within **eighteen (18) months.**

Table 1: Estimated Quantities for Major Items of Works

SN	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	Storey(s)	Floor Area (Sq.m)
1	Laboratory Complex	4	12,412
2	Agriculture Building	3	3,315

- Bidding will be conducted through National competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" [September, 2023, Fifth Edition] ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Qualifications requirements include: (1) General Construction Experience: Experience in construction contracts in the role of prime contractor, JV member, subcontractor, or management contractor for at least the last 10 years, starting 1st January 2013. (2) Specific Construction & Contract Management Experience: Experience as a prime contractor in the construction of at least three (3) works of similar nature and complexity in the last ten (10) years each with a minimum value of **US\$ 3 million** or one contract with minimum value of **US\$ 9 million** or its equivalent; (ii) Average Annual Turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last five (5) years of **USD 11 million** or its equivalent in other currency (s); (iii) minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of **USD 2.5 million** or its equivalent in other currency. Regarding Award Criteria, the Employer will aggregate minimum requirements as specified under items 3.1, 3.2, 4.2(a) and 4.2(b) of Section III (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- A complete set of the bidding documents (in English) is available to interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Tanzanian Shillings Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Only (TZS 250,000.00)** or its equivalent in freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by Bank through control number by requesting it from this email **pmu@suza.ac.tz.**

N.B: The bidding documents will be issued to the bidders in hardcopy collected at the SUZA PDMU office Room No. TR-05-PDMU TRANSLD Building Tunguu Campus.

- Request for clarification shall be submitted to the procurement management unit via email address **pmu@suza.ac.tz**. Replies to clarifications requested by bidders will be emailed directly to all bidders.

- The site visit and Pre-Bid meetings shall take place as per below schedule;

Location	Date and time
The State University of Zanzibar Tunguu Campus, Southern Region, Unguja HEET Conference Room, Computing Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tunguu Campus	6th May 2024 from 10:00Hrs

- Bidders are encouraged to attend these pre-bid as per above schedule followed by field visits. The minutes of the pre-bid meeting will be shared with all bidders. The costs of attending the pre-bid meeting and site visit will be borne by the bidders.

- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of Unconditional Bank Guarantee (on the format provided in the bidding document) amounting to Tanzanian Shillings (TZS) Four Hundred Million (TZS: 400,000,000.00) or equivalent in any freely convertible currency in favor of Vice Chancellor, State University of Zanzibar, P.O.BOX 146 Zanzibar. The Bid Security shall be clearly addressed to the Vice Chancellor, State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), and P.O. BOX 146 Zanzibar - Tanzania and shall be valid for twenty-eight (28) calendar days beyond the bid validity period. i.e. 148 calendar days after the bid's submission deadline.

- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

- The address(es) referred to above is, Client: Vice Chancellor,

The State University of Zanzibar  
192 Tunguu Road, P.o.Box 146  
72214 Kati, Zanzibar - Tanzania  
E-mail: **vc@suza.ac.tz**  
Web site : **www.suza.ac.tz**

Contact Person: Procurement Specialist HEET Project  
Tel: +255 772 265639

Vice Chancellor  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR

## Allot enough funds for operating patrol boat, public entities urged

By Carlos Banda

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has tasked public institutions to allocate budgets to finance operations to combat illegal marine activities in the ocean and great lake areas.

Majaliwa made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the handover and inauguration of the new patrol speedboat to curb illegal activities in the sea and great lake areas emphasizing that the department responsible must come up with strategies to boost maritime security efforts.

"The government is already working on the budget for the financial year 2024/25. The ministries and institutions involved with the use of the patrol boat must ensure they allocate funds to operate the boat. We do not want to see the boat inactive with reasons that the ministry has no money to operate it. Go and get the funds to do so," he said.

He added: "The government initiated the project to curb marine criminal activities in the sea and lakes to ensure our country remains safe. The project costs \$900,000 and has been a vital part of boosting maritime security efforts. I call on heads of department to plan effective strategies against piracy, illegal fishing, transportation of narcotics, and smuggling of natural resources."

Majaliwa said that a communication strategy for both sides of the union to enhance efforts to fight off illegal activities in the ocean without forgetting the lakes adding that, irresponsibility and lack of accountability should be avoided.

Yasushi Misawa, the Ambassador of Japan in Tanzania, said Japan is committed to contributing to Maritime Security and safety under the vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) - a concept that

enhances peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region through ensuring rules-based international order.

"Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reaffirmed the importance of promoting regional and international efforts related to maritime security including the fight against piracy, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and other maritime crimes. On that occasion, Prime Minister Kishida had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and agreed on the importance of our cooperation in the Blue Economy," he said.

Misawa said the UNDP project was developed to tackle illegal maritime activities by strengthening the capacity of the responsible agencies and assisting fishing communities, adding that, in May last year, a National Framework Coordination Mechanism for Tackling Illegal Maritime Activities was launched.

"This year the coastal communities were capacitated through training and provision of fish drying racks. Today, we are here to witness an important part of this project, the handover of a patrol boat to the government of Tanzania to strengthen the country's ability to interdict illicit activities within the waters of Tanzania," he said.

Shigeki Komatsubara, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, said illegal unreported and unregulated illegal fishing poses a great threat to maritime ecosystems with global economic sources estimated at \$50bn globally and annually.

"Tanzania's experience with substantial financial losses recognizes the critical role of maritime security in sustainable economic development, environmental preservation and national security. I cannot stress this enough that investment in robust maritime security is essential to

safeguard the coastal areas and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. In this increasingly eventful world, Tanzania stands for peace, unity, stability and prosperity. UNDP is proud to be associated with the government of Japan and the government of Tanzania in this very important endeavour," he said.

Komatsubara said the blue economy presents vast opportunities to Tanzania's economic growth contributing significantly to Tanzania's gross value added, highlighting that, in 2020, the sector contributed \$22bn to Tanzania's gross value added and employed over 2 million people.

"To sustain these benefits, maintenance of maritime security and safety is of paramount importance. To address maritime security challenges requires collective action. Today's inauguration of the patrol boat underscores our tripartite partnership between the government of Japan, the government of Tanzania and UNDP to advance maritime security in Tanzania through tackling illegal maritime activities projects through the generous contribution by the government of Japan through a supplementary budget of \$500,000 supplemented by \$400,000 from UNDP's own resources," he said.

Komatsubara added: "It reflects our commitment to enhance maritime safety and I wish to applaud the recent Japanese government contribution of \$2.5m to revive the Tanzania fisheries corporation which demonstrated continuing commitment to the blue economy sector. UNDP wishes to reaffirm its commitment to collaborate with the government of Tanzania to contribute to and achieve and in so doing contribute to our common sustainable development goals and propel forward the blue economy sector for the prosperity of all in Tanzania.



Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting a gas cylinder to one of the nurses at the city's Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital shortly after the signing of a cooperation agreement between the firm and the Doris Mollé Foundation aimed at supplying the items to nurses at various hospitals in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS Minister Innocent Bashungwa has instructed the ministry's permanent secretary Eng Aisha Amour to supervise and ensure that the National Construction Council (NCC) and the Contractors' Registration Board (CRB) form workers' councils as per the law.

According to him, the Employment and Labour Relations Act no 6 of 2004 requires institutions to have effective workers' councils for development.

Bashungwa made the directive yesterday in Dodoma during the launch of the Roads Fund Board (RFB) and the Ministry's Monitoring and Evaluation system.

He wanted the where he wanted by June 30, the two institutions should have active workers' councils.

Bashungwa has asked the members of RFB to be innovative to bring new sources of income

## Minister urges PS to ensure NCC, CRB establish workers' councils

in order to have sufficient and sustainable income for the management of road maintenance in this country.

He emphasised on the members of the councils to use the opportunity of their presence in the councils to question and make suggestions that will contribute and bear fruits in bringing development in the country.

In addition, the Minister reminded them of the responsibilities of the workers' councils, including management of human resources along with building professionalism, skills and capacities for employees as well as supervising rights and well-being at workplaces.

He further wanted the Engineers Registration Board (ERB), Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board (AQRB) and CRB to closely monitor projects which

they supervise to ensure that they are implemented by adhering to all quality standards.

The Ministry's PS, Eng Aisha said that the newly launched Monitoring and Evaluation system is expected to commence working on May 2, this year.

He said the ministry expects that the new system will greatly increase efficiency in the ministry and its institutions and reduce spending of the government's finances as well as facilitate having accurate statistics between the ministry and its institutions.

Rashid Kalimaga, acting chairman of the RFB said the workers' council consists of various members including heads of departments as well as leaders and members from the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE).

# Weapons from foreign actors fuel war in Sudan - UN

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peace Building Affairs, Rosemary Anne DiCarlo, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Sudan at the weekend.

The war in Sudan has sparked "a crisis of epic proportions" fuelled by weapons from foreign supporters who continue to flout U.N. sanctions, DiCarlo added.

"If the parties have been able to sustain their confrontation, it is in

no small part thanks to the material support they receive from outside the Sudan," she said.

"These external actors continue to flout the sanctions regime imposed by the Council to support a political settlement, thereby fuelling the conflict. This is illegal, it is immoral and it must stop."

The sanctions regime imposed on Sudan by the resolution 1591 mentions parties in the conflict in Darfur which broke in the early 2000s. It includes an embargo on arms and ammunition as well as

assets freezes.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, chair of the African Union panel on Sudan and high representative for its Silence the Guns in Africa initiative, called external interference "a major factor compounding both the efforts to negotiate a cease-fire and to stop the war."

Neither DiCarlo nor Chambas named any of the foreign supporters.

Reports have alleged Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt are involved in the continuation of the war.

Despite peace efforts on the

continent and outside, the conflict still rages.

The nation's representative in New York advocated Sudanese solutions to the war.

"We call for the following: to not instrumentalize the conflict in Sudan and impose solutions from the outside, because this damages the conflict resolution process and compromises Sudan's ability to take ownership of this process," Al-Harith Idriss al-Harith Mohamed told the Council.

The U.N. political chief painted

a dire picture of the conflict's impact – over 14,000 dead, tens of thousands wounded and a looming famine with 25 million people in need of life-saving assistance, and over 8.6 million forced to flee their homes.

Sudan plunged into chaos on April 15th last year when simmering tensions between its military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo broke out into street battles.

Since then, the generals have not met.

The Arab-dominated RSF has carried out brutal attacks in Darfur on ethnic African civilians, especially the Masalit community, and has taken control of most of the vast region.

Its newest target appears to be El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. Edem Wosornu, the U.N. humanitarian office's director of operations, said RSF-affiliated militias attacked and burned villages west of El Fasher on April 13.



National Economic Empowerment Council executive secretary Beng'i Issa (L) has a quick word with Sophia Mjema, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's Adviser on Women and Special Groups, at the launch of 'Imarisha Uchumi na Mama Samia' programme at Kibaha in Coast Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## BBC MEDIA ACTION

### RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for the following position in Tanzania.

**Senior Producer, Social Media:** will lead the digital production team in creating bespoke content for social media on multiple social networks like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and others, including short form video, photos, infographics, and other relevant formats. He/she will promote content on social media in original ways, best suited for each respective platform. He/she will engage online communities and influencers and facilitate conversations on social media. Build the capacity of digital producers to deliver outstanding social media content including line management of specific members in the team. Ensure that BBC Media Action production, editorial and safeguarding standards are met for all social media posts published on BBC Media Action Tanzania social media channels. He/she will ensure that social media content reflects the social, cultural and gender diversity of Tanzania.



Please only apply if you meet the basic criteria under the person specification which can be downloaded at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/contact/jobs/senior-producer-social-media-tanzania>

Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) which outlines their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: [recruitment@tz.bbcmiaaction.org](mailto:recruitment@tz.bbcmiaaction.org) with the title of the position applied for in the subject line by **5pm on 05<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. Please do not send certificates or other attachments. Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. These are local posts applicable to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people.

BBC Media Action has zero tolerance for fraud and exploitation. If you have any concerns, please share with us through [whistleblower@tz.bbcmiaaction.org](mailto:whistleblower@tz.bbcmiaaction.org)

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF MST BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

**Ref: MST-TZ-20240423**

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing BOLT and REBAR near Chongoleani area, Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

**Brief description of the scope of Services:**

- Procurement, including but not limited to, all materials necessary to complete the Scope of WORK, such as bulk material, fire fighting, decorative building material, etc.
- Construction, including but not limited to, Construction works, all trades, Complete hook-up to incoming / outgoing networks, services and utilities, Pre-commissioning works.

**Minimum Requirements.**

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

- Company Profile;
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).
- Certificate of incorporation (BRELA), TIN Certificate, Valid Business license and permits.
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- CRB with Building Class 1
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified Personnel
- Copy of ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001(ISO45001:2015) or equivalent certificate.
- Proven track record experience list for similar services supplied in the last Three (3) years
- Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended
- Compliance with Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations, 2017, and Local Company definition for Tanzania.


Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to [pg@docgi.cn](mailto:pg@docgi.cn) (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on **06/May/2024**. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ- 20240423-EOI-[COMPANY NAME]**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

**DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.**

**Note:** Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)**



## INVITATION TO TENDER NO. TP/04/2024/NCB/S/009

### PROVISION OF FUMIGATION SERVICES

**23 April, 2024**

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk fuel storage facility with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) technically qualified and reputable Service Providers for fumigation services to submit their bids bid for **PROVISION OF FUMIGATION SERVICES**.
- Firms eligible to bid must be registered and licenced by the Tanzania Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) for conducting fumigation service and possess Certificate of the Occupation Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) Also must provide evidence of at least 5 years of experience working with reputable organizations.
- Bidders who don't meet conditions in part 3 above are not be eligible to bid for this tender.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: [tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz](mailto:tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz) by sending an application letter and attach valid certificates from Tanzania Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) and OSHA certificate on **Mondays to Fridays at 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM from 23 April, 2024 to 8 May, 2024**.
- Bidders who are interested to visit the site should do so on, **25 April, 2024** between 10:30 hours and 11:00 hours. Bidders are required to come with their own PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) during site visit. The minimum PPE's required are face mask, safety boot, antistatic overcoat/overall and helmets. Static reflective vests are not allowed.
- All hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively must be enclosed in a single plain envelope marked **Tender No: TP/04/2024/NCB/S/009** for **PROVISION OF FUMIGATION SERVICES**. **All bid documents must be addressed and delivered to Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.**
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be at 4.00 p.m. on 9 May, 2024.
- Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of the TIPER tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of any circumstances.
- TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid

**THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,**  
**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),**  
**P.O. BOX 2608,**  
**KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.**

## 'Allow all companies to import liquor in Z'bar'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

AN advocate of the Zanzibar High Court, Hassan Kijogoo has cited the Liquor Control Act that has narrowed the number of liquor importation companies as illegitimate as it goes against the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984.

The law, enacted in 2020 has limited the number of companies allowed to import liquor to just three.

Advocate made the remarks after the judgement issued recently by the High Court Judge Gorge Joseph Kazi who ruled Section 33(1) of the LCA "inoperative" and "a nullity in law," effectively rendering it unenforceable.

The case was brought by Quality Meat and Beverage Supplies (QMB) after they were denied a liquor import license due to the limitations in the LCA of 2020.

"Now the High Court has ruled the provisions as defective thus allowing all companies to import liquor in the Isles," he added.

Kijogoo said that what is needed now is to allow companies to import the product as long as they have met all the required conditions which include paying

for the licence which stands at 30m/-.

"This will not only boost business and improve access to the services but also increase revenues to the Zanzibar Revenues Authority (ZRA) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)," he said.

According to him, the Act was going against section 12 (1) (2) of the Zanzibar Constitution which explains that there should not be any law which will contain direct discrimination.

On that basis, he said the government authorities should now release more than 25 containers of liquor that have been detained at the Malindi port in Unguja for allegedly importing them without having a permit.

He said QMB was banned from importing liquor in the Isles along with other experienced companies.

Prohibition of liquor importation in Zanzibar has caused a huge crisis of the product after the liquor board granted permit to three other companies which lack experience in the business denying the former and experienced companies such as One Stop Centre, Scotch Store and the popular liquor company-ZMMI.

## Samia to grace 38th ALAT congress in Zanzibar today

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE 38th congress of the Association of Local Authorities Tanzania (ALAT) started yesterday in Zanzibar with NMB Bank financing the annual convention for the eighth consecutive time with a sponsorship package of over 200m/-.

The financing, which also caters for supportive events during the three-day conference such as the networking dinner today evening, includes 120m/- cash whose dummy cheque was handed over to the ALAT national leaders yesterday at the Golden Tulip Airport Hotel.

Ruth Zaipuna, bank chief executive officer (CEO) said NMB sponsorship of the summits has so far amounted to over 1.2bn/-, which the national Vice-Chair of ALAT, Sima Costantine, said signifies the bank's commitment to support local government authorities (LGAs).

"We have had a long and strategic partnership with ALAT and its members and for more than eight years now we have collaborated in various developmental matters," Zaipuna noted before the handover of the 2024 Congress sponsorship dummy cheque.

The NMB leader said that apart

from sponsorship, NMB officials including her will fully participate in this year's conference and its services, some of which are being showcased, are readily available to the congress delegates and other participants.

Lauding the lender for sustainably financing its summits, Costantine said the sponsorships which started during the 31st congress have been of qualitative value to them.

Mwanza City Mayor said the investment does not only show the unmatched commitment of the bank to support ALAT members but also its readiness to back their efforts to better delivery of quality services to communities.

"NMB Bank continues to be our key development ally and the ALAT community has benefited a lot commercially from this partnership," Costantine noted, adding that the two partners will see to it that it lasts for many years to come.

According to him, the bank's sponsorship of the launch of Zanzibar Local Governments Association (ZALGA) yesterday was another testimony of its zeal to see the blossoming of LGAs and ensure they remain a catalytic provider of sustainable social and economic services.

## Cooperation by China, Africa in agriculture continues deepening

BEIJING

WHEN visiting an egg production factory in Pinggu District, Beijing's northeastern suburb, African diplomats were amazed by the automated breeding process and quality products produced.

During an organized trip on Wednesday, 28 diplomats from over 20 African countries visited the egg factory, a food technology company, and scenic spot known as "peach blossom sea".

Modernization of agriculture and mechanization of agriculture at various levels of the value chain is quite relevant to Africa, said Willy Bett, Kenyan ambassador to China.

Beijing boasts about half of Chinese academicians in agriculture, over 1,000 professional breeders, and almost 20,000 agricultural scientific and technical personnel. As a traditional agricultural district of Beijing, Pinggu has made full use of its regional advantages to attract technicians by establishing laboratories for academicians and researchers, offering funds for scientific and technological innovation.

Chickens nurtured in Pinggu are a great example of local products going abroad. At a chicken farm

in Tanzania, workers there are nurturing chickens and white-feather broilers from Pinggu. Last summer witnessed 15,500 chickens and 1,000 white-feather broilers of Yukou Poultry being exported to Tanzania.

To ensure the chickens could adapt to the environment of Tanzania, technicians of Yukou Poultry made field trips to Tanzania to examine the local production factors, including feeding environment, feed and vaccines before export and sent technicians to work in Tanzania to offer professional guidance.

"The chickens from China can adapt to the local environment, better-resisting diseases than local chickens," said an administrator of the farm. During the trip, the African diplomats discussed how to promote agricultural cooperation between Chinese and African enterprises to ensure food security.

A new meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing this autumn. "When you talk about the FOCAC mechanism, the cooperation between China and Africa, one of the most important topics is agricultural cooperation between China and Africa," said Ibrahim Sory Sylla, Senegalese ambassador to China.



Tanga Port manager Masoud Mrisha (3rd-R) briefs editors from various media institutions who toured the facility at the weekend for a first-hand account of improvements made there. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

TRANSPORT stakeholders have been urged to invest more in drivers' education to reduce road accidents that have been causing losses to property and people's lives.

Morogoro regional traffic officer, Gabriel Chiguma made the call here over the weekend when speaking during the transport stakeholders' day organized by the Kihonda Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) College. The day was attended by various transport stakeholders from within and outside Morogoro Region.

Chiguma said 73 percent of the accidents that occur are caused

## RTO urges transport stakeholders to invest more in drivers' training

by human error and 70 percent of them are contributed by the drivers themselves. "This situation causes great losses including the loss of their property and damage to their vehicles," he said.

He also tasked truck drivers to see the work of driving as a profession like other professions, so respect and care for it and follow all the necessary procedures.

"It is so astonishing when we prevent drunkenness when driving; there are others who continue to do so. It reaches a point where

companies put us on the road to know where we are going, you take a valuable car, a valuable load, but you are going to crash people's car," he stressed.

Chiguma said the biggest challenge for drivers is road communication, and warned that drivers are not strangers, so he asked drivers to follow traffic rules and regulations.

He also urged bodaboda riders to be trained at VETA colleges to understand traffic rules and regulations. The RTO also urged

parents not to take children on the roads with a motorcycle without thorough training from recognized colleges within and outside the region.

"Drivers' awareness is the only way we can reduce road accidents in the region and the country at large," he said.

