



theguardiantz

theguardiantd

feedbacks@guardian.co.tz

+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9178 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA THURSDAY 30 MAY, 2024

Nchimbi wants councils to utilise 10pc loan allocation

Page 3

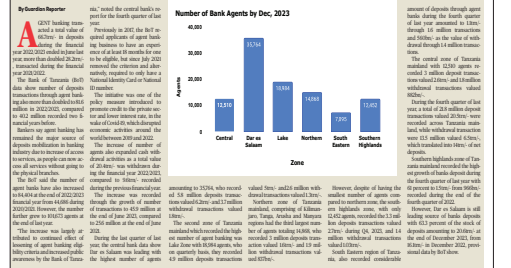
Bidders to submit procurement grievances, appeals electronically

Page 4

WHO avails repaired isolation unit at Mutukula border post

Page 6

Agent banking doubles deposit transactions



African countries appealed to enhance cross-border banking



TIC urges locals to enfold investment opportunities



Page 13

Revamping of roads, bridges after El Nino, Hidaya starts

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORKS minister, Innocent Bashungwa yesterday outlined eight priorities for the ministry in the next financial year, focused on repairing roads and bridges damaged by El Nino floods and ravages of the tropical cyclone, 'Hidaya.'

Tabling budget estimates for fiscal 2024/2025, he asked the National

Assembly to endorse 1.7trn/- where 81.4bn/- is slated for recurrent expenditure and 1.68trn/- meant for development projects.

Salaries take up 76.58bn/- and 4.8bn/- slated for other needs.

Upwards of 599.7bn/- in the projected estimates is expected to be collected as Roads Fund revenues, and 542.04bn/- expected to be allo-

TURN TO Page 2



Lawrent Kabigi, a Constitutional and Legal Affairs official, engages Yakubi villagers in Njombe District on legal issues, as part of the presidential legal aid services campaign on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

SPORTS

Page 19



Juma Mgunda admits Simba season 'not good enough'

Page 18



Nyamalembo Girls stun Geita Girls in 2024 TCA Junior League

Samia readying for six-day Korea visit

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan leaves Dar es Salaam tomorrow for a six-day working visit in South Korea at the invitation of President Yoon Suk Yeol.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the tour starts May 31, ending on June 6, involving an extensive exchange of views with the host leader, alongside witnessing the signing of several contracts.

One such accord is a \$2.5bn soft loan to fund crucial development projects over

the next five years to 2028), he said, speaking of strong bonds and considerable potential for investment growth between the two countries, he said.

The two leaders are expected to witness the signing of a number of agreements, for instance one aimed at enhancing cooperation in aviation, blue economy, strategic minerals, culture and arts, alongside a pact on agriculture, he said.

President Samia is similarly slated for an honorary doctorate on aviation management from the Korea Aerospace University (KAU) for transformative actions, policy interventions and pragmatic leadership that has transformed the sector.

This impact includes the development of airport infrastructure; investment in capacity building for systems, technical personnel and supporting staff; alongside a singular expansion of fleets both for passengers and cargo planes, he said, pointing out that the national carrier had one plane in 2015 and boasts 14 aircraft at present.

President Samia is respected for the development of airport infrastructure; investment in building the capacity of systems and personnel for the national carrier, he emphasised.

On June 4 and 5, the president will take part in the Korea-Africa Summit, bringing together top national leaders and heads of

government from Korea and sub-Saharan Africa, where she will sit on a panel on strengthening food security and strategic mineral safety issues.

Economic diplomacy will be central to the visit, with President Samia meeting top Korean business executives to explore partnerships in energy, infrastructure and film production, the minister noted.

In recognition of South Korea's advanced film industry, the president will engage with Korean arts, music and film sector leaders to promote cultural exchange, boost tourism and seeking ways too set up film studios and a national film academy in Tanzania, he added.

Land use plans double wildlife corridors use as grazing plains

By Correspondent Marc

Nkwame, Arusha

SYMBIOTIC relationships are being hatched between pastoral communities and conservation entities after restoration of landscape connectivity by implementing a proper land use plan.

Zacharia Faustine, the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) director made this observation at a recently organized familiarisation tour for journalists and activists in Babati and Kiteto villages, where 56 visitors drawn from Manyara and Arusha regions went to learn from the residents the way this arrangement works.

Acquaintance trip participants came from the regional

This is a win-win situation as livestock remain on grazing plains while wildlife can now move freely from one area of conservation to another

secretariats, Babati and Monduli district councils, wards and village leaders as well as traditional elders, where in Babati Rural District, the team learned of protecting natural resources through proper land use management.

Marian Manso, chairperson

of the settlement, said that this arrangement has enabled Sangaive village to be raking in 1.2bn/- as earnings from levies and corporate social responsibility allocations from tourism-based investments.

Sangaive, adjacent to Tarangire National Park, is among

ten villages pooling in land to form the Burunge Wildlife Management Area, situated in the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, while in the more remote Kiteto District two wards formed a similar entity.

Makame and Ndendo wards constituted the Makame Wildlife Management Area through which 3,719 square kilometers of land are now designated for conservation, with 1,040 square kilometers of wilderness left for carbon trading.

Supuk Koringa ole Kao, the Makame WMA secretary, said that this arrangement earns the villages upwards of 2.6bn/- annually, with Amei, Lolera, Lesoit and Lembapuli villages also in Kiteto District pooling

'Zanzibar has plenty for French businesses'

STORY ON PAGE 2



TURN TO Page 2

Land use plans double wildlife corridors use as grazing plains

FROM PAGE 1

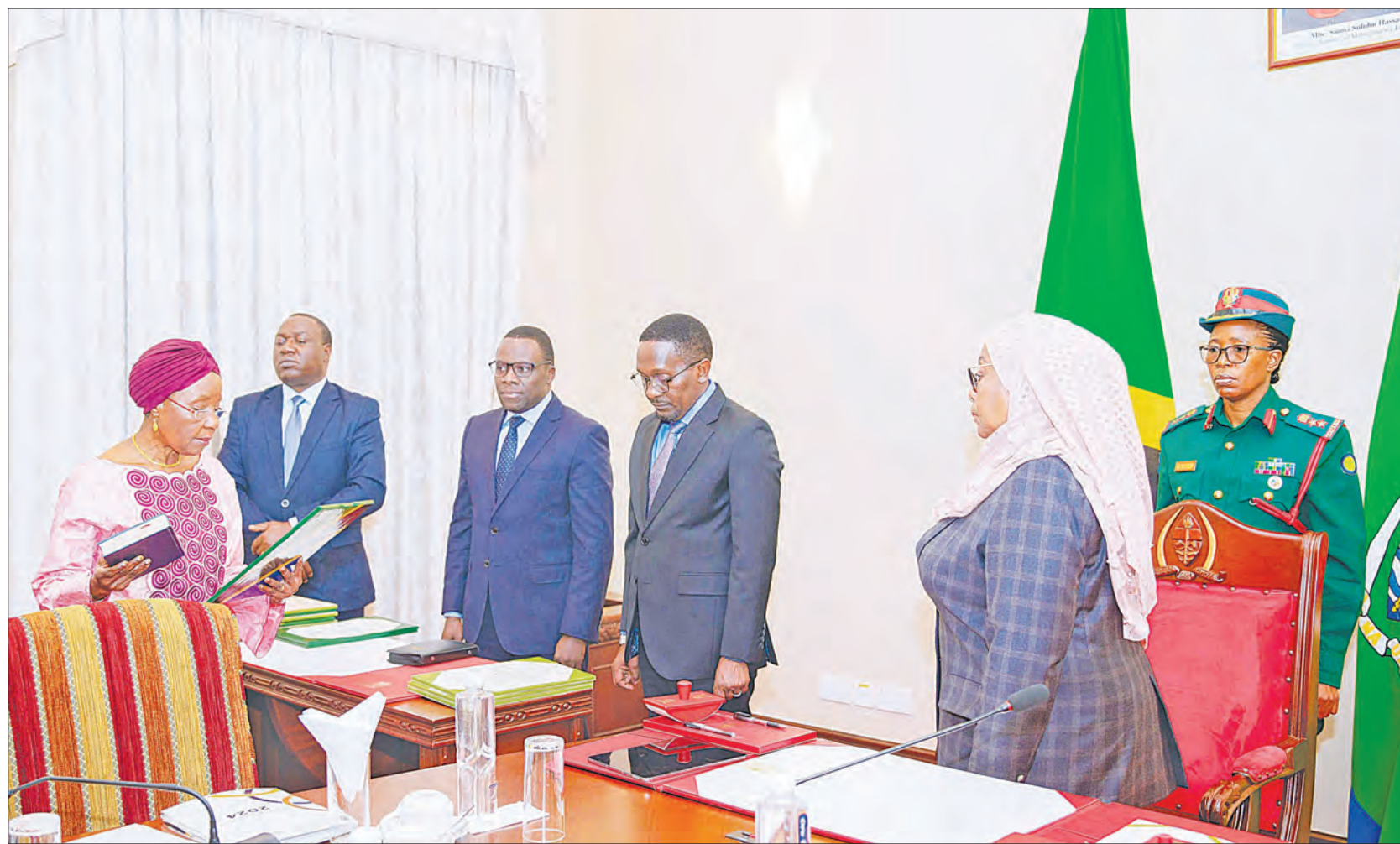
in their territories to form the Aolele rangeland.

It serves as joint grazing plains for villagers as well as connectivity tracks for wildlife owing to the low frequency of passage of predator species, the official noted.

Villages are pooling land to form joint community rangelands that provide grazing areas for livestock while also serving as important connectivity routes for wildlife moving from one national park or game reserve to another largely unperturbed, the TNRF director asserted.

"This is a win-win situation as livestock remain on grazing plains while wildlife can now

move freely from one area of conservation to another," he stated, elaborating that this new community based approach in environment conservation is proving to be effective in the restoration of wildlife corridors, with low risk of human-wildlife conflicts. Village land use plans that support landscape connectivity have been successfully implemented in Babati and Kitemo districts, Manyara Region, where TNRF is coordinating an engagement process with financial support directed at northern zone conservation activities backed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the director added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Ambassador Dr Asha-Rose Migiro as a member of the Planning Commission, at Chamwino State House yesterday. Photo: State House

'Zanzibar has plenty for French businesses'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FRENCH investors can readily come to Zanzibar to look at investment opportunities in the tourism, fishing and fish hatchery spheres in particular, as well as ports, oil and gas apart from water transport.

President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi issued this invitation here yesterday at the first Tanzania-France business mission and forum drawing together investors, industrialists and traders from French and Zanzibar business associations.

Ali Mwadini, the Tanzanian ambassador to France along with resident French ambassador Nabil Haijaoui, were present as the president underlined that tourism has

a great contribution to the Zanzibar economy.

Tourism contributes 30 percent of the national income, with its features like beach tourism, heritage site visits, sports, newly arising health tourism and international engagements, he stated, highlighting the blue economy sector.

It has distinguished itself in important areas including fishing and farming of fish fingerlings, seaweed cultivation and tourism, he said, assuring the visiting exploratory mission that the fishing sector provides many opportunities.

Fishermen and individuals involved in boat and barge activities can thrive in the sector, as well as those in seaweed farming

mostly women, he said, affirming that the women lead in the production of good seaweed compared to most of Africa.

Opportunities in blue economy projects include the Mangapwani multipurpose port now placed on extensive revamping for servicing import containers for local and foreign businesses, he said, pointing at Malindi, Mkokotoni and Fumba ports as being in a strategic development phase.

They are vital to the country's economy for transportation and distribution of goods, providing services like receiving cargo, transporting products such as oil, and grain, he stated, elaborating on intentions to strengthen trade links by interconnected port services for Zanzibar, Pemba,

Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Mtwara, as they link with businesses seeking to transport goods to Mozambique and Comoro Islands in particular.

The French ambassador applauded Franco-Tanzanian cooperation, noting that ties with Tanzania generally and Zanzibar in particular have strengthened community engagements, uplifting bilateral spheres of cooperation in education issues, where strategies are being designed to make good use of learning opportunities the communities on both sides benefit academically.

One clear result of the existing partnership is in successive visits by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, first in February 2022 and then a few weeks ago, while the Foreign

Affairs docket holder has made business visits to France. He also obtained several invitations from businessmen and investors, the envoy noted.

Sharif Ali Sharif, the Labour, Economy and Investment state minister in the President's Office, said that the Zanzibar government was rapidly improving the island's status of a viable investment environment, strengthening roads and communications and enhancing tourism.

The forum was convened to discuss various business and investment issues including energy, infrastructure, tourism, blue economy, technology development issues, environmental cleanliness, and other matters, he specified.

Revamping roads, bridges after Hidaya, El Nino set to start

FROM PAGE 1

cated from the Consolidated Fund, he said, noting that ongoing projects like the construction of strategic roads that open up economic opportunities will be pursued.

These road links facilitate the growth of tourism, agriculture, mining, ports, industries, while roads remain to be completed around the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), he stated.

Efforts to reduce congestion in cities, namely Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Tanga, Mwanza, Mbeya and Dodoma, he said, with priority being directed to the construction of roads connecting regional centers and neighboring countries.

Feasibility studies for new roads in urban areas will be taking into account the needs of special road users like cyclists and pedestrians, he said, telling MPs that a total of 13 airports are expected to be completed.

Building weighing scales, bypass roads will be taken up as part of roads and bridges maintenance, he stated, affirming that local contractors will be sought out for the road revamping work, raising most roads to all weather status to maintain the pace of economic activities in all seasons of the year.

The Engineering Consulting Unit (TECU) within the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) will be enhanced so as to manage large construction works, he said, highlighting that the government will be conducting a review of the national construction sector policy of 2003) and the national road safety policy approved in 2009 to take note of changes in technology and climate change risks.

Local experts' capacity will be

boosted through various programmes so that they can manage large projects, within a wider effort to strengthen the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) systems, he further noted.

Using low-cost technologies in road construction especially in all-weather road uplifting is envisaged, along with strengthening operations of the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) as part of its transformation strategy for 2024 - 2034).

The private sector will have a lot to do in construction projects as Tanzania's economy grows, with the need for stable and modern infrastructure, he said, pointing out that due to vast funds needed the government was making major improvements to the law on public-private partnership (PPP) to attract investment and increasing efficiency in the implementation of infrastructure projects.

Alterations in the law include enabling alternative dispute resolution mechanisms like mediation or arbitration, as well as international courts hearing such matters instead of limiting them to arbitration by local courts, he said.

PPP projects will be implemented through companies set up to manage the relevant project as a special purpose vehicle especially for the construction of roads and airports, as the government alone will not be able to implement all these projects on time due to limited budgetary funds, the minister declared.

Along with roads, bridges and airports, the ministry manages construction and renovation projects for government houses and buildings, ferries and vehicle maintenance garages, he stated, noting that even in these areas, implementation is still



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (R), the Finance and Planning state minister Zanzibar President's Office, in discussion yesterday with Salma Saadati, the chairperson for women with disabilities, on the sidelines of the national strategic forum on advocacy for Zanzibar civil society. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

low compared to investment opportunities available

Reduce the government's high costs for project implementation and reducing the time spent in implementing the projects, there is need to involve the private sector through PPP, he emphasised, stressing that the law provides that public sector stock in the company should not exceed 25 percent.

The minister in charge of PPP will be empowered to allow solicited projects with specified char-

acteristics that need not be passed through the competition process under equally specified conditions, he said.

The goal is to speed up the implementation of those projects by negotiating directly with the private sector, improvements that will help ensure that the investment environment becomes friendlier, more transparent and more efficient for local and international investors, he further asserted.

Local content provisions for

large construction projects are being designed such that the sector contributes significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP).

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data shows that the average GDP contribution of the sector from 2012 to 2022 stood at 14 percent, growing at an average of 12 percent per year, he said, pointing at information of large construction projects from 2013 to 2023 as indicating limited participation of indigenous contractors.

The Contractors Registration Board (CRB), responsible for registering projects implemented by contractors, indicates that out of 36,839 projects, local firms implemented 35,351 projects, the vast majority, but only valued at 23.749trn/-.

That is equivalent to 38.5 percent of the total value, pegged at 61.638trn/-, such that foreign contractors, with 4.1 percent of the projects, absorbed 61.5 percent of total value, he added.



Kilulu village school children in Muheza District, Tanga Region line up for porridge yesterday as part of the nationwide school feeding programme to improve school attendance, classroom attention. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Dr Nchimbi wants councils to utilise 10pc loan allocation to address youth unemployment

By Henry Mwangonde, Manyoni

CCM Secretary General Dr Emanuel Nchimbi has asked local government authorities to identify and equip youth with skills needed in their respective areas and give them access to part of the 10 percent loans issued by municipal and district councils to address unemployment.

Speaking at Manyoni Township in Singida Region during his first rally of his tour of five regions yesterday, Dr Nchimbi said the move will help address unemployment challenges.

"By doing so, the youth will use their skills and education to bring change especially in areas which have a lot of resources," he said. He gave an example of Singida Region which is suitable for sunflower production, saying it can reverse the edible oil importation on which the government spends billions of shillings.

In another development, Dr Nchimbi said the party will continue to supervise the government as it implements various development projects.

This came after Manyoni township residents expressed their grievances over water problems and power rationing which they said was a problem in the area.

"Despite promises to provide us water, the problem has persisted; we want actions," said Joseph Nelson, one of the residents.

Dr Nchimbi called on the people of Singida to maintain peace and unity, asking them to ignore politicians who preach division.

Dr Nchimbi started a tour of five regions aimed at strengthening the party and inspecting implementation of the 2020/25 election manifesto. After Singida, he is scheduled to proceed to Manyara, Arusha Kilimanjaro and finally Tanga region.

Two schools in Tanga get pedestrian infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland yesterday launched a new pedestrian infrastructure for children at Makorora and Azimio primary schools in Tanga Region.

The infrastructure includes 187 square meters of footpaths, four zebra crossings, seven speed humps, 15 road signs, 16 road safety murals, four handrails, and four concrete pedestrian slabs. Both schools' pupils and teachers were trained on road safety.

Speaking at the launch, Tanga District Commissioner James Kaji said: "The infrastructure is of great importance since both Makorora and Azimio primary schools are located near the busy Makorora road where vehicles, especially motorcycles, travel at high speeds in close proximity to pedestrians."

He said over 90 percent of children who attend the two schools walk to and from school each day, putting them at risk of being hit by a motorcycle or other vehicles.

"At least eight pupils at the two schools have been injured in road

crashes in the last 12 months, all of which involved motorcycles," said the DC, noting that ways to prevent the injuries include keeping children away from traffic and reducing vehicle speeds in areas where children and traffic interact.

The Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania Didier Chassot said road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among children and young people between the ages of five and 29 years worldwide.

He said in Tanzania, there are more than 330,000 serious road

traffic injuries per year; the number which is higher than the average in Sub Saharan Africa. "This is a major public health concern. Switzerland supports this initiative with the aim of improving safety and providing healthy journeys for road users, especially children and young motorcycle riders," said the Ambassador, adding that the embassy supports the project to a tune of 424,983,396/-.

He added that since September last year, besides creation of safe school zone in Tanga, project activities have included training of 300 motorcycle taxi riders and 253 motorcycle taxi

riders in Dodoma Region, an awareness campaign on motorcycle safety issues and development of a motorcycle taxi code of conduct.

An additional 200 riders will be trained in Tanga by June 2024, he said. Simon Kalolo, Country Manager for Amend in Tanzania said: "In Tanga, this life-saving project demonstrates that road traffic injuries can be prevented. We will continue reducing injuries and saving lives. With our Safe and Sustainable Transport Action Plan for Tanga City in place, we aim to ensure that every child in Tanga has a safe jour-

ney to school - this goal is entirely achievable. There is no reason to delay taking action."

According to the World Health Organization, child pedestrians are one of the highest-risk groups for road traffic injuries in Tanzania. Unlike children in wealthier countries, the majority of school children in urban areas of Tanga, and Tanzania in general, walk to school unaccompanied by an adult.

In Africa, a child is twice as likely to die from road traffic injuries compared to any other region in the world.

Govt lauds IFAD for impactful projects in agriculture, fisheries

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

THE government has lauded the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for cooperation with Tanzania in implementing various projects in agriculture and fishery.

Dr Natu El-maamry Mwamba, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, made the remarks here yesterday shortly after meeting with Donal Brown, IFAD associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department on the sidelines of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the 50th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund.

Dr Mwamba said the fund has been continuing to support various agricultural and fishing projects in the country on both sides of the union.

"We thank you for continuing to fund projects that have helped to achieve the goals set by the government through the Five-year National Development Plan, the Agriculture Sector Development Program and the Build Tomorrow Programme "Building a Better Tomorrow," she said.

Dr Mwamba added that the government is

preparing to submit projects through the new programme of the fund, which is expected to start in January next year and asked the relevant sectors to classify various projects in agriculture and fishing so that they can enter the new IFAD programme.

She said that due to the financial problems facing small-scale farmers in the country, the government and IFAD have agreed to come up with new programme to address those challenges.

Dr Mwamba also stated that in order to strengthen the fishing industry in the country, the issue of environmental conservation has been emphasized to protect fish breeding sites that may be destroyed during the implementation of the projects.

She noted the IFAD programme involves the presence of large fishing vessels; a feasibility study is being carried out to protect the environment of the fish breeding grounds so that during the implementation of the projects it does not affect the fishing industry in the country.

Brown said that the fund through different projects meant to benefit rural communities that include improving infrastructure that directly involve agriculture and trade.



Works minister Innocent Bashungwa tabling budget estimate for fiscal 2024/25 in the National Assembly yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

WHO, partners set to rollout malaria vaccination in Africa

By Special Correspondent,

Porto-Novo

THE World Health Organization (WHO) with funding from PATH and partners have convened stakeholders to learn from Benin, Ghana, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Sierra Leone's malaria vaccination experience and ensure adequate preparation towards new introductions and rollout across the continent.

This comes at a time when Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Niger are gearing

up for the introduction and rollout of the malaria vaccines.

In addition, the inter-country peer learning is building capacities on the vaccines RTS, S, R21, and its monitoring tools to enhance readiness for successful vaccine rollout following the high interest and preparation for its introduction in about 20 more African countries.

"The vaccines are important for reducing malaria in young children, providing an important new tool to combat malaria. There is huge interest as we have seen, and PATH timely support is significantly appreciated," Dr

Konan Kouame Jean, WHO Representative in Benin said.

Participants gained insights into vaccine introduction, digitalization of data management, vaccine risk communication, readiness monitoring, and supervision, among others. Additionally, a field visit to malaria vaccination centres was organized to provide participants with first-hand experience in Benin's vaccination process.

"PATH is committed to health equity and the inter-country learning platform is creating a network of experts in accelerating the malaria vaccinations in countries," John Bawa, Director of malaria

Vaccines Implementation, PATH expressed.

