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TANZANIA

TUESDAY 16 APRIL, 2024



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## Samia awaited in Istanbul tomorrow

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to arrive in the Turkish capital of Istanbul tomorrow for a five-day state visit.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, unveiled this development at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, saying that this will be the first visit by a Tanzanian leader in that country for 14 years.

Five years ago, Mevlut Cavusoglu, then the Turkish Foreign minister, had accompanied President Tayyip Erdogan during visits to Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar, in a rapid trip from January 22 to 25.

President Erdogan's conversations with his counterpart, President John Magufuli, laid the groundwork for the financing and engineering project capacity in rolling out the standard gauge railway (SGR) project, an iconic feature of recent development efforts.

It is comparable to the Julius Nyerere hydropower project (JNHPP), whose profile was mapped out at the time that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi visited Tanzania in August 2017.

In his remarks at a joint press conference with President Magufuli, the Egyptian leader pointed out that a number

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# 'PO-RALG, LGAs have to act on fiscal deficiencies'



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on a report on the audit of the central government's financial statements for the financial year ending on June 30, 2023. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

**Audits in 37 LGAs revealed a surge in suppliers' and employees' claims from 64.87bn/- reported during fiscal 2021/22 to 87.32bn/- reported in the new audit, a notable increase of 22.45bn/-**

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

REGIONAL secretariats and local government authorities (LGAs) need to develop a comprehensive action plan for the prompt implementation of recurring recommendations and rectification of identified deficiencies in the improved systems, the National Audit Office has demanded.

Charles Kichere, the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), emphasised this in his annual report on the entities, directed at the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), at a press briefing in his office yesterday.

In his annual general report on the audit of regional administrations and local governments for fiscal 2022/23, he stated that stringent actions need to be taken against officials violating laws, particularly in procurement and revenue collection.

During the year, approved budget estimates for PO-RALG, RS and LGAs totalled 8.82trn/-, where 7.61trn/- was released, equivalent to 86 percent of approved estimates.

"This indicates that 1.21trn/- was not released," he said, highlighting that release for the current financial year experienced an increase of 85bn/- from 7.52trn/- disbursed fiscal 2021/22.

Own-source revenue collection for fiscal 2022/23 totalled 912.12bn/-, above the 911.86bn/- in approved estimates by 0.26bn/- or 0.03 percent, he said, pointing at a notable increase of 20.29bn/- in own source revenue collection of 891.84bn/- during fiscal 2021/22.

Procurements billed at 4.22bn/- were conducted in 35 LGAs without inviting competitive quotations, where 16 LGAs opted for single-source and restricted tendering methods for procurement priced at 4.87bn/- without reasonable justification, he said in a review of procurement transactions.

Similarly, 13 LGAs procured items worth 1.45bn/- that were not delivered as at the time of conducting the audit despite payments being made, he said.


The contractor and consultant responsible for construction of the Dar es Salaam central bus terminal at Mbezi Luis had not been paid for invoices totalling 8.92bn/-, resulting in interest claims of 2.23bn/-, he said.

Despite the introduction of the revenue portal that facilitates taxpayer access to services offered by local government authorities (LGAs) on a self-service basis (TAUSD) and specific instructions to LGAs to register all point of sale (PoS) devices, plenty of defects were recorded, he said.


The LGAs were instructed to reconcile defaulters from the previous Local Government Revenue Information System (LGRGIS) and utilize all modules within TAUSD comprehensively, the report indicated, examining revenue management.

"There is still 45bn/- in outstanding rev-

## SPORTS



**GAMONDI REVELS IN YANGA SPIRIT OF UNITY AS TITLE MARCH CONTINUES** Page 20



**ARSENAL AND LIVERPOOL HIT BY THE PAINFUL REALITY OF A TITLE RACE IN THE MAN CITY ERA** Page 19

## Faulty designs, feasibility cost Tanroads 130.51bn/-

*Tanroads was, on the other hand, charged 874,996,553/- for late payments to contractors and commitment charges for non-utilization of loan balances*

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TECHNICAL audits at the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) by National Audit Office raised queries where Tanroads incurred substantial cost overruns of 130.51bn/- on six road projects due to inadequate feasibility studies, design flaws, contract management issues and delayed payments.

Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Charles Kichere released summaries of 299 audited financial audit reports, noting that 99 percent had unqualified opinions.

That was the same as the previous year but in contrast, one report counted as one percent obtained a qualified

opinion, arising from understatement of expenditure in its social sector, he said.

Inadequate feasibility studies were the main fault, resulting in 44.97bn/- overruns, as crucial site conditions like topography, soil and hydrology were not accurately assessed, necessitating significant adjustments during project execution, the CAG lamented.

Furthermore, delayed payments led to an accumulation of 42.8bn/- in interest, while project completion delays required compensating contractors 29.87bn/- and consultants an additional 18.88bn/-, he said, noting that a notable 3.99bn/- payment was

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## China, Tanzania marking links, ahead of Union Day

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has pledged to strengthen ties with China as the two countries commemorate 60 years of establishing diplomatic relations.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister expressed this vow made this affirma-

tion in Dar es Salaam yesterday after a meeting with Chinese ambassador Chen Mingjian.

"We have always been driven by mutual respect," he said, noting that this is a vital aspect of today's world. "We shall always remain indebted to the fathers of our two nations and all those who have contributed to the brotherly rela-

tions, including past and current leaders," Makamba said.

The founding fathers and visionary leaders, President Julius Nyerere, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume and Chairman Mao Zedong built a solid foundation of the Tanzania-China friendship and solidarity.

Analysts all the same credit the relation-

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## 'PO-RALG, LGAs have to act on fiscal deficiencies'

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enue defaults within the LGRCIS system,' he said, asserting that this raises concerns about potential revenue loss, particularly as the system is being phased out.

Furthermore, a total of 61bn/- remained uncollected from 130 LGAs from various sources such as rental charges for shops, market stalls, house rent, plot sales, refuse collection, business licenses, liquor licenses, leased open spaces, parking fees and other revenue streams, indicating inefficiencies in revenue collection, the report affirmed.

LGRCIS and TAUSI systems being reviewed showed that revenue totalling 6.2bn/- collected through point of sale machines in 96 LGAs had not been banked into the re-

spective accounts.

Evaluation of deposit account management by LGAs unveiled several irregularities totalling 10.71bn/- in the specific deposit accounts, he said, citing inadequate internal controls as contributing to mismanagement and unregulated payments in various deposit accounts.

Audits in 37 LGAs revealed a surge in suppliers' and employees' claims from 64.87bn/- reported during fiscal 2021/22 to 87.32bn/- reported in the new audit, a notable increase of 22.45bn/-, he said.

This escalation in liabilities primarily stems from incurred expenditures that do not align with the respective LGAs' liquidity position and delays in settling due amounts, he added.

## Faulty designs, feasibility cost Tanroads 130.51bn/-

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unjustifiably made to Tanroads Engineering Consulting Unit (TECU) without a formal contract.

"These overruns highlight an urgent need for Tanroads to improve its feasibility study protocols, design review processes, contract management, and payment systems to mitigate such financial issues in the future," he stated.

The annual general audit report on audited development projects for fiscal 2022/23 was unveiled at the National Assembly yesterday, showing a diverse array of financial mismanagement practices.

The compliance audit for procurement and budget management for 299 reports concluded that 130 reports showed compliance with procurement laws and 69 were compliant with exceptions. Similarly, 251 reports were compliant with budget laws while 48 were compliant with exceptions, he affirmed.

The CAG's analysis of 299 management letters on development projects found 2,982 outstanding recommendations, of which 40 percent were implemented, 26 percent were in progress, 29 percent were unimplemented, nine percent were reiterated and six percent were overtaken by events, he stated, evaluating the state of implementation of previous year's recommendations.

Analysis of 299 financial statements for 2022/23 showed that total project funds received stood at 6.50trn/-, out of which 4.19trn/- was spent, a balance of 2.31trn/- left as of 30th June 2023, the report noted.

Expenditure management audit showed that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) borrowed 4,549,015,746/- from SEQUIP and LANES II, and was yet to refund the two agencies, the CAG indicated.

Tanroads, MoEST and TASAF failed to withhold 1,118,230,367/- in tax, with TASAF and Tanroads withholding 5, 216,572,492/- while failing to remit the funds to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), he stated.

"The total unremitted taxes and not withheld amounted to 6,334,802,859/-. Further, I noted that six projects, five implemented by TANESCO and one by AUWASA, had a balance of unpaid compensation of 13.69bn/- for 567 affected persons. Five projects owed 12.67bn/-," he said.

The Tanzania Solar development project had 1.02bn/- but despite nearly completing the projects 97 to 100percent, compensation payments remained outstanding, he said.

He pointed at MWAUWASA as having used inappropriate national restrictive competitive tendering instead of international competitive tendering in the acquisition of services priced at 3.55bn/- for a reinforced concrete water reservoir in Kisesa town, Mwanza Region. It was implemented under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project (LVWATSAN).

"This limited the participation of leading suppliers and hindered procurement at competitive prices," he emphasised.

Kichere further found that the SE-

QUIP Programme under PO-RALG paid 1,528,253,924/- to local technicians for constructing secondary school buildings in Lindi municipality, Mtama and Kilwa districts without formal contracts.

He castigated the implementation of the Arusha sustainable urban water and sanitation delivery project for completing 15 deep wells at 9.16bn/- costs, which were finalised in May 2023.

Despite the successful completion, there was an absence of water distribution infrastructure connecting the boreholes to end users, rendering the project non-operational, he said.

PO-RALG mandated the construction of pre-primary model schools phases I and II, with 12, 252,675,000/- allocated to 197 schools across 160 LGAs under the LANES programme.

Yet, during a site visit in August 2023, audit officials found that completed buildings worth 1,395,600,000/- across 25 LGAs were unused due to the absence of essential furniture and water supply for the constructed pit latrines, the report noted.

Furthermore, the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Infrastructure Phase 2 Lot 1 project implemented by Tanroads had an additional project cost of 28.05bn/- due to changes in design, inadequate feasibility studies and design review before project commencement, he pointed out.

Interest charges amounting to 3.08bn/- were billed too various organisations due to delayed contractor payments and non-utilization of loan facilities, he stated, with Tansco charged 2,129,506,978/-, being 69 percent of additional payments to total costs, for delays in utilising the loan facility for the Tanzania Zambia Interconnection Project (TAZA).

Tanroads was on the other hand charged 874,996,553/- for late payments to contractors and commitment charges for non-utilization of loan balances, he affirmed.

The Ministry of Water and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism faced charges of 25, 004,367/- and 47, 851,268/-, respectively, related to delays in settling claims of contractors in implementing the Second Water Sector Support Project and the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth respectively.



**These overruns highlight an urgent need for Tanroads to improve its feasibility study protocols, design review processes, contract management, and payment systems to mitigate such financial issues in the future**



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister January Makamba shares a light moment with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, in Dar es Salaam yesterday in the course of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United Republic of Tanzania and the People's Republic of China. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## China, Tanzania marking links, ahead of Union Day

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ship to Chinese influence on Zanzibar militants during the period leading to the January 12, 1964 revolution and the union three months later, April 26.

Chief among them was radical journalist Abdulrahman Babu, who led Beijing Radio's Kiswahili programmes in the late 1950s, and his protégé Salim Ahmed Salim who was reaching adulthood in the 1960s under Babu's influence, and through this link the ties with China were gradually built.

China and the former East Germany, known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were among the first countries around the world to recognise the Zanzibar Revolution, while Mwalimu Nyerere had a special relationship with its key leaders, Sheikh Karume and Sheikh

Thabit Kombo, since February 1957, as president of TANU, he brought the two leaders to fuse their parties to create Afro-Shirazi Party, which was the 'party of the revolution' in Zanzibar, a name taken up when TANU and ASP fused late 1976, and CCM was formally declared on the same day as the ASP creation 20 years earlier, in 1977.

Mwalimu came closer to China when he had to switch to a clearer socialist outlook in mobilising nation building early in 1967, owing to threats of instability from disgruntled professional classes and foreign powers disliking both the Zanzibar Revolution and liberation movements that were gradually settling in Dar es Salaam.

China was the natural ally in this situation, and Mwalimu examined the Chinese system of socialist villages to see how it could be applied

here, to varying levels of success. Other initiatives like the TAZARA railway ensued, and other ties.

The minister said that Tanzania is committed to support global and regional forums and initiatives put forward by the Chinese authorities such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Development Initiatives (GDI).

"We approach the future with no doubt that with President Xi Jinping principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, our relationship will strengthen further and deeper."

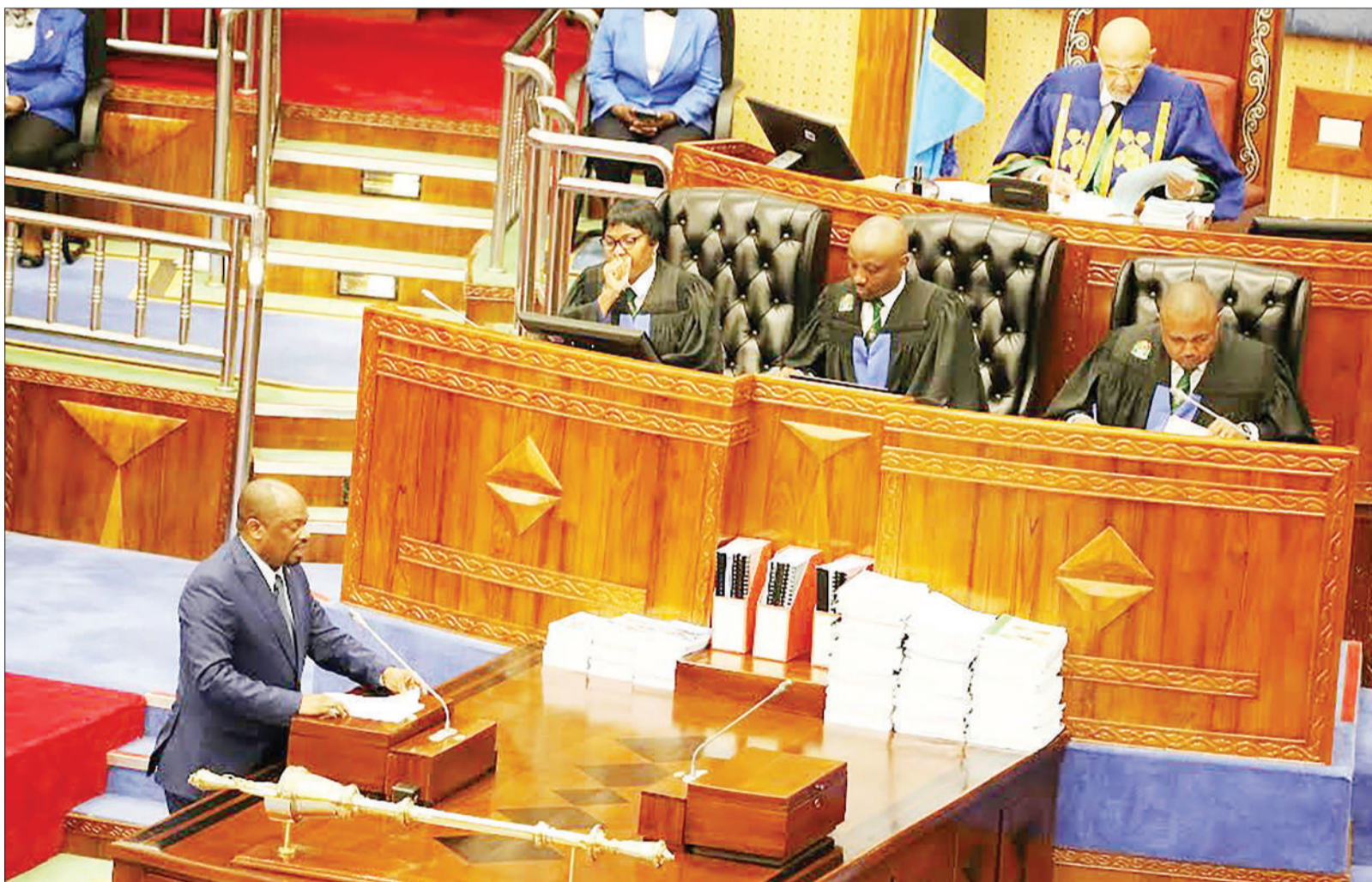
More recently, President Samia Suluhu Hassan visited China two years ago, elevating ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Another meeting with President Xi occurred on the side lines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, last

August.

Ambassador Chen said that China-Tanzania 2023 trade volumes exceeded \$8.78bn, up by 5.7 percent on a year on year basis, making China the largest trading partner and source of investment in Tanzania for eight consecutive years.

China-Tanzania cooperation has long been leading when it comes to China-Africa cooperation, with China achieving fruitful results from the investment in Tanzania as it has always been a participant, enabler and beneficiary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), she stated.

Zhang Junle, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) managing director, building the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge, pledged that the project will be completed before the year ends, with nearly 700bn/- disbursed.



Finance deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday tabling the Controller and Auditor General's report on the audits of the central government's financial statements for the financial year ending on June 30, 2023. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Samia awaited in Istanbul tomorrow

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of Egyptian companies are already working in Tanzania in the fields of construction, engineering consultancy and infrastructure as well as capacity building and expertise exchange.

Observers later realised the significance of the firms in terms of capital and engineering capacity, as Egyptian firms took the leading part in the major hydropower genera-

tion project.

Bilateral relations and business opportunities between the countries are strong, as trade volume has reached \$ 22, the minister said, elaborating that President Samia is expected to witness the signing of agreements on several areas, including higher education scholarships, technology, document storage, science and innovation.

While in Turkey, President Samia

will attend a business and investment conference in Istanbul, geared to increase the scope of investment and market access for Tanzanian agro-produce, he specified, elaborating that the balance of trade between the two countries will also be examined. Turkey used to sell upwards of \$250,000 worth of exports, with business increasing in the past six years, thus as of last year business reached \$22m from \$9m

registered in 201, he pointed out.

Turkey is an important market for southern Europe and western Asia with considerable technological capacity from which Tanzania can learn, he stated.

At the moment the country's most important exports to Turkey are agro-produce and gems.

"We will look at new areas of cooperation in the conference prepared by the hosts," he added.





CCM's Ideology, Publicity and Training Secretary, Amos Makalla (2nd-L), makes remarks yesterday as the party's delegation led by CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (3rd-L) made an inspection tour aimed at assessing progress in the ongoing implementation of the Sumbawanga Airport project in Rukwa Region. The team is on a marathon six-region tour. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Govt allocates 2.64bn/- for sanitary pads for students in its schools

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has in the current fiscal year allocated 2.64bn/- for the procurement of sanitary pads for teenage girls in government owned schools.

Zainab Katimba, Deputy Minister of State, in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, told the National Assembly yesterday that of the amount, 1.06bn/- was sourced from capitation grants and 1.58bn/- was sourced from district councils revenue collections.

"As of March this year, 2.2bn/- has been spent for procurement of sanitary pads. However, development partners contributed another 1.5bn/- while private sector-led education programmes contributed 119.5m/-," said Katimba.

She was responding to a question by Nora Mzeru, Special Seats MP, who wanted to know the government's plan in place for allocating a special budget for purchasing sanitary pads for teenagers in schools.

According to her, in the 2022/23 financial year the government spent 3.16bn/- in procurement of sanitary pads to serve for teenage girls in schools during menstrual cycle periods.

She said that of the spent amount, 1.97bn/- was sourced from the capitation grants, 539m/- was sourced from revenues collected by district councils

and the remaining 655m/- was sourced from development partners.

Katimba said that the government had continued coordinating the access to sanitary pads for teenagers in schools through funds sourced from the capitation grants, development partners and district council's revenues.

In a supplementary question, Rita Kabati, Special Seats MP argued that what the government is doing in ensuring that allocated funds are disbursed in schools for the procurement of the pads because she is aware that some district councils don't remit the funds for

that purpose.

In her response, Katimba directed district executive directors to endure that the disbursement of funds is well monitored and the intended purpose is observed.

Fatma Toufiq, Special Seats MP, questioned the government's readiness in cutting down tax on raw materials for production of sanitary pads so that schools can start producing the products.

"The ministry will engage the ministry of finance in seeing a way of deducting tax so that raw material for producing sanitary pads can be supplied at affordable costs," said Katimba.

## Better ICT system enables TPA to get clean CAG certificate

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ENHANCED efficiency in the preparation and delivery of accounting information has enabled the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to obtain clean certificates for two consecutive years in the accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

In a statement issued yesterday, TPA said that the authority stated that under the leadership of its Director General, Plasduce Mbossa, it has successfully implemented the President Samia Suluhu Hassan's instructions of ensuring that it must have the proper IT systems.

The achievement, according to the TPA, has come after the authority completed the Infor-

mation and Communication Technology (ICT) project (Enterprise Resource Planning, (ERP), which is used in preparing and storing financial information.

In the 2022/2023 financial year, among the successes achieved is the implementation of President Samia's instructions by completing the IT project which is used in the preparation and storage of financial information.

"The system also integrates the activities of various departments in carrying out daily tasks adding that it integrates all important departments such as finance, human resources, procurement and others," reads part of the statement.

"The results of the completion of this system are in line with the efficiency in the preparation and delivery of TPA accounting

information, where the system has enabled TPA to obtain clean certificates for two consecutive years for the audits conducted by (CAG)."

The authority also noted that due to the efficient use of the system, TPA has been able to get an award for the best presented financial statements issued by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).

According to the statement, the IT system has helped increase productivity by controlling loopholes in the loss of funds, preparation of various information on time, maintenance of documents and financial information and resources of the institution.

"Due to the strengthening of revenue collection systems, TPA revenues have increased by 27 percent for the fiscal 2022/2023

compared to the 2021/2022."

On cargo handling, the statement noted that there has been a significant increase in ships and cargo where for the 2022/2023 fiscal year the number of ships served by TPA Ports increased to 4,762 ships from 4,160 ships which is an average increase of 13.9 percent per year.

It added the amount of cargo handled is 27.8m tonnes in 2022/2023 equal to an average increase of 21.7 percent of the cargo handled in the year 2021/2022.

The authority has made major infrastructure improvements including the creation of IT systems, implementation of the Dar es Salaam Port Strategic Improvement Project (DMGP), improvement of Tanga Port, expansion of Mtwara Port and improvement of Great Lakes Ports.

**BBC MEDIA ACTION**

**Increasing Consumer Voices Through Media for Healthy Food Choices**

IBBC Media Action is happy to sign an agreement with the International Development Research Center (IDRC) worth CAD 254,400 for a period of 6 months. This research project seeks to contribute to human rights-based approaches for the promotion of a healthier food environment in Tanzania by including the voices of consumers in shaping public discourse and policies; and to understand community-specific needs and identify effective multimedia and SBC communication to support community, regional and multisectoral dialogues on a healthy food environment.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK**

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	AM JOLDAN LIMITED	National Content Television Broadcasting (Free To Air)	1. Anton Mussa Mkane - Tanzanian 2. Feniki Lunanilo Mkane - Tanzanian 3. Unsubscribed shares	46 5 49

Pursuant to Section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers this application.