Theresia Ibrahim, principal of VETA Kihonda appealed to the government and other stakeholders to make the transport stakeholders' day a national day to trim down challenges facing the sector.



Dr Rose Rwakatale, chairperson of CCM's parents' wing for Morogoro Region, pictured in Ifakara town yesterday presenting five tonnes of food aid to Kilombero district commissioner Dunstan Kyoba for use by households affected by recent floods in Mlimba constituency. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## No respite from deadly heat in Mali, the Sahel

BAMAKO

IN Mali, as elsewhere in West Africa, there is no respite from the searing heatwave which has descended on the region.

Souleymane Samake is a presenter at Benbakan community radio station on the outskirts of the capital, Bamako.

He said most of its listeners are farmers and many of his broadcasts are currently focused on the weather.

"The provisional weather forecast predicts 41 degrees during the day. So, this interval will last for a week. Let's be careful don't

go out, we must protect ourselves against this heat," he told listeners at the weekend.

During a break between broadcasts, Samake said the heat was abnormally high, which is why "it is important for us to provide precise information."

While it is the hot season, this year, temperatures in Mali, as elsewhere in the Sahel, are reaching record levels.

On top of hotter temperatures, the country is also suffering under an unprecedented electricity crisis that began last year, leaving citizens with no respite from the heat.

It is also having an impact on the

country's ubiquitous ice sellers, often patronised by those looking to cool drinks during the hot season.

With lots of areas receiving less than six hours of electricity per day, many of them have gone out of business.

Djeneba Dembele has been able to continue selling ice due to a combination of solar power and a generator.

One of her clients, Dramane Traore, stopped by to buy two bags of ice. "We are at 32 or 35 degrees. By 2pm, it will be 40 degrees. It's unbearable, it's so hot right now," he said.

Experts say the deadly heatwave, the worst in living memory, is linked to climate change.

Its impact, particularly on older people, is significant, with many cases of dehydration and heatstroke.

In Sanakoroba's public health clinic, Dr Kane Tounkara said the heat is taking its toll on sick people. Bamako's Gabriel-Touré Hospital reported 102 deaths in the first four days of the month, compared to 130 deaths in all of April last year.

It's unknown how many of the fatalities were due to the extreme weather as such data is not made public.



Coast regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (2nd-R) pictured in Kibiti town at the weekend receiving 250m/- worth of humanitarian aid from Annette Kanora, Vodacom Tanzania's head of public and media relations, in assistance by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation to victims of recent floods in Rufiji and Kibiti districts. They are with VTF manager Sandra Oswald (L), VTF regional sales manager Suleiman Amri (2nd-L) and the Rufiji district commissioner Major Edward Gowele. Photo: Correspondent

# Accra: Digital rights, inclusion forum 2024 to kick off tomorrow

By Guardian Reporter

PLANS are in top gear for the 2024 Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF24), which begins tomorrow and ends on Thursday.

Delegates from 61 countries will be in Accra, Ghana, where conversations on digital policy in Africa will be shaped, policy directions debated, and partnerships forged for action.

The signature event is hosted by pan-African organisation Paradigm Initiative (PIN) under the theme 'Fostering Rights and Inclusion in the Digital Age'. Partner organisations working with PIN to host DRIF24 are E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA), University of Media, Arts and Communication-Institute of Journalism, Media Foundation for West Africa, Inclusive Tech Group, Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter and Human Security Research Centre (HSRC).

Event sponsors include Wikimedia, African Digital Rights Network, Ford Foundation, Luminata, Google, Kingdom of The Netherlands, Mott Foundation, Open Technology Fund (OTF), Internews, Small Media, International Justice Clinic UC Irvine School of Law, among others.

The report also shows that international voice and data tariffs have decreased. East Africa voice tariffs fell from 754 shillings in December 2023 to 727/- a minute in March 2024. The rest of the world's callers saw a fall from 1,960 to 1,899/- a minute in the period.

The report shows a gradual increase in smartphone use - to 32.59 percent in March 2014, from 32.13 percent in December 2023; and the replacement of feature phones. Smartphone use accelerates internet uptake. Feature phones decreased from 85.62 percent in December 2023 to 85.56 in March 2024, which implies that more mobile phone users in the Country are shifting super quality handsets.

views and opinions from civil society, technology companies, government, academia, and other stakeholders.

PIN and partners have successively held 10 DRIF editions since 2013 with this year's being the 11th edition. The organisation received 245 session proposals for DRIF 2024 and is looking forward to hosting over 80 sessions, an increase from last year's 70 sessions.

This year's event will incorporate panel sessions, launches, tech demos, pre-event workshops, lightning talks and exhibitions under diverse tracks, including digital rights, digital inclusion and digital security. Key among them will be the exclusive premiere of PIN's fourth short film Undersight, the launch of the organisation's annual digital rights and inclusion report Londa, and digital toolkits, Ayeta, and Ripoti. This year's report will be presenting findings covering 26 African countries.

Last year's DRIF, held in Nairobi, Kenya, was attended by 601 participants drawn from 50 countries worldwide. The forum hosted sessions focusing on, among other themes, Internet shutdowns, utilisation of the Universal Service Fund (USF), data protection, content moderation, and censorship. There were also key launches of research, platforms, and networks.

Thobekile Matimbe, PIN's senior manager for partnerships and engagements, said the event was not only a meeting of minds but also a testament of collective commitment to shaping a digital landscape that prioritises rights, inclusion and empowerment for all.

The upcoming edition will build on the discussions from the 10th edition, which focused on a sustainable Internet future that leaves no one behind.

# Pace of SIM card registration in Zanzibar increases by 12 pct

By Guardian Reporter

THE trend of SIM card registration in Zanzibar indicates a 12 percent increase in the penetration of mobile phone services among the population.

The newly released communication sector statistics issued by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Director General, Dr Jabiri Bakari, show that SIM card registration in Unguja and Pemba increased by an average of 37.21 percent between September 2022 and March 2024.

The Government is implementing a key project in Zanzibar to facilitate the migration to superior mobile phone services that offer more quality voice communications and faster data transmissions.

Tanzanian government launched the construction of 42 new mobile base transceiver stations in 39 wards in Zanzibar in November

2022. The statistics show that SIM cards now reach 45 percent of the Unguja and Pemba population. The penetration was 26.5 in September 2022, two months before the project.

The March 2024 penetration is higher in Pemba's two regions - 82.5 percent compared with 38.6 percent in Unguja.

The project is part of a programme managed by the Universal Communications Services Access Fund (UCSAF). The Government is currently building 758 new base stations and upgrading more than 300 others in Mainland Tanzania.

Mobile services rollout and geographical coverage increased by between two and four points per technology during the January-March 2024, quarter. Third-generation (3G) mobile services rollout increased from 86 percent to 88 percent. Fourth generation (4G) from 79 to 80 percent. The fifth generation 5G rollout is 13.

The TCRA statistics show that 72,496,095 SIM cards were registered throughout Tanzania by March 2024, of which 1.3 percent are for machine-to-machine communications. Some 70,035,043 SIM cards were registered in January 2024.

Dar es Salaam accounts for 13.3 million subscriptions and ranks first. Mwanza, with 4.8 million is second, followed by Arusha with 4.5 million, Mbeya with 4.2 million and Dodoma with 3.7 million.

Internet subscriptions increased from 36,687,794 subscriptions in January 2024 to 36,771,612 in March 2024. It increased by 37 percent between March 2020 and March 2024 from 26,832,089 to 36,771,612.

Internet subscriptions refer to the total number of lines, including SIM cards and fixed lines, that have accessed and used Internet services over three months, regardless of the technology used.

The report showed that over 99

percent of subscribers access the service on mobile wireless devices.

Data usage increased to 3,702 MB per subscriber in March 2024 compared with 2,957 in December 2023.

The report also shows that international voice and data tariffs have decreased. East Africa voice tariffs fell from 754 shillings in December 2023 to 727/- a minute in March 2024. The rest of the world's callers saw a fall from 1,960 to 1,899/- a minute in the period.

The report shows a gradual increase in smartphone use - to 32.59 percent in March 2014, from 32.13 percent in December 2023; and the replacement of feature phones. Smartphone use accelerates internet uptake. Feature phones decreased from 85.62 percent in December 2023 to 85.56 in March 2024, which implies that more mobile phone users in the Country are shifting super quality handsets.

## TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



### INVITATION TO TENDER NO. TP/04/2024/NCB/S/011 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN OFF SITE

23 April, 2024

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) eligible bidders to bid for the **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN OFF SITE.**
- Eligible bidders are reputable IT service providers locally registered with at least 5 years of experience working with reputable organizations in providing services of a similar nature.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: [tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz](mailto:tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz) by sending an application letter and attach valid certificates for provision of IT services on **Mondays to Fridays at 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM from 23 April, 2024 to 6 May, 2024**
- Bidders MUST visit the site before bidding. The site visit will be conducted on **TUESDAY 30 April 2024 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am local time.**
- During the site visit all bidders will be required to come with their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes Steel Toe Safety Boots, Cotton Overcoat, and helmets. Bidders without PPE will not be allowed onto the site.
- Bids MUST be submitted in hard copies only in envelopes sealed with postal seals or fire seals. Softcopies of bids should submit via a USB flash driver embedded in the hardcopies of bid submitted. No bid should be submitted by email.
- All bids submitted in plain sealed envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and marked **TENDER NO: TP/04/2024/NCB/S/011 FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN OFF SITE.** All bids must be delivered physically to; The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **4.00 P.M. local time on 7 May, 2024.**
- There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- Late bids, a portion of bids, and electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

**THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,  
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),  
P.O. BOX 2608,  
KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.**

## TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



### INVITATION TO TENDER NO. TP/04/2024/NCB/S/010 PROVISION OF CANTEEN SERVICES

23 April, 2024

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk fuel storage facility with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) technically qualified and reputable Caterers to bid for **PROVISION OF CANTEEN SERVICES.**
- Firms eligible to bid must be registered and licenced by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and must provide evidence of at least 5 years of experience working with reputable organizations.
- Bidders who don't meet conditions in part 3 above are not eligible to bid for this tender.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: [tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz](mailto:tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz) by sending an application letter and attach valid certificates from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) on **Mondays to Fridays at 10:00AM to 16:00PM from 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**
- Bidders MUST visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **Thursday, 2nd May, 2024 from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.**
- Bidders are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment PPE's during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Bidders who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to enter onto site.
- All bids must be properly filled in and hardcopies enclosed in plain envelopes marked **TENDER NO: TP/04/2024/NCB/S/010 FOR PROVISION OF CANTEEN SERVICES.** All bid documents must be addressed and delivered to **Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.**
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **16.00Hrs local time on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**
- Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of circumstances.
- Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

**THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,  
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),  
P.O. BOX 2608,  
KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.**

## Not World Bank loan terms; capital formation is real gap

It may not really be much of an issue that international financial organisations need to provide long-term loans without interest so that African countries can fully implement development projects, as a top government official was quoted late last week as having said.

The problem is that, looking at what transpired in the Washington, DC, meeting where this affirmation was being made, it would appear that this demand has already been met.

World Bank lending has various conditions and a range of loans, from the International Development Association, are long-term.

A World Bank write-up says IDA lends money on concessional terms on the basis of zero or very low interest charge, as noted at the weekend meeting.

What the official appeared to be saying was that all World Bank lending needs to be tailored to IDA, whereas IDA is an exception to the rule and can't become the rule as such.

IDA loan repayments are stretched over between 30 and 40 years, with more than half of countries receiving all, or half, of their IDA resources on grant terms, which carry no repayments at all.

What the Treasury executive said was that short-term loans are hurting African countries, and there is thus greater need for long-term loans of between 50 and 70 years and without interest.

The direct request was for the World Bank to consider reviewing its near-term programmes to prioritise Africa for additional financial resources.

The tone that one gets from this appeal is that African nations basically rely on loans of key multilateral agencies as they can't obtain commercial loans. At any rate, if they obtained them as they often do, it soon signals a balance of payments crisis.

There were 22 sub-Saharan Africa countries grouped as a specific zone or 'constituency', chiefly Anglophone ones in the eastern part of the

continent - excluding South Africa.

It was unlikely that any participant would have spelled out why African countries would need to create conditions for vast capital formation, as this idea is relatively unknown in the Bretton Woods institution.

The countries' preference is private sector involvement or, rather covertly, growth led by the private sector.

There is no discussion on competition, efficiency, conditions for large savings or transfer of capital from the West to Africa. At the very best, we hear of Diaspora remittances, etc.

There is renewed interest in multilateral lending as the BRICS option, which was unreliable from the start, has now thinned out - with Russia having never been a big lender to Africa.

China used to be a big lender but its investments are in perilous circumstances similar to investments back home.

There slowing global growth and strategic disputes among major powers are slowing investment levels to a pale shadow of its earlier image.

In that case, China could be seen preferring direct investments by private companies or on a private sector basis even for state-owned corporate entities.

Part of the role that China played in the past two decades has been taken up by emerging upper middle income economies like Turkey and a number of others.

Tanzania's own two key projects, one for the standard gauge railway and the other a major hydropower project, attest to this.

Our cooperation with Turkey and Egypt was pivotal, the reason being that there was a massive cut in unnecessary recurrent expenditure for the government to put up large sums on the table for the projects.

What is needed is a further opening up of the various sectors as well as housing and land ownership so that capital can flow in, in the process removing the need for massive loans.

## 60 years: Prayers not magic wand for the Union, political stability, social harmony

WITH preparations to mark 60 years of the April 26 Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar pick up momentum, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango was yesterday expected to lead a large presence of the government in national prayers in Dodoma city.

The Dodoma regional commissioner was emphatic that the event would see clerics pray for the country's future as it marks 60 years of Union.

On a secular note, meanwhile, the prayers would be preceded by testing standard gauge railway electric trains, ahead of formal operations by early July. The two events understandably show both success and hope.

In the way nations and individuals live, one reaps what one sows and in many cases prayers constitute appeals for divine help so that we don't face the consequences of our own mischief.

Prayer is one face of society while real economic and social activity shows a different face. The first image wishes good for all, while the second face is one of tearing at what there is - pursuit of privileges.

Another difficulty on the way ahead in ensuring that harmony remains in place involves errors in locating sources of satisfaction or desperation, where habits may at times form the biggest obstacle to alleviating systemic sources of disaffection.

For instance, the mid-1990s once saw political loyalties rocked by the issue of privatising the National Bank of Commerce, even as it was vital to rationalise the banking and financial sector generally.

Since then there has been little appetite for privatisation as local professionals don't want their commanding positions to be taken

away by appointees, often of foreign investors.

As a result, the economy is not expanding fast enough and job creation is slow, followed by a largely advisory industry on how youths can employ themselves or start skimpy farming units.

When top leaders appeal to the public to come out in large numbers and join the prayers, it sounds as if this is a lifeline to the nation.

There is no doubt that prayers are held in high esteem by our relatively intense religious culture. But there are aspects in which we ignore cardinal principles learned at Independence - for instance, that "all men (human beings) my brethren and Africa is one", which we have largely repudiated for a more simplistic "all human beings are equal".

Thus we aren't inclined to open up our economy, at times letting burdensome parastatals off the hook all too easily.

There is also something else we aren't learning that it could easily grow into a source of trouble despite signs to that effect being there every day.

This is that land at our disposal cannot carry as many smallholder farmers as we would wish it did, and the swelling numbers of youths in our urban centres can scarcely find jobs.

In Haiti the cocaine industry has become the city pastime and the country has all but collapsed, while differences of opinion between natives and migrants in Sudan have led to genocidal dispossession by armed militia.

Not a single global multilateral agency tells them that landholding is a problem, so the armed herders and meek small land holders are asked to live democratically. It's an absurdity of sorts with vital lessons.

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## New Senegal president likely to take pragmatic approach to 'shaking up' of external relations

By Sampson Kwarkye and Aïssatou Kanté

Kanté

**B**ASSIROU Diomaye Faye's election as Senegal's youngest president on 24 March was celebrated domestically and internationally as confirmation of the country's strong democratic tradition.

Observers believe that Senegalese citizens, and the youth in particular, the Constitutional Council and religious and political actors were impressively resilient in navigating an often violent three-year political crisis. They successfully resisted attempts to extend former president Macky Sall's term in office.

But alongside the praise is uncertainty about how Faye and his political mentor Ousmane Sonko, who has been appointed prime minister, might conduct Senegal's external relations. Sonko, a firebrand critic of Sall who was disqualified from elections following his imprisonment for "corrupting the youth", endorsed Faye's candidacy for president.

The brief campaign period prevented candidates from presenting detailed manifestos. Nevertheless, questions about a possible repositioning of Senegal are borne out by Faye and Sonko's pre-election rhetoric. Their party - Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité - and its political allies issued a campaign programme that called for reclaiming Senegal's sovereignty. It suggested reforming the CFA franc, introducing a new national currency, ensuring mutually beneficial international partnerships, and renegotiating unbalanced natural resources contracts.

Senegalese foreign policy has traditionally featured relations with four main strategic partners: France, Saudi Arabia, the United States (US), and Morocco. It has been underpinned by principles that successive governments have adhered to since independence. These include commitments to African integration and unity, respect for the United Nations Charter and international law, and promoting regional stability.

Equally important have been pragmatism and non-exclusivity in bilateral and multilateral relations. This means Senegal is open to relations with all countries and partners to the extent that they further its national interests. While these principles may guide the Faye government, current issues and contexts could result in particular policy changes.



Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Senegal's president, with his two wives during his inauguration ceremony in Diamniadio, Senegal. 2 April 2024. Photo: Annika Hammerschlag/Bloomberg via Getty Images

### Economic considerations

An important area is the economic dimensions of Senegal's external relations. The ruling coalition's programme calls for left-wing Pan-Africanist policies ensuring greater national ownership and management of national resources. In keeping with this, Faye announced an audit of the oil, gas and mining sectors in his first speech. New Energy and Mines Minister Birame Souleye Diop reinforced this by indicating that existing contracts could be renegotiated on completion of the audit.

This comes against the backdrop of popular misgivings that some of these contracts weren't negotiated in the interest of Senegal and wouldn't benefit ordinary citizens. External partners and investors could therefore expect some form of economic nationalism.

However, a more cautious approach to the CFA franc's future and Senegal's membership of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Waemu) could be expected. Both Faye and Sonko had criticised the lack of monetary sovereignty.

The country's currency, used by seven other Waemu members, is pegged to the euro, and the Dakar-based central bank (BCEAO) conducts monetary policy. Faye and Sonko previously advocated for an exit from what they considered the tutelage of France over the BCEAO, and replacing the CFA franc with a currency that would better benefit local economies.

Sonko clarified his stance in a pre-election press conference, saying a new currency would be introduced only if CFA franc reforms at the

sub-regional level failed. His appointment of Abdourahmane Sarr - an economist known for his reformist stance on the currency - as Economy, Planning and Cooperation Minister, signals his intent to pursue reform. However, there is awareness of a replacement currency's complexities and potential consequences, including managing exchange rates and inflationary impacts.

Similarly, significant shifts in regional engagements appear unlikely. Senegal is an active Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) member and considers the bloc an important partner in ensuring regional stability, especially in neighbouring Guinea-Bissau and Gambia. These two countries, which border Senegal's southern Casamance region, are crucial to finding a definitive solution to the region's long-standing conflict.

### Security contribution

This partly explains Senegal's support to the Ecowas Mission in The Gambia, despite growing weariness among some Gambians, and its troop contribution to the bloc's Stabilisation Support Mission in Guinea-Bissau. Senegal's new authorities will have to strengthen relations not only between states but also among populations.

Security and economic benefits, including access to a West African market of about 394 million people, means a weak Ecowas isn't beneficial to Senegal. In fact, the ruling coalition has committed to reforming the bloc's institutions to make them inclusive of its people.

Supporting a stronger Ecowas means Senegal can help bring Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger back

into the regional institution. The three countries formed the Alliance of Sahelian States in September 2023 and in January withdrew from Ecowas over its handling of their coups.

Sonko has in the past expressed support for Mali's interim leader Assimi Goïta, and Senegal's new leaders share the Pan-Africanist and sovereignist ideals of their Sahelian counterparts. Despite this, the country's triumphant election confirmed its status as a strong democracy, making a union with the military-led countries unlikely.

The three Sahelian states were invited to Faye's inauguration - showing the president's interest in keeping relations cordial while working on Ecowas reforms, and possibly helping create conditions for their return. These engagements don't mean Senegal will replicate the Alliance of Sahelian States' strong ties with actors such as Russia, or terminate security cooperation with existing partners. France, the US and European Union have supported Senegalese defence and security forces over the past decades.

Senegal will probably remain pragmatic by sustaining relations with its traditional partners, expanding existing ones and building new ties. This can be done while being sensitive to anti-imperialist and Pan-Africanist sentiments among a mostly youthful population.

**Sampson Kwarkye, Project Manager and Aïssatou Kanté, Researcher, Littoral West African States, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin.**



# Malecela at 90: A leader in political field and a truly devoted family man

**L**AST Saturday, April 20 2024, Tanzania's long-serving politician and former Prime Minister Dr John Samweli Malecela celebrated his 90th birthday, being among the few leaders who have been blessed to continue enjoying the sunshine after quitting the hectic political corridor.