As Africa continues to shoulder 94 percent of the global malaria burden, WHO and its partners including UNICEF and Gavi are strengthening malaria control efforts with vaccines being the latest in the control toolbox. In January 2024, the WHO Regional Office for Africa established the Accelerating Malaria Vaccine Introduction and Rollout in Africa (AMVIRA).

This initiative aims to strengthen the provision of technical support to Member States in their efforts to introduce and roll out malaria

vaccines while strengthening partners' coordination at national, regional, and global levels effectively and efficiently.

So far, African countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are rolling out the malaria vaccine into routine immunization. Since 2019, Ghana, Malawi, and Kenya have been rolling out the malaria vaccine as part of a pilot programme, reaching 2.5 million children as of December 2023. WHO and partners also leveraged the workshop to address information gaps and share lessons and best practices to ensure suc-

cessful scale-up of vaccine introduction and rollout in countries. Participants expressed sincere appreciation for the workshop, highlighting the significance and the knowledge gained which will help shape their strategies towards effective malaria vaccine rollout.

"One of the key lessons we picked in Benin, is the effective use of risk communications and consistent information sharing all through the rollout. We also picked other lessons from Ghana and Sierra

Leone's implementation including the use of data management and monitoring

tools to accelerate the vaccine rollout," said Jean Crispin Mukendi, Deputy Manager for the Expanded Program on Immunization in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition to facilitating the cross-learning, WHO through AMVIRA has deployed experts in immunization, data management, risk communication and external communication to assist 5 countries in efficiently planning and delivering the vaccines. Dr Joseph Biey, Country Support and Operation Pillar Lead for AMVIRA emphasized: "With more investment, we can together beat malaria in Africa."



Elizabeth Mnzava, a financial management officer with the Treasury's department of financial sector development, familiarises some Babati town residents in financial management skills yesterday, in Manyara Region. Photo: MOF

Bidders to submit procurement grievances, appeals electronically

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

DEPUTY Finance Minister Hamad Hassan Chande has urged bidders to use the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) for submitting complaints and appeals as it offers a streamlined and efficient solution for procurement-related issues.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday when officiating a two-day training on complaints and appeals management module, Chande said bidders need to start utilizing NeST as it enhances transparency and accountability.

The training on the new module for submitting and handling complaints and appeals electronically will continue in several phases. The first phase which kicked off yesterday was for Coast zone which includes Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga and Morogoro regions.

Chande urged people who apply for various government tenders to learn the process and use it to submit complaints or appeals arising from violations of procedures.

"Our Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA) experts in collaboration with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) will assist you on how to use this new module to submit and handle complaints and appeals. It is my belief that through our experts who know the system, bidders will understand this system

well," he said. This new system aims to be a tool for implementation of all procurement activities from the beginning of the process, including management of contracts to the completion of all stages, including payments to suppliers.

"We are all aware that when there is competition, equality and justice for participants is an issue that should be given importance. Since all these activities are carried out using the system, it has been seen that the tasks of handling complaints should also be done through the same purchasing system. Thus, our NeST system has set up a module specifically for receiving and handling bidders' complaints," he said.

"I direct all institutions in charge of procurement to perform their duties diligently. I instruct PPAA and PPRA to ensure that they provide sufficient training about this new module for receiving and handling complaints and appeals from bidders electronically," he said.

James Sando, PPAA executive secretary, said that the complaints and appeals management module will officially start working next month.

"Changes to the Public Procurement Act of 2023 have set a mandatory requirement for procurement institutions and bidders to use NeST whereby PPAA in collaboration with PPRA have created this new module for the purpose," he said.

Heifer International joins White House-backed alliance to boost farmers' digital access in Africa

WASHINGTON

HEIFER International has committed to bringing at least 10 million African farmers into the digital economy as part of an ambitious public-private initiative endorsed by the White House.

US Vice President Kamala Harris unveiled the initiative, called Mobilizing Access to the Digital Economy (MADE) Alliance: Africa, during a meeting of the U.S.-Africa Business Forum in Washington, D.C. on May 24.

"Many could rightly argue that the future is on the con-

tinuum of Africa," said Harris, noting that the median age in Africa is 19, a sign of the potential for economic growth. "It is not simply about aid, but about investment and understanding the capacity that exists."

The alliance, led by the African Development Bank and Mastercard, aims to provide digital access to critical services for 100 million individuals and businesses in Africa over the next 10 years. Heifer International is a founding alliance member alongside Equity Bank Group, Microsoft, Unconnected.org and the Syngenta Foundation.

MADE will initially focus on supporting the agricultural sector and women. For example, an initial alliance project is aimed at providing digital access for three million farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria, before expanding to Uganda, Ethiopia, and Ghana, and then continent-wide.

Heifer's role, in collaboration with Mastercard, is to catalyze this last mile digital visibility and traceability in agriculture through ecosystem strengthening and curated financial and technical support for micro, small, and medium enterprises and

entrepreneurs. Digital visibility for smallholder farmers creates a platform that makes it easier, safer, and faster for farmers to get paid more for their produce, thereby improving their income.

The launch of the MADE alliance follows a visit by Vice President Harris to Ghana in March, where she issued a call to action to business and philanthropic leaders to make commitments and investments in support of the U.S. Administration's Digital Transformation with Africa initiative.

Speaking in the Ghana-

ian capital Accra at the time, Vice President Harris said: "Whether you are a student relying on virtual courses, a farmer relying on an app for an early warning about extreme weather, or a small business owner looking to sell goods online, digital services are essential to 21st century economies."

Adesuwa Ifedi, Heifer International's Senior Vice President of Africa Programs, says the MADE Alliance has the potential to drive digital and economic inclusion across the continent.

"The MADE alliance sits

perfectly with Heifer's work with our partners in Africa as we mark 50 years of working in the continent in 2024," Ifedi said. "Access to finance is undeniably one of the most pressing challenges facing farmers across Africa. Approximately 80% of Africa's agricultural production comes from smallholder farmers, yet they often lack access to formal financial services. This translates to missed opportunities for investment, limited ability to purchase quality inputs, and constrained capacity for growth and innovation within the sector."

Heifer International President and CEO Surita Sandosham noted the significance of the alliance for improving the lives of Africa's smallholder farmers.

"MADE emerges as a game-changer for Africa's smallholder farmers," she said. "We are excited about this partnership and are poised to drive digital inclusion that will transform the lives of smallholder farmers and women in Africa. We are on the cusp of a revolution in Africa's agriculture that can bring more prosperity, security and opportunities for the continent."



NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Azania Bank Plc will be held at Kivukoni Hall, Dar es Salaam Serena Hotel, Ohio Street in Dar es Salaam on Saturday 22nd June, 2024 starting from 10.00am with the following agenda:

- Opening the Meeting**
To open the meeting.
- Notice and Quorum**
To read the notice and determine if quorum is present.
- Adoption of the Agenda**
To receive and if appropriate adopt the proposed agenda.
- Confirmation of Minutes**
To confirm minutes of 30th Annual General Meeting held on 29th April, 2023.
- Report on Matters Arising**
To receive a report on the matters arising from the minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting.
- Directors Report**
To Receive Directors Report through Chairman's Statement.
- Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2023**
To receive and approve the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2023.
- Proposal for Declaration of Dividend from the Profit obtained in 2023**
To receive and discuss proposal for payment of dividend from the profit obtained in 2023.
- Composition of the Board of Directors and Remuneration**
To take note of the Composition of the Board of Directors and approve Directors Remunerations for the year 2024.
- Appointment of External Auditor**
To appoint the External Auditors for the year 2024.
- Any Other Business**
Any shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf. The proxy should reach the registered office of the Bank not less than 24 hours before the time of the meeting. Holders of proxies are required to bring with them acknowledgements of receipt of delivery of proxy forms and identification card for registration purposes.

Contact for Communication is:
Company Secretary,
Azania Bank Plc,
Ground Floor, Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road,
P. O. Box 32089,
Dar es Salaam.
Tel +255 22 2412025/6/7
Email: info@azaniabank.co.tz

By Order of the Board
Charles Mugila
Company Secretary
29th May, 2024



ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

INSTITUTE OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Accredited by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

CALL FOR 2024/ 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLICATIONS

The Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) invites applications for entry into its various programmes for academic year 2024/2025. Qualified applicants for admission into its competence-based Customs and Tax Management programmes, are invited to apply for the programmes as specified hereunder:-

- Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (PGDT) - 12 months (Full-Time) or 18 months (Executive). Minimum entrance qualification: A Bachelor's Degree in any business-related field or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- Bachelor Degree in Customs and Tax Management (BCTM) - Three years (full-time)**
Minimum entrance qualification: Either Two Principal Passes at "A" Level excluding passes in General Studies, Basic Applied Mathematics and religious subjects with a minimum total of 4.0 grade points or a minimum of 3.0 GPA in Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management or any other Ordinary Diploma in a business related discipline. All applicants for the BCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics and excluding passes in religious subjects).
- Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (DCTM) - Two years (full-time)**
Minimum entrance qualification: Basic Technician Certificate (NTA level 4) in Customs and Tax Management or in any other business-related discipline; OR One Principal Pass and one Subsidiary Pass at "A" Level excluding passes in General Studies, Basic Applied Mathematics and religious subjects. All applicants for the DCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics)
- Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (CCTM) - One year (Full-Time). Minimum entrance qualification:** FOUR passes in business related subjects at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics and excluding passes in religious subjects).
- East African Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (CFFPC) - Four months (Full - Time) or Six months (Part-Time). Minimum Entrance Qualifications:** Two (2) passes at "O" Level excluding passes in religious subjects

The window for application will be opened on **6th June 2024** for all programmes except BCTM whose window of application will be opened on **15th July 2024**.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- Applications should be done online through www.ita.ac.tz
- BCTM, DCTM and CCTM** applications must be accompanied with evidence of payment of a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 10,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- PGDT and CFFPC** applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 30,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- The fee may be paid through **M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa and Airtel Money**.
- The application Fee for foreign applicants should be paid through Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Tanzania, **ITA fee collection account Number: - 3300481074**.

The application deadline for all programmes is 15th September 2024.

For more information, please contact:

RECTOR,
Institute of Tax Administration,
P. O. Box 9321, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone : Admissions +255689538314, General +255783 081348 or +255 22 2216800/1
E-mail: ita@tra.go.tz

Human-induced climate change cause of flooding in EA - report

By Guardian Reporter

COUNTRIES in the East Africa region reel from devastating floods that swept through during this March-May rain season.

The season, commonly known as long rains season because it typically brings the region's highest annual rainfall, turned into a disaster with torrential downpours that claimed hundreds of lives, displaced thousands and destroyed vital infrastructure and crops.

A recent study by the World Weather Attribution (WWA), an international collaboration that analyses and communicates the possible influence of climate change on extreme weather events, shows that human-induced climate change and rapid urbanisation intensified the impact of relentless rain.

The study was conducted by 13 researchers in the WWA group, including scientists from universities, research organisations and meteorological agencies in Kenya, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. To assess the influence of human-induced warming during the March-May season, scientists employed peer-reviewed methods.

Their analysis compared weather data and climate models, contrasting how these extreme events behave in today's climate—roughly 1.2 degrees Celsius of global warming—against the cooler pre-industrial era.

The pre-industrial era refers to the period before the Industrial Revolution, generally dated between 1750 and 1850 and before the widespread use of machines and fossil fuels like coal and oil for large-scale production.

Targeting the region most impacted by the floods, the study examined the maximum 30-day rainfall totals during the MAM season across

southern Kenya, most of Tanzania, and the areas around Lake Tanganyika and Burundi. Scientists say these areas were impacted by a series of heavy rainfall events rather than a single heavy downpour. The report shows that the amount of rainfall during the long rains decreased between the mid-1900s and 2008. In the last 15 years, the MAM period has become wetter again, with an increasing trend in rainfall.

The analysis projects a worrying trend: rainfall is likely to increase further as global warming intensifies. Climate models, with greater certainty compared to current conditions, overwhelmingly predict a rise in both the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events at 2°C of warming.

A string of unrelated reports indicates that warming to this would be moving to a long-term situation where the climate crisis would be difficult to reverse.

Dr Joyce Kimutai, Researcher at the Grantham Institute- Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London, said: "Historically, long rains in East Africa have been challenging to study, with weather observations showing a drying trend in the region and climate models projecting more rains with climate change."

But this has appeared to be changing in recent years, and new climate models seem to better reflect how long rains have been behaving with global warming.

"The most recent weather observations and the latest climate models are more in agreement and show that the long rains are bringing more and more rain every year and that they will become even more intense and dangerous with further warming. We must be prepared for this new reality and stop burning fossil fuels to avoid worsening what is already a dire situation."



Gijedaboug primary school pupils in Babati District, Manyara Region show traditional weapons they fashioned for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics exhibition held at Oimu primary school yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Meeting of French-speaking African MPs decry instability, foreign hands

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka, Yaoundé

FRANCOPHONE lawmakers from 30 African states met in Cameroon's capital Yaoundé yesterday to find a solution to the political instability in French-speaking African nations – including a string of recent coups, security threats and popular discontent. The lawmakers have said among the solutions to the growing crisis are dialogue, a return to

democratic principles and an end to foreign influence.

The 150 lawmakers, members of the African region of the Parliamentary Association of the Francophonie, or APF, have said many Francophone African countries have suffered deep political and economic instability and security threats.

Within the past four years several former French colonies in which

France continued to wield political influence experienced military coups or takeovers, including Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Gabon and Chad.

The group said besides military takeovers French-speaking African states also have a record of long serving leaders.

Cameroon President Paul Biya has ruled for 41 years. Theodoro Obiang Nguema from neighbouring

Equatorial Guinea has been in power for about 45 years and Denis Sassou Nguesso has ruled the Republic of Congo for 38 years. Nguesso first came to power in 1979 and served until the 1992 election when he finished third. He took power again as a militia leader after a four-month civil war in 1997 and has been president since then.

Canada-born Francis Drouin is the president of the Parliamentary

Association of the Francophonie.

Speaking in Yaoundé yesterday, Drouin said young people in French-speaking African countries complain that political instability remains high, and civilians are disgruntled because their freedoms are suffocated by long serving leaders and military governments. He said poverty, the absence of democracy and security threats plunge civilians into suffering and misery.

Drouin said the region's youths yearn for the freedom to participate in decision-making.

Lawmakers attending the conference said Senegal distinguishes itself as an example of democracy after the country's March 24 presidential elections, in which incumbent President Macky Sall was defeated by 40-year-old Bassirou Faye, whom the lawmakers say is a young man with new perspectives.

Africa pledges to triple fertiliser production to empower farmers

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN Heads of state and government united to bolster agricultural sustainability and enhance smallholder farmer livelihoods by endorsing the Nairobi Declaration articulating the outcomes of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit convened in Kenya from 7th to 9th May 2024.

The declaration signified a transformative step towards improving access and affordability of certified quality organic and inorganic fertilizers across the continent.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in local manufacturing of mineral fertilizers with over \$15 billion of investments by the private sector.

However, even as Africa's mineral fertilizer production is estimated at 30 million metric tons annually, most of it is exported outside the continent. Most Member States are still over-dependent on imported fertilizers, especially non-phosphate-based fertilizers which expose Africa to external market shocks and price volatility.

To address this, Africa has committed to increase investments in local domestic manufacturing and blending of fertilizers harnessing the continent's resources. Member states will be working to explore financing tools such as trade credit guarantees, working capital, and targeted subsidies to reduce market distortions, reduce costs and strengthen input supply chains.

Increasing the use of fertilizers, both mineral and organic resources, is imperative for increased productivity and soil health restoration. Africa is seeking to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of mineral and organic fertilizers and other complementary inputs, to increase productivity, maximize profitability and re-

turns on investment, improve soil health, and enhance resilience to climate change.

Thirteen critical points are outlined on the Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the commitments to among others, triple the domestic production and distribution of certified quality fertilizers by 2034. This ambitious initiative aims to uplift smallholder farmers by ensuring they have access to the essential inputs necessary for enhancing agricultural productivity.

Governments committed to prioritize local production of fertilizers using locally available raw materials; strengthen research on inorganic and organic fertilizers by resuscitating the African Centre for Fertilizer Development in Harare; offer incentives for local production, leverage opportunities offered by low-carbon fertilizer production, establish small and medium ventures, and leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area to double intra-Africa fertilizer trade by 2034.

Further, African leaders committed to ensuring that by 2034, at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers receive tailored agronomic recommendations to optimize fertilizer usage for increased efficiency and sustainability. This entails the development of context-specific fertilizer and soil health recommendations, standardized tools for assessing soil fertility and health, establishment of a digital information system for fertilizer and crop decision support, and support for natural gas-producing Member States to stabilize fertilizer prices and increase production.

In relation to financing, a pledge was made to fully operationalize the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) to bolster the production, procurement, and distribution of fertilizers and soil health interventions. This encompasses

widening the Mechanism's scope to support farmer investments in yield-enhancing technologies and soil health, financing infrastructure and logistics for fertilizer availability and food market access and establishing a multi-source soil health fund for research, innovation, and capacity building.

Meanwhile, recommendations were outlined to create an enabling environment for fertilizer and soil health interventions, including the development of continental guidelines, policy harmonization, private sector engagement, and strengthening public-private partnerships.

This is complemented by capacity enhancement through national practices development and promotion of local technologies and building, strengthening, and standardizing the fertilizer analysis capacity and services of laboratories to upgrade the quality of fertilizer standards.

Additionally, a commitment was made to ensure that at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers receive quality extension services on fertilizer and soil health as well as strengthening the last-mile delivery systems by supporting agro-dealers and SMEs. There is a push to also review and upgrade basic education and tertiary training programmes for soil science and agronomy to include subjects relevant to sustainable soil management.

In a bid to translate these commitments into action, the leaders resolved to incorporate the recommendations of the Nairobi Declaration into their National Agricultural Investment Plans, with finance ministers tasked to mobilize and allocate adequate resources for the implementation of a 10-year Action Plan and the Soil Initiative Framework, also launched at Summit.



Brenda Shuma (L), the Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre (GCRC) executive director, based in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, provides a gift to Dr Margret Matonya (R), the special education director for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, at her office recently during an official visit she made at the centre. GCRC runs integrated classes and vocational skills training for both disabled and non-disabled children, Photo: Correspondent James Lanka.

Congolese share their views on Tshisekedi's new cabinet

AFTER over five months of anticipation, the new government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has finally been announced.

Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka's team was introduced on national television on Wednesday.

This announcement was highly

anticipated, as the country's eastern region, particularly North Kivu province, continues to grapple with a severe security crisis.

"If the government has been unveiled, we in North Kivu have only one expectation: the war's end. The camps for the displaced must be prepared so that everyone can return home," says

Georges Yalala, a resident of Goma," said one resident.

"We will be more satisfied seeing that this government does not serve its interests or those of its families. The appointed members must understand that they are there to serve the Congolese people, address their needs, solve their problems, and work for the

nation," said motorcycle taxi driver Barabara Héritier.

The announcement comes ten days after what the army described as an "attempted coup." In addition to the country's security situation, the socio-economic conditions are concerning due to the depreciation of the national currency. Civil society is hoping

for concrete results.

"We believe that with this government, we should judge them not on their composition or political affiliation, but on the first concrete results that we will see in three days, a week, on the ground," says Marion Ngahvo, president of the civil society of Goma.

President Félix Tshisekedi's government has prioritized job creation, economic diversification, and increasing purchasing power in his second term. In power since January 2019, he was re-elected in the first round last December with more than 73% of the vote.



Fidea Nyenga (L), an assistant lecturer at the Institute of Social Work based in Dar es Salaam, explaining ISW courses to visitors at the ISW booth during the week-long education, skills and creativity exhibition in Tanga city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bribery, corruption kill businesses, says report

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW report dubbed 'Bribery and corruption: The hidden social evil on your doorstep' delves into the true extent of how bribery and corruption impacts SMEs across the world, highlighting the pressing need for enhanced transparency and robust regulatory frameworks.

The new research from ACCA (the Association of Chartered Accountants) released yesterday reveals extent of concern over impact of bribery and corruption on SMEs. It shows a high prevalence and deep concerns about the damaging impact of bribery and corruption on SMEs, with 66 percent of SMEs in Africa and their advisers believing that standing up to bribery and corruption will cost them business trade or opportunities. This is higher than the global figure of 59 percent.

But the survey also reveals a strong understanding of the benefits of standing up to bribery and corruption. 64 percent agree that having a strong anti-bribery policy boosts customer confidence in their business - versus 77 percent globally - and 85 percent say it increases their chances of getting lucrative contracts with big businesses and public sector bodies, compared with 68 percent globally.

ACCA Director for Africa Jamil Ampomah said: "Corruption is a poison; it distorts markets, stunts economic growth, and deters investment. Many very small businesses don't have the bargaining power to refuse when small bribes are demanded of them."

Entrepreneurs have to choose between

paying the bribe or losing the business - and often that is no choice at all for someone trying to support a family.

ACCA hopes this report will serve as a catalyst for change, encouraging entities across all sectors to evaluate their practices and align with the best standards of business conduct.'

Report author Jason Piper, ACCA's Head of Tax and Business Law, said: "Our report aims to arm businesses and regulators with the necessary insights and tools to root out corruption and foster an environment of transparency and trust. This could include the use of the latest digital tools. Just as technology is being used by criminals, so regulators and enforcement agencies should embrace it in the battle to detect, prevent and respond to them."

Drawing from a broad spectrum of global data, expert opinions, and real-world case studies, the report explores the multifaceted impacts of corrupt practices on SMEs and economic development. It highlights the severe consequences that businesses can face, including legal penalties and severe damage to their reputations.

The report also considers the effectiveness of current anti-corruption laws and policies across different countries, suggesting that while some progress has been made, much remains to be done to align international efforts.

Piper added: "As global markets become increasingly interconnected, the imperative for accountability and ethical business practices becomes more pronounced."

WHO avails repaired isolation unit at Mutukula border post

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has handed over a refurbished infectious diseases isolation centre to the government at Mutukula border in Kagera Region to facilitate screening and prevention of cross-border transmission.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony yesterday, Kagera Regional Medical Officer Samwel Laizer said that the refurbishment was funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He said utilization of the unit at the one stop border point is set to prevent cross-border transmission of diseases by detecting and prohibiting travel to exposed or ill travellers from affected areas.

"As a country bordered by neighbours, as well as being known for influx of tourists especially at a busy border like Mutukula, the isolation centre comes at an opportune time to strengthen our resilience against future outbreaks," he said.

"I would like to thank WHO and USAID for the support. With more

collaboration, we can achieve universal health coverage in Tanzania."

He said like many countries, Tanzania has been responding to different emerging and re-emerging diseases, adding that key amongst others was the outbreak of the Marburg virus last year which resulted in six deaths.

"Thanks to timely interventions from the government, WHO and other partners, the virus was curtailed within 90 days," he said.