**Comments should be addressed to:**  
Director General  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
P. O. Box 474 | 14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
Fax: +255 22 2412009  
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

Issued on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

**Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Email: barua@tcra.go.tz, dg@tcra.go.tz, Website: www.tcra.go.tz

**VACANCY - PROJECT MANAGER**

A fast growing Tourism Company based in Morogoro Municipality is looking for a multi-skilled and highly capable candidate to fill the position of a Project Manager to oversee one of its projects in Simiyu Region. This project is currently in the process of being diversified in order to meet the requirements of Special Wildlife Investment Concession Areas (SWICA), initiated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

The company is therefore looking for a mature and competent Project Manager who will be responsible for planning, overseeing and leading this project together with other supplementary undertakings that will be established in other tourism areas. This is a senior position in our organization and it requires interaction with a range of internal and external stakeholders and most often managing several project components simultaneously.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the job**  
The prospective candidate will be required to take charge of the following duties and responsibilities:

- Oversee the overall planning and management of the project.
- Ensure compliance with SWICA Regulations.
- Ensure implementation of the Project Business Plan including the terms and conditions of the Concession Agreement signed between the Government and the company.
- Coordinate the financial and human resources to ensure timely execution of the planned activities.
- Manage the project progress and adapt work as required.
- Ensure all the components of the project are implemented in time.
- Oversee all incoming and outgoing project documentation.
- Ensure the core functions of the project are executed properly (Conservation; Wildlife protection; Community support; tourism hunting and photographic activities and Research and Monitoring)
- Design risk mitigation plan of the project.
- Conduct project review and prepare detailed reports to the Board of Directors.
- Optimize and improve operational processes of the project where necessary.
- Liaise with internal and external auditors during the course of the audit.
- Participate effectively as a member of the Joint Committees of the project.
- Undertake any other assignments as may be directed by the Managing Director/ Board of Directors of the company.

**Job Qualifications and Experience**  
The applicant is required to possess a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in Wildlife Management including managing rural projects and should possess a first degree in any of the following fields:

- Wildlife Management and Conservation.
- Environmental Management.
- Project Management and Rural Development and Planning.

In addition the candidate is required to have at least 5 years experience in the relevant field and should possess high level of the following soft skills:

- Written and verbal communication skills - English and Swahili
- Capacity to manage stressful situations.
- Leadership skills
- Big-picture thinking and vision.
- Attention to details and Conflict resolution skills.

If you feel to possess the relevant qualifications and skills; kindly submit your application together with your CV and copies of your certificates to the undersigned before 30th April 2024.

**Managing Director,**  
P. O. Box 678,  
MOROGORO.  
E-mail: info@bushman.co.tz

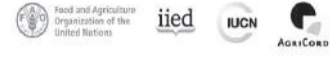




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Forest and Farm Facility



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFICIARY GRANTS TO FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

### DIRECT BENEFICIARY GRANTS FOR FARM AND FOREST PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS "TO DEVELOP FARM FORESTRY INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS"

#### Strengthening linkages between Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to improve the quantity and quality of products, access to markets and standards

##### 1. Background

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a partnership between Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Agrico, and funded by Finland, Germany, Norway through the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism of FAO, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United States of America, and IKEA. The FFF provides direct financial support and technical assistance to strengthen Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) representing smallholders, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples' institutions. Collectively, forest and farm producers have the potential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to respond to climate change at landscape scales

Tanzania is one of core countries in which the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) phase II is providing support to Forest and Farm Producers Organizations (FFPOs). Phase II has the goal of scaling up the role of FFPOs to achieve Climate Resilient Landscapes and Improved Livelihoods through the following four Outcomes:

Outcomes 1: More enabling policy and legal frameworks for FFPOs delivered through more FFPO-inclusive governance and cross-sectoral processes,  
Outcomes 2: Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and finance through gender equitable value chains delivered through new capacity to provide business incubation within FFPOs,  
Outcomes 3: Improved delivery of landscape scale mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience for climate change through direct engagement of FFPOs and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches, and  
Outcomes 4: Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services. The achievement of gender equality in the forest and farm sectors, including FFPOs is considered the right and smart way for gender transformation.

##### 2. Direct Beneficiary Grants

The FFF Direct Beneficiary Grants (DBGs) are an investment support modality to farmers focused on Strengthening linkages between Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to improve the quantity and quality of products, access to markets and meet set standards for various agro-forestry value chains.

The Objective of this call for applications is to award grants for organising forest and farm producers for development of farm forestry, and landscape-based production systems and end market driven (gender) inclusive business in Karatu, Kilosa, Monduli, Bukoba Rural, Njombe, Mbulu, Ludewa, Mlele, and Kaliua districts.

Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate capacity to link FFPOs with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in order to improve quantity and quality of production, enhance access to better markets and help attain standards through certifications.

The proposal can include purchase of small processing equipment, tools, machines etc critical to value addition, productivity and improved profitability. For this specific kind of investments (small machines, equipment, tools etc), the Applicant will be required to co-finance between 10% - 20% of the cost of that investment, and The Grant will fully cover the rest of activities in the Proposal

##### 3. FFF Grant Amount

Successful applicants will be supported with grant value ranging between USD 20 000 to USD 100 000. The Grant will be provided directly to successful beneficiary organizations in three separate instalments depending on the size of the grant, the nature of activities, the history of collaboration with the organizations and the outcome of the technical and administrative visits carried out by the FFF Country Facilitator. The grant value calculation will be evaluated based on the one proposed in the budget table by the applicant and it will be agreed by the First Committee and the Second Committee.

FFF will disburse grants to successful applicants whose proposals include a component of investments (purchase of small equipment/machines, tools, facilities/infrastructure etc, that aids value addition, increase productivity and profitability).

##### NOTE:

- For Investment component of the proposal with a budget below USD 10,000, FAO-FFF will contribute 90%, while the Beneficiary will contribute 10%
- For Investment component of the proposal with a budget above USD 10,000, FAO-FFF will contribute 80%, while the Beneficiary will contribute 20%
- The co-financing requirement only applies to investment component of the proposal, and not the cost of the entire proposal (and activities that do not involve purchase of equipment/machinery/tools etc)

The Applicant must demonstrate willingness, ability and commitment to match in cash the minimum contribution for investment component in the proposal

##### 4. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Interested Applicants/Organization must meet the following eligibility requirements

- Must be an active farmer-based organization duly registered by relevant Government of Tanzania agency/department as
  - Cooperative Societies (SACCOs, Cooperatives)
  - Self Help Group (CBO, Women/Youth Group)
  - Community Forest Associations, Conservancies and other conservation groups
  - Associations
  - NGOs
- Be located and operating within the targeted districts (Karatu, Kilosa, Monduli, Bukoba Rural, Njombe, Mbulu, Ludewa, Mlele, and Kaliua)
- Must be farmer/producer organizations dealing with farm and/or forestry value chains/products and actively engaged in agricultural/agribusiness and/or environmental conservation activities within their communities
- Clearly demonstrate positive impact of their past/current activities and the number of members who will benefit from the proposed project
- Demonstrate how the proposed project activities will achieve FFF Outcomes 2 & 3 and any other Outcomes
- Must have an active bank account registered in the name of the organization and be able to provide at least 3 months certified bank statement
- The organization must not be bankrupted or, be liquidated or have their affairs administered by the courts
- The organization must be willing and able to contribute in cash with a minimum of 10% to the investment component in the budget

##### 5. Project Duration

The proposed project should be implemented within a period of 12 months

##### 6. Deadline of Submission

Applicants should complete and submit their applications via the online platform by 30th April 2024, 5:00PM

##### 7. How to Apply

For the related to the application procedures, please visit the following application portal:  
[https://fao-grants.smapply.io/prog/Tanzania\\_call\\_for\\_applications/](https://fao-grants.smapply.io/prog/Tanzania_call_for_applications/)

# CAG sees limitations in health service delivery

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Annual General Report on Performance Audit for the Financial Year 2022/23 has discerned weaknesses in management of health services in the country, citing increased mental illnesses among others.

It says there was an increased number of patients who attended mental illness treatment at the Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital from 3,472 patients in 2019 to 5,060 patients in 2022, equivalent to 31 percent of the patients.

In his report, the Controller and Auditor General, Charles Kichere noted that Mental Health Profile of 2020 estimates that the burden of mental illness has contributed to the suicide mortality rate of 8.15 per 100,000 population.

He said similarly, the Annual Health Sector Performance Report of 2022 from the Ministry of Health estimates that the burden of mental illness has increased 386,358 patients to 2,102,726 patients from 2012 to 2021, respectively, which has increased by 82 percent.

The Audit found that the Mental Healthcare Services were not effectively integrated into primary healthcare in the visited regions.

The audit revealed that the five district hospitals visited had no mental health section that was to be equipped with one assistant medical officer, two psychiatric nurses, and one social welfare hospital.

Only two out of five visited district hospitals, Igawilo and Kivule District Hospitals, which had psychiatric nurses trained for the provision of mental healthcare services.

"Also, the audit noted that mental healthcare services were

well integrated at the national and super-specialized hospitals," said CAG.

However, out of the 3 visited Zonal Hospitals, only one had not integrated Mental Healthcare Services.

Benjamin Mkapa Zonal Referral Hospital had not integrated Mental Healthcare Services effectively due to the absence of mental health specialists and mental health infrastructures, such as wards, to provide mental healthcare services.

Partial integration of the mental healthcare services at Benjamin Mkapa Zonal Referral Hospital affected the patients who needed the intervention of two specialists, one being Mental Healthcare Services.

Further clarification was sought from the MoH on why Benjamin Mkapa Zonal Referral Hospital was not integrated with mental healthcare services. It was noted that the patients referred to Benjamin Mkapa Zonal Referral Hospital were transferred to Mirembe National Mental Hospital because the hospital is located nearby in the region.

This was noted to be contrary to the basic standard requirements of the establishment of health facilities for the service provision.

The audit revealed a lack of identification of mentally challenged individuals at the community level. Rather, identification was focused on drug abusers, elderly, disabled, vulnerable children, and those facing childhood pregnancy.

This has been attributed to inadequate funding for social welfare services and the absence of Social Welfare Officials at lower levels, including villages and streets.

There are only 2.8 percent of

required Social Welfare Officers at the ward level and none at the village level, thus causing insufficient identification of individuals with mental health challenges. This is hindering the ability of officers to identify individuals with mental health issues and highlighting a financial constraint.

Furthermore, despite the presence of mentally challenged people who were evidenced in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam streets but were not identified, and given Psychosocial Support Services and appropriate referrals.

The Audit noted no evidence in place for referrals of mentally challenged individuals from the point level to appropriate service points. This is contrary to Section 2.1.4 of the Psychosocial Care and Support Services guideline at the Point Level, which requires the provision of advice on referral cases that require more advanced psychosocial care and support or medical attention.

Additionally, no records or documents were maintained to monitor their progress.

This is attributed to insufficient collaboration and coordination between service providers due to a lack of reporting structure and implementation reports for referring patients to the next service level.

"This impedes the referral process and the shortage of trained professionals for mental health at lower levels" observed Kichere.

He said when service points such as health facilities, ward social welfare officers have limited information sharing, it can be challenging to ensure seamless referrals and track the progress of patients.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards executive director Athuman Ngenya explains to the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday the headway the agency has made in fulfilling its responsibilities since President Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed power in mid-March 2021. Photo: Carlos Banda

## 'TBS allocates 250m/- annually to help MSMEs to bolster businesses'

By Carlos Banda

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been allocating over 250m/- annually to support Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) improve their businesses for the last three years.

Dr Athuman Ngenya, TBS Executive Director, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a media briefing on the implementation of the bureau's role during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership.

According to Dr Ngenya, in the past three years, a total of 2,106 quality product licenses were issued to various producers in the country, which is equal to 105.3 percent of the set target to issue 2000 licenses.

"Among the licenses, 1,051 were given to small entrepreneurs. The products of the recipients of the 1,051 licenses are now verified and sold at ease without problems and have a chance of being sold outside Tanzania within all the member countries of the East African Community (EAC) and in Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) member states," he said.

Dr Ngenya said a total of 5,876

stakeholders from various regions were reached and trained to help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) gain the capacity to produce quality and safe products that meet the required standards to compete in the local, zonal, and international markets.

He said that in three years since the sixth phase of government came into power, the bureau was able to provide 18.1bn/- in government dividends.

"We are not far behind. We are aware that the government has undertaken many projects that demand a lot of funds, for instance; the Standard Gauge Railway, the oil pipeline, Mwalimu Nyerere dam which has enabled the supply of electricity; we have made sure to provide the government with dividends to ensure no project stalls," he said.

Dr Ngenya said in efforts to ensure the market has quality products the bureau performed Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC) and destination inspection for goods imported into the country.

"For the last three years, a total

of 100,851 consignments were inspected before entry into the country which is equal to 99 percent of the set target to inspect 102,083 consignments. Also, a total of 151,570 goods from abroad were inspected after arrival into the country which is equal to 77 percent of the set target to inspect 197,417 goods," he said.

Dr Ngenya stated that in efforts to broaden the bureau's reach and ensure the public has access to its services, TBS has started the construction of its state-of-the-art laboratories in the lake zone, central zone, and northern zone regions.

"The laboratory in the lake zone region is expected to serve six regions including Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Geita, Shinyanga, and Simiyu. The northern zone laboratory is expected to serve 4 regions namely: Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, and Manyara. The bureau is also implementing the construction of the headquarters and laboratory of the authority - Vivango House - Dodoma that will serve three central zones regions of Singida, Tabora, and Dodoma and other nearby regions," he said.





A heavy-duty truck lies by its side at the weekend after being involved in an accident and skidding off the road at an Iwambi Hill section of the Tanzania-Zambia highway near Mbalizi township in Mbeya Urban District. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Rotary Club provides IT training to Dar's primary school teachers

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam has supported an IT training programme for Kinondoni Municipal primary school teachers through the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and the Ministry of Education.

Sixty-five teachers from Kinondoni received a one-week special IT training aimed at enhancing education quality in the municipality.

Speaking during the closure of the training recently, Kinondoni Municipal Education Officer, Theresia Kyara, said the training is crucial to the teachers as it will enable them to properly utilize the IT equipment provided to the teachers by the government.

She said the Government recognizes the importance of IT education, especially to the teachers to aid them in teaching the pupils in schools.

DIT Principal Prof. Preksedis Ndomba said they are delighted to be part of the programme by providing the much-needed IT training to the teachers and thanked Rotary Club and the Ministry of Education for their trust.

He said the college is ready to work together with stakeholders in conducting such a program and urged the trained teachers not to hesitate to come back for further

training.

He further urged Rotary to continue supporting such training and extend them to more teachers across the country.

Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam President Nikki Aggarwal said the training programme marks a significant milestone in Rotary's ongoing commitment to education development.

With the focus on empowering educators with ICT training and modern teaching methodologies, the initiative aims to uplift the standard of education and promote the effective use of teaching aids such as computers and iPads.

"We are thrilled to partner with DIT in this endeavour, as their expertise and resources play a crucial part in ensuring the sustainability of this programme and we are happy to work with DIT and the Kinondoni Education Office. Their commitment and dedication to making a positive impact in the field of education is commendable," said Nikki.

Apart from the training, Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam is also providing over 3,000 desks to primary schools in Dar es Salaam as part of its programme named 'Gift of Education'.

Since the desk uses iron and wood, the club has also embarked on a tree-planting programme as a way of conserving the environment.

## 50bn/- paid as compensation to Msimbazi River Valley residents

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government has already paid 50bn/- to people whose houses continue to be demolished to allow the improvement project of modern infrastructures at the Msimbazi River Valley in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila

disclosed this yesterday in the city when speaking to journalists about the demolition.

According to Chalamila, in the on-going demolition all residents of the valley have already been paid compensation and many have moved to other locations.

He said that there is no one complaining about the compensation, noting that the government wants to start the project of putting modern

infrastructure including tourist attractions—hotels.

Chalamila asked all the citizens who were compensated to ensure that they go to buy and build in areas that are not in the valleys where they can be invaded by water and cause harassment to them.

"Use the money you were paid as compensation to build on good areas that are free from floods and we have told the district

commissioners to guide you so that you get plots that are free of conflicts and are not part of floods," he said.

The RC also warned other citizens who still live in the water-prone areas to live with great caution as heavy rains are still coming.

"The forecasting authorities have estimated that such rains can go on for three years, so it is possible that this year you will not suffer any harm, but next year you will suffer

harm so take precautions," he said.

He mentioned the damaged roads as Masaki, Mikochoeni, Mwenge, and Millennium Tower roads from Rose Garden village and assured people that they would be repaired as soon as the rains ended.

"There are roads that will start to be rebuilt and that will undergo small maintenance because they are not as damaged as Chole Road. Let me assure you that construction will start as soon as

the rains stop," he said The RC further said that from April 19th, the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA and the Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROAD) will visit the Ilala District in the Ukonga, Ilala and Segerea constituencies.

"We will look at the roads that can be built now when the rains continue to fall so that citizens can find ways to pass and prevent flooding in people's homes," said Chalamila.

## Mastercard, Onafriq team up to boost accessibility of financial services in Africa's payment ecosystem

JOHANNESBURG

MASTERCARD and Onafriq have collaborated to bring secure, cost-effective, and innovative payment options to consumers, as well as small and medium enterprises (SME) across the continent.

Africa's mobile money sector is one of the most established and fastest growing fintech industries in the world.

According to The State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money 2024 by the GSM Association, there are 835 million registered mobile money accounts in Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 48 percent of global users and registering a 19 percent increase year on year.

Building on Mastercard and Onafriq's shared commitment to boosting financial inclusion through an omnichannel approach, the collaboration will drive the growth of digital financial services, including mobile money transactions, cross-border remittances, and cross-border settlements.

Technological advancements are steering the digital financial services industry, and providing accessible digital payment solutions is imperative for empowering consumers to seamlessly transition to digital commerce. At Mastercard, we seek to leverage fintech

partnerships in Africa to catalyse transformative change across industries that benefit individuals, communities, and businesses. We look forward to collaborating with Onafriq to pave digital pathways and drive innovation across the continent's payment ecosystem," said Annah Ajmal, Executive Vice President, Market Development, and EEMEA at Mastercard.

This collaborative effort will enable Onafriq to support the full range of their consumer's digital commerce needs, interactions, and experiences by leveraging Mastercard's technology. This will contribute to a seamless transition

into the digital economy.

"Onafriq is focused on making borders matter less by supplying networks and digital payment solutions that give all Africans access to the financial services they need to scale their businesses or to transact. We are excited about our collaboration with Mastercard, as we share a strong alignment of vision and mission, interoperability, and markets. In addition, we both understand that financial inclusion is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic priority for economic development in Africa," said Dare Okoudjou, Founder & CEO of Onafriq.



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## TENDER ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COLLECTION CENTRES.

### Background

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been contracted to implement the Nutrition Component of the AGRI CONNECT programme under EU funded multi-sectoral programme "AGRI-CONNECT," through a project titled "Building Resilience of Agri- Food Systems and Better Nutrition in the Context of the Global Pandemic."

With the aim of accomplishing the project objectives, FAO has published the tender for the construction of collection centres in the Southern Highlands - Agro-Ecological zone (AEZ), Kiponzelo, (Iringa) Isongelo (Mbeya), Mdandu (Njombe) and Mbuyu Joda Pemba, Zanzibar. The tender has been advertised on the United Nations Global Market Place Website (UNGM).

Qualified contractors are invited to apply through the link <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice> tender reference number **2024/FRURT/FRURT/126673**.

The applications should be uploaded on UNGM not later than 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



# 60bn/- allotted for clearing payment of arrears to water projects' builders

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has extended 60bn/- for clearing payment arrears of contractors executing water supply projects in urban and rural areas.

Kundo Mathew, Deputy Minister for Water told the National Assembly yesterday that the ministry has also received 18bn/- for projects under the National Water Fund (NWF) making a total of 78bn/-.

Mathew was contributing to the Prime Minister's Office budget estimates tabled in the National Assembly two weeks ago as he declared that ongoing water projects both in urban and rural areas shall be accomplished as per scheduled time of implementation.

He said that the Kidunda Multi-Purpose Project that includes construction of a reservoir among other features has been accomplished by 20 percent.

"Once accomplished, the reservoir will have a capacity of producing 190 billion liters which will be supplied in Dar es Salaam and the Coast region," said Mathew.

According to him, the project also involves construction of a power generation plant for 20 megawatts.

It also involves production of a high voltage power transmission covering 101 kilometers from Kidunda to Chalinze power generation plant.

Special Seats MP Kunti Majala questioned the whereabouts of Farkwa dam to be constructed in Chemba district in Dodoma city to further benefit Chamwino, Bahi and Dodoma city residents.

In his response the deputy minister said that the

government had already secured \$125million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the implementation of the project.

"Regular increase in water demand due to rapid population growth has been attracting frequent changes in the project's construction model," said Mathew.

The ministry had on October 23, 2023 signed a one year contract with SU-YAPI Engineering Consulting Inc for conducting a feasibility study for the implementation of the Farkwa dam project with a production capacity of 440 million liters a year.

He said in Dodoma region there are 78 ongoing water supply projects valued at 54bn/- that will benefit 400,900 people upon completion.

However, the government has in the current financial year allocated 312bn/- for implementation of water projects in the capital region.



**Regular increase in water demand due to rapid population growth has been attracting frequent changes in the project's construction model**

## 'Create culture of unveiling hidden histories of heroines'

By Getrude Mbago

THE Women Fund Tanzania-Trust (WTF-T) has underscored the need for the country to create a culture of unveiling and honouring the hidden histories of women who contributed immensely in the country's liberation and development before and after independence.

The Fund sees that there are countless efforts conducted by women to shape the nation's fate, but many have been side-lined.

Rose Marandu, WTF-T executive director made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at a special occasion to honour the leadership of Mwami Theresa Ntare II, the first female national chief in Tanzania's history.

Organised by the WTF-T in collaboration with the chief Ntare's family and the National Museum, the event brought together stakeholders from various organisations both public and private to honour her legacy which has for many years been overlooked.

Marandu said that it is high time all the hidden histories of women who worked hard for the nation to be brought into the spotlight in order to serve as an ideal of inspiration for women across the nation.

Ntare was the chief of Waha from Heru and, in 1958, became the chairwoman of the Tanganyika chiefs. She died in 1999 same year as Mwl. Julius Kambarege Nyerere.

"We need to tell our generations how their mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers fought hard to make the Tanzania of today, through organising events to honour their legacies we will produce more patriotic leaders in the country," Marandu said.

She was echoed by Zitto Kabwe, the former ACT-Wazalendo national leader who said that Africans have

a challenge of documenting their history.

"We need to reverse the situation because without documenting our efforts, the coming generations will find nothing in history," he said.

He called for more concerted efforts from both the public and private sector to research and document the stories of exceptional work done by women in the country.

Costa Shinganya, a child of chief Ntare thanked the WTF-T and the government for remembering the legacies of past traditional leaders.

"We are so happy for this, it has given the family courage that our mother's efforts to liberate the country haven't been forgotten, these occasions are important as they heighten unity," he said.

Leader of Tanzania's chiefs, Antonia Sangali thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for respecting and promoting Tanzania's cultural values.

She said that President Samia has always been supporting traditional chiefs.