His vibrant experience spans various domains, including politics, public leadership, business and economy, finance and administration, as well as international relations. Our reporter, VALENTINE OFORO, interviewed the former premier as he celebrates years of being one of the country's icon leaders.

**Question: Who is Dr John Samweli Malecela?**

Answer: Dr John Samweli Malecela is a Tanzanian who was born on April 20th 1934 at Mvumi Mission in Dodoma Region, under the roof of Samweli Malecela's household—the then church leader who managed to erect his own church some 6 kilometers from Msanga area of Mvumi ward where he served Lord for years and after his death, he was buried at his church grounds.

My grandfather is said to have been born way back between 1885 and 1986, he was a great man who dedicated his lifetime in dealing with faith and church issues. He fathered seven male children, including my father Samweli, and worked hard to ensure all of the children are educated.

And, it was these children who later on established village schools, the then vital facilities which laid a crucial foundation to trigger availability of education services as well as learning culture among villagers.

My father, Samweli decided to extend his living foothold in Mpwapwa before he shifted to Mvumi ward in Dodoma where I was born. This is John Malecela and I thank God for blessing me with all these years.

**Q: You are one of the few oldest leaders and politicians in the country who ventured into politics since 1960s, can you tell us the secret behind your long living?**

A: First of all, I would like to thank God for giving me a peculiar blessing of continuing to survive at this old age, sometimes I even ask myself and wonder what exactly is making me continue to breathe and enjoy the sunshine, only to realize that it is by His grace.

For any human being, living long or short is based on the decision of the Lord, but it also depends on individual's willingness and ability to survive in accordance with the recommended healthy living tips, especially eating and drinking habits. Living healthy requires one to do physical exercises.

I used to drink alcohol when I was young, but years have passed since I decided to live healthy whereas I have been observant on what I eat and drink.

On top of that, I grew up in the hands of a 'faith-based' father who was in the forefront to ensure I adopt positive living behaviors since my childhood. My parents played unforgettable roles in enabling me to grow-up and become a sensible man who embraces key humanity values and behaviors. I walk between three and five kilometers every morning, this makes me more physically stable.

**Q: Putting aside the politics, Dr Malecela is what**



Former Prime Minister, Dr John Samweli Malecela

**kind of a father and husband?**

A: Basically, I have always been a responsible father committed to taking good care of my children. Despite the fact that I have been occupied with a lot of work, I tried my best to accomplish my spousal responsibilities and be a good husband.

**Q: Is there any relation between your family history and you being a leader?**

A: My father was an educated person who during his 'heydays' worked tirelessly to ensure his children get ample opportunity to access quality education. As they said, education is a key to life, after receiving education I came to be aware of the effects of colonial rule which prevailed in the country during those days.

I was inspired to venture into politics during the liberation struggle, especially the strong movements which emerged in Rufiji and Lindi and thus, I decided to join the fray.

Decisions to participate in politics were meant to have a crucial podium to add-up a strong muscle in the fight against colonialism and oppression, as well as voicing for the voiceless. Between 1965 and 1959 I was in India for studies, and during that time India attained independence after a long-struggle. This motivated me to join the fight, wishing to see my country escape

from the hands of colonialists.

**Q: Being a public leader has any negative effects on family?**

A: It is not wise to mention specific names, but I know a number of families of high-educated individuals and leaders whose families have totally failed to take off.

To be a public leader has a number of challenges especially in getting enough time to serve then nation, family and fulfill spousal responsibilities. Most leaders find themselves occupied with daily responsibilities to the tune of failing to practice parental care. This gap in children up-bringing has been evidencing in the families of most of the public leaders where you will find children are adopting negative behaviors due to lack of parental care. This also happens within families of common people.

For my case, thank God that I was striving harder to set ample hours and days to spend with my family and give them all the needed parental comfort, as well as serving for my marriage. When I was the Minister for East African Community (EAC), I used to reside in Arusha Region, but I could find time at least one a month to go for vacation with my family.

**Q: Do you think the current political**

**and leadership system has proper institutions to mold future leaders?**

A: Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) used to have tailor-made institutions for shaping young active leaders, for instance in Dodoma there was the college in Hombolo ward, Mlale in Songea Region and Lushoto District in Tanga Region.

We used to send CCM youth to colleges whereas they were imparted with requisite leadership skills. Most of these colleges stopped operating when the country adopted the multiparty system in 1992. The Lushoto college became the institute for training lawyers while the one at Hombolo trains local government leaders.

**Q: Last year President Samia Suluhu Hassan reinstated the position of deputy prime minister and appointed Dr Dotto Biteko to handle the key post. What's your comment on this?**

A: Yes! And if at all we want to be honest on this, we need to stress over what has been happening since reinstating the position by asking ourselves this question, 'are there any changes?'

For me, there have been countless positive developments. Dr Biteko has been demonstrating high maturity in executing his responsibilities to the tune of stimulating development at various socioeconomic sectors. This has enabled him to receive a welcoming-hand from the entire public in the country. Therefore, President Samia has made a sober decision to place-back the position.

**Q: We have seen a good number of women appointed at different decision making positions. Do you think they are holding enough muscles to stand as leaders?**

A: Where could we (men) be in absence of women? If they can manage to handle the hardest task of bringing us in the world, what other task they cannot accomplish?

It is wise for Tanzanians to start thinking critically and positively against women. People should refrain from negative gender-based notions, it is also necessary to come out from the fallacy of reasoning on 50/50 gender perspectives. It's crucial to select public leaders based on their per-

formance abilities and not gender attachments. Human beings are all equal, let's not entertain gender issues in leadership.

**Q: To what extent has ruling CCM managed to promote democracy and political maturity within the party?**

A: One among the key factors that enabled CCM to continue thriving as the only strong party in the country's political and leadership corridor is a tendency of conducting regular evaluation over the party's performance.

Through the well-established system, the members are getting vital techniques to update their performance in order to embrace the needed changes to help transform the party's set manifesto into reality for the betterment of Tanzanians.

This is the secret behind CCM's flourishing leadership.

There was a time when election of leaders within the party was banking on a few party bigwigs who used to draft names of their proposed leaders, and the names were automatically endorsed by all members.

Today, things have changed as leaders are elected depending on their leadership merits. People are free to choose leaders of their choice.

**Q: In celebrating your 90th birthday, what is your message to President Samia?**

A: Speaking from the bottom of my heart, I want to tell you that I deeply admire President Samia for the good roles she is playing in developing this country. She is a truly hard working leader who is pushing for the country's economic growth.

We are witnessing tremendous changes and growth in almost all the sectors including electricity, transportation, supply of safe and clean water, health services, education, infrastructures and many others. Tanzanians should support her development endeavors that are geared to transform the country.

Personally, I wish her a long life and may God give her wisdom and courage to continue serving Tanzanians as well as leading the nation towards a more bright future.

# Leveraging professional engineering data for Africa's future

Papias Dedeki Kazawadi

**G**ROWING up, studying, and working in East Africa, particularly in Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, I am always fascinated by the potential of technology to transform lives.

My passion is always fueled by the stark contrast between the promise of innovation and the daily challenges my region faces due to the lack of sufficient and proper engineering solutions.

My journey began with a simple, yet profound choice to pursue a career in engineering, driven by the dream of bringing meaningful change to my country and the entire continent at large.

This decision wasn't easy; it came with its share of sacrifices and risks, especially being the first in my family and probably the first in my country and the continent to attain an engineering degree after nineteen years instead of four or five!

The journey was fraught with challenges, from financial constraints to family and the skepticism of those who couldn't yet see the vision I was chasing. Nevertheless, embracing these challenges opened a world of opportunities for me.

Upon completing my diploma in Uganda and later a degree in Rwanda armed with knowledge and a burning desire to make an impact, ever since I returned to my country in 1994.

Together with other Rwandans, under the leadership of the current government, we embarked on activities to rebuild, renew, and develop to improve the well-being of Rwandan people by leveraging the available human and material resources available at the time and actually kept improving up-to-date.

Rwanda's experience underscores the essence of our collective call for action to look beyond the immediate challenges and seize the immense potential for engineering innovations to drive sustainable development across the continent. Let this be a beacon in encouraging others to take that pivotal step towards realising the future we envision for Africa.

Need for the shift to data-driven engineering profession for Africa's future

In the pursuit of realising the ambitious vision encapsulated by the African Union's Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want" and the transformative potential of initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), our approach to engineering and technological development needs a foundational shift.

As the President of the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO), I am compelled to emphasise an often-overlooked cornerstone necessary for the sustainable and equitable progress of our con-

continent. The rigorous establishment, progression, accreditation, and management of professional engineering education and competency frameworks with reliable data.

I believe the essential collaboration between African governments, industry practitioners, and civil society organisations is a critical factor for the effective execution and meaningful impact of policies and projects across the continent.

This collaborative approach takes advantage of each sector's distinct strengths and insights, ensuring initiatives are realistic, tailored to the unique needs of communities, and maintainable over time.

Industry practitioners contribute firsthand experience and practical understanding of market forces, while civil society organisations provide insight into community needs, vulnerabilities, and goals. When governments proactively involve these groups, policies are developed with a richer perspective and implemented more smoothly and powerfully.

This collaboration will encourage innovation, improve resource use, and strengthen community backing, driving

transformative changes that affect both local and national levels within the continent.

Engineering gets less attention in STEM education. In the context of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as a transformative tool for Africa's right change, there is a noticeable lack of initiatives specifically designed to promote engineering as a source of unique solutions to continental issues.

Engineering is a vital component of STEM that applies scientific and mathematical principles to solve practical problems, making it uniquely positioned to address Africa's diverse challenges.

However, despite its potential, engineering often receives less attention and fewer resources than its STEM counterparts. Therefore, I believe boosting support for engineering within these cross-sector collaborations can unlock unprecedented opportunities for innovation and practical solutions tailored to the African context.

By integrating engineering more prominently in strategies to advance STEM education and application, African nations can harness creative and efficient solutions for

economic development, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability among others.

This focused approach not only highlights the indispensable role of engineering within STEM but also ensures a comprehensive strategy for solving some of Africa's most pressing problems through synergistic partnerships.

Peter Drucker, a towering figure in the field of management, famously stated, "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it." His words of wisdom ring particularly true in the context of engineering's role in Africa's development.

But, without concrete data on the competency and education of our engineering professionals, how can we expect to undertake projects that are crucial for the integration and economic growth of Africa?

Furthermore, echoing the principle attributed to Albert Einstein, "In God we trust, all others bring data," it becomes clear that faith in progress must be underpinned by tangible evidence and rigorous scrutiny.

For too long, most African countries have operated without proper engineering education and competency accreditation frameworks, a deficiency that directly translates into the absence of the critical data necessary for informed decision-making and policy formulation.

The challenges are substantial but not insurmountable. To address this, with empathy and humility, it is vital to prioritize essential tasks such as the establishment of comprehensive engineering accreditation frameworks, investing in quality engineering education, fostering data-driven policy-making, promoting open access to data, and encouraging private sector involvement.

The journey towards "The Africa We Want" is a communal one, requiring the concerted effort of leaders, policymakers, educators, engineers, and the broader community. By putting professional engineering data at the heart of our development strategy, we equip ourselves with the necessary tools to build resilient, sustainable, and integrated economies across Africa.

Let us measure, manage, and move forward together, with data as our compass and collective prosperity as our destination.



Engineers during a study tour at the ongoing construction activities of Nyabarongo Hydropower plant.

# Caribbean startups are turning excess seaweed into an agroecology solution

By Marlowe Starling

**I**N 2015, smelly mats of a brown macroalgae called sargassum piled as high as 1.2 meter (4 feet) on the beaches of Barbados, recalls Joshua Forte. It was the fourth year in what has become an annual nightmare, with an estimated 18,100 kilograms (20 tons) of seaweed inundating Caribbean shorelines each year and wrecking the region's tourism-centered economies.

The onslaught of seaweed reeked of rotten eggs, but Forte smelled something else: opportunity.

A year earlier, Forte founded an organic fertilizer company called Red Diamond Compost. He was already selling a soil additive from sunflower seeds called Liquid Sunshine. But the sargassum seemed too big to ignore.

So, Forte started to collect the seaweed by hand, hauling 27-kg (60-pound) bags of it into the back of a pickup truck. It became the raw material for a new product called Supreme Sea, a soil additive that includes growth-stimulating plant hormones and microorganisms extracted from the sargassum. After extraction, Forte composts what's left over into a humus-rich product that's safe for crops. The idea was to "have as big of an impact as possible on the influx of sargassum while contributing in a positive way to agriculture," Forte said.

Sargassum contains a slew of nutrients, minerals and microorganisms that can foster and even accelerate plant growth, such as iron, magnesium, potassium, calcium and more. But rather than add nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus into the soil, it does something savvy: Its properties help plants be more efficient at taking up those nutrients, incentivizing less synthetic fertilizer application in exchange for higher yields and healthier plants and crops. It's a trending solution that could double as both a regional economic opportunity and a new tool for agroecology, a sustainable farming approach that targets food security in tandem with environmental health. Now, a few other entrepreneurs across the Caribbean are developing an industry for sargassum-based agricultural products – and interest is growing, Forte said.

"It could be really huge for the Caribbean economy," said Allen McGonagill, the chief sustainability officer for Carbonwave, a company collecting sargassum in Mexico and Puerto Rico. He said sargassum can be used to make a slew of products, from plastic- and leather-like materials to biofuels and cosmetics. If these industries become large enough, they could collectively keep sargassum off the beaches, which would be a boon for the tourism sector.

Scientists think nitrogen pollution from agricultural runoff in the Amazon River Basin is one of the main reasons why the sargassum blooms have grown so out of control over the past decade or so, in addition to warmer ocean temperatures from climate change and increased volumes of Saharan dust, which carries added nutrients as it wafts over the Atlantic Ocean.

"Taking what nature is producing in overabundance and finding good uses for that is just such a better way of thinking about how we produce materials than the synthetic mindset" of prioritizing cookie-cutter production, McGonagill stated. A branch of Carbonwave, called Sarga Agriscience, is specifically focused on creating a plant-growth extract called SargaExtra.

"Sargassum lends itself to the agriculture side, primarily because of the volume," said Jonas Kunz, Carbonwave's agriculture director. Plus, he added, sargassum "has this kind of natural cocktail of good ingredients."

Sargassum acts like a sponge in the ocean, absorbing nutrients and minerals as it floats around the Atlantic. But that comes with one particularly dangerous drawback: Much of the seaweed contains high levels of arsenic, making it extremely dangerous to apply on soil without treating it first. Some farmers in Vieques, Puerto Rico, did just that, prompting an islandwide law prohibiting the use of sargassum for fertilizers and composts.

To avoid this health hazard, fertilizer companies, as well as folks creating at-home versions of composts from sargassum, need to properly rinse and process the seaweed. At Sarga Agriscience, this was a crucial step in the company's development.

"We had to really look at the extraction method, and we found ways in which we can essentially extract all the good stuff and concentrate that," Kunz said. Carbonwave uses a cold-pressing process, squeezing out the nutrients without destroying any of the beneficial proteins with heat or acids. They also don't use heavy chemicals to filter out the unwanted ingredients, such as heavy metals. Other ways of turning sargassum into organic agricul-



Sargassum in Cuba's Villa Clara province.

tural products are by fermentation, where microbes break down sugars and other components, or by drying the seaweed and then grinding it up. The latter doesn't make the valuable components accessible to plants because they're still trapped inside the cells, McGonagill explained.

Sargassum's ability to absorb nutrients also makes it a helpful aid to terrestrial plants. "We're helping the [crop] plant be more efficient at taking those nutrients out of the soil," McGonagill added.

It's a tool that can help boost yields as much as 10%, Kunz said – a significant increase. So far, their team has seen the best results in barley, corn and soy. And while organic additives such as SargaExtra and other biostimulants aren't total replacements for fertilizer, they can reduce the amount needed.

## A nutrient-pollution solution

Sargassum-based plant growth products, such as SargaExtra and Red Diamond's Supreme Sea, may be efficient means of not only reducing sargassum on coastlines, but also of reducing nitrogen inputs in soil.

Nitrogen loads from synthetic fertilizers pose a global problem: When excess fertilizer runs off into rivers, lakes and oceans, or when it trickles down into groundwater, it creates a nitrogen surplus, which can cause harmful algal blooms and threaten human health.

As a case in point, Red Diamond conducted trials of its Supreme Sea biostimulant on sports turfs in the United Kingdom with synthetic fertilizers to test which combination resulted in the most optimal turf color. They found that halving the quantity of synthetic fertilizers while using Supreme Sea produced better color than synthetic fertilizers alone.

"We were trying to understand ... how the product affects the efficiency of the nutrient uptake by the plants," Forte said. "[The result] kind of indicates that a lot of nitrogen is still being put into the environment that's not necessary."

Red Diamond has tested its biostimulant in other locations too. Field trials in Spain showed yield increases in tomatoes and cucumbers, and they're beginning to test products in Cameroon and other African countries. Forte said they aim to improve food security and soil health around the world.

There's a huge need for that type of improvement in the Caribbean alone.

"I don't think we have paid as much attention to producing good food the way we used to produce good food," said Marcia Brandon, managing director for the Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods, a Barbados-based NGO dedicated to helping entrepreneurs kickstart their ideas. "We are known in this region for producing agriculture ... but somehow, we let it slip away with the introduction of fertilizers and different chemicals. We have not stood guard over our own food supply."

Brandon considers Red Diamond part of the solution to food security and sovereignty in the Caribbean. If Barbados can reinvigorate its soil and use more sustainable products like Forte's, she said, then the island could undo its dependence on chemicals within the next decade.

Farmers are generally opposed to reducing their fertilizer inputs, McGonagill said, so he hopes products like SargaExtra can

incentivize cutting back on fertilizer use by a small percentage.

"We do see part of our role as harnessing those nutrients and then putting them back into agriculture," he said.

## A challenging waste source

While these products are intended to boost agricultural yields and residential gardens, the other major function is, of course, to help reduce the massive amounts of sargassum hitting shorelines.

"It is a waste source," McGonagill said, noting that prior to the inaugural onslaught in 2011, sargassum was scarce on Caribbean beaches. He added that it's helpful to think of sargassum more as an invasive species – a foreign, nuisance organism that needs to be removed.

"While I think we are one of the largest companies that are collecting sargassum and trying to put it to use, we are still only scratching the surface," McGonagill said.

Indeed, of the 20 million estimated tons of sargassum that makes its way across the Caribbean each year, Carbonwave collected just 25,000 tons last year.

"If the agricultural industry adopted sargassum-based extracts, it could entirely solve the problem of sargassum on the beaches," McGonagill added. "But, obviously, that's a big transition for the industry."

Seasonality remains one of the biggest challenges to scaling up production. Although huge amounts of sargassum hit the beaches annually from March to October, it isn't available year-round. Plus, the exact amount varies from year to year. Estimates currently rely on a combination of satellite data and manual measurements on beaches. As of yet, accurate estimates are difficult to pin down.

For that reason, Sarga Ag produces extra product during sargassum season and plans for the remaining inventory. Their liquid product can stay stored on shelves, but for smaller companies, this seasonality is a barrier to establishing a reliable sargassum-based business.

"There is a problem: It is not predictable," said Daveian Morrison, the founder of a Jamaican company called Awganic Inputs that was using sargassum for goat feed. But when Morrison saw research citing concerns about arsenic levels, he abandoned goat-feed production. He said he'd like to see more research on arsenic levels across the Caribbean to gain a better understanding of how it's distributed throughout the environment – and he would eagerly jump back into the goat feed sector once the science is clearer.

Many studies have quantified arsenic concentrations in sargassum across the Caribbean in an attempt to assess its scope. But concentrations vary from location to location, making localized testing necessary.

Collecting large volumes of seaweed is, no pun intended, another major barrier. Not only is timing essential, but using boats and equipment is a considerable cost compared with the time-intensive manual labor of collecting sargassum by hand.

That's why Forte's next big investment at Red Diamond is a floating barrier with netting that extends 3 feet deep to capture sargassum before it hits the shore. This could also help trap the seaweed for weeks as a way to extend the time it's available for harvest.

As soon as sargassum hits the shore, it starts to decompose. This releases smelly hydrogen sulfide and ammonia into the air, powerful toxins that can cause respiratory issues. And while it can be col-

lected from beaches, it needs to be fresh enough to use for biofertilizers.

Carbonwave mostly collects seaweed onshore and in the shallows; collecting it too far offshore, McGonagill pointed out, can disrupt the seaweed's function as a nursery for small fish and other critters in the open ocean. But beached sargassum can entangle wildlife, including preventing sea turtle hatchlings from reaching the water.

Small-scale industry or regional boon?

