



**Guardian BUSINESS**

**CRDB requires more stake on prospective cooperative bank**

**Zbar House of Reps' budgetary committee members stress on the benefits of SEZs/EPZs**

**TPA opens bid for proposed Bagamoyo Port**

**Auditors urged to update tech skills**

**Tanga port ready to serve neighbouring countries**

Page 2

**Dodoma hosts national prayer for 60th Union birthday**

Page 4

**Upholding professional ethics, media integrity top priorities for MCT boss - II**

Page 8

Page 13

# Dar-Dom SGR test drive launched

By Correspondent James Kandoya

**P**RIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday launched the first drive test for the electricity powered train on the Dar es Salaam to Makutupora portion of the central corridor flagship railway project (SGR).

The test drive was intended for the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma section, which the premier said was timely as it becomes part of making 60 years of the Union ahead of its climax on Friday.

The test drive proceeds from instructions by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) to ensure train operations commence early July.

The premier said that the government has invested a lot in transport to enhance connection from the Dar es Salaam port to other part of the country and neighboring countries, improved rail infrastructure where construction was ongoing in various places.

"We want to give people more choice in selecting the means of transport they prefer," he said, noting that the construction of airports was taking place in all re-

**We are ready to start. We can release one train at one-hour intervals.**

gions to enhance connectivity.

In three years, the government has taken the key strategic projects towards completion, he said, pointing at the Mwalimu Nyerere hydropower project, the Kigongo Busisi Bridge in Mwanza, and the standard gauge railway.

He praised religious leaders for their efforts to promote the country's peace, the union and solidarity, affirming that doors are open to all religious leaders seeking to further strengthen collaboration. "Let's collaborate," he urged.

Hanza Hassan Juma, the First Vice President's Office state minister in Zanzibar, said the launch was a big event for Zanzibar as



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday waving to bid farewell to religious leaders shortly before they were set to travel by standard gauge railway (SGR) train to Dodoma city, where they were scheduled to participate in Special Prayers for the nation. Photo: PMO

TURN TO Page 2

# Tanzania, World Bank converge on carbon trading, IDA funding

By Guardian Correspondent, Washington DC

TANZANIA is among 15 countries selected by the World Bank to benefit from the global carbon trade funds where the bank will extend credit for strengthening the forestry sector.

Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank vice president for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region, affirmed this over the weekend in talks with Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, on the side lines of the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

She said that the funds obtained through carbon trading can help in various development projects, meanwhile as the World Bank works to help Tanzania achieve its development goals.

It expects to direct funds and expertise to

agriculture, energy, the digital economy, environmental protection, water, education and the transportation infrastructure, she said.

The lender will participate in providing funds for the construction of the regional aspect of the standard gauge railway (SGR) as it extends to Burundi and the DRC, she stated.

The minister expressed appreciation for the World Bank in having approved 14 development projects valued at \$3.87bn, through the International Development Association during IDA-20 replenishment, now drawing to a close.

The funding was directed to education, health, environmental protection, infrastructure, energy and the Digital Tanzania project, he said. A World Bank write-up says IDA lends money on concessional terms on

TURN TO Page 2

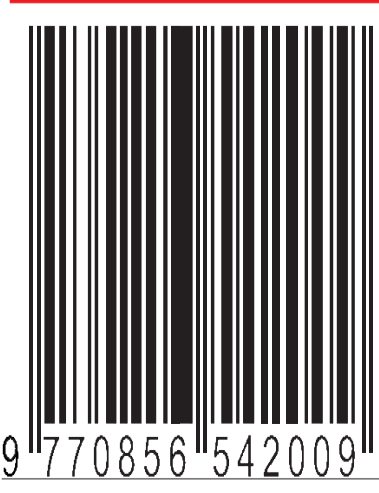
# Face up to technology challenge, govt tells new MCT board

By Carlos Banda

THE government expects the new board of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) to work closely with other media stakeholders to help address challenges posed by the modern technology in the media profession.

Mobhare Matinyi, the chief government spokesman, issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam on Thursday at a ceremony to launch the new

TURN TO Page 2



# Africa wants long-term loans, World Bank told

By Guardian Correspondent, Washington

INTERNATIONAL financial organizations need to provide long-term loans without interest so that African countries

can fully implement development projects, the government has declared.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, issued this appeal here over the weekend at a meeting for finance ministers, and

central bank governors as executive directors of the Africa Group 1 constituency. The meeting was organised

TURN TO Page 2

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## Africa demands long-term loans, World Bank told

FROM PAGE 1

the World Bank and involved 22 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, listed as Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was part of spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, with observers noting that IMF has been taking a more marginal role in such meetings over the past decade.

The World Bank has vastly larger funds than the IMF which loans governments when they are in balance of payments distress, despite that its latest major operation was in 2021, when it provided 1.2trn/- to Tanzania for post Covid-19 recovery efforts, directed at health and education sectors principally, as conditional budget support.

The Treasury executive said that short-term loans are hurting African countries, so we ask for long-term loans, 50 to 70 years and without interest. "We ask the World Bank when reviewing their expectations to prioritize Africa and each country and provide additional financial resources," she urged.

The Bretton Woods institution need to disburse

more development financing for instance in the new cycle of the IDA 21 replenishment fund "to be sent directly to the beneficiaries in order to get positive results quickly," she stated.

She urged the World Bank to pay greater attention to development priorities of African countries, pointing at the need for funds and skills so that they can implement various development projects.

While the World Bank has been helping African countries, attention needs to be directed to energy in development projects to raise Africa's economies more rapidly, she further noted.

On a different note, she used the forum to remind the gathering of Tanzania's request at the 26th general meeting of the Africa Group I constituency held in the Moroccan city of Marrakech last year, to make Kiswahili usable in the African constituency meetings.

The growth of the language and its being used on various regional and international meetings makes this demand feasible, she said.

"Kiswahili has become one of the languages used in meetings of the East African Community (EAC), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and it is on the way to being adopted for use in international meetings," she added.



Outgoing Media Council of Tanzania executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga (L) receives a farewell gift from his successor, Ernest Sungura, at the inauguration of the council's new governing board in Dar es Salaam late last week. Looking on are some members of the council's staff and Mubhara Matinyi (seated-R), Director of Information Services in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry doubling as Chief Government Spokesman. Photo: Carlos Banda

## Face technology challenge, govt tells new MCT board

FROM PAGE 1

board, bidding farewell to outgoing executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga and welcoming his successor, Ernest Sungura.

Mukajanga, who served in that position for 15 years, said he hopes the council, founded by journalists, will maintain its institutional role, grow and guide the profession, underlining that achievements registered are embedded in ethical and professional conduct of media management.

He laid accent on advocating for a conducive working environment for journalists, cooperating with the government to grow press freedom,

collaboration with zonal, international and local stakeholders like the Coalition on the Right to Information (CORI), East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) and others to take up the new challenges.

There are also new opportunities arising from developments in digital technology like artificial intelligence, he said, backing up the government spokesman that media practitioners need to ensure that news and information produced is credible and ethical.

Matinyi promised full cooperation with the new board in like manner as the

outgoing board, noting that cooperative engagement enabled improvements of the Media Services Act number 18 of February 2017.

He asked the board to work closely with all key partners in the media, various organizations, stakeholders like Coalition on the Right to Information (CORI) and the Editors Forum 'to ensure this profession excels and effectively contributes to the development of our nation.'

He recalled that a committee was formed to examine economic challenges facing media houses, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan tasking the sector minister, Nape Nnauye

to consult with experts in the media and outside to find solutions on the problem.

The government is willing to look for ways to help alleviate the challenges that impede the progress of the sector, he said, while Mukajanga urged the new board to push for further improvements, citing the annual Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) as they a vital brand for the council.

Edda Sanga, outgoing board member and veteran journalist, said major efforts were directed at ensuring journalists adhere to ethical conduct and professionalism as "journalism is a noble profession."

"Journalists are demanded

to be extra careful to ensure we share accurate and true information and at the same time we should understand that regardless of what we do and ongoing developments, we should always remember we are still Tanzanians," she said.

She praised the outgoing executive secretary for his transparency and willingness to work and travel with the board members, noting that the changes he brought were evident.

He worked hard to show the government that the media is not an enemy but what the media needed was collaboration to make things better, she added.

## Dar-Dom first SGR test drive launched

FROM PAGE 1

SGR operations will also benefit members of the Zanzibar busicomunity.

David Kihenzile, the Transport deputy minister, said that full SGR operations will start in the next three months as directed by the president, similarly pointing at the massive investments the government has conducted in improving port infrastructure.

Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC director general, said the corporation has enough wagons to start passenger operations, as so far TRC has received 65 passenger coaches, nine locomotives, and one set of electric multiple units (EMU).

"We are ready to start. We can release one train at one-hour intervals," he said.



NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna presents a leaving certificate to one of the outgoing Form Six students of Kaizirege and Kemobos secondary schools at a ceremony held in Bukoba municipality at the weekend. Right is the schools' director, Eusto Kaizirege. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzania, World Bank agree on carbon trading, IDA-20 funding

FROM PAGE 1

the basis of zero or very low interest charge. Repayments are stretched over 30 to 40 years, with more than half of IDA countries receiving all, or half, of their IDA resources on grant terms, which carry no repayments at all, it says, elaborating that "IDA grants and low-interest loans help countries invest in their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities around the world."

The minister said that the 14 projects are among 25 strategic projects priced at \$5bn which the government submitted to the bank for funding, tied with goals set in the National Development Vision 2025.

The first phase of disbursement amounting to \$500m out of approved \$750m has been provided up to December 2023, directed at budgetary support to deal with the effects of Covid-19 and global supply disruptions due to conflict in Eastern Europe, he said.

So far, the World Bank has disbursed \$5.5bn (12.6trn/-) for 26 projects, of which 21 hold the value of \$4.8bn and are national projects, while five projects billed at \$0.69bn are regional in character, he added.

## Tanga port all ready to serve neighbouring countries

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

MAJOR improvements made at the Port aTanga have enabled it to accommodate large ships and increase cargo flow, making it ready to effectively serve north eastern part of the country and neighbouring Kenya and Uganda via Lake Victoria.

Masoud Mrisha, Tanga Port Manager, unveiled this at the weekend when addressing journalists from different media outlets who visited

the port to see the improvements that have been made so far.

Mrisha said that following the completion of major infrastructure improvements at the port, stakeholders in the shipping industry can now transport various goods domestically and internationally through the northern gateway.

According to him, improvements made at the port include expanding of its entrance and exit channels for ships, increasing the

water depth from 3 meters to 13 metres, expanding the draft at the turning basin and expanding two berths to a width of 450 metres.

He said that the improvements made at the port have cost 429.1bn/-, whereby the first phase of the project which was implemented at 172.3bn/- involved expansion of the entrance channel, increase of the draft at the turning basin and procurement of modern equipment.

"In the second phase of the pro-

ject it involved construction of new 450-metre-long berths at 256.8bn/-," he said.

Mrisha said that ships have started coming to the port in large numbers after the major improvements were made, which now allows ships to offload cargo at the berths, instead of offloading offshore.

"So far, Tanga Port has served a total of 19 large ships from different countries around the world, carrying cargo of over 100,000 tonnes," he said.

He elaborated further that significant improvements made at the port have convinced large and modern ships that previously used competing ports in neighbouring countries to start bringing their ships to the port.

"There is a large ship christened BSL NODIC with a capacity of carrying 4,967 tonnes of cargo and a length of 169.26 metres which is being served at the port. We have planned to service it in five shifts. Previously, this ship would have

been served in 10 shifts," he said.

Mrisha noted that the port's efficiency has now increased, including using less time to serve ships and reducing operating costs, which has led to an increase in the number of ships docking at the port.

According to him, Tanga Port targets handling 1.2 million tonnes of cargo in the 2023/2024 financial year.

The expansion of the port is geared towards spurring the country's economic growth.

# 'Govt working on expert opinions to improve compensation law'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disability), Deogratius Ndejemi has assured judges of the High Court-Labour Division and other stakeholders that the government takes seriously their opinions regarding improving some provisions of the Workers' Compensation Fund.

Ndejemi made the remarks at the weekend here when wrapping up working session between Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), judges of the High Court of Tanzania - Labour Division from central and western zones, Labour Commissioner and Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA).

"I would like to inform you that the opinions you gave to improve section 39 (2) of the Workers' Compensation Act. (Chapter 263) which set a time limit for claim submission without providing those claims if there are fundamental reasons for its delay, we are already working on it for those improvements to be part of the social security laws amendment bill that was read in Parliament for the first time on February 15, 2024," he said.

He said WCF in collaboration with the directorate of social security in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and the People with Disability) continue with the analysis of the improvements in the Workers' Compensation Act which were issued by judges in previous working ses-



**Deogratius Ndejemi (R), Minister of State Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability), has a quick word with Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma in Kigoma/Ujiji municipality at the weekend. It was at the closing of a WCF working session with judges of the Labour Division of High Court of Tanzania from the Central and Western zones, the Labour Commissioner and Commission for Mediation and Arbitration officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

sions. Opening the session on Friday, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamisi Juma, said the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that the goal of all government agencies is to improve wellbeing of the people and WCF as a government agency affects wellbeing of the people.

"WCF is a fund that affects the wellbeing of the people because you may be depending on your mother or brother and unfortunately they have an accident and die; here the welfare of the family can disappear if there is no fund that can carry that responsibility. So, this fund is very important," he said.

The CJ encouraged attention to detail and integrity in the implementation of the Workers Compensation Act.

"Lack of focus and fraud has contributed to killing the social security funds that had very good goals. If we are not careful, WCF can also face this problem. If we understand well the logic of establishing this fund, we will make it sustainable and resilient," he said.

The CJ commended WCF for making great strides in the use of IT in the implementation of its duties and reminded the importance of the systems of public institutions to facilitate provision of services.

"When an employee submits a claim to the WCF, the entire system must understand that a certain employee has had an accident at work or has died. If the government systems can identify each other, it will also help to close the loopholes of fraud," he said.

Emmanuel Humba, WCF chairman of the Board of Trustees, said the board and management will continue to cooperate with the judiciary, pointing out that in addition to the fact that the responsibility of paying compensation has been assigned to the fund, Workers' Compensation Act

has established procedures and instruments to handle claims of beneficiaries when they are not satisfied with the compensation paid or the fund's decisions that conflict with their expectations.

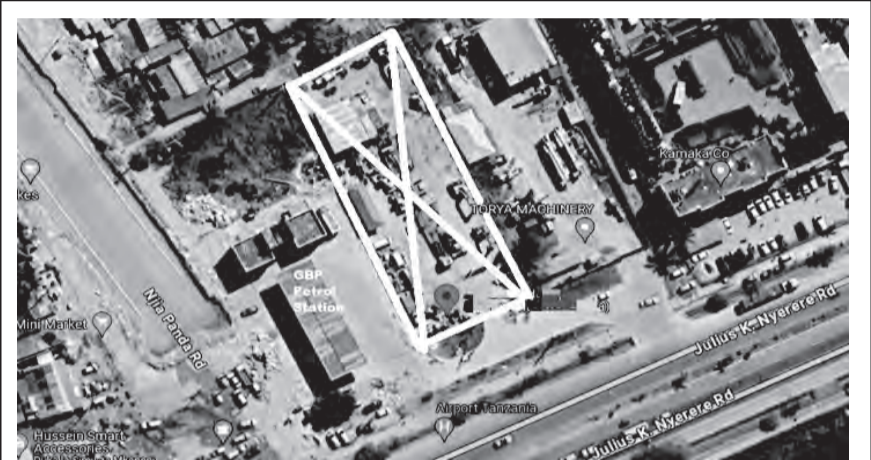
"Due to this important legal requirement, the Board of Trustees of WCF and Management and officials of the High Court Labour Division felt there was a need to hold working sessions with the aim of sharing experiences, building common understanding and identifying areas of law that require improvements

with the aim of increasing efficiency in implementing the law." He said.

WCF Director General Dr John Mduma said that cooperation between the fund and the judiciary is important as there are many areas where the fund meets with court officials in the implementation of its duties.

"As WCF, our activities could not take place without the presence of the court's activities. For example, in dealing with issues related to inheritance, the fund depends on the decisions of the court," he said.

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CIVIL CASE NO. 235 OF 2023  
SARRCHEM INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF  
Versus  
PRINCE AFRICA LIMITED.....DEFENDANT  
NOTICE OF DATE OF EXPART JUDGEMENT

TAKE NOTICE that, the above mentioned case has been fixed for exparte judgement on the 30 day of APRIL 2024 At 1:00 pm. Before Hon. R.KABATE - PRM.  
Please be so informed  
GIVEN under my hand and the SEAL OF THE COURT THIS 17 day of APRIL 2024

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**Tanzania Health Promotion Support Board chairman Prof Mohamed Janabi (C) pictured at Kibaha in Coast Region at the weekend presenting an assortment of items worth 19m/- to Coast regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge for use by flood victims in Rufiji and Kibiti districts. Left is THPS executive director Dr Redempta Mbatia. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke**

## Dodoma hosts national prayers for the 60th Union anniversary

By Polycarp Mchira, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mipango is today scheduled to preside over the national prayer a head of the 60th anniversary of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar in Dodoma.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said the prayers to be held at the Jamhuri Stadium in the city will be attended by religious leaders from across the nation.

She said at the prayer service, clerics will pray for the country's achievement as it marks the 60th anniversary is a great honour for the region and its residents.

According to the RC, the event will be preceded by testing of electric train from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma for the first time. "I call upon residents to come in large numbers and join our leaders in this historic event," she said.

The United Republic of Tanzania was formed on April 26, 1964, following the unification of the two sides, with Julius Nyerere becoming the first President, and Sheikh Abedi Amani Karume serving as the first Vice President.

The electric train will be operated in the country's 722-kilometre standard gauge railway infrastructure from the heart of Dar es Salaam to Makutupura in Dodoma.

The test follows the February 26, 2024, trial covering 300 kilometres from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro, being part of the implementation of an order by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

She directed that by July this year, SGR train services from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma should have begun.

The first phase of the train trial ride took place on February 26, 2024, from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro, using eight coaches and taking two hours and 20 minutes to reach the region.

The over 720-kilometre Dar-Dodoma line is the first and second phases of the SGR project, which is expected to run up to Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria and Kigoma on the northeastern shores of Lake Tanganyika in five phases.

There are plans to add connections to Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of the East African Railway Master Plan. The line is being extended to Tabora, 294 kilometres in phase three. The fourth phase will link Tabora to Isaka, a 130-kilometre line where it will branch to Mwanza and Kigoma.

## THPS donates school stationery, food items to flood victims

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke, Kibaha

THE Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) has provided assorted items worth 19m/- to support victims of floods in Rufiji and Kibiti districts, Coast Region.