Dr Laizer said that WHO has also been working with the Ministry of

Health to reinforce readiness and response to health emergencies with teams of first responders trained in the key aspects of outbreak preparedness and response.

He said the presence of standardised unit at the point of entry was imperative by the international health regulations, obligations and recommendations after the fight against Marburg.

WHO Country Representative Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses said that Mutukula isolation unit will strengthen Tanzania's health sys-

tem in detecting, preventing and responding quickly and efficiently to public health emergencies to save lives.

"I want to express our gratitude to USAID for the timely financial support. Many lives will be transformed and communities will be well prepared for any future emergencies or outbreaks," he said.

He said that Mutukula Isolation unit replaced an old and dilapidated temporary tent which previously served as an isolation centre and was repurposed for the man-

agement of suspected cases.

Dr Sagoe-Moses said that the new facility will play a key role in case management and investigation to help control community transmission.

Laura Chitterenden, Programme Adviser at USAID Tanzania said: "We are honoured to witness the completion of this life-saving isolation unit and we congratulate the government of Tanzania for its continued efforts to prepare the country against future outbreaks."

How to Buy Nipashe and The Guardian Newspapers at www.ippmedia.com or epaper.ippmedia.com

Through the website epaper.ippmedia.com

1. Open the epaper.ippmedia.com website from your browser, select the version of publication you want to purchase, whether **Nipashe** or **The Guardian** by clicking "Read"
2. It will send you to another page where you need to fill in your information and the package you want to join. Then click "**subscribe**"
3. It will take you to the payment page where you can pay with either **bank card** or **by mobile money** transfer after correctly filling in your required information
4. Through **mobile Money**, choose the mobile network, write your number and tick the box to accept the terms and conditions. The **push SMS** will pop out on your phone to deduct

the amount after allowing the transaction from your mobile account. When the payment is completed, you will receive a payment confirmation **email** and **SMS**, then login into your account and start reading the publication of your choice

5. Through the **bank card**, you enter your card information and allow the amount to be deducted from your account after accepting the terms and conditions. Then log in to your account and finally enjoy the publication of your preference

Through the www.ippmedia.com website

6. Open your browser www.ippmedia.com website on the right hand side you will see "**E-Paper**" click on it and follow the processes same as **number 1-5**



Scientist stresses importance vaccine production in Africa

By Special Correspondent

PROFESSOR Rose Leke, an esteemed immunologist, has shared insights into her recent L'Oréal-UNESCO international award for women in science and discussed significant advancements in the field.

Reflecting on technological strides, she emphasized the pivotal role of mRNA vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prof. Leke lauded the establishment of BioNTech's manufacturing facility in Kigali, Rwanda, which marks a critical step towards Africa's self-sufficiency in vaccine production.

The awardee also mentioned the Pan-African vaccine manufacturing initiative and the innovative work at the University of Cape Town as cornerstones for a hopeful future in African healthcare.

A part of the interview with Africanews focused on Cameroon's recent launch of a systematic malaria vaccination campaign. Despite initial scepticism, the campaign has seen encouraging participation and no adverse side effects, signalling a positive reception among the populace.

Addressing the concerns of parents about the malaria vaccine's partial effectiveness, Professor Leke urged trust in the vaccine, citing successful pilot programmes in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi. She reassured that the vaccine significantly reduces the severity of malaria in children, ultimately saving lives.



Yessaya Mwakifulefule, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCRA) communication manager, presents a donation of school items to Mtwara DC Mwanahamisi Munkunda for use by Mnete primary school, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BioNTech gets \$145million for vaccine plants in Africa

FRANKFURT

COVID-19 vaccine maker BioNTech has secured up to \$145 million in funding from a global coalition against infectious diseases to help build a production network in Africa for shots based on cutting-edge messenger-RNA (mRNA) technology.

BioNTech and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innova-

tions (CEPI) said in a joint statement yesterday that the financial support was part of an expanded partnership as the German biotech firm builds an mRNA vaccine factory site in Rwanda's capital Kigali.

A future African network could produce affordable vaccines to fight malaria, mpox, tuberculosis or other health threats, they added.

The partners said they "intend to

work jointly to rapidly respond to outbreaks on the African continent caused by known viral threats, or an as-yet-unknown pathogen with epidemic or pandemic potential".

The funds pledged by CEPI come on top of up to \$90 million that the coalition granted BioNTech last September to support the development of mpox vaccine candidates.

CEPI CEO Richard Hatchett told Reuters that in a health emergency

up to half of the Kigali plant's annual capacity of around 50 million vaccines could be dedicated to making vaccines to respond to the emergency, as part of the funding deal.

He said the money was for speeding up the development of the factory and to add on the capacity to produce material for research and clinical trials for third parties, not for specific vaccine development.

"This is an important step for Africa towards its vaccine goals," said Hatchett.

BioNTech said in December it aimed to start production at the modular mRNA vaccine factory site in Rwanda in 2025, the first foreign company mRNA vaccine manufacturing site on the continent.

It said at the time it had fully funded the facility, committing a total of \$150 million.

The company, which developed the Western world's most widely used COVID-19 shot with U.S. partner Pfizer, in 2022 laid out an initial plan to enable African countries to produce its shots under BioNTech's supervision.

Rival Moderna last month paused its plans to build a vaccine manufacturing facility in Kenya, following a post-pandemic decline in demand for COVID-19 vaccines.



Denis Tippe, the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) director for Uyole-Mbeya centre, instructs farmers on improved cultivation of maize at a field class yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

AfDB seeks to reinforce infrastructure funding

NAIROBI

AFRICA'S economic growth is set to accelerate to 3.7 percent this year and 4.3 percent next from 3.1 percent in 2023, African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina said yesterday, expressing hope that the bank can boost infrastructure investment with IMF help.

"African economies are experiencing great resilience despite the challenges posed by climate change, geopolitical tensions, global inflation, rising debt, among others," he told the annual meeting of the bank.

In the past nine years, the bank has invested over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects on the continent, he said.

Adesina said two weeks ago that the International Monetary Fund had approved multilateral banks such as the AfDB lending against the Fund's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) monetary reserves.

SDRs are interest-bearing international reserve assets granted to IMF member countries in proportion to their shareholding.

"If the approved limit of \$20 billion of the SDRs is channelled to multilateral development banks like us, we [the AfDB] can leverage this to deliver at least \$80 billion of new financial support," he said.

The bank helps to raise \$3.2 billion for the East Africa standard gauge railway linking Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, he added.

It is also providing \$500 million towards the development of the Lobito Corridor to connect Zambia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Community cry foul over pollution caused by lead factory in DR Congo

KINSHASA

SMOKING chimneys, lead-laden dust and pungent smells - residents near a factory in the heart of a working-class neighbourhood seem to have become accustomed to this toxic cocktail to which they have been exposed for several years.

Yet here are men, women and children whose examinations have revealed alarming levels of lead in their blood, making their health more fragile by the day.

"This factory makes life difficult for us. When they

blow the smoke, our stomachs hurt, my child and I are contaminated with lead," one resident complained.

The company's name is Metssa Congo, and the Congolese-registered Indian company is one of the world's leading recyclers of used batteries and lead, one of the most dangerous metals on the planet.

Cyrille Ndembu, together with his neighbours, is leading a legal battle against the company, to obtain closure and relocation of the factory.

He and his family have been suffering from chronic pneumonia since they arrived in the neighbourhood in 2019.

"We consulted a laboratory, which took samples, the analyses were carried out in France at the CERBA laboratory and it turned out that we were intoxicated with lead. And that's on a sample of 26 people. As we speak, the administrative summary judgment judge has ordered the temporary suspension of the plant's activities, pending a ruling on the merits. But as long as they continue to work we remain exposed and continue to inhale these toxic gases that are making us sicker and sicker," said Ndembu.

"Indeed, the blood lead levels we found were significant enough for there to be no scientific doubt

that it did come from this plant, because of the radio concentration, i.e., those closest to the plant had the highest levels," said Frédéric Mavoungou, a pharmacist and a biologist.

In response to these accusations, Arun Goswami, head of the METSSA Group, defended the company saying that METSSA operated in strict compliance with international industrial standards.

As lead poisoning has only been proven in a sample of the population, it is now up to the court to decide whether the factory is the cause of the poisoning. In the meantime, other cases may come to light.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 30 MAY 2024

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

Diaspora special status a watershed, if it will make a strategic difference

WHAT the government has worked upon for more than a decade, not to say two decades, is finally yielding tangible results, as the government is finalising drafting legal changes to procedures to grant special status to Diaspora persons with Tanzanian origin. This is technically beneficial, while its significance needs to be compared with what is already available and what is being offered, not firstly in official objectives/ The key intention is that such a procedure will help to stimulate the participation of the non-citizens in national development' it has a certain chance of success rather than assurance.

Those who have some memory may recall that this procedure was precisely what was promised to people of Tanzanian origin who hold another citizenship, at a Black People's conference held in Arusha back in 2004. That makes it 20 years since the special status promise was made, making it the realisation of a promise on the one hand, and inability to move forward on that issue since that view of things was projected in 2004. What this means is not the solidity or lack of change in government policy but the solidity of sentiments related to the issue, the basic refusal of dial citizenship as such.

That means an explanation is needed why the promise was not realised earlier, and indeed, what makes its being accepted now something of significance to the government, as it is unclear so far what difference it makes to the Diaspora. The special status is basically an investment status, and it needs some binoculars or microscope to say what difference can be said to arise between the status of foreign investors and the special status being extended to Tanzanians in the Diaspora. In po-

litical or legal terms they are individuals who have renounced Tanzanian citizenship for another passport.

In that confinement of issues, they are not entitled to any particular privileges as they have not seen it vital or necessary to retain their Tanzanian nationality, and since we reject the two citizenship quest in principle, there is no proper legal obligation on the part of the public authorities. In that case we have discovered, on account of intense economic diplomacy and the reality in various other countries, as clearly Diaspora capital influx is of considerable significance in economic expectations. The corollary though is how far this aspiration can be bridged by the special status category, as capital flows from the Diaspora are likely to be higher if one has all the legal rights at home, hence the citizenship status.

In a sense it is likely that the celebration in the legislature that is expected when the bills are placed on the table in the months following the budget session will be somewhat inward looking, as in relation to the proper Diaspora, the answer to their principal need is still 'nyet.' The reality is that the political system, the sort of alliances that make up the power structure, is far too uncomfortable in the idea of a Tanzania with two passports, such that no progress has been made in that regard.

The special status issue is an appeal to Diaspora persons to invest in the country; it isn't an invitation to actually feel at home again. That is why the proposals' significance will be minimal as all investors have special status as visitors, with the one stop shop consideration, meanwhile as major investors are unlikely to be single former holders of a Tanzanian passport but established firms. So the bill is to clear our consciences, largely.

With initial contracts, the state can trust the private sector to optimise SGR traffic

CHANCES that the government consolidates economic activity focused on operations of the standard gauge railway line by engaging private sector stakeholders are bright, as this appears to be the main focus of operational prospects at present. There is a feeling that the private sector condominium in the project would make it a reliable source of revenues for operating the railway on the one hand, and for wider revenue prospects on the other. This is a welcome discussion as SGR operations are just around the corner, so far there is more excitement about the project than its proper economic prospects, etc.

What is visible on the outside is that the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), its board of directors and management, is reshaping its activities not only to take up SGR as part of its daily activities but also adapt to its culture. It is one thing supervising rolling stock with a steam or diesel engine, and quite another to supervise SGR mainframe of operations, and various quarters of opinion, given the somewhat disarming, not to say numbing experience of the state-led transportation sector in the past, have always held doubts on adding SGR to the routine. Some guarantees would indeed be relevant, which isn't exactly what TRC is doing, as it is focused on revenue projections and such arrangements.

Revenue is of course vital, but the technical aspect is even more significant, but taking a second look, even ability of TRC to haul in other operators and especially from neighbouring countries would in a way be tied to assurances.

The private sector firms are so far limited to the supply of coaches and paying on the use of the facility, in which case they may have to be

involved in the supervision of rolling stock as a whole, which could make a difference. When up to half of cargo wagons likely to be put on SGR lines are from the private sector, the setting itself will have been reordered to include their own supervisors, as companies will need guarantees that the running will be properly executed, etc.

One reason why this is likely to be the case is that companies have to obtain an insurance element in placing demands for purchasing of rolling stock, like other infrastructure material, such that it will no longer be easy for TRC to exercise a managerial monopoly. With the noted frequency of accidents in the past, peering over this issue and looking only at someone lining up wagons instead of being fully explicit about synergies in the wagons suppliers and TRC as the main operator can lead to a false start. It can build resistance on how far a company can commit itself to the project, or look elsewhere.

A leading expert on the new initiative, the permanent secretary for Planning and Investment, said that the committee's recommendations focused on how the SGR will operate, how it can be profitable and how other productive sectors can contribute to the success of the project.

There was no word on how other rolling stock operators can be brought into the day to day running of the railway, as they have considerable assets they need to supervise against unexpected mishaps.

Ordinarily one would say it is unnecessary but it is only a precaution, much like insurance, to assuage the doubters SGR is in safe hands and is not expected to be learning on the job; this risks disasters as we have cruelly seen before.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Lessons from Africa for future-proofing global health

By Paul Adepoju

THE importance of effectively engaging Africa's health sector in outbreak responses has become increasingly evident since the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, international organizations discovered that their efforts were best complemented by collaboration with local governments and community leaders.

Now, as the global health community reflects on the lessons learned from the pandemic, it should also consider what it can learn from Africa to future-proof global health.

Swiftness and Greater Regional Coordination

Before COVID-19, Africa's public health sector often found that its work was overshadowed by narratives and solutions from Western countries, but "there is so much for the whole world to learn from Africa," said Raji Tajudeen, head of Public Health Institutes and Research

at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), during the International Conference on Public Health in Africa, in November.

While emphasizing the effectiveness of African initiatives, particularly in response to the

COVID-19 pandemic, he called for greater recognition, consideration, and integration of these efforts on a global scale. He pointed to the Africa CDC's swift action, establishment of a pooled procurement platform, and efficient mobilization of resources as examples of effective regional mechanisms.

Strategic Alliances and Localization

One of the initiatives that Tajudeen highlighted was the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative, a partnership between the Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation.

He said he is now inviting other public health sector players, especially the main players in the Geneva global health ecosystem, to study and adopt that model, emphasizing its potential for global replication.

"Our partnership really exemplifies what I describe as a respected, action-oriented partnership," Tajudeen said. He challenged the prevailing narrative regarding Africa's contributions to global health, calling on all stakeholders to join Africa to "implement these very robust, comprehensive strategic plans" and to embrace Africa's role as a leader in shaping the future of global health.

Beyond guiding prospective partners on how to engage with Africa, the agency's leadership also has insights for the rest of the world on how to better achieve set global health goals, including forming strategic alliances. "At the heart of Africa CDC's success lies its ability to identify and foster strategic partnerships," said Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, acting deputy director general



A health worker prepares a solution inside a tent for cholera patients at Kuwadzana Polyclinic, in Harare, Zimbabwe

of the Africa CDC.

He emphasized that Africa's response to the COVID pandemic was not a solitary endeavour, but a collaborative effort involving a myriad of stakeholders.

Through strategic alliances, he said, the Africa CDC harnessed resources, expertise, and support critical for mounting an effective response.

Ouma added that Africa's experience is also a major lesson for the global health landscape on the need to prioritize localization in interventions rather than attempt to "plug-and-play" foreign solutions and approaches." One of the main takeaways from Africa's experience is the importance of local capacity and prioritization."

According to Ouma, the Africa CDC and its partners have empowered local communities and prioritized interventions based on specific needs. Those actions allowed Africa to optimize resource allocation and ensure that interventions were effective in addressing the most pressing health concerns.

He also stressed the importance of ensuring that partnerships are based on mutual strengths and objectives. "Our collaborations exemplify how shared goals and complementary capabilities can drive impactful outcomes...by engaging in partnerships that leverage each partner's strengths, Africa demonstrated the power of collaborative approaches in tackling complex health challenges."

Multitasking Capabilities Even though COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern, several other outbreaks and incidences of global health importance are. The ease of spread of one disease from one part of the world to another has necessitated the need for a more robust approach toward preparations and responses to multiple outbreaks concurrently, one of the

responding to community needs. She argued that central to effective engagement in Africa's health sector is listening to and responding to community needs.

Gichuru highlighted the importance of understanding the aspirations and priorities of the communities being served rather than imposing external agendas.

"We try to ask ourselves, what do they need, and what do they want," said Gichuru. By taking a collaborative approach and actively soliciting feedback from stakeholders, she said organizations can tailor their interventions to address the most pressing health challenges facing African communities.

Capacity-Building, Flexibility, and Adaptability

Instead of rolling out predetermined interventions, Gichuru noted that capacity-building yields better outcomes. Gichuru emphasized the need to "continue to support the capacity-building of these partners," particularly in areas such as data management, diagnostics, and workforce development. By investing in the capacity of local actors, international organizations can help build sustainable health systems that are resilient in the face of future challenges.

She also stressed the need for Africa-aimed public health interventions to be flexible and adaptable. "This is not about ticking boxes," she said. Flexibility enables organizations to remain responsive to emerging challenges, seize new opportunities, and maximize their impact in Africa's dynamic health landscape.

"By embracing flexibility, listening to stakeholders, and empowering local actors, organizations can contribute to the development of sustainable health systems that improve the lives of millions of Africans," Gichuru explained. In hindsight, the tips on how to more effectively engage in Africa's health landscape are also relevant for initiatives aiming to be successful in any part of the world. Effective engagement anywhere should require a holistic and collaborative approach that prioritizes local partnerships, community needs, and capacity-building.

Although Africa continues to rely on international support, it seems to now have a winning strategy that exemplifies these principles. It therefore offers valuable insights and lessons for organizations seeking to have a meaningful impact on health outcomes across and beyond the continent.

Paul Adepoju is a scientist, health journalist, and media trainer.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY
KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



Ref. No: HB.118/258/01/64

30th May, 2024

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Kinondoni Municipal Council Football Club (KMC FC) invites dynamic and suitable qualified personnel to fill vacant posts as mentioned below:

THE KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOOTBALL CLUB (KMC FC)

The Kinondoni Municipal Council Football Club (KMC FC) owned by Kinondoni Municipal Council is registered Limited Company under The Companies Act, 2002. The Club is one amongst the Sports Club that participate in National Premier League. The Club has the following vacant posts:-

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER- 01 POST

1.1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide Leadership and direction to the entire Club through approved policies, rules, guidelines and procedures regarding strategic and operational plans and market the Club to the Management team and interpret/disseminate same through meetings, directives, circulars, highlighting pertinent areas of attention or concern aiming at leading them through the right direction for overall positive performance of the Club,
- Approve proposals on Operational guidelines after carefully scrutinizing and satisfying oneself the directions in which they address the core business performance areas and solicit for Board's approval prior to implementation with a view to maintain the vision and mission of the club,
- Secure adequate sources of financing through appealing budget and from various local and international sources with a view to sustain financial capabilities of the club,
- Prepare and submit to the Board quarterly and annual comprehensive action plans, budgets and training needs and performance highlighting areas requiring support from the Board in order to maintain performance standards and ultimate achievement of Club goals,
- Maintain proper communication and relationship with partner institutions as well as internal and external stakeholders through forums, exhibitions, and media with a view of creating, attracting and maintaining awareness of the Club activities enhancing the club image,
- Monitor all operational with a view to observe implementation of activities and obtain suggestions and advice corrective measures aimed at activating, supporting and harmonizing efforts towards achieving desired goals,
- Create conducive atmosphere by advocating compliance to rules and regulations that are in line with statutory requirements, such as auditing for financial and systems control; inspections of training centers to meet statutory compliance, with a view to attaining regulative and legislative obligations.

1.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Holder of Master's Degree in Business Administration or equivalent qualifications from a recognized university/institution with working experience of at least thirteen (13) years of relevant work experience, five (5) of which must be at a senior management position in a reputable institution. Must have a strong background on strategic management and be computer literate with advance knowledge on planning and investments management packages.

1.3 REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package

2. HEAD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - 01 POST

Head of the Finance and Administration is overall in-charge of financial management and Administration matters of the Club;

2.1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advise the CEO on all financial and Administration matters of the Club;
- Prepare annual plan and budget by reviewing and consolidating plans and budgets from his subordinate for onward submission;
- Plan, organize, develop and direct financial policies, systems and procedures through analytical approaches and application of national and international accounting and other standards for the purpose of proper utilization of financial resources;
- Develop and direct, investment policies by analyzing the internal and external factors to ensure strategic financial management including short term and long-term investments which are in line with objectives of Club;
- Administer all Administration works of the Club.
- Oversee all Human Resources activities of the Club
- Produce Financial Statements by coordinating and directing preparation of consolidated financial reports for management evaluation of performance review by External Auditors and approved by the Board.
- Promptly processing of payments to suppliers of goods and/or services to the Club by analyzing and scrutinizing payment requests to ensure that debts balance is at acceptable level.
- Promptly processing of payments to suppliers of goods and/or services to the Club by analyzing and scrutinizing payment requests to ensure that debts balance is at acceptable level;
- Administer proper use of Club funds, insurance and royalties;
- Process timely payments of salaries and emoluments;

2.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Holders of Master's Degree in Accountancy, Finance, Commerce or Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized institution and who possess CPA (T), ACCA, ACA, CIMA and registered by NBAA under "Associate" or "Fellow" category with working experience of at least ten (10) years in similar fields five (5) of which must be at senior administrative position.

2.3 REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package

3. HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICE - 01 POST DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide statutory service for the Board in accordance with the Club charter, by-Laws, Regulations and other legal requirements;
- To assist the preparation of Annual Budget for the Board and other statutory Committees of the Club;
- Custodian of the Club Seal;
- Custodian of legal documents including contracts that the Club has entered with individuals, organizations, institution etc.
- Authenticate legal correspondences addressed to the Club;
- Liaise with external regulators and advisers.
- Vet all documents emanating from outside in which the Club has an interest;
- Participate in preparation of Board meetings schedule and papers.
- Serve as overall in charge of the Legal Services in the Club by providing legal advice to the Club;
- Liaise with the High Court and courts subordinate there to, various institutions, Government

Ministries and Departments on Legal matters;

- Assist CEO to respond to legal inquiries about the Club operations.

3.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Holders of Master's Degree in Law and Registered Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania with at least twelve (12) years of relevant work experience in legal practice and must be computer literate with a strong background on government systems.

3.3 REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package.

4. MARKETING MANAGER - 1 POST

4.1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage and coordinate marketing and creative staff
- Lead market research efforts to uncover the viability of current and existing products/services.
- Collaborate with media organizations and advertising agencies.
- Brainstorm ideas for new campaigns.
- Coordinate with the sales team and other Departments to produce effective strategies
- Monitor current campaigns, ensuring their staff meets deadlines and complete necessary tasks.
- Analyze data to evaluate the success of their marketing efforts and come up with new ideas to improve brand marketing and exposure.