While the industry remains a small club, the issue isn't going away. Mexico uses sargassum for a long list of products, such as eco-concrete and biogas. And in Miami, a recent initiative offered cash prizes for innovative uses of sargassum as a mitigation measure, including Carbonwave and a St. Lucian biofertilizer company called Algas Organics. As the industry grows, Morrison anticipated that "ownership" over sargassum, depending on its location in the water, could become a point of contention.

For now, the agroecological benefits of using sargassum to help produce more nutritious food are what keep Forte motivated at Red Diamond.

As a child, his grandmother's garden was paradise. He climbed mango trees, plucked ripe bananas off the stems and stole the occasional "finger fruit," a local term for carambola (star fruit, Averrhoa carambola), as an afternoon snack. Forte watched as she recycled plant matter back into the soil, allowing the crops to proliferate year-round.

Looking back, Forte realized his grandmother was practicing what is now called permaculture, a style of agroecology that prioritizes recycling nutrients in a zero-waste manner.

"Nature is something that is ever-changing," Forte said. "We have to be as flexible and as adaptable as nature to be able to work with it effectively."

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Women cooperative for vegetables transforming Ivory Coast's rural areas

ABIDJAN

IN the village of Fapaha in the north of Ivory Coast, women have formed a cooperative to grow vegetables and sell their produce on the market, allowing them to raise money for their families without relying on hand-outs.

"In the days when I didn't grow onions, when I needed something, I had to ask someone (for help) (saying), sorry, could you help me", explained Mariam Sulue, the Secretary of Fapaha Women's Association.

The project has benefited from the help of the World Food Programme, which has provided them with agricultural tools and ways to sell their produce to the local school canteen.

"We are supporting a number of farming groups, mainly made up of women, by giving them the means to produce through the supply of farming inputs, as well as farming techniques", said Olivia Hantz, WFP chief in Ivory Coast.

The farming project also allows women to become the main players in the life of the village. They

have achieved an important place in rural society, which generally tends to be male dominated.

"The woman who works in the market garden already has a reserved place in the village nobility hierarchy," said economic analyst Jean-Marie Biada.

During the cooperative's collaboration with the village school cafeteria in 2022 and 2023, they were able to produce 25 tons of vegetables on 99 acres (40 hectares) and 10 tons of legume on 44 acres (18 hectares).

According to a U.K.-funded study in Ivory Coast in 2020, 42.9 percent of women in the country work in agriculture, more than any other sector.

Yet women are more vulnerable in the agricultural domain because customs around land favour men.

Only 8 percent of women own land, as opposed to 22 percent of men. And when women get married, they often lose access to land in case of the death of their husband, in which case they are expected to return to their pre-marital family.



## Drive to unlock school girls' potential to access education unveiled in Geita

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

**G**IRLS in Geita Region are now breathing a sigh of relief following a new initiative to address menstrual hygiene challenges aimed at unlocking their full potential to education.

For far too long, the stigma and shame associated with menstruation has prevented girls from accessing the education they deserve, trapping them in a cycle of missed classes and diminished opportunities.

But now, thanks to the tireless efforts by Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML) which has taken on the challenge of addressing the critical issue in local schools, the results have been nothing short of life-changing.

By distributing sanitary pads and providing comprehensive menstrual health education, the company has empowered girls like Kulwa Lameck, a Form Four student at Nyakabale Secondary School, to reclaim their rightful place in the classroom.

"The menstrual hygiene education we received from GGML is very important because it has given me more confidence, I feel free all the time, even during menstruation, I don't have to worry now that I know what to do and have the facilities to keep me comfortable," said Kulwa.

The words were echoed by Rosemary Nicolaus, a teacher at Nyankumbu Secondary School who said she has seen a remarkable change in her students' attendance and academic performance since the menstrual hygiene training.

"After the menstrual hygiene education, the girls' attendance has improved significantly, and their confidence in their studies has increased.



Nyakabale Secondary School students are among the recipient of sanitary pads and menstrual hygiene education in Geita Region.

This has been a game changer for our girls, it has enlightened their lives now and, in the future," she said. "In Tanzania and much of the developing world, menstruation remains a taboo subject, shrouded in misinformation and cultural stigma.

According to UNICEF, every day 300 million women and girls do not

have access to a comfortable environment, safe sanitary products, or a private space to manage their periods.

This lack of support has far-reaching consequences, with girls missing up to 40 days of school each year due to menstruation-related problems.

But the tide is turning, thanks to the tireless efforts of organizations like GGML. By addressing the root causes of the problem and providing girls with the knowledge and resources they need, they are not only improving educational outcomes, but also breaking down the societal barriers that have long held

women back. Emily Zachariah, a Form Three student at Nyakabale Secondary School, eloquently puts it, "Now I know that menstruation is an integral part of creation for girls, it is something normal and part of their lives, it needs to be valued and respected." The road ahead may be long, but the progress made in Geita

serves as a beacon of hope for girls across Tanzania and beyond. By continuing to invest in menstrual hygiene education and access to essential products, companies like GGML are not only transforming individual lives, but also paving the way for a more equitable and empowered future for all.

## Education exchange boosts career development of Rwandan students

KIGALI

IN the heart of Musanze town in northern Rwanda, a transformative partnership is shaping the futures of young Rwandans.

Integrated Polytechnic Regional College-Musanze (IPRC Musanze), a public higher learning institution, recently signed a five-year agreement with Jinhua Polytechnic of East China's Zhejiang Province for an exchange program. Thirty students from IPRC Musanze will study for two years in Rwanda and one year in China for an advanced diploma.

Umwali Ange Natacha, an e-

commerce major at IPRC Musanze, expressed her enthusiasm about studying digitalization and global commerce in China.

"I am really excited and honoured that IPRC Musanze is giving us the opportunity to go to China," she said. "Studying in China will boost our minds and enhance our careers in entrepreneurship. Innovation fosters our problem-solving mindset, which will be helpful in the e-commerce industry."

Her sentiments are shared by Ishimwe Yasil, a third-year student in electrical automation technology. "I have high expectations for the program in China, as it will



Students operate robotic arms at the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College-Musanze (IPRC Musanze), in Musanze, northern Rwanda, April 15, 2024. (Xinhua/Ji Li)

enhance both my practical skills and theoretical knowledge," Yasil said. "This will make me very competitive in my future career as an electrical automation engineer,

enabling me to excel in any job, including within our electrical automation industry."

He said that the collaboration between IPRC Musanze and Jinhua

Polytechnic signifies a bridge between cultures and a platform for mutual learning.

Wu Weixin, a teacher from Jinhua Polytechnic working in Rwanda, highlighted the approach of the partnership, noting that the Rwanda Luban Workshop is an innovative international vocational education service project from China aimed at enhancing technical and vocational education training in Rwanda.

A local teacher gives a lecture to the students at the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College-Musanze (IPRC Musanze), in Musanze, northern Rwanda, April 15, 2024.

E-commerce and electrical automation technology are the two majors of the Luban Workshop collaboration, which they are currently implementing a 2+1 model based on these standards for teaching

and practice in both Rwanda and China. It has been incorporated into Rwanda's vocational technical standards by Rwanda Polytechnic, the Higher Education Council of Rwanda, and the Ministry of Education of Rwanda, Wu said.

As the selected students prepare for their journey to China, they are eager to make full use of this opportunity to enrich their lives and knowledge, with the intention of returning to Rwanda to contribute to the country's development.

Since 2018, IPRC Musanze has graduated over 1,700 students and offers a range of courses including irrigation and drainage technology, construction technology, highway engineering, e-commerce and information technology. Student enrollment has grown significantly from just 171 in 2014 to more than 1,800 currently.

By Special Correspondent

# 30 years on, SA still dismantling legacy of racism and apartheid

**R**ETHABILE Ratsomo said it's the little things that remind her of her perceived "place" in South African society.

There are the verbal slights and side-eye in workspaces, where she's been viewed as a B-BBEE hire (The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment programme in South Africa that seeks to advance and transform the participation of black people in the country's economy) and therefore not capable of doing the work. There are the passive-aggressive comments from colleagues, constantly complimenting her on how well she speaks English. She has lived through the daily microaggressions that form part of her life.

"I am a born-free and despite being born after the advent of democracy in South Africa, my race continues to play a huge role in my being, as a South African," Ratsomo said, 29, who currently works at the Anti-Racism Network and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation. "Many people continue to normalise racial discrimination and perpetuate harmful behaviours. Racism remains rife."

Thirty years since the end of Apartheid, South Africa still grapples with its legacy. Unequal access to education, unequal pay, segregated communities and massive economic disparities persists, much of it is reinforced by existing institutions and attitudes. How is it that racism and its accompanying discrimination continues to hold such sway in this, majority Black populated and Black governed nation?

Racism has deep roots in the economic, spatial and social fabric of this country. It reflects the legacy of oppression and subjugation from apartheid and colonialism. While progress has been made to eliminate the scourge of racism it requires everyone to do their part for it to be eliminated, said Abigail Noko, Representative for UN Human Rights Regional Office of Southern Africa (OHCHR ROSA)

"Dismantling such entrenched racist and discriminatory systems re-



A group of students learn more about human rights during a discussion.

quires commitment, leadership, dialogue and advocacy to put in place anti-racist policies that implement human rights norms and provide a framework to help address and rectify these injustices and promote equality," she added.

### Free your mind and the rest will follow

The project of dismantling racist systems in a place like South Africa, must go hand in hand with the process of decolonization – both at an institutional and an individual level, said Professor Tshepo Madlingozi, a Commissioner at the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

"History has shown that unless you have decolonized your mind, you are going to step into the shoes of the oppressor and oppress other people over and over again," he said.

Madlingozi's comments were part of a panel discussion on dismantling racist systems in South Africa, which took place during the Human Rights Festival in Johannesburg in March, which aligns with national Human Rights Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The discussion, sponsored by OHCHR ROSA, had three panellists providing their answers to the overarching question, how can racism present in the "rainbow nation" be dismantled to bring about freedom, equality, and justice for all?

Samkelo Mkhomi, a social justice and equality activist in her 20s, agreed that an internal mindset change was needed, especially among young people. She said she noticed that many of her born-free peers, i.e., someone who was born after the advent of democracy in South Af-

rica, harbour suspicious and distrustful attitudes toward other races. She mentioned a friend who has a distrust of all white people. When Mkhomi asked why, he told her "because of what they did in the past." She called this deliberate lack of understanding among her peers as hereditary and a big stumbling block in moving forward.

"We have set perceptions and stereotypes that we've inherited from family, from social experiences, experiences that are not our own," Mkhomi said. "And we've used that as a blueprint to view other people. Once you can get rid of that as young people, I feel like we can start moving on and dismantling racism."

Madlingozi suggested one way to do this could be to not only focus on individual racist incidences, but also to bring more awareness, and push for policies in institutions that deconstruct current ways of working.

"What matters is, have we dismantled the institutions, the cultures that perpetuate racism," he said. "Because unless you do that, you'll have Black people, you will have a Black government that will continue to perpetuate racism because that is the nature of institutionalised racism. So yes, let's focus on individual human rights. Let's focus on social justice, but where it matters the most is structural institutionalized oppression."

### Casting a long shadow

The scars of Apartheid run deep, leaving a legacy of segregation, discrimination and inequality. This is evidenced by the stark economic disparities in the country. A 2022 World Bank report on inequality in southern Africa gave South Africa the unfortunate distinction of being the most unequal country in the world.

The report stated that 80 percent of the country's wealth was in the hands of 10 percent of the population. And it is the Black population who factor the most into the poorest category. The report places the blame for the income disparities directly on race.

"The legacy of colonialism and Apartheid rooted in racial and spatial segregation continues to reinforce inequality," the report states.

The spatial divide mirrors the economic one.

The evil genius of Apartheid was the segregation project, as it allowed the Government to not only separate people based on arbitrary categorisations, but through this create material differences between the communities to reinforce the idea of actual racial differences, said Tessa Dooms. These racial classifications also encouraged the idea that the different groups needed to compete for basic human rights, dignity and economic opportunities, she added. "The Apartheid government didn't just give people categories, they gave real live material meaning to those categories," said Dooms, Director of Programmes for

Rivonia Circle during the panel discussion. "As long as those categories mean something in the world, we still have work to do, to undo Apartheid, to undo colonialism, to decolonize."

To do this, Dooms recommended practical vision as to what a decolonized South Africa would look like, being very specific about the results wanted. She also called on the privileged groups to do the heavy lifting of helping to create more equality. Until those with privileges work to broaden access to them, the cycle will continue, Dooms added.

"We cannot leave creating a more just world to the people who are most affected by injustice," she said. "It's not fair, it's not right and it won't work."

### Taking concrete action

Globally, South Africa's post-Apartheid long walk to freedom has garnered an international reputation as a leader in global efforts to combat racism. In 2001, South Africa hosted the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), which resulted in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). The DDPA is a roadmap, providing concrete measures for States to combat racism, discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance.

One of the big recommendations was to have each country create its own National Action Plan (NAP). The plan is a means through which governments locally codify their commitment to taking action, with concrete steps on how they will combat racism. South Africa launched its plan in 2019, with OHCHR ROSA providing technical assistance. This assistance took many forms including participation in the consultations that led up to the final NAP and helping to set up support structures for its implementation, and support for research and other work to help develop systems for data collection on issues related to the NAP.

"Human rights play crucial role in dismantling racism by providing a framework for addressing and rectifying historical injustices, promoting equality, and ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and with dignity," Noko said

Various other sectors have pioneered innovative approaches to chip away at Apartheid's remnants. Corporate and governmental diversity programmes, such as B-BBEE, and the Employment Equity Amendment Bill of 2020, aim to promote diversity and equity in the workplace.

Ratsomo of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation said these and other efforts to address the underlying issue of what to do about that still exists in the country are key to taking it down. Everyone must learn, speak up, and act on racism, racial discrimination and related intolerances, she said.

"The beginning point to tackle and dismantle systemic racism is to understand that being anti-racist does not only mean being against racism," she said. "It also means being active and speaking out against racism whenever you see it happen."

The more we understand racism, the easier it becomes to identify when it happens, which allows us to speak out and act against it when we see it happening."

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 98 -

Crossword grid with numbers 1-24. Includes clues for Down and Across sections.

13.the owner and manager of a shop 15.aimed at peace 16.request 19.unacceptable thing 20.nail plate 21. bovine spongiform encephalopathy 22. a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and grasses 23. a small cup-shaped oil lamp made of baked clay 24.Increase

Word search grid with the word 'MER' visible.

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.

- ROSE ENDURED NORWAY EAR OMEN MEDICAL YEAR QUEEN MER THANA QUESTER HAO WRIT ENDEARS

### Yesterday's solution

Grid showing the solution to the previous puzzle with words like MODEL, ADD, PALESTRA, etc.

ACROSS: 1. a long curved fruit which grows in clusters and has soft pulpy flesh and yellow skin when ripe 6. a step in dancing 8. the last letter of the Greek Alphabet 9. Tanzania National Park 11.cooked in a specified manner

10.physical exercise intended to improve the efficiency of the cardiovascular system in absorbing and transporting oxygen 11.apnea 12.Polynesian garland of flowers 14.tiny 17.Okay in Kiswahili 18.things with similar characteristics

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed weekly schedule of programs from Monday to Sunday.



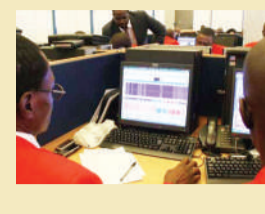
'Fast followers' beats 'first movers' in green investment engagement

Page14



Study indicates WhatsApp as a choice for brands' conversational customer support

Page14



DSE indices close low on week's opening

Page15

# Current account deficit narrows as export earnings spike

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

**T**HE Current account deficit narrowed by nearly 45 percent to US\$2.7 billion during the year ending February 2024, compared to US\$5.1 billion recorded in February 2023, thanks to increased exports, moderated global commodity prices and decline of imports bill.

According to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for March, in the year ending February 2024, exports of goods and services rose by 14.7 percent, reaching US\$14.274 billion compared with the level recorded in the corresponding period in 2023.

The main drivers included tourism receipts, traditional goods and minerals, specifically gold.

Traditional goods exports amounted to US\$ 1,022.7 million, from US\$748.7 million in the previous year, with much of the increase observed in exports of tobacco and coffee on account of volume and price effects.

According to the global market reports, prices of agricultural products have also exhibited a mixed trend, with coffee, cotton, palm oil, and sugar prices increasing due to supply constraints globally.

Exports of non-traditional goods rose by 2.4 percent to US\$6,343.1 million, with the increase noticeable in gold, horticultural products, and oil seeds.

The export of gold amounted to US\$3,108.8 million, compared with US\$2,872.6 million in the previous period, and



accounted for 49 percent of non-traditional exports. Exports of horticultural products edged up by 46.5 percent to US\$425.4 million, driven by an increase in exports of edible vegetables.

Service receipts surged to US\$6,482.5 million in the year to February 2024 from US\$5,094 million in the previous year, largely driven by travel (tourism)

and transportation receipt.

The surge in travel receipts reflects the rebound of the tourism sector, as tourist arrivals rose by 21.4 percent to 1,881,823 from 1,550,333.

In Zanzibar Exports of goods and services reached US\$ 2177 million in the year ending February 2024, up from US\$198.0 million recorded in similar pe-

riod in 2023 on account of an increase in exports of both goods (seaweeds, manufactured products, fish, and fish products) and services (tourism).

Earnings from services rose by 12.8 percent to US\$145.9 million, following an increase in tourist arrivals. Cloves exports in value terms declined by 33.1 percent to USD 28.3 million due to the cyclical nature of the crop.

On a month-to-month basis, exports of goods and services rose to US\$20.2 million compared to US\$27 million in February 2023, largely associated with an increase in manufactured goods.

The central bank monthly review also shows imports of goods and services fell to US\$16,087.2 million, compared with USD 16,928.3 million a year earlier.

The decrease was driven by refined white petroleum products, fertilizers, and plastic items.

Conversely, imports of machinery, industrial transport equipment and passenger motor cars increased.

On a monthly basis, goods imports slightly rose to US\$1,056.8 million in February 2024, compared with US\$ 1,003.7

million recorded in similar month in 2023. Services payments declined to US\$2,280.6 million compared with US\$2,561.8 million in the year to February 2023 on account of lower freight payments attributable to reduced import bills.

The primary income account recorded a deficit of US\$1,551.7 million, higher than US\$1,255.0 million recorded in February 2023, due to higher interest payments abroad.

In Zanzibar, the imports of goods and services across all goods categories rose to US\$ 613.3 million from US\$568.3 million recorded in the year ending February 2023. Capital goods increased to US\$71.6 million from US\$44.0 million, largely associated with ongoing infrastructure projects while intermediate goods import rose by 17 percent to US\$384.0 million, largely due to an increase in imports of ingredients for food and beverages, and motorcars for households.

Consumer goods imports increased by 3.6 percent to US\$ 57.9 million, mostly influenced by other consumer goods, in particular insecticides, textiles, paper, and paper products

## Farmers empowered to boost production amid changing climate

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Kongwa

FARMERS in Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts are poised to reap the rewards of an innovative initiative led by esteemed agriculture experts from local and international institutions. This groundbreaking effort is designed to empower farmers to enhance crop production by implementing strategies to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Among the most drought-prone areas, the two districts stand as resilient bastions in the face of erratic and capricious rainfall patterns, coupled with pervasive land degradation. These challenges have led to crop failures and extreme weather events, with seasonal rainfall hovering consistently below 400mm per annum in these regions.

Christened 'Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Community through Participatory Agroecological Practices in the Semi-Arid Region of Central Zone (ResComm -II) Project, the robust initiative targets to increase adoption of agroecological practices among the beneficiary farmers within a total of eight villages in Kongwa districts.

In Kongwa, the benefiting villages include Sagara A, Sagara B, Laikala A, Laikala B, Mlali, Nghumbi, Lengaji, and Moleti, the areas which receive an average annual rainfall of 550mm per annum mainly characterized by high spatial and temporal variability.

Being its second phase of implementation, the project under the comfortable financial patronage from Biovision and LED Liechtenstein Development Service will see over 2bn/- spent to impart the farmers in the two districts with the best agroecological practices to cheat negative effects of drought towards crop production and productivity.

And apart to train the farmers how to lessen drought effects, the second phase of the project which will run for at least three consecutive years, 2024-2026, also incorporate a series of constructive efforts to disseminate vital knowledge on livestock keeping sector, especially poultry and small ruminants.

In the implementation of the robust project, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) stands at the driver's seat, leading others, which are International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).

Briefing on the ResComm II project during a special event for its official inception day, held yesterday in Lengaji village, Chiwe ward of Kongwa district, Prof Anthony Whitbread, the Project Leader from ILRI, informed that throughout the project, the target is to see a total of 900 households with improved incomes and food security.

Together with that, he expressed that at least 1,875 households in the two districts will be impacted by the project, with an eye to ensure a total of 200 hectares under sustainable management.

"The general vision of extending rolling out of this project is to increase the adoption of agroecological practices, improve food and nutritional quality for vulnerable households, and promote sustainable landscape management in Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts using community-based agroecological approaches," he sounded.