The donations handed over in Kibaha District at the weekend included school bags, uniforms and stationeries for pupils worth 7.8m/- as well as food items namely 1500 kilos of maize flour, 750 kilos

of beans and 29 cartons of cooking oil worth 10.9m/-.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, THPS Board Chairman, presented the items to Coast Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge and said that the items were expected to provide relief to flood victims in Rufiji and Kibiti districts as they strive to resume their economic activities.

"As one of the major health partners working in Coast Region, THPS stands with the affected communities

during these difficult times of natural disasters," he said.

"As THPS, we join the government's health interventions implementation to ensure that we provide inclusive health services on aspects such as HIV and Aids, gender based violence and tuberculosis."

RC Kunenge expressed his gratitude to THPS for its kind gesture and hoped for continued collaboration.

"These items will help bring hope to those affected by floods as they

cope with big loss they have faced," he said.

Dr Redempta Mbatia, THPS executive director, said as a stakeholder in the health sector, they were saddened by what the floods had caused, hence the donation.

"It is no doubt that the floods have caused deaths and property destruction. As a stakeholder in the sector, we recognise challenges and we pledge to support the government in providing the needed health ser-

vices," she said.

THPS collaborates with the government through the Ministries of Health in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Zanzibar, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) and the Ministry of Home Affairs to guarantee accessible and high quality health services. THPS strives to achieve this through strengthening of health and community services.

At present, THPS focuses on addressing various public health challenges, including HIV and Aids, tuberculosis, gender based violence, violence against children, reproductive, maternal and neonatal, child and adolescent health services, laboratory and health management information system and Public health evaluation.

## CBE designs practical training programme for two courses

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE) is set to introduce an apprenticeship programme for students pursuing degrees in banking and finance as well as metrology and standards to enable them study while working.

Speaking during the college's Career and Incubation Day at the weekend in Dar es Salaam campus, CBE Rector Prof Edda Lwoga, said the goal is to enable students to graduate with the skills needed in the competitive job market.

She said in that programme, students will study one semester at the college and another semester at workplace where they will get practical training. "Therefore, students will study one and a half years at college and one and a half years at workplace. We have entered into an agreement with some institutions that are ready to receive students for practical training," she said.

Regarding incubation programme, Prof Lwoga said the aim of the programme is to enable students to be creative and use classroom education to create real businesses.

She said they are given proper training about their business ideas, capital and connect them with businesspeople and institutions involved in the areas of their creativity.

She said that 282 students have already started the incubation programme and have started developing products and systems to solve various challenges in the society.

Edward Talawa, Finca Bank CEO said that one of the most important resources that innovators should have is financial discipline and that his bank will provide apprenticeship opportunities for CBE students.

He said the innovations made by CBE will help solve employment challenges in the country, as it will produce entrepreneurs employ themselves and employ others.

Revocatus Kimario, director of Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), said students have the opportunity to get practical lessons in European countries and asked those in the internship programme to grab that opportunity.



**College of Business Education rector Prof Tandil Lwoga (R) briefs FINCA Microfinance Bank CEO Edward Talawa (next to her) on innovations by students of the Dar es Salaam-based college. It was during a Career and Incubation Day held at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole**

## Zanzibar Second VP positive about future of Union

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has said that 60 years of the union have improved social and economic status of people in both mainland and the isles.

Abdulla made the remarks at the weekend during the

launch of exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary of the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam that was organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade).

He said leaders have succeeded in resolving many of the contentious issues of the

union and strengthened unity, peace, stability and economic growth in both sides.

He cited improvement of social services such as provision of clean and safe water, health, education, community welfare, housing, and transport.

Abdulla said wellbeing of the people has improved and the economy has grown on

both sides of the union due to cooperation that provides opportunities and flexibility that facilitates the flow of goods, capital, people, and services between Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

"This has allowed big and small businesspeople to invest in both sides of the union in various sectors including in-

dustries, hotels, agriculture, and manufacturing which contribute to increasing employment for the people," he said. Abdulla urged people to protect, strengthen and maintain the union for the benefit of current and future generations.

Khamis Hamza Khamis, Deputy Minister of State in the

Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) said the Union is safe and will continue to thrive for the benefit of Tanzanians. Mohamed Tajin, TanTrade business development manager, said the aim of the exhibition of the 60th anniversary of the union was for institutions to be able to participate by providing edu-

cation to the public about the services they provide.

He said that they invited Tanzanians to visit the exhibition to understand the services provided, including promotion of business in the country and abroad through exhibitions held every year, adding that this year it will be held from June 28 to July 13.

# 'Make children learn basics of financial, budget matters early'

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

NMB Bank chief executive officer Ruth Zaipuna has urged parents and guardians across the country to teach their children financial and budget planning matters at a tender age to enable them live within their means.

Zaipuna made the call while giving a speech during Form Six graduation ceremony for Kaizirege and Kemebos secondary schools in Bukoba municipality at the weekend.

She stressed that if children get financial literacy at an early age, they can plan their lives based on their factual incomes and invest wisely in economic projects.

"Let's start building our young people's understanding on financial issues while they are still young; if they get financial literacy, they will be able to plan their lives well" she said.

Zaipuna said that as part of the bank's youth empowerment strategy, NMB bank initiated a special platform for young people dubbed 'Go na NMB' that provides financial literacy to youth across the country.

She called upon the youth to join the platform to gain financial knowledge that is likely to help them in their future while reminding them that due to various technological changes, youth need to learn many things, be curious and creative.

Zaipuna said NMB bank has been at the forefront of supporting development of education sector in the country through provision of scholarships and educational supplies to students from low-income families who perform well and join universities.

She noted that more than 130 students have so far benefited from the bank's funding.

In their letter on behalf of their colleagues from both Kaizirege and Kemebos secondary schools, pupils' representatives Zubeda Kinono and Avin Mutegeki said their hope is to perform well in their exams and join higher learning institutions.

They said that since they managed to endure the challenges in their education journey, they were optimistic that they will also persevere during their studies in higher learning institutions so that later they can serve the nation with integrity through various sectors.



Pakistan's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Siraj Ahmad Khan (L), Digit Company CEO Abdul Rehman Mahmood (C) and Vodacom Tanzania business director Linda Riwa applaud at the weekend's launch in Dar es Salaam of a special phone designed for people with visual and hearing impairments and meant to enhance digital phone usage in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## OSHA registers total of 11,000 workplaces in last three years

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) has registered 11,000 new workplaces within past three years.

Khadija Mwenda, OSHA chief executive officer, disclosed this at the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking to journalists on the agency's achievements for the last three years under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Mwenda said when President Samia came into power three years ago, OSHA had registered 360 workplaces but within three years they have registered more than 11,000 workplaces, signalling that there is progress in investment in the country.

She asked all public and private institutions to ensure that they register workplaces as required by law and that they will not tolerate an employer who fails to register their institution.

"Health and safety at workplace are very important and we believe that if employers understand this, the public will also understand," she said.

Mwenda said OSHA will be conducting regular trainings as part of providing education to the public and that she believes through the trainings, there will be positive changes.

She said that the trainings are based on the law of safety and health at workplace, hazards of workplace and many areas that are related to their area of services.

Mwenda said OSHA's plans and strategies are to see the economy of the country and people grow to help strengthen the efforts of President Samia to attract investors.

Kinondoni District Commissioner Saad Mtambule said OSHA has been doing well in carrying out its duties but advised that it should speed up in ensuring that laws, regulations and procedures are observed by all investors and employers.

"The flow of investors from abroad and within the country continues to increase but the investments will be more productive if laws, rules and procedures of safety and health at workplace are observed by investors and that can only happen if OSHA carries out its duties professionally," he said.

## Muhimbili pleads for support for children with spine problems

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila (MNH-Mloganzila) has appealed to well-wishers to contribute towards treatment of children with spinal bifida whose parents or guardians cannot afford the costs.

Dr Godlove Mfuko, MNH-Mloganzila acting director made the appeal in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking to members of Twiga House from Kilimanjaro Hyatt Regency hotel who visited the hospital and donated various items for children.

"Mloganzila has a calm environment, modern equipment, experienced specialists on spinal bifida and professionals in other arenas who work together to ensure patients are treated on time," he said.

Dr Mfuko said the hospital receives many needy children suffering from the disease and called on stakeholders to support children who cannot meet treatment costs.

He said the facility will continue to conduct brain and neurosurgery for children diagnosed with spinal bifida as long as Tanzanians make contributions to facilitate the procedures.

Said Mbagi, chairman of Twiga House, said the donation to help the children diagnosed with spinal bifida was part of their culture to give back to the society.

MNH - Mloganzila uses advanced technology to provide specialised treatment whereas since March this year, the hospital conducted procedures on six patients to remove pituitary tumours with minimal morbidity and hospital stay.

Spina bifida is a type of neural tube defect. The neural tube is the structure that eventually develops into the baby's brain and spinal cord.



**Mloganzila has a calm environment, modern equipment, experienced specialists on spinal bifida and professionals in other arenas who work together to ensure patients are treated on time**



MANTRA  
TANZANIA  
ROSATOM

Mantra Tanzania Limited

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### PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR A URANIUM PLANT IN LIKUYU WARD, NAMTUMBO DISTRICT, RUVUMA REGION.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One Group, Joint Stock Company, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible suppliers and service providers to express their interest (EOI) for the below list.

S/N	Description
0371_M039	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELUTION PLANT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M040	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NANO-FILTRATION PLANT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M041	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRYING / CALINATION FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M042	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MANUAL VALVES FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M043	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M044	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIBER REINFORCED PLASTICS (FRP) - ELUTION COLUMNS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M045	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BOREHOLE PUMPS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M046	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF YELLOW CAKE PRODUCT DRYER FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M047	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WEIGHTMETERS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M048	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M049	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PLASTIC TANKS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M050	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RESIN IN PULP PLANT - LL110 FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M051	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VERTICAL SPINDLE PUMPS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M052	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ROTOMOLDED TANKS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M053	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FLOCCULANT MAKE-UP PLANT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_M054	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FILTER PRESS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_I009	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PCS/SERVERS/UPS FOR MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_I010	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ACCESS CONTROL/CCTV THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S001	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STRUCTURAL STEEL FABRICATION FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S002	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CARBON STEEL AND STAINLESS STEEL PLATEWORK FABRICATION FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S003A	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CARBON STEEL AND STAINLESS STEEL PIPE & FITTINGS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S003B	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HDPE PIPE & FITTINGS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S004	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CABLE SUPPLY FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_S005	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF REINFORCING BAR FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_X001	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BULK EARTHWORKS FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_X002	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CIVIL & EARTHWORKS CONTRACT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_X003	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL PIPING AND PLATEWORK (SMPP) CONTRACT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT
0371_X004	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENTATION CONTRACT FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER URANIUM MINE PROJECT

Interested Companies and business entities are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- Detailed Company Information with an Organization Structure, list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:

- Brief scope of work
- Value of work in USD
- Contractual Duration
- Clients name
- Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the Client directly for the feedback).

- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services.
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, if any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to the Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

Interested bidders for one or more of the packages are required to submit their EOI documents separately indicating the Title and Number of the Tender Package as per Package Number provided in the table above and submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz) and [mantraprocurement@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantraprocurement@uranium1.co.tz) and the hard copy to the below address **31st May 2024 at 16.00 hours.**

Managing Director  
Mantra Tanzania Ltd  
Plot No. 1520, Masaki iKon, Bains Singh Avenue-Masaki  
P. O. Box 23451  
Dar es Salaam.  
Tel +255764700440

## NEEC comes up with drive for faster economic empowerment

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaha

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has launched a new programme designed to empower women, youth and people with special needs economically.

Dubbed 'Imarisha Uchumi na Mama Samia' (Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia), it aims to enable women, youth and special groups to join economic platforms to foster social and economic development in the country.

Speaking at the official launch in Kibaha District, Coast Region, at the weekend, President's Adviser on Women's Affairs and Special Groups Sophia Mjema said that the programme opens doors for women, youth and special groups to register and enter the government's database.

"This is a unique programme that will invite women and youth traders across the country into an electronic system that will enable the government to identify them and unveil a new avenue for them to have access to capital, loans and grants from different institutions to enable them get rid of poverty,"

she said.

Mjema added that the digital system will compile data with reliable statistics on the number of women participating in the economic activities across the country while providing an opportunity for sharing experiences, expand their network and tap various existing opportunities.

"While serving as Vice President, President Samia Suluhu Hassan facilitated the establishment of women's economic forums in the country in order to lift them out of poverty and enable them to engage in business and investment activities," she said.

Bengi Issa, NEEC executive secretary, said that the programme is special for identifying women and youth traders and provide capacity building and growth opportunities for them.

"This council was established in 2004 with the responsibility of formulating policies, developing strategies to empower citizens economically and ensure that the implementation of policies and guidelines go hand in hand with lifting people out of poverty," she said.



Geita Gold Mining Ltd chief medical officer Dr Aalen Mtemi (R) shares insights on the firm's wellbeing initiatives in remarks at the inaugural Corporate Wellness Conference held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. With him on the 'Trendsetters in Corporate Wellness' panel (from-L) are Amos Mugisha, Country Director & Director of Operations at PATH; Scholastica Williams, Senior Manager, Delivery Lead at Deloitte Tanzania; and Heri Marwa, Country Director at PharmAccess. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Inaugural Corporate Wellness Conference focuses on NCDs

By Guardian Reporter

IN a move to champion corporate wellness and sustainability, inaugural Corporate Wellness Conference (CWC) took place in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with focus on how to tackle Non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The event was organised by the local chapter of the UN Global Compact, Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT) in partnership with ImpactAfya Limited.

Bhakti Shah, founder and managing director of ImpactAfya Ltd

said: "It was important for us to come up with a platform where we can create awareness, where we can discuss wellness issues and non-communicable diseases. And we're able to come up with solutions because wellness is a profession in itself."

The CWC brought together industry leaders to discuss the critical role of corporate wellness programmes in mitigating the impact of NCDs and promoting sustainable business practices.

Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML), a subsidiary of Anglo-

Gold Ashanti, was one of the entities that took part in the event.

Recognised for its unwavering commitment to the well-being of its employees and the wider community, GGML was a natural choice to participate in the 'Trendsetters in Corporate Wellness' panel.

Dr Aalen Mtemi, GGML's chief medical officer, took to the stage to share the company's innovative approach to corporate wellness.

Dr Mtemi highlighted the comprehensive wellness programmes in place at GGML, with the com-

pany offering a range of mental health resources and wellness programmes to support the holistic wellbeing of its employees.

GGML offers a range of on-site health and wellness programmes designed to empower employees to take charge of their physical and mental wellbeing.

These include on-site medical facilities providing preventative healthcare services and confidential counselling resources to promote mental health.

The initiatives demonstrate a deep commitment to employee safety,

physical health and environmental responsibility.

Dr Mtemi's said: "At AngloGold Ashanti, we have a slogan that we can all embrace, our business is people and people are our business".

This philosophy underlines GGML's commitment to the wellbeing of its employees and the surrounding communities.

The CWC explored a range of topics vital to employee wellbeing. Discussions focused on the growing prevalence of NCDs such as heart disease, diabetes and can-

cer, and how these conditions can have a significant impact on employee health, productivity and overall business success.

The conference also highlighted the importance of mental health initiatives in the workplace, recognising the significant role that stress and anxiety can play in employee wellbeing.

By prioritising employee health across all dimensions, companies can not only create a more positive working environment but also contribute to a more sustainable future.

## Access Bank Group - A global bank with African roots and Africa's gateway to the world

The name Access Bank is one that has been coming up often in recent times; be it about the bank's immense growth or, specifically in Tanzania, the news that it is acquiring BancABC Tanzania and Standard Chartered Bank's Consumer, Private and Business Banking operations in the country. What is less known about Access Bank is where the bank comes from and that it has been in East Africa since 2009.

The story of Access Bank dates back to the early 2000s when two young men in their thirties embarked on a journey to transform the African financial services sector by changing the narrative of the continent. Their ambition was clear - to create a globally connected community and ecosystem, inspired by Africa, for the world. Many did not believe in the possibility of what Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, and the now late Herbert Wigwe wanted to achieve but they set their sights and focused on the end game - to uplift the African continent through what they termed sustainable banking.

Starting with Nigeria where Access Bank was the 65th largest bank in 2003, to its current position as the largest bank in Nigeria, the duo leveraged on their strong corporate banking foundation to achieve exponential growth through a consistent achievement of five-year strategic plans that have been aimed at creating the World's most respected African Bank. Today, Access Bank is Africa's largest bank by customer numbers and services over 60 million customers through operations across 21 markets including 14 in Africa, a presence in the UAE, UK and France as well as rep offices in China, Hong Kong, India and Lebanon.

This solid banking base is the anchor vertical of the larger group - the Access Corporation - a holding company that creates a globally connected community and ecosystem, inspired by Africa, providing new interconnected services across customer needs. The Access Corporation builds on the scale and ethical standards of Access Bank with portfolio companies ranging from banking to insurance brokerage, lending and payments services, insurance and pensions and ambitions to broaden this service offering. At this point in time, these verticals are available in Nigeria, with plans to extend the pensions business across

its Access Bank's African footprint by 2027.

### A presence in Tanzania to bolster financial inclusion in East Africa

What is clear is that the journey of Access Bank is one of resilience. Despite the hurdles encountered, the Bank continues to expand its territories and revenues. With the much-anticipated conclusion of the BancABC and the Standard Chartered Bank acquisitions in Tanzania, it is evident that the Bank's resolve is to strengthen its presence in the country and ultimately expand its to unbanked communities to deliver a new era of banking. This foray into Tanzania is in line with Access Bank's global expansion strategy and will enable the Group to solidify and enhance its presence across the East African region, adding on to the existing operations in Kenya, Rwanda and the DRC and the impending acquisitions of a majority stake in Uganda's Finance Trust Bank Limited, and 100 percent shareholding in National Bank of Kenya Limited will further strengthen the bank's presence in the region.

By bringing on the Tanzania business, Access Bank will further entrench its access to the SADC banking opportunity. With a particular focus on Corporates, SMEs, women and youths, once the acquisitions are complete, Access Bank will continue to provide a full range of banking services and continuity for its stakeholders including employees and customers in Tanzania. Leveraging on the strengths of the Access UK Private Bank brand, the private banking segment in Tanzania will ensure the wealth portfolio needs of High-Net-worth Individuals (HNI) and Ultra High Net worth Individuals (UHNW), both locally and abroad are met by providing them with bespoke services.

Looking ahead, the bank will continue to invest in technological advancements which will enable the migration of the majority of its customers to digital platforms across touchpoints. The bank will also continue to grow its subsidiary network - with plans to have a footprint across 26 African countries as well as the USA, Europe and Asia by the end of 2027. Access Bank is well on its journey to building a strong global franchise focused on serving as a gateway for payments, investment and trade in Tanzania, the continent at large and the rest of the world.





## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



### Expression of Interest FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE FROM TANZANIA TO UGANDA

**TENDER NO: NG/24/0001**

**Date: 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

1. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of Republic of Uganda entered into a Bilateral Agreement to undertake a feasibility study for the development of a Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline from Tanzania to Uganda on 9th November 2023. The two Governments have set aside funds in the financial year 2023/2024 to cover eligible payment under the contract for consultancy services to undertake a detailed feasibility study for the development of a Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline from Tanzania to Uganda.

2. The project is being implemented by the two states through the Steering Committee. The main objective of the study is to carry out a detailed feasibility study for the development of a natural gas pipeline from Tanzania to Uganda. The assignment will include, but not limited to natural gas market analysis, technical, economic, social, risks assessment and preliminary environmental studies of the Project both in Tanzania and Uganda.

The duration for the consultancy assignment is 50 weeks.

3. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of Republic of Uganda invite eligible consulting firms to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services by submitting;

- i. Consulting Firm's Profile;
- ii. General experience of the firm;
- iii. Relevant experience of the firm that fits with the proposed assignment of at least two successful assignments of similar nature, not necessarily cross border, in the Natural Gas Transmission Infrastructures or oil pipeline Infrastructures.
- iv. Relevant experience of firm professional staff in reference of proposed assignment. The experience should include but not limited to, Mechanical/gas pipeline engineering, civil engineering, land survey, economist/financial analyst, market analyst, environmental specialist, sociologist, and support functions.
- v. Commitment to engage the local firms and experts.
- vi. Knowledge of project environment in State Parties and in Africa.
- vii. The interested firm shall submit legal documents including but not limited to Registration/Incorporation documents/ certificates, Business License, VAT Certificate, TIN Certificate, notarized/ registered Power of Attorney appointing authorized representatives, Tax clearance Certificate, and Company Professional Practicing certificates/licenses from professional registration bodies/authorities and other related registration certificates.

NB: The foreign firms may be exempted from local legal registration requirement during tendering process but should submit relevant legal registration from recognized Boards/Authorities from their respective countries.

4. This is not a request for proposals. After a review of the expression of interest, a shortlist will be prepared, and shortlisted consultants will be invited to submit their proposals to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda (MEMD).

5. At the proposal stage, the consultant will be procured based on Quality and Cost Based Selection.

6. Interested eligible consultants may obtain further information:

- a. The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Energy,  
Mtumba Government City,  
P.O Box 2494,  
40474 Dodoma, Tanzania.  
Email: ps@nishati.go.tz  
Tel: +255 26 2322018.
- b. The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development,  
Amber House, Plot No. 29/33,  
Kampala Road,  
P.O Box 7270,  
Kampala, Uganda  
Email: psmemd@energy.go.ug  
Tel: +256 414 234 733.

Expressions of Interest (EoI) must be submitted to the MEMD on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Amber House at the above address and deadline for submission shall be at 17:00 hours on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Expression will be opened promptly.

7. Any Expression of Interest not received and opened by MEMD on the above date shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Energy,  
Mtumba Government City,  
P.O Box 2494,  
40474 Dodoma,  
Tanzania.**

**The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development,  
Amber House, Plot No. 29/33,  
P.O Box 7270,  
Kampala, Uganda**

# The Guardian

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MONDAY 22 APRIL 2024

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

## UNFPA needs to be more critical on youth and development goals

AN ages-old maxim has it that what everybody believes or considers to be exalted is often not the truth but what people often don't wish to talk about.

This situation is especially visible in what is known as the development dialogue where, since the late 1990s diplomacy overtook economic reality, where the paradigm of economic efficiency was dropped for moral economic inclusion.

No country can be told that it is following a wrong path to growth, as privatisation was shunned as giving property to foreigners, halting fast growth.

African countries are being praised for registering growth levels of four to five per cent of GDP per annum.

The United Nations played a critical role in keeping these countries at peace with this pace of growth by redefining 'real GDP'.

Up to that decade, real GDP was growth and discounting for population growth, meaning that 3.8 per cent growth in East Africa would come down to zero real growth.

It has only compensated for the rise in population since at the end of the day, on average, nothing would have changed.

The past few decades have seen real GDP discounted for inflation so that, if inflation is low all growth is real, while the problem of economic efficiency is now shifted to including the youth.

What the youth need is actually an expanding economy, where the state taxes much less and the sectors are opened to competition, so that jobs are created in an all-round way.

The US economy, which has no parastatals but a small number of regulatory agencies, absorbs massive numbers of migrants each year.

Still, it experienced a sharp shortage of job seekers in the wake of nearly a million deaths before Covid-19 vaccines became widespread,

much less later.

Countries which protect some core strategic sectors from share purchase and competition slow down growth and cramp job creation.

Those that still retain communal land ownership, restraining capital from invading land, live with large chunks of the population in abject poverty - as is the case across Africa.

UN agencies talk not of expanding the capital base but of teaching skills. That is precisely why little comfort can be taken from an intervention by UNFPA on the need for sustainable investment in youth, ostensibly to realise the human capital that Tanzania requires to achieve its development goals.

All this may work as diplomacy rather than economics, as human capital isn't population but rare skills. However, during an Africa-wide event mid last year in Dar es Salaam global spin doctors abandoned the worrisome notion of 'youth bulge' in favour of 'human capital'.

It is in the same order of incoherence like 'self-employment' in that one has capital for a project and is seeking workers, and the first to be hired is, strangely, that very person.

During his time in office, former president Benjamin Mkapa popularised an expression about 'laziness in thinking'. Despite the likely dispute as to where it would apply, this might fill some gaps.

Some African countries are at best reluctant to learn why the socialist systems in Europe collapsed, while the UN keeps talking about democracy.

Europe ended its post-war economic chaos with a US\$50 billion revolving credit, while parts of Africa may keep sinking into poverty despite obtaining massive funding injections each year from the World Bank. Time for a rethink and changes of tack, perhaps?

## For best input from investment pacts, MoUs need reform parameter as well

A conspicuous boost in our country's investment outlook was widely visible when Tanzania and Turkey signed MoUs focusing primarily on education, economic diplomacy and cultural cooperation.

The watershed moment, at the Ankara presidential complex on Thursday evening, saw visiting President Samia Suluhu Hassan and host President Recep Tayyip Erdoan renew vows of strengthening bilateral links and reinforcing development efforts led by the private sector.

This was a return state visit, with Turkey's President Erdoan having visited Tanzania back in 2017, a stand-out result being our Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

Just as relations with China were pivotal in the building of the Tanzania-Zambia railway on a loan basis starting in the late-1960s, links with countries in the Middle East have provided Tanzania with workable alternatives to technological sourcing and financial arrangements for various strategic projects.

The other state visit was our welcoming of President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi of Egypt, where the groundwork was laid for the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power project's technological sourcing in particular.

That is decisive in determining overall costs. That the Turkish hosts were sensitive to the presence of the Tanzanian leader was evident as the University of Ankara conferred on the president a doctoral citation in economics for her visionary leadership in that area.

That can't just reflect feelings of a few senior faculty members who then advised on that course of action but has to do with widespread feelings in the region and well be-

yond as to the quality of the president's leadership. It was a truly humbling event. Observers viewing such developments could get an impression that it will be plain sailing, as more investors come from far and wide. That would mean that they would in the process create jobs and poverty would diminish somewhat.

But the reality can be a bit challenging, since companies settling to do business in the country wish to do more - including planting their roots as if they were at home.

Efforts to open doors to them, including in the form of facilitating ability to purchase property, have started. There is something about economic freedom that many policy makers do not understand, in seeing freedoms in like manner as budgeting, from time to time taking away this and giving that.

As a matter of fact, freedom is sensitive to bad intentions in that limitations to doing business suggest that at some point it leads to despair as to what the company or its executives can still do in the country.

Where businesses cannot expand beyond the project initially registered, growth will be stymied, as countries need to attract an optimal number of foreign firms to kick-start capital formation. It should not translate into frustrating firms each time they come, seeing development only in terms of roads, schools, hospitals.

That is why all the success the Samia administration has registered with a whole range of foreign observers will do more in assuring Tanzania a workable future if the basics are observed, including by rethinking the outlook that land is communal property.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

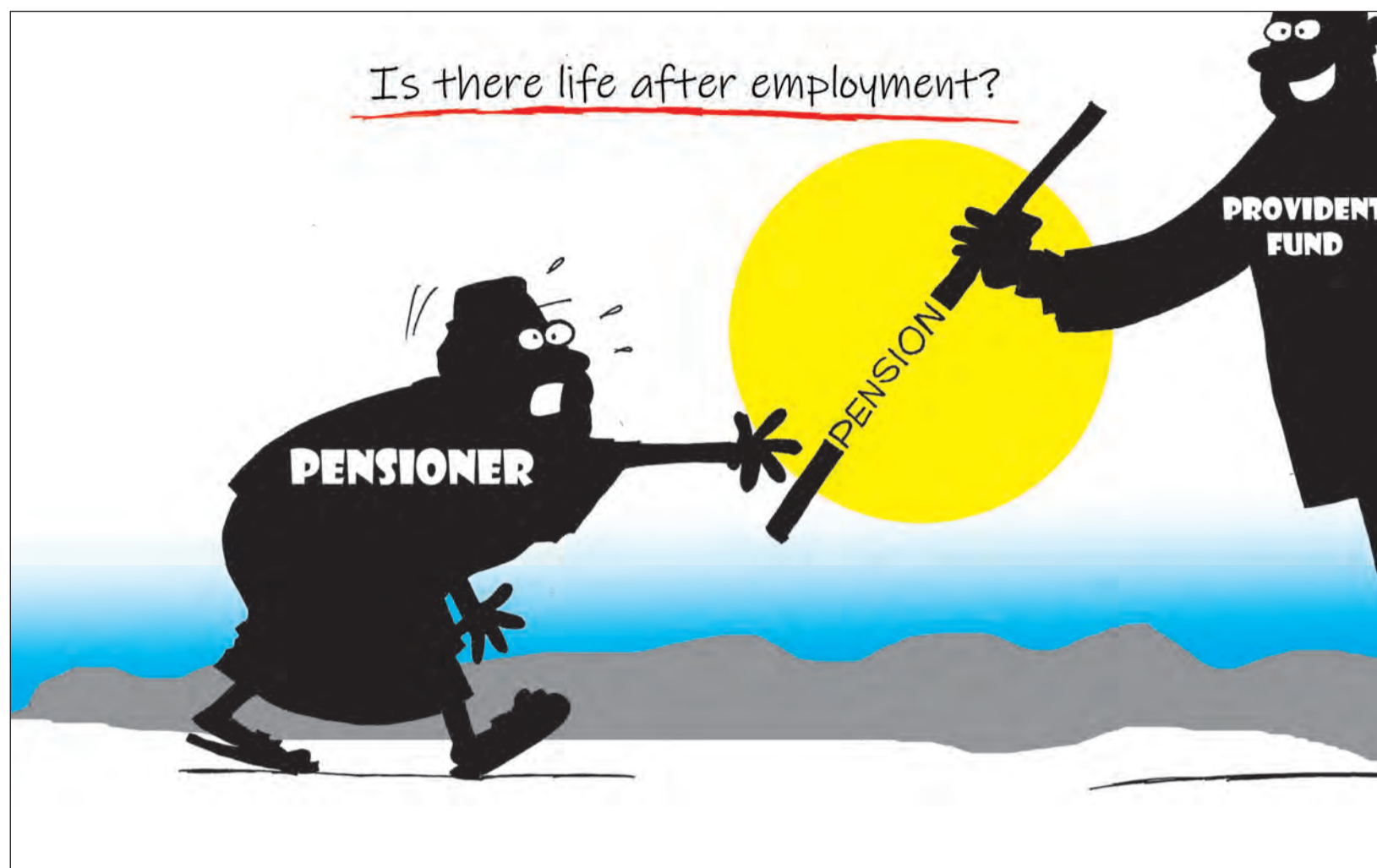
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## Upholding professional ethics and media integrity top priorities for MCT boss - II

**THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), the independent, voluntary, non-statutory and self-regulatory body established by Tanzania's media fraternity on June 30, 1995, late last year got a new Executive Secretary. It was none other than long-serving journalist, media trainer, media consultant and media manager ERNEST SUNGURA. As he clocks 100 days at the helm of MCT, our CORRESPONDENT PETER NYANJE sat with him for this two-part interview in which he explains a number of things in relation to the role of the media in general and the council's operations and expectations in particular. This is the second and final part of the interview. We ran the first part in Friday's (April 19, 2024) issue of The Guardian. Read on...**

**Question: In addition to economic challenges, technology has also proved to be a continuous challenge and I am talking here about Artificial Intelligence (AI). While AI is on the one hand seen as a disruptive agent, a critical analysis shows that it is an enabler. What should the local media do to embrace AI without compromising professionalism and ethics?**

**Answer:** We have already started to talk about that but our entry point will focus on professionalism in general and ethics in particular. One of the areas will definitely work on is artificial intelligence. We have in stock a number of codes of ethics for reporting in various areas and on a wide range of issues. We have codes of ethics for election coverage as well as in respect of gender, children and so forth.

These codes have been helping us immensely as a reference point whenever things have threatened to go wrong. The codes have in particular helped us in mitigation of reconciliation and other cases brought before MCT. Accordingly, we surely will have a code for AI as well. The idea is to use the rich background we boast by knocking into shape a code which will provide guidance on how journalists can remain professional in this era of artificial intelligence.

We are fully aware of the fact that this is but a new thing we have little knowledge about, so we will rely on consultancy from acknowledged experts in this area. There is one guy from South Africa who works in London and who is very conversant with these (AI).

I have already started to engage the expert on a one-on-one basis. We have also already commissioned one of our officers here to prepare a concept note for use in linking us with various experts. However, we will first focus on understanding the issues ourselves first before we embark on the work of pre-

paring the particular code.

**At least as far as the government is concerned, the focus is now on the establishment of a statutory and independent media council. But we already have this media council (MCT) for three decades now. Do you see some form of peaceful coexistence between the two entities? Don't you see them clashing once in a while?**

We have looked into that. The government calls the one it backs an Independent Council but my view is that the word 'independent' is a misfit and ought to be removed. To me, it is we (media stakeholders) who should decide whether a (media) council is independent or not.

All in all, though, I see whatever role the new council will be playing as complimentary to the efforts MCT and other entities have been undertaking to strengthen the profession. And we must indeed look for the most opportune and mutually rewarding ways we are going to complement each other.

But as the new council comes aboard, there is a need for media stakeholders to reflect on why the government has decided to form an institution similar to the one we are running as journalists. I stand convinced that there is a need of first proving our legitimacy.

MCT is a membership-based organisation and its members should be the front-line stakeholders in this reflection. They seriously need to ask themselves if their organisation is still relevant. If you go through the history of how MCT came into being - and into force - you will notice the energy, efforts, passion and dedication demonstrated by those who fought for this council in the 1990s.

Look at the way people such as (Lawrence) Kilimwiko, Ndimara (Tegambwage) and others gallantly "fought" with the government and people in the government like (Philip) Marmo (who was Information minister at the time) and managed to form MCT, literally babysitting it through all those challenging years until today.

We must reflect on that and ask ourselves if, 30 years down the line, we still have such valiant ingredients today among MCT members? Yes, we could still be having some of these gurus around, but age will seriously have caught up with them. So we must keenly reflect on what- ever will have happened to those who were supposed to take over from them?

At one moment, these and other

media gurus refused to allow the government to form an institution to regulate media practice. But it now appears that efforts have withered to the point of letting the government have smooth sailing in forming a national media council in which it (the government) will have a direct hand. However, with the law on the matter having already been passed, we should look at the best way of complementing each other. This is because, after all, we are all here for the same purpose of serving our nation and the media profession in our country.

**For years now MCT has been running Excellence in Journalism Awards in Tanzania (EJAT). All along there have been some recommendations from stakeholders on how to improve the awards. Have you thought of introducing any changes to the modalities applied?**

I had that idea even before I joined MCT - sometime late last year. There is indeed a need to change some modalities in order to make EJAT more inclusive and generally better. Under the current system, journalists are supposed to present their entries for the competition. But I have recommended to the MCT Board of Directors, and they have endorsed my idea of doing whatever I deem appropriate in adding value to the Awards.

For instance, in addition to journalists bringing their entries, we could also be more proactive by including (for evaluation) outstanding journalistic works not presented for EJAT consideration. We all know that some journalists write a wide range of excellent pieces but are not interested in EJAT (competitions) and they don't present their works for evaluation - but that does not mean that their works are not of the quality required or expected.

Put rather differently, in that we have all along been receiving and evaluating pieces presented by willing journalists, there is a big possibility that there are some better ones out there which we do not consider simply because their authors are not interested in presenting them for competition.

Why don't we look for such stories and award the journalists and their respective media organisations without necessarily involving formal competitions?

There are numerous big stories covered by our media but which are not presented for competitions. The list of issues standing as

"raw material" for potentially earth-shaking media reports is endless. Why, then, don't we make an analysis of how the media have covered such big issues and come up with a list of media coverage genuinely meriting national recognition?

And, come to think of it, the fact is that journalism is not only about reporting. For instance, doesn't it matter recognizing the fact that what is currently presented at the EJAT judges' tables is the product of various experts and not only the reported and finally declared winners? What about outstanding up-and-coming news presenters? It could even be with regard to sports in the country: when did we last think of awarding a top-ranking sports analyst or commentator?

I seriously believe that there will be noticeable improvements at EJAT this year, if the EJAT Organising Committee also concurs with us.

**The National Assembly recently endorsed several amendments to media laws until now in use in our country. Has the national Coalition for Right to Information (CoRI) met to take a stock of the situation and decide on the way forward?**

CoRI met in February to discuss a number of issues, including our push for the legislative amendments you are referring. We have analysed changes agreed by the government and those yet to be agreed. Our analysis will base on the effects of the remaining sections so as to showcase to the government why the remaining sections should also be amended.

We will issue a statement during the upcoming commemoration of World Press Freedom Day (May 3) to take stock of what the government has done so far towards improving our media laws. We want to show our appreciation to the government for its willingness to sit with media stakeholders and discuss various issues pertaining to media practice in the country, including laws we think still impede the freedom of the press.

That is for the short term. For the long term, I have advised CoRI that we come up with a strategy on the remaining 13 sections. We should group them into priorities. I think this is best way because it is difficult to demand for all things at a go.

**\* Peter Nyanje is a freelance journalist and media consultant based in Dar es Salaam.**



By Telesphor Magobe

# Ecological benefits of bats you may not know



**M**ANY people see bats as useless and their excreta may produce an unpleasant smell if they frequent a house. So, people may see them as just flying and screeching at night as they navigate, locate prey and communicate to each other, excreting around houses and buildings and resting on tree branches and abandoned buildings during the day.

Last year Kigamboni residents appealed to the government to dispel bats from their neighbourhoods because they had turned into a nuisance to them. There have also been complaints from other parts of the country especially where there are large bat colonies. But all this is not everything you know about bats. According to a UN study, migratory birds, bats, and insects pollinate flowering plants and shape ecosystem structure by dispersing seeds to maintain plants and forests.