4.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Advertising, Communication or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution with at least Ten (10) years of relevant work experience and must be computer literate with a strong background on government systems.

4.3. REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package.

5. ACCOUNTANT II - 02 POSTS

5.1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To prepare Financial Reports.
- To prepare bank reconciliation;
- To record and processes financial transactions.
- To maintain and update the Fixed Assets Register, and
- To perform such other related duties as may be assigned by the Supervisor.

5.2 QUALIFICATIONS

Holders of Bachelor's Degree in one of the following fields: Accountancy, Finance, Commerce or Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualification from recognized Institutions and who possess CPA (T), ACCA, ACA, or any professional qualifications recognized by NBAA and registered as an Accountant.

5.3 REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- All applicants must be Citizens of Tanzania with an age not above 45 years of age;
- Applicants must attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contacts, postal address/post code, e-mail and telephone numbers;
- Applicants should apply on the strength of the information given in this advertisement;
- Applicants must attach their certified copies of the following certificates;
 - Masters/Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma/Certificates;
 - Masters/Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma transcripts;
 - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates;
 - Professional Registration and Training Certificates from respective Registration or Regulatory Bodies, (where applicable);
 - Registration or Regulatory Bodies, (where applicable);
 - Birth certificate
- Attaching copies of the following certificates is strictly not accepted: -
 - Form IV and form VI results slips;
 - Testimonials and all Partial transcripts;
- An applicant should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts;
- Certificates from foreign examination bodies for ordinary or Advanced level education should be verified by The National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).
- Professional certificates from foreign Universities and other training institutions should be verified by The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and National Council for Technical Education (NACTE);
- An applicant with special needs/case (disability) is supposed/ advised to indicate;
- A signed application letter should be written either in Swahili or English and Addressed to:

Municipal Director,
Kinondoni Municipal Council,
P. O. Box 31902,
DAR ES SALAAM.

- Deadline for the application is 14th day of June, 2024.

- Only shortlisted candidates will be informed on a date for interview

Released by:

Hanifa S. Hamza
MUNICIPAL DIRECTOR KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



Final Evaluation of an action medeor e.V. and Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) Project in Tanzania:

Action medeor e.V. and CSSC seeks an EVALUATOR / TEAM OF EVALUATORS for a final evaluation of its Multi Actors Partnership for Quality Pharmaceutical Services (MAP-QPS) project in Tanzania to improve health care for the Tanzanian population through more qualified pharmaceutical assistants and technicians and better-qualified hospital pharmacists in Tanzania.

About action medeor

action medeor is a charitable, non-governmental organization that provides low-cost medical aid to healthcare facilities in 140 countries worldwide. We offer high-quality products at low prices by buying large quantities and work in collaboration with different church and secular organizations, religious communities, private initiatives, and healthcare centers abroad. In cases of emergency, action medeor delivers medical aid to the disaster area within the first 24 hours. action medeor also handles its healthcare projects in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, supporting the establishment of healthcare services and the education and training of local personnel. Our goal is to strengthen local medical structures in developing countries by running training courses for pharmaceutical personnel and supporting local development and production in collaboration with local manufacturers.

Further information on action medeor can be found on our website: <https://medeor.de/en/>

About CSSC

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical umbrella organization. After its foundation in 1992, the Christian Social Services Commission was officially registered as a non-profit, religious organization in 1993 (registration number at the Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs SO7837).

CSSC's mission is to coordinate and strengthen social services in education and health provided by over 900 faith-based health and more than 1,200 educational institutions in Tanzania through capacity building and advocacy to improve access to health and education for all Tanzanians.

CSSC's core tasks include advocacy work, institutional development, capacity building, and the cultivation of partnerships and networks. CSSC works in all regions (zones) of Tanzania at different political levels. The offices are located in Dar es Salaam (Headquarters), Morogoro (Eastern Zone), Mbeya (Southern Zone), Arusha (Northern Zone), Mwanza (Lake Zone) and Tabora (Western Zone).

In the education sector, CSSC supports 404 pre-schools, 268 primary schools, 423 secondary schools, 96 training and education institutions, and 19 universities/colleges. In the health sector, CSSC represents over 900 faith-based facilities across Tanzania, including 103 hospitals, (two referral and specialized hospitals, 10 regional referral hospitals, 37 district hospitals, and 54 district hospitals) and 102 health centers. In addition, CSSC unites 696 pharmacies and drug dispensaries nationwide in its network. Within the framework of the dialogue structure established, CSSC cooperates with pharmaceutical faculties of all five universities in Tanzania in the area of improving academic pharmaceutical teaching.

Further information on CSSC can be found on our website: <https://cssc.or.tz/>

I. Overview

Project	Multi-stakeholder partnership for improved health care through more qualified pharmaceutical assistants and technicians and better-qualified hospital pharmacists in Tanzania.
Assessment type	Final Evaluation of the project and recommendations for an ongoing next project phase.
Evaluation purpose	The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the accomplishment of the transformative progress of the MAP against the target objectives and indicators and assess implementation strengths and weaknesses. Recommendations for a third project phase are also requested.
Project locations	All regions of Tanzania-Mentoring few is; Dar es Salaam (CSSC headquarters, MUHAS, MNH, Mloganzila, PST, TAPSA) Dodoma -Pharmacy Council, MOH) Arusha (CEDHA), Kilimanjaro (KSP, KCMC) Iringa (RUCU), Mbeya (MZRH), Mwanza (CUHAS & Bugando, Mwanza COHAS) etc
Beneficiaries	Key personnel of CSSC, NACTVET, PC, MoH, CEDHA, PST, TAPSA, and MUHAS, as well as tutors and students of PTIs and pharmacists of national, zonal, regional, and specialized hospitals.
Sectors	Pharmaceutical Services
Donor	German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
Implementing partner	CSSC
Project duration	May 01, 2021 – July 30, 2024 (second funding phase)
Annexes upon request	Logical Framework of the targeted project (other relevant project documentation will be provided after contracting)

II. Purpose of the evaluation

This final evaluation of the second funding phase of this Multi-Actor Partnership serves as an important participatory learning process for all stakeholders involved in the project. The purpose of the final evaluation is to provide decision-makers at CSSC, action medeor e.V. partners of the Multi-Actor Partnership Partners, and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development with sufficient information to make an informed decision about the performance of the second funding phase, document lessons learned and provide practical recommendations for follow-up actions, similar future projects, and the ongoing third funding phase.

As a general standard, this final project evaluation shall include an assessment of the project's impact, effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability. The progress and success of the project shall be assessed regarding its stated objectives. The final evaluation should generate practical hands-on recommendations that can be implemented by the project actors within their sphere of control as follow-up actions for this project, the ongoing third funding phase, and beyond. The evaluation will be used to gain more knowledge on the effects and impacts to inform future management, the Multi-Actor Partners, and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

III. Background and Rationale

In 2017, a Multi-Actor Partnership was established between CSSC, action medeor, and other partners to improve pharmaceutical services for better health care for the Tanzanian public. The partnership was initiated with the structural approach of Multi-Actor Partnerships. The Multi-Actor approach involves bringing together different actors or stakeholders to address a specific issue that no one partner can solve alone. The partnership is known as MAP for Quality Pharmaceutical Services (MAP-QPS) since 2022 and is financed by the German government (BMZ).

Further information on the Multi-Actor-Partnership approach can be found here: <https://partnerschaften2030.de/en/>

Pharmaceutical professionals are an important prerequisite for comprehensive and good health care. However, both the quantity and the quality of training at the pharmaceutical colleges are not sufficient. There is a great need for the expansion and harmonization of quality standards in pharmaceutical training. Pharmacists are reduced to administrative tasks in hospital pharmacies and cannot contribute their expertise for better treatment/dispensing of medicines to patients. For this important function in hospitals, pharmacy students need to be trained and multidisciplinary teams need to be established in hospitals. For this, the coordination of all relevant actors (including professional schools, the Ministry of Health, regulatory authorities, etc.) is crucial.

The established Multi-Actor Partnership for Quality Pharmaceutical Services (MAP-QPS) has contributed to improving pharmaceutical services in Tanzania since 2017. Multi Actors and project beneficiaries from pharmacy training, health services, and international organizations were identified for this purpose and made even more aware of their participation, to embed the goals for improving pharmacy services. In 2022, stakeholders declared their commitment to the MAP-QPS dialogue on achieving the vision of quality pharmaceutical services to all. A strategy for the MAP-QPS 2022-2026 outlines the strategies and common measures, which contribute to the achievement of the goal.

Since the second funding phase inception in 2021, the MAP-QPS dialogue has achieved to engage more than 120 stakeholders in a Round Table, facilitated the review of the national pharmacy training curriculum for NTA Level 4-6, trained more than 200 tutors on teaching methodology and student assessment, built a 102-capacity classroom, renovated laboratory and provided equipment at Mpanda College of Health and Allied Sciences, trained 104 in services pharmacists and 20 master trainers on Clinical Pharmacy Services which contributed greatly to the sustainable development of pharmaceutical sector in the country.

IV. Scope of Work

The implementation of the project's goals / sub-goals shall be analyzed and assessed. Lessons learned from the project implementation shall be derived to inform and improve the development of future programming, management, and partnership structure and strategy. Regarding any major issues and problems affecting the progress of the partnership, recommendations shall be made and action points identified. Necessary feasible recommendations shall be provided and addressed to different recipients.

1. Assessment – DeGEval Standards and OECD/DAC evaluation criteria

The evaluation shall be conducted in line with the DeGEval Evaluation Standards: Utility, Feasibility, Propriety, and Accuracy. The evaluation shall include a performance assessment based on the latest OECD/DAC criteria and provide feasible lessons learned for future programming.

Additionally, the evaluation results according to every OECD/DAC Criterion should be assessed and rated in a comprehensible and traceable manner according to a provided rating scale (OECD/DAC rating scale). Evaluation questions will be developed to assess the following OECD/DAC criteria/areas (note: this list shall be finalized/prioritized after awarding the contract with CSSC and action medeor).

1. Relevance:

- Do we follow the right approach/are we doing the right things?
- To what extent does the Multi-Actor approach with its objectives and design respond to the beneficiaries', and partner/institution's needs, policies, and priorities?
- To what extent will the approach remain relevant (or has remained relevant), if circumstances change (have changed)?
- What can be or has been adapted for the approach to remain relevant, if the context changes/when the context changes?
- What can be stated about the design of the Partnership? To what extent is the Partnership designed in a sufficiently precise, plausible & realistic way?

2. Coherence:

- To what extent is the Partnership compatible with other projects/programs in the country, sector, or institution(s) to make the Partnership sustainable?
- To what extent do other projects and/or policies from the involved partners (especially the Round Table members) support or undermine the approach, and vice versa?
- What can be stated about the internal coherence (synergies/links with other projects by action medeor and CSSC) and consistency with norms/standards followed by the same actors?
- To what extent does the linkage with the current action medeor and CSSC strategy support or undermine the partnership?

3. Effectiveness:

- Do we implement the approach effectively?
- To what extent has the partnership generated positive changes / what are the key changes experienced so far?
- To what extent have the project log frame goals/targets been achieved (indicator assessment)?
- Are there any differences between the target groups affected by or related to certain objectives?
- To what extent have the activities been achieved? What kind of deviations do we have according to the project application?

- What are the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the activities?
- What can be stated about the partnership cooperation between action medeor e.V. and CSSC in terms of the effectiveness of the collaboration?
- How effective is the management structure of action medeor and CSSC to support this Multi-Actor Partnership?
- How effective have the Multi-Actor Partnership management, monitoring, and learning systems been? How have they helped or hindered the delivery of lasting change?
- What can be stated about the monitoring system for the project by action medeor e.V. and CSSC about achieving project goals and outcomes according to the application?
- In this regard:
 - What can be stated about the quality of the identified indicators in the log frame underlying the project?
 - Have the indicators been suitable to assess the effectiveness of the project to follow and assess the course of the project? How well did they work for project monitoring?
 - Which changes on the policy level can be identified through the advocacy activities?
 - How did the project contribute to networking amongst all the Multi-Actor partners and with other external partners?
- To what extent has the high-level management of the involved Round Table Members an understanding of the partnership approach? How can the third funding phase extend that knowledge for more contributions to make the Partnership sustainable?

4. Efficiency:

- Were inputs and activities used and realized cost-effectively?
- Have objectives been achieved in an economic and timely way/ time? In this regard: What is the ratio between the (monetary) input for advocacy activities and the final output/outcome?
- Has the project been implemented most efficiently compared to possible alternatives?
- What can be stated about the efficient use of resources (comparison: resources – results) What can be stated about the partnership cooperation between action medeor and CSSC in terms of the efficiency of the collaboration?
- How efficient is the management structure of action medeor e.V. and CSSC for this Multi-Actor Partnership?
- What may be stated about the monitoring system (including identified indicators) of action medeor and CSSC in terms of supporting efficiency?

5. Impact:

- What is the impact of the Multi-Actor Partnership?
- To what extent has Multi-Actor Partnership generated significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects?
- What can be stated about the impact on the overall situation of beneficiaries?
- What real difference has the project made to the beneficiaries and how many people have been reached overall (directly and indirectly)?
- What can be stated about the effects/impacts on the involved partners/institutions (especially the Round Table Members)

6. Sustainability:

- What can be stated about the sustainability of the Multi-Actor Partnership's positive impact after donor funding ceases?
- To what extent are the benefits of the Multi-Actor Partnership likely to continue?
- What are the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability (micro-, meso- and macro level)?
- What needs to be changed in the third funding phase to ensure sustainability?
- What financial, economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities are needed to sustain the benefits?
- What elements of the Multi-Actor Partnership (in order of prioritization) should be continued if additional funding becomes available?
- To what extent do the involved Partners (especially the Round Table Members) cash/ or in kind to achieve the project log frame goals?
- What can be stated about the value for money of the Multi-Actor Partnership, especially on the advocacy / PublicRelations activities? Please assess value for money in terms of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity.

The findings and recommendations according to OECD/DAC criteria should each be answered in separate chapters in the evaluation report.

2. Technical assessment

General objective: the final evaluation shall assess whether the MAP-QPS has resulted in the sustainable strengthening of health care through better and more trained pharmaceutical assistants, technicians, and better-qualified hospital pharmacists in Tanzania.

Specific objectives: The evaluation shall assess if the MAP-QPS has achieved its expected goals of:

- 40 registered pharmaceutical colleges, 4 universities (Department of Pharmacy) as well as two licensing authorities and the Ministry of Health use the established dialogue structures and cooperation systems within the framework of MAP for a quality-oriented and comprehensive training offer.
- the established dialogue structures and cooperation systems have been expanded and recognized as an important organizational form for improved pharmaceutical education in Tanzania by technical colleges, licensing authorities, and the Ministry of Health.
- regulatory authorities and the Ministry of Health have built capacity to improve pharmaceutical training quality and control, as well as digital access to an e-platform.
- 160 academic and administrative managers and 150 teaching staff at 40 registered pharmaceutical colleges are qualified to implement targeted measures to achieve and maintain quality standards, taking into account advancing digitalization.
- 20 master trainers in clinical pharmacy from three faculties of pharmacy and one school of pharmacy are qualified to train teachers in clinical pharmacy and multidisciplinary health teams and 150 pharmacists from participating hospitals are qualified to work in multidisciplinary health teams.
- the project partner CSSC has strengthened its capacities and competencies for the transition and monitoring of the MAP in phase 3 & phase 4 (institutionalization and expansion of the MAP) of the DCM & developed supporting tools.

V. Intended Proceeding & Methodology

1. Methodology:

The evaluation is to be designed and conducted as a country-specific desk study in combination with interviews, baselines, and field visits to all groups of partners/stakeholders and beneficiaries at CSSC zones as mentioned above in the overview. The evaluation team should use a mixed-method design, using quantitative and qualitative data. The design should be based on a participatory approach and center learning in all phases of the evaluation process, e.g. by designing data collection instruments in a way that data collection by itself allows for learning experiences on the part of partners/stakeholders involved. CSSC and action medeor shall have access to all collected raw data (questionnaires, interviews, etc.).

Foreseen evaluation phases

1. Inception Phase:

A planning meeting shall take place in Tanzania with online action medeor participation (kick-off meeting). Initial desk review and analysis of documentation shall present the opportunity to get acquainted with the scope of evaluation: available reports and other documents from action medeor, CSSC, and other partners shall be analyzed and the methodology further refined in an inception report. For preparation purposes, initial online interviews with relevant stakeholders might take place before the field phase. The project staff (MAP Secretary and action medeor project manager) shall already be involved during the preparation. This phase shall be closing with the Inception Report.

2. Data Collection/Field Phase:

Data collection shall take place with direct beneficiaries of the Multi-Actor Partnership target groups, including all partners e.g. the Round Table Members as well as with other relevant key actors (authorities, institutions, etc.). This field/data collection phase shall conclude with workshops on (a) field level before accomplishing the field trip as well as (b) on CSSC HQ level. Workshops shall be conducted with all relevant stakeholders to present and discuss the preliminary evaluation results and to present the initial conclusions and recommendations.

3. Synthesis Phase:

Data triangulation and analysis shall be conducted to interpret findings, transfer them into evaluation results according to OECD/DAC criteria, and apply a rating scale provided by action medeor and CSSC while drafting the report. This phase shall see the Draft Report and its Final Evaluation Report as its results.

Consultants who will compile, consolidate, and participate in the evaluation are expected to use a good mix of the following methods:

- Analysis of narrative reports and protocols of Round Table meetings
- Desk review of the current project concept, narrative reports, and impact matrix
- Desk review of laws and legislations, health strategies on non-academic and academic pharmaceutical education and pharmaceutical services, Pharmacy Act
- Desk review of the theory of stakeholder dialogues and Multi-Stakeholder/Actors Partnerships (Key Concepts and Competencies for achieving common goals e.g. by collective Leadership Institute or MSP Guide by Herman Brouwer and Jim Woodhill)
- Interviews with (in Tanzania) relevant stakeholders of the Round Table (recent and new ones) including 2 directorates of the MOH & PC, 1 regulatory authority, 2 Universities.
- Field visits to 2 private-, 2 faith-based, and 2 public PTIs, 1 national hospital, 1 specialized, and 1 zonal hospital (in Tanzania), in the proposed regions.

Further documents for the evaluation shall be considered:

- Relevant documents from the BMZ (funding agreement and guidelines)
- Relevant documents from action medeor and MAP Secretariat such as project reports, protocols of Round Tables, baseline of students, evaluation of relevant previous project

The final methodology will be defined by the evaluation team and agreed upon in close cooperation with action medeor, CSSC, and other Multi-Actor Partnership Partners (Round Table Members) during the preparation (inception phase) and before the data collection phase of the evaluation. This ensures transparency. An Evaluation Data Questionnaire including specific questions developed by CSSC and action medeor shall be considered and questions addressed during the evaluation.

Furthermore, the dialogue is important to achieve "ownership" of the evaluation by action medeor, CSSC, and the Multi-Actor Partnership Partners and with this the acceptance and use of the evaluation results. All data collection conducted for action medeor and CSSC should follow the WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines for ethical data collection: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/ethics/web-cioms-ethicalguidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=162ee074_0

VI. Outputs and Deliverables

- Inception report (max. 5 pages for each study): The evaluation team/evaluator is expected to compile an Inception Report with the final specified methodology, evaluation matrix, analysis methods, data collection instruments (incl. questionnaires for different stakeholders), and work plan for both overall evaluation and field/data collection phase.
- A data collection phase in the country is expected as described in the overview. A photo documentation (mainly to be included in the annex of the evaluation report) would be expected to enrich the further documentation and presentation of evaluation results.
- The evaluation team is expected to give presentations (ppt) of preliminary findings and recommendations to (a) action medeor and CSSC and (b) the Multi-Actor Partnership Partners in the presence of action medeor online participation. These workshops signify essential components in the

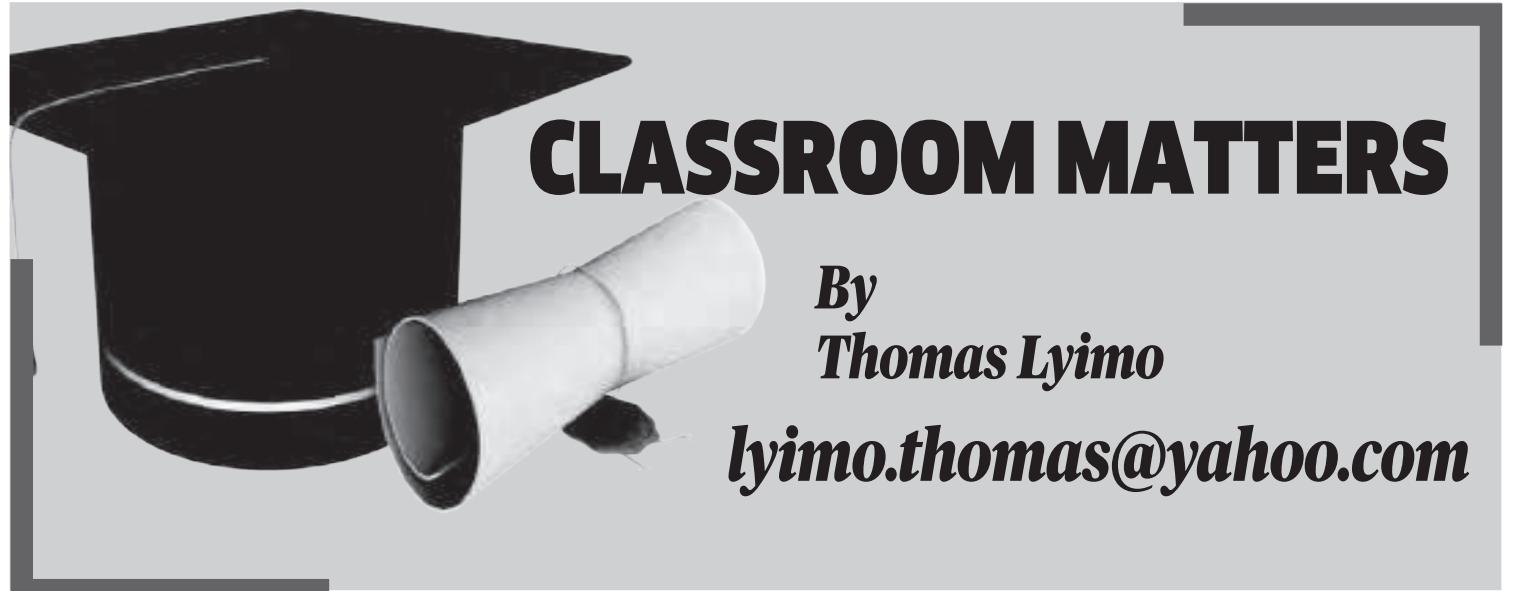
Harmony between teachers and learners is crucial in ensuring good results

TEACHING means developing personalities. It provides an opportunity for learners to imitate characters of their teacher. In the teaching process there is giving of instructions and receiving of feedback. As a result there are learners who will produce promising results and those who will produce terrible results but they all belong to the same teacher.