He communicated thankful message for the vital manner to which the project has received positive cooperation from the office of Dodoma regional commissioner (RC), Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts commissioners (DCs), also appreciated the high commitment being demonstrating by all institutes that are in the implementation list of the project.

"After fetching encouraging results in empowering the farmers to curtail effects of climate change during the first phase of its implementation from 2021-2023, the project's second leg seek to go more further to the extent of increasing incomes among the households and nutrition among children and women," he added.

In his remarks, the event's chief guest, Kongwa District Commissioner (DC), Mayeka Simon Mayeka hailed the project's funders and implementers for realizing the need to assist the farmers in the district to battle against the effects of climate change, especially drought.

"Farmers in different districts across Tanzania are faced with diverse challenges and thus, implementation of this project in our district must be regarded as a rare potential opportunity necessary to be tapped effectively to help transforming your household livelihoods," he challenged the farmers.

Adolf Jeremiah, the Research Field Coordinator from ILRI in his brief remarks said assisting the farmers to venture economically onto poultry was also in the heart of the project's implementation vision for the next three years.

"The project is contemplating to impart the farmers with necessary skills on poultry project, and there will be several efforts to ensure they're adopting improved crossbreed chicken as well as managing chicken disease," he observed.

Through engaging into poultry programs, he expressed, the involving households will stand chances to improve their livelihoods, but also improve children's health and cognitive development.

Prof Erick Komba, the Director General of TALIRI said as per the project's design his side will major to steer dissemination of useful skills on

livestock keeping, on poultry and small ruminants, towards the farmers.

"In the project, our other role is to train the project's beneficiaries over how professional to produce best fodder through establishment of a number of fodder banks, the potential demo plots tailored to be used by the farmers as yardstick to learn over the side" he unveiled.

He added that under the well-established fodder tree banks, they have planted the *Gliciridia sepium* and *Laucaena Pallida*, the meaningful forage tree species in help maintaining soil moisture and fertility.

The Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) in the project is to roll out to the farmers validated natural resources technologies, dubbed insitu rainwater harvesting technologies and soil erosion control measure-Fanya Juu/Chini terraces.

In general, the other initiative under the project's vision includes efforts to promote soil conservation practices, improve soil fertility management in degraded areas, and deployment of innovative water harvesting methods.

To ensure for better results, the project has picked two champion farmers in each of the beneficiary village to produce quality declared seeds (QDS) for climate resilient crops, such as sorghum and pigeon peas.

The seeds varieties to be produced in the constructive initiative include Macia, for sorghum, and Mali for pigeon peas.

The selected farmers for the producing the seed varieties will receive intensive training from the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) in order to stand professional chance to produce the seeds with needed quality, hence increase the relevant availability and accessibility to the farmers.

## Hope for farmers as cassava prices increase in Tanga Region

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

**T**HE soaring prices of cassava in the districts of Handeni, Kilindi, Korogwe, Muheza, and Mkinga in the vibrant Tanga region, have experienced a remarkable surge, heralding a substantial uptick in farmers' earnings.

The recent market survey conducted by The Guardian, reveals a staggering surge in the prices of cassava, with a sack weighing a minimum of 120 kilograms, is commanding prices ranging from 80,000/- to 100,000/-, a significant leap from the 60,000/- range observed just two months prior.

One acre of cultivated cassava now demands astounding prices ranging from 1,000,000/- to 1,200,000/-, with promising market opportunities flourishing in Moshi, Arusha, and Dar es Salaam.

In the realm of retail prices, consumers now find themselves reaching into their pockets to acquire a kilo of cassava, with prices hovering between 1,500/- and 1,850/-.

This notable surge unquestionably represents a well-deserved windfall for the diligent farmers in the region. The jubilant voices of farmers interviewed by The Guardian echoed resounding joy over the newfound profitability of their cassava crop.

As the harvesting season unfolds between the months of late April and late June, farmers are reaping the rewards of their labor with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

Further, farmers have highlighted another reason is the shortages of maize, where consumers have opted for cassava flour as an alternative staple.

"During cyclones rains seasons (Masika) there are high demands of maize and rice, as main foods for many homes; that is why the prices are going high. Other people are opting cassava as alternative food to reduce the consumption burden from rising maize and rice prices," said Mohamed Mdoe, chairman of cassava growers at Mkata ward, Handeni district.

Jumanne Haji, a wholesaler buying cassava from farmers in Handeni, Muheza, Mkinga and Pangani and transporting to Buguruni, Ilala and Shekilango markets in Dar es Salaam had said that apart from ensuring food security, cassava farming also create economic opportunities for many women in urban areas.

"For myself everyday I'm transporting three tonnes of cassava to Dar es Salaam, many of my customers are women who taking it and frying for vending in streets, while others are selling it as raw by selling in with ground nuts, pieces of coconuts, carrots (popular known as Kifurushi) selling on basin along highways of Dar es Salaam city". Cassava is the third most important staple food crop in Tanzania after maize and rice.

Tanzania is among of the largest cassava producer in the world and the 6th largest in Africa after Nigeria (top producer in the world), Ghana, DRC, Angola, and Mozambique.

Through the National Cassava Development Strategy 2020-2030, the ministry of agriculture says although there are great opportunities for cassava commercialization in Tanzania, these are hindered by fluctuating annual fresh cassava production and productivity which have been ranging from four to eight tons per hectare.

Factors contributing to such low production and productivity include low application of improved technologies along the value chain, infestation of pests and diseases; unreliable rainfall due to climatic changes; low levels of investment into cassava sub-sector; inadequate markets and limited market information amongst stakeholders.

National Cassava Development Strategy provides strategic interventions that focus on increasing current production by three folds in line with product quality improvement that responds to the growing demand.

The key expected outcomes from this strategy will includes increased production and productivity; increased adoption of improved technologies along the cassava value chain; improved cassava marketing and related infrastructures; employment creation and overall economic growth.



Prof Anthony Whitbread (C), the project leader, admires a flourishing sorghum plantation with consultants Elirehema Swai (L) and Peter Ngowi. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## 'Fast followers' beats 'first movers' in green investment engagement

By Emma McGarthy

AS financial markets and the wider economy take strides to transition, the development of objectives to accelerate sustainability needs to be prioritised. In order to ensure this - and bolster the integrity and competitiveness of the financial system - safeguarding consumers is key. While there have been developments in risk management, taxonomies and disclosures, less attention has been given to how financial services providers can engage with, influence and support consumers.

The topic was broached in an OMFIF roundtable, in partnership with VISA. OMFIF and Stephen King, vice president of Sustainability Solutions at Visa, were joined by Carlos Martín Tornero, senior ESG specialist and lead associate at the Financial Conduct Authority, and Sarah Kemmitt, consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative.

In a discussion on how to engage consumers in the shift to net zero, Tornero highlighted the FCA's three pivotal operational objectives: consumer protection, system integrity enhancement and competition. In facilitating the international competitiveness of the UK economy, Tornero pointed out an increased interest in sustainable investments and objectives.

Retail clients are seeking green deposits, bonds and other tools but this is hindered by a lack of environmental, social and governance products, varying ESG ratings and a misunderstanding of what labels mean for banks in practice.

Demand for green mortgages is relatively low due to affordability issues. On the assets side, banks need to know their financed emissions and possess the information to set targets and transition. The conversation indicated that banks see the targets set by science-based policy by 2030 within the current policy setting as largely impossible. In addition, policy reversals in areas like grid capacity for electric vehicles - where there is



huge investment potential - are highly unhelpful in scaling transition.

Yet, King of Visa's Sustainability Solutions noted that as a way of taking advantage of 'embedded finance' opportunities, banks can establish an ecosystem where financing comes to them.

Kemmitt supported this by noting banks can enable consumers to align their financial activities with sustainability goals, while banks' knowledge hubs and partnerships foster holistic solutions, such as property retrofitting and eco-friendly auto finance. Incentivisation mechanisms, such as preferential rates for green mortgages, can also further urge sustainable consumer behaviour.

There is a clear imperative for market transparency and the mitigation of greenwashing risks. While financial regulators cannot pre-empt consumers' sustainability preferences, they can empower them through transparency and the establishment of sustainability disclosure requirements and labelling regimes. These measures stand to go a long way in enhancing market trust and facilitating informed decision-making among retail investors.

Pushing for standardised sustainability disclosures and mandatory reporting

signifies a shift towards greater transparency and accountability within the financial sector. Not only does this process reduce uncertainty, it allows for scalability as King highlighted open data sources, enhanced data granularity and transactional insights as a means of empowering consumers to make informed choices and encourage sustainable practices. With the increasing need for product level data to incentivise and drive greater scale of investment and asset allocation, King finds that there are 'fast followers' not 'first movers'.

Transition plans are now a key focus to support target setting and goals to reach net-zero objectives. For banks, these will be an amalgamation of the firms in their value chain and a way to build information. As financial institutions navigate the complexities of sustainability integration, a multifaceted approach that balances regulatory oversight and consistent frameworks, drives stronger information, innovation and consumer empowerment will be integral.

**Emma McGarthy is Head of the Sustainable Policy Institute at OMFIF.**

## Study indicates WhatsApp as a choice for brands' conversational customer support

By Guardian Correspondent

WHATSAPP remains the primary channel brands use for conversational support, where businesses send 90 percent of support messages over the chat app, according to the new research from global cloud communications platform Infobip.

WhatsApp remains the top digital channel for conversational marketing in absolute numbers, driven by new features that enable customers to start and complete a purchase in a single WhatsApp chat window.

Infobip is also seeing significant increases in other messaging apps such as Telegram, Line, Viber, and Messenger.

More specifically, WhatsApp messages increased by 421 percent in Asia Pacific in 2023, while mobile app messaging increased by 146 percent in the Middle East and North Africa and by 18 times in North America.

Ivan Ostoji, Chief Business Officer at Infobip, said: "Our data shows how conversational experiences are rapidly spreading across the globe as businesses roll out marketing, sales, and support use cases. Where 2022 revealed a spike in omnichannel adoption when brands recognized the importance of connecting with their customers on their preferred channel, 2023 shows how brands are perfecting the end-to-end customer journey"

"Customers can now seamlessly progress through a journey within a single conversational thread on a chat app or RCS. With the emergence of interactive AI, we expect brands to incorporate a federation of different chatbots and AI algorithms working together to trigger actions at the ideal points during the customer journey. In the next year, we



foresee the widespread adoption in customer service, marketing, and sale automation, and for operational use cases like scheduling deliveries and managing payments," he concluded.

WhatsApp is among the popular social media platforms in East Africa, encompassing Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The most recent data from the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) indicates that WhatsApp ranked third among social media platforms in terms of bandwidth usage, following YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok.

Infobip analyzed more than 473 billion digital communications interactions on its platform in 2023 between businesses and consumers to identify the latest global business messaging trends.

As consumers look for a deeper connection with the brands they buy from, the conversational messaging channels are seeing the fastest growth.

In 2023, Infobip recorded a 137 percent increase in mobile app messages compared to 2022, a

73 percent rise in social media messages, and a 63 percent increase in chat app messages. Conversational experiences are increasing throughout the customer journey, whether for marketing, commerce, or support.

Whether a person is dealing with a human agent, a chatbot, or a combination of the two, conversational support provides an effective, efficient, and positive experience.

Infobip has recorded increases of 541 percent, 146 percent, and 284 percent in Messenger, Viber, and Line, respectively. Brands are now using conversational AI to provide personalized customer service and support.

The two-way exchange of information is the basis for conversational marketing, and brands are ramping up their efforts to meet customers on the channels they use with their family and friends.

Overall, the data shows a 29 percent increase in mobile app messaging for marketing in 2023 compared to 2022.

## Economists caution markets on interest rate cut forecasts

LONDON

THE Bank of England has found itself caught in the middle of a trans-Atlantic divide over who will cut interest rates first, with costly implications for gilt traders and British political leaders counting on election year relief from high borrowing costs.

On one side are City of London economists and BOE Governor Andrew Bailey who say the UK's outlook seems more like the European Central Bank's. On the other are investors, who are betting the BOE's path to rate cuts more closely resembles the Federal Reserve as they rapidly unwind expectations for easing in the US this year. Only one can be right.

The split has vexed economists, who have seen little in recent UK data to change their mind about the fundamental differences between the British and American outlooks. The UK faces sluggish growth after a shallow contraction in the second half of last year. The US by contrast continues to show strength.

"Markets have superimposed the US cycle on the UK, but the US and UK are on very different tracks," said Sanjay Raja, chief UK economist at Deutsche Bank. "The UK is coming out of technical recession. Inflation is falling more convincingly. Pay settlements are following inflation expectations. And crucially, real policy rates in the UK will be higher than in the US."

A Bloomberg survey of economists released last week showed that most expected the BOE to make its first quarter-point cut in June, with a full percentage point of easing by year-end. Markets, meanwhile, have gone from pricing in six cuts for 2024 at the start of the year to just two now. At times last week, traders were only fully pricing a single quarter-point cut this year - and then not until November.

The confusion over when the BOE might begin to climb down from interest rates, which the central bank has kept at a 16-year high since August, is weakening the case for buying gilts in the near term. More broadly, it's fueling anxieties in the ruling Conservative Party that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will see little political relief from elevated mortgage rates before he faces Keir Starmer's resurgent Labour Party in an election later this year.

The market's recalibration has accelerated due in part to unexpectedly hot consumer price index data in the US, which has fueled concerns that the Fed faces a difficult "last mile" on the road back to its 2 percent inflation target. A delayed pivot by Fed Chair Jerome Powell could also prompt other central bankers to slow down, since cutting in isolation risks weakening the local currencies relative to the dollar.

The UK was swept up into those jitters last week after wage and inflation data came in slightly higher than expected. Inflation fell to its lowest in 2 1/2 years at 3.2 percent in March, but headline price growth and underlying measures came in slightly above economists' predictions. Wage growth was also stronger than expected for the three months to February, stubbornly holding at 6 percent.

The result is that the market's expectations for BOE easing now looks more like those for the Fed than the ECB.

"While market expectations for the ECB seem to have decoupled somewhat from their US counterparts, expectations for the BOE continue to track US expectations quite closely," said Michael Pfister, an analyst at Commerzbank. It's "likely that the BOE is heading for a small correction in the level of interest rates rather than a pronounced cycle of rate cuts."

Still, while some economists have since scaled back their predictions for BOE cuts, most haven't changed expectations for a summer move. Analysts at Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs Group, Capital Economics and Bloomberg Economics are all among those still anticipating a shift toward easing in June.

Against that backdrop, Bailey signaled during appearances with his global peers at International Monetary Fund meetings last week in Washington that he thought the UK shared more in common with Europe than America.

"The dynamics of inflation are rather different between Europe - I mean Europe geographically now - and in the US," Bailey said on Tuesday. He said the US was experiencing more "demand-led inflation pressure" than in the UK's stagnant economy, pointing to "strong evidence" of easing price pressures in the latter.

Bailey played down the data on Wednesday, saying the BOE was "pretty much on track to where we thought we would be" as of its February forecasts. The central bank expects inflation to meet its 2 percent target when April data is released in May, due to another drop in energy bills.

Deputy Governor Dave Ramsden amplified those points on Friday, saying inflation risks are now tilted toward the "downside" and that the UK is looking less like an "outlier" on pricing pressures and more like the euro area.

"We agree with Bailey that the UK's dynamics look different which provides reason to think the BOE can diverge from the Fed," said Dan Hanson, chief UK economist at Bloomberg Economics. "We think the market has pushed pricing for the first BOE cut back too far."

**The split has vexed economists, who have seen little in recent UK data to change their mind about the fundamental differences between the British and American outlooks. The UK faces sluggish growth after a shallow contraction in the second half of last year. The US by contrast continues to show strength.**



CURRENT NEWS



## DSE indices close low on week's opening

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices started the week in low note, after closing in red yesterday, following the decrease of share prices among local counters.

The market report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed companies, closed at 4,415.28 points, which was 2.89 points lower than the last session of last week.

All share index (DSE) closed at 1,775.33 points on Monday, a slight decrease of 0.92 points compared to the closing session of last week, while the Banking, Finance and Investment Index (BI) and Industries & Allied Index (IA) also declined.

The AI closed at 5,170.05 points, which was 3.36 points below the closing of last week, while BI closed at 4,936.02 points, which was 0.29 points below the end of last week's close.

Counters which their shares declined during the opening of the week were Mkombozi Commercial Bank (MKCB) which closed at 620/- a decrease of 1.59 percent, Swissport which closed at 1,000/- a decline of 9.09 percent and Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), which slipped by 2.86 percent, after closing at 2,040/-.

A total turnover of 160m/- was recorded on Monday, following the transaction of 216,047 shares traded in 224 deals.

The report shows total turnover from shares bought by foreign investors were 51.13m/- which was 31.93 percent of total value of shares bought



and they did not participate on selling activity. All shares sold during the day were floated by local investors.

Top mover was CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transaction of 165,330 shares valued 87.5m/-, which were sold at an weighted average rate of 530/- per share in 110 deals, followed by DSE, which recorded the transaction of 21,542 shares valued 40.07m/- traded at a price ranging from 1,860/- to 1,960/- per share in eight deals.

The third top mover was TCCIA Investment Limited (TICL) counter, which transacted 11,570 shares valued 2.1m/- sold at a price of 190/- per share in 33 deals, while NICO counter recorded the transaction of 5,366 shares valued 4m/- traded at a price ranging from 700/- to 800/- per share in 29 deals.

Other counters which were active during the day were DCB, which transacted 630 shares, Maendeleo Bank with 310 shares, Mwalimu Commercial Bank with 680 shares, Mkombozi Commercial Bank with 1,150 shares and NMB, which transacted 1,025 shares in six deals.

The report shows Precision Air (PA) counter transacted 200 shares in three deals, Swissport (2,000 shares), Tanzania Breweries Limited (30 shares), Tanzania Portland Cement Company (3,825 shares) and Vodacom counter which transacted 30 shares at a price of 740/- per share in one deal.

On Government bond, the report show a face and transaction valued of 15.81bn/- and 17.12bn/- were recorded during the opening day of the week, with no transaction being recorded on corporate bond.

## FSD Africa, ACP join forces on climate financing gap in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Johannesburg

FSD Africa Investments and Allied Climate Partners (ACP) yesterday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and will partner to address a critical financing gap for climate infrastructure, mitigation and adaptation in Africa.

This aligns with the core missions of both organizations including to increase the number of bankable opportunities for climate-related investment, increase private sector participation, improve livelihoods, and mitigate the effects of climate change across Africa.

FSD Africa Investments (FSDAi) invests to make finance work for Africa by allocating catalytic capital to market shaping instruments, intermediaries and infrastructure and has cumulatively invested US\$ 105 million with a portfolio of 19 projects.

Allied Climate Partners (ACP) seeks to aggregate approximately US\$ 825 million backed by US\$ 235 million in philanthropic capital to support the establishment of third-party funds, platforms, and other investments in early and development stages of climate-related projects in Africa, Southeast Asia, India, and the Caribbean & Central America.

Allied Climate Partners invests junior, first-loss equity in regionally focused third-party funds. ACP announced its inaugural investment into the Southeast Asia Clean Energy Fund II, managed by Clime Capital, in January, and is seeking to replicate similar investments in other regions.

Speaking during the MoU signing ceremony on the sidelines of the ongoing AVCA annual summit in here, FSDAi Chief Investment Officer Anne-Ma-

rie Chidzero hailed the collaboration as one that will support Africa to meet her ambitious climate finance goals.

"For the African continent to meet her NDCs, we must raise tenfold current annual climate finance levels to US\$ 277 billion, and the share of private capital to at least US\$ 100 billion. Working with ACP, we will be able to catalyse and crowd in more innovative and green finance for greater action", said Chidzero.

ACP Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Saeed noted that this collaboration will drive innovation across the African continent, specifically mobilising more climate finance for Africa.

"There is a critical gap in climate finance, and specifically risk-oriented equity, available for emerging and developing economies to meet climate and energy transition goals. We are thrilled to partner with FSDAi, a pioneering organisation at the forefront of strengthening private sector participation and financial markets in Africa.

Together, we hope to attract more risk-oriented capital for early-stage investments in Africa, by establishing new, catalytic, blended finance solutions that will leverage public and private capital to tackle the climate crisis", explained Saeed.

Working in concert, FSD Africa Investments and Allied Climate Partners will identify, evaluate, and seek to invest in highly catalytic financing solutions in Africa that increase investment for early-stage project development and companies deploying climate-related infrastructure in Africa.

The sectors to be targeted owing to their potential to accelerate a low-carbon transition and improve livelihoods include clean energy generation and transmission; electric transportation; green industry; and water and waste management.

Selected investment managers will seek to invest in high-leverage and catalytic projects, platforms and companies with demonstrable and positive impact on climate in Africa, and which have the potential to mobilise third-party capital at scale.

## Oil prices fall 1 percent as Iran-Israel tensions ease

SINGAPORE

OIL prices fell by more than 1 percent on Monday, as the market focus switched to fundamentals after Israel and Iran played down the risk of an escalation of hostilities following Israel's apparently small strike on Iran.