"Nectar-feeding and fruit-eating bats perform important ecosystem functions of pollination and seed dispersal. Bat pollination occurs in at least 528 species of flowering plants, and bats are involved in the propagation of cashew, mango, pawpaw, passion-fruit and numerous species of fig (*Ficus*) used for rubber, timber, paper, fibres and medicine," says a UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) report on the state of the world's migratory species.

The report explains that large colonies of the straw-coloured fruit bat (*Eidolon helvum*) are known to play a role in the dispersal of Iroko (*Milicia*), an economically important timber. Yet, according to the study, bats are among the species threatened by deforestation and hunting for wild meat.

Another study conducted by Ramírez-Fráncel et al. (2021) acknowledges that bats play a significant ecological role in soil fertility and nutrient distribution. Their accumulated excrement is regarded as a highly effective form of manure due to its high nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium content. It reliably improves soil drainage and texture and its high nitrogen content expedites green growth.

High phosphorus content is known to be responsible for capturing and converting the sun's energy into useful plant compounds as phosphorus plays an important role in cell division and plant growth.

Bats have another useful function because they are said to control mosquitoes, pests and arthropods around our

courtyards. So, instead of hunting them when they fly around our houses we should also consider the role they play not only in reducing mosquito bites and pests, in soil fertility and nutrient distribution, but also in the important ecosystem functions of pollination and seed dispersal.

"Insectivorous bats are key insect suppressors in agricultural systems. We found 158 studies documenting that bats consume pests in large quantities and benefit crop production," the researchers say in their study.

Four researchers (Mahandran et al., 2018), who published their article in *Global Ecology and Conservation Journal*, say "bats play a prominent role in pollination and seed dispersal owing to their higher mobility, ability to defecate in flight, dispersing seed en route, and efficiency of fur in holding and transferring pollen over long distances."

In support of their views the researchers cited six studies conducted in different parts of the world between 1986 and 2010. Thus, their observations were confirmed by earlier studies. So, instead of looking at bats as causing a nuisance to us we can also

look at them positively due to their outweighing benefits as they are directly linked to ecological balance.

The UN report warns habitat loss and environmental degradation caused by intensive agriculture is recognised as one of the main drivers of large-scale declines in the populations of many insect species, which, in addition to their own intrinsic value, are a vital food source for many migratory birds, fish and bats. This calls for concerted effort to take care of nature and all that it offers to us.

"Expanding agriculture additionally affects terrestrial migratory mammals by blocking ungulate migration routes and excluding these animals from parts of their seasonal ranges, as well as by reducing the availability of roosting sites for migratory bats."

Human-induced climate change is especially responsible for habitat loss and environmental degradation. We can help conserve the environment if we regularly plant trees, protect sources of water and keep the environment clean. As we need clean air, other migratory mammals, including bats and birds too need clean air. This calls us to fight against environmental, air and wa-

ter pollution.

According to the report, pollution is a threat to 276 CMS-listed species (43 per cent of those with threats documented). "Pollution can cause mortality directly, through toxic effects on individuals, or indirectly, by reducing food availability and degrading habitat quality. It can also adversely affect reproductive and physiological performance and natural behaviour, including migratory behaviour. Given their reliance on multiple spatially separated habitats, migratory species may be more likely to encounter a diverse range of pollutants."

Thus, we have an obligation to protect and conserve key habitats for migratory species, including bats which play a significant role in the whole ecological balance of our neighbourhoods. So, let us take care!

## Knowledge gaps, opportunities in organic food and beverages

By Special Correspondent

**O**RGANIC production favouring small-scale, clean agriculture. Government support boosts demand. Regulations ensure additives are monitored. Distribution channels widen, but high costs and short shelf life remain challenges. Investment in research targeting infants and toddlers presents new opportunities in the market.

In the last decade, the evolution of social media has sparked a profound shift in consumer consciousness regarding the detrimental effects of traditional foods and the advantages of organic alternatives. This shift has propelled consumers to prioritize quality over price, driving the demand for organic food and beverages worldwide. The market has witnessed a remarkable growth trajectory, with projections indicating a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15.5% from 2013 to 2019.

One of the key drivers of this surge is the changing perception of organic foods. Consumers now place a strong emphasis on the social aspects of organic production, favoring small-scale agriculture conducted in clean environments. Government support for organic practices further amplifies this demand, while stringent regulations ensure the safety and quality of organic additives and ingredients.

The widening of distribution channels and the introduction of innovative organic products by various players are also contributing to market prosperity. However, challenges such as shorter shelf life and higher costs compared to conventional foods persist, hindering the market's growth rate.

Nevertheless, increased investment in research and development, particularly targeting infant and toddler products, presents new opportunities for stakeholders in the global organic food and beverages market.

### Preference shift towards organic fruits and vegetables in urban areas

The segmentation of the global organic food market reveals a significant preference for fruits and vegetables, which are expected to account for a substantial 38.8% share of demand in 2019. This preference can be attributed to modern lifestyles, which favor hygienic options and eliminate the traditional hassles associated with fresh produce.

Moreover, growing health consciousness, coupled with fitness trends, particularly among urban populations, is driving the demand for organic food products. Non-dairy beverages, coffee, and tea are also prominent segments in the organic beverages market, with beer and wine gaining popularity.

### North America and Europe lead the charge

North America and Europe emerge as the most lucrative regions, collectively accounting for 88.1 per cent of the demand for organic food and beverages by 2019. This substantial demand reflects high levels of consumer awareness, strong purchasing power, and the continuous launch of new products.

Within these regions, the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Russia, Italy, the Netherlands, and Denmark are identified as the primary drivers of demand.

### Fragmented market landscape

The global organic food and beverages market is characterized by fragmentation, with numerous participants vying for market share. Leading companies

such as The Hain Celestial Group Inc., Amy's Kitchen Inc., 365 Everyday Value/Whole Foods, Organic Valley, and Private label companies dominate the organic food market. In the beverages segment, Starbucks,

The Hain Celestial Group, and Private label companies hold significant shares.

As consumer preferences continue to evolve, and as awareness of health and environmental concerns

grows, the global organic food and beverages market is poised for continued expansion, presenting ample opportunities for both established players and emerging entrants.



# Mariel: The 'Engine of the Cuban Economy' that stalled

By Marleidy Muñoz

**G**AESA, the Cuban military conglomerate, began supervising a megaproject of a port and development zone in 2011, now headed by former military judge Ana Teresa Igarza Martínez. Three years later, then-president Raul Castro inaugurated the container terminal of the Mariel Special Development Zone (ZEDM) in Artemisa province with a tempting promise, to be the main gateway for Cuban foreign trade.

"I must emphasize that this terminal and its geographical location on the route of the main maritime transportation flows in our hemisphere will consolidate its common position as a first-rate logistics platform," Castro stated on January 27, 2014. "This container terminal and the powerful infrastructure that accompanies it are a concrete demonstration of the optimism and confidence with which Cubans look to the socialist and prosperous future of the homeland."

Promises are one of the best smoke screens that the Communist Party regime has ever put forward. Ten years later, the ZEDM is much less than what was announced. It doesn't take off. It doesn't even walk at a somewhat stable pace, and future prospects are uncertain.

But could anything more be expected in a country governed by a political-military elite reluctant to make deep economic changes due to political considerations? Was ZEDM a flawed project from the start?

## Initial Investment

According to an investigation by Connectas, the support of Brazil under Lula da Silva (2003-2010, his first two terms) made the construction of ZEDM possible. Part of the resources came from a loan from the public Brazilian Development Bank (Bndes).

Through the Brazilian construction company Odebrecht, the Bndes granted Cuba US \$641 million to build the Port of Mariel. The loan was granted through five agreements signed between 2009 and 2013, which included a 25-year term for the Cuban government to repay the debt.

"This project has had significant financing from the Brazilian government on advantageous terms," acknowledged Raul Castro during the opening of the ZEDM, created by Decree Law 313/2013.

The construction was carried out by Odebrecht, which was later implicated in a gigantic corruption scheme involving several Latin American countries. Cuba is not officially linked to the accusations.

After being elected president in 2018, Jair Bolsonaro ordered an investigation into the Brazilian bank's loan to Cuba. Bolsonaro stated in January 2022 that loans granted to other countries by his predecessors in the government were "legal," but he assured that there was "misuse" of public resources, according to an EFE report.

Cuba owes Brazil about \$520 million, as reported by Infobae.

## The megaproject that 'didn't take off'

ZEDM was presented from its inception ten years ago as a key project to promote foreign investment, economic diversification, and export promotion. However, it has fallen short of expectations and has attracted only a fraction of the investment needed to boost the island's economy, generating controversy over its management and effectiveness.

Unlike free trade zones, special development zones have a broader concept and offer benefits not only for manufacturing companies but also for technological innovation, real estate development, trade, tourism, agriculture, among many other sectors; always based on specific rules related mainly to investment conditions, administrative regulations, and customs and tax matters.

Mauricio de Miranda Parrondo, a PhD in International Economics and Development, told eTOQUE that "the project never had the 'impact' that the Chinese special economic zones could have had in the early stages of its opening and reform."

According to the Cuban expert, a professor at the Pontifical Javeriana University of Cali (Colombia), "it is evident that the initial investment has not been justified, but the idea itself is not bad and has been very effective in other contexts, such as Taiwan first and then China."

In its beginnings, without the evidence of a decade of little development, ZEDM caused less discouragement. Gerardo Martínez-Solana, an economist and former United Nations official, stated in April 2013: "It is very good for any economy of a country to have a free port,



The Mariel mega-port.

especially if it is a country with an emerging or third-world economy."

However, Martínez-Solana warned: "The problem is how that will be projected to the population. Will Cubans receive adequate wages? Will they have entrepreneurial capacity? Will they be able to invest and create their own companies? Will the Cuban people be given that opportunity or will companies managed by the State and the military be the ones to benefit?"

The Cuban government approved a new legal framework for foreign investment in 2014, which offers advantageous tax and labor conditions, financing, and alleged agility in procedures through a single window system in the ZEDM.

Ana Teresa Igarza Martínez –general director of the ZEDM, deputy to the National Assembly, and formerly legal director of the military conglomerate Gaesa– stated in November 2023: "With 64 established businesses, modern roads, railway, communications, electricity, water supply, and waste treatment infrastructures that interconnect our industries can be appreciated. Special mention is made to foreign investors who, despite the pressures from Cuba's enemies, remain with us building the future."

Despite the positive outlook of the Cuban official, since its opening in 2013, ZEDM has only attracted about \$3.34 billion over a decade. A figure well below the \$2 to \$2.5 billion annual foreign investment estimated by official calculation to boost gross domestic product growth.

Of the 64 "established" businesses mentioned by the official to the press, only 44 are operational, as confirmed by Ana Teresa Igarza in an exchange with the state newspaper Granma in September 2023.

"All that has been executed has been with state resources, in an environment of around \$300 million annually during the first six or seven years. Today sector A is 90% completed, in terms of infrastructure, and we have an occupancy rate of 40%, while there are areas available to establish investments. It was worth doing it," affirmed Igarza in a September 2023 video published by the Russian media Sputnik. According to official publications, 16,000 jobs

have been created.

Economist Elyas Amor noted that the results of Mariel presented between September and November 2023 in state media "are an absolute failure." He also added: "It has been shown that they are not justified because that average of six projects per year over a decade does not justify the enormous volume of investment by the Brazilians in coexistence with the communist Cuban regime."

## Is Cuba an attractive investment destination?

According to Ana Teresa Igarza, ZEDM "does not show other results in foreign investment due to the intensified and renewed US blockade against Cuba."

Economist Pavel Vidal also explained to El Toque that "the recurrent defaults on external debt, the growing imbalance in the state budget accounts, multiple exchange rates, and persistent inflation are factors of uncertainty that discourage investment in the Cuban market."

Economist Omar Everleny Perez also agreed that it is not enough to have a well-designed infrastructure of the ZEDM to attract foreign entrepreneurs.

"It also influences that to remain in Cuba, companies have to be sure that they will not be sanctioned by the United States Government. That doesn't mean it's the only cause," explained Omar Everleny. "Others, for example, are excessive delays in the approval of a project. Many of the companies that have been there or are there have had problems with the payments of their products, which scares investors a lot."

## Ten years ago: The same problems

According to a report by Diario de Cuba, of about 400 companies that were interested in investing in the Mariel Special Development Zone in 2016 –and without data on how many more may have expressed similar intentions in subsequent years– the Cuban government only approved 64, of which only 44 are operational.

Economist Rafaela Cruz pointed out: "The real problem is that, of the investment that arrives, the government blocks more than

90%, rejecting hundreds, if not thousands of companies willing to bring development and well-being to the Cuban people."

Currently, delays continue in the start up of operations of Cuban, foreign, and mixed-capital companies. The objectives of ZEDM have been poorly met; namely, to diversify and boost the Cuban economy with the contribution of foreign capital, substitute imports, and increase exports.

Beyond the scarce figures offered by the island's government, the real impact of the enclave on the Cuban economy is unknown. The perception of many Cubans is that the results are not visible and have not minimized scarcity or the economic and social crisis.

"I don't think there will be a positive impact in the short term, it requires a greater commitment from the Government to structural, lasting, and credible economic reforms," concluded Mauricio de Miranda.

Elyas Amor stated: "It is clear that Cuba's problem lies in its economic model, in the authorities' refusal to implement the changes that should transform the country into a free market economy as occurs in other economies around the world. Until that happens, the system will continue in a serious crisis."



# 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Portable ginnery could revive Kenya's ailing cotton industry

By Wilson Odhiambo, Nairobi

KIRINYAGA University may have just breathed new life into Kenya's ailing cotton industry as varsity dons develop a portable cotton ginnery.

For an industry that has been struggling to survive, this news came as a relief to cotton farmers, whose lives the invention is expected to change, and to a government pushing for job creation and self-reliance through manufacturing.

The project, funded by the government through the National Research Fund (NRF), is a portable cotton ginning machine aimed at addressing the problems faced by farmers, by providing them with a means to process their cotton directly on their farms and hence determine their own market prices.

The invention is the brainchild of four professors from Kirinyaga University: Dennis Muchangi, Grace Kiiru, David Kabata, and Agnes Mutiso.

The cotton processing industry has been struggling to recover for decades since its collapse in the 1990s, despite Kenya boasting of being a pioneer cotton miller and having the largest cotton gin in East Africa, Kisumu Cotton Mills (KICOMI).

The famous KICOMI, located in Nyanza province, has been a centre of controversy since its sudden shutdown in the 1990s. The mill, started in 1964, provided jobs for thousands of people as it was strategically located in the country's largest cotton production region (served the western and Nyanza regions).

The result of this closure was a

collapse in the country's largest cotton production region as the farmers eventually opted for other means of survival. Today, the mill remains a shell of its former glory, despite repeated attempts by the government to revive it.

"From our research, we found out that the remaining cotton ginneries in the country were struggling to stay open due to the high cost of maintaining the ginneries, and the ones that were in operation were inaccessible by most cotton farmers across the country," said Dennis Muchangi, project team leader.

"The closure of ginneries forced the remaining cotton farmers to rely on middlemen to find a market for their products, which meant exploitation and eventual loss of morale in cotton farming for most of them. Currently, they are forced to sell a kilo of grade 2 cotton at Ksh. 26, while grade 1 goes for Ksh. 52," Muchangi said.

Kirinyaga University's invention has brought hope to cotton farmers, most of whom had ventured into other sources of income.

According to the academics, their invention will help the government boost the textile manufacturing industry while also creating blue-collar jobs such as artisans and mechanics, as the machine is easy to make with locally available material and the designs for its manufacture will be made open to the public.

"The portable ginnery is quite a simple machine with designs that are easy to understand for any local mechanic," said Muchangi. This means that they can be built in any location.

The mini ginnery is a far cry from the large industry ginneries,



A mini ginnery could ensure the future of the cotton industry in Kenya

as it is made out of simple scrap metal and other materials that can be found locally and assembled in any work shop.

"Another problem we noted among the available ginneries was maintenance delays, which led to a lot of stalling and shut downs. The big ginnery machines are expensive to maintain and too complex for local mechanics, which meant having to wait for months to get expert engineers from Nairobi to come and fix them. This was bad for the farmers and the cotton industry," Muchangi explained.

"With our machines, farmers will no longer have to wait for experts and they can instead call any locally available mechanic."

Muchangi added that while the government is expected to spend billions to revamp the stalled ginneries, their miniature machine requires less than Ksh. 100,000 (about USD 724) to build and even less

to maintain.

Grace Kiiru, a project member, explained that the machine is also easy to use and, once taught, can be operated by anyone, both men and women. This, she said, will help empower women and the youth.

"While the larger ginneries require experts to operate, our machine is quite easy to learn and use and can be operated by anyone once they get the basic knowledge. This means that they can be operated throughout, thus boosting cotton production," Kiiru said.

The ginnery has also been designed to be able to accommodate farmers who live in areas with limited or no access to electricity.

"Given that most farmers are found in rural areas, characterized by limited or lack of electricity, we have made our machine in such a way that it can be operated manually or can be fitted with a petrol-

powered generator for those who can afford it. We are also working on enabling it to run using solar energy," Kiiru said.

The ginnery is small enough to be transported on a motorbike, making it accessible even in rural areas where motor vehicle transport may be a problem.

According to Kiiru, the machine has the ability to process up to 500 kg of cotton in a single day, which will make it quite profitable to farmers who can sell their products directly to the textile factories.

"Our intention is to help farmers determine their own prices by cutting out the middleman. By processing their own cotton, farmers will be able to sell their product for as much as Ksh. 200 (USD 1.51 per kilo up from the Ksh 25 (about USD 0.19) per kilo that they are currently being forced to accept," she explained.

Kenya currently relies on cotton imports to supplement its textile industry, a fact that Saada Mangi laments has made the cost of some fabric high.

"Most clothing designers like myself import fabric from India due to the high cost and sometimes lack of material of the same quality locally. We are forced to sell our finished clothes at high prices, meaning we have to target certain clients who can afford them," Mangi said.

"It is sad to see people prefer imported clothes and materials because they are more affordable compared to what we make locally. This is part of what kills our culture as a country," Mangi said.

"Rivatex Textiles, Kenya's largest textile factory, has had to rely on cotton imports from countries like Egypt to sustain its demands. Our machines will give farmers in the western and Nyanza regions a reason to resume cotton farming, which means no more importation and hence reduced prices on textile products," Muchangi concluded.

# WB, AfDB want joint effort to boost finance to support LDCs

By Special Correspondent, Washington

AFRICAN Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina has called for more urgent action as climate change continues to wreak havoc in many African countries.

He was speaking at a high-level roundtable on climate finance convened during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings by UK Deputy Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell, and the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze.

Adesina said the ongoing devastating drought in several parts of Africa underscored the need for all stakeholders to come together to accelerate support and financing for Africa.