The difference performance of learners may be attributed to behaviors which learners show or weaknesses they live

with due to the fact that human beings are not perfect. This situation makes it necessary to have different approaches when dealing with learners for performance to be uplifted to a promising level.

Criticizing learners whose behaviors have for instance made them fail is right but doing the same to those whose failure is connected to their weaknesses as other human beings may seem as violation of human rights. It may be considered as a way of making someone unhappy and less motivated with life. Learning takes place



Co-funded by
the European Union



Request for Quotation for supply of brand-new Toyota Land Cruiser Hardtops.

1. Introduction:

With Financial support from the European Union, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), in partnership with the Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), are implementing the Integrated Forest and Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project in Tanga Region. The project aims to enhance environmental sustainability through sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production in the districts of Handeni, Kilindi, Pangani and Mkinga.

2. Invitation for Quotations:

TFCG invites sealed quotations from competent, qualified, reputable, reliable and experienced vendors for the supply and delivery of three brand new Toyota Land Cruiser Hardtops to be delivered at TFCG Head Office Dar es Salaam.

3. VAT Exemption:

This Project is exempt from VAT. TFCG will facilitate the processing and provide the necessary VAT certificate for the vehicles.

4. Submission details and vehicle specification:

Details on how to submit the quotations are available at: <http://www.tfcg.org/tenders.html>.

5. Deadline:

The closing date and time for receipt of quotations is 13th June 2024 at 12:00 noon. Quotations submitted after this time will not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Executive Director
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
Plot 323, Msasani Village
Mwaikibaki Rd
P.O. Box. 23410
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
+255 22 2669007
0713 264 522



effectively when learners are comfortable.

Teaching as a profession should involve a lot of research so that teachers can administer justice. The different situation of learners and the fact that teachers are also human beings makes it important for them to always check if there are wounds to learners which have caused by their words or actions. This makes it important to ensure there is harmony between teachers and learners so that good results can be expected.

Teachers must be careful with their utterances or practices because they can be constructive or destructive as well. Their conducts should aim at promoting excellence in academic arena and nothing else. There must be an effort to limit what teachers do by themselves so that much can be achieved in the education sector.

Teachers must be good listeners before judging so that their decision won't cause a state of discomfort in the society. Teachers and learners as well are emotionally different, hence the need to deal with one another in a way that will not complicate the situation. Teachers need to be expressive with a high degree of clarity. This calls for teachers to embrace wisdom which will be of help in the following ways.

One of the benefits of wisdom is helping teachers in telling a learner rightly that they are wrong. There must be wisdom when the teacher tells a learner that they are wrong.

Learners are emotional beings who can psychologically be affected positively or negatively. Therefore the way of telling them that they are wrong should be proper so that it doesn't cause some kind of discouragement and hence affect the teaching and learning process. The way a teacher reacts to learners' failure or wrong doing should be taken with much care in order to avoid hindering objectives of a school.

Another benefit of wisdom is enabling teachers responding to officers to whom they are subordinated precisely. Teachers as other professionals are accountable to higher authority. When someone demands information they expect smooth explanation and not rude one. As teaching is motivated to embrace creativity a teacher may have done something which is good but due to failure to express themselves properly and with wisdom they may find themselves in disagreement with the higher authority and hence producing a situation which disturbs the learning atmosphere. Teachers need to be precise and profound in their explanations.

Also wisdom helps teachers in responding to parents' claims. Parents especially in private schools have more say as they form the financial base of a school. Their reactions or urges are not something which can easily be undermined. To deal effectively with complaints of parents there must be effective way of communicating with them. There must

be uniformity of information that parents receive. This necessitates the need to have a single spokesperson of the school. Not every teacher should be allowed to communicate every message.

Teachers need to educate parents on some matters so as to reduce or remove unnecessary complaints which can disturb the school atmosphere. There are some complaints which are due to lack of good understanding of the affairs of the school. There must sometimes be convincing rather than forcing to create harmony between parents and teachers which will enable good results to be achieved.

Again wisdom helps teachers in judging cases involving learners. Learners in the course of learning interact and hence a possibility of offending one another. This means that a lot of cases will be brought to the teacher always. Both parties in the case expect the teacher to administer justice. Therefore the teacher must embrace wisdom that they do not do anything that will be questionable. Wisdom enables teachers to retain their credibility.

Teaching is a sensitive profession. The conducts of a teacher matter a lot as they are automatically role models. What they say or do arouse emotions to learners. Therefore it becomes important for teachers to limit their conducts so that they do not go outside the professional codes of conduct. Teaching is embracing wisdom.

CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD



REMINDER ON PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

As you are aware, all contractors are obliged to pay Annual Subscription fees in each financial year. It should be noted that, any Contractor who fails to pay annual subscription fees within the prescribed timeline cease to be a Contractor. Thus, not entitled to carry out construction works. Therefore, all Contractors are hereby reminded to pay their outstanding fees before 30th June 2024.

The names of contractors with outstanding fees can be accessed on the CRB website (www.crb.go.tz) and at Head office, Mkandarasi Place in Dodoma and CRB Zonal Offices in Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam- Tetex House

Be GUIDED accordingly.

REGISTRAR

ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(ZURA)



Bid No. SMZ/F0118/W/ICB/2023-24/35

for
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ZURA OFFICE BLOCK TO BE BUILT AT
GOMBANI-CHAKE CHAKE PEMBA.

Invitation for Bids

Date: 30th May 2024

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo Issue No.7008 dated 22nd July 2023
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority during the financial year 2023/24. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Proposed Construction of ZURA Office Block to be Built at Gombani-Chake chake Pemba
- The Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible contractors registered in Class I for construction of Proposed Construction of ZURA Office Block to be Built at Gombani-Chake chake Pemba
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of The Secretary of Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority, P.O.Box 2238, Post Code: 25 Nyerere Road, 71102 Kikwajuni Zanzibar from 0800Hrs to 1600Hrs on Mondays to Fridays except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Thousand Only Tanzanian Shillings (200,000/=) Payment should be settled through the Control Number provided by Zanzibar Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (ZPPDA)
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security by Bank Guarantee of Fifty Million Tanzanian Shillings (50,000,000/=).
- All Bids document shall be submitted online through Zanzibar eProcurement System at or before 1000Hrs on 26th June 2024. In addition, All bids document shall be submitted in one original plus Two Copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.Box 2238, Post Code: 25 Nyerere Road, 71102 Kikwajuni Zanzibar at or before 1000Hrs on 26th June 2024. (Note: In any circumstance the online submission shall prevail). Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.Box 2238, Post Code: 25 Nyerere Road, 71102 Kikwajuni Zanzibar.
- Late bids, portion of bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bids opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Director General,
Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority,
P.O.Box 2238,
Post Code: 25 Nyerere Road,
71102 Kikwajuni,
Zanzibar



Thursday 30 May 2024

Agent banking doubles deposit transactions

By Guardian Reporter

AGENT banking transacted a total value of 66.7trn/- in deposits during the financial year 2022/2023 ended in June last year, more than doubled 28.2trn/-, transacted during the financial year 2021/2022.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) data show number of deposits transactions through agent banking also more than doubled to 81.6 million in 2022/2023, compared to 40.2 million recorded two financial years before.

Bankers say agent banking has remained the major source of deposits mobilization in banking industry due to increase of access to services, as people can now access all services without going to the physical branches.

The BoT said the number of agent banks have also increased to 84,404 at the end of 2022/2023 financial year from 44,686 during 2020/2021. However, the number further grew to 101,673 agents at the end of last year.

"The increase was largely attributed to continued effect of lessening of agent banking eligibility criteria and increased public awareness by the Bank of Tanzania," noted the central bank's report for the fourth quarter of last year.

Previously in 2017, the BoT required applicants of agent banking business to have an experience of at least 18 months for one to be eligible, but since July 2021 removed the criterion and alternatively, required to only have a National Identity Card or National ID number.

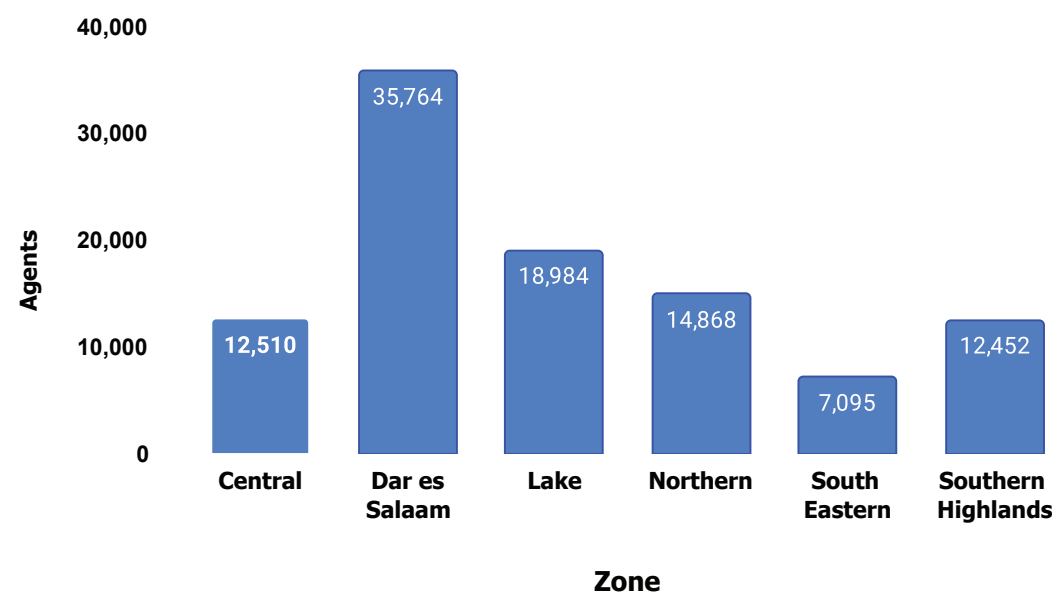
The initiative was one of the policy measure introduced to promote credit to the private sector and lower interest rate, in the wake of Covid-19, which disrupted economic activities around the world between 2019 and 2022.

The increase of number of agents also expanded cash withdrawal activities as a total value of 20.4trn/- was withdrawn during the financial year 2022/2023, compared to 9.6trn/- recorded during the previous financial year.

The increase was recorded through the growth of number of transactions to 45.9 million at the end of June 2023, compared to 25.6 million at the end of June 2021.

During the last quarter of last year, the central bank data show Dar es Salaam was leading with the highest number of agents

Number of Bank Agents by Dec, 2023



amounting to 35,764, who recorded 5.8 million deposits transactions valued 6.2trn/- and 3.7 million withdrawal transactions valued 1.8trn/-.

The second zone of Tanzania mainland which recorded the highest number of agent banking was Lake Zone with 18,984 agents, who on quarterly basis, they recorded 4.9 million deposits transactions

valued 5trn/- and 2.6 million withdrawal transactions valued 1.3trn/-.

Northern zone of Tanzania mainland, comprising of Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Arusha and Manyara regions had the third largest number of agents totaling 14,868, who recorded 3 million deposits transaction valued 1.6trn/- and 1.9 million withdrawal transactions valued 837bn/-.

However, despite of having the smallest number of agents compared to northern zone, the southern highlands zone, with only 12,452 agents, recorded the 3.3 million deposits transactions valued 2.7trn/- during Q4, 2023, and 1.4 million withdrawal transactions valued 1.03trn/-.

South Eastern region of Tanzania, also recorded considerable

amount of deposits through agent banks during the fourth quarter of last year amounted to 1.1trn/- through 1.6 million transactions and 560bn/- as the value of withdrawal through 1.4 million transactions.

The central zone of Tanzania mainland with 12,510 agents recorded 3 million deposit transactions valued 2.6trn/- and 1.8 million withdrawal transactions valued 882bn/-.

During the fourth quarter of last year, a total of 21.8 million deposit transactions valued 20.5trn/- were recorded across Tanzania mainland, while withdrawal transaction were 13.5 million valued 6.5trn/-, which translated into 14trn/- of net deposits.

Southern highlands zone of Tanzania mainland recorded the highest growth of banks deposit during the fourth quarter of last year with 61 percent to 1.5trn/- from 966bn/- recorded during the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.

However, Dar es Salaam is still leading source of banks deposits with 63.3 percent of the stock of deposits amounting to 20.6trn/- at the end of December 2023, from 16.1trn/- in December 2022, provisional data by BoT show.

By Guardian Reporter, Nairobi

African countries appealed to enhance cross-border banking

AFRICAN countries have been urged to advance cross border banking in order to drive economic transformation across the continent.

This was said during an official panel discussion in Nairobi yesterday, on the sideline of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Annual Meeting that bring together over 3000 participants, including heads of state, government leaders, and representatives from financial institutions across Africa.

Speaking during the event, top Tanzanian banker Abdulmajid Nsekela, stated that his bank has continued its efforts to strengthen its presence beyond Tanzania's borders while encouraging other financial institutions in Tanzania to follow suit since the financial institutions, especially banks, play a significant role in the development of the African continent.

"As the first locally owned and operated bank in the country to cross national borders and establish subsidiaries in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, we feel great pride and honor to have the opportunity to organize this discussion aimed at inspiring financial institutions in our African countries to expand their services beyond our national borders to stimulate economic transformation in Africa," added Nsekela.

During the discussion, he elaborated further on the bank's expansion journey, emphasizing that this journey is ongoing.



Tanzanian banker Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd - R) discusses improving cross-border banking at the AfDB 2024 Annual Meeting. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

In addition to its presence in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the bank is currently in the feasibility study stages for other African markets as well as establish strategic offices in some countries outside Africa, demonstrating its commitment to continuous growth and expansion.

One of the participants in the discussion, Norfund's Director for East Africa, William Nyaoke, posed a challenge to African governments to have stable policies that do not frequently change to attract financial institutions to invest beyond their home countries' borders and thus stimulate economic transformation in Africa.

In addition to participating in the 2024 Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and organizing a discussion aimed at stimulating economic transformation in Africa, Nsekela and his delegation held

several meetings with international financial organizations, including Afreximbank and the African Guarantee Fund (AGF). These strategic meetings aimed to strengthen relationships between these institutions, which are already partners with the, enabling it to provide loans in sectors with significant financing needs, including agriculture and business, while also targeting youth and women's groups.

Additionally, these meetings aimed to expand collaborations with these institutions in the bank's subsidiaries in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the continent is anticipated to bring about a notable transformation in the way African countries trade with each other and enhance the volumes of intra-continental trade.

To support this transformation, cross-border financial services, including banking and insurance are pivotal, potentially unlocking unprecedented economic growth and integration across the continent.

According to AfDB, the introduction of digital banking solutions and fintech partnerships have accelerated the digital transformation of Africa's banking sector, enhancing access to financial services for underserved populations and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"This digital leap, facilitated by cross-border banking, is not just about financial transactions; it's about equipping businesses and individuals across Africa with the tools and capabilities to thrive in a rapidly evolving global economy," said AfDB in a statement.

In his meeting opening Speech by Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina President and Chairman, Boards of Directors said African economies are showing resilience, despite the challenges posed by climate change, geopolitical tensions, global inflation and rising debt, among others.

TIC urges locals to enfold investment opportunities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Investment Center (TIC) is encouraging Tanzanians to seize the investment opportunities within the country and dispel the misconception that investing is solely for foreigners.

Deusdedit Hokororo, the TIC's Southern Highlands Manager, emphasized this point during a speech at a trade fair in Mbeya, stressing the importance of local participation in investment ventures.

The exhibition held at Market Square in Mbeya, which involved various public institutions, had the motto "Motivating investment and business for sustainable economic growth."

The TIC has introduced several incentives for both foreign and local investors. Tanzanians interested in investing are encouraged to register their projects at the center to access the benefits offered.

Deusdedit Hokororo highlighted that investment opportunities are open to both locals and foreigners, dispelling the misconception that only foreigners are considered investors. He urged Tanzanians to engage with the TIC and register their

projects for support and guidance. According to him, the TIC has utilized the opportunity to inform the public about investment prospects in various sectors of the country like mining, infrastructure, agriculture, industrial, energy, among others.

Recently, Gilead Teri, the Director General of TIC, outlined the center's objectives for the year. This includes the registration of 1,000 projects, with a target of attracting foreign investment amounting to \$5 billion and domestic investments totaling \$3.5 billion.

Over the past three years, the TIC has successfully registered 1,188 projects valued at 38.3 trillion shillings, positioning Tanzania as a leading destination for investment in Africa.

He mentioned that of the registered projects, 35 percent are owned by Tanzanians, 41 percent are owned by foreigners, and 24 percent represent joint ventures between Tanzanians and foreigners.

From March 2021 to March 2024, the TIC has registered a total of 1,188 projects, reflecting a 63.19 percent increase compared to the 728 projects registered during the same period from March 2018 to March 10, 2021.

TIC's Southern Highlands Manager, Deusdedit Hokororo (L) edifies visitors at the Mbeya trade fair pavilion. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



TIC's Southern Highlands Manager, Deusdedit Hokororo (L) edifies visitors at the Mbeya trade fair pavilion. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

As banks embrace digital first approach, rivalry intensifies II

By Vera Smirnoff

DIGITAL business models are poised to revolutionize the banking industry, reshaping customer behavior and preferences. The ongoing digital transformation has intensified competition among traditional financial institutions, compelling banks to evolve into 'digital first' entities to stay relevant. Join us as we delve deeper into how these innovative models are redefining the future of banking.

Focus on Big Data and analytics

With big data, banks will be able to put customer behavior at the very center of their business models. They can provide more personalized services and improve sales by making the most out of predictive analytics.

In the future, successful digital transformation will rest upon how much a bank can learn from its customers. Analytics will become essential in customer acquisition efforts as well as market segmentation and cross-selling.

As a result, banks will have better intelligence about consumer behaviors and spending patterns, which can help them develop targeted products and services.

By 2024, expect to see more "closed-loop" solutions powered by fast and intuitive data collection. This will allow banks to achieve a 360-degree view of their customers' needs, providing them with contextually relevant information about discounts or personalized offers.

Banking apps are becoming smart digital assistants for cus-

tomers

In 2024, there will be a shift from using banking apps as mere self-service tools to customer relationship management platforms that anticipate the consumer's needs and provide customized advice based on their financial situation.

The banking app will become a 'smart digital assistant' that can 'understand' the consumer's needs and preferences based on their financial behavior over time. For example, if you always transfer money to your savings account on payday but forget to top up your payment card with funds for the coming month, the smart app will be able to predict that you will need money for your card soon.

The smart assistant takes proactive actions by communicating with the customer and suggesting what they might want to do before they even realize it themselves.

Blockchain is here to stay, but it needs time to mature

There are many areas where blockchain technology has potential for operations and customer experience.

In 2024, blockchain technology will be adopted in many areas of financial services beyond just simple transactions and money transfers.

Blockchain for KYC and due diligence

We will see the increased use of blockchain technology for KYC and customer due diligence. In 2024, it is expected that the widespread adoption of digital identities will result in financial institutions shifting their KYC and customer due diligence efforts to decentralized platforms.

These platforms are expected to store customer data on distributed



ledgers, enabling (1) more effective identity verification during know-your-customer (KYC) checks, (2) lower costs for data storage, and (3) improved data-security practices.

Issuance, trading, and settlement of securities

In 2024, it is expected that blockchain technology will be used for the issuance, trading, and settlement of securities. New securities regulations will facilitate this, allow-

ing for tokenized assets to be used in traditional financial markets.

Blockchain-based transaction processing

The development of blockchain-based transaction processing platforms. In 2024, it is expected that there will be more blockchain-based transaction processing platforms available to the market. However, blockchain-based trans-

action processing platforms will be viewed as complementary to existing settlement systems rather than as replacements.

The growing use of blockchain-based digital currencies

In 2024, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of players trying to enter the market, resulting in more regulatory collaboration and standardization efforts. The collaboration will be aimed at creating a regulatory framework that enables blockchain-based digital currencies to coexist with more traditional forms of money issued by central banks.

Banks deepen their customer relationships through AI and chatbots

AI-driven chatbots will be able to handle many different types of requests. For example, a chatbot could be programmed to access a user's financial data and suggest products that might suit them, such as upgrading their current credit card or opening a new savings account.

AI is not just limited to chatbots. Banks are also exploring other AI applications, including virtual assistants that can handle customer requests through voice or text-based conversations and 'digital twins' - simulations of physical bank branches that customers cannot physically enter.

In 2024, there will likely be widespread adoption of AI technologies in finance. The majority of financial institutions will have developed mature plans for implementing the technology into their organizations, and many will have already begun testing various applications.

No-code/low-code development platforms for faster time to market

Slow-moving development projects are no longer accepted. The banking industry is experiencing a

trend toward faster time to market, with no-code/low-code development platforms making it possible for banks to develop digital products quickly and efficiently.

In 2024, we expect to see widespread adoption of no-code and low-code development platforms in banking for several reasons:

(1) banks will need to significantly speed up the time it takes for them to roll out digital products and services;

(2) a massive increase in third-party fintech firms offering pre-built digital solutions that can be easily integrated with core banking systems;

(3) a shortage of skilled employees who specialize in application development.

No-code/low-code platforms have matured enough to support the development of a wide range of fintech solutions. They also offer banks and other organizations an 'easy' way to develop new digital products and services without having to fork out significant amounts of money on high-cost application specialists.

These are the digital banking trends that will most likely affect the way banking is done in 2024. In the next five years, customers will be able to access different types of banking services with significantly less friction than ever before. The customer experience will be completely different from what is being offered today.

Vera Smirnoff (pictured), is the demand generation manager at EasySend. She covers digital transformation in insurance and banking and the latest trends in InsurTech and digital customer experience.

Build the business case for in-branch cash automation

By Matt Dunlap

WHEN we think about the role of branches and cash in branches, we must consider several factors. First, what is the demand for cash? Despite the growing popularity of digital transactions, cash is still very much alive.

Over the past 20 years, the volume of US banknotes in circulation has steadily increased year over year. In the ten years from 2012 to 2022, we can see a 64 percent increase to 54.1 billion banknotes in circulation, making it quite clear that there is still a high demand for cash.

Next, we need to consider how this cash is being used. Generally, we see that the share of cash as a payment rebounded slightly in 2021, especially when you look at small-value purchases where it is still the key payment method. Then there is the fact that cash use varies by age and income: lower income and older age segments have a higher dependency on cash and should not be cut off.