Brent futures fell \$1.21, or 1.4 percent, to \$86.08 a barrel by 0655 GMT. The front-month US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude contract for May, which expires on Monday, fell 97 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$82.17 a barrel, while the more active June contract dropped \$1.23 to \$80.99 a barrel.

"Brent crude prices failed to retain their initial surge, with broad expectations that geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran may fizzle off given Iran's tamed response," said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG.

"With that, markets continue to unwind the geopolitical risk premium tied to potential supply disruptions, which seems more unlikely at current point in time," he added.

Both benchmarks spiked more than \$3 a barrel early on Friday, after explosions were heard in the Iranian city of Isfahan in what sources described as an Israeli attack. Gains were capped after Tehran played down the incident and said it did not plan to retaliate.

Yeap said rising US crude stocks had added to the pressure to sell.

US crude inventories rose by 2.7 million barrels, Energy Information Administration data showed last week, nearly double analysts' expectations of a 1.4 million barrel rise.

"Economic concerns again become a bearish factor of the crude market," with prices "under pressure due to a large build in the US stockpile and a hawkish Fed that led to a strong dollar," said independent market analyst Tina Teng. A strong dollar makes oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

Chicago Federal Reserve President Austan Goolsbee on Friday became the latest central banker to signal a longer timeline for interest rate cuts because progress on curb-

ing inflation had stalled.

On Saturday, the US House of Representatives passed an aid package for Ukraine and Israel containing measures that would let the federal government expand sanctions against Iran and its oil production.

But markets shrugged off the news as the impact of the measures, if passed, would depend on how they are interpreted and implemented. Senate consideration of the bill is set to begin on Tuesday.

For now, ANZ analysts said in a note that volatility in the Middle East will keep oil markets "jittery".

On Saturday, a blast at an Iraqi military base killed a member of a security force that includes Iran-backed groups. The force commander said it was an attack while the army said it was investigating.

Separately, Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah on Sunday said it downed an Israeli drone that was on a combat mission in southern Lebanon.

"The market has been expecting a potential escalation, we haven't seen it," Amrita Sen, co-founder and director of research at Energy Aspects said.

"It's been quite calibrated, measured on both sides. That's why prices have been coming off a little bit. We're not expecting massive downside but we are expecting small downside in prices, physically this is the weakest period for oil anyway."

Still, money managers are the most bullish on Brent since March 2021 as they snap up contracts to profit from any spike higher amid heightened tensions.

Other markets are also signaling bullishness, with oil call options – which profit when prices rise – posting a second consecutive week of record volumes last week.

Earnings from the world's largest oil majors including TotalEnergies SE, Chevron Corp. and Exxon Mobil Corp. are also due this week, as well as Asian companies Reliance Industries Ltd. and Cnooc Ltd. Big Oil's production growth will be in the spotlight this quarter as earnings stabilize.

## Two companies merge to form enhanced critical mineral firm

By Tasneem Bulbulia

ASX- and Aim-listed Base Resources and US-based uranium and critical minerals producer Energy Fuels have reached a binding agreement for Energy Fuels to acquire 100% of the issued shares in Base Resources by way of a scheme of arrangement.

Base shareholders are to receive 0.0260 Energy Fuels common shares plus an unfranked special dividend of A\$0.065 for each Base share held, equating to total consideration of about A\$0.302 a share.

Following implementation of the transaction, Base shareholders will hold about 16.4% of the combined group, which will have a pro forma market capitalisation of about \$1.14-billion.

Base's board has unanimously recommended that shareholders vote in favour of the scheme.

Base says the transaction will establish a global leader in the critical minerals sector with a focus on rare earth elements, uranium and heavy mineral sands production and a clear strategic development pathway.

It adds that the transaction will also create a platform for the funding and development of Base's Toliara project in Madagascar, with future monazite production from the project to be processed at Energy Fuels' operating White Mesa mill, in Utah, in the US.

Energy Fuels points out that, once in production, the monazite from Toliara will provide a large portion of the raw materials needed for Energy Fuels' rapidly expanding rare earth element (REE) oxide production facility at the White Mesa mill.

It says that the addition of a low-cost source of REE raw materials to Energy Fuels' US REE production infrastructure, along with a sustain-

able low-cost source of uranium production, is expected to be highly accretive to its shareholders on a net asset value per share basis, with potential to unlock significant further upside.

Base informs that its proven leadership team will be retained and continue to oversee the development and operation of the Toliara project and the completion of operations and closure of its Kwale operations, in Kenya, as well as the progression of other mineral sands and rare earths interests of the combined group.

"This transaction, which is the culmination of 12 months of discussions between Base and Energy Fuels, reflects the exceptional quality of the Toliara project and the efforts of the Base team over the past several years to advance the project towards construction readiness.

"The combined group will have the financial and technical capability to not only build Toliara into one of the best critical mineral projects in the world, but also to develop an integrated value chain for the rare earth elements that are essential to the global energy transition," says Base MD Tim Carstens. "[Base] shareholders will receive both a compelling and immediate premium and the opportunity to further participate in the market recognition and development of a company with a unique diversified position in the critical minerals landscape," he adds.

Energy Fuels president and CEO Mark Chalmers comments that the acquisition of Base Resources and the Toliara project represents "a monumental leap forward" for Energy Fuels, as it continues to execute on a truly REE, uranium and critical mineral combined strategy.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

## WORLD



People holding placards are pictured during a protest rally against the Philippines-US joint military drills in front of the gate of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Quezon City, the Philippines yesterday. More than 16,700 Philippine and US troops started their largest-ever annual joint military drills on Monday amid criticisms that the drills threaten regional peace and stability. XINHUA

## Philippines, US kick off joint military drills amid criticism

MANILA

NEARLY 17,000 Filipino and American troops started a three-week joint combat training exercise in the Philippines yesterday amid criticisms that the drills threaten regional peace and stability.

According to the Philippine military, the 19-day exercises, dubbed "Balikatan 2024," will involve around 5,000 Philippine and 11,000 US troops.

Contingents from the Australian Defense Force and, for the first time in Balikatan's history, the French Navy will also join the exercise as participants. A total of 14 nations, including Japan and India, will take part in the annual military drills as observers.

Balikatan 2024 will be held from April 22 to May 10.

Participants will execute a range of complex missions across domains, including maritime security, air and missile defense, dynamic missile strikes, cyber defense, and information operations.

This year's maritime drill will for the first time go beyond the Philippines' 12-nautical-mile territorial waters.

Also on Monday, protesters gathered to Camp Aguinaldo, the site of the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, where

the opening ceremony of the Balikatan 2024 is held, to voice their opposition.

They carried placards and banners decrying the military exercises, urging the Philippine government to trash the military agreements with the United States.

Many Philippine experts and scholars also expressed their concerns that the joint drills might threaten regional security.

Anna Malindog-Uy, vice-president of the Manila-based think tank Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute, told Xinhua that the involvement of more countries in such military drills "may lead to new or strengthened political and military alliances in the region, which could increase our competition and create division and more tension among regional countries."

"Our people do not want war with any country for any reason whatsoever, least of all one with our biggest neighbor and trading partner with whom we do not have any serious problems we cannot solve," wrote former Philippine senator and current Manila Times columnist Francisco Tatad in a recent opinion piece. Balikatan, a Tagalog word for "shoulder-to-shoulder," is the most comprehensive among several regular Philippines-US joint military exercises.

The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) gives US troops a legal basis to be in the Southeast Asian country for bilateral exercises, and governs the conduct of US armed force personnel.

Xinhua

## Iran's Supreme leader commends army's anti-Israel operation, says 'missiles hitting targets' of 'secondary importance'

TEHRAN

IRAN'S Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei congratulated commanders of the country's army for "displaying a good appearance of their abilities and authority," during Tehran's April 13 attack on Israel, according to state media.

In a meeting with commanders of the country's armed forces, Khamenei on Sunday, said the recent achievement of the Iranian armed forces in 'Operation True Promise' displayed the willpower of Iranians, TASS news agency reported.

The 85-year-old leader described the issue of "the number of missiles fired or the missiles hit the target as of secondary importance".

He underscored that "the main issue is the emergence of the willpower of the Iranian nation and the armed forces in the international arena," as cited by TASS.

ANI

The country's Supreme leader noted that the Iranian armed forces were a commendable figure of the country and highlighted that innovation in weapons and methods, and knowing the enemy's methods, must always be on the agenda. Khamenei, however, did not refer to the alleged strike by Israel on Friday on the Iranian city of Isfahan.

Iran had on April 13 launched an offensive firing drones and missiles on targets around Israel, which Trehan said was in retaliation for a presumed Israeli strike on Iran's consulate building in Syria on April 1, in which 13 people were killed.

An US official confirmed to ABC News outlet on Friday that Israel had carried out overnight airstrikes against Israel. The report came shortly after local sources reported blasts in Isfahan region in central Iran.

## West balancing on edge of direct military confrontation between nuclear powers - Lavrov

MOSCOW

WESTERN countries are balancing on the edge of a direct military confrontation between nuclear powers, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a video address to participants in the Moscow Non-Proliferation Conference.

"Today, the United States and their NATO client states are still dreaming of inflicting 'a strategic defeat' on Russia and are ready to carry on with their policy of deterring our country 'to the last Ukrainian.'"

At the same time, the West is balancing on the dangerous edge of a direct military confrontation between nuclear powers, which could have cata-



strophic consequences," Lavrov pointed out.

According to the top Russian diplomat, it is especially concerning that the three Western nuclear powers are among the

key sponsors of the Kiev regime and the main initiators of various inflammatory moves. "This could create serious strategic risks and increase the level of nuclear threat," Lavrov noted.

"We are convinced that to prevent further degradation of the world situation, maintain durable stability and create a realistic disarmament, all countries should pool their efforts to upgrade the international security system relying on the principles of multilateralism, equality and indivisibility.

This is the only way of reducing interstate conflicts and ensuring real progress in arms control," the Russian foreign minister emphasized.

Agencies

## Israel urges US to reconsider sanctions on Israeli military unit

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI war Cabinet minister Benny Gantz urged US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a phone call to reconsider potential sanctions against an Israeli military unit, his office said on Sunday.

The call with Blinken came after Israeli media reported that the US State Department might sanction the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)'s Netzah Yehuda battalion, accused of human rights violations in the West Bank.

Gantz told Blinken that the move would "harm Israel's legitimacy in time of war," asserting that "it has no justification because Israel has a strong and independent judicial system."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to fight any sanctions imposed on parts of the IDF with "all strength," according to his statement on Saturday.

IDF said on Sunday that



Israeli military vehicles drive along a devastated street in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, during a raid on Friday. AFP

the Netzah Yehuda battalion is currently engaged in combat in the Gaza Strip. "The battalion is professionally and bravely conducting operations in accordance to the IDF Code of Ethics and with full commitment to international law," the military said in a statement.

"The reports regarding sanctions against the Netzah Yehuda Battalion are not currently known to the IDF," the military added.

Netzah Yehuda, reportedly consisting of ultra-Orthodox Jewish

soldiers, have been accused of abusing Palestinians in the West Bank in several cases, some of them captured on video.

In 2022, Netzah Yehuda soldiers tied, gagged, and blindfolded an 80-year-old Palestinian-American man during an arrest, who subsequently died of a heart attack. The battalion commander was reprimanded and two officers were dismissed, however, no criminal charges were filed. Agencies

## Chinese envoy calls on US to find right way to get along with China in new era

WASHINGTON

A Chinese envoy has called on the United States to work with China and find the right way to get along in the new era, based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

"Amidst the raging torrents, we need to pull together, not pull apart. China's choice is clear and firm: At home, we will focus on achieving Chinese modernization; internationally, we will forge a community with a shared future for mankind," said Xie Feng (pictured), Chinese ambassador to the United States, in a speech during the opening ceremony of the Harvard Kennedy School China Conference 2024 on Saturday.

For both pursuing Chinese modernization and building a community with a shared future for mankind, a peaceful international environment is necessary, and a stable China-U.S. relationship is vital, he said.

China is ready to make joint



efforts with the U.S. side and take concrete actions to implement the important consensus reached between the two heads of state, so as to turn the "San Francisco Vision" into reality, and steer the relationship forward along the track of sound, stable and sustainable development, said the envoy.

Xie made five points regarding the China-U.S. relationship, saying that the two sides should jointly develop the right perception toward each other, man-

age disagreements effectively, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, shoulder responsibilities as major countries and promote people-to-people exchanges.

China-U.S. relationship cannot go back to the old days, but the two countries can jointly usher in a brighter future for it. The hope lies in the youth, who are known for vitality, creativity, and the will to act, Xie said.

He encouraged American youngsters to travel to China, contribute wisdom to how the two countries can get along, and promote exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, so as to create a future featuring lasting peace and prosperity for all.

Present at the conference were more than 300 people, including representatives from the political, business, and academic circles, Harvard University faculty and students as well as Chinese students studying in the United States.

Xinhua

In a plant of Shanghai Baosteel Packaging Co., Ltd. (Baosteel Packaging), machines were working on a beverage can production line, and the carbon consumption of each manufacturing process was shown in real time on a software on the computer of engineer Wang Zhiyou in an office building 15 kilometers away.

According to Wang, the software JIMU LCA Cloud, developed by Shanghai E-C Digital Technology Co., Ltd. (E-C Digital), can also automatically generate carbon

## Accurate carbon accounting gives leg up to green transition

footprint reports of products. "Carbon accounting was both time- and energy-consuming, and the data were not very precise either. This software is easy to use, convenient and efficient," Wang said.

E-C Digital is an internet company that focuses on cloud computing for quantifying carbon emissions of industrial manufacturers. Though it has a history of only seven years and its prod-

ucts were sold for only less than three years, the company has already helped many enterprises accurately calculate their carbon emissions.

As green and low-carbon development has become a global consensus, different countries and regions, as well as different industry associations, have put forward their own paths to reduce carbon emissions.

Since China set its "dual carbon" goals - reaching the

peak of carbon emissions by 2030 and attaining carbon neutrality by 2060 in September 2020, the demand for carbon reduction among Chinese enterprises has grown rapidly in recent years.

The precise quantification of carbon data is a foundational work for enterprises in advancing their green transformation, but its operation is not easy.

To make carbon accounting as simple as "building

blocks," E-C Digital went deep into industrial operations, transforming the small-scale units, such as equipment units and manufacturing processes into individual "blocks," each of which contains all the relevant data for that process, as well as the logical relationships between the data and between the "blocks." This has truly lowered users' access to precise quantification of carbon data.

In terms of corporate car-

bon accounting, E-C Digital developed the "JIMU Carbon Cloud" software, which includes built-in carbon accounting methods and models for 24 industries published by China. For product carbon accounting, the company launched the "JIMU LCA Cloud," which supports the development of multiple national-level, industrial-level carbon data management platforms, and those of leading enterprises. The software

interface and operations are simple and clear, which means primary-level engineers can become proficient in using the software.

For years, the can-making business unit of Baosteel Packaging had been hesitant about whether to upgrade the water-ring vacuum pumps on their production lines to screw vacuum pumps. Upgrading the equipment would require significant investment, but the water-ring vacuum pumps had high energy consumption and failure rates. **People's Daily**

## Indian-American businessman appreciates President Biden's message commemorating Mahavir Jayanti

WASHINGTON

INDIAN-AMERICAN businessman, and an eminent Jain community leader, Ajay Bhutoria has expressed a deep appreciation for US President Joe Biden's message commemorating Mahavir Jayanti, as well as his recognition of the significance of the festival.

He is also the US President's Advisor on the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Commissioner.

In his statement, Bhutoria expressed deep appreciation for President Biden's recognition of the significance of Mahavir Jayanti to the Jain faith and highlighted the timeless teachings of Mahavir Swami, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, which emphasize the principles of Ahimsa (non-violence), truthfulness, non-possessiveness, and self-discipline.

Bhutoria emphasized the relevance of Mahavir's teachings in today's world, stating that amidst global challenges, the values of love, joy, and harmony are more vital than ever.

As he thanked President Biden for his commitment to celebrating diversity and promoting understanding among different communities, he also reiterated the importance of following the path of non-violence and embracing Mahavir's teachings to foster a more compassionate and peaceful society.

Bhutoria concluded by expressing gratitude to President Biden for honouring Mahavir Jayanti and encouraging all to reflect on Mahavir's teachings as a guiding light towards a brighter future.

Responding to the post by the US President on X on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, Bhutoria wrote, "Honored to welcome @POTUS's message on Mahavir Jayanti. Grateful for recognition of Mahavir's teachings on non-violence, Love, Peace, Compassion & harmony. Let's embrace these values for a brighter future."

US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden on Monday (local time), extended greetings to people of Jain faith on Mahavir Jayanti.

In a post on X, Biden stated, "Jill and I wish a joyous Mahavir Jayanti to people of the Jain faith. Today, let us continue to recognize the values Mahavir Swami embodied and celebrate by spreading love, joy, and harmony."

Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, who was given the name of 'Vardhamana' in his childhood. Lord Mahavir was born in 615 BC in a royal family.

The birth anniversary of Mahavira is celebrated with joy and excitement by the Jain community across the globe. Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism who spread peace and harmony through his teachings.

Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated with rituals like praying at Jain temples, processions, singing hymns adoring Lord Mahavira, fasting to purify the body and soul, charity, cultural programmes, and lectures by religious scholars and leaders.

ANI



# New Brexit border checks could stifle fine food imports from EU, warn sellers

LONDON

PANZER'S delicatessen in north-west London has lost 37 suppliers from the European Union since Britain left the bloc's single market in 2021, and owner David Josephs fears more will quit after the UK introduces new border checks this month.

Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016 but, such was the scale of the task to untangle supply chains and erect customs borders, that it is only this year setting new rules.

EU exporters of chilled and frozen meat, fish, cheese, dairy products and some cut flowers have had to present health certificates, signed off by a vet or plant inspector, since Jan 31 - a demand that smaller British retailers and wholesalers say can delay the arrival of goods by weeks.

They are now warning that the start of physical checks, along with higher charges, from April 30 will restrict the variety and freshness of fine artisan foods such as charcuterie, cheese, pasta and olive oil, and that prices will rise.

"We find small independent producers making fabulous things that you wouldn't necessarily see outside their region and we're bringing them into London but it's getting harder, because some of them don't want to do the paperwork," said Patricia Michelson, owner of retailer and wholesaler La Fromagerie.

The new hurdles risk unravelling Britain's diversity of food and drink, said John Farrand, managing director of the Guild of Fine Food, which represents 12,000 independent food businesses.

"Only the very biggest processors and retailers are going to be able to deal with this bureaucracy and the extent of these checks," he said.



In this file photo taken on Dec 31, 2020, traffic passes a billboard for Irish unification outside Newry, Northern Ireland near the border with Ireland. AFP

"The smaller producers and retailers will just give up and we'll end up with less choice and less good food and drink."

The government says the new checks will help prevent diseases and pests entering Britain.

It also says it will level the playing field for British exporters. In 2021 the EU immediately enforced its rules, leading to port delays and prompting some British exporters to stop selling to the bloc, at least initially.

## Fears of supply disruption

Delicatessen owner Josephs, who sells products from more than 80 countries and supplies nearly 200 restaurants, says Brexit has been a disaster for his business.

"The government says there won't be any disruption. I guarantee there will be," he said. "We already have some meat suppliers who are saying it's becoming debatable as to whether or not it's economically vi-

able to supply the UK."

Nick Carlucci, sales director of Italian foods seller Tenuta Marmorelle based in Berkshire, southern England, said the January changes raised costs and lengthened lead times for some goods by a week. He imports olive oil from his family-owned farm in Puglia, burrata and buffalo mozzarella cheese, balsamic vinegar, sliced meats, pasta, antipasti and panettone.

He said importing just one pallet of five or more different sliced meats would, from April 30, cost him 432 pounds (\$537) more than before Brexit, with 120 pounds going on a vet certificate and 195 pounds on fees and charges the government has introduced to cover the costs of its new system.

Carlucci imports 15 to 20 pallets a week and said the additional costs will hammer his profit margin by 10 percent.

"We're bringing over artisanal products from small producers with a short shelf-life," he said. "We need to have those prod-

ucts turning over constantly."

Worried about bottlenecks at the Port of Dover, Britain's biggest port, he is stocking up as much as he can.

The higher costs will have to be passed on.

"We do our best to absorb as much as we can, but we have to pass it on to our customers, which are farm shops, food halls and delis," he said, noting the price of a 150 gram (5 ounce) tray of Parma ham would rise by 17 pence, or 4 percent, at the end of the month.

## UK gov't to take 'pragmatic approach'

There is still confusion over what the frequency of checks will be.

The government says it will take a "pragmatic approach" and does not expect significant disruption to imports.

"The goods posing the highest biosecurity risk are being prioritized as we build up to full check rates and high levels of compliance," said a government spokesperson.

It estimates its border rules will increase costs for importers collectively by 330 million pounds a year, and increase food inflation by just 0.2 percent over three years.

British food inflation leapt to a 45-year high of 19.2 percent in March 2023 on surging energy costs, labor shortages and disruption to Ukrainian exports, but it fell to 4 percent in March.