"Africa is in the eye of the storm from climate change, accounting for 9 out of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change globally," Adesina told participants. He added: "But Africa is not getting what it needs to adapt to climate change. Africa received just \$30 billion per year for climate adaptation, while its needs are \$277 billion per year, leaving a huge financing gap."

The African Development Bank has scaled up climate finance and is exceeding its financing targets for African countries. The Bank has launched several innovations to mobilise resources that will help scale up climate finance. These include a recent \$750 million hybrid capital issue in the global capital markets, the first of its kind among multilateral development banks. The initiative was oversubscribed at \$6 billion.

The African Development Bank's room-to-run transaction, with a \$2 billion guarantee from the United Kingdom, unlocked an additional \$2 billion for the Bank to devote to climate finance.

Adesina said the African Development Bank was delivering on its promise. He said: "The African Development Bank set a target to devote 40% of its total financing to climate finance. We have exceeded this target consistently in the past three years, consecutively, and stood



African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina (R) said the Group's Climate Action Window will directly support the low-income and most vulnerable countries on climate adaptation, mitigation, and technical assistance, with a first call for proposals for adaptation eliciting \$4 billion of projects, ten times the size of the total facility.

at 55% in 2023."

The roundtable included interventions by World Bank Group President Ajay Banga, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, Global Center on Adaptation CEO Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen, COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev, and ministers from Germany, the UK, Malawi, Kenya, Uruguay, Norway, Vanuatu, and Bangladesh. There were also interventions from heads of the Asian Development Bank, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, and Green Climate Fund Executive Director Mafalda Duarte.

The meeting highlighted the urgency of partnerships and collaboration to deliver climate finance to countries that need it most, including building capacity in these countries to better use these funds, develop bankable projects, and support smallholder farmers.

World Bank Group Ajay Banga encouraged stakeholders to remain determined to move forward despite existing frustrations. He said: "The first thing is not just to raise money, but to raise the capacity of countries in terms of getting bankable projects and also the capacity to execute

them. We need to find a way to support countries with knowledge."

Climate Action Window supporting Africa's most vulnerable countries in response to the calls for reform of the global financial architecture, Adesina said the African Development Bank had innovated and created the Climate Action Window as part of the 16th replenishment of its African Development Fund. He described it as "first among all multilateral development banks".

With initial funding of \$429 million from development partners Germany, the UK, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, the African Development Bank plans to increase this to \$13 billion.

Adesina told the audience: "The Climate Action Window will directly support the low-income and most vulnerable countries on climate adaptation, mitigation, and technical assistance. The first call for proposals for adaptation elicited \$4 billion of projects, ten times the size of the total facility, confirming the massive demand for adaptation finance by countries." To further leverage climate finance, the African Adaptation Acceleration Programme—the flagship programme of the African Development Bank and the Global

Center on Adaptation—is mobilising \$25 billion for climate adaptation. It is the largest climate adaptation programme in the world.

Speakers at the roundtable described the situation as dire and underlined the urgent need for stakeholders to work more collaboratively as a system. This includes forward-looking and country-led planning, policies, and partnerships to maximise support and climate finance from financial institutions and the private sector. Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning, Njuguna Ndung'u, called for massive funding to finance adaptation programmes, highlighting the link between climate change and development.

Ndung'u said: "We also need to demonstrate that we have projects that can work, adding that the country's Renewable Energy Integration (REI) investment programme allows national governments and country levels to commit resources. It helps us find national solutions."

Finance Minister Jon Salong Dahmasing of Vanuatu echoed this message, highlighting how small island developing states constantly need to respond to emergencies. He said this makes it difficult for them to focus on

the Sustainable Development Goals. "We have capacity limitations making it difficult to access funds unless we have capacity support, including capacity to deliver bankable projects and how to access the funding that is available across the world," he said.

Malawi's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Simplex Chithyola Banda, spoke about the impact of climate change and natural disasters on development.

Citing how Malawi has been hit by natural disasters for the past three years, he said, "This has become the enemy of development. ... Our recent disaster means that we need to benefit from climate finance. The moment a natural disaster hits us, it has an immediate impact on our economies. It pushes many more of our people into food insecurity."

Speaking earlier, UK Minister Andrew Mitchell stressed the urgency of getting the world to unite to finance adaptation.

**Double Adaptation Finance**

He explained that adaptation required critical global attention, stressing that the next few years would be critical for developing countries facing natural shocks.

Mitchell said: "We need to collec-

tively deliver on the COP26 pledge to double adaptation finance by 2025. We need to work on meeting the COP 26 targets... We are seeing the devastating impact of climate change in the developing world. Humanitarian crises are getting more frequent... and we fear that they will get worse." He told the roundtable that the UK was going further by tripling adaptation financing, the majority of which will be by grants.

German Minister Svenja Schulze described 2024 as a critical window of opportunity to reform the global financial architecture. "Adaptation financing urgently needs our attention," she said.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados echoed the importance of a creative collective approach to tapping the significant amount of money in the global community, pointing out that "We are racing against time..." She also stressed that it was time to realize that outdated models of development assistance were not appropriate to tackle the very different kinds of development challenges faced today by countries of the Global South than those that existed when the international development institutions were originally established.

# 'Triple spending': Zimbabweans bear cost of changing to new ZiG currency

By Calvin Manika

At a shopping centre in Glenview, a busy working-class suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, carpenter Arnold Mutiri stopped to buy a 2-litre (half-gallon) Mazoe Raspberry drink.

The price tag said US\$3.70. With Zimbabwe's volatile currency and years of economic crisis, most goods are priced in more stable United States dollar amounts with customers receiving their small change in local currency.

Mutiri handed the shopkeeper four US\$1 bills and waited for his change. But the shop had none available. The 37-year-old then tried to pay the full amount in ZWL, Zimbabwe's outgoing currency, which locals call bond notes, but the till operator refused to accept it, telling him to buy something else or forfeit the balance.

The scenario is one many Zimbabweans now face on a daily basis since the country launched its new currency, Zimbabwe Gold, or ZiG, two weeks ago, Mutiri said, lamenting how people have to budget more for basics just to make it through the day.

On April 5, Zimbabwe's central bank announced the new gold-backed currency, immediately implementing changes on digital platforms with local banks converting ZWL to ZiG amounts on their systems.

However, the new bank notes will become available only at the end of the month after the central bank's governor put in place a grace period to enable the transition. In the meantime, the central bank made assurances that bond notes would still be in use.

Despite this, many businesses like the shop in Glenview have already ceased trading in ZWL, significantly impacting millions who depend on cash for their daily needs, including people working in the informal economy.

"This comes at a time when we are already struggling with unemployment and the drought. Shops cannot give change, meaning they are rounding up all the transactions," Mutiri said.



Vendors do business in US dollars on the streets of Harare, Zimbabwe

"They are profiteering a lot during this period of poorly coordinated currency transition. One has to double or triple the usual spending," he told Al Jazeera.

### Old notes not accepted

The ZiG is set to replace both existing ZWL bond notes and the Zimbabwean dollar, launched in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

Zimbabwe has been struggling with its currency for more than a decade. The ZiG is the country's sixth attempt to launch a new one since 2008 when the rate of inflation reached 79.6 billion percent per month before soaring to an unprecedented level of 89.7 zillion percent

by November that year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The decision to move to the ZiG was an attempt to tackle inflation and also foster "simplicity, certainty [and] predictability" in Zimbabwe's financial affairs. John Mushayavanhu, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, said at the launch. But simplicity is not what many consumers in Zimbabwe are currently experiencing. Several people in Harare and nearby towns and rural areas told Al Jazeera that despite assurances the old notes were still in use this month, government entities and the private and informal sectors were all rejecting

them, leaving people in the lurch.

"This is beyond the shops. Last week at the tollgate, the government agency ZINARA was rejecting the bond notes, yet people do not have the ZiG cash," Mutiri said, explaining how the agency insisted on US dollar payments at the tolls, resulting in a long queue as motorists protested but without success. "Bond notes are still a legal tender for transactions, at least until April 30. The government itself is expected to reflect confidence and lead exemplarily, but they are also rejecting it altogether," he added.

People were also unable to use online platforms to pay for telecommunications and electricity services in the immediate wake of the changeover while some banking services temporarily went offline from April 5 to 8, local media reported. This also affected US dollar transactions.

Clara Choti from the suburb of Kuwadzana said transport was now more expensive because operators were taking advantage of the situation.

"Local destinations within our suburbs where we used to pay between 30 and 50 [US] cents are now priced at \$1, unless you are travelling as two or three people, which is rare. Operators say they do not have the change," she said.

According to Craig Nhodo, a financial expert: "All these efforts by the government to change currencies are in search of stability of a freefall economy. [But] without the government itself committed to the use of the local currency, currencies have failed."

"Now ZiG is here, but you can't buy fuel, pay import duty with it. Already the new currency is set for failure."

"It's painful! In rolling out the ZiG, Mushayavanhu said the central bank would organise campaigns to educate people about the new currency and its security features."

However, many people, especially those far from urban centres, are concerned.

In Murewa, a rural area 90km (55 miles) east of the capital, Agnes Kwaramba is worried about the lack of consultation done before the launch. The 61-year-old does not feel very confident about the ZiG in general.

Kwaramba, who retired five years ago, lost her savings four times during her career as a teacher. She said her losses were connected with changes in the currency rather than other economic factors bedevilling Zimbabwe.

"In 2001, 2008, 2016 and 2019, I lost my savings after decades of working, saving in anticipation of my retirement," she told Al Jazeera. "The monetary policies have failed us for years. Even now, there was no proper messaging and education to the populace about the new currency."

When in 2016 the central bank introduced the ZWL as legal tender, it set the bank rate 1:1 to the US dollar and assured the nation that the value would be equivalent. So people, including Kwaramba, left money in their bank accounts only to realise the local currency was depreciating. Just a few months into the ZWL, millions had lost the value of their savings. Kwaramba's finances have not recovered.

Again in 2019 when the Zimbabwe dollar was launched during runaway inflation, Zimbabwe faced another bleak period when foreign currencies, including the US dollar, were banned until 2020.

This time with the ZiG, Kwaramba said elderly people in rural areas are left with bond notes while shops refuse to give them change for their US dollars. "The shops are not accepting our own currency, and when buying foodstuffs, they have no change," Kwaramba lamented.

"Imagine here in the countryside amidst the El Nino-induced drought - it's painful. We are failing to buy some of the basics due to the inflated prices or being forced to buy other goods."

She said the government should have deployed Reserve Bank officers around the country to help allocate ZiG digital currency to use for mobile transactions while people wait for cash.

### Lack of confidence or timing?

The Reserve Bank has assured the nation that the ZiG is backed by gold and is strong compared with the ZWL. But people like Mutiri and Kwaramba vividly remember the hope and eventual disappointment of prior currency swaps.

"We cannot be fooled again," Kwaramba said. "I have spent my life as a civil servant, but I cannot point to anything today. After prices, this will go and affect our already paltry pensions." Economists said the 2016 launch of the bond notes was not informed by economic fundamentals and lack of political will in enforcing the use of that currency resulted in it failing and depreciating.

Economist Tashinga Henry Kajiva said the rationale behind the launch of the ZiG this year is mainly to curb inflation and introduce a medium of exchange stable enough to facilitate domestic and foreign trade.

But he added that the context is unfortunately wrong. "The idea itself is normal. If you have a gold standard, a currency backed by actual physical precious minerals, it means it would introduce price stability, increasing investor confidence, because they are actually backed up by precious minerals."

While the initiative was advantageous to a certain extent, Kajiva said, the ZiG is not being launched in the right context because there are fundamental issues that need to be addressed within the financial sector for it to succeed. "The first thing that the government of Zimbabwe through the Reserve Bank and the Ministry of Finance have to address is consumer confidence stakeholders. Zimbabweans are not confident in the domestic currency," Kajiva added.

"We know Zimbabwe's economic history has been marred by hyperinflation, no policy consistency when it comes to the financial sector. All those things have eroded the public trust, and the government needs to be very proactive and instil confidence in this newfound currency."

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 97 -**

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

**ACROSS:**

- fashion or shape (a figure) in clay, wax, etc
- increase
- sweep over so as to completely surround
- the sound produced in a person's larynx
- a long, narrow inlet formed by the partial submergence of a river valley

**DOWN:**

- Go in a specified direction
- everyday
- unpleasant look
- harmony in opinion
- Driving Under the Influence
- the lowest layer of the ionosphere, able to reflect low-frequency radio waves
- situated on board a ship
- cecum
- flightless bird of Mauritius
- part of a town originally called 21. personal identification number

12. become bigger  
13. informal of goodbye  
14. place Adam and Eve lived  
16. a loud and confused noise  
18. former ruling party in Kenya  
20. colour used to warn  
22. a unit of effective absorbed dose of ionizing radiation in human tissue, loosely equivalent to one roentgen of X-rays  
23. an edible Japanese mushroom  
24. a lyric poem

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.

**AGREE ARENA ENSNARE**  
**AREAS PALESTRA SAE**  
**HARASSED PAN:RAR AVOID**  
**IWI: HAA AROMA SISA**  
**NOISES LEI: SEE WEST**

**Yesterday's solution**

SAGE MOURN MALINGER  
AWAY A S E OVEN N  
MARRAM EVE ROSEBUD  
ISRAELI D SWIPE OW  
AHI DUDE Y S W I P E O W  
S E L K I N G E O T T A W A  
E G O L I O N S L A N E G R  
R A N E E T U D E L A N E G R  
E R S E I E S A L O O N

**RADIO One** **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 21:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 21:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 21:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAGO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS KIPIMA JOYO 23:00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One** **Radio One**



## Z'bar House of Reps' budgetary committee members stress on the benefits of SEZs/EPZs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

The Budget Parliamentary Committee of Zanzibar House of Representatives has called on the need for making efficient utilisation of export processing zones and special economic zones areas for building sustainable industrial development and poverty alleviation.

The call was made by the Committee Chairperson Mwanaasha Khamis Juma during their visit at the Export Processing Zones Authority and various industries housed at the Benjamin William Mkapa Special Economic Zone (BWM-SEZ) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

"Promoting industrialisation through the SEZ, EPZ is a fundamental step towards creation of more jobs and reaching the country's goal of building robust industrial economy," she said.

She said the tour will help them to advise Zanzibar government on areas that can be given priority for attracting industrial investors to develop industries through the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

"We commend President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi for the efforts geared at creating friendly investment environment to attract more investors to make industrialisation agenda a reality," she said.

She said it was high time that Zanzibar through ZIPA continues to attract investors establish industries particularly by making efficient utilisation of the SEZ and EPZ areas.

She said for example the industries housed at the BWM-SEZ have created direct jobs to over 5000 people whereby about 80 per cent are women, this is highly commendable.

"Therefore, by allocating more SEZ, EPZ areas for industrial development through ZIPA, the Isles could create more jobs and enhance industrial contribution to economic growth," she added.

Juma said developing export led industries through EPZ could help both the Union and Zanzibar governments generate more foreign currencies thus boosting foreign exchange reserve.

The Head of Communication and Public Relations Department at EPZA Panduka Yonaz said one of the objectives of establishing the authority is to attract and promote investment for export-led industrialisation which is fundamental for expanding the country's foreign exchange earnings.

For example, the Tanzania Tooku Garment is one of the textile factories operating at BWM-SEZ that manufacture jeans for the African Growth and Opportunity Act and USA markets.

He said also that it is one of the EPZA targets to have many areas country-wide for producing export let products to create more jobs and boost the country's foreign exchange earnings.

"We encourage local investors to take advantage of the various opportunities offered by EPZA to establish industries as a way of taking active role in building inclusive industrial development," he added.

# CRDB requires more stake on prospective cooperative bank

By Guardian Correspondent

CRDB Bank has requested the parliamentary committee on industry, trade, agriculture and livestock to increase its investment on the prospective Cooperative Bank of Tanzania (CBT), which will officially be launched by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in less than two months to come.

The request was issued by the CRDB Group's board chairman Dr Ally Laay to the committee's deputy chairperson Marian Mzuzuri, who led the parliamentary committee's delegation in making follow ups on the development of the preparation for the new bank.

Dr Laay reported that all preparations for the establishment of the new bank, which will serve farmers through their cooperatives is on the card.

According to Dr Laay, CRDB Bank issued 7bn/- as strategic investments to rescue the Kilimanjaro Cooperative Bank (KCBL) from collapsing, after deterioration of its capital, and so far, 16.8bn/- have already been raised for the establishment of CBT.

The largest bank's board chairman explained that KCBL and Tandahimba Community Bank have had bad financial conditions, which resulted into the government to send



CRDB Bank board chairman Ally Laay speaks with members of the parliamentary committee for industry, trade, agriculture and livestock on the establishment of TCB. To his left is Frederick Nshekanabo, the chief finance officer, CRDB. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

the request to CRDB to see on how it can inject capital into the two ailing banks.

Although the plan to establish the CBT started in 2012, it stalled until 2018 when the KCBL board approved the reforms to seek CRDB Bank as strategic investors, after consultation with the government.

In 2021, the KCBL board approved the reforms system to enable it transform into Cooperative Bank of Tanzania (CBT), which was also supported by the federation of cooperatives.

"CRDB accepted the request by issuing such amount to KCBL including five employees and two board members," he explained.

"The amount was not issued as credits, but part of ownership; because when the shares of the

prospective cooperative bank will start to be sold, the invested amount will be turned into equity and we will further increase funds to enable our ownership of 20 percent of all paid up share capital."

Dr Laay said with subsidiaries in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and further plans to extend its services into other countries surrounding Tanzania, the committee should support its bid to invest at least more than 20 percent of the new bank.

Speaking during the discussion, the parliamentary committee deputy chairperson Mariam Mzuzuri said she was impressed by the preparations of establishing the vital financial institution.

"Due to the well detailed presentation to us, I believe that the history will

be remembered to be part of establishment of the new bank. We are also told on how this type of banks is very strong in other countries where farmers have strong economic capabilities compared to ours who mostly are subsistence farmers," she said.

Responding on the CRDB chairman request, Mzuzuri said: "As what you dedicated efforts to empower KCBL, your request is discussible and we will see on how to make it happen".

Presenting on the plan for establishment of CBT, the KCBL general manager Godfrey Ng'urah said the main objectives are to create alternative source of incomes among cooperative unions, to offer competitive services that will reach more people and create financial products meeting the needs of co-

operatives members.

He said prospective CBT is expected to touch all agricultural value chain from farmers' products marketing for those in cooperatives, small traders, livestock keepers, fishing communities in groups, village community banks (VICOBA), involved in production, transportation, supply of warehouses and inputs.

"Our strategy from 2024 to 2030 is to enable the cooperative bank to have a capital of 100bn/-. Apart from CRDB's 20 percent ownership, KCBL management is also discussing with other stakeholders including Rabo Bank, IFC, AfDB and Cooperative Bank of Kenya to come to invest on TCB," he said.