**We need to tell our generations how their mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers fought hard to make the Tanzania of today, through organising events to honour their legacies we will produce more patriotic leaders in the country**



Hilal Ally (gesturing), a local government leader for downtown Dar es Salaam's Ohio Street, pictured yesterday explaining how what he said was an illegal car park has effectively blocked the entrance to his residence and several other residences in the area. Second left is National Assembly Deputy Speaker and Ilala constituency (Dar es Salaam) legislator Mussa Hassan 'Zungu'. Ohio Street constitutes part of the constituency. Second right is Sharik Choughule, councillor for the city's Kivukoni ward. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TRA set to take legal action against chronic defaulters

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mwanza Region has declared that it will soon drag to court all chronic tax defaulters.

The authority stated there are some traders who have been evading to pay tax by not issuing the electronic fiscal device (EFD) receipts which is against the law.

Julius Mafuru, TRA assistant regional manager told this paper in an interview yesterday that the authority will not spare any trader who will be found not issuing the

electronic receipts.

Mafuru noted that the rate of use of EFDs among businesspersons in sales of items in the region was low and that the authority conducts operations in the area to ensure that machines are used accordingly.

"Chronic tax defaulters found in the operations will be taken to court for the law to take its course, we are doing this to ensure that all eligible traders pay tax accordingly in order to promote development of the nation," he pointed out.

Mafuru reminded people to build a tendency of demanding

receipts with the correct amount of money they pay at the time of buying items to stop untrustworthy businesspersons from evading government revenues that are used to incur costs of social services.

One of the TRA officers from the EFD unit here who asked for anonymity said there are some traders who do not issue EFD receipts completely and only issue them when they hear or see TRA officers passing.

Citing an example, the officer pointed out that some traders have been filling out false information

about sales in order to pay little tax.

"Sometimes a trader issues a receipt indicating an amount of 200,000/- while the actual money paid by the customer is 2m/- for that product or products," he said.

Speaking at an Eid el-Fitr national prayer in Dar es Salaam recently, President Samia Suluhu Hassan insisted businesspersons on the importance of paying tax. President Samia said that paying tax is a legal duty that is also recognized in holy books, noting that it is sad to see that there are businesspersons who do not issue receipts to evade tax.



Uhuru Torch Race 2024 leader Godfrey Mnzava (C) turns on a tap in Tanga city's Chongoleani ward at the weekend to launch a water project implemented by Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority. Left is the agency's projects engineer, Violeth Kazumba, and right (applauding) is Health minister and Tanga Urban constituency legislator Umyy Mwalimu. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Media Committee (ZAMECO) has urged the government to increase pace in the review and amendment of various laws governing the industry in order to intensify access to information and stimulate development.

Currently, the government is reviewing the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act, 1997.

Last week, the committee visited the Law Reforms Commission of Zanzibar office in order to conduct follow-up on what stage the review process had reached.

Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) - Zanzibar coordinator Shifaa Said stated that the committee submitted its views on the review of the laws and it has continued to

## ZAMECO urges govt to review media laws to bolster access to information

make follow on the development of the review process.

"We want to ensure that we get new laws which will promote development of the media industry while allowing practitioners to fulfil their duties freely," she said.

Salim Said, a veteran journalist, said that the media has always been cooperating with the government in order to bring development to the nation.

"We are not seeking hostility with the government, we are good partners and with good intentions for society and the country in general, considering the media is a

pillar of economic development,"

Salim said. Mussa Kombo Bakari, secretary of the Law Reforms Commission of Zanzibar assured that the government will work on all the recommendations submitted by the stakeholders.

"The commission received the recommendations and submitted them to the relevant authorities, we hope that the recommendations will be taken seriously and later have the draft of the law," Bakari explained.

Dr Mzuri Issa, director of the Tanzania Media Women's

Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar) insisted on the importance of increased cooperation between practitioners and the Law Reforms Commission in order to get the new laws for Zanzibar's development.

Media stakeholders have for over 20 years been campaigning for the improvement of various laws governing the industry which most of them are out-dated.

The legislations include the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books Act, 1988 and the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act, 1997.



# Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia await NFRA maize

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is finalising negotiations with the Zambian, Mozambique, and Namibian governments for the countries to purchase maize at the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA).

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe told the National Assembly yesterday during debate on the Prime Minister's Office budget estimates tabled two weeks ago that the country will soon see exports of dried corn to the mentioned countries.

"The NFRA will soon commence procurement of corn from farmers. I guarantee that all farmers' produce will be procured at profitable prices following the potential market in the three mentioned countries," said Bashe.

He called upon farmers who have started harvesting their corn not to rush for markets to which they are prone to low selling prices and bide their time for the NFRA opportunity.

According to him, the ministry has already agreed with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Tanzania to supply processed corn flour.

"Milling facilities under the Cereal and Other Produce Board of Tanzania-CPB has the capacity of processing corn flour amounting to 30,000 tons;

This is one of the key initiatives in ensuring that farmers also benefit from the domestic market," said Bashe.

He said that the ministry has already secured a permit from the Ministry of Finance for securing funds at the Tanzania Commercial Bank for purchasing corn through NFRA from domestic farmers.

On the other hand, he said that in the coming financial year, the ministry is expecting to expand the Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) programme to 100 district councils.

"The ministry will allocate funds for construction of infrastructure for irrigation farming. District councils should take this as an alert to start preparing areas to be given to youth for the programme implementation," said Bashe.

He said as of last week almost 118 youth have been provided with 917mn/- in soft loans to take part in the agriculture value chain through the programme.

"The ministry in the next financial year is expected to invest 10bn/- in the Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund (AGITF) for lending youth engaged in the BBT programme and those outside the programme to secure farm inputs," said Bashe.

On soil health testing, he said that almost 142 soil testing facilities have been supplied among the 184 district councils for the real time testing where farmers will be granted certificates of their free-tested farms.

"The country has achieved 50 percent of the required seed production demand. Almost 60,000 tons are currently produced annually. The plans are to achieve 100 percent of local seeds production by 2026," he said.



Manyara Region Special Seats legislator Regina Ndege pictured at Engusero health centre in Kiteto District at the weekend presenting foodstuffs, bed sheets and various other home use items for use by patients admitted there. Left is one of the beneficiaries. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# Govt issues national IDs to 112 immigrants in 7 months

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Home Affairs has between October last year and March this year issued 112 immigrants from neighbouring countries with national identification cards.

Daniel Sillo, Home Affairs Deputy minister told the National Assembly yesterday during the debate for the Prime Minister's Office 2024/25 budget estimates that the immigrants have

been granted the part of citizenship documents from 802 applicants who submitted their applications for the cards at the Biharamulo District Immigration Office during the said period.

He said the issuance of national identity cards to people residing in regions that border countries of the East African regions and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is in line with the observance of mutual diplomatic relations and the

global citizenship agenda.

According to him, apart from challenges related to dwellers and illegal immigrants national IDs are also issued to refugees and asylum seekers residing in the country with special permits.

"The government would like to assure all applicants who meet the stipulated legal criteria will be granted the national IDs as born Tanzanians," said Sillo.

He said that after the 2022 Human Population and Housing Census, the

ministry had learned that there is a good number of youth who have turned 18 years old and need to be issued national IDs.

Sillo asserted that since 2012 as of March this year 24.39 million youth have been recognized and issued the IDs.

"In the 2024/25 financial year the ministry expects to recognize and register 2 million citizens including youths who will be issued the national IDs," he said.



**The ministry will allocate funds for construction of infrastructure for irrigation farming. District councils should take this as an alert to start preparing areas to be given to youth for the programme implementation**

# Rwanda joins other African countries in recalling J&J cough syrup for the young

KIGALI

RWANDA'S drug regulator has recalled a batch of Johnson & Johnson children's cough syrup after concerns over its safety.

This move follows Nigeria's discovery of high toxicity levels in laboratory tests. The syrup, used for treating coughs and allergies in children, has also been recalled in Kenya and South Africa, with an additional batch recalled in South Africa.

The recalled batch was manufactured by J&J in South Africa in May 2021, but it's now under the ownership of Kenvue after a spin-off from J&J last year.

Rwanda's Food and Drugs Authority emphasized that while no adverse events have been reported, the recall is a precautionary measure.

Laboratory tests conducted by Nigeria's health regulator revealed high levels of diethylene glycol, a substance linked to child deaths in other countries since 2022. Kenvue stated that it is conducting its own assessment and collaborating with health authorities to determine the next steps.



Ezra Manjerenga (R, gesturing), a natural resources and environmental conservation officer with Shinyanga municipality, pictured at the weekend taking Kolandoto College of Health Sciences staff and students through recommended tree planting methods. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Reporter

CCM ideology, publicity and training secretary, Amos Makalla has said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has implemented all the projects left by the late John Magufuli as she promised.

Makalla made the remarks yesterday at an internal meeting involving the party leaders and members in Rukwa Region. The meeting held at Nazareth hall in Sumbawanga town.

He said that in her first speech, President Samia promised to take all the

# Makalla: Dr Samia completing projects left by her predecessor

projects initiated by the late Magufuli as well as establishing new ones to propel social and economic development.

"Apart from implementing the projects, President Samia has also established a number of projects in the sectors of health, education, water and

infrastructure," he said.

He added: "You can see yourself how Rukwa is experiencing rapid changes, there are a number of government phases which have passed but Rukwa remained back in terms of development, but due to robust leadership and efforts

of President Samia, there are a lot of development changes here in Rukwa."

Makalla said that in order to further heighten transport services and stimulate trade, the sixth phase government commenced construction of the Sumbawanga Airport in the region.



## Failing in eased fertiliser use even with subsidy makes vicious circle

WHEN fertiliser regulators and distributors appeal to smallholder farmers in this or that region to focus on modern agriculture by using fertiliser to increase crop production and farm productivity, that altogether looks like taking rice to familiar ground.

It is as if the one making that formulation is unclear as to the problems the people he or she is addressing face and thus reiterates what is basic: the use of fertiliser for enhanced productivity.

It thus needs one to pay attention, or read between the lines, to find out what the issues were and what is required.

The circumstances from which this appeal was issued were of sufficient concern to the fertiliser regulatory agency to send its board chairman to hear the grievances, for he would scarcely be tasked with listening to misgivings.

Reports said he made a visit to Kagera Region to hear and resolve concerns by farmers and agents for the distribution of subsidized fertiliser.

More to the point, the regulatory agency CEO appealed to farmers to invest more in testing soil health so that they could use fertiliser consonant with the needs of the particular soil types.

While this advice looks like a positive gesture to the community when produced in a newspaper, those nearer the ground realise what problems or challenges both the farmers and the regulators or distributors are facing.

When the top regulator says farmers should invest in testing soil health, is that expected of individual farmers or of the ministry - to provide advice at the district level what sort of soils there are and fertilisers to use in relation to crops, their maturity

periods, etc.

So the two top regulatory officials were at the place to discuss the sort of problems farmers commonly face in using fertiliser, but the ministry was missing.

This kind of advice ought to have been delivered to the Agriculture ministry or the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

The regulators may also have been very clear about the audience, as their remarks were far too formal to be of much use to smallholder farmers.

If they were in Arusha, the heartland of commercial farmers, they would be in good company, explaining a few things about fertiliser logistics, eligibility for farmers of this or that product, credit conditions, etc.

Commercial farmers would scarcely need to be reminded that the regulators' main intention was to step up farmers' economic capacity by increasing production after using fertiliser, etc.

When fertiliser is subsidized and top executives have to go around the country explaining to the people the importance of using fertiliser and the conditions for its proper use, what this means is that the fertiliser is not being directed to the right people. But it is not fertiliser that is at issue. Rather, it is whether farming is being done by the right people as, on the look of it, they would ask that it be given free so that they could benefit by using it.

Discussing the pros and cons of that situation would hardly come to much - as it is clear that quite a few farmers could be restless with fertiliser.

So that would hardly solve their problems, in which case the government might wish to think of free fertiliser as a more friendly and rewarding model of helping the wide class of farmers so that they can harvest more and lead better lives.

## Wildlife funds audit should get straight to the root of the matter

THE Natural Resources and Tourism minister has expressed readiness by the government to launch a special audit into the 9.6 billion/- the government has issued in the past three years for use by wildlife management authorities (WMAs).

She however indicated that the ministry's conservation department, for which the funds were meant, had fallen short of expectations in ensuring value for money in terms of focusing on rural development needs.

Data provided at the minister's meeting with game rangers and senior wildlife officials showed that leave had been granted for 22 WMAs to access those resources.

It is possible that the money has been used up, compelling the minister to push for the audit as so many presumed beneficiaries were left out in the cold. Whether or not such audit will be conducted and the questions resolved is a different issue, though.

The reason for looking askance at the prospects is that this is an all too familiar scenario - even if the relevant departments are given different titles or at times reorganised, as in the creation of WMAs as managerial units for wildlife conservation.

The record from the specific funds is negative, as the funds may apparently have been deposited with the overall wildlife management body for use by WMAs in villages.

That design was bad and it is almost predictable the funds would not arrive, with members of the wildlife department staff believing that it should focus there.

The story is told that, owing to ever-changing cabinet compositions, some officials may be easily brushed aside as those who were there are no longer around, while those who remember will most likely remain quiet.

That way, those designing projects

may be inclined to repeat past mistakes and only upon project failure would they start realising that there was a problem in the first place.

Going by the way the good minister put it, it is clear that this outcome wasn't expected at the ministry. However, on another glance, it is entirely predictable considering what occurred in the ministry some 20 years ago.

Cases in point touch on elements of misusing or diverting donor funds intended for the implementation of real development projects in the area, including those which would help curb poaching or conserve the ecosystem.

Norway funded such a programme in the 2004 to 2006 period and sometime in 2006 conducted an audit. It was astonished on seeing that the cash had chiefly been spent on staff allowances, motivation or incentives, etc.

The donor country would soon wind up its involvement in the wildlife sector, which helped invigorate the decade-long wave of 'industrial scale' poaching as staff made ends meet on the job by other means.

This explains the presence of mind games involved in the supposed misuses of funds even if the intention was actually to serve rural communities in conservation areas.

There is a plethora of outlets which could have possibly administered such projects as currently obtains with the southern highlands tourism uplift project REGROW.

This or that specialised agency, rural financial institutions or bank could have worked instead of having the money handed to those who merely covet it. When the government moves to do that, the hidden interpretation among that cadre of stakeholders is that they ought to show concern to villagers, and hence the 22 groups earmarked for support.

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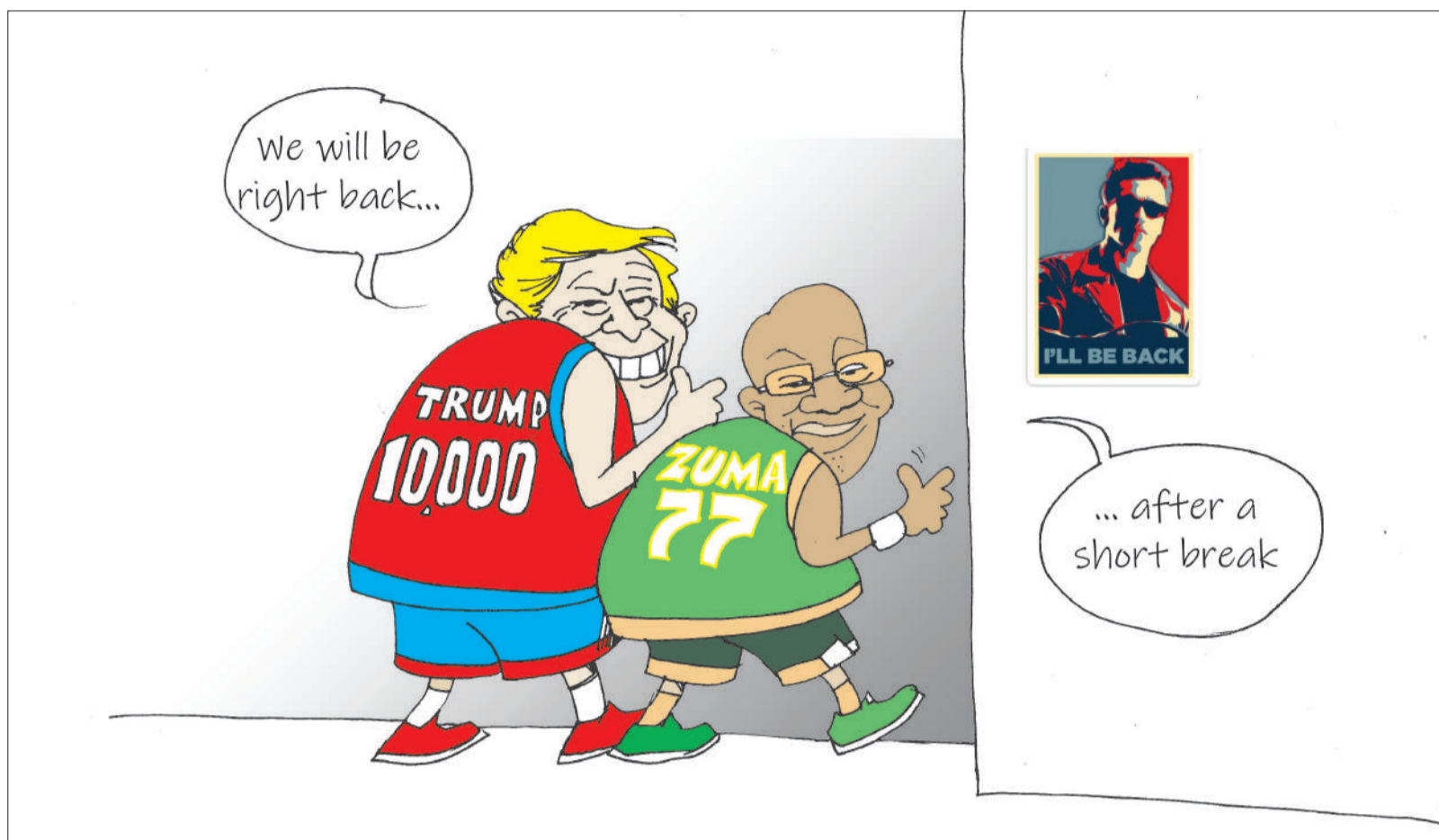
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# Food security and food safety in Africa must go hand in hand

By Monica Musonda

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has restricted international exports and sent food costs soaring - particularly for vulnerable populations still experiencing shocks from the pandemic and who can least afford to pay more to feed their families. Two years on, global food supply chains are still just as susceptible to serious disruptions caused by war, disease, and climate change. Those inevitable disruptions are leaving those on the African continent particularly vulnerable.

Ensuring people have access to safe and nutritious food at an affordable price helps prevent malnutrition, boosts human capital, and improves health outcomes by decreasing susceptibility to a wide range of diseases. But none of this is possible if the local food supply is not safe for people to eat. Food security and food safety must go hand in hand, yet across Africa this remains a challenge. The continent has some of the highest rates of foodborne illness in the world. Globally, nearly half a million people die each year because of something they ate. Food scares are not only harmful for anyone who eats contaminated food, but also erodes trust of consumers in the products they buy for their families. To ensure a secure food supply, locally produced food must not only be readily available but also be safe for consumers to eat, meeting the same high-quality standards seen in imports. But small and medium-sized companies in Africa struggle to meet international food safety standards, which often go above what is required on a national level. The process can be complicated, expensive, and time consuming, yet I believe it is vital for African food companies to seek these certifications to build consumer confidence and strengthen continental food security. I started Java Foods, a food company based in Lusaka, Zambia, out of the recognition that Africa imports large quantities of food, despite the fact that the continent is able to grow a diversity of crops. Our company focuses on using locally grown raw materials in our products, which were designed specifically for the changing tastes of the youthful Zambian population. One of our most successful products are



packaged instant noodles, under the brand name eeZee, which are made with locally grown wheat fortified with 17 micronutrients, including iron and zinc. Although we produce processed foods, we want to ensure the highest nutritional value possible for our consumers who seek accessible and affordable food options. Maintaining high-quality food safety standards is the right thing to do for the consumer, and it has been the right thing to do for Java Foods - even if it has required significant investments in our facility and in our people. Food safety certification has to be paid for. The different sets of standards are run by private companies, which require food producers to buy the certification they want to implement and renew the certification every couple of years. Audits to ensure compliance are also costly. With technical assistance from Partners in Food Solutions, a nonprofit which links African food producers with corporate volunteers from U.S.-based food companies, Java Foods was able to receive support in redesigning our plant to ensure we'll be compliant with international food safety standards. Our employees benefited from skills transfer using online conferencing tools that dramatically increased their professional skills

and contributions to our team. In addition to making changes to our factory floor plan, we also began a meticulous documentation process to create the records necessary to demonstrate that we were following the same standards to a T on every single batch of instant noodles. Our staff are central to getting this right, so Java Foods has created a culture where our employees understand why we take these extra steps, and take pride in ensuring our compliance. It is possible for other companies to follow in Java's footsteps. There are several ways we can improve the food safety certification system to mutually benefit consumers, food processors, and regulating authorities. In addition to better awareness of the existence of food safety standards and why companies should seek such certification to benefit their consumers, there needs to be more coordination on a regional and global level. Java Foods exports our products to neighboring countries, but each can require different steps to comply with their local regulations. Exporting our noodles to Zimbabwe, for example, requires us to complete an extra step not required elsewhere. This means we shoulder extra expenses to expand our market, which cannot be passed along to the consumer because we

make a low-cost product. Differing food safety standards become a trade barrier not only restricting the growth of businesses in Africa, but restricting food security as strengthening regional supply chains remains hampered by cumbersome regulations. Local governments need more support to strengthen their food safety quality control capacity. This includes the facilities they provide for testing for food contaminants such as aflatoxins, from a mold that can develop on some crops when they aren't stored properly. We also need better information sharing and data availability. Having information readily available online when our staff encounter an issue would save time and resources. Although it was laborious, Java Foods has immensely benefited from the decision to seek international food safety certification. The standards allow us to expand the market for our products, and we must ensure other companies can easily join us to strengthen Africa's food security. Monica Musonda is the CEO of Java Foods, a food manufacturing company in Lusaka, Zambia. She serves on the board of Partners in Food Solutions, a nonprofit organization that provides pro bono consulting services to African food processors.



## Awareness and acceptance both crucial in reducing stigma against autistic children

By Correspondent James Kandoya

**W**ORLD Health Organization (WHO) data shows that at least one in 100 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a complex neurodevelopmental condition that affects social interaction, communication, behaviour and sensory processing.

Dr Stella Rwezaura, President of the National Association for People with Autism (NAPA Tanzania) says although there are no specific data of children with ASD, the number of those diagnosed with the problem is on the rise.

Dr Rwezaura, a mother of three told The Guardian that her first child is autistic, calling for increased awareness to the community on how to live and take care of children with neuron challenges.

"Taking care of an autistic child is a challenge as it requires one to devote most of her time. Families with low income are mostly affected because they can hardly provide autistic children with all the necessary needs including education," narrates Dr Rwezaura, adding that she has hired three house helpers, among them; one is specifically responsible for taking care of the child with ASD.

Dr Rwezaura, who is also the haematologist at Muhimbili National (MNH), says autistic children need close supervision from someone else as well as being assisted to and from school.

"You need to be good financially to properly manage children with ASD especially taking them to school. Limited knowledge on the problem as well as low awareness within the society contributes to increased ASD cases in both rural and urban areas," she says.