Lastly, we see that despite a strong migration to digital channels, there is still a high portion of consumers who prefer to utilize physical channels and to have access to cash. From these facts, we can derive that access to cash will remain important for meeting customer expectations and maintaining inclusiveness for certain segments.

So, what has been going on in the branches? From 2012 to 2022 the hourly pay rates, including salary and benefits, have increased consistently with a 35 percent increase within the same timeframe. This is in part an effect of branches hiring staff to handle more complex transactions and consultancy tasks.

Meanwhile, teller transactions have indeed decreased as many of these simpler cash transactions have been migrated to the self-service channel. Consequently, the labor costs per transaction have increased by 59 percent over these 10 years. However, 89 percent of consumers in the USA still find branches either useful or essential - a clear indication that the model of the bank branch is still in high demand.

Amid these trends, it is clear that financial institutions need to consider additional ways to reduce costs and/or increase revenue op-

portunities.

Luckily, there is a solution for this issue: teller automation. Strictly speaking, teller automation has existed for a while, but some new and exciting developments further improve its efficiency and benefit to the branch.

Technology has been an important asset to simplify teller transactions for a while, and the technology we use has become more sophisticated over the years. From monofunctional dispensers that secured the cash in a safe compared to the previously used cash drawer and automated withdrawals to teller cash recyclers (TCRs) that also automated cash deposits and the validation of notes, thus expanding the time between replenishments.

Teller Automation

Now technology is taking another step and at the same time, preparing for the next one: Modern teller automation devices like the DN SeriesTM 600V store banknotes in cash cassettes - the same as an ATM does. Compared to the previously used drums this offers a few benefits:

High note storage capacity and configuration flexibility increase the time between buys and sells.

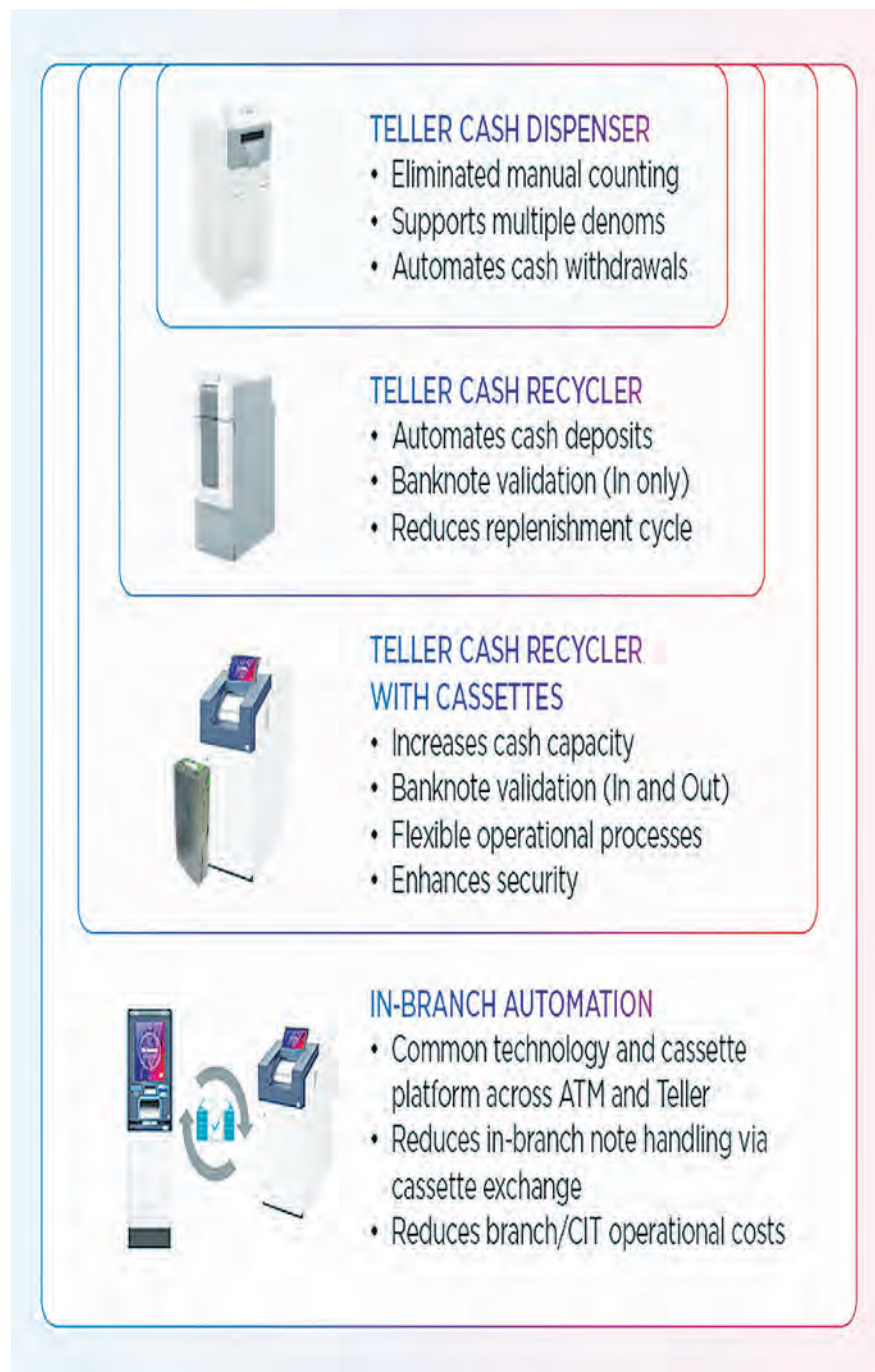
Quicker and easier handling in the back office.

Cassettes store the notes flat vs. rolled, which keeps them bending during storage.

Replenishment and auditing at the device with less manual handling.

In addition to these benefits, the use of cassettes inside the TCR enables the next step in the development of cash handling within the branch: in-branch cash automation. By utilizing the same technology and cassettes in both the ATMs and the TCRs, cassettes can ultimately be shared from one device to the other.

Apart from simplified service interventions and maintenance, this greatly reduces the need for note handling within the branch - a benefit from both an operational efficiency and security standpoint. Additionally, the number of CIT visits can also be reduced leading to reduced operational costs per



Computer-generated illustration showcasing the business case for in-branch cash automation. Photo: Courtesy of Diebold Nixdorf.

branch.

Additionally, the 600V TCR leverages the power of the DN All ConnectSM Data Engine to provide real-time metrics for improved servicing and maintenance as well as insight into optimizing the device configuration for each unique teller environment.

Meanwhile, tellers gain time to focus on more important tasks: Serving their customers and supporting them with complex financial decisions. This not only creates the opportunity for increased revenue through cross-

upselling but also improves customer relationships, which can positively influence retention.

Teller automation has already proven greatly beneficial to streamlining teller transactions. With cassette-based storage enabling the way to in-branch cash automation, it is on route to revolutionizing cash handling in the branch once more.

Matt Dunlap, the Director of Banking HW SMEs at Diebold Nixdorf, is available via social media.

Govt seeks Indonesian help to rise revenue collection

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of Finance, Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, has asked Indonesia to cooperate with Tanzania to improve tax systems, aiming to enhance government revenue collection and address challenges faced by taxpayers in the country.

Dr. Nchemba made this request during a meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania, Tri Yogo Jatmiko, in Dodoma, where they discussed key areas to strengthen cooperation for the benefit of both countries.

He noted that Tanzania faces the challenge of a small number of taxpayers and a large informal sector, necessitating a stable tax system to improve the business environment and increase the number of taxpayers.

Dr. Nchemba highlighted that Indonesia has made significant progress in tax systems and that Tanzania could benefit from this expertise by educating officials from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Ministry of Finance on Indonesia's successful strategies.

Additionally, Dr. Nchemba thanked Indonesia for its contributions to the development of Tanzania, including support for various economic and social projects, as well as providing knowledge and expertise to Tanzanians in various fields.

During their conversation, Ambassador Jatmiko promised that his country is ready to continue providing knowledge to Tanzanians on various issues, including the energy, agriculture, and business sectors. He also expressed readiness to build capacity for TRA employees in developing and using revenue collection and management systems.

Furthermore, he promised to encourage more Indonesian businessmen to invest in Tanzania, noting that many investors from Indonesia have shown interest in exploring investment opportunities in the country, particularly in the tourism sector.

By Melissa Pistilli

Top 10 central bank gold reserves - II

Central banks worldwide command a staggering 17 percent share of all the gold ever extracted, amassing a colossal 36,699 metric tons (MT) by the end of 2023. The remarkable growth in their reserves over the past 14 years, especially since transitioning to net buyers of gold in 2010, underscores their strategic acumen and foresight.

Strategically acquiring gold serves as a shield for these institutions, whether against risks, inflation, or to stabilize economies. With global financial unease on the rise, it comes as no surprise that central banks are doubling down on their gold reserves once more.

Now, as we delve further into this series, let's explore the remaining top banks and their impressive gold holdings.

3. Italy 2,451.84 MT

Banca d'Italia, the national bank of Italy, began amassing its gold in 1893, when three separate financial institutions merged into one. From there, its 78 MT slowly grew into the 2,451.84 MT the country now owns.

Like Germany, Italy stores parts of its reserves offshore. In total, 141.2 MT are located in the UK, 149.3 are in Switzerland and 1,061 are kept in the US Federal Reserve. Italy houses 1,100 MT of gold domestically.

4. France 2,436.97 MT

The Banque de France keeps all 2,436.97 MT of its gold reserves on hand. The precious metal is stored in the bank's secure underground vault, dubbed La Souterraine; it is located 27 meters below street level.

La Souterraine's gold vaults are one of the four designated gold depositories of the International Monetary Fund.

According to Investopedia, the collapse of the Bretton Woods gold standard system was in part due to former French President Charles de Gaulle, who "called the U.S. bluff and began actually trading dollars



An image of a gold stock. Photo: Alexander Limbach / Shutterstock

in for gold from the Fort Knox reserves." At the time, US President Richard Nixon "was forced to take the U.S. off the gold standard, ending the dollar's automatic convertibility into gold."

5. Russia 2,332.74 MT

The Bank of Russia is the official central bank of the Russian Federation and owns 2,332.74 MT of gold. Like France, Russia's central bank has opted to store all its physical gold domestically. The Bank of Russia stores two-thirds of its gold reserves in a bank building in Moscow, and the remaining one-third in Saint Petersburg.

The majority of the yellow metal is in the form of large, variable-weight standard gold bars weighing between 10 and 14 kilograms. There are also smaller bars on site weighing as much as 1 kilogram each.

Russia, which is the third largest gold producer by country, has been

a steady purchaser of the precious metal since roughly 2007, with sales ramping up significantly between 2015 and 2020. However, Russia's refineries were banned from selling gold bullion into the London market following the country's invasion of Ukraine. Sanctions by the west also include a freeze on about half of Russia's gold reserves.

In early 2022, Russia tied its currency the ruble to the yellow metal. "The plan was to shift the currency away from a pegged value and into the gold standard itself so the ruble would become a credible gold substitute at a fixed rate," according to Robert Huish, an Associate Professor in International Development Studies at Dalhousie University.

6. China 2,262.39 MT

The central bank for Mainland China is the People's Bank of China (PBoC), located in Beijing. The national financial institute stores

2,262.39 MT of gold, most which has been purchased since 2000. In 2001, the PBoC had 400 MT of gold in reserve, but in just a little more than two decades that total has climbed by 459 percent.

The PBoC issues the Panda gold coin, which was first created in 1982. The Panda coin is now one of the top five bullion coins issued by a central bank. It is among the ranks of the American Eagle, Canadian Maple Leaf, South African Kruggerand and Australian Gold Nugget.

The PBoC was the top gold buyer out the world's central banks for the first quarter of 2024, purchasing another 27 MT. March 2024 marked the 17th consecutive month of gold buying for China's central bank.

7. Switzerland 1,040 MT

Holding the seventh largest central bank gold reserves is the Swiss National Bank. Its 1,040 MT of gold are owned by the state of

Switzerland, but the central bank manages and maintains the reserve.

After years of opaqueness regarding the country's golden treasure trove, the Swiss Gold Initiative, or Save our Swiss Gold campaign, was launched in 2011.

The publicity culminated in a national referendum in 2014, asking citizens to vote on three proposals. The first was a mandate for all reserve gold to be held physically in Switzerland. The other two dealt with the central bank's ability to sell its gold reserves, along with a decree that 20 percent of the Swiss bank's assets be held in gold.

The referendum was unsuccessful, but did prompt the bank to be more transparent. In a 2013 release, the central bank reported that 70 percent of its gold reserve was held domestically, 20 percent was located at the Bank of England and 10 percent was stored with the Bank of Canada.

8. Japan 845.97 MT

Public information about the Bank of Japan's gold reserves is hard to come by. In 2000, the island nation was holding approximately 753 MT of the yellow metal. By 2004, the Bank of Japan's gold store had grown to 765.2 MT, and remained at that level until March 2021, when the country purchased 80.76 MT of gold.

9. India 822.58 MT

The Reserve Bank of India is another central bank that has fervently acted to increase to its holdings in recent years. It began adding to its gold assets in 2017; however, the majority of its purchases have taken place in the past four years.

Strikingly, after India's central bank purchased 16 MT of gold in 2023, the institution scooped up another 19 MT of the precious metal in the first three months of 2024.

While more than half of its gold is held overseas in safe custody

with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements, about a third of its gold is held domestically.

10. Netherlands 612.45 MT

Rounding out this list of the top central bank gold reserves is the Dutch National Bank (DNB), the central bank of the Netherlands. Like Switzerland, the Dutch central bank stores as much as 38 percent of its gold in Canada's national reserve. Another 31 percent, in the form of 15,000 gold bars, is held in a domestic vault, while the remaining 31 percent is located in New York's Federal Reserve bank.

In a report, the DNB describes gold as the supreme safe-haven asset. "Central banks such as DNB have therefore traditionally had a lot of gold in stock. After all, gold is the ultimate nest egg: the trust anchor for the financial system," it reads. "If the entire system collapses, the gold supply provides collateral to start over. Gold gives confidence in the strength of the central bank's balance sheet. That gives a safe feeling."

11. International Monetary Fund 2,814.1 MT

The gold reserve held by the International Monetary Fund is the third largest in terms of size. The large gold reserve was amassed primarily during the founding of the international organization in 1944.

In that inaugural year, it was decided that "25 percent of initial quota subscriptions and subsequent quota increases were to be paid in gold."

Since 1944, the International Monetary Fund has added gold through the repayment of debts owed by member countries. Nations can also exchange gold for another member country's currency.

Melissa Pistilli has been reporting on the markets and educating investors since 2006. She has covered a wide variety of industries in the investment space.

Africa urged to partner with private sector for higher education funding

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete and experts at an African Development Bank (AfDB) dialogue in Kenya, encouraged African nations to boost private-sector financing for tertiary education, equipping youth with competitive skills.

A statement released by the bank yesterday highlighted that experts at a panel discussion during the AfDB's 2024 Annual Meetings in Nairobi, emphasized the significance of political commitment in ensuring returns on private sector investments in education.

Kikwete, the Board Chair of the Global Partnership for Education, urged for a renewed dedication to boosting national education funding to leverage Africa's demographic potential as the world's largest upcoming labor force.

"To build a stronger tertiary education pipeline, we need to build strong foundations with early learning, primary and secondary education to provide a talent pool of trained young people for lifelong learning that will make them thrive," Kikwete said.

The Bank organized the event entitled "Policy Dialogue on Innovative Financing for Tertiary Education in Africa: Re-

vitalizing the Role of the Private Sector," in collaboration with the Kenyan government, the African Union Commission, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It explored strategies and best practices to stimulate private-sector financing for tertiary education.

During the session, the African Development Bank signed a Joint Declaration of Intent at the event with GIZ to scale up joint commitments to skills development to enhance youth employability in Africa.

The collaboration through the Build4Skills initiative will place youth trainees for workplace training within Bank-supported infrastructure projects in agriculture, water or transport sectors for 6 to 12 months. Build4Skills aligns with the Bank's Action Plan on Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa 2021-2025, which aims to support a skilled and productive labor force.

Birgit Pickel, Director-General Africa, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), said: "This is the first Declaration of Intent between the two organizations in the field of education, and we highly welcome this collaboration. It's a sign of our intent to scale up our joint commitment



Former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete

to vocational training and skills development in African countries. In light of the current challenges, this is more urgent than ever."

The African Development Bank has been actively engaged in education and skills development since 1975, committing significant resources to strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics infrastructure at tertiary levels and enhance sector policy environments.

Dr. Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human, and Social Development, stated that the institution has committed \$964 million to tertiary education and skills development over the past decade.

"The focus has been on

strengthening infrastructure for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and catalyzing private sector investments in skills development and job creation," Dunford stressed.

She highlighted the Bank's \$80 million support for Nigeria's Ekiti state Special Economic Zone project and a \$23 million investment in Rwanda's Centre of Excellence for Aviation Skills as some of the projects that will help boost economies and create jobs.

Prof. Mohamed Belhocine, African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, said increased investment in tertiary education requires national, continental, and global action. He noted that between 2017 and

2019, only seven African countries met the required 6 percent of GDP expenditure on education, with the average standing at around 4 percent of GDP.

Dr. James Mwangi, Group CEO of Equity Holdings, shared how collaboration with tertiary institutions is boosting human resource development across the continent. For example, he said Equity Group has provided scholarships to at least 23,000 students in partnership with the Kenyan government.

Over 10,000 participants registered for the African Development Bank's hybrid 2024 Annual Meetings, with around 5,000 delegates attending physically. Several heads of state are expected to feature in a presidential dialogue on Wednesday.

Government considers making a law for VAT-free physio gear

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has stated that hospitals registered and approved by the Minister of Health are granted an exemption on equipment designated for physiotherapy.

This exemption entails a waiver of taxes, aimed at enhancing health through exercise, recognized as the most effective means of disease prevention and societal well-being improvement.

This clarification was provided by Hamad Hassan Chande, the Deputy Minister of Finance, during parliamentary proceedings in Dodoma.

He addressed a query posed by Sylvia Fransis Sigula, Member of Parliament for Special Seats, who inquired about the government's tax reduction on physiotherapy equipment, citing physio as a form of therapy.

Chande elaborated that the Value Added Tax (VAT) legislation of 2014, as amended, delineates VAT exemptions in section 6(1) and the Exemption Table in the VAT legislation, Chapter 148. This framework encompasses goods or services exempted from VAT, including equipment used for physio.

He further explained: "Regarding the abolition of taxes on all physio gear, your submissions are taken, and we will explore them. The government is currently soliciting opinions, with the intention of formulating legislation to be presented in parliament."

Adding: "However, our focus should primarily be on bolstering revenue sources rather than diminishing them."



Under leadership of PM Modi, foreign policy of India has given fame to our nation, says EAM Jaishankar

SHIMLA

LAUDING Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that it is under his leadership that the foreign policy of India has given fame to the nation, which has resulted in New Delhi gaining popularity across the globe.

In an interaction with intellectuals during an event in Shimla, Jaishankar said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, the foreign policy of India has given fame to our country and India is going to play the role of Vishvaguru in the near future..."

He said that the nation continued to face complex problems on the India-China border for the last few years but is now "strengthening our borders" by building modern infrastructure, including China bordering Himachal Pradesh.

"The Modi government has increased the budget for infrastructural development on the China border many fold enhancing it from Rs 3000cr to Rs 15000cr. We have done this along all districts across all China's bordering states building wide and all-weather roads and tunnels to reach the borders," Jaishankar said.

Highlighting the geopolitical issues that have gained attention in the present times, Jaishankar said,

"When India decided to buy cheap Russian oil during the beginning Ukraine-Russia war, we faced plenty of pressures from various quarters of the global geopolitical entities but we did not succumb to them."

"Same pressure we had to face from China when we joined the Quad group but we chartered our own course which protected our interests and we succeeded. This all happened due to strong leadership provided by our Prime Minister Modi," he strongly asserted.

Furthermore, Jaishankar also spoke at length on the ongoing general elections in India and said that the ten years of the Modi government has a credible record.

"We are facing challenges from terrorism but we are responding to this. It is the responsibility of the people of the country to elect a stable government and it will give a message to the world," said Jaishankar.

The EAM said the people of this country have opportunities in different parts of the world in different sectors. In his more than four decades of career, he said, this was the first time, the diversity of India was introduced to the world.

"It will help in boosting tourism, especially here in Himachal," the EAM said. The minister also elaborated on the vibrant village programme to strengthen the infrastructure in bordering villages while an informal interaction with the journalists in Shimla.

He further added that India has adopted a citizen-centric foreign policy, which has earned the support base in the UN.

Jaishankar said that ten years of growth in India has improved the image of the country.

"10 years ago, a lot of things were said about us. And people like me who used to go to other countries as a duty had to listen to a lot.

But today, it is said that this is an India where every day 30kms of highways and 14 km of railway tracks are built, where 8 new airports and two new metro rails are built every year. Our image has improved because of the development on the ground. The transformation seen in the last 10 years is the base of the Viksit Bharat. It is seen in the figures," Jaishankar said.

"10 years ago, income tax payers were 3.5 crores. Today, there are more than eight crores. In the last 10 years, there have been 6 crores more subscribers of Provident Fund...The number of colleges and universities has doubled in the last 10 years..." he added.

The Lok Sabha elections are being held in India across seven phases. The counting of votes will happen on June 4.

ANI

US says latest Rafah deaths won't change Israel policy, military aid

WASHINGTON

THE Biden administration said on Tuesday it was closely monitoring the probe into a deadly Israeli airstrike it called tragic, but that the recent deaths in Rafah didn't constitute a major ground operation there that crosses any US red lines.

"The Israelis have said this is a tragic mistake," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the White House, when asked about whether the events over the weekend qualified as the type of "death and destruction" US officials have warned could result in the withholding of more aid to Israel.

The US doesn't have "a measuring stick here or a quota," Kirby said.

"We've also said we don't want to see a major ground operation in Rafah that would really make it hard for the Israelis to go after Hamas without causing extensive damage and potentially a large number of deaths. We have not seen that yet," he said, noting that Israel's operations were mostly in a corridor on the outskirts of Rafah.

Asked if he was saying the recent ground operations in Rafah would not prompt a US withdrawal of more military aid, Kirby said "I believe that's what I've been saying here".

Recent deaths in Rafah have tested President Joe Biden's promise to withhold weapons from Israel if the US ally made a major invasion of Rafah that put displaced persons there at risk.

Speaking at a ceremonial event in Washington, US Vice-President Kamala Harris said, "The world tragic doesn't even begin to describe" an Israeli airstrike on Sunday that triggered a fire in a tent camp in the Gaza city of Rafah, killing 45 Palestinians.

Harris's remark, in re-



US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington on Tuesday. AP

sponse to a reporter's question, also followed what Gaza health authorities described as Israeli tank shelling of a tent camp in an evacuation area west of Rafah that killed at least 21 people on Tuesday.