He said the bank is also planning to raise funds through selling shares at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), which will enable the opening of ten branches from planned three during its launch with 10,000 agents.

The registrar of cooperatives and chief executive officer of Commission for Tanzania Cooperatives Development Dr Benson Ndiege assured that the preparation for establishing the bank is on card.

"Tandahimba Community Bank has been changed into a Cooperative Bank and the lucky thing is that customers of this bank will be owners," he said.

## TPA opens bid for proposed Bagamoyo Port

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

The Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) has opened the bid to securing the contractor that would be responsible for constructing a new port at Ras Mbegani, in Bagamoyo.

This was revealed by TPA's Deputy Director General Engineer Juma Kijavara when speaking to this paper over the weekend in an exclusive interview in Dar es Salaam.

The authority's senior official said that they are wrapping up the new feasibility study on the construction of the new port, and it will be ready by next month.

"The feasibility study to update the previous study that was completed in 2010 will be ready by next month," he said.

The port project to be located 60km North of Dar es Salaam commercial city is designed to cater for forecast growth in the container and vehicle (RORO) traffic after 2018, including provision of EPZ and other facilities.

On the landward, side its strengths include its geographical position in the wider physical, human and economic environment, especially its location close to the current commercial capital, its proximity to both the Central and the TAZARA transport corridors-linking via Kibaha and its expansion possibilities to cater for dry and liquid bulk cargo if necessary.

On the sea side, conditions of site mean that extensive capital dredging is required-estimated when complete, at between 17.8 and 21.5 million cubic metres de-

pending on port design depth-to 13.5 and 15.5m relative to chart datum respectively.]

It is situated at Mlingotini (lazy) Lagoon, which is separated from the open sea by Ras Luale, a low point forming the extremity of a pit of coral and sand covered with thick bush, which extends parallel with the coast.

The bay is enclosed by the above mentioned spit which mostly dries at low water though there is a narrow channel to Ras Mbegani, a low mangrove point is situated 1 nautical mile west of Ras Luale, he said.

The new port is expected to handle up to 600,000 TEUs and 100,000 vehicle units per annum under phase one, increasing to 1.5m TEUs and 175,000 vehicle units per annum under phase two and up to 2.8m TEUs and 270,000

vehicle units per annum under phase three.

Some outstanding figures who were reached for comments regarding the construction of the Bagamoyo Port, who however, sought to remain anonymous, have encouraged the local companies to grab noble this opportunity.

They said "It is a high time for the government to pivot away from the Chinese investment by diversifying investments and opening up the Bagamoyo Port project to the private sector."

They said "diversification of the investment is good for Tanzania; Tanzania must continue to be wary of predatory powers (PRC implied) who are not looking to make mutually beneficial deals but only serve their own interests."

## Auditors urged to update tech skills

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has encouraged internal auditors from various institutions in the country to continue participating in various forums to gain a deeper understanding of governance and technology that affect the field of internal audit.

The remark was made late last week by the TADB's Head of Internal Auditors, Joyce Maduhu at the 10th African Federation of Institute of Internal Auditors (AFIIA) conference held in Arusha.

A two-day forum that was hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Tanzania entails the participation of Board Members, Audit Committee Members, Chief Executive Officers, Senior Management and Chief Audit Executives.

"To promote the internal audit profession in the country, I would

like to encourage internal auditors to participate in various forums to gain a deeper understanding of governance and technology that affect the profession," she said.

In particular, she said the financial institution participates in the forum to improve the effectiveness of internal audit systems to continue providing quality services to customers.

Shedding the light on the forum, President IIA Dr Zelia Njeza said about 350 participants from 27 countries both in and outside African continent, are participated in the forum.

"Approximately 1000 Internal Auditors are participated in this year's forum," she said.

Dr Njeza further said this year's forum themed 'Beyond Boundaries Make Difference' suggests a focus on breaking through limitations, crossing barriers, and going above and beyond to create a positive impact.

Adding: "It is also encourage individuals or groups to think innovatively and act in ways that surpass conventional constraints or expectations."

Recently, TADB signed a new agreement with the Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) to boost credit guarantees to small-scale farmers through the Smallholder Farmers Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS).

The TADB said the new five year partnership deal with TCB signed in Dar es Salaam was worth 21bn/- up from 7bn/- allocated in 2018 when the credit guarantees to smallholder farmers were initiated.

Addressing the Journalists in Dar es Salaam, TADB Managing Director Frank Nyabundege said the agreement implemented through the SCGS would double the accessibility of loans among smallholder farmers unlike before.



A cross section of auditors who attended the 10th African Federation of Institute of Internal Auditors conference held in Arusha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# How much cyber security is enough for an organisation?

By Ibrahim Sultan

The world of cybersecurity can be complicated because of emerging risks and vulnerabilities brought about by advancements in technology. Cybersecurity is complicated, and when you weigh the expense of a cyberattack against the measures most organisations have taken to prevent it, the dangers of a security breach are underestimated.

As technology advances and grows more complex, cybercriminals are also growing more inventive and skilled in their attacks. Organisations are becoming more aware of the importance of cyber security, but there is still a question regarding how much money they should spend on it.

An organisation may invest infinitely in cybersecurity, but it will never reach the highest level of protection if the security implementation process is not followed. Determining the minimal level of cyber security needs is crucial for an organisation to safeguard its digital assets. To achieve cyber security that

is appropriate for your organisation, you must first understand risks. Risk is the probability of threat materializing. Every decision of implementing cyber security in organisation start with looking at risk. Cybersecurity is about analyzing risk and then making decisions based on that analysis.

The only way to guarantee that your organisation's technology meets its needs, that employees are adhering to cybersecurity policies, and that your organisation is completely protected is to implement cybersecurity risk management. Implementing suitable security measures, minimizing interruptions brought on by cyber incidents, detecting and correcting vulnerabilities, and protecting an organisation's reputation are just a few advantages that come with successful cyber security risk management in organisation. Organisations of all sizes, small and large, must realize that the current risks related to cyber can make them a prime target for cybercriminals.

Cybersecurity risk management is the process of identification, analysis, assessment, mitigation or trans-

By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.



fer of risk, evaluation of current security measures, and putting solutions in place for an organisation's digital assets. One of the most important ways to ensure corporate security in an organisation is to invest in cybersecurity risk management. To guarantee that an organisation's information assets are protected, cybersecurity risk management is essential.

The concept of cybersecurity risk management has become more important and valuable to adopt in today's digital environment, as technology affects practically every aspect of our work in the organisation. The risk assessment will assist the

organisation in determining its most valuable assets as well as potential threats and weaknesses. This procedure will contribute in identifying information security risks and evaluating their impact and likelihood. The results of the risk assessment will recognize the assets that need to be secured first and decide how much cyber security should be implemented within the organisation.

What actions can an organisation take to help ensure enough cyber security?

Cybersecurity risk management can help lessen the effect and likelihood of threats, but these risks cannot be completely eradicated.

Firstly, A good understanding of cybersecurity risk is essential to the success of the organisation's security program. An effective risk management program aids in an organisation's consideration of all the dangers it may encounter. Our decisions about how to reduce organisation's risks serve as the foundation for Security Governance and Policy. Security Governance is a collection of duties and procedures carried out by the board and senior management with the aim of giving strategic direction, guaranteeing the accomplishment of goals, confirming that risks are properly managed, and confirming the responsible use of the organisation's ICT resources. Security policy is the foundation of security infrastructure. The policy will outline how security will be applied throughout the organisation. A security policy review is necessary at least every two years to make sure your organisation complies with all legal obligations and stay up to date with the evolving threat landscape.

Secondly, Employee education is essential in order to help them understand the importance of cyberse-

curity and how they may help safeguard the organisation's information assets. To increase employee understanding of information security risks, security processes that need to be followed, and the repercussions for the organisation when security policies are broken, frequent training programs must be put in place. Board members and the Management Team should also receive cybersecurity governance training. Specialized training is required for security personnel at the best training facilities where they excel in cyber security and all this raises the organisation's overall security awareness level.

Finally, an organisation's information is an asset that must be strategically managed and protected, and this can only be achieved if the organisation's management recognizes the importance of the information they possess.

**Ibrahim Sultan is a cyber security consultant. These are his personal views. He can be reached via email address: sultibra@gmail.com\* sultibra@gmail.com**

## Historic battery minerals summit set for Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

As the world grapples with extreme effects of climate change, leading companies, investors, government agencies, and NGOs are focused on decarbonization, sustainability, and creating significant impact, Zanzibar is expected to host a transformational battery summit in July.

To be held on July 1st and 2nd, 2024, the 1st East African Battery Minerals Summit (the "Summit") will advance the global green economy, address climate change, and allow select companies to meet the rapidly growing demand for key battery minerals.

The Summit is organized by the

East African Community, Africa Battery Initiative, and the Government of Tanzania, in partnership with InvestBank Corp, an award-winning global investment bank and a trusted and respected name in the global investment banking industry.

InvestBank offers a diverse suite of advisory and capital market services to clients around the world and has established itself as a committed global ESG leader to create global impact, transformative change, and a more sustainable future.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been announced as the summit's inaugural sovereign partner and the Future Minerals Forum ("FMF")



is the Summit strategic partner.

Convened by Saudi Arabia, the FMF is a platform designed to enable the creation of resilient mineral value chains in the vast resource rich super region of Africa and Western and Central Asia.

The adoption of green metals, and the establishment of industrial hubs in an emerging minerals super region

spanning from Africa through Western and Central Asia, will play an important role in the future development of resilient supply chains for minerals and metals.

The worldwide battery electrification mega-trend has significantly increased the demand for key battery minerals.

Recent studies conducted by both East African and in-

ternational institutions indicate that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, and Zambia alone account for a significant percentage of the total global deposits of key battery minerals, including (l) cobalt - 60 percent, nickel - 40 percent, lithium - 35 percent, and graphite - 45 percent.

The 1st East African Battery Minerals Summit offers an

unparalleled opportunity for leading companies and investors to participate in the development and industrialization of each sector of the battery minerals supply chain in the East African Community region.

This development and industrialization will increase the resilience of the global battery minerals supply chain by increasing the number of countries involved. Companies will also have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen their own battery mineral supply chains and attain supply chain security.

The East African Community Secretariat has prioritized the development of the region's extractive industries.

Mineral value addition, as a strategic value chain, will facilitate socioeconomic transformation in the region.

The East African Community region plans to transform itself into a stable and competitive lower-middle income region by 2030 through the sustainable use of its natural resources, the development of the green economy, and through climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.

The 1st East African Battery Minerals Summit was originally scheduled on April 24th and 25th, 2024.

However, the government of Tanzania, in its capacity as the Summit's host country, received requests to reschedule the Summit.

Additional time was required for the detailed security and logistical planning necessary for the greater than expected number of very high-profile dignitaries who requested to attend the summit.

## Coast women traders urged to improve quality of goods

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Members of Women's Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) in Coast region have advised to improve quality of their products in order to compete in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) market.

The call was made over the weekend by Bagamoyo district council's lawyer, Hemedi Malogo, during the two-day training organized by (TWCC) held in Bagamoyo.

He said that quality increase the value and competitiveness of the products in the market.

He said the entrepreneurs of the Coastal Region can take advantage of the availability of crops in the region by adding value to them to increase their income.

He said that the Coastal

Region produces crops, livestock and fish, of which if used properly, can increase the individuals, families and ultimately national incomes.

He explained that the government has prioritized empowering women and young entrepreneurs where various loans have been provided as part of strategy to build their capital.

He said Tanzania has been a member of various regional and international development communities including the East African Community (EAC) Southern African Development Community (SADC) and has agreed to implement the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) that provide market opportunities for traders.

He said it is the government's hope to see entrepreneurs make good use

of these opportunities, so that they can benefit from them and women can be in forefront in seizing opportunities.

He asked various government Institutions that have participated in the training, to cooperate with the traders to ensure that their products follow all procedures and regulations so that they can grow, and be sustainable.

The Board Chairperson of TWCC, Mercy Sila, said the aim of the training is to build the capacity of businesswomen regarding procedures, laws and regulations for doing business in the areas where they are located and in the African market (AfCFTA).

She said that through TWCC, women can take a progressive step in their business and know different ways to raise capital, improve business and find markets.

He used the opportunity to thank the Government through President Samia Suluhu Hassan for giving importance to women and allocating loans of 10 percent of the council's income to develop themselves through their groups.

Participants of the training commended TWCC for organizing the training which they said has built a great understanding in various issues related to business.

Amina Abdul said that through the training they have gained understanding about paying taxes, understanding about how to register company names through the Institutes and organizations that were present at the training.

The Institutions and organizations that participated in the training with the aim of providing education are the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

The training attracted businesswomen from Bagamoyo, Chalinze, Kibaha, Mkuranga, Kibiti and Mafia district councils.



Bagamoyo District Council Lawyer, Hemedi Malogo speaks during the training to equip women with business skills. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



Tanzania Trade Authority (TanTrade) director general Latifa Khamis (C) in a group photo with Tanzania Tea Board planning and promotion manager Rukia Mawongo (R) and other dignitaries who accompanied President Samia Suluhu Hassan during her recent visit to Turkey. Turkish investors have shown interest in investing in Tanzania's tea sub-sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## WORLD

# Sunak sets Britain back on climate change, says watchdog head

LONDON

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak has set Britain back on tackling climate change and must do more on heating and industrial emissions to stop slipping behind other nations, the head of the government's advisory body has said.

Chris Stark, who will step down as chief executive of the independent Climate Change Committee next week, told the BBC broadcaster that UK cli-

mate policy had become less ambitious.

"That is extremely hard to recover," Stark said, according to excerpts from the interview due to air on Sunday.

"I think it's set us back."

Under pressure to address cost-of-living concerns and trailing the opposition Labour Party before an election later this year, Sunak has outraged environmental campaigners by watering down some measures to reach net zero emis-

sions.



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak gives a speech in central London on Friday. AP

He says delaying targets for changing cars and domestic heating are pragmatic moves needed to maintain the consent of the British people, with the country's commitment to reach net zero by 2050 still intact.

Stark, who has run the committee since April 2018 but will now join consultancy the Carbon Trust as chief executive later this year, said Britain needed to do more work on how homes were heated and industrial emissions managed, as well as in the farming and transport systems.

"I definitely feel we're at risk," he said.

Asked about Stark's comments, a government spokesperson said Britain was the first major economy to halve greenhouse gas emissions since 1990 and had set into law one of the most ambitious 2035 climate change targets.

"But we need to reach our net zero goals in a sustainable way so we have taken action to protect our energy security, ease the burdens on hard-working people and provide transparency about the choices involved so that we bring people with us in meeting our climate targets," the spokesperson added. **Agencies**

# China publishes world's first high-definition lunar geologic atlas

BEIJING

China yesterday released a geologic atlas set of the global moon with a scale of 1:2.5 million, which is the first complete high-definition lunar geologic atlas in the world, providing basic map data for future lunar research and exploration.

This geologic atlas set, available in both Chinese and English, includes the Geologic Atlas of the Lunar Globe and the Map Quadrangles of the Geologic Atlas of the Moon, according to the Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

"The geologic atlas of the moon is of great significance for studying the evolution of the moon, selecting the site for a future lunar research station and utilizing lunar resources.

It can also help us better understand the Earth and other planets in the solar system, such as Mars," said Ouyang Ziyuan, who is a CAS academician and a well-known lunar scientist.

"The world has witnessed significant progress in the field of lunar exploration and scientific research over the past decades, which have greatly improved our understanding of the moon.

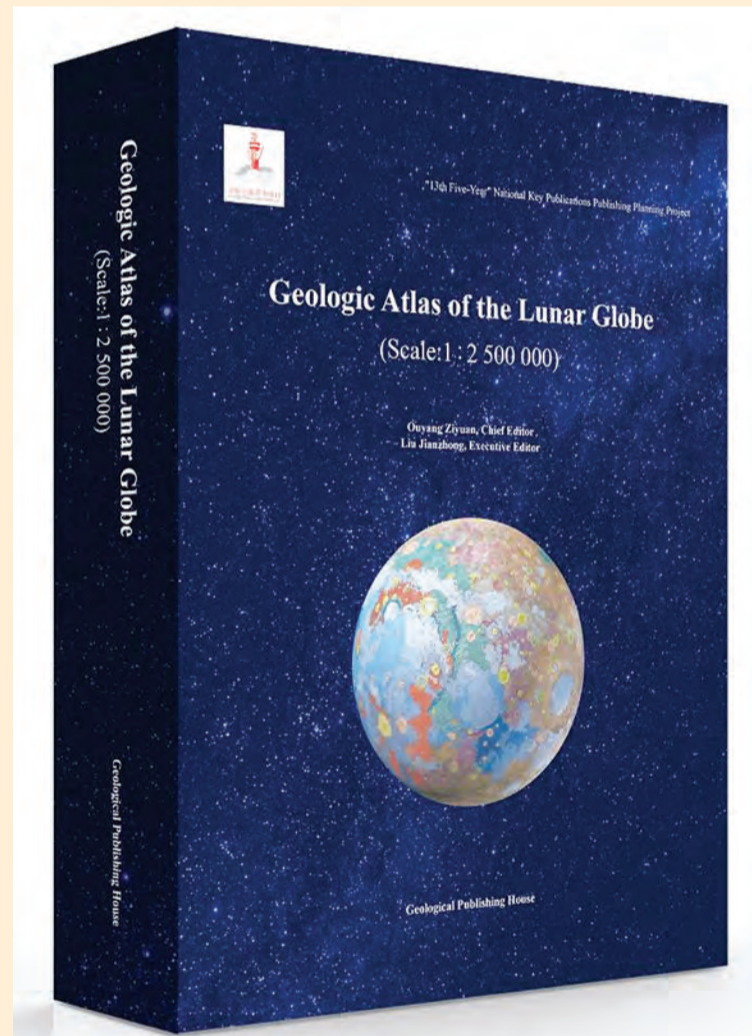
However, the lunar geologic maps published during the Apollo era have not been changed for about half a century, and are still being used for lunar geological research.

With the improvements of lunar geologic studies, those old maps can no longer meet the needs of future scientific research and lunar exploration," said Liu Jianzhong, a senior researcher from the Institute of Geochemistry of the CAS.

Since 2012, Ouyang Ziyuan and Liu Jianzhong have led a team of scientists and cartographers from relevant research institutions in compiling this atlas.

With a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon, the team compiled the atlas based on scientific exploration data gained from China's Chang'e lunar exploration program and other research results from both Chinese and international missions, Liu said.

This atlas set not only provides basic data and scientific references for the formulation and implementation of scientific goals in China's lunar exploration program, but also fills the blank in China's compilation of geologic maps of the



China Sunday released a set of geologic atlas of the global moon with a scale of 1:2.5 million, which is the first complete high-definition lunar geologic atlas in the world, providing basic map data for future lunar research and exploration. This photo shows the set of Geologic Atlas of the Lunar Globe. (Chinese Academy of Sciences/Handout via Xinhua)

moon and planets, contributing to the study of the origin and evolution of the moon and the solar system, Liu said.