She was concerned that some parents hide their children at home for several reasons including superstitious beliefs. She calls upon parents not to hide their children instead take them to hospital for diagnosis to be sure whether they are autistic or not.

Dr Rwezaura suggests for the government to increase the number of special schools for autistic children, saying there are only eight public and ten private schools countrywide. She also appealed to the government to invest more in training of experts who can teach students with autism through speech and behaviour therapy.

"Public awareness is needed about ASD, a silent epidemic. When people are educated, children with the mental challenge will be diagnosed early as parents will take them to hospital as soon as they notice its characteristics," says former lecturer at the Muhimbili



University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Prof Karim Manji.

In his presentation dubbed 'Gaps in knowledge, prevalence and care of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Tanzania', Prof Manji said ASD, a disease that affects children at an early stage of their development, is on the rise in Tanzania.

"This serious developmental disorder has a social, educational, psychological and economic impact on the family. There are few schools and hospitals that attends to children with the disease," he said, adding the disease, which is a spectrum, neurological and developmental disorder in early childhood lasting through a person's life, can be controlled if detected early through behavioural therapy.

Like many countries in Africa, he said there is scarcity of data and little translated and validated tools and lack of ex-

pertise to diagnose the disease in its early stage in the country.

"There is also a problem in the quality of mainstream education in public schools about autism," said Prof Manji, noting that ASD, a disorder with onset in childhood, was being increasingly recognised worldwide as experts continued to work on establishing its exact cause.

He adds: "The genetics laboratory at MUHAS needs to be fully utilised for diagnosis of children with the condition by ensuring organ samples of children with the disease are analysed and diagnosed. There is a serious deficiency in the awareness about the problem in the country, a situation that hinders efforts to diagnose and reach many children."

He said with public awareness, more people could be reached and diagnosed to enable them to embark on behaviour therapy. He advised that the move should go con-

currently with the training of human resources for mental health and teachers to cater for autism sufferers.

"We are far from providing the required behaviour therapy and the psychosocial support needed by the children and their families including building the capacity of caretakers in available schools," he added, noting that an increased public awareness programme will bring the issue of autism to the fore and solicit support for these children.

Although it is difficult to find specific data on the number of children affected by autism in Africa, the number of those diagnosed was rising higher than it has ever been before.

He said this was revealed by psychologists and psychiatry experts at Muhimbili National Hospital who remarked that they used to see many children with symptoms of autism but they were not fully engaged in their follow-ups or in their therapy at any appreciable level.

In addition, the exact number of children with ASD was not clear and schools catering for all types of mental or developmental disabilities to improve ASD presentation proved to be elusive.

Citing his clinic as an example, Prof Manji said he used to attend to 120 children living with autism per year, adding that there were however many missed children for different reasons.

Although there are several schools to cater for children with special needs such as autism, most of them are either faith-based or privately sponsored.

He said: "There is a need to increase awareness about autism among the general public, primary health care workers and educators."

The World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every April 2. Throughout the month, people focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism and fostering worldwide support.

The celebrations are aimed at creating a world in which autistic individuals are fully supported, championed and cel-

## The future of plant-based beverages: Trends, opportunities and innovations

By Special Correspondent

**I**N recent years, the world has witnessed a remarkable shift towards plant-based diets driven by health, environmental, and ethical concerns.

This seismic change has not only impacted food choices but has also revolutionized the beverage industry. Plant-based beverages, once niche products, have now become mainstream, with an ever-expanding array of options available to consumers. In this blog post, we delve into the future of plant-based beverages, exploring emerging trends, exciting opportunities, and ground breaking innovations shaping the industry.

The plant-based beverage market has witnessed exponential growth in recent years, driven by increasing consumer awareness of health and environmental concerns. Plant-based beverages encompass a wide range of products, including almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk, oat milk, rice milk, and various nut and grain-based alternatives. This burgeoning market is propelled by several key factors, according to Persistence Market Research. Growing consumer proclivity for health, ethics, and sustainability is inducing a massive shift toward plant-based beverages. A multifarious benefit associated with plant-based diets is encouraging consumers to resort to plant-based alternatives, including plant-based beverages. These broader factors are favourably influencing the plant-based beverages market.

### Diversification of Ingredients

Traditionally dominated by soy and almond milk, the plant-based beverage market is experiencing a surge in diversification of ingredients. Consumers are increasingly seeking alternatives that cater to their dietary preferences and nutritional needs. From oat and rice to hemp and pea, the options are endless. This diversification not only offers variety but also provides opportunities for manufacturers to tap into new consumer segments and address allergen concerns.

### Functional and Fortified Beverages

As consumers become more health-conscious, there is a growing demand for plant-based beverages that offer functional benefits beyond basic nutrition. From fortified with vitamins and minerals to enhanced with probiotics and antioxidants, manufacturers are incorporating innovative ingredients to create beverages that promote health and wellness. Whether it's boosting immunity, improving gut health, or enhancing cognitive function, functional plant-based beverages are poised to be a significant trend in the coming years.

### Sustainable Packaging and Production

With sustainability at the forefront of consumer consciousness, the plant-based beverage industry is embracing eco-friendly practices throughout the production process. From sourcing ingredients ethically to adopting renewable energy sources and implementing recyclable packaging solutions, companies are striving to minimize their environmental foot-

print. Additionally, innovations such as plant-based packaging materials and biodegradable alternatives are gaining traction, further contributing to the industry's sustainability efforts.

### Opportunities for Growth

The burgeoning plant-based beverage market presents numerous opportunities for growth and innovation. With the global shift towards plant-based

diets showing no signs of slowing down, there is immense potential for expansion into new markets and product categories. Furthermore, collaborations between food tech start-ups, research institutions, and established players can drive innovation and accelerate the development of novel plant-based beverages that meet evolving consumer preferences.

### Innovations Shaping the Industry

Advancements in food science and technology are

paving the way for ground breaking innovations in the plant-based beverage industry. From novel extraction methods to alternative protein sources, researchers and manufacturers are constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Cultivated meat and dairy alternatives, for instance, hold promise for creating sustainable and cruelty-free alternatives to traditional animal-derived ingredients, revolutionizing the plant-based beverage landscape.





# Cuba's small businesses short on skilled employees

By Natalia Lopez Moya

REGULAR customers of a privately owned bakery on San Lázaro Street in Central Habana were surprised this week to see the owner of the business both kneading dough and working the counter. “The cook left the country, so this is now a one-woman show,” explains the entrepreneur, one of many who have been hit by the exodus affecting Cuba’s private-sector economy.

“This is the third cook I’ve lost since I opened,” says the woman, who owns a shop specializing in breads, desserts and cookies. “He was making money here but, of course, it doesn’t compare... He had signed up for the US humanitarian parole program last year and they just told him that it had been granted. From the time he found out until the time he left was less than a week. I didn’t have time to look for someone else.”

The employee’s departure has had a very negative impact on the bakery’s profits. “I can no longer take orders for weddings or parties because I can’t keep up. Also, I have had to limit the types of bread that I sell. I’ve lost thousands of pesos in a few days compared to the sales I had in previous months.”

To avoid unwelcome surprises after training an employee in the ins-and-outs of their operations, many small and medium-sized business owners prefer to rely on their own family members. “Here we have my wife, my two daughters and me,” says Luis Mario, owner of a shop specializing in birthday buffets in Havana’s Cerro district. “I feel more secure because nothing happens from one day to the next without me finding out about it.”

Last year, we hired a courier. If he made ten deliveries a day, it was a lot. One day, I come into work only to find out that he had left for Nicaragua en route north” he says. “I had to make the rest of the home deliveries that week, and I then decided that I wasn’t going to hire anyone else who could leave me in the lurch overnight.”

He notes, however, that his two daughters are awaiting approval of their “humanitarian parole” application from the United States, but that he will find out “well be-



Deciding not to rely on a hired employee puts limitations on private business

fore they get on the plane.” If the two young women do manage to emigrate with their respective husbands and children, he and his wife will join them later. “When that time comes, I will liquidate everything and close up shop. But initially, when my daughters are no longer here, I will have to limit the number of orders I can accept.”

The strongest impacts of this massive flight occur when the émigré fulfills a specialized role: technicians

in assembly or repair of equipment, chefs, nurses, pastry chefs, designers and other positions that require training and experience.

“The pastry chef and the economy left me, so right now my business is closed,” laments Yusimi, owner of a cafeteria in Nuevo Vedado, municipality of the Plaza de la Revolución.

“The pastry chef was very good and young, the truth

is that it seemed like a miracle that he was still in Cuba and now the miracle is over.” The employee who was in charge of accounting and invoices was a friend of the owner of the establishment since they were teenagers. “I can’t even be annoyed with either of them because I completely understand that they want to prosper out there and achieve their dreams, but I recognize that this has sunk me. I don’t know if I will be able to reopen.”

Among the questions that have been repeated most frequently in job interviews for months is, inevitably, the one that inquires about emigration: “Do you plan to leave the country soon?” Maria Eugenia, 57, was asked when she went to a home in El Vedado for an advertisement to care for a bedridden elderly woman. “I don’t like to lie, so I told them that my son had started the family reunification process for me to go to the United States,” she explains.

“And then the interview was over,” she concludes. “They were kind, but they told me that they couldn’t hire me because the lady was going to get used to me, she was going to get attached to me and, in the end, I was going to stay a short time.”

But Maria Eugenia believes that this requirement is excessive: “Who right now in Cuba, at the age of being able to work, does not have some plan to leave here?” and she herself answers: “It could be a crazy plan, but you have one.”

“The best team is the one that is made up of only one,” says Fernando, a technician in installation and repair of air conditioning and refrigerators. “I worked for a couple of years with my son but now he is living in Las Vegas, I haven’t wanted to hire any other assistant because this is almost like a marriage, you have to adjust to the other person, synchronize yourself. If they leave you later, you’re lost.” Deciding not to have an employee brings limitations.

Fernando concludes: “There are jobs that I cannot accept, or I have to ask the client who hires me for help, but I prefer to go through that and not spend a day taking the tools on my motorcycle, a previous commitment to install air conditioning and an assistant who doesn’t arrive because he’s at the airport waiting to get on a plane.”

## INNOVATION

### Social innovators are unlocking value in marginalised communities

By Victoria Masterson

BUILDING a more inclusive economy and unlocking value in marginalized communities can go hand in hand, a new report suggests.

Published by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in partnership with the World Economic Forum, the report shows how social innovators are “integrating racial equity into business practices and ... unlocking additional economic growth worldwide”.

The study, *Innovating for Equity: Unlocking Value for Communities and Businesses*, highlights how businesses can partner with social value innovators to both help tackle exclusion and create economic benefit in three key ways.

These are by reaching new markets in diverse communities; by accessing talent pools that were previously untapped; and by broadening supplier networks to include sellers who may have been historically excluded or marginalized.

Without this approach, a “prosperity cap” is put on the global economy - in the United States alone, the widening racial wealth gap is predicted to cost the country up to \$1.5 trillion in economic growth by 2028, the report states.

Here are six social innovators leading the way.

Hello Tractor

In Nigeria, Hello Tractor is an app that helps smallholder farmers rent and own tractors.

Set up by Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Jehiel Oliver, the app also helps tractor owners rent out

their machinery.

Affordability is a big barrier to owning a tractor for the 60 million smallholder farms in sub-Saharan Africa. The cost of a used tractor in Nigeria can be more than three times a farmer’s annual income.

By helping farmers, the wider social value this innovation delivers includes boosting agricultural productivity. More crops mean more food, less hunger, better health and an improved economy for the local community. Hello Tractor is also encouraging entrepreneurship by helping farmers to own and hire out their own tractors.

Bloc Power

In the United States, New York-based BlocPower is helping low-income Black and Hispanic residents bring low carbon heating systems into their buildings.

The company uses software to analyze a building’s potential for energy-efficient electric systems like heat pumps and removes the need for upfront payments by leasing the equipment over 10 to 20 years.

Energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions have been “significantly” reduced in the buildings upgraded so far, the report notes.

Led by CEO Donnel Baird, BlocPower is also delivering social value through a green jobs programme called Civilian Climate Corps that is delivering green construction training to thousands of Black and Hispanic people.

R3 Score

R3 Score is a social enterprise with a software tool that helps widen access to jobs and mainstream banking products for people with a criminal record.

The software more accurately assesses the risks associated with a candidate’s criminal history compared to traditional background checks. This in turn helps employers better assess the skills and capabilities of candidates “beyond their criminal records”, the report explains. The business was started by Co-founders Teresa Hodge and her daughter Laurin Leonard.

More than 30% of Americans have criminal records and these are disproportionately Black and Hispanic people. R3 Score is creating social value by boosting employment results for both businesses and job-seekers. A third of candidates whose records were screened with the software secured jobs they otherwise wouldn’t have been eligible for. These were mostly Black and Hispanic applicants.

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Smokeless Jiko lighting way to greener future for Kenya

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

PHILIP Kolil picked some wood chips from a gunny bag and put them into a cookstove, or Jiko in Swahili, arranging them neatly before getting a match stick and lighting fire.

Soon, the wood pieces burned steadily, and as the fire spread, the intensity of the heat from the cookstove increased.

Surprisingly, the cookstove did not emit any smoke, as one would expect with any wood-fueled Jiko.

"This is a smokeless cookstove, and it is very suitable for indoor cooking," Kolil, who came up with the Jiko, said in a recent interview.

The innovator explained that the Jiko not only uses woodchips but also steam generated by water stored in one of its compartments.

"Once I light the woodchips, the heat generated heats the water, which produces the steam that absorbs smoke from the chips, keeping the cookstove smokeless," said Kolil, who is based at Moi University in Uasin Gishu County in Kenya's Rift Valley, adding that the steam also helps with cooking food.

The smokeless Jiko, which is steadily gaining popularity in households in Kenya, as well as institutions like hospitals and schools, is one of the solutions to the widespread indoor household pollution problem in the East African nation caused by overreliance on biomass as a primary source of fuel.

Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum said in a 2021 study on household energy and indoor air quality that the overreliance on biomass fuel, especially in rural areas where more than 70 percent

of households use firewood, has not only led to a rise in respiratory diseases due to poor household air quality but also increased deforestation.

The ministry says more often than not, it is women and young children "who get exposed to the high levels of indoor air pollution leading to health complications and premature deaths from lung cancer and child pneumonia."

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) estimates that 23,000 Kenyans die yearly due to household air pollution arising from the use of fuels like firewood and crop waste in poorly ventilated houses.

David Chirchir, Kenya's cabinet secretary for Energy and Petroleum, noted that the country targets "universal access to clean cooking by 2028 in line with the existing global and local commitments contained in Sustainable Development Goal No. 7, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) and Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions."

Kenya has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement.

The use of smokeless cookstoves, therefore, comes in handy as a solution to multiple challenges in the health and environment sectors and fuels the country's climate change goals, according to Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.

This is because the Jikos use very little firewood or improved fuels like briquettes, emitting less smoke and therefore offering a safer way of cooking.

"My Jikos need a few woodchips as well as 1.8 liters of water to cook



Locals go about their businesses in a polluted street of Pipeline estate in Nairobi.

for up to three hours," Kolil said of the cookstove that he came up with in 2017, and has been patented by the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, which patents intellectual properties.

While he produces on-demand small Jikos that he sells to households for 3,000 shillings apiece and partners with institutions to make the bigger ones for them, Kolil said he is hoping to get an institutional manufacturer who would help him mass produce the cookstoves, as he also creates awareness about it at clean energy and climate forums.

The smokeless Jiko, according to Kolil, is his contribution to a carbon-free Kenya and part of the climate change mitigation efforts. An aerial drone photo taken on April 3, 2024 shows the city view of Nairobi, Kenya.

Abigail Kimei, who is among the about 500 users of Kolil's Jiko in Kenya, said it has saved her a great deal not only in terms of costs but also from respiratory diseases.

"When I used to use the ordinary Jiko, I was cough-

ing a lot because of the smoke from firewood. But what I use now is smokeless," said the 37-year-old mother of four, who lives in Kapsaret, Uasin Gishu County.

She uses the improved cookstove to cook all her meals, including ugali, a type of corn meal, tea and rice.

Steven Ochieng, a mechanical engineer from the University of Eldoret, said in general, environmentally friendly cookstoves are designed to cook faster and use fewer resources.

Ochieng, whose university has also made a smokeless cookstove, which is different from Kolil's, as it uses briquettes made from crop waste like bagasse and bean pods, said the energy-efficient Jiko is what the country needs to conserve the environment and prevent diseases and deaths caused by smoke.

"In our case, we compress the crop waste to make briquettes that are used in the Jiko. A kilo-and-a-half of the briquettes cook for the entire day," he explained.

After the briquettes burn, they produce biochar

which Ochieng said is good for farm use as organic fertiliser as well as an anti-pest repellent. He explained that to use the biochar on the farm, one collects it from the Jiko and places it around the stems of different plants.

Ochieng said it is good for use in kitchen gardens hosting vegetables, tomatoes and even fruit trees.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which assesses the science related to climate change, estimates the use of improved Jiko has the potential to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by between 0.6 and 2.4 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent per year.

# Women affected by 'gender-biased' climate change deserve justice

BULAWAYO

WHILE research into the unequal impacts of climate change on women is growing, more is needed to enable them to realize their rights to climate justice.

Researchers argue that women and girls have unequal access to food, water, health, education, and even income, thanks to climate change. This makes them more vulnerable.

Pedi Obani, an Associate Professor at the University of Bradford, explains that women and girls experience the negative impacts of climate change differently than men.

"Climate change affects women more and very often adversely," Obani told IPS. "If climate change is leading to droughts or water scarcity, it automatically means less water for a woman to drink and hygiene, and for those who have caring responsibilities, it means less water overall. The burden becomes even greater for the women, who often also have to find the water, often traveling long distances to get it."

A new report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has found that climate change has a disproportionate impact on the incomes of rural women, people living in poverty, and older populations. The report analyzed data from over 100,000 rural households across 24 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It found that women's capacity to respond and adapt to extreme weather events is unequal to that of men. The Unjust Climate report highlights that in LMICs, female heads of households in rural areas suffer significantly greater financial losses annually than men. For instance, heat stress results in households run by women losing 8 percent more of their income each year compared to households run by men. The economic losses translate to a per capita reduction of USD 83 due to heat stress and USD 35 due to floods, totalling USD 37 billion and USD 16 billion, respectively, across all LMICs.

According to the report, if the average temperatures were to increase by just 1°C, women would face a stagger-



More research is needed into the negative impacts of climate change on women for them to access climate justice

ing 34 percent greater loss in their total incomes than men. Unless climate change is addressed, it will widen the income gaps in years to come.

A study by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) found that climate change impacts in India's Maharashtra state have reduced rainfall and caused re-

curing droughts affecting women and girls. As a result, women have been forced to migrate to look for jobs in sugarcane fields. The women migrants have often been obliged to get hysterectomies so that they can work without taking breaks during menstruation or giving birth.

Women often have less access to

resources such as land, credit, and education, which are essential for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, says Buhle Francis, a researcher and activist with the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) at Rhodes University in South Africa.

Francis says, for instance, that in

some regions, women are responsible for collecting water and firewood, which become scarce due to climate change, and their burden increases as they have to walk long distances to access these resources.

"Women have increased workloads, and climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities by increasing the unpaid work that women do. For instance, after extreme weather events, women bear the primary responsibility for caring for children, the elderly, and the sick," Francis told IPS, adding that women should be included in the decision-making process on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Legal Aid for Climate Justice

Obani explained that while there was a focus on empowering women through representation and on women's sexual, reproductive, and land rights, for instance, there was little research on these rights and climate change. As a result, women were excluded from justice processes.

Climate lawsuits are an important way for women to access justice, particularly in Africa, as a growing body of research shows climate change affects them more than men in terms of health, farming, migration, and conflict. Obani noted that to improve access to climate justice, data needs to be collected on women's and girls' experiences of climate change. Additionally, women need legal aid to take up climate lawsuits and gender-sensitive climate laws to protect them.

"Legal representation is expensive, and building a legal case is expensive too. So if you put all that together, the fact that we are not seeing women in the courts litigating against climate change may not necessarily be because the women do not want to litigate. It could be because they do not have the resources to do so, which is where the case for legal aid and gender-sensitive laws comes in," Obani told IPS.

Obani emphasized the need to expand the amount of legal aid funding and its coverage to include climate change and environmental matters. In addition, legal aid must be accessible

to all based on their needs.

## A Dearth of Data Affects Gender Evidence

Obani admits that women face a weak case for taking legal action because of the difficulty of proving climate change impacts without hard facts.

Obani stated that African women have a very slim chance of being able to sue for damages brought on by climate change in the absence of specific data on how it affects them.

She cited the case of a group of Swiss women over the age of 64 who tried and failed to convince the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland that women were more vulnerable to climate-induced heat waves than men, using medical evidence showing that more women of this age died of heatstroke more often than men. While the Swiss court dismissed their case, saying it wasn't convinced that the women had suffered enough damage to bring a climate justice lawsuit, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Switzerland violated human rights by not taking action against climate change to protect its citizens.

## Gender-Sensitive Laws and Policies

A 2022 analysis of agricultural policies in 68 low- and middle-income countries by the FAO found that 80 percent of policies did not consider women and climate change. Women plot managers were found to be as capable as men of adopting climate-adaptive agricultural practices. However, they lost income and off-farm opportunities when exposed to extreme weather events, the report found.

Simon Stiell, the Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, asserts that gender-responsive climate policies are crucial because gender equality is not a 'nice-to-have', but a right.

"Gender-responsive climate policies are crucial to closing implementation gaps and gender-responsive finance can accelerate climate action and resilience for all, so they are key to achieving the highest possible climate ambition," Stiell said in a message, marking International Women's Day 2024.



By Shola Lawal and Sani Adamu

# Nigeria's Chibok girls kidnappings: 10 years later, a struggle to move on

It has been nearly a year since 26-year-old Rabiya left the Boko Haram enclave she was held in for close to a decade.

In her home in Maiduguri, the northeast Nigerian city at the heart of 15 years of fighting by the armed group, the mother of three ruminates on life as a free woman.

Rabiya, whose name has been changed for her safety, was one of 276 girls abducted by Boko Haram fighters from their school in the town of Chibok on the night of April 14, 2014, in what was Nigeria's most high-profile mass abduction case.

About 90 of them are still missing. Fifty-seven escaped as they were being carted off to the group's base in the vast, ungoverned Sambisa Forest 60km (40 miles) south-east of Maiduguri.

From 2016 to 2017, 108 were rescued by the Nigerian military or freed through prisoner swaps while about 20 more, including Rabiya, returned in the past two years.

Like many others who have escaped harrowing conditions in Boko Haram hideouts, the girls-turned-women now face a different type of challenge: the struggle to restart their lives when so much has changed.

A Christian teenager when she was taken, Rabiya was forced to become Muslim and married off, first to one fighter and then another. She was forced to become a mother too: Her son is seven, and her daughters are five and two years old.

When the leadership of the Boko Haram faction that held her captive crumbled and her opportunity to leave the forest presented itself last year, Rabiya seized it and surrendered to the Nigerian army.

"I left because Boko Haram had problems and were fighting [with each other]," she said in her native Hausa language, explaining how some hostages took that as a chance to escape captivity.