Israel said that "something unfortunately went tragically wrong" in Sunday's airstrike while its military denied shelling the tent camp on Tuesday. Israel said it had targeted two senior Hamas operatives in Sunday's operation and had not intended to cause civilian casualties.

Hamas issued a statement celebrating the martyrdom of two fighters in the strike on Sunday, Kirby said, an indication that Israel was trying to go after Hamas in a "targeted, precise way".

"The Israelis have said they used 37-pound bombs, precision-guided munitions," Kirby said. "If it is in fact what they used, it is certainly indicative of an effort to be discreet and targeted and precise. Now, obviously this had tragic results, and obviously that needs to be investigated."

Asked whether Israel's strikes could put Biden in a difficult position, Kirby told reporters Tuesday that instead there was a real danger that Israel could become further isolated from the international community with the manner in which it is conducting operations. "So this is of concern, clearly, because it's not in Israel's best interest," Kirby said. "And it's not in our best interest for Israel to become increasingly isolated on the world stage."

The US administration's response was criticized earlier Tuesday by hu-

man rights and Arab American groups.

"Sadly, because of President Biden's insistence on sending more bombs to enable Netanyahu's war crimes in Rafah, this is now as much an American genocide as it is an Israeli genocide," said Nihad Awad, executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Israeli and US officials have denounced the use of the term genocide to describe events on the ground in Gaza.

The State Department said on Tuesday that as soon as it saw reports of Sunday's Rafah incident, Washington expressed deep concern to Israel and urged an investigation, which Israel has promised.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that Washington will be closely watching Israel's probe but Israel's military operations so far in Rafah have not been as large-scale as those in central or northern Gaza.

Global leaders have expressed horror at the fire in a designated "humanitarian zone" of Rafah where families uprooted by fighting elsewhere had sought shelter.

More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel launched its air and ground war after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israeli communities on Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Agencies

UK's first black woman lawmaker barred from running for Labour

LONDON

BRITAIN'S first Black woman lawmaker, Diane Abbott, said yesterday she had been barred from running as a Labour candidate in the July 4 general election after she was suspended more than a year ago for comments she made about Jews and racism.

Abbott (pictured), who was first elected to parliament for Labour in 1987, was a close ally of the party's former leader Jeremy Corbyn and was on the left wing of the party.

Abbott was suspended last year after she sent a letter to the Observer newspaper in which she said the prejudice experienced by Jewish people was similar to, but not the same, as racism.

"They undoubtedly experience prejudice. This is similar to racism and the two words are often used as if they are interchangeable," she wrote in the letter.

"It is true that many types of white people with points of difference, such as redheads, can experience this prejudice."

"But they are not all their lives subject to racism."

Abbott apologized "unreservedly" after the letter was published but was suspended from the party. She told the BBC on Wednesday that she had been readmitted to the party, which is known as having the whip restored.

"Although the whip has been restored, I am banned from standing as a Labour candidate," she said.



North Korea sends massive balloons filled with 'garbage' to South Korea

SEOUL

IN a new move to grapple with its neighbour, North Korea has come up with an idea of using enormous balloons to transport floating sacks of trash containing "filth" across the border.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) of South Korea stated that as of Wednesday morning, the military had detected some 260 balloons sent from the North since Tuesday night, which fell in various locations across the country, including border areas, Seoul and even the southeastern province of South Gyeongsang, Yonhap News

Agency reported.

Images made public by the JCS show two enormous balloons carrying plastic bags, and some damaged items scattering sheets of paper, plastic bits and what looks to be 'dirt' onto pavements and roads.

No damage has been detected as of yet, but according to a JCS officer, the fell balloons appeared to have carried a variety of garbage, including plastic bottles, batteries, shoe parts, and even manure, as per Yonhap.

According to the JCS, government agencies are currently analysing the balloons that so far in-

clude "filth and garbage," and the military is collaborating with the United Nations Command.

"North Korea's actions clearly violate international law and seriously threaten the safety of our citizens," the JCS said, adding "All responsibility arising from the North Korean balloons lies entirely with North Korea, and we sternly warn North Korea to immediately stop its inhumane and low-level actions," according to CNN.

In addition, people in the northern provinces of Gyeonggi and Gangwon received warnings from their local governments caution-

ing them about "unidentified objects" and advising them not to go outside. The JCS stated that there is a chance that the packages will harm houses, airports, and roadways.

Retaliation against South Korean activists who frequently send goods to the North—propaganda leaflets, food, medicine, radios, and USB sticks with South Korean news and television dramas, which are forbidden in the isolated totalitarian regime—was seen as the possible reason behind the action, CNN reported citing North Korean state media KCNA.

ANI

Two decades on, China-Arab cooperation yields fruitful results

IN ancient times, China shimmered as a mythical and distant land in Arab folklore and fairy tales.

For instance, the famous tale of Aladdin in "Arabian Nights" was actually set in China, whose remoteness from Arab lands lends an exotic allure to the narrative.

Fast forward to the 21st century, the once-mythical China has stepped out of "Arabian Nights" and into the everyday life of millions of Arabs.

Cairo's lively streets have witnessed an increasing presence of Chinese automobiles, while a fleet of Chinese electric buses served as the backbone of public transportation during the 2022 World Cup in Doha. Landmarks such as Algeria's Grand Mosque and Kuwait's Central Bank headquarters showcase the

work of Chinese construction firms. Chinese electronics and appliances have become familiar fixtures in Arab households, seamlessly integrated into their daily life.

This transformation is rooted in decades of China-Arab friendly ties, especially since 2004, when the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was established. During the past 20 years, both sides have deepened political mutual trust, strengthened economic and trade cooperation as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, yielding fruitful outcomes.

Political trust has always served as the bedrock of China-Arab cooperation. China has always tried to promote peace and stability in bilateral ties. Last year, China brokered a historic reconcili-



A guest (R) learns about a wind power generation project at the sixth China-Arab States Expo in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Sept. 22, 2023. Xinhua

ation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, a move that not only helped ease tensions within the region but also catalyzed a wave of reconciliations among Arab states and within the broader region.

After the latest Israeli-Palestinian conflict erupted

last October, China has been calling for a ceasefire, speeding up humanitarian aid, and a lasting, just solution to the Palestinian question.

The Arab nations have always upheld the one-China principle and backed China's efforts to safeguard its territo-

rial integrity.

The 1st China-Arab States Summit took place in 2022, during which both sides committed to building a closer partnership for the future, opening a new chapter in China-Arab relations.

Bilateral trade has also witnessed a meteoric rise, surging from 36.7 billion U.S. dollars in 2004 to a staggering 398 billion dollars in 2023. The impressive growth has cemented China's position as the Arab world's undisputed top trading partner for many years.

China has signed Belt and Road cooperation agreements with all 22 Arab nations. This framework has yielded over 200 large-scale projects, benefiting nearly 2 billion people from both sides.

Cultural exchanges have been flourishing, with increasingly deepened cooperation in language learning and education, and frequent bilateral cultural events. While more and more Chinese students are coming to Arab countries to learn the language and culture, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Tunisia and other countries have announced that the Chinese language will be included in their national education systems. There are more than 20 Confucius Institutes in Arab countries and hundreds of schools offering Chinese courses.

Mutual perceptions between the two populations are evolving positively. A 2023 poll conducted by a Dubai-based company shed

light on a growing trend: Arab youths increasingly regard China as a close partner. Surveying 3,600 young Arabs across 18 nations, the poll revealed that 80 percent consider China as a close friend, deeming it as their most trusted nation.

The China-Arab partnership has become a model of South-South cooperation, a stable anchor in turbulent times. As both sides are scheduled to meet in Beijing Thursday for the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, they are expected to draw up a new blueprint for strengthening bilateral relations in various fields to further promote the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era.

Xinhua

South Africans vote in most competitive election since apartheid ended

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africans voted yesterday in the most competitive election since the end of apartheid, with opinion polls suggesting the African National Congress could lose its parliamentary majority after 30 years in government.

Queues formed in the main cities of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban as polling got underway around 7 am (0500 GMT), with lines also seen in the morning cold in townships on the outskirts of cities and in rural areas.

"I want to see change in South Africa," said Bongile Mkunqa, 53, an unemployed man who came to vote in Langa, the oldest Black township in Cape Town.

"We must get more jobs. I am not feeling happy now because I am struggling. It is a long time the ANC is in charge in the country, but it didn't change."

Voters at polling stations across the country cited high rates of unemployment and crime, frequent power blackouts and corruption in ANC ranks as reasons why they would vote for opposition parties, but others were wary of change.

"Since voting started (in 1994) I have voted and I have been voting for only one party, the ANC," said Charles Louw, 62, a pensioner who was voting in Alexandra, a sprawling township east of Johannesburg.

He said he distrusted the promises made by opposition parties to create jobs, end power cuts or crack down on crime.

"The ANC have been trying to do it, they are there, they have got experience, they know how to accommodate everything. But the new parties, where will they start?" he said.

Then led by Nelson Mandela, the ANC



Young boys walk past election posters in Tembisa, east of Johannesburg, South Africa, May 28, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

swept to power in South Africa's first multi-racial election in 1994 and has won a majority in national elections held every five years since then, though its share of the vote has gradually declined.

If it falls short of 50 percent this time, the ANC will have to make a deal with one or more smaller parties to govern - uncharted and potentially choppy waters for a young democracy that has so far been dominated by a single party.

The ANC is still on course to win the largest share of the vote, meaning that its leader President Cyril Ramaphosa is likely to remain in office, unless he faces an internal challenge if the party's performance is worse than expected.

More than 27 million South Africans are registered to vote at more than 23,000 polling stations located in schools, sports centers and even a funeral parlor in Pretoria. Voting

will continue until 9 pm (1900 GMT).

Voters will elect provincial assemblies in each of the country's nine provinces, and a new national parliament which will then choose the next president.

'Most consequential election'

After voting at a polling station in Soweto, a huge township outside Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said the ANC had run a strong campaign.

"I have no doubt whatsoever in my heart of hearts that the people will invest their confidence in the African National Congress," he said.

John Steenhuisen, leader of the pro-business Democratic Alliance party which won the second-largest share of the vote in the last election in 2019, urged voters to turn out in large numbers to bring change to South Africa.

Kenya, China to strengthen business cooperation amid growing Sino-African ties

NAIROBI

KENYA hosted an economic and trade conference on Monday in the capital of Nairobi with the participation of a high-level delegation from the Chinese coastal city of Shenzhen, as commercial ties between the two sides continue to expand.

The event also attracted representatives of nearly 100 local enterprises and overseas Chinese representatives from the Kenya China Chamber of Commerce.

Eric Ruto, president of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that local enterprises are eager to partner with manufacturing industries based in Shenzhen due to their advanced technology in Kenya's priority sectors, especially in the medical, electronic and renewable energy fields. "This conference will be a catalyst to deepen links between businesses from the two regions," he added.

Ruto noted that Kenyan enterprises are keen to partner with their Chinese counterparts in industrial resource sharing, marketing, and innovation transformation.

Wang Lide, head of Bao'an District in Shenzhen, said that the district has developed a comparative advantage in electronic consumer goods, new energy equipment, optoelectronic products, electronic components, semiconductor power devices, ultrasonic welding machines, and medical devices.

"We look forward to further strengthening exchanges with the Kenyan government, enterprises and institutions, and continuing to deepen practical cooperation in various fields such as economic and trade investment, scientific and technological innovation, and cultural tourism for mutual benefit and win-win development," he added.

Hamas munitions likely caused fire in Rafah DP camp, says Israel

TEL AVIV

A fire at a displaced persons camp in Rafah following an airstrike was likely caused by Hamas munitions, according to a preliminary military investigation, the Israel Defense Forces said on Tuesday.

The Sunday night airstrike killed Hamas commanders Yassin Rabia and Khaled Nagar in a compound in the Rafah neighborhood of Tel Sultan. The pair were responsible for coordinating and funding terror attacks in Judea and Samaria.

According to the IDF, the area of the compound had been used for Hamas activities. Just 47 meters away from the site of the strike was a rocket launcher and launching pit. The compound was one kilometer away from the humanitarian zone and the IDF said it used two small munitions to prevent collateral damage in the nearby camp. The IDF stressed that the 17-kilogram warheads used were not powerful enough on their own to trigger the fire.

The military believes the fire was likely caused by secondary explosions from Hamas munitions or some other material it was not aware of.

"We have a suspicion, following intelligence surveillance and analysis of the videos from the event that were distributed on social networks, that secondary explosions at the site were caused by Hamas ammunition storage. This suspicion is under investigation," the IDF said.

The IDF also released a recording of two Rafah residents specifically saying the fire was caused by Hamas explosives.

"They say that they [the Hamas commanders killed] sat in a meeting, and that there is [a facility] and in addition, there was ammunition that began to explode. Bags of money scattered in the air," one Palestinian said.

Asked if the exploding ammunition "is really ours," the first Palestinian replied, "Yes, it is an ammunition depot. The bombardment by the Jews was not strong. It was a small missile, because it did not create a large hole. **ANI**

Chinese, Equatorial Guinean presidents hold talks, elevate ties

BEIJING

CHINA and Equatorial Guinea on Tuesday elevated their relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

This was announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, during their talks in Beijing.

Xi said China and Equatorial Guinea are good friends and partners, and their relations feature a high level of political mutual trust.

Since they established diplomatic ties more than half a century ago, the two sides have been helping each other through thick and thin, and firmly supporting each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns, he said.

Under the new circumstances, consolidating and developing China-Equatorial Guinea relations conforms to the fundamental interests and common expectations of the two countries and peoples, Xi said. China firmly supports Equatorial Guinea in safeguarding national sovereignty and independence, opposing foreign interference, and independently exploring its own development path, he said.

China is ready to take the opportunity of elevating bilateral ties to further deepen friendly exchanges with Equatorial Guinea, and exchange experience in

reform, development and poverty alleviation to inject lasting impetus into the two countries' traditional friendship, Xi said.

Xi pointed out that China supports Equatorial Guinea's economic and social development, supports the country's efforts to promote economic diversification and industrialization, and is willing to closely synergize the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) achievements and the Belt and Road Initiative with "Equatorial Guinea Agenda 2035" to improve the quality and performance of cooperation in various fields.

China encourages capable Chinese enterprises to invest in Equatorial Guinea, and is willing to share development experience in the fields of agriculture and rural affairs with Equatorial Guinea, continue conducting agricultural technical assistance projects, give full play to the role of Chinese medical teams and China-Equatorial Guinea Friendship Hospital, and deepen medical care, education, exchanges and cooperation in cultural and other fields, to pass on the traditional friendship between the two countries from generation to generation and better benefit the two peoples, Xi said.

Emphasizing that the world today is intertwined with turmoil, the changes unseen in a century are accelerating, and human society is facing unprecedented challenges, Xi said that develop-



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, May 28, 2024. Xi held talks with Obiang, who is in China on a state visit, at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday. (Xinhua/Yin Bogu)

ing countries need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation more than ever.

China is willing to work with Equatorial Guinea and other developing countries to carry forward the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, strengthen coordination and cooperation in international affairs, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries and international equity and justice, to build a community with a shared future for humanity, Xi said.

Noting that developing solidarity and cooperation with African countries is an important cornerstone of China's foreign policy, Xi said China is willing to hold a new FOCAC summit with

Africa, further carry forward traditional friendship, deepen solidarity and cooperation, discuss future development and cooperation plans, and open a new chapter in building a China-Africa community with a shared future.

Obiang said that China is a great eastern country, a good brother and reliable strategic partner of Equatorial Guinea. Since the two countries established diplomatic relations 54 years ago, their bilateral relations have always maintained a friendly development and are currently at the best period in history.

The cooperation between China and Equatorial Guinea has always been based on equality

and mutual respect, and is never imposed on others.

Obiang mentioned that Chinese medical teams in Africa, China-Equatorial Guinea Friendship Hospital and other important projects have benefited the local people and become a symbol of friendship between Africa and China. Equatorial Guinea is willing to open its doors to China, welcomes Chinese enterprises to invest and carry out cooperation in Equatorial Guinea to help Equatorial Guinea achieve economic diversification and industrialization, and ensure the lasting and healthy national development.

Obiang said the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi, are conducive to promoting global peace and progress and creating a better world.

Equatorial Guinea highly appreciates China's active efforts in promoting the political settlement of regional hotspot issues and promoting world peace and development, said Obiang. Equatorial Guinea is willing to strengthen cooperation with China within the frameworks of the FOCAC, BRICS and others, to promote a global governance system that is more fair and equitable, he added. **Xinhua**

Achieving green, low-carbon transition calls for more quality production capacity

CLIMATE change is a challenge faced by the whole world. To respond to it and achieve green and low-carbon transition, it calls for support from more quality production capacity.

The new energy production capacity around the world today falls significantly short of meeting the demand of the market, especially huge latent demand in developing countries.

The narrative of so-called "overcapacity" in China's new energy industry as well as the protectionist measures stemming from it hinder the development of green industries of the world and the concerted efforts made by the interna-

tional community to respond to climate change.

The development of China's new energy industry has made significant contributions to the global green and low-carbon transition, in response to the needs of countries to alleviate energy crises and address climate change.

In 2022, China's exports of wind power and photovoltaic products resulted in a reduction of approximately 573 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions for other countries.

According to a report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, over the past decade, the average cost of electricity per kWh from wind power and photovoltaic pro-

jects around the world has cumulatively decreased by more than 60 percent and 80 percent respectively, and a significant portion of this achievement is attributed to China's innovation, manufacturing, and engineering projects.

China's green capacity has brought positive spillover effects to other countries. In Kazakhstan, the 60 MW Shelek Wind Farm invested and built by a Chinese company helps reduce over 160,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions on an annual basis. In the United Arab Emirates, the Al Dhafra Solar Project contracted by a Chinese company supplies electricity to 200,000 households and reduces carbon

emissions by 2.4 million tons each year.

The claim that China is now simply too large for the rest of the world to absorb this enormous capacity just cannot hold water.

In order to achieve the temperature goals set out in the Paris Agreement and help countries fulfill their commitments to peak carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, it is needed to increase investment in the clean energy sector and enhance the supply of new energy products globally.

For instance, the new energy vehicle (NEV) industry is seeing a huge demand globally. According to the In-

ternational Energy Agency, the global demand for NEVs is expected to reach 45 million units by 2030.

Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto pointed out that overcapacity doesn't exist, and there is indeed a lack of capacity.

China's green capacity poses no threat to the development of other countries' industries. Instead, it promotes their industrial growth through extensive cooperation and healthy competition.

According to Peter Fischer, chief economist of the Swiss daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung, it is with China's assistance that

the West has gained access to more cost-effective solar panels and wind turbines. Furthermore, China's innovative NEVs can drive the transformation of European car manufacturers, which ultimately benefits consumers.

An article on the website of The Diplomat said that Southeast Asian nations are actively courting Chinese electric vehicle companies in a collaboration that not only strengthens the imperative transition away from fossil fuel vehicles, but also fuels economic growth through technological exchange.

It is contradictory to emphasize the urgency of addressing climate change while labeling

China's renewable energy industry as "overcapacity." Such accusations of "overcapacity" are merely excuses for protectionism. Facts have long indicated that such practice benefits no one and will eventually backfire.

Adopting protectionist policies and setting up trade barriers not only disrupts the global investment landscape of green industries but also hampers the efficient allocation of green resources worldwide.

This leads to inefficient capacity and redundant construction, increasing the cost of low-carbon transition in countries that adopt these policies.

People's Daily

Towns, Edwards lift Wolves over Mavs 105-100 to avoid sweep in West finals



Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert (27) scores over Dallas Mavericks center Daniel Gafford (21) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 in Dallas. AP Photo

DALLAS

KARL-ANTHONY Towns finally found his rhythm, and the Timberwolves finally closed a game in the Western Conference finals.

Now they head back to Minnesota to see if they can make things even more interesting against Dallas.

Towns scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half and the Wolves held off the Mavericks 105-100 on Tuesday night to avoid a sweep.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Wolves stayed alive in their first trip to the conference finals in 20 years, and just the second in the franchise's 35 seasons. Game 5 is Thursday night.

Towns, who was shooting 28% from the field in the series coming in, was 9 of 13 from the field, including four of five from 3-point range. And that was after picking up fifth foul midway through the third quarter.

"Being aggressive," Towns said. "Ain't no time to have any doubts in your mind, especially at this time, it's Game 4, down 3-0. Ain't no time to have any doubts."

Luka Doncic had 28 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his sixth triple-double of these playoffs, but he and co-star Kyrie Irving were just 13 of 39 from the field. Irving, who was 14-0 in his career in closeout games coming in, made just one of six from long range and finished with 16 points.

"That game's on me. Just didn't give enough energy," said Doncic, who was 7 of 21 from the field, including 1 of 5 in the fourth when he and Irving had combined as closers to build the big series lead. "They won one game. We've just got to focus on the next one."

The Wolves have led in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter of every game in the series, and this time they finished.

Towns put the Wolves ahead for good on a 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining, then hit another from deep the next time down. His third 3 of the final quarter put Minnesota up six with three minutes to go.

"He was super confident," Edwards said. "He wasn't worried about any shots previous to the shots that he hit tonight. He played exceptionally well."

Edwards put the Wolves up five with a jumper just inside the arc with 39 seconds left, and Minnesota hung on despite Edwards fouling Doncic on a made 3-pointer for a three-point Dallas deficit with 12 seconds to go.

Doncic missed the free throw, and Naz Reid hit a bucket to push the margin back to five with 11 seconds remaining.

AP

"It's hard to close in this league," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said after his team shot 29% from 3 in the second half. "Understanding we didn't play our best. Give Minnesota credit. They did."

The biggest sign of Towns' rhythm came in the third, when he scored 10 points in the first seven minutes before picking up his fifth foul for elbowing P.J. Washington Jr. in the face as Towns went up for a shot.

The call against Towns prompted a technical foul against Minnesota coach Chris Finch from the second row, where he's been confined since the start of the second round of the playoffs because of a knee injury that required surgery. Assistant Micah Nori has been roaming the sidelines.

Finch flirted with a second technical, which would have meant an ejection, a few minutes later when Edwards was called for his fourth foul going for a steal against Daniel Gafford.

"To have him be on the sideline but behind the bench for the majority of these playoffs, you forget the impact he can have," said Mike Conley, who scored 14 points. "When your coach is up getting technicals and yelling and when you see him hobbling around to do it, it's impressive. It lit a fire on all of us."

Towns fouled out in the final two minutes, while Edwards and Rudy Gobert, who had 13 points and 10 rebounds, finished with five apiece.

"We weathered a lot of foul trouble out there, which was frustrating to say the least," Finch said. "Credit to our guys. They found a way to win the game. It was a lot like Games 1 and 2, and we were able to get it done tonight."