Based on the perspective of lunar dynamic evolution, Chinese researchers creatively established an updated lunar geological time scale, objec-

tively depicting the geological evolution of the moon, and clearly showing the characteristics of lunar tectonic and magmatic evolution.

A total of 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 types of lithologies and 14 types of structures all over the moon

are mapped in the atlas.

This atlas set has been integrated into the digital lunar cloud platform built by Chinese scientists, and will serve lunar scientific research, science education, as well as landing site selection, lunar resource exploration and path planning for China's future lunar exploration projects, Liu said.

He mentioned that China's upcoming Chang'e-6 mission is expected to collect samples in the Apollo Basin within the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon, which means materials ejected from ancient terrain may be collected in the process.

"Our map can provide a macroscopic geologic background to improve the purpose and efficiency of the sample research," Liu explained.

The compilation of this map was an immense task, which required the organization and cooperation of many well-informed researchers over many years to be able to achieve a consistent and complete result, commented Gregory Michael, a senior scientist from the Free University of Berlin in Germany.

"This map, in particular, is the first on a global scale to utilize all of the post-Apollo era data. It builds on the achievements of the international community over the last decades, as well as on China's own highly successful Chang'e program.

It will be a starting point for every new question of lunar geology, and become a primary resource for researchers studying lunar processes of all kinds," Michael added. **Xinhua**

# Abbas: Palestinian Authority to reconsider relations with US

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas has said that the Palestinian Authority will reconsider bilateral relations with the United States "in light of its unyielding support for Israel," the official Wafa news agency reported on Saturday.

Abbas made the remarks in an interview with Wafa after the US vetoed a draft United Nations resolution advocating for full membership for Palestine in the organization.

Abbas denounced the US move as "disappointing, regrettable, shameful, irresponsible, and unjustified," saying it was a blatant aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people and a challenge to "the will of the international community".

"...we will reconsider bilateral relations with the United States to ensure the protection of the interests of our people, our cause, and our rights," he said.

The president also slammed US support for Israel in its aggression against the Palestinian people by providing Israel with weapons and funds, stating that it "will not bring security and peace to anyone".

The "hostile positions" taken by the US "have generated unprecedented anger among the Palestinian people and the region's populations," potentially pushing the region towards further instability and chaos, he said.

Abbas underscored that it is only with a just solution to the Palestinian issue that stability could be promoted in the region.

The Palestinian leadership "is going to develop a new strategy to protect Palestinian national decisions independently and follow a Palestinian agenda rather than an American vision or regional agendas", he added.

# Global governance framework needed to bridge AI divide

GENEVA

THREE decades ago, during the nascent stages of the Internet, mobile phone addiction was unheard of, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) remained a concept confined to the realm of science fiction. To say that the times have changed rapidly is perhaps the greatest understatement of a lifetime.

As anticipated, AI took center stage this week at the annual UN session on science and technology in Geneva.

Attended by scholars, industry leaders, and heads of UN agencies, the event at the Palais des Nations featured a plethora of panel discussions with attendees delving into strategies for harnessing the potential of AI while also addressing its inherent risks.

Experts agreed that AI-powered tools are capable of spectacular feats. With such frontier technologies, the world is embracing an era brimming with technological advancements and innovations that promise to push the boundaries of what is possible.

However, the risks are real, too, ranging from cybercrime to the danger of disinformation and hate speech. The biggest one, as UN's trade and development chief Rebeca Grynspan put it, is the risk of leaving billions of people in the developing world behind, with cutting-edge AI technologies ending up in the hands of a few.

She warned that a widening digital divide may breed new forms of marginalization fueled by algorithmic bias, lack of digital literacy and dwindling state capacities.

Fortunately, there are solutions. Governments worldwide are moving to establish a robust regulatory framework around AI.

Such momentum is good, but not enough. As noted by Maxime Stauffer, co-founder and CEO of Simon Institute for Longterm Governance, there is arguably a gap at the international level. A global governance framework is needed for this rapidly developing suite of technologies and its use by various actors.

To ensure that AI guardrails translate into tangible progress, all stakeholders, from industry leaders and policymakers to academia, should actively engage in the critical norms-setting process.

More investment is needed to fill data gaps and improve quality. Data is the "essential oil" behind most frontier technologies, including AI, an economic resource crucial in the future for all decision-making.

In particular, accurate and timely data enables researchers to understand complex issues, identify trends, measure progress toward development goals, and design more effective and targeted interventions.

However, developing countries often face challenges in data collection due to limited resources, infrastructure and capacity, according to a delegate from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN's tech agency.

# Rising GOP star calls for ouster of House speaker as Republican infighting continues

WASHINGTON

A rising GOP star is calling for the ouster of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the latest sign of continued Republican infighting. Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green from Georgia has called for fellow Republican and House Speaker Mike Johnson's removal, mostly over U.S. aid for Ukraine.

## ANOTHER OUSTER ATTEMPT

The move came just a little over six months after Johnson's predecessor Kevin McCarthy was ousted in an unprecedented move, which

was initiated by hardline Republican Representative Matt Gaetz.

Johnson "is publicly saying funding Ukraine is now his top priority when less than 7 months ago he was against it," Green wrote in a recent letter to lawmakers.

"The American people disagree -- they believe our border is the only border worth fighting a war over, and I agree with them," Green said. Indeed, Republican voters are split over providing more funding for Ukraine.

According to a Pew Research Center survey released in December, 48 percent of Republicans and

Republican-leaning independents say the United States is giving too much aid to Ukraine.

This share is up modestly from June, when 44 percent said this, and is substantially higher than it was at earlier stages in the war, the report showed. "That is why I will not tolerate our elected Republican Speaker Mike Johnson serving the Democrats and the (President Joe) Biden administration," Green wrote.

"He is throwing our own razor-thin majority into chaos by not serving his own GOP conference that elected him," Green wrote.

Adding to Johnson's woes, a second GOP lawmaker has vowed support for Green's initiative. Rep. Thomas Massie from Kentucky said earlier this week that he informed Johnson in person that he will be co-sponsoring a resolution to oust the speaker.

If the effort is successful, it would mark the second time since October that a speaker was removed from office by his own party.

Critics label the former ouster and Green's current efforts as a sign of disarray within the GOP, while supporters said a party has every right to fire a speaker it doesn't like.

## WILL JOHNSON GET THE BOOT?

It remains unknown whether Speaker Johnson will be forced out. With the resignation of Rep. Ken Buck from Colorado, Republican control in the House will stand at 218 to 213, which means the party can only afford to lose two members and still pass legislation.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that a majority of Republicans might vote to save Johnson.

Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor at

Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua: "I can't say what the future holds, but it looks like Johnson would only survive a vote on a motion to vacate if he can win support from Democrats without alienating Republicans wholesale."

"This would be a very tough needle to thread," Galdieri said, explaining that Democrats would want to extract policy concessions in exchange for their support. But there's only so far Johnson could give before Republicans would balk.

"And this would turn Johnson into a coalition speaker, which would be pretty uncharted territory in the mod-

ern House," Galdieri said. Meanwhile, Democratic representatives have indicated they will vote to save Johnson if Republicans try to oust him. "That should protect him in the short-term, although he remains vulnerable in the longer-term," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

The current conflict comes on the heels of the ouster of former Speaker McCarthy, who was given the boot in October. Fifty-four percent of Americans who labeled themselves conservative expressed approval for McCarthy's ouster, according to a recent CBS News poll.







Yanga's striker Clement Mzize.

## Azam FC tables offer for Yanga's striker

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC has inquired about the services of Yanga's striker Clement Mzize for the next season after presenting an offer of around 400m/ for the youthful footballer.

The ice cream makers have been left with only one natural striker for next season after Congolese Idris Mbombo left for Zambia during the January registration period and Prince Dube is slated to leave at the end of the season.

Azam FC will, at the end of this season, be without an attacker due to Alassane Diao's injuries, and has sent an offer to Yanga to rope in the striker whose contract with the Jangwani Street club will expire in June 2025.

Talks between the outfits are going on well, even though both sides have kept them a secret.

However, this is reminiscent of the 2023 circus between the two teams regarding players' transfers.

Reliable reports say that Azam FC's head coach, Youssouf Dabo, sees Mzize as a striker who can adapt to his system, so he has asked his club's leaders to ensure that he is part of

Azam FC squad next season.

The Guardian understands that Yanga has deposited hard cash into Mzize's account for a new contract, aiming to finalize a swap deal with Azam FC for Dube.

Mzize has scored three goals in the NBC Premier League this season while starting the majority of Yanga's games during the first round after the departure of DRC forward Fiston Mayele while Zambian Kennedy Musonda plays much on the wing.

Since the arrival of Ivorian goal-getter Joseph Guede, Mzize has been rotated in multiple games for the club as head coach Miguel Gamondi and the club continues to pin hopes on the young Tanzanian forward.

Mzize debuted for the club last season under Belgo-Tunisian head coach Nasreddine Nabi as a graduate of the club's youth side but also had the opportunity to work closely with former club head coach Mwinyi Zahera.

As Azam FC is set to acquire Mzize, Yanga is waiting for the Chamazi Street club to finalize its legal issues with Zimbabwean goal-getter, Dube, before signing him as main striker.

## Yanga opts out of Union Cup mini tournament

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC and Azam FC have confirmed their participation in the Tanzania Union Cup which has been slated to bring together outfits from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to celebrate the country's union.

The competition is slated to take place from April 23-27, and Yanga's withdrawal has left Simba SC and Azam FC as representatives of Mainland Tanzania.

Zanzibar Football Federation president, Suleiman Mahmoud said they delayed informing the public because Simba SC did not confirm their participation earlier.

Yanga revealed it will not participate because of the squad's tight schedule. In the ongoing season, the Jangwani Street squad is leading the NBC Premier League with 58 points.

The league leader is seven points ahead of second-placed Azam FC and 12 points ahead of age-old rival Simba SC now sitting third.

Simba SC was expected to pull out of the competition if the outfit had qualified for the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League and CRBD Federation Cup quarterfinals.

"The aim of this competition is to bring competition between Mainland Tanzania and Isles teams but also

bring in commercial advantage because these games have many spectators but also tourists that come to Zanzibar will benefit the country," Mahmoud noted.

"Zanzibar has many soccer talents, having them seen by either Mainland Tanzania teams or football agents will help to upgrade the level of talents in the Isles and bolster competitive nature."

"This competition will also bring a new environment for players to compete at a higher level, different from playing in the league because all games will have a knockout taste."

The ZFF will announce the schedule of the mini tournament after the Simba SC versus Yanga match that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Other teams that will take part in the tournament are Zanzibar Premier League champion KMKM FC, as well as KVZ FC.

The final of the game is slated to take place on April 27 one day after the ceremony of union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar that formed Tanzania.

The mini-tournament will take place at New Amaan Complex, with the semi-final and final format slated to be used to determine the showpiece's winners.

## NBC Bank celebrates Dar derby with customers, honours Aziz Ki

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of the NBC Premier League, provided an unforgettable experience for its customers when the highly-anticipated Dar es Salaam derby between Young Africans SC (Yanga) and Simba SC took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The bank organized a special outing for its customers, allowing them to watch the thrilling match at the renowned Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In a clash that kept spectators on the edge of their seats, Yanga emerged victorious, defeating Simba SC 2-1. NBC Bank proudly honoured Yanga's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki as the league's Best Player for March, presenting him with a prestigious award.

Knowing that many avid football fans were unable to attend the derby, the bank ensured they hardly missed out on the excitement.

Special viewing points were set up across various regions and districts in Tanzania, including Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Dodoma, Geita, Mtwara, Kigoma, Meru, and Mbinga.

In Dar es Salaam, Samaki Samaki restaurants at Mlimani City and Masaki, as well as Wavuvi Kempu and Hoppipola restaurants at Masaki, were selected as designated venues for fans to unite and enjoy the match together.

Before heading to the stadium, NBC Bank's Director of Retail Banking Elibariki Masuke, and Acting MD Elvis Ndunguru, led an exclusive lunch event for their customers at the Kilimanjaro Hyatt Hotel.

Esteeming the bank's tradi-



NBC Bank's Acting Managing Director, Elvis Ndunguru (L), is pictured presenting an award to Yanga's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, who was announced as the Best Player of the NBC Premier League for March. The prize presentation took place just a moment before the kick-off of the league's match between Yanga and Simba SC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

tion, they emphasized the significance of celebrating and sharing the joy of important matches like the 'Dar es Salaam derby' with their valued customers.

This unique opportunity encouraged customers to connect, exchange ideas, and enhance business relationships, all while experiencing the thrill of the ongoing league

that is rapidly gaining popularity in Africa, thanks to NBC Bank's generous sponsorship.

"Our tradition is to celebrate and enjoy such special moments with our customers, in all NBC Premier league matches. Recognizing the importance of this match, we provide our customers with lunch, fostering the chance for them to connect, exchange ideas,

and remind them of the various services we offer. Then, we embark on a special convoy to the stadium, uniting for a collective experience," Ndunguru revealed.

Highlighting the bank's unwavering commitment to supporting the premier league and other divisions sponsored by NBC Bank, Ndunguru emphasized the range of dedicated services available. These include affordable transportation loans for participating teams, healthcare insurance provisions for players and coaching staff, as well as various loans tailored to individual eligibility and terms and conditions.

The lender, in collaboration with Yanga, recently launched international membership cards for the club- known as 'NBC Yanga Membership Card'. The move is aimed at facilitating membership payments for the club's members and thus helping to increase the club's revenue.

In addition to the thrilling derby and exclusive experiences, the bank extended its financial services to customers during the event. Bank officials were present to assist with opening accounts, conducting financial transactions, and addressing inquiries, particularly in areas around the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"Our support for NBC Premier League not only elevates the level of enthusiasm among football fans but also strengthens the growth of the sport at various levels. By celebrating and sharing in the passion of the Dar es Salaam derby, NBC Bank continues to demonstrate its commitment to the community and its desire to make a lasting impact in the lives of our customers," Masuke noted.

## Taifa Stars coach heads to CAS to appeal against CAF ban

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team head coach Adel Amrouche has decided to challenge CAF's decision to ban him for eight matches as he lodged his complaints to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Amrouche was banned for the statement he made towards the Royal Moroccan Football Federation during the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast.

CAF has imposed the ban on Amrouche following comments and allegations made about the Royal Moroccan Football Federation.

"Morocco is having influence

in CAF, in manipulating and in the match scheduling and officiating."

Amrouche had criticized the Royal Moroccan Football Federation's influence over the African game before AFCON kicked off.

A statement from CAF said: "the disciplinary committee decided to impose an eight-match suspension on Amrouche, while the Tanzania Football Association has been fined USD \$10,000."

The Algerian decided to resort to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to appeal the decision of the Confederation of African Football to

suspend him for eight matches against the backdrop of false allegations and claims through which he accused the Royal Moroccan Football Federation.

The Guardian newspaper can confirm that on March 20, a meeting between Amrouche and CAF's Disciplinary Committee took place, but it almost changed nothing on the eight-matches ban, only the fine has been cancelled.

The 55-year-old has now decided to appeal matters at CAS. He described this decision from CAF as 'unfair and a way to restrict my freedom of expression,

I fear that injustice has been done unto me and CAS is the only way forward".

Amrouche was appointed as Tanzania's boss in March 2023, leading them to the Africa Cup of Nations by securing a point in his birth country of Algeria in the final qualifying match.

Amrouche has previously had spells in charge of Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Kenya, Libya, and Botswana.

The Tanzania Football Federation has since confirmed that the team is now under the care of Hemed Suleiman who has been appointed as acting coach, and assisted by Juma Mgunda.

## Zanzibar to host 2024 East & Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadana

THIS year's edition of the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR) will be held at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar next weekend.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) president Silas Isangi confirmed on Thursday the championships will be held at New Amaan Complex from April 26-27, adding countries which have confirmed their participation in the regional showpiece are Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Mainland Tanzania, and the host Zanzibar.

The championships, also known as the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, were initially planned to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam but the facility is of

late under renovations.

"After negotiations with our Zanzibar Athletics Association (ZAA) counterparts, we agreed that the EAAR would be held at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar and we have already communicated with all the participating Nations on the change of venue," he said.

Recently, AT Acting Secretary-General Jackson Ndaweka said the association is looking for an alternative venue for hosting the championships.

"The country was given the rights to host the EAAR, we discussed with Benjamin Mkapa authorities that had earlier given us a green right but, later, we were informed that the time for the championships will collide with the minor renovations now going on at the facility," the AT

leader noted.

"The renovations will involve the running track which currently is in bad shape, due to the state of the running track all athletics results recorded at the venue are not recognized by World Athletics (WA) so due to this we thought it wise to consult our Zanzibar counterparts (ZAA)," Ndaweka revealed.

He added: "For now, it is too early to say if the championships will be held at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar, the final decision will be made by EAAA leaders."

"The good thing with New Amaan Complex is that results recorded at the facility are recognized by WA, as the venue's running track has met required standard," he said.

The AT official was also quoted saying that Tanzania's juniors who will perform well in the U-20 category will be drafted into the senior national athletics team scheduled to represent the country in this year's Africa Athletics Championships slated for June in Cameroon.

He also said national trials for U-18, U-20, and seniors- which were slated for today- have been postponed to another day, and the venue will be announced later.

This would have been the third time in a row that Tanzania is hosting the regional track and field championships and he described it as an opportunity to the country's junior athletes.

Tanzania is hosting the junior championships after Rwanda- the initial host- pulled out.

## Brazilian Sasse gives Esperance victory over Mamelodi Sundowns

TUNIS

BRAZILIAN Yan Sasse scored to give Esperance of Tunisia a 1-0 victory over Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa on Saturday in a tense CAF Champions League semi-final first leg.

The South American notched his third goal of the elite African club competition on 41 minutes after pouncing on a superb through ball from compatriot Rodrigo Rodrigues.

Sundowns goalkeeper Ronwen Williams parried the first attempt by Sasse, but the midfielder reacted quickest and poked the loose ball into the net.

Sasse was playing for Wellington Phoenix reserves in New Zealand last year before joining four-time African champions Esperance.

His goal came soon after Sundowns had a goal correctly ruled offside and Rodrigues hit the woodwork and teammate Houssem Tka had another shot cleared off the goalline.

Sasse looked set to score again in the second half only to be foiled by a last-ditch tackle from Grant Kekana.

Sundowns lacked creativity in attack and it was a defender, Mthobi Mvala, who came closest to equalling with a drive that was brilliantly pushed over by 20-year-old Amanallah Memmiche.

It was the 10th clean sheet in 11 Champions League matches this season for Esperance, whose last title came in 2019.

Elsewhere, title-holders Al Ahly of Egypt moved closer to a seventh final appearance in eight seasons after holding TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo 0-0 in Lubumbashi.