Like others associated with the armed group, she completed a three-month "deradicalisation" programme in Bullumkutu camp, one of three sites in Maiduguri where thousands are being taught societal values and vocational skills like sewing. About 150,000 "repentant" Boko Haram members who have surrendered to the army are also participants in the programme.

After that, Rabiya was moved to a large compound in an affluent area of Maiduguri with more than a dozen other so-called Chibok girls. The women are under surveillance, their every move monitored - likely due to the peculiarity of their case. In addition to their



Chibok schoolgirls freed from captivity are photographed in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 2017

accommodation, the Borno State government pays them a stipend of 30,000 naira (\$24) monthly and has promised them their own homes.

However, getting back to normal life has been difficult, Rabiya said.

"People insult us some days. They are calling my children 'children of Boko Haram'. It's so painful. My heart can't endure it."

Ignoring the negative comments - sometimes from administrators running the compound or from people living in the neighbourhood - is hard, she said.

Fatima Abubakar, country lead for Search For Common Ground (SFCG), a nonprofit that provides psychosocial support to women and children previously held hostage by Boko Haram, said those reactions can cause lasting mental health damage.

"I worry about what this will do to the kids," Abubakar said. "I'm a mother of three myself, and I know how positive and negative reinforcement affects kids. These reactions have a way of making children question the adults around them and start to live in their minds."

"We need to ensure the atmosphere is not one of negativity for them."

Targeting vulnerable schoolchildren

The Chibok kidnapping was not the first Boko Haram attack on students in Nigeria, but it was the first mass abduction of schoolchildren, and the reaction nationwide was one of horror.

Global backlash followed too as thousands of people around the world, including then-United States first lady Michelle Obama, protested under the #BringBackOurGirls movement. Much anger was directed at the Nigerian government of former President Goodluck Jonathan, who was seen as too slow to react in the immediate aftermath of the kidnapping.

Boko Haram, which seeks to create a caliphate in northeast Nigeria, is particularly opposed to Western-style education, especially for girls and women. Its name loosely translates as "education is sinful".

Its kidnapping of the Chibok girls, who were aged

16 to 18, laid the groundwork for Nigeria's ongoing school abductions epidemic. More than 1,400 children have been kidnapped in a decade.

In-fighting between Boko Haram and a faction that split off from it, the Islamic State West Africa Province, has weakened the group.

When Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau was killed in 2021, thousands of his fighters were forced to surrender to the Nigerian army and a Borno government keen on expanding a "reconciliation and reintegration" programme that it says will bring lasting peace.

About a third of the missing Chibok students are believed to have died in captivity. Many defiant hostages who refused to be married to Boko Haram fighters are believed to have been forced into sexual slavery, domestic servitude or used as suicide bombers.

The Nigerian government has largely moved on, beset by competing issues, including the kidnapping of thousands of other women and children also abducted by armed factions or criminal groups across northern Nigeria.

"Over 30 of them are dead," said Ayuba Alamson, a spokesman for the parents, giving a number that does not include 11 who were killed in Boko Haram attacks in November 2014.

Not the same girls who were kidnapped

Several returned women also forced to marry fighters echoed Rabiya's sentiment in local media reports.

Abubakar of SFCG says it is not unusual for former hostages to reject separation from the life they led for years. Boko Haram fighters, she said, painted a different reality for the women over the years, and undoing that will not be easy.

"It's not a probability that [these women] may not come back the same people they once were. It's an absolute," Abubakar said, pointing out that the need to survive during their captivity could make hostages more willing to buy into alternative narratives.

"These men gave them the false perception of safety. They let them think they are women of honour serving men of honour, but the trauma of what happened dawned after - when the community lets them know that what happened to them was terrible, when they say their children have bad blood."

"We need to be compassionate and give [the women] time to determine what path they want for themselves going forward," she said.

Some of the parents blame the Borno government in part for their daughters' "indoctrination".

One group of about 16 returnee Chibok students was allocated the same living quarters as their fighter husbands, implying that the authorities approved of their unions and displeasing their parents, Alamson said.

Besides, the spokesman added, the Borno government ought to have enrolled the women in formal schools instead of giving them informal vocational training and letting them stay idle. Although some of the women have told him they would not return to Western education, there are alternatives, he said.

Alamson's ward - Hadiza Kwaki, a late sister's daughter - was one of those who escaped in the month after their capture from Chibok.

Alamson said for those whose children have not returned, however, grief is ever-present.

"They died because of this. A lot of them are still affected by trauma and anxieties, and life is bitter and frustrating. We are asking the Nigerian government to do their best to free all the remaining girls," he said.

For parents in the largely Christian Chibok whose children have returned, there is a different kind of loss.

Last year, after visiting her parents for the first time since she escaped captivity, Rabiya had a huge argument with them. Her father, she said, was so angry that she was choosing to remain a Muslim that he cut her off.

"I don't want to leave Islam. I'd rather die," she said.

Her decision to stay married to the Boko Haram commander she persuaded to leave the group's forest hideouts and surrender to the army has also irked her parents.

"We love each other, and he is good to me," said Rabiya, who is pregnant with a fourth child.

She was forced to marry the commander nine years ago, about a year after her kidnapping. Although he is currently undergoing a longer "deradicalisation" programme, he visits Rabiya often.

"People expect us to leave our husbands and go for another man after bearing three children, some even four? We don't see the good in that for us," she said.

"If they'll end up like that, just getting skills acquisition training, then the main purpose [of their freedom] is defeated," Alamson asserted. "There are institutions where they can study and become professors of true Islam. Let the government send them there."

Disparities between what the freed women want for themselves and what their parents want for them are further heightened by authorities who largely assume what they want, Abubakar said.

"I understand the need to catch up on all the years lost, but we might not be providing what each person needs. We need to know what are their aspirations, what does peace mean to them."

Authorities also need to acknowledge the need the women's families have for trauma support as well, she said.

Rabiya wants to further her education. Despite all that has happened, she still holds onto fragments of long-held dreams of being a doctor. But with the skills she has now, being a doctor is not realistic, she said.

"I learned how to sew, so I can do tailoring for now," she said. "My focus now is that I just want my kids to study and do well."

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI  
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 22.15 HRS RAFIKI II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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# Earnings from traditional exports hit US\$1 billion mark

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

FOR the first time in history, traditional exports has made the record breaking, after its earning reached US\$1 billion mark during the year ended in February 2024, thanks to increased reforms by the ministry responsible for agriculture.

Provisional data by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations show that the major drivers of the increased earnings was sharp growth of foreign exchange from exported tobacco, coffee and cashewnuts.

According to data, exports earnings from traditional exports reached the record highest of US\$1,022.7 million at the end of February this year, from US\$748 million recorded during the year ended in February 2023.

The amount was a third of total gold exports earnings, nearly three times of the value of exported horticultural products and nearly one-third of earnings from tourism.

The highest growth of exports earning was recorded on tobacco exports, after fetching US\$376 million during the year ended in February 2024, which was equivalent to more than a third of total earnings from all traditional exports, compared to US\$174 million earned at the end of February 2023.

This achievement resulted from increased production of the crop, of which according to the ministry of agriculture, a total of 122,858 tonnes were produced during 2023/2024 season, more than double of the 60,000 tonnes produced during the previous season.

According to the minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe, the government was targeting US\$400 million earnings from tobacco exports during the season, as well as increasing production to at least 200,000 tonnes during the next season (2024/2025) and 300,000 tonnes in 2025/2026.

The increased production resulted from the ministry's efforts to ensure availability of inputs to farmers as well as adoption of best practices in tobacco farming.

The minister also noted that Tanzania is the second producer of the crop in Africa and currently leading tobacco producer among eastern and southern Africa, followed by Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda.



Earnings from tobacco exports account for more than a third of total earnings from traditional exports. File photo

Currently, 95 percent of all tobacco produced in Tanzania is for exports market and the remaining five percent of consumed locally.

BoT/TRA data show the second top earner traditional exports was coffee, which fetched US\$234.7 million compared to US\$171.3 million recorded in 2023 and US\$130 million recorded in 2020.

The increase was caused by the increased production to 81,498 tonnes, slight lower than the government targeted 85,000 tonnes during the year 2023/2024, making it the fourth leading coffee producer in Africa from 66,605 tonnes produced during the previous season.

According to the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), the increase of production resulted from enhanced efforts in ensuring access to inputs, introduction of new varieties seedlings, extension services and best practices.

In 2018, the government supported distribution of high-yielding Arabica coffee seedlings which replaced older varieties in existing plantations, which also boosted yields.

In October 2022, another three million new Robusta seedlings were distributed to farmers free of charge under the government's 2021-2025 coffee development strategy.

According to US foreign agricultural services, in

2023/24, Tanzania's coffee production is forecast to increase 21 percent to 1.35 million bags due to a recovery from drought conditions and trees entering the most productive period of their three-year yield cycle.

Post estimates 2023/24 season's exports will increase 13 percent to 1.27 million bags due to higher exportable supplies.

Coffee remains Tanzania's most important cash crop and contributes indirectly to the incomes of six to seven percent of Tanzania's total population of 63 million, including more than 40 percent of Tanzania farmers.

The BoT/TRA data also shows that the third largest exports earnings were recorded by cashewnuts, of which US\$224 million were recorded, the highest in three years, which was an increase of 10 percent compared to US\$202 million earned during the corresponding period.

However, the amount was lower than the historical peak of US\$480 recorded in 2020.

According to the market report by the ministry of agriculture and cashewnuts board, released in March, until January 5th, 2023/2024 trade season, total sale of raw cashewnut was 241,477,696 kilogrammes with total value of 443bn/-. The minimum price for cashew was 2,040/- per kilogramme.

The government targeted the harvest of 400 million kilogramme of cashewnuts during the 2023/2024 season and 700 million kilogramme during the 2026/2027 season, before reaching at least one billion kilogramme by 2030.

The government, through the ministry of agriculture is also targeting to increase employment opportunities in cashewnuts value chain, increase foreign exchange earnings of between US\$7 million to US\$10.5 million by 2031.

The exports earnings from cotton slightly increased to US\$108 million, compared to US\$104 million respectively, due to increased production.

However, the central bank report shows the exports earnings from cloves, sisal and tea declined during the reviewed period.

## Women entrepreneurs' digital registration hurdles for loans

By Sabato Kasika

SOME entrepreneurs, particularly women, may encounter obstacles in accessing the 10 percent local government loans due to the digital registration process, which appears daunting to many, especially those in rural areas who are not familiar with online registration procedures.

The assumption is based on the observation that a significant number of women in rural areas rely on simple feature phones. This comparison underscores the potential challenges they could encounter in obtaining these loans.

The Kipunguni Community Center, along with Nyayo Tanzania, an NGO supporting women's economic empowerment, hosted a meeting to evaluate women's grasp of the new loan process and encourage financial self-sufficiency among them.

During the event, Adelina Mluge, the Director of Solidarity for Women and Children with Disabilities (SOWO-CHIDI), expressed concern about the new procedure, stating: "It is likely that the beneficiaries of these loans will be individuals in the elite class, while the intended recipients may be left behind."

She further defended her stance saying: "Why do I say this? The instructions require online registration, but how will rural women access these loans? We are being instructed to register online, but how many rural women actually have smartphones?"

Adelina further noted that, despite some women having smartphones, they may not possess the necessary skills to fully utilize them. This lack of digital proficiency could potentially result in numerous women being excluded from accessing these loans simply because they are unable to complete the registration process.

Entrepreneur Zaidan Kindamba echoed similar sentiments, expressing her lack of knowledge about the new procedure for obtaining loans.

She mentioned that this was the first time she had come across this information during the meeting.

"There is a need for an awareness campaign to help us gain a better understanding of the online registration process. Otherwise, accessing the loans may prove challenging, particularly for those of us who may lack digital proficiency," Zaidan explained.

Lucy Mbwale, Chairperson of the Economic Empowerment Forum for Women in Ilala District, encouraged the entrepreneurs to seek help from their local community development officer for guidance on the registration process.

"While it is important to have the necessary knowledge to comprehend this system, you can seek assistance from the community development officer to guide you through each step of the online loan application process," Lucy advised that entrepreneurs.

After the discussions, the entrepreneurs proposed that they should first receive training on how to access loans online, enabling their peers with smart-

phones to effectively oversee the entire online registration process when needed.

In response to these suggestions, Seleman Biashagazi, the Director of the Kipunguni Community Center, assured that his center, in collaboration with Nyayo Tanzania, would provide the desired training to the entrepreneurs.

"Recognizing that many of you may have difficulty with online registration, we are committed to offering training support to ensure a smooth loan application process," stated Biashagazi.

The Dar es Salaam City Council has allocated 11bn/- for women, youth, and people with disabilities who are unable to obtain loans from financial institutions due to a lack of collateral. The money would be utilized in Ilala district.

Furthermore, there have been concerns regarding the involvement of banks in managing the loans, as there is fear that this approach may exclude numerous small entrepreneurs who are hesitant about financial institutions.



Seleman Biashagazi, Director of the Kipunguni Community Centre, speaks on women's understanding of the new loan process during a meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Govt plans to impose export quotas to raise cobalt prices

KINSHASA

CONGOLESE officials are divided about setting export restrictions as technologies for cobalt-free electric vehicle batteries rapidly advance.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has sought input from several international industry organizations and foreign research bodies on potentially implementing cobalt export quotas to drive up prices. Bloomberg reported the news on Thursday, April 11, 2024, citing sources familiar with the matter.

During a ministerial council held in February, Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi tasked then-Prime Minister Sama Lukonde with examining "the need to introduce export quotas or any other measure to secure a fair price for cobalt, charging a regulatory body with helping to design possible strategies," the same source said.

However, Congolese officials involved in the mining industry are divided on the wisdom of introducing export restrictions, according to sources cited by Bloomberg.

Some view it as a necessary response to oversupply, while others fear it could make cobalt less attractive for use in batteries as cobalt-free electric vehicle batteries become increasingly popular. Cobalt prices have fallen by about two-thirds since mid-2022, largely due to global supply outpacing demand.

The DRC accounts for roughly 70 percent of global cobalt production, having produced an estimated 170,000 metric tons in 2023.

The expansion of industrial-scale mines that extract cobalt and copper for rechargeable batteries has led to forced evictions and human rights abuses, including sexual assault, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to Amnesty International.

In the report Powering Change or Business as Usual?, Amnesty International and the DRC-

based organisation IBGDH, or Initiative pour la Bonne Gouvernance et les Droits Humains (Initiative for Good Governance and Human Rights), detail how the expansion of multinational mining operations has led to communities being forced from their homes and farmland.

"The forced evictions taking place as companies seek to expand industrial-scale copper and cobalt mining projects are wrecking lives and must stop now," said Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary general.

"Climate justice demands a just transition. Decarbonising the global economy must not lead to further human rights violations. The people of the DRC experienced significant exploitation and abuse during the colonial and post-colonial era, and their rights are still being sacrificed as the wealth around them is stripped away."

The DRC has the world's largest reserves of cobalt and the seventh largest reserves of copper, Amnesty International said in its report published in September last year. Demand for cobalt is expected to reach 222,000 tonnes by 2025, triple that of 2010.

Amnesty International and IBGDH interviewed more than 130 people at six mining projects in and around the city of Kolwezi in the southern province of Lualaba during two visits in 2022.

Because of its rapidly growing nickel industry, Indonesia recently became the world's second-largest producer of cobalt, accounting for 5 percent of global production.

Cobalt is a hard, lustrous, silver-grey metal that is used primarily as a cathode material in lithium ion and other types of batteries.

It is also used in powerful magnets, cutting tools and high-strength alloys in the aeronautical, energy and defense sectors.

Cobalt compounds have been used for centuries as a pigment for pottery, glass, paints and other media. Cobalt is also an important part of human nutrition as part of vitamin B12.





# AI: On navigating the future marketing landscape :Part 2

**I**N the long run if you are able to integrate more technology and tools into your creativity you will have a longer span as a marketer. You can take on various tasks within the marketing field. It is all about upscaling and broadening your skill set at the same time. Another way is through employee labor investment in upscaling talent within the business.

I mentioned before, that sending staff to universities or training seminars or engaging agencies with the skill sets to train staff on these skill sets is inevitable. There are online courses, books, the internet itself and many more other ways to upscale one's knowledge and talent.

Each individual has his or her own style of knowledge consumption. Not everyone is a bookworm or is tech. savvy enough to be able to navigate this type of knowledge consumption. The form factor varies for each individual also depending on their lifestyle. Example, there are people who are huge pod-cast consumers, and this is the current trend of education in this day and age. There are so many different ways to learn or consume knowledge. There's ChatGPT which is also trending when it comes to questions and information. So goes the saying, "talent is universal, but opportunity is not."

In the marketing profession, these days one can almost observe an increase in people opting for remote work or fractional work or part-time work as compared to a full-time job. Freedom and flexibility are the spices of life. Moreover, upscaling to be more independent and successful in this career and business wise. Any business that wants to attract or hire such talent this is the future of talent acquisition. In the current state of talent in marketing you will find most agencies or marketing agencies are the ones that have their staff upscaled with such talent and therefore corporations depend on these agencies to help them grow their business with the latest technology.

The world is becoming more and more tech. driven. People

## DIGITAL MARKETING

### Alley Mmatya



who are close to technology are not as interpersonal. I'm generalizing or stereo typing here. Therefore, generally speaking the tech driven people are less people centric and more technological but brilliant performers. In my opinion, organizations seem to be more consistent in hiring extroverts. People who are more socially confident which most often misinterpreted with job confidence, which passes away in that type of a fashion. The key thing is, if one looks at how technology is evolving and data is at the forefront, should one fundamentally relook at the way we define the characteristics of individuals, that we should hire? Specifically, in marketing and communications field. It's a quandary.

In the same way that an organization has to train its team to be more creative and think quantitatively, of which they were lacking before. This is about meeting in the middle and educating and upscaling marketing talent. This is the fault line of the future for a marketer, if he or she decides to stay stagnant instead of upscale career wise.

Once upon a time in marketing. A marketer could think about his or her brand, its awareness, its funnel management, communications while trying to drive the business as best as he or she can. Now, the game has changed, especially if you're a top-level marketer representing an international brand. A top-level marketer has to consider the political sphere, racial agenda, social dynamics of different territories within the international market zone. They will have to know every development around the world or where the brand exists outside of its origin. He or she will have to stay on top of and advise the business leaders on so many more complicated

issues that concern the business.

The role has expanded and gotten more complicated. Consider the media proliferation, the number of media channels that was dealt with like 10 to 20 years ago visa vie today, constant follow ups - night and day, and then the technology. Therefore, a top-level marketer is now a technologist, a social and political policy leader, a brand and performance marketer, in some traits he or she has become the Chief Revenue Officer.

Both the lower and upper level of a marketer's career is expanding. In short, the marketing team puts up a carnival (marketing campaigns) and at the same time, manage it smartly and technologically.

Longevity and health are always paramount to focus on for anyone with a career growth path. Love and passion for the marketing discipline will assert that desire to grow with technology or any other new leads that develop or assist the marketing field to grow. Take a progressive stance on the quality of opportunity at hand, to grow your career all round. Let's be honest, as we build our careers, we don't always have that latitude so let us keep trying to push boundaries. You have one life and eventually you will get it right somehow.

As the marketing field evolves exponentially, the next generation of marketers must acquire the necessary skill set in order to succeed in this evolving landscape. Which includes tapping into technological, being creative, data and analytics driven and expanding ones creative skills to embrace emerging markets, it's undoubted that AI will shape the future of work.

# How green hydrogen's role in energy transition is evolving

By Quintin Hobbs

IT is now clear that green hydrogen will play a pivotal role in the global energy transition, especially in hard-to-decarbonise heavy industry sectors that include chemical manufacturing, steelmaking, cement and transport.

Even though broad adoption is not likely in the short term, there is consensus among different energy experts that there will be exponential growth in green hydrogen demand.

Much has been spoken about the need for large-scale renewable energy production to drive this, but another increasingly important factor is significant demand for electrolyzers. Electrolyzers are devices that use electricity to split water or other components into their constituent elements through electrolysis.

Electrolysis technology is rapidly developing through a combination of technological advancements, scale and funding to meet forecast demand and capacity. However, there are concerns about the limited availability of the critical minerals used in electrolyser manufacturing to match demand. These materials include platinum, palladium, iridium, nickel and rare materials.

Adding further complexity to this are increasing geopolitical tensions and resource nationalism. This could exacerbate supply concentration risk, potentially increasing electrolyser costs and dampening deployment.

Despite a range of applications for green hydrogen, a lack of significant industrial demand to date is also impacting the timing of demand for electrolyzers.

Government, industry stakeholders and educational institutions therefore need to collaborate to bridge existing

skills gaps in the sector and help increase awareness of its importance.

Developments in the green hydrogen manufacturing process mean the price competitiveness of green hydrogen will be reaching parity with alternatives such as natural gas sooner than previously expected.

There are three drivers behind this: decreasing renewable energy costs, decreasing electrolyser capital expenditure (capex) costs and increasing carbon taxes.

Renewable costs have further decreased with additional reductions expected to take place over the coming several years, albeit at a slower pace.

## DECREASING ELECTROLYSER CAPEX COSTS

The future costs of green hydrogen production will influence the speed of the hydrogen economy and major aspects of decarbonising energy systems from China to the US.

These electrolyser costs are critical for producing more green hydrogen. We expect a rise in electrolyser production capacity, disruptive technology innovation and an increase in average module sizes to drive an about 50% drop in electrolyser capex between 2023 and 2050.

There are five factors set to drive hydrogen electrolyser market growth:

Green hydrogen demand will rise rapidly in the coming years. EY predicts that demand will rise at a 10.3% compound annual growth rate over the 2020 to 2030 period. Furthermore, government funding from the European Union and other countries has offered impetus for a rapid acceleration in electrolyser production capacity.

Rapid acceleration anticipated in electrolyser production capacity.



Despite manufacturers building out more production capacities in Europe, the US, China, and India, manufacturers do have concerns that oversupply will see a relatively low share of projects reaching financial investment decisions.

Unit costs of alkaline and proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolyzers are falling. This is fuelled by a rise in production capacity and technology innovations.

Rising stack efficiency and larger module sizes are driving costs down. Stack components comprise up to 50% of the overall electrolyser system cost. With technology advancements, stack sizes will increase, resulting in improved efficiency which would reduce costs.

Actual deployment is slower than announced projects. This is due to the huge costs and risks involved. This means that developers are building electrolyser capacity in a phased approach.

## TAKING ACTION

Our extensive analysis reveals three key actions for electrolyser original-equipment manufacturers (OEMs), hydrogen producers and investors. All this is underpinned by contracting, deploying and standardisation efforts.

Overall, there is still a positive market outlook when it comes to green hydrogen and electrolyser production. This is built on expansionary policies and government support globally that will help drive an electrolyser cost decrease of about 50% over the stated 2023 to 2050 period.

This means green hydrogen stakeholders must proactively take strategic decisions today to prepare for the future electrolyser market trends. Electrolyser OEMs should engage in long-term supplier contracts and partnerships, along with customer contracts, to ensure a steady supply and order book.

Moreover, OEMs can look to move away from bespoke products to produce standardised units to reap benefits of economies of scale.