Andreas Georgioli, who imports from small producers in France, Italy, Spain and Greece for his fine foods and ingredients store in south west London, expects the worst.

"They're not geared up for doing certification, they're not geared up for having vets coming to visit, so they're just saying no," he said.

At a recent trade show in Florence, the April changes dominated the conversation, said Carlucci.

"Everybody was saying, what is the UK doing? It was sort of disbelief really."

Agencies

# UAE calls for international collaboration to solve global challenges

WASHINGTON

THE United Arab Emirates concluded its participation in the 2024 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) held in Washington, DC.

The main ministerial meetings and events took place between 17th and 19th April, with other sideline events and activities taking place during the week between 15th and 20th April.

The UAE delegation participating in the meetings was headed by Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs, and included Ebrahim Al Zaabi, Assistant Governor for Monetary Policy and Financial Stability at the Central Bank of the UAE, Ahmed Al Qamzi, Assistant Governor for Banking and Insurance Supervision at the Central Bank of the UAE, Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the UAE Ministry of Finance, Hamad Essa Al Zaabi, Director of the Office of Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations at the UAE Ministry of Finance, and sev-

eral specialists from the UAE Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the UAE.

Al Hussaini emphasised the significance of the topics being discussed during the 2024 Spring Meetings, and their role in promoting dialogue among stakeholders. He highlighted the UAE's commitment to further global collaboration to accelerate effective and sustainable solutions for agile worldwide development.

Al Hussaini held several bilateral meetings with finance ministers from Pakistan, Ethiopia, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, where discussions focused on expanding the horizons of joint cooperation and international collaboration to solve global challenges.

For his part, Ebrahim Al Zaabi affirmed that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Spring 2024 meetings, along with accompanying discussions and participations, provided a valuable platform for fostering dialogue and exchanging perspectives among member nations on global economic developments and growth prospects.

The meetings aimed to bolster international cooperation, fortify the stability of the global financial system, advance efforts towards sustainable development, and devise effective solutions. Additionally, the meetings emphasised the significance of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among member states, empowering them to foster sustainable growth.

Development: Chairing the 109th joint

WBG-IMF Development Committee plenary, titled 'From Vision to Impact: Implementing the World Bank Group Evolution', Mohamed Al Hussaini highlighted the need for swift and constructive interventions to economic development challenges.

He noted his optimism of major economies showing signs of recovery, despite the shocks of the past four years. He pointed out that the outlook for developing countries remains troubled and that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are further off their 2030 trajectory, while fiscal space in many countries is increasingly constrained because of weak growth and rising debt burdens. He explained that these challenges exacerbate the issues of poverty, climate change, conflict and fragility.

Al Hussaini called for concerted international efforts to define a new action plan to address emergencies resulting from poverty and to improve the operational efficiency of the World Bank to implement financing requirements for projects more quickly, especially transformative projects for energy, water, health, and digital transformation infrastructure.

In addition, he advocated for finding new tools to prepare for and respond to crises, by activating financing tools in partnership between development financial institutions and the private sector.

Recovery: During the IMFC plenary session, attendees considered the Global Policy Agenda set by the IMF's Managing

Director, titled 'Rebuild, rebound, renew'. In his keynote address, Mohamed Al Hussaini noted that the global recovery remains uneven.

He shed light on his concern for fragile and conflict-affected states because they disproportionately bear the burden of ongoing geopolitical developments and tighter global financial conditions.

He also voiced his concern about the increase in interest payments, the general depletion of buffers, and the lacklustre medium-term growth prospect, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies, as IMF Managing Director mentioned.

He noted that in the current uncertain global environment, multilateral cooperation needs to ensure food and energy security, strengthen trade, support economies needing debt reduction, and provide financing for climate adaptation while supporting climate transition efforts.

He shared the UAE's achievements in significantly advancing the global climate agenda at COP28, where countries came together to deliver the landmark UAE Consensus, which includes an unprecedented reference to transitioning away from all fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner as well as a historic commitment to triple renewables, double energy efficiency globally, and end deforestation by 2030. ANI

# Scientists: Health-harming heat stress rising in Europe

BRUSSELS

Europe is increasingly facing bouts of heat so intense that the human body cannot cope, as climate change continues to raise temperatures, the EU's Copernicus climate monitoring service and the World Meteorological Organization said yesterday.

In a report on Europe's climate, Copernicus and the WMO noted last year's extreme conditions, including a July heatwave which pushed 41 percent of southern Europe into strong, very strong or extreme heat stress - the biggest area of Europe under such conditions in any day on record.

Extreme heat poses particular health risks to outdoor workers, the elderly, and people with existing conditions like cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Parts of Italy recorded 7 percent more deaths than normal last July, with victims including a 44-year-old man painting road markings in the northern town of Lodi who collapsed and died.

Heat stress measures the impact that the environment has on the human body, combining factors like temperature, humidity and the body's response, to establish a "feels like" temperature.

Parts of Spain, France, Italy and Greece experienced up to ten days of extreme heat stress in 2023, defined as a "feels like" temperature of more than 46 degrees Celsius, at which point immediate action must be taken to avoid heat stroke and other health issues.

Deaths related to heat have increased by around 30 percent in Europe in the last 20 years, the report said.

The EU's environment agency urged governments last month to prepare healthcare systems for climate change and called for EU rules to protect outdoor workers from extreme heat.

Last year was the world's hottest since records began. Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent.

Greenhouse gas emissions were the biggest cause of last year's exceptional heat, the report said. Factors including the El Nino weather pattern also played a role.

The heat fuelled extreme weather including flooding, since the warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, causing heavier downpours when it is released.

Floods in Slovenia last year affected 1.5 million people. Greece suffered the EU's biggest wildfire on record which, at 960 square km, was twice the size of Athens. Alpine glaciers lost 10 percent of their remaining volume during 2022 and 2023.

"Some of the events of 2023 took the scientific community by surprise because of their intensity, their speed of onset, extent and duration," said Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service.



A woman uses a fan in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, Sept 7, 2023, in Paris. AP

# Global exhibitors share open opportunities at fourth China International Consumer Products Expo

THE 4th China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) was held in Haikou, south China's Hainan province from April 13 to 18. More than 4,000 brands from 71 countries and regions came together, demonstrating the vibrant energy and appeal of the Chinese consumer market.

Foreign guests and exhibitors told People's Daily that the CICPE provides a platform for global institutions and companies to explore the Chinese market, demonstrating China's commitment to high-level opening-up. They believe that the vast Chinese market is bringing tremendous opportunities to the world as the country opens its door even wider.

Over the past four years, the scale, quality and influence of the CICPE, the largest consumer products exhibition in the en-

tire Asia-Pacific region, have been continuously improved. With an indoor exhibition area of 128,000 square meters, this year's CICPE was joined by 57 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry-leading companies, attracting more than 55,000 buyers and professional visitors.

With the theme of "60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France," the French Pavilion offered visitors an immersive Parisian shopping experience.

Sylvain Fourrière, consul general of France in Guangzhou, said French companies had participated in the expo since the maiden event, showcasing the friendly exchanges between the two countries.

He noted that French companies have performed well in the Chinese market, thanks to

China's efforts to promote high-quality development and high-level opening-up. France and China will achieve common progress in the times ahead.

"This is our first time to a Chinese expo, and we are delighted to be here. It's very helpful that we are able to stay here for a few days in which people would come to us and be interested in our products," said Luke McAllister, brand ambassador of an Irish whiskey company.

The CICPE provides an important platform for global companies to enter the Chinese market, McAllister said, adding that his company had been approached by numerous importers for potential partnerships, and they are eager to introduce their products to the vast Chinese market via the expo.

Consumption is a main driver for economic growth. According

to the data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics, in the first quarter of 2024, the total retail sales of consumer goods in China exceeded 12 trillion yuan (\$1.66 trillion), with per capita expenditure on services consumption increasing by 12.7 percent year on year. Consumption contributed 73.7 percent to China's economic growth, playing a crucial supportive role.

More than 300 themed activities and featured activities such as new product releases were held at the 4th CICPE. A total of 38 brands launched 115 new products, covering a wide range of categories such as perfumes and cosmetics, high-end foods, electronic products, and biotech products. The debut of new products and technologies showcases China's continuously upgrading consumption pattern, making the huge Chinese

market highly attractive to foreign companies.

"China has a very large market and a growing middle-class group. The market will offer growth potential for our company and for other investors," said Rainer Kern, a representative of German company Kärcher, the world's leading provider of cleaning technology.

Kern said that Kärcher has expanded its brand influence through the China International Import Expo, the CICPE, and other international exhibitions held by China. Multiple exhibits that were unveiled for the first time at these exhibitions had proven to be highly popular, demonstrating the enormous opportunities in the Chinese market.

"With the continuous improvement of China's business environment, Kärcher remains

absolutely confident in the Chinese market," Kern added.

German carmaker Volkswagen debuted its comprehensive charging solutions at this year's CICPE. "By participating in the expo, Volkswagen hopes to boost its engagement with Chinese consumers and strengthen its presence in the Chinese market," said Zhang Lan, vice president of sales of Volkswagen Group (China).

Volkswagen recently announced to expand its innovation hub in Hefei, east China's Anhui province, to bolster its R&D capabilities in China and accelerate the electrification, digitalization, and intelligentization of the automotive industry.

The 4th CICPE displayed over 100 geographical indication (GI) products from China and the European Union such as French Champagne and Span-

ish olive oil, allowing visitors to taste high-quality products with different flavors and diverse culinary cultures.

"We hope to promote Spanish products in the Chinese market through the expo," said Jamie Lorenzo, chief economic and commercial counselor of Spanish Consulate in Guangzhou.

"China continues to steadily expand institutional opening-up and advance high-level opening-up, which will foster a market-oriented and world-class business environment governed by a sound legal framework. These steps demonstrate China's commitment to the open world economy and win-win cooperation, said Chen Kai with Ernst & Young. He believes that foreign-invested enterprises in China will continue to maintain high-quality development this year.

People's Daily

# SPORT



Taliss Club's swimmers are pictured upon completion of the 2024 National Club Championships that took place at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki swimming pool in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Taliss Swimming Club emerged as the overall champion of the showpiece. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## Taliss Swimming Club lifts 2024 National Club Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM'S Taliss Swimming Club emerged as the overall champion of this year's National Club Championships at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki swimming pool in the city last weekend.

Taliss Swimming Club accumulated 385 points to beat the rest of the competitors to the two-day showdown title.

Dar Swimming Club ended as the runner-up given the outfit had collected 330 points, while the third place went to Mwanza Swim Club which notched 96 points. Kenya's Mombasa Port team ended fourth after amassing 88 points.

Taliss Swimming Club's captain, Delbert Ipilinga, said that his club is happy to clinch the title for the sixth time, adding that participating in training and the great work done by their leaders- including the coach- has helped the outfit triumph.

"I thank God, I have seen that our club has treated our manager and coach fairly. We have a coach who is doing a great job to make us better swimmers, we are further giving our all in training," Ipilinga revealed.

He stated they will continue showcasing their edge in various competitions while asking the opponents to organize themselves well if they are to get the better of the outfit.

The club's female swimmer, Sofia Latiff, said the victory came about due to the great work they are doing, noting they expect to do better.

Taliss Swimming Club's Manager Hadija Shebe said they have taken the championships' trophy consecutively and, this year, they had planned to ensure that they continue to win it.

"We got the better of our opponents in the water, every club had prepared well, and the club we hardly knew well was the one from Kenya but we managed to win," Hadija said.

Dar Swimming Club's coach Michael Livingstone, who also trains the national swimming team, revealed there has been lots of competition this year because each outfit fielded the best swimmers. The tactician also noted he was satisfied with the performance shown by his swimmers.

Livingstone further noted that Tanzania is making tremendous progress in swimming due to good cooperation between the game's stakeholders, the

government, and parents. The coach appealed to the three parties to keep on boosting the cooperation so the country could scale to great heights.

Mombasa Port team's coach Fakhry Mansoor noted they are happy with the invitation to participate in the championships.

The tactician revealed that Tanzania is making good progress in terms of competitiveness, a situation that will prompt his outfit to work hard to restore its quality.

"Actually, when we met Tanzania in swimming championships a few years ago, we dominated it but now it is the one tormenting us," Mansoor noted.

"We have had a big surprise, Tanzania has made great progress and the country's swimming leaders are doing a good job," the gaffer explained.

The championships involved more than 120 swimmers from 11 Tanzanian clubs and two from Kenya.

## Yanga sets up pulsating NBC Premier League title race

SPORTS



Yanga's central defender, Bakari Mwamnyeto (R), keeps Simba SC's forward Freddy Michael in check in this season's NBC Premier League tie that took place in Dar es Salaam on April 20 and ended in a 2-1 victory for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Lloyd Ellipokea

ENCOUNTERS between Yanga and Simba SC are renowned for being gripping battles and last Saturday's confrontation at the magnificent Benjamin Mkapa stadium was indisputably no exception.

Heading into the high-stakes clash, the two teams were occupying contrasting positions in the league standings, which of course meant that a lot was on the line.

Indeed, whereas Simba SC was sitting third on the league table, Yanga, in contrast, was comfortably ensconced at the apex of the standings, which means that Simba SC had no other option but to play catch-up, that is, if they intended to keep alive their hopes of capturing the league title.

It should also be noted here that heading into the football contest, Simba SC was firmly determined to gain retribution after the Msimbazi Street side suffered an utter 5-1 shellacking at the hands of Yanga last November in the first half of the season.

Sadly though, despite exerting tremendous efforts to claim what would have been a veritable morale-boosting win, Simba SC ultimately succumbed to a 2-1 loss to their age-old foes Yanga in what

was an unforgettable thriller.

As for Yanga, they must not get carried away as the Jangwani Street outfit has not yet sewn up the all-action three-horse race for the premier league trophy.

Nevertheless, with Simba SC's prospects of securing the title seeming increasingly distant, one wonders if second-placed Azam FC has the mettle to unseat Yanga from the summit of the league standings.

Still, whichever way the chips may fall, we should be in for a pulse-racing home stretch in this season's riveting football league campaign.

Let us now segue nicely to the national youth football scene, which recently received a shot in the arm from global football's governing body, FIFA.

Indeed, FIFA has just launched a Football for Schools (F4S) program in the country which is aimed at harnessing the undoubted talents of primary school boys and girls on the local scene.

Unquestionably, this is a noteworthy and laudable program, which if implemented as planned, could vastly improve local football.

At this critical juncture, it should be highlighted that youth football development is a surefire way for any country to achieve outstanding feats in the ever-action-packed realm of football.

Football lore is replete with inspirational tales of football clubs like Ajax and Barcelona, who have relied on their ultra-successful youth football academies to garner multiple trophies in the 'people's game'.

Thus, it can be seen that if everything unfolds according to script, then the FIFA F4S program should

be an emphatic success.

Let us now turn to the national amputee football team, who are presently taking a stab at securing this year's edition of the African Amputee Football Cup of Nations (AAFCON).

This year, the AAFCON championship is being staged in Egypt and our national team which is nicknamed the 'Tembo Warriors' has a great chance of doing extremely well based on their recent track record at the consequential event.

Indeed, the 'Tembo Warriors' brilliantly finished fourth in the 2020 edition of the competition and this experience ought to stand them in good stead at this year's AAFCON tournament.

To sum up, it goes without saying that we wish 'Tembo Warriors' all the best in their football endeavors in Egypt.

## Tanzania eyes success in sports diplomacy

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports on Monday signed an agreement with Ivory Coast's Sports Ministry to see to it Tanzania makes progress in sports diplomacy.

Ivory Coast's Sports Minister Adje Silas was on Saturday invited by his Tanzanian counterpart, Damas Ndumbaro, to watch the 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie involving long-time rivals, Yanga and Simba SC, in Dar es Salaam.

The league's second phase duel- which took place at Benjamin Mkapa

Stadium- culminated in a 2-1 win for Yanga.

Speaking immediately after signing the agreement, Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Hamis Mwinjuma said it aims to foster cooperation in improving sports infrastructure and technical departments.

He said that the cooperation also centers on exchanging coaches and experts between Tanzania and Ivory Coast, school programs, talent development, and hosting events and competitions including the African Nations Championship and Africa Cup

of Nations.

Mwinjuma said Ivory Coast did well in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which took place this year, so, the cooperation will help Tanzania understand the methods used by the West African country.

The Deputy Minister said: "Ivory Coast is at the same level as our country, so, we have seen that we should learn from the country, how it succeeded in the 2023 AFCON, it did not start well but it improved."

"We want to ensure that Tanzania performs well in showdowns including

the African Nations Championship and Africa Cup of Nations in 2027, we need to compete because we will be the hosts of the showdowns," he said.

He said the cooperation between Tanzania and Ivory Coast will help to promote sports and gain experience in the sports sector.

Ivory Coast's Sports Minister Silas said that his country has been doing well in sports including Shotokan karate, Taekwondo, and kickboxing.

He said the cooperation between Tanzania and Ivory Coast will help to develop sports, including soccer.

## Zanzibar's girls soccer club gears up for France's youth tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zanzibar Sparks girls' football team will compete in this year's edition of the Mondial Pupilles Plomelin Youth Tournament slated for mid-next month in France.

The team is under an organization, known as Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA). Petra Karume, the organization's Executive Director and Co-Founder, said the team is currently undergoing intensive training in preparation for the tournament.

She said Zanzibar Sparks will be in France from May 7- 16 while the tournament will take place from May 9-12, with the Isles' girls being expected to showcase their skills and passion for the sport on an international stage.

The Executive Director said Zanzibar Sparks' voyage to France to compete in the Mondial Pupilles Plomelin Tournament, one of the top youth tournaments, will inspire the girls to

work hard in football.

The tournament is one of the most prestigious international youth football tournaments, which has seen popular former soccer players like Thierry Henry, Dimitri Payet and Petr Cech battle it out on their way to turning into professional footballers.

She said WEZA's vision is to empower girls and youth with disabilities through the universal language of sport, stressing their program embodies a comprehensive strategy, utilizing football and purposeful games for imparting life skills, promoting health education, championing children's rights, and fostering a culture of equality and resilience that extends far beyond the game.

Petra remarked: "For

the girls, it will be the first journey beyond Tanzania's borders. It presents a remarkable opportunity, not only for kicking the ball and showcasing their talent on the field but also for raising awareness about the importance of equal access to sports."

"The team's participation in the tournament empowers them with a platform to challenge stereotypes and to prove that strength, skills, and determination have no gender boundaries."

"This endeavour not only signifies a monumental achievement for Zanzibar Sparks but also serves as a beacon of inspiration for young girls across our nation. Through their dedication, resilience, and talent, these

girls epitomize the potential and promise of our youth, embodying the values of teamwork, perseverance, and ambition," the Executive Director remarked.

Petra further said after the tournament, Zanzibar Sparks will, from May 13-15, partake in a study tour encompassing educational excursions and cultural experiences in Paris. The girls will visit, amongst others, the Eiffel Tower and the Olympic Museum in Paris.

"In 2023, we had the inauguration of Zanzibar Sparks football team which is the first U-14 girls' football team in the Isles. This team embodies the true spirit of inclusivity, whereby every girl, regardless of either ability or background, is welcomed with open arms," Petra remarked.

"We take pride in our diverse roster, which includes girls of all abilities, including two girls with hearing impairment and one girl with albinism," the leader noted.

"Zanzibar Sparks has 25 players, football symbolizes hope and a shared dream that remains beyond reach for most girls. In Zanzibar, reaching the football field as a girl is hindered by various obstacles, from cultural norms to deeply ingrained gender stereotypes," she said.

The official said although the France trip is fully paid for by the French Embassy in Tanzania, they face some challenges and appealed to well-wishers, the corporate world, and others to help them get a full range of football gear.

"As we continue our efforts to support these aspiring girls, we are reaching out to you for assistance, Zanzibar Sparks need a full range of football gear- from essential items like football boots,

socks, shin guards, and training clothes to team apparel, football kits, travel bags, and sanitary products, our goal is to equip them with everything they need for their journey to France," Petra noted.

"Your assistance would not only provide essential resources for these girls, allowing them to pursue their passion for football, but also empower them to ignite a movement that empowers every girl in Zanzibar to kick for a brighter future," she said.

The French Embassy in Tanzania is sponsoring the Zanzibar Sparks team's trip to France under the Twende Olympics 2024.

The Twende Olympics 2024- launched last year- is aimed at supporting sports practice in Tanzania and promoting the Olympic and Paralympic Games set to take place in Paris this year.

The Plomelin Mondial Pupilles is an international U-13 annual football tournament which was formed in 1986,

## King Mohammed VI congratulates Morocco for winning 3rd consecutive CAF Futsal AFCON title

By Dismas Otuke

KING Mohammed VI sent a message of congratulations to the members of the national futsal team who won, on Sunday in Rabat, the Futsal Africa Cup of Nations.

In this message, the King expresses to the members of the national futsal team His warm congratulations for winning the 7th Futsal Africa Cup of Nations, hosted by the capital of the Kingdom, with hospitality and unparalleled organization.