Five-time champions Mazembe, in the semi-finals for the first time since 2019, wasted several clearcut chances in each half before both clubs came close to snatching a first-leg victory.

Ahly substitute Mahmoud Kahraba dribbled into the Mazembe area after 86 minutes only to be thwarted by a perfectly timed block from Ernest Luzolo.

A couple of minutes later defender Luzolo came forward for a corner and his powerful header flew just wide.

Added time failed to produce any further chances, leaving Ahly favourites to win the return match in Cairo on Friday, the same day that Sundowns host Esperance.

The Egyptian outfit achieved a satisfactory result despite the absence of several injured first choices, including goalkeeper Mohamed el Shenawy and regular scorer Hussein el Shahat.

Mostafa Shobeir, a son of former Egypt shot-stopper Ahmed Shobeir, has proven an excellent stand-in for captain El Shenawy, keeping clear sheets in his six Champions League appearances.

Mazembe were also held to a goalless draw at home in the quarter-finals, then won the return match against Petro Luanda 2-1 in Angola.

AFP

## Messi double keeps Miami on top in MLS

MIAMI

LIONEL Messi scored twice and created another for Sergio Busquets as Inter Miami beat Nashville 3-1 on Saturday to maintain top spot in Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference.

Miami suffered an early setback when their defender Franco Negri deflected a corner from Daniel Lovitz into his own net in just the second minute of the game at Chase Stadium.

Gerardo Martino's team have now failed to keep a clean sheet in each of their last 11 games and it could have been worse when three minutes later Josh Bauer blasted a shot against the bar.

But Messi soon had Miami on level terms -- the Argentine set free by a clever flick from Diego Gomez saw a shot parried out by Nashville keeper Elliot Panico, but after Luis Suarez directed the loose ball back to him Messi slotted home to make it 1-1 in the 11th minute.

Two minutes later, Messi took advantage of some sloppy play from Nashville but his low right-foot shot came out off the post.

Everything Miami was creating was coming through Messi, who flashed a snapshot wide before moments later whipping in a cross for a Gomez header which was saved by Panico's feet.

Six minutes before the interval, Messi's former Barcelona team-mate Busquets found the net for the first time in MLS, meeting the World Cup winner's corner with a fine glancing header at the near post.

But there was a blow for the home side just before the break when Paraguay international Gomez was stretched off with an ankle injury, the latest in a series of injuries for Miami.

His replacement, Brazilian born youngster Leonardo Afonso, had the ball in the net but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Nashville came out strongly after the break but despite dominating possession for the opening 20 minutes of the half, they had little to show for their efforts other than a couple of off-target long-range efforts from German Hany Mukhtar.

AFP

# Arsenal refuse to give up in title race as much-needed victory takes them back top

By Kieran Crichard

**A**FTER being branded ed chokers and the Premier League's nearly men, Arsenal are refusing to leave the party.

The crisis supposedly engulfing Mikel Arteta's season appears to have been dispelled, for the time being, as his team returned to the top of the table to suggest fears of their demise are premature.

In this most absorbing title race of recent times, Arsenal are still in there fighting.

While this was far from the effervescent performance they have frequently produced this season, the beauty is in the three points at this late stage.

This felt like a perfectly timed response to the suggestions that their annual April collapse could prove terminal.

Successive defeats by Aston Villa and Bayern Munich in the space of four days were regarded as potentially damaging blows, but Leandro Trossard's ninth league goal of the season and a late clincher from Martin Odegaard were enough to take them back to the summit.

They also secured a sixth successive clean sheet away from home in the league for the first time in their history.

Ahead of a pivotal week, in which Arsenal face Chelsea on Tuesday and then bitter enemies Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, the prospect of a first title since 2004



Leandro Trossard put Arsenal ahead in the first half. Agencies

is still there.

Arteta is desperate to halt the narrative that has been building, of an apparent April curse and a third successive season collapse. He has been here before but feels this team, and the mentality of his current crop of players, makes it a different scenario. Yet those two defeats had only ramped up the tension and underlined how there is so little margin for error when competing for major trophies.

This felt like a huge moment in their season, against a Wolves team whose own fine season is threatening to fizzle out. Wolves have endured a deepening injury crisis, with slim hopes of European qualification recently

fading away, though the outstanding job performed by head coach Gary O'Neil cannot be forgotten.

With Pedro Neto, Matheus Cunha, Craig Dawson, Nelson Semedo, Jean-Ricner Bellegarde injured, and Rayan Ait-Nouri only just returning to the squad, O'Neil simply does not have enough options to challenge a team competing for the title.

Among the Wolves substitutes was 15-year-old Wes Okoduwa, who was dragged out of a science lesson at school on Friday to train with the squad. Four other teenagers were on the bench. Typically, Wolves still produced a resilient performance, partic-

ularly in the first half as they frustrated Arsenal with their intensity and high pressing.

Joao Gomes, the Brazil international, continues to enhance his reputation and was very impressive in the opening 45 minutes. Gomes presented David Raya with his first test after 31 minutes, crashing in a shot from close range which the Arsenal goalkeeper pushed onto the post.

Arsenal had been hesitant, struggling to execute the final pass around the penalty area, with a couple of tame efforts from Declan Rice their only snarls of defiance.

As a result, the opening goal arguably came out of nowhere on the stroke of half-time. Gabriel Jesus was allowed to

wriggle free of the Wolves defence and the ball fell to Trossard, who sliced a shot into the top corner. It seemed to be a fortuitous finish, scuffed from under his feet, but in the context of Arsenal's season felt huge.

Wolves have conceded against Arsenal in the last 33 meetings, and early in the second half they had to take off Hee Chan Hwang after his recent return from a hamstring injury.

In a flat contest of few goal-scoring chances, Arsenal managed the game adequately and never appeared in genuine danger. Mario Lemina, a Wolves substitute, was given room in the Arsenal penalty area but his shot was comfortably held by Raya.

O'Neil introduced substitutes Ait-Nouri and Pablo Sarabia with 15 minutes to go, and it gave them a temporary lift. Ait-Nouri's direct running on the flank presented Arsenal with some nervy moments yet the absence of forward players to find in the box is glaringly evident.

With Ben White impressive at right-back, and Kai Havertz posing problems, Arsenal did enough to complete the job. Odegaard provided the gloss in added time, finishing from close range after his cross was cut out by Toti Gomes.

Advantage Arsenal, for now, and perhaps their season is not dead and buried quite yet.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Guardiola slams 'unacceptable' health risks as Man City reach FA Cup final

LONDON

PEP Guardiola slammed the "unacceptable" schedule that put fatigued Manchester City's health at risk in their 1-0 win against Chelsea in an FA Cup semi-final scheduled just three days after their gruelling Champions League exit.

Guardiola was furious that the Football Association and television broadcasters set City's semi-final for Saturday instead of giving them an extra day to recover after Wednesday's penalty shoot-out loss to Real Madrid in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Exhausted City were fortunate to survive a series of Chelsea misses at Wembley before Bernardo Silva's 84th minute winner atoned for his penalty blunder in the shoot-out against Real.

Guardiola took aim at the authorities for putting his players' futures in danger when they could have played Manchester United's semi-final against Coventry on Saturday instead of Sunday because neither club was in European action this week.

"I'm incredibly happy to play the semi-finals of the FA Cup. I love to be in the quarter-final of the Champions League. But it's unacceptable to let us play today," Guardiola said.

"It is impossible for the health of the players. People don't understand the punch in the face after losing in the Champions League and playing



Manchester City's Bernardo Silva celebrates after scoring against Chelsea. Agencies

here so soon.

"Why they don't give us one more day? Chelsea, Manchester United and Coventry don't play in the Champions League. It is for broadcasters? Ok don't ask me to do extra things (for them)."

Guardiola insisted he would not speak to the sport's governing bodies about his complaint because he is convinced they will not listen.

"I'm right, right? I'm not asking for some special privilege. It is a risk for their health, it is a risk for many things. I know they (the authorities) don't care, but I care," he said.

"In this country it is not going to change anything. I know it. They don't have the sensitivity to the players. Don't ask me to have meetings with the Premier League and the FA. I don't go. I'm preparing the players."

Guardiola's rant was sparked by the obvious lethargy running

through his side as they struggled to impose themselves against Chelsea.

"Protect my players" - Erling Haaland was sidelined by an injury sustained against Real, while Jack Grealish came off injured at Wembley and Rodri and Kyle Walker played through fitness issues.

City are back in action at Brighton in the Pre-

mier League on Thursday as they chase an unprecedented fourth successive title.

"After 120 minutes after Madrid, physically and emotionally, what they have done today is one of the most incredible things I have seen. We didn't have time to prepare anything," Guardiola said.

"Mentally it's so tough to recover. Rodri, the

way he played today, Kyle Walker, who was injured for a few weeks. How we survived I don't know.

"I just want to protect my players. I do this for my players. It is unsustainable.

"We want to play football. We love to play football but it's too much."

While City eye the double, Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino had

to come to terms with a second loss at Wembley in a troubled first season in charge.

Beaten 1-0 by an inexperienced Liverpool line-up in the League Cup final in February, Chelsea once again paid for key misses, with Nicolas Jackson guilty of three woe-ful finishes.

"The most important thing is to be clinical and not concede. Even if we competed well, I cannot say we were the better side," Pochettino said.

"We need to assess after nearly 10 months then take the decisions to improve in different areas and reduce the gap to teams like Manchester City.

"We are disappointed because the team is not matching the history of the club but we need to assess it in a different way.

"The evolution is good with all the circumstances but we need to be better next season."

AFP

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Arsenal refuse to give up in title race as much-needed victory takes them back top

PAGE 19



Simba SC's midfielder Clotous Chama (L) seeks to get the better of Yanga's defender, Ibrahim Abdallah, when the sides took on each other in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam last Saturday, culminating in a 2-1 win for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## Matola concedes league title race

By Correspondent Michael Mwebbe

SIMBA SC conceded more ground in the NBC Premier League as they suffered a demoralizing 2-1 defeat to arch-rivals Young Africans SC in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

It capped a highly frustrating week for the Msimbazi side after a draw at Ifehu SC last weekend and a humbling CRDB Federation Cup loss to lowly Mashujaa FC three days earlier.

Against Young Africans SC, Simba SC created several chances, only to be thwarted by poor finishing once again.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's assistant coach Selamani Matola felt his side failed to capitalize on a strong start due to a chronic issue of finishing and also admitted injury to center back Henock Inonga so early in the game cost them dearly.

The coach revealed: "We can say the game was good. It was tough. In the first half, within ten minutes we were able to create two chances and if we were careful we could have used them. I think our problem of failing to convert chances persists."

He added: "The technical substitute was caused by an injury, I think it cost us. The incoming player, Hussein Kazi made a mistake within the first minute he entered and gave away a penalty. We made a mistake again and were punished for the second goal."

Matola remarked: "Inonga had an injury which, however, could not prevent him from playing. Pain is always normal for a player. Even the injury that took him out is different from what he had. There was no way, it was a necessary change that I can say cost us."

"In the second half, we made changes to some players and we came back strong and managed to score one goal. At the end of the game we lost, that's football. We are preparing for the next game."

The result means Simba SC remains winless in their last five games. They have dropped five points in the league and find themselves trailing leaders Young Africans SC by 12 points - and face a real fight to finish in the CAF Champions League spots.

The former Simba SC midfielder pointed out: "The title race is now difficult for us, we have to focus on our next remaining games to be able to win. At the end of the league, we will know where we stand."

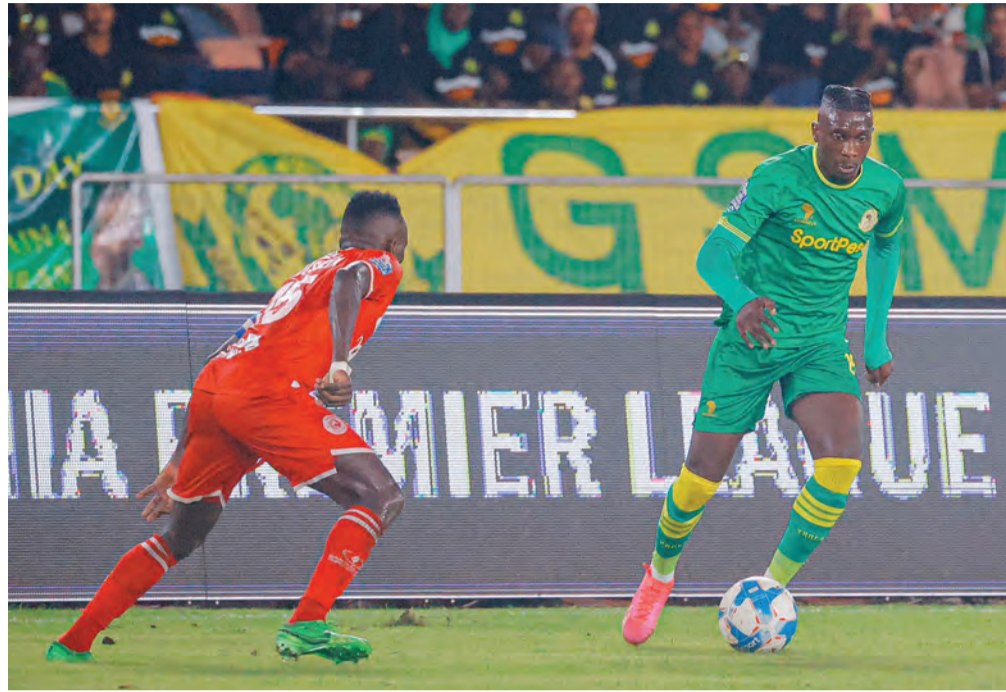
Another eight league games remain for Simba SC to respond, but wins in all of those might no longer be enough to pip Azam FC to second place finish.

It also means Simba SC is now almost certain to endure another trophyless season save for the Community Shield the squad clinched early this season.

“

In the second half, we made changes to some players and we came back strong and managed to score one goal. At the end of the game we lost, that's football. We are preparing for the next game

# Miguel Gamondi raves about Yanga after beating Simba SC in PL



Yanga's goal-getter Kennedy Musonda (R) outfoxes Simba SC left-back Mohamed Hussein when the clubs locked horns in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Yanga cruised to a 2-1 victory over Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebbe

YOUNG Africans SC pulled further away from NBC Premier League title rivals when they beat cross-town rivals Simba SC 2-1 in the league's clash held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Goals from Stephane Aziz Ki and Joseph Guede had Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, secure a league double over their long-time rivals for the first time since 2015/16 and now they have a seven-point lead at the summit.

Talking to the press after the game, head coach Miguel Gamondi hailed Yanga for the experience and commitment shown in edging over their

title rivals.

He could not say that many of his players had played well, but he could not knock their effort.

The Argentinian noted: "It was a very tough game. Both teams gave everything. I think the commitment was fantastic. I am very proud of the performance of my team because sometimes we did not play well but there

was a fighting spirit. I think they got a lot of experience from the CAF Champions League."

"I have an impressive group of players because sometimes they did not do well but they had courage, commitment and this has been all over the year not only in this game," Gamondi revealed.

"The way we are united

and work as a team brought this result as well. Not just tactical but the unity, everybody playing, running."

"They pushed us into the box in the opening two to three minutes but we reacted very well with calm and experience," the tactician remarked.

"In the second half, maybe we should have killed the game but don't forget we

played against Simba, it is a very good team and we respect it a lot."

He added: "Generally, I think we deserved to win and I want to dedicate this to 'Wananchi' and the elders because today was their day. There is nothing much to say more than this."

Gamondi admitted the result was a big step forward in their march towards a third successive league title but insisted there is still a lot to play for in the remaining seven games.

The Argentinian revealed: "There is no guarantee in football. We still have seven games. We indeed have a big gap but we still need to play all games. My philosophy is going step by step."

"Today was a big step, we are sorted out but don't forget on Tuesday we have a game on Tuesday and another one on Saturday."

The gaffer noted: "Every team wants to do something against us, so, it will be difficult. Of course, it was a great result for us."

## Gamondi vows to guide Yanga to winning remaining matches

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC extended their lead at the top of the NBC Premier League after commanding a thrilling 2-1 victory over their long-time rivals Simba SC in the 'Dar es Salaam derby' last Saturday.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi praised his players' resilience and tactical execution in securing the crucial three points.

Despite the scoreline, Gamondi acknowledged the significant challenge Simba SC posed, noting: "Getting a good result against Simba SC is never easy, they are a strong team, and my players had to fight hard. But they followed my instructions perfectly, and that's what earned us the win."

The victory puts Yanga in a commanding position in the title race. With eight matches remaining, they boast a healthy lead of 12 points over third-placed Simba SC and seven points over second-placed Azam FC. Mathematically, Yanga can secure the championship as early as the next six games by winning all of them.

Gamondi was hesitant to single out individual players, emphasizing the collective effort, pointing out: "It's impossible to pick a single standout performer, every single player displayed tremendous quality. They all fulfilled their assigned roles brilliantly. We're proud of this performance, but the job isn't done yet."

The focus for Yanga now shifts



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

to maintaining their winning momentum and securing the championship as soon as possible. Gamondi emphasized the importance of moving forward and preparing for the remaining fixtures.

He remarked: "This game is behind us now," he stated. "We need to stay focused and win as many of the remaining matches as possible. We want to secure the championship title this season."

The win not only strengthens Yanga's grip on the

league's top place but also extends their dominance over Simba SC. This victory marks Yanga's 40th win over their arch-rivals since 1965 in the 112 matches played between the two sides.

With the Dar es Salaam derby settled, the race for the NBC Premier League title becomes increasingly intriguing.

Can Yanga maintain their lead and secure the silverware early, or will either Azam FC or Simba SC mount

a late challenge and force a dramatic finish to the season?

The remaining matches promise to be nail-biting as the battle for Tanzanian football supremacy unfolds.

The Jangwani Street-based side continues to steamroll through the NBC Premier League, solidifying their position as the team to beat this season.

After the latest victory, Yanga has played a total of 22 matches, amassing an im-

pressive 58 points.

Their journey to the top has been marked by sheer excellence on the pitch, with Yanga emerging victorious in 19 out of 22 games. With only two losses and a solitary draw, they have demonstrated unparalleled skill and determination.

Leading the charge for Yanga is midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, whose stellar performance has earned him the title of leading goal scorer in the league, with an impressive tally of 15 goals.

Aziz Ki's recent penalty goal in the derby against Simba SC further cements his position as a key player for the team.

Currently boasting the highest goal-scoring record in the league, Yanga has netted an astounding 54 goals, showcasing their offensive prowess and attacking strategy.

Looking ahead, Yanga's upcoming fixtures present an opportunity to further solidify their position at the top of the table.

With matches against JKT Tanzania, Coastal Union, Mashujaa FC, Kagera Sugar, and Mibwa Sugar on the horizon, Yanga has the chance to clinch their third consecutive top-flight title.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