For their part, hydrogen producers need to secure long-term contracts with electrolyser OEMs rather than waiting for a price breakthrough. This will help safeguard against any supply shocks as the green hydrogen market is expected to grow. Producers can also look to collaborate with other hydrogen producers to increase knowledge diffusion, boost operational synergies, and drive market awareness and adoption (to reduce production costs further).

And for investors, the lower capex outlook will enhance the appeal of the hydrogen sector. EY expects alkaline and PEM technologies to remain dominant in the market with an approximate 90% combined market share until 2050. Investors should therefore continue to focus on these two technologies to benefit from returns.

It is now clear the industry is moving from hype to reality. We are seeing concrete developments that will fuel demand and lead to project feasibility. These developments are not linear and we expect to see much volatility in price developments as projects continue on the path towards bankability. There will be winners and losers.

**Quintin Hobbs (pictured) is currently the EY Africa strategy and transactions leader**

# Oil steadies, treasuries dip as Iran stresses ease

NEW YORK

GLOBAL markets calmed on Monday as traders speculated that diplomatic efforts will help prevent the conflict between Iran and Israel from escalating.

US equities signaled a rebound on Wall Street after Friday's 1.5 percent selloff in the S&P 500. Shares of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. jumped in premarket trading after the Wall Street giant recorded a surprise surge in profit on a resurgence in deals in the first quarter. The shine came off haven assets, as US Treasuries fell and gold pared gains.

While nerves are still running high given the possibility that Israel might retaliate after Iran fired a barrage of missiles and drones over the weekend, investors took some comfort after the Iranian mission to the United Nations said the issue "can be deemed concluded." The US and other nations also called for restraint in an effort to head off a full-blown regional war.

"It's right to price more geopolitical risk premia into assets, but at the end of the day equity markets are still only about 2 percent off all time highs," said Timothy Graf, head of EMEA macro strategy at State Street. "This was a well telegraphed geopolitical development. A lot of the bad news is in the price already."

Markets have been rattled by the threat of a strike and counter-strike cycle in the Middle East, which could push drive energy prices higher at a time when policymakers are still struggling to bring down inflation. But for now, traders said the situation seems contained.

While unprecedented, the assault caused minimal damage and no fatalities as almost all the projectiles were intercepted. The American, British and French air forces shot down some of them in coordination with the Israelis.

The tensions fueled gains in an index of defense shares compiled by Goldman Sachs. Dassault Aviation SA and Saab AB rose more than 2 percent. Shares in Leonardo SpA, Thales SA, BAE Systems Plc and Rheinmetall AG advanced at least 1 percent.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. strategists said heavy exposure to stocks going into earnings season means any potential gains are capped.

"We need to see clear earnings acceleration in order to justify current equity valuations, which we fear might not come through," Mislav Matejka wrote in a note.

Elsewhere, aluminum surged by a record on the London Metal Exchange as traders responded to new US and UK sanctions that banned deliveries of Russian supplies produced after midnight on Friday.

The restrictions on key industrial metals – aimed at curbing President Vladimir Putin's ability to fund his war machine – are unlikely to stop Russian sales but inject significant uncertainty into commodities markets that have already been reshaped in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We estimate that oil prices already reflect a \$5-to-\$10-a-barrel risk premium from downside risks to supply," before the weekend attacks by Iran, Goldman Group Sachs Inc. analysts including Daan Struyven said in a note. "The potential Israeli response to Iran's attack is highly uncertain and will likely determine the extent of threat to regional oil supply."

Iranian crude production has risen by more than 20 percent over the past two years to 3.4 million barrels a day, or about 3.3 percent of global supply, the analysts said. So, "if the market were to price a higher probability of reduced Iran supply, then this could contribute to a higher geopolitical risk premium," they said.



CURRENT NEWS



# 'Ramp up tourism investments to tap into booming oil sector'

KAMPALA

A comprehensive report released by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda has advocated for significant reforms in the tourism and oil and gas sectors to optimize job creation and economic opportunities in Uganda.

The study, unveiled in Kampala over the weekend, aligns with the objectives of Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) III and Vision 2040, aiming to strengthen the economic interconnections between the two sectors. Dubbed: 'Linkages Between Tourism and Oil and Gas Sectors of Uganda,' the report addresses the crucial interplay between these sectors, particularly in the context of the burgeoning activities in the oil and gas sector.

With the Albertine Graben hosting ten of Uganda's twenty-two protected areas, the region's dual role as a center for both biodiversity conservation and resource extraction underscore the urgency of strategic planning and sustainable management.

The study found that tourism services are still generally poor and there is a need for investment, especially in tour guiding, site interpretation, and food and beverage services.

The tourism support services (such as banks, and telecom networks) are available in urban areas and need to be extended to rural areas and remote tourism destinations.

Gaps in the linkages between tourism and oil and gas sectors were identified and included; few visitor stop-over points have been planned and established along the new roads constructed; limited tourism knowl-



Panelists discuss the study 'Linkages Between Tourism and Oil and Gas Sectors of Uganda' at an unveiling event in Kampala, Uganda. Photo courtesy of The Independent.

edge and capacity among MSMEs and local communities to identify and harness opportunities; limited land use planning to guide tourism; limited analysis and dissemination of information on tourism development opportunities created by the existing and planned infrastructure.

Furthermore, the study found that the workforce in tourism and hospitality establishments consists of few skilled, largely semiskilled, and unskilled personnel.

There is a glaring gap in the quality and quantity of employees' knowledge and skills in tourism planning, food and beverage service, MICE management, wellness, and more.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the study found that comprehensive attention has been paid to the oil and gas operations areas located in conservation areas (such as Tilenga Project in Murchison Falls National Park) or near wildlife reserves and sensitive ecosystems (such as Kingfish-

er Project that is adjacent to Lake Albert and key important bird areas). However, less attention has been given to the conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas. Furthermore, it was noted several local government officials and tourism operators in the region were not aware of eco/green certification in tourism.

To enhance the existing linkages and empower the stakeholders to harness the opportunities between the tourism and oil and gas sectors, the report recommends that efforts should be geared toward tourism product development, diversification, and marketing.

The Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Wildlife Authority, and others should take the lead in enhancing the quality of existing products and developing new products that can appeal to a wider market.

It says an Albertine region marketing should be developed and partnerships

## Kenya cuts electricity costs by 13.7 pc on currency strength, fuel drop

NAIROBI

RELIEF for Kenyans as Kenya Power announces a 13.7 percent reduction in the price of electricity.

The power company attributes the reduction to the strengthening of shilling and the drop in the cost of fuel.

"The fuel cost charge and foreign exchange fluctuation adjustment, which comprise the key variable components of the electricity bill, reduced by 37.3 percent between March 2024 and April 2024, across all customer categories, as gazetted by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)," Kenya Power said in a statement on Monday.

KPLC said the fuel cost charge reduced from Ksh4.64 in March 2024 to Ksh3.26 in April 2024, and from a high of Ksh4.93 in January 2024.

At the same time, the forex adjustment charge reduced from Ksh3.68 in March 2024 to Ksh1.96 in April 2024 and from a high of Sh6.85 in January 2024.

"We are happy to note that the reduction has given a reprieve to our customers and we are optimistic that the prevailing macro-economic environment and the improved hydrology, which enables us to dispatch less thermal power, will sustain the benefit to our customers," Kenya Power's Managing Director and CEO Joseph Siror said.

The utility firm said a customer under the Domestic Customer 1 (DC1) tariff band (those consuming less than 30 units per month) using 30 units of elec-



Kenya Power staff at work. File Photo

tricity will pay Ksh629 in April 2024 compared to Ksh729 for similar units in March 2024.

The amount represents a 13.7 percent reduction for domestic customers.

A customer under the Domestic Customer 2 (DC2) tariff (averaging 31-100 units per month) who consumes 60 units will pay Sh1,574 in April 2024 compared to Ksh1,773 in March 2024 representing a 11.2 percent reduction.

A customer under the Domestic Customer 3 (DC3) tariff band (averaging more than 100 units per month) who uses 120 units per month will pay Ksh3,728 in April 2024 compared to Ksh4,127 in March representing a 9.7 percent reduction.

Kenya Power said that access to affordable electricity is key to spur the socio-economic development of the country.

## Ministry inaugurates hub to aid businesses

NAIROBI

TRADE and Investments Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano (pictured) has yesterday launched the Karibu Business Support Centre (KBSC) to serve as a comprehensive hub for entrepreneurs, investors, and traders.

It offers a wide array of services, including advisory support on investments, manufacturing and trade policies, collection and dissemination of business information, liaison services, and facilitation of business linkages.

"This launch marks a significant step towards enhancing the ease of doing business in the country, underlining the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and prosperity," Miano said.

She stressed the importance of creating a conducive environment for business and investment opportunities to flourish.



The CS affirmed the government's dedication to streamlining service provision and addressing the challenges faced by entrepreneurs, investors, and traders.

"Our vision for the Karibu Business Support Centre goes beyond its establishment; it embodies our unwavering

commitment to facilitating the ease of doing business in Kenya," Miano said.

"Whether you're a visionary entrepreneur with groundbreaking ideas or a seasoned industrialist seeking to expand operations, the KBSC stands ready to simplify and expedite your business journey."

The launch highlighted the significance of the Karibu Business Support Centre in addressing crucial aspects of business facilitation.

"We envision the Karibu Business Support Centre as more than a mere resource; it represents a collaborative platform for entrepreneurs to thrive, innovate, and contribute to our nation's progress."

The Karibu Business Support Centre's comprehensive range of services aims to empower businesses and drive economic growth.

It seeks to enable business-

es to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for growth and expansion by providing personalised support and facilitating access to information and resources.

The launch of the Karibu Business Support Centre signifies a significant milestone in Kenya's journey towards economic prosperity.

The government extends an invitation to entrepreneurs, investors, and traders to embrace this initiative and leverage its support services for mutual growth and success.

CS Miano further urged the business community to take advantage of the centralised services offered at the support centre.

"The Karibu Business Support Centre is not just a mere brick-and-mortar establishment; it's a symbol of our commitment to facilitating the ease of doing business in Kenya."

## Agriculture ministry debuts organic farming strategy

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE ministry of Agriculture has launched the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy 2022-2030 aimed at working with other partners to increase outreach with regards to ecological organic agriculture and increase food production.

Gungu Mibavu, Ministry of Agriculture, acting director of marketing and food security made the remarks recently at the launching of a three-year new project dubbed 'Strengthening Competitiveness in Export-Oriented Staple Food Value Chains in East Africa.'

"As ministry we call for support from stakeholders to join hands in implementing this important strategy to assist people engaged in agricultural value chain benefit from what they carry out," he said.

Also the ministry has a policy that promotes climate smart agriculture.

Apart from that the government has been able to establish the agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) with the aim of enhancing our resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and food security by applying both natures based soft and concrete hard technologies in addressing those challenges.

The major risk facing our nation is climate change, which is causing a decrease in food production and thus jeopardizing the stability of our economy and food and nutrition security.

Elaborating on Aflatoxin in staple food he said, "One of our targets for agenda 10/30 is to have a single digit percentage of post-harvest losses by 2030," he said

Under the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) Project, the government has made headways by establishing the Postharvest Centre of Excellence at Mtanana in Dodoma, the National Biological Control Unit at Kibaha and National Agriculture laboratory at Mtumba in Dodoma Region.

They are also finalizing construction of storage facilities in each village so as to address challenge on post-harvest handling at household level.

On the other hand, the ministry is strengthening application of digital capacities to curb corruption practices including minimizing corruption-prone person-to-person contacts in the course of such facili-

tation.

"We are improving functionalities of the Agriculture Trade Management Information System - ATMIS and we have facilitated Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to provide phytosanitary certificates through online platforms that means within short times a trader will receive his/her phytosanitary certificates given he/she has every document required to be given phytosanitary certificates," he said

In another development they scaling up the use of M-Kilimo, Call Centre, e-market and the most important the Crop Stock Dynamics which will provide real-time information of country stock position of the staples levels.

The government has elevated the food system agenda to a top priority in achieving the national economic development. Let me emphasize here, the assurances of the government to advance agriculture transformation agenda through the multi-year strategy the agenda 10/30 that emphasis on commercialization of the agriculture to achieve a 10 percent growth of the crop sub-sector.

"Our Vision is to feed ourselves and feed others commercially, this commitment goes together with the design of a three-year project dubbed 'Strengthening Competitiveness in Export-Oriented Staple Food Value Chains in East Africa' that intends to address the low farmers integration into formal trade that hampering cross boarder market linkages and partnerships," he noted.

The Strengthening Competitiveness in Export-Oriented Staple Food Value Chains in East Africa project aimed at contributing to increase in inclusive jobs creation and incomes among staple food value chain actors including smallholder farmers incorporating women and youth in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

"Kenya is precisely relevant to our macro and sectoral targets to increase trade in regionally oriented staple foods value chains resulting from improved capacity of smallholder farmers to access relevant services through G-hubs, increased capacity of firms/SMEs to trade in export-oriented staple food value chains and improved environment facilitating export-oriented staple food trade," he said

## Mandela Millers attains ISO 22000 certification

KAMPALA

THE Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has certified and awarded Mandela Millers with an ISO 22000 certification for its food safety and quality standards. Patricia Bageine Ejalu, the Deputy Executive Director of Standards at UNBS, represented the Executive Director at the award ceremony held at the company's premises in Busega.

She highlighted that Mandela Millers has implemented comprehensive control measures throughout its processing cycle to ensure that food safety is monitored from start to finish. This certification is internationally accredited, making Mandela Millers' food products not only safe for Ugandans but also for consumers worldwide.

Bageine emphasized that Mandela Millers has minimized food contamination to zero by scrutinizing inputs, equipment, cleanliness, employee competence, and maintaining meticulous records at every stage of production.

She urged companies in the food sector to take responsibility for their processes and ensure the quality of their products, rather than waiting for government intervention.

Samue Musyoka, the Quality Assurance Manager and Food Safety Team Leader at Mandela Millers,

highlighted the significant growth the company has experienced over five years of existence, culminating in the ISO 22000 certification.

Achieving this certification involved monitoring the entire food processing chain, from raw material reception to storage, production, packaging, and dispatch, to prevent food safety hazards.

Gerald Ssendawula, the former Minister of Finance, commended Mandela Millers for its achievement and expressed confidence that the company would double its production capacity to meet national and international market demands following the international certification.

He also noted the significant gap in the supply of quality animal feeds in the country, which Mandela Millers aims to address by manufacturing affordable, high-quality animal feeds for both national and international markets.



**Achieving this certification involved monitoring the entire food processing chain, from raw material reception to storage, production, packaging,**



## WORLD



## World cannot afford another war – UN secretary-general about Iran's attack

NEW YORK

ADDRESSING the emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, which was convened after Iranian drone and missile launches into Israel, UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Sunday said the "Middle East" was on the brink, adding that neither the region nor the world can afford more war.

"We have a shared responsibility to work for peace. Regional—and indeed global—peace and security are being undermined by the hour. Neither the region nor the world can afford more war," Guterres (pictured) said in his statement. "The Middle East is on the brink. The people of the region are confronting a real danger of a devastating full-scale conflict. Now is the time to defuse and de-escalate. Now is the time for maximum restraint," he added.

He also condemned the Iranian air raids into Israel to avenge the attack on its embassy in Syria, which left three of its top military generals dead, while calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

"I strongly condemn the serious escalation represented by the large-scale attack launched on Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran this evening. And I call for an im-

mediate cessation of these hostilities," the UN said.

"I remind all Member States that the Charter of the United Nations prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations," he added.

Guterres also dwelt on the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, reiterating the UN's call for immediate ceasefire and unconditional release of all hostages.

"We have a shared responsibility to secure an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid," he said.

"We have a shared responsibility to stop violence in the occupied West Bank, de-escalate the situation along the Blue Line, and re-establish safe navigation in the Red Sea," he added.

Following the Iranian strike, Israel put in a request with the United Nations Security Council to immediately convene a meeting to unequivocally condemn Iran and designate its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation.

Israel said Iran poses a direct threat to the international peace and violated the UN Charter, adding that time has come for the Security Council to address the 'Iranian threat.'

ANI

## DR Congo landslide kills at least 12, more than 50 still missing

BENI

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo – At least 12 people were killed and more than 50 are still missing after heavy rain caused a ravine to collapse onto a river in southwest Democratic Republic of Congo, a local official and a civil society leader said on Sunday. The landslide occurred around midday on Saturday in Dibaya Lubwe commune in Kwilu province. It sent a cascade of clay and debris down to the banks of the Kasai River, where a boat was docking and people were washing clothes.

Interim provincial governor Felicien Kiway said 12 bodies had been pulled from the rubble so far, including nine women, three men and a baby.

Agencies



IN recent years, China's new energy industry has developed rapidly, and international cooperation in this field has accelerated.

The international community pays close attention to the development of China's new energy industry, believing that China has made significant contributions to global green and low-carbon transformation and has become an important driver for global energy transition and climate change mitigation.

China's new energy indus-

## Chinese new energy industry contributes to global green, low-carbon transition

try has made positive contributions to global emissions reduction. Since the introduction of the "dual carbon" goals in 2020, which means peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, China has steadfastly fulfilled its commitments, accelerating the transformation of its energy structure and promoting the rapid development of renewable energy.

According to a report by the

International Energy Agency, the global annual renewable capacity additions stood at 510 million kilowatts last year, and China contributed over half to this figure, making a tremendous contribution to the growth of global renewable energy generation.

Chinese wind and solar products have been exported to over 200 countries and regions worldwide, helping developing countries access clean, reliable, and affordable

energy.

In 2022, China's renewable energy generation was equivalent to reducing domestic CO2 emissions by approximately 2.26 billion tons, and the exported wind and solar products helped other countries reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 573 million tons. The two figures added up to 2.8 billion tons of emissions, or about 41 percent of the world's total carbon emissions reduction converted

from renewable energy.

China's new energy technologies have provided significant support for global green and low-carbon transformation. After years of development, China has become a global leader in various new energy technologies and equipment manufacturing. It has established the world's largest clean power supply system, and Chinese new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products

have brought new hopes to global climate change mitigation efforts.

From the connection of the world's first 16-megawatt offshore wind turbine to the power grid to the commercial operation of the world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant, and from a new power battery enabling a range of 1,000 kilometers on a single charge to intelligent cabins equipped with artificial intelligence models,

China's new energy industry is contributing wisdom and strength to global energy transformation through its innovation and reliability. According to a report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, average kilowatt-hour cost of global wind power and photovoltaic power generation have decreased by more than 60 percent and 80 percent respectively in the past decade, a large part of which is attributed to China's innovation, manufacturing and engineering.

People's Daily

## Russia to continue boosting cooperation with countries of Global South, East – Lavrov

DUSHANBE

RUSSIA will continue to boost ties in all areas with the countries of the Global South and East, who share a commitment to the UN Charter's principles and advocate respect for the right of peoples to determine their own fate, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a message read out by Russian Ambassador in Dushanbe Semyon Grigoryev at the International Cultural and Civilization Forum "Traditional Values of the Eastern Peoples and the Modern World."

"Russia continues its intensive efforts to strengthen legal and moral principles of interna-



tional communication, which is an essential precondition for the formation of a fairer multipolar world order," the minister said.

In this regard, Moscow "will continue to build up comprehensive cooperation with the countries of the Global South

and East," which, like Russia, "are firmly committed to the principles of the UN Charter, advocate respect for the cultural and civilizational diversity of the world's peoples and their right to determine their own destiny."

"We are all united in the inadmissibility of the aggressive imposition of neoliberal pseudo-values that undermine the spiritual foundations of our communities and may harm our citizens' moral health. I am confident that the forum will do a lot to strengthen friendship and trust between peoples and make it possible to work out useful practical recommendations," Lavrov concluded.

## PM Sunak's Rwanda scheme set to pass parliament but challenges await

LONDON

THE British parliament is set to finally approve a divisive law this week to pave the way for asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda, but further legal hurdles could yet hold up or derail one of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's key policies.

Sunak has invested huge political capital in the Rwanda scheme whose success or failure might be crucial to his Conservative party's fortunes in an upcoming election, given his promise it will stop tens of thousands of people arriving without permission in small boats across the Channel.

The new legislation is poised to get lawmakers' approval, unamended, by the end of the week. But whether the Rwanda scheme does finally get off the ground by the middle of the year as Sunak has promised remains far from certain.

"In our view, the legislation is utterly performative," said Paul O'Connell from the Public and Commercial Services union which has previously brought lawsuits over the policy and is preparing further action.

"We think the government knows it hasn't got a cat in hell's chance of surviving a legal challenge, but they just want to keep it alive as an issue to fight in the general election."

Under the policy formulated two years ago, any asylum seekers who arrive



illegally in Britain will be sent to the East African nation, in a bid to deter dangerous cross-channel crossings in small boats and smash the people smugglers' business model.

The first planned deportation flight in June 2022 was blocked by the European Court of Human Rights, before the UK Supreme Court last year declared the scheme unlawful.

Sunak's new law, which disapples some existing human rights statutes, is designed to override the Supreme Court's ruling by stating Rwanda must be treated by British judges as a safe destination, as well as also limiting individuals' options for an appeal to only exceptional cases.

For critics, ranging from senior figures in his own party to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the policy is immoral, unworkable and probably breaches international law. But, some right-wing Conservative lawmakers say it won't work because it is still not tough enough.

After months of parliamentary battles, the government is likely to finally win backing from the House of Commons and House of Lords in votes on Monday and Wednesday.

When will flights go?

How long until deportation flights then leave is unclear, and one government official said it would probably take at least a month from the moment when the legislation is passed.

Charities and human rights groups say they are gearing up to bring challenges on behalf of individuals, although as yet none have been specifically told they would be sent to Rwanda.

O'Connell said his union, which represents border force staff who would help carry out the deportations, would submit a legal challenge arguing the new legislation was unlawful "within days" of the first asylum seekers being informed they will be deported.

The PCS and other unions are also exploring action on the grounds that implementing the policy would put civil servants in breach of international law, especially if the ECHR were to again issue a temporary injunction - known as Rule 39 interim measures - on removals.

The court has amended its rules since the 2022 decision so injunctions will only be issued in "exceptional circumstances" where there was an "imminent risk of irreparable harm".

Sarah Gogan, a partner at law firm Harbottle & Lewis, said the wording of Sunak's bill was designed to all but eliminate legal challenges, although an intervention by European judges would be the hardest to overcome.

With his party trailing the opposition Labour Party by about 20 points in polls, and his own position in question, Sunak has been determined to have flights leave as soon as possible. **Agencies**

## Russia urges Middle East nations to show restraint amid escalation – Kremlin spokesman

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East, coming out in favor of a political and diplomatic settlement, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"We are extremely concerned about the escalation of tension in the region. We call on all countries in the region to exercise restraint.

Further escalation is in no one's interests. Therefore, of course, we are in favor of seeing all disagreements settled



only politically and diplomatically," the Kremlin spokesman said when asked to comment on the situation in the region after Iran struck Israeli territory.

On the evening of April 13, Iran launched drones and missiles toward Israel in response to what it called "repeated crimes" from Tel Aviv, including the attack on the consular office of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus ascribed to Israel.