The Sovereign also expresses His great pride in the firm determination shown by the members of the national team to win, for the third

time in a row, this continental title, driven by exemplary patriotism and serious commitment to promote Moroccan football and sport.

Reiterating His congratulations to the members of the national team and all technical and administrative executives of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, His Majesty the King prays the Almighty to grant them greater success and awards during the 2024 World Cup in Uzbekistan, and in their sustained efforts to climb the highest steps of the podiums on continental and international levels.

Agencies

## Arsenal have the best back line in the country - but does defence still win titles?

By Richard Jolly

MIKEL Arteta was Arsene Wenger's captain and Pep Guardiola's assistant. In the managerial family tree, he has no links to Sir Alex Ferguson. And yet part of his ethos appears to have been borrowed from the great Scot. "Attack wins you games, defence wins you titles," was one of Ferguson's maxims; his attacks and wins could loom larger in the imagination.

Arsenal's season could be an extended experiment in the second half of Ferguson's theory. It looks ever likelier Arteta's side will end the campaign with the finest defence: in some measures, far and away the best. Defence could win David Raya a Golden Glove and the Gunners records, but perhaps only a second consecutive finish as runners-up. And yet, if there are times this season when it has seemed Liverpool have appeared intent on rebuffing Ferguson's truism - forever conceding first and looking to their attack to win both games and then titles - Arsenal are taking a more parsimonious path.

When the final whistle blew at Molineux on Saturday, it was with a historic first. No previous Arsenal team, not even with George Graham's famously frugal back four, had kept six consecutive clean sheets away from home in the league. Arteta has spent 20 years in England and marvelled at the feat. "It is very difficult," he said. "I don't know when it was last done. I imagine not recently because it's extremely difficult to do that." Only Chelsea in 2008 and Manchester United in 2009 have mustered longer runs of clean sheets on their travels in the Premier League; Arsenal could equal each if they can make it a magnificent seventh on their shortest journey, to Tottenham, on Sunday.

And if Graham, an elegant midfielder as a player, became a manager who rigorously drilled a defence, the same may be said of Arteta, stylist turned pragmatist. There is an argument that defence cost Arsenal the title last season: they conceded 10 more than City - and Newcastle - then. They let in 11 in four April games then. Now the defeat to Aston Villa has been surrounded by shutouts. Arsenal have conceded in Portugal and Germany more recently than anywhere other than the Emirates Stadium in England.

Wolves manager Gary O'Neil described Arsenal's as the best defence in the world. "If you look at the stats, you see how good they defend," he said. Those numbers are still better on the road. This is the second consecutive year when Arsenal's defensive record has been better away from the Emirates, but it has improved to a remarkable level.

Their expected goals against away from home is just 11.77. City possess the next best tally of 17.44, with no one else under 22; in effect, Arsenal have been 50 percent better than the reigning champions, twice as good as anyone else. They have now gone 541 minutes without conceding. In what should be the tougher half of fixtures, they have been at their most resilient.

Home and away, they have allowed just 74 shots on target, compared to 136 in the whole of last season. There is a formidable unit, even with Jakub Kiwior, Takehiro Tomiyasu and Oleksandr Zinchenko sharing left-back duties and a theory that Jurrien Timber will be the preferred choice when fit: Ben White, William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes are cornerstones, however, with Declan Rice affording high-grade protection and, after a shaky start, David Raya established in goal.

There is a pride in clean sheets, Arteta feels. "Credit to the boys for the level of organisation, for the understanding and the love that they show defending and the platform that it gives to the team to win football matches," he said. It could have been a platform for progress; instead Arsenal may have a different sort of stability if they end up second again.

In the Champions League, there is the question if Arsenal have veered too far in the other direction; if they have got the balance right in England, they may have been too cautious in the Champions League. Perhaps that could be attributed to the nervous of newcomers, but they only scored three goals in 420 minutes of knockout football. Each of the other quarter-finalists scored at least six over their four games in the last 16 and last eight. But Arsenal exited Europe having only conceded seven goals in 10 games. Rewind a few years and Wenger's side could let in 10 in two matches against Bayern Munich alone.

But in the Premier League, one possible scenario is that they do the bittersweet Tottenham double. In 2016-17, Mauricio Pochettino's team registered both the most goals for and the fewest against, but without becoming champions. Neither attack nor defence won them the title. The risk is that Arsenal emulate that odd achievement.

THE INDEPENDENT



Gabriel Magalhaes (L) and William Saliba

# Bellingham brings Madrid to brink of title with Clasico winner

MADRID

JUDE Bellingham snatched Real Madrid a dramatic 3-2 Clasico win over champions Barcelona on Sunday with a "fundamental" goal to take them 11 points clear at the top of La Liga.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti hailed the England midfielder's decisive intervention to take Los Blancos to the brink of the Spanish title.

Madrid twice came from behind with Vinicius Junior and Lucas Vazquez netting to level Andreas Christensen and Fermin Lopez strikes, before Bellingham rammed home the winner in stoppage time.

"He arrived at just the right time, he worked so hard in the game, it's been a while since he scored and today he scored a goal that could be fundamental in winning the league," said Ancelotti.

Barcelona, second, bounced back with a strong performance after their Champions League exit at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain but their last stand was demolished by Bellingham.

Madrid showed the same grit to stay in the match as they did midweek against Manchester City on the way to the final four in Europe, before Bellingham's knock-out blow left the Santiago Bernabeu crowd delighted.

Madrid's top scorer with 21 goals across all competitions, the former Borussia Dortmund man netted twice in Madrid's Clasico win over Barcelona in October and is shining in his first season in Spain at only 20 years old.

"We took a huge step towards La Liga," Vazquez, key in all three Madrid goals, told Real Madrid TV. "We've had a very good season, we're on a very good path, now we just have to polish it off and we'll go for everything."

Madrid's penalty-saving hero against City, goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, made an early mistake to hand Barcelona the lead.

The Ukrainian strayed from his line to try and deal with a corner but got nowhere near the ball and Christensen nodded into the empty net. However, Madrid were quickly level



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring his team's Clasico winner. Agencies

through Vinicius, who fired over a fine chance before levelling from the spot. The sensational Vazquez escaped Joao Cancelo far too easily and was tripped in the area by 17-year-old Barca centre-back Pau Cubarsi.

Barcelona were not deterred and made inroads down their right flank with Lamine Yamal giving Eduardo Camavinga a torrid time.

The 16-year-old starlet thought he had struck with a clever flick from a corner but Lunin pushed the ball to safety, with Barcelona arguing it had already crossed the line.

La Liga does not contract goal-line technology and using VAR the officials could not confirm the ball had completely entered the goal, so the Catalans were left frustrated.

"We deserved much more given the way we played but there's not much we can do," said Xavi. "(Not having goal-line technology) is a disgrace." Barcelona were dealt a blow on the stroke of half-time when midfielder Frenkie de Jong was taken off on a stretcher after hurting his ankle in a challenge by Fede Valverde.

Xavi also brought Lopez on for Christensen at the interval and it paid dividends for the coach after a

slower start to the second half.

The midfielder was in the right place at the right time to finish after 69 minutes when Lunin could only parry Yamal's low effort back into danger.

However Madrid, seeking a fifth league and Champions League double, swiftly struck back when Vinicius crossed to the back post and Vazquez arrived to finish.

Marc-Andre Ter Stegen made a brilliant save to thwart Vinicius with Madrid looking for a winner to virtually wrap up their La Liga title.

Bellingham dealt the killer blow, despite largely being kept quiet by the Catalans until he appeared to emphatically decide the match in stoppage time from Vazquez's cross.

"Xavi, stay," mocked Real Madrid's fans with the Barcelona coach due to leave at the end of the season.

Earlier Atletico Madrid suffered a 2-0 defeat at Alaves to dent their chances of a top four finish and end a woeful week, following their Champions League exit.

Diego Simeone's side, fourth, lead fifth place Athletic by three points after Carlos Benavidez and Luis Rioja's strikes consigned them to defeat.

"We're in a terrible dynamic,"

Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak told DAZN. "We have to improve and if we don't, this end to the season will be very tough."

Meanwhile, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez blasted La Liga for not employing goal-line technology after his team's 3-2 Clasico defeat on Sunday left Real Madrid on the brink of the title.

The coach was furious after Lamine Yamal had a shot which Barcelona said crossed the line not given as a goal after officials could not prove that it had using VAR.

With the score level at 1-1 Yamal cleverly flicked a corner towards goal and Real Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin pushed the ball to safety, potentially after it had crossed the line.

"It's a disgrace," said Xavi, complaining that the technology used in other top flights including the Premier League is not available in La Liga. "If we want to be the best league in the world we have to advance in this sense, you have to put in the technology."

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen agreed with his coach.

"It's shameful for football, I don't have the words," said the Germany international. "There's so much money in this world and there's no money for what's most important."

Jude Bellingham's late winner left champions Barcelona 11 points behind Real Madrid with six matches remaining.

"(Madrid) have had an extraordinary league, they have lost just one game, they've almost wrapped it up," admitted Xavi. "I feel that with the game we played the normal thing would be that we would win."

"We competed very well, I think we deserved the three points."

Xavi's counterpart Carlo Ancelotti said he was delighted with his Madrid side after they beat Manchester City on Wednesday on penalties to reach the Champions League semi-finals and then produced a late Clasico winner.

"I'm very proud, because they were two very demanding games," said the coach. "Now we have to prepare for the final part of the season, but we are very well positioned."

AFP

## Klopp backs 'massive quality' in Liverpool squad to launch title fight

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp said his decision to trust the depth of his squad had been rewarded after a 3-1 win at Fulham on Sunday took Liverpool level on points with Premier League leaders Arsenal.

Klopp left a number of key players, including top scorer Mohamed Salah, on the bench with the trip to west London coming less than 72 hours after their Europa League exit to Atalanta in Italy.

Trent Alexander-Arnold and Diogo Jota scored on their first Premier League starts for two months, either side of Ryan Gravenberch's first goal in the English top flight to keep Klopp's men alive in the title race.

The destiny of the title remains in Manchester City's hands with the defending champions one point behind the top two with a game in hand.

However, Liverpool and Arsenal have put the pressure on Pep Guardiola's men by bouncing back from shock defeats last weekend.

"All of these boys have massive quality. Sometimes the momentum is there, sometimes not, but the quality is insane," said Klopp.

The German made five changes to the side that won 1-0, but failed to overturn a 3-0 first-leg deficit against Atalanta.

Alexis Mac Allister, Dominik Szoboszalai, Curtis Jones and Ibrahima Konate also dropped the bench alongside Salah.

"It's helped everybody," added Klopp on the importance of fresh legs after his side looked jaded in losing at home to Crystal Palace a week ago.



Diogo Jota slots home Liverpool's third goal to secure all three points against Fulham. Reuters

"For the boys, it's tough. You have to get through this.

"I liked the performance, I liked the options. It's a good squad situation. We need all of them, we need to fight through games and we have the (Merseyside) derby to focus on." Klopp said ahead of the game that the return of Alexander-

Arnold and Jota from injury was what gave his side "a chance" at clawing their way back into the title race. Alexander-Arnold showed the quality the Reds have been missing when he curled in a stunning free-kick to open the scoring on 32 minutes.

Liverpool failed to hold onto the

lead until half-time as the defensive lapses that have cost them in recent weeks reappeared.

Timothy Castagne swept home a loose ball into the far corner after Rodrigo Muniz's header was blocked. Klopp had his stellar cast of substitutes warming up after a sluggish start to the second period.

But one wayward pass from Alex Iwobi cost Fulham.

Harvey Elliott intercepted on his return to Craven Cottage and teed up Gravenberch to curl in from the edge of the area.

Jota then made the points safe with his 100th goal in English football when his low effort had too much power for Bernd Leno 18 minutes from time.

Two more away trips at local rivals Everton and West Ham await Liverpool in the next six days.

But with just five more games of the Klopp era to come, they remain at least in the hunt to give his transformative time at Anfield a glorious goodbye.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Bellingham brings Madrid to brink of title with Clasico winner**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Twalipo Veterans football team's player (L) attempts to outfox Polisi Veterans player when they met in a friendly tie which took place at Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park ground recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Salum's strike secures vital win for Azam FC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Ihefu SC in a tense NBC Premier League encounter played at the Azam Complex Stadium at Chamazi, Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

The win keeps the Chamazi Street side firmly in the title race, despite remaining four points behind current league leaders Yanga.

The only goal of the match came in the 13th minute courtesy of midfielder Feisal Salum Abdallah. This strike marked Salum's 14th goal of the season, propelling him to second place in the Golden Boot race.

Salum, reflecting on his impressive form with 14 goals scored thus far, attributed his success to a combination of factors.

Speaking after the game, the midfielder humbly expressed gratitude, stating: "First of all, I thank God, the technical bench, and my teammates."

Salum emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidance provided by his coaches, highlighting their role in his development.

He acknowledged their instructions as instrumental in his achievements, affirming: "The secret of me having this quality is following the instructions of the coach and the technical bench."

Salum's remarks underscored his humility and dedication to his craft. By crediting both divine guidance and the support of his team and coaches, he exemplified the importance of teamwork and mentorship in football success.

His commitment to following instructions reflects a disciplined approach to his game, showcasing the value of coach-player collaboration in achieving peak performance.

However, he still trails Golden Boot Race's leader Stephane Aziz Ki of Yanga, who sits atop the goal-scoring charts with 15 goals.

Ki maintained his position at the top after converting a penalty in the recent Dar es Salaam derby against Simba SC.

Yanga emerged victorious in the encounter, edging Simba SC 2-1 and further solidifying their grip on the league lead.

Ki's impressive tally of 15 goals and eight assists have directly contributed to Yanga's current form, with the team boasting a total of 54 goals scored in just 22 matches.

Azam FC's victory over Ihefu SC brings the former's points tally to 54 after 24 games. However, their ambitions for the top spot remain hampered by Yanga's superior record, with the current champions holding a four-point advantage and two games in hand.

Meanwhile, Ihefu SC finds itself languishing in 11th place on the league table with 25 points after 24 matches. The defeat against Azam FC serves as a setback in their pursuit of a higher position in the standings.

The tight race at the top of the NBC Premier League promises further excitement in the remaining fixtures.

Azam FC will be determined to capitalize on any slip-ups from Yanga to challenge for the title, while other contenders will also be looking to make a late surge for glory.

Meanwhile, Abdallah's goalscoring form will be crucial for Azam FC's title aspirations, and with Ki maintaining his lead in the Golden Boot race, the fight for the top scorer Golden Boot adds another layer of intrigue to the league's climax.

## Simba SC players shape up for Muungano Cup

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC has set its sights on Zanzibar for the re-introduced Muungano Cup.

The Tanzanian soccer powerhouse will face off against Zanzibar's KVZ FC in the tournament's opening match, kicking off today at the New Amaan Complex in the Isles.

This decision follows a recent schedule adjustment by the Tanzania Premier League Board, which originally had Simba SC slated to face Dodoma Jiji FC in the NBC Premier League in Dodoma on the same day.

However, to accommodate Simba SC's participation in the Muungano Cup, the Premier League fixture has been rescheduled to May 16.

As anticipation builds, football fans eagerly await the thrilling clashes set to unfold during the Muungano Cup.

The tournament features four formidable clubs—Simba, Azam FC, KMKM FC, and KVZ FC.

Simba SC is scheduled to go head-to-head with KVZ FC in the first semi-final, while Azam FC will battle it out with KMKM FC in the other semi-final match.

In a bid for glory, the semi-final matches are set to take place on Thursday. Simba SC's encounter with KVZ FC and Azam FC's showdown with KMKM FC will both kick off at 2:15 pm, promising an afternoon of intense football action on the picturesque Isles of Zanzibar.

Following the semi-final clashes, the stage will be set for the ultimate showdown in the Muungano Cup final, scheduled for Saturday.

The winners of the semi-final matches will vie for the coveted trophy in a highly anticipated match scheduled for a 2:15 pm kick-off.

As the final approaches, the timing holds special significance, coinciding with the Union celebrations held in April.

While the exact reason for this alignment remains unclear, it is expected to enhance the celebratory ambiance and draw larger crowds to witness the pinnacle of Tanzanian football.

Fans are encouraged to mark their calendars and prepare to rally behind their favorite teams. Whether loyal supporters of Simba SC, Azam FC, KMKM FC, or KVZ FC, spectators can expect an electrifying showcase of football prowess and passion against the backdrop of the enchanting island setting.

Tanzania's soccer supporters should get ready to witness history unfold as the Muungano Cup brings the best of Tanzanian football to Zanzibar's shores.

Simba SC faces a bittersweet return to Zanzibar. After a disappointing 1-0 loss to Mlandege FC in the Mapinduzi Cup final just three months ago, the Tanzanian soccer giants return to the island with unfinished business in the NBC Premier League.

Their focus now shifts to securing points in the remaining eight games of the season.

The immediate challenge lies in the next five matches, which will see them face off against a diverse range of opponents—Dodoma Jiji FC, Mtibwa Sugar, Namungo FC, Tabora United, and finally, title rivals Azam FC.

Simba SC will be looking to bounce back from their cup defeat and solidify their position in the league.

These upcoming games will be crucial in determining their overall success for the season.

## Yanga is NBC PL title favourite, says Azam FC head coach Dabo

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo has said Young Africans SC is now the favourite for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League title with seven matches left to play.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, beat long-time rivals Simba SC 2-1 in the league's duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to go seven points clear at the top.

On Sunday, Azam FC won 1-0 against Ihefu SC to reduce the gap to four points and, despite that, Dabo reiterated that Yanga is in prime position to retain the club's crown.

The Senegalese tactician remarked: "Yanga is the favourite to win the championship. I said this a long time ago but, for us, we need to continue keeping pressure so that they need to fight until the end to win the title this season."

"It is good for Tanzanian football because, if you have a team that wins the championship 10 matches before, it is not interesting."

"If you have the kind of competition where some teams fight until the end, it will be more interesting and it adds qualities," Dabo noted.

Dabo's squad looked desperate to bounce back from their midweek draw with Mashujaa FC, with a first-half goal from midfielder Feisal Salum securing the hard-fought victory at Azam Complex Stadium.

"It was tough because we lacked enough goal-scoring opportunities. Sometimes it was just frustration, and sometimes we lacked finishing quality but it is football. It is not possible to be efficient in all situations," Dabo stated.

He disclosed: "We controlled the game, offensively and defensively. Our block was not breached even for one moment. Defensively we controlled the game because we knew before that Ihefu SC liked to attack through the width."

"We defend with a high line. I told my players we need to have strong pressure and we need to have good control behind our defensive line. I think we succeeded today. I am happy with the three points but I am not 100% satisfied," he revealed.

Azam FC will now shift focus to the newly re-introduced Muungano Cup tournament that will feature four teams from both parts of



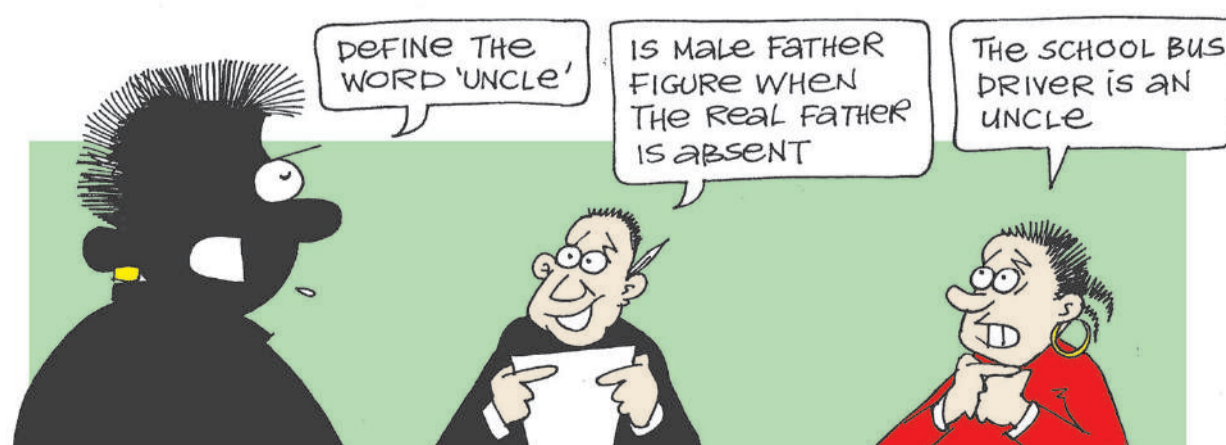
Azam FC head coach Youssouph Dabo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

the Union.

Azam FC and Simba SC will represent Tanzania Mainland in the mini-tourna-

ment that kicks off tomorrow and will culminate in a final set to take place on April 27.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



Simba SC is scheduled to go head-to-head with KVZ FC in the first semi-final, while Azam FC will battle it out with KMKM FC in the other semi-final match

Yanga emerged victorious in the encounter, edging Simba SC 2-1 and further solidifying their grip on the league lead