The Wolves avoided being the 16th team out of 21 to get swept after losing the first three games of a series that started at home. Now they'll try to be just the fourth to force at least six games.

Jaden Hardy scored 10 of his 13 points in a 3:38 stretch that spilled into the first bucket of the fourth quarter, a corner 3 that pulled Dallas within two. Four of the game's 11 lead changes came in the fourth.

The Mavs were without rookie center Dereck Lively II, who injured his neck when Towns accidentally kneed him in back of the head in Game 3.

Maxi Kleber, who has been out since May 3 with a separated shoulder, returned to give Dallas another option inside. But Daniel Gafford didn't have his regular tag team partner as a rim protector at center, and the Wolves shot a series-best 53% from the field.

Nyamalembu Girls stun Geita Girls in 2024 TCA Junior League

By Guardian Correspondent

NYAMALEMBO Girls cricket squad cruised to a hard-fought two-run win over the Geita Girls squad in a pulsating girls' category tie of the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Junior League played in Geita recently.

The encounter saw Nyamalembu Girls' side end with 58 runs all out in 14.5 overs of the scheduled 20 overs once the side had won the toss and chose to bat.

Geita Girls outfit's bowling unit played its heart out, seeking to keep the batting side's performers in check and ensure the latter ended up with a modest total.

The bowling outfit's efforts somewhat paid off following the dismissal of two batters in quick succession during the early stages of the innings.

Aneth Aron, who had been assigned as an opener, was one of the victims of an early exit, as the cricketer ended with four runs whilst managing to crack a four.

Mariam Petro, who came on at number three, was also on the receiving end of an early onslaught by the bowling team, making her way back with a mere two runs.

The other opener, Irene Kulwa, had Nyamalembu Girls seeking to stay in control of the innings having ended one run short of a two-digit figure.

Salima Said and skipper Agnes Odax were so far the members of the batting unit that posted two-digit figures when Nyamalembu Girls batted.

Salima, who was slotted in at number four, was the batter with the most runs as she ended with 13 runs whilst cracking a four.

The fellow batter Agnes equally had a good day with the bat given she notched 12 runs from as many balls.

The rest of Nyamalembu Girls' batting unit members failed to make their presence felt, given none of them managed to end with two-digit figures.

Asimwe Manase ended six runs short of a two-digit figure, vainly battling to give her team



Geita's female junior cricketers are pictured training in the region recently. Geita is of late one of the regions carrying out the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-supervised junior development program, which includes hosting leagues bringing together youthful cricketers to gain experience. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

hope of ending its turn with the bat with a better total. Despite experiencing a brief stay, the batter had the opportunity to nail a four.

Nine extra runs conceded by the Geita Girls bowling unit, which were so far nine wickets, to a great extent boosted Nyamalembu Girls' total.

Geita Girls' Aneth Meshack was the most impressive cricketer when the outfit bowled, registering 4-18 in 3.5 overs, whilst ending with a 4.70 economy rate.

She was ably assisted by Sweetness Maulid and Nkiya Bayege in seeing to it that the Nyamalembu Girls' batting unit sets up a manageable target.

Sweetness ended her overs' quota with an equally impressive 3-17 in the four overs which saw her notch a 4.25 economy rate.

Nkiya notched 2-11 in three overs to pile misery for the Nyamalembu Girls batters, with the performer bringing her bowling stint to an end with a 3.67 economy rate.

Even though 58 runs turned out to be a modest total, mounting a successful chase was ultimately a tall order for Geita Girls, as they in response ended up notching 56 runs all out in 11.3 overs.

Joyce Jonathan slotted in at number three, was by far the only batter with notable contribution in the Geita Girls batting stint, having recorded 12 runs.

The top-order batter nailed two fours in her spell before being bowled by Nyamalembu Girls' Aneth, leaving the batting side with 35 runs on the board when she exited the crease in the fifth over.

Dotto Yusuf and Rehema Amani were three runs short of two-digit figures for the batting team as the Nyamalembu Girls bowling unit battled to have the

outfit successfully defend its score.

Aneth Meshack (six runs not out, one four) and Neema Peter (six runs) were the other Geita Girls' batters with encouraging performances.

Rahma Twaha led Nyamalembu Girls' successful attempt to thwart the Geita Girls' chase, posting 3-9 in 3.3 overs. The fellow bowlers, Aneth and Amina Bahati, also had a stellar performance having taken two wickets apiece.

Aneth brought her bowling spell to an end with 2-11 in two overs and a 5.50 economy rate, and Amina notched 2-17 in three overs and a 5.67 economy rate.

The Player of the Match prize went to Geita Girls' Aneth Meshack for her solid all-round showing, notching six runs not out when she batted and grabbing four wickets during her bowling stint.

Muhongo backs Mara's 2024 UMITASHUMTA team

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MUSOMA Rural Constituency's Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo, has donated 100 tracksuits and 16 jerseys for the constituency's soccer players who are shaping up for this year's National Inter-Primary Schools Sports (UMITASHUMTA) Tournaments.

Muhongo said at an occasion

for presenting the sports equipment that the UMITASHUMTA team has set up camp at the Suguti Village, readying for the coming showdown.

"I have contributed to the participation of our pupils in the competitions by handing over tracksuits and jerseys to support efforts to develop sports in the constituency and the region in general," Muhongo said.

He said that sports and culture constitute five main priorities in his constituency, adding the priorities' implementation is going well.

The MP moreover wished the pupils a triumphant run in the UMITASHUMTA tournaments.

"Sports and culture are found in the CCM Election Manifesto for 2020 to 2025, it explains in detail the importance of sports

and culture for our nation," he said.

The opening of the UMITASHUMTA and Inter-Secondary Schools Sports (UMISSETA) tournaments is expected to take place at the Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara on June 8.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the official guest of this year's edition of the annual showdowns.

Matampi wins Premier League Golden Gloves in first season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN his first season in Tanzania, Coastal Union goalie Ley Matampi has won the NBC Premier League Golden Gloves after keeping 15 clean sheets.

Matampi joined the Tangabased team from Jeunesse Sportive Groupe Bazano of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a club based in Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga province.

Matampi was followed closely by Young Africans goalkeeper Djigui Diarra who boasted 14 clean sheets after winning the accolade last year for the second consecutive time.

While Diarra won the award in 2022 and 2023, Simba shoot-

stopper Aishi Manula won the award six times in a row from 2016 to 2021.

Manula won the first award with Azam in 2016 before joining Simba in 2017. He went on to win the awards until 2021.

Matampi played 24 games out of the 30 Premier League matches which means 2,160 minutes, while Diarra played 21 games out of the 30 matches and registered 1,846 minutes.

Both keepers played a big part in their respective teams' success.

Matampi guided his team to finish in fourth place in the NBC Premier League and qualify for the CAF Confederations Cup

next season.

He also played his part in the Federation Cup campaign where Coastal Union were knocked out by Azam in the semifinal stage.

Diarra, the Malian international, guided Young Africans to win this season's Tanzania Mainland Premier League, and his team qualified for the CAF Champions League next season.

He is also expected to be in the lineup on Sunday when Young Africans will lock horns with Azam in the Confederation Cup final in Zanzibar.

Coastal Union qualified for the CAF interclub competition for the second time in their club history after doing that in 1988

when they became the then First Division League champions.

Their campaign ended in the first round.

By winning the award, Matampi has kept himself in a good position for the transfer market this season after being linked with a move to Simba next season.

Insiders at Simba reveal that Matampi has impressed both the technical bench and the club's management, earning him a spot on their target list.

This interest comes amid uncertainties surrounding their current Moroccan goalkeeper, Ayoub Lakred.

Rummenigge says Kompany on verge of joining Bayern Munich

MUNICH

VINCENT Kompany has been chosen as next Bayern Munich coach but details on a contract still need to be ironed out, club supervisory board member Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Tuesday.

According to German tabloid Bild and English newspaper The Guardian, the 38-year-old Belgian has reached an agreement in principle with Bayern despite overseeing Burnley's relegation from the Premier League last term.

Rummenigge told Sky Italia there are just a few details to be resolved before Kompany can join.

"Our sports director has chosen Kompany, it's not official yet, there are just some final details to settle," the 68-year-old former striker told Sky.

Rummenigge said Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola had helped them in their choice.

"He gave us a big helping hand. He had him as captain at City and he also followed him when he was at Burnley," Rummenigge said.

Bayern agreed to part ways with coach Thomas Tuchel in February after falling behind eventual champions Bayer Leverkusen in the title race.

Kompany has Bundesliga experience, having played at Hamburg before joining Manchester City.

He took the reins of Burnley in July 2022, taking them to the Premier League as second-division champions that season.

Kompany is the latest candidate in a long list linked to Bayern.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, Germany boss Julian Nagelsmann and Austria manager Ralf Rangnick all reportedly turned down Bayern's interest.

AFP

Hong Kong football coach Andersen quits after 'fantastic journey'

HONG KONG

JORN Andersen, the Norwegian who took Hong Kong to their first Asian Cup finals in 56 years, quit as coach on Wednesday to take up an offer elsewhere.

The 61-year-old, whose colourful CV includes a stint as boss of North Korea, confirmed rumours of his departure at an emotional press conference in the southern Chinese territory.

"I have recently received an invitation from a club outside (Hong Kong) that presents an opportunity I simply cannot refuse," said Andersen, who had about a year left on his contract.

"It is with great regret that I now bid farewell to the Hong Kong football scene."

Local media speculated that Andersen could be off to a club in China.

The popular Andersen is credited with revitalising the Hong Kong team since taking charge in December 2021.

At the start of the year they played at the Asian Cup for the first time since 1968.

They were the lowest-ranked team at the tournament in Qatar and lost all three games, but were competitive in defeats to the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Palestine.

"The past two-and-a-half years have been a fantastic journey," Andersen told reporters on Wednesday.

Assistant Wolfgang Luisser will take over for World Cup qualifiers against Iran on June 6 and Turkmenistan on June 11.

Hong Kong are bottom of the group and cannot reach the 2026 World Cup.

AFP

LA-bound Giroud's leadership will be missed, says Milan captain

PERTH

AC Milan captain Davide Calabria said yesterday that the departure of Olivier Giroud to Major League Soccer will leave a leadership hole at the seven-time European champions.

Veteran French striker Giroud will play his final match for Milan in a post-season friendly against Roma in Perth tomorrow in front of an expected crowd of 50,000 at the Optus Stadium.

The 37-year-old is heading to Los Angeles FC next season and will bow out of international football for France after the Euros, which begin in Germany next month.

Giroud was given an emotional farewell by the Milan fans as he signed off from Serie A with a goal in a 3-3 draw with Salernitana on Saturday.

American midfielder Christian Pulisic and winger Rafael Leao are missing from Milan's tour squad but Giroud has made the long journey to Australia.

"He's an important leader on-and-off the field ... particularly off the field," Calabria told reporters in Perth on Wednesday. "He's supported me a lot. I'll miss him a lot, but am happy to have these few days together to celebrate his departure."

Giroud was a fan favourite at the San Siro and his three-year stint will be largely remembered for scoring key goals in Milan's 2022 Serie A triumph, the only trophy he won at the Italian club.

AFP

Ancelotti's 'quiet leadership' key to his Champions League success

MADRID

REAL's Madrid's superstars usually grab the headlines but quietly steering the ship in the direction of Champions League success yet again is coach Carlo Ancelotti.

If Real Madrid beat Borussia Dortmund at Wembley on Saturday Ancelotti can become the first coach to lift the trophy five times.

The Italian is already the most decorated manager in the history of the tournament, winning it twice with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007, and then twice with Madrid in 2014 and 2022.

With the latter Ancelotti surpassed Liverpool manager Bob Paisley and his Madrid predecessor Zinedine Zidane, who boast three each, to become "Mister Champions".

Ancelotti won the competition twice as a player with Milan, but his exploits as a coach have become the stuff of legend, along with his recent trophy celebrations -- sunglasses on, cigar in hand.

The coach, who turns 65 on June 10, is adored by his players, a result of his "quiet leadership", the title of his autobiography.

Ancelotti knows how to keep players pulling together in the right direction, even in tough moments.

Brazilian forward Rodrygo Goes has endured dry spells in front of goal but Ancelotti has always backed him.



Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has steered the team to a verge of another league and Champions League double. Agencies

"There are times when you score every time you touch the ball, and there are times when you shoot a lot and fail," said Ancelotti in November. "It will pass."

With Ancelotti keeping his confidence steady, Rodrygo did not panic and soon hit a rich vein of form.

Vinicius Junior is another who struggled but with Ancelotti's guidance has found his top level at the perfect time.

"It's work well done," said Ancelotti. "He has great talent and has added great quality of movement without the ball."

Creating such warm feeling with his players helps them accept his decisions.

Midfielders Eduardo Camavinga and Aurelien Tchouameni have both played in defence on occasion, without kicking up a fuss.

On top of his man management, Ancelotti has also made several important tactical decisions this season. Sometimes his work in that area goes unappreciated.

"This team is well-trained," said Ancelotti a year ago, a rare boastful comment from the coach, usually content to

play up to his avuncular image.

- 100 percent trust -

Ancelotti's first big decision of the season was how to deploy new arrival Jude Bellingham. The central midfielder started the campaign as part of the attack and it paid instant dividends, with Bellingham scoring 13 goals in his first 13 games.

Later Bellingham shifted towards the left or deeper in midfield.

"I trust the coach 100 percent, I know he knows what he's doing in all situations,"

said the former Dortmund man this week.

One of the reasons for the change was the team's only defeat of the league campaign, at Atletico Madrid in September.

Ancelotti adjusted his set-up after that, getting Bellingham to cover defensively as well as forming part of the attack. Madrid then went 32 matches unbeaten in La Liga, winning the title.

"The games that you can't win, you don't have to lose," said Ancelotti in February.

Despite many injury problems Los Blancos have not lost in the Champions League either, with their squad players delivering in key moments.

Ancelotti has kept them involved and Joselu's brace against Bayern in the semi-final was the perfect reward.

The Italian is rarely flustered, although he admitted he usually feels tension in the hours preceding a Champions League final.

With this his sixth as a coach, he can confidently predict how things will unfold.

"What do I like to eat? Broccoli, salmon and pasta. That is what I will eat," explained Ancelotti on Monday.

"After that, an hour of siesta, that seems good, if I can. After that, all the thoughts about the game (will come).

"Then before the team talk, the heart rate starts to rise. Up to 110, 120 (beats per minute). Until the game starts. After the game starts, it goes back to its normal rhythm."

AFP

From fan bus to team bus: Dortmund's Terzic primed for Real Madrid

DORTMUND

SATURDAY's clash with Real Madrid will not be coach Edin Terzic's first Champions League final experience with Borussia Dortmund -- but this time around he will be closer to the action.

Jurgen Klopp was in the dugout the last time Dortmund made a Champions League final, which they lost 2-1 to rivals Bayern Munich at Wembley -- the same venue as Saturday's showpiece.

Born just outside Dortmund, Terzic -- the lifelong BVB fan who rose through the ranks to take over as manager -- said Tuesday being in the crowd for the 2013 final was part of his "personal story as to why I'm sitting here today".

While veterans Mats Hummels and Marco Reus took the pitch alongside current assistant coaches Nuri Sahin and Sven Bender 11 years ago, Terzic, then an assistant coach for Dortmund's U-17s, made the pilgrimage in an unofficial capacity.

"My trip in 2013 was as a fan. Mats Hummels, Marco Reus, Nuri Sahin, Sven Bender, they were on the team bus. I was on the fan bus.

"We all have a personal story and I don't really want to put mine in the foreground. It's just about us going on a journey together."

- 'Not only a fan' -

Terzic's tale is a rarity in international football but has at times counted against him, giving rise to a perception he is in



Dortmund coach Edin Terzic will return to Wembley, but as a manager rather than a fan. Agencies

the job on the weight of the romance of his story rather than his skill with the clipboard.

Speaking with DAZN on Tuesday, he said "it's not like I was sitting in the stands and someone said 'we'll take him'."

"I wasn't only a fan -- I worked here, as a junior coach, a scout, an assistant coach and then a manager if the professional side."

The doubters remain despite Terzic's record in charge of Dortmund.

As an interim coach, Terzic took Dortmund to the German Cup in 2021 just a few months after taking over.

In his first full season

he had Dortmund on a 2-2 draw with Mainz saw course for the Bundesliga title until a last-day Bayern win for the 11th straight season.

At the end of his second full season, Terzic has Dortmund in the Champions League final -- something that only Klopp and Ottmar Hitzfeld have done before.

Speaking with journalists on Tuesday, Terzic said that fateful day against Mainz was "a part of the path to success" which continued on Saturday.

"It was not the nicest day, but what I experienced I will not forget.

"It's part of us, of me."

- 'The final boss' - Bayern's narrow loss in the other semi-final this season, defeated 4-3 over two legs, deprived Dortmund of a chance at revenge.

Terzic's men will instead line-up against Real, one of the few teams more decorated than Bayern in Europe.

Champions League winners in 1997 when they beat a highly fancied Juventus 3-1 in Munich, Dortmund have overcome the odds as underdogs before.

The statistics however show just how up against it Dortmund will be on Saturday.

Real have won the competition 14 times -- six of which have come since Dortmund's last appearance.

Los Blancos have not lost any of their past eight finals dating back to 1981, when Terzic was not yet born.

The 41-year-old joked it was about time Real lost a final.

"Our goal is to win the Champions League. And if you want to win the Champions League, you have to beat the champions.

"And now, the absolute champion in the history of football and especially in this competition awaits us.

"To use a bit of modern language, they're the final boss.

"Statistically they're on track to win it again this year -- but none of that counts."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ancelotti's 'quiet leadership' key to his Champions League success

PAGE 19

Gamondi hails Yanga's record-breaking campaign



Young Africans attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki in action during the NBC Premier League match against Tabora United at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC



Simba interim head coach Juma Mgunda. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

Juma Mgunda admits Simba season 'not good enough'

By Guardian Correspondent

COACH Juma Mgunda has admitted that Simba's season has not been 'good enough' after the club's lowest finish in the last eight years.

Simba won 2-0 against JKT Tanzania on the NBC Premier League's final day as late goals from Said Ntibazonkiza and Willy Onana sealed three points at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, though a win for Azam saw the Msimbazi Street-based outfit end the campaign in the third place.

They finished level on points with Azam but an inferior goal difference means Mgunda's team will not compete in the CAF Champions League next season.

Mgunda reflected on a difficult season for Simba and said the campaign has not met the club's objectives.

"We thank God that the game ended well. What matters most is that we have got a good result. I said from the beginning that these matches will be difficult. All the matches towards the end of the campaign were difficult. We had our needs and our opponents had theirs too.

"They were in need of a single point to avoid the relegation playoffs. So you will see that the match was competitive because each team had its own needs.

"We had nine games, out of which we won seven and drew twice. We saw something in that. Let's be thankful for whatever we get. If you are not always grateful for the little you got, you will never be grateful even if you get a lot more.

"Let's get back to the drawing board and re-strategize because we need to know where we went wrong, where we slipped, and why we slipped. I believe the management will take this matter seriously because there are things that will have to be corrected so that we can do well next season.

"We have finished third. It was not our aim. We believe the club had its targets and we did not achieve them. We must ask ourselves why we have reached this point. If we ask ourselves, I believe we will get solid answers."

The complete story of Simba's 2023-24 season includes a damning and historic 5-1 derby humiliation, as well as a handful of frustrating draws on their way to a third-place Premier League finish.

They secured the Community Shield at the start of the season and the Union Cup in April but had disappointing CAF Champions League and Federation Cup campaigns to add to their misery for the third successive year.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

MIGUEL Gamondi says Young Africans can reflect on a fantastic title-winning 2023/24 campaign that has been a record-breaking one in many regards.

The three-time in-a-row champions won seven successive matches to finish the season with 80 points, eleven clear at the top of the NBC Premier League.

The record-extending 30th league title was secured with three games to spare.

On the final day of the season, Young Africans came from behind to beat Tanzania Prisons 4-1 to set a new record for most points accumulated in a 30-game league season.

Gamondi's men broke their own record for number of victories in a 30-game league season by winning 26 matches.

"I think it was unbelievable. We have broken a lot of records. We finished with 80 points, I think it is a record. We scored 108 goals and we still have one more game to play. We only conceded 13 goals. I think this is fantastic.

"I am very proud of the way we played all season with consistency. I always say to my players that I want to win games because we play better than the opponent. I think in most games we played, we were the better team and for that, I am very happy.

"Sometimes in football results, there are accidents. Sometimes a mistake or something like that, but at the end of the day I think Yanga was the best team in the NBC Premier League.

"There is nothing much to talk about today's game, perhaps the hat-trick for Stephane Aziz Ki. We started the game on a low note

and the other team scored an early goal but, after that, we came back very quickly and dominated the game," he said.

With the Federation Cup final against Azam coming up on Sunday, Young Africans are on course to win a third successive domes-

tic double while their CAF Champions League exit in the quarter-finals to Mamelodi Sundowns came via a penalty shootout.

...labels Burkinabe top scorer Aziz Ki 'The Black Messi'

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

MIGUEL Gamondi labeled the newly crowned NBC Premier League top scorer, Stephane Aziz Ki, as 'The Black Messi' after Young Africans' win over Tanzania Prisons.

The Burkinabe international attacking midfielder, whose future at Young Africans has come under scrutiny of late, scored a hat-trick as Wananchi recovered from a goal down to beat Wajelajela 4-1 on the final day of the NBC Premier League on Tuesday afternoon.

The hat trick took Aziz Ki's league final tally to 21 goals, two more than his closest challenger Feisal Salum,

who scored one against Geita Gold.

Aziz Ki's talent has been on show to great effect so far this season, as he also helped Young Africans to reach the Federation Cup final and CAF Champions League quarter-final where they were eliminated by Mamelodi Sundowns via the penalty shootout.

When asked to comment on Aziz's performance that won him his first top scorer award in Tanzania, Gamondi told the press:

"He is definitely not a striker, but he has been really good for us. I told him at the beginning of the season that from what I have

seen in the league and from what I know the quality he has, he can be the top scorer.

"That was my intuition and he did that because he changed a lot. The way he is training and working on the pitch. It is not only offensively, but he makes a lot of commitment trying to defend. He is lethal inside the pitch.

"At the beginning of talking with the president before I came here, he was looking for a number 10. I said you have a Black Messi here because I was watching the video and Aziz Ki is like Messi with all the respect. He can win a game, or create something.

"Maybe in 90 minutes he doesn't touch the ball too many times, but he can make an assist or get a goal. He's a fantastic player. You must know how to manage him, how to motivate him, and in which position you put him. I am very proud of his evolution."

The 28-year-old Burkinabe is now a target for Orlando Pirates and the rest of Africa's elite clubs as his two-year deal with Young Africans is coming to an end next month.

However, Young Africans are continuing negotiations with the former ASEC Mimosas player to ensure he extends his stay in Tanzania.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