Tehran said that military facilities in Israel were targeted. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claimed it intercepted 99% of the nearly 350 projectiles launched at Israel. Israel did not report any fatalities or serious injuries, saying minor damage had been caused to Nevatim Air Base. **Agencies**



## Xi's article on cultural heritage, fine traditional Chinese culture to be published

BEIJING

AN article by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on preserving and passing on cultural heritage and carrying forward fine traditional Chinese culture will be published on Tuesday.

The article by Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, will be published in this year's eighth issue of the Qishi Journal, a flagship magazine of the CPC Central Committee.

It is a collection of excerpts from Xi's relevant discourses from August 2013 to September 2023.

The article lauds Chinese civilization for its long and continuous history that stretches back to antiquity, saying that it has shaped the great Chinese nation.

Cultural relics and cultural heritage, in particular, carry inherent features of the nation, says the article, calling them China's "non-renewable and irreplaceable" cultural resources.

The article states that it is imperative to comprehensively improve the protection and utilization of cultural relics and better preserve and carry forward cultural heritage.

It calls for efforts to systematically sort out traditional cultural resources and bring back to life relics sleeping in closed palaces, heritage on the vast land of China and records in ancient books.

The world comprises various civilizations, the article stresses, adding that China is one of the countries boasting the longest history and oldest culture, and the Chinese civilization has always appreciated mutual understanding and respect for different civilizations.

It is necessary to strengthen cultural exchanges with the rest of the world, act on the Global Civilization Initiative, and give profound and lasting cultural impetus to building a community with a shared future for humanity, the article reads.

Xinhua



It is a collection of excerpts from Xi's relevant discourses from August 2013 to September 2023



# One year of war in Sudan, thousands killed, millions displaced amid imminent famine

KHARTOUM

THE deadly war in Sudan, leaving thousands of people dead and millions of others displaced, is entering its second year amid repeated warnings of an imminent famine threatening to kill those who escaped death from bullets.

Since the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out on April 15, 2023, 14,790 fatalities have been recorded, while the number of people displaced inside and outside of Sudan has reached 8.2 million, a report by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) showed Sunday.

"It's beyond time for this devastating war to stop," a UN fact-finding Mission said on Thursday, urging the warring parties to commit to an immediate ceasefire, end attacks on civilians, and ensure unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for millions of people in desperate need of aid.

"Sudan's warring parties are legally obligated to protect civilians, but they have shown little regard for doing so," said Mohamed Chande Othman, chair of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan.

"We are now investigating alarming reports of repeated attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools," he added.



Sudanese refugees and ethnic South Sudanese families who have fled from the war in Sudan line up while waiting to board a truck to go to a Transit Centre for refugees after crossing the border at the Joda Border Crossing Point, near Renk, on Feb 14, 2024. AFP

**Starvation is looming as fighting rages on in Sudan.**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned of a worsening food security crisis in Sudan, urging warring parties to halt hostilities and allow for the access of humanitarian aid.

"The food and nutrition security in Sudan is very dire," Adam Yao, FAO deputy representative in Sudan, said in a recent interview with Xinhua. "Immediate assistance is required." Similarly, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) said

on Friday that Sudan's hunger crisis will worsen unless its people receive a constant flow of aid via all possible humanitarian corridors.

"I fear that we will see unprecedented levels of starvation and malnutrition sweep across Sudan in this lean season," said Eddie Rowe, WFP representative and country director in Sudan.

According to the UN, half of Sudan's population -- some 25 million people -- need humanitarian assistance and protection, with nearly 18 million people facing acute

food insecurity.

However, the war so far shows no sign of ending, as none of the warring parties seems to be willing to silence the sounds of bullets or sit to the negotiation table. In a speech on the eve of Eid al-Fitr, SAF's General Commander Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan stressed that the war would continue until the RSF is "eliminated."

Meanwhile, the RSF Commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also in a speech on the Eid al-Fitr occasion, said the only option was "to achieve victory" and congratulated his forces on what he said were "great victories" in central Sudan's Gezira and Sinnar states.

The Coordination of Civilian Democratic Forces (Taqaddum), a Sudanese political coalition led by former Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, condemned what it called "the escalatory message" by the army and RSF leaders, which showed "the lack of desire of both parties for any political settlement."

"This embodies the underestimation of the extent of the tragedy the Sudanese people are suffering due to the war," Bakri El Jak, Taqaddum's spokesman, said in a statement. "It is not possible for any party to win this war." Khalid Omer Yousif, a leading figure in the Sudanese Congress Party, said that Al-Burhan and Dagalo, with their speeches, have smashed the hope for peaceful solutions.

"Ending the war is not possible unless there is will on the part of the warring parties, which so far is not present," he said on the social media platform X. **Xinhua**



## Security of Indians our priority, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI

AMID rising tensions in West Asia, which were rendered far worse after Iran launched over 300 projectiles towards Israel in response to the air strike on its embassy in Syria, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that amid global hostilities and the spectre of war, the priority for the BJP-led NDA at the Centre, if elected for a third term, would be to secure the lives of fellow Indians in conflict zones.

Speaking at the launch of the BJP's manifesto for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on Sunday, Prime Minister Modi (pictured) stressed the significance of returning to power with a brute majority, saying it would help the government navigate the global challenges and rescue trapped and distressed Indian natives from conflict zones through decisive action.

Addressing a gathering of party leaders, including Union Ministers, at the BJP's national headquarters in Delhi, after the unveiling of the party's 'Sankalp Patra', PM Modi said parts of the world were staring at a 'war-like' situation.

"Clouds of uncertainty are hovering over the world today. Several regions are staring at a war-like situation and the world is tense and not at peace. In such times, ensuring the safety and security of our citizens becomes a priority and a paramount task for any government that comes in. Hence, the safety of our people will be the top priority for our government, if we return for another term," PM Modi said.

"In times when the fear of war grips the world, it is all the more necessary for a strong and stable government, with a full majority, to be elected. We should have a government that makes the country economically stronger and more resilient in the face of global challenges. It should make swift strides towards taking us to our eventual goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed country). The BJP is determined to make this happen, if elected again. Our manifesto comes with the guarantee of such a government," PM Modi added.

His remarks assume significance when seen and interpreted in the context of the ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine in eastern Europe and the Israeli offensive against Hamas in Gaza.

Even in its second term, the BJP-led NDA demonstrated intent and action when it came to airlifting distressed Indians from conflict zones.

As the tensions between Russia and Ukraine devolved into a full-blown military conflict, an evacuation mission by the Indian government was launched to save stranded citizens in Ukraine.

The 'Operation Ganga' was announced on February 26, 2022, and was carried out until March 11, 2022. As part of this mission, Air Force planes as well as private flights carried out multiple sorties to bring back trapped natives from the conflict zones in eastern Europe while providing humanitarian relief.

The operation resulted in the evacuation of about 25,000 Indian nationals, as well as citizens of 18 other countries.

In a similar rescue plan, the Centre, under the leadership of PM Modi, launched 'Operation Ajay' to bring back stranded Indian citizens from Israel as it went to war with Hamas in response to the horrific terror attacks on October 7, last year.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, till December, last year, 1,309 Indian citizens, 14 OCI card holders, and 20 Nepalese from Israel were rescued under 'Operation Ajay'.

In another daring operation, an Indian Air Force's C-130J heavy-lift aircraft rescued 121 people from a small airstrip at Wadi Sayyidna, which is about 40 km north of the violence-hit Sudan capital of Khartoum, in April of last year. **ANI**

# Remote Ugandan villages visualize better future with Chinese oil works in backyard

KIKUBE

LOCAL fishing and cattle grazing communities in the remote western Ugandan villages are envisioning a future where nature, fossil fuels and humans are in harmony.

Recently 30 secondary school art students convened for a painting competition at an escarpment overlooking the Chinese-run Kingfisher Oil Field, fishing villages and Lake Albert, the freshwater body that is a source of livelihood for most of the locals.

The students, each visualized what the future would be, through their paint brushes showed a community whose livelihood has improved, the lush green escarpment preserved, and the dream of a country's industrialization realized. Chinese flowers and Uganda's national bird, the grey-crowned crane, were some of the elements in the drawings.

The competition, organized by the Chinese embassy here and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the oil giant operating in Kingfisher Oil Field, was another move to engage local people in appreciating the oil sector and how best they stand to benefit from it.

"We grew up knowing that any country that has oil, has big money. So oil is mainly for industrial development. It supports every industrial sector let it be agriculture," said Rock Nowamani, one of the students competing under the theme, "The Beauties of Kingfisher Oil Field in Your Eyes."

Liu Xiangdong, president of CNOOC Uganda, while speaking at the event said the competition was geared towards fostering a deeper understanding and awareness of the Kingfisher project and its impact on strengthening the bond between Ugandan and Chinese peoples.



Vivian Naiga, a local worker at Kingfisher Oil Field run by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), is interviewed in Kikube, Uganda, on April 2, 2024. (Photo by Patrick Onen/Xinhua)

He said the East African country can use the oil sector to transform and leap from agriculture to industrialization.

"The production and export of oil after its commencement will play a pivotal role in driving the country's overall gross domestic product (GDP). Additionally, it will better promote local economic development and improve people's livelihoods," Liu added.

CNOOC says it has so far invested 3 billion U.S. dollars in the last 10 years. The investment is China's largest single investment in Uganda in recent years. Experts say total investments in the country's oil sector are likely to top 15 billion dollars, attracting revenue of

about 80 billion dollars, and creating thousands of jobs.

The initial investments in the sector are already changing the economic and social landscape in these villages and the country at large.

Villagers like Edisa Nakate who lives near the oilfield talked of how hard it used to be to access health care because patients had to be carried up the escarpment for a distance of about 10 km.

But now, her village is connected to the rest of the country by a paved road, which is not only being used for accessing the oil wells but also benefits the communities nearby.

Liu said besides the environmental protection efforts, CNOOC continues to participate in education and talent development in the communities. Teachers' salaries in remote areas have been enhanced, and the best-performing students have been awarded cash prizes, while some even won scholarships to travel and study in China.

Local youth have been employed through contractors. Individuals directly affected by the oil works have been relocated to better places within the communities.

For instance, Nakate was shifted to a permanent house after her previous house had to be removed to pave the way for a pipeline. Nakate is not alone, CNOOC has so far handed over 56 newly constructed resettlement houses to project-affected people.

China's involvement in Uganda's oil sector has also led to knowledge and skills transfer. Young people working in the sector talk about how they are gaining skills from Chinese experts.

Vivian Naiga, 30, spoke fondly about her supervisors at CNOOC. "Looking at the project, the complexity in drilling, for my training and learning and also for my career growth, I decided to join CNOOC. We are able to review drilling programs, ask questions directly from the drilling contractor, so that has been a good experience to have," Naiga said.

"My Chinese mentor has over 10 years' experience in drilling oil and gas operations. The experience has been good." Naiga said besides getting skills from international experts, mentorship programs, and training programs for national staff are regularly organized.

Uganda has so far discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil in the western region, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable, according to Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

Economic analysts and the Central Bank of Uganda predict that the oil sector will greatly fast-track the country's economic development, contributing to 30 percent of the country's GDP. **Xinhua**

# To embrace commercialization of 5G-A

SINCE 5G was commercialized in 2019, the number of 5G users around the world has exceeded 1.5 billion, making it an important driving force for high-quality economic and social development.

With the continuous iteration of telecommunications technology and emergence of new terminals and business models, 5G-Advanced, also known as 5G-A or 5.5G, has emerged. Combined with new technologies such as Integrated Sensing and Communication (ISAC), passive IoT, and intrinsic intelligence, 5G-A can enhance network performance by 10 times and meet the demands of more complex and diverse application scenarios.

Currently, many countries and regions around the world are rapidly embracing 5G-A to unleash its development potential.

For the production side,

5G-A features significantly enhanced connectivity and ubiquitous connection. It creates new possibilities for industries such as intelligent transportation and smart manufacturing.

For example, a factory in east China's Shandong province has achieved automated inspection, rapid fault isolation and power restoration, thanks to the application of 5G-A-enabled distributors and circuit breakers, as well as drones and robots. The inspection efficiency has increased by 24 times, and the average annual power outage duration has been reduced from 5.4 hours to 25 minutes.

So far, 5G-A has seeped into core production sectors. For instance, it has been employed on an automated car roof production line of a factory, en-

suring faster and more stable movements of robotic arms with its powerful network performance that enables ultra-low latency and super stable wireless connections.

In a factory of Chinese home appliance manufacturer Midea in Jingzhou, central China's Hubei province, 5G-A is employed throughout the entire production process, significantly improving the production efficiency. Every seven seconds, there is a washing machine rolling off the production line.

For the consumption side, 5G-A can bring consumers better experiences in immersive services and home broadband services, and provide support for smart homes, smart tourism, and more. The upgrade in network bandwidth offers

technical support for users to watch 4K and 8K high-definition videos, and promotes the large-scale application of immersive services such as naked-eye 3D and extended reality, thus allowing consumers to enjoy a brand-new mobile internet experience. For instance, during the 19th Asian Games last year, a mini app was launched to offer immersive 3D game-watching experience.

Global telecommunications operators and equipment manufacturers are actively laying groundwork and pursuing innovation in the 5G-A domain. During the recent 2024 Mobile World Congress, multiple global mobile communications companies and operators, including Qualcomm, Ericsson, Huawei, and ZTE, released 5G-A-related technologies, prod-

ucts, and service solutions. Nearly 60 companies jointly launched an initiative "Embracing Year One of 5G-A Commercialization."

So far, over 30 operators in countries including Finland, Malaysia, Brazil, and Turkey have completed technological verification of 5G-A, and the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have started preparing for 5G-A commercialization.

China is accelerating the commercial deployment of 5G-A. China Mobile, the world's largest telecom carrier by mobile subscribers, announced that it will deploy 5G-A commercial networks in over 300 cities this year. It has already released a list of the first 100 cities.

China Unicom, another

Chinese telecommunications company, has developed a 5G-A-based ultra-high-definition shallow compression encoding and real-time production system, setting a global record for the highest uplink bit rate.

In many Chinese provinces and municipalities, China Telecom has built over 100 stations for three-component carrier aggregation (3CC). It is also exploring the application of 5G-A in multiple industries such as steel making, mining, healthcare.

Huawei, as a global leading equipment manufacturer, released the world's first full-series solutions for 5G-A in October 2023, supporting the commercial development of 5G-A with three innovative technologies: Native 10 Gbps, Native Green, and Native Intel-

ligence.

5G-A represents a critical phase in the evolution from 5G to 6G, serving as a bridge between the two generations. Last June, the International Telecommunication Union approved the new Recommendation on the "IMT-2030 Framework" (IMT stands for International Mobile Telecommunications, aka 6G), outlining the vision and consensus for the key technologies involved overlap with the current 5G-A standards under research. Therefore, the development of 5G-A is also a precursor to cultivating the industrial elements for its eventual deployment. This year, the world is expected to achieve large-scale commercial application of 5G-A, which will usher in a more intelligent and convenient era.

People's Daily



# SPORT

## Can Coastal Union successfully win top-four battle in Premier League?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

COASTAL Union last qualified for the top-tier Africa interclub showpiece in 1988. Continental football has after that been a rarity for the Tanga-based club.

However, this season, Coastal Union, alias Wagosi wa Kaya, can qualify for the CAF Confederation. They are having one of those rare seasons, a campaign that could end in participation in continental football in 2024-25.

At the beginning of the season, Coastal Union failed to win any of their six NBC Premier League games under the tutelage of Mwinyi Zahera - recording three draws and three losses.

It was assumed they were in for another relegation fight come the end of the season.

Nevertheless, the club quickly made changes in the technical bench- Zahera was booted and replaced by David Ouma.

The coach has turned things around in style, converting them from relegation candidates to top-four hopefuls.

On Friday, Coastal Union edged hosts Mashujaa FC 2-1 to resume their NBC Premier League campaign by tightening their grip on fourth place and closing in on a CAF Confederation Cup spot.

A first away league win of 2024 saw the team move four points clear of both Tanzania Prisons and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in fifth and nine points above Singida Fountain Gate FC occupying the seventh spot.

The Tanga club picked up 33 points from 22 games, scoring 18 goals and allowing just 16. They have the league's second-best defense.

Only league leaders, Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, have conceded fewer goals.

With eight games to go, there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic about Coastal Union's chances of securing a CAF Confederation Cup spot.

The first and obvious reason for optimism is their current position. They are currently in fourth place, which is a good starting point.

Though they are not scoring many goals, as long as they stay plus in goal difference, there is a good chance they can achieve continental football for a second time.

Their recent form is another major factor. Ouma's boys have won six of their last 10 Premier League games and have lost just three of their previous 15, showing good momentum. That's why they find themselves in the driving seat.

Coastal Union has favorable fixtures. Some upcoming fixtures might be easier on paper than those faced by rivals like Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Tanzania Prisons.

They will play their last two games of the season at home giving them an upper hand against their top four rivals. They will fancy themselves to get all six points in both games.

Their form at Mkwakwani Stadium has been excellent. They have taken 20 points from 33 on offer, winning six times and losing just three times against the big three. They are +5 in goals.

Coastal Union has been just as excellent on the road, posting the league's fourth-best away points total with 13. On the road, they have won three games, drawing four and losing another four.

However, this is football which tends to go against a script and thus for all the optimism there are reasons for concern for Coastal Union's top-four aspirations.

Tough remaining fixtures: They still have to play some tough opponents like Yanga and their direct rivals, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Tanzania Prisons.

Competitor performance is something that cannot be ignored. Teams like Tanzania Prisons and potentially Ihefu are pushing hard for that fourth spot.

Then there is the elephant in the room which is the CRDB Federation Cup. There is a chance of Azam FC and Young Africans SC failing on the road to the CRDB Federation Cup final which would open up



Coastal Union's head coach, David Ouma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

the CAF Confederation Cup spot to another team.

It is worth remembering finishing fourth in the NBC Premier League hardly guarantees a continental spot.

A CAF Confederation Cup ticket is offered to the fourth-placed outfit in the league, only if the CRDB Federation Cup winner also finishes in the top three.

Overall, it's too early to say for certain. However, Coastal Union has a good chance of securing a continental spot, but they'll need to maintain their good form and capitalize on some favourable fixtures. The upcoming matches will be crucial in determining their final position.

The sky is the limit and I think we are going to have another fairy tale story come the end of the season.

This time last year, the thought of Coastal Union playing continental football was a distant dream.

After a season of change, though, it might not be too long before Coastal Union spread its wings across the continent.

## SPORTS

# NBC Bank, Yanga unveil club's international membership cards



Young Africans SC president, Hersi Saidi (in a suit - R), NBC Bank Director of Business Banking Elvis Ndunguru (in a suit - L), and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chairman Steven Mnguto (in a suit - C), celebrate with some of the outfit's members and fans during a brief launch of the NBC Yanga Membership Card in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The launch involved senior leaders from both sides, bank employees, Yanga members, and some of the club's prominent fans. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC), in collaboration with Young Africans SC, has launched international membership cards for the club, known as the 'NBC Yanga Membership Card'.

The move is aimed at facilitating membership payments for the club's members and, thus, helping to increase revenue for the club, alias Yanga.

The launch, which brought together esteemed individuals from both the bank and Yanga, as well as some avid fans, was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Steven Mnguto, Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chairman, represented Wallace Karia- Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president- in the ceremony.

During the signing of the implementation agreement, Hersi Saidi, Young Africans SC president, led the ceremony on behalf of the club, while Elvis Ndunguru, Director of Business Banking at NBC Bank, represented the bank's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi.

Ndunguru stated that, as the main sponsor of Mainland Tanzania Premier League (NBC Premier League), First Division League (NBC Championship League), and U-20 Premier League (NBC Youth League), NBC is committed to revolutionizing football in the country.

The official pointed out that to

achieve this, the institution plans to invest more in various services aimed at improving the operations of participating clubs. One such service is the facilitation of membership registration.

"The card we are launching today comes with many benefits that Yanga members will enjoy, including the ease of purchasing tickets for their team's matches in the NBC Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Champions League through the N-Card system," the official stated.

"Yanga members will no longer need to purchase an N-Card because these cards are already integrated with the N-Card system. This card can also be used for payments at all TAMESA centers nationwide, including Ferry-Kigamboni service payments," Ndunguru pointed out.

"Furthermore, through this card, Yanga members will have the convenience of withdrawing money through ATMs worldwide, making free payments through Point-Of-Sale (POS) machines worldwide, the ease of making online payments, and the convenience of making digital payments through NBC Kigamboni and Internet Banking systems," he explained.

According to Ndunguru, the internationally standardized and secure cards will be available in various locations, including all 67 branches of NBC Bank and more than 60,000 bank agents throughout the country.

"This card not only provides Yanga members with access to their funds 24/7, both domestically and internationally but also offers several other benefits. These benefits encompass various payments such as Netflix, Dstv, and Azam TV, discounted prices through NBC's business partners, state-of-the-art 3D technology for enhanced security, and most importantly, it doubles as the membership card for Yanga," he added.

Hersi earlier expressed his pride in having the club

partnering with the reputable financial institution- NBC Tanzania Bank, stating that this agreement will greatly assist the club in serving its members by simplifying registration and membership card issuances.

"By joining Yanga as a member through NBC Bank, members will receive a Membership Card and at the same time, they will have access to banking services. But more importantly, this card is linked to the N-Card services, so our members will have access to stadium entry services as well as transportation services," the Yanga boss noted.

He further urged NBC Bank to explore the vast opportunities within the club, thanks to Yanga's extensive membership both nationally and internationally. He was adamant he firmly believes that Yanga is an ideal club to collaborate with in the sports sector.

## AT salutes World Athletics for offering cash prize in 2024 Olympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) described the 50,000 in prize money to be handed over to gold medal winners in the 2024 Olympics as a milestone in the sport.

The association noted such a move would encourage many people to feature in athletics.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT Acting Secretary-General, revealed in a recent interview said the prize money World Athletics (WA) will award gold medal winners in all track and field events, starting with the coming Paris Olympics, which happens to be a good development for athletics development in the country.

He said the prize money of \$50,000 he described as handsome, has come at the right time as it will motivate many athletes to compete in the Olympics.

"This is a welcome development to Athletics development in the country

and the world over, I believe that many athletes will fight to qualify for the Olympics."

"In previous Olympic events, athletes were fighting for medals for theirs' and their countries' pride, this, in some circumstances, was demotivating many athletes, those who were paid got the payment from private sponsors," he said.

Ndaweka said that he is of the view that at this year's Olympics, athletics competition will be very high as every athlete will fight for the prize money.

"The \$50,000 prize money is very big to athletics events, I know there are some athletics events in which winners are given more than that (\$50,000) but to be honest is a big money which will motivate many athletes to fight for top medals," he said.

The AT officials also disclosed that local athletes who will win gold medals in the Olympic games will benefit more

as the Tanzania Athletics sponsor, X tep, will award the association with \$50,000, \$30,000, and \$20,000 for gold, silver, and bronze medal won by local athletes in track and field events at the Olympics.

"Our sponsor, X tep, will hand over \$50,000, \$30,000, and \$20,000 for gold, silver, and bronze medals won by local athletes in track and field events in the Olympics, the association will decide on what the winning athletes will get, and the athletes share will be known in June."

"To us, the two cash prizes from WA and X tep will motivate our local athletes to fight for top medals at the coming Olympics," he said.

Tanzanian marathoner, Alphonse Felix, hailed WA for offering the prize money, saying it will help athletes who earn their living through the sport to be financially self-reliance.

"It's good news, it will motivate many

local athletes to fight to qualify for the Olympic Games," the AT official said in his brief response.

Meanwhile, the AT official has announced that the association will take care of Olympic-bound athletes in June. "From June, our athletes who qualified for the Paris Olympics will be under AT, most of our athletes who have qualified for the Olympics are professionals, so, it will not be a residential camp but the association will provide them with materials and finances so that they can prepare well for the games," he said.

The WA is the first international federation to offer prize money directly to Olympic medalists, a landmark moment in the Olympic Games' slow but sure shift away from amateurism.

The International Athletics Federation said in total, the prize pot for 2024 will amount to \$2.4 million for the 48 men's and women's athletics events.

## Manara announced as Parimatch Tanzania's new ambassador

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S online betting company, Parimatch Tanzania, yesterday officially introduced Haji Sunday Manara as the firm's new ambassador.

The arrival of Manara has been described as good for the company, with the firm having introduced excellent offers and a website with a good appearance and high internet speed.

Speaking at the event that took place in Dar es Salaam, Parimatch's Head of Marketing, Levis Paul, said Manara will help the firm promote its bets to sports followers so they can enjoy the company's entertainment. "We have taken a bold step and chosen Manara as our ambassador for more entertainment. He is a person who has fought and has been able to speak positively about Tanzanian football whilst giving value to local footballers and those based outside the country," Paul noted.

The official pointed out: "Through our ambassador, we are sure that he will



Parimatch Tanzania's new ambassador Haji Manara (C) is pictured with the online betting firm's Director, Erick Gerald (R), and Marketing Manager Levis Paul at an occasion for introducing Manara held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

promote the Parimatch brand everywhere as well as help give sports followers the real

meaning of betting so that we can all have fun and play civilly." Manara stated: "Actually, I

was called by many companies but, in my investigation, I found out that Parimatch is the best

company for me to work with because it is trusted all over the world and you will be witnesses." "Last season they sponsored the Mbeya City club that was participating in our beloved Tanzanian league and this season two clubs are sponsored by this company," the outspoken sports celebrity revealed.

"Parimatch also really appreciates the musical and comedy talents of our young people and that's why you see these young people here, we are together here. It is moreover the leading company for online betting games and is available in more than 15 countries in the world with more than a million customers," the new ambassador remarked.

"I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you, my brothers and sisters, who love soccer, to join the Parimatch family because, while you are here, you will enjoy instant payments, great odds, and all kinds of markets, meaning you will not be the only one to fail," he

appealed.

Manara also urged betting games lovers to continue playing through Parimatch's website www.parimatch.co.tz because there are good treats it has prepared for them, adding the games lovers will soon start benefitting from joining the Parimatch family.

"In conclusion, let me remind Tanzanians and all betting stakeholders that Parimatch Tanzania is the leader in online betting games and has been offering a great welcome bonus offer of 125% up to 1,000,000/- to new customers who join the firm!" he added.

Parimatch has been operating in Tanzania since 2019, offering services including fast payments, great odds, and exciting promotions on football, casinos, and virtual games.

The firm further offers hundreds of events every day in tennis, UFC, basketball, cricket, baseball, and many other live and pre-match sports.



## Dortmund lean on home comforts ahead of Atletico clash

LONDON

BORUSSIA Dortmund host Atletico Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie today looking for inspiration from their Westfalenstadion fortress to overturn a 2-1 deficit.

Winners in 1997 and finalists in 2013, Dortmund are somehow still in with a shot at returning to the semi-finals despite a terrible start in Madrid, with Edin Terzic's over-awed side trailing by two goals after 30 minutes.

Dortmund composed themselves and were arguably the better side for the remaining 60 minutes but, despite a crucial Sebastien Haller goal, will rue two slapstick defensive mistakes which gave Atletico the upper hand.

As it often is, Dortmund's trump card is their 80,000-strong Westfalenstadion – Germany's biggest stadium and one of the largest in European football.

The club have not lost there since November 2021, having faced the likes of Manchester City, Chelsea, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle in that time.

Despite a poor domestic season which sees the Champions League regulars currently out of the top four and fighting to qualify next season, Dortmund have been impressive in Europe.

Tipped for relegation to the Europa League or worse, Dortmund emerged first in a tough group containing PSG, Milan and Newcastle.

Central to their Champions League form has been the Westfalenstadion cauldron, which is particularly intimidating on European nights.

Since losing to a Haller-inspired Ajax in November 2021 – the striker moved to Dortmund in the summer of 2022 – Dortmund have gone nine games unbeaten at home.

Dortmund have scored 15 goals in that time while conceding just two, demonstrating their home strength on the European stage.

While often unpredictable, Dortmund have been defensively solid under Terzic this season – that is, until they gifted two goals to put

Atletico in pole position at the Wanda Metropolitano last Wednesday.

Centre-back Nico Schlotterbeck was particularly poor against Atletico while Mats Hummels, in fine form in Europe so far this season, also failed to impress.

Both Schlotterbeck and Hummels, alongside 2020 Champions League winner Niklas Sule, are all hoping for a recall to Julian Nagelsmann's Germany squad ahead of Euro 2024 on home soil.

Dortmund will be buoyed by Atletico's poor form away from the Metropolitano this season.

Diego Simeone's men have won just five from 15 in the league. Atletico have won just one of four in Europe this season and have not kept a clean sheet away from home.

Dortmund thumped Atletico 4-0 the last time the sides met in Germany, back in 2018-19.

Current Atletico midfielder Axel Witsel opened the scoring while Jadon Sancho, who returned to Dortmund this season on loan from Manchester United, got another.

Then coached by Lucien Favre, Dortmund were a far more open, attacking side resembling the best days of Jurgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel's tenures.

Present-day Dortmund under Terzic are less easy on the eye but have a fighting spirit which is similar to that of Simeone's best Atletico sides.

This was exemplified in Saturday's hard-fought 2-1 win away to Borussia Moenchengladbach in the Bundesliga.

Reduced to 10 men when Karim Adeyemi was sent off with 35 minutes remaining and leading by one goal, Terzic's Dortmund side dug in and hung on for what could be a crucial victory in their top-four bid.

If Dortmund are to get past Atletico and into the Champions League semi-finals for the fourth time in their history, they will need to match the steel and grit of that performance – against a team known for mastering those particular skills under Simeone.

AFP

## 'We're not done yet', says Leverkusen boss Alonso

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso said his unbeaten side was "not done yet" after winning their debut league title on Sunday with a treble still possible this season.

Leverkusen's 5-0 win over Werder Bremen at home on Sunday, including a second-half hat-trick from Florian Wirtz, sealed a first Bundesliga title in their 120-year history.

Alonso – who is in his first full season as a coach having joined Leverkusen midway through last season – told reporters after the game the sky was the limit for his side, who are yet to lose a match in 43 games this season.

Soaking wet with beer after his players surprised him during the press conference, the 42-year-old manager reminded everyone "it's not over yet".

"We'll see how far we can go. I have a good feeling about it."

The win sent Leverkusen 16 points clear of Bayern with five games to go, meaning they cannot be caught.

Their points total of 79 is the best after 29 games in German football history.

Leverkusen are through to the final of the German Cup and have a 2-0 lead after the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final with West Ham, with the second leg to take place on Thursday.

"It's not over yet and we've got great goals we still want to achieve. But we can think about that on Tuesday. Today and tomorrow, we need to celebrate."

Alonso pledged to stay at Leverkusen another year in late March, despite reported interest from Liverpool and Bayern Munich.

Alonso, who retired after a glittering playing career with Liverpool, Bayern and Real Madrid, said his experience was an advantage working with players.

"I want to be near the players, talk to them and as someone who played I know what they're feeling. I have empathy and connection with the players, which is important in the dressing room. I try and keep this connection to the team."

Leverkusen have finished second five times but had never broken through for a German title.

Alonso said: "This trophy belongs to a lot of people and we have to enjoy it." Leverkusen's win broke an 11-year run of Bayern dominance.

"It's perhaps healthy for the Bundesliga and German football that other teams win – and it's a great pleasure that it's us," said Alonso.

Another victim of a beer shower, which is tradition in German football, Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka told reporters coming to the club "was one of the best decisions I've made in my life".

Xhaka moved to Leverkusen from Arsenal in summer, having spent seven years at the Gunners.

Last season, Arsenal led the Premier League for much of the campaign, only to be caught by a treble-bound Manchester City.

The Switzerland captain said: "When you start to first kick the ball as a child you think about titles. After seven years at Arsenal we nearly won the title last year. I'm very thankful to be here and I was waiting so long for this moment."

# Arsenal and Liverpool hit by the painful reality of a title race in the Man City era

By Miguel Delaney

IT'S a feeling that both Arsenal and Liverpool have felt a lot, at key moments of the last few seasons. Even Mikel Arteta admitted his dressing room was "frustrated and sad" after the 2-0 defeat to Aston Villa, which was rather different to how he usually responds to such setbacks. Part of the Spaniard's approach is to always look forward, in order to prevent any doubt seeping into his team. It did lead to an obvious question in a fairly terse press conference, as to whether there is now a danger of Arsenal's season fizzling out.

"If one result is going to do that, then we are not strong enough," Arteta responded. "That's very simple."

It is on one level, but the actual situation is a lot more complicated than that.

On the face of it, it might even seem absurd to be talking in such terms given what the table looks like. Liverpool and Arsenal are still just a point behind Manchester City. The actual gap is the same as it was before this weekend, when almost everyone was breathlessly talking about a potential three-way title race.

Precisely the problem, however, is that this "one result" – in Liverpool's case, a 1-0 home defeat to Crystal Palace – is actually about much more than one result. It's about the last six years and what everyone knows can now happen.

Much of the excitement around this title race was invigorated by the way both Arsenal and Liverpool seemed to be these emotional waves, and City were suddenly vulnerable. Arteta's side looked fortified by the experience of last season, and hadn't lost a league game in this calendar year. Liverpool were emotionally propelled by Jurgen Klopp's farewell, and it inspired this relentless ability for comebacks; as if they could constantly overcome anything. At least one always stayed ahead of City, who were conceding so many more goals than they usually do. It was as if the champions were giving everyone a chance, which was illustrated in how one of Liverpool or Arsenal persistently stayed ahead.

No more. City have now scored 13 goals in



Pep Guardiola has raised the standard of the title race. Agencies

three games, and it already looked ominous before this weekend's games. It was at exactly this point last season that they went up a level, from just beating opposition to destroying them.

That's why it's as if these double-defeats came at exactly the wrong time. They have a double effect, especially psychologically. That's why it's about more than any one result.

It's hard not to feel that both challengers need the belief that they can actually beat City to stay stronger for longer; to foster a different momentum. That's after all what it takes against this kind of machine. That's what pushed Liverpool to 99 points in 2019-20.

Now, both Liverpool and Arsenal are feeling that similar sense of deflation. It's not just that they lost, it's that those defeats have allowed City to go ahead of them.

That is a huge psychological shift. "We knew this moment could come," Arteta said, rather conspicuously. Both Liverpool and Arsenal will see the new order of the table and inevitably think of what has happened in the last few seasons. City don't tend to drop points from here on in.

In the three close races they have actually been in, Pep Guardiola's side have only dropped two points when the title has been up for grabs after the 32nd match. So that's one draw in 16. And the only reason it's not 18 is be-

cause they won the league by game 37 last year.

Neither Arsenal nor Liverpool have that record to fall back on. They don't know they can do that. They hope they can, of course, but that's why the psychology of all this is so important. There's a reason mind-games have been part of the language of title races.

That confidence has now been dented at a crucial point.

These two defeats have also done something else, that is potentially symbolic, and influential. Neither Arsenal nor Liverpool can get over 90 points. The most they can go to is 89. That's a small thing that may not be relevant but does speak to the sort of standards they're up against.

It is that inherent knowledge City have the capacity to always go one further. That has after all been the story of the modern era.

This state project have almost industrialised winning. Guardiola has assembled a squad that knows exactly what he wants from them. The control is near total, especially at this point of the season. Ever since starting at Barcelona in 2008, Guardiola has insisted his staff physically condition his side so they come to a peak in April. We saw that last season. We may be seeing it now.

It mirrors the double effect of this game. When challengers go into big

title-race matches, it is not just the pressure of having to win to keep up. It is the pressure of knowing City are unlikely to relent.

That can make teams panic, and we've certainly seen a lot of that from Arsenal and – especially – Liverpool in the last few hundred minutes of football or so.

This isn't to absolve them of their own failings, of course. Liverpool shouldn't be finishing like that, or be so lax at the back. Arsenal were so unusually flat in the second half against Aston Villa.

They can only look to themselves for a lot of that. The potential consequences, however, point to the wider context of City's potency.

It is why these games feel so seismic, because twists are now so unlikely. This isn't like the 1990s, when even Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United could lose at home to Derby County and still win the title. The game has changed.

You can't really afford home slips, especially against mid-table sides, because City won't offer that. None of this is to say this is done, of course. It's merely about how difficult it is.

Huge achievements are still attainable. Psychological shifts are still possible.

The fixture list, which is notionally more forgiving for City, may even play a part there. By the time City play their next Premier League game, both Arsenal and Liverpool will have played twice.

That could have considerably changed the face of the table again. That could change the mindset again. Both might be back out in front, albeit with more games played.

Arteta meanwhile spoke of how Arsenal "have a beautiful opportunity" as the club looked to reach the semi-finals of the Champions League for the first time in 14 years.

The Bayern Munich second leg, he said "couldn't come in a better moment".

Maybe that's true. What is beyond doubt, however, is neither Liverpool nor Arsenal can afford any more slips. One more bad result may really do it.

THE INDEPENDENT

## Vinicius Jr 'can't fight racism alone' in Spain, says African keeper

By Isaac Fanin and Sara Menai

REAL Madrid forward Vinicius Jr "can't fight racism alone" in Spain, according to a player who was banned after climbing into the stands to confront a supporter about alleged abuse.

Vinicius was among those who spoke out in support of Senegalese goalkeeper Cheikh Kane Sarr, who was sent off following the incident during a Spanish third-tier league game.

The Brazilian broke down in tears last month while discussing the toll racist abuse in Spanish stadiums has had on him.

Real boss Carlo Ancelotti says he has "never seen a player persecuted" like the 23-year-old.

"Vinicius is doing incredible work regarding racism in Spain. I want to thank him," Sarr told Newsday on the BBC World Service. "If every player like him took a stand, I'm not saying racism would stop but it's going to be slowly erased. It would be less of a topic.

"He's doing a remarkable job." Vinicius posted on social media in support of Sarr and his Rayo Majadahonda team-mates, who walked off the pitch in a show of solidarity during last month's game against Sestao River, refusing to return.

"Racists must be exposed and matches cannot continue with them in the stands," Vinicius said. "We will only have victory when the racists leave the stadiums and go straight to jail, the place they deserve."

Sarr was "grateful" to have the backing of a player who had 10 incidents of racial abuse against him

reported to prosecutors by La Liga last season.

"He's a generous man who knows what he wants," Sarr, 23, said. "But one person can't fight racism alone. He needs support. Racism has no place in the world and in the world of soccer."

"Suspension after confrontation 'not fair'"

Sarr does not think Spanish football is serious about combatting racism, given how his case was handled.

Following the incident in Sestao on 30 March, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) handed him a two-match ban and a 600 euro (\$645, £510) fine – a punishment Sarr says is "not fair".

Rayo Majadahonda were given an automatic 3-0 defeat, deducted three points and fined 3,006 euros (\$3,230, £2,575) for not completing the match.

"If you're ready to fight sufficiently against racism, you have to protect [the victim] and give him power," said Sarr. "If you sanction him, you're not defending the cause."

"You have to punish the other team or the person in the stand throwing racist abuse. If I was playing for Real Madrid, I don't think I would have been punished. Yes, the [players] are better known, but the penalties should be the same."

Sestao denied that there were any racist chants at the match, but the Basque club were also sanctioned by the RFEF with a stadium closure and a fine.

"Sarr 'wanted video to go viral'"

Rayo Majadahonda were losing 2-1 when Sarr left the pitch in the 83rd minute.

"An ultra in the stands came down and started insulting me," he explained. "If it was a youngster – a child at best – maybe I could understand, but here it was, an old man throwing insults."

"As a player who comes to Europe to play, who tries to feed his family back in Africa, it's just very hurtful."

Sarr hoped his actions would expose the perpetrator to a wider audience and highlight the racism.

"I didn't want to be aggressive

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal and Liverpool hit by the painful reality of a title race in the Man City era**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's players are pictured warming up before confronting Singida Fountain Gate FC in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League match at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Yanga eyes squad overhaul

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi has reportedly submitted a blueprint to club management outlining plans for a squad overhaul in preparation for next season.

Gamondi's assessment identifies key areas for reinforcement, with potential departures for some veteran players.

The Argentine's report underscores the need for strategic reinforcements across various positions within the squad, alias Yanga.

Firstly, the report highlights the necessity of acquiring a goalkeeper to replace one of the three current goalkeepers Djigui Diarra, Metacha Mnata, and Aboutwalib Mshery.

Speculation mounts as fans await news of the impending departure of one of these keepers.

Moreover, the report identifies a pressing requirement for a left defender, suggesting the possible departure of veteran Joyce Lomalisa, whose contract is set to expire at the end of the current season.

This strategic move aims to strengthen Yanga's defensive line and bolster their resilience on the field.

In midfield, Gamondi emphasizes the need for a defensive midfielder of equal or superior caliber to Khalid Aucho.

This addition aims to enhance the team's defensive capabilities and provide valuable support to stand-out midfielder Jonas Mkude, whose recent performances have earned him acclaim.

Looking ahead, Gamondi outlines the need for both a winger and a prolific striker to bolster Yanga's attacking options.

This strategic maneuver aims to complement the scoring prowess of striker Joseph Guede, who has already showcased his abilities with notable goals against Singida Fountain Gate.

The Jangwani Street side continued their dominance in the NBC Premier League last Sunday, securing a convincing 3-0 victory over Singida Fountain Gate FC.

This win extends their impressive run of form, with four wins and just one loss in their last five league outings.

The emphatic victory against Singida Fountain Gate FC further consolidated Yanga's position at the top of the table.

Their resolute defense and clinical finishing proved too much for their opponents.

Details regarding the scorers are unavailable, but the win undoubtedly strengthens their resolve to retain the NBC Premier League title.

Looking at the Jangwani Street outfit's recent form, it is clear they are a team on a mission.

Their winning mentality and ability to grind out results are key factors in their success.

With a crucial clash against arch-rivals Simba SC looming on the horizon, these positive results will undoubtedly boost their confidence heading into the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby.

Yanga's immediate focus is on the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby against Simba SC, scheduled for April 20.

The team enters the fixture with confidence, buoyed by their recent 5-1 victory in the previous encounter between the two rivals.

In the context of the NBC Premier League standings, Yanga remains optimistic about their prospects of defending the championship title.

With an impressive record of 18 wins, one draw, and two losses from 21 games, accumulating 55 points, the team's recent four-game winning streak has reignited hopes of securing another league triumph.

As the season progresses, all eyes will be on Yanga as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

With strategic planning and tactical acumen at the forefront, the club aims to maintain its competitive edge and uphold its legacy of success in the realm of Tanzanian football.

## Mtibwa Sugar hosts KMC FC in battle to stay up

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar's mandate is clear as the season is getting to the business end and their next test will be against the top-four chasing Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in the NBC Premier League, at the Manungu Stadium in Morogoro in the afternoon.

After picking up a hard-fought 2-2 draw against fellow relegation-threatened Geita Gold FC in Geita on Friday, Mtibwa Sugar has continued the side's decent run of form in the league, taking points off of Kagera Sugar and Dodoma Jiji FC by holding both teams to goalless draws.

Back-to-back victories against Tanzania Prisons and Singida Fountain Gate FC mean Mtibwa Sugar is now unbeaten in the outfit's previous five league games.

Mtibwa Sugar is still at the bottom of the league and although it seemed as though all hope was lost, they are now four points behind Mashujaa FC who suffered a 2-1 home loss to Coastal Union on the same day.

With a game in hand on three of the four teams above them, there seems to be hope of survival.

However, with only nine games remaining, the importance of securing every possible point becomes paramount.

As for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, the club's recent performances have been unpredictable, reflecting a season filled with highs and lows.

Abdihamid Moallin, at the helm of the club's technical bench, faces the challenge of moulding his youthful squad into a consistent unit.

A win at Manungu Stadium would not only boost their confidence but will see them stay firmly into the top four race as they move fifth and only separated from Coastal Union in fourth position on goal difference.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC won the last meeting between the two teams in the league 1-0 last season, which could give Minziro's men a good confidence boost ahead of Friday's game.

The biggest threat for the visitors is likely to come from Waziri Junior, who has already scored two goals for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC this season.

In forward Waziri Junior, coach Moallin has one of the best strikers this season to count on in search of victory.

The former Young Africans SC and Azam FC striker has scored 11 goals in 21 league appearances for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC this campaign.

In head-to-head records, the two teams have met in 11 league games since 2018/2019.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC have claimed six wins while one game has ended in a draw.

When the two teams met earlier this season, hosts Kinondoni Municipal Council FC won 1-0 thanks to a first strike by Somali attacking midfielder Ibrahim Elias.

## Gamondi revels in Yanga's spirit of unity as title march continues

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC seemingly relentless march toward the NBC Premier League title continued with a 3-0 win against Singida Fountain Gate FC in Mwanza on Sunday.

Two goals from Ivorian striker Joseph Guede and another from Burkinabe attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki— his 14th of the season — secured the points at CCM Kirumba Stadium.

It was an 18th win in the league, which has seen the defending champions maintain their five-point lead at the top of the table and put them on the brink of a third successive title.

And while Simba SC, who are nine points behind, have two games in hand, Miguel Gamondi's side continue to look unstoppable in their defense of the title. They have only lost two games in the league while drawing once in 22 outings.

In the aftermath of their comfortable win over Singida Fountain Gate FC, Gamondi credited the togetherness of the team in being able to upset their determined hosts and also the secret behind their impressive displays this season.

"I told my players it was water footie. Unfortunately, the pitch was not in good condition but the players did very well," Gamondi stated.

"It was a tough game, Singida put in a lot of enthusiasm to play hard and get something but our quality of players was much better and we deserved to win the game," the gaffer noted. "It is always about hard work and to have a bunch of quality players who play as a unit. We had good build-up in the team, the fighting spirit."

"As you know, we have very talented players but in football that is not enough, you must have tactical discipline, work hard, and have unity in the team," the gaffer remarked.

Gamondi pointed out: "The most important thing I always say is that this group is very united. They fight and play like a family. The results reflect that and 'Wananchi' can see that as well.

The matches continue to come thick and fast for Gamondi's Young Africans SC, who are once again in with a chance of winning a do-



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

mestic double. They are still in the hunt for Federation Cup glory.

They now gear up for the Dar es Salaam derby against Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday.

Young Africans SC will be looking to do a league double on their long-time rivals after they thrashed them 5-1 in the reverse fixture played at the same venue in November last year.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEK  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
**DAR ES SALAAM